

Crime, Justice and Security Statistics, 2009

(Police, Judiciary, Prisons and Probation)

1. Introduction

This is the third issue of Economic and Social Indicator (ESI) on crime, justice and security (CJS) statistics. It is based on administrative data for 2008 and 2009 from the Mauritius Police Force (MPF), the Judiciary, the Mauritius Prison Services (MPS) and the Probation and After-care Service.

It also covers statistics on public perception on the local police as obtained through the Continuous Multipurpose Household Survey (CMPHS) carried out by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in 2009.

All data in this ESI relate to the Republic of Mauritius, unless otherwise stated.

To assist in interpreting the figures, a reference chart of the flow through the criminal justice system is included at Annex I and a glossary of terms used at Annex II.

2. Statistical Notes

The following points should be recalled when drawing any conclusions from the figures in this publication:

- (a) When comparing figures it should be realised that police and judiciary figures are based on offences but prison and probation figures are based on offenders, and that many offenders are sentenced for more than one offence.
- (b) Offences can sometimes be reclassified, usually as less serious, as they proceed from police investigation through prosecution to final court sentence. This is usually due to evidence not being as robust as at first thought or more evidence coming to light following the initial report.
- (c) The trends in drug offences and road traffic contraventions should be interpreted with caution since it may be affected by the activities and priorities of the police.
- (d) When incidents of victimisation occur, some are reported while others are not, depending on the preparedness of the victim to report the offence or the police initiatives targeted at specific offences. Therefore, surveys on the experience of victimisation from the public together with the data from the reported cases can give a more comprehensive picture on the actual number of victims.

3. Key points

3.1 Public perception on local police

- (a) Of all respondents interviewed around: 72 % said that police performance in their locality was either high or average; 75% believed that the police was giving an efficient service to the country in general; 76% had much or average trust on them. However, 65% thought that police brutality was either a very serious or serious problem in Mauritius.
- (b) More than three quarter of the respondents who had personal contacts with police officers during the last 12 months prior to their interview were either very satisfied or satisfied with the way the police dealt with them.

3.2 Police

- (a) In 2009, 90% of the victims of reported sexual offences were females, 80% were aged below 25 years and nearly 60% were aged below 16 years; 50% were students and 32% were related to their offenders. Also, 66% of the sexual offences occurred in private households and 54% in rural areas.
- (b) The number of crimes and misdemeanours decreased from 50,000 in 2008 to 46,000 in 2009. This fall is essentially due to a drop in the number of thefts in general (16%).
- (c) There was a large drop of 52% in the number of heroin related offences from 791 in 2008 to 380 in 2009.
- (d) The juvenile delinquency rate was 6.0 per 1,000 mid-year juvenile population in 2009 compared to 5.3 in 2008.
- (e) The introduction of speed camera in 2009 has considerably pushed up the number of road traffic contraventions in the Island of Mauritius to 140,000 from 106,000 in 2008.

3.3 Judiciary

- (a) The total number of criminal cases lodged in court increased by 1.9% in 2009 due to an increase in the number of cases lodged at the District Courts of the Island of Mauritius.
- (b) There was a significant increase in the number of criminal cases disposed from 1,600 in 2008 to 3,900 in 2009 at the District Court of Rodrigues as a result of two judges hearing cases in 2009 against only one judge in 2008.

3.4 Prisons

- (a) The average prison occupancy level was 107% in 2009 with a total capacity of 2,132 and an average daily population of 2,279 detainees. The highest occupancy level reached was 113%.
- (b) On average, an amount of Rs 700 was spent daily on each detainee in 2009.

- (c) Out of every 100 convicts admitted to prisons in 2009, 37 were fine defaulters and 24 served short sentences of less than one month; 32 of the fine defaulters were admitted due to non-payment of fines of Rs 10,000 or less instead of being subjected to community service work.
- (d) The imprisonment rate for 2009 is 175 per 100,000 mid-year population compared to 166 in 2008.

3.5 Probation

- (a) The number of offenders sentenced with probation orders under supervision in the community rose by 58% from 365 in 2008 to 577 in 2009.
- (b) The majority (90%) of the offenders subjected to community service work were males in both 2008 and 2009.

4. Public perception on local police

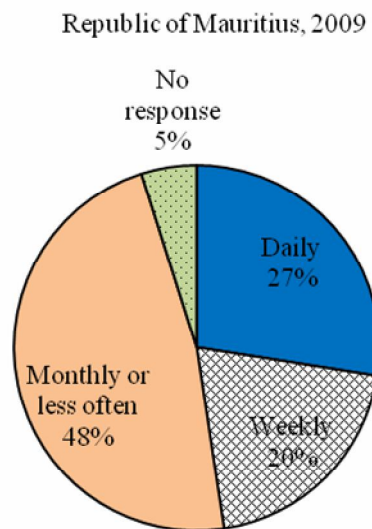
The Continuous Multipurpose Household Survey (CMPHS) 2009 included questions ranging from ratings of the local police in terms of their visibility to perception on different aspects of policing. A sample of 17,763 persons aged 16 years and above, representative of the Mauritian population, were selected for the interview. Around 95% responded and only 5% did not give any opinion.

The main survey results are as follows:

4.1 Police visibility

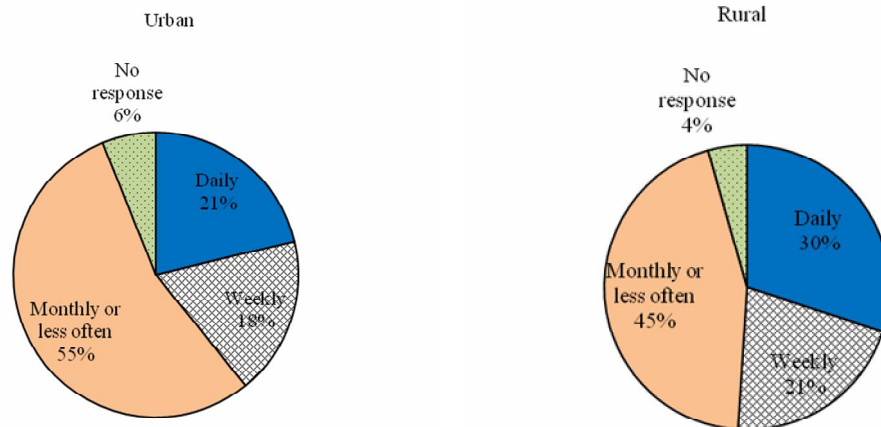
- (a) The CMPHS 2009 shows that 27% of the respondents interviewed saw police officers on duty in their neighbourhood almost every day, 20% at least once a week whereas 48% said once a month or less often.

Figure 4.1a - Usually how often do you see a police officer on duty in your neighbourhood?



- (b) The police were more visible in rural districts where 30% reported daily and 45% once a month or less often. Whereas in urban districts, the corresponding proportions were 21% daily and 55% once a month or less often.

Figure 4.1b - Usually how often do you see a police officer on duty in your neighbourhood?



(c) Also, police were less visible in most advantaged regions where 39% reported seeing police officers on duty in their neighbourhood daily or weekly; whereas in most disadvantaged regions, the corresponding proportion was 52%. Regions are considered as advantaged or disadvantaged based on the Relative Development Index (RDI) which has been compiled using the 2000 Population Census data (refer to glossary – Annex II).

4.2 Public satisfaction with police contact

- (a) Around 15% of the persons interviewed have had personal face to face contacts with police officers during the last 12 months prior to their interview and most of them (77%) were either very satisfied or satisfied with the way the police dealt.
- (b) However, 56% of the respondents who were reporting complaints against police officers and 60% of those who were arrested, were not satisfied with the police’s treatment.

Table 4.1 - What was the nature of your contact(s) in the past 12 months and indicate your level of satisfaction?

