



Te Kawa Mataaho
Public Service Commission

Better Public Services Result 7: Reducing Serious Crime



Result 7: Reducing Serious Crime

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What is the target?

The target is 10,000 fewer serious crimes by the year ended 2021. This will be supported by three measures: the rate of reoffending, the rate of family violence and the rate of sexual violence.

The reoffending rate will now be monitored through a redeveloped supporting measure as we now have one justice sector target not two as we did in the previous suite of BPS result measures. The family and sexual violence rates have been excluded from the main target as we expect the number of reported offences for these crimes to increase as rates of reporting and detection increase. They are included as supporting measures as they are serious crime and are of significant interest to us.

Why is this important for New Zealand?

Our new target and supporting measures reflect the Government's single unambiguous focus on crime which has the greatest impact on people in New Zealand — serious crime. Serious crime has serious social and economic costs. It affects people's ability to interact with each other, lead productive lives, and realise their full potential.

How will we know we are achieving this result?

The target is 10,000 fewer serious crimes by 2021, based on the number of serious crimes in the year ended June 2017.



Achieving this target will be a significant challenge as the serious crime rate is currently increasing following a period of decline in total crime, which removed a large number of the less serious offences.

Supporting measure: family violence rate

This will be the number of violent offences where the offender and victim were, or had been, in a relationship (partner/boyfriend/girlfriend) or are part of the same family, as a proportion of the New Zealand population. Specifically, this will be the number of family violence offences per 10,000 people where family violence is defined by the relationship between the offender and victim as recorded in Recorded Crime Victim Statistics (RCVS).

Supporting measure: sexual violence rate

This will be the number of sexual offences as a proportion of the New Zealand population. Specifically, this will be the number of sexual violence offences per 10,000 people.

Supporting measure: reoffending rate

The current reoffending measure has been redeveloped to measure the number of re-offenders as a rate relative to the New Zealand population. Specifically, this will be measured by the number of released prisoners returning to prison within 12 months of release and the number of people reconvicted within 12 months of starting a community managed sentence per 10,000 people.

Progress will be updated on this page every six months.

What are we doing to achieve this result?

The following 7 priority areas (with supporting actions) will contribute to achieving our target of reducing serious crime. Our priority areas recognise that we must target areas of greatest risk. They also recognise that offending is highly correlated with outcome across the social sector and

we therefore need to work with the wider social system to meet the target of reducing serious crime.

Reduce family violence

- The Ministerial Group on Family and Sexual violence
- The Family and Family Violence Legislation Bill Violence Legislation Bill Harakeke

Reduce sexual violence

- The Ministerial Group on Family and Sexual violence
- Development of sexual violence services: Sexual Violence Crisis Support Services; Harmful Sexual Behaviour Services; Services for Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse

Reduce serious crime caused by adult gangs

- The Whole of Government Action Plan on Gangs
- The New Zealand Gang Strategy (2017-22)
- The Department of Corrections Gang Strategy (2017-21)

Improve outcomes for people with alcohol and other drug, and mental health needs

- The Drug and Alcohol Testing of Community-Based Offenders, Bailees and Other Persons Legislation Bill
- Additional services to support this Bill: enhanced mental health support, wrap-around family support, counsellors and social workers in women's prisons, and supported accommodation.
- Mental Health Gap Analysis
- More investment in alcohol and other drug treatment and support; Aftercare workers; community residential treatment and intensive outpatient programmes; Offender Digital Health Services
- Better mental health for offenders: more therapeutic environments, focused on supporting people at risk to make them well enough to leave the unit, stay safe and engage in further treatment

Improve justice outcomes for justice outcomes justice outcomes strategy and action plan

- The Turning of the Tide strategy
- Policing Excellence the Future: Safer the
- Rangatahi Courts

Reduce reoffending



Better Public Services: Reducing crime [archived]

1 May 2018: The Government announced in January 2018 that the Better Public Services programme would not continue in this form. These pages have been archived.



Result 7: Reduce total crime rate (</resources/bps-reducing-crime/#result7>)

Result 8: Reduce re-offending (</resources/bps-reducing-crime/#result8>)

Result 7: Reduce the rates of total crime, violent crime and youth crime

Why is this important for New Zealand?

Crime has a range of impacts across society. By delivering sustained reductions in crime and reoffending, we can further reduce harm and the social and economic cost of crime.

How will we know we are achieving this result?

Summary of results for the year ended March 2017:

- The total recorded crime rate has reduced by 13% since June 2011
- The violent crime rate has increased by 3% since June 2011
- The youth crime rate has reduced by 31% since June 2011

The Government's three targets are to:

By June 2017:

- Reduce the violent crime rate by 20%.
- Reduce the youth crime rate by 25%.

