

**Special Meeting of the Panel on Security of the Legislative Council**  
**21<sup>st</sup> January 2009**

**Brief Report on Hong Kong's Law and Order Situation in 2008**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to give a brief account of the overall law and order situation of Hong Kong in 2008.

**Overall Crime Situation**

2. The overall law and order situation in Hong Kong remained stable in 2008. The overall crime figure was 78 469, a decrease of 2 327 or 2.9% when compared with 80 796 in the previous year. The overall crime rate, that is, measuring by number of crimes per 100 000 population, stood at 1 123 cases, a drop of 3.7% when compared with 1 167 cases in the preceding year. Hong Kong is still one of the safest cities with a low crime rate when compared with other major cities in the world.

3. The detection rate was 45.6%, the same as in 2007.

4. There were 14 429 cases of violent crime, a drop of 505 cases or 3.4% when compared with 2007. For the violent crime rate, there were 207 cases per 100 000 population, a reduction of 9 cases or 4.2% when compared with 216 cases in the previous year.

5. Compared with the preceding year, crimes that recorded a rise /a drop are as follows:

<b>Crimes that recorded a rise</b>		<b>Crimes that recorded a drop</b>	
Shop theft	+ 650 cases	Miscellaneous thefts	- 1432 cases
Burglary	+ 262 cases	Serious assault	- 418 cases
Wounding	+ 222 cases	Theft from vehicle	- 352 cases
Serious narcotics offences	+ 197 cases	Pickpocketing	- 258 cases
Triad-related crimes	+ 117 cases	Criminal damage	- 247 cases
Child abuse	+ 93 cases	Domestic violence	- 231 cases
Homicide	+ 18 cases	Blackmail	- 98 cases
Bank robbery	+ 2 cases	Deception	- 92 cases
Robbery with pistol-like objects	+ 1 case	Snatching	- 63 cases
		Missing motor vehicles	- 38 cases
		Criminal intimidation	- 26 cases
		Arson	- 10 cases
		Indecent assault	- 9 cases
		Robbery with stun guns	- 2 cases
		Goldsmith/watch shop robberies	- 2 cases
		Rape	- 2 cases

No cases of robbery with genuine firearms happened during the year. The number of elder abuse cases is the same as the preceding year.

### **Individual Crimes**

6. The key points of the individual items in the List of Crimes (Please refer to the annex) include as follows:

#### **Item 3. Homicide**

7. A total of 36 cases of homicide were recorded, a rise of 18 cases or 100% when compared with the preceding year, 32 cases were detected and the detection rate was 88.9%. Most of the above cases were triggered by disputes over family and relationships. In 26 cases or 72.2%, the culprits knew their victims. It is of concern that 5 of the homicide victims were sex workers, who were killed in independent cases,

and 4 of these cases were detected.

#### **Item 4. Robberies**

8. Cases of robbery totalled 1 100, a drop of 116 cases or 9.5% when compared with the previous year. There was no robbery with genuine firearms in 2008. Most of them noted a decrease except for robbery with pistol-like object and bank robbery which increased by 1 case and 2 cases or 4.8% and 25% respectively. Among the bank robberies, no loss had been incurred in 7 cases whilst the total loss in the remaining 3 amounted to some HK\$12,000.

#### **Item 5. Burglary**

9. There were 4 774 cases of burglary, a rise of 262 cases or 5.8% when compared with the previous year. Burglaries on residential buildings were 3 018 cases (63.2%) and non-residential buildings 1 756 cases (36.8%), an increase of 237 cases (8.5%) and 25 cases (1.4%) respectively.

#### **Item 6. Wounding and Serious Assault**

10. A total of 7 882 cases of wounding and serious assault were recorded, 1 886 cases were wounding and 5 996 cases were serious assault. The total number was reduced by 196 cases or 2.4% when compared with the preceding year. Among them, 1 428 cases (18.1%) were related to domestic violence, a drop of 218 cases or 13.2% when compared with the preceding year; 648 cases (8.2%) were triad-related, an increase of 93 cases or 16.8%; 35 cases (0.4%) were related to debt collection activities, a fall of 8 cases or 18.6% when compared with the preceding year; and 5 664 cases (71.9%) were caused by various disputes, such as drunk and disorderly, traffic accidents and work disputes, etc., a decrease of 80 cases or 1.4% when compared with the preceding year.

#### **Item 7. Serious Narcotics Offences**

11. Altogether there were 2 966 serious narcotics cases, a rise of 197 cases or 7.1% when compared with the preceding year. Of these,

2 531 cases involved psychotropic drugs, making up 85.4% of the overall cases, a rise of 394 cases or 18.4% when compared with the previous year, this explains the upsurge of serious narcotics cases. For psychotropic drugs, cases involving Ketamine saw the most significant rise from 975 in the previous year to 1 555 in 2008, an increase of 580 cases or 59.5%. Cases involving heroin decreased from 581 to 413, a drop of 168 or 28.9%. In 2008, 3 718 persons were arrested in connection with serious narcotics cases, an increase of 187 or 5.3% when compared with the preceding year. Among the 3 718 persons, 1 153 (31%) were youths, a rise of 231 or 25.1% when compared with the preceding year.

#### **Item 8. Criminal Intimidation**

12. There were 1 934 cases of criminal intimidation in total, representing a decrease of 26 cases or 1.3% when compared with the preceding year. Of these, 532 cases (27.5%) were related to domestic violence, a rise of 7 or 1.3% when compared with the preceding year; 79 cases (4.1%) were triad-related, a drop of 42 cases or 34.7% when compared with the preceding year; 415 cases (21.5%) were related to debt collection activities, a rise of 26 or 6.7% when compared with the preceding year; the remaining 908 cases (46.9%) were caused by various disputes, such as disputes over money or emotional feelings; a fall of 17 cases or 1.8% when compared with the preceding year.

#### **Item 9. Blackmail**

13. A total of 309 cases of blackmail were recorded, a decrease of 98 cases or 24.1% when compared with the preceding year. Analysis showed that 11 cases (3.6%) were related to domestic violence, an increase of 5 or 83.3% when compared with the preceding year; 145(46.9%) were triad related, a drop of 10 or 6.5% when compared with the preceding year; 4 cases (1.3%) were related to debt collection activities, a reduction of 6 cases or 60% when compared with the preceding year; the remaining 149 cases (48.2%) were caused by various disputes, a fall of 87 or 36.9% when compared with the preceding year.

#### **Item 10. Arson**

14. 784 cases of arson were recorded, a drop of 10 cases or 1.3%

when compared with the preceding year. Among them, 112 cases or 14.3% involved vehicles, a decrease of 29 cases or 20.6% when compared with the previous year; 509 cases or 64.9% of them took place in a public place, 1 case or 0.2% more than the previous year; 163 cases or 20.8% took place at non-public places, an increase of 18 cases or 12.4% when compared with the preceding year. Out of the 784 cases, 7 cases (0.9%) were related to domestic violence, a drop of 1 case (12.5%); 18 cases (2.3%) were triad-related, an increase of 5 cases (38.5%) when compared with the preceding year; 8 cases (1.0%) were related to debt collection activities, a decrease of 1 case or 11.1% when compared with the preceding year; 251 cases (32 %) were found to be mischievous acts, an increase of 12 cases (5%); 104 cases (13.3%) were caused by various disputes, a drop of 5 cases (4.6%) when compared with the preceding year; the causes of 396 cases (50.5%) were unknown, a decrease of 20 cases or 4.8% when compared with the previous year.

#### **Item 11. Rape**

15. 105 cases of rape in total were recorded, a decrease of 2 cases or 1.9% when compared with the preceding year. 90 cases were detected and the detection rate stood at 85.7%. In 93 cases (88.6%), victims knew the offenders whereas in 72 cases the victims and their attackers were friends. There were 25 cases in which the victims were under 16 years old, one case less than the previous year.

#### **Item 12. Indecent Assault**

16. Indecent assault cases totalled 1 381, a drop of 9 cases or 0.6% when compared with the preceding year. The detection rate was 67.6%, similar to 67.9% in the previous year. Of these, 1 024 cases (74.1%) took place at public places, such as streets, public spots or on board public transport. The remaining 357 cases occurred at private places, such as domestic buildings, schools and commercial buildings.

#### **Item 13. All Thefts**

17. 35 230 cases of theft were recorded, representing 44.9% of

overall crime, a decrease of 1 532 cases or 4.2% when compared with the preceding year. Shop theft was the only sub-item that registered a rise whereas the remaining sub-items saw a drop. A total of 9 343 cases of shop theft were recorded, an increase of 650 cases or 7.5%.

#### **Item 14. Deception**

18. 4 653 cases of deception were recorded, a fall of 92 cases or 1.9%. Common deception cases, such as telephone deception, deception involving loss and stolen credit cards and street deception, registered a decrease.

#### **Item 15. Criminal Damage**

19. There were 6 904 cases of criminal damage, a reduction of 247 cases (3.5%) when compared with the preceding year. Analysis showed that 168 cases (2.4%) were related to domestic violence, an increase of 17 cases (11.3%) when compared with the previous year; 95 cases (1.4%) were triad-related, a rise of 5 cases (5.6%); 1 343 cases (19.5%) were related to debt collection activities, a rise of 21 cases (1.6%) when compared with the preceding year; 860 cases (12.5%) were related to various disputes, an increase of 81 cases (10.4%); 826 cases (12%) were related to mischievous acts, an increase of 35 cases (4.4%); the causes of 729 cases (10.6%) were psychosis and drunk and disorderly, etc., a decrease of 95 cases (11.5%) when compared with the preceding year; the causes of 2 883 cases or 41.8% were unknown, a decrease of 311 cases (9.7%) when compared with the preceding year.

