



Crime Statistics At A Glance



A safe and secured environment is an important factor in fostering investment and economic growth. The Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016 recognizes this and as such, identified crime incident reduction as one of the strategies to promote and sustain public order and internal stability. However, the recent spate of robberies in the metropolis and other high profile crimes have cast a shadow over the country's peace and order situation.

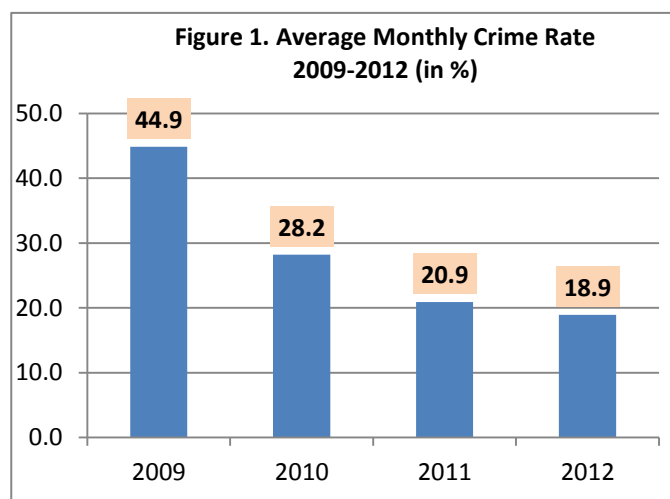
Crime defined. A crime is an act committed or omitted in violation of a law forbidding or commanding it and for which a punishment is imposed upon conviction. In the Philippines, the Revised Penal Code (Republic Act No. 3815) serves as the basic law that defines criminal offenses and provides the penalties for the commission of such. For statistical purposes and to create a standardized definition of crime classification, crime is further divided into index and non-index crimes. Index crimes, as defined by the Philippine National Police (PNP), involve crimes against persons such as murder, homicide, physical injury and rape, and crimes against property such as robbery, theft, carnapping/carjacking and cattle rustling. Non-index crimes, on the other hand, are violations of special laws such as illegal logging or local ordinances.

| Table 1. Crime Volume and Crime Rate per 100,000 Population, 2002-2012 | | | | |
|--|--------------|------------|--------------|------------------|
| Year | Crime Volume | Crime Rate | Index Crimes | Non-Index Crimes |
| 2002 | 85,776 | 108 | 54.6 | 52.4 |
| 2003 | 83,704 | 103 | 52.1 | 50.1 |
| 2004 | 77,253 | 93 | 51.1 | 41.4 |
| 2005 | 76,758 | 91 | 51.6 | 38.4 |
| 2006 | 71,227 | 83 | 47.8 | 34.1 |
| 2007 | 60,215 | 69 | 41.8 | 32.6 |
| 2008 | 66,846 | 75 | 40.4 | 33.5 |
| 2009 | 502,665 | 552 | 327.1 | 217.9 |
| 2010 | 324,083 | 350 | 218.0 | 208.0 |
| 2011 | 246,958 | 251 | 159.8 | 91.3 |
| 2012 | 217,812 | 227 | 134.8 | 92.4 |

Source: PNP

Crime through the years. Data show that there was a steady drop in crime rates from 108 per 100,000 people in 2002 to 69 in 2007. It slightly increased the following year to 75 but took a large jump to 552 in 2009, due to changes in the crime reporting system of the PNP (Table 1).¹

In 2010, the average monthly crime rate was 28.2. This means that for every 100,000 people, there were around 28 incidents of crime every month. This declined in 2011 to 20.9 and was further reduced to 18.9 in 2012 (Figure 1). In addition, for the 1st semester of 2012, a total of eight validated kidnap-for-ransom cases (KFR) were recorded by the PNP's Anti-Kidnapping Group (AKG), three were



