



Australian Government

Australian Institute of Criminology

Australian Crime

Facts & Figures

2004

Foreword

This compendium of the most recently available national information on crime in Australia is intended to serve as a ready reference. It covers different types of recorded crimes, their place of occurrence, victim details, responses of criminal justice agencies, and government resources directed to deal with crime.

Although the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) has been collecting and analysing data for the past 30 years, the availability of national statistics on major crimes is a relatively recent phenomenon. This publication makes use of those national statistics collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) as well as a variety of other sources.

Administrative collections, such as police and court statistics, provide only one picture of the true level of crime in Australia. Crime victimisation surveys routinely find that only about 40% of crimes are reported to the police, and this varies according to crime type. Reporting rates are as high as 95% for motor vehicle theft and as low as 14% for partner violence.

As a result, it is important to use both administrative and survey-based information to help inform our understanding of the level and effects of crime in the community. The data here primarily comprise national figures; where national data are not available other sources are used. Readers looking for additional information should consult the appropriate publications and web sites included in the reference section of this document.

The Australian Institute of Criminology 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 visiting the AIC web site (www.aic.gov.au), or contacting the Institute (see back cover).

Toni Makkai
Director

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Note

Because of rounding, some percentages may not sum to 100.

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This section presents data on recorded crime as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for the period 1996 to 2003. Recorded crime is based on crimes reported to or detected by police during the period from 1 January to 31 December each year. A victim can include a person, premises or a motor vehicle.

Recorded crime statistics are used generally as a measure of crime in Australia. A proportion of crime is not reported to police, however, and so is not counted in these statistics. An alternative source of information is crime victimisation surveys which are presented in Chapter 3.

Source: Reference 1

Crimes known to police

Tables 1a and 1b show the number of victims recorded by police between 1996 and 2003 for seven major categories of offences: homicide, assault, sexual assault, robbery, unlawful entry with intent (UEWI), motor vehicle theft (MVT) and other theft. It is estimated that these crimes account for about 60% of all crime recorded by police.

Table 1a
Violent crimes, 1996–2003*

	Homicide	Assault	Sexual assault	Robbery
1996	350	114,156	14,542	16,372
1997	360	124,500	14,353	21,305
1998	332	130,903	14,336	23,801
1999	386	134,271	14,104	22,606
2000	363	138,708	15,759	23,336
2001	346	152,283	16,897	26,591
2002	365	160,118	17,977	20,989
2003	341	158,629	18,237	19,719

* Data for 2001 and 2002 were revised by the ABS

- **The number of robbery offences in 2003 was the lowest since 1996.**
- **The number of sexual assaults has risen each year since 1999. The 2003 figure is 1% higher than in 2002.**

- The 2003 figure for homicide was 3% lower than in 1996 and 7% lower than in 2002.
- The number of assaults in 2003 was the highest recorded since 1996 with the exception of 2002. There were 1% fewer assaults in 2003 than in 2002.

Source: Reference 1

Table 1b
Property crimes, 1996–2003*

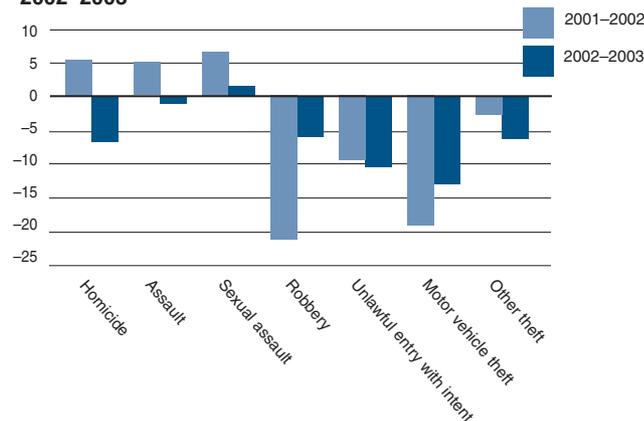
	Unlawful entry with intent	Motor vehicle theft	Other theft
1996	402,079	122,914	521,762
1997	421,569	130,138	530,881
1998	434,376	131,587	563,482
1999	415,735	129,552	612,559
2000	436,968	138,912	681,268
2001	435,754	139,894	700,137
2002	394,323	113,460	680,799
2003	353,419	98,813	638,968

* Data for 2001 and 2002 were revised by the ABS

- In 2003, 'other theft' (which includes offences such as pickpocketing, bag snatching, and shoplifting) was the most commonly recorded property crime, accounting for 59% of property crime victims.
- Between 1996 and 2003, the number of victims of unlawful entry with intent and motor vehicle theft decreased by 12% and 20% respectively.
- Property offences accounted for 85% of the seven major crimes in 2003.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 1
Percentage change in crimes, 2001–2002 compared with 2002–2003*



* Data for 2001 and 2002 were revised by the ABS

- The number of sexual assaults increased between 2002 and 2003 by approximately 1%, the only offence to record an increase in this time.
- Homicide (7%), robbery (6%), UEWI (10%), motor vehicle theft (13%) and other theft (6%) all recorded considerable decreases from 2002 to 2003.

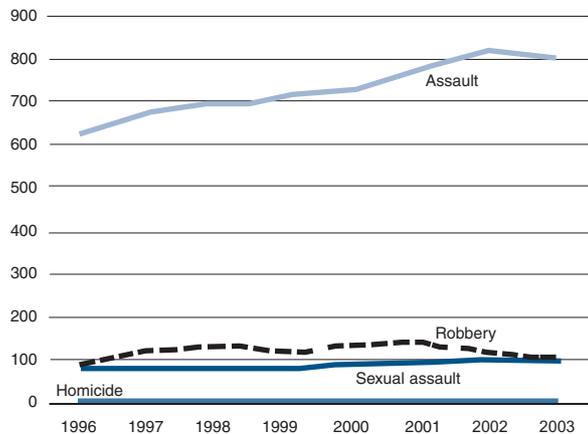
Source: Reference 1

Crime rates

Crime rates are a better comparison for changes over time. They are calculated on the basis of 100,000 persons in the population to account for increases in the population over time.

Violent crime rate

Figure 2
Violent crimes, rate per 100,000 persons, 1996–2003



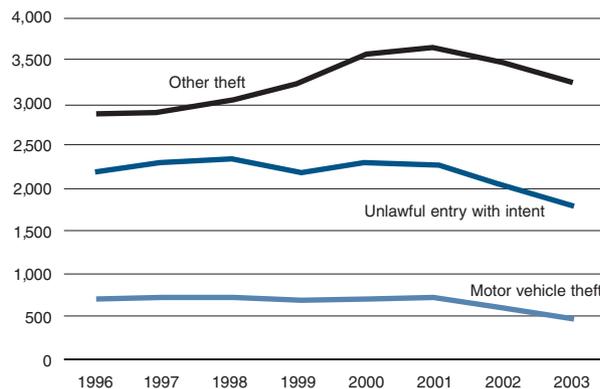
- The rate of assault increased steadily from 623 victims per 100,000 people in 1996 to 815 per 100,000 in 2002 before declining by 2% to 798 per 100,000 in 2003.
- The rate for robbery peaked at 137 per 100,000 in 2001, the highest recorded since 1996. Rates have declined since 2001 by 28% to 99 per 100,000.
- In 2003 the rate of sexual assault was 92 per 100,000, which is higher than any previous year and 15% higher than in 1996.
- The homicide rate was 1.91 in 1996 and was at its highest in 1999 at 2.04 per 100,000, before dropping to 1.7 in 2003.

Source: References 1–4

Property crime rate

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

Figure 3
Property crimes, rate per 100,000 persons, 1996–2003



- The rate of other theft (including shoplifting) has increased by 13% since 1996, from 2,849 to 3,214 per 100,000 population. Rates have dropped 10% since 2000.
- The rate of unlawful entry with intent remained relatively stable from 1996 to 2001, with decreases recorded in 2002 and 2003. The overall decline between 1996 and 2003 was 19%, from 2,196 to 1,778, including a 21% drop since 2001.
- The rate of motor vehicle theft continued to drop in 2003 for the second consecutive year, resulting in a 26% decline since 1996, from 671 to 497.

Source: References 1–4

Location of crime

The ABS classifies crime locations according to the function of the site where a criminal incident occurred, as follows:

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

Table 2 lists the number of violent offences (homicide, assault, sexual assault and robbery) that occurred within each type of location. Figure 4 shows the proportion of violent offences by the type of location.

Table 2
Number of violent crimes by type of location, 2003

	Homicide	Assault	Sexual assault	Robbery
Residential				
Private dwelling	178	60,939	11,803	1,256
Other residential*	12	5,815	337	127
Community				
Street/footpath	63	34,433	1,213	8,218
Other community	48	22,472	2,418	3,336
Other				
Retail	8	14,710	533	4,606
Recreational	12	14,549	896	1,163
Other location	10	2,873	333	620
Unspecified	10	2,838	704	393
Total	341	158,629	18,237	19,719

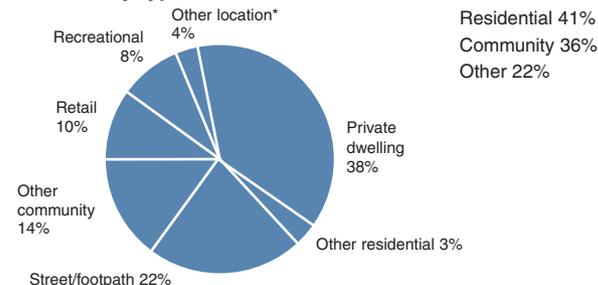
* Includes non-private dwellings, dwellings not further defined, and land and other structures (for example, driveways) that lie within the curtilage of a residential location.

■ In 2003, 42% of robberies and 22% of assaults occurred on streets or footpaths, compared with 18% of homicides and 7% of sexual assaults.

■ Sixty-five per cent of sexual assaults, 52% of homicides and 38% of assaults occurred in private dwellings.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 4
Violent crimes by type of location, 2003



* Includes unspecified location (n=3,945)

■ Forty-one per cent of all violent offences occurred in residential locations, with 38% occurring in a private dwelling.

■ Twenty-two per cent of all violent offences occurred on a street/footpath.

Source: Reference 1

Table 3 lists the number of property offences (unlawful entry with intent, motor vehicle theft and other theft) that occurred within each type of location. Figure 5 shows the proportion of property offences by the type of location.

Table 3
Number of property crimes by type of location, 2003

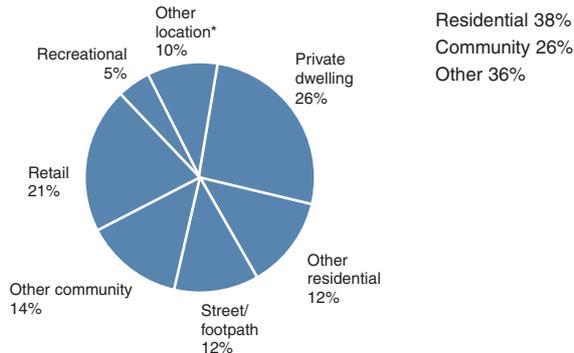
	Unlawful entry with intent	Motor vehicle theft	Other theft
Residential			
Private dwelling	207,723	–	77,472
Other residential*	24,523	25,907	85,800
Community			
Street/footpath	–	35,800	99,582
Other community	29,938	16,734	103,513
Other			
Retail	42,306	10,812	171,249
Recreational	9,782	1,729	37,866
Other location	33,656	3,133	35,848
Unspecified	5,491	4,698	27,638
Total	353,419	98,813	638,968

* Includes non-private dwellings, dwellings not further defined, and land and other structures (for example, driveways) that lie within the curtilage of a residential location.

- Motor vehicle thefts were more likely to occur in a community setting (54%) than in or around a residential area (26%).
- The majority (66%) of unlawful entry with intent crimes occurred in a residential setting, and 12% occurred in a retail setting.
- Thirty-three per cent of other thefts occurred in a community setting and 26% in a retail location.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 5
Property crimes by type of location, 2003



* Includes unspecified location (n=37,827)

- Thirty-eight per cent of all property offences occurred in residential locations.
- Twenty-one per cent occurred in retail locations.

