

Data Summary:

Child Sexual Abuse and Adult Sexual Violence – Perpetration by Gender

This data summary is one of six produced by the NZFVC in 2017. The other five data summaries are concerned with Family Violence Deaths, Violence Against Women, Children and Youth affected by Family Violence, Child Sexual Abuse, and Adult Sexual Violence. This data summary is a collation of publicly available New Zealand data on child sexual abuse and adult sexual assault which includes information about the gender of the perpetrator. It was first published on its own in August 2015 and is now incorporated into the NZFVC annual Data Summaries.

As with other forms of interpersonal violence, all data on child sexual abuse and adult sexual violence is an estimate. Numbers vary according to the source for a range of reasons including: study design, definitions, questions asked, population surveyed, interviewer training, when the study was carried out and so on. Most victim/survivors of sexual violence do not report to the police or seek support from services. For example, the New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey shows that only about 9% of sexual offences are reported to the Police.¹ Accordingly, the most reliable estimates are not based on the number of people who go to the police or services. Instead, they come from research studies that survey a certain number of people in a given population. *Cross-sectional studies* (such as the Youth 2000 series and the New Zealand Violence Against Women study) analyse data collected from a population at one specific point in time. *Longitudinal studies* (such as the Christchurch Health and Development Study) follow a group of people (cohort) over time, collecting data at different points in their lives.

In this data summary, both sex and gender are used in the tables depending on how it is defined in the original source of data. For the New Zealand Police and Criminal Courts data, sex rather than gender is used. For the rest of the data, gender is used.

This document includes data from the following studies:

- Christchurch Health and Development Study^{2,3}
- Youth 2000 Survey Series⁴
- New Zealand Violence Against Women Study⁵

It also includes administrative data from:

- Child, Youth and Family⁶
- New Zealand Police^{7,8}
- Criminal Courts⁹

Because the information below is sourced from different studies and agencies, using different groups of people and different methods to collect the data, we advise against comparing between them.

An important note on interpreting administrative data

About half of the data in this summary are drawn from administrative and service data. As they are dependent on reporting and recording practices and cannot be used as indicators of the incidence of sexual violence in the population. In addition, they cannot be used to comment on trends in the occurrence of sexual violence over time. Sexual violence is often not reported to authorities and so can be very hard to measure from administrative data. Further, the data provided is often provisional (subject to change if new information is gathered) and drawn from dynamic operational databases. For a detailed discussion of the process for collecting data, changes over time and the uses of government agency data for understanding community experiences of family violence, see *Family Violence Indicators (2013)*.¹⁰

In general we have allowed the tables to speak for themselves, providing minimal commentary. All numbers in the tables are rounded to the nearest whole number unless otherwise stated. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

A link to the definitions for all of the terms used, and caveats for all of the data can be accessed by clicking on the title of each table.



Christchurch Health and Development Study

The Christchurch Health and Development Study (CHDS) is an ongoing longitudinal study that has followed the health, education and life progress of a group of 1,265 children born in the Christchurch urban region during mid-1977.² It is noted there will be an under-representation of Māori and Pacific families in this cohort in particular compared to the population of New Zealand.

At the assessments at age 18 and 21, participants were asked whether, before the age of 16, anyone had ever attempted to involve them in any of a series of 15 sexual activities when they did not want this to happen. Of the 1,019 subjects interviewed at age 18, 106 (10.4%) reported exposure to child sexual abuse (CSA) before their 16th birthday.

Exposure to child sexual abuse before aged 16 years and perpetration by gender

	Female	Male
Exposure to child sexual abuse	17.3%	3.4%

The 106 subjects reporting CSA identified a total of 132 perpetrators. Of the reported perpetrators, 94% were male and 6% were female.³



The Health and Wellbeing of Secondary School Students in New Zealand: Youth 2000 series

The Youth2000 survey series were a group of three independent surveys conducted in 2001, 2007 and 2012. For each survey, a representative sample of secondary school students (years 9-13) from approximately a third of all high schools in New Zealand were invited to take part. Student participants in the survey were asked a range of questions about factors that contribute to the health and wellbeing of young people in New Zealand. These included questions about violence.

