

AUSTRALIAN CRIME



FACTS AND FIGURES 2000



AUSTRALIAN
INSTITUTE OF
CRIMINOLOGY

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Extraction of data and preparation of text: Glenn Muscat

Supervision and review: Carlos Carcach

Note

Because of rounding, some percentages may not add up to 100.

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Foreword

This compendium of the most recent available national information on crime in Australia is intended to serve as a ready reference. The number of different types of recorded crimes, their place of occurrence, victim details, responses of criminal justice agencies, and government resources directed to deal with crime are covered. A new addition this year is results from the 2000 International Crime Victims Survey, which is presented in Part 1 as 'Volume of crime'.

While the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) has been collecting data for the past 27 years, it is only since 1993 that Australia has had comparative statistics on recorded crimes for some major crimes, and only since 1996 that a limited set of statistics on cases/defendants processed in courts has become available.

It must be noted that crimes recorded by the police do not reflect the true level of crime in Australia. Crime and safety surveys in Australia and crime victims surveys from overseas clearly show that only about 40% of crimes are reported to the police by the victims.

Crime and the administration of justice are the responsibility of each State and Territory Government and their agencies publish State or Territory-based reports. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) attempts to provide a national picture and in recent years has produced a number of reports on crime-related issues. The data here comprise national figures only, with some minor exceptions. Should readers want State-based data they should visit the AIC web site or contact the Institute.

The AIC prepares materials containing the latest data on crime and justice issues and produces a number of publications on a wide range of issues. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Institute (see back cover).

Adam Graycar
Director

March 2001

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Police recorded crimes do not reflect the totality of crimes in Australia. Police become aware of a fraction of all crimes, and only a portion of all reported crime is recorded as such in police systems. Since the 1970s, most industrialised countries have conducted crime victimisation surveys to estimate the true extent of crime. The information gleaned from these surveys supplements the statistics produced by police services.

In Australia, four such surveys have been conducted by the ABS, of which *Crime and Safety Australia 1998* is the latest. The ABS plans to conduct the next national survey in April 2002.

International Crime Victims Survey

Australia participates in the International Crime Victims Survey (ICVS), which was first conducted in 1989 and repeated in 1992, 1996 and 2000. Australia did not take part in the 1996 survey.

The ICVS is a fully standardised survey conducted in a number of countries around the world that enables international comparisons of crime victimisation and attitudes toward crime and the criminal justice system. Seventeen industrialised countries participated in the 2000 ICVS. The Australian Institute of Criminology coordinated the Australian component of the survey.

The Australian component of the ICVS was conducted in March 2000 and collected data about experiences of victimisation for the following offences:

Household offences

- break and enter (attempted and completed);
- motor vehicle theft;
- motor vehicle damage; and
- theft from motor vehicle.

Personal offences

- robbery;
- assault;
- sexual offences (rape, attempted rape, indecent assault and offensive sexual behaviours); and
- theft from the person.

There are some differences between the ABS crime victims survey and the 2000 ICVS. Unlike the ABS survey, the ICVS has a much smaller sample size (3 031) and lower response rate (56%). The ICVS uses Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) as the data collection methodology. Residents of private dwellings aged 16 years and over were in the scope of the survey.

Table 1 contains data on the number of victims per 100 persons or households, also known as prevalence rates, and numbers of incidents per 100 persons or households, also known as incidence rates as estimated by the 2000 ICVS. As some persons (households) are victimised on more than one occasion, incidence rates will often be higher than prevalence rates.

Table 1
Victims of selected household and personal crimes, 1999
Number of victims (prevalence) and number of incidents per 100 relevant population

Offence	Prevalence rate (%)	Incidence rate (%)
Break-in	4.3	5.9
Attempted break-in	3.4	4.4
Break-in/attempted break-in	7.1	10.1
Motor vehicle theft	1.7	1.8
Motor vehicle damage	9.0	11.6
Theft from motor vehicle	6.3	8.6
Total household victims	20.6	31.5
Robbery	0.7	1.8
Assault	7.8	12.9
Sexual assault ¹	1.3	3.3
Other sexual offences ²	5.6	14.9
Theft from the person	7.4	10.2
Total personal victims	16.1	33.6

⁽¹⁾ Rape/attempted rape and indecent assault of females aged 18 years and over.

⁽²⁾ Non-assaultive sexual offences of females aged 18 years and over.

■ **The most commonly mentioned personal crimes were assault and theft from the person.**

■ **Persons most at risk from these two types of offences included young people, never married**

persons, students and those who regularly go out in the evening for the purposes of entertainment.

- **The most common household crime was motor vehicle damage, followed by residential burglary, with 9% and 7% of households, respectively, being victims at least once.**
- **One in three persons (households) experienced an incident of personal (household) crime in 1999.**

Repeat victimisation

Repeat victimisation refers to a person or household being a victim of the same offence on more than one occasion during 1999.

There was a total of 2 204 517 incidents of household crime compared to 1 356 247 victims, and 4 700 949 incidents of personal crime compared to 2 246 572 victims, indicating that many victims suffer repeated incidents of crime.

Table 2
Percentage of repeat victims, 1999

Offence	Victimised more than once in 1999 (%)
Break-in	19.5
Attempted break-in	17.4
Motor vehicle theft	8.0
Motor vehicle damage	21.8
Theft from motor vehicle	23.7
Robbery	20.3
Assault	29.0
Sexual assault ¹	45.3
Other sexual offences ²	60.9
Theft from the person	20.9

(1) and (2): See Table 1.

- **For personal offences, repeat victimisation was highest for sexual offences, with 45% of sexual assault victims and 61% of other sexual offence victims reporting more than one incident in 1999.**
- **Of the motor vehicle-related offences, victims of motor vehicle theft were less likely to be repeat**

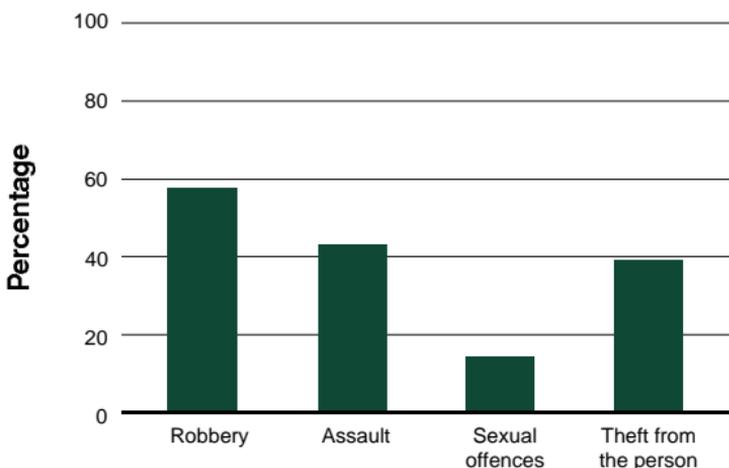
victims than those who were victims of the other two types of vehicle crimes.

- About one in five victims of residential burglary reported being a victim of this offence on more than one occasion in 1999.

Reporting crime

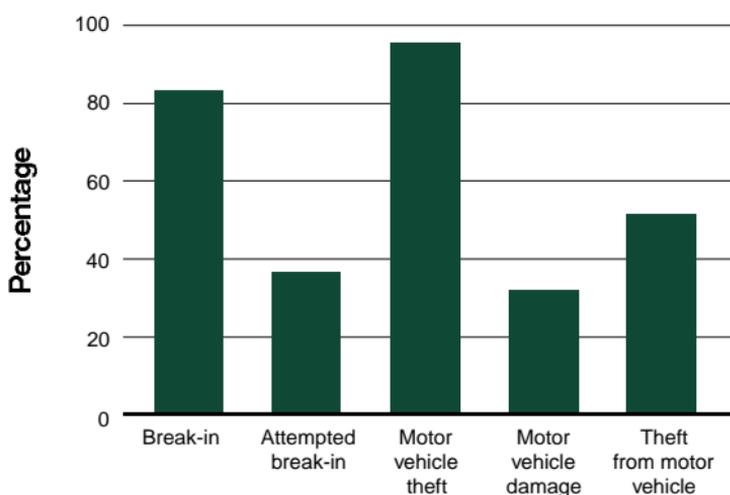
It is well known that not all crime is reported to police, and rates of reporting vary depending on the type of offence, seriousness of incident and victim–offender relationship. In addition, police record only a portion of all reported crime.

Figure 1
Personal offences, percentage of incidents reported to police, Australia, 1999



- The highest rate of reporting was for robbery, with 57% of victims reporting the incident to police.
- Assault (43%) and theft from the person (39%) had similar rates of reporting.
- Only 15% of victims of sexual offences reported the incident to the police.

Figure 2
Household offences, percentage of incidents reported to police, Australia, 1999



- **The highest rate of reporting was for motor vehicle theft, with 96% of victims reporting the incident to police.**
- **The lowest rate of reporting was for motor vehicle damage (32%). This was the most common household offence, with one in 11 households being victims in 1999. It is likely that the majority of incidents were not of a serious nature.**
- **Most crimes were not reported to police because victims thought it was ‘too trivial/unimportant’, ‘there was nothing police could/would do’, or it was a ‘personal matter and they would take care of it themselves’.**

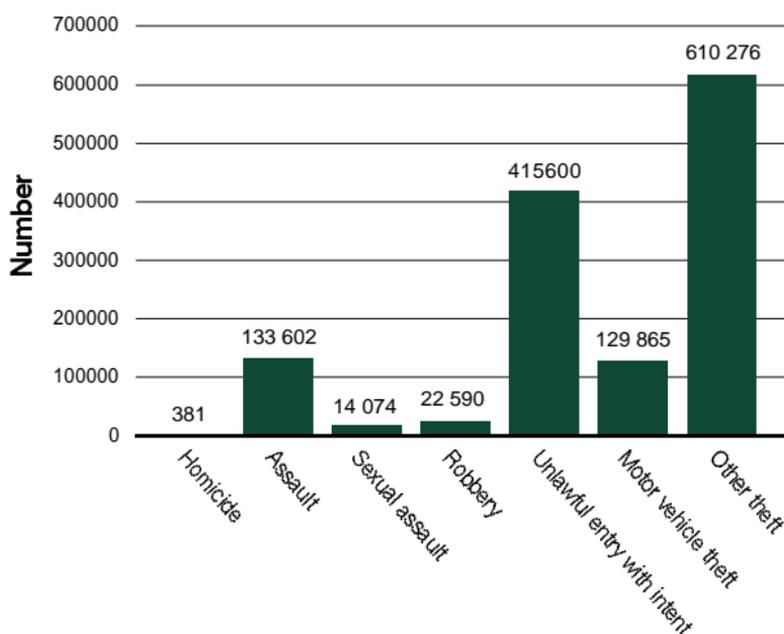
Source: Reference 1

Crimes known to police

Figure 3 shows the number of victims of criminal incidents recorded by police in 1999 for the following seven categories of major offences:

- homicide;
- assault;
- sexual assault;
- robbery;
- unlawful entry with intent;
- motor vehicle theft; and
- other theft.

Figure 3
Number of victims of crimes recorded by police, 1999

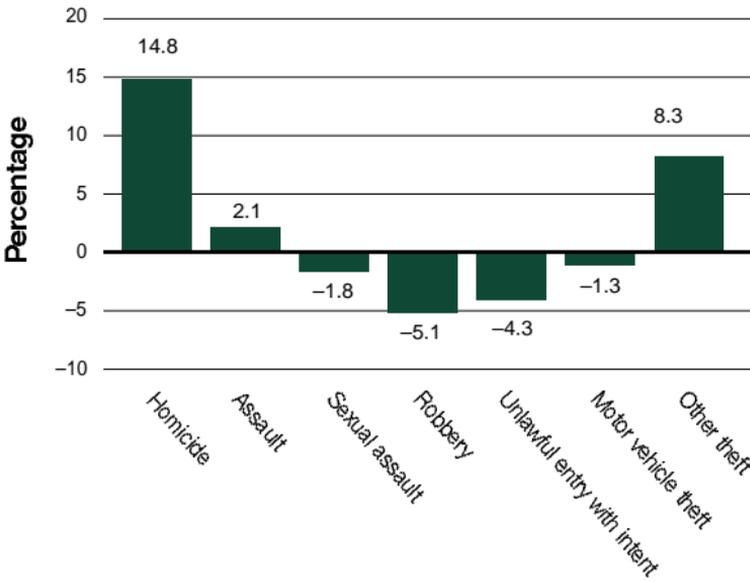


- Of these selected crime categories, ‘other theft’ (which includes offences such as pickpocketing, bag-snatching and shoplifting) continued to be the most commonly recorded crime, accounting for 46% of total victims (1998: 43%).
- The next most common offence was unlawful entry with intent, accounting for 31%, followed by assault and motor vehicle theft, both at 10%.

- Together, the selected property theft offences accounted for 87% of the seven major crimes.
- Assault continued to be the most commonly recorded violent crime.

Figure 4

Percentage change in the number of victims of crime recorded by police, 1999 compared to 1998

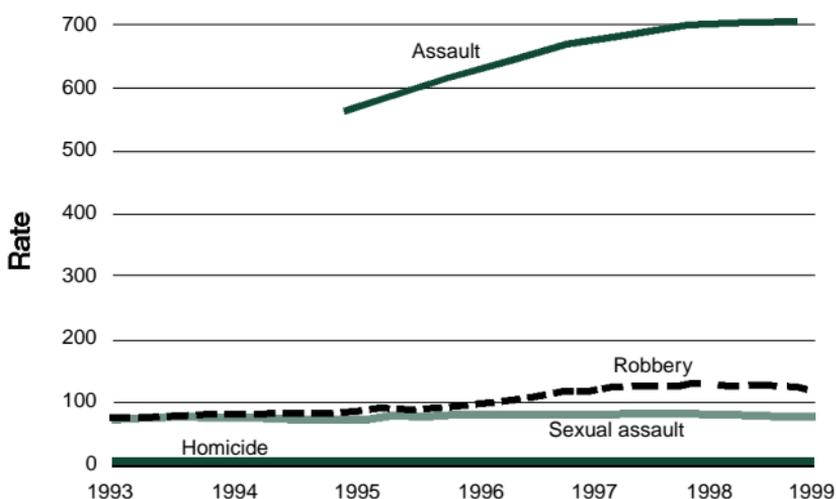


- Homicide recorded the largest percentage change in the number of recorded victims between 1998 and 1999. In 1999 there were 381 recorded victims of homicide compared to 332 in 1998, an increase of 15%.
- The 8% increase in victims of other theft between 1998 and 1999 represents an additional 46 794 recorded victims over this period.
- The largest percentage decrease in victim numbers was recorded for robbery (5%). In 1998 there were 23 801 recorded victims of robbery compared to 22 590 victims in 1999.

Violent crime

‘Violent crime’ comprises homicide, assault, sexual assault and robbery.

Figure 5
Violent crimes recorded by police, 1993–99
Rate per 100 000 population

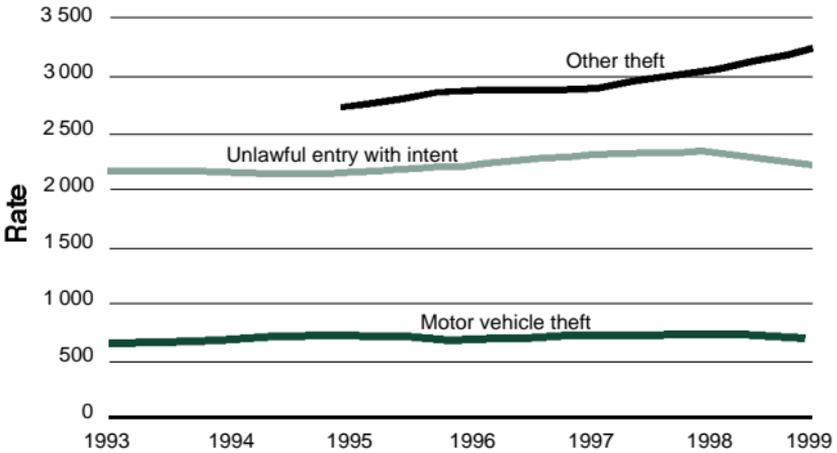


- The number of victims of assault increased at an average rate of 4.6% each year between 1995 and 1998, however, the rate of assault has remained relatively stable since 1998.
- The rate of robbery remained relatively constant between 1993 and 1996 before increasing significantly in 1997 and peaking in 1998. The rate of robbery declined from 127.1 in 1998 to 119.1 in 1999.
- The rate of both homicide and sexual assault has remained relatively stable over the six years.

Property crime

‘Property crime’ comprises unlawful entry with intent, motor vehicle theft and other theft.

