



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

PSNI Annual Statistical Report

Report No. 1

RECORDED CRIME & DETECTIONS

1ST APRIL 2009 – 31ST MARCH 2010



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Data Quality: The PSNI's statistics on recorded crime and detections are individually checked for compliance with Home Office Counting Rules by the PSNI's Central Statistics Branch. In addition, audits are conducted to ensure that crimes reported to the police are accurately recorded (i.e. to minimise the level of under or over recording of crime).

1. Recorded Crime

Summary

Overall Crime – Number Recorded

- A total of 109,139 offences were recorded during 2009/10 compared with 110,094 in 2008/09. This represents a decrease of 955 (-0.9%).
- December 2009, January 2010 & February 2010 saw the lowest monthly crime levels since the revised Home Office Counting Rules were introduced in April 1998. There were 7,824 offences recorded in January 2010, 8,055 offences in February 2010 and 8,084 in December 2009. Prior to this the lowest monthly level of crime had been in December 2007 when 8,355 offences were recorded.

Overall Crime – Detection Rate

- The overall detection rate during 2009/10 was 25.8%, 2.8 percentage points higher than that achieved in 2008/09.
- The sanction detection rate has increased each year since 2001/02 when it stood at 11.3% to the current level of 25.8% (since 2007/08 both the sanction and overall detection rates have been effectively one and the same).

Violent Crime - Overall

- Overall violent crime rose by 406 (+1.2%) from 32,694 to 33,100.
- The violent crime detection rate also increased from 30.3% to 34.1% (+3.8 percentage points).

Violent Crime - Offences against the person

- Offences against the person rose by 412 (+1.4%), while the detection rate rose by 4.1 percentage points from 31.3% to 35.4%.
- There were 18 murders in 2009/10 which is the lowest number in any 12 month period since 1970¹. There were also 18 murders detected during 2009/10 giving a detection rate of 100%.
- Wounding with intent/GBH with intent increased by 475 (+60.1%) from 791 offences to 1,266 offences². Assault on police offences increased by 323 (+11.3%) to a level of 3,179. Other offences of assault showed decreases. Wounding/GBH fell by 121 (-12.9%) to 814 offences, AOABH fell by 302 (-2.4%) to a level of 12,394 and common assault/aggravated assault showed a similar decrease of 303 (-3.9%) from 7,689 to 7,386.

Violent Crime - Sexual offences

- Sexual offences increased by 1 (+0.1%) from 1,943 to 1,944. The detection rate increased by 1.0 percentage points.
- Rape offences (including attempts) rose by 57 (+14.1%) from 404 to 461, while offences of sexual assault/sexual activity fell by 160 (-14.1%) from 1,134 to 974.

Violent Crime - Robbery

- Overall, robbery showed little change with a decrease of 7 (-0.5%) from 1,283 to 1,276. The robbery detection rate increased by 2.2 percentage points to 18.6%.
- Within robbery, armed robbery rose by 49 (+9.6%) while ordinary robbery fell by 50 (-7.7%).

Burglary

- Overall, burglary offences increased by 110 (+0.9%). Domestic burglary fell by 81 (-1.1%) with non-domestic burglary increasing by 210 (+4.2%).
- The detection rate for domestic burglary increased slightly from 9.9% to 10.0%, while the detection rate for non-domestic burglary fell from 13.6% to 12.1%.

Theft

- Theft offences rose by 364 (+1.4%), with shoplifting increasing by 540 (+8.7%). Vehicle crime rose by 216 (+3.2%), most of this increase being made up of a rise of 195 in offences of theft from motor vehicles (+5.1%). There were also increases in theft in a dwelling of 109 (+20.5%) and in vehicle tampering/interference of 100 (+8.9%). However the category of other thefts decreased by 478 (-5.1%).
- The detection rate for all theft offences increased from 19.6% to 23.1%. The detection rate for shoplifting increased by 7.4 percentage points from 51.0% to 58.4%.

