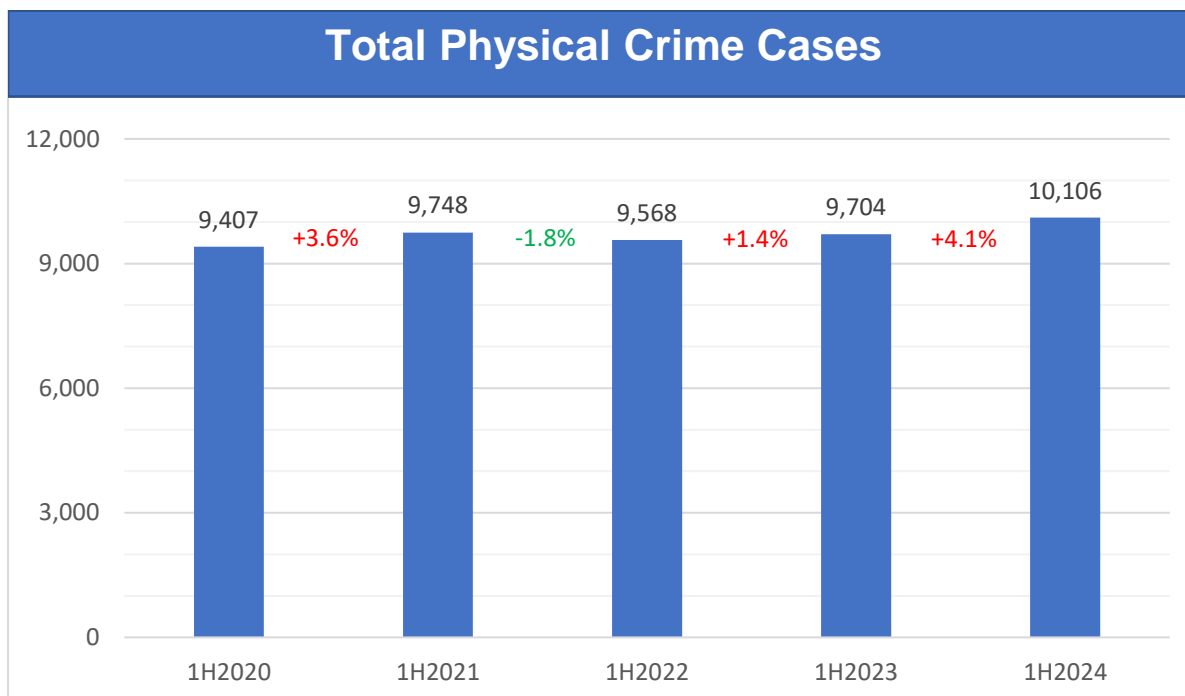


## Mid-Year Crime Brief 2024

### Physical Crime Situation for January to June 2024

#### *Physical crime cases increased in the first half of 2024*

The total number of reported physical crime cases increased by 4.1% to 10,106 in the first half of 2024, from 9,704 in the same period in 2023.



#### *Crimes of concern*

2 In the first half of 2024, the crimes of concern included **shop theft, outrage of modesty, voyeurism and theft in dwelling**. Shop theft constituted the highest proportion of reported cases amongst all physical crime cases.

## Shop Theft

3 Shop theft cases **increased** by 178 cases to 2,027 cases in the first half of 2024 from 1,849 cases in the same period in 2023 and accounted for 20.1% of total physical crime cases. **Shop theft remains as one of the top offences for youths arrested in the first half of 2024.**

4 The increase in shop theft cases continues to be driven by more cases reported at supermarkets as well as personal care/health and wellness shops. More than half of the shop theft cases involved amount loss of below \$50. For shop theft cases involving the arrest of youths, majority of the cases occurred at supermarkets, beauty shops, personal care/health and wellness shops. Items typically stolen included personal care products, food and beverage, and cosmetics.

5 The SPF has been actively engaging the public across all age groups to raise awareness of the consequences of committing shop theft. This is done through various engagement platforms such as school talks, youth engagement programmes, Coffee with a Cop initiative, house visits, and crime prevention talks jointly led by the SPF and the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC). The NCPC also taps on Crime Prevention Ambassadors to engage the elderly regularly, through customised content in vernacular languages such as Mandarin, Malay, and Tamil.