Figure 6
Property crimes recorded by police, 1993–99
Rate per 100 000 population



- **Since 1995, the number of victims of other theft has been gradually increasing at a rate of 4.5% each year.**
- **The rate of unlawful entry with intent declined in 1999 after a period of gradual increase between 1994 and 1998.**
- **The rate of motor vehicle theft has remained relatively stable over the six-year period despite the observed decline in the number of victims in 1999.**

Location of crime

Table 3 and Table 4 list the number of offences that occurred within each type of location, for each of the seven selected crime categories. Locations are classified according to the function of the site where a criminal incident occurred, as follows:

- *residential location* (e.g. houses, garages/carports, motels and hostels);
- *community location* (e.g. car parks, transport facilities, street/footpaths and schools); and
- *other location* (e.g. retail premises, recreational facilities, government offices and warehousing/storage).

Table 3
Number of violent crimes recorded by police, by location where incident occurred, 1999

Location of crime	Crime			
	Homicide	Assault	Sexual assault	Robbery
Residential				
Dwelling*	196	47 527	8 793	1 437
Other residential	40	5 046	307	141
Community				
Street/footpath	46	31 270	1 150	8 155
Other community	44	19 570	1 796	3 777
Other				
Retail	10	11 730	428	6 240
Recreational	11	13 160	730	1 306
Other location	18	2 663	244	1 000
Unspecified	16	2 636	626	534

* The definition of a dwelling excludes land and other structures (e.g. driveways) which lie within the curtilage of a residential location. Such locations are classified as 'other residential'.

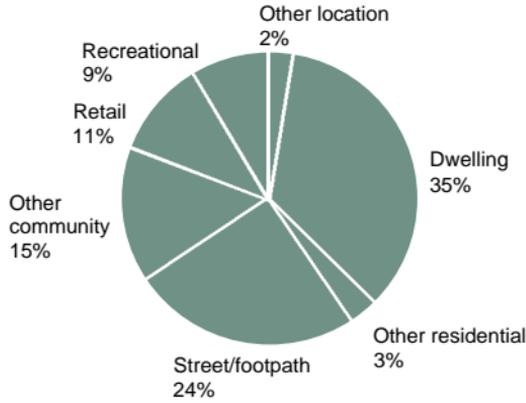
Table 4
Number of property crimes recorded by police, by location where incident occurred, 1999

Location of crime	Crime		
	Unlawful entry with intent	Motor vehicle assault	Other theft
Residential			
Dwelling*	247 081	0	64 253
Other residential	26 786	25 153	88 955
Community			
Street/footpath	3 356	50 833	109 981
Other community	33 065	25 853	100 733
Other			
Retail	50 542	16 483	146 303
Recreational	11 399	3 045	32 200
Other location	35 221	3 348	36 544
Unspecified	8 150	5 150	31 307

* The definition of a dwelling excludes land and other structures (e.g. driveways) which lie within the curtilage of a residential location. Such locations are classified as 'other residential'.

Figure 8
Violent crimes,
by location*
where incident
occurred, 1999

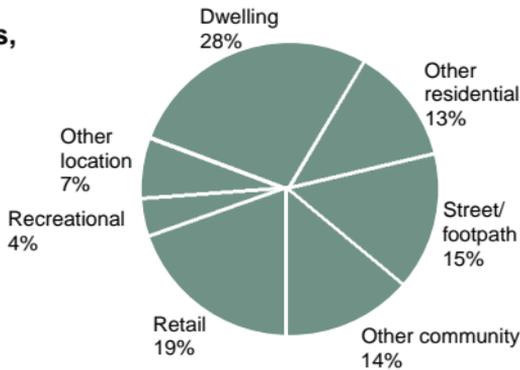
Residential 38%
Community 39%
Other 23%



* Excludes unspecified location (n=3 812)

Figure 9
Property crimes,
by location*
where incident
occurred, 1999

Residential 41%
Community 29%
Other 30%



* Excludes unspecified location (n=44 607)

- **Thirty-eight per cent of violent crimes and 41% of property offences occurred in residential locations, primarily dwellings.**
- **The crimes most likely to occur in a dwelling were homicide (54%), sexual assault (65%), assault (36%) and unlawful entry with intent (61%).**
- **Violent crimes were more likely to occur in a community location (39%) than property crimes (29%). Twenty-four per cent of violent crimes occurred on a street/footpath compared to 15% of property crimes.**
- **Motor vehicle theft (61%), robbery (54%), assault (39%) and other theft (36%) were the offences most likely to be committed in a community location.**
- **Other locations accounted for the location of 23% of violent crimes and 30% of property crimes. In**

particular, 11% of violent crimes and 19% of property crimes occurred in a retail location.

- **About one-quarter of robbery offences and other theft offences occurred in a retail location in 1999.**

Sources: References 2, 6 and 7

Homicide

The definition of homicide used by the ABS is the unlawful killing of another person. Homicide statistics discussed here include the following categories of offences:

- *murder*: the wilful killing of a person either intentionally or with reckless indifference to life; and
- *manslaughter*: the unlawful killing of a person caused:
 - without intent to kill, usually as a result of a careless, reckless or negligent act; or
 - intentionally but due to extreme provocation; or
 - when in a state of mind that impairs the capacity to understand or control one’s actions.

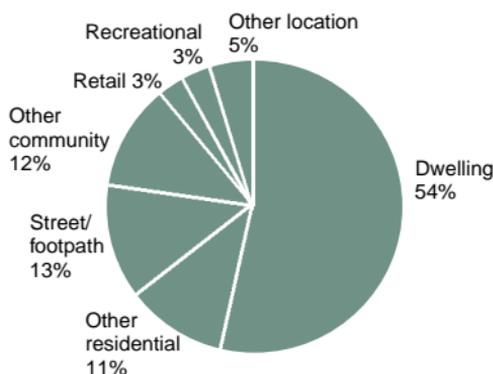
- **There were 381 victims of homicide recorded by the police in Australia in 1999, with 2.0 victims per 100 000 population. This represents about a 15% increase from the number of victims recorded in 1998 (332).**
- **Of these, 342 (90%) were victims of murder, and the remainder were victims of manslaughter.**

Location of homicides

- **Of all homicides occurring in Australia in 1999, 65% took place in residential locations, with 54% in a dwelling.**
- **In 1999, 13% of total homicides occurred on a street or footpath compared to 19% in 1998.**

Figure 10
**Homicide,
 by location*
 where incident
 occurred, 1999**

Residential 65%
 Community 25%
 Other 11%

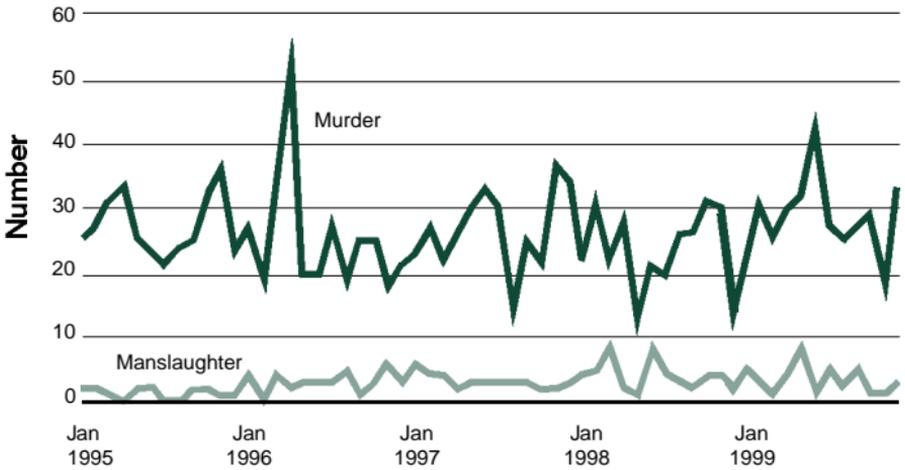


* Excludes unspecified location (n=16)

Source: Reference 2

Trend in homicide

Figure 11
Number of homicide victims, by month, 1995–99

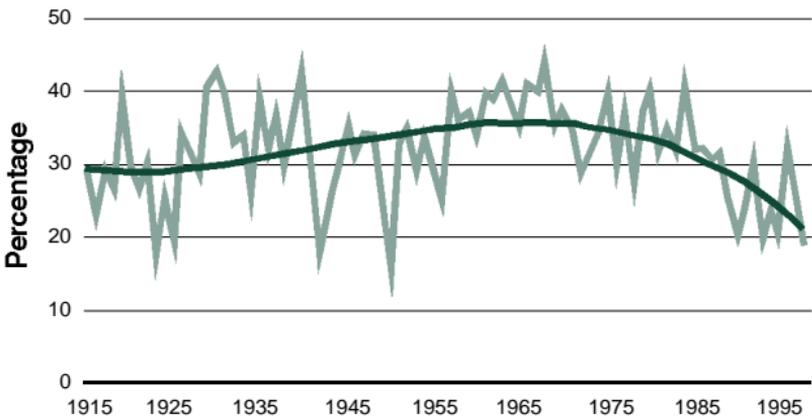


■ The number of murder and manslaughter victims fluctuated, on a monthly basis, over the five-year period. The spike in the murder figures in early 1996 is due to the Port Arthur tragedy in April of that year.

Source: Reference 2

Trend in total homicides and firearm homicides

Figure 12
Homicide involving firearms as a percentage of total homicide, 1915 to 1998



- **The percentage of homicides committed with a firearm continued its declining trend since 1969. In 1998, 19% of homicides involved firearms.**

Source: Reference 3

National Homicide Monitoring Program, Australian Institute of Criminology

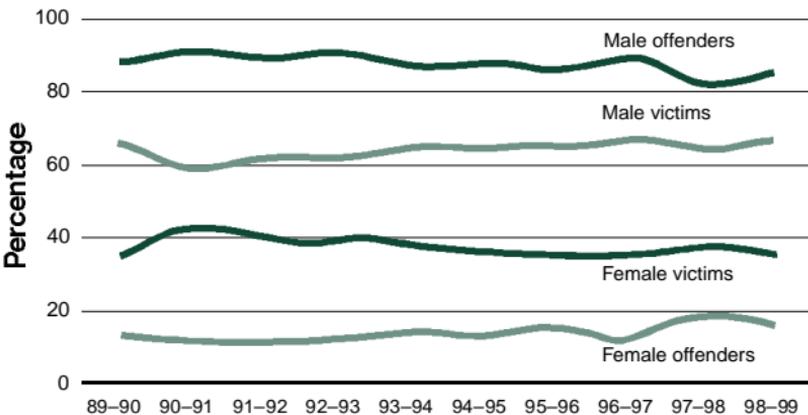
The Australian Institute of Criminology began its National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) in 1990. The program routinely collects information on variables related to homicide and aims to identify the characteristics which place people at risk of homicide victimisation and offending, and the circumstances that contribute to the likelihood of a homicide occurring. Some of the major findings of the NHMP during the period 1 July 1989 to 30 June 1999 are presented below.

Note: NHMP homicide counts may be different to the counts from other sources, namely *Causes of Death* statistics and *Recorded Crime* statistics. This is due to differences in NHMP and ABS counting rules and procedures.

- **During 1989–90 and 1998–99 the incidence of homicide oscillated around an average of 315 homicides each year. There were 327 homicide incidents during 1998–99, involving 341 victims and 324 identified offenders.**

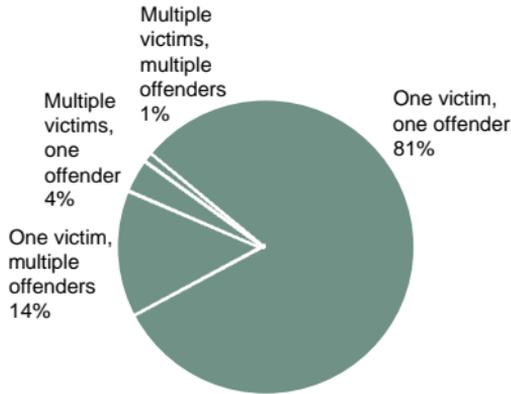
Figure 13

Number of victims and offenders of homicide as a percentage of total victims and offenders, 1989–90 to 1998–99



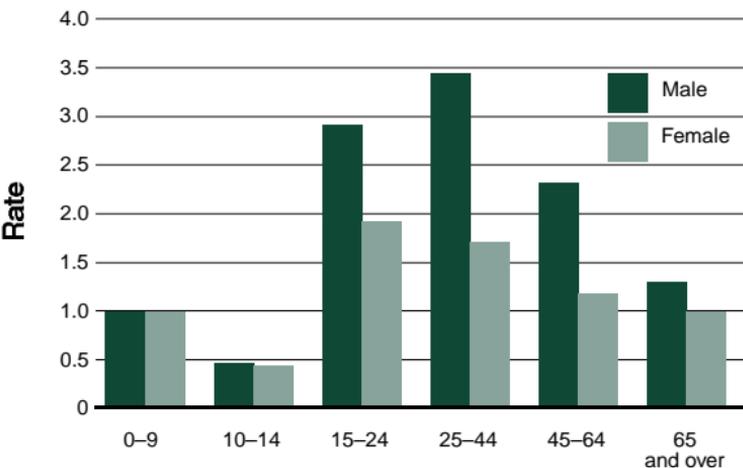
- On average, there were three males killed for every two females.
- Males had higher rates of offending than females, with a ratio of about 7:1.

Figure 14
Homicide, by number of victims and offenders involved, 1989–90 to 1998–99



- The majority of homicide incidents involved one victim and one offender (81%), a trend that has remained stable over the 10-year period.
- One in seven homicide incidents involved a single victim and more than one offender, while only one in 20 homicide incidents involved more than one victim.

Figure 15
Age and gender of homicide victims, 1989–90 to 1998–99
 Rate per 100 000 relevant population



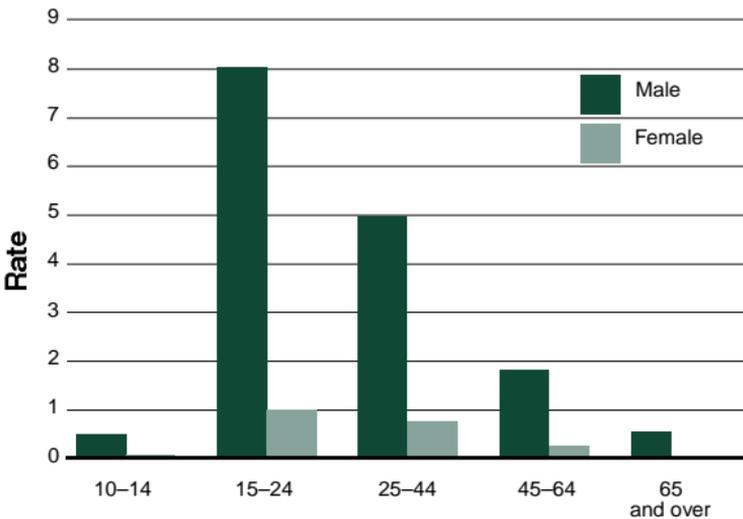
- Overall, males were killed at an average annual rate of 2.4 per 100 000 relevant population,

whereas females were killed at an average annual rate of 1.4 per 100 000 relevant population.

- In all age categories, except the 0 to 9 group, the probability of being a victim of homicide was greater for males than for females.
- Males in the 25 to 44 age group were most at risk of being a homicide victim, while females were most at risk when aged between 15 and 24.

Figure 16

Age and gender of homicide offenders, 1989–90 to 1998–99
Rate per 100 000 relevant population

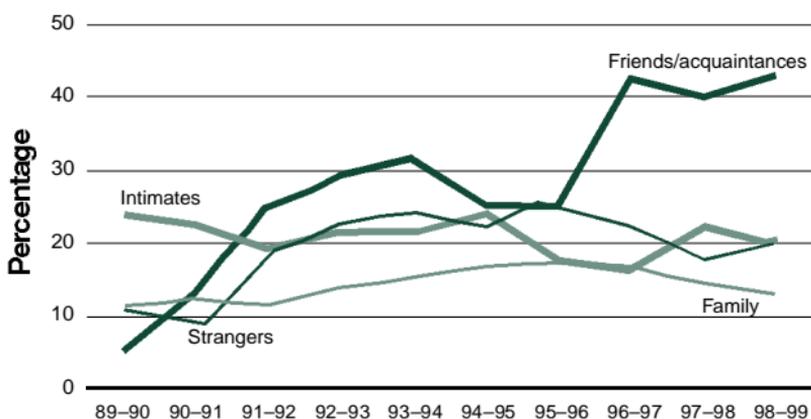


- Homicide offenders were more likely to be male than female, independent of age.
- The rate of offending peaked at ages between 15 and 24 for both males and females.
- The gap between male and female rates of offending was widest in the 15 to 24 year age group. Men in this age group offended at a rate eight times the rate of women.

Victim-offender relationship

Figure 17

Homicide victim-offender relationships, 1989-90 to 1998-99



- Eight out of 10 homicides occurred between people who were known to one another.
- The majority of homicide incidents involved friends or acquaintances, in particular males. There has been a significant increase in homicide incidents involving friends and acquaintances over the period.
- Since 1995-96, there has been a decline in the number of family and stranger homicides as a percentage of total incidents. Together with the increase in homicides involving friends and acquaintances, these trends may be partly due to improved recording practices of victim-offender relationships, which has led to a significant decline in the number classified as unknown.
- Homicides involving intimate partners accounted for about one-fifth of all incidents. Females were more likely to be killed by an intimate partner, whereas males were more likely to be killed by a friend or acquaintance.