Source: Reference 1

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.

This reflects categories recorded by police at the time of the homicide and does not reflect the final outcome at conviction of an offender. It also does not include:

- *attempted murder*: the attempt to unlawfully kill another person by any means, act or omission; and
- *driving causing death*: the unlawful killing of a person caused through culpable, dangerous or negligent driving.

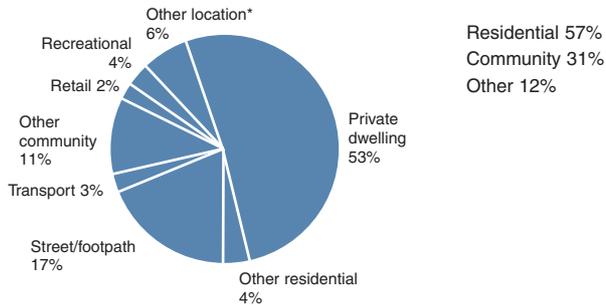
Data from the ABS are supplemented with more detailed information collected by the Australian Institute of Criminology through the National homicide monitoring program (NHMP). The ABS reports on a calendar year and the AIC on a financial year basis.

- There were 341 homicides in Australia in 2003, with almost two victims per 100,000 population. This represents a decrease of 6% over the 363 homicides in 2002.
- Murder accounted for 89% of the victims recorded in 2003. The remainder were victims of manslaughter.

Source: References 1 and 5

Location of homicides

Figure 6
Homicide, type of location, 2003



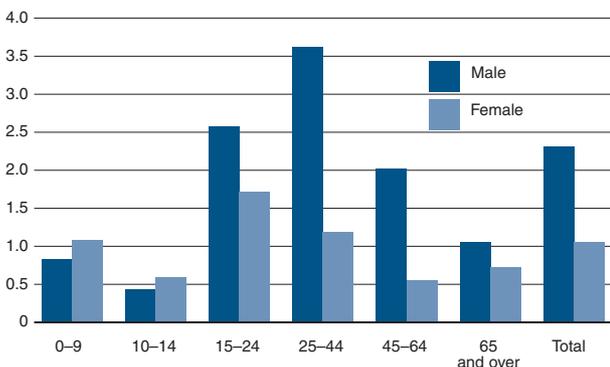
* Includes unspecified location (n=10)

- Of all homicides occurring in Australia in 2003, 57% took place in residential locations, with 53% in a private dwelling.

Source: Reference 1

Victims of homicide

Figure 7
Age and gender of homicide victims, rate per 100,000 persons, 2003



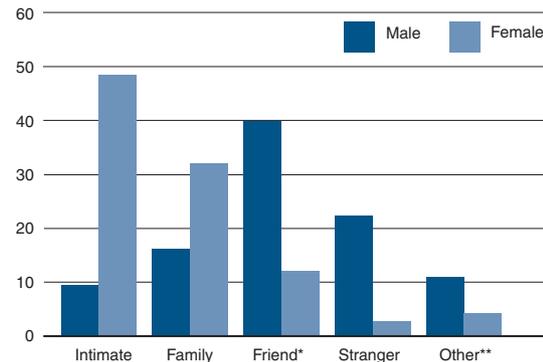
- Sixty-seven per cent of homicide victims were male.
- In all age categories, the risk of being a victim of homicide was higher for males than for females, with the exception of those aged under 15.

- Males in the 25 to 44 age group were most at risk of being a homicide victim.
- The total number of male victims remained relatively stable in 2003 compared with 2002, whereas the number of female victims decreased by 15%, from 124 to 106.

Source: References 1 and 4

Victim-offender relationship

Figure 8
Homicide victims, gender and relationship to offender, percentages, 2002-2003



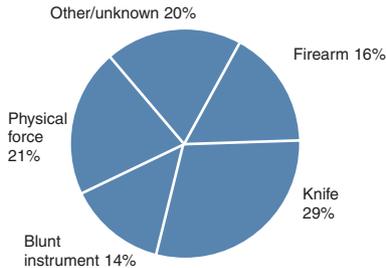
* Includes acquaintances

** Includes business associates, employee/employer, colleagues and other relationships

- The victim-offender relationship for homicide differs according to the gender of the victims. Male victims were more likely to be killed by a friend or acquaintance, whereas female victims were more likely to be killed by a family member (intimate partner and family).
- Only 3% of female victims were killed by a person unknown to them (stranger), compared with 22% of male victims.

Source: Reference 6

Figure 9
Homicide, type of weapon, 2002–2003

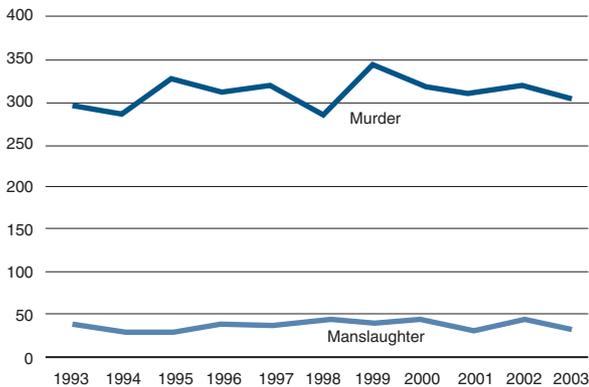


- Knives were used in 29% of homicides committed in 2002–2003.
- Twenty-one per cent were committed using physical force (hands/feet), 16% with firearms, and 14% with blunt instruments.

Source: Reference 6

Trend in homicide

Figure 10
Number of homicides, 1993–2003



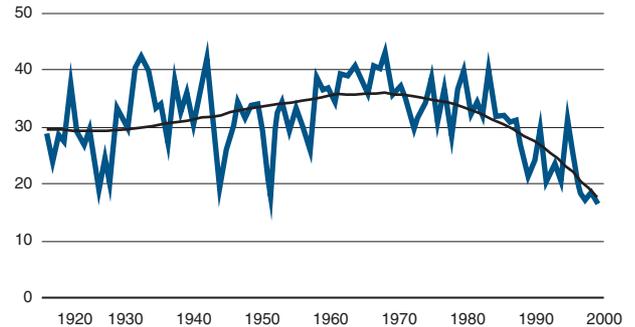
- The number of murders fluctuated slightly on an annual basis between 1993 and 2003, while manslaughter remained relatively stable. The number of murders peaked in 1999 with 343 recorded.

- The number of manslaughters peaked in 2000 at 48.

Source: Reference 1

Trend in firearm homicides

Figure 11
Homicide involving firearms as a percentage of total homicide, 1915–2002



- The percentage of homicides committed with a firearm continued a declining trend since 1969. In 2002, just under 16% of homicides involved firearms. The figure was similar in 2001, down from a high of 44% in 1968.

Source: Reference 5

Assault

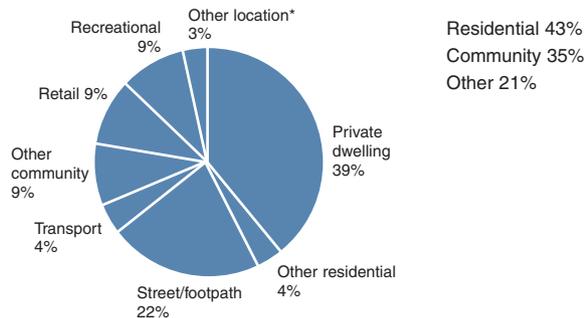
The ABS defines assault as the direct infliction of force, injury or violence upon a person, including attempts or threats.

- In 2003 there were 158,629 assaults recorded by the police, at a rate of 798 per 100,000 population. This was a decrease of 2% over the rate recorded in 2002.

Source: References 1 and 4

Location of assaults

Figure 12
Assault, type of location, 2003



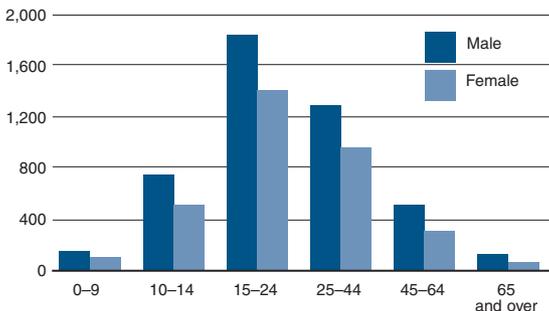
* Includes unspecified location (n=2,838)

- Assaults occurred most frequently in residential locations (43%), particularly private dwellings (39%).
- Thirty-five per cent of assaults occurred in community locations, with those on streets/footpaths accounting for 22%.
- Twenty-one per cent of recorded assaults took place in other locations, including recreational facilities (9%).

Source: Reference 1

Victims of assault

Figure 13
Age and gender of assault victims, rate per 100,000 persons, 2003



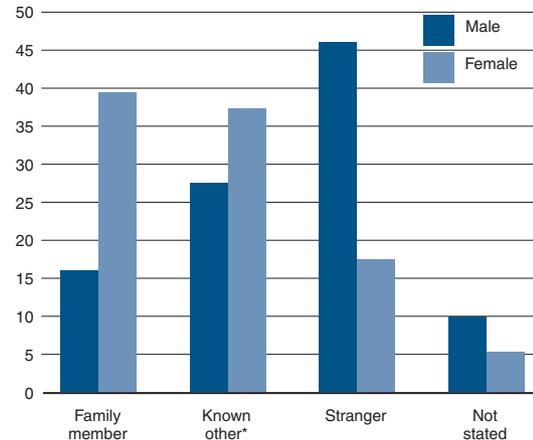
- Fifty-eight per cent of assault victims were male.

- Consistent with patterns in previous years, males had higher victimisation rates than females for all age categories.
- Both males and females aged between 15 and 24 years had the highest rates of assault.
- The number of male assault victims remained stable while the number of female assault victims increased by 4% between 2002 and 2003.

Source: References 1 and 4

Victim-offender relationship

Figure 14
Assault victims, gender and relationship to offender, percentages, 2003



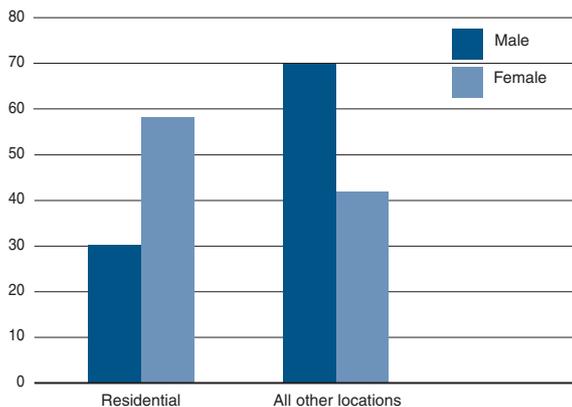
Excludes Queensland and Western Australia (information not available).

* Includes known non-family and known but not further defined, and may include some family members.

- Seventy-seven per cent of female victims of assault knew the offender, compared with 44% of male victims.
- Assaults against females were more than twice as likely to be perpetrated by a family member than those against males.
- In contrast, 46% of male victims were assaulted by strangers, compared with only 18% of female victims.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 15
Assault, type of location and gender of victim, percentages, 2003

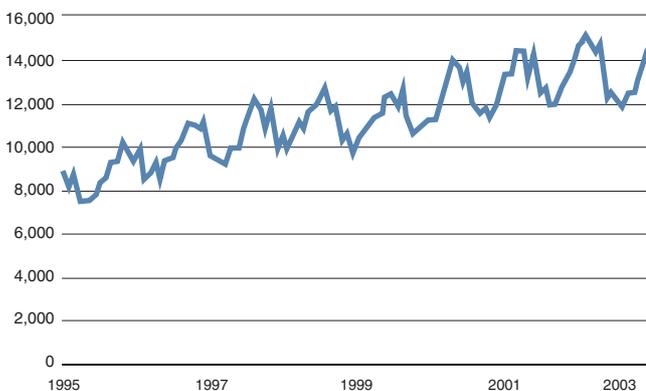


- **Most male victims (70%) were assaulted in non-residential locations, whereas the majority of female victims (58%) were assaulted in residential premises.**

Source: Reference 7

Trend in assault

Figure 16
Number of assaults, by month, 1995–2003



- **The number of assaults has grown by an average of 6% each year between 1995 and 2003. This is five**

times the annual growth of the Australian population over the same period.