Criminal Damage

- Offences of criminal damage fell by 1,971 (-6.9%) and the level now stands at 26,450.
- Within this class the fall in the number of criminal damage/malicious damage offences contributed most to this decrease with 2,040 fewer offences recorded during 2009/10, a fall of 7.9%.
- The detection rate for all criminal damage offences rose from 10.7% to 12.3%.

Fraud and Forgery

- Fraud and forgery offences fell by 237 (-6.6%).
- There were decreases across all fraud & forgery categories with the largest being a fall of 97 (-5.4%) in offences of making off without payment.
- The detection rate for fraud and forgery offences rose slightly from 23.1% to 23.6%.

Offences Against the State

- Offences against the State increased by 83 (+5.9%).
- The detection rate for offences against the state fell from 50.2% to 48.9%.

Other Notifiable Offences

- Other notifiable offences showed an increase of 290 (+5.5%).
- Within drug offences, non trafficking offences showed a rise of 111 (+4.7%) while trafficking offences increased by 61 (+10.0%), giving an overall increase of 172 (+5.8%). Dangerous driving offences increased by 119 (+16.0%).
- The detection rate for other notifiable offences rose from 79.2% to 80.4%.

¹ This comparison is based on financial year information since 1997/98 and calendar year information prior to 1998.

² In April 2008 the Home Office issued clarification to police forces on how to record offences of wounding with intent/GBH with intent for those assaults resulting in minor or no injury to a victim, but where the intent was to cause serious injury. This revised technical guidance was issued to ensure that these offences were recorded in a consistent manner by all police forces. The effect of this clarification was that some offences that would previously have been recorded as other types of assault are now recorded as GBH with intent. While the clarification was introduced in 2008/09, PSNI continued to experience the impact of this during 2009/10. The majority of police forces in England and Wales experienced similar increases in these offences as a result of this clarification. A more detailed explanation can be found in Volume 2 of the Home Office publication 'Crime in England and Wales 2008/09'. (<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1109vol2.pdf>)