By June 2018:

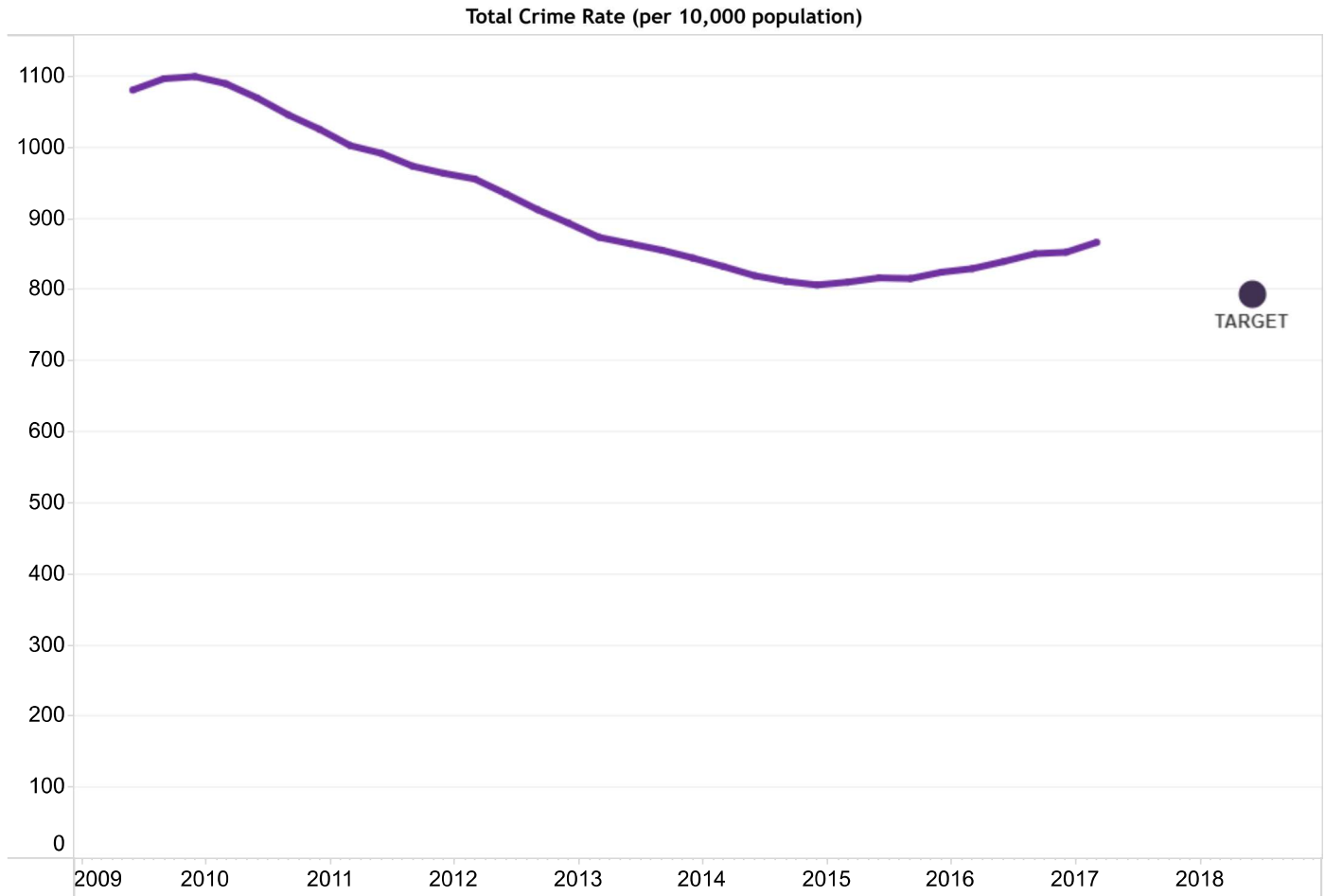
- Reduce the total crime rate by 20%.

These results were released on 7 June 2017 – refer to updated charts below. For more information go to the **Ministry of Justice website** (<http://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/about-the-justice-sector/better-public-services/>).

Progress will be updated on this page every three months.

