

# INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS OF RECORDED VIOLENT CRIME RATES FOR 2000

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## ***Introduction***

This paper compares the rate of recorded violent crime in New Zealand to rates of violent crime for a range of other western countries. Information regarding the rate of violent crime in New Zealand is presented in a format that enables comparison with other western countries' data.

## **Erratum**

Table 5 has been amended to correct three errors. The homicide rate per 100,000 population in Australia has been corrected to 1.8 (from 1.6), the assault rate to 736.8 (from 732.8) and the total violent crime rate to 941.9 (from 943.7).

## ***Comparisons between different countries***

Differences in definitions of violent crime make international comparisons problematic, and account for at least some of the apparent differences in recorded violent crime rates between countries.

Definitions of offences vary between countries due to both legal differences and statistical recording methods. For example, the USA and Canada do not appear to include minor assaults, intimidation, and threats within their definition of violent crime. However, New Zealand does include these crimes in its definition, and these offences comprise approximately half of all violent crime in this country. Also, New Zealand does not include sexual offences in violent crime, whereas Australia, USA, Canada, England and Wales do.

Besides definitional differences, recorded crime figures are likely to be affected by many other factors including:

- *Rates at which crimes are reported to, and recorded by, the police.* For example, the 2000 International Crime Victims Survey of seventeen countries (not including New Zealand) indicated that from country to country the percentage of robbery offences reported to the police ranged from approximately 30 to 75 percent; assaults with force ranged from approximately 15 to 70 percent; threats ranged from approximately 20 to 55 percent; and reporting rates for sexual assaults ranged from approximately 28 to 65 percent. In the 1996 New Zealand National Survey of Crime Victims, it was estimated that 23.6 percent of robberies, 32.8 percent of non-domestic assaults, and 18.5 percent of non-domestic threats were reported to the Police. It should also be noted, however, that comparisons drawn between different countries' crime surveys may be of limited use due to factors such as differences in survey design, coverage, response rates, methodology for data collection and offence definitions;

- *Differences in the point at which crime is recorded.* Generally, crime appears to be recorded when preliminary investigations provide sufficient evidence that an offence has been committed. Some countries record crime, however, when the offence is reported to the police, while other countries may not record a crime until a suspect is identified and papers are forwarded to the prosecutor;
- *Differences in the rules when counting multiple offences by individuals.* For example, in New Zealand, recorded crime data indicates one count for every offence recorded, regardless of how many were committed by the same individual. In some countries multiple crimes of the same type, occurring within the same incident may be recorded as one crime, depending on the type of crime;
- *Whether crime rates are counted in terms of the number of offences, or the number of victims.* In New Zealand, all offences arising from a single incident or in relation to a single victim are normally counted. In contrast, in some other jurisdictions there are “hierarchy rules” so that only the most serious offence is counted;
- *Changes in data quality over time;* and
- *The population standards used to calculate crime rates per capita.* Some countries employ adult populations in these calculations, while others use total population. When the total population is used, the resulting crime rate per capita is lower than when adult population figures are employed.

It is strongly recommended that these issues be reported along with any comparisons drawn between different countries’ violent crime rates.

### ***New Zealand’s Violent Crime***

New Zealand’s definition of violent crime includes:

- *Homicide* (murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, infanticide, abortion, aiding and abetting suicide)
- *Kidnapping and abduction*
- *Robbery* (including aggravated robbery, robbery, assault with intent to rob, and compelling execution of documents by force)
- *Grievous assaults* (wounding with intent, injuring with intent, aggravated wounding or injury, disabling, discharging firearm or doing dangerous act with intent, injuring by unlawful act, acid throwing, poisoning with intent, infecting with disease, using any firearm against a law enforcement officer, commission of a crime with a firearm, assault with weapon)
- *Serious assaults* (aggravated assault, assault with intent to injure, assault on a child or by a male on a female, assault on a member of the police, assault a person assisting the police, assault on a person in the lawful execution of a process, common assault under the Crimes Act)
- *Minor assaults* (assaults under the Summary Offences Act: assault on law enforcement officers, assault person assisting the police, assaults official (other statutes), common assault, miscellaneous common assault)
- *Intimidation/threats* (threatening to kill or do grievous bodily harm, threatening acts, threatening to destroy property, intimidation (under the Summary Offences Act), demanding with intent to steal, extortion by certain threats, offensive weapon possession (under Crimes Act, Summary Offences Act, and miscellaneous acts), fail to provide necessities, cruelty to a child, miscellaneous intimidation/threats (miscellaneous acts))

- *Group assemblies* (rioting, riotous damage, forcible entry and detainer, unlawful assembly, disorderly behaviour, crimes against personal privacy, Harassment Act 1997 offences, participation in criminal gang, associating with violent offenders)

New Zealand Police's definition of violent crime does not include any sexual offences.

