

1. Macro-Trend Narrative

Over the five-year span (2020-2024) the total number of recorded offences more than doubled, rising from **37 k** in 2020 to **76 k** in 2024. This growth is almost entirely driven by cyber-related scams, which surged **+214 %** (from 17.8 k to 55.8 k). Physical crime remained essentially flat, fluctuating around the 20 k mark (+2 % over the period).

Takeaway: The threat landscape has shifted dramatically toward the digital sphere; the SPF's resource allocation must reflect this structural change.

2. Crime-Category Deep Dive

Category (2024)	Cases	Share of Total
Scams & Cybercrime	55,810	≈ 74 %
Physical Crime	19,969	≈ 26 %

Even though physical crimes constitute just a quarter of total incidents, they continue to dominate the “preventable” segment (robbery, housebreaking, snatch theft, motor-vehicle theft, outrage of modesty).

3. Geographic Concentration of Preventable Crimes

The seven Neighbourhood Police Centres (NPCs) together recorded **1,408** preventable offences. Two divisions—**Central** (238 cases) and **Tanglin** (227 cases)—account for **≈ 33 %** of this subset despite covering a relatively small residential footprint.

Insight: High-density commercial and nightlife zones within these divisions likely amplify opportunistic crimes. Targeted patrols and community-engagement programmes in these hotspots could yield disproportionate reductions in overall preventable crime rates.

4. Demographic Profile of Arrests

- **Residency:** Singapore citizens/permanent residents make up **70 %** of arrests, while foreigners represent **≈ 30 %**, a figure that exceeds their share of the resident population (≈ 15 %).
- **Age:** Adults aged **21 years and older** account for **≈ 80 %** of arrests; minors (≤ 21) comprise the remaining **≈ 20 %**.

Interpretation: The over-representation of foreign nationals suggests either a higher propensity for certain offences or a policing bias that merits further investigation. Likewise, the adult-dominant arrest profile aligns with the nature of the recorded crimes (financial fraud, vehicle theft, etc.).

5. Temporal Evolution (Line-Trend Synopsis)

A simple line visual of **total cases per year** shows a steep upward trajectory from 2020 to 2024, with the most pronounced jump occurring between **2022 (53.9 k)** and **2023 (70.3 k)**—the year when many new digital payment platforms were introduced locally.

Implication: Technological adoption cycles appear correlated with spikes in cyber-fraud, indicating an opportunity for pre-emptive public-awareness campaigns aligned with major platform roll-outs.

6. Key Insights for the SPF

1. **Digital-First Policing** – Allocate additional investigative units and forensic analysts to cyber-crime squads; invest in real-time threat-intelligence feeds to stay ahead of emerging scam vectors.
 2. **Hotspot-Focused Deterrence** – Deploy mobile “pop-up” police stations and increased foot patrols in Central and Tanglin NPCs during peak evening hours; partner with local businesses for joint surveillance initiatives.
 3. **Targeted Community Outreach** – Launch bilingual awareness drives aimed at foreign-resident communities, emphasizing reporting mechanisms and preventive hygiene for financial transactions.
 4. **Youth Intervention Programs** – Since a fifth of arrests involve individuals ≤ 21 years, expand school-based digital-literacy curricula and mentorship schemes that steer young people away from online fraud networks.
 5. **Data-Driven Resource Planning** – Integrate the crime-trend line into the SPF’s existing command-center dashboards, allowing senior officers to forecast workload spikes and adjust staffing levels proactively.
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7. Closing Thought

The 2024 dataset tells a clear story: **digital fraud is now the dominant threat**, while **traditional street crimes remain clustered in specific urban pockets**. By leveraging data-driven insights—focusing enforcement where it matters most and tailoring community outreach to the demographics most affected—the Singapore Police Force can enhance both deterrence and public confidence in a rapidly evolving security environment.