

MURDER OF INNOCENCE

The latest NCRB report reveals a shocking rise in the number of rapes and other crimes against children. By Ramesh Chakrapani

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Data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) for 2016 reveal that the total number of crimes against children, including sexual offences, rose to 1,06,958 from 94,172 in 2015 and 89,423 in 2014. The crime rate, as a result, also rose to 24.0 from 21.1 in 2015 and 20.1 in 2014.

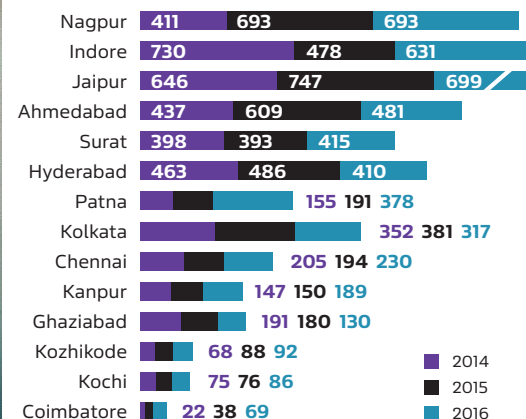
Crimes under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, (POCSO) totalled 36,022, with the largest number from Uttar Pradesh (4,954), followed by Maharashtra (4,815) and Madhya Pradesh (4,717). The three States also topped in the number of cases of kidnapping and abduction, which numbered 54,723 for the whole country, with Uttar Pradesh registering 9,657 cases, Maharashtra 7,956 and Madhya Pradesh 6,016.

The number of child rapes in 2016, at 19,765, was nearly double the 2015 figure of 10,854. In crimes of a sexual nature, the number of convictions was significantly low. In 2016, 42,196 persons were arrested for sexual offences against children, but the number of convictions totalled only 3,859 and 9,111 persons were acquitted. In the case of child rapes, 24,007 persons were arrested; 2,241 were convicted and 5,693 were acquitted.

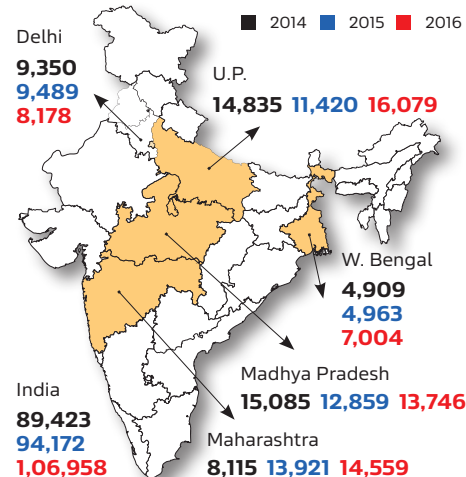
Among metropolitan cities, Delhi had the record in the number of crimes against children, although it has been witnessing a slight decline in the past three years. It was followed by Mumbai, Bengaluru, Pune and Lucknow (which saw a 582 per cent jump from 2015).

Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Odisha were the top five States in the number of sexual offences against children. Madhya Pradesh registered the highest number of child rape victims (2,479), followed by Maharashtra (2,333), Uttar Pradesh (2,115), Odisha (1,258) and West Bengal (719).

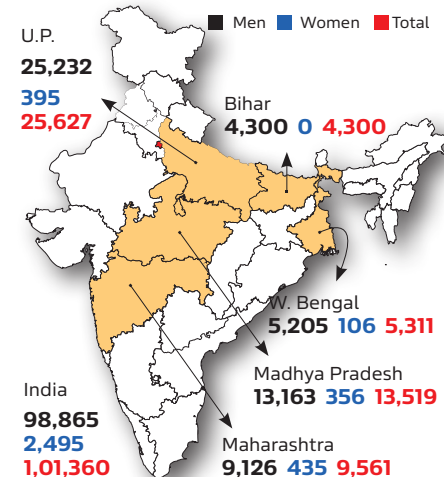
Crimes against children in cities across India 2014-2016



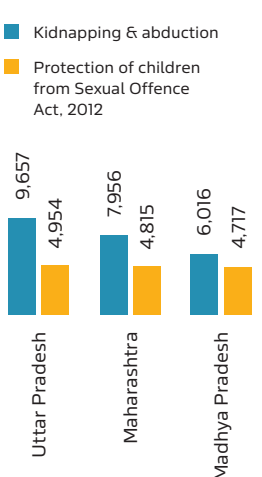
Crimes against children in 2014-2016 top States in number



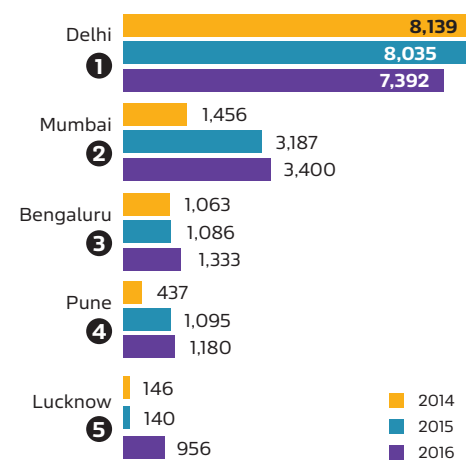
Persons arrested for crimes against children in 2016 top States



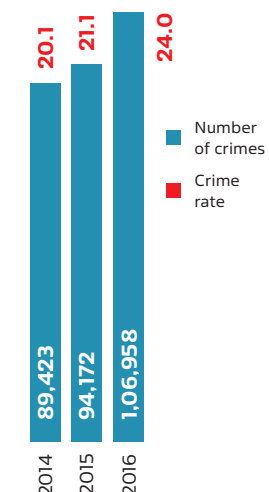
Crimes against children in 2016



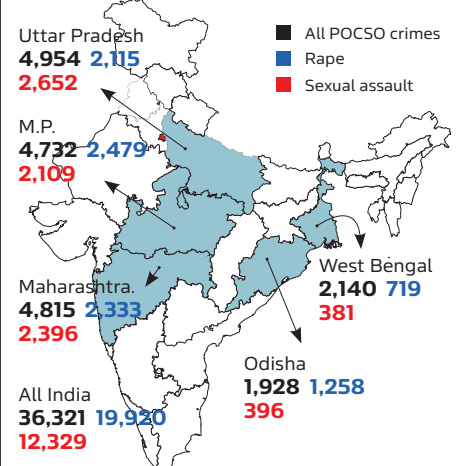
Crimes against children: Top five cities



Crimes against children



Victims of sexual offences in 2016 worst offenders among States



Convictions and acquittals in all crimes against children 2016 top States

State	Persons convicted			Persons acquitted		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Madhya Pradesh	2,171	29	2,200	4,998	104	5,102
Uttar Pradesh	2,542	29	2,571	2,448	41	2,489
Chhattisgarh	1,006	29	1,035	1,312	42	1,354
Tamil Nadu	671	21	692	1,110	45	1,155
India	8,973	145	9,118	20,149	472	20,621

Convictions and acquittals in sexual offences against children (2016) All India

Crime	Persons convicted			Persons acquitted		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Rape	2,230	11	2,241	5,612	81	5,693
Sexual assault	1,352	4	1,356	2,919	53	2,972
Sexual harrasment	25	0	25	134	2	136
Child pornography	2	0	2	7	0	7
Other POCSO section	232	3	235	295	8	303
Total	3,841	18	3,859	8,967	144	9,111

Sexual offences against children in metros (worst offenders) 2016

