

SAFETY AND SECURITY

All people enjoy personal safety and security and are free from victimisation, abuse, violence and avoidable injury.¹

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Living without physical and emotional harm, or the fear of harm, is fundamental to being able to reach one's potential, participate in society and enjoy life. This includes freedom from intentional injury by others, in the form of violence and abuse, as well as freedom from avoidable injury. Perceptions about safety are important to the overall health of

communities. If people feel unsafe, they are less likely to participate in community life. An important component of safety and security is crime against property, which imposes significant costs on individual victims and society as a whole. The costs include not only those of recovery, replacement or repair, but also the fear of again being a victim.

FACTORS INFLUENCING SAFETY AND SECURITY

Research suggests a wide range of inter-related socio-economic factors, in particular lack of educational achievement, unemployment, poor health, low socio-economic status, attitudes and a negative peer environment, are all risk factors for criminality. Drug misuse and crime are strongly connected and research suggests that a high proportion of property crime is linked to the need to obtain drugs. The risk factors for offending include:

- having family problems
- having few social ties
- performing and attending poorly at school
- abusing drugs and alcohol
- lacking vocational skills and a job
- living in a neighbourhood that is poor, with high rates of crime and frequently changing living conditions
- lacking cultural pride and positive cultural identity

Research also tells us that children living in a violent and or abusive environment often exhibit serious and long-lasting effects. Abused children may replicate their violent upbringing when they become adults and in turn perpetrate child or partner abuse. Children who are bullied at school may suffer short and long-term emotional problems. Children and young people who are school bullies have often been bullied themselves and are likely to continue to be violent in the community.

A recent national report on victims of crime suggests that there was no clear relationship between either the incidence or prevalence of victimisation and people's perceptions of local crime problems.² This difference between perception and reality may be further reinforced by publicity and media interest in regard to certain types of crimes or certain types of offenders.

The environment and environmental design have the ability to significantly influence safety issues (features such as lighting, roading design etc).

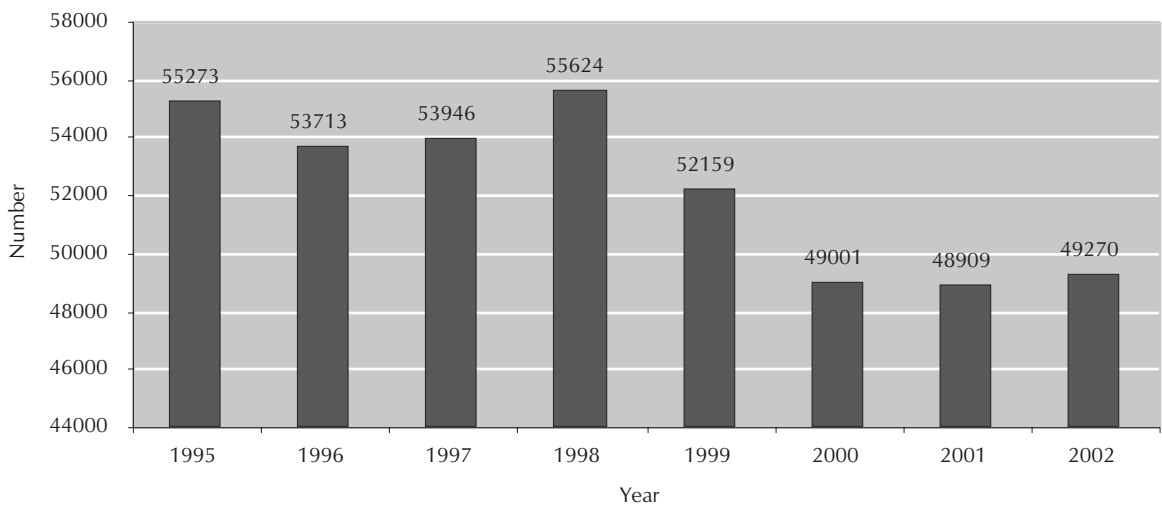
WHAT DO THE MEASURES AND TRENDS TELL US?

In considering crime data, caution needs to be applied. Crime statistics only reflect reported and recorded offences, rather than the actual level of offending in the community. Actual offence levels are likely to be higher than reported offence levels. Fluctuations in crime rates may also be affected by changes in reporting by the public and recording by Police, as well as changes in the actual level of offending.

CRIME TRENDS

The Canterbury Police statistics indicate that the overall level of recorded offences is up slightly in 2002 from 2001 (from 48,909 to 49,270) but has declined overall since 1995.

RECORDED OFFENCES FOR CANTERBURY DISTRICT PER 10,000 POPULATION AND RESOLUTION RATES (YEARS ENDING 31 DECEMBER)

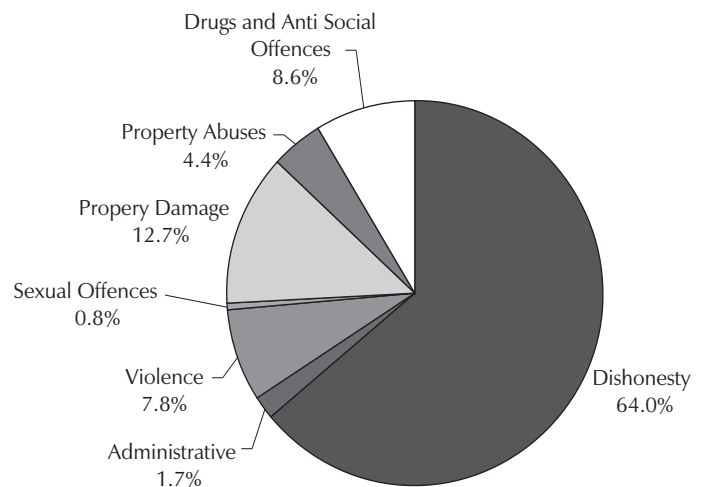


Source: New Zealand Police (March 2003) Canterbury District: *Police Crime Data 2002: A Summary of Recorded and Resolved Offences*, Office of the Police Commissioner, Wellington.

