

Victim Support community service 2004/2005 statistical report

Table I. Referrals by crime type

Crime type	Number of referrals						% Change from previous year
	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	
Homicide	762	1,262	1,307	1,240	1,136	1,168	2.8%
Rape	4,145	4,813	4,965	5,768	6,658	7,349	10.4%
Robbery	84,128	73,810	80,705	73,029	64,194	53,322	-16.9%
Other sexual crime	14,400	15,462	14,177	15,191	14,362	14,558	1.4%
Grievous bodily harm (GBH)	216,259	257,203	264,546	25,336	24,784	25,994	4.9%
Actual bodily harm (ABH)/common assault				277,234	316,690	315,895	-0.3%
Other violent crime*				41,529	36,843	51,329	39.3%
Violent crime total	319,694	352,550	365,700	439,327	464,667	469,615	1.1%
Aggravated burglary	411,095	5,598	4,673	5,049	3,823	2,973	-22.2
Distraction burglary		8,759	5,970	4,548	4,740	4,852	2.4
Burglary dwelling		234,688	330,485	388,287	326,125	249,614	-23.5
Burglary total		249,045	341,128	397,884	334,688	257,439	-23.1%
Theft	125,156	258,650	263,752	267,413	244,819	251,118	2.6%
Criminal damage (including arson)	172,734	191,228	205,904	211,831	221,318	223,321	0.9%
Property (incl. burglary) crime total	708,985	698,923	810,784	877,128	800,825	731,878	-8.6%
Road death	1,126	870	1,104	1,086	885	947	7.0%
Other crime (including some non-crime)	99,432	104,559	79,501	86,589	92,773	79,783	-14.0%
Total other crime	100,558	105,429	80,605	87,675	93,658	80,730	-13.8%
Total referrals	1,129,237	1,156,902	1,257,089	1,404,130	1,359,150	1,282,223	-5.7%

* Includes attempted murder, threats to kill and harassment

- In 2004/2005, over 1.2 million people were referred to Victim Support's community-based services.
- This is a decrease of 5.7% (76,927) from the previous year. This is in line with the decrease in number of crimes recorded by the police, which fell by 6% during the same period and the British Crime Survey (BCS), which reported a decrease of 7%.
- By far the biggest cause of the reduction in total referrals is the decrease in the amount of property crime.

- The level of referrals remains higher than three years ago and is in line with decreases in actual recorded crime.
- At the time of writing it was necessary to estimate for some data to provide a more accurate picture of activity.

How people are referred to Victim Support

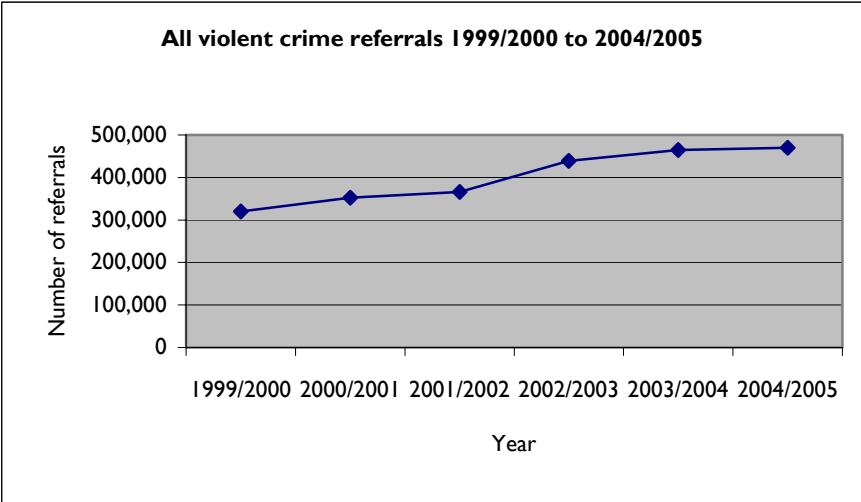
- Proportionally, figures for the different referral sources remain constant with previous years.
- 91% (1,168,459) of total referrals originated from the police, the same proportion as 2003/2004.
- 1.8% of total referrals were self referrals, the same proportion (23,636) as 2003/2004.
- Though the number of police and self-referrals as a proportion of total referrals remained the same as 2003/2004, the actual number of police referrals decreased by 5.9% (73,328) and the number of self-referrals increased by 5.1% (1,142).
- The number of people who refer themselves to the community service has continued to increase slightly year on year since 2001/2002.
- Referrals from other agencies increased by 21% (1,560) from 2003/2004, though as a proportion of all referrals this source accounts for less than 1% (9,006).
- The remaining 6.3% (81,122) were from other Victim Support services (likely to originally have been from the police).