Percentage				
Type of contact	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Total
Seek police assistance	35.4	52.5	12.1	100.0
Report an offence	20.6	46.5	32.9	100.0
Report a complaint against police officer(s)	15.6	28.1	56.3	100.0
Report a road accident	17.1	59.6	23.3	100.0
Report a domestic incident	17.9	48.8	33.3	100.0
Report a neighborhood problem	18.2	41.1	40.7	100.0
Stop, question & search	19.8	58.7	21.5	100.0
Stop while driving	24.0	62.3	13.7	100.0
Traffic/parking offence	9.6	58.2	32.2	100.0
Arrest	10.0	30.0	60.0	100.0
Other contact	30.8	52.6	16.6	100.0
Total	23.7	53.2	23.1	100.0

(c) Out of every 100 respondents who had phone contacts with the police during the last 12 months prior to their interview, 77 were either very satisfied or satisfied with the level of courtesy of the police. About the same proportions were noted across all sexes and age groups.

4.3 Awareness of police campaigns

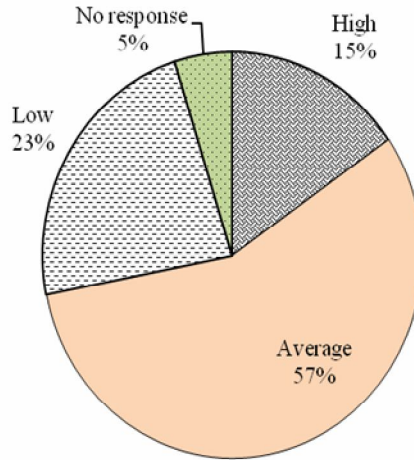
(a) Although only 57% of all respondents interviewed were aware of crime prevention campaigns carried out by the police during the year, 76% of them thought that the campaigns were effective in reducing crime.

(b) The majority (96%) of those aware had been informed through the media and the rest had attended awareness programmes/seminars on crime preventions during the last 12 months prior to their interview.

4.4 Rating of the police

(a) Around 72% of the respondents believed that the level of performance of the police in their neighbourhood was either high or average.

Figure 4.2- How would you rate the level of performance of police personnel in your neighbourhood?



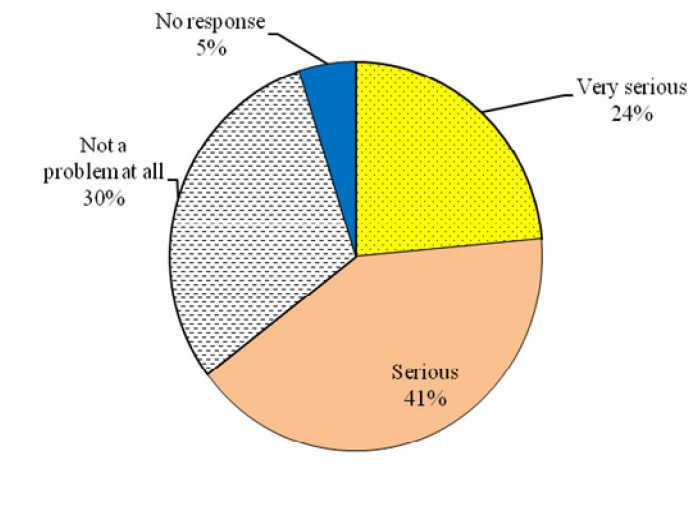
(b) People were asked if they thought the police were giving an efficient service to the country in general; 20% said fully efficient while another 20% said poorly or not efficient at all.

Table 4.2 - Generally, do you think that the police are giving an efficient service?

Percentage				
Characteristics	Fully	Average	Poor	Not at all
Age group (years)				
16 - 24	15.5	55.0	16.9	4.2
25 - 34	16.7	56.6	17.5	4.2
35 - 44	19.2	56.5	15.9	4.8
45 - 54	20.1	57.3	14.7	4.6
55 & above	24.9	51.9	14.1	4.5
Area type				
Urban	13.7	55.0	19.2	6.0
Rural	22.3	55.4	14.1	3.8
Total	19.5	55.4	15.8	4.5

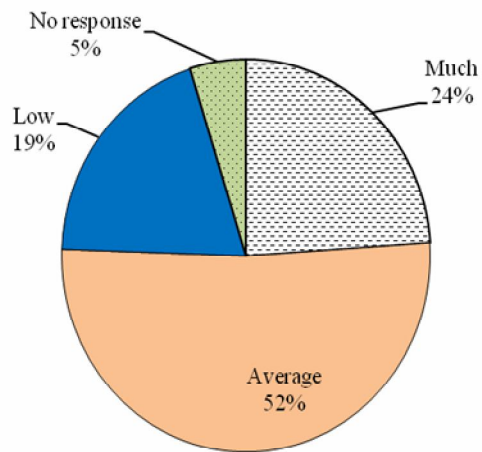
(c) Conversely, 65% of the people interviewed said that police brutality was a very serious or serious issue in Mauritius.

Figure 4.3 - What do you think about the issue of police brutality?



(d) Yet, 76% of the respondents said that they have much or average trust on the police.

Figure 4.4 - Do you trust the police?



5. Police Statistics

5.1 Reported cases

Cases reported at the police are either offences punishable by law or relate to other occurrences such as accidental deaths, accidental fires, suicides or attempted suicides and street accidents, which are not connected to any offence.

- (a) The total number of offences increased by 15% in 2009, driven by a high increase of 31% in road traffic contraventions following the introduction of speed cameras in the Island of Mauritius in December 2008.
- (b) Excluding contraventions, the number of offences fell by 8% in the Island of Mauritius with falls of 17% in crimes, 7% in misdemeanours and 2% in drug offences.
- (c) Conversely, in the Island of Rodrigues, excluding contraventions, the number of offences increased by 10% as follows: crimes by 28%, misdemeanours by 8% and drug offences by 3%.

Table 5.1 - Cases reported by type, Island of Mauritius, Island of Rodrigues & Republic of Mauritius, 2008 & 2009

Number	2008			2009		
	Island of Mauritius	Island of Rodrigues	Republic of Mauritius	Island of Mauritius	Island of Rodrigues	Republic of Mauritius
Crimes	6,340	118	6,458	5,286	151	5,437
Misdemeanours	42,771	967	43,738	39,628	1,042	40,670
Drug offences	4,156	61	4,217	4,081	63	4,144
Contraventions	120,215	3,475	123,690	150,305	3,378	153,683
<i>of which road traffic contraventions¹</i>	<i>105,823</i>	<i>3,116</i>	<i>108,939</i>	<i>139,636</i>	<i>2,899</i>	<i>142,535</i>
All offences	173,482	4,621	178,103	199,300	4,634	203,934
Other occurrences	69,175	1,254	70,429	66,783	1,283	68,066
Total cases	242,657	5,875	248,532	266,083	5,917	272,000

¹ Figure for 2009 for Island of Mauritius includes 29,569 road traffic contraventions established by camera.