Source: PNP

¹ The crime reporting system was changed to correct dysfunctions and lapses while formulating a uniform procedure for the PNP to report and collect crime data across all agencies involved in the Criminal Justice System and use the same as working basis for policies and programs on various anti-criminality measures. In the previous years, carnapping/carjacking and cattle rustling were not part of Crimes Against Property in addition to robbery and theft which are included in the new reporting system implemented in 2009 and requiring all police units to submit the Unit Crime Periodic Report (UCPER) to the PNP National Headquarters for consolidation into the National Crime Reporting System (NCRS). All crime incidents, whether reported by the victims, witnesses or third parties are recorded in the Police Blotter and all crime statistics shall be compiled from all sources such as *barangay*, National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and other agencies with law enforcement functions as opposed to the old system of crime reporting from the field called Police Regional Office Periodic Report (PROPER).

| Table 2. Average Monthly Crime Rate by Region, 2010-2012 | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| Region | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
| 1 | 26.08 | 16.32 | 21.01 |
| 2 | 21.32 | 10.97 | 9.27 |
| 3 | 44.46 | 28.83 | 17.80 |
| 4-A | 20.04 | 15.86 | 12.66 |
| 4-B | 18.24 | 9.49 | 7.38 |
| 5 | 24.33 | 16.94 | 14.94 |
| 6 | 21.33 | 9.96 | 8.79 |
| 7 | 40.42 | 28.85 | 24.15 |
| 8 | 10.35 | 14.02 | 8.65 |
| 9 | 42.88 | 19.60 | 19.59 |
| 10 | 34.86 | 29.56 | 22.89 |
| 11 | 38.60 | 29.63 | 24.29 |
| 12 | 22.66 | 19.06 | 14.38 |
| 13 | 20.75 | 16.63 | 12.81 |
| ARMM | 2.76 | 2.03 | 2.06 |
| CAR | 76.12 | 37.00 | 53.74 |
| NCR | 28.15 | 32.83 | 38.57 |

Source: PNP

With the hiring of additional police officers, the ratio has further improved to 1:620 as of March 2013.⁴ However, the Philippines still fares poorly compared to its Asian neighbors (Table 3). Given this, police presence across the archipelago is being intensified through community support, tourism, and other interventions to fight and prevent crime. A program called *Pulis Nyo Po sa Barangay* (PnpSB) deploys 31,596 policemen to supervise almost 40,000 barangays nationwide; 1,715 policemen are also manning tourism assistance centers and desks all over the country.⁵

| Table 3. Police-to-Population Ratio in Selected Asian Countries (as of 2012) | | |
|--|-------|---|
| Country | Ratio | Source |
| Singapore | 1:142 | www.singstat.gov.sg |
| Hong Kong | 1:193 | www.police.gov.hk; www.censtatd.gov.hk |
| Malaysia | 1:267 | http://refsa.org |
| Thailand | 1:304 | www.interpol.int |
| Indonesia | 1:428 | www.prb.org |
| Japan | 1:433 | www.npa.go.jp; www.ipss.go.jp |
| Philippines | 1:651 | PNP Chief Directorial Staff Office |

Crime resolution. A criminal case is considered solved when: 1) the offender has been identified, taken into custody, and charged before the prosecutor's office based on sufficient evidence against the accused; 2) when some elements beyond police control prevent the arrest of the offender, such as when the victim refuses to prosecute after the offender is identified, dies or absconds; and 3) the arrest of one offender can solve several crimes or several offenders may be arrested in the process of solving one crime.⁶ Based on the PNP figures with the new system of reporting, there appears to be an increasing trend in crime solution efficiency.

Crime solution efficiency is the percentage of solved cases out of the total number of crime incidents handled by law enforcement agencies. For 2009, crime solution efficiency was at 13.23. It improved to 18.64 percent in 2010 and continued its upward trend in 2011 and 2012 with crime solution efficiency recorded at 29.87 and 36.67 percent respectively, indicating an average increase of nine percent in efficiency between these two years (Table 4). Albeit the improvement, the efficiency remains low.

² There is a discrepancy between the data of the PNP-AMG and the private crime watchdog groups. According to the PNP, this is due mainly to classification based on validation, motives, and elements.

³ PNP Transformation Roadmap 2030 at pnp.gov.ph.