Homicide involving children

Homicide incidents involving children are likely to occur in a residential location and to occur within the context of:

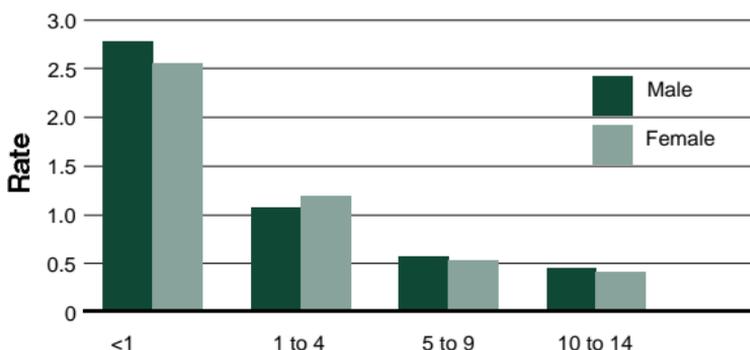
- a domestic dispute between family members; or
- fatal abuse of the child by an adult, usually a biological parent.

The percentage of homicide incidents involving children has remained relatively stable over the 10-year period, averaging about 9% each year.

Figure 18

Age and gender of homicide victims, persons aged less than 15 years, 1989–90 to 1998–99

Rate per 100 000 relevant population

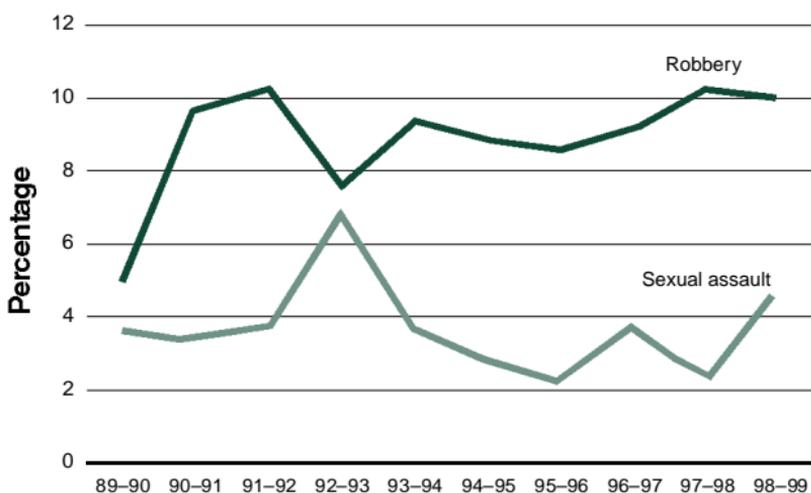


- **For both male and female children aged less than one year, the risk of being a victim of homicide was at least twice as high as the risk for other children.**

Homicide in the course of other crime

Over the 10-year period, the number of homicide incidents occurring in the course of other crime has remained relatively stable.

Figure 19
Percentage of homicide incidents occurring in the course of other crime, 1989–90 to 1998–99

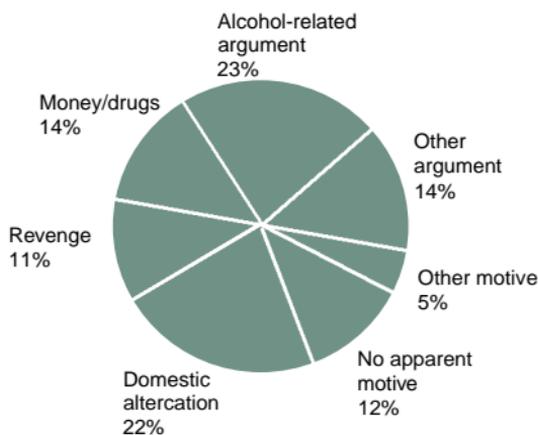


- About 13% of all homicide incidents occurred in the course of other crime.
- During the 10-year period, one in 10 homicide incidents occurred in the course of robbery.
- Homicide in the course of sexual assault is a rare event, accounting for 4% of homicide incidents.

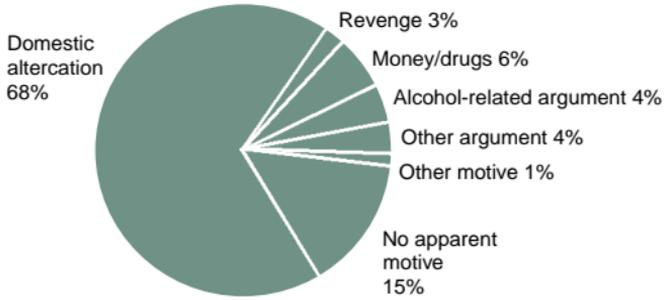
The context of homicide

Figure 20
Percentage of homicide victims according to gender and circumstances associated with killing, 1989–90 to 1998–99

MALES



FEMALES

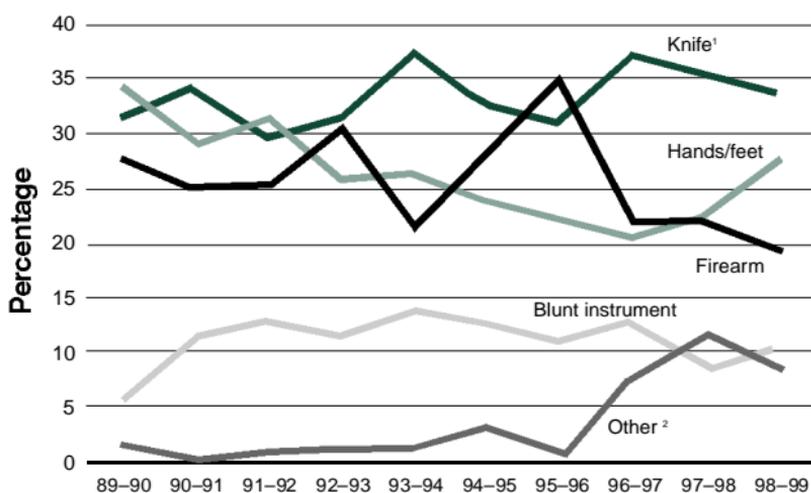


- **Compared to males, females were more likely to be killed following a domestic altercation (68% to 22%).**
- **One in four male homicides involved an alcohol-related argument. This is almost six times the contribution of alcohol-related arguments in total female homicides.**
- **Motives involving money, drugs and revenge accounted for one-quarter of circumstances relating to male homicides, but only 10% of female homicides.**

Weapons used in homicide

The type of weapon used in a homicide is associated with factors such as the age of the offender and the victim, the alleged motive of the offender, the location of the offence and weapon availability.

Figure 21
Homicide victims according to type of weapon used, 1989–90 to 1998–99



⁽¹⁾ Includes other sharp instruments.

⁽²⁾ Fire, poison, explosives, drugs, motor vehicle, ligature and other weapons.

- Knives and other sharp instruments were the most common type of weapon used in the commission of homicides.
- The rise in 'other weapon' homicides after 1995–96 was due mainly to an increase in incidents involving carbon monoxide poisoning and fire-related death.
- The percentage of homicides involving firearms declined from 28% in 1989–90 to 20% in 1998–99. The two spikes in this trend were mainly attributable to single incidents on the Central Coast (New South Wales) in 1992–93 and Port Arthur in 1995–96.
- Firearms were more likely to be used in homicide incidents involving multiple victims (46%) than those where there was a single victim (21%).
- Between 1 July 1997 and 30 June 1999, nine in 10 offenders of firearm-related homicide were unlicensed firearms owners or persons using a firearm unregistered to themselves.

Sources: References 4, 5, 6, 7 and 18

Assault (excluding sexual assault)

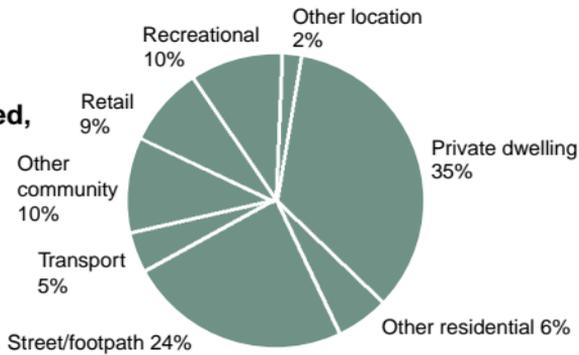
The ABS defines 'assault' as the direct infliction of force, injury or violence upon a person, including attempts or threats.

- In 1999 there were 133 602 victims of assault in Australia recorded by the police: 704 victims per 100 000 population, an increase of 2% from the number of victims recorded during 1998.
- Victims of assault accounted for 10% of victims of all selected offences in 1999 (1998: 10%).

Location of assaults

Figure 22
Assault, by location* where incident occurred, 1999

Residential 40%
Community 39%
Other 21%



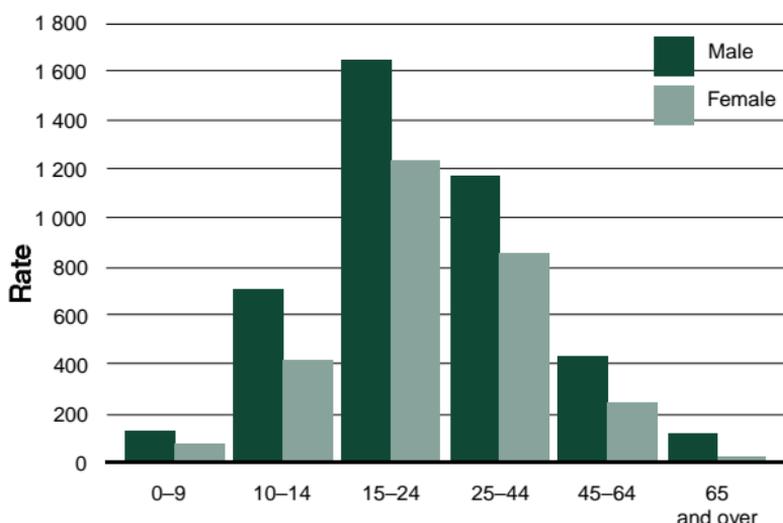
* Excludes unspecified location (n=2 636)

- Assaults most commonly occurred in a residential location (40%), in particular, private dwellings (35%).
- Thirty-nine per cent of assaults occurred in community locations, with assaults on street/footpaths accounting for 24% of all recorded assaults.
- Twenty-one per cent of recorded assaults took place in other locations, including recreational facilities (10%).
- These patterns remained stable between 1998 and 1999.

Source: Reference 2

Victims of assault

Figure 23
Age and gender of assault victims, 1999
 Rate per 100 000 relevant population



- Consistent with patterns in previous years, males exhibited higher victimisation rates than females for all age categories.
- The majority of assaults (74%) occurred against people aged 15 to 44. Eight per cent occurred against people aged less than 15 years, while 12% of victims were aged 45 years and over. (The age of the victim was not specified in 6% of assaults.)
- Both males and females were most at risk of being a victim of assault while aged between 15 and 24.
- In general, rates for each age and gender category remained relatively stable between 1998 and 1999.

Sources: References 2 and 6

Table 5
Assault, by location* and sex* and age of victim, Australia, 1999

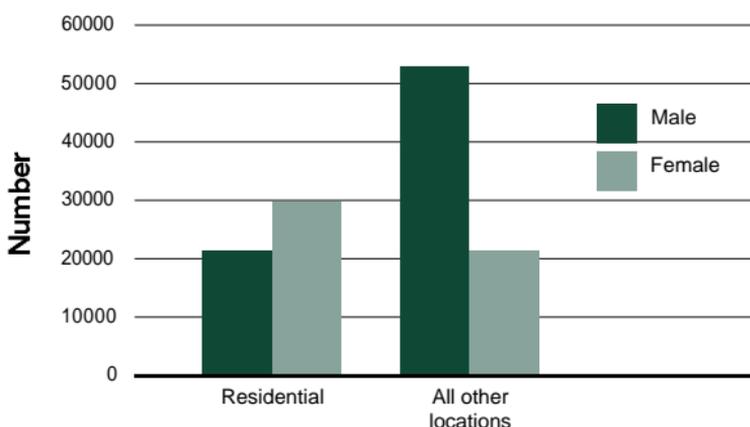
Age group	Location of assault			
	Residential		All other locations	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Number of victims				
0–9	947	642	625	312
10–14	1 038	866	3 565	1 786
15–24	4 922	7 936	17 342	8 017
25–34	5 303	9 410	15 256	5 637
35–44	4 206	6 380	8 699	3 117
45+	4 009	3 710	6 299	1 999
Not specified	597	658	1 905	776
Total	21 022	29 602	53 691	21 644
Percentage				
0–9	4.5	2.2	1.2	1.4
10–14	4.9	2.9	6.6	8.3
15–24	23.4	26.8	32.3	37.0
25–34	25.2	31.8	28.4	26.0
35–44	20.0	21.6	16.2	14.4
45+	19.1	12.5	11.7	9.2
Not specified	2.8	2.2	3.5	3.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* This table excludes 7 643 cases where the location of the assault or the victim's gender was unspecified.

- **For both male and female victims of assault aged 10 to 24, the majority of assaults occurred in a non-residential location. In contrast, assaults against persons in the 0 to 9 age group, irrespective of gender, were more prevalent in residential locations.**
- **In residential locations, assaults were more commonly recorded against males than females in the 0 to 14 and the 45 and over age groups. However, an opposite pattern is evident for persons in other age categories.**
- **About 60% of female victims aged 15 years and over were assaulted in homes, whereas only 28% of their male counterparts were assaulted in this type of location.**

- The most likely age of an assault victim and the location of the assault were, for males, aged 15 to 24 in a non-residential location and, for females, aged 25 to 34 in a residential location.

Figure 24
Assault by location and sex of victim, Australia, 1999

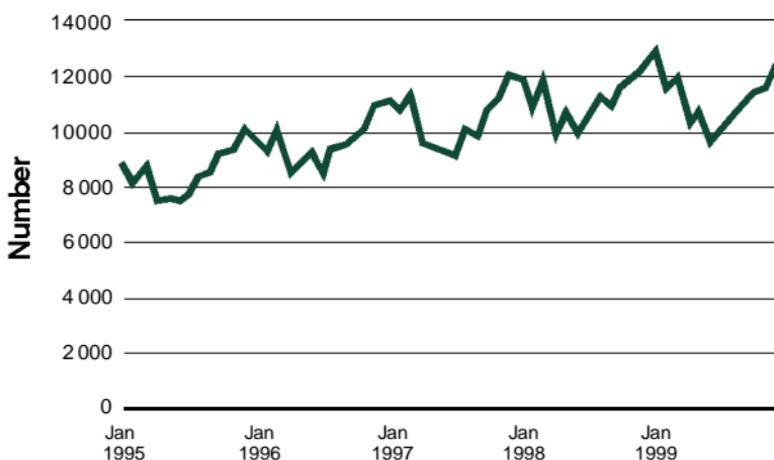


- A large majority (72%) of male victims was assaulted in non-residential locations, whereas a majority (58%) of female victims was assaulted in residential premises. These findings are consistent with those observed in 1998.

Source: Reference 8

Trend in assaults

Figure 25
Number of assault victims, by month, 1995–99



- **The number of assaults has grown by an average 5.7% each year between 1995 and 1999. This is almost six times the annual growth of the Australian population over the same period.**
- **Assault is seasonal. The number of recorded assault victims increases during the summer months.**

Source: References 6 and 8

Sexual assault

The ABS definition of 'sexual assault' is a physical assault of a sexual nature, directed toward another person where that person:

- does not give consent; or
- gives consent as a result of intimidation or fraud; or
- is legally deemed incapable of giving consent because of youth or temporary/permanent incapacity.

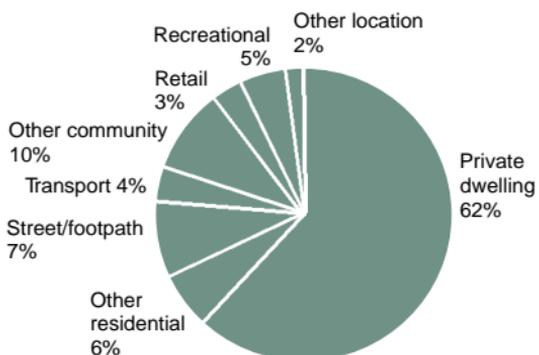
Sexual assault includes: rape, sexual assault, sodomy, buggery, oral sex, incest, carnal knowledge, unlawful sexual intercourse, indecent assault, and assault with intent to rape.