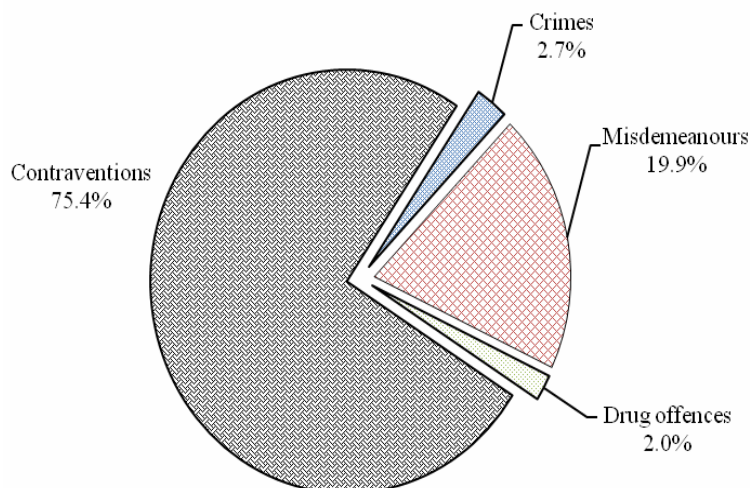
Table 5.2 - Offences reported by type, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 & 2009

Offences	2008		2009		2008 to 2009
	Number	%	Number	%	% change
Crimes	6,458	3.6	5,437	2.7	-15.8
Misdemeanours	43,738	24.6	40,670	19.9	-7.0
Drug offences	4,217	2.4	4,144	2.0	-1.7
Contraventions ¹	123,690	69.4	153,683	75.4	24.2
<i>of which road traffic contraventions</i>	<i>108,939</i>	<i>61.2</i>	<i>142,535</i>	<i>69.9</i>	<i>30.8</i>
All offences	178,103	100.0	203,934	100.0	14.5

¹Figure for 2009 includes 29,569 road traffic contraventions established by camera.

- (d) Around 3% of the total offences reported in 2009 were crimes (serious offences), whereas 20% were misdemeanours (less serious offences) and 75% were contraventions (least serious offences).

Figure 5.1- Offences by type, Republic of Mauritius, 2009



- (e) The overall offence rate (excluding contraventions) decreased from 43 per 1,000 mid-year population in 2008 to 40 in 2009.

Table 5.3 - Offence rate by type, 2008 & 2009

Offences	Rate per 1,000 mid-year population					
	2008			2009		
	Island of Mauritius	Island of Rodrigues	Republic of Mauritius	Island of Mauritius	Island of Rodrigues	Republic of Mauritius
Crimes	5.2	3.1	5.1	4.3	4.0	4.3
Misdemeanours	34.7	25.7	34.5	32.0	27.6	31.9
Drug offences	3.4	1.6	3.3	3.3	1.7	3.3
Contraventions	97.7	92.5	97.5	121.5	89.5	120.5
All offences	140.9	123.0	140.4	161.1	122.8	159.9
Offences (excl. contraventions)	43.3	30.5	42.9	39.6	33.3	39.4

5.2 Drug offences

- (a) The fall in the number of reported cases linked to heroin (52%) from 791 in 2008 to 380 in 2009 brought down the total number of drug offences (1.7%).
- (b) Major decreases were noted in the number of cases of possession and consumption of heroin. Also, the quantity of heroin seized by the police decreased by 17%. This can probably be explained by police activities and a shift of drug addicts towards less costly drugs.
- (c) However, the number of heroin importation cases was on the rise.
- (d) The number of gandia related cases increased by 7% while cases of psychotropic drugs witnessed a higher increase of 17%. Gandia and psychotropic drugs represent 51% and 40% of the total number of drug cases respectively for 2009.
- (e) A larger quantity of gandia was seized in 2009; on the contrary, there was a substantial decrease in the number of psychotropic pills seized.

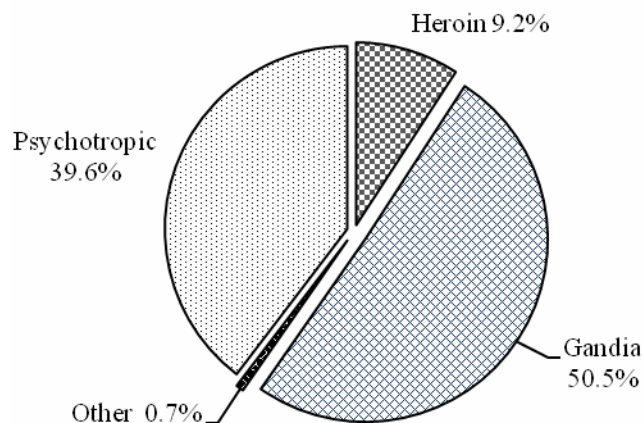
Table 5.4 - Drug offences reported by type , Republic of Mauritius, 2008 & 2009

Offences	2008					2009					2008 to 2009 % change
	Heroin	Gandia	Psychotropic	Other	Total	Heroin	Gandia	Psychotropic	Other	Total	
Importation	9	4	0	0	13	20	5	1	1	27	107.7
Possession	545	738	960	29	2,272	231	812	1,101	13	2,157	-5.1
Consumption	135	272	115	2	524	55	299	153	0	507	-3.2
Dealing	98	225	16	1	340	59	211	40	0	310	-8.8
Cultivation	-	678	-	-	678	-	746	-	-	746	10.0
Other	4	47	314	25	390	15	21	347	14	397	1.8
Total	791	1,964	1,405	57	4,217	380	2,094	1,642	28	4,144	-1.7

Table 5.5 - Quantity of drug seized by type, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 & 2009

Drugs	Units	2008	2009	2008 to 2009
		Quantity	Quantity	% change
Heroin	Kgs	11.5	9.5	-17.4
Gandia	Kgs	50.0	71.0	42.0
	Plants	39,229	44,990	14.7
	Seeds	420	803	91.2
Psychotropic	Pills	26,216	4,149	-84.2
Other drugs	Kgs	23.8	0.006	-100.0
	Pills	22	0	-100.0
	Small phials	2	3	50.0

Figure 5.2 - Drug offences by type, Republic of Mauritius, 2009



5.3 Offences according to United Nations (UN) Classification

From 2008 to 2009:

- (a) A decrease in the number of theft in general (16%) has brought down the number of crimes and misdemeanours.
- (b) Automobile theft has fallen by 14%, simple larceny by 19% and burglary by 17%.
- (c) The drop in the number of thefts may be partly explained by the introduction of the Close Circuit Television (CCTV), the implementation of new policing strategies and the setting up of neighbour watch in certain regions of the Island of Mauritius.
- (d) It is noted that in the western division where the above measures were implemented, theft declined by 20% from 4,933 in 2008 to 3,942 in 2009.
- (e) Moreover, decreases were registered in reported cases of attempted murder (27%), non intentional homicides (10%), rape (17%) and embezzlement (15%).
- (f) An increase of 13% was noted in the number of intentional homicides committed.
- (g) The rate of intentional homicides for 2009 was 4 per 100,000 mid-year population.
- (h) Also, there were increases in the number of robbery (12%), sexual offences (7%), and assault and related offences (1%).

Table 5.6 - Reported offences according to United Nations classification of offences, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 & 2009

Offences	2008	2009	2008 to 2009
	Number		% change
Homicide and related offences	107	105	-1.9
Intentional homicide (committed)	48	54	12.5
<i>of which murder (incl. infanticide)</i>	36	40	11.1
Intentional homicide (attempted)	11	8	-27.3
Non intentional homicide	48	43	-10.4
Assault and related offences	14,307	14,509	1.4
<i>of which simple assaults</i>	14,159	14,235	0.5
Sexual offences	413	442	7.0
<i>of which rape</i>	69	57	-17.4
<i>sodomy</i>	63	64	1.6
Fraud and dishonesty	1,083	1,074	-0.8
Embezzlement	736	625	-15.1
Theft	20,090	16,836	-16.2
Automobile theft	974	840	-13.8
Theft (excl. automobile theft)	15,390	12,540	-18.5
<i>of which simple larceny</i>	10,567	8,589	-18.7
Robbery	1,260	1,410	11.9
Burglary	2,466	2,046	-17.0
Drug offences	4,217	4,144	-1.7
Contraventions	123,690	153,683	24.2
<i>of which road traffic contraventions</i>	108,939	142,535	30.8
Other	13,460	12,516	-7.0
<i>of which offences under</i>			
<i>Computer misuse and Cybercrime Act</i>	*	130	-
<i>Information and Communication Technology Act</i>	*	991	-
Total	178,103	203,934	14.5

* Figures on these specific offences were not collected separately in 2008

5.4 Juvenile offences

(a) In 2009, there were 347 more juvenile offenders involved in offences than in 2008; the number of juvenile offences reported also increased (427 more than in 2008). The rise was noted in both the Island of Mauritius and the Island of Rodrigues.