The proportion of total crime offences for Canterbury in 2002 were:

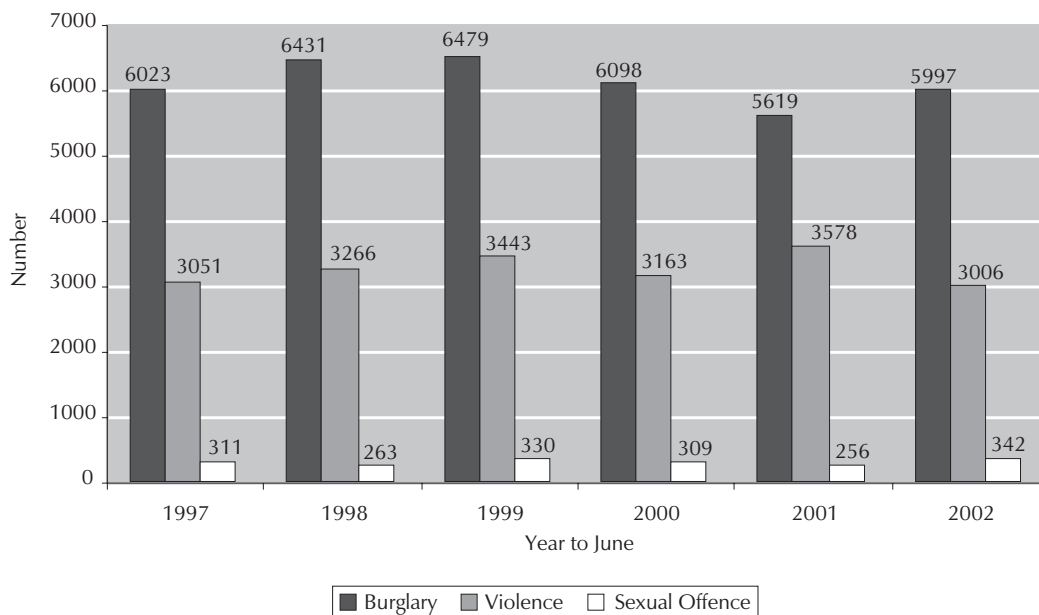
- dishonesty 64%
- property damage 12.7%
- drugs and anti-social offences 8.6%
- violence 7.8%
- property abuse 4.4%
- administrative 1.7%
- sexual offences 0.8%

TOTAL OFFENCES BY CATEGORY FOR 2002 (ENDING 31 DECEMBER)



Source: New Zealand Police (March 2003) Canterbury District: *Police Crime Data 2002: A Summary of Recorded and Resolved Offences*, Office of the Police Commissioner, Wellington.

TOTAL OFFENCES WITHIN CHRISTCHURCH POLICE JURISDICTIONS



Source: New Zealand Police (2002).

Canterbury statistics indicate increases in the number of recorded offences of dishonesty and administrative offence categories, and decreases in the categories of drugs and anti-social behaviour, violence and property

abuses. No change has been recorded in the categories of property damage and sexual offences. National figures followed a similar pattern.

Offence Type	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Violent	5.9	7.0	8.3	8.7	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.4	8.5
Other against Persons	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1
Property	31.5	30.4	30.1	29.6	29.5	29.7	28.7	28.6	28.6	28.1
Drug	6.3	7.0	7.5	6.1	6.0	7.2	7.6	7.8	7.9	7.3
Against Justice	6.1	6.5	6.8	7.0	7.2	8.2	8.4	8.6	8.9	8.7
Good Order	3.4	4.0	4.4	4.8	5.1	5.5	5.7	6.2	6.7	7.2
Traffic	37.8	33.0	31.2	33.3	32.8	33.5	33.5	32.9	32.9	32.7
Miscellaneous	7.5	10.3	9.8	8.5	8.8	5.4	5.4	5.3	4.4	5.4
TOTAL	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Spier, P. (2003). Convictions and Sentencing of Offenders in New Zealand 1992 to 2001. Ministry of Justice.

BURGLARIES

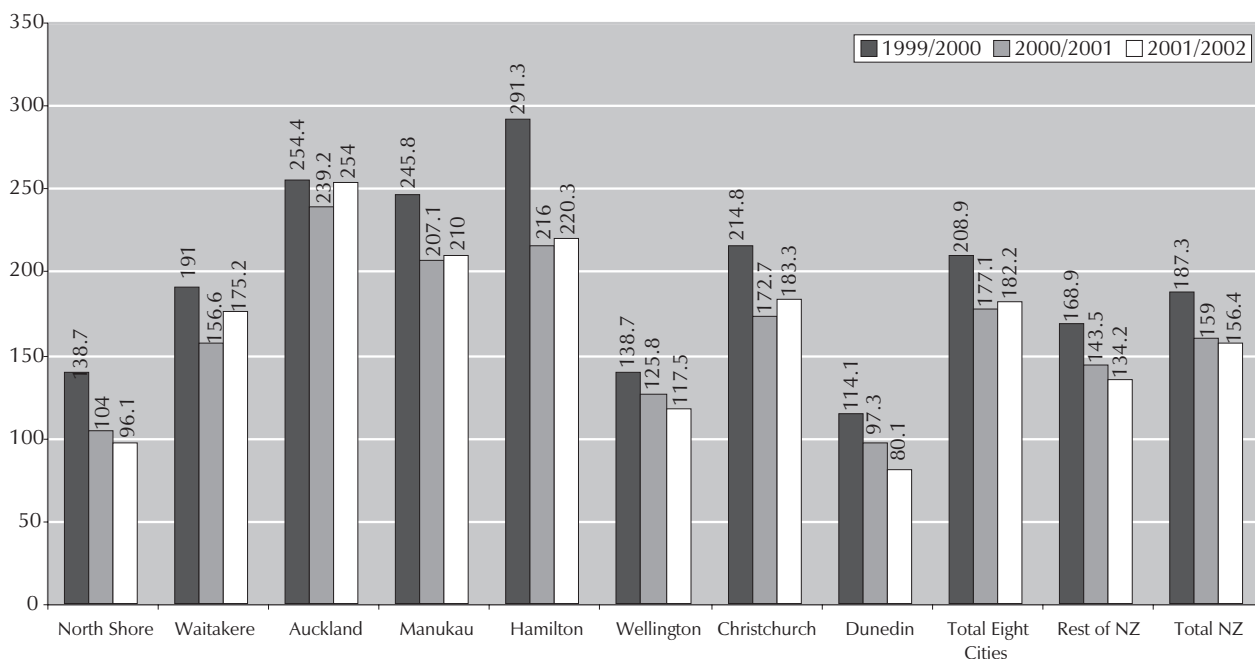
All 8 of the largest cities in New Zealand (North Shore, Waitakere, Auckland, Manukau, Hamilton, Wellington Christchurch and Dunedin) have seen a decline in burglaries from 1999/2000 to 2001/2002.³

VIOLENT OFFENCES

Nationally the rate of recorded violent offences has exhibited an upward trend. Canterbury Police statistics indicate that between 1992 and 1995 there was a significant increase in convictions for violent offences. Since 1995 there has been a slowly decreasing trend in convictions for violent offences.