- **There were 14 074 victims of sexual assault recorded by the police in Australia in 1999, a decrease of 1.8% from 1998.**
- **There were about 74 victims of sexual assault per 100 000 population.**

Location of sexual assaults

Figure 26
Sexual assault, by location* where incident occurred, 1999

Residential 68%
Community 22%
Other 10%



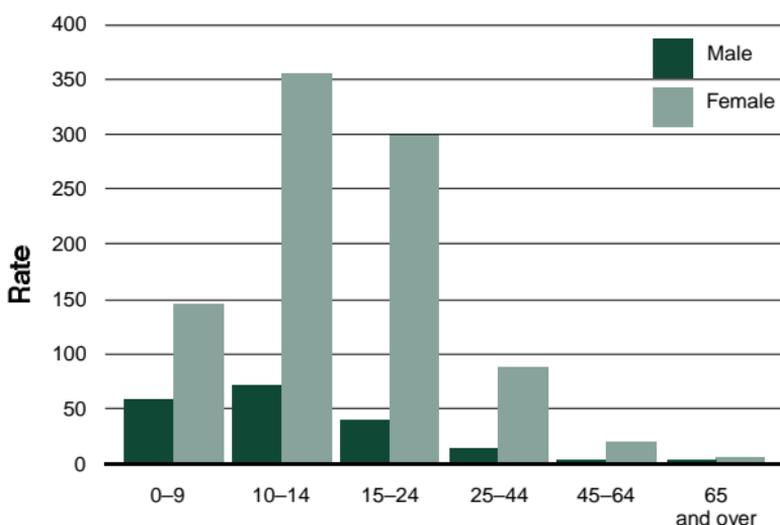
* Excludes unspecified location (n=626)

- Of all recorded sexual assaults in Australia in 1999, 68% occurred in residential locations, in particular, private dwellings (62%).
- Twenty-two per cent of sexual assaults occurred in community locations. Sexual assaults on street/footpaths accounted for 7% of all recorded sexual assaults.
- Only 10% of recorded sexual assaults took place in other locations, including recreational facilities (5%).
- These patterns remained relatively stable between 1998 and 1999.

Source: Reference 2

Victims of sexual assault

Figure 27
Age and gender of sexual assault victims, 1999
Rate per 100 000 relevant population



- Almost 71% of sexual assault victims were young people under the age of 25 years.
- In each age group, females were more likely to be victims of sexual assault than males.
- Consistent with 1998, both males and females in the 10 to 14 age range were most at risk of being sexually assaulted in 1999.

- **The Australian component of the International Crime Victims Survey (2000) revealed that only 15% of women who had experienced sexual violence in 1999 reported the incident to police. This indicates that Figure 27 may reflect gross under-reporting of sexual assault incidents.**

Sources: Reference 1, 2 and 6

Victim–offender relationship

Table 6

Victims of sexual assault, by gender and victim–offender relationship, 1999

	Male	Female	Total
Number			
Family member	539	2 694	3 233
Known non-family member	1 019	3 964	4 983
Stranger	257	1 776	2 033
Not stated	586	2 898	3 484
Total	2 401	11 332	*13 733
Percentage			
Family member	22.4	23.8	23.5
Known non-family member	42.4	35.0	36.3
Stranger	10.7	15.7	14.8
Not stated	24.4	25.6	25.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Excludes 341 cases where gender of victim was unknown.

- **In more than one-quarter of the incidents, the relationship between the victim and offender was either not stated or inadequately described (1998: 36%).**
- **It is likely that the ‘not stated’ category includes mainly cases where the victim knew the offender. Note that the significant decrease in the number of ‘not stated’ cases between 1998 and 1999 coincided with an increase in the number of recorded victims who knew their offender.**
- **In 1999, almost two-thirds of male victims and 59% of female victims of sexual assault knew the offender.**

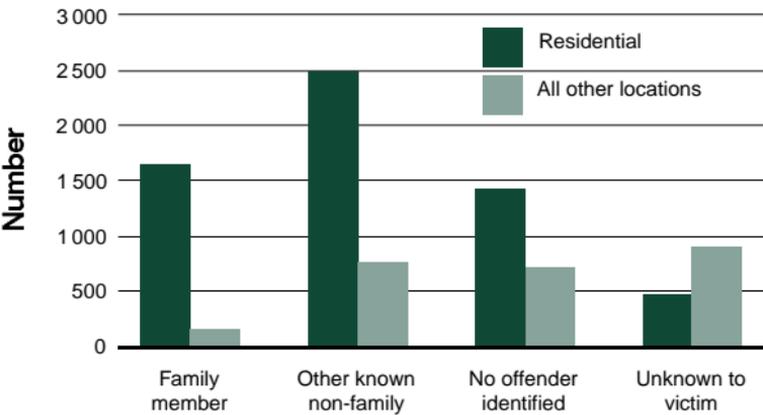
Source: Reference 2

Table 7
Sexual assault, by victim–offender relationship, location and sex of victim, Australia, 1999

Relationship	Location of sexual assault					
	Residential			All other locations		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Family member	255	1 370	1 625	19	135	154
Known non-family	486	2 005	2 491	207	569	776
No offender identified	271	1 189	1 460	117	607	724
Unknown to victim	62	413	475	117	793	910
Total	1 074	4 977	6 051	460	2 104	2 564

Note: Data for New South Wales not included.

Figure 28
Sexual assault by location and victim–offender relationship, Australia, 1999



Note: Data for New South Wales not included.

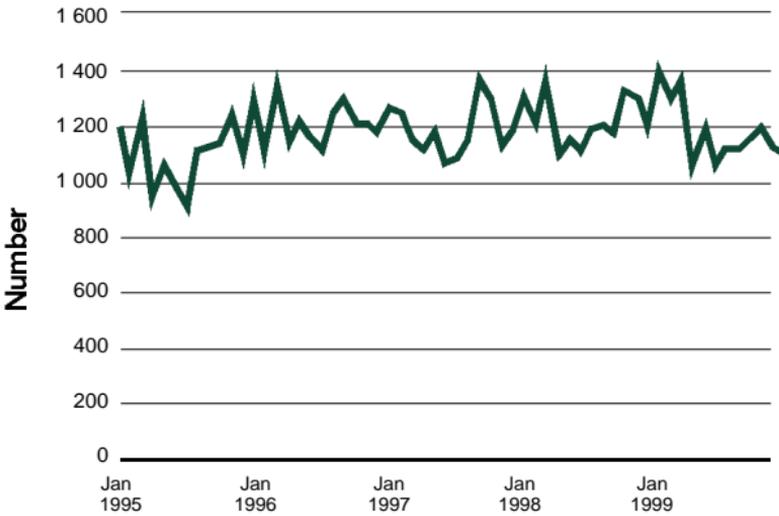
- **Seven in 10 victims of a sexual assault committed in a residential location knew the offender.**
- **Two-thirds of sexual assaults where the offender was unknown to the victim occurred in a non-residential location.**

Source: Reference 8

Trend in sexual assault

Figure 29

Number of sexual assault victims, by month, 1995–99



- **Despite monthly fluctuations, the number of recorded sexual assault victims has remained relatively stable over the entire period.**
- **The average number of sexual assault victims per month for the period was approximately 1 169.**

Source: Reference 8

Robbery

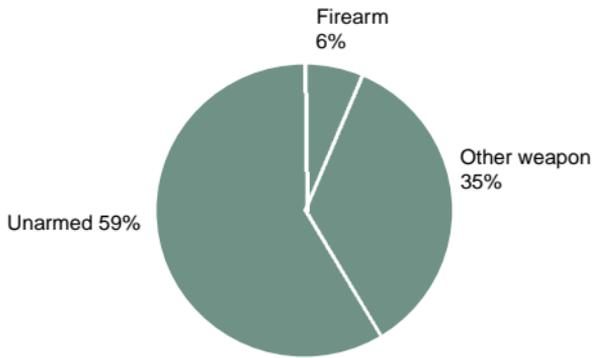
'Robbery', as defined by the ABS, is the unlawful taking of property, without consent, accompanied by force or threat of force. Robbery victims can be persons or organisations.

Types of robbery

Robbery is divided into the following two categories of offences:

- *Armed robbery:* This is robbery conducted with use of a weapon. (A weapon is any object used to cause fear or injury. It also includes imitation weapons and implied weapons; for example, where a weapon is not seen by the victim but the offender claims to possess one.)
- *Unarmed robbery:* This is robbery conducted without the use of a weapon.

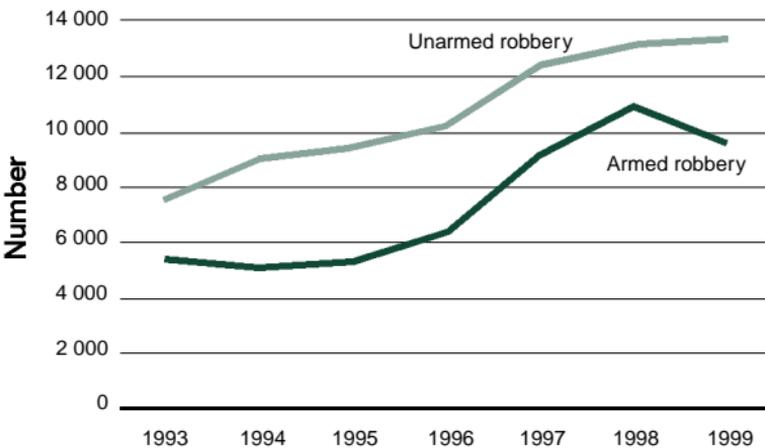
Figure 30
Types of robbery, 1999



- There were 22 590 recorded victims of robbery in Australia during 1999, with 119 victims per 100 000 population. This represents a 5% decrease on the number recorded in 1998.
- The decline in the number of robbery victims between 1998 and 1999 was due to a 13% decline in the number of armed robberies in 1999. The number of unarmed robberies increased by 2%.
- Of the 1999 incidents, 59% were unarmed robberies, 35% were committed with a weapon other than a firearm and 6% were committed with a firearm.

Trend in robbery

Figure 31
Number of robbery victims, 1993–99



- Prior to the decline in armed robberies in 1999, the number of armed robbery victims was

increasing at a faster rate than the number for unarmed robbery.

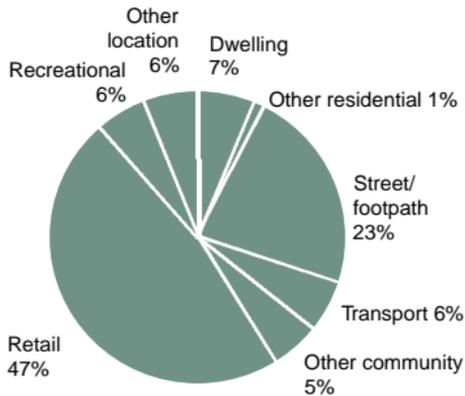
- The proportion of total robbery accounted for by armed robbery increased from 36% to 46% between 1994 and 1998 before declining to 42% in 1999.

Armed robbery

- There were 9 439 armed robberies recorded in Australia in 1999. This represents a 13% decrease from the number of armed robberies recorded in 1998.

Figure 32
Armed robbery, by location* where incident occurred, 1999

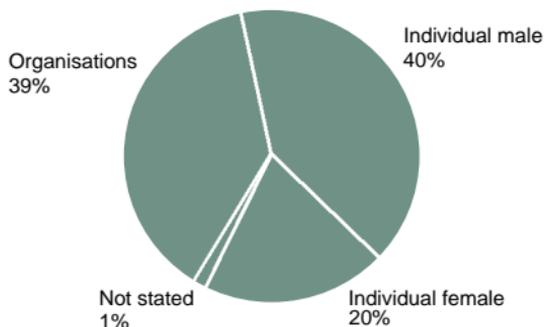
Residential 7%
Community 34%
Other 59%



* Excludes unspecified location (n=173)

- Consistent with past trends, the majority of armed robberies in 1999 occurred in retail premises (47%).
- Thirty-four per cent took place in community locations, with a large proportion being committed on street/footpaths (23%).

Figure 33
Victims of armed robbery, 1999

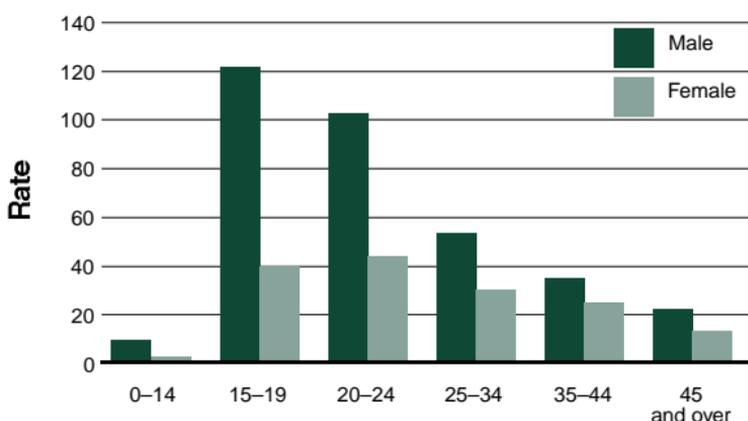


- **Thirty-nine per cent of armed robberies were directed against organisations. In 1998 there were 4 650 organisations recorded as victims of armed robberies, in comparison to 3 668 in 1999, a decline of 21%.**
- **Of the persons who were victims in 1999, the majority were male (65%). A similar trend was observed in 1998 (67%).**

Source:Reference 2

Figure 34

Age and gender of armed robbery victims,1999
Rate per 100 000 relevant population



- **In all age categories, males were more at risk of being a victim of armed robbery than were females.**
- **Males aged between 15 and 24 were at least twice as likely to become a victim of armed robbery than persons in any other age category.**
- **Despite the overall decline in the number of armed robbery victims between 1998 and 1999, individuals aged 15 to 24 years increased their participation among victims of robbery by 7% in 1999 relative to 1998.**
- **Between 1998 and 1999, for persons aged 25 to 44, the number of male and female victims of armed robbery declined by 17% and 7% respectively.**

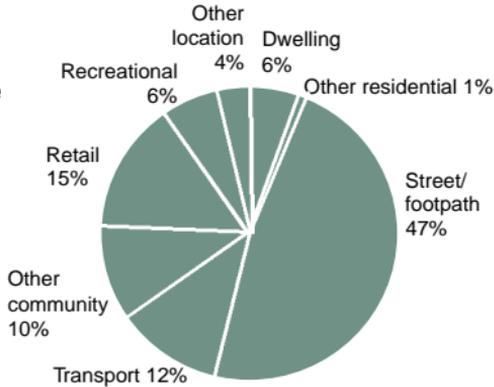
Sources:References 2 and 6

Unarmed robbery

- There were 13 151 victims of unarmed robbery recorded in Australia in 1999. This represents a 2% increase from the number of unarmed robberies recorded in 1998.

Figure 35
Unarmed robbery, by location* where incident occurred, 1999

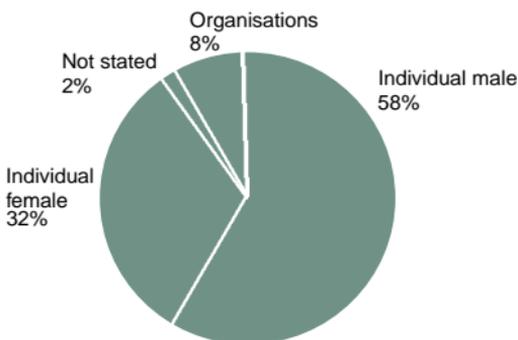
Residential 6%
Community 69%
Other 25%



* Excludes unspecified location (n=429)

- Over two-thirds of unarmed robberies occurred in community locations (armed robbery: 34%), including 47% on street/footpaths and 12% in a transport location.
- One-quarter of unarmed robberies occurred in other locations, comprising 15% in a retail location (armed robbery: 47%).

Figure 36
Victims of unarmed robbery, 1999



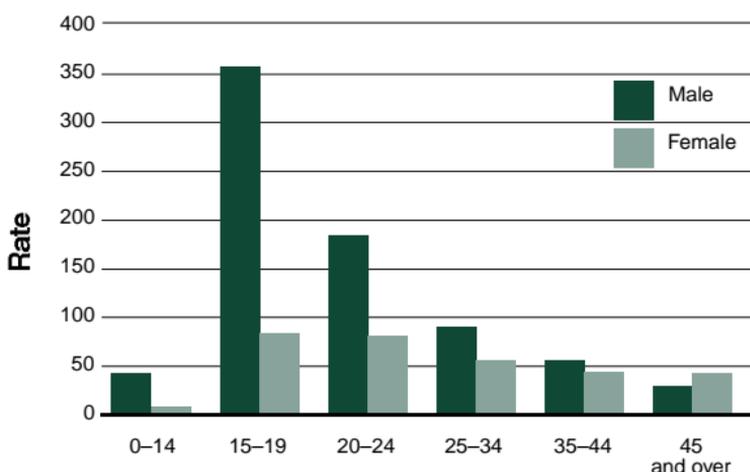
- Ninety per cent of the victims of unarmed robbery were individuals, compared to 60% of armed robberies.
- Of the persons who were victims in 1999, the majority were male (58%). In 1998 there were 6 954 male victims of unarmed robbery, whereas in 1999 there were 7 634 victims, an increase of 10%.