- **Assault is seasonal. The number of assaults peaks in the spring and summer months of October to February, and is lowest from April through July.**

Source: References 2, 3, 4 and 7

Sexual assault

The ABS defines sexual assault as 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.

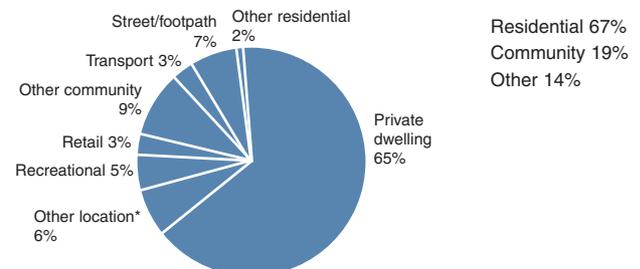
Sexual assault includes: rape, sexual assault, sodomy, buggery, oral sex, incest, carnal knowledge, unlawful sexual intercourse, indecent assault and assault with intent to rape.

- **There were 18,237 victims of sexual assault recorded by the police in Australia in 2003, an increase of 1% from 2002.**
- **There were about 92 victims of sexual assault per 100,000 population, 149 per 100,000 females and 33 per 100,000 males.**

Source: Reference 1

Location of sexual assaults

Figure 17
Sexual assault, type of location, 2003



* Includes unspecified location (n=704)

- Of all sexual assaults recorded in Australia in 2003, 67% occurred in residential locations, particularly private dwellings (65%).
- Nineteen per cent of sexual assaults occurred in community locations. Sexual assaults on streets/footpaths accounted for 7% of all recorded sexual assaults.
- Fourteen per cent of recorded sexual assaults took place in other locations, including recreational facilities such as parks and ovals (5%).
- This pattern remained relatively stable between 2002 and 2003.

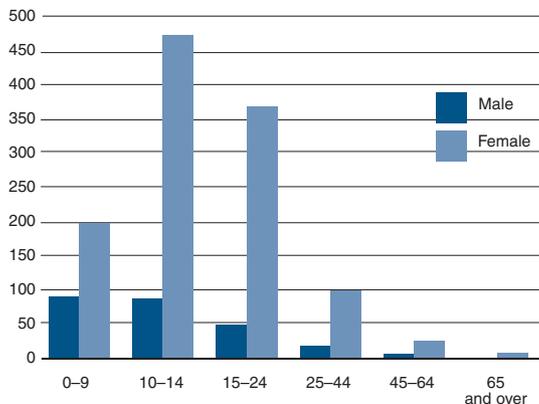
Source: Reference 1

Victims of sexual assault

- Eighty-two per cent of sexual assault victims were female.
- Between 2002 and 2003, the number of male victims of sexual assault increased by 1% while the number of female victims increased by 4%.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 18
Age and gender of sexual assault victims, rate per 100,000 persons, 2003

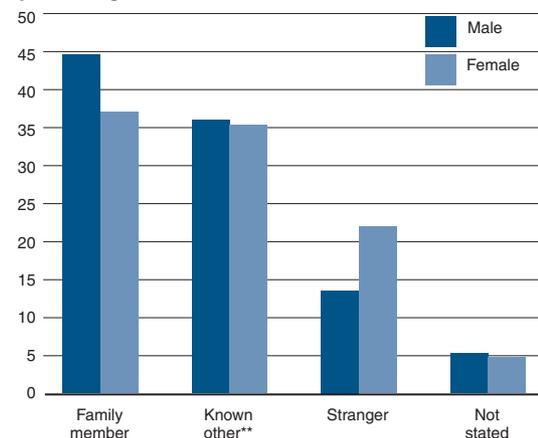


- The highest rate of sexual assault was reported by girls 10–14 years of age at 475 per 100,000 females in that age group.
- For males, rates were highest for those under 10, at 90 per 100,000.
- Females consistently recorded higher rates of sexual assault than males, irrespective of age.
- Boys made up 33% of sexual assault victims aged under 10 and 20% or less in older age groups.

Source: References 1 and 4

Victim–offender relationship

Figure 19
Sexual assault victims, gender and relationship to offender, percentages, 2003*



Excludes Queensland and Western Australia (information not available).

* The addition of NSW to these data this year resulted in a shift in the percentages. NSW comprises a large proportion of the total and boosted the representation of the family member category.

** Includes known non-family and known not further defined, and may include some family members.

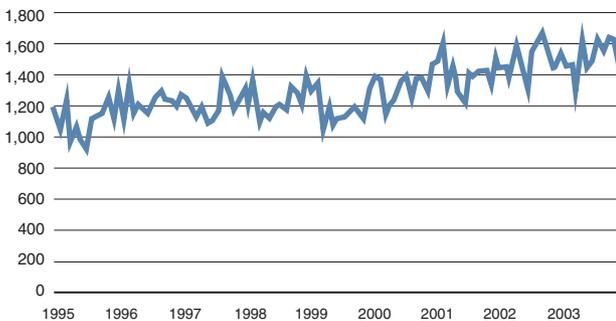
- Most sexual assaults (74%) were committed by a person known to the victim.
- Two in five sexual assaults were perpetrated by a family member and the figure is even higher for male victims.

- In 35% of sexual assaults the offender was a non-family member known to the victim.
- Twenty-one per cent of sexual assaults were committed by strangers. Females were more likely than males to be sexually assaulted by strangers.

Source: Reference 1

Trend in sexual assault

Figure 20
Number of sexual assault victims, by month, 1995–2003



- Sexual assaults have increased by an average 4% each year since 1995.
- The number of sexual assaults was typically highest during the months of January to March, and lowest during April to July. This seasonal pattern was not as clear in 2003.

Source: Reference 7

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

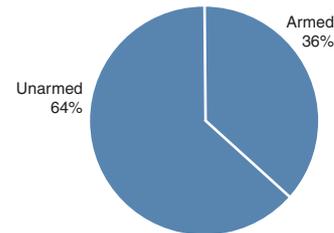
Robbery is divided into the following two categories of offences.

- *Armed robbery*: This is robbery conducted with the use of a weapon. A weapon is any object used to cause fear or

injury, and 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 21
Types of robbery, 2003

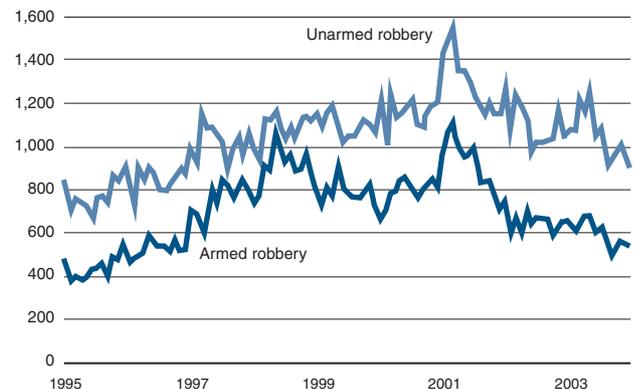


- Of the 19,719 robberies recorded during 2003, 64% were unarmed robberies and 36% were committed with some type of weapon. This was similar to the pattern of weapon use in 2002.

Source: Reference 1

Trend in robbery

Figure 22
Number of robbery victims, by month, 1995–2003

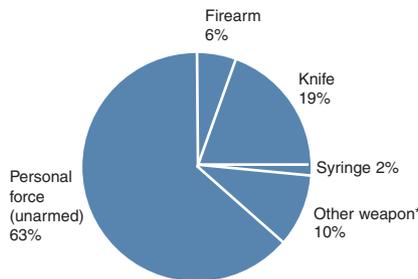


- The number of armed robberies peaked in March 2001 at 1,112. This was the highest number recorded since May 1998 (1,069).

- **Armed and unarmed robberies follow similar patterns.**
- **Since March 2001 there has been an average 2% decline in the number of all robberies each month.**
- **In June 1998, 48% of all robberies involved a weapon. An average 36% of robberies in 2003 involved a weapon.**

Source: Reference 7

Figure 23
Robbery, type of weapon, 2003



* Includes unspecified type of weapon (n=717)

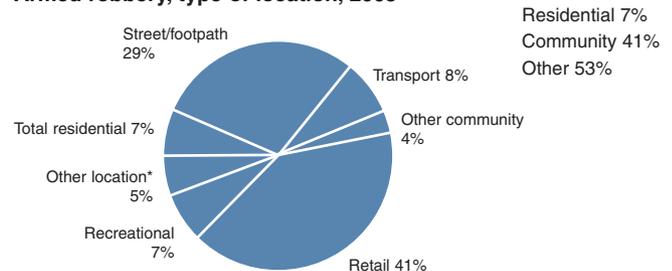
- **Most weapons used in robbery were knives, followed by other types of weapons. Robberies involving firearms made up 6% of total robberies in 2003. A small percentage was committed with syringes.**
- **Between 1993 and 2003 the number of firearm robberies declined by 44% while the number involving personal force (unarmed) and other types of weapons has increased, by 68% and 74% respectively.**

Source: Reference 1

Armed robbery

- **There were 7,162 armed robberies recorded during 2003. This represents an 8% decrease compared with 2002.**

Figure 24
Armed robbery, type of location, 2003

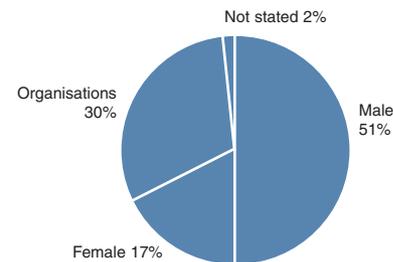


* Includes unspecified location (n=81)

- **Consistent with previous years, armed robberies in 2003 occurred most frequently in retail premises (41%).**
- **Forty-one per cent took place in community locations, with a large proportion committed on streets/footpaths (29%).**

Source: Reference 1

Figure 25
Victims of armed robbery, 2003

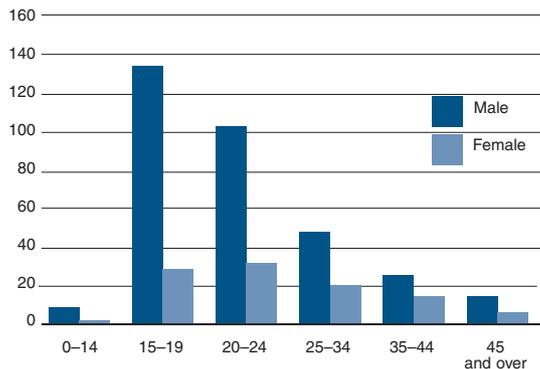


- **Thirty per cent of armed robberies were committed against organisations, such as banks and chemists, a decrease from 33% in 2002.**
- **A person (male or female) was the victim of 68% of armed robberies, an increase from 66% in 2002. Victims of armed robbery were three times more likely to be male than female.**

Source: References 1 and 7

Figure 26

Age and gender of armed robbery victims, rate per 100,000 persons, 2003



- In all age categories, males were at higher risk of being a victim of armed robbery than were females.
- Males aged 15 to 24 years were more than twice as likely to be a victim of armed robbery as males or females in any other age category.
- Among males, the victimisation rate decreased between 2002 and 2003 across all age groups.
- Rates for females were highest among the 20-24 years age group at 33 victims per 100,000 population.

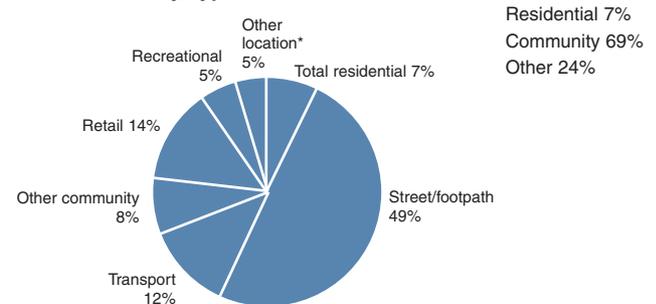
Source: References 1 and 4

Unarmed robbery

- There were 12,557 unarmed robberies recorded during 2003. This represents a 4% decrease from the number in 2002.

