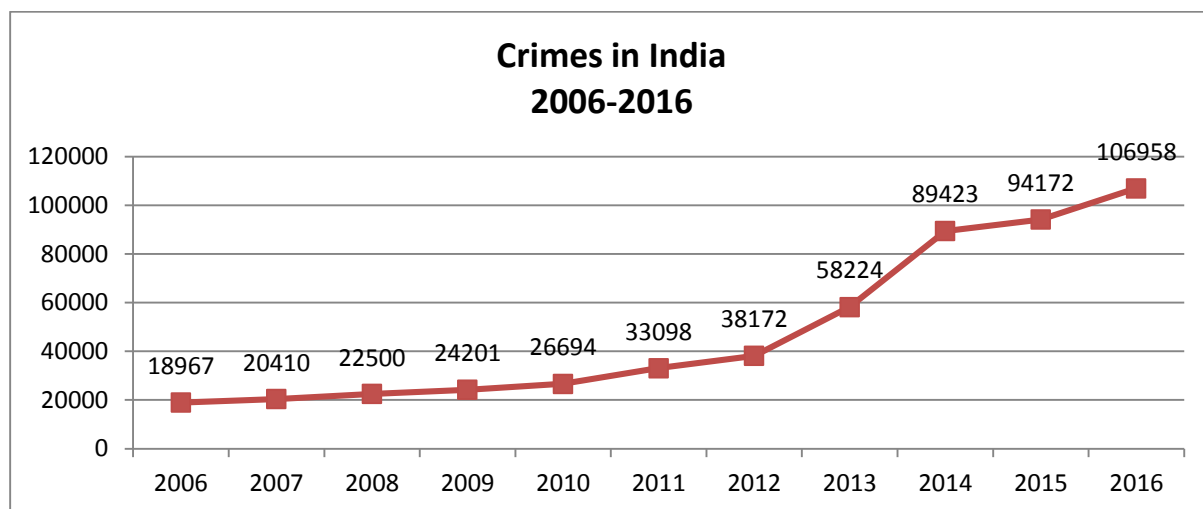


CRY Media release: Crime against Children 2017

Crime against Children Sees 11% Increase In One Year : Kidnap and Rape at the Top

New Delhi, 6th December: Crime against children in India has increased by a sharp 11% between 2015 and 2016, as freshly released NCRB data suggests. Going by absolute numbers, it's an increase of 12,786 reported crimes against children across the country. The total number of crimes against children reported in 2016 is 106958, while 94172 crimes were recorded in 2015.

This however does not come as a surprise, as a cumulative analysis done by **CRY – Child rights and You** shows a steady upward trend with a significant increase of more than 500% over a period of the past one decade (1,06,958 in 2016 over 18,967 in 2006). Further retrospective comparison within the mentioned timeframe points at a sharper rate of increase in the latter quadrennium (2012 to 2016) than that recorded in the former lustrum (2006 to 2011).