Differences in referral source for crime types

- The most noticeable differences in referral source can be seen in the violent crime¹ category.
- Over half (55%) of all self-referrals were for violent crimes.
- 14% (1,063) of rape victims referred themselves to our service.
- 11% (2,389) of all sexual crime referrals were self-referrals.
- 31% (357) of all homicide and 15% (138) of road death referrals were self-referrals.

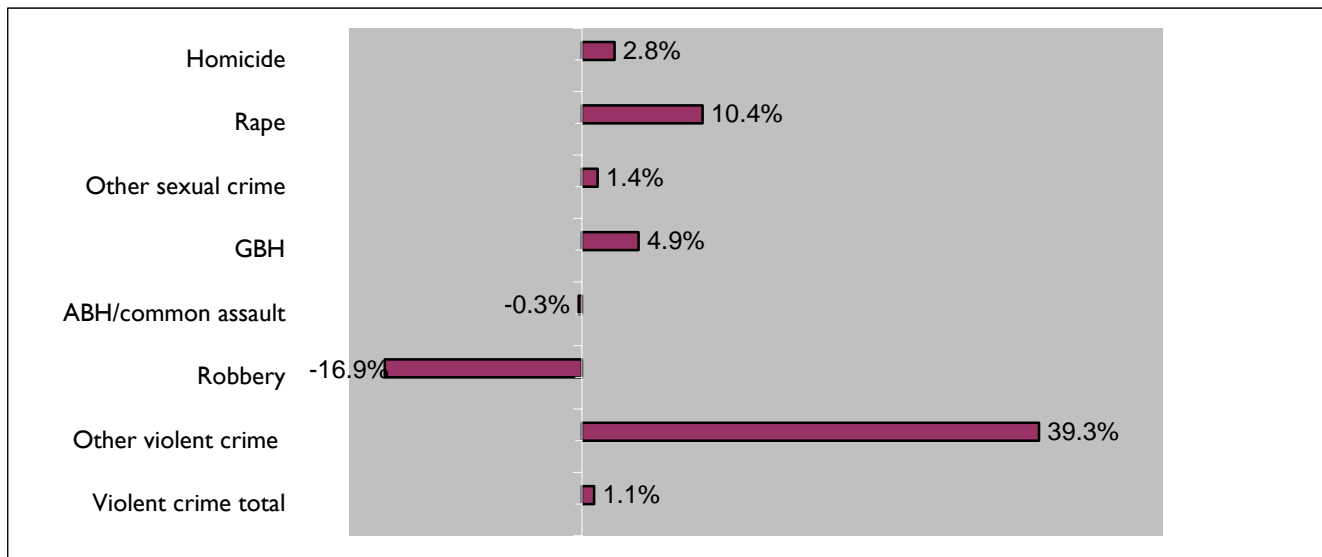
¹ Violent crime is violence against the person, sexual crime and robbery.

Violent crime (violence against the person, sexual crime and robbery)



- 37% of all referrals were violent crimes. This is the fourth successive year where violent crime has increased as a proportion of all referrals.
- Overall, the number of violent crime referrals increased by 1.1% (4,948) from 2003/2004. Though this is the smallest overall increase for four years there are differences between the offences that come under the violent crime category. (See the chart below.) Looking at violence against the person and sexual crime alone (excluding robbery), there has been an increase of 4% from 2003/2004.
- The increase in referrals for violent crime was less than the increase in police recorded crime for the same offences, where there was an increase of 7% from 2003/2004 in recorded offences. The Home Office states that this increase is likely to be “the continuing impact of changes in recording”.