Figure 27

Unarmed robbery, type of location, 2003



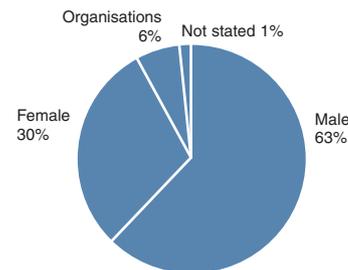
* Includes unspecified location (n=312)

- Sixty-nine per cent of unarmed robberies occurred in community locations, including 49% on streets/footpaths and 12% in a transport location.
- Fourteen per cent of unarmed robberies occurred in a retail location compared with 41% of armed robberies.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 28

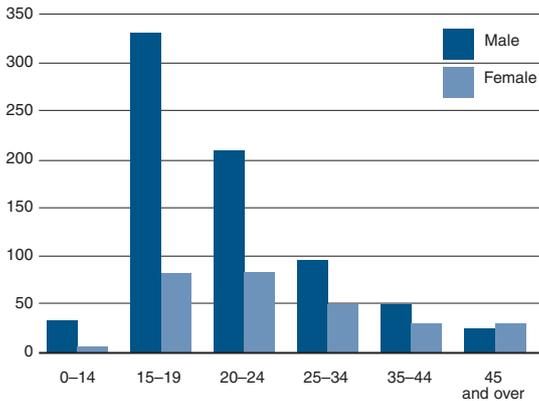
Victims of unarmed robbery, 2003



- Unarmed robberies were much less likely to target organisations. Six per cent of unarmed robberies involved organisations compared with 30% of armed robberies.
- Males were more than twice as likely as females to be victims of unarmed robbery.

Source: References 1 and 7

Figure 29
Age and gender of unarmed robbery victims, rate per 100,000 persons, 2003



- The age and gender pattern of unarmed robbery is similar to that of armed robbery.
- Males aged 15 to 19 had the highest rates of unarmed robbery victimisation. However, this group experienced a substantial decline in the rate of unarmed robbery from 391 per 100,000 in 2002 to 332 per 100,000 in 2003.

Source: References 1 and 4

Unlawful entry with intent

Unlawful entry with intent (UEWI) 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 unlawful entry with intent

UEWI is divided into the following two categories of offences.

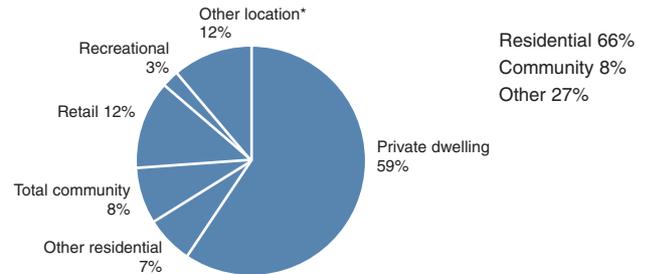
- *UEWI – property*: UEWI where property is taken from a structure; and
- *UEWI – other*: UEWI where no property is taken from a structure.

- The rate of UEWI decreased from 2,006 victims per 100,000 population in 2002 to 1,778 in 2003.

Source: References 1 and 4

Location of unlawful entry with intent

Figure 30
Unlawful entry with intent, type of location, 2003



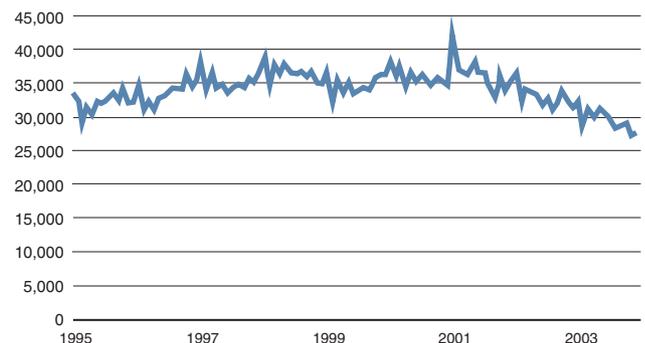
* Includes unspecified location (n=9,248)

- Sixty-six per cent of UEWI offences occurred in residential locations, particularly private dwellings (59%).
- Twenty-six per cent of recorded UEWI offences took place in other locations such as retail outlets (12%).

Source: Reference 1

Trend in unlawful entry with intent

Figure 31
Number of unlawful entries with intent, by month, 1995–2003



- The number of UEWI offences peaked at 42,451 incidents in January 2001.
- UEWI incidents involving theft of property accounted for 74% of all UEWI offences in 2003, down from 78% in 1995.
- There were approximately 40 recorded incidents of UEWI every hour in Australia in 2003.

Source: Reference 7

Motor vehicle theft

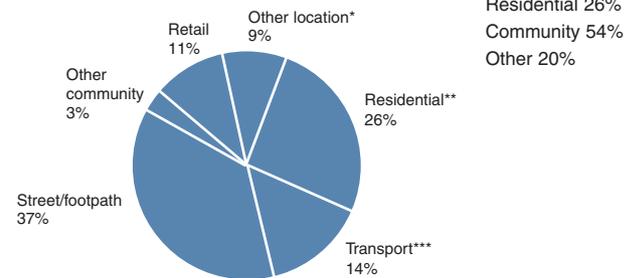
Motor vehicle theft is the taking of a motor vehicle unlawfully or without permission. It excludes damaging and tampering or interfering with motor vehicles. The theft of motor vehicle parts or contents is included under the offence category 'other theft'. The term 'motor vehicle' refers to cars, motorcycles, campervans and trucks.

- There were 98,813 motor vehicles reported stolen to police in 2003, with 773 vehicles stolen per 100,000 registered cars. This represents a 13% decrease on the number recorded in 2002.
- Motor vehicle thefts averaged one every six minutes across Australia in 2003.
- One motor vehicle was stolen in 2003 for every 129 registered vehicles.

Source: References 1 and 8

Location of motor vehicle theft

Figure 32
Motor vehicle theft, type of location, 2003



* Includes unspecified location (n=4,698)

** Includes private dwellings and other residential locations

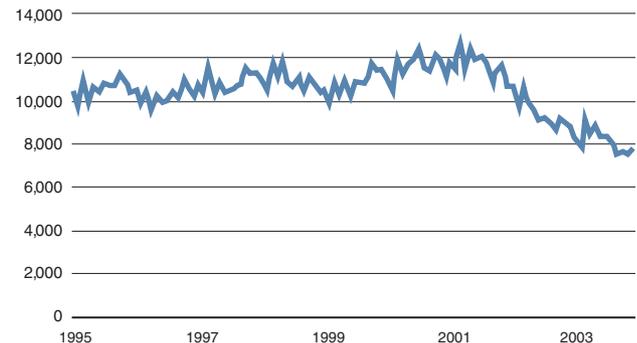
*** Includes public car parks

- The majority of motor vehicle thefts occurred in community locations (54%), particularly streets/footpaths (37%) and transport locations (14%).
- Retail locations accounted for 11% of motor vehicle thefts in 2003.
- Twenty-six per cent of motor vehicle thefts occurred at a residential location.

Source: Reference 1

Trend in motor vehicle theft

Figure 33
Number of motor vehicle thefts, by month, 1995–2003



- **In November 2003, motor vehicle theft decreased to the lowest level recorded with 7,618 motor vehicles stolen.**

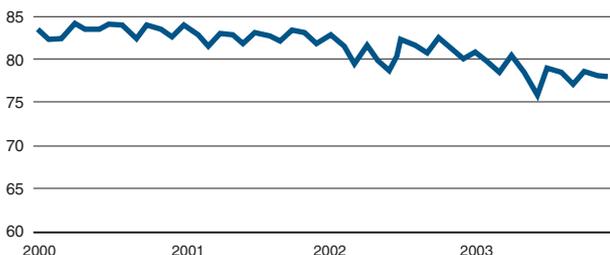
Source: Reference 7

Recovery rates

This section presents data on recovery rates of stolen vehicles from the national CARS (comprehensive auto-theft research system) project.

- **A total of 72,041 stolen cars were recovered in 2003, resulting in a national recovery rate of 77%.**
- **Forty-one per cent of all recovered motor vehicles are recovered within one day, 67% within two days and 82% within one week.**

Figure 34
Percentage of stolen motor vehicles recovered, by month, 2000–2003*



* The method of calculating recovery rates was changed this year resulting in a different trend than has been presented in previous editions.

- **The percentage of stolen vehicles that have been recovered decreased from 83% in January 2000 to 78% in December 2003.**

Source: Reference 9

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

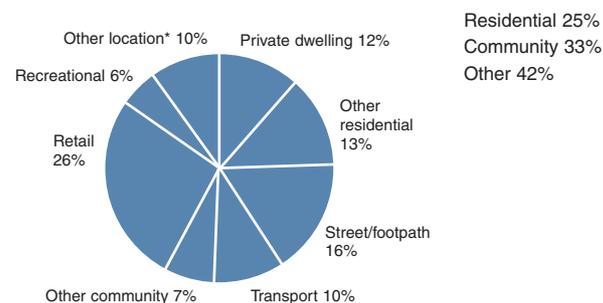
permission, but without force, threat of force, use of coercive measures, deceit or having gained unlawful entry to any structure even if the intent was to commit theft.

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 of all the crime categories included in the national statistics.

Source: Reference 1

Location of other theft

Figure 35
Other theft, type of location, 2003



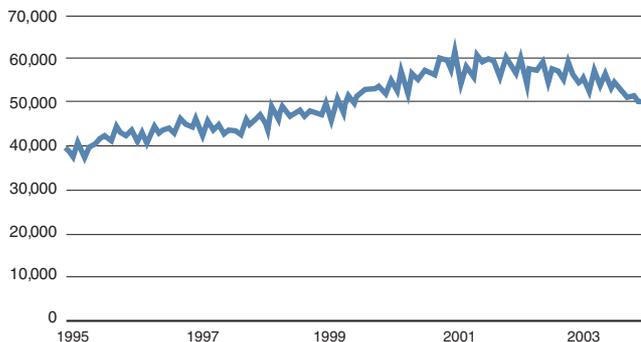
* Includes unspecified location (n=27,638)

- **Twenty-six per cent of thefts took place in a retail location.**
- **Thirty-three per cent of incidents took place in community locations, with 16% on a street/footpath and 10% in a transport location.**
- **In 25% of cases, thefts occurred in a residential location.**

Source: References 1 and 7

Trend in other theft

Figure 36
Number of other thefts by month, 1995–2003



- During 2003 there was an average of 53,247 victims of theft per month, or 73 per hour.
- Since 2001 the number of other thefts has been gradually decreasing.

Source: Reference 7

Fraud and deception-related crime

As information about fraud and deception-related crime is not collected by the ABS, this section presents data extracted from information published by state and territory police agencies. The standard classification of fraud and deception-related offences includes cheque and credit card fraud, fraudulent trade practices, social security fraud, forgery, counterfeiting, bribery and other deception offences. Precise definitions may vary by state.

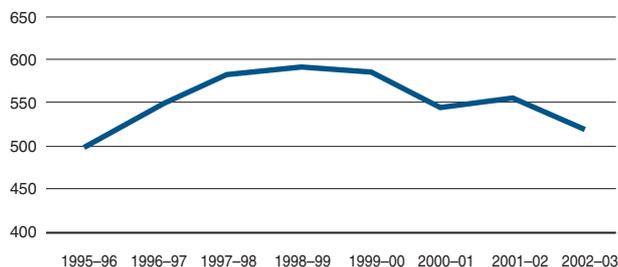
Fraud offences are recorded by the police on a financial year basis.

Table 4
Fraud offences, 1995–1996 to 2002–2003

	Number	Rate per 100,000
1995–96	91,495	500
1996–97	101,256	546
1997–98	109,404	584
1998–99	112,209	592
1999–00	112,264	586
2000–01	106,141	545
2001–02	109,080	555
2002–03	103,199	519

- The highest rate of fraud was recorded in 1998–1999, 12% higher than in 2002–2003.
- The rate of fraud offences per 100,000 recorded by police increased between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000 by 17% and then decreased from 1999–2000 to 2002–2003 by 11%.