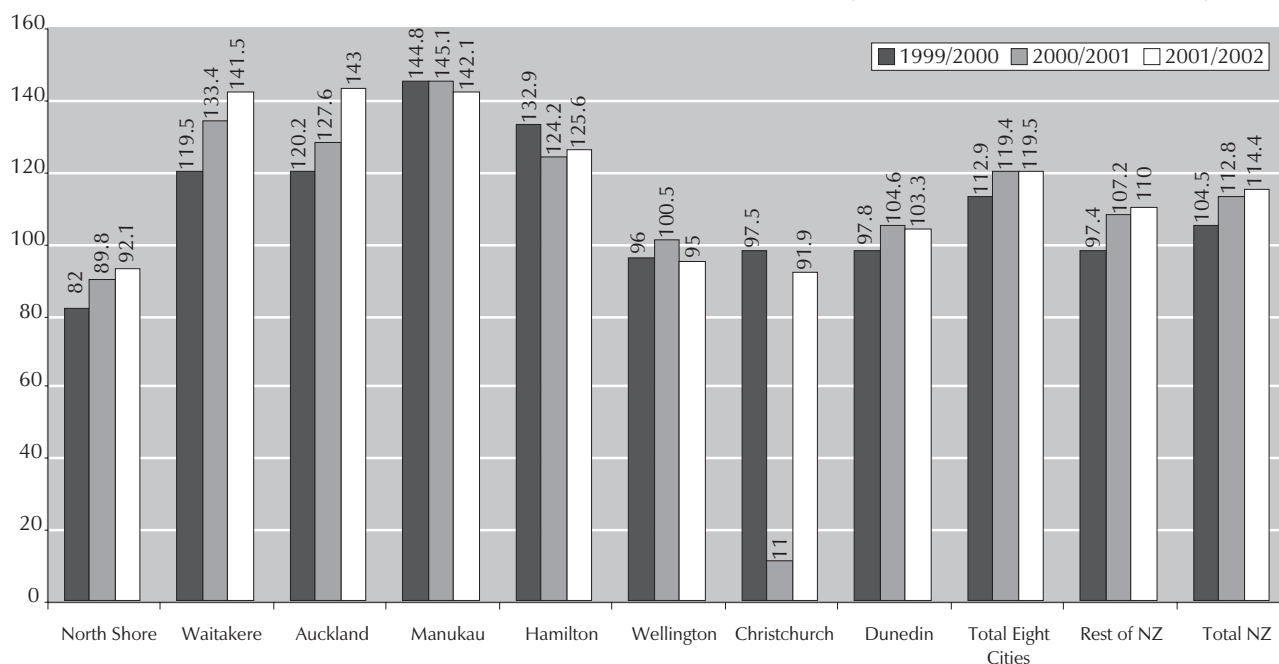
Violent crime traditionally arouses much public concern, although in reality it constitutes less than 10% of recorded offences.

NUMBER AND RATE OF RECORDED BURGLARY OFFENCES PER 10,000 (1999/2000 TO 2001/2002)



Source: Auckland City Council, Christchurch City Council, Dunedin City Council, Hamilton City Council, Manukau City Council, North Shore City Council, Waitakere City Council, Wellington City Council (In print) *Quality of Life in Big Cities of New Zealand*
 Note: Rates calculated using Census 2001 based population estimates.

RATE OF RECORDED VIOLENT OFFENCES PER 10,000 POPULATION BY CITY (1999/2000 TO 2001/2002)



Source: Auckland City Council, Christchurch City Council, Dunedin City Council, Hamilton City Council, Manukau City Council, North Shore City Council, Waitakere City Council, Wellington City Council (In print) *Quality of Life in Big Cities of New Zealand*

SEXUAL OFFENCES

Nationally, the rate of recorded sexual offences has fluctuated, but overall has shown an upward trend overall. Canterbury Police statistics indicate that there has been no real change in rates of sexual offences.

TRAFFIC CONVICTIONS

Traffic convictions in Canterbury for 2001 were the lowest recorded for 10 years. In 2001 they made up 33% of all convictions, down from 38% in 1992.

Despite the decreases in convictions, traffic offences still comprise the largest group of offences resulting in convictions.

Profile of Offenders

71% percent of all offending in Canterbury is committed by adults. In 2001, male offenders accounted for 83% of all cases resulting in convictions.

Nationally, Māori and Pacific peoples are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system. As at 1 April 2003, Māori made up 44.7% of offenders on community-based sentences and 50% of prison inmates. Pacific people made up 8.7% of offenders on community-based sentences and 11.1% of prison inmates. This trend is likely to continue due to the greater proportions of Māori and Pacific people in the 15-24 year old age group, which is the age group that is statistically more likely to offend.⁴

The Crime Prevention Unit examined whether being Māori was in any way a causative or predisposing factor in criminality.⁵ The Unit found no evidence to support such a contention. It argued that a wide range of inter-related socio-economic factors, in particular the lack of educational achievement, unemployment, poor health, low socio-economic status, a dysfunctional family and a negative peer environment, are the key risk factors for criminality.⁶

The negative effects of drugs and alcohol are intimately related to crime and are proven to influence further offending. For many offenders, inappropriate use of drugs and/or alcohol is a significant factor in the sequence of events leading to the commission of an offence.⁷ 90% of drug convictions nationally involved cannabis.⁸

Recidivism

National recidivism reporting in 2001/2002 showed that within 1 year of release from prison 24% of offenders were re-imprisoned and 17% were sentenced to a community-based sentence. Within 1 year of starting a community sentence 12% were imprisoned and 24% sentenced to another community sentence.

YOUTH/JUVENILE OFFENDING

In considering crime data, caution needs to be applied as fluctuations in crime rates may be affected by changes in reporting by the public and recording by Police, as well as by changes in actual level of offending.

Apprehension figures suggest that youth offending constitutes only 29% of all offending in Canterbury, however youth crime traditionally arouses much public concern.

Nationally, apprehensions for under 17 year olds per 10,000 in the population are considerably lower than those of over 17 year olds, with the exception of dishonesty and property damage (for which the reverse is true).⁹

The Ministry of Youth Affairs Report identified that

- around 75% of young people in New Zealand are not known to offend
- of those 25% who are known to have offended, the vast majority (80%) offend only once or twice
- The remaining young offenders (estimated to comprise fewer than 5% of under 17 year olds) tend to commit a high number of crimes across a greater number of years¹⁰

The national data indicates that the majority of offences committed by youth between 2000/01 and 2001/02 were committed by the 14-16 year old age group.

The Youth Offending Strategy Report (2002) characterised children and young people who offend into the following 3 groups:

Low-risk or minor offenders do not commit many offences; their offending is generally a part of their normal maturation process and they will largely stop offending of their own accord. These children and young people generally do not have many risk factors and have a number of protective factors. For example, they may be achieving relatively well in education and have a number of positive relationships with others, including family and friends.

Medium-risk offenders tend to start offending after 13 years, and grow out of their offending by their mid-twenties. They may commit a number of offences and, although late starters, may make up for this by breaking laws of the same seriousness and frequency as high-risk offenders. Some may begin and end their offending careers quite abruptly. They may also behave anti-socially in some environments (such as with friends) and not in others (such as school). This group tends to exhibit two particular risk factors; substance abuse and anti-social peers. They will often have a number of protective factors (eg. family stability, educational achievement) and will be succeeding in other parts of their lives.