Table 1 provides the rate of recorded crime per 100,000 population for each of the New Zealand violent crime categories. This information was taken from the New Zealand Office of the Police Commissioner March 2002 document "Police Statistics 2001: A summary of recorded and resolved offences".

**Table 1: Number and rate per 100,000 population of violent offences for New Zealand, 2000 and 2001**

Violent Crime	Number of recorded offences for 2000	Rate per 100,000 population for 2000	Number of recorded offences for 2001	Rate per 100,000 population for 2001
Homicide	99	2.6	93	2.4
Kidnapping & abduction	159	4.2	161	4.2
Robbery	1779	46.3	1658	43.1
Grievous assaults	2714	70.6	2896	75.4
Serious assaults	14154	368.3	14593	379.7
Minor assaults	13309	346.3	13973	363.6
Intimidation/threats	8988	233.9	10267	267.1
Group assemblies	371	9.7	383	10.0
<b>Total violent crime</b>	<b>41573</b>	<b>1082</b>	<b>44024</b>	<b>1146</b>

### ***New Zealand's Sexual Offences***

New Zealand's definition of sexual offences includes:

- *Sexual affronts* (distribution or exhibition of indecent matter, indecent act in public place, indecent act with intent to insult or offend, indecent exposure)
- *Sexual attacks* (abduction for marriage or sex, indecent assaults, inducing sexual connection by coercion, sexual violation by rape or unlawful sexual connection, attempt to commit sexual violation, assault attempt to commit sexual violation, sexual intercourse with girl under care or protection, sex offence against male victim (Crimes Act 1961))
- *Abnormal sex* (incest, bestiality, indecency with animal, compelling indecent act with animal)
- *Immoral behaviour/miscellaneous* (unlawful sexual intercourse, attempted unlawful sexual intercourse, indecent assaults, indecency (female-female), indecency (male-female), indecency (male-male), conspiracy to endure sexual intercourse, brothels and prostitution, publish breaches, miscellaneous immoral behaviour offences, woman on wharf or ship, child sex tours offences)

Table 2 provides the rates of crime per 100,000 population for each of the New Zealand sexual offence categories. This information was taken from the Office of the Police Commissioner March 2002 document "Police Statistics 2001: A summary of recorded and resolved offences".

**Table 2: Number and rate per 100,000 population of sexual offences for New Zealand, 2000 and 2001**

Sexual offences	Number of recorded offences for 2000	Rate per 100,000 population for 2000	Number of recorded offences for 2001	Rate per 100,000 population for 2001
Sexual affronts	752	19.6	624	16.2
Sexual attacks	2107	54.8	2138	55.6
Abnormal sex	13	0.3	26	0.7
Immoral behaviour/misc	442	11.5	321	8.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>3314</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>3109</b>	<b>81</b>

### ***New Zealand compared to USA violent crime***

Statistics for the USA were drawn from a publication compiled by the FBI as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) programme. The UCR adopts standard definitions of crime types that must be reported on by United States police agencies to enable comparative data to be generated. The publication is available at [www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius\\_00/00crime213.pdf](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius_00/00crime213.pdf)

The definitions used for violent crime in America differ considerably from the New Zealand definition of violent offences. In UCR statistics, violent crime is composed of four offences: murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. All violent crimes involve force or threat of force. However, a subsection of New Zealand violent & sexual assault offences can be drawn together to provide a comparative statistic to the UCR violence benchmark. The offences included in the American definition of violent crime and the equivalent New Zealand offences are provided in Table A1 in the appendix.

The following tables indicate the number of offences and the rate of recorded offences per 100,000 population for the four categories of violent crime as according to the American definition.

**Table 3: Number and rate per 100,000 population<sup>1</sup> of violent offences for America in 2000**

Offence	Number of offences recorded in USA	Rate per 100,000 population in USA <sup>2</sup>
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	15517	5.5
Robbery	407842	144.9
Forcible rape	90186	32.0
Aggravated assault	910744	323.6
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>1424289</b>	<b>506.1</b>
Notes: 1. Total population was used in calculating rates per 100,000 population 2. Rounded to one decimal place		

**Table 4: Number and rate per 100,000 population<sup>1</sup> of violent offences for New Zealand in 2000, according to the American definition of violent crime<sup>2</sup>**

Offence	Number of offences recorded in NZ	Rate per 100,000 population in NZ <sup>3</sup>
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	66	1.7
Robbery	1775	46.2
Forcible rape	517	13.7
Aggravated assault	2737	71.2
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>5095</b>	<b>132.6</b>

- Notes:**
1. Total population was used in calculating rates per 100,000 population
  2. Subsections of NZ violent and sexual assault offences have been drawn together to provide comparative statistics for the American violent crime categories definitions. However, caution must still be taken in comparing the statistics between countries, as there are significant differences in the criminal systems and offence definitions in the two jurisdictions.
  3. Rounded to one decimal place

In 2000, America had more than double the rate of forcible rape per capita than New Zealand, more than three times the rate of murder and non-negligent manslaughter and robbery than New Zealand per capita, and over four times the rate of aggravated assault per capita than New Zealand. The rate of total violent crime for America in 2000 was 506.1 per 100,000 population; almost four times the rate of 132.6 for New Zealand. Great caution, however, should be adopted in interpreting these comparative figures. In addition to the factors discussed in the earlier section “Comparisons between different countries”, there are significant differences in the criminal systems and offence definitions in the two jurisdictions.