Percentage change in violent crime referrals 2004/2005 compared to 2003/2004



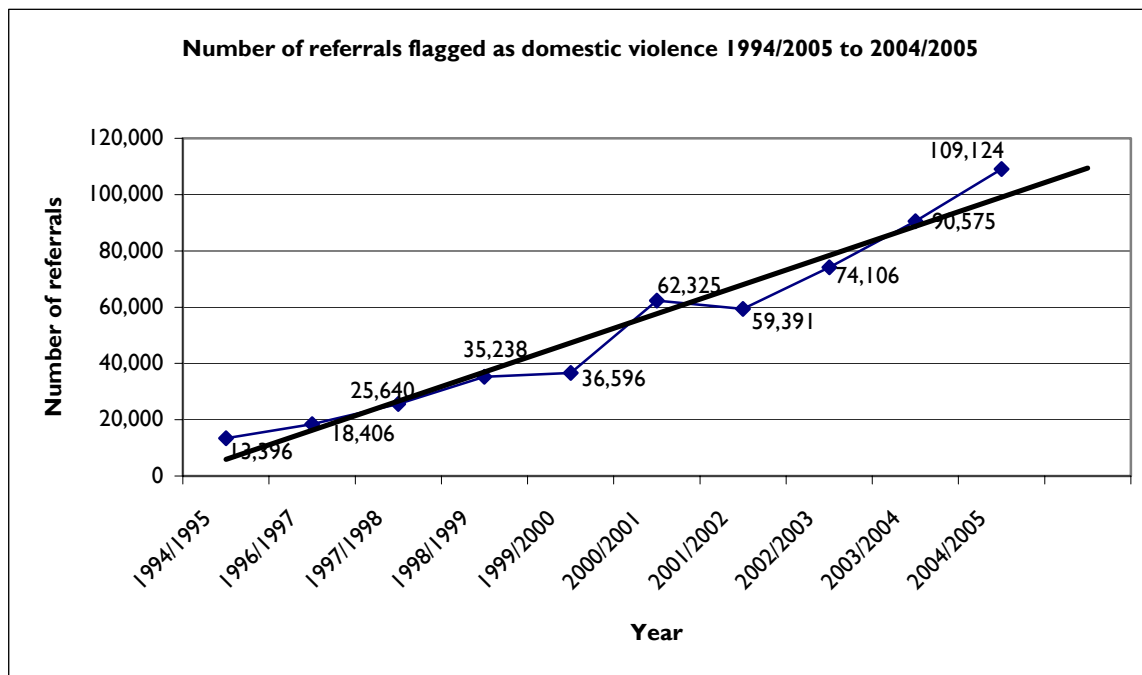
'Other violent crime' means attempted murder, threats to kill and harassment.

- The number of rape referrals has increased for the fifth successive year and is the highest it has ever been.
- 73% (5,348) of rape referrals originated from the police. 15% (1,063) were self-referrals.
- The decrease in GBH seen in 2003/2004 has been reversed with an increase this year of 4.9% (1,210).
- It is likely that the number of referrals for ABH and common assault has levelled off because of the 'police crime recording standard' becoming more consistent across police forces.
- The biggest increase in violent crime is in the 'other violent crime' category, 39.4% (14,486). This includes: attempted murder, threats to kill and harassment. It is likely that a proportion of harassment referrals will have been racially motivated offences.
- Robbery offences have been in decline since 2002/2003 and this year sees the biggest reduction, 16.9% (10,872) both proportionally and in the actual number of referrals since the decline began in 2002/2003.

Criminal injuries compensation

- The number of criminal injury claims in which Victim Support provided assistance to the claimant increased by 30% (4154) from 2003/2004.
- In 2004/05 Victim Support assisted with a total of 17,831 individual claims.