6 It is important to recognise that retailers play a vital role in deterring and preventing shop theft. Majority of the shop theft cases occurred in the outlets of major retailers. The Police would like to acknowledge our retail partners (NTUC Fairprice, Sheng Siong, Watsons, Sephora, Popular, Prime Supermarket and Mustafa Centre) who have committed to onboard all their outlets onto the Shop Theft Awareness for Retailers (STAR) Programme. As of 30 June 2024, there are 600 retail outlets onboard the STAR Programme.

7 Under the STAR Programme, the SPF works closely with the retailers to analyse their outlets' risk factors and vulnerabilities to shop theft, and jointly identify effective and practical crime prevention measures which can be adopted at the different stores. Through the programme, retailers are increasingly leveraging closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras in the stores. With more CCTV cameras installed within retail premises, retailers can review the CCTV footage and lodge police reports against shoplifters any time. With the prevalence of CCTV cameras, offenders will be caught eventually, even if they manage to leave the store with the stolen items. **The SPF would like to encourage all retailers to come onboard the STAR programme so that they can take preventive and deterrence measures to safeguard their businesses against shop theft.**

## Outrage of Modesty

8 Outrage of modesty (OM) cases **increased slightly** by 11 cases to 708 in the first half of 2024 from 697 in the same period in 2023, and accounted for 7.0% of the

total physical crime cases. **Most cases (434 cases or 61.3%) involved culprits known to the victims.** The top three locations where OM cases occurred were:

- a) Residential premises – 173 cases reported in the first half of 2024, compared to 163 in the same period in 2023.
- b) Shopping Complexes – 77 cases reported in the first half of 2024, compared to 56 in the same period in 2023.
- c) Public transport network – 71 cases reported in the first half of 2024, compared to 87 in the same period in 2023.

9 The SPF will continue to work closely with our stakeholders to raise awareness of OM among the public. The number of OM cases reported at nightspots saw an improvement, with 52 OM cases reported in the first half of 2024, compared to 70 cases in the same period in 2023. The SPF will continue to engage public entertainment (PE) outlets on Safe Clubbing initiatives, which were rolled out earlier this year. They include a training toolkit for staff of PE outlets, which emphasises the importance of responsible service while equipping staff with the knowledge and skills to identify signs of binge drinking, intervene early, and handle situations involving intoxicated patrons safely. These initiatives complement the SPF's regular enforcement checks on PE outlets. **The SPF would like to encourage both the patrons and PE outlets to do their part to keep our PE premises safe and secure.**

10 Despite the increased usage of the public transport network, there has been a decline in the number of OM cases reported. The SPF has been working with public transport operators and partners, including the Land Transport Authority (LTA) and the NCPC, to prominently display crime advisories within the public transport network. In May 2024, the SPF celebrated the fifth anniversary of the Riders-on-Watch (ROW) scheme, where six members of the public were also commended for assisting the SPF in various cases involving voyeurism and obscene acts which occurred on public transport. The ROW aims to prevent crime within the public transport network, where commuters are roped in as 'eyes and ears' on the ground during their daily commute. ROW members are also under the Community Watch Scheme, where they receive alerts and advisories on transport security from the SPF, thereby building a vigilant community through the sharing of crime prevention messages. By end-2024, crime advisories will be attached on the handrails of selected bus services to enhance awareness of molestation onboard buses. The SPF will continue to work with LTA and public transport operators to deter crime on the public transport.

11 The SPF will also continue to raise awareness of OM through community engagements, such as during school talks for students and engagement sessions with healthcare workers. These efforts aim to equip them with knowledge on common modus operandi of OM and provide tips to protect themselves from being a victim. **Continued vigilance is crucial, and the SPF urges the community to watch out for each other and report any suspicious activities.**

## Voyeurism

12 Voyeurism cases **increased** by 28 cases to 257 cases in the first half of 2024 from 229 cases in the same period in 2023, and accounted for 2.5% of total physical crime cases. The top three locations where voyeurism cases occurred were:

- a) Residential premises – 78 cases reported in the first half of 2024, compared to 76 in the same period in 2023.
- b) Shopping complexes – 44 cases reported in the first half of 2024, compared to 39 in the same period in 2023.
- c) Public transport network – 27 cases reported in the first half of 2024, compared to 24 in the same period in 2023.