Figure 1.1: Recorded Crime 2000/01 - 2009/10

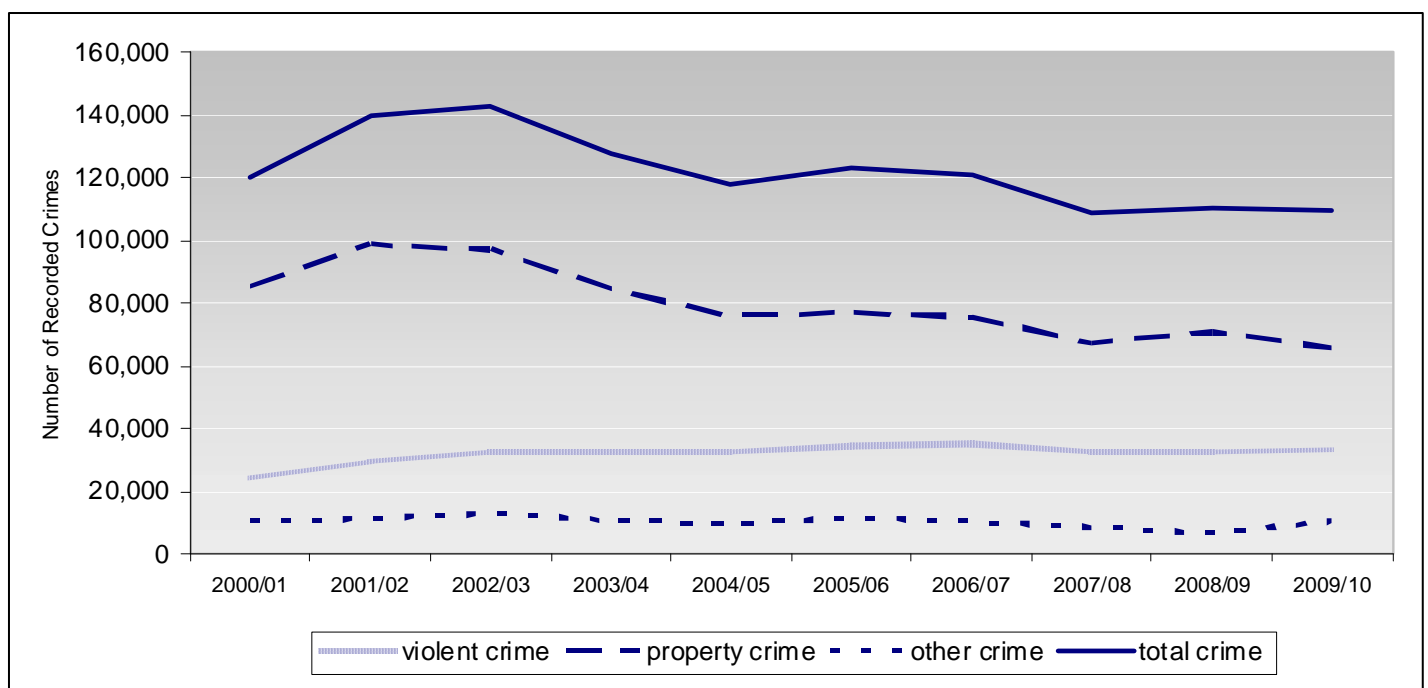


Table 1.2: Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Detected 2008/09 and 2009/10

	Total offences recorded				Total offences detected		Detection rate (%)		
	2008/09	2009/10	change	% change	2008/09	2009/10	2008/09	2009/10	change in % pts ¹
Offences against the person (class 1)									
Murder	24	18	-6	-25.0	20	18	83.3	100.0	+16.7
Manslaughter	2	4	+2	+100.0	1	1	50.0	25.0	-25.0
Infanticide	0	0	0	-	0	0	-	-	-
Causing/allowing death of vulnerable person	1	0	-1	-100.0	0	0	0.0	-	-
Attempted murder	124	114	-10	-8.1	61	55	49.2	48.2	-0.9
Threat or conspiracy to murder	2,104	2,223	+119	+5.7	766	812	36.4	36.5	+0.1
Causing death/GBH by dangerous driving or aggravated vehicle taking	67	97	+30	+44.8	67	92	100.0	94.8	-5.2
Wounding with intent/GBH with intent	791	1,266	+475	+60.1	314	405	39.7	32.0	-7.7
Wounding/GBH	935	814	-121	-12.9	236	230	25.2	28.3	+3.0
AOABH	12,696	12,394	-302	-2.4	3,258	3,794	25.7	30.6	+4.9
Common assault/aggravated assault	7,689	7,386	-303	-3.9	1,598	1,925	20.8	26.1	+5.3
Assault on police	2,856	3,179	+323	+11.3	2,652	2,900	92.9	91.2	-1.6
Intimidation	543	580	+37	+6.8	53	59	9.8	10.2	+0.4
Harassment	1,456	1,626	+170	+11.7	166	245	11.4	15.1	+3.7
Explosives offences endangering life	17	13	-4	-23.5	2	0	11.8	0.0	-11.8
Firearms offences endangering life	38	39	+1	+2.6	15	11	39.5	28.2	-11.3
Other offences against the person	125	127	+2	+1.6	24	28	19.2	22.0	+2.8
Totals	29,468	29,880	+412	+1.4	9,233	10,575	31.3	35.4	+4.1
Sexual offences (class 2)									
Rape	381	446	+65	+17.1	77	56	20.2	12.6	-7.7
Attempted rape	23	15	-8	-34.8	8	3	34.8	20.0	-14.8
Sexual assault/Sexual activity	1,134	974	-160	-14.1	223	217	19.7	22.3	+2.6
Exposure	270	322	+52	+19.3	76	103	28.1	32.0	+3.8
Other sexual offences	135	187	+52	+38.5	78	102	57.8	54.5	-3.2
Totals	1,943	1,944	+1	+0.1	462	481	23.8	24.7	+1.0
Burglary (class 3)									
Domestic Burglary (Total)	7,351	7,270	-81	-1.1	729	728	9.9	10.0	+0.1
Burglary in a dwelling	7,279	7,171	-108	-1.5	708	696	9.7	9.7	-0.0
Aggravated burglary in a dwelling	72	99	+27	+37.5	21	32	29.2	32.3	+3.2
Non-Domestic Burglary (Total)	4,981	5,191	+210	+4.2	679	629	13.6	12.1	-1.5
Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	4,970	5,187	+217	+4.4	678	626	13.6	12.1	-1.6
Aggravated burglary other than in a dwelling	11	4	-7	-63.6	1	3	9.1	75.0	+65.9
Going equipped	142	123	-19	-13.4	84	90	59.2	73.2	+14.0
Totals	12,474	12,584	+110	+0.9	1,492	1,447	12.0	11.5	-0.5

