



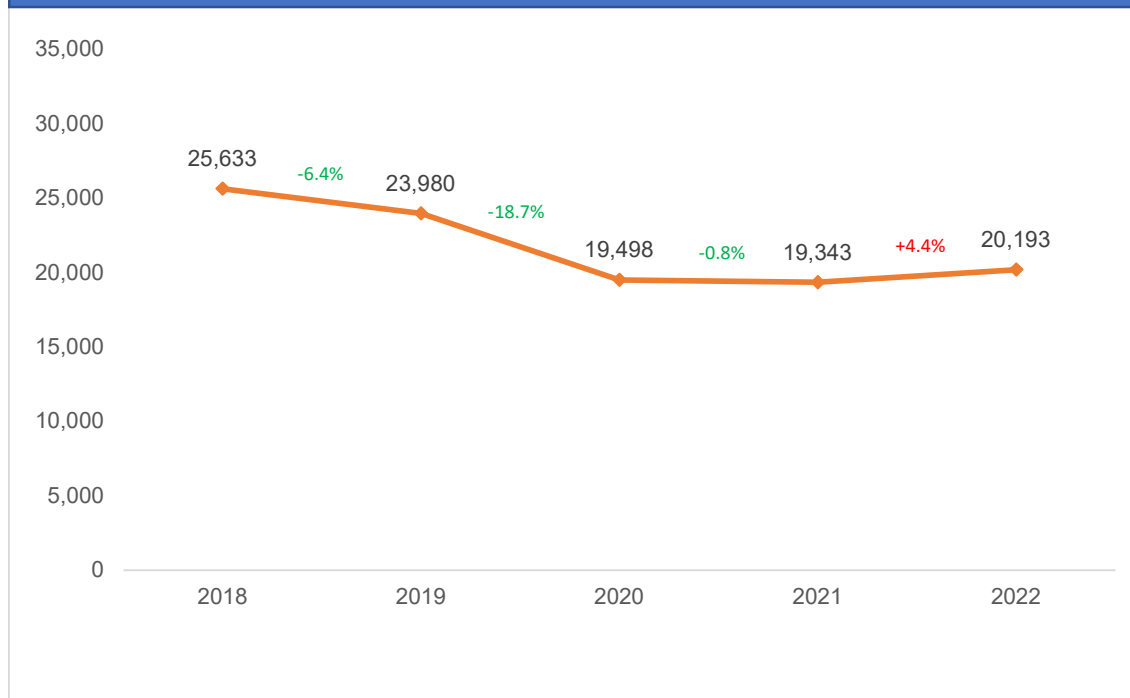
Annual Crime Brief 2022

Physical Crime Situation

Physical crimes remain low in 2022

With the relaxation of COVID-19 measures and the resumption of more activities, the total number of reported physical crime cases increased by 4.4% to 20,193 in 2022, from 19,343 in 2021. However, this is lower than the number of cases pre-COVID-19.

Total Physical Crime Cases



Crimes of concern

2 In 2022, the crimes of concern included outrage of modesty, voyeurism, shop theft, theft in dwelling, and rioting.

Outrage of Modesty

3 Outrage of Modesty (OM) cases increased to 1,610 in 2022 from 1,474 in 2021 and accounted for 8.0% of the total physical crime cases. The majority of cases (938 cases or 58.3%) involved culprits known to the victim.

4 With the public entertainment (PE) landscape regaining vibrance as we emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of OM cases which took place at nightspots increased to 129 cases in 2022, compared to 21 in 2021.

5 On 19 January 2023, the SPF launched the third edition of the Smart Clubbing Campaign to remind the public that a safe and secure PE landscape is a shared responsibility between PE outlets and patrons. The campaign: (i) promoted a Smart Club checklist for PE outlets; (ii) encouraged PE outlets to continue to comply with the licensing conditions; (iii) and urged PE outlets to work with the SPF to prevent crimes such as OM from happening within the outlets. Please refer to **Annex A** for the collaterals.

6 The SPF will deal with patrons who commit any criminal offence, including OM, firmly and severely, in accordance with the law.

