

8

Crime

- Homicide offences rose by almost two-thirds between 2003 and 2007.
- Almost 40% of female victims of rape/sexual assault in 2007 were in the 16-25 age group.
- In 2007 knives or sharp instruments were involved in over a third of all robberies/aggravated burglaries.
- There were 199,030 speeding detections in 2007. This represented a rise of almost 10% on the 2006 figure.
- In 2007, the majority of prisoners (55.4%) were aged 29 years and under.
- Since 2000 the number of permanent personnel in the defence forces per capita has been decreasing consistently.
- The number of small claims applications received by the courts rose by almost a quarter between 2006 and 2007.



Contents

Introductory text	135
Table 8.1 Recorded offences	137
Table 8.2 Victims of murder, manslaughter, assault and sexual offence by age and sex, 2007	138
Table 8.3 Location of robbery and aggravated burglary incidents where firearm or knife/sharp instrument involved, 2007	138
Table 8.4 Traffic offence detections	139
Table 8.5 Persons aged 18 and over classified by their perception of crime	140
Table 8.6 Households classified by whether they experienced crime, 2003 and 2006	141
Table 8.7 Sentenced prisoners in custody by length of sentence and sex, 27 September 2007	142
Table 8.8 Sentenced prisoners in custody by age and sex, 27 September 2007	142
Table 8.9 Numbers in each rank of the Defence Forces	143
Table 8.10 Numbers in each rank of the Garda Síochána	143
Table 8.11 Type and frequency of seizures of particular drugs	144
Table 8.12 Applications received for small claims	145
Table 8.13 Applications received for divorce, judicial separation and nullity	146
Table 8.14 Orders granted for divorce, judicial separation and nullity	146

Introduction

The statistics in this chapter relate to a number of aspects of justice and defence. They have been obtained from the Garda Síochána, the Courts Service, the Prison Service, the Defence Forces, the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and the Central Statistics Office. Results from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) ad hoc module on Crime and Victimization are also included.

Crime figures are provided for the number of offences recorded by the Garda Síochána. These are based on the Irish Crime Classification System (ICCS), launched in April 2008, but exclude elements of Group 4 (Dangerous or Negligent Acts) and all of Groups 14 (Road and Traffic Offences (Not elsewhere classified)) and 16 (Offences Not Elsewhere Classified). Details of this new classification system can be found at www.cso.ie. All crime figures are provisional and may be revised, due to the nature of reporting and recording, subsequent to this publication.

The Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) is a large-scale, nationwide survey of households in Ireland. While the primary purpose of the QNHS is to collect information on employment and unemployment it also includes modules each quarter on social topics of interest. A module on Crime and Victimization was included in the three months interviewing period from September to November 2006. This module was carried out in the same period in 1998 and 2003. The module contained over fifty questions on crime-related topics, divided into two main sections – household and individual questions.

Technical Notes

Tables 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3

Figures for 2007 are based on data received from the Garda Síochána at the end of quarter 2 2008. These figures may be updated in further CSO releases.

Table 8.3

It is worth noting that where a weapon is 'involved', that weapon was present on the scene but may not necessarily have been used.

Tables 8.5 and 8.6

Tables 8.5 and 8.6 provide an insight into the incidence and perception of certain crime types in Ireland and are taken from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) quarter 4 1998, 2003 and 2006 ad hoc modules on Crime and Victimization.

Table 8.6

'Any crime' refers to victims of burglary, motor vehicle crime, theft of bicycles or vandalism.

Table 8.7 and 8.8

Figures exclude non-criminal prisoners (eg immigration detainees) and those on trial and on remand.

Table 8.9 and 8.10

The given 'Per 100,000 population' figures are calculated based on 2002 and 2006 census figures and interim population estimates.

Table 8.11

Figures are based on data provided by the Forensic Science Laboratory on 21st May 2008.

