

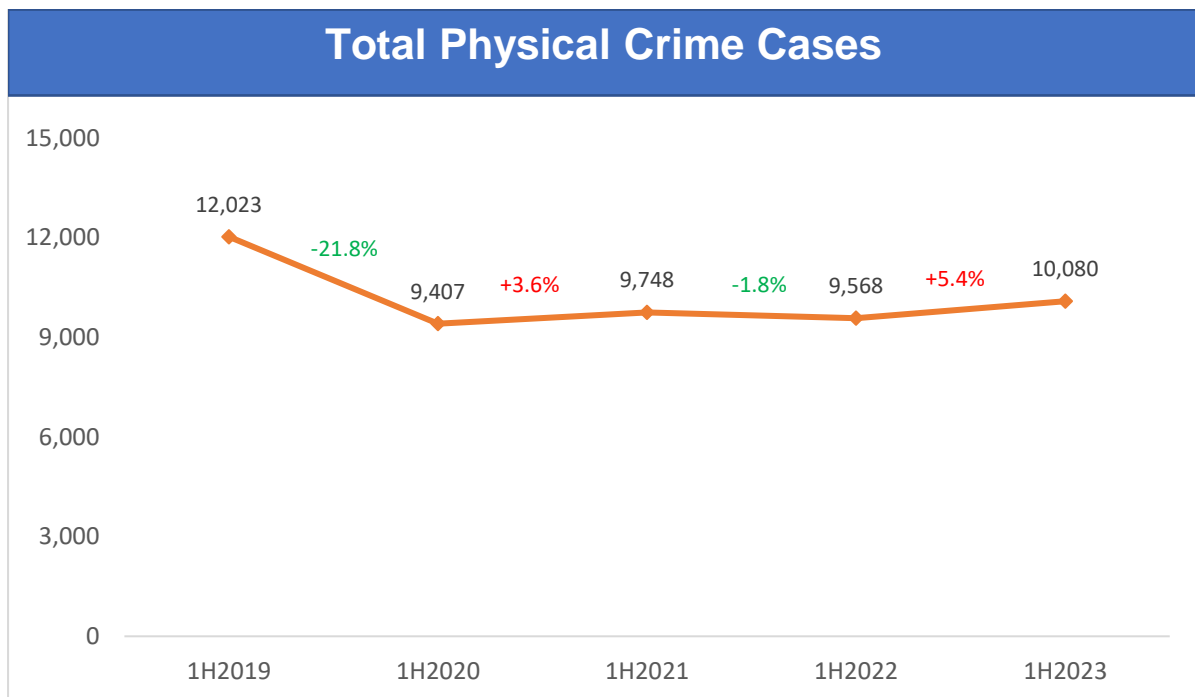
POLICE NEWS RELEASE

MID-YEAR CRIME STATISTICS 2023

Physical Crime Situation for January to June 2023

Physical crime cases remained low in the first half of 2023

The total number of reported physical crime cases increased by 5.4% to 10,080 in the first half of 2023, from 9,568 in the same period in 2022. However, this is still lower than the number of cases pre-COVID-19.



Crimes of concern

2. In the first half of 2023, the crimes of concern included outrage of modesty, voyeurism, shop theft and theft in dwelling.

Outrage of Modesty

3. The number of outrage of modesty (OM) cases remained stable at 757 in the first half of 2023, compared with 751 in the same period in 2022, and accounted for 7.5% of the total physical crime cases. **More than half of the cases (417 cases or 55.1%) involved culprits known to the victims.**

4. **As the public entertainment (PE) landscape returns to normalcy, the number of OM cases which took place at nightspots increased to 74 cases in the first half of 2023,** compared to 36 in the same period in 2022.

5. On 19 January 2023, the SPF launched the third edition of the Smart Clubbing Campaign to remind the public that a safe and secure PE landscape is a shared responsibility between PE outlets and patrons. SPF will continue to work with the Public Entertainment Industry Safety and Security Watch Group (iSSWG) on the expansion of Smart Clubbing measures to more PE outlets, and develop new initiatives to create a safe and crime-free environment for patrons in PE outlets.

6. With increasing usage of the public transport network, the number of OM cases which took place on public transport increased to 97 in the first half of 2023 compared to 84 in the same period in 2022. However, this figure is still lower than pre-COVID-19 figures, which saw 111 cases in the first half of 2019.

7. SPF will continue to work closely with public transport operators and partners, including the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), to raise awareness among commuters, including through posters on OM displayed prominently within the public land transport network. SPF has also displayed standees at key transport hubs to disseminate crime prevention advisories. In addition, new advisories cautioning would-be perpetrators against committing sexual-related crime will be placed on MRT trains, train stations and bus interchanges in the later part of this year to further raise awareness among commuters.

Voyeurism

8. Voyeurism cases remained stable at 224 in the first half of 2023, with 220 in the same period in 2022, and accounted for 2.2% of total physical crime cases. The top three locations where voyeurism cases occurred were:

- a) Residential premises – 73 cases reported in the first half of 2023, compared to 72 in the same period in 2022.
- b) Shopping complexes – 40 cases reported in the first half of 2023, compared to 26 in the same period in 2022.

- c) Public transport system – 23 cases reported in the first half of 2023, compared to 35 in the same period in 2022.

9. **The cases at residential premises mainly involved perpetrators known to the victims such as boyfriends/ex-boyfriends, household members or fellow tenants**, while the cases at shopping complexes and public transport typically involved perpetrators unknown to the victims.