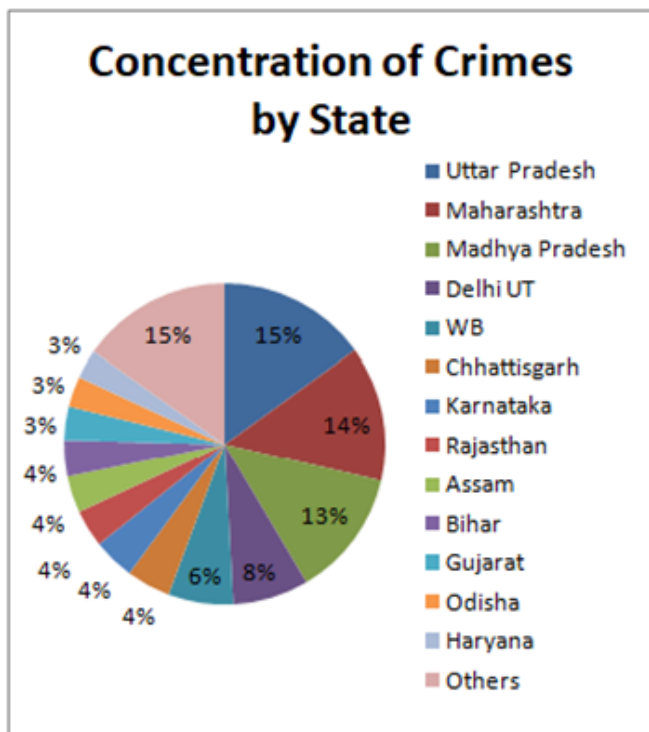


Komal Ganotra, Director Policy & Advocacy at CRY said, “While this steep rise in numbers might have been the result of increased awareness among the people at large and the law enforcing agencies in recording crimes, it also indicates that children have become increasingly exposed to the risk of becoming victims in recent years.”

Looking at the concentration of reported incidents across the states, more than 50% of crimes against children have been recorded in just five states, namely Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi UT and West Bengal. While Uttar Pradesh tops the list with 15% of recorded crimes against children, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh closely follow with 14% and 13% respectively.

Going by the nature of crimes and categories those were booked under, Kidnapping and Abduction clearly tops the lists with almost half of the total crimes (48.9%, number of crimes 52,253) as recorded in 2016. The next biggest category of crime against children in terms of number of booking is rape, amounting to more than 18% of all crimes against children, while all crimes under POCSO Act constitutes around 33% of total crimes¹. Further analysis suggests that Uttar Pradesh recorded maximum number of crimes under the categories of ‘Kidnapping & Abduction’ and ‘POCSO Act’; as in both these categories Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh stand in the second and third slot respectively.

¹ Crimes under POCSO Act include primarily Rape, sexual Assault against children, sexual harassment and child pornography amongst others.



STATE-WISE DATA – statewise data for top 5 states in Kidnapping & Abduction of children

	State	Number of Crimes 2016	Rate of Crime
1.	UP	9657	10.9
2.	Maharashtra	7956	21
3.	MP	6016	20
4.	Delhi	5935	106
5.	WB	4178	14.2
	India	52253	12.3

STATE-WISE DATA – statewise data for top 5 states in Child Rape

	State	Number of Cases 2016	Rate
1	MP	2467	8.1
2	Maharashtra	2292	6.1
3	UP	2115	2.4
4	Odisha	1258	9
5	TN	1169	5.8
	India	19765	4.4

A new chapter on ‘Missing Persons and Children’ which has been included in this year’s NCRB release in compliance with the Supreme Court directives, shows that a total of 1,11,569 children (41,175 boys and 70,394 girls) were reported to have been missing. The maximum cases were reported from West Bengal (15.1%) during 2016. A total of 55,944 children were traced at the end of the year (including previous year) in the country.

Komal Ganotra, Director, Policy & Advocacy at CRY said, “Going by the current trend reflected in the Government data, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh along with some other states continue to show worrying trends in the magnitude of crime against children. Also, this is a grim reminder of the fact that we, as a country, do not have proper prevention mechanisms in place to address the issue of child protection, nor are we keen on building more empathetic understanding and intervention plans adequately backed up by sustained investment on child security.”

Elaborating on the way forward on tackling increasing crime rate against children Komal added, “Child protection in our country cannot be ensured with just having legislations and numerous guidelines. We as country need to commit in cultivating a culture of zero tolerance to violence against children. We should be vigilant and cognizant of the fact that children are at risk with gaps in infrastructure, processes and systems as well as people. It is non-negotiable for the state and other duty bearers to equip themselves in recognising these risks and put robust systems and processes to assess and eliminate the same.”

Note to the Editor:

CRY – Child Rights and You (formerly known as Child Relief and You) is an Indian NGO that believes in every child’s right to a childhood – to live, to learn, grow and play. For over 30 years, CRY and its partners have worked with parents and communities to ensure Lasting Change in the lives of more than 20 Lakh underprivileged children. For more information please visit us at www.cry.org. For media enquiries contact: **Abhik Bhattacharya, Media Advocacy, CRY, email id:** abhik.bhattacharya@crymail.org, **phone no:** +91 9051668304