(b) Around 46% of reported juvenile offences were contraventions, 41% misdemeanours and 10% were crimes. A small proportion (3%) of the juvenile offences was related to drug.

(c) The juvenile delinquency rate was 6 per 1,000 mid-year juvenile population for 2009. The rate for boys (11) was much higher than that for girls (1.3).

(d) The juvenile delinquency rate for the Island of Rodrigues increased significantly in 2009.

Table 5.7 - Juvenile offenders according to United Nations classification of offences, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 & 2009

Offences	2008	2009	2008 to 2009
	Number		% change
Intentional homicide	9	3	-66.7
Assault and related offences	275	283	2.9
<i>of which simple assault</i>	268	281	4.9
Sexual Offences	68	47	-30.9
<i>of which rape</i>	9	5	-44.4
Fraud and dishonesty	0	1	-
Embezzlement	2	0	-
Theft	196	199	1.5
Drug offences	32	42	31.3
Contraventions	388	649	67.3
<i>of which road traffic contraventions</i>	301	591	96.3
Other offences	97	190	95.9
Total	1,067	1,414	32.5

Table 5.8 - Juvenile offences & offenders reported by type, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 & 2009

	2008*			2009				
	Island of Mauritius	Island of Rodrigues	Republic of Mauritius	Island of Mauritius	Island of Rodrigues	Republic of Mauritius		
						Male	Female	Both sexes
Juvenile offences	967	19	986	1,356	57	-	-	1,413
Crimes	127	3	130	133	9	-	-	142
Misdemeanours	427	16	443	541	39	-	-	580
Drug offences	18	0	18	42	0	-	-	42
Contraventions ¹	395	0	395	640	9	-	-	649
Juvenile offenders	1,050	17	1,067	1,364	50	1,330	84	1,414
Crimes	145	5	150	151	9	141	19	160
Misdemeanours	485	12	497	531	32	502	61	563
Drug offences	32	0	32	42	0	41	1	42
Contraventions ¹	388	0	388	640	9	646	3	649
Juvenile delinquency rate²	5.3	3.9	5.3	5.9	9.6	10.7	1.3	6.0

¹ Excludes contraventions established by camera

² Excludes contraventions

*Information on sex of offenders is not available for 2008

- Not applicable

5.5 Road traffic contraventions

(a) Around 30,000 cases of exceeding speed limit were detected by speed camera in 2009, thus increasing this offence by around 22,000.

(b) The number of cases for driving under the influence of liquor decreased slightly in 2009.

Table 5.9 - Road traffic contraventions, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 & 2009

Offences	2008	2009	2008 to 2009
	Number		% change
Exceeding speed limit	17,711	40,063	126.2
Driving under influence of liquor	1,232	1,209	-1.9
Bicycle contraventions	335	357	6.6
Driving without due care and attention	*	1,844	-
Dangerous driving	*	212	-
Dangerous, inconsiderate and negligent driving	1,636	*	-
Failing to produce driving license on demand	*	18,715	-
Failing to comply with traffic sign	*	3,161	-
Breach of conditions attached to provisional license	*	5,417	-
Motor vehicle license not affixed	*	4,435	-
Failing to wear seat belt whilst driving	*	8,227	-
Making use of cellular phone whilst driving	*	3,853	-
Worn out tyre	*	2,601	-
Inoperative insurance policy	*	1,899	-
Overtaking on uninterrupted white line	*	1,282	-
Breach of condition attached to carriers license	*	1,059	-
Failing to produce driving license/Certificate of insurance within delay	*	996	-
Allowing oil to drop	*	956	-
Protective helmet improperly secured	*	911	-
Driving without license	*	779	-
Failing to stop when signaled by a police officer	*	772	-
Parking on double yellow line	*	3,199	-
Parking on prohibited area	*	1,692	-
Parking on footpath/pavement	*	1,547	-
Other	88,025	37,349	-
Total	108,939	142,535	30.8

* Figures on these specific offences were not available.

5.6 Victims of offences against person and morality

The information presented below is a new set of statistics on incidents of victimisation for a selected range of offences reported in 2009 for the Island of Mauritius only.

- (a) Around 67% of the victims of homicides were males, 45% were aged between 25 and 44 years, 70% were not related to their offenders; around 60% of these offences were reported in rural areas.
- (b) For victims of assault, almost 50% were between 16 and 34 years old, 60% were employed, 48% were relative of the offenders; some 63% of these cases were reported in rural areas.
- (c) Almost 90% of the victims of sexual offences were females, 80% were aged below 25 years and nearly 60% were aged below 16 years; 50% were students and 32% were related to their offenders. Also, 66% of the sexual offences occurred in private households and 54% in rural areas.

Table 5.10 - Reported number¹ of victims by type of selected offences², Island of Mauritius, 2009

Number											
Offences	Port Louis	Pamplemousses	Riviere du Rempart	Flacq	Grand Port	Savanne	Plaines Wilhelms	Moka	Black River	Total	Rate ³
Homicides	8	16	8	8	10	3	27	2	11	93	7.5
<i>of which</i>											
Murder	5	5	2	5	5	1	11	1	3	38	3.1
Involuntary homicide (fatal road accidents)	3	10	4	0	3	1	12	1	8	42	3.4
Assault	2,116	1,451	1,633	1,580	1,586	1,307	3,168	721	689	14,251	1,151.8
<i>of which</i>											
Simple Assault	2,071	1,427	1,620	1,562	1,569	1,300	3,100	713	675	14,037	1,134.5
Sexual offences	82	32	39	39	30	21	97	17	30	387	31.3
<i>of which</i>											
Rape	12	5	6	3	6	2	10	3	8	55	4.4
Sodomy	17	2	3	8	5	5	12	6	3	61	4.9
Other offences	104	35	27	85	26	40	170	42	31	560	45.3
<i>of which</i>											
Administering noxious substance	13	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	19	1.5
Involuntary wounds and blows	55	29	18	80	19	38	143	36	25	443	35.8

¹ Includes selected offences against persons and morality only (see list in Glossary)

² A person may be victim of one or more than one offence and/or an offence may involve one or more victims.

³ Rate of victimisation per 100,000 population

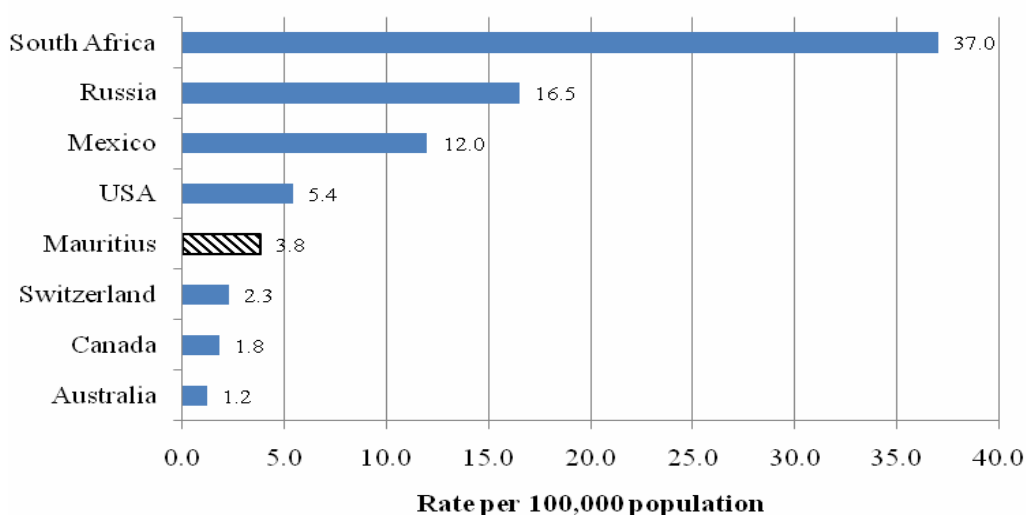
Table 5.11 -Victims by socio-demographic and other characteristics, Island of Mauritius, 2009