10. The number of voyeurism cases which occurred on public transport saw a 34% decrease. SPF will continue to work with public transport stakeholders and the community on measures to enhance public education and deter would-be perpetrators.

11. SPF urges members of the public to remain vigilant against OM and voyeurism by being aware of their surroundings and to report the matter to the Police immediately if they witness an incident or are aware of someone being a victim. Victims are advised to make a police report as soon as possible, as reporting such crimes early is crucial in helping the SPF identify and arrest the perpetrators. Information on the suspect's appearance, attire, height or any other distinctive physical features will be helpful to SPF's investigations.

Shop Theft

12. Shop theft cases increased to 1,820 in the first half of 2023 from 1,453 in the same period in 2022, and accounted for 18.1% of total physical crime cases. 76% of the cases occurred at retail chains/shops such as department stores, supermarkets, personal care/health and beauty shops, and mini marts/convenience stores. Items typically stolen included food and beverage, alcoholic drinks, personal care products, apparels/accessories, and cosmetics.

13. **Retailers play a vital role in deterring and preventing shop theft.** As of 22 June 2023, SPF has successfully collaborated with Sheng Siong, Watsons and Sephora to onboard 175 of their retail outlets to the Shop Theft Awareness for Retailers (STAR) Programme.

14. Under the STAR Programme, SPF works closely with retailers to analyse their store's risk factors and vulnerabilities to shop theft. SPF and the retailers will then jointly identify effective and practical crime prevention measures. The STAR Programme has shown positive outcomes for several members, with a significant decrease in shop theft cases. One of the STAR Programme members and a strong supporter, Sheng Siong, had co-created solutions with SPF such as the installation of an audio motion sensor, deployment of anti-shop theft collaterals in hot spots, and

regular joint training with SPF for all of their ground staff. For the three onboarded Sheng Siong outlets located in Clementi, Jurong West and Yishun, the number of shop theft cases decreased by more than 30% in the first half of 2023, compared to the same period last year. **SPF would like to encourage all retailers to come onboard the STAR programme.** Please refer to **Annex A** for a quote by Mr Lim Hock Chee, Chief Executive Officer, Sheng Siong Supermarket Pte Ltd.

15. Since the relaxation of COVID-19 measures, the number of shop theft cases has increased at Mustafa Centre. In the first half of 2023, there were 81 cases as compared to 59 cases in the same period in 2022. The majority of the cases were detected by the Mustafa Centre security team who actively monitors the Closed-Circuit Televisions (CCTVs) within the mall. Other security measures in place include foot patrols by security officers, cashiers looking out for hidden stolen items and anti-shop theft alarm panels installed at the exits of Mustafa Centre. To help curb the increase in shop theft cases, SPF has also worked with Mustafa Centre's security team to display anti-shop theft posters and wobblers within the mall for deterrence. In addition, Police officers actively engage shoppers at Mustafa Centre to share crime prevention advice, and enlist shoppers to look out for anyone behaving suspiciously, and alert Mustafa Centre's security team or Police officers on patrol.

Theft in Dwelling

16. **Theft in dwelling cases increased to 1,010 in the first half of 2023 from 788 in the same period in 2022**, and accounted for 10.0% of total physical crime cases. In the first half of 2023, there were 497 cases reported in residential premises as compared to 417 cases in the same period in 2022. Such theft typically involved items such as cash, jewellery, and electronic items such as handphones and branded bags/watches. At commercial premises, there were 306 cases reported in the first half of 2023, as compared to 208 cases in the same period in 2022.

17. **The majority of the cases were committed (or suspected to be committed) by culprits known to the victims, such as tenants/roommates, family members, service providers/cleaners and friends/acquaintances.**

Everyone Has a Role to Play in Fighting Crime

18. Everyone of us can contribute to the safety and security of Singapore. This includes business operators, such as public transport operators, retail outlet owners and PE operators, who have a responsibility towards their customers to prevent, deter and detect crime. Implementing precautionary measures against crimes will also ensure the safety of their own staff, and prevent financial losses. Family members and friends also play a crucial role in preventing their loved ones from becoming victims of

crime. They can do so by being aware of potential threats, and cautioning their loved ones about them.

19. SPF would like acknowledge community partners and stakeholders for their strong support in helping to keep Singapore safe and secure. In the first half of 2023, SPF presented 12 Public Spiritedness Awards and 59 Community Partnership Awards. We urge the community to continue to support us in the fight against crime.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE
15 SEPTEMBER 2023 @ 4PM**

Quote by Chief Executive Officer, Sheng Siong Supermarket Pte Ltd

The collaboration between Sheng Siong and the Singapore Police Force (SPF) within the STAR Programme is testament to an effective public-private partnership in the fight against shop theft. As a dedicated member of the STAR programme, we have worked closely to enhance retail security, resulting in the co-creation of innovative solutions such as audio motion sensors and data-driven anti-shop theft measures in our outlets. This collaboration has led to tangible reductions in reported shop theft cases across multiple locations, notably Clementi, Jurong, and Yishun. Our commitment to providing a secure shopping environment, combined with the SPF's expertise, has elevated our security standards and improved overall safety. I strongly encourage other retailers to consider joining the STAR Programme, as it presents a unique opportunity to collectively address shop theft, benefiting both retailers and customers alike.

*- Mr. Lim Hock Chee
Chief Executive Officer, Sheng Siong Supermarket Pte Ltd*