High-risk offenders (or serious young offenders) may comprise less than 5% of under 17 year olds, but they account for a large proportion of offences committed by children and young people. They engage in 5 to 20 times as much offending as lower-risk offenders. They begin offending early (before age 14 and as early

as 10 years), offend at high rates, often very seriously and are likely to keep offending into adulthood. They start their anti-social behaviour with minor problems in early childhood, move onto more serious problem behaviours and then begin serious and/ or repeat offending. As they continue offending, they commit serious offences along with numerous less serious offences. These young people are characterised by major personal, social and family disorder.¹¹

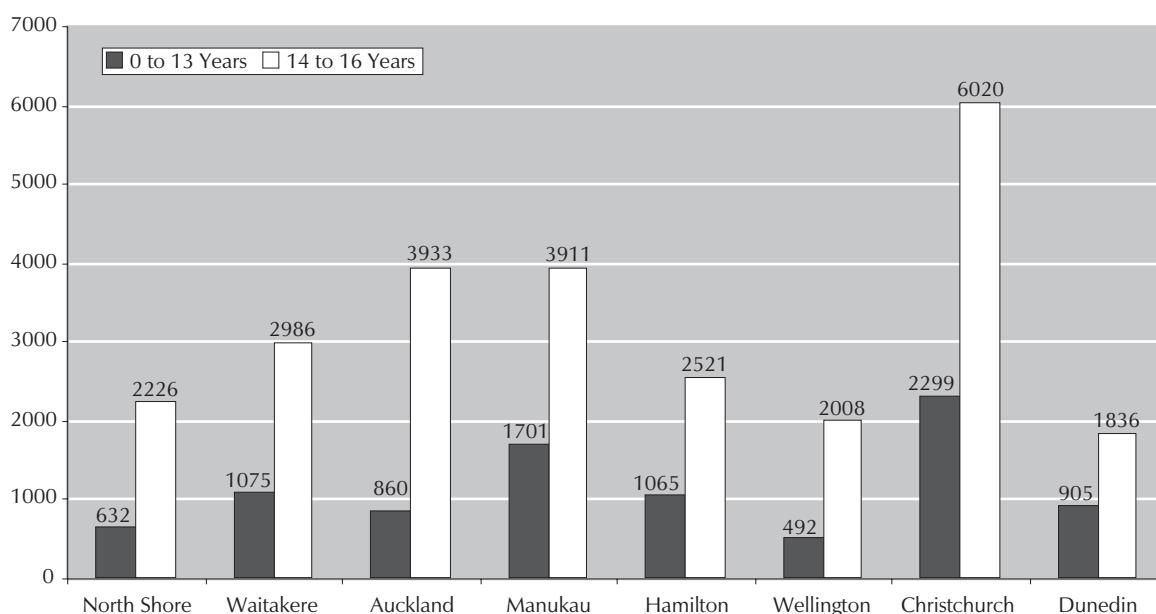
YOUTH APPREHENSIONS IN CHRISTCHURCH

Police statistics show that juvenile offending in Canterbury has decreased since 1999. However,

Christchurch youth apprehensions were the highest of the 8 largest cities (North Shore, Waitakere, Auckland, Manakau, Hamilton, Wellington Christchurch and Dunedin). It is worth noting that both Waitakere and Manakau have the largest youth populations of the 8 cities.

Police statistics show that juvenile offending in Canterbury in the 14 – 16 age group have decreased slightly and offending in 10-13 year age group has remained static. The largest group of offenders is among young people aged 17 – 20 years of age.

YOUTH APPREHENSIONS BY AGE GROUP (2000/2001 To 2001/2002).



Source: Department of Child, Youth and Family, 2003.

Child, Youth and Family (CYF) statistics identify that between 1998 and 2002 there was an average yearly increase of 23.6% in youth justice intakes in Christchurch, compared to a national CYF decrease of 3.7%. Some of this increase can be attributed to a significant, unsustainable and unexplained reduction in youth justice intakes in 2001. This 2001 reduction has had a significant impact on the trends data for this period.

It is worth noting that Christchurch and Palmerston North house the 2 CYF facilities in New Zealand for youth charged with violent offending. It is possible that non-Christchurch youth residing in Christchurch may have an impact on youth offending statistics for Christchurch.

Between 1998 and 2002 in Christchurch, there was the following average yearly change in youth justice

intakes for CYF in Christchurch:

- increase in 14 year old intake 6.7 %
- decrease in 15 year old intake 4.2 %
- decrease in 16 year old intake 1.1 %
- increase in 17 year old intake 4.4 %

PROFILE OF YOUTH OFFENDERS

Certain population groups are significantly over-represented in offending statistics. Nationally, Māori youth are significantly over-represented in youth offending, comprising around half of the youth in the youth justice system. Although, Pacific young people nationally have a lower rate of reoffending than Māori and Pakeha the nature of their offending tends to involve more serious crime. Nationally, Pacific youth

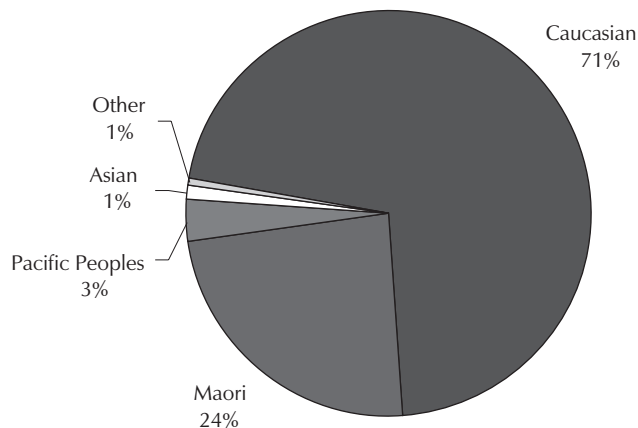
are not over represented in youth offending statistics except for violence offences.¹²

Certain population groups are also significantly over-represented in the CYF youth justice intake statistics over the last 5 years:

- CYF – Pakeha, on average, accounted for 57.7% of offenders in 1998-2002 (a decrease of 2.3%)
- Police – Pakeha, on average, accounted for 71% of offenders in 1994-2002
- CYF – Māori, on average, accounted for 22.2% of offenders in 1998-2002 (a decrease of 3.3%)
- Police – Māori, on average, accounted for 24% of offenders in 1994-2002. Māori committed 30% of all violent offending in Canterbury in 2002¹³
- CYF - Pacific people, on average, accounted for 5.3% of offenders in 1998-2002 (an increase of 6.9%)¹⁴
- Police – Pacific peoples, on average, accounted for 3.2% of offenders in 1994-2002. Pacific people committed 5.1% of all violent offending in Canterbury in 2002¹⁵

- CYF - “Other ethnic groups (including Asian people)”, on average, accounted for 3.1% of offenders in, 1998-2002 (an increase of 22.6%)
- Police – Other ethnic groups and Asian people, on average, accounted for 1.8% of offenders in 1994-2002