⁴ Per the Office of the Chief of the Directorial Staff of the PNP, April 19, 2013.

⁵ <http://www.gov.ph/2013/01/12/speech-of-president-aquino-at-the-20th-anniversary-of-the-movement-for-restoration-of-peace-and-order-january-12-2013/>.

⁶ Per National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) Memorandum Circular No. 94-017.

| Table 4. Crime Solution Efficiency 2009-2012 | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Year | Total Crimes Solved | Crime Solution Efficiency (%) |
| 2009 | 66,391 | 13.32 |
| 2010 | 59,542 | 18.64 |
| 2011 | 69,851 | 28.87 |
| 2012 | 79,878 | 36.67 |

Source: PNP

Legislative efforts. In support to PNP plans and programs which focus on key result areas such as national policy and institutional development, police operations, facilities development, and human resources management and development, Congress has appropriated the amount of PhP2.0 billion for the PNP Modernization Program under RA 10352 or the 2013 General Appropriations Act (GAA) for its capability enhancement program. The 2013 GAA has also appropriated PhP100 million for the construction of new police stations as well as the corresponding budget for the enlistment of 3,000 new police recruits.

Additionally, several legislative measures with the aim of addressing and reducing criminality in the country have been filed in the 15th Congress. In relation to common street crimes, the proposed Criminal Street Gang Deterrence and Punishment Act⁷ seeks to punish criminal street gangs and the commission of gang crimes focusing on the perpetrators of crime themselves by making criminal associations and mere membership in the same illegal. This legislative measure intends to eliminate crime by nipping it at its bud or even before the period of inception by preventing the formation of criminal associations and gangs.

To reduce the incidents of robbery, theft, snatching and pickpockets, there is a legislative proposal to provide for stiffer penalties for the crime of theft and robbery of portable communication devices and portable computers.⁸ Another relevant measure is the proposal to increase the penalty for the crime of carnapping which has for its goal the reduction and elimination of such crime.⁹

Similarly, the proposed Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Cameras for Security Act¹⁰ shall mandate business establishments to install and maintain CCTV cameras in their premises to discourage crime and assist the police in law enforcement. However, some have argued that the installation of the said cameras may encounter legal impediments concerning civil liberties and the right to privacy, that they can be hacked, broken, and cannot proactively stop a crime as it is being consummated, and that increasing the police strength and manpower is the one that can actually prevent crimes from happening. Nonetheless, CCTV cameras can deter the commission of crimes as they are able to maintain records and provide material evidence to prosecute cases.

Lastly, the proposed PNP Modernization Act¹¹ aims to transform the PNP into a police organization at par with the world's best. The measure basically lays down the framework for the modernization of the police organizational development, crime prevention and control doctrines development, human resources development, and internal security and counterinsurgency capability development with the end in view of having a PNP that is well-equipped, well-trained and pro-active to the demands of modern Philippine society.

Crime-free Philippines. There are many ways of curbing, if not totally eliminating crime. The main solution is to increase police presence and visibility especially in crime hot spots. Increasing the police population should also mean producing more quality graduates from the police academy who shall maintain peace and order and ensure public safety and internal security. Strengthening PNP accountability mechanisms should also ensure good conduct among the ranks of policemen. Finally, the cooperation of local government units and civil society groups is also a key in eliminating crime through the implementation of community programs such as the improvement of street lighting to reduce the prevalence and incidence of crime in dark alleys and roads, conduct of awareness seminars, and promoting crime prevention by way of developing neighborhood watch programs.

⁷ Senate Bill Nos. 695 and 2703 as filed by Senators Jinggoy Ejercito-Estrada and Ramon Bong Revilla Jr., respectively.

⁸ Senate Bill No. 2972 as filed by Senators Jinggoy Ejercito-Estrada, Manny Villar, Loren Legarda and Francis Escudero.

⁹ Senate Bill Nos. 2646 and 2651 as filed by Senators Antonio Trillanes IV and Francis Escudero, respectively.

¹⁰ Senate Bill No. 3339 as filed by Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

¹¹ Senate Bill No. 910 as filed by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito-Estrada.