

LATEST UK CRIME STATISTICS released by British Home Office in Jan 2004 are at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hosb0104.pdf

If link fails, do Google search for “Crime in England and Wales 2002/2003: Supplementary Volume 1.”

Concentrating on 1996-2003:

1. Total homicide (murder, manslaughter, infanticide) has risen 69% in the 7 years since the handgun confiscations. E & W homicide rate of 1.9/100,000 is now slightly higher than Australia's. Note that the final year shows some distortions due to 172 poisonings by Dr. Harold Shipman, registered as homicides in that year. Since 1967, E&W rate has more than doubled, up 164%. Table 1.01
2. Total gun homicide rate is up 70% in 7 years, parallel with the general rate. Table 1.03.
3. For 1996-2003, total firearm offences up 73%, gun homicide up 65%, gun attempted murder up 58%, gun robbery up 19%, gun burglary up 65%. Table 2.01.
4. Of total gun crime increase 74%, handgun crime rose 66%. In contrast, shotgun crime fell 39%. Shotguns are the easiest firearm to obtain legally. Table 2.03. Fig. 2.4 also shows breakdown of gun types.
5. For 2002/3, the totally illegal handguns comprised 23% of total gun offences, 49% of gun homicides, 49% of gun attempted murders, 70% of gun robberies and 66% of gun burglaries. Table 2.04.
6. For 1996-2003, total gun crimes causing injury rose 130% and handgun crimes causing injury also rose 130%. Shotgun crime injuries showed only minimal change. Table 2.06.
7. For 1996-2003, total gun robbery up 29%. In 1996, handguns were used in 54% of gun robberies: in 2003, 69%. Table 2.08.

COMMENT

It is jolly sporting of the British government to publish official statistics showing their policy does not work and is probably counterproductive. One wonders how long they will continue to do this. Shortly after the 1996 Cullen Report, the Home Office confirmed that only 10% of UK murders were committed with guns and that only 10% of the murder guns were held legally. Hence any person of normal intelligence, even politicians and journalists, could reasonably be expected to deduce that a total ban on legal guns could not reduce murder by more than 1%.

The 100 million pound confiscations have done enormous damage by removing funds which could have been used for hospitals, schools or to crack down on criminals. The money has been spent on getting the police to produce scrap metal.

Translated into “Mediaspeak”, this comes out as “Gun Bans Fail”, “Massive Crime Jump” etc. However journalists appear reluctant to admit they got it completely wrong through mindless political correctness.

2. Previous year, “Crime in England and Wales 2001/2002: Supplementary Volume”
See Chapters 1&2.

www.crimereduction.gov.uk/statistics26.pdf

A convenient summary for 2001/02 is in the Appendix at

www.crimereduction.gov.uk/statistics26.doc

AUSTRALIA

3. Recent Australian summary in “Australian Crime. Facts and Figures 2003”

www.aic.gov.au/publications/facts/2003/facts-and-figures-2003.pdf

Over 1996-2002:

-- Assault up 30%, robbery up 19%. Table1a. page 5, fig 2, page 8.

-- Homicide fairly stable—up only 3.7%. Knives 35%, beatings 25%, guns 14%,
blunt instruments 11%. Page 24.

--Gun armed robberies down 41%. Other armed robbery up almost 200%. Page 34.

4. Note also “Crime Facts Info No.66”, 20 Jan 04”. This shows steady decline in all types of gun deaths in Australia 1991-2001. IE starting well before the 1996 confiscations.

www.aic.gov.au/publications/cfi/cfi066.pdf

All sites accessed 5 Mar 2004.

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