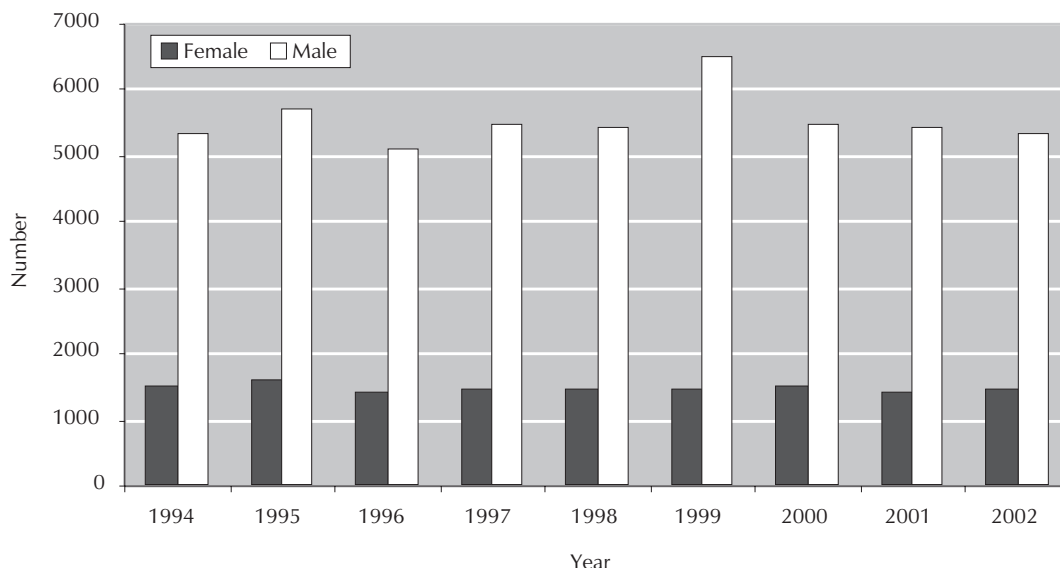
TOTAL OFFENDING BY ETHNICITY (13-19 YEARS) 1994-2000



Source: Christchurch Social Policy Interagency Network (2003) *A Collaborative Plan for Christchurch Youth 2003-2006*, Christchurch Social Policy Interagency Network, Christchurch.

Males are also significantly over-represented in the CYF youth justice statistics.

TOTAL OFFENDING BY GENDER (13-19 YEARS) 1994-2002

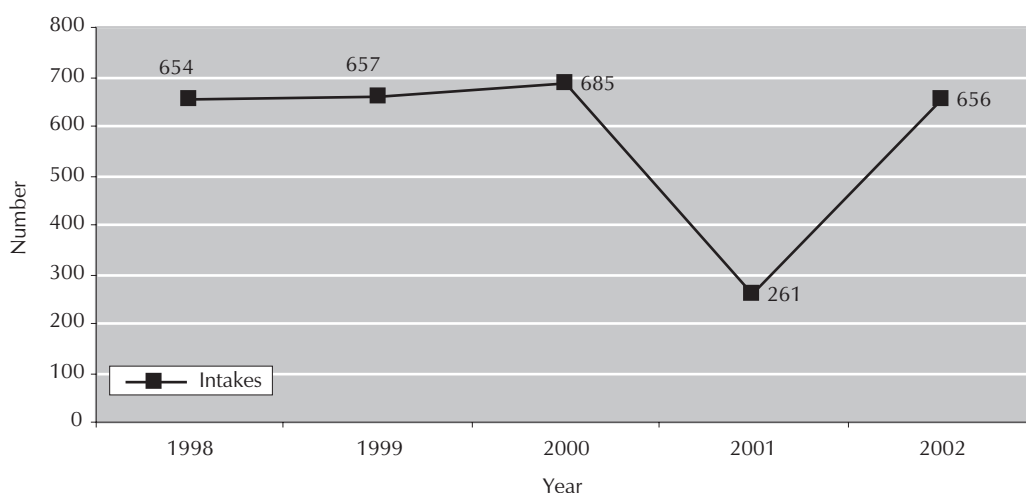


Source: New Zealand Police, 2002

Between 1998 and 2002 in Christchurch, there has been an average yearly increase in Section 247D notifications (direction by the Court for Family Group Conference, FGC, to be convened) of 5.7%. These notifications comprise 62.9% of all CYF youth justice notifications.

Between 1998 and 2002 in Christchurch, there has been an average yearly decrease in Section 247B notifications (intention to charge requiring a pre-charge FGC) of 1.5%. These notifications comprise 32% of all CYF youth justice notifications.

NUMBER OF YOUTH JUSTICE INTAKES FOR CHRISTCHURCH, 1998-2002



Source: Department of Child, Youth and Family, 2003.

YOUTH OFFENDING STRATEGIES

Correlations may exist between an increased risk of juvenile offending, truancy, school exclusions and non-engagement in education. Many young offenders are not engaged in education and are likely to have low levels of educational achievement.¹⁶

Effective interventions target the 4 corners of a young person's life; family, school/ work, peer group and neighbourhood.

The worst cases of youth offending require the most attention.¹⁷

The Government's Youth Offending Strategy recognises that early intervention (both in a general sense and within the youth justice system) is critical to preventing and reducing youth offending over the short and long term. The strategy supports the finding that there are key points in a child/young person's progression towards becoming a serious young offender where intervention is most effective and appropriate. Positive circumstances (e.g. good parenting) are important in building strengths and resiliency against reoffending. The impact of socio-economic, health, literacy and numeracy disadvantages are also well documented.

5 key points were identified where effective interventions are most likely to prevent or reduce youth offending and re-offending:

- within the family
- at school
- after first contact with Police
- as a result of Family Group Conference
- as a result of Youth Court prosecution

The strategy also identified that strengthening co-ordination between the delivery of social services and the response of the youth justice sector to children and young people at risk is vital.