Table 8.1 Recorded offences

Offence	Number				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Homicide offences	82	97	126	134	133
Sexual offences	1,989	1,756	1,804	1,443	1,368
Attempts/threats to murder, assaults, harassments and related offences	13,534	13,281	13,698	15,408	17,550
Dangerous or negligent acts	11,970	12,687	14,723	19,276	21,014
Kidnapping and related offences	97	75	73	80	108
Robbery, extortion and hijacking offences	2,916	2,715	2,425	2,486	2,172
Burglary and related offences	25,756	24,914	26,378	24,771	23,556
Theft and related offences	73,441	72,205	73,088	74,496	75,239
Fraud, deception and related offences	4,147	3,668	4,018	4,167	5,848
Controlled drug offences	9,258	9,868	13,329	14,233	18,588
Weapons and explosives offences	1,919	2,154	2,560	3,117	3,593
Damage to property and to the environment	34,035	37,047	39,737	43,570	43,276
Public order and other social code offences	45,166	47,793	55,489	56,648	60,703
Offences against Government, justice procedures and organisation of crime	6,837	6,454	7,792	9,445	10,789

Source: CSO

Recorded offences in selected groups

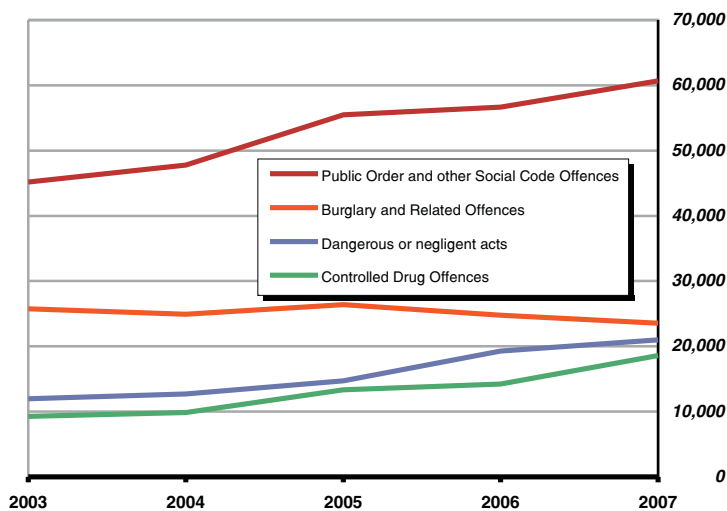


Table 8.2 Victims of murder, manslaughter, assault and sexual offence by age and sex, 2007

Number

Age	Murder/manlaughter		Rape/sexual assault	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 15	2	3	73	288
16-25	18	4	44	411
26-35	23	4	38	203
36-45	13	2	24	96
46-55	5	2	17	44
56-65	4	0	2	14
66-75	2	0	1	1
76 and over	1	1	0	2
Total	68	16	199	1,059

Source: CSO

Table 8.3 Location of robbery and aggravated burglary incidents where firearm or knife/sharp instrument involved, 2007

Number and percentage

Location	Firearm involved	Knife/sharp instrument
House/flat	30	89
Bank	11	9
Post office	28	9
Betting office	45	25
Credit union	2	7
Licensed premises	11	14
Shop/stall	73	177
Petrol station	23	32
Hotel	5	7
Restaurant	4	12
Supermarket	10	6
Street/road	26	221
Other	66	198
Total	334	806
Percentage of robberies/aggravated burglaries	14.2	34.4

Source: CSO

Table 8.4 Traffic offence detections

Offence	Number		
	2005	2006	2007
Drink driving	13,370	17,868	18,855
Speeding	143,651	181,335	199,030
Seat belt wearing non-compliance	18,084	26,687	30,459
Mobile phone usage (Offence since 1 September, 2006)	n/a	6,171	32,672
Dangerous driving	4,786	5,810	12,502