Figure 37
Fraud recorded by police, rate per 100,000 persons 1995–1996 to 2002–2003



Source: References 10–18

Drug offences

The Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence reported drug arrest and seizure statistics from 1992 until 2001. Since then the Australian Crime Commission has reported these statistics. The 2002–2003 version of this publication is titled the *Illicit drug data report*. This section provides an overview of arrest patterns for offenders between 1995–1996 and 2002–2003.

Arrest information is provided for the following types of drugs:

- cannabis;
- heroin (and other opioids);
- amphetamines;
- cocaine; and
- other drugs (hallucinogens, steroids and drugs not defined elsewhere).

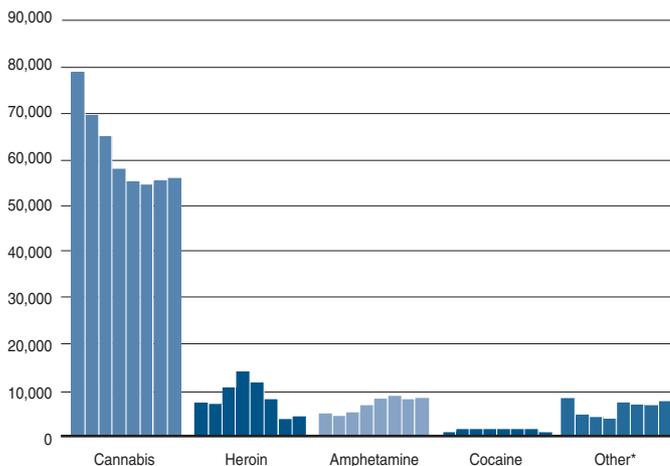
Cannabis arrests include expiation notices, drug infringement notices and simple cannabis offence notices.

Offenders involved in drug arrests are divided into two categories:

- *consumers*: persons charged with user-type offences (for example, possessing or administering drugs for own personal use); and
- *providers*: persons charged with supply-type offences (for example, 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 38
Number of drug arrests by type of drug, 1995–1996 to 2002–2003

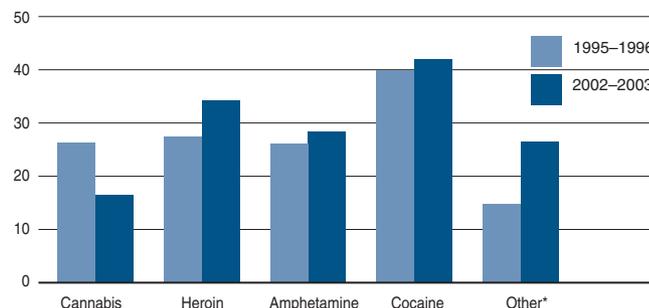


* Other includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere)

- Since 1995–1996, there has been an overall decline of 24% in the number of arrests for drug offences.
- Arrests for cannabis offences declined by 30%.
- A declining trend is evident in the number of arrests for heroin offences since 1998–1999.
- Arrests for amphetamines, however, have almost doubled.
- In 1995–1996, 80% of drug arrests involved cannabis, compared with 74% in 2002–2003.

Source: References 19–21

Figure 39
Percentage of providers arrested for all drug arrests, by type of drug, 1995–1996 and 2002–2003

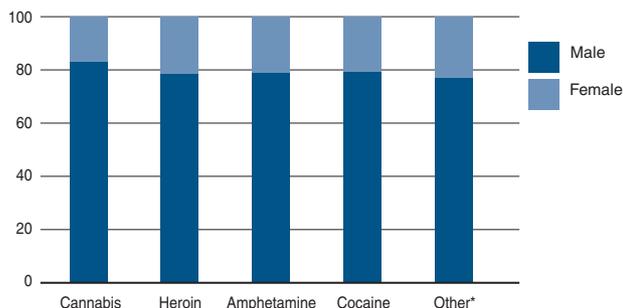


* Other includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere)

- The majority of people arrested for drug offences are consumers rather than providers, irrespective of drug type. Eighty per cent of all arrests for drug offences in 2002–2003 involved consumers, up from 75% in 1995–1996.
- In 2002–2003, 42% of persons arrested for cocaine offences were providers, compared with 34% of arrests for heroin, 28% for amphetamine offences and 17% for cannabis offences.

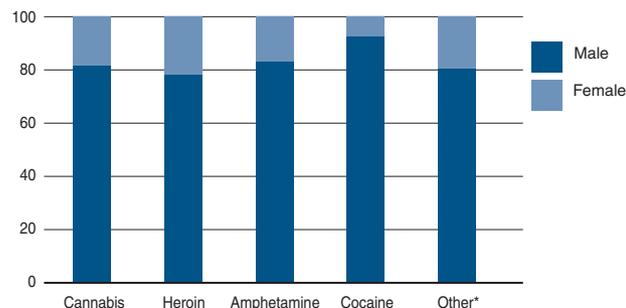
Source: References 19 and 21

Figure 40
Drug consumers, number of arrests as a percentage of total drug arrests by gender and type of drug, 2002–2003



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

Figure 41
Drug providers, number of arrests as a percentage of total drug arrests by gender and type of drug, 2002–2003



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

- With the exception of cocaine providers, where they accounted for nine in 10 arrests, males accounted for eight in 10 arrests of both consumer and provider offenders irrespective of drug type.

Source: Reference 21

The majority of industrialised countries conduct crime victimisation surveys to estimate the extent of certain crimes and the percentage reported to the police. These data are used to supplement police statistics and are particularly useful for examining crimes that have low rates of reporting to police, such as violent crime.

In Australia there are various sources of crime victimisation data. The Australian Bureau of Statistics conducts the *National crime and safety survey* on a regular basis, most recently in 2002. The Australian Institute of Criminology has been responsible for the Australian component of the *International crime victimisation survey* (ICVS) which is conducted at four-year intervals, most recently in 2004 (results to be released in 2005). The ICVS was funded through the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department and the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

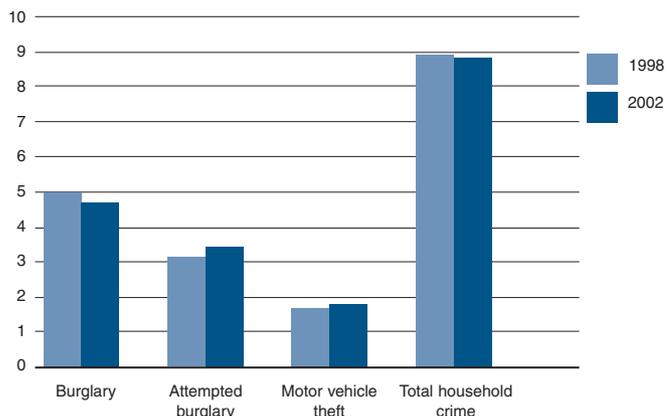
Specialised victim surveys have been designed to interview women about their experiences of violence. In 1996, the Australian Bureau of Statistics conducted the *Women's safety survey*, the first Australian survey to focus on women's experiences of violence. In 2002–2003, the AIC conducted the Australian component of the *International violence against women survey* (IVAWS). The IVAWS is part of an international effort to assess the prevalence and nature of violence against women around the world. IVAWS was funded through the Office of the Status of Women.

The method developed for crime victimisation surveys has also been extended to address crimes of specific interest. Examples are the *Farm crime survey* conducted by the AIC in 2003, and the 2004 *Australian computer crime and security survey*, conducted by AusCERT, the Australian High Tech Crime Centre and various state, territory and federal police agencies.

Rates of criminal victimisation

The ABS *National crime and safety survey* provides the most current available estimates of crime victimisation. Figure 42 shows that rates of household victimisation were similar in the 1998 and 2002 surveys.

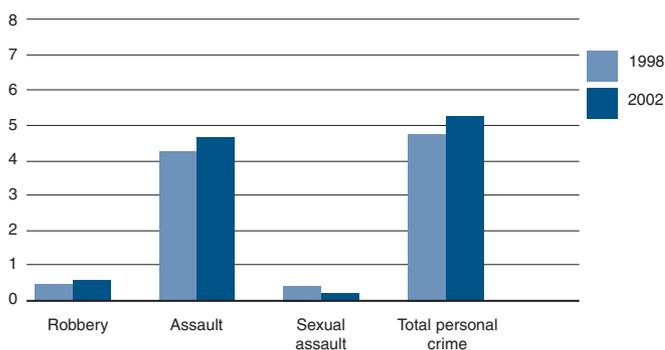
Figure 42
Percentage of households experiencing crime, 1998 and 2002



■ An estimated 665,000 households in 2002, and a similar number in 1998, were affected by burglary, attempted burglary or theft of a motor vehicle. This represents 9% of all households.

■ Over 7% of households in each year were victims of a break-in or attempted break-in.

Figure 43
Percentage of persons experiencing crime, 1998 and 2002



■ Approximately 812,000 adults experienced at least one incident of robbery, assault or sexual assault in 2002, up from 727,000 in 1998. This represents about 5% of adults each year.

■ Assault was the most common violent crime, reported by 4.7% of adults in 2002 and 4.3% in 1998.

Source: Reference 22

Reporting crime to the police

Victimisation surveys are useful for assessing the extent of crime that is not reported to the police. Surveys find a wide variation in reporting rates depending on the type of crime. According to the *National crime and safety survey*, in 2002 victims reported to police:

- 95% of motor vehicle thefts;
- 75% of break-ins;
- 31% of attempted break-ins;
- 50% of robberies;
- 31% of assaults; and
- 20% of sexual assaults.

Primary reasons given by victims for not reporting break-ins were they thought there was nothing the police could do about it, and the incident was not serious enough. Main reasons for not reporting assault were that the incident was not serious enough to warrant police involvement, it was a personal matter, there was nothing the police could do, or there was a fear of reprisal from the offender.

Source: Reference 22

Women's reports of victimisation

IVAWS provides up-to-date data on the level of self-reported physical and sexual violence against women. A total of 6,677 women between 18 and 69 years of age were interviewed by telephone in 2002–2003. This survey defines physical violence as including one or more of the following:

- threats of physical harm in a way that frightened;
- being the target of a thrown object or being hit with something in a way that hurt or frightened;
- being pushed or grabbed or having an arm twisted or hair pulled;
- being slapped, kicked, bit or hit with a fist;

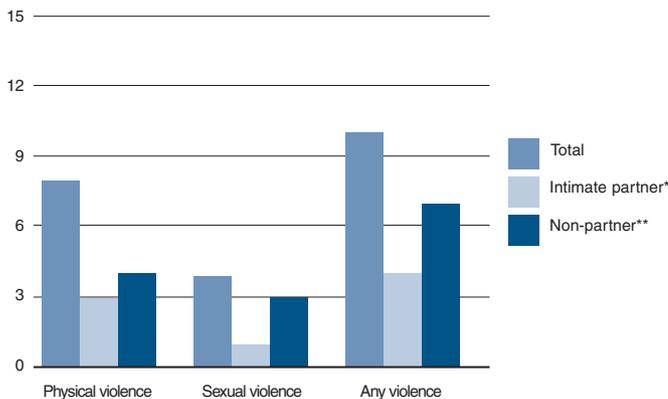
- an attempt to strangle or suffocate, burn or scald on purpose;
- threatened with or having a gun or knife used; and
- any other physical violence.

Sexual violence is defined as including one or more of the following:

- forced sexual intercourse;
- attempted forced intercourse;
- unwanted sexual touching that was distressing;
- sexual assault while under the influence of drugs given without the victim's knowledge;
- forced or attempted intercourse with someone else, including being forced to have sex for money or in exchange for goods; and
- any other sexual violence.

The survey included women living in private dwellings; it excluded the homeless, those living in institutions, shelters or other special accommodation. These women were asked about experiences with violence since the age of 16. Figure 44 presents the percentage of women who reported experiencing violence in the past 12 months.