### ***New Zealand compared to Australia violent crime***

The information in this section regarding Australia’s crime rates is sourced from the document “Recorded Crime, Australia 2000”, obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics website, [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au).

The definitions used for violent crime in Australia differ considerably from the New Zealand definition of violent offences. Australia’s definitions of crime categories can also differ from state to state. However, it appears the standard definition used for violent crime at the federal level includes homicide, assault, sexual assault, and robbery offences. Attempted murder does not appear to be included in the Australian definition of homicide or assault. A subsection of New Zealand violent and sexual assault offences can be drawn together to provide a comparative statistic to the Australian definition. The offences included in the Australian definition of violent crime and the equivalent New Zealand offences are provided in table A2 in the appendix.

The following tables indicate the total recorded number, and rate per 100,000 population for the four categories of violent crime, as according to the Australian definition.

**Table 5 Number and rate per 100,000 population<sup>1</sup> of victims of violence for Australia in 2000**

Offence	Number of victims recorded in Australia <sup>2</sup>	Rate per 100,000 population in Australia <sup>3</sup>
Homicide	346	1.8
Assault	141124	736.8
Sexual assault	15630	81.6
Robbery	23314	121.7
<b>Total violent crime</b>	180414	<b>941.9</b>

- Notes:**
1. Total population was used in calculating rates per 100,000 population
  2. Australia's crime rates are counted in terms of the numbers of victims, rather than the number of offences, as recorded by NZ Police. By the Australian counting rule, each victim within a distinct criminal incident is counted once to the most serious offence within each national offence category, while in NZ, every offence by every offender is recorded. These differences in counting rules are likely to inflate the apparent violent crime rates of NZ in comparison to Australia.
  3. Rounded to one decimal place

**Table 6 Number and rate per 100,000 population<sup>1</sup> of violence offences for New Zealand in 2000, according to the Australian definition**

Offence	Number of offences recorded in NZ <sup>2</sup>	Rate per 100,000 population in NZ <sup>3</sup>
Homicide	68	1.8
Assault	35535	924.6
Sexual assault	2450	64.8
Robbery	1779	47.0
<b>Total violent crime</b>	<b>39832</b>	<b>1036.4</b>

**Notes:** 1. Total population was used in calculating rates per 100,000 population  
2. Subsections of NZ violent and sexual assault offences have been drawn together to provide comparative statistics for the Australian violent crime categories definitions. However, Australia's crime rates are counted in terms of the numbers of victims, rather than the number of offences, as recorded by NZ Police. By the Australian counting rule, each victim within a distinct criminal incident is counted once to the most serious offence within each national offence category, while in NZ, every offence by every offender is recorded. These differences in counting rules are likely to inflate the apparent violent crime rates of NZ in comparison to Australia.  
3. Rounded to one decimal place

In 2000, Australia and New Zealand had an equal rate of homicide per capita. New Zealand's equivalent data for Australia's definition of assault, however, was more than a quarter higher than Australia's rate per capita, while Australia's rate of sexual assault was more than a quarter higher than New Zealand's. Australia's rate of robbery per capita was more than twice that for New Zealand. New Zealand's total violent crime rate of 1036.4 per 100,000 population, according to the Australian definition, was ten percent higher than Australia's rate of 941.9 per 100,000 population. Great caution, however, should again be adopted in interpreting these comparative figures, as discussed below.

In relation to the factors discussed in the earlier section "Comparisons between different countries", Australia and New Zealand's jurisdictions use different crime counting rules. Australia's crime rates are counted in terms of the numbers of victims, rather than the number of offences, recorded by Police. In the Australian counting rule, each victim within a distinct criminal incident is counted once to the most serious offence within each national offence category. For example, if a person is indecently assaulted (one form of sexual assault) and then raped (another form of sexual assault), only one count of sexual assault is recorded. New Zealand's counting rule would normally record two sexual assault offences from this criminal incident. Where a victim is subjected to multiple offences of the same type during a single criminal incident (e.g., being assaulted by several offenders, or repeatedly assaulted by the same offender), the victim is counted only once. In New Zealand, every offence by every offender is normally recorded. These differences in counting rules are likely to inflate the apparent violent crime rates of New Zealand in comparison to Australia. However, due to the many factors that can influence the accurate comparisons of recorded crime figures between the two jurisdictions, it remains unknown to what extent the differences in counting rules alone accounts for the difference in the rates between Australia and New Zealand.