Source: An Garda Síochána

Traffic offence detections

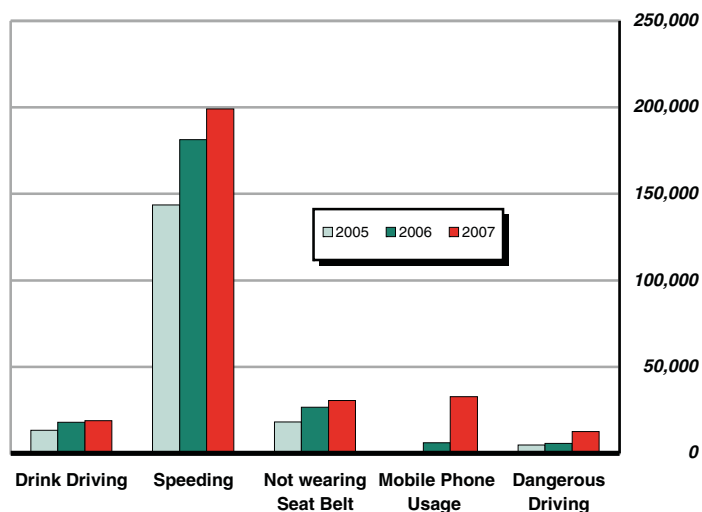


Table 8.5 Persons aged 18 and over classified by their perception of crime

%

	Very serious problem	Serious problem	Fairly serious problem	Not a serious problem	Not a problem	Total
State						
1998	38.3	38.2	20.8	2.5	0.3	100.0
2003	46.5	33.9	17.0	2.3	0.3	100.0
2006	45.9	34.9	16.2	2.7	0.3	100.0
Males						
1998	32.5	39.8	24.0	3.3	0.4	100.0
2003	41.6	35.2	19.6	3.2	0.4	100.0
2006	39.9	36.5	19.3	3.9	0.5	100.0
Females						
1998	43.8	36.6	17.7	1.7	0.2	100.0
2003	51.2	32.7	14.5	1.5	0.2	100.0
2006	51.8	33.4	13.1	1.6	0.1	100.0
18-24 years						
1998	28.3	40.2	27.4	3.7	0.5	100.0
2003	32.6	38.8	23.9	4.2	0.5	100.0
2006	30.7	37.8	25.0	5.9	0.7	100.0
25-44 years						
1998	35.3	39.7	22.2	2.5	0.3	100.0
2003	42.1	35.9	18.9	2.7	0.3	100.0
2006	40.5	37.1	18.5	3.5	0.3	100.0
45-64 years						
1998	42.0	37.1	18.6	2.1	0.2	100.0
2003	52.7	31.7	14.1	1.4	0.2	100.0
2006	52.3	33.8	12.6	1.2	0.1	100.0
65+ years						
1998	49.6	34.1	14.4	1.6	0.2	100.0
2003	60.7	27.9	10.2	1.1	0.1	100.0
2006	63.0	28.3	8.0	0.5	0.1	100.0

Source: CSO

Table 8.6 Households classified by whether they experienced crime, 2003 and 2006

Number and percentage

	2003				2006			
	All households	Household burglary	Vandalism	Victims of any crime	All households	Household burglary	Vandalism	Victims of any crime
	'000	%	%	%	'000	%	%	%
All households	1,394.3	3.4	4.8	11.7	1,513.8	3.2	4.8	11.3
Region								
Border	154.3	1.9	4.4	8.2	166.6	1.7	4.1	7.7
Midland	79.7	4.4	2.3	8.4	88.4	4.2	2.8	8.7
West	139.1	1.9	3.2	7.4	151.2	1.9	3.4	7.8
Dublin	400.1	4.8	7.8	18.6	428.0	4.4	8.1	18.0
Mid-East	140.7	3.9	4.9	12.2	154.6	3.9	3.6	10.9
Mid-West	121.1	3.2	4.0	11.0	132.4	3.5	5.1	11.2
South-East	150.4	3.6	2.5	8.0	167.4	3.3	2.5	7.7
South-West	208.8	1.8	3.5	7.8	225.2	1.9	3.1	7.7
Household composition								
1 adult, no children	300.3	3.3	4.0	9.1	331.7	3.2	4.1	8.9
2 adults, no children	349.3	3.1	4.5	10.1	388.1	3.2	4.5	9.8
3 or more adults, no children	264.1	3.3	4.9	13.0	284.1	2.9	5.2	12.5
1 adult with children	52.8	5.3	9.5	17.8	60.4	3.3	7.8	14.6
2 adults with 1-3 children	263.4	3.2	5.1	12.6	284.2	3.4	5.1	12.8
Other households with children	164.3	3.8	4.9	14.1	165.2	3.6	5.0	14.0
Urban/rural location								
Urban areas	862.8	3.9	6.6	14.8	912.8	3.7	6.7	14.6
Rural areas	531.4	2.5	2.0	6.5	601.0	2.5	2.0	6.3