Table 1.2: Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Detected 2008/09 and 2009/10 continued

	Total offences recorded				Total offences detected		Detection rate (%)		
	2008/09	2009/10	change	% change	2008/09	2009/10	2008/09	2009/10	change in % pts ¹
Robbery (class 4)									
Robbery	650	600	-50	-7.7	85	101	13.1	16.8	+3.8
Armed robbery	508	557	+49	+9.6	106	113	20.9	20.3	-0.6
Hijacking	125	119	-6	-4.8	19	23	15.2	19.3	+4.1
Totals	1,283	1,276	-7	-0.5	210	237	16.4	18.6	+2.2
Theft (class 5)									
Theft, one person from another	637	591	-46	-7.2	39	32	6.1	5.4	-0.7
Theft in a dwelling	531	640	+109	+20.5	45	72	8.5	11.3	+2.8
Theft by an employee	342	278	-64	-18.7	138	150	40.4	54.0	+13.6
Theft of pedal cycles	996	977	-19	-1.9	29	38	2.9	3.9	+1.0
Shoplifting	6,214	6,754	+540	+8.7	3,169	3,945	51.0	58.4	+7.4
Vehicle Crime (Total)	6,777	6,993	+216	+3.2	869	976	12.8	14.0	+1.1
Theft from motor vehicles	3,823	4,018	+195	+5.1	155	133	4.1	3.3	-0.7
Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicles	2,954	2,975	+21	+0.7	714	843	24.2	28.3	+4.2
Vehicle tampering/interference	1,127	1,227	+100	+8.9	146	119	13.0	9.7	-3.3
Handling of stolen goods	220	226	+6	+2.7	135	169	61.4	74.8	+13.4
Other thefts	9,397	8,919	-478	-5.1	575	643	6.1	7.2	+1.1
Totals	26,241	26,605	+364	+1.4	5,145	6,144	19.6	23.1	+3.5
Fraud and forgery (class 6)									
Deception	1,198	1,152	-46	-3.8	371	345	31.0	29.9	-1.0
Forgery and counterfeiting	315	227	-88	-27.9	121	116	38.4	51.1	+12.7
Making off without payment	1,809	1,712	-97	-5.4	208	171	11.5	10.0	-1.5
Other frauds	267	261	-6	-2.2	129	159	48.3	60.9	+12.6
Totals	3,589	3,352	-237	-6.6	829	791	23.1	23.6	+0.5
Criminal damage (class 7)									
Arson	2,002	1,980	-22	-1.1	120	112	6.0	5.7	-0.3
Petrol bombing offences	32	56	+24	+75.0	9	11	28.1	19.6	-8.5
Explosives offences	13	23	+10	+76.9	2	5	15.4	21.7	+6.4
Criminal damage/malicious damage offences	25,866	23,826	-2,040	-7.9	2,751	2,980	10.6	12.5	+1.9
Other criminal damage offences	508	565	+57	+11.2	149	157	29.3	27.8	-1.5
Totals	28,421	26,450	-1,971	-6.9	3,031	3,265	10.7	12.3	+1.7