In the Youth '07 survey,^a 9,107 students took part. Students were asked whether they had ever forced someone else to do sexual things they didn't want. They answered the question by choosing among "Yes", "No", "Not sure" or "I don't want to answer this question".

Forced someone else to do sexual things by gender⁴

	Female	Male
Yes	0.6%	2.3%
Not sure	2.2%	3.9%

^a Data from Youth '07 is included rather than Youth '12 because this information has not been reported from the 2012 survey (it was collected). Only some of the data collected in each survey was reported on dependent on resources. A special report on the findings related to violence was produced for Youth '07 only.



New Zealand Violence Against Women study

As part of the World Health Organization Multi-Country Study on Violence Against Women, a survey of a representative sample of 2,855 New Zealand women was carried out in 2003. Study participants were asked whether they had been touched sexually or been made to do something sexual that they didn't want to do before the age of 15.⁵

Child sexual abuse by gender of perpetrator

Description		
TOTAL WOMEN WHO EXPERIENCED CSA BY LOCATION	TOTAL (n)	573
	<i>% of women who experienced CSA in Auckland</i>	24%
	<i>% of women who experienced CSA in North Waikato</i>	28%
Gender of perpetrator	TOTAL PERPETRATORS	622
	Female	13
	<i>% of total perpetrators</i>	2%
	Male	444
	<i>% of total perpetrators</i>	71%
	Gender not specified	165
	<i>% of total perpetrators</i>	27%

Child, Youth and Family

The most recent publicly available Child, Youth and Family data on sexual abuse by gender of perpetrator is from 2001-2006.⁶

Number of people who sexually abuse children and young people by gender

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Male	642 92%	708 93%	796 93%	898 92%	813 92%	799 94%
Female	30 5%	35 5%	36 4%	43 4%	34 4%	26 3%
Gender unknown	27 4%	21 3%	27 3%	33 3%	33 4%	22 3%
Total	699	764	859	974	880	847

New Zealand Police^{7,8}**Apprehensions for sexual assault on a child (aged under 12 years)***

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total apprehensions sexual assault	949	971	888	902	815	1,081	999	1,111	1,029
Assaults on child under 12 years	390	377	318	330	343	470	406	457	475
Assaults on girls under 12	326	295	254	223	251	390	284	368	386
<i>Female perpetrator</i>	4	3	2	5	4	8	4	8	10
<i>Male perpetrator</i>	322	292	252	218	247	382	280	360	376
Assaults on boys under 12	48	65	56	100	78	69	109	82	77
<i>Female perpetrator</i>	0	4	6	0	0	3	6	2	3
<i>Male perpetrator</i>	48	61	50	100	78	66	103	80	74
Sex not defined	16	17	8	7	14	11	13	7	12
<i>Female perpetrator</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	1
<i>Male perpetrator</i>	15	17	8	7	14	11	8	7	11

* Where subcategories do not add up the total, the gender of the perpetrator is 'undefined'.

Proceedings against offenders for sexual assault on a child (aged under 12 years)

	2014	2015	2016
TOTAL SEXUAL ASSAULT PROCEEDINGS	1,043	1,017	1,063
Assaults on child under 12 years	406	368	407
Assaults on girls under 12	315	295	322
<i>Female perpetrator</i>	8	11	3
<i>Male perpetrator</i>	307	284	319
<i>Gender unknown</i>	2	0	0
Assaults on boys under 12	90	71	85
<i>Female perpetrator</i>	4	5	3
<i>Male perpetrator</i>	86	66	82
Gender not defined	1	2	0
<i>Female perpetrator</i>	0	0	0
<i>Male perpetrator</i>	1	2	0

Please note: There counts of "proceedings", as presented above, and "apprehensions" are not directly comparable. For further information on these differences, please refer to the [Special Note Regarding Police Data](#) at the end of each of the 2017 Data Summaries.