Domestic violence



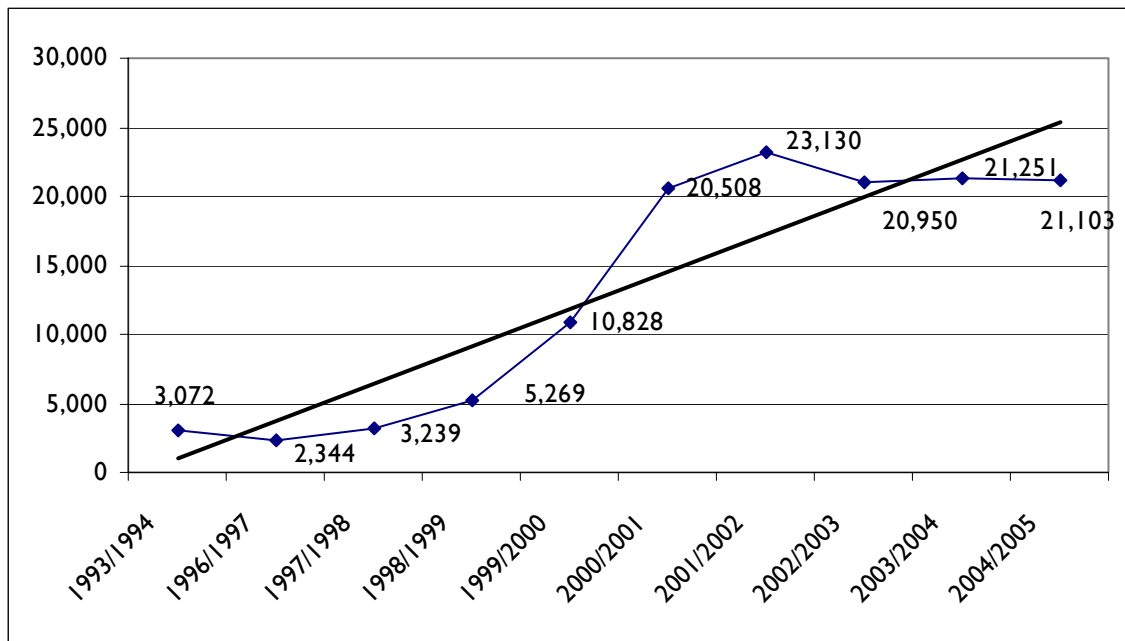
(Diagonal line shows predicted trend.)

- The upward trend in domestic violence related referrals continued in 2004/2005². This year there was an increase of 21% (18,549). This is the second largest actual increase since 2000/2001. Looking at the linear trend line, the year-on-year increase is greater than we would have predicted at the end of 2003/2004.
- Domestic violence related referrals represent 9% of total referrals and 26% of violent crime (excluding robbery).
- The BCS reports that 17% of violent crime was domestic violence related. While the BCS reports year-on-year decreases in domestic violence, the number of referrals to Victim Support continues to increase.

² Figures for 1995/1996 are not available.