Reduce the crime rate by 20 percent by 2018

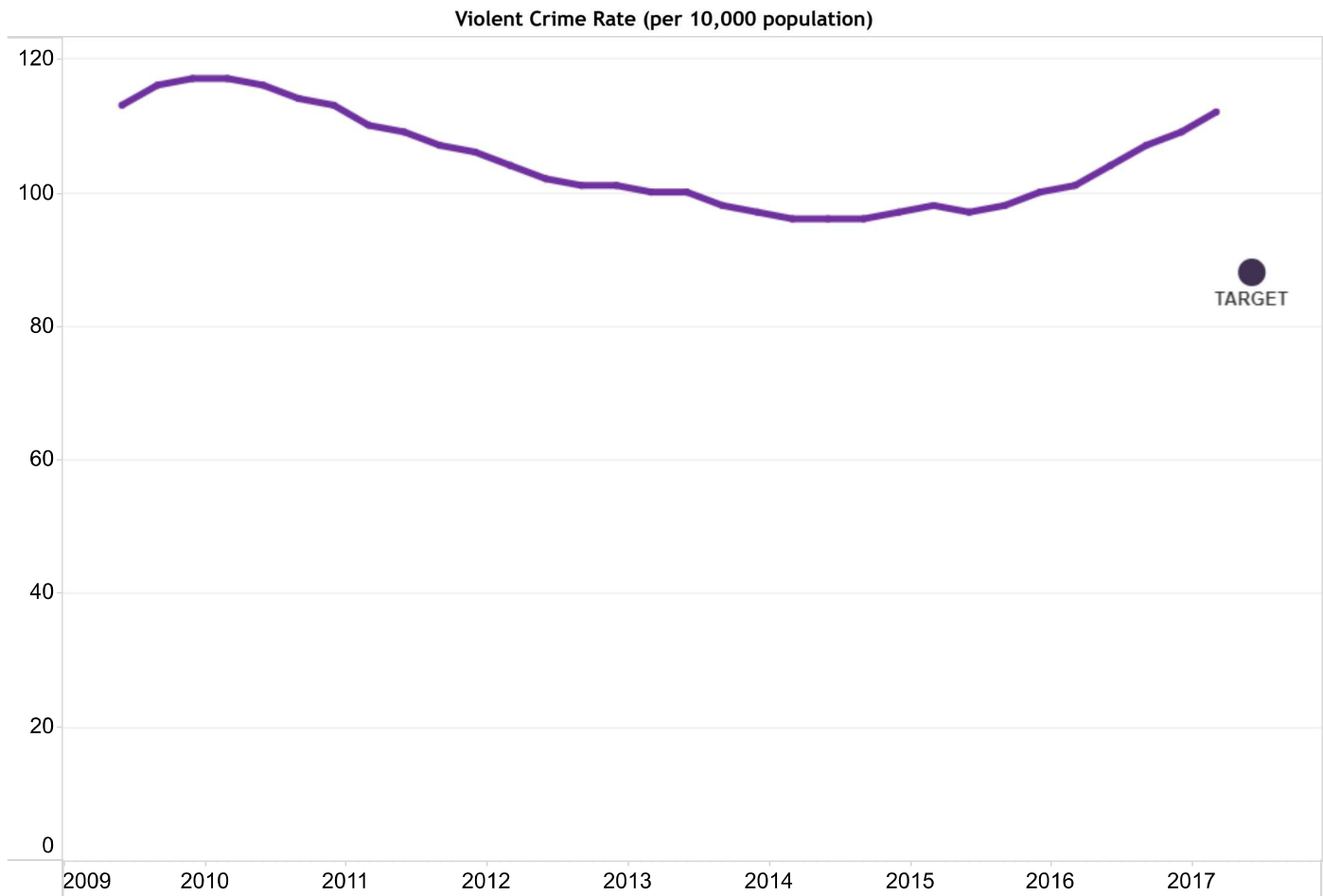
Our target is a 20% reduction in the total recorded crime rate from June 2011 to June 2018. This means around 58,000 fewer crimes annually by 2018.



The Reducing Crime BPS measure has two sub-measures, the Violent Crime rate, and the Youth Crime rate.

Reduce the violent crime rate by 20 percent by 2017

Our target is a 20% reduction in the recorded violent crime rate from June 2011 to June 2017. This means around 7,500 fewer violent crimes annually by 2017.

