

TABLE 3 : OFFENCES* COMMITTED BY RECIDIVISTS CONVICTED IN 2001 AND 2002

	Offence	2001		2002		% Change
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
	Total	23,575	100.0%	33,167	100.0%	40.7%
1	Drug Offences	6,775	28.7%	9,282	28.0%	37.0%
2	Immigration Offences	2,423	10.3%	3,054	9.2%	26.0%
3	Traffic Offences	1,200	5.1%	1,521	4.6%	26.8%
4	Theft	837	3.6%	1,445	4.4%	72.6%
5	Shoplifting	651	2.8%	999	3.0%	53.5%
6	C21 Betting Act	537	2.3%	330	1.0%	-38.5%
7	Cheating & Related	490	2.1%	1,605	4.8%	227.6%
8	C49 Common Gaming Houses Act	487	2.1%	353	1.1%	-27.5%
9	C184 Miscellaneous Offences (Public Order & Nuisance) Act	473	2.0%	537	1.6%	13.5%
10	Voluntarily Causing Hurt	449	1.9%	562	1.7%	25.2%
11	C323 Telecommunications Act	255	1.1%	10	0.0%	-96.1%
12	C188 Moneylenders Act	172	0.7%	520	1.6%	202.3%
13	C201 National Registration Act	154	0.7%	147	0.4%	-4.5%
14	Sexual Offences	148	0.6%	283	0.9%	91.2%
15	Criminal Intimidation	139	0.6%	196	0.6%	41.0%
16	Housebreaking	129	0.5%	375	1.1%	190.7%
17	Rioting	117	0.5%	113	0.3%	-3.4%
18	Robbery	114	0.5%	277	0.8%	143.0%
19	C353 Womens Charter Act[#]	111	0.5%	312	0.9%	181.1%
20	C70 Customs Act	108	0.5%	134	0.4%	24.1%
21	Motor Vehicle Theft	93	0.4%	239	0.7%	157.0%
22	Unlawful Assembly	84	0.4%	83	0.3%	-1.2%
23	Assault / Use of Criminal Force	62	0.3%	90	0.3%	45.2%
24	Property Damage	40	0.2%	36	0.1%	-10.0%
25	Snatch Theft	33	0.1%	55	0.2%	66.7%
26	Extortion	13	0.1%	35	0.1%	169.2%
27	Wrongful Confinement	4	0.0%	3	0.0%	-25.0%
28	Murder	4	0.0%	1	0.0%	-75.0%
29	Kidnapping	2	0.0%	5	0.0%	150.0%
30	Culpable Homicide	1	0.0%	35	0.1%	3400.0%
31	Others	581	2.5%	1,078	3.3%	85.5%
32	Non-Registrable	6,889	29.2%	9,452	28.5%	37.2%

* Refers to the last offence committed

Note : Non-Registrable refers to offences which do not fall under the schedule offences of the Registration of Criminal Act Cap 268.

- Refers to Section 140, 146-148 and 36.

Source : Data provided by Criminal Record Office (CRO), MHA



Profile Study of Criminal Recidivists Convicted in Years 2000 – 2002

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

- The number of offenders convicted recorded a decline from 32,947 in 2001 and 31,853 in 2002. Its ratio per 100,000 total population dropped from 817 in 2000 to 798 and 765 in 2001 and 2002 respectively (Table 1).

First Time Offenders

- First time offenders recorded a slight decline in proportion from 57% to 55%. In absolute terms, a total of 17,590 first time offenders were convicted in 2002, down from 18,737 in 2001, registering a 6% decline.
- The total number of offences committed by first time offenders accounted for 42% of all offences committed by offenders convicted in 2002, down from 52% in 2001. A 6% decline was recorded from 25,363

offences to 23,737 over 2001 and 2002. In 2002, the average number of offences per first time offender is 1.3, compared to 1.4 in 2001.