### ***New Zealand compared to England and Wales violent crime***

The information in this section regarding England and Wales' crime rates is sourced from the document "Criminal Statistics England and Wales 2000 – Statistics relating

to Crime and Criminal Proceedings for the year 2000”, obtained from the [www.archive.official-documents.co.uk](http://www.archive.official-documents.co.uk) website.

The definitions used for violent crime in England and Wales differ considerably from the New Zealand definition of violent offences. The England and Wales’ definition used for violent crime includes violence against the person, sexual offences, and robbery offences. A subsection of New Zealand violent and sexual assault offences can be drawn together to provide a comparative statistic to the England and Wales’ definition. The offences included in the England and Wales’ definition of violent crime and the equivalent New Zealand offences are provided in table A3 in the appendix.

The following tables indicate the total recorded number, and rate per 100,000 population for the three categories of violent crime, as according to the England and Wales’ definition.

**Table 7 Number and rate per 100,000 population<sup>1</sup> of victims of violence for England and Wales in 2000<sup>2</sup>**

Offence	Number of victims recorded in England and Wales <sup>3</sup>	Rate per 100,000 population in England and Wales
Violence against the person	Eng and Wales: 600900	Eng: 1131 Wales: 1140
Sexual offences	Eng and Wales: 37300	Eng: 72 Wales: 71
Robbery	Eng and Wales: 95200	Eng: 189 Wales: 181
<b>Total violent crime</b>	Eng and Wales: 733400	<b>Eng: 1390 Wales: 1392</b>
<b>Notes:</b> 1. Total population was used in calculating rates per 100,000 population 2. The Home Office’s July 2000 “Review of Criminal Statistics: A discussion document” indicated difficulties with comparing crime rates between their own forces, let alone conducting international comparisons. 3. England and Wales’ crime rates are counted in terms of the numbers of victims, rather than the number of offences, as recorded by NZ Police. This difference in counting rules is likely to inflate the apparent violent crime rates of NZ in comparison to England and Wales.		

**Table 8 Number and rate per 100,000 population<sup>1</sup> of violence offences for New Zealand in 2000, according to the England and Wales’ definition**

Offence	Number of offences recorded in NZ <sup>2</sup>	Rate per 100,000 population in NZ <sup>3</sup>
Violence against the person	42239	1099.1
Sexual offences	2273	59.1
Robbery	1779	46.3
<b>Total violent crime</b>	46291	<b>1204.5</b>
<b>Notes:</b> 1. Total population was used in calculating rates per 100,000 population 2. Subsections of NZ violent and sexual assault offences have been drawn together to provide comparative statistics for the England and Wales’ violent crime categories definitions. However, England and Wales’ crime rates are counted in terms of the numbers of victims, rather than the number of offences, as recorded by NZ Police. This difference in counting rules is likely to inflate the apparent violent crime rates of NZ in comparison to England and Wales. 3. Rounded to one decimal place.		

In 2000, England and Wales had slightly higher rates of violence against the person per capita, and over twenty percent more sexual offences per capita than New Zealand. England's rate of robbery per capita was more than three times that for New Zealand. Likewise, Wales' rate of robbery was close to three times more than New Zealand's rate of robbery, per capita. New Zealand's total violent crime rate of 1204.5 per 100,000 population was thirteen percent lower than England's rate of 1390 per 100,000 population, and Wales' rate of 1392 per 100,000 population. Great caution, however, should again be adopted in interpreting these comparative figures, as discussed below.

In relation to the factors discussed in the earlier section "Comparisons between different countries", England and Wales' jurisdiction uses different crime counting rules to those applied in the New Zealand jurisdiction. Like Australia, England and Wales' crime rates are counted in terms of the numbers of victims, rather than the number of offences, recorded by Police, thus the differences in counting rules are likely to inflate the apparent violent crime rates of New Zealand in comparison to England and Wales. However, due to the many factors that can influence the accurate comparisons of recorded crime figures between the jurisdictions, it remains unknown to what extent the differences in counting rules alone accounts for the difference in the rates between England and Wales, and New Zealand.

Additionally, the Home Office's July 2000 "Review of Criminal Statistics: A discussion document" indicates how difficult it is compare crime rates between their own forces, let alone conducting international comparisons, stating that amongst the England and Wales' Police:

"There is some confusion in what is counted as a recorded crime.....(there are) two contrasting approaches to recording crimes that are currently in use by police forces. The first is a "prima facie" approach, by which the police accept all crime reports at face value and seek to include in their crime figures every apparent criminal event that comes to their attention. The second approach is the more traditional one, termed the "evidential", whereby the police sift and evaluate those events reported to them and only in those cases where they believe on the basis of the known facts that a crime has actually taken place do the police then record a crime. ....the lack of consistency makes it impossible to compare forces in a reliable fashion."