Figure 44
Percentage of women reporting physical and sexual violence, 2002–2003



* Intimate partner includes current and former boyfriend, husband or live-in partner

** Non-partner includes relative, friend, acquaintance, work colleague or stranger

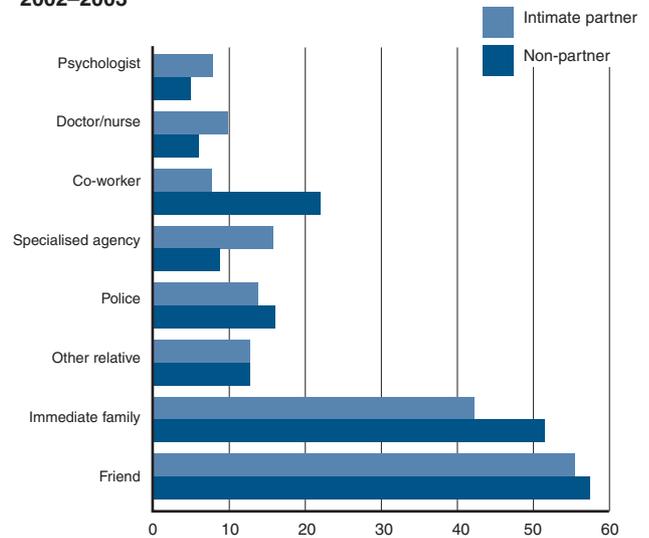
- Overall 10% of women who participated in IVAWS reported experiencing any male violence during the 12 months preceding the survey.
- Twice as many women reported experiencing physical violence (8%) than sexual violence (4%) during the past 12 months.
- Three per cent of women experienced sexual violence by a non-partner compared with 1% by an intimate partner.

Source: Reference 23

Reporting to police and others

Rates of reporting to police tend to be lower for partner violence and sexual assault compared with other crimes. Figure 45 shows the percentage of crimes of violence against women that were reported to the police, other agencies and individuals.

Figure 45
Percentage of women reporting to police and others, 2002–2003



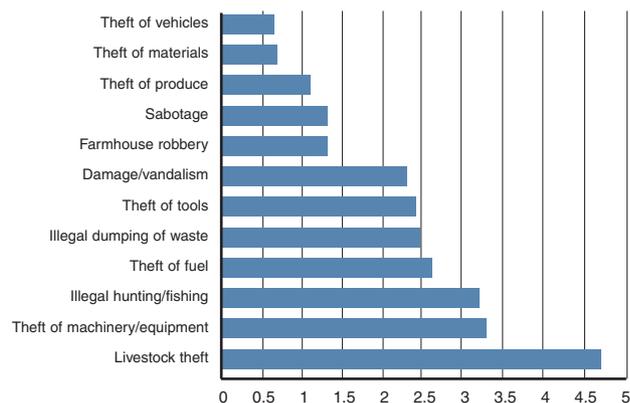
- It was more common for victims of violence to speak to friends or family members about the incident than to report to police: 42% of victims of partner violence spoke to immediate family and 55% spoke to friends.
- Fifty-one per cent of victims of non-partner violence spoke to family and 57% spoke to friends.
- Fourteen per cent of victims of partner violence and 16% of victims of non-partners reported the incident to the police.
- The most common reasons for not involving the police were that the incident was considered too minor to report, or the victim preferred to handle it herself.

Source: Reference 23

Farm crime

Studies of crime typically focus on the national or state/territory level or on large metropolitan areas. The 2003 *Farm crime survey* is distinctive in its focus on rural properties and the types of crimes that affect farming operations. Figure 46 illustrates rates of various types of crimes against farms. The *Farm crime survey* was funded by the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department.

Figure 46
Percentage of farms victimised, by type of crime, 2003



- Overall, 17% of farmers reported experiencing at least one type of crime in the 12 months prior to the survey. Fifty-four per cent of these were repeat victims.
- The most common type of crime reported by farmers was theft. Altogether, theft of farm machinery, equipment, vehicles, materials, tools or spare parts affected 6% of farms.
- Theft of livestock was reported by almost 5% of farmers.
- Farms located in remote areas were more vulnerable to livestock theft. Those in accessible areas were more vulnerable to theft of machinery or equipment or vandalism.
- Sixty per cent of crimes were not reported to police for reasons similar to crime occurring in other locations – a belief that the police would not be able to do anything about it, and that it was not serious enough to report.

Source: Reference 24

Cybercrime

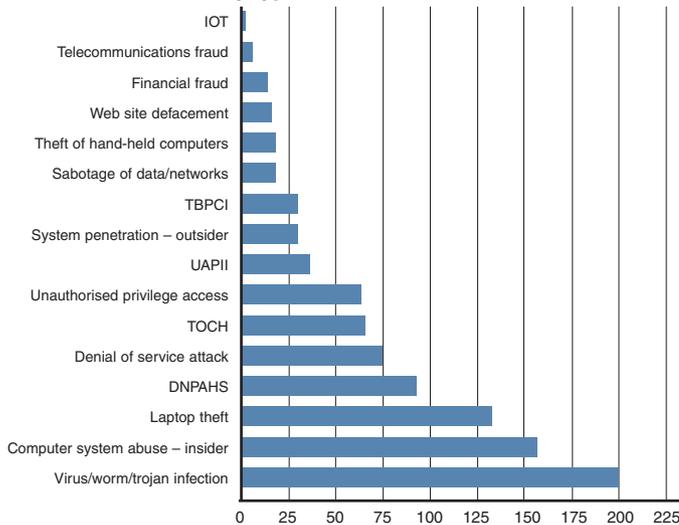
As few police agencies identify cybercrimes separately, this section presents the results of the 2004 *Australian computer crime and security survey*, conducted by AusCERT, the Australian High Tech Crime Centre and various state, territory and federal police agencies. Around 240 organisations from manufacturing, information technology, federal and state government, utilities, finance and education sectors responded to the survey.

These data are indicative only as the sample is not necessarily representative. Caution therefore should be taken when using the following statistics.

Differences published in the 2003 edition of *Facts and figures* may be due to differences in the organisations participating each year. Forty-nine per cent (approximately 117) of these organisations reported a harmful computer security incident in the 2004 survey.

Source: Reference 25

Figure 47
Number of incidents by type, 2004



IOT – Interception of telecommunications (voice or data)

TBPCI – Theft/breach of proprietary or confidential information

UAPII – Unauthorised access to privileged information by insider

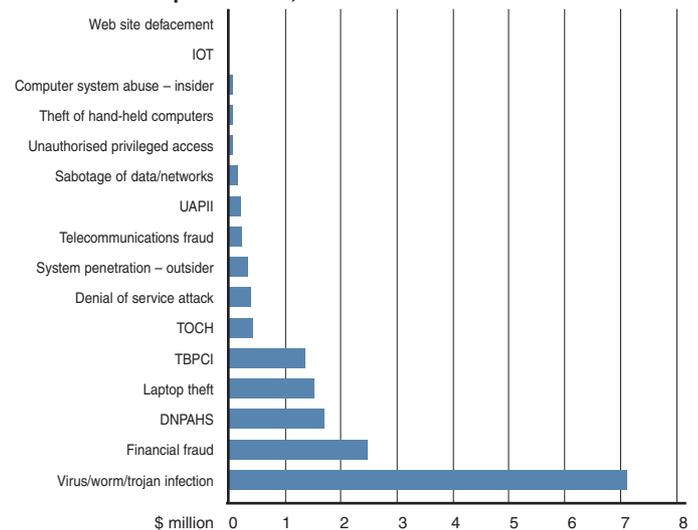
TOCH – Theft of other computer hardware or devices

DNPAHS – Degradation of network performance associated with heavy scanning

- The type of incident reported to have occurred with the greatest frequency was a virus/worm/trojan infection, with 200 occurrences.
- The least frequent incident to occur was interception of telecommunications (voice or data), with only two incidents recorded.

Source: Reference 25

Figure 48
Cost of computer crime, 2004



IOT – Interception of telecommunications (voice or data)

TBPCI – Theft/breach of proprietary or confidential information

UAPII – Unauthorised access to privileged information by insider

TOCH – Theft of other computer hardware or devices

DNPAHS – Degradation of network performance associated with heavy scanning

- The type of computer crime that generated the highest cost was virus/worm/trojan infection, with a total cost of \$7.1 million. The highest cost for a single incident of virus/worm/trojan infection was \$2 million.

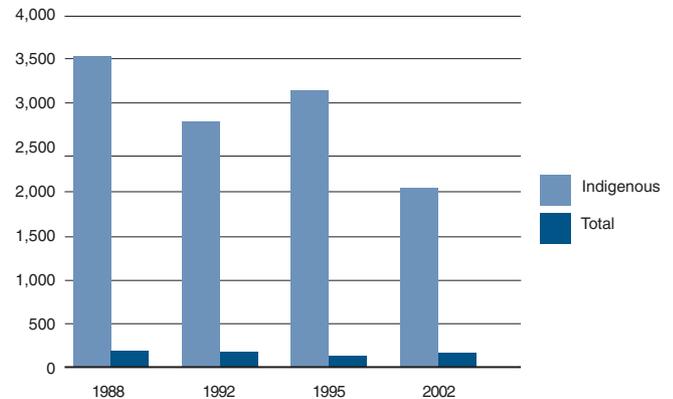
- **These costs are estimates based on survey responses from 137 organisations only, so underestimate the true cost of computer crime in Australia.**
- **The total cost of computer crime experienced by survey respondents was estimated at \$15.9 million.**

Source: Reference 25

The ABS does not yet publish offender data but is working towards developing an offender-based collection. In October 2002 the *National police custody survey* was conducted for the fourth time by the Australian Institute of Criminology. As this survey is conducted over a one-month period it only provides a snapshot in time. The survey focuses on Indigenous Australians in police custody but also looks at other characteristics of persons held in police custody.

Persons held in police custody

Figure 49
Indigenous and total custody rates, per 100,000 persons 1988, 1992, 1995 and 2002

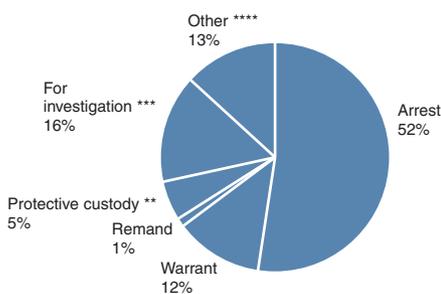


- **The total custody rate decreased 13% over the time of the four surveys.**
- **The Indigenous custody rate fluctuated over the four surveys but has decreased overall from 3,539 to 2,028 per 100,000.**
- **The level of over-representation of Indigenous Australians in police custody has declined from 28.6 in 1988 to 17 in 2002.**

- In 2002 women accounted for 23% of Indigenous persons in custody, whereas they accounted for only 14% of non-Indigenous persons in custody.
- Juveniles (those aged less than 17) were also over-represented, accounting for just under 13% of all custody incidents involving Indigenous people and just under 7% of all custody incidents involving non-Indigenous people.

Source: Reference 26

Figure 50
Reasons for being in custody*



* Excludes not stated (n=38)

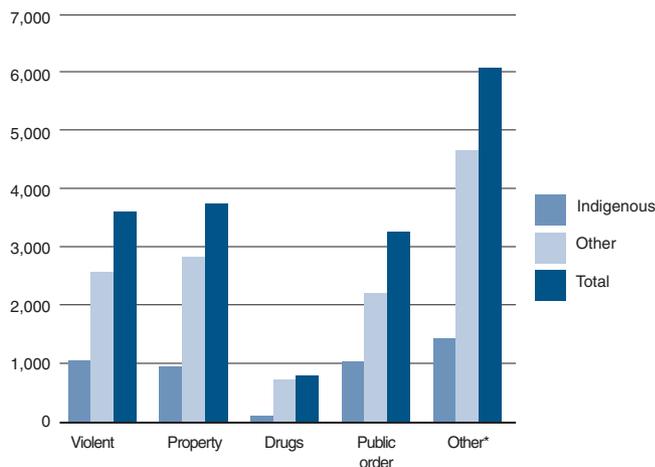
** Protective custody incidents were almost all for public drunkenness. Persons taken into protective custody for public drunkenness were in NSW, WA, SA, NT, Tasmania and the ACT where public drunkenness is not an offence.