Percentage					Percentage				
Characteristics of victim	Homicides	Assaults	Sexual offences	Other offences	Characteristics of victim	Homicides	Assaults	Sexual offences	Other offences
Sex					Relationship to offender				
Male	66.7	56.3	11.1	78.6	Spouse	9.7	20.8	8.5	0.2
Female	33.3	43.7	88.9	21.4	Father/mother	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.2
Age group(years)					Child	6.5	2.2	6.2	1.6
0-15	6.5	5.0	57.4	7.5	Other relative	14.0	21.6	17.6	5.2
16-24	10.8	21.5	22.0	14.6	Not related	68.8	51.6	67.2	90.9
25-34	24.7	29.5	11.4	19.6	Not available	1.1	0.0	0.5	2.0
35-44	19.4	21.1	6.2	23.0	Location of incident				
45-54	12.9	13.7	1.8	16.4	Private-household	21.5	50.6	66.7	10.9
55 & over	24.7	9.1	1.0	13.4	Educational-institution	0.0	1.1	1.8	0.0
Not available	1.1	0.1	0.3	5.4	Commercial-area	1.1	3.0	1.3	1.3
Activity Status					Hotel	0.0	0.3	1.3	0.0
Employed	49.5	60.0	14.5	62.9	Bungalow	0.0	0.1	2.3	0.0
Student	1.1	7.4	50.1	8.2	Public road	63.4	33.3	6.2	83.6
Housewife	6.5	4.6	3.1	1.4	Public beach	0.0	0.8	4.4	0.4
Retired	15.1	4.6	0.5	6.6	Other Places	14.0	10.7	16.0	3.9
Disabled	0.0	0.1	1.0	0.0	Area type				
Other	25.8	23.0	30.2	16.6	Urban	37.6	37.1	46.3	48.9
Not available	2.2	0.3	0.5	4.3	Rural	62.4	62.9	53.7	51.1

5.7 International comparison of intentional homicide rate

There was considerable variation in the intentional homicide rates for 2008 among the different countries presented below, ranging from 37.0 for South Africa to 1.2 for Australia per 100,000 population.

Figure 5.3 - Intentional homiciderate for selected countries, 2008



(Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNODC)

5.8 Police stations and Police force

- (a) The total number of police stations and posts was 112 in 2009.
- (b) The police force decreased by 6% from 11,795 (11,128 males and 667 females) in 2008 to 11,126 (10,478 males and 648 females) in 2009. The figures also include staff of the Special Mobile Force, National Coast Guard, National Security Service and Police band.
- (c) In 2009, the police force per 1,000 mid-year population was 8.7, down from 9.3 in 2008.

5.9 Expenditure of the Police Department

- (a) The total (recurrent and capital) actual expenditure of the Police Department increased from Rs 3,184 Mn in 2007/2008 to Rs 4,225 Mn in 2008/2009.
- (b) Moreover, the share of the expenditure of the police expressed as a percentage of total government expenditure, increased from 4.9% in 2007/2008 to 5.6% in 2008/2009.

6. Judiciary statistics

6.1 Total number of criminal cases

The Supreme Court, the Intermediate Court and the District Courts try both civil and criminal cases. Cases are lodged in the different courts according to their seriousness and region of occurrence of cases. They may also be referred to the Supreme Court, which is the highest judicial authority in the Republic of Mauritius, if the parties involved are not satisfied with the verdict of the lower Courts. The Industrial Court tries matters relating to industrial disputes.

- (a) The total number of criminal cases lodged in court in 2009 increased by 1.9% as a result of an increase in the number of cases lodged at the District Courts of the Island of Mauritius.
- (b) Both in 2008 and 2009, 95% of the total criminal cases were lodged at District Courts and most of them were road traffic offences.
- (c) There was a significant increase of 141% in the number of criminal cases disposed at the District Court of Rodrigues in 2009 as a result of two judges hearing cases in 2009 against only one judge in 2008.
- (d) The number of outstanding cases at the end of the year fell by 10% in 2009. This fall came after a similar fall in the previous year as well as a larger number of cases disposed in 2009.

Table 6.1 - Criminal cases in court, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 & 2009

Number	2008				2009			
	Cases pending as at 1st January	Cases lodged	Cases disposed	Cases outstanding as at 31st December	Cases pending as at 1st January	Cases lodged	Cases disposed	Cases outstanding as at 31st December
Republic of Mauritius	34,380	105,206	101,821	31,603	31,603	107,198	102,428	28,342
Island of Mauritius	33,929	102,174	100,206	29,735	29,735	104,296	98,535	27,465
Supreme Court	335	249	168	416	416	246	169	474
Industrial Court	181	206	271	116	116	145	144	117
Intermediate Court	1,230	1,400	1,445	1,185	1,185	1,586	1,360	1,411
District Courts	32,183	100,319	98,322	28,018	28,018	102,319	96,862	25,463
Court of Rodrigues	451	3,032	1,615	1,868	1,868	2,902	3,893	877

6.2 Convicted offences

(a) Around 75% of the convicted offences were road traffic contraventions both in 2008 and 2009.

(b) The number of road traffic offences convicted in court decreased by 7% in 2009 as a result of fewer cases being lodged in court due to fixed penalty notice whereby the contravened is given the option to pay his/her fines without having to appear before a court.

(c) Convicted drug offences dropped by 17% in 2009.

(d) Convictions for rape numbered 17 in 2009 against 2 in 2008. The low number of rape convictions in 2008 may be explained by rape cases lodged being reclassified to less serious offences at the time of judgement due to evidence not being sufficiently robust.

(e) Other convicted offences like larceny, fraud and dishonesty, and embezzlement were on the rise in 2009.

Table 6.2 - Convicted offences according to United Nations Classification of offences, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 & 2009

Offences	2008	2009	2008 to 2009
	Number		% change
Homicide and related offences	61	53	-13.1
<i>of which intentional homicide</i>	19	15	-21.1
Assault and related offences	4,585	4,756	3.7
Sexual offences	97	114	17.5
<i>of which rape</i>	2	17	750.0
Fraud and dishonesty	341	440	29.0
Embezzlement	106	132	24.5
Theft (excluding automobile theft)	2,678	3,522	31.5
Drug offences	3,252	2,693	-17.2
Contraventions	79,450	76,291	-4.0
<i>of which road traffic contraventions¹</i>	77,147	72,097	-6.5
Other offences	8,728	9,800	12.3
Total	99,298	97,801	-1.5

¹ Figures on fixed penalty notice not available

6.3 Sentence imposed

Various types of sentences are imposed according to the Mauritian criminal law, depending on the seriousness of the offence and the previous criminal history of the offender.

(a) In 2009, about 95% of the sentences imposed were fines. The remaining offenders were either sentenced to imprisonment, subjected to community service work, issued with probation orders or were discharged (conditional or absolute).

(b) The number of fines imposed fell by 2,418 in 2009. This is explained by the decline in the number of road traffic offences convicted in court where the sentence is mainly fine.

(c) The majority of the offences (99%) where sentences were imposed

involved male adults.

- (d) The number of convicted offences for which adult offenders were sentenced to imprisonment rose by 23% in 2009, while offences involving juveniles sentenced for detention fell by 10%.