Female victims of unarmed robbery declined over this period by 10%.

- **Only 8% of victims of unarmed robbery were organisations (armed robbery: 39%).**

Source: Reference 2

Figure 37
Age and gender of unarmed robbery victims, 1999
 Rate per 100 000 relevant population



- **Males in the 15–19 age group were most likely to be victims of unarmed robbery. The number of male victims in this age group increased by 25% between 1998 and 1999.**
- **In the younger age groups (44 and under), males were more at risk of becoming victims of unarmed robbery than females. However, females in the older age group (45 and over) were more at risk than males.**
- **For persons aged 45 and over, the unarmed robbery rate for females declined from 53.9 in 1998 to 43.6 per 100 000 relevant population in 1999. For males in this age group, the rate also declined, from 31.8 to 28.4 per 100 000 relevant population.**

Sources: References 2 and 6

Unlawful entry with intent (UEWI)

'Unlawful entry with intent' is defined by the ABS as the unlawful entry of a structure with the intent to commit an offence. UEWI offences include burglary, break and enter and some stealing.

Types of UEWI

UEWI is divided into the following two categories of offences:

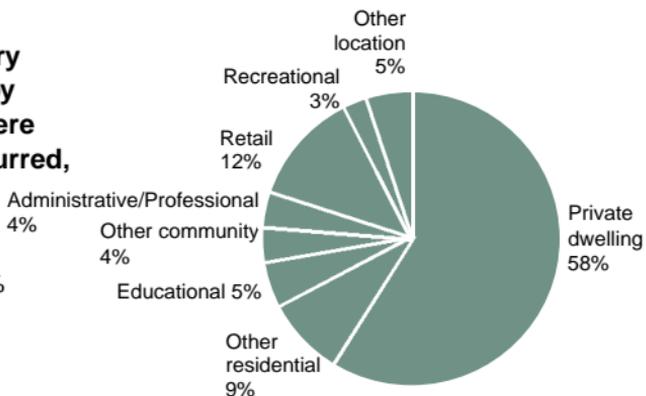
- *UEWI—property*: This is UEWI involving the taking of property from a structure.
- *UEWI—other*: This is UEWI where no property is taken from a structure.

- **In 1999, there were 415 600 incidents of UEWI recorded by the police in Australia, of which 322 913 involved the taking of property from a structure.**
- **The rate of UEWI in 1999 (2 192 victims per 100 000 population) decreased by 5.8% compared to its level in 1998.**
- **Fifty-eight per cent of UEWI occurred in private dwellings in 1999. In 1998, 67% of UEWI was in private dwellings. This represents 3 811 per 100 000 households in 1999, a decrease from 4 177 per 100 000 households in 1998.**

Location of unlawful entry with intent

Figure 38
Unlawful entry with intent, by location* where incident occurred, 1999

Residential 67%
Community 9%
Other 24%

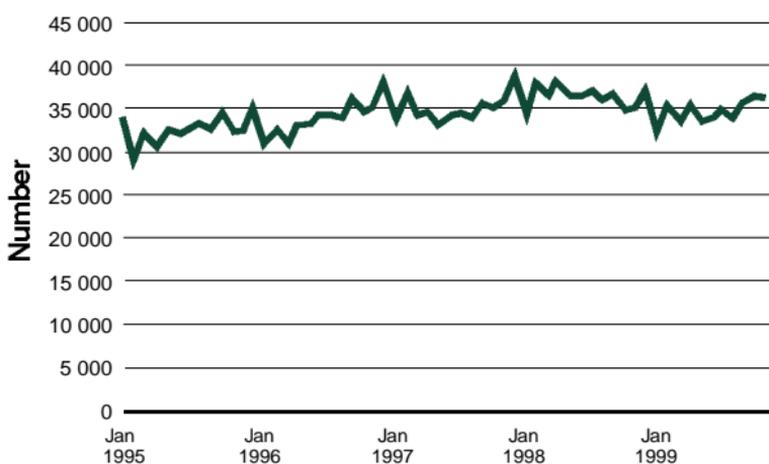


* Excludes unspecified location (n=8 150)

- Sixty-seven per cent of UEWIs occurred in residential locations, in particular, private dwellings (58%).
- Of the UEWIs occurring in private dwellings, 80% involved the taking of property.
- Twenty-four per cent of UEWI offences were committed in other locations, including retail premises (12%).
- Only 9% of recorded UEWIs took place in community locations such as educational facilities (5%).

Trend in unlawful entry with intent

Figure 39
Numbers of unlawful entry with intent victims, by month, 1995–99



- Between 1995 and 1998, the number of victims of UEWI increased by an average annual rate of 3%. A decline in recorded victims occurred in 1999 relative to 1998 (2%).
- On average, UEWI incidents involving the taking of property accounted for 78% of all UEWI, a pattern that has remained consistent over the five-year period.

Source: Reference 8

Motor vehicle theft

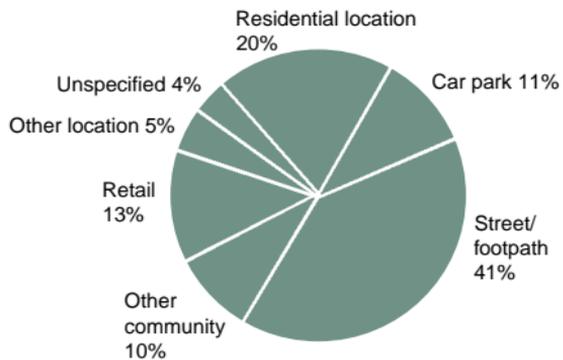
The ABS definition of motor vehicle theft is the taking of a motor vehicle unlawfully or without permission, but it excludes damaging and tampering or interfering with motor vehicles. Under this category are motor vehicles such as cars, motor cycles, campervans and trucks.

- **In 1999, there were 129 865 motor vehicles recorded as stolen by the police, with 684 victims per 100 000 population. This represents a 1% decrease on the number recorded in 1998.**
- **Recorded motor vehicle thefts averaged one every four minutes across Australia in 1999.**
- **One motor vehicle was stolen for every 93 registered vehicles.**

Location of motor vehicle theft

Figure 40
Motor vehicle theft, by location* where incident occurred, 1999

Residential 20%
Community 61%
Other 18%



* Excludes unspecified location (n=5 150)

- **Of all recorded motor vehicle thefts in Australia in 1999, 61% occurred in community locations, comprising 41% from a street/footpath, 11% from a car park and 10% from other community locations.**
- **Twenty per cent of motor vehicle thefts were committed in residential locations.**
- **Eighteen per cent of motor vehicle thefts took place in other locations, such as retail premises (13%).**

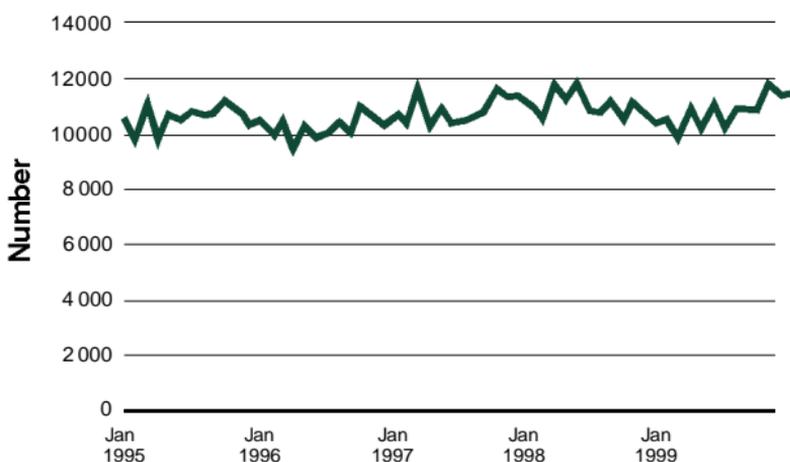
- **The number of victims of motor vehicle thefts occurring in car parks and on street/footpaths decreased in 1999 by 15% and 5% respectively.**
- **Despite the decrease in the number of motor vehicle thefts between 1998 and 1999, an increase (23%) in the number of thefts occurring in retail locations was recorded in 1999.**

Source:Reference 2

Trend in motor vehicle theft

Figure 41

Number of motor vehicle theft victims, by month, 1995–99



- **Between 1997 and 1999, the average number of motor vehicles stolen each month remained relatively stable. On average, about 10 885 vehicles were stolen each month during this period.**

Source:Reference 8

Other theft

The ABS defines 'other theft' (stealing) as the taking of another person's property with the intention of permanently depriving the owner of the property illegally and without permission, but without force, threat of force, use of coercive measures, deceit or having gained unlawful entry to any structure even if the intent was to commit theft.

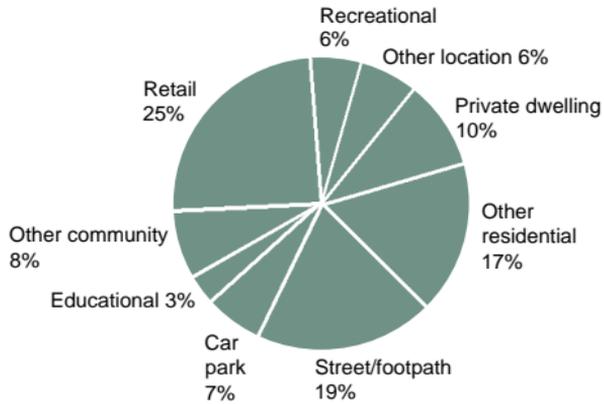
This offence includes such crimes as pickpocketing, bag-snatching, stealing, theft from a motor vehicle, theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories/petrol, stealing of stock/domestic animals, and theft of non-motorised vehicles/boats/aircraft/bicycles. It is the largest category of all crime.

- **A total of 610 276 victims of other theft was recorded by the police in 1999, with 3 218 victims per 100 000 population in Australia. This represents an 8.3% increase from the number recorded in 1998.**

Location of other theft

Figure 42
**Other theft,
by location*
where incident
occurred, 1999**

Residential 26%
Community 36%
Other 37%



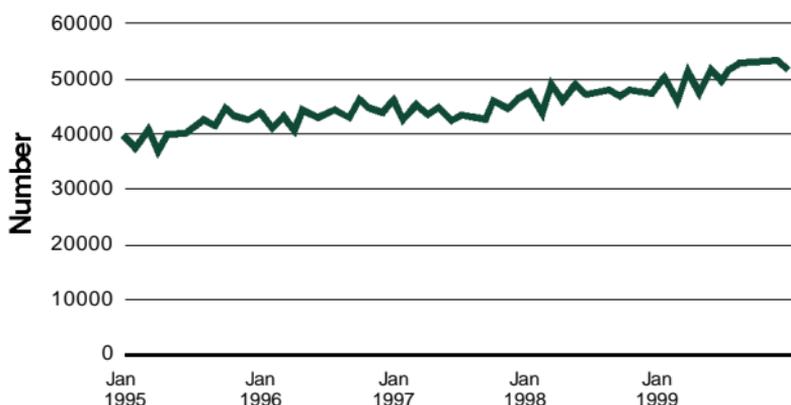
* Excludes unspecified location (n=31 307)

- **Of all recorded incidents of stealing, 37% took place in other locations, in particular retail premises (25%).**
- **Thirty-six per cent of incidents took place in community locations, with 19% on a street/footpath and 7% in a car park.**
- **In 26% of cases, other theft occurred in a residential location, comprising 10% from private dwellings. The number of thefts in a residential location increased by 18% between 1998 and 1999, largely due to the increase in thefts in outbuildings and on residential land.**

Source: Reference 2

Trend in other theft

Figure 43
Number of other theft victims, by month, 1995–99



- The number of recorded victims of other theft has increased at an average annual rate of 4.5% between 1995 and 1999.
- The average number of victims of other theft recorded each month for the five-year period was 45 262. In 1999, the number of victims recorded on average each month was 50 856 compared to 40 840 in 1995.

Source: Reference 8

Structure of the criminal courts in Australia

There is a hierarchy of criminal courts at both the Commonwealth and the State or Territory levels:

- *Magistrates' courts:* A lower court level that deals with relatively minor or summary criminal offences. Under some circumstances, these courts may also deal with less serious indictable offences. They are also responsible for conducting preliminary (committal) hearings for indictable offences.
- *Intermediate (district/county) courts:* A higher court level that, together with the Supreme Court, deals with the more serious crimes. These courts hear the majority of cases involving indictable crimes.
- *Supreme Courts:* The highest level of court within a State or Territory. They deal with the most serious crimes.

Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory do not have intermediate courts and all relevant charges are dealt with at Supreme Courts. In States with both Supreme and intermediate courts, a large majority of charges are decided at the intermediate courts.

All State, Territory and Commonwealth courts handle a number of matters that appear in the court system for the first time. Almost all criminal charges are lodged for the first time at the magistrates' court level.

National statistics on charges, trials and sentencing of suspects at all levels of courts are not yet available in Australia. However, the ABS publishes a limited amount of statistics on defendants whose cases were initiated and finalised at higher criminal courts. (Higher courts comprise those at the intermediate and Supreme Court levels, where defendants charged with serious or indictable offences are dealt with, and where appeals and civil cases are also heard.)

In addition, in recent years the Industry Commission has produced statistics on the number of lodgments at each court level.

Sources: References 9 and 10

The criminal court process

Case flows

Cases passing through the courts generally share the following common elements:

- lodgment—the initiation of the matter with the court;
- pre-trial discussion and mediation between the parties;
- trial; and
- court decision—judgment or verdict followed by sentencing.

Lodgments

The largest number of lodgments is processed by magistrates' courts in their criminal jurisdictions.

- **Almost 1.9 million cases were initiated in magistrates' courts in 1998–99. These cases accounted for 98.2% of all lodgments in the criminal courts.**
- **Only 1.5% (28 777) of cases were initiated in the intermediate courts and 0.3% (4 942) of cases in the Supreme Courts.**
- **Sixty-five per cent of the criminal matters initiated in magistrates courts were of a minor nature.**
- **There has been an average annual increase of 5.9% in the number of criminal lodgments received by courts throughout Australia since 1994–95.**

Hearings

Hearings, particularly full court hearings and trials, are the primary cost driver for court administrations. Hearings encompass court trials in the criminal and civil jurisdictions, as well as inquests and inquiries in the coronial jurisdiction.

- **Nationally, there were almost 953 000 court hearings in 1998–99, an increase of 77% on the number recorded in 1997–98.**

- **Sixty-eight per cent of court hearings were of a criminal nature in 1998–99, compared to 73% in 1997–98.**
- **The majority of criminal hearings (95%) took place in magistrates' courts.**

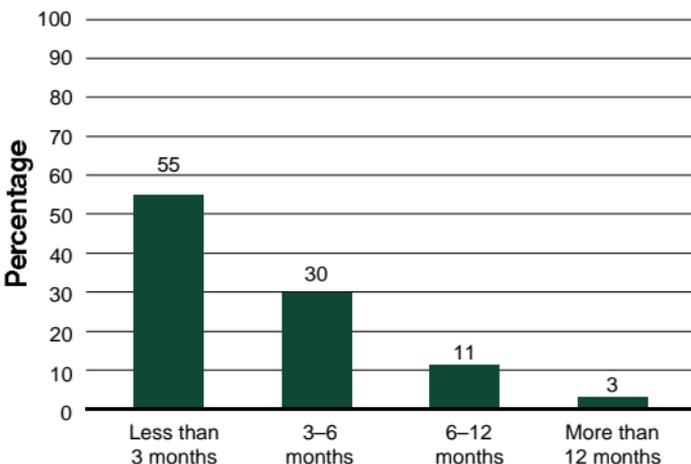
Timeliness

The duration between the lodgment of a matter with the court and its finalisation is referred to as 'timeliness'. Generally, lower courts complete a greater proportion of their workload more quickly because the disputes and prosecutions heard are less complex than those in higher courts, and cases are of a routine or minor nature.

Committals are the first stage of hearing indictable offences in the criminal justice system. A magistrate assesses the sufficiency of evidence presented against the defendant and decides whether to commit the matter for trial in a superior court. Defendants are often held in custody pending a committal hearing or trial if ordered. The timely conduct of the committal hearing is therefore important for timely adjudication of the charges against the defendant.