Repeat Offenders

- Repeat offenders accounted for 45% of all persons convicted in 2002. This rose from 43% in both 2000 and 2001.
- In terms of offences committed, recidivists accounted for 58% of all offences committed by offenders convicted in 2002, rising from 48% in 2001. A total of 33,167 offences were committed by recidivists convicted in 2002, compared to 23,575 offences in 2001. The average number of offences per repeat offender is 2.3 in 2002, rising from 1.7 in 2001.

TABLE 1 : STATISTICS OF OFFENDERS CONVICTED IN 2000-2002

Criminal Recidivist Statistics	2000		2001		2002		% change	% change
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	2000-01	2001-02
Number of Offenders Convicted	32,817	100.0%	32,947	100.0%	31,853	100.0%	0.4%	-3.3%
- first-time offenders	18,628	56.8%	18,737	56.9%	17,590	55.2%	0.6%	-6.1%
- offenders with previous convictions	14,189	43.2%	14,210	43.1%	14,263	44.8%	0.1%	0.4%
- offenders with previous juvenile convictions	1,641	5.0%	1,504	4.6%	1,675	5.3%	-8.3%	11.4%
Ratio of Offenders per 100,000 Total Population	817	-	798	-	765	-		
Number of Offences Committed	-	-	48,938	100.0%	56,904	100.0%	-	16.3%
- by first-time offenders	-	-	25,363	51.8%	23,737	41.7%	-	-6.4%
- by repeat offenders	-	-	23,575	48.2%	33,167	58.3%	-	40.7%
Average Offence Per Offender	-	-	1.5	-	1.8	-	-	0.3
- first-time offenders	-	-	1.4	-	1.3	-	-	(0.004)
- repeat offenders	-	-	1.7	-	2.3	-	-	0.7

Source : Data provided by Criminal Record Office (CRO), MHA



PROFILE OF RECIDIVISTS

Gender

- Majority of the recidivists were males. However an increasing trend of female recidivists convicted was observed – from 1,419 (10%) in 2000 to 1,601 (11%) in 2001 and 1,667 (12%) in 2002 (Table 2).

Nationality

- The proportion Singapore Citizens rose marginally from 84% to 85%. Foreigners accounted for 15% of all recidivists convicted.

Ethnic Group

- Compared to the general population in Singapore, the proportions of Malays and Indians were relatively higher for the recidivists – with 30% Malays and 19% Indians.
- An increasing trend was also observed for the number and proportion of Malay and Indian recidivists convicted – Malays increased from 3,992 [28%] to 4,309 [30%] and Indians from 2,646 [18.6%] to 2,741 [19.2%].

Age Profile

- The average age of a criminal recidivist rose steadily from 34.9 years old for the 2000 cohort to 35.3 for the 2002 cohort.
- It was also noted that a substantial increase in the number of criminal recidivists aged below 16 was recorded – from 55 in 2001 to 80 in 2002.

Highest Educational Qualifications

- The largest group of recidivists was those with incomplete primary education (33% in 2000, 32% in 2001 and 30% in 2002). This is followed by those with incomplete secondary education (about 22%).
- Approximately 7 in every 10 of the recidivists had secondary and below education.

Number of Previous Convictions

- The average number of previous conviction remained stable at 2 for those recidivists convicted in 2001 and 2002.
- The proportion with 1 previous conviction rose marginally from 61% to 62%.

Latest Offence Committed

- Drug and Immigration offences remained as the top 2 offences committed by the repeat offenders. Out of the 33,167 offences committed by the recidivist offenders convicted in 2002, 28% were for drug offences, down marginally from 28.7% in 2001. As for Immigration offences, it accounted for 9.2% in 2002, down slightly from 10.3% in 2001 (Table 3).