Table 6.3 - Convicted offences by sex of offender and outcome of judgement, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 & 2009

Outcome of judgement	2008				2009			
	Adult		Juvenile		Adult		Juvenile	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Imprisonment	2,350	36	-	-	2,874	68	-	-
Detention at RYC & CYC	-	-	36	4	-	-	34	2
Fine	92,629	2,338	20	2	91,431	1,083	45	12
Other ¹	1,789	59	29	6	2,130	78	40	4
Total	96,768	2,433	85	12	96,435	1,229	119	18

¹ includes probation orders, community service orders, conditional and absolute discharge

- Not applicable

6.4 Court rooms and staff

- (a) The number of court rooms increased from 43 in 2008 to 45 in 2009, following the coming into operation of two Commercial Courts.
- (b) The staff of the Judiciary, excluding administrative and supporting staff, increased from 313 (208 males and 105 females) in 2008 to 346 (210 males and 136 females) in 2009. There were 67 Judges/Senior Magistrates/Magistrates including one Chief Justice and one Senior Puisne Judge in 2009.

6.5 Expenditure of the Judiciary

- (a) The total actual (recurrent and capital) expenditure of the Judiciary increased from Rs 196 Mn in the financial year 2007/2008 to Rs 285 Mn in 2008/2009.
- (b) Moreover, the share of the expenditure of the judiciary expressed as a percentage of the total government expenditure, increased from 0.3% in 2007/2008 to 0.4% in 2008/2009.

7. Prison statistics

7.1 Number of detainees

- (a) The daily average number of detainees in prison rose by 6% in 2009; this follows an increase of 11% in the remand and trial population coupled with an increase of 3% in the number of convicts.
- (b) Convicts constituted the highest number of detainees in prisons (70%) in both 2008 and 2009.

Table 7.1 - Daily average number of detainees¹, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 & 2009

Detainee	2008		2009		2008 to 2009 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Convicts	1,520	70.3	1,566	68.7	3.0
Remand and trial	640	29.6	712	31.2	11.3
Civil debtors	1	0.1	1	0.1	-
Total	2,161	100.0	2,279	100.0	5.5

¹ include detainees in Correctional Youth Centre (CYC) and exclude those in Rehabilitation Youth Centre (RYC)

- (c) The imprisonment rate for 2009 was 175 per 100,000 mid-year population compared to 166 in 2008.

7.2 Prison occupancy level

The average prison occupancy level was 107% in 2009 with a total capacity of 2,132 and a daily average population of 2,279 detainees. The highest occupancy level reached was 113%.

7.3 Admission of convicts

- (a) Admissions for all convicts increased by 17% in 2009. Out of the total number of convicts admitted, 97% were males and only 3% were females.
- (b) Around 46% of the convicts admitted in 2009 were in the age-group 26-35 years.
- (c) Admission rate per 100,000 mid-year population increased from 318 (628 for males and 20 for females) in 2008 to 367 (723 for males and 24 for females) in 2009.
- (d) Admission rate varies with age; it increases from 28 for age-group 14-17 years to a peak of 873 for age-group 26-30 years, then declines to 69 for those over 50 years.

**Table 7.2 - Convicts admission rate by age - group ,
Republic of Mauritius, 2008 & 2009**

Age - group (years)	2008		2009	
	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹
14 - 17	4	4.6	24	27.6
18 - 21	249	313.9	252	305.0
22 - 25	476	631.8	520	703.5
26 - 30	791	699.0	963	873.0
31 - 35	578	592.6	748	729.4
36 - 50	947	331.1	1,020	358.1
Over 50	142	54.1	187	68.7
Total	3,187	318.3	3,714	366.5

¹Rate per 100,000 mid-year population

7.4 Convicts admitted by type of offences

In 2009, 46% of the convicts were admitted for larceny, 24% for fraud and dishonesty, and 19% for drug offences.

**Table 7.3 - Convicts admitted according to United Nations
classification of offences, Republic of Mauritius, 2009**

Number	2009		
	Island of Mauritius	Island of Rodrigues	Republic of Mauritius
Homicide and related offences	23	0	23
Assault and related offences	204	7	211
Sexual offences	43	5	48
<i>of which rape</i>	5	0	5
Fraud and dishonesty	883	1	884
Theft	1,683	31	1,714
Drug offences	685	2	687
Drunkenness and disorder	77	2	79
Other offences	66	2	68
Total	3,664	50	3,714

7.5 Convicts admitted by number of previous imprisonments

- (a) The majority (85%) of the male adult offenders admitted to prisons in 2009 was re-offenders with at least one previous imprisonment; the proportion stood at 81% in 2008.
- (b) On the other hand, only 47 % of the adult female offenders had previous imprisonment in 2009 compared to 49% in 2008.

Table 7.4 - Adult convicts admitted by number of previous imprisonment, Republic of Mauritius , 2008 & 2009

Number	2008			2009		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
No previous	597	53	650	541	65	606
One	520	12	532	464	15	479
Two or more	1,963	38	2,001	2,562	43	2,605
Total	3,080	103	3,183	3,567	123	3,690

7.6 Convicts admitted by length of sentence

- (a) In 2009, 37% of the convicts admitted were fine defaulters sentenced to imprisonment for non-payment of fines.
- (b) Another 24% of the convicts served short sentences of less than one month; no convicts were sentenced to life imprisonment.

Table 7.5 - Convicts admitted by length of sentence, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 & 2009

Length of sentence	2008		2009	
	Number	%	Number	%
< 1 month	547	17.2	907	24.4
1 - 3 months	615	19.3	579	15.6
4 - 6 months	248	7.8	303	8.2
7 - 18 months	228	7.2	277	7.5
19 months to less than 2 years	86	2.7	79	2.1
Two years and over	196	6.1	175	4.7
Life sentence	0	0.0	0	0.0
Undefined (fine defaulters ¹)	1,267	39.7	1,394	37.5
Total	3,187	100.0	3,714	100.0

¹Fine defaulters are convicts sentenced to imprisonment for non - payment of fines: they either stay in prison according to the amount owed or are released as soon as they pay the fines.

7.7 Fine defaulters

- (a) An increase of 10% was registered in the number of fine defaulters in 2009.
- (b) Around 87% of the fine defaulters admitted to prison in 2009 were due to non-payment of fines of Rs 10,000 or less instead of being subjected to community service work.

Table 7.6 - Fine defaulters admitted by amount of fine due, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 & 2009

Amount of fine (Rs)	2008	2009
	Number	
< 1,001	289	286
1,001 - 5,000	687	707
5,001 -10,000	163	221
10,001 - 20,000	68	90
20,001 - 40,000	32	40
40,001 - 60,000	10	18
60,001 & over	18	32
Total	1,267	1,394

7.8 Admission of juvenile convicts

Juvenile offenders are either admitted to Correctional Youth Centre (CYC) or Rehabilitation Youth Centre (RYC) according to the gravity of the cases. However, all female juvenile offenders are sent to RYC as there is no CYC for female juveniles.

7.8.1 Correctional Youth Centre

- (a) The majority (90%) of the juveniles admitted to CYC are on remand.
- (b) The number of convicts admitted to CYC increased by 17% in 2009.
- (c) Around 75% of the juvenile convicts admitted in 2009 had committed theft.

Table 7.7 - Admission to CYC, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 & 2009

Detainees	2008	2009	2008 to 2009
	Number		% change
	Number		% change
Convicts	4	24	500.0
Remand	134	138	3.0
Total	138	162	17.4

Table 7.8- Convicts admitted to CYC by type of offence, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 & 2009

Offences	2008	2009
	Number	
Assault and related offences	2	0
Sexual offences	2	3
<i>Of which rape</i>	0	1
Theft	0	17
other	0	4
Total	4	24

7.8.2 Rehabilitational Youth Centre

The RYC is under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions. Child/ juveniles aged 10 to 17 years old are admitted to RYC.