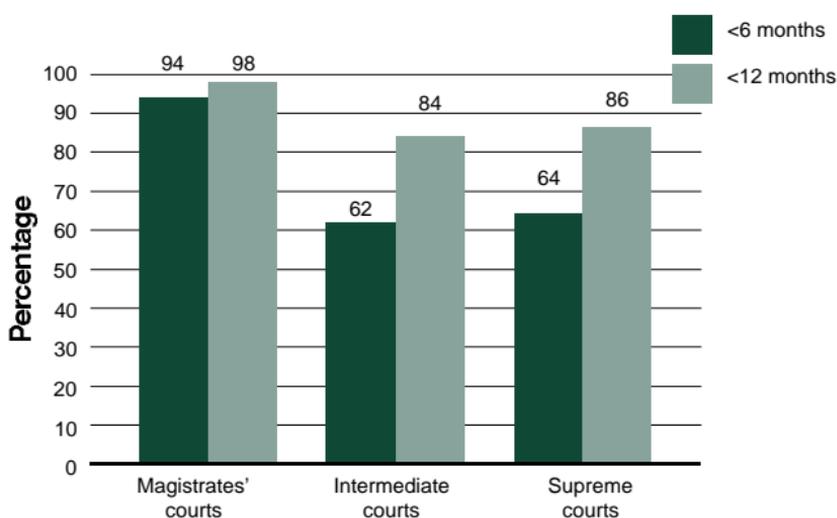
Figure 44

Committal (criminal) matters finalised, magistrates' courts (according to their timeliness), 1998–99



- **On average, 55% of committal hearings in 1998–99 were finalised within three months of the receipt of charges by the court and a further 30% were finalised in the subsequent three months.**

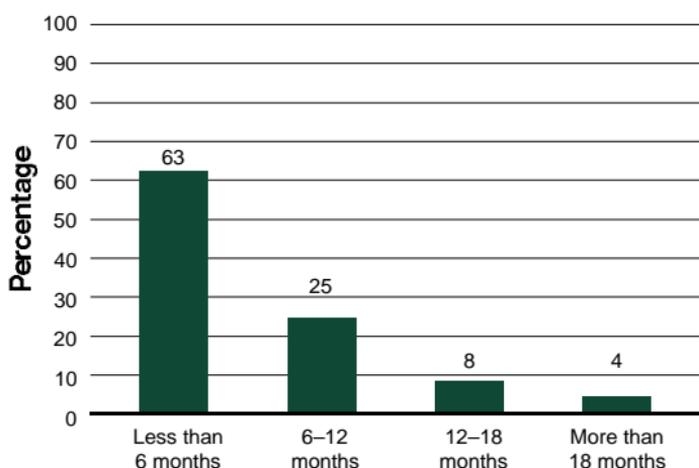
Figure 45
Non-appeal criminal matters finalised in less than 12 months, by type of court, 1998–99



- **Magistrates' courts finalised at least 94% of criminal cases within six months in 1998–99.**
- **The intermediate courts had the lowest percentage of non-appeal criminal matters finalised within six months (62%), with a further 22% finalised in the following six months.**

Appeals from lower courts are predominantly heard by the district courts and Supreme Courts of the States and Territories. The full bench of the Federal Court also hears appeals from a single Federal Court Justice.

Figure 46
Appeal matters finalised, Supreme/Federal Courts, 1998–99



- On average, 63% of criminal appeals were finalised within six months.
- A further 25% were finalised in the subsequent six months.

Source: Reference 9

Court decision

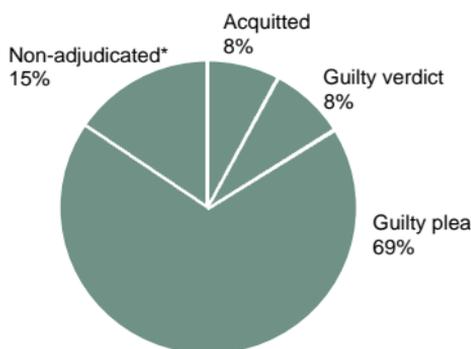
In the main, defendants' cases are finalised at the higher courts in one of the following two ways:

- *adjudicated*: determined whether or not guilty of the charges based on the judge's decision; and
- *non-adjudicated*: a method of determining the completion of a case thereby making it effectively inactive.

A defendant is a person or corporation who has been charged before a court with a criminal offence(s) and brought before the court to face the charge(s).

'Defendants finalised' refers to defendants who had a final outcome for all charges in the higher courts.

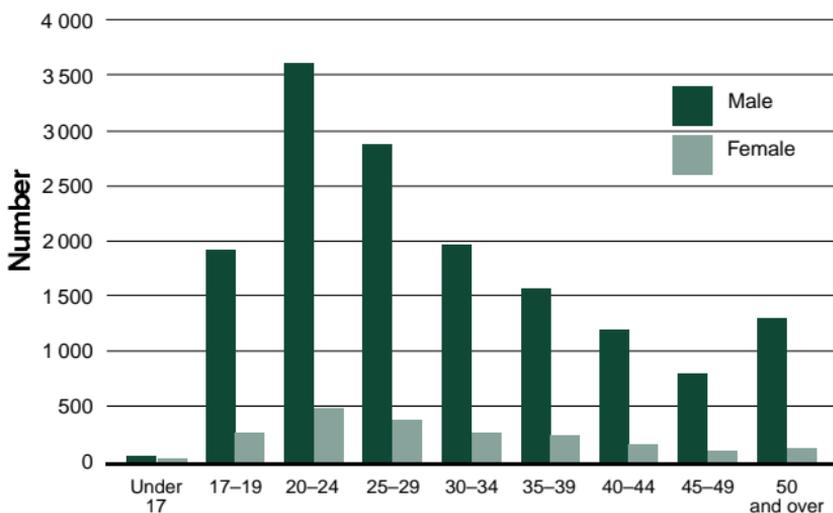
Figure 47
Defendants' cases finalised in higher courts, by method of finalisation, 1998–99



* Excludes Queensland defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

- In 1998–99 there were 18 426 defendants finalised in the higher courts. This represented an increase of 12.3% on 1997–98, when 16 406 defendants were finalised.
- Overall, 77% of the accused persons whose cases were heard by a higher court were found guilty of an offence.
- In only 8% of cases was the defendant acquitted of an offence.

Figure 48
Number of defendants finalised, by age and gender, 1998–99



- **There is a vast difference in the number of males and females appearing before the higher courts. In all age groups, males were more highly represented than females.**
- **The highest number of defendants, both male and female, was in the 20–24 age group.**

Source: Reference 10

Sentencing

There is a variety of sentencing options available at each court level:

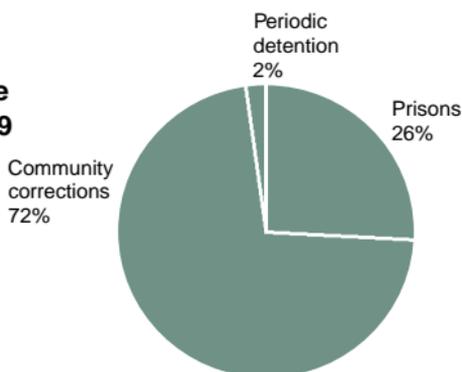
- fine;
- good behaviour bond;
- probation order;
- suspended sentence;
- community supervision;
- community custody;
- home detention;
- periodic detention; and
- imprisonment.

At present there are no national figures on the number of persons sentenced in each particular category.

Persons under corrective services

As mentioned in Section 4, there is a variety of sentencing options available to the courts. Corrective service authorities manage the offenders placed under these sentencing options, which include imprisonment, community corrections and periodic detention.

Figure 49
Offenders, by type of corrective program, 1998–99



- **In the financial year 1998–99, a daily average of 76 520 persons were serving a sentence under custodial or community-based corrective programs.**
- **The largest percentage (72%) of offenders were serving their sentence under a community correction program.**
- **Of the 26% of sentenced offenders who were in prison custody in Australia in 1998–99, 71% were being held in secure prisons, while the remaining 29% were in facilities with lower levels of security.**
- **Two per cent of offenders were serving periodic detention orders, which are only available to offenders in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.**

Source: Reference 9

Prisons

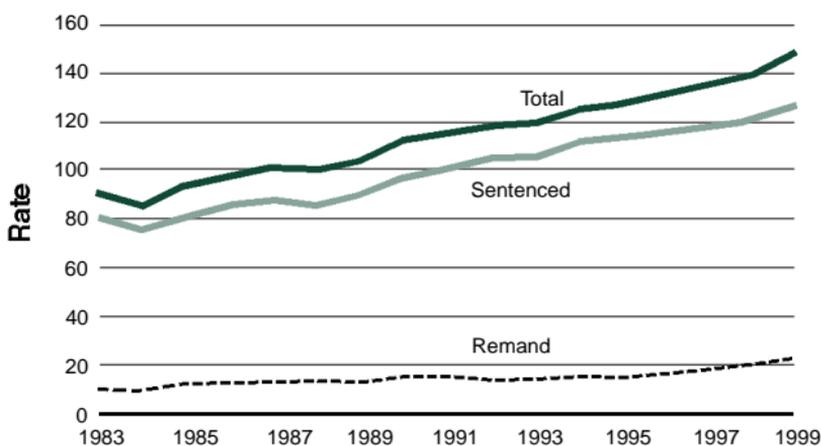
A national prison census for Australia was initiated in 1982 by the Australian Institute of Criminology, which conducted these censuses annually until 1993. This role was taken over by the ABS in 1994. The census is conducted on 30 June each year.

Trends in prison population

As prison data has been collected by these two different organisations, it is possible that there may be slight inconsistencies in the data collection process. For this reason, the long-term trend data should be used with caution. Also, being the first year of the census, the 1982 data show some inconsistencies in definitions, and hence the long-term trend for imprisonment begins in 1983.

It should be noted that prisons hold both sentenced prisoners and those on remand (unsentenced).

Figure 50
Prisoners in Australia, 1983–99
Rate per 100 000 population over age 16

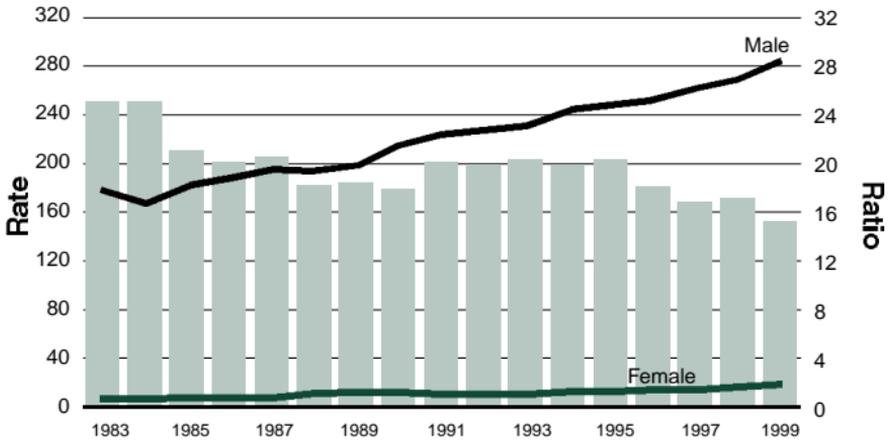


- **Between 1983 and 1999, the overall imprisonment rate increased from 91.6 to 148.4 per 100 000 relevant population. This represents an average annual rate of growth of 5% in the total number of prisoners.**
- **Sentenced prisoners accounted for 85% of the total prisoner population in 1999, a trend that has remained relatively stable over the 17-year period.**

Sources: References 6, 7, 11 and 12

Figure 51 depicts the imprisonment rate of male and female persons (line graph) and the ratio of male rates to female rates (bar graph) from 1983 to 1999.

Figure 51
Prisoners in Australia by gender, 1983–1999
 Rate per 100 000 relevant population over age 16, and
 ratio of imprisonment rates (male to female)



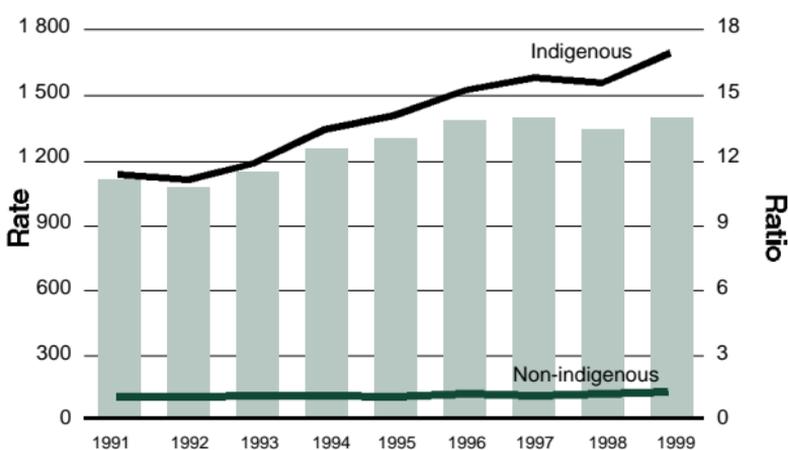
- **Between 1983 and 1999, the overall imprisonment rate for males increased from 177.9 to 282.0 per 100 000 relevant population. This represents an average annual rate of growth of 4%.**
- **The female rate of imprisonment per 100 000 relevant population was 7.1 in 1983 and 18.6 in 1999.**
- **In comparison to 1983, where the male rate of imprisonment was 25 times greater than the female rate, the rate for males in 1999 was 15 times higher.**
- **Just over 6% of all prisoners in 1999 were women. Over the entire period, an increasing trend is evident in the percentage of total prisoners who are women, particularly between 1983–1990 and 1996–99.**

Sources: References 6, 7, 11 and 12

Data on prisoners by Indigenous status has been made available since the 1987 prison census. However, due to consistency problems with Indigenous population figures, Figure 52 depicts the imprisonment rate of Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons (line graph) and the ratio of Indigenous rates to non-Indigenous rates (bar graph) for 1991 to 1999 only. These data include both sentenced prisoners and remandees.

Note: To maintain consistency with rates provided in 'Juvenile corrective institutions' later in this section, rate calculations for Indigenous and non-Indigenous adult prisoners are based on the 'high-series' of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population projections. Rates published in *Prisoners in Australia 1999* (ABS) are based on 'low-series' population estimates and differ from those included in this section.

Figure 52
Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoners, 1991–99
Rate per 100 000 relevant population over age 16, and ratio of imprisonment rates (Indigenous to non-Indigenous)

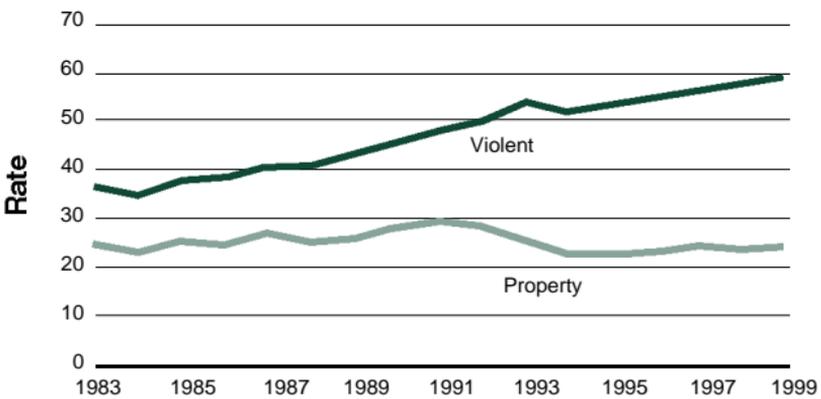


- **The number of Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoners increased at an average annual rate of 8% and 3% respectively, since 1991.**
- **The total number of Indigenous people in prison on 30 June 1999 was 4 307—a rate of 1 690.4 per 100 000 Indigenous population over age 16.**
- **This imprisonment rate was almost 14 times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous prisoners in 1999 (120.9 per 100 000 non-Indigenous population over age 16).**
- **The level of Indigenous over-representation within the total prisoner population has been steadily increasing during the nine-year period.**
- **In 1999, 20% of the total prisoner population were of Indigenous status, compared to 14% in 1991.**

Sources:References 6, 7, 11, 12, 13 and 14

Figure 53 depicts imprisonment rates of those convicted of violent and property offences. Violent prisoners are those convicted of homicide, assault, sex offences and robbery. Prisoners convicted of property offences include those charged with break and enter and with other theft (including motor vehicle theft).

Figure 53
Sented prisoners by type of crime, 1983–1999
Rate per 100 000 population over age 16



- **The imprisonment rate for violent offences has increased from 36.4 per 100 000 relevant persons in 1983, to 58.2 in 1999. While the number of prisoners sentenced for these types of offences has more than doubled between 1983 and 1999, the population aged 17 years and over increased by only 30%.**
- **The rate of imprisonment for property offences has remained stable over the 16-year period. The number of prisoners sentenced for property offences has increased by 25% since 1983. This is less than the increase in the population aged 17 years and over.**
- **In 1999, ‘violent offence’ prisoners accounted for 47% of all sentenced prisoners, a trend that has remained relatively stable over time.**
- **The increase in the overall imprisonment rate in Australia appears largely due to the increases in prisoners being sentenced for violent offences.**

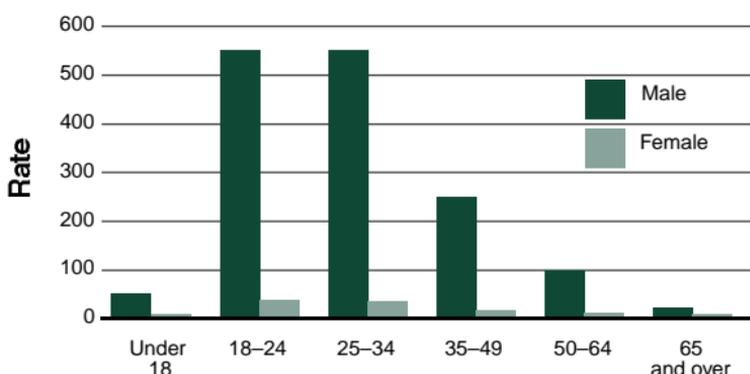
Sources: References 6, 7, 11 and 12

Prisoners in 1999

A total of 21 538 persons were in custody in Australian prisons on the night of 30 June 1999, an increase of 8% on the number recorded in 1998. This corresponds to a rate of 148.4 per 100 000 persons over age 16. Of these, 18 332 were sentenced prisoners and 3 206 were remandees.