#### **Item 16. Triad-related Crimes**

20. A total of 2 376 triad-related crimes were recorded, an increase of 117 cases or 5.2% when compared with 2 259 cases in the previous year. Analysis showed that crimes on the rise under this category were 'wounding and serious assault' – 648 cases or 27.3%, an increase of 93 cases or 16.8% when compared with the preceding year, 'serious narcotics offences' – 224 cases or 9.4%, a rise of 41 cases or 22.4%;

‘unlawful society cases’ – 775 cases (32.6%), an increase of 27 cases (3.6%) when compared with the preceding year. The number of triad-related crimes accounted for 3% of the overall crime, which is around the average over the last ten years.

#### **Item 17. Domestic Violence**

21. A total of 7 278 cases of domestic violence were noted, a decrease of 231 cases or 3.1% when compared with 7 509 cases in the previous year. Among them, 2 341 (32.2%) were criminal cases, a drop of 164 cases or 6.5% when compared with 2 505 cases in the previous year. Miscellaneous cases totalled 4 937 (67.8%), a drop of 67 or 1.3% when compared with 5 004 cases in the previous year. Main factors that caused domestic violence were disputes over money and relationship problems.

#### **Item 18. Child Abuse**

22. 1 643 cases involving crimes against children were recorded, a rise of 93 cases or 6% when compared with 1 550 cases in the previous year. Of these, 662 cases were physical abuse against children, a drop of 15 or 2.2% whereas 981 were cases of sexual abuse against children, a rise of 108 or 12.4%. The rise was mainly attributed to the substantial increase of unlawful sexual intercourse with underage girl and indecent assault cases which increased by 49 cases and 35 cases respectively.

#### **Item 19. Elder Abuse**

23. 315 cases of elder abuse were noted, the same number as in the preceding year. Under this category, the majority of physical abuse cases stood at 208 (66%). Also, cases relating to embezzlement of property and psychological abuse stood at 72 and 35 or 22.9% and 11.1% respectively.

## **Item 20. Persons Arrested for Crime**

24. In 2008, 41 220 persons were arrested for crimes, 30 508 males (74%) and 10 712 females (26%). The total number of persons arrested dropped by 1 720 or 4% from 42 940 in the previous year.

## **Item 20. Youth Arrested**

25. In 2008, the number of juveniles (aged 10-15) and young persons (aged 16-20) arrested for crimes stood at 4 178 and 4 830 (9 008 in total), a decrease of 659 or 6.8% when compared with 2007. The number of youths arrested made up 21.9% of the total number of persons arrested, compared with 22.5% in the preceding year. A total of 2 961 or 32.9% of them were arrested for miscellaneous thefts and shop-theft, a decrease of 248 persons (7.7%) when compared with the preceding year; 1 366 persons (15.2%) were arrested for wounding and serious assault, a drop of 224 persons (14.1%) when compared with the preceding year; and a total of 1 153 (12.8%) youths were arrested for serious narcotics offences, an increase of 231 persons or 25.1% when compared with the preceding year.

## **Item 20. Mainland Illegal Immigrants and Visitors Arrested**

26. In 2008, a total of 2 276 illegal immigrants from the Mainland were arrested, a drop of 653 persons (22.3%) when compared with 2 929 persons in the preceding year. Among them, 233 were arrested for criminal offences in Hong Kong, a drop of 129 or 35.6% when compared with the preceding year.

27. There were 16.61 million arrivals from the Mainland in 2008, a rise of 1.35 million or 8.8%, 9.62 million of which were under 'Individual Visitor Scheme', an increase of 1.03 million arrivals or 11.9%. During the period, 1 528 mainland visitors in total were arrested for criminal offences in Hong Kong, a rise of 113 persons or 8% when compared with the number in the preceding year. Of these, the number of persons under 'Individual Visitor Scheme' arrested for committing criminal offences was 531, a drop of 34 or 6% when compared with 2007. Per 100 000



arrivals, the numbers of mainland visitors committed crimes were 9.2 persons in 2008 and 9.3 persons in 2007.

Hong Kong Police Force  
January, 2009



警務處處長向  
香港特別行政區立法會  
保安事務委員會  
匯報二零零八年  
罪案統計數字

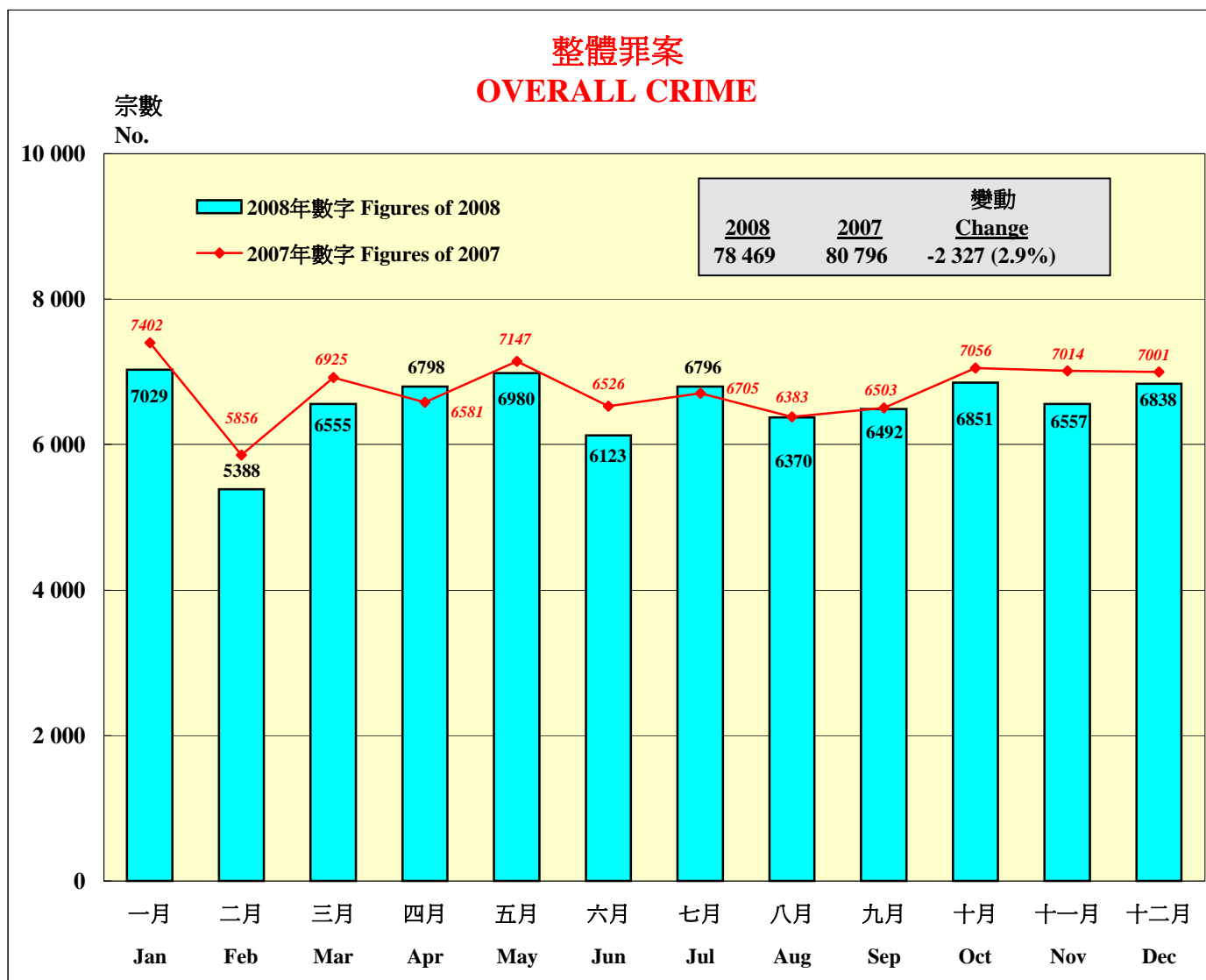
**COMMISSIONER OF POLICE  
BRIEF TO THE HKSAR  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
PANEL ON SECURITY  
CRIME STATISTICS  
CALENDAR YEAR 2008**