Source: CSO

Percentage of households that were victims of crime, classified by region

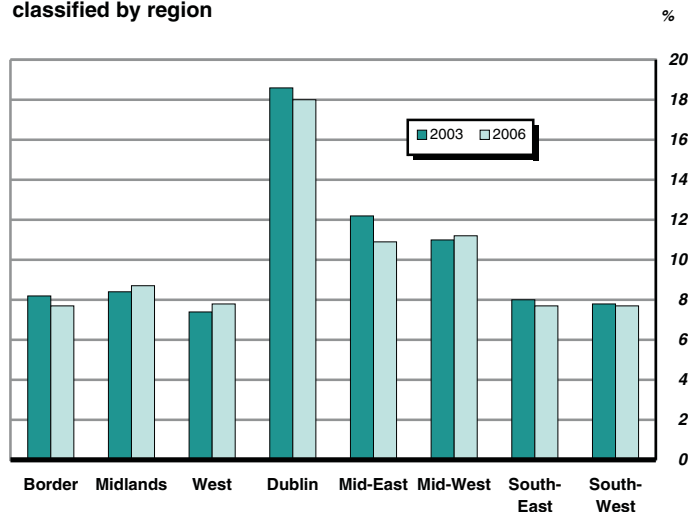


Table 8.7 Sentenced prisoners in custody by length of sentence and sex, 27 September 2007

Number and percentage

Length of sentence	Male		Female		Total	%
		%		%		
Life	235	9	5	7	240	9
10 years or more	196	8	3	4	199	7
5 up to 10 years	612	24	7	10	619	23
3 up to 5 years	478	18	18	26	496	19
2 up to 3 years	260	10	8	12	268	10
1 up to 2 years	333	13	7	10	340	13
6-12 months	319	12	13	19	332	12
under 6 months	168	6	7	10	175	7
Total	2,601	100	68	100	2,669	100

Source: Irish Prison Service

Table 8.8 Sentenced prisoners in custody by age and sex, 27 September 2007

Number

Age	Male	Female	Total
15-16	9	0	9
17-20	321	8	329
21-24	517	10	527
25-29	592	21	613
30-39	658	19	677
40-49	305	7	312
50 and over	199	3	202
Total	2,601	68	2,669