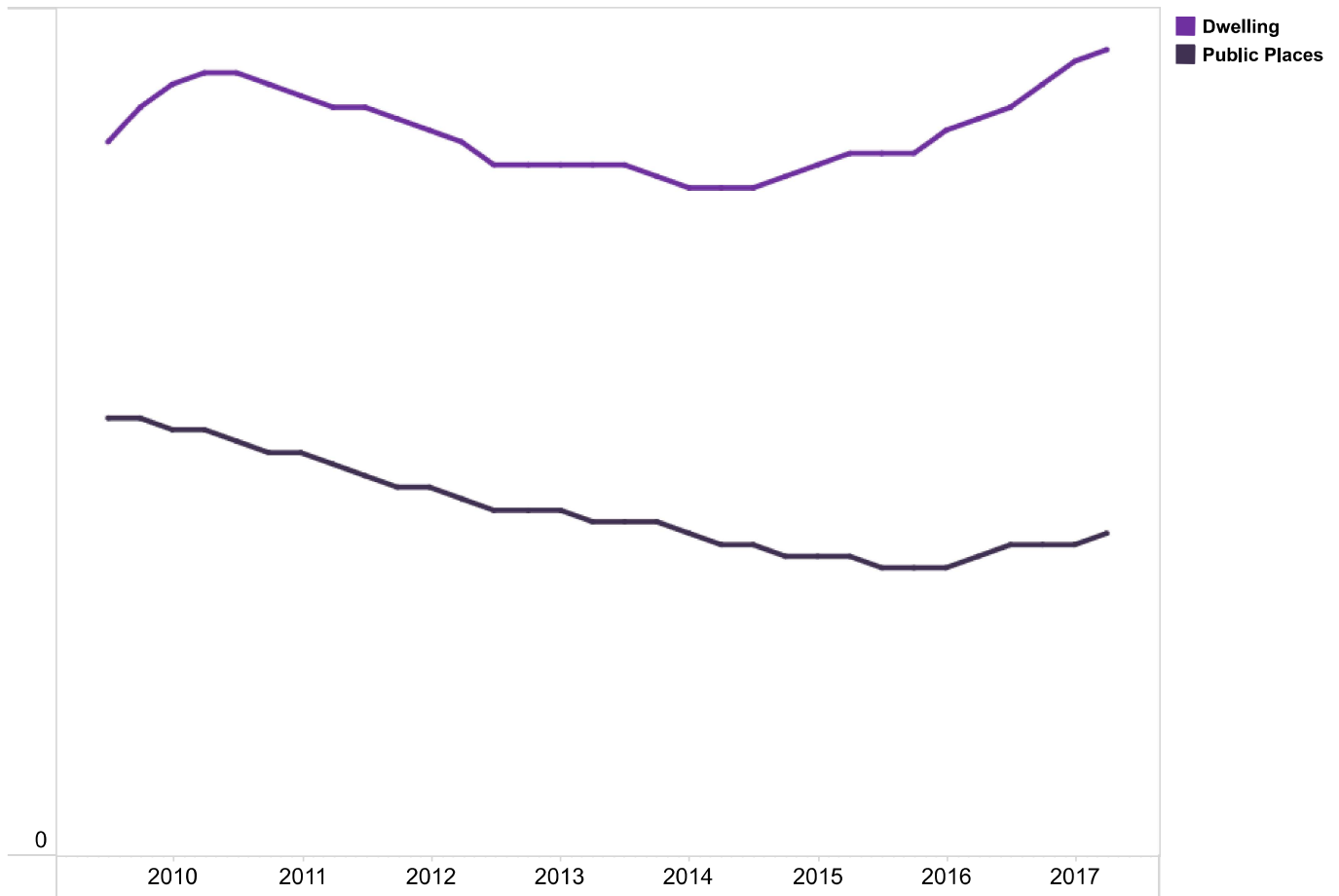


The total rate of violent crime has different drivers. To help understand what drives the Violent Crime rate, we have separated some parts of the violent crime data to show the impact of family violence, and in particular the increased rate of reporting of family violence in New Zealand.

Violent Crime committed in Dwellings – this measure is a proxy for trends in Family violence recorded by Police. Results show that the amount of violent crime committed in dwellings (homes) has been increasing steadily since June 2014. The indicators suggest this is being driven by more of the crimes being reported rather than more crimes actually occurring.

Violent Crime committed in Public Places – this is the bulk of the remainder of violent crime. Results show that the amount of violent crime committed in public places has fallen by 17% since June 2011.