Apprehensions for sexual assault on a child (aged between 12 and 16 years)*

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total apprehensions sexual assault	949	971	888	902	815	1,081	999	1,111	1,029
Assaults on child 12-16 years	559	594	570	572	472	611	593	654	554
<i>Assaults on girls 12-16 years</i>	402	431	394	378	322	409	353	402	331
<i>Female perpetrator</i>	21	7	6	2	4	2	3	7	2
<i>Male perpetrator</i>	381	424	388	376	317	407	349	394	329
<i>Assaults on boys 12-16 years</i>	28	42	63	45	35	56	84	91	67
<i>Female perpetrator</i>	2	6	2	2	2	3	4	2	0
<i>Male perpetrator</i>	26	36	61	43	33	53	80	89	67
Sex not defined	129	121	113	149	115	146	156	161	156
<i>Female perpetrator</i>	4	8	7	6	6	7	19	13	15
<i>Male perpetrator</i>	125	113	106	143	109	139	137	148	141

* Where subcategories do not add up the total, the gender of the perpetrator is 'undefined.'

Proceedings against offenders for sexual assault on a child (aged between 12 and 16 years)

	2014	2015	2016
TOTAL SEXUAL ASSAULT PROCEEDINGS	1,043	1,017	1,063
Assaults on child 12-16 years	637	649	656
<i>Assaults on girls 12-16</i>	555	560	585
<i>Female perpetrator</i>	12	12	10
<i>Male perpetrator</i>	543	546	574
<i>Gender unknown</i>	0	2	1
<i>Assaults on boys 12-16</i>	82	88	71
<i>Female perpetrator</i>	17	8	15
<i>Male perpetrator</i>	65	80	55
<i>Gender unknown</i>	0	0	1
<i>Gender not defined</i>	0	1	0
<i>Female perpetrator</i>	0	0	0
<i>Male perpetrator</i>	0	1	0

Please note: There counts of "proceedings", as presented above, and "apprehensions" are not directly comparable. For further information on these differences, please refer to the [Special Note Regarding Police Data](#) at the end of each of the 2017 Data Summaries.



Apprehensions for sexual offences against adults (aged over 16 years)*

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total apprehensions sexual assault	778	818	882	900	820	871	845	837	785
Assaults on a woman	703	689	754	770	674	728	698	650	581
<i>Female perpetrator</i>	7	2	5	7	8	13	4	8	12
<i>Male perpetrator</i>	696	687	749	763	666	715	694	642	569
Assaults on a man	31	45	40	30	41	34	29	47	41
<i>Female perpetrator</i>	1	2	1	0	0	2	2	2	2
<i>Male perpetrator</i>	30	43	39	30	41	32	27	45	39
Assaults on undefined gender	44	84	88	100	104	109	118	139	163
<i>Female perpetrator</i>	1	5	5	2	2	1	5	3	3
<i>Male perpetrator</i>	43	79	83	98	102	108	113	136	160

* Where subcategories do not add up to the total, the gender of the perpetrator is 'undefined'.

Proceedings for sexual offences against adults (aged over 16 years)

	2014	2015	2016
TOTAL SEXUAL ASSAULT PROCEEDINGS	689	745	725
Assaults on a woman	636	697	671
<i>Female perpetrator</i>	9	7	7
<i>Male perpetrator</i>	625	690	664
<i>Gender unknown</i>	2	0	0
Assaults on a man	53	47	53
<i>Female perpetrator</i>	5	3	4
<i>Male perpetrator</i>	48	44	48
<i>Gender unknown</i>	0	0	1
Assaults on undefined gender	0	1	1
<i>Female perpetrator</i>	0	0	0
<i>Male perpetrator</i>	0	1	1

Please note: There counts of "proceedings", as presented above, and "apprehensions" are not directly comparable. For further information on these differences, please refer to the [Special Note Regarding Police Data](#) at the end of each of the 2017 Data Summaries.



District Court⁹

Number of people convicted for sexual assault and related offences, by most serious offence*

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
People convicted										
Female	11	8	6	6	11	10	12	8	12	11
Male	584	645	669	677	640	714	810	690	681	701
People convicted with a sentence of imprisonment										
Female	7	4	0	1	5	5	4	0	7	5
Male	422	400	431	410	412	432	511	459	393	416

* 'People convicted' is regardless of the sentence received and includes people convicted with a sentence of imprisonment. The number of people of unknown gender is not presented in this table, which contributes to <1% of the total people convicted.