二零零八年主要罪案  
Major Crimes, 2008

	2008	2007	今年與去年同期比較 Comparison of 2008 v 2007	
			變動 Change	幅度 Rate (%)
1. 整體罪案 Overall Crime	78 469	80 796	- 2 327	- 2.9
2. 暴力罪案 Violent Crime	14 429	14 934	- 505	- 3.4
3. 兇殺 Homicide	36	18	+ 18	+ 100.0
4. 各類劫案，包括： All Robberies, including :	1 100	1 216	- 116	- 9.5
- 持真槍 with Firearms	-	-	-	-
- 持電槍 with Stun Guns	-	2	- 2	- 100.0
- 持類似手槍 with Pistol-like Objects	22	21	+ 1	+ 4.8
- 銀行劫案 Bank Robbery	10	8	+ 2	+ 25.0
- 金舖／銀樓劫案 Goldsmith/Watch Shop Robberies	5	7	- 2	- 28.6
5. 爆竊 Burglary	4 774	4 512	+ 262	+ 5.8
6. 傷人及嚴重毆打 Wounding and Serious Assault	7 882	8 078	- 196	- 2.4
- 傷人 Wounding	1 886	1 664	+ 222	+ 13.3
- 嚴重毆打 Serious Assault	5 996	6 414	- 418	- 6.5
7. 嚴重毒品罪行 Serious Narcotics Offences	2 966	2 769	+ 197	+ 7.1
8. 刑事恐嚇 Criminal Intimidation	1 934	1 960	- 26	- 1.3
9. 勒索 Blackmail	309	407	- 98	- 24.1
10. 縱火 Arson	784	794	- 10	- 1.3
11. 強姦 Rape	105	107	- 2	- 1.9
12. 非禮 Indecent Assault	1 381	1 390	- 9	- 0.6
13. 盜竊案，包括： All Thefts, including :	35 230	36 762	- 1 532	- 4.2
- 搶掠 Snatching	448	511	- 63	- 12.3
- 扒竊 Pickpocketing	940	1 198	- 258	- 21.5
- 店舖盜竊 Shop Theft	9 343	8 693	+ 650	+ 7.5
- 車內盜竊 Theft from Vehicle	2 105	2 457	- 352	- 14.3
- 雜項盜竊 Miscellaneous Thefts	20 189	21 621	- 1 432	- 6.6
- 失車 Missing Motor Vehicles	1 360	1 398	- 38	- 2.7
14. 詐騙 Deception	4 653	4 745	- 92	- 1.9
15. 刑事毀壞 Criminal Damage	6 904	7 151	- 247	- 3.5
16. 三合會相關罪案 Triad-related Crimes	2 376	2 259	+ 117	+ 5.2
17. 家庭暴力 Domestic Violence	7 278	7 509	- 231	- 3.1
- 刑事案件 Crime Cases	2 341	2 505	- 164	- 6.5
- 雜項案件 Miscellaneous Cases	4 937	5 004	- 67	- 1.3
18. 虐兒 Child Abuse	1 643	1 550	+ 93	+ 6.0
19. 虐老 Elder Abuse	315	315	-	-
20. 被捕罪犯(總數) Persons Arrested for Crime (Total)	41 220	42 940	- 1 720	- 4.0
- 少年(10 - 15歲) Juveniles (Aged 10 - 15)	4 178	4 644	- 466	- 10.0
- 青年(16 - 20歲) Young Persons (Aged 16 - 20)	4 830	5 023	- 193	- 3.8
- 內地非法入境者 Mainland Illegal Immigrants	233	362	- 129	- 35.6
- 內地旅客 Mainland Visitors	1 528	1 415	+ 113	+ 8.0

# 二零零八年一月至十二月罪案情況

## Crime Situation during Jan - Dec 2008

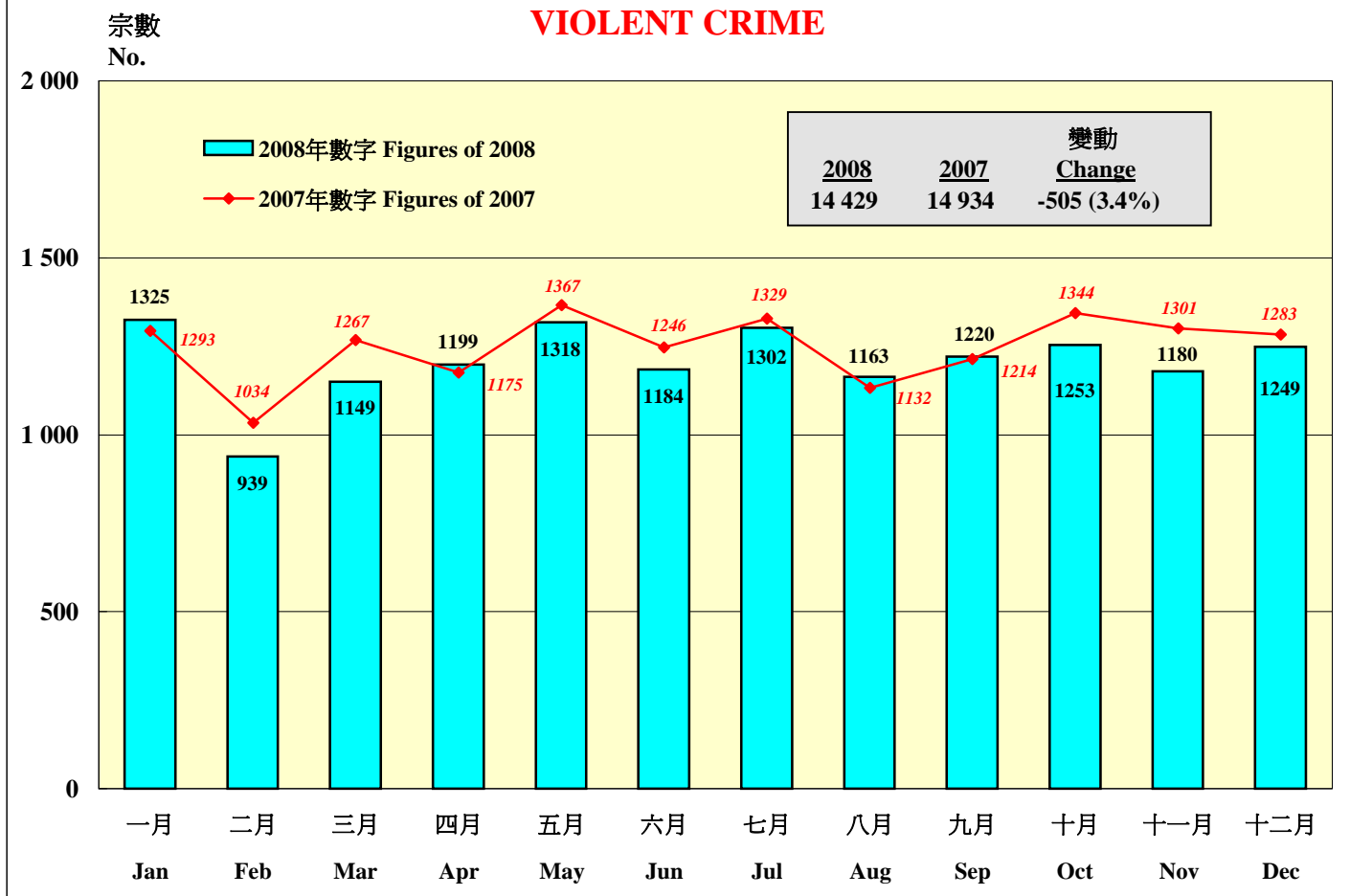


整體罪案 Overall Crime	2008	2007	變動 Change
罪案率(按每十萬人口計的罪案) Crime Rate (Crimes per 100 000 Population)	1 123.4	1 166.6	- 3.7%
破案率 Detection Rate	45.6%	45.6%	-

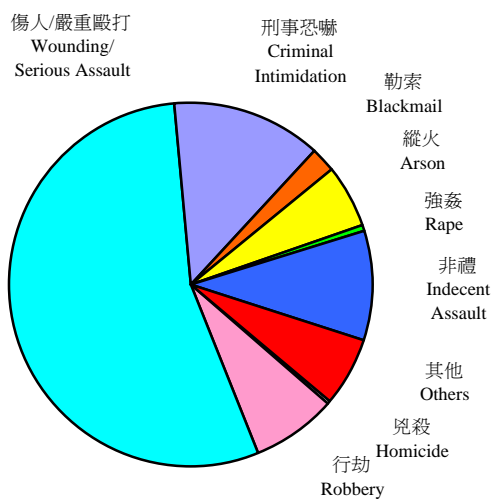
註：每月的罪案數字只反映該月份的治安情況。而有關的月數加起來未必能夠成為該季或全年的罪案數字，原因是在編製該季或全年的統計時，有些案件會被撤銷、重新分類或整理而被更新。

Note: The monthly figures represent snapshots of the corresponding months which may not add up to the quarterly or yearly figures. Some records may have been updated to take account of those "de crime" cases, reclassification of offences and cleared up cases in the compilation of quarterly or yearly statistics.