### ***New Zealand compared to Canada violent crime***

The information in this section regarding Canada's crime rates is sourced from the document "Canadian Crime Statistics 2000", obtained from the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, a division of Statistics Canada.

The definition used for violent crime in Canada differs considerably from the New Zealand definition of violent offences. The Canadian definition used for violent crime includes homicide, attempted murder, assaults total (levels 1, 2, & 3), other assaults, sexual assaults total (levels 1, 2, & 3), other sexual offences, abduction and robbery. A subsection of New Zealand violent and sexual assault offences can be drawn together to provide a comparative statistic to the Canadian definition. The offences included in the Canadian definition of violent crime and the equivalent New Zealand offences are provided in table A4 in the appendix.

The following tables indicate the total recorded number, and rate per 100,000 population for the three categories of violent crime, as according to the Canadian definition.

**Table 9: Number and rate per 100,000 population<sup>1</sup> of victims of violence for Canada in 2000**

Violent crime	Number of victims <sup>2</sup> recorded in Canada	Rate per 100,000 population <sup>3</sup>
Homicide	542	1.8
Attempted murder	766	2.5
Assaults total	233517	759.4
Other assaults	12133	39.5
Sexual assaults total	24049	78.2
Other sexual offences	3105	10.1
Abduction	751	2.4
Robbery <sup>2</sup>	27012	87.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>301875</b>	<b>981.7</b>

**Notes:** 1. Total population was used in calculating rates per 100,000 population  
2. Canada's violent crime rates, except for robbery, are counted in terms of the numbers of victims, rather than the number of offences, as recorded by NZ Police. For robbery in Canada, the number of offences, rather than number of victims are recorded. These differences in counting rules are likely to inflate the apparent violent crime rates of NZ in comparison to Canada.  
3. Rounded to one decimal place.

**Table 10 Number and rate per 100,000 population<sup>1</sup> of violence offences for New Zealand in 2000, according to the Canadian definition**

Violent crime	Number of offences <sup>2</sup> recorded in New Zealand	Rate per 100,000 population <sup>3</sup>
Homicide	66	1.7
Attempted murder	31	0.8
Assaults total	16604	432.0
Other assaults	264	6.9
Sexual assaults total	1977	51.4
Other sexual offences	431	11.2
Abduction	29	0.8
Robbery <sup>2</sup>	1779	46.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>21181</b>	<b>551.1</b>

**Notes:** 1. Total population was used in calculating rates per 100,000 population  
2. Canada's violent crime rates, except for robbery, are counted in terms of the numbers of victims, rather than the number of offences, as recorded by NZ Police. For robbery in Canada, the number of offences, rather than number of victims are recorded. These differences in counting rules are likely to inflate the apparent violent crime rates of NZ in comparison to Canada.  
3. Rounded to one decimal place.

In 2000, Canada and New Zealand had very similar rates of homicide per capita, yet Canada had more than three times the rate per capita of attempted murder than New Zealand. For 'assaults total', New Zealand's rate per capita was less than two-thirds that of Canada's rate, while Canada had more than five times the rate of 'other assaults' per capita than New Zealand. New Zealand's rate per capita for 'sexual assaults total' was also less than two-thirds that of Canada's rate, yet New Zealand had close to eleven percent more 'other sexual offences' per capita than Canada. Canada's rate of abduction per capita was three times New Zealand's rate, while New Zealand's rate of robbery was close to half that obtained for Canada. New Zealand's total violent crime rate of 551.1 per 100,000 population, according to the Canadian definition, was nearly 44 percent lower than Canada's rate of 981.7 per 100,000 population. Great caution, however, should again be adopted in interpreting these comparative figures, as discussed below.

In relation to the factors discussed in the earlier section "Comparisons between different countries", Canada and New Zealand's jurisdictions use different crime

counting rules. Similar to Australia, England and Wales, most of Canada's violent crime rates are counted in terms of the numbers of victims, rather than the number of offences recorded by Police, except for robbery, where one occurrence of robbery is equal to one incident, regardless of the number of victims. These differences in counting rules are likely to inflate the apparent violent crime rates of New Zealand in comparison to Canada. However, due to the many factors that can influence the accurate comparisons of recorded crime figures between the jurisdictions, it remains unknown to what extent the differences in counting rules alone accounts for the difference in the rates between Canada and New Zealand.

### **Summary**

For 2000, New Zealand's rate of recorded violent crime was 1082 per 100,000 population. However, this figure cannot be directly compared with violent crime rates in other western countries because of definitional and other differences. In this report, the definition of violent crime for New Zealand has been adapted to reflect equivalent offences to those contained within other country's definitions.

In accordance with the American definition of violent crime, the rate of total recorded violent crime for America in 2000 was 506.1 per 100,000, almost four times the rate of 132.6 for New Zealand.