- It was noted that there was a significant increase in the following offences, most of which are money related :

- ✓ Theft – increased by 73% from 837 to 1,445
- ✓ Cheating & Related offences – increased by 228% from 490 to 1,605
- ✓ Offences under the Moneylenders Act – rose by 202% from 172 to 520
- ✓ Sexual offences – rose by 91% from 148 to 283
- ✓ Housebreaking - increased by 191% from 129 to 375
- ✓ Robbery – rose by 143% from 114 to 277
- ✓ Motor Vehicle Theft – rose by 157% from 93 to 237

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Source of Data : Criminal Record Office, MHA



TABLE 2 : PROFILE OF RECIDIVISTS CONVICTED IN 2000-2002

Profile of Recidivists	2000		2001		2002	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Gender	14,189	100%	14,210	100%	14,263	100%
Male	12,770	90%	12,609	89%	12,596	88%
Female	1,419	10%	1,601	11%	1,667	12%
Nationality		100.0%	14,210	100.0%	14,263	100.0%
Singapore Citizens	-	86.3%	11,974	84.3%	12,089	84.8%
Indians	-	3.2%	609	4.3%	647	4.5%
Malaysians	-	1.6%	247	1.7%	188	1.3%
Chinese	-	1.6%	304	2.1%	324	2.3%
Bangladeshi	-	1.4%	218	1.5%	222	1.6%
Indonesian	-	1.4%	191	1.3%	146	1.0%
Thais	-	1.2%	207	1.5%	175	1.2%
Others	-	1.5%	370	2.6%	382	2.7%
Unknown	-	1.8%	90	0.6%	90	0.6%
Ethnic Group		100.0%	14,210	100.0%	14,263	100.0%
Chinese	-	47.8%	7,005	49.3%	6,626	46.5%
Malays	-	30.6%	3,992	28.1%	4,309	30.2%
Indians	-	18.1%	2,646	18.6%	2,741	19.2%
Others	-	3.5%	530	3.7%	550	3.9%
Unknown	-	-	37	0.3%	37	0.3%
Age Profile		100.0%	14,210	100.0%	14,263	100.0%
<16	-	0.4%	55	0.4%	80	0.6%
16-20	-	6.4%	881	6.2%	881	6.2%
21-30	-	29.5%	3,930	27.7%	4,038	28.3%
31-40	-	32.6%	4,634	32.6%	4,596	32.2%
41-50	-	23.6%	3,464	24.4%	3,480	24.4%
>50	-	7.5%	1,246	8.8%	1,188	8.3%
Average Age	34.9	-	35.2	-	35.3	-
Highest Educational Qualifications		100.0%	14,210	100.0%	14,263	100.0%
No formal education	-	1.2%	283	2.0%	366	2.6%
Incomplete Primary	-	33.4%	4,503	31.7%	4,286	30.0%
Primary	-	5.3%	974	6.9%	1,055	7.4%
Incomplete Secondary	-	20.2%	2,689	18.9%	3,108	21.8%
GCE 'O'/'N' Levels	-	8.4%	1,339	9.4%	1,623	11.4%
GCE 'A' Levels	-	0.5%	59	0.4%	79	0.6%
Diploma	-	4.9%	758	5.3%	827	5.8%
Graduate / Post Graduate	-	0.2%	28	0.2%	54	0.4%
Other Certs	-	2.0%	1,993	14.0%	357	2.5%
Unknown (Mostly Foreigners)	-	23.9%	1,584	11.1%	2,508	17.6%
Number of Previous Convictions		100.0%	14,210	100.0%	14,263	100.0%
1	-	20.1%	8,593	60.5%	8,799	61.7%
2	-	10.3%	2,341	16.5%	2,148	15.1%
3	-	7.4%	1,333	9.4%	1,239	8.7%
4	-	5.8%	921	6.5%	914	6.4%
5	-	4.7%	322	2.3%	373	2.6%
6	-	19.4%	188	1.3%	231	1.6%
7	-		115	0.8%	145	1.0%
8	-		92	0.6%	99	0.7%
9	-		55	0.4%	56	0.4%
10	-		55	0.4%	43	0.3%
More than 10	-		32.3%	195	1.4%	216
Average No. of Previous Convictions	6		1.99		2.01	

Source : Data provided by Criminal Record Office (CRO), MHA