Source: Irish Prison Service

Age and sex of prisoners, 27 September 2007

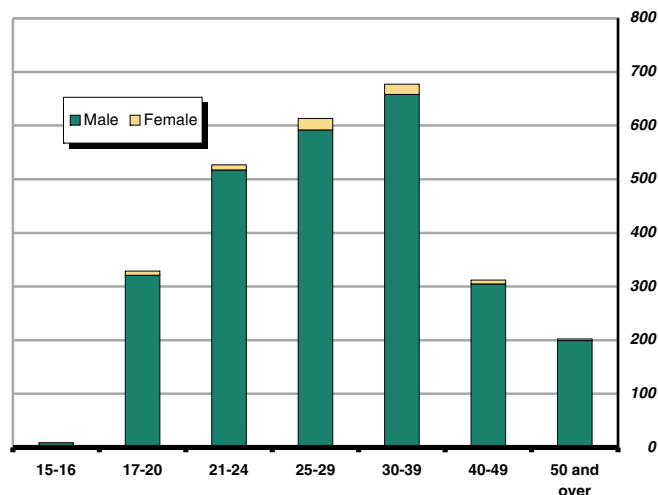


Table 8.9 Numbers in each rank of the Defence Forces

Rank	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Commissioned Officers	1,246	1,243	1,270	1,303	1,336	1,348	1,360	1,345
Lieutenant-General	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Major-General	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	3
Brigadier-General	7	8	9	8	8	8	8	10
Colonel	32	37	38	41	42	43	43	44
Lieutenant-Colonel	130	131	140	145	151	149	153	159
Commandant	444	440	442	423	429	423	401	391
Captain	392	355	327	324	336	365	393	358
Lieutenant	165	174	211	257	234	235	239	226
2nd Lieutenant	72	94	99	101	133	122	120	153
Non-Commissioned Officers	4,117	3,985	3,962	3,967	3,960	3,934	3,919	3,817
Sergeant-Major	45	48	49	47	47	46	45	44
Battalion Quartermaster-Sergeant	48	51	48	52	52	53	48	45
Company Sergeant	236	248	265	271	256	260	263	254
Company Quartermaster-Sergeant	273	258	279	278	279	278	271	281
Sergeant	1,336	1,291	1,354	1,395	1,364	1,383	1,354	1,400
Corporal	2,179	2,089	1,967	1,924	1,962	1,914	1,938	1,793
Private	5,476	5,296	5,194	5,090	5,119	5,038	5,088	5,162
Cadet	119	108	133	138	136	125	112	110
TOTAL PERMANENT DEFENCE FORCE	10,958	10,632	10,559	10,498	10,551	10,445	10,479	10,434
Permanent personnel per 100,000 population	289	276	270	264	261	253	247	240
Total Reserve Defence Force	13,967	13,097	13,365	13,941	13,167	10,368	9,506	8,793
Reserve of Officers (First Line)	194	179	186	179	177	177	155	144
Reserve of Men (First Line)	283	287	267	230	223	224	217	241
Reserve (Second Line) All Ranks	13,490	12,631	12,912	13,532	12,767	9,967	9,134	8,408

Source: Defence Forces

Table 8.10 Numbers in each rank of the Garda Síochána

Number

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Commissioner ranks	13	13	13	13	13	13	14	15	14	15
Chief Superintendents	46	46	46	47	47	47	47	47	46	52
Superintendents	168	168	169	170	171	173	168	173	166	185
Inspectors	262	263	293	289	294	294	291	289	287	330
Sergeants	1,866	1,876	1,897	1,933	1,928	1,946	1,950	1,926	1,945	2,083
Gardaí	8,880	9,092	9,222	9,362	9,447	9,545	9,739	9,815	10,496	11,090
Total	11,235	11,458	11,640	11,814	11,900	12,018	12,209	12,265	12,954	13,755
Garda personnel per 100,000 population	303	306	307	307	304	302	302	297	306	317