## 暴力罪案 VIOLENT CRIME



### 2008年的暴力罪案組合 Violent Crime Composition, 2008



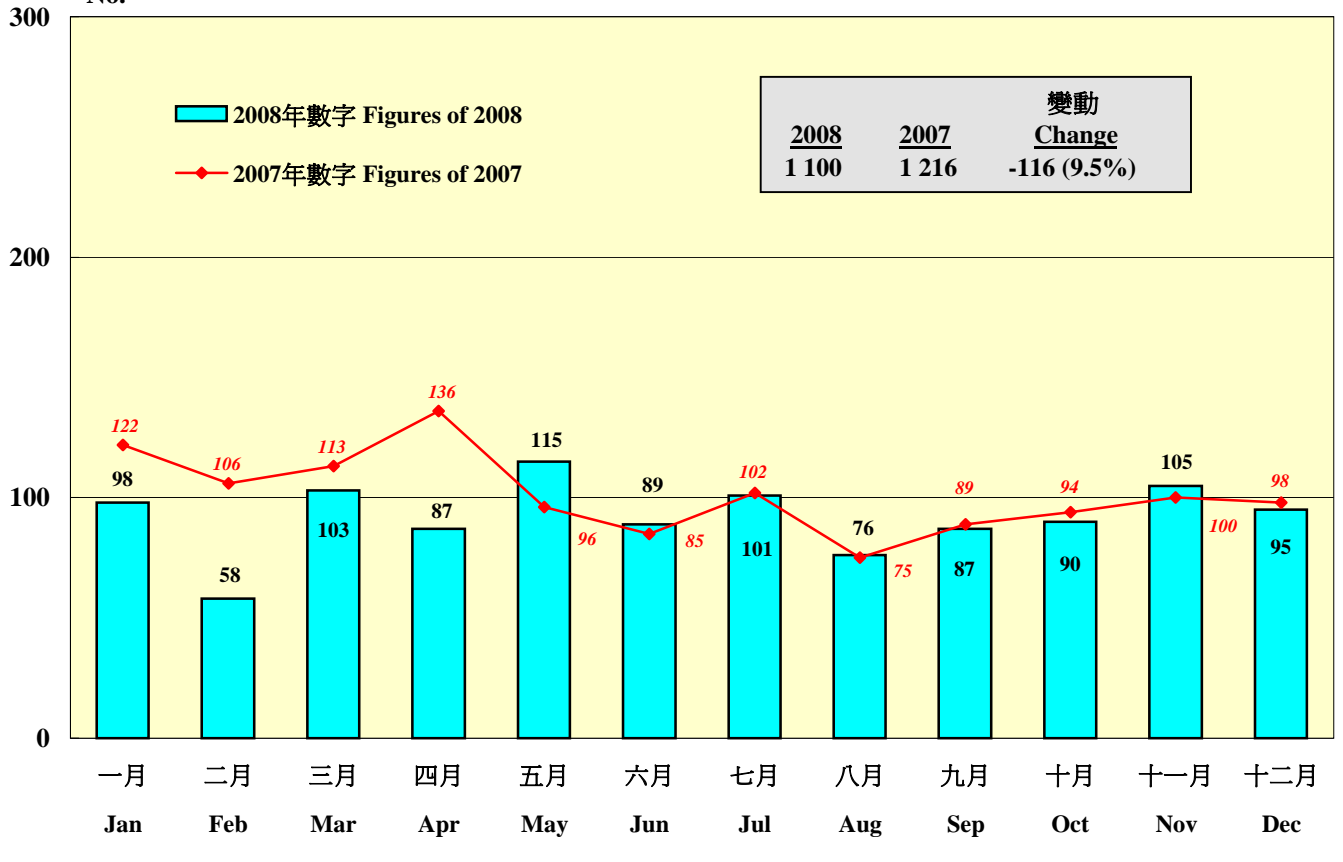
2008年舉報的暴力罪案如下：

Violent crimes reported in 2008 are as follows:

	2008	2007	變動 Change
兇殺 Homicide	36	18	+ 18
行劫 Robbery	1 100	1 216	- 116
傷人/嚴重毆打 Wounding/Serious Assault	7 882	8 078	- 196
刑事恐嚇 Criminal Intimidation	1 934	1 960	- 26
勒索 Blackmail	309	407	- 98
縱火 Arson	784	794	- 10
強姦 Rape	105	107	- 2
非禮 Indecent Assault	1 381	1 390	- 9
其他 Others	898	964	- 66
<b>暴力罪案總數 Total Violent Crimes</b>	<b>14 429</b>	<b>14 934</b>	<b>- 505</b>

## 行劫案 ROBBERY

宗數  
No.

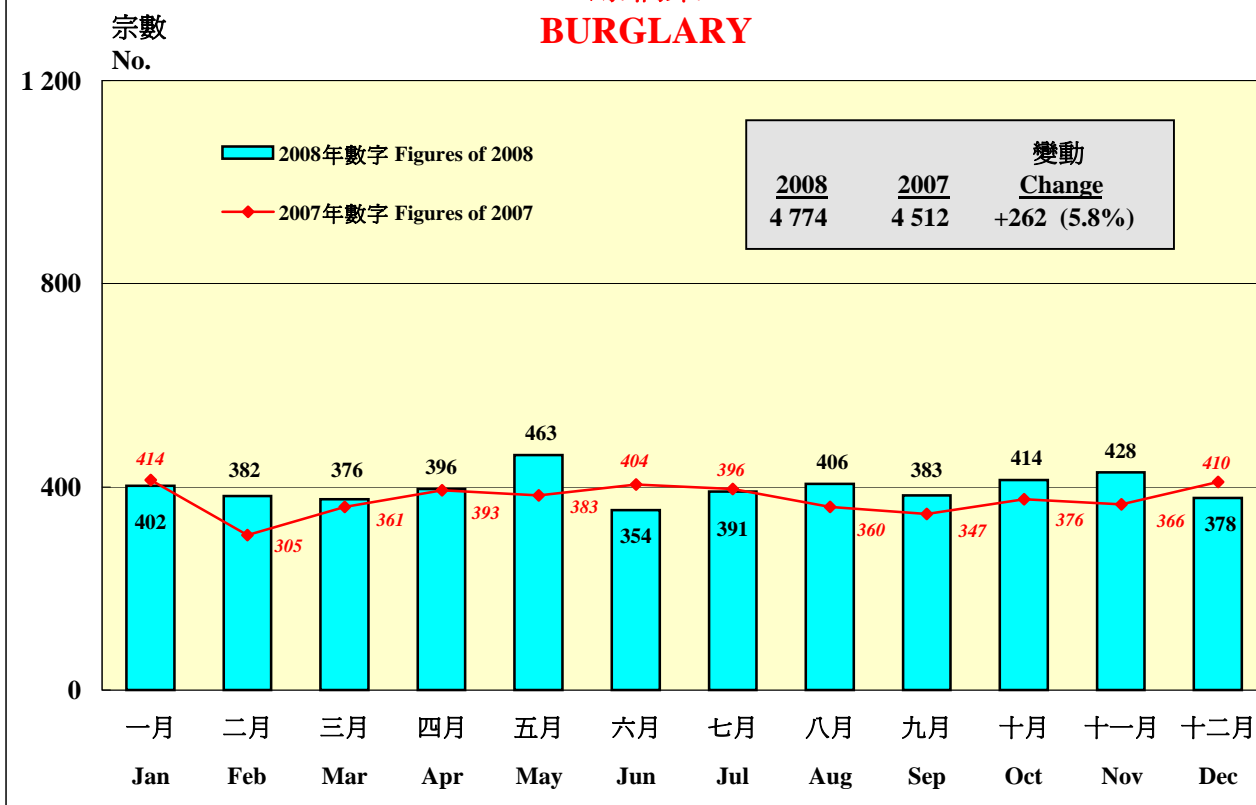


	2008	2007	變動 Change
行劫案總數 TOTAL ROBBERIES	1 100	1 216	- 116
金舖和鐘錶店 Goldsmith & Watch Shops	5	7	- 2
銀行 Banks	10	8	+ 2
持真槍 With Firearms	-	-	-
持電槍 With Stun Guns	-	2	- 2
持類似手槍 <sup>#</sup> With Pistol-like Objects <sup>#</sup>	22	21	+ 1

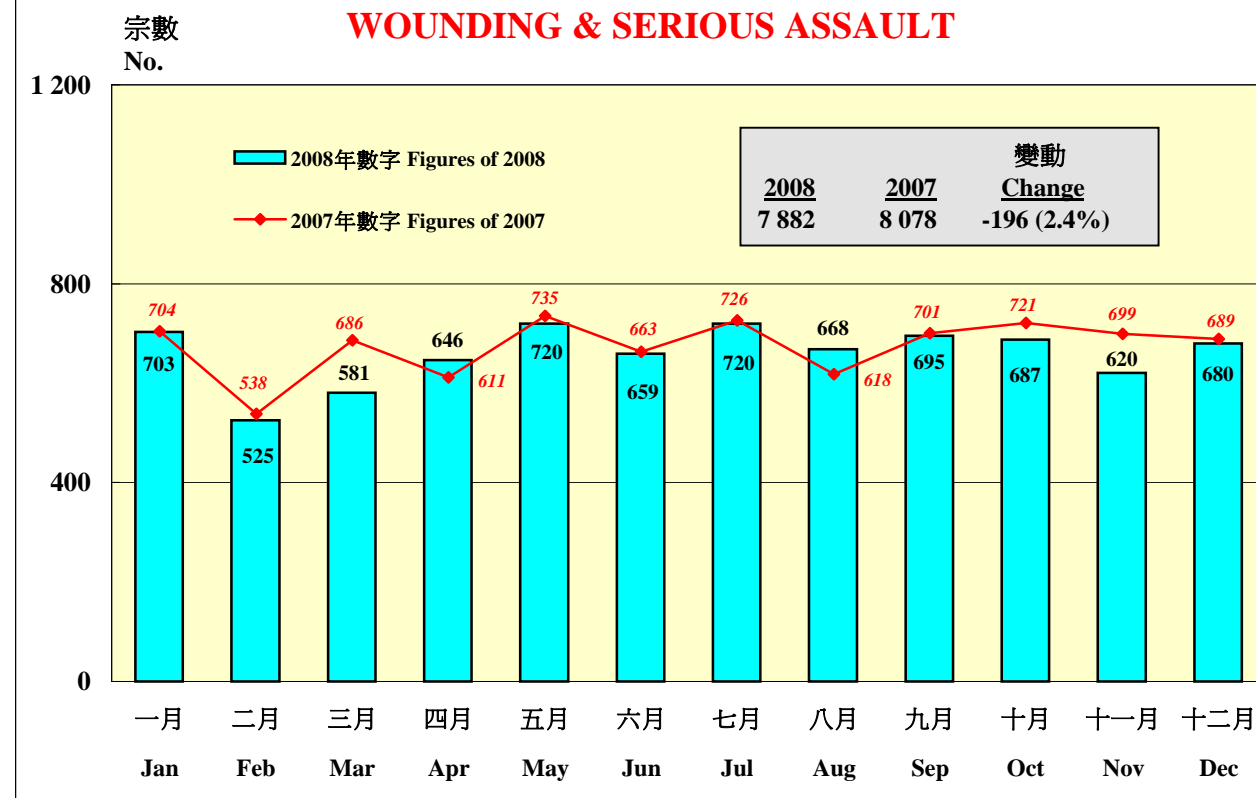
<sup>#</sup> 涉案的類似手槍可能是真槍或做製槍械。由於槍枝未經使用及沒有被檢獲，因此不可列為真槍。

<sup>#</sup> Pistol-like objects involved may be genuine or imitation firearms. They are not classified as firearms because they have not been used / seized.