Figure 54

Age and gender of prisoners, 1999 Rate per 100 000 relevant population



- **Two-thirds of all prisoners were aged less than 35 years in 1999.**
- **For both males and females, 18 to 24-year-olds and 25 to 34-year-olds had the highest imprisonment rates in 1999.**
- **The largest increase in imprisonment rates between 1998 and 1999 was recorded for males aged 25 to 34. In this case, the rate increased from 507.3 to 548.3 per relevant 100 000 persons.**

Sources: References 6, 7, and 12

Offenders can be sentenced to a prison term for one or a number of offences. The offence for which a prisoner is categorised as being incarcerated is the offence that is deemed 'most serious'.

The remainder of offences are included in the category 'other' and include offences such as driving and traffic offences, extortion and property damage.

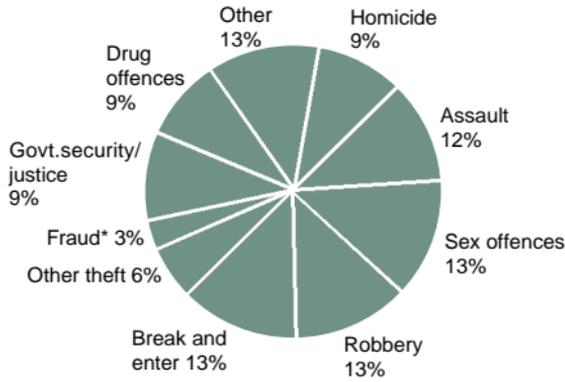
The category of 'other theft' also includes those found guilty of motor vehicle theft. Owing to the seriousness of motor

vehicle theft, other theft can be considered a good proxy for prisoners sentenced for motor vehicle theft.

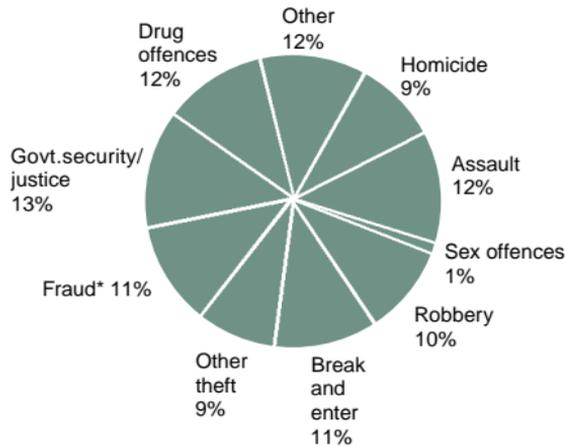
Figure 55

Sentenced prisoners, by most serious offence, 1999

MALES



FEMALES



* Also includes misappropriation.

- **The main offences for which male offenders were sentenced included break and enter, robbery and sex offences (13%). For female offenders, the largest single category for which prisoners were sentenced was government security/justice procedures offences (13%).**
- **Male prisoners sentenced for the violent offences of homicide, assault, sex offences and robbery accounted for almost half of all sentenced prisoners in 1999, whereas for females, only one-third of sentenced prisoners were incarcerated for violent offences. This is mainly due to the larger**

percentage of male prisoners sentenced for sex offences (13%) than female prisoners (1%).

- **In 1999, a larger percentage of female prisoners than male prisoners was sentenced for government security/justice procedure offences, drug offences, fraud/misappropriation and other theft.**
- **These trends have remained relatively stable between 1998 and 1999.**

In 1998–99, four States in Australia had private prisons. Over 15% of Australia's prisoners in that year were detained in private prisons.

Sources: References 9, 11 and 12

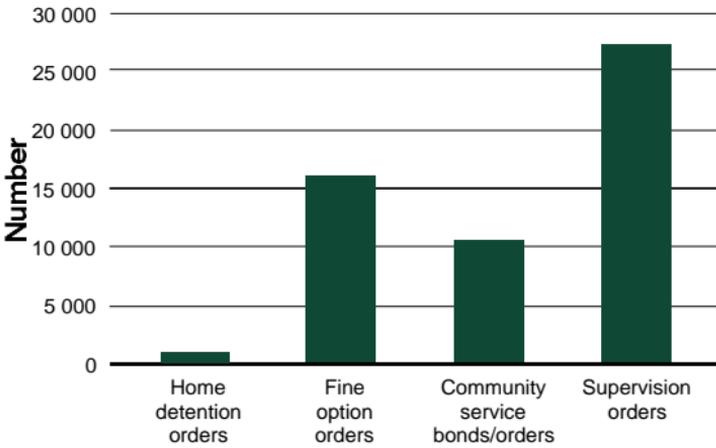
Community corrections

Community corrections comprise a variety of non-custodial programs which vary in the extent and nature of supervision, the conditions of the order, and the restrictions on the person's freedom of movement in the community. They generally provide either a non-custodial sentencing alternative or a post-custodial mechanism for re-integrating prisoners into the community under continued supervision.

Post-custodial programs include parole, release on licence, pre-release orders and some forms of home detention. Orders imposed by the court as a sentencing sanction include suspended sentences, court-imposed home detention, community service orders, probation, intensive supervision orders and recognisance.

- **Across Australia in 1998–99 there were 55 253 offenders per day, on average, serving community correction orders.**
- **This corresponds to a rate of 380.8 per 100 000 population over age 16.**

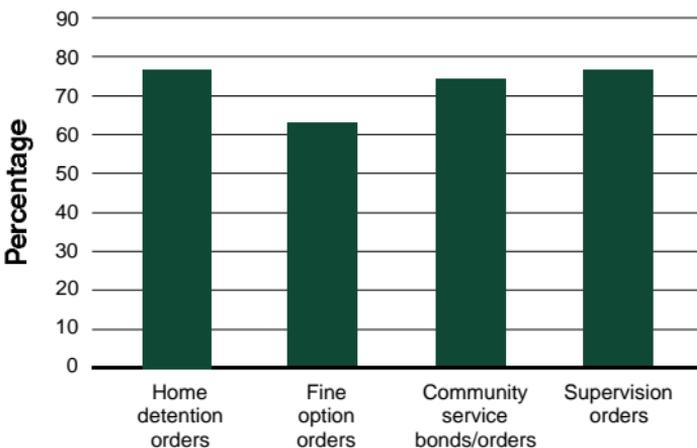
Figure 56
Average daily community corrections populations,* 1998–99



* These figures exclude Victorian community correction populations.

- **Supervision orders are the most common community correction option used, with 27 177 offenders under supervision orders in 1998–99 (does not include Victoria).**
- **Fine option orders and community service bonds/orders are also common, with 15 892 and 10 347 offenders, respectively, serving these corrective options in 1998–99 (does not include Victoria).**

Figure 57
Successful completion of community corrections orders, 1998–99



- **Sixty-eight per cent of all community corrective orders were successfully completed in 1998–99, compared to 75% in 1997–98.**
- **Supervision orders had the highest percentage of successful completion (77%), while fine option orders had the lowest (63%).**

Source: Reference 9

Juvenile corrective institutions

The Australian Institute of Criminology has maintained a collection on the number of persons detained in Juvenile corrective institutions since 1981. The census consists of a count of the number of persons detained in institutions on the last day of each quarter each year. Note that the long-term trend data shown in Figure 58 is based on the census conducted on 30 June of each year.

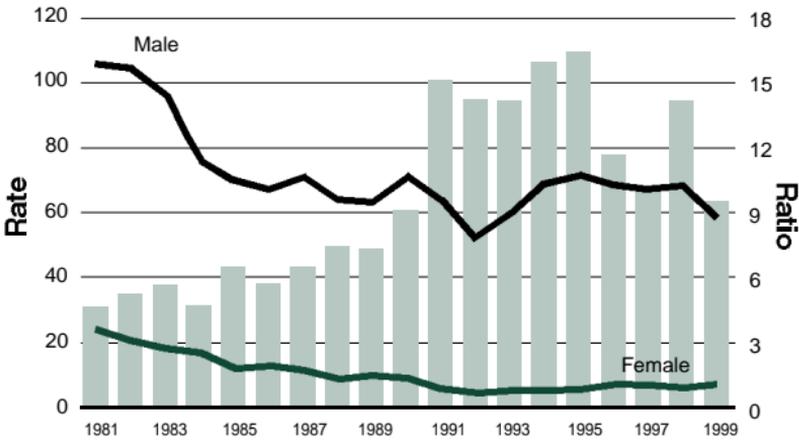
Trends in juvenile corrective institution population

Given the differences among jurisdictions regarding the definition of a juvenile, statistics are shown for people aged between 10 and 17 years. Figure 58 depicts the imprisonment rate of male and female juveniles (line graph) and the ratio of male incarceration rates to female rates (bar graph) from 1981 to 1999.

Figure 58

Persons in juvenile corrective institutions by gender, 1981–1999

Rate per 100 000 population 10 to 17 years, and ratio of imprisonment rates (male to female)



- **Between 1981 and 1999, the overall incarceration rate declined from 64.9 to 32.7 per 100 000 relevant population.**
- **For male juveniles, the incarceration rate decreased from 105.2 to 58.1 per 100 000 relevant population, while the female rate of incarceration also decreased, from 22.9 in 1981 to 6.1 per 100 000 relevant population in 1999.**
- **Between 1981 and 1995, males were increasingly over-represented in juvenile correction institutions. With the exception of 1998, a decline in the level of male over-representation has been recorded since 1996.**
- **In 1999, the male incarceration rate was almost 10 times higher than the rate for female juveniles.**
- **Just over 9% of all persons incarcerated in juvenile corrective institutions were female in 1999, compared to 17% in 1981.**

Sources: Reference 6, 7 and 13

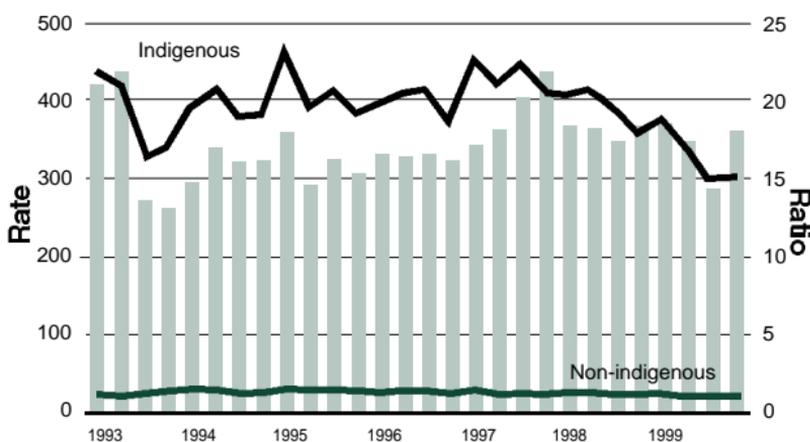
Data on incarcerated persons by Indigenous status have been made available since 1993. Figure 59 depicts the incarceration rate of Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons (line graph) in juvenile corrective institutions, and the ratio

of Indigenous rates to non-Indigenous rates (bar graph) from 1993 to 1999 for each quarter.

Figure 59

Persons in juvenile corrective institutions by Indigenous status, 1993–99

Rate per 100 000 relevant population 10 to 17 years, and ratio of imprisonment rates (Indigenous to non-Indigenous)



- **No major trends in rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons are evident between 1993 and 1996. However, since 1997, rates for both groups of persons appear to be in a period of decline.**
- **The total number of Indigenous persons in juvenile corrective institutions on 30 June 1999 was 290. This represents 42% of the total prisoner population, a trend that has remained relatively consistent since the June quarter of 1997.**
- **On 30 June 1999, the incarceration rate for Indigenous persons was 340 per 100 000 relevant population, or 17 times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous juveniles.**

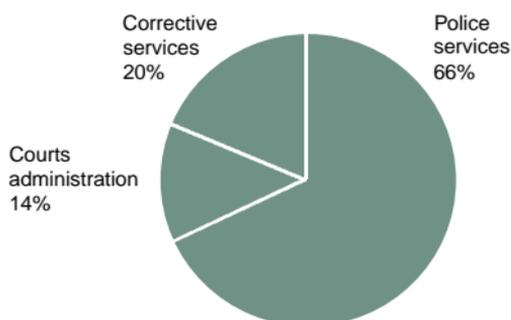
Sources: References 6, 7, 13, 14 and 15

Justice expenditure

According to the *Report on Government Services 2000*, the total government expenditure on justice in 1998–99 was approximately \$6 billion. Since 1994–95, government expenditure on justice has increased at a real average annual growth rate of 5.4%.

The largest component of the justice system was police services, which accounted for approximately 66% of the total justice-related expenditure covered by the report. Corrective services accounted for a further 20%, and court administration accounted for the remaining 14% (see Figure 60).

Figure 60
Composition of government expenditure on justice, 1998–99



Police

Policing activities are predominantly the responsibility of the police agencies of State and Territory governments, with the Australian Federal Police providing a community policing service in the ACT on behalf of the ACT Government. Funding for these services comes almost exclusively from State and Territory government budgets, with some specific-purpose grants being provided by the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Government operates the Australian Federal Police. The figures discussed below exclude resource data for the AFP.

Expenditure

The total recurrent expenditure on police services across Australia was \$4.1 billion. This amounts to \$217 for every person in Australia. Recurrent expenditure on staff salaries accounted for 76% of this total expenditure.

Table 8
Expenditure on Australian police services, 1998–99

Expenditure	(\$000)
Total recurrent expenditure	4 121 419
Total capital expenditure	257 483
Total expenditure	4 378 902
Staff salaries	(\$)
Average police staff salaries	66 174
Average non-police staff salaries	42 335

Source: Reference 9

Staffing

Most people involved directly in the delivery of police services are sworn police officers (employees recognised under each jurisdiction's Police Act). Sworn police officers exercise police powers such as the powers to arrest, summons, caution, detain, fingerprint and search.

In recent years there has been a trend towards 'civilianisation' of police services, with some non-core activities undertaken by non-sworn officers or contracted to external providers.

- **The total police services staffing in Australia in 1999 was 55 200, an increase of 4% on the number recorded in 1998. This averages out at 291 per 100 000 persons (227 sworn police officers and 64 civilian employees).**
- **There were 43 048 sworn police officers and 12 152 civilian employees making up Australian police services in 1999.**

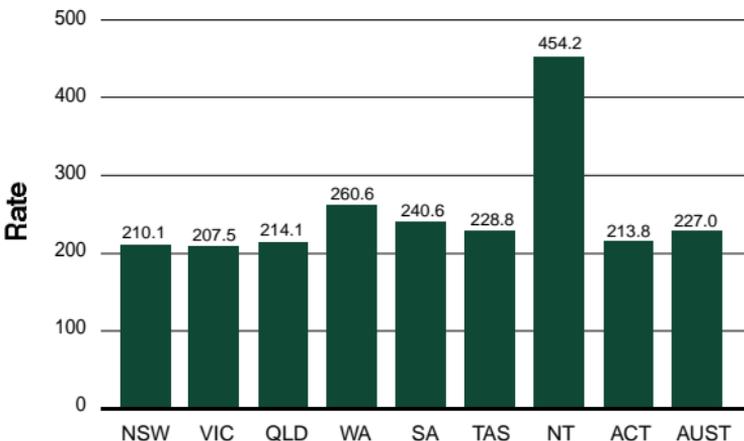
Table 9
**Composition of police services by jurisdiction, as at
 30 June 1999**

Jurisdiction	Sworn police officers	Civilian	Total
NSW	13 471	3 789	17 260
VIC	9 777	1 725	11 502
QLD	7 519	2 808	10 327
WA	4 850	1 851	6 701
SA	3 592	782	4 374
TAS	1 076	370	1 446
NT	876	197	1 073
ACT	663	68	731
AUST	43 048	12 152	55 200

- **New South Wales had the largest police service across Australia, while the Australian Capital Territory had the smallest.**
- **Western Australia employed the highest proportion of civilian staff (28%), and the Australian Capital Territory employed the lowest (9%).**
- **Since June 1995 there has been a 1% increase in the number of sworn police officers and a 24% increase in the number of civilian employees in the police services of Australia.**

Sources: References 9, 16 and 17

Figure 61
**Sworn police officers per 100 000 population, by jurisdiction,
 as at 30 June 1999**



- Generally there is little difference across jurisdictions in the number of sworn police officers per 100 000 population, with the exception of the Northern Territory which is well above the national average.
- The Northern Territory had the largest number of police officers per 100 000 population (454.2), while Victoria had the smallest (207.5). However, Victoria had 43 police officers per 1 000km², while the Northern Territory had only one.