Table 1.2: Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Detected 2008/09 and 2009/10 continued

	Total offences recorded				Total offences detected		Detection rate (%)		
	2008/09	2009/10	change	% change	2008/09	2009/10	2008/09	2009/10	change in % pts ¹
Offences against the state (class 8)									
Offences under anti-terrorism legislation	7	7	0	0.0	3	3	42.9	42.9	0.0
Firearms offences	107	100	-7	-6.5	64	59	59.8	59.0	-0.8
Offences under the Public Order (NI) Order	713	727	+14	+2.0	524	519	73.5	71.4	-2.1
Other offences against the public order	578	654	+76	+13.1	115	146	19.9	22.3	+2.4
Totals	1,405	1,488	+83	+5.9	706	727	50.2	48.9	-1.4
Other notifiable offences (class 9)									
Blackmail	49	50	+1	+2.0	8	6	16.3	12.0	-4.3
Kidnapping and false imprisonment	91	68	-23	-25.3	23	21	25.3	30.9	+5.6
Drug offences (Total)	2,974	3,146	+172	+5.8	2,435	2,557	81.9	81.3	-0.6
Trafficking offences	607	668	+61	+10.0	451	503	74.3	75.3	+1.0
Non-Trafficking offences	2,367	2,478	+111	+4.7	1,984	2,054	83.8	82.9	-0.9
Dangerous driving	746	865	+119	+16.0	746	865	100.0	100.0	0.0
Breach of orders	1,245	1,239	-6	-0.5	877	902	70.4	72.8	+2.4
Other notifiable offences	165	192	+27	+16.4	84	121	50.9	63.0	+12.1
Totals	5,270	5,560	+290	+5.5	4,173	4,472	79.2	80.4	+1.2
Violent Crime (classes 1, 2 and 4)	32,694	33,100	+406	+1.2	9,905	11,293	30.3	34.1	+3.8
Grand Total (all classes)	110,094	109,139	-955	-0.9	25,281	28,139	23.0	25.8	+2.8

¹ While the detection rates are rounded to one decimal place, the detection rate change in % pts is calculated on the unrounded detection rates and then rounded to one decimal place.

Table 1.3: Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Detected by District¹ 2008/09 and 2009/10

	Total offences recorded				Total offences detected		Detection rate (%)		
	2008/09	2009/10	change	% change	2008/09	2009/10	2008/09	2009/10	change in % pts ²
A District	13,588	13,852	+264	+1.9	3,118	3,296	22.9	23.8	+0.8
B District	17,746	16,830	-916	-5.2	3,715	4,260	20.9	25.3	+4.4
C District	12,690	12,749	+59	+0.5	2,572	3,263	20.3	25.6	+5.3
D District	15,101	15,191	+90	+0.6	3,234	3,743	21.4	24.6	+3.2
E District	15,991	15,931	-60	-0.4	3,776	4,249	23.6	26.7	+3.1
F District	9,838	10,052	+214	+2.2	2,836	2,816	28.8	28.0	-0.8
G District	13,394	12,968	-426	-3.2	3,258	3,452	24.3	26.6	+2.3
H District	11,746	11,566	-180	-1.5	2,772	3,060	23.6	26.5	+2.9
Grand Total	110,094	109,139	-955	-0.9	25,281	28,139	23.0	25.8	+2.8

¹ A map showing the Areas covered by each District is provided on the last page of this bulletin.

² While the detection rates are rounded to one decimal place, the detection rate change in % pts is calculated on the unrounded detection rates and then rounded to one decimal place.