Special Note Regarding Police Data

Background

In November 2014 and May 2015 respectively, the New Zealand Police launched the Recorded Crime Victims and Offenders Statistics. The release of this information represents a fundamental shift in counting methods used to produce crime statistics. Whilst in the past information regarding the impact of crime in our society has been largely measured by the number of offences recorded and apprehensions made, this information provided little information about the people affected, or the relationship between the victim and the offender.

Changes over time in Police systems and recording practices have enabled alterations to counting practices employed by the police (for complete details, please refer to [“The transformation of NZ Police crime statistics: New measures and trends”](#)). For example, where “assault against a child” was previously defined using the assault offence code, it is now possible to define such offences by the age of the victim as recorded in the victimisations statistics. As such, a wider range of the types of assault on children can be identified. Where we are interested in assaults against a woman (for example, page 4 of Data Summary 2), we can establish the percent for which an offender was identified (40% in 2016); the percent of assaults perpetrated by family members (77% where the offender was identified in 2016); and the percent perpetrated by either non-family members (15%) or strangers (8%). **Please note that the significant percentage of cases in which no identified offender was recorded in the datasets leads to the possibility that the actual distribution of relationships between victims and perpetrators differs from those presented in the tables.**

There have also been changes in the way apprehensions and resolutions are recorded. The police now provide information on the number of offenders proceeded against (similar to apprehensions). The “method of proceeding” describes the first type of legal action (court or non-court) initiated by the police against a person as a result of an investigation into an offence.



What does this mean for the data presented in the Data Summaries?

The changed counting rules have resulted in a break in the time series of information available from the Police. As a result, tables that detail recorded and resolved offences finish at 2014. New tables describing victimisations begin in July 2014, and tables describing proceedings against offenders begin in January 2014.

In the 2017 Data Summaries we have chosen to provide both tables where this information is available to allow the reader to understand the level of overlap between the measures and how they differ. Because of the significant differences in counting techniques employed by the police, readers should be careful not to make direct comparisons between data in the old and new tables.

Please refer to the Police Definitions for additional information concerning the definitions of the new terms used. Further information concerning the Recorded Victims and Offender Statistics, as well as the Transformation of NZ Police Crime Statistics can be used following the relevant links (see below).

[Recorded Crime Victims Statistics](#)

[Recorded Crime Offender Statistics](#)

[Transformation of the NZ Police Crime Statistics](#)



References

- ¹ Mayhew, P., & Reilly, J. L. (2009). 'Interpersonal Violence: Results from the New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey 2006.' In [Family Violence Statistics Report](#). Wellington: Families Commission. Retrieved 15 July 2015.
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- ³ Fergusson, D. M., Lynskey, M. T., & Horwood, L. J. (1996). "[Childhood sexual abuse and psychiatric disorders in young adulthood: Part I: The prevalence of sexual abuse and the factors associated with sexual abuse](#)", *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 35,1355-1364.
- ⁴ Clark, T. C., Robinson, E., Crengle, S., Grant, S., Galbreath, R. A., & Sykora, J. (2009). [Youth'07: The Health and Wellbeing of Secondary School Students in New Zealand. Findings on Young People and Violence](#). Auckland: The University of Auckland. Retrieved 15 July 2015.
- ⁵ Fanslow, J. L., Robinson, E. M., Crengle, S., & Perese, L. (2007). [Prevalence of child sexual abuse reported by a cross-sectional sample of New Zealand women](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 31, 935-945.
- ⁶ Mayhew, P., & Reilly, J. L. (2009). [Family Violence Statistics Report](#). Wellington: Families Commission. Retrieved 15 July 2015.
- ⁷ Statistics New Zealand. (2016). [Annual Apprehensions for the latest Calendar Years \(ANZSOC\)](#). Retrieved 16 May 2016.
- ⁸ Data Scientist, National Performance and Insights Centre, New Zealand Police. (2017, May). [New Zealand Police Proceedings Data: Personal Communication].
- ⁹ Senior Analyst, Ministry of Justice. (2017, April). [District Court Data: Personal Communication].
- ¹⁰ Gulliver, P., & Fanslow, J. (2013). [Family Violence Indicators: Can administrative data sets be used to measure trends in family violence in New Zealand?](#) Wellington: Families Commission. Retrieved 15 July 2015.