7 With increased usage of the public transport network, the number of OM cases which occurred on public transport also increased, to 178 cases in 2022, compared to 163 in 2021.

8 The SPF will continue to work closely with public transport operators and partners, including the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), to reach out to commuters to raise awareness. Examples include prominently displaying posters on OM on MRT trains, and at train stations and bus interchanges. In October 2022, the SPF launched a new public education video on OM and screened it at MRT stations. These posters and videos seek to educate the public on what they can do when they encounter OM crimes, and remind them to stay vigilant and alert the SPF promptly if they encounter anything suspicious.

9 Launched in December 2021, the Community Watch Scheme (CWS) aims to build an informed and vigilant community. Members of the public are encouraged to sign up as a CWS member. Members of CWS are updated regularly on the latest crime information, and sent alerts and advisories. They are encouraged to share these information with their family and friends. CWS members also have access to events and trainings to enhance their knowledge and skills. The "Riders on Watch" (ROW) is one such group under the CWS. ROW members are the 'eyes and ears' of the SPF on public transport, to look out for suspicious persons or activities, and provide valuable information to the SPF.

10 Victims of OM are advised to make a police report as soon as possible as reporting such crimes early is crucial in helping the SPF identify and arrest the perpetrators. For example, information on the suspect's appearance, attire, height or any other distinctive physical features is helpful to SPF's investigations.

11 Please see **Annex B** for comments from the Vice-Chairman of NCPC.

Voyeurism

12 Voyeurism cases decreased to 424 cases in 2022 from 467 in 2021, and accounted for 2.1% of total physical crime cases. The top three locations where voyeurism cases occurred were:

- a) Residential premises – 142 cases reported in 2022, compared to 179 in 2021.
- b) Public transport system – 55 cases reported in 2022, compared to 79 in 2021.
- c) Shopping complexes – 54 cases reported in 2022, compared to 56 in 2021.

13 The cases at residential premises and shopping complexes mainly involved perpetrators known to the victim such as household members or fellow tenants who peeped at victims in toilets, while the cases on public transport typically involved perpetrators taking upskirt photos.

14 Members of the public are reminded to stay vigilant against voyeurism by being aware of their surroundings. Like for OM, they are advised to make a police report as soon as possible if they are a victim of voyeurism or have witnessed the crime being committed. Reporting such crimes early is crucial in helping the SPF identify and arrest the perpetrators.

Shop Theft

15 Shop theft cases increased to 3,244 cases in 2022 from 2,652 in 2021, and accounted for 16.1% of total physical crime cases. 67.0% of the cases occurred at retail chains/shops such as department stores, supermarkets, pharmacies, and mini marts/convenience stores. Cases were usually detected through suspicious behaviour spotted by staff, discovery of missing items during stock-taking, or detection of unpaid items by customers at self-checkout terminals via review of CCTV footages. Items typically stolen included food and beverages, alcoholic drinks, personal care products, apparels/accessories, and cosmetics.

16 Retailers play a vital role in deterring and preventing shop theft. The SPF held the inaugural Retailers Safety and Security Symposium on 13 December 2022 to facilitate the sharing of best practices in the prevention of shop theft, and to strengthen our retailers' preparedness and response to security threats. The Shop Theft Awareness for Retailers (STAR) Programme, which was launched in 2018, was then adopted by retailers such as TANGS, Watsons, Puma, and Japan Home, at VivoCity and Harbourfront Centre. It was expanded to retailers island-wide in December 2022.

17 Under the STAR Programme, the SPF works closely with the retailer-adopters to analyse their store's risk factors and vulnerabilities to shop theft. The SPF and retailers will then jointly identify effective crime prevention measures that can be implemented. Such initiatives against shop theft are based on best practices in the industry and SPF's expertise in safety and security. The SPF will also conduct training for the retail staff to enable them to help prevent and deter shop theft during their daily

work. To sustain the effectiveness of the crime prevention measures, the SPF will continue to work closely with the retailer-adopters after onboarding onto the Programme to monitor the crime situation, and will conduct regular checks on the stores.