Table 1.4: Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Detected by Area 2008/09 and 2009/10

	Total offences recorded				Total offences detected		Detection rate (%)		
	2008/09	2009/10	change	% change	2008/09	2009/10	2008/09	2009/10	change in % pts ¹
Antrim	2,878	3,150	+272	+9.5	732	807	25.4	25.6	+0.2
Ards	2,780	2,951	+171	+6.2	636	832	22.9	28.2	+5.3
East Belfast	5,503	5,182	-321	-5.8	1,006	1,217	18.3	23.5	+5.2
North Belfast	8,424	8,253	-171	-2.0	2,075	2,146	24.6	26.0	+1.4
South Belfast	12,243	11,648	-595	-4.9	2,709	3,043	22.1	26.1	+4.0
West Belfast	5,164	5,599	+435	+8.4	1,043	1,150	20.2	20.5	+0.3
Carrickfergus	1,890	1,611	-279	-14.8	414	354	21.9	22.0	+0.1
Castlereagh	2,448	2,210	-238	-9.7	434	544	17.7	24.6	+6.9
Down	3,986	4,220	+234	+5.9	705	883	17.7	20.9	+3.2
Lisburn	6,001	6,270	+269	+4.5	1,386	1,599	23.1	25.5	+2.4
Newtownabbey	4,332	4,160	-172	-4.0	702	983	16.2	23.6	+7.4
North Down	3,476	3,368	-108	-3.1	797	1,004	22.9	29.8	+6.9
Urban Region	59,125	58,622	-503	-0.9	12,639	14,562	21.4	24.8	+3.5
Armagh	2,655	2,517	-138	-5.2	643	584	24.2	23.2	-1.0
Ballymena	3,616	3,856	+240	+6.6	1,032	1,169	28.5	30.3	+1.8
Ballymoney	1,134	1,076	-58	-5.1	189	206	16.7	19.1	+2.5
Banbridge	2,010	1,907	-103	-5.1	435	474	21.6	24.9	+3.2
Coleraine	4,588	4,195	-393	-8.6	1,083	1,134	23.6	27.0	+3.4
Cookstown	1,852	1,779	-73	-3.9	560	594	30.2	33.4	+3.2
Craigavon	5,766	5,822	+56	+1.0	1,292	1,463	22.4	25.1	+2.7
Dungannon & South Tyrone	2,721	3,040	+319	+11.7	644	673	23.7	22.1	-1.5
Fermanagh	2,808	2,952	+144	+5.1	739	842	26.3	28.5	+2.2
Foyle	7,657	7,656	-1	-0.0	1,675	1,951	21.9	25.5	+3.6
Larne	1,635	1,506	-129	-7.9	360	339	22.0	22.5	+0.5
Limavady	2,588	2,186	-402	-15.5	760	702	29.4	32.1	+2.7
Magherafelt	1,453	1,509	+56	+3.9	427	426	29.4	28.2	-1.2
Moyle	773	933	+160	+20.7	108	212	14.0	22.7	+8.8
Newry & Mourne	5,560	5,685	+125	+2.2	1,406	1,728	25.3	30.4	+5.1
Omagh	2,457	2,281	-176	-7.2	893	707	36.3	31.0	-5.3
Strabane	1,696	1,617	-79	-4.7	396	373	23.3	23.1	-0.3
Rural Region	50,969	50,517	-452	-0.9	12,642	13,577	24.8	26.9	+2.1
Grand Total	110,094	109,139	-955	-0.9	25,281	28,139	23.0	25.8	+2.8

¹ While the detection rates are rounded to one decimal place, the detection rate change in % pts is calculated on the unrounded detection rates and then rounded to one decimal place.