Racially-motivated referrals

Referrals flagged as racially-motivated crimes 1993/1994 to 2004/2005³

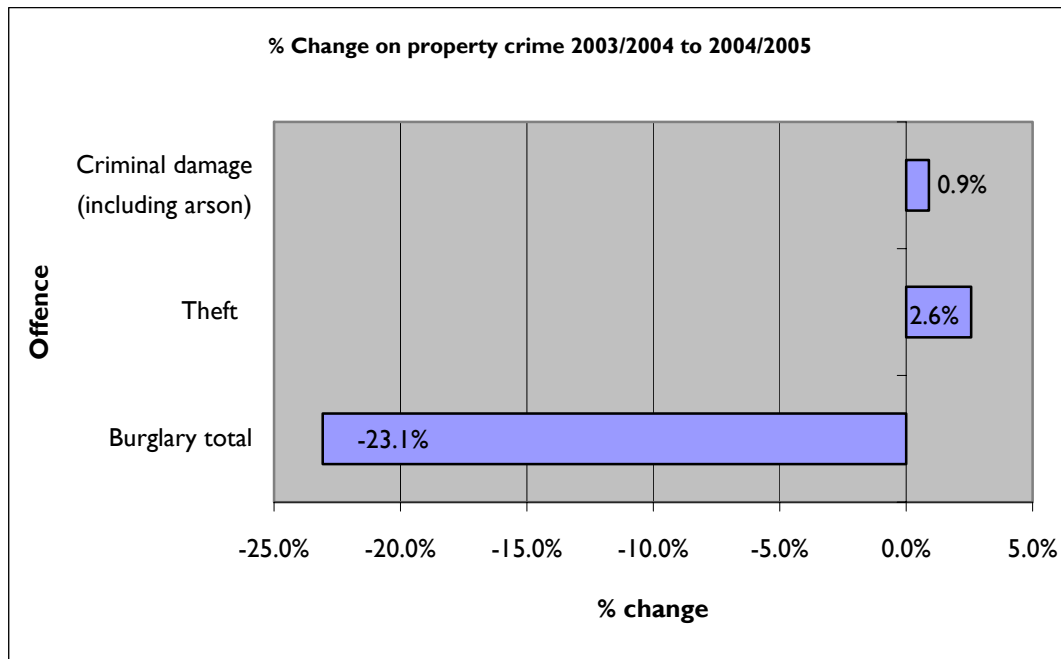


(Diagonal line shows predicted trend.)

- We supported 21,103 victims of racially-motivated crime during 2004/2005.
- This is a decrease of less than 1% (148) from 2003/2004.

³ Please note that the figure provided for 2003/2004 has been corrected from the figure previously published; this was caused by a systems error. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused. We have no data available for 1994/1995.