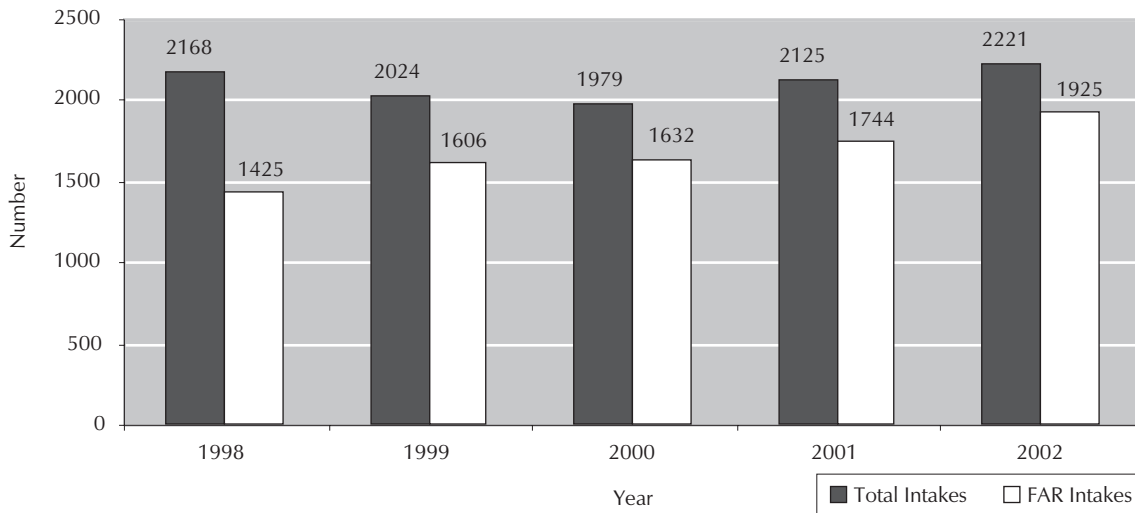
VICTIMS

Child CARE AND PROTECTION

Notifications to CYF of concerns about child abuse or neglect have been increasing in Christchurch for the past five years. Over the past 5 financial years in Canterbury, CYF has had a total of 10,697 intakes for care and protection under the Children, Young Persons' and their Families Act, (1989).

CYF statistics identify that certain population groups are significantly over-represented in care and protection Further Action Required (FAR) intakes. The number of Māori intakes is increasing by an average of 16.1%, followed by Pacific people with 6.5%, Pakeha with 6.3%, and other ethnic groups at 1.4%.

NUMBERS OF TOTAL CARE AND PROTECTION INTAKES AND FAR INTAKES FOR CHRISTCHURCH, 1998-2002.



Source: Department of Child, Youth and Family, 2003.

NUMBER OF CARE AND PROTECTION FAR INTAKES IN CHRISTCHURCH, BY ETHNICITY, 1998-2002.

	Māori	Pakeha	Pacific	Other
1998	219	877	72	144
1999	191	881	71	179
2000	218	980	80	202
2001	263	1106	88	179
2002	381	1112	92	123

Source: Department of Child, Youth and Family (2003).

Elder Abuse

The issue of elder abuse is a growing concern. International research and local experience suggest that the number of reported cases represents only a small proportion of the actual incidence of elder abuse and neglect.

Of the reported cases nationally, 35% involved psychological abuse and 29% financial abuse, with 43% of clients being victim to more than one type of abuse or neglect. Of the abusers, 71% were members of the victim's family, with 40% being a daughter or son.

Profile of Victims

Certain population groups are significantly over-represented in the national victim statistics. Canterbury Police statistics indicate that this is also the case locally.

In a recent national report on crime victims, those most at risk of victimisation were:

- young people
- Māori (especially Māori women)
- students
- beneficiaries
- solo parents
- households whose main income earner had no occupation;
- those living with flatmates.¹⁸

The types of victimisations least likely to come to the notice of the Police were:

- violence against women
- victimisation of younger age groups (especially with respect to violence)
- violence against Māori
- violence against beneficiaries and students
- violence that occurred in the home¹⁹

In the same survey, almost all victims of sexual assault or interference said that the offender was male and most said that they already knew their offender.²⁰

PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY

Fear of crime is a significant issue within communities and it affects personal well-being by raising anxieties, restricting social and physical access and threatening the cohesiveness of communities. Generally the risk of being a victim of crime is over-estimated by people and this leads to heightened perceptions of being unsafe that are beyond the actual risk of being harmed or affected by crime. Some common misconceptions relating to personal safety are:

- that older people are more at risk of household crime; the actual rate of break-ins in homes of older people is lower than the average rate.

- that people are more likely to be assaulted by a stranger; most victims of assault know the perpetrator.

Christchurch residents report they feel safer in their homes and neighbourhoods than in the recent past. In 2002, the majority of respondents felt safe in their homes both at night (80%) and during the day (96%). These figures have improved from previous years. Most respondents felt safe in their neighbourhoods during the day although 28% said they felt unsafe at night. This is an improvement on the 32% who felt unsafe in 2001.²¹

Christchurch City Council Residents' Survey findings tend to show that women are less likely to feel safe than other groups, particularly at night. The national Quality of Life Survey also found that, compared to residents of the other large cities, Christchurch residents were more likely to feel safe during the

daytime, but were significantly more likely to feel unsafe in their city centre after dark than those in the other 7 largest cities.

In 2001 and 2002 Residents' Survey respondents were asked to assess how much of a problem they felt certain issues were in their neighbourhoods. In 2002:

- 37% of respondents thought house burglaries, break-ins or prowlers were problems in their neighbourhood (up from 21%)
- 59% of respondents thought dangerous driving, including drink driving, speeding and hoons, was a problem (up from 48% in 2001)
- 15% of respondents felt unsafe around certain people because of their behaviour, attitude or appearance (up from 11% in 2001)
- 18% of respondents perceived inadequate street lighting to be a problem in 2002 (down 2% from 2001)

CHRISTCHURCH CITY ANNUAL SURVEY OF RESIDENTS – ISSUES RELATING TO SAFETY

	Per cent of Survey Respondents Who Agree with the Statements									
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	
At Home										
Feel safe or very safe in their own home during the daytime. (In 1999 this question asked, from outside intruders)	-	-	-	-	-	91	96	96	96	
Feel unsafe or very unsafe in their own home during the daytime. (In 1999 this question asked, from outside intruders)	-	-	-	-	-	9	4	4	4	
Feel safe or very safe in their own home after dark. (In 1999 this question asked, from outside intruders)	-	-	-	-	-	76	80	79	80	
Feel unsafe or very unsafe in their own home after dark. (In 1999 this question asked, from outside intruders)	-	-	-	-	-	24	10	11	10	
In the Neighbourhood										
Feel safe or very safe in their neighbourhood during the day.	-	-	-	-	-	94	96	97	97	
Feel unsafe or very unsafe in the neighbourhood during the day.	-	-	-	-	-	6	4	3	3	
Feel safe or very safe in their neighbourhood after dark.	-	-	-	-	-	63	72	67	70	
Feel unsafe or very unsafe in their neighbourhood after dark.	-	-	-	-	-	36	26	32	28	
On Roads										
Travelling around suburban roads is safe or very safe.	45	48	46	49	-	50	-	48	-	
Travelling around suburban roads is dangerous or very dangerous.	18	18	20	18	-	15	-	17	-	
Riding a bicycle is safe or very safe in Christchurch.	19	17	20	16	-	19	-	27	-	
Riding a bicycle is dangerous or very dangerous in Christchurch.	53	58	56	60	-	60	-	46	-	
In the Central City										
Feel unsafe or very unsafe in the Central City by themselves during the day.	10	-	11	-	6	-	5	4	4	
Feel Unsafe or very unsafe in the Central City by themselves after dark.	69	-	69	-	61	-	63	69	63	

Source: Christchurch City Council, Annual Survey of Residents, 1994-2002.