- (a) In 2009, the number of juveniles admitted to RYC was 100, down by 35% from 154 in 2008; 42% of them were females.
- (b) More than 80% of the detainees admitted to RYC in 2008 and 2009 were on remand.

Table 7.9 – Admission to RYC, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 & 2009

Number	2008			2009			2008 to 2009
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	% change
Convicts	15	11	26	5	8	13	-50.0
Remand	76	52	128	53	34	87	-32.0
Total	91	63	154	58	42	100	-35.1

- (c) About 65% and 50% of the convicts admitted to RYC in 2008 and 2009 respectively were child/juvenile beyond control.

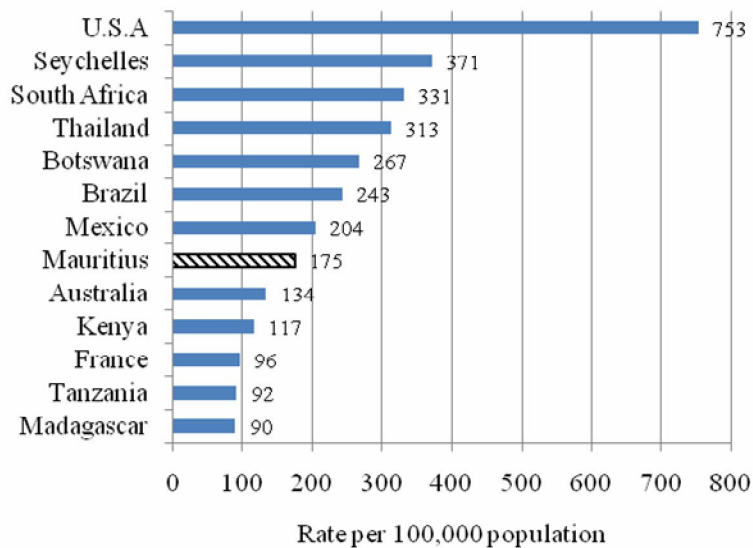
Table 7.10 - Convicts admitted to RYC by type of case, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 & 2009

Number	2008			2009		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Cases						
Assault and related offences	1	0	1	0	0	0
Sexual offences	1	0	1	1	0	1
Theft	3	1	4	1	0	1
Child/juvenile beyond control	8	9	17	1	6	7
other	2	1	3	2	2	4
Total	15	11	26	5	8	13

7.9 International comparison of imprisonment rate

- (a) There was considerable variation in imprisonment rates among selected countries from different continents. The United States of America had a rate as high as 753 prisoners per 100,000 population.
- (b) Countries in the African region with higher imprisonment rates than Mauritius include Seychelles, South Africa and Botswana; and countries with lower imprisonment rates include Kenya, Tanzania and Madagascar.

Figure 7.1 - Imprisonment rates for selected countries, 2009



(Source: World Prison Brief, International Centre for Prison Studies, Kings College, London)

7.10 Number of escapes from prison custody

In 2009, there were 4 cases of escape from prison custody involving male (adult and juvenile) detainees in the Island of Mauritius compared to 10 in 2008.

7.11 Prisons and Prison Staff (excluding RYC)

- There were 9 prisons in 2009, including one in the Island of Rodrigues. The 8 prisons in the Island of Mauritius comprised one women prison, one juvenile prison (CYC) and 6 male adult prisons.
- In the Island of Mauritius, the prison staff, excluding administrative and supporting staff, comprised 890 males and 69 females for a daily average of 2,136 male and 130 female detainees in 2009. On average, there were 2 detainees per prison officer in 2009.

7.12 Expenditure of the Prison Services (excluding RYC)

- The total (recurrent and capital) actual expenditure of the Prison Services in the Island of Mauritius increased from Rs 314 Mn in 2007/2008 to 614 Mn in 2008/2009.
- The share of the expenditure of the prison for the Island of Mauritius expressed as a percentage of the total government expenditure increased from 0.5% in 2007/2008 to 0.8% in 2008/2009.
- On average, an amount of Rs 700 was spent daily on each detainee in 2009 compared to Rs 430 in 2008. The increase was essentially explained by a rise in salary in the financial year 2008/2009. The calculations were based on the recurrent expenditure of the prisons, the social aid granted to the detainees' ward and the labour contribution of detainees to the prisons' workshops.

8. Probation statistics

Probation is a system for rehabilitating offenders in the open community under the supervision of a Probation officer as an alternative to sending them to prison. The Probation officer also supervises persons subjected to community service order, and those released on parole or after care. On completion of the sentence, the Probation officers report to the Judiciary whether the sentence was successfully completed or not. Breach of the orders can lead to imprisonment.

The number of probation orders and community service orders issued is subject to judges/magistrates' judgements.

8.1 Probation orders

Some 200 persons more were sentenced with probation orders in 2009 than in 2008, the increase was higher for males, who represented 86% of the total number of offenders in both 2008 and 2009.

Table 8.1 - Offenders sentenced with probation orders, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 & 2009

Number	2008			2009			2008 to 2009
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	% change
Adult	273	45	318	417	80	497	56.3
Juvenile	44	3	47	77	3	80	70.2
Total	317	48	365	494	83	577	58.1

8.2 Community service orders

(a) In contrast to probation orders, there was a drop in the number of offenders subjected to community service work in 2009.

(b) The majority of the offenders (90%) were males in both 2008 and 2009.

Table 8.2 - Offenders subjected to community service work, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 & 2009

Offenders	2008	2009	2008 to 2009
	Number	Number	% change
Male	275	238	-13.5
Female	20	36	80.0
Total	295	274	-7.1

8.3 Probation offices, institutions and staff

- (a) There were 11 probation offices located in the District Court premises in both 2008 and 2009. Two semi-open residential institutions, one for male and one for female juveniles, as well as a suicide and prevention unit were also under the purview of the Probation and After-care Service.
- (b) The Probation and After-care Service had a workforce of 70 (28 males and 42 females), excluding administrative and supporting staff, in both 2008 and 2009.

8.4 Expenditure of the Probation Service

- (a) The total (recurrent and capital) actual expenditure of the Probation service in the Island of Mauritius increased from Rs 22 Mn in 2007/2008 to Rs 24 Mn in 2008/2009.
- (b) The share of the expenditure of the probation service for the Island of Mauritius expressed as a percentage of the total government expenditure was 0.03% both in 2007/2008 and in 2008/2009.

Central Statistics Office

Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

Port Louis

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This ESI has been prepared with the contribution of the Mauritius Police Force, the Judiciary, the Mauritius Prison Services and the Probation and After-care Service.