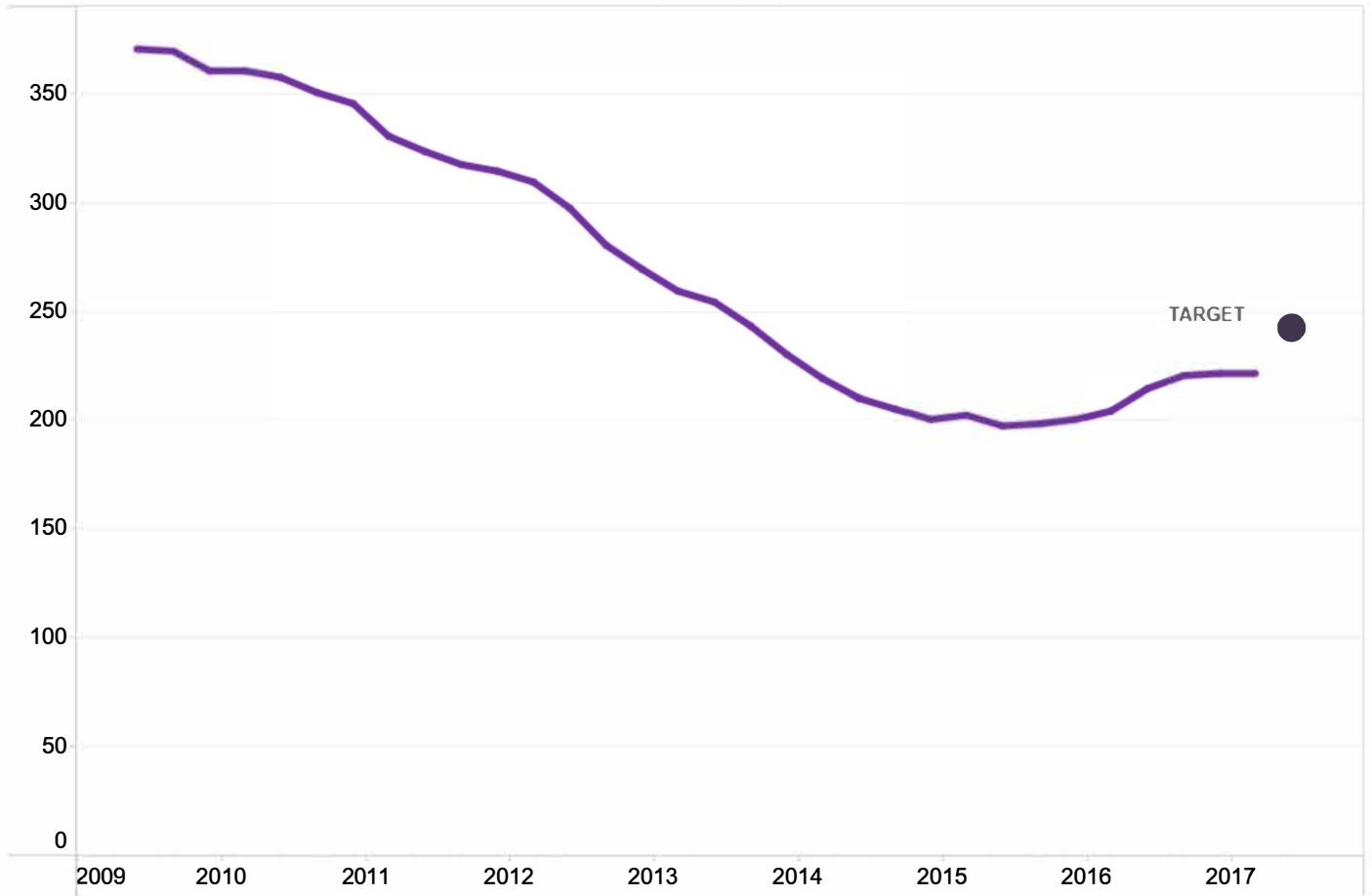
Number of violent crimes



Reduce the youth crime rate by 25 percent by 2017

Our target is a 25% reduction in the rate of court appearances by 14 to 16-year-olds from June 2011 to June 2017. This means around 1800 fewer court appearances by 14 to 16-year-olds annually by 2017.

Youth Crime Rate (per 10,000 population)



You can see the datasets at [data.govt.nz \(https://data.govt.nz/dataset/show/3321\)](https://data.govt.nz/dataset/show/3321).

The South Island

(/bps-result7-cs8)

Result 8: Reduce re-offending

Why is this important for New Zealand?

Reducing re-offending can create lasting change in the lives of the offenders we work with and their families and As well as better lives, it means safer communities and fewer victims. Breaking the cycle of re-offending will help to reduce the financial and social cost of crime in our society.

How will we know we are achieving this result?

The re-offending rate is measured against a baseline at June 2011. The measure takes into account the rate of re-imprisonment among prisoners within 12 months of their release and the rate of reconviction among community-sentenced offenders within 12 months of the start of their sentence.

Summary of results for the year ended March 2017:

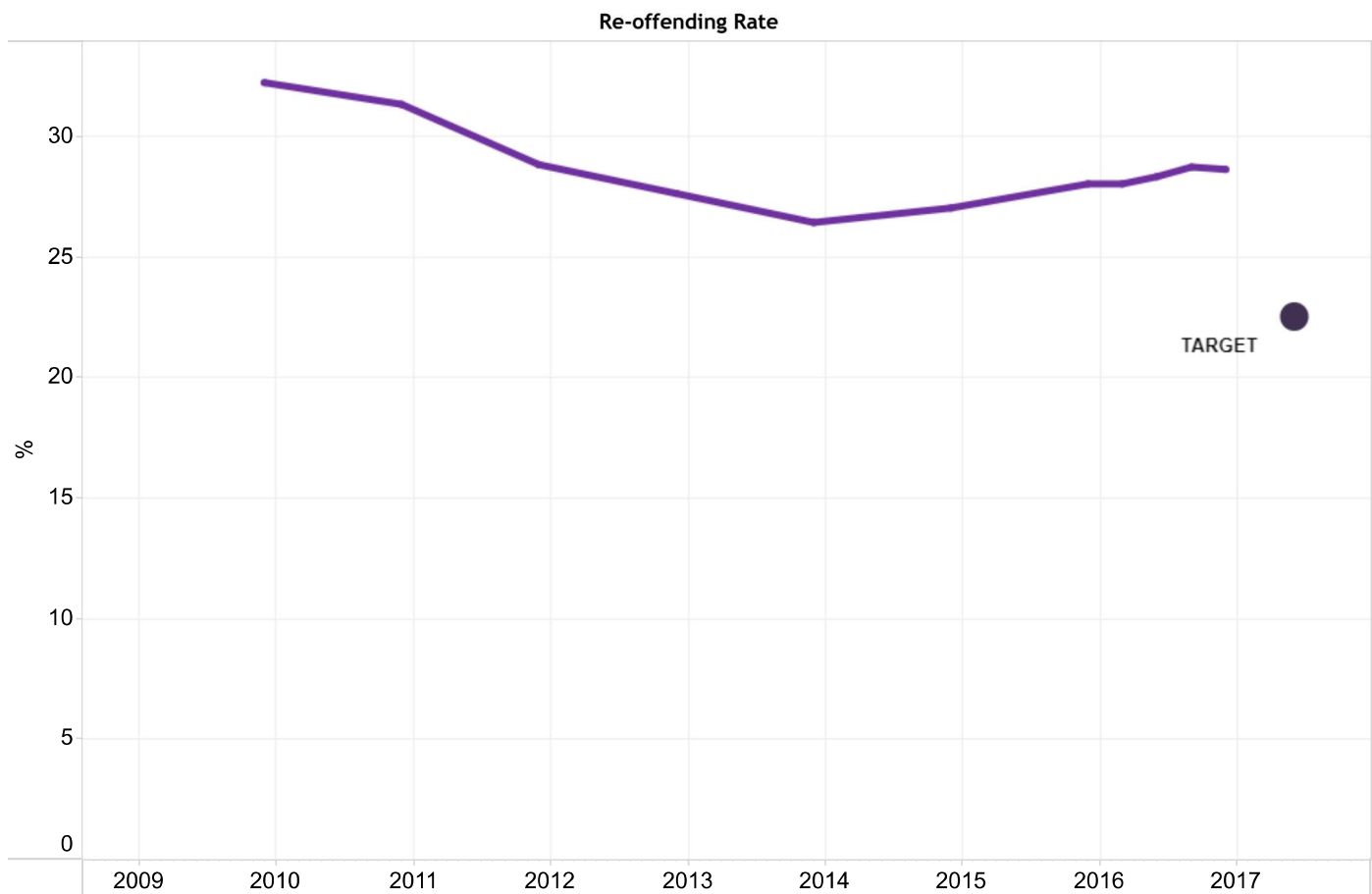
By June 2017, the Government's target is to:

- The re-offending rate has reduced by 4.3% since June 2011.
- Reduce re-offending by 25%
- This means that, by June 2017, we are aiming to have 4,600 fewer offenders returning each year, and around 18,500 fewer victims each year.

For more information go to the **Ministry of Justice website** (<http://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/about-the-justice-sector/better-public-services/>) or the **Department of Corrections website** (http://www.corrections.govt.nz/about_us/who_we_are/our_priorities/reducing_re-offending.html).

Reduce re-offending by 25 percent by 2017

To aid the analysis of the patterns of re-offending, we have calculated the number of reoffenders each year. Results show that the number of re-offenders has fallen steadily over recent years – and has fallen by 29% since June 2011.



You can see the datasets at [data.govt.nz](https://data.govt.nz/dataset/show/3321) (<https://data.govt.nz/dataset/show/3321>)

What are we doing to achieve these results?

Six action plans will deliver results:

- Support repeat victims
- Target repeat locations
- Improve assessment and interventions for youth
- Reduce availability of alcohol
- Increase alcohol and drug treatment in the community
- Strengthen rehabilitation and re-integration services to prepare and support people to live law-abiding lives.



Better Public Services Result 7 - Case Study: Frontline collaboration [archived]

1 May 2018: The Government announced in January 2018 that the Better Public Services programme would not continue in this form. These pages have been archived.



In July 2012 the Justice Sector Leadership Board initiated the Hutt Valley innovation project to see how greater collaboration between agencies at the frontline could help achieve BPS targets.

The project involved bringing together a working group of justice sector operational managers from Police, the Ministry of Justice, Corrections, and CYFs with strong local knowledge.

The group was set clear objectives by the Leadership Board:

- Lead crime reduction and provide enhanced support to repeat victims through better connected frontline justice services
- Identify and implement initiatives that achieve justice sector Better Public Services targets and improve service delivery in the Hutt Valley, and elsewhere, through innovation and enhanced on-the-ground collaboration between agencies
- Identify initiatives that could be applied nationally.

The working group identified 10 initiatives including:

- Introducing audio-visual link facilities at the Hutt Valley court.
- End-to-end case management along the justice sector pipeline
- A review of the Family Violence Court
- A community outreach mobile office van
- Raising attendance and achievement in the youth sector (RAAYS)

These initiatives have been approved by the Leadership Board and are now being implemented, with many capable of being rolled-out nationally.

In addition, over 140 managers from around New Zealand attended one of the nine 2013 workshops to brainstorm how the Justice Sector can innovatively tackle its challenges and:

- Ensure all staff are engaged in the Sector-wide implementation of the BPS targets
- Encourage sector collaboration at a local level
- Share examples of innovation and good practice

In general, participants found the workshops valuable and feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Those present were confident that Sector agencies were taking the correct approach to ensure BPS targets are met.

A toolbox to help justice sector frontline managers meet the justice sector Better Public Services targets was launched at the Christchurch workshop.

Developed by the Ministry, New Zealand Police and Corrections the Collective Impact Toolbox is designed to help frontline staff collaborate. Forming strong relationships across the justice sector and working together is key to meeting the BPS targets.

The tool box is a set of techniques, case studies and templates. Managers can choose the tools, those most relevant to them and their community.



Better Public Services Result 7 - Case Study: Victim Focus [archived]

1 May 2018: The Government announced in January 2018 that the Better Public Services programme would not continue in this form. These pages have been archived.



Victim Focus is a Police initiative to work with victims to help them avoid suffering from repeat crime. Launched in late 2012, more than 9000 police officers have now received Victim Focus training and District Victim Managers have been established in each Police district as champions for the initiative.

Under the initiative frontline officers can access Police's National Intelligence Database every time they work with a victim and this tells them if they have previously been offended against in the past 12 months.

This flag details the type and number of crimes the person has experienced and helps Police devise a response to help prevent them or their property being targeted again. The more times the person has been affected by crime, the more graduated the response will be.

For example, a first time burglary victim will receive simple, practical crime prevention advice such as to lock their doors and windows or install security lights or deadlocks.

