



SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE

POLICE NEWS RELEASE

MID-YEAR CRIME STATISTICS FOR JANUARY TO JUNE 2017

Decrease in Overall Crime for January to June 2017

Overall crime decreased by 0.5%, to 16,375 cases in the first six months of 2017, from 16,452 cases in the same period last year.

Decrease in Theft and Related Crimes and Housebreaking Cases

2 'Theft and Related Crimes' cases decreased by 2.6%, to 6,831 cases in the first half of 2017, from 7,011 cases in the same period last year. Theft from persons and motor vehicle related thefts have both shown a significant decrease.

i. Theft from persons

a. Theft from Persons decreased by 14.0%, to 387 cases in the first half of 2017, from 450 cases in the same period last year.

ii. Motor vehicle related thefts

a. Theft from Motor Vehicles decreased by 18.9%, to 365 cases in the first half of 2017, from 450 cases in the same period last year.

b. Motor Vehicle Theft decreased by 9.5%, to 67 cases in the first half of 2017, from 74 cases in the same period last year.

c. Theft of Motor Vehicle Component Parts decreased by 31.3%, to 22 cases in the first half of 2017, from 32 cases in the same period last year.

3 One possible reason for the decrease in motor vehicle-related thefts is the community's participation in the Vehicle on Watch (VOW) initiative which has enhanced safety in the neighbourhood. The in-vehicle cameras serve as a strong deterrence by providing additional 'eyes' that capture neighbourhood crimes and provide crucial leads to aid Police investigations. Currently, there are 7,283 residents participating in the VOW initiative across 783 locations islandwide.

4 Housebreaking cases decreased by 21.5%, to 84 cases in the first half of 2017, from 107 cases in the same period last year. Although there was a decrease in housebreaking cases, the Police urge property owners to continue to be vigilant and practise crime prevention measures, such as using good quality close-shackled locks and strong grilles, and not leaving valuables unattended near openings such as windows and doors.

Improvement in Commercial Crimes, but Scams Remain a Concern

5 'Commercial crime' cases decreased by 3.2%, to 4,169 cases in the first half of 2017, from 4,308 cases in the same period last year. The Police's outreach and education efforts, as well as strong support from the media to raise public awareness, have helped to reduce such cases, especially e-commerce scams.

6 Nonetheless, e-commerce scams remain a concern, due to the high number of reported cases. Internet love scams and email impersonation scams, in particular, have registered significant increases in the first half of 2017.

i. E-commerce (cheating) scams

- a) There was a 10.5% decrease, to 900 cases in the first half of 2017, from 1,006 cases in the same period last year.
- b) Even though e-commerce scams have decreased, they remain a concern as the number of cases remains the highest compared to other scams.
- c) The total amount cheated decreased by 21.5%, to \$691,700 in the first half of 2017, from \$881,400 in the same period last year.
- d) The largest amount cheated in a single case for the first half of this year was \$60,700.

ii. Internet love scams

- a) There was a 26% increase, to 349 cases in the first half of 2017, from 277 cases in the same period last year.
- b) Love scams have been on the rise year on year and they remain a great cause of concern. Many people are still trusting and transferring money to strangers whom they have befriended online, in the quest to find love.

- c) The total amount cheated increased by 97.3%, to \$22.1 million in the first half of 2017, from \$11.2 million in the same period last year.
- d) The largest amount cheated in a single case for the first half of this year was close to \$6 million.

iii. Email impersonation scam

- a) There was a 29% increase, to 160 cases in the first half of 2017, from 124 cases in the same period last year.
- b) Email impersonation scams generally affect companies that correspond with other companies via email with regard to transactions and fund transfers. The victims usually do not realise that the email account of the company that they have been liaising with had been hacked or spoofed, and will proceed to transfer money to the bank account provided by the scammers.
- c) The amount cheated in such scams is generally larger as it involves money being transferred between companies for business transactions.
- d) The total amount cheated increased by 25.9%, to \$21.9 million in the first half of 2017, from \$17.4 million in the same period last year.
- e) The largest amount cheated in a single case for the first half of this year was close to \$4 million.

7 Online crimes are particularly challenging to solve because of the borderless nature of the internet. A significant proportion of online commercial crimes are committed remotely by foreign syndicates that will continue to find ways to exploit and prey on the vulnerabilities of potential victims. The Police will continue our efforts to educate the public from becoming victims of commercial crimes. In particular, we will continue to focus our crime prevention education efforts on the online community to prevent more people from falling victim to online scammers.

8 The Police strongly urge the public to exercise caution when befriending unknown persons through the Internet, to exercise due vigilance against spoof emails when performing transactions and fund transfers, and to be extra cautious when making online purchases.

Uptrend in Outrage of Modesty cases a Key Concern

9 Outrage of Modesty (OM) cases increased by 9.5%, to 717 cases in the first half of 2017, from 655 cases in the same period last year. OM cases at entertainment night spots and on public transport are key concerns.

10 The number of OM cases at entertainment night spots increased by 18.2%, to 52 cases in the first half of 2017, from 44 cases in the same period last year.

11 Although the number of OM cases on public transport decreased by 1.4%, to 70 cases in the first half of 2017, from 71 cases in the same period last year, it is worrying as the number of OM cases on public transport remains high.

12 A victim of molest should seek help immediately and call '999' to increase the chances of apprehending the suspect early. Remember the prominent features of the suspect as well as which direction he or she went, and the mode of transport. If it is safe to do so, the victim or other witnesses of the crime may assist to detain the suspect while waiting for the Police to arrive. Police would like to remind the public to remain vigilant at all times and adopt the crime prevention measures as listed in the Annex.

13 The Police will continue to take a tough stance on OM cases. We urge all members of the public to be vigilant and to report incidents to the authorities as soon as possible.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE
28 AUGUST 2017 @ 10.00 AM**

Crime Prevention Measures

- Avoid taking short cuts through dark and secluded places. Keep to well-lit areas where there are people and traffic;
- Always be alert and attentive to your surroundings. If you suspect that you are being followed, remain calm and proceed to a crowded area or call the Police for assistance;
- Carry a shrill alarm;
- When returning home alone or late at night, arrange for a family member or trusted friend to escort you home;
- Avoid taking the lift with a stranger. Allow the stranger to take the lift and wait for the next one; and
- When on public transport, always be alert and attentive to your surroundings. Where possible, move away if someone stands or sits exceptionally close to you