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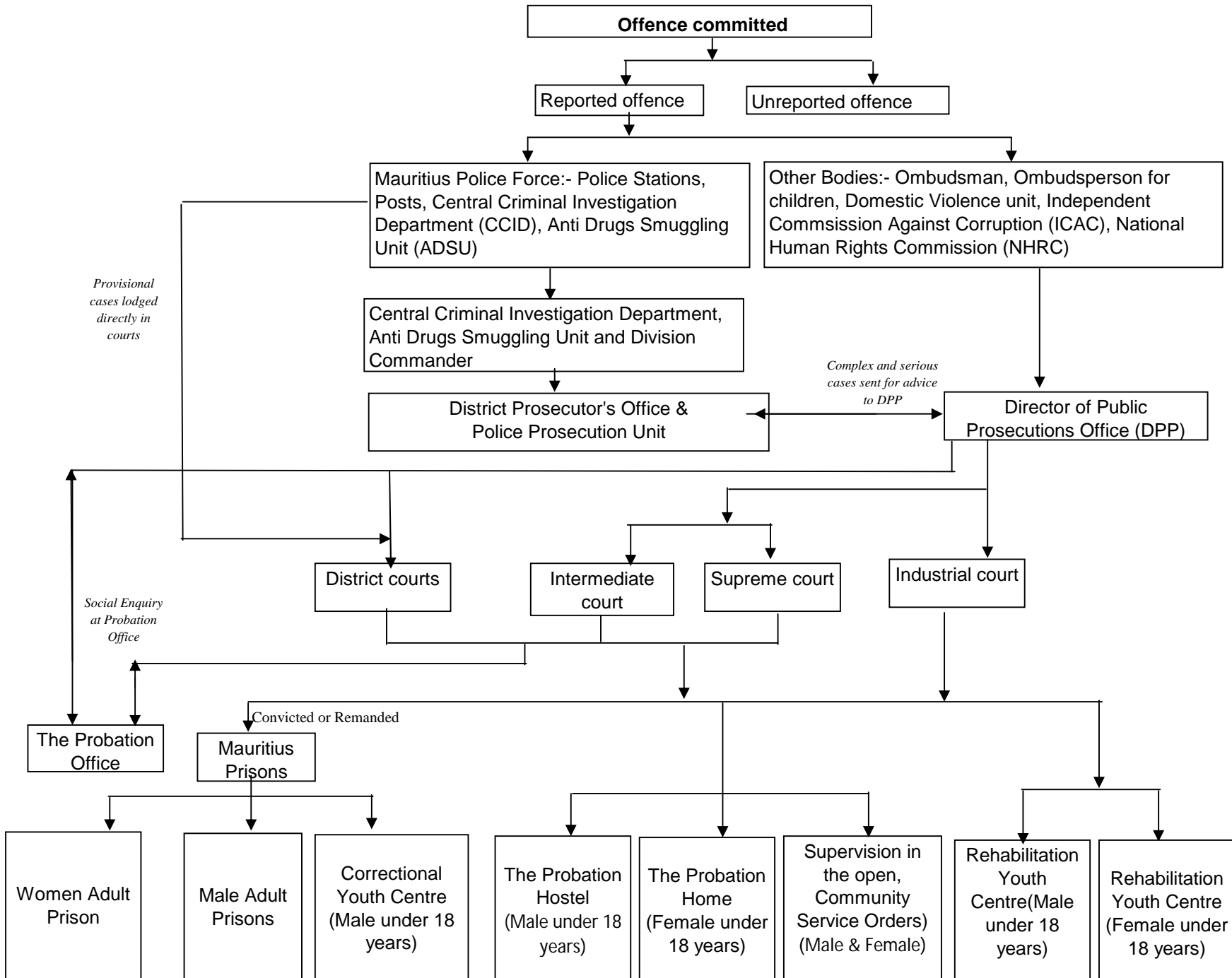
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The National Criminal Chart, Republic of Mauritius



GLOSSARY

1. **Absolute discharge** is complete and unconditional release.
2. **Admission rate** is defined as the number of people admitted to prison in a given year per 100,000 mid-year population.
3. **Assault** is defined as physical attack against the body of another person.
4. **Automobile theft** is defined as the removal of a motor vehicle without the consent of the owner of the vehicle.
5. **Burglary** is defined as unlawful entry into someone else's premises with the intention to commit a theft.
6. **Community Service Order** is a sentence requiring an offender to perform unpaid community work.
7. **Conditional discharge** is a sentence whereby an offender is released under certain conditions, e.g., regular reporting to police stations for a specified period of time.
8. **Contraventions** are defined as offences that are punishable by:
 - (a) imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 days;
 - (b) fine not exceeding 5,000 rupees.
9. **Contravention rate** is defined as the number of reported contraventions per 1,000 mid-year population.
10. **Crimes** are defined as offences that are punishable by:
 - (a) penal servitude;
 - (b) fine exceeding 5,000 rupees.
11. **Crime rate** is defined as the number of reported crimes per 1,000 mid-year population.
12. **Criminal case** is a case dealing with an offender indicted for an offence as defined by the law.
13. **Detainee** is referred to as any person confined to prison and is classified as follows:
 - (a) **Convict:** person sentenced to imprisonment.
 - (b) **Person on remand and trial:** person charged for an offence with a court of law and awaiting judgment.
 - (c) **Civil debtor:** person found guilty by the court for the non-payment of debts.

14. **Drug offences** are as spelt out under the Dangerous Drug Act 2000. They relate mainly to drugs like ganja, heroin, hashish, opium, cocaine and other psychotropic substances.
15. **Drug offence rate** is defined as the number of reported drug offences per 1,000 mid-year population.
16. **Embezzlement** is defined as the wrongful appropriation of another person's property that is already in the possession of the person doing the appropriating.
17. **Fine Defaulters** are convicts sentenced to imprisonment for non-payment of fines; they either stay in prison for a specified period or are released as soon as they pay the fines.
18. **Fraud** is defined as the acquisition of another person's property by deception.
19. **Imprisonment rate** is defined as the number of detainees in prison per 100,000 mid-year population.
20. **Intentional homicide** is defined as death deliberately inflicted on a person by another person, including infanticide and abortion.
21. **Intentional homicide rate** is defined as the number of intentional homicide reported per 100,000 mid-year population.
22. **Juveniles** are defined as persons aged 12 to 17 years.
23. **Juvenile delinquency rate** is defined as the number of juvenile offenders involved in offences (excluding contraventions) per 1,000 juvenile populations.
24. **Misdemeanours** are defined as offences that are punishable by:
 - (a) imprisonment for a term exceeding 10 days;
 - (b) fine exceeding 5,000 rupees.
25. **Misdemeanour rate** is defined as the number of reported misdemeanours per 1,000 mid-year population.
26. **Non-intentional homicide** is defined as death not deliberately inflicted on a person by another person.
27. **Offences** punishable by the law are crimes, misdemeanours and contraventions.
28. **Prison occupancy level** is defined as the ratio of the prison population to the prison capacity (number of beds).
29. **Probation order** is a sentence whereby an offender is placed under the supervision of a probation officer for a period not less than one nor more than three years.

30. **Relative Development Index (RDI)** is a composite index which measures the relative development of regions by municipal/village council areas. The index ranges between 0 (most disadvantaged) to 1 (most advantaged). It is based on 12 variables encompassing housing and living conditions, literacy, employment rate, etc. More information on the RDI can be accessed on CSO website http://www.gov.mu/portal/site/cso/menuitem.dee225f644ffe2aa338852f8a0208a0c/?content_id=6dda3f48c654c010VgnVCM1000000a04a8c0RCRD
31. **Robbery** is defined as the theft of property from a person, overcoming resistance by force or threat of force.
32. **Sexual offence** is defined as sexual intercourse or assault without valid consent.
33. **Theft** is defined as the removal of property without the property owner's consent.
34. **Victim of offences against person and morality** is collected for the following reported offences:

Homicides

- Murder
- Infanticide
- Murder of a newly born child
- Wounds and blows causing death without intention to kill
- Attempt at murder
- Involuntary homicide

Assault and other related offences

- Wounds and blows causing loss of an eye or both eyes; an arm, a leg, or a thigh broken
- Assault with corrosive substance (aggravating)
- Assault with premeditation
- Assault against an agent of Civil Authority
- Simple Assault
- Assault causing sickness or incapacity for personal labour for >20 days
- Torture by public official

Sexual offences

- Rape
- Sexual intercourse with minor under the age of 16
- Attempt upon chastity
- Sodomy
- Sexual intercourse with a mentally handicapped person
- Sexual intercourse with specified person
- Causing child to be sexually abused; accessing to a brothel; and engaging in prostitution
- Procuring, enticing and exploiting prostitutes
- Solicits/importunes another person for immoral purpose
- Sexual harassment

Other offences against persons and morality

- Administering noxious substance
- Abducting child
- Abandonment of child
- Demanding money or property by threat of false accusation
- Sequestration
- Child trafficking

Involuntary wounds and blows
Criminal intimidation
Child ill-treatment
Debauching youth
Other offences under Sex Discrimination Act