*** Includes questioning

**** Includes awaiting transit to/from court and awaiting extradition and breaches of court orders and fine defaults, where the person was not arrested.

- Arrests accounted for 52% of people in police custody. Being under investigation was the next most common reason, accounting for 16%.
- The least common reason for being in police custody was for remand purposes, accounting for only 1%.

Figure 51
Most serious offence associated with being in custody



* Includes weapon offences, traffic offences, justice offences, miscellaneous and other not definable offences

- With the exception of other offences, most non-Indigenous people were in police custody for property offences. Indigenous people were mostly in police custody for public order or violent offences.
- The least common offence that people were held in police custody for was drug offences.

Source: Reference 26

Alleged offenders

Official data on gender and age of alleged offenders are published by the police services of Victoria, Queensland and South Australia and refer to persons who have allegedly committed a criminal offence and who have been processed for that offence. Police statistics on alleged offenders are not available from the remaining states and territories.

This chapter presents data on alleged offenders classified according to gender and age. **These data should be interpreted with great caution as they only reflect police processing of offenders in three states and may not be representative of national trends.** The main purpose is to give an indicative view of major issues relating to offenders, in particular the following:

- What is the age at which offender rates peak?
- Is the age pattern of male offender rates similar to or different from that of females?
- Are female offender rates on the increase?
- How does the age pattern of male offenders compare with that of females?

The number of alleged offenders does not equate to the number of distinct offenders during a year because police may take action against the same individual for several offences, or the individual may be processed on more than one occasion for the same offence type. Nor does it equate to the total number of crimes cleared during a given period, as one crime may involve more than one offender.

Throughout this chapter, the terms 'offender' and 'offender rate' refer to alleged offenders and the alleged offender rate.

The term 'total offender population' refers to the total number of (not necessarily distinct) individuals aged 10 years and over processed by police for any of the offences listed below in the states of Victoria, Queensland and South Australia. The rates of total offenders included in the tables and graphs in this chapter are calculated relative to the total population aged 10 years and over in these jurisdictions (Reference 3). The data are presented on a financial year basis.

The offender data included here are for the following major types of crime:

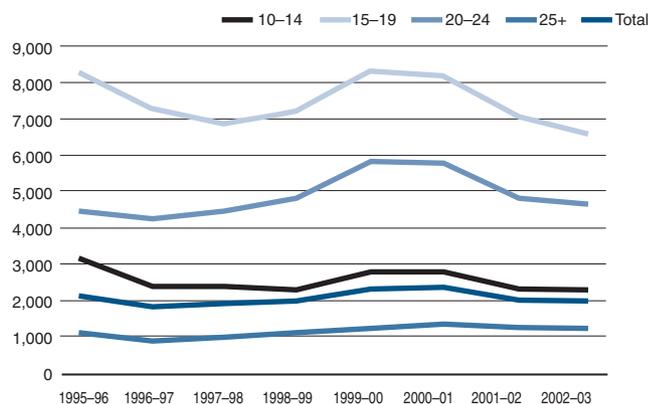
- homicide and related offences (murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, infanticide and driving causing death);
- assault;
- sexual assault;
- robbery;
- unlawful entry with intent;
- motor vehicle theft;
- other theft (theft from a vehicle, theft from shops, other theft); and
- fraud and deception-related crime.

Source: References 10–13

Age

Persons aged 15 to 19 years are the age group most likely to be processed by police for the commission of a crime. In 2002–2003 the offending rate for persons aged 15 to 19 years was four times the offender rate for the remainder of the population (6,546 per 100,000 and 1,579 per 100,000 respectively).

Figure 52
Offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 to 2002–2003



■ Rates declined in all age groups over the past three years, and the declines were greatest among the 15–19 and 20–24 year age groups.

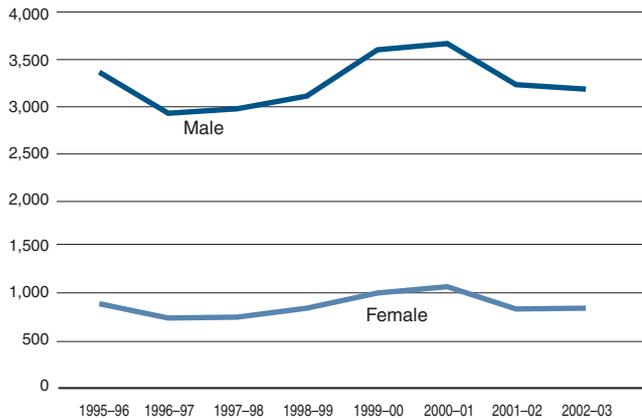
■ Compared to 1995–1996, rates in 2002–2003 declined for those aged 10–14 and 15–19, dropping by 26% and 21% respectively.

Source: References 2, 3, 4 and 10–13

Gender

In 2002–2003, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia processed a total of 175,872 offenders, of whom 138,232 were male and 37,640 were female. Females made up 22% of all offenders in 1995–1996 and 21% in 2002–2003.

Figure 53
Offenders by gender, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 to 2002–2003

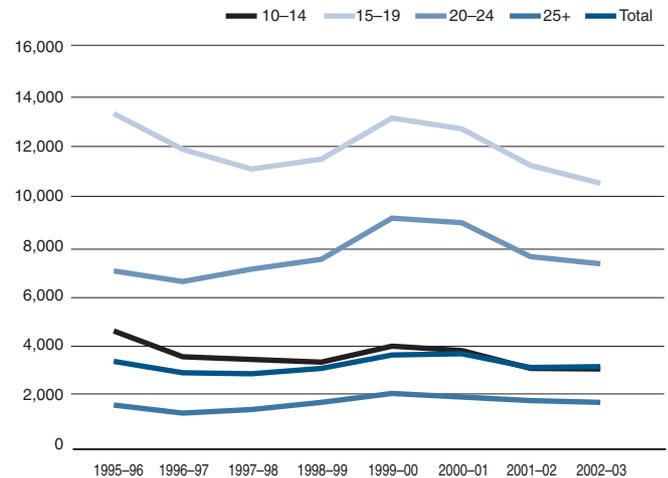


- Males are almost four times more likely than females to be identified as offenders. In 2002–2003, the rate of offending by males was 3,148 per 100,000 compared with a rate of 832 for females.
- Offending rates for both males and females were highest between 1999 and 2001 and have declined in the past two years.

Source: References 2, 3, 4 and 10–13

Males

Figure 54
Male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 to 2002–2003

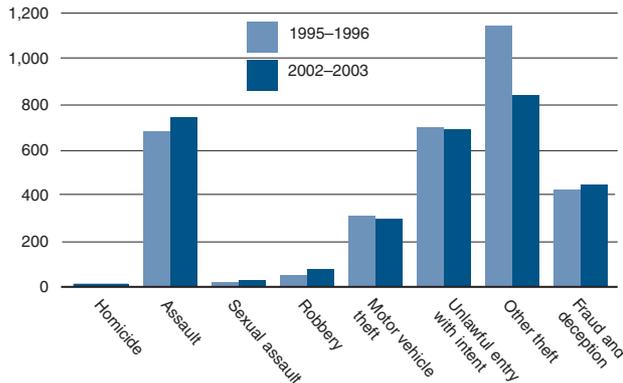


- Since 1995–1996, the rate for male offenders has consistently been highest among the 15–19 age group.
- Since 1999–2000 there has been a decrease across the 15–19 and 20–24 age groups in rates for male offenders, with the largest decrease occurring in the 15–19 age group. A smaller decline occurred for the 10–14 age group.

Source: References 2, 3, 4 and 10–13

Figure 55

Male offenders by offence type, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2002–2003



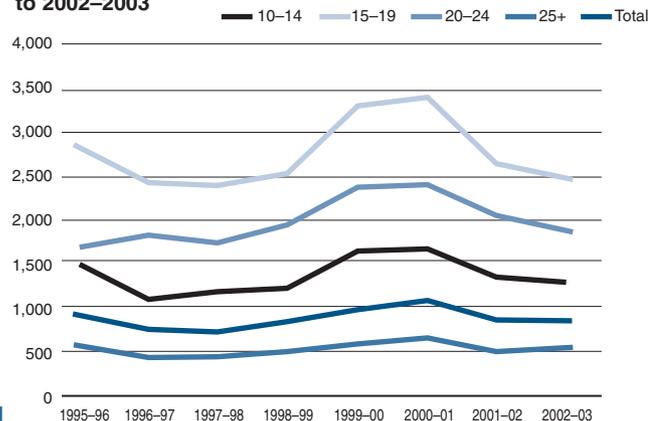
- Male offender rates were highest for the offences of other theft, assault and unlawful entry with intent and lowest for robbery, sexual assault and homicide in both 1995–1996 and 2002–2003.
- In 1995–1996 and 2002–2003, male offending rates increased for assault, robbery and fraud and declined for other theft by 26%.

Source: References 2, 3, 4 and 10–13

Females

Figure 56

Female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 to 2002–2003

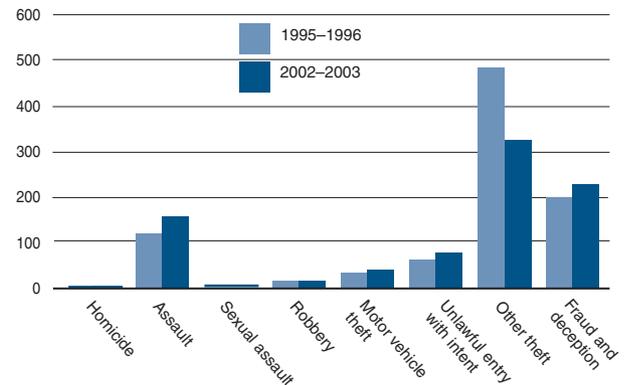


- Similar to male offending rates, rates among females since 1995–1996 have been consistently highest among the 15–19 age group.
- Since 1995–1996 there has been a decrease across most age groups in rates of female offending, with the largest decrease occurring in the 15–19 age group.

Source: References 2, 3, 4 and 10–13

Figure 57

Female offenders by offence type, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2002–2003



- Female offender rates were highest for other theft, fraud/deception-related crime and assault and lowest for sexual assault, robbery and homicide in both 1995–1996 and 2002–2003.
- Compared with 1995–1996, in 2002–2003 female offending rates increased for assault, motor vehicle theft, unlawful entry with intent, fraud and deception-related offences.
- Rates for other theft dropped by 33%.

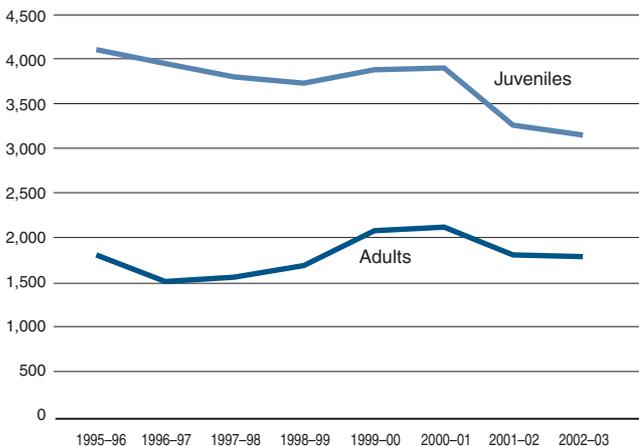
Source: References 2, 3, 4 and 10–13

Juveniles

There are differences among the states in the definition of a juvenile. In Victoria and Queensland the definition includes persons aged between 10 and 16 years. In South Australia, however, a juvenile is a person aged between 10 and 17 years. In this section, for the purposes of maintaining comparability, the term 'juvenile offender' includes alleged offenders aged between 10 and 16 years.

In 2002–2003, juveniles accounted for one-fifth of the total offender population, yet only accounted for one-tenth of the population aged 10 and over.