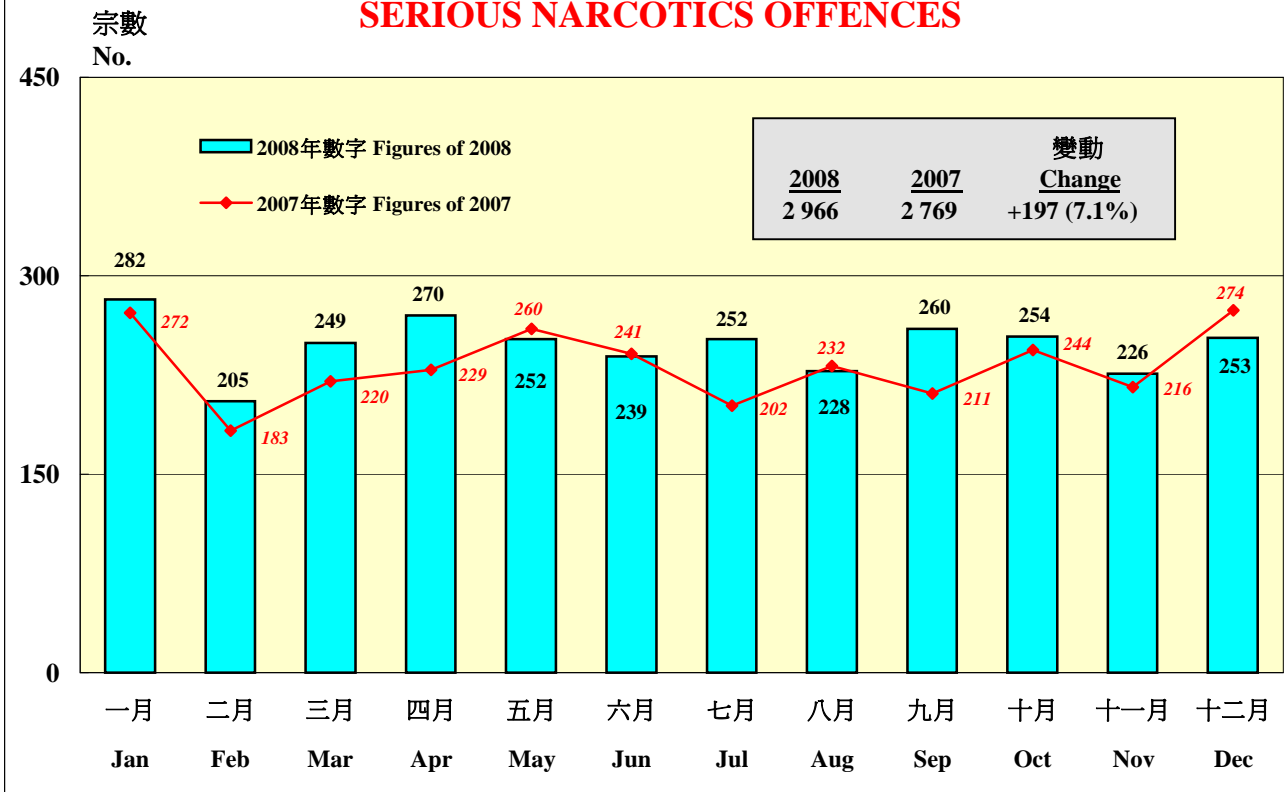
## 爆竊案 BURGLARY



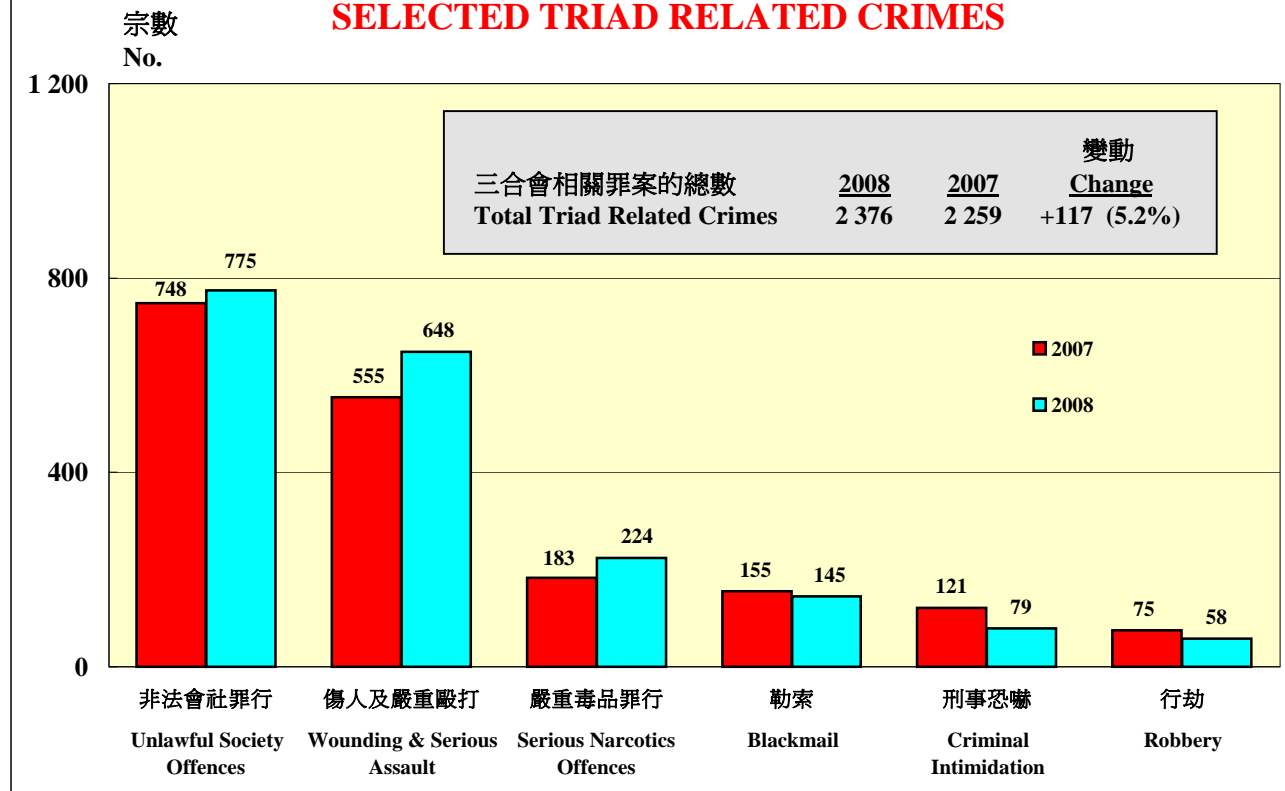
## 傷人及嚴重毆打案 WOUNDING & SERIOUS ASSAULT



## 嚴重毒品罪行 SERIOUS NARCOTICS OFFENCES

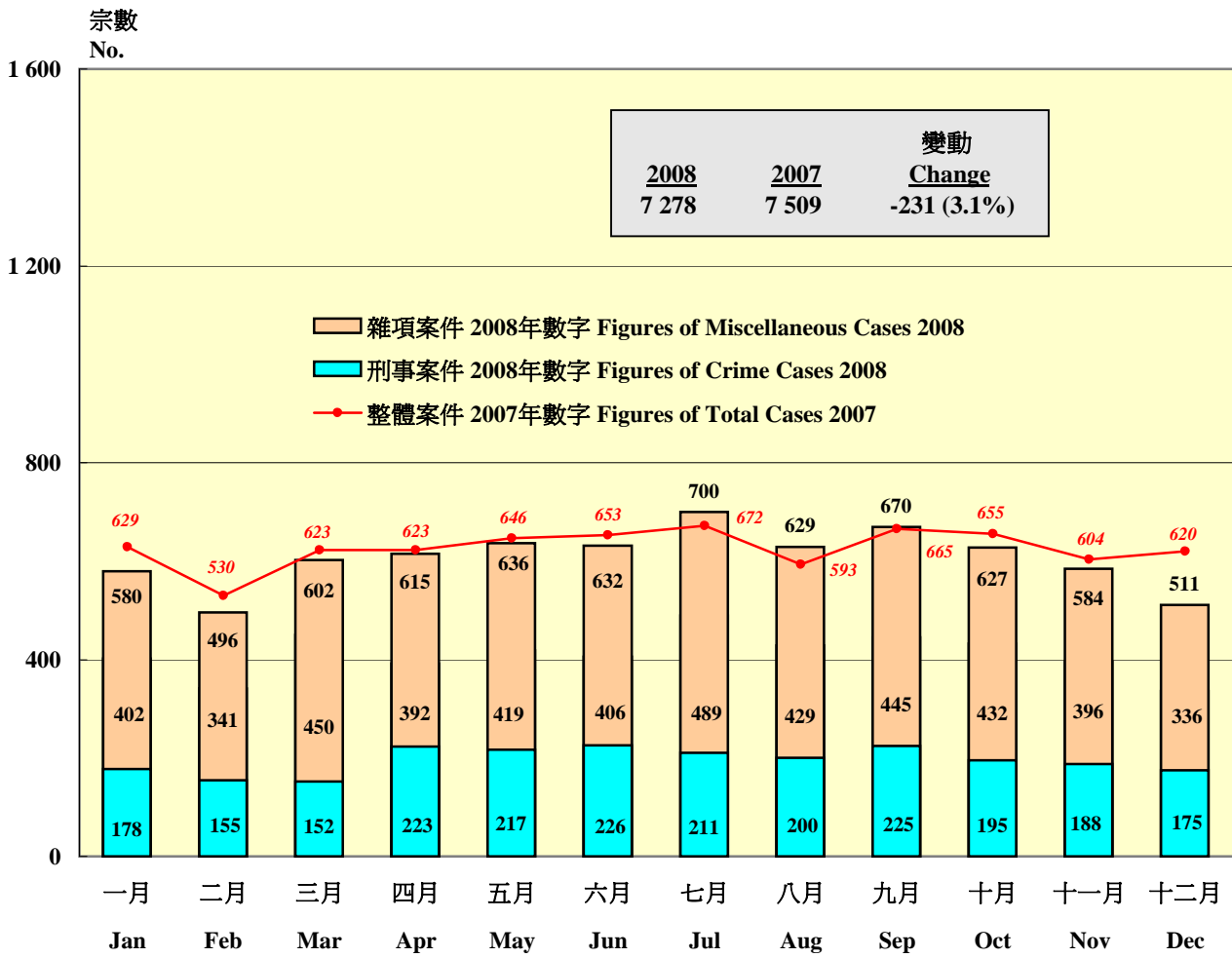