In accordance with the Australian definition of violent crime, the rate of total recorded violent crime for Australia in 2000 was 941.9 per 100,000 population, with New Zealand's rate of 1036.4 ten percent higher than that for Australia.

In accordance with the English and Welsh definition of violent crime, the rates of total recorded violent crime for England in 2000 was 1390 per 100,000 population, and for Wales was 1392 per 100,000 population. New Zealand's total recorded violent crime rate of 1204.5 per 100,000 population was 13 percent lower than both England's and Wales' rates of violent crime.

In accordance with the Canadian definition of violent crime, the rate of total recorded violent crime for Canada in 2000 was 981.7 per 100,000 population, with New Zealand's rate of 551.1 nearly 44 percent lower than that for Canada.

The above comparisons, however, have to be interpreted with caution. Aside from the New Zealand definition of violent crime being adjusted for comparisons to other countries to reduce definitional differences, many other factors can affect crime figures differently from one country to another, such as the rates at which crimes are reported to the police and recorded by them; differences in the point at which crime is recorded; differences in the rules by which multiple offences are counted; whether crime rates are counted in terms of the number of offences, or the number of victims; and changes in data quality over time.

### ***Other sources of international comparisons of violent crime***

The United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UNODCCP) conducts an international survey on crime trends and the operations of criminal justice systems every three years. The survey asks each country to provide their recorded crime data according to UNODCCP standard definitions. The most recent survey was for the years 1998-2000. The results from this survey, however, are not yet available.

While the survey can provide information regarding the volume of recorded crimes for many countries using the same definitions, it appears this information is not provided as rates of crime per capita.

### ***Acknowledgements***

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## Appendix

**Table A1 American definition of violent crime and the equivalent New Zealand offences**

AMERICAN DEFINITION	EQUIVALENT NEW ZEALAND OFFENCES
<p><b>MURDER AND NON-NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER</b></p> <p>Murder and non-negligent manslaughter, as defined in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, is the wilful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another. The classification of this offence, as for all other Crime Index offences, is based solely on police investigation as opposed to the determination of a court, medical examiner, coroner, jury, or other judicial body. Not included in the count for this offence classification are deaths caused by negligence, suicide, or accident; justifiable homicides; and attempts to murder or assaults to murder, which are scored as aggravated assaults.</p>	<p>1110 Murder 1130 Manslaughter 1140 Infanticide</p>
<p><b>ROBBERY</b></p> <p>Robbery is the taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.</p>	<p>1310 Aggravated robbery 1320 Non aggravated robbery 1330 Assaults with intent to rob</p>
<p><b>FORCIBLE RAPE</b></p> <p>Forcible rape, as defined in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, is the carnal knowledge of a <u>female</u> forcibly and against her will. Assaults or attempts to commit rape by force or threat of force are also included; however, statutory rape (without force) and other sex offences are excluded</p>	<p>Part of 2650 Series - Sexual violation offences: 265(1-4) – Rape</p> <p>Part of 2660 Series - Attempt to commit sexual violation 266(1-4)- Attempted rape</p> <p>Part of 2670 Series - Assault with attempt to commit sexual violation 267(1-4) Assault with intent to rape</p>
<p><b>AGGRAVATED ASSAULT</b></p> <p>Aggravated assault is an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault is <b>usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm</b>. Attempts are included since it is not necessary that an injury result when a gun, knife, or other weapon is used which could and probably would result in serious personal injury if the crime were successfully completed.</p>	<p>1120 Attempted murder</p> <p>1410 1420 1430 1460 1470 1480 1490</p>

**Table A2 Australian definition of violent crime and the equivalent New Zealand offences**

AUSTRALIAN DEFINITION	EQUIVALENT NEW ZEALAND OFFENCES
<p><b>HOMICIDE</b></p> <p>The definition of homicide used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is the unlawful killing of another person. Homicide statistics include the following categories of offences:</p> <p><i>murder</i> - the wilful killing of a person either intentionally or with reckless indifference to life; and</p> <p><i>manslaughter</i> - the unlawful killing of a person caused: without intent to kill, usually as a result of a careless, reckless or negligent act; or intentionally but due to extreme provocation; or when in a state of mind that impairs the capacity to understand or control one's actions.</p>	<p>1110 Murder 1130 Manslaughter 1140 Infanticide 1150 Abortion 1160 Aiding suicide and pact</p>
<p><b>ASSAULT</b></p> <p>Direct infliction of force, injury or violence upon a person, including attempts or threats, providing the attempts/threats are in the form of face-to-face direct confrontation and there is reason to believe that the attempts/threats can be immediately enacted.</p>	<p>1400 Grievous assaults 1500 Serious assaults 1600 Minor assaults Parts of 1700 series - Intimidation/Threats - 1710 Threats to kill/do gbh - 1720 Threatening acts - 1730 Threatening behaviour/language - 1740 Demand intent to steal/extortion</p>
<p><b>SEXUAL ASSAULT</b></p> <p>Is a physical assault of a sexual nature, directed toward another person where that person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not give consent; or</li> <li>- gives consent as a result of intimidation or fraud; or</li> <li>- is legally deemed incapable of giving consent because of youth or temporary/permanent incapacity.</li> </ul> <p>Sexual assault includes: rape, sexual assault, sodomy, buggery, oral sex, incest, carnal knowledge, unlawful sexual intercourse, indecent assault, and assault with intent to rape.</p>	<p>2600 Sexual attacks 2710 Incest 2800 Immoral behaviour</p>
<p><b>ROBBERY</b></p> <p>Offences that involved the unlawful taking of property, with intent to permanently deprive the owner of the property, from the immediate possession of a person, or an organisation, or control, custody or care of a person, accompanied by the use, and/or threatened use of immediate force or violence. Robbery victims can therefore be persons or organisations.</p>	<p>1300 Robbery</p>