A person who has suffered serious and repeat crimes will have an intervention plan built around them, and other agencies will be consulted on how they can be better supported. For example, Police may work with Victim Support to request a grant from the serious crime emergency fund,

which is administered by the Ministry of Justice, to install burglar alarms in a home that is repeatedly targeted by burglars.

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Last modified: 20 February 2014



Better Public Services Result 7 - Case Study: National Home Safety Service [archived]

1 May 2018: The Government announced in January 2018 that the Better Public Services programme would not continue in this form. These pages have been archived.



Up to 1000 victims of family violence will be protected each year with the launch of the National Home Safety Service in March.

The service will help up to 400 women each year and up to 600 children identified as being at high risk from domestic violence to remain in their own homes with a significantly reduced risk of serious physical harm or violence.

The National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges has been awarded a three-year, \$3.6 million contract to deliver the domestic violence prevention programme from 1 July 2015.

The service is available for victims of domestic violence who are at high risk of repeat victimisation and of serious injury or death.

It involves a number of measures to make makes victims' homes safer from attack such as replacing glass panelled doors with solid doors, installing security lights and monitored personal alarms, replacing locks and repairing broken windows, and linking victims to other agencies that can help.

The programme is part of the suite of initiatives announced by the Government in July 2014 in its Stronger Response to Family Violence package.

Last modified: 6 July 2015



Better Public Services Result 7 - Case Study: Neighbourhood Policing Teams [archived]

1 May 2018: The Government announced in January 2018 that the Better Public Services programme would not continue in this form. These pages have been archived.



In 33 locations throughout New Zealand, Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) are prime examples of deployment in action and personify Prevention First. NPTs are dedicated teams of Police officers operating in priority locations – where you are more likely to be the victim of a crime – targeting the drivers of crime and creating safer, more secure neighbourhoods. Officers are an integral part of their neighbourhood and, in partnership with the community, look to tackle the

underlying causes of crime and safety issues and put sustainable solutions in place. With a victim-centric approach, NPTs are focused on long-term prevention activities. NPT staff have iPhones and iPads, enabling them to spend more time in the community engaging with people face-to-face both to do their job, and maintain trust and rapport. Feedback indicates the teams are helping improve trust and confidence with Police, building positive relationships with their communities and making local residents feel safe.

“There’s been a big drop in family violence since the NPT has been in operation in this area. We used to see the same families having incidents week after week after week. These would escalate in frequency and seriousness but now we are seeing a turnaround. Prevention is a huge part of what the Police are doing now, and it is working. Most people were used to seeing the Police after an incident had happened, and they do not usually react well to the Police at the door. But they are

now used to seeing the Police coming around and seeing them in a different light; it makes a huge difference.”

(Victim Support Coordinator, Counties-Manukau District)

Last modified: 20 February 2014

- Prisoner education
- Access to interventions in prison
- Better community reintegration support
- The Mauri Tu, Mauri Ora programme
- Wrap-around services to support ex-prisoners to find and sustain employment
- The Integrated Safety Response pilot
- Community justice/iwi panels
- Therapeutic courts

Prevent serious crime through active engagement with the social sector

We will continue to review our current work programme to ensure we are doing enough to meet our targets and will refresh the BPS Results Action Plan accordingly.

Read the Result Action Plan (<https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/about-the-justice-sector/better-public-services/>) which shows what we're doing to reduce serious crime.

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Last modified: 21 August 2017



Better Public Services Result 7 - Case Study: SafeCity Angel initiative a first [archived]

1 May 2018: The Government announced in January 2018 that the Better Public Services programme would not continue in this form. These pages have been archived.



Natacha O'Brien-Howell is the country's first SafeCity Angel (SCA). Working in the Palmerston North CBD, the SCA works with young women to make them aware of the real harm intoxication can bring, as well as how to stay safe in the city.

The SafeCity Angel project is a multi-agency initiative by the Safety Advisory Board and supported by the Manawatū Police, ACC, YOSS (Youth One Stop Shop), SafeCity Trust and the Palmerston North City Council.

The main focus of the initiative is to reduce the harm and victimisation to young women aged 16 - 24 years caused by excess alcohol consumption.

"Time and time again we see young people harmed from drinking too much. You can have a good night out but it's all about drinking responsibly and looking after your mates."

"Know your limits and stick to them. By doing this you protect yourself from harm and can keep an eye on your mates," says Inspector Brett Calkin, Manawatu Police Prevention Manager.

The Angel accompanies SafeCity Hosts and sometimes Police officers on Friday and Saturday nights between 10pm to 4am. Natacha is a youth worker employed by YOSS.

A recent alcohol harm related survey commissioned by the Palmerston North Safety Advisory Board found that nearly half of those surveyed (both men and women) said they had a negative experience while in town on a Friday or Saturday night. The most common negative experience was doing something they later regretted.

"This is a unique concept and has the potential to reduce alcohol harm awareness help young woman keep themselves safe," Inspector Calkin.

Last modified: 8 July 2014



Te Kawa Mataaho
Public Service Commission

Better Public Services Result 7 - Case Study: Youth Crime Action Plan [archived]

1 May 2018: The Government announced in January 2018 that the Better Public Services programme would not continue in this form. These pages have been archived.



The Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP) is a 10-year plan to reduce crime by children and young people and help those who offend to turn their lives around. One of the justice sector's key Better Public service (BPS) targets is to reduce youth crime by June 2017.

Since the BPS was introduced in 2012, the youth offending rate has continued to fall and at the end of 2014 it was 38 per cent less than in 2011. We are currently ahead of the

BPS target of a 25 per cent reduction by 2017.

Part of the success can be attributed to the introduction of the YCAP, which acknowledges how important it is to intervene with 'at-risk' youth early to support them and steer them away from a life of crime. It is known that the earlier in life a person starts offending, the more likely it is that they will re-offend.

To do this, the Plan has three overarching strategies that shape how youth crime is tackled over the next decade:

- Partnering with communities: improves the way government agencies interact with and support communities to prevent youth offending and reoffending
- Reducing escalation: aims to ensure young people are dealt with at the lowest appropriate level of the youth justice system
- Early and sustainable exits: seeks to provide young people who offend with the best intervention at the most appropriate time

The Plan focuses on supporting the youth services, frontline staff, service providers and volunteers that work with youth in their own communities. Around the country, 20 communities have developed or are developing YCAP community action plans that create local solutions for local youth offending problems. The government has also provided \$400,000 of one-off grants to fund innovative community-based youth justice initiatives.

While youth crime is going down, initiatives such as these will help address challenges that remain, such as addressing the reasons why the number of young Māori in the youth justice system is disproportionately higher than young non-Māori.

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Last modified: 19 February 2015



Te Kawa Mataaho
Public Service Commission

Better Public Services Result 7 - Case Study: Frontline Flagships Programme [archived]

1 May 2018: The Government announced in January 2018 that the Better Public Services programme would not continue in this form. These pages have been archived.

New Flagships projects to target crime and reoffending are being rolled out in Papakura, Hamilton and the East Coast.

The Frontline Flagships Programme is seeing staff from NZ Police, Department of Corrections, Ministry of Justice and Child Youth and Family in these areas work together on eight initiatives focused on supporting victims, reducing crime and re-offending, and assisting those impacted by crime in their area.

Each of the three areas have identified initiatives that focus on particular problems in their communities; such as alcohol in Papakura; reintegration of youth offenders in Hamilton; and family violence on the East Coast. The purpose of the Flagship projects is finding local solutions to local problems.

Although each region has its own set of initiatives there are common themes across the three: addressing family violence, improved joint case management, better service delivery, drivers licensing and youth crime.

The Flagship areas are supported by National Office staff in Wellington who provide advice and guidance to the projects and help address any barriers the Flagship areas encounter.

The Frontline Flagships Programme was developed from a similar initiative - the Hutt Valley Innovation Project - piloted in the Hutt Valley between December 2012 and September 2013.

There is now greater access to restorative justice, improvements in the family violence court, initiatives targeting the drivers of crime and coordinated support of high risk families in the area in the Hutt Valley. There are also fewer new cases are being managed by the District Court and the time taken to progress cases before the Court prisoner numbers are also decreasing.

Due to the success of the Hutt Valley model it was tailored to fit these three new areas.

This project is part of the sustained momentum from the justice sector on reducing crime and re-offending and keeping communities safe.

Last modified: 8 July 2014



Better justice services in the Hutt Valley lauded [archived]

1 May 2018: The Government announced in January 2018 that the Better Public Services programme would not continue in this form. These pages have been archived.



***In the field:** Inspector Shane Cotter shows State Services Commissioner Iain Rennie the Hutt Valley Justice Sector Innovation Project in Timberlea, Upper Hutt.*

State Services Commissioner Iain Rennie today congratulated the collaborative approach being taken to deliver better justice services in the Hutt Valley.

Justice sector agencies have joined up with the community, local iwi and social agencies to make the Hutt Valley a safer place.

“The Ministry of Justice, Police and Corrections have joined forces with the Ministry of Social Development’s Child Youth and Family and the local community to deliver better justice services to the people in an innovative way,” said Mr Rennie.

Under the umbrella of the Hutt Valley Justice Sector Innovation Project, 13 agencies are working together to collectively solve problems and respond to the changing needs of the community.

Over the last eight months a number of exciting new initiatives have been launched, including:

- the Raising Achievement Across the Youth Sector (RAAYS) truancy reduction initiative which has seen a marked improvement in school attendance at eight targeted schools
- an expanded restorative justice service, promoted at a hui involving the local justice and legal community

- an Alternative Resolutions Iwi Panel being trialled through an innovative partnership between Te Runanganui O Taranaki Whanui, Wellington Restorative Justice Services and the Hutt Valley Police
- Operation Relentless which features a series of short, sharp blitzes on known drivers of crime – targets to date have included alcohol, at-risk youth and family violence.
- a Justice Sector Mobile Community Office (/bps-videos)

“These local initiatives show a fresh approach to reducing crime and reoffending and are helping people and we’re doing this by connecting up justice sector services in the Hutt Valley,” Ministry of Justice Deputy Chief Executive Brook Barrington said.

“The Hutt Valley Justice Sector Innovation Project is a great example of local operational managers working together to deliver better public services”.

ENDS

Last modified: 5 December 2013