Table 1.5: Recorded Crime: Offences Detected by Method of Detection 2008/09 and 2009/10

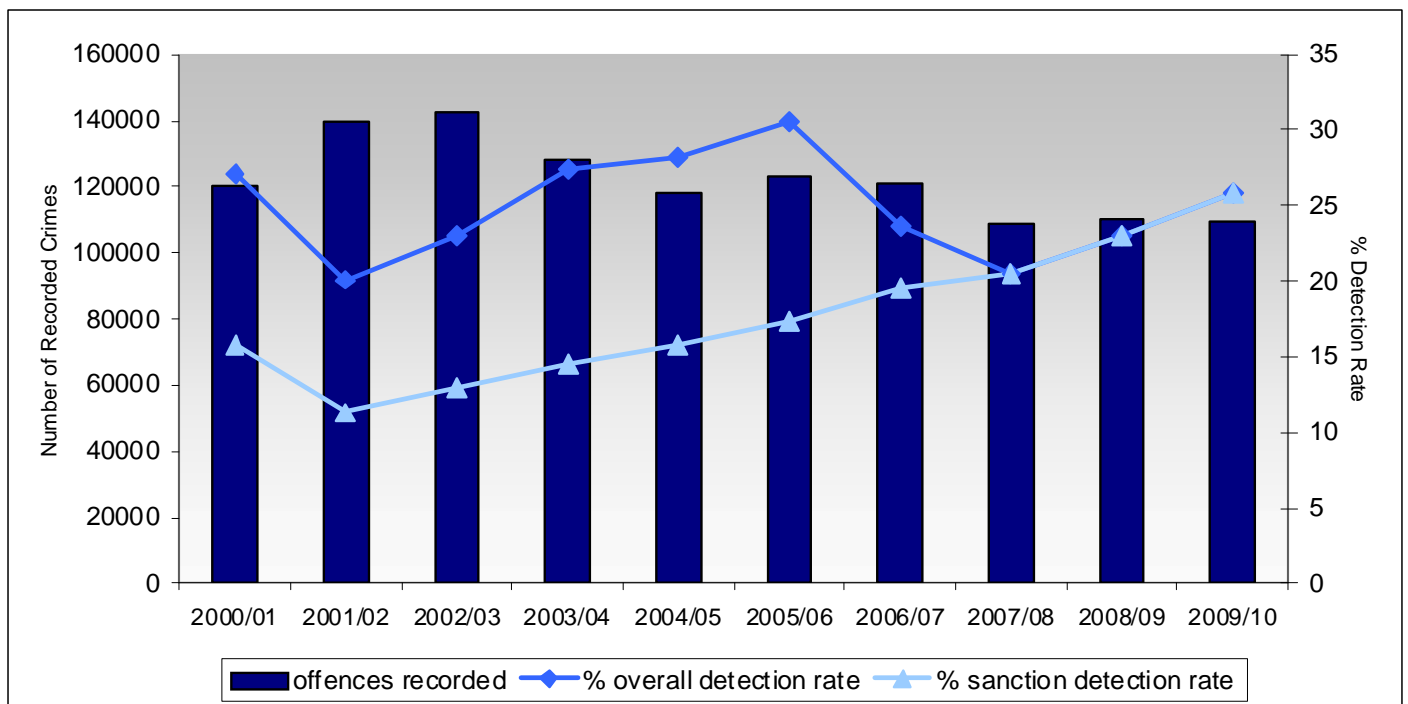
	Number		Rates (%)		
	2008/09	2009/10	2008/09	2009/10	change in % pts ³
Total offences recorded	110,094	109,139	-	-	-
Total offences detected	25,281	28,139	23.0	25.8	+2.8
Sanction detections					
Charge / summons	20,385	22,910	18.5	21.0	+2.5
Caution – adults ¹	2,613	2,788	2.4	2.6	+0.2
Caution – juveniles ²	1,904	2,020	1.7	1.9	+0.1
Taken into consideration	371	412	0.3	0.4	+0.0
Totals	25,273	28,130	23.0	25.8	+2.8
Non sanction detections					
No prosecution directed	5	5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Offender died before proceedings	3	4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Totals	8	9	0.0	0.0	0.0

¹ Adult cautions include adult cautions and adult informed warnings.