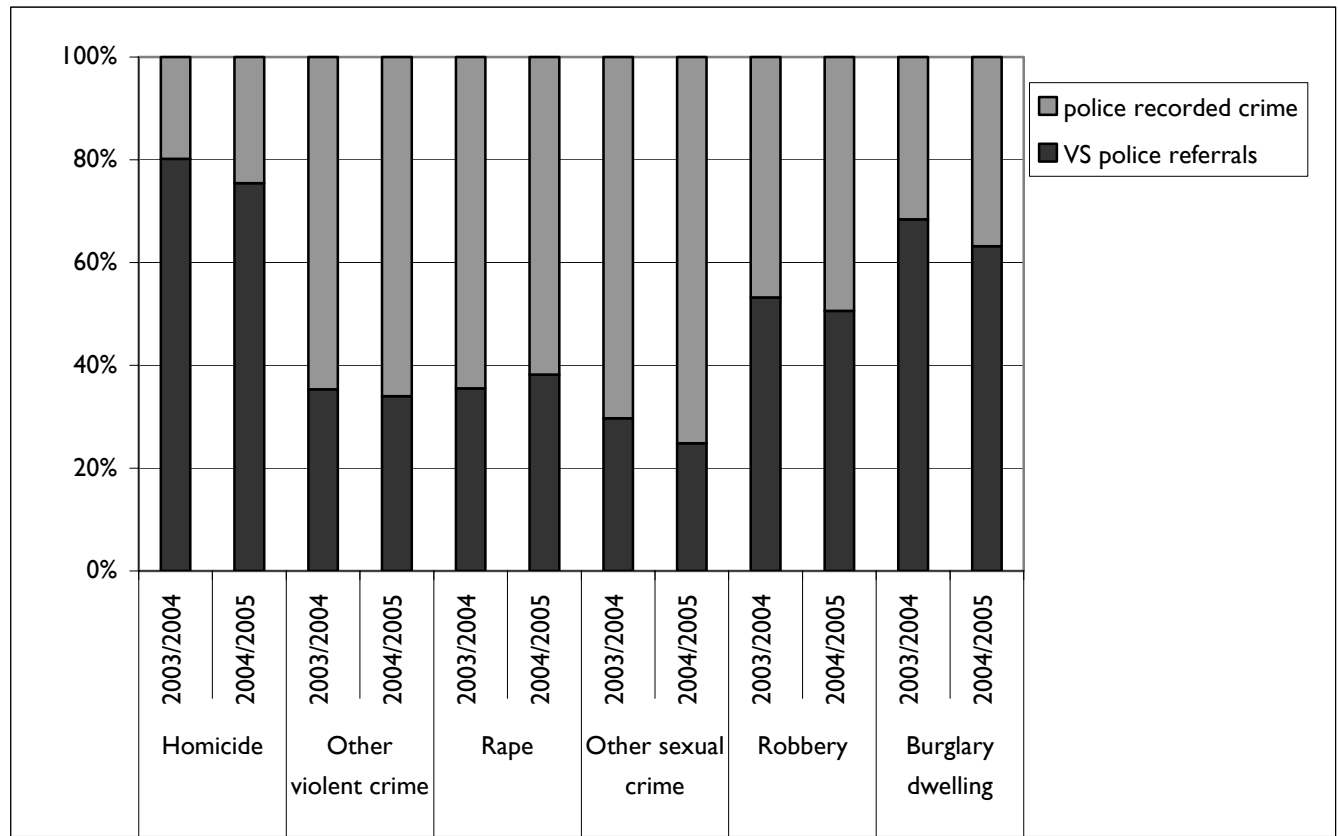
Property crime



- In 2004/2005 Victim Support received 731,878 referrals for property crime (burglary, criminal damage and theft).
- Overall, property crime decreased by 8.6% (68,947) in 2004/2005, continuing the downward trend seen since 2003/2004.
- Burglary referrals decreased by 23.1% (77,249). The police recorded a similar fall of 20% in domestic burglary.
- Distraction burglary referrals increased very slightly by 2.4% (112).
- Criminal damage continued the upward trend that has been seen since 1999/2000, though the year on year increase was only slight at 0.9%.
- In 2003/2004 burglaries accounted for 42% of all property crime. In 2004/2005 this reduced to 35%.
- Criminal damage now accounts for 31% of all property crime referrals, compared to 28% in the preceding year.

Referrals as a proportion (%) of recorded crime

- The bar chart illustrates the proportion of police-recorded crime that Victim Support receives as referrals from the police⁴.



- The proportion of police-recorded crime we received varies across crime types.
- As in 2003/2004, we received a greater proportion of homicide and domestic burglary crimes as referrals than other crimes.
- Nationally the proportion of police recorded crime referred to Victim Support has remained relatively constant compared to last year, though we know that this varies across England and Wales.

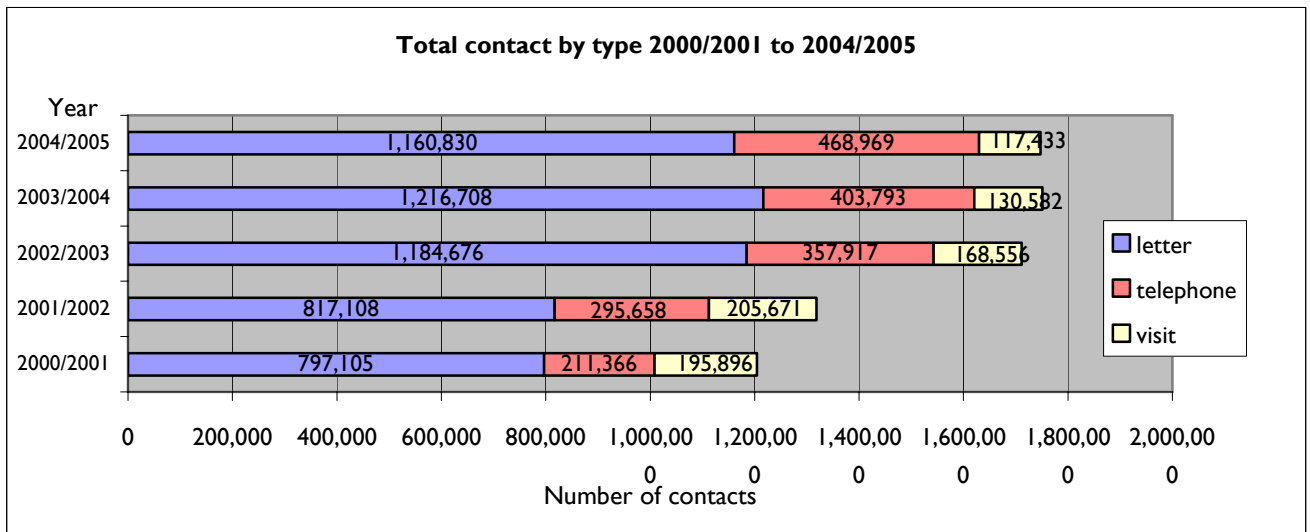
Types of contact with people

- Last year Victim Support made over 1.7 million different types of contact with people referred to the service.
- Though the number of referrals decreased during 2004/2005 the amount of contact Victim Support had with victims decreased only very slightly, by 0.2% (3,851) from the preceding year.
- Letter contact decreased by 4.6% in 2004/2005. Letter contact is often the first form of contact with the victim that leads to further support, as the number of referrals decreased last year this is not a surprising change. At the moment we are not able to