## 三合會相關罪案 SELECTED TRIAD RELATED CRIMES

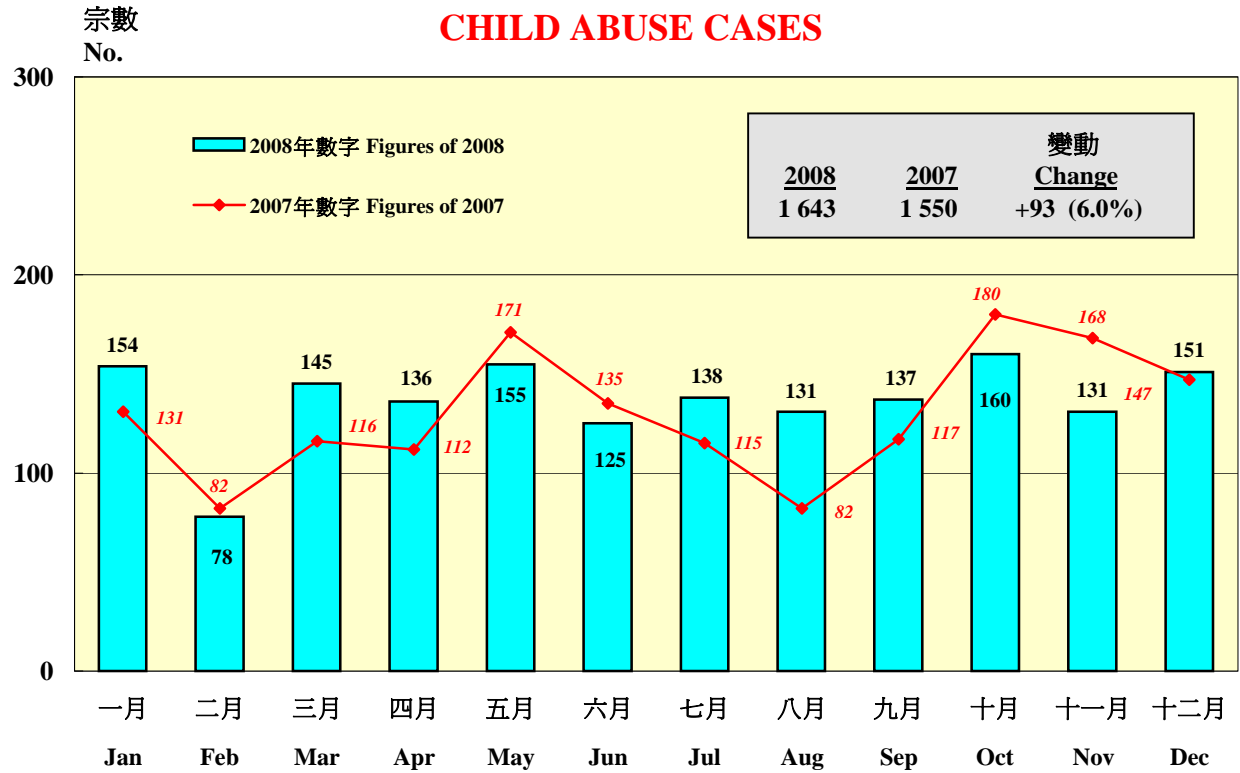




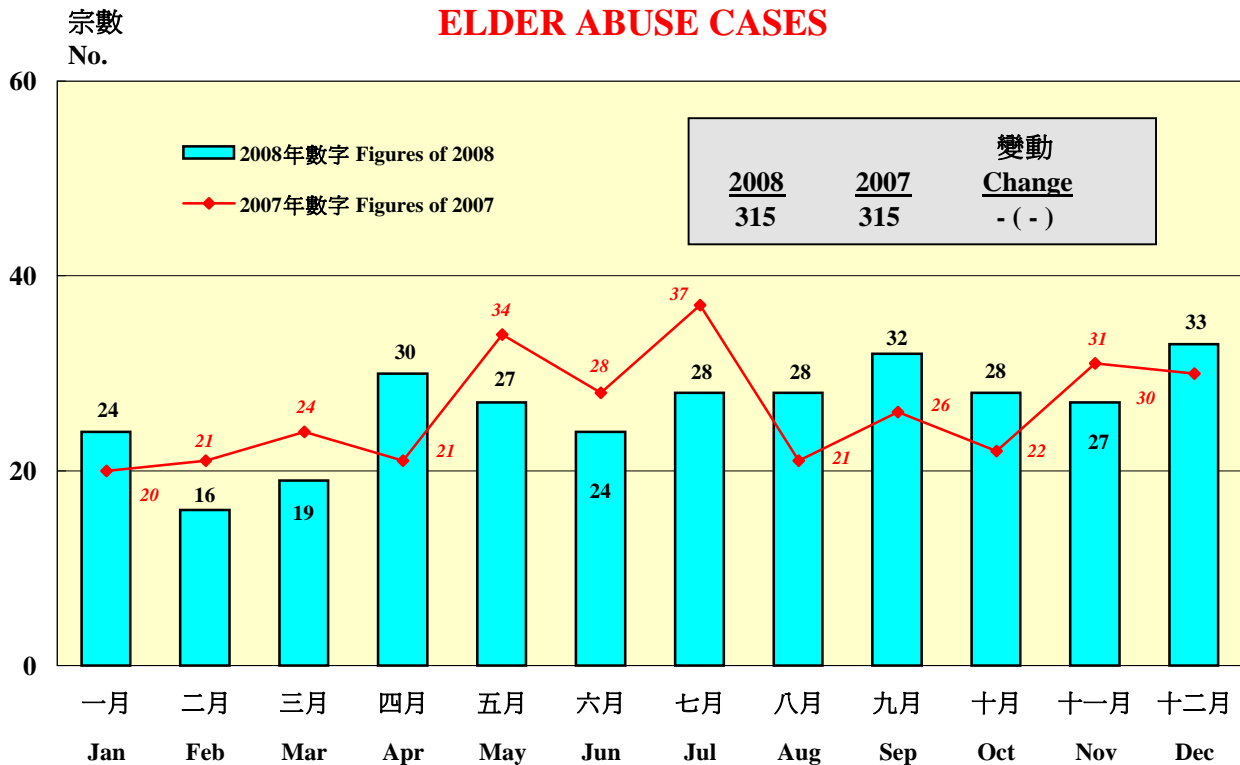
## 家庭暴力案 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES

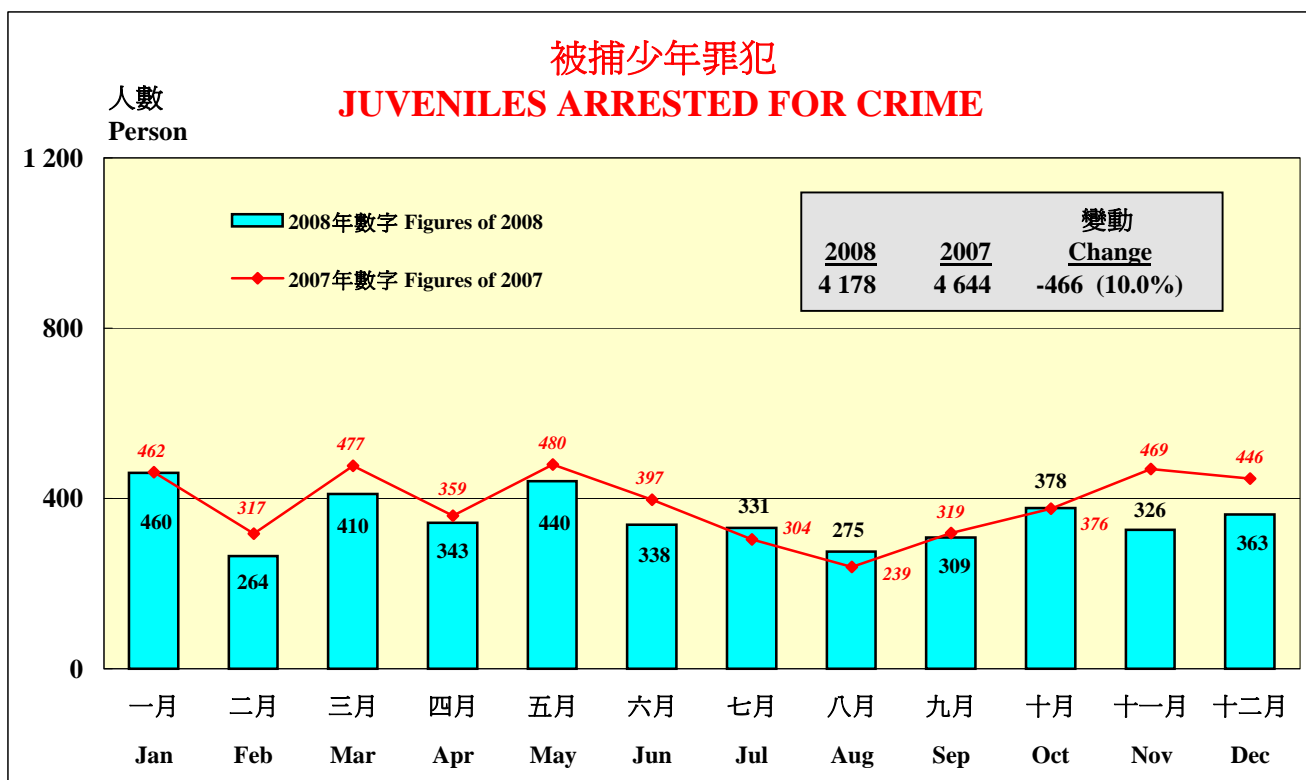


## 虐兒案 CHILD ABUSE CASES

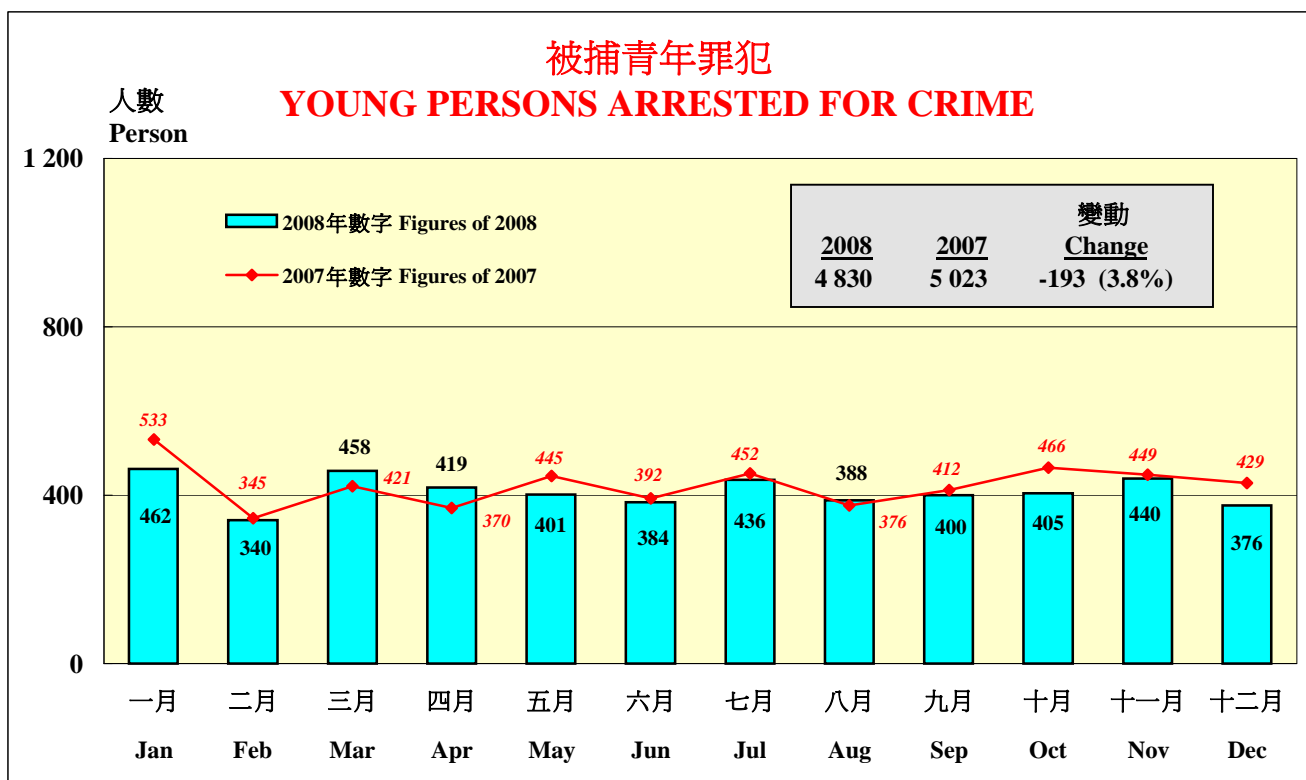


## 虐老案 ELDER ABUSE CASES



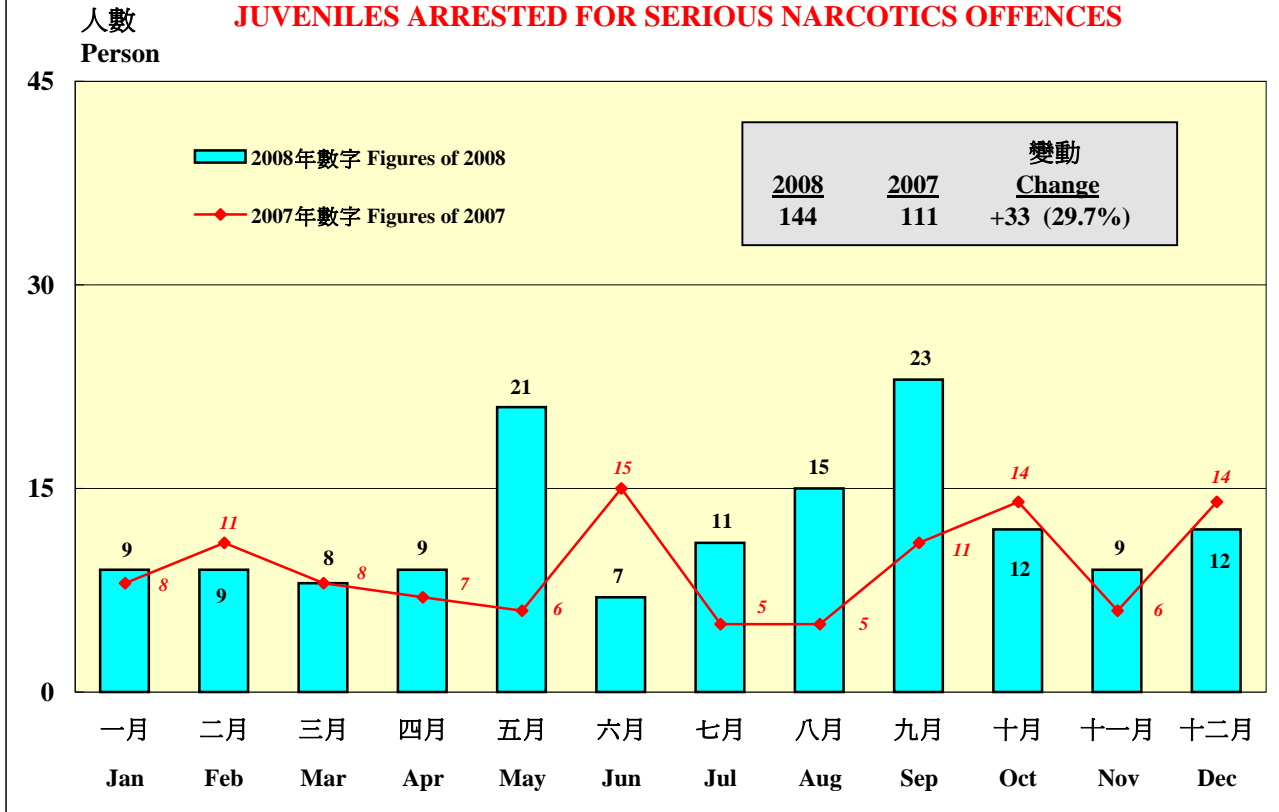


註：少年罪犯年齡是10-15歲。涉案多數是店舖盜竊、雜項盜竊、傷人及嚴重毆打及行劫。  
 Note: Juveniles refer to those aged 10-15. The most prevalent offences were shop theft, miscellaneous thefts, wounding and serious assault, and robbery.