ACCIDENTAL INJURY

Unintentional injuries far exceed intentional injury as a cause of death and hospitalisation for children. Around 85% of all child injury deaths and 97% of hospitalisations are the result of unintentional injury.

Between 1994- 1998 the leading cause of hospitalisation across all age groups, in Christchurch, are fall injuries, followed by care related injuries and poisoning. For 0-4 year olds the next leading causes of hospitalisation are poisonings and burns; for 5-9 year olds pedestrian injuries and cutting/piecing injuries; and for 10-14 year olds 'striking/struck by' injuries and pedestrian injuries. Around 85% of all child injury deaths and 97% of hospitalisations are for unintentional injury.

Different ethnic groups appear to be at risk of different kinds of injuries. For example Māori and Pacific Islands children were over represented in scalds statistics and motor vehicle injuries, and European/Other children are over represented in poisonings. Younger people and men are much more likely to be hazardous drinkers.

NUMBER OF REPORTED CASUALTIES IN CHRISTCHURCH

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
Fatal Casualties	33	27	29	38	20	27	15	24	26	17	15	15	286
Serious Casualties	306	319	255	279	299	233	210	212	179	127	120	159	2698
Minor Casualties	1496	1263	1295	1170	1248	1277	1149	1036	942	762	779	786	13203
Total Casualties	1835	1609	1579	1487	1567	1537	1374	1272	1147	906	914	960	16187

Source: Land Transport Safety Authority (2001), *Christchurch City Road Safety Report*, Land Transport Safety Authority.

One of the main factors contributing to Christchurch's high crash rate is the large number of intersections, particularly crossroads, in the city's road network. This provides more opportunity for crashes to happen.

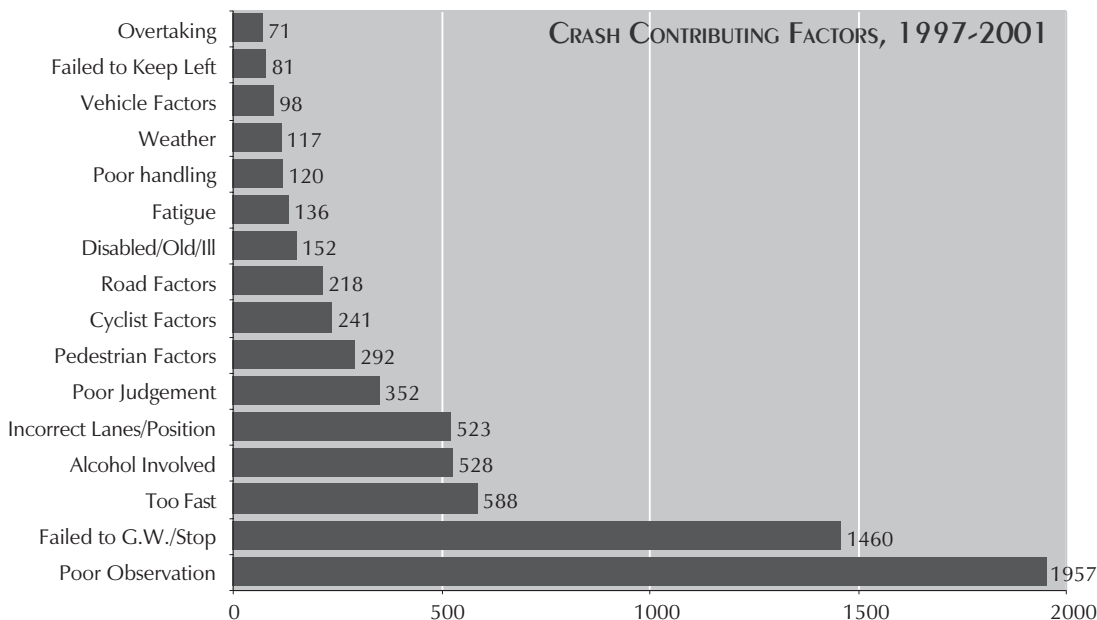
Falls and their resultant injuries are a serious health problem for older people. Falls are a major cause of unintentional injury among older people. Falls have devastating consequences for individuals in terms of health and disability, social and psychological consequences and the curtailment of activities and physical inactivity leading to reduced mobility and muscle strength. The consequences increase the risk of falling again.

- 1 in 3 people aged 65 years and older will fall in 1 year in New Zealand²²
- falls can impact on self confidence and, in particular, the fear of falling again can trigger an older person's decision to move into nursing home care²³

Traffic Accidents

The number of road crashes and injuries in Christchurch is decreasing. However, Christchurch continues to have a higher incidence of traffic accidents compared to other large cities in New Zealand.

Research indicates that much of the relative and sustained improvement in road safety in New Zealand experienced over the last 12 years has been the result of a multi-agency strategy.²⁴



Source: Land Transport Safety Authority (2001), *Christchurch City Road Safety Report*, Land Transport Safety Authority.

WHAT DID PEOPLE TELL US ABOUT CRIME AND SAFETY?

This section describes the responses to issues of crime and safety by representatives from the community provider sector, government agency frontline staff and managers, local government agency staff, local councillors and Community Board members, local Members of Parliament, Ngai Tahu and iwi/ Māori organisations, key intersectoral networks and other key stakeholders. Respondents discussed the common themes outlined in the introduction to this section.

- Quality and commitment of staff was identified as critical to the achievement of positive outcomes, as well as the importance of appropriately trained and/ or qualified staff and adequate levels of staffing. There is great difficulty in recruiting skilled Māori staff;
- Consultation and collaboration across and between sectors was viewed as essential in achieving positive outcomes;
- Relationship building was also considered a key factor contributing to positive outcomes;
- A 'case management' approach was identified as a key contributor to positive outcomes, particularly for clients with complex needs;
- Resource/funding limitations were viewed as barriers to achieving positive outcomes.

Specific feedback about crime and safety is summarised below.

Of particular relevance to safety and security, respondents generally agreed that child abuse, family violence and youth offending in Christchurch were the greatest concerns as was a perceived increase in the fear of crime. Specific issues raised were:

- A broad range of frontline staff and fieldworkers raised the issue of risk-taking behaviour in young people as a normal aspect of transitioning into adulthood.
- A number of stakeholder and government agency respondents raised concerns about the increased numbers of young offenders with alcohol and/ or drug related issues.
'P' is having a devastating effect on people's minds and behaviours and it seems to be affecting a younger and younger age group.
- A number of government agency respondents raised concerns about the connection between mental illness and crime.