⁴ Only referrals to Victim Support received from the police are included for comparison.

fully record much of the indirect support that is done on behalf of the victim, for example advocacy. Support generally reflects work that is done directly with the victim.

- The number of telephone contacts increased by 16% in 2004/2005. This continues the upward trend seen since 2000/2001.
- The number of face-to-face visits decreased by 10% in 2004/05. This varies for individual crime types.
- The biggest decrease in face-to-face contact was for burglary: 25%, this reflects the decrease seen in referrals for this crime type.
- Face-to-face contact for homicide decreased by 1%, whereas rape increased by 7.4%.



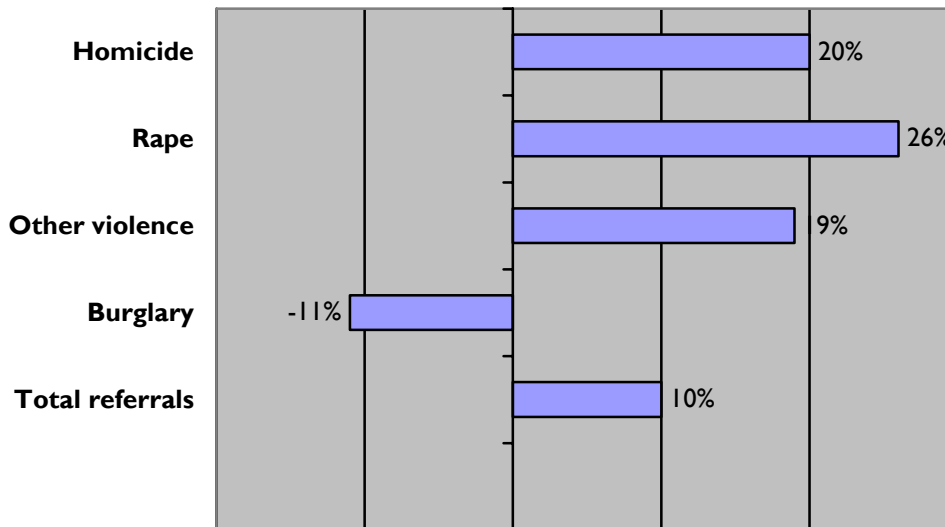
Ratio of contact to referrals

- Changes in contact need to be considered with changes in the actual number of referrals for specific crimes. If we assume that contact provided is spread equally across referrals we are able to see more accurately whether face-to-face contact and other forms of contact have actually fallen in real terms.
- For example the average number of face-to-face contact for homicide referrals in 2003/2004 was 2.5, in 2004/2005 it decreased to 2.4. Or for every one referral 2.4 contacts are made, a ratio of 1:2.4.
- The average amount of personal contact⁵ for homicide referrals has increased from 2003/04 from 6.9 to 8.1. We can say therefore that on average people bereaved by homicide are receiving more support.
- The ratio of total referrals to all types of contact is 1:1.4 in 2004/2005. In 2003/2004 it was 1:1.3. The average amount of personal contact to referrals increased very slightly from 0.4 to 0.5.
- The average contact per burglary referral remains unchanged from last year at 1.3.

⁵ Face-to-face and telephone contact.

Personal contact (telephone and face-to-face)

% Change in personal contact 2003/2004 to 2004/2005



- The amount of personal contact increased for homicide, rape, other violence and overall.
- The amount of personal contact for domestic burglary decreased by 11% (however see average above). This is not surprising and is in line with the actual decrease in the number of people referred to the service.
- In the case of rape referrals there was an increase in the number of visits to victims of 7% from 2003/2004.