**Table A3 England and Wales definition of violent crime and the equivalent New Zealand offences**

ENGLAND AND WALES DEFINITION	EQUIVALENT NEW ZEALAND OFFENCES
<p><b>VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON</b></p> <p>1. Murder</p> <p>2. Attempted Murder</p> <p>3. Threat or conspiracy to murder</p> <p>4.1 Manslaughter</p> <p>4.2 Infanticide</p> <p>4.3 Child destruction</p> <p>4.4 Causing death by dangerous driving</p> <p>4.5 Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs</p> <p>5. Wounding or other act endangering life</p> <p>6. Endangering railway passenger</p> <p>7. Endangering life at sea</p> <p>8A. Other wounding</p> <p>8B. Possession of weapons</p> <p>8C. Harassment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress</li> <li>- fear or provocation of violence</li> <li>- harassment, alarm or distress</li> </ul> <p>8D. Racially-aggravated other wounding (see 8A)</p> <p>8E. Racially-aggravated harassment (see 8C)</p> <p>11. Cruelty to and neglect of children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Allowing persons under 16 to take part in performances endangering life or limb</li> <li>- Training of persons under 12 for dangerous performances</li> <li>- Taking children to nurse for reward</li> <li>- Exposing child to risk of burning</li> <li>- Allowing child or young person to be in brothel</li> <li>- Neglecting to provide for safety at children's entertainment</li> <li>- Permitting child to be in verminous condition</li> </ul> <p>12. Abandoning a child under the age of two years</p> <p>13. Child abduction</p> <p>14. Procuring illegal abortion</p> <p>15. Concealment of birth</p> <p>37.1 Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking</p> <p>104. Assault on a constable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vagrant violently resisting a constable</li> <li>- Resisting or obstructing constable in execution of his duty</li> </ul> <p>105A. Common assault</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Common assault and battery</li> <li>- Assault on County Court officer</li> <li>- Assault on person assisting a constable</li> <li>- Assault on prison custody officer</li> <li>- Assault on officer in secure training centre</li> <li>- Resisting or wilfully obstructing a prison custody officer</li> <li>- Resisting or wilfully obstructing a custody officer</li> <li>- Assault on court security officer</li> <li>- Resisting or wilfully obstructing court security officer</li> </ul> <p>105B. Racially aggravated common assault (see 105A)</p>	<p>1110 Murder</p> <p>1120 Attempted murder</p> <p>1130 Manslaughter</p> <p>1140 Infanticide</p> <p>1150 Abortion</p> <p>1221 Abducts child under 16</p> <p>1400 Grievous assaults</p> <p>1500 Serious assaults</p> <p>1600 Minor assaults</p> <p>1710 Threatens to kill/do GBH</p> <p>1721 Threatens person – firearm</p> <p>1722 Threatens person – other weapon</p> <p>1723 Threatens person – manually</p> <p>1724 Threatens person - verbally</p> <p>1730 Threatening behaviour/language</p> <p>1740 Demand intent to steal/extortion</p> <p>1770 Fail to provide necessities of life</p> <p>1780 Miscellaneous intimidation/threats</p> <p>1791 Threaten person (stabbing/cutting weapon)</p> <p>1793 Unlawful intimidation/threats (stabbing/cutting weapon)</p> <p>1840 Harassment Act 1997</p> <p>3510 Obstructing/hindering/resisting</p> <p>6860 Offences re use of firearm</p> <p>A105 Causing death under influence of drink</p> <p>A106 Causing death under influence of a drug</p> <p>A108 Excess breath alcohol causing death</p> <p>A111 Causing death under influence drink/drug</p> <p>A112 Aggravated careless (under influence) causing death/injury</p> <p>A304 Cause death driving excess blood alcohol</p> <p>B169 Assault with a weapon</p> <p>B176 Manslaughter if driver had caused death</p> <p>B177 Assault with intent to injure</p> <p>B179 Aggravated assault-Police officer/other</p> <p>B181 Possession of knife in public place no excuse</p> <p>B182 Cause injury – if death occurred guilty manslaughter</p> <p>D102 Recklessly caused death or injury</p> <p>D103 Recklessly driving causing death</p> <p>D202 Drove dangerously cause death or injury</p> <p>D203 Driving in dangerously cause death</p> <p>D303 Driving at dangerous speed causing death</p> <p>D503 Careless/inconsiderate causing death or injury</p> <p>D504 Careless driving causing death</p> <p>D505 Aggravated careless driving cause death or injury</p> <p>D506 Careless driving-excessive speed cause death</p> <p>D508 Careless riving alcohol involved causing death</p> <p>D510 Careless driving reg breach causing death</p> <p>D516 Careless driving-alcohol involved-causing death</p> <p>D517 Careless driving-drug involved-causing death</p> <p>D518 Careless driving-drink/drug involved-causing death</p>