- A number of stakeholders felt that when risk-taking behaviour of young people was compounded with the increased accessibility of high performance cars, alcohol and serious drugs, then the risks were significantly increased:
Wasted kids in fast cars is a lethal combination
- A key issue identified by government managers and fieldworkers was the suspensions and exclusions of children and young people from schools. Concern was expressed regarding the support available for these children and young people
Once they get on that path away from mainstream education it is incredibly difficult, for a whole lot of reasons, for them to re-engage
- A number of stakeholders believed that crime is decreasing in the central city because of the alcohol ban. However, some of the community sector stakeholders raised a concern that the ban may simply be displacing the problem to the suburbs.
- Road safety was a major theme emerging from consultation with local government stakeholders. Consultation revealed that Christchurch people are concerned about the speed limit and safety of intersections in a number of specific areas:
Sometimes it is impossible to get out of second gear. There is just intersection after intersection in close proximity and nothing seems to be synchronised.
- Some stakeholders were concerned at the apparent inability of Police to deal with the scale of issues such as car theft and boy racers.
- Many frontline government and community agency staff, as well as some government agency managers, raised their concern at the tendency for planners, service providers and funders to focus on quick fix solutions rather than longer term solutions which are required in order to effect sustainable change.
- A number of frontline respondents identified barriers for families that included poverty (related to benefits, cost of living, gambling addictions and polarised levels of deprivation across different suburbs), poor parenting skills, lack of knowledge about services, and ways to access them, as well as a lack of positive role modelling.

- Frontline government agency staff were concerned about the social difficulties faced by refugee, migrant and Asian families and the support and assistance available to them.
- Across all sectors, respondents raised concerns

about the low level of parenting skills, particularly apparent in regard to the establishment of clear and consistent boundaries, appropriate role modelling and the application of consistent and related consequences to bad behaviour.

CONCLUSIONS

KEY CHALLENGES

The key challenges emerging from the mapping were:

- child abuse
- family violence
- youth crime (particularly the small but persistent group of youth offenders, including Māori youth offenders)
- fear of crime
- traffic
- accidental injury

Across all the sectors there was clear support for the development of parenting skills with at-risk families. A number of funders already invest in parenting programmes and other interventions focussed on the development of parenting skills. A large number of organisations and agencies already provide a number of parenting programmes and interventions across the city with a number of different entry points (e.g. parents of children at a specific childcare service, general newspaper advertising). Some intersectoral planning between funders and parenting programme providers might be useful to identify programmes available, analyse types of parenting support required by different families, identify and/or develop common assessment and evaluation tools and identify appropriate entry points and referral processes. This information could be available across the various sectors and within the community.

There has been significant improvements in the relationship between CYF and the community provider sector over the last 2 years in working with children at-risk and families at-risk. There is opportunity for further operational improvement in this critical interface.

FAMILY VIOLENCE

A number of services work in the area of family violence or on the periphery of this issue, with clients affected by family violence. For services working with families

affected by violence, coordination and collaboration is essential. While risk factors need to be identified and reduced (if not eliminated), strength and protective factors also need to be identified and enhanced in interventions. There are opportunities for “best practice models” and shared training to be developed and implemented across respective sectors for both government agency and community provider staff.

There are a number of specific examples of good working relations between CYF and the Police, and the Police and community providers. There is opportunity, however, for further improvements in the interface between CYF and Police at various levels within the two organisations, and also between Police and the community provider sector.

YOUTH CRIME

It is generally agreed that there is value to be gained from intersectoral collaboration in regard to youth offending, and in Christchurch this could include both central and local government, Iwi and the community provider sector. There is no evidence of insufficient mainstream services in the Christchurch community. However, there may be opportunity for some further development/enhancement of culturally specific services for youth.

There is some evidence of poor collaboration and coordination of youth services as well as service provision that could be improved with more effective

targetting and research-based models of intervention. With particular regard to youth offenders, there may be value in service collaboration to consider ways to improve outcomes for young offenders through improved cross-sectoral service provision and training of both government and community services. Improvements might include such things as shared training, effective targeting, provision of appropriate (including culturally appropriate) interventions and shared development of assessment and evaluation tools. While it is recognised that some government agencies have statutory responsibilities, these should not act as a barrier to the consideration of changes in the way aspects of their services are delivered.

Also, with particular regard to youth offenders, there may be value in funder collaboration to consider ways to improve funding processes and mechanisms for services and programmes dealing with youth and young offenders through joint funding arrangements, common compliance expectations and shared outcomes.

FEAR OF CRIME

The fear of crime is often at odds with actual victim statistics. Fear of crime is a significant issue within communities and it affects personal wellbeing by raising anxieties, restricting social and physical access and threatening the cohesiveness of communities. Generally, people over-estimate the risk of being a victim of crime and this leads to heightened perceptions of being unsafe that are beyond the real risk of being harmed or affected by crime. There could be some consideration given to raising public awareness and providing community education in this regard.

Traffic

Christchurch has higher rates of traffic accidents than do other large cities in New Zealand. A continuing urban planning focus on improving the factors that contribute to Christchurch's crash rates, such as numbers of intersections and cross roads etc. would be useful.

Injury

With fall injuries as the leading cause of hospitalisation across all age groups it would be useful to continue to focus on public education regarding the reduction of falls, particularly for older people, through safe practices.

POSSIBLE RESPONSES

Common themes within the safety and security section:

Multi dimensional

The consultation process suggested multi-dimensional approaches are required to address improved safety and security outcomes, with inter-agency co-operation and planning, as well as multiple levels of intervention at organisational, institutional and community level.

In working with youth (including young offenders), all aspects of the young person's life need to be addressed, including family, education, peers and attitudes. In working with family violence, cross-sectoral coordination, collaboration and coordination are essential to providing an integrated and comprehensive approach to family violence. Government agencies suggested that targeted multi-dimensional interventions have the potential to improve outcomes.

APPROPRIATELY TARGETED

Research suggests that interventions should be gender-appropriate, culturally appropriate and address the relevant domains of influence, such as family, schools and peers. Interventions should address multiple factors, since many causal factors are inter-related. The shared development of appropriate assessment tools and evaluation methods would be useful.

IDENTIFICATION OF RISK FACTORS

There may be some value in developing common agreement about the risk factors associated with different negative outcomes. These could inform respective planning processes and service provision.

BETTER DATA

There appears to be a lack of consistent data collection and recording about clients in Christchurch, particularly in regard to offenders. There is also an inability to follow an offender through the various systems and to systematically identify the recidivist offenders and their characteristics. Key agencies could consider establishing a common data recording mechanism.

There is a lack of statistical information and service evaluation by region and ethnicity to analyse and target responses to youth offenders. It seems reasonable that interventions implemented in Christchurch to address issues of safety and security should be founded on research and the results of evaluations. However caution should be used in the local application of interventions that have worked elsewhere in a different context. For example, the cultural context of successful interventions should be carefully considered.

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- ¹⁴ Pacific make up approximately 3.5% of the total youth population in Christchurch.
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