



Family Digest 13

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Vulnerability to Crime

On 13th March this year the South African Police Service (SAPS) released its first 'up-to-date' report, tracking the changes in crime in the nine months from April to December 2016. It has also been announced that crime statistics will be released quarterly to facilitate closer monitoring of trends and the necessary interventions needed to combat the different manifestations of crime.

According to the data, over 960 000 serious crime cases have been reported to the SAPS over the nine month period, averaging about 3 550 crimes every day – or 148 crimes every hour. The biggest increases have happened in the contact crime category, where robbery with aggravating circumstances (including carjacking) has increased by 6.1%. Drugs are seen to play a large role in property related crime. While there has been a slight decrease in sexual assault, it remains the most under-reported crime. There has been an increase in gang violence and associated mortalities. As is evident from the links below, there is uncertainty regarding crime data as many crimes go unreported, and there is widespread mistrust of the SAPS itself.

Crime casts a long shadow over our society and the victims of crime are often among the most vulnerable people. Informal settlements, in particular, are unsafe places in which to live and the police stations in these areas are frequently under resourced. This disproportionate allocation of resources and personnel is indicative of the inequalities which persist in our society as a whole.

However, it is heartening that in response to criticism over the proposed R100m upgrading of Muizenberg police station in Cape Town's southern suburbs, the deputy minister of Police Bongani Mkhongi, has promised that these funds would be diverted and used to build police stations in the informal settlements of Makhaza, Nyanga and Samora.

Lois Law
Researcher

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2017-03-03-crime-stats-sas-murder-and-rape-situation-unpacked#.WP3kDWmGPIU>

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/sundaytimes/stnews/2016/06/29/Fear-rules-Joburg-but-Cape-Town-is-murder-capital>

<https://businesstech.co.za/.../cape-town-is-now-among-the-10-most-violent-cities-in-th...>

https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2017-04-21-op-ed-the-contrition-clause-of-parole/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign

<https://businesstech.co.za/news/government/161715/south-africas-latest-crime-stats-everything-you-need-to-know/>

<https://africacheck.org/factsheets/factsheet-south-africas-201516-crime-statisticshttps://www.thesouthafrican.com/by-the-numbers-south-africas-crime-statistics-for-april-to-december-2016/>

<https://www.saps.gov.za/services/crimestats.php>

http://www.politicsweb.co.za/news-and-analysis/new-police-stations-promised-for-cape-town-townshi?utm_source=Politicsweb+Daily