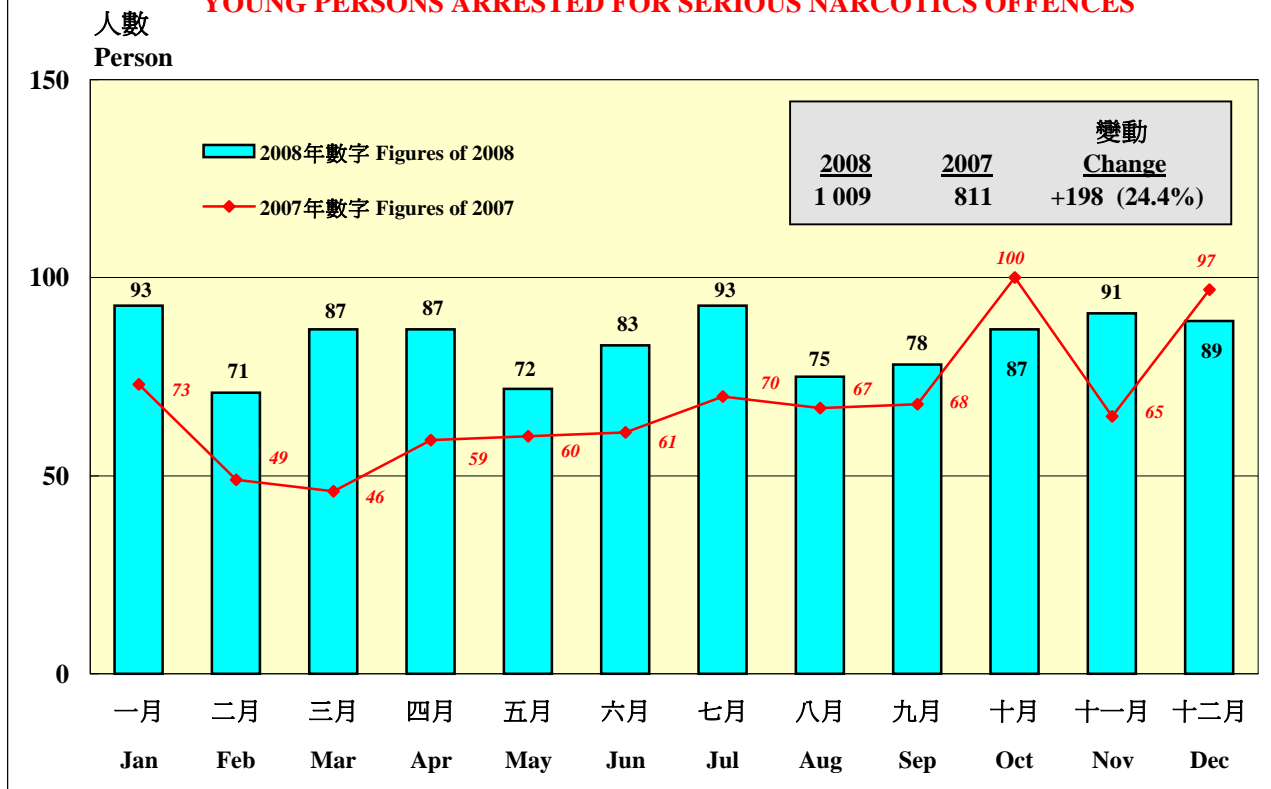


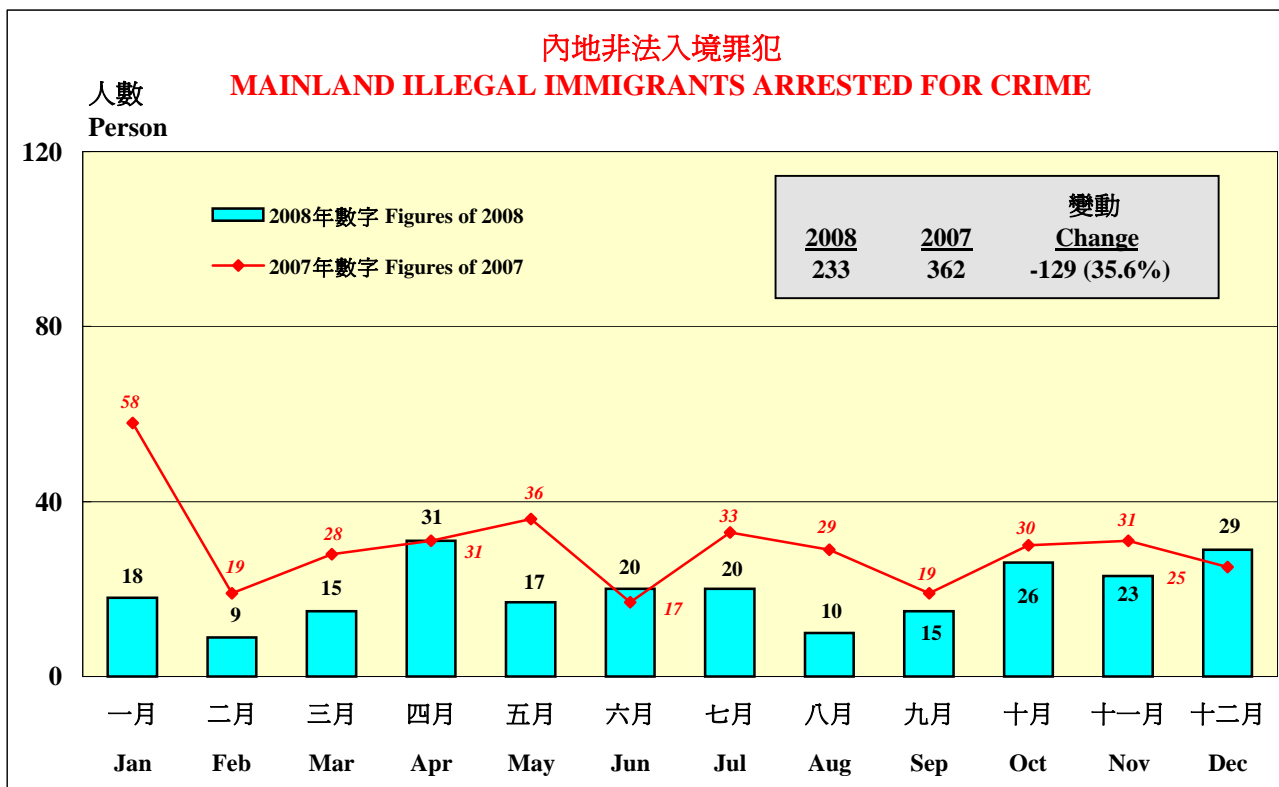
註：青年罪犯年齡是16-20歲。涉案多數是嚴重毒品罪行、傷人及嚴重毆打、雜項盜竊及店舖盜竊。  
 Note: Young persons refer to those aged 16-20. The most prevalent offences were serious narcotics offences, wounding and serious assault, miscellaneous thefts, and shop theft.

因干犯嚴重毒品罪行而被捕的少年罪犯  
**JUVENILES ARRESTED FOR SERIOUS NARCOTICS OFFENCES**



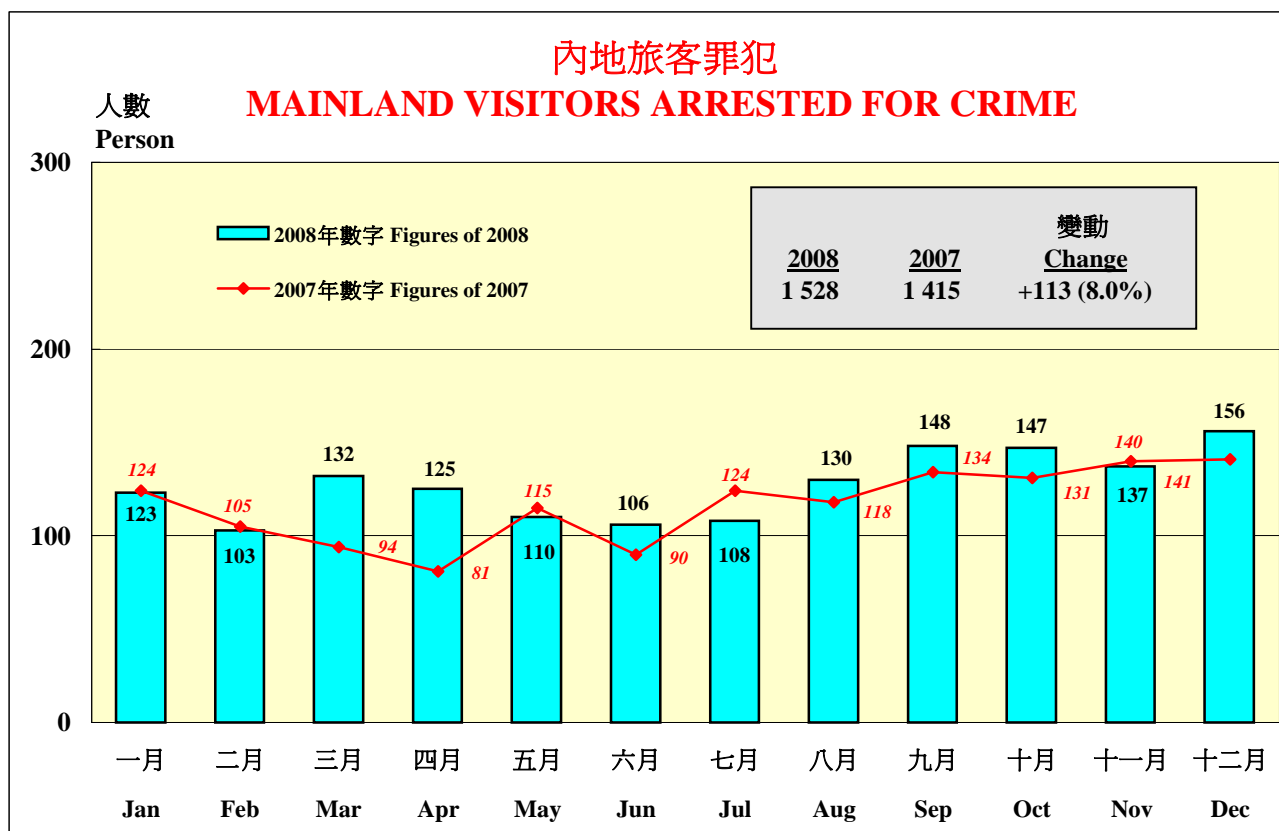
因干犯嚴重毒品罪行而被捕的青年罪犯  
**YOUNG PERSONS ARRESTED FOR SERIOUS NARCOTICS OFFENCES**





註： 涉案多數是嚴重非法入境罪行、雜項盜竊及偽造文件及假錢。

Note: The most prevalent offences were serious immigration offences, miscellaneous thefts, and forgery and coinage.



註： (一) 以上包括持雙程證、護照訪港人士和逾期居留旅客，但不包括內地非法入境者。

(二) 涉案多數是偽造文件及假錢、嚴重非法入境罪行及雜項盜竊。

Notes: (1) Including Two-way Permit, Passport holders and overstayed visitors, but excluding illegal immigrants.

(2) The most prevalent offences were forgery and coinage, serious immigration offences, and miscellaneous thefts.