<p><b>SEXUAL OFFENCES</b></p> <p>16. Buggery<sup>1</sup>  17. Indecent assault on a male  18. Gross indecency between males  19A. Rape of a female  19B. Rape of a male  20. Indecent assault on a female  21. Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 13  22. Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16  23. Incest  24. Procuration  25. Abduction  26. Bigamy  27. Soliciting or importuning by a man  - kerb-crawling  - persistently soliciting of women for the purpose of prostitution  73. Abuse of position of trust  74. Gross indecency with a child</p>	<p>2600 Sexual attacks  2710 Incest  2810 Unlawful sexual intercourse  2910 Brothels and prostitution</p>
<p><b>ROBBERY</b></p> <p>34A. Robbery of business property  34B. Robbery of personal property</p>	<p>1300 Robbery</p>

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<sup>1</sup> The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 introduced a specific offence of rape of a male. From 1995, male victims of forced buggery are classified as male rape.

**Table A4 Canadian definition of violent crime and the equivalent New Zealand offences**

CANADIAN DEFINITION	EQUIVALENT NEW ZEALAND OFFENCES
<p><b>HOMICIDE</b> First and second degree murder Manslaughter Infanticide.</p>	<p>1110 Murder 1130 Manslaughter 1140 Infanticide</p>
<p><b>ATTEMPTED MURDER</b></p>	<p>1120 Attempted murder</p>
<p><b>ASSAULTS – TOTAL (levels 1, 2, &amp; 3)</b> Assault (applying intentional force; attempts or threatens to apply force with belief has present ability to effect; accosts or impedes a person or begs while openly wearing or carrying a weapon) Assault with weapon or causing bodily harm Aggravated assault (wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the complainant)</p>	<p>1410 Wounding with intent 1420 Injuring with intent 1430 Aggravated wounding/injury 1450 Dangerous acts with intent 1480 Use firearm against Law Enforcement officer 1490 Assault with weapon 1510 Aggravated assaults 1520 Assault with intent to injure 1530 Assault on child (under 14 years) 1540 Assault by male on female 1580 Common assault 1590 Miscellaneous common assault</p>
<p><b>OTHER ASSAULTS</b> Unlawfully causing bodily harm Discharge firearm with intent Assault peace officer - Police Assault peace officer –other Other assaults (administering noxious thing; overcoming resistance to commission of offence (choke, suffocate or strangle); trap cause harm/permit trap; torture by or authorized by official; assault person with intent to resist arrest or prevent seizure)</p>	<p>1440 disabling/stupefying 1460 Injure – if death ensued 1470 Miscellaneous grievous assaults (throws acid, poisons, infects) 1550 Assaults police 1560 Assault person assist police 1570 assaults person lawful ex process</p>
<p><b>SEXUAL ASSAULT – TOTAL (levels 1, 2, &amp; 3)</b> Sexual assault Sexual assault with weapon, or threats to a third party or causing bodily harm Aggravated sexual assault (wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the complainant)</p>	<p>2630 Indecent assaults 2650 Sexual violation 2660 Attempt to commit sexual violation 2670 Assault intent commit sexual violation</p>
<p><b>OTHER SEXUAL OFFENCES</b> Sexual interference Invitation to sexual touching Sexual exploitation Incest Anal intercourse Bestiality</p>	<p>2640 Inducing sexual connection by coercion 2680 Sexual intercourse with child under care 2690 Sexual offences against male victim 2700 Abnormal sex 2800 Immoral behaviour</p>
<p><b>ABDUCTION</b> Abduction of person &lt; 14 Abduction of person &lt; 16 Abduct contravening custody order Abduction no custody order</p>	<p>1221 Abducts child under 16</p>
<p><b>ROBBERY</b> Robbery with firearms With other offensive weapons Other robbery</p>	<p>1300 Robbery</p>