Source: Garda Síochána

Table 8.11 Type and frequency of seizures of particular drugs

Quantity and number

Drug		2006		2007	
		Quantity seized	No. of seizures	Quantity seized	No. of seizures
Alprazolam	Tablets	94	11	217	16
Amphetamine	Powder (gms)	41,397	277 ¹	58,217	235 ¹
	Tablets	7,743		10,471	
Cannabis	Resin (gms)	6,971,699	3,587	1,235,352	3,166
	Herbal (gms)	314,848	609	763,120	1,910
	Plants ¹	633	47	1,272	100
Cocaine	Powder (gms)	195,343	1,500	1,751,802	1,749
Diazepam	Tablets	37,886	147 ¹	71,483	166 ¹
	Powder (gms)	15		1,988	
Dihydrocodeine	Tablets	486	10	358	16
Ecstasy	Tablets	156,133	858 ¹	204,806	1,173 ¹
	Powder and Crystals (gms)	197		13,253	
	Liquid (ml)	1,500		0	
Ephedrine	Tablets	100	4 ¹	695	11 ¹
	Capsules	6		47	
	Powder (gms)	0		3	
	Liquid (ml)	1,375		0	
Flunitrazepam (Rohypnol)	Tablets	197	8	76	4
Flurazepam	Capsules	664	28	3,608	24
LSD	Units	1,528	1	140	13
Methadone	Liquid (ml)	2,384	24	6,022	21 ¹
	Tablets	0		900	
Methylamphetamine	Powder (gms)	144	22	41	9
Temazepam	Tablets	18	8	4	3

¹ This figure represents the combined number of relevant seizures.
 Source: Forensic Science Laboratory, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform

Permanent personnel per 100,000 population

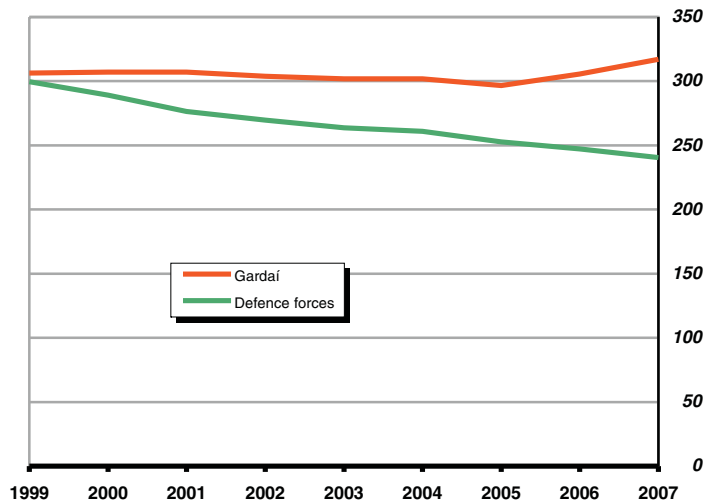


Table 8.12 Applications received for small claims

Court outcome	Number	
	2006	2007
Holidays	393	375
Professional services	148	164
Dry cleaners	105	107
Building	105	109
Damage to private property	158	303
Key money	41	62
Electrical goods	309	341
Audio/computer	225	172
Clothing	93	102
Shoes	70	66
Furniture	160	311
Carpets/flooring	88	86
Doors/roofs	73	82
Cars	207	251
Other	815	1,203
Total	2,990	3,734

Source: Courts Service Annual Report 2007

Table 8.13 Applications received for divorce, judicial separation and nullity

Number

	Divorce		Judicial Separation		Nullity	
	High	Circuit	High	Circuit	High	Circuit
2000	39	3,339	76	1,592	8	84
2001	31	3,459	76	1,845	8	109
2002	33	3,912	59	1,871	2	52
2003	42	3,733	53	1,802	1	92
2004	34	3,880	48	1,654	0	51
2005	30	4,096	49	1,658	1	50
2006	39	3,986	50	1,789	1	60
2007	28	4,081	52	1,689	0	60

Source: Courts Service Annual Report 2007

Table 8.14 Orders granted for divorce, judicial separation and nullity

Number

	Divorce		Judicial Separation		Nullity	
	High	Circuit	High	Circuit	High	Circuit
2000	30	2,710	27	998	5	47
2001	20	2,817	27	1,018	4	59
2002	20	2,571	28	940	1	40
2003	41	2,929	26	1,206	4	33
2004	42	3,305	42	1,216	5	20
2005	20	3,391	23	950	6	37
2006	47	3,420	27	1,072	0	25
2007	26	3,658	18	1,167	1	27

Source: Courts Service Annual Report 2007

Orders granted for divorce, judicial separation and nullity