13 The Police have also observed a rise in voyeurism cases at sports/swimming complexes, with an increase of 10 cases to 11 cases in the first half of 2024 from 1 case in the same period in 2023. **Majority of cases at residential premises (67 cases or 85.9%) were committed by perpetrators known to the victims such as boyfriends/ex-boyfriends, fellow tenants or household members**, while the cases at shopping complexes, public transport and sports/swimming complexes typically involved perpetrators unknown to the victims.

14 The number of voyeurism cases committed on the public transport network has remained stable despite rising ridership. The SPF will continue to work with public transport stakeholders and the community to enhance public education and deter would-be perpetrators, such as displaying advisory messages on voyeurism prominently on floor decals at selected MRT stations. Since April 2024, the SPF has worked with public transport operators to broadcast anti-voyeurism messages at all MRT stations during peak hours, to heighten commuter awareness on the occurrence of molestation and taking of upskirt photos/video and deter would-be perpetrators from committing such crimes within the public transport network.

15 The SPF will continue to collaborate with community and commercial stakeholders to deter voyeurism through various public education efforts. They include the display of crime prevention advisories and intentional environmental design such as installation of full height partitions in between toilet cubicles.

## Theft in Dwelling in Residential Premises

16 Cases of theft in dwelling areas in residential premises has increased slightly to 431 cases in the first half of 2024, compared to 424 cases in the same period in 2023 and accounted for 4.2% of total physical crimes.

17 Most cases were committed (or suspected to be committed) by culprits known to the victim, such as tenants/roommates, family members, migrant domestic workers, service providers and friends/acquaintances. Members of the public are encouraged to lock their valuables in a secured spot, even at home.

## Everyone Has a Role to Play in Fighting Crime

18 Everyone 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. **Interested stakeholders may approach their nearest Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC) for more information on the anti-crime initiatives by the SPF.**

19 Members of the public are also encouraged to stay vigilant against crime by taking preventive measures and being aware of their surroundings. Family members and friends have a crucial role to play in preventing their loved ones from becoming victims of crime, by looking out and reporting suspicious activities to the Police.

20 In February 2024, the Police launched the Point-to-Point Transport Industry Safety and Security Watch Group to promote regular sharing of road safety, crime and security advisories with taxi and private hire drivers. In June 2024, the Police launched the Police Pal storybook series, which marked the expansion of the Police Pal programme to include the engagement of preschoolers in addition to the engagement of primary school students. These age-appropriate resources were developed for students to understand the roles of Police officers to better protect themselves against crime. The new storybooks have been used by Community Policing Unit (CPU) officers as an engagement tool during preschool visits since July 2024. The Police will continue to engage the community through various crime prevention initiatives.

21 The SPF would like to acknowledge all its community partners and stakeholders for their strong support in helping to keep Singapore safe and secure. In the first half of 2024, SPF presented eight Public Spiritedness Awards, 13 Community Partnership Awards and 45 Outstanding Community Partnership Awards. We urge the community to continue to support us in the fight against crime.

22 Please see **Annex** for comments from the Director of Operations Department.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT  
SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE  
23 AUGUST 2024 @ 3PM**

## **Annex**

### **Quote by Director of Operations Department**

*Despite the increase in physical crime in the first half of 2024, the crime situation in Singapore remains under control.*

*Notwithstanding our safe environment, it is important not to be complacent. In particular, there are persistent crime concerns related to outrage of modesty, voyeurism, shop theft, and theft in dwelling. Taking simple yet effective preventive measures, such as securing personal belongings in shared spaces and being observant of any suspicious activities, can significantly contribute to the prevention of these crimes. Individuals and corporations alike play a vital role in upholding the safety of our community. We urge our community partners and stakeholders to work with us to prevent, deter and detect crime.*

*It is only through a whole of society effort that physical crime can continue to remain low, and Singapore can continue to be one of the safest places in the world.*

*- SAC Gregory Tan*

*Director of Operations Department*