² Juvenile cautions include juvenile restorative cautions, juvenile informed warnings and juvenile prosecutorial diversions.

³ While the detection rates are rounded to one decimal place, the detection rate change in % pts is calculated on the unrounded detection rates and then rounded to one decimal place.

Figure 1.6: Recorded Crime and Detection Rate¹ 2000/01 - 2009/10



¹ An explanation of the change in detection rates when comparing 2006/07 onwards with previous years is provided in the Police Recording of Crime – Definitions page.

Police Recording of Crime - Definitions

Recorded Crime

Recorded crime figures (sometimes referred to as notifiable offences) detail those crimes and offences (including attempts) recorded by the police which are deemed to be indictable or triable-either-way. Certain closely associated summary offences are also counted in the recorded crime figures.

Indictable offences are those more serious crimes which are tried on indictment in the Crown Court by a judge and jury;

Triable-either-way offences are those offences which, under certain circumstances, are triable either summarily in a magistrates court or on indictment in the Crown Court;

Summary offences are less serious and are tried in a Magistrates Court before a resident magistrate with no jury.

The number of crimes recorded by the police is dependent on two factors:

- Whether the victim or a representative of the victim brings that crime to the attention of the police or on the crime coming to the attention of the police through some other means (such as the police officer being present at the time);
- Whether that incident is determined as being a recordable offence within the categories laid down by the Home Office in the official counting rules.

Detections

Detections (or clearances as they may alternatively be known) are, broadly speaking, those crimes that have been 'cleared up' by the police. Crimes are counted as 'detected or cleared' in accordance with strict counting rules issued by the Home Office. They are counted on the basis of crimes rather than offenders. For example, if six offenders are involved in a robbery and are all arrested and charged, then this counts as one detection (i.e. the robbery is deemed to be 'detected'). Alternatively if only one of the six is identified and charged while the other five remain unidentified and at large, this also means that the robbery can still be deemed as 'detected'.

The following methods of detection involve a formal sanction:

- Charging or issuing a summons to an offender;
- Issuing a caution to the offender;
- Having the offence accepted for consideration in court;
- The offender is a juvenile who is dealt with by means of an informed warning, restorative caution or prosecutorial diversion.

In addition, for the most serious offence types ('indictable only' – see recorded crime paragraph above for explanation) a non sanction detection can be claimed if:

- The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) directs no prosecution; or
- The case cannot proceed because the offender has died.

Recent Changes in the Recording of Detections

Prior to April 2006 a variety non sanction detections could be claimed where police took no further action, the main one being where the victim declined to prosecute. At that time these detection types accounted for around 50% of the PSNI's total detection rate. However, since then some major changes have been introduced which have substantially limited the detection options open to the PSNI.

In April 2006, a higher evidential standard was adopted within the PSNI following the establishment of the Public Prosecution Service in Northern Ireland. Then in April 2007 the Home Office significantly restricted the detection types available to the police, which meant that virtually all non sanction detections could no longer be claimed as a valid detection. Both of these changes had the impact of greatly reducing the number of non sanction detections to such an extent that the PSNI overall detection rate and its sanction detection rate and now virtually one and the same (only a very small proportion of non sanction detections are now claimed each year).

Violent Crime

Violent crime comprises three main offence groupings: offences against the person, sexual offences and robbery. What violent crime offences have in common is that they involve actual violence or the threat of violence. The degree of violence varies considerably, even between incidents in the same classification. The large majority of incidents categorised as violent crime do not actually involve any significant injury to the victim, although some of the crimes not resulting in injury may still be traumatic for their victims eg threats to kill.

PSNI POLICING DISTRICTS FROM 1ST APRIL 2007

