Guide to Statistics Produced by New Zealand Police

Official Statistics
Most statistics produced by New Zealand Police are considered ‘Official Statistics’, as described by Statistics New Zealand at the following webpage:


Some Official Statistics are classified ‘Tier-1 Official Statistics’. These statistics are deemed New Zealand's most important Official Statistics. They have higher expectations of quality and practices than other statistics.

Some statistics produced by Police are Tier-1 Official Statistics. These are the Statistics for Recorded and Resolved Offences and Apprehensions, which are published the first working day each April and October.

Experimental Statistics
Police is undertaking a programme of enhancing its statistical information over time. In order to make new information available early, we will often release new figures from statistical data sets that are still under development.

This approach is sometimes practised in other countries as well. For example, the UK Home Office releases Experimental Statistics, as described at the following webpage:


Interpreting Experimental Statistics
These statistical datasets will have undergone sufficient testing for Police to believe that they are likely to be useful, but not necessarily finalised.

Although useful, caution should be observed when interpreting statistics that are under development. They may count things differently than previous publications. Also, they are often sourced from a dynamic database that changes daily as new information is entered into the Police operational IT systems from which data are sourced.

Furthermore, further testing a feedback from information consumers may result in amendments to statistical datasets under development. So, it may not be possible to audit or reconcile figures produced one day, with figures produce from the same statistical dataset on an earlier date.

For all of these reasons, although useful, caution should be observed when interpreting figures from statistical datasets under development.

When Police release figures from statistical datasets that are under development, we will advise recipients of this.