18 The SPF will announce the onboarding of two new partners, namely the Singapore Retailers Association (SRA) and the Federation of Merchants' Associations, Singapore (FMAS), to the Retailer Industry Safety and Security Watch Group (iSSWG) on 17 February 2023. The Retailer iSSWG was established with Orchard Road Business Association (ORBA) in 2008. The onboarding of SRA and FMAS to the Retailer iSSWG allows the SPF to tackle shop theft and other crimes of concern across a wider segment of the retail industry.

Theft in Dwelling

19 Theft in dwelling cases increased to 1,729 cases in 2022 from 1,359 in 2021, and accounted for 8.6% of total physical crime cases. Significant increases were observed at residential and commercial premises. There were 881 cases reported in residential premises in 2022, as compared to 716 in 2021. At commercial premises, there were 503 cases reported in 2022, as compared to 382 in 2021. Cases that occurred at residential premises typically involved items such as cash, jewellery, and electronic items such as handphones and branded bags/watches.

20 The majority of the cases were committed (or suspected to be committed) by culprits known to the victim, such as tenants/roommates, family members, service providers/cleaners and friends/acquaintances.

Rioting

21 With increased interaction among larger groups of people after the resumption of social activities and reopening of nightspots, rioting cases increased to 60 cases in 2022 from 46 in 2021, and accounted for 0.3% of total physical crime cases. However, this figure is lower than during pre-COVID-19 (94 cases in 2019).

Everyone Plays a Key Role in Fighting Crime

22 Everyone has a part to play in keeping Singapore safe and secure. Business operators, such as public transport operators, retail outlet owners and PE operators, have a responsibility to prevent, deter and detect crimes. Putting in place precautions against crimes will also help them keep their customers safe.

23 To recognise the community partners and stakeholders for their support in helping to keep Singapore safe and secure, the SPF presented 46 Public Spiritedness Awards and 146 Community Partnership Awards in 2022. We encourage the community to continue to support us in the fight against crime.

24 Family members and friends also play an important role. They can prevent someone they know from falling victim, by being aware of the threats and cautioning their loved ones about them. Members of the public should stay vigilant and report any crime-related information to the SPF.

25 Please see **Annex C** for comments from the Acting Director of Operations Department.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE
16 FEBRUARY 2023**

Visuals of Collaterals for Smart Clubbing Campaign

DON'T TOUCH!



Outrage Of Modesty is punishable with imprisonment of up to 3 years, a fine, caning, or any combination.

DON'T FIGHT!



Rioting is punishable with imprisonment of up to 7 years and caning.

DON'T STEAL!



Theft is punishable with imprisonment of up to 3 years, or with fine, or both.



Quote by Vice-Chairman, National Crime Prevention Council

"In Singapore, we enjoy a largely crime-free society due to the continuous efforts in preventing and fighting crime by the community, the SPF and many other organisations such as the NCPC. However, criminals are always waiting for a chance to strike.

We must remain vigilant and practise crime prevention measures at all times. If you witness a crime, be it a shop theft, outrage of modesty, or any other crime, extend your help to the victims. If you see someone or something suspicious, report it to the Police. Together, we can prevent crime. And remember, "Low Crime does not Mean no Crime".

*- Mr. Tan Puay Kern
Vice-Chairman, National Crime Prevention Council*

Quote by Acting Director of Operations Department

Despite the increase in physical crime in 2022, the crime situation in Singapore remains under control. This is evidenced by the strong sense of security and safety the public has, supported by the strong public trust in the SPF. The SPF will continue to step up our efforts to keep physical crime in check as we return to post-COVID-19 normalcy.

Despite our safe environment, we call on the public to not take their safety and security for granted by being vigilant and to adopt crime prevention measures. We also call on various community partners and stakeholders to work with us to prevent, deter and detect crime. The STAR programme for shop theft and the Smart Clubbing Campaign are important platforms through which we seek business and community collaboration on crimes of concern. It is only through a whole of society effort that physical crime will continue to remain low and Singapore can continue to be one of the safest places in the world.

- AC Gregory Tan

Acting Director of Operations Department