Sources: References 6 and 17

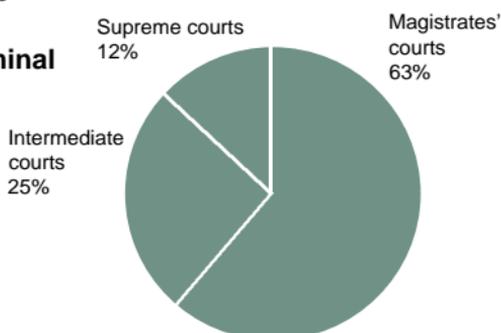
Court administration

Court administration agencies throughout Australia provide a range of services integral to the effective performance of the judicial system. These agencies work with the judiciary and the community to provide a court system that allows the prompt resolution of disputes and appropriate access to justice for the community.

- The total recurrent expenditure by State, Territory and Commonwealth court authorities was approximately \$816 million in 1998–99, an annual increase of 4% (in real terms) since 1994–95.
- Expenditure for criminal court administration was slightly above \$382 million for 1998–99.

Figure 62

Total expenditure (less in-house revenue) for criminal courts, 1998–99



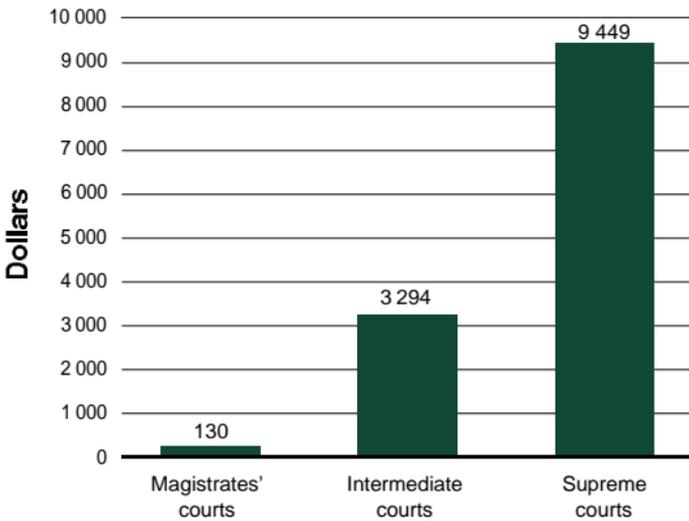
- The magistrates' courts incurred 63% of total criminal court expenditure, followed by the

intermediate courts (25%) and then the Supreme Courts (12%).

Figure 63 shows the average expenditure per case lodgment in the criminal courts. The higher the level of court, the more expensive each criminal case lodgment becomes. This is because the more complex and lengthy cases are tried in the higher courts.

Figure 63

Average expenditure* per criminal case lodgment, 1998–99



*Includes payroll tax to facilitate comparisons with earlier years.

- **Average expenditure per criminal case lodgment ranged from \$130 in the magistrates' courts, to \$9 449 in the Supreme Courts.**

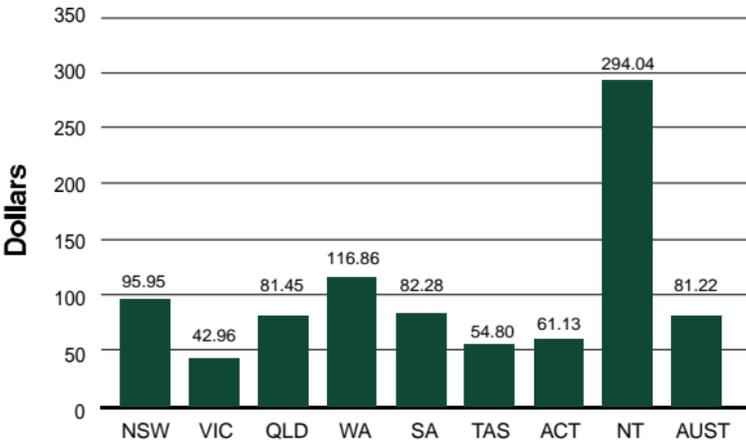
Source: Reference 9

Corrective services

Resources allocated for corrective services in Australia are divided into two broad categories: prisons and community corrections.

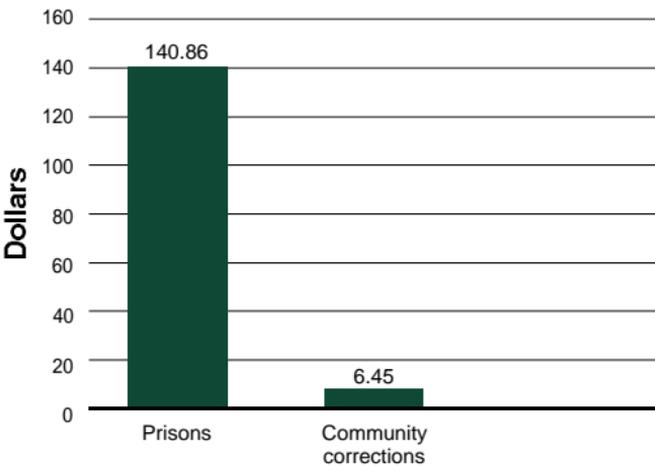
Total recurrent expenditure on corrective services in Australia was approximately \$1 179 million in 1998–99: \$1 049 million (89%) for prisons and \$130 million (11%) for community corrections. This corresponds to a figure of about \$81 for every adult in Australia.

Figure 64
Recurrent expenditure on corrective services per head of adult population (17 years and over), 1998–99



■ **Recurrent expenditure on corrective services per head of adult population in 1998–99 ranged from \$42.96 in Victoria to \$294.04 in the Northern Territory.**

Figure 65
Corrective services expenditure per offender per day, 1998–99



■ **Expenditure per prisoner per day was \$140.86 in 1998–99, ranging from \$105.65 in Queensland to \$192.27 in the ACT. The national figure was 22 times more than that spent on offenders in community correction programs each day.**

- **Expenditure per offender sentenced to community correction programs per day was only \$6.45 in 1998–99.**
- **Overall in 1998–99, approximately \$51 414 was spent on each prisoner and \$2 354 on each offender sentenced to community correction programs.**

Sources:References 6 and 9

The Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence has reported drug arrest and seizure statistics since 1992. This section provides an overview of arrest patterns for offenders between 1995–96 and 1998–99.

Information is provided on arrests for the following types of drugs:

- cannabis;
- heroin;
- amphetamines;
- cocaine; and
- other drugs (not defined elsewhere).

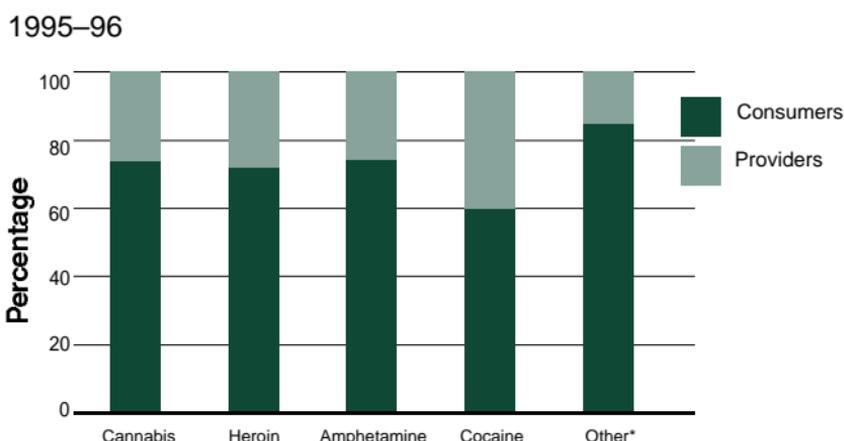
Cannabis arrests include expiation notices, drug infringement notices and simple cannabis offence notices.

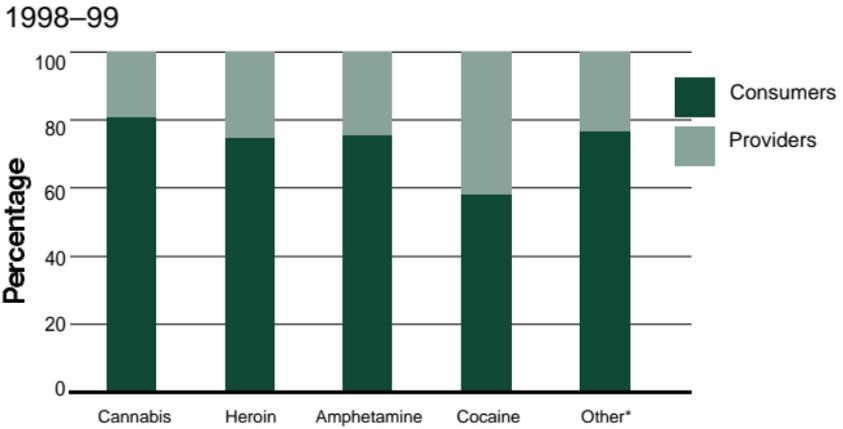
Offenders involved in drug arrests are divided into the following two categories:

- *consumers*: persons charged with user-type offences (e.g. possessing or administering drugs for own personal use); and
- *providers*: persons charged with supply-type offences (e.g. importation, trafficking, selling, cultivation and manufacture).

In the case of a person being charged with consumer and provider offences, the provider charge takes precedence and the person is counted only as a provider of that drug.

Figure 66
Number of consumers and providers arrested as percentage of all drug arrests specific to each type of drug, 1995–96 and 1998–99

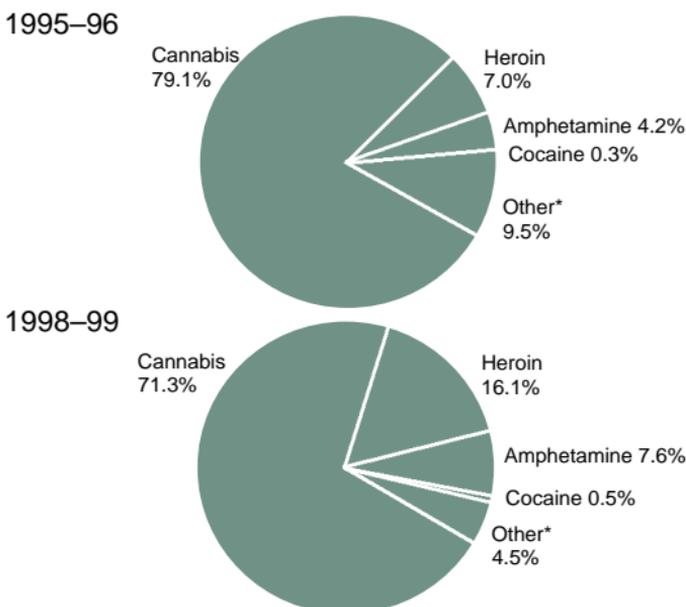




* 'Other' includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere).

- **The majority of people arrested for drug offences are consumers rather than providers, irrespective of drug type.**
- **In 1998–99, 81% of persons arrested for cannabis offences were consumers, compared to 58% of arrests for cocaine offences.**
- **There has been relatively little change in the pattern of arrests between 1995–96 and 1998–99.**

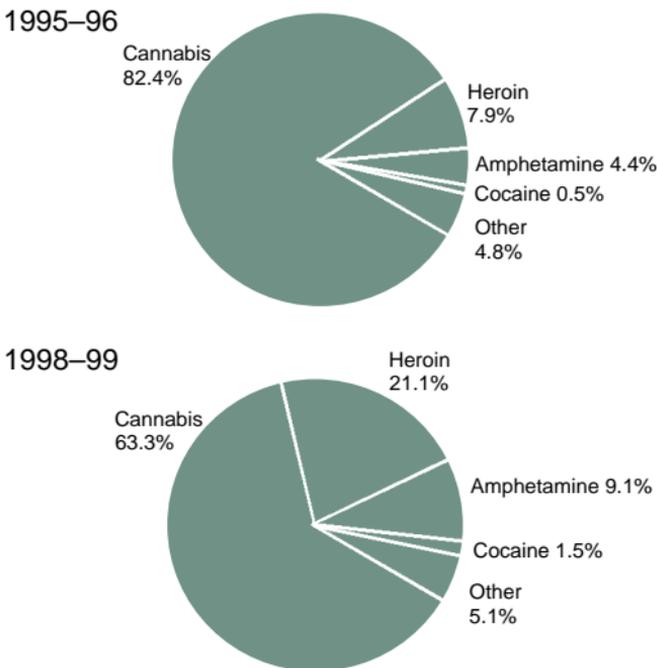
Figure 67
Drug consumers, number of arrests as a percentage of total drug arrests, by type of drug, 1995–96 and 1998–99



* 'Other' includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere).

- Arrests for cannabis, heroin and amphetamines accounted for 94% of all consumer arrests in 1998–99.
- Consumers were most likely to be arrested for a cannabis offence in both 1995–96 and 1998–99. However, there has been some change in the past three years, with a decrease in the percentage of cannabis users from 79.1% to 71.3%.
- Between 1995–96 and 1998–99, there was an increase in the percentage of consumers arrested for heroin and amphetamine offences. The percentage of consumers arrested for heroin offences more than doubled over the three-year period.

Figure 68
Drug providers, number of arrests as a percentage of total drug arrests, by type of drug, 1995–96 and 1998–99



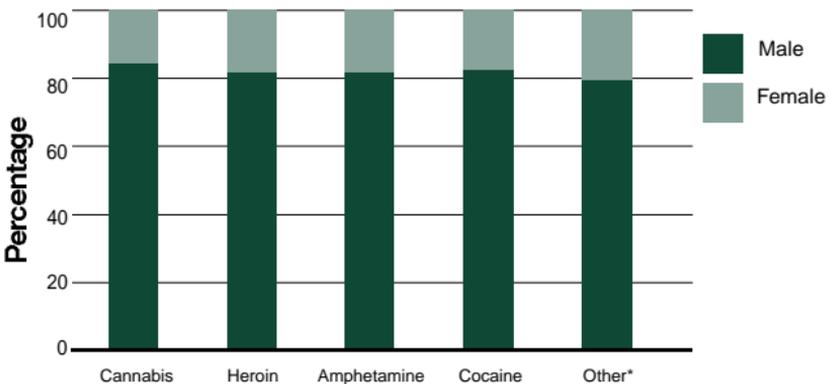
* 'Other' includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not further defined).

- As with consumers, most providers are arrested for importing, producing, trafficking or selling cannabis.

- In 1998–99, cannabis accounted for 63% of all provider arrests. Heroin and amphetamines accounted for 21% and 9% of provider arrests, respectively.
- Over the past three years there has been a substantial decline in the percentage of provider arrests related to cannabis offences. In 1995–96, 82% of arrests against providers were for cannabis offences compared to 63% in 1998–99.
- The percentage of total provider arrests accounted for by heroin offences almost tripled between 1995–96 and 1998–99.

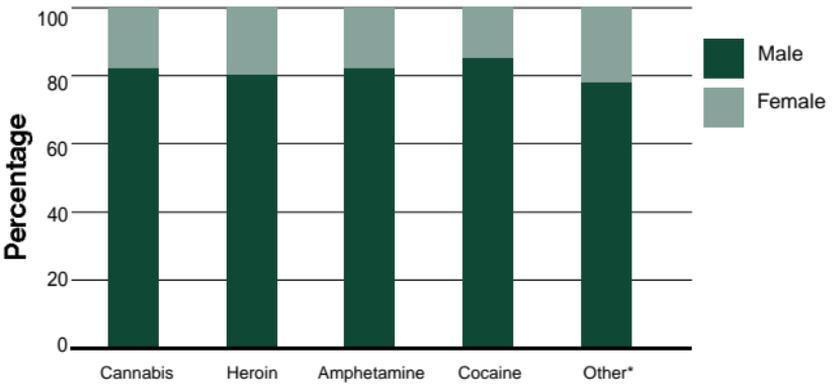
Figure 69

Drug consumers, number of arrests as a percentage of total drug arrests, by gender and type of drug, 1998–99



* 'Other' includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere).

Figure 70
Drug providers, number of arrests as a percentage of total drug arrests, by gender and type of drug, 1998–99



* 'Other' includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere).

■ Irrespective of drug type, males accounted for four in five arrests of both consumer and provider offences.

Source: Reference 19

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CONTACTS

Australian Institute of Criminology

GPO Box 2944

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