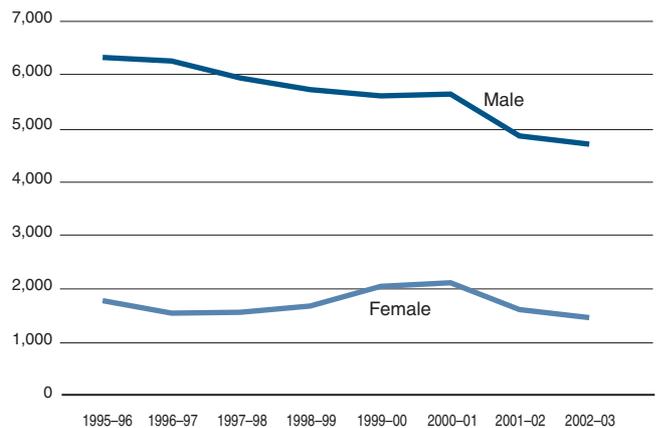
Figure 58
Juvenile and adult offenders, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 to 2002–2003



- **Juvenile rates of offending are 50% higher than rates for adults.**
- **The offender rate among juveniles declined from 4,092 per 100,000 juveniles in 1995–1996 to 3,130 in 2002–2003. The largest decline was between 2000–2001 and 2002–2003 at 20%.**
- **The adult rate increased from 1,820 per 100,000 adults in 1995–1996 to 2,105 in 2000–2001 before dropping by 14% to 1,806 per 100,000 adults in 2002–2003.**

Source: References 2, 3, 4 and 10–13

Figure 59
Juvenile offenders by gender, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 to 2002–2003

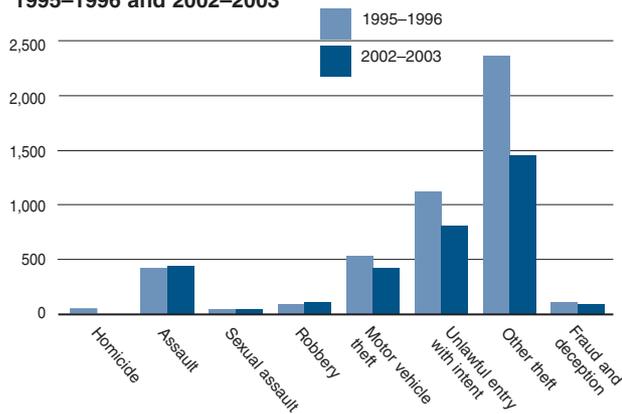


- **There were differences in the patterns of offending by male and female juveniles.**
- **Rates of male juvenile offending dropped by 30% since 1995, with a 17% drop in the past two years. The rate of offending by females increased until 2000–2001 before declining 28% by 2002–2003.**
- **There has been a slight increase in the percentage of female juvenile offenders, from 21% in 1995–1996 to 23% in 2002–2003.**

Source: References 2, 3, 4 and 10–13

Figure 60

**Juvenile offenders, by offence type, rate per 100,000
1995–1996 and 2002–2003**



- Juvenile offender rates were similar in 1995–1996 and 2002–2003 for the offences of homicide, assault, sexual assault and robbery.
- Juvenile rates have declined for the offences of motor vehicle theft, unlawful entry with intent, fraud and deception-related offences, and by 38% for other theft.
- By comparison, for adult offenders, other theft was the only offence to record a decrease, down by 7%.

Source: References 2, 3, 4 and 10–13

Specific offences

Gender and age patterns of offenders vary by offence type and over time. While males account for the majority of offenders for each type of crime discussed in this section, the level of female involvement in crime has increased for some offences since 1995–1996.

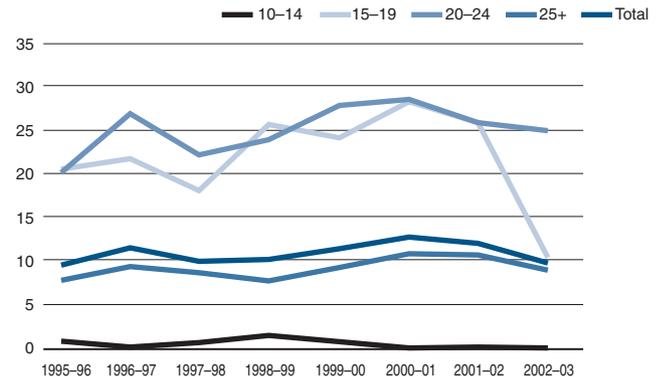
The age structure of the offender population also differs according to gender. A larger percentage of female offenders are juveniles compared with male offenders.

Homicide

Approximately 2% of homicide offenders in 2002–2003 were juveniles and 13% were female. These figures have decreased slightly since 1995–1996.

Figure 61

**Homicide, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons,
1995–1996 to 2002–2003**

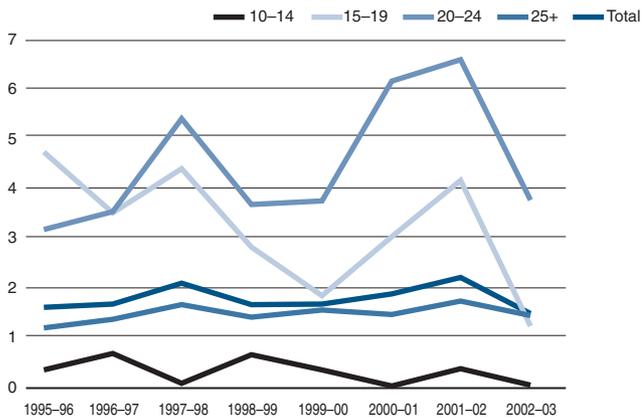


- The male offender rate was highest among individuals aged 15 to 19 years in 1995–1996, but rates dropped for this age group in 2002–2003. In 2002–2003 the male offender rate was highest among those aged 20 to 24 years.
- The age groups of 10–14 and 25 and over have remained relatively steady in the years between 1995–1996 and 2002–2003.

Source: References 2, 3, 4 and 10–13

Figure 62

Homicide, female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 to 2002–2003



- As was the case for males, the rate of female homicide offending for 2002–2003 was highest among 20–24-year-olds.
- Homicide rates since 1995–1996 have fluctuated for female offenders aged 15–24 and have remained steady for all other age groups.

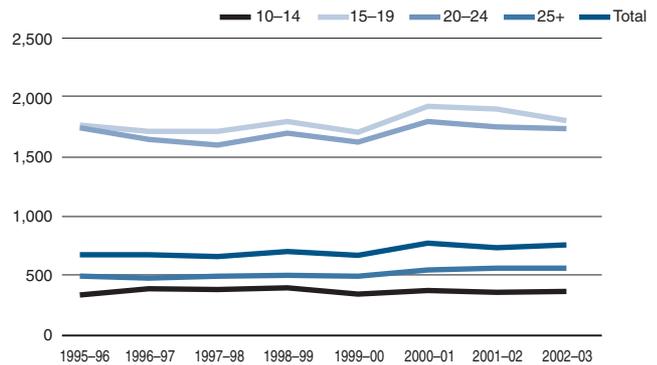
Source: References 2, 3, 4 and 10–13

Assault

Approximately 12% of assault offenders in 2002–2003 were juveniles, and 18% were female. Juveniles accounted for a higher percentage of female assault offenders (19%) compared with males (10%).

Figure 63

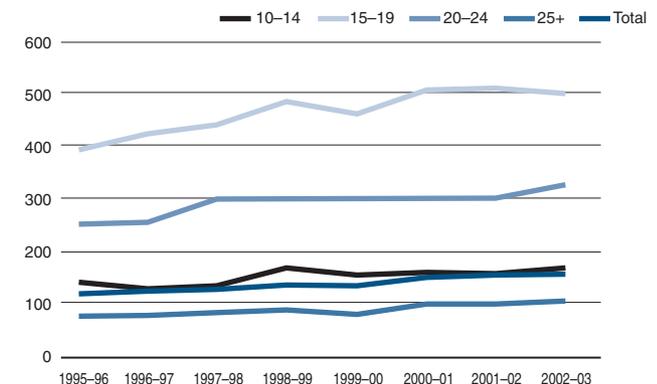
Assault, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 to 2002–2003



- Males aged 15 to 19 years have consistently had the highest offender rates for assault since 1995–1996.
- Only small changes in rates were shown across all age groups in this time period.

Figure 64

Assault, female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 to 2002–2003



- The rate of assault among female offenders was consistently the highest at 15–19 years, from 1995–1996 to 2002–2003.
- Since 1995–1996, female rates of assault have increased for all age groups, with the 15–19 and 20–24 age groups recording 27% and 31% increases respectively.

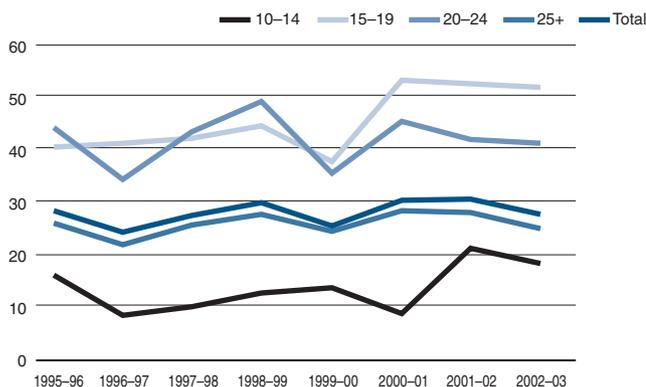
- Females increased as a percentage of assault offenders, from 15% in 1995–1996 to 18% in 2002–2003.

Source: References 2, 3, 4 and 10–13

Sexual assault

In 2002–2003, 98% of sexual assault offenders were male. Eleven per cent of the offender population were juveniles, a percentage that has increased from 8% since 1995–1996.

Figure 65
Sexual assault, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 to 2002–2003



- Rates of sexual assault offending among the 15–19 age group increased from 40 to 52 per 100,000 persons between 1995–1996 and 2002–2003.

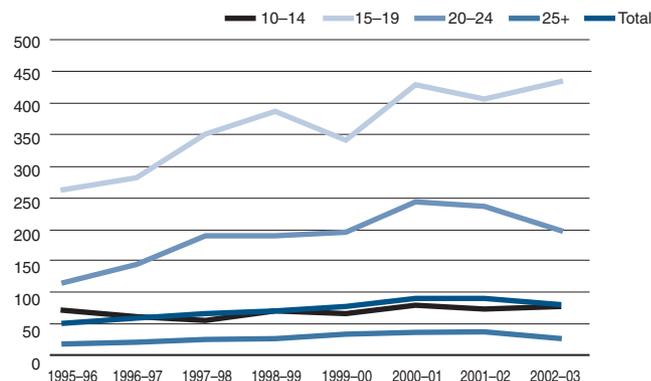
- The peak age in the commission of sexual assault for male offenders was 20–24 in 1995–1996 and 15–19 in 2002–2003. The peak age range fluctuated between these two age groups throughout this time frame.

Source: References 2, 3, 4 and 10–13

Robbery

In 2002–2003, 12% of robbery offenders were female, down from 15% in 1995–96. Twenty-six per cent were juveniles, a decrease from 31% since 1995–1996.

Figure 66
Robbery, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 to 2002–2003

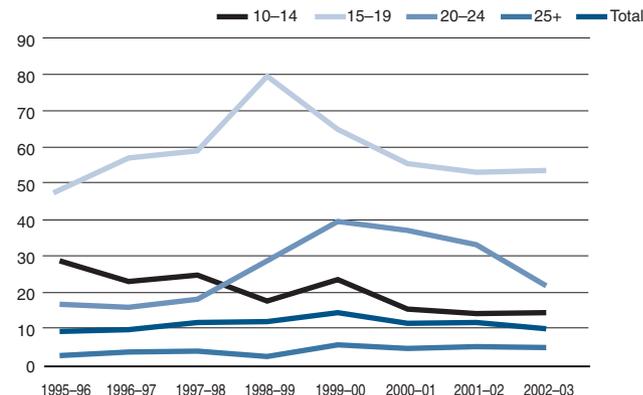


- Over this time period the highest robbery rates were recorded for males between the ages of 15 and 19 years. The offending rate for this age group increased from 260 to 434 per 100,000 persons, an increase of 67%.

- Rates of offending among males aged 20 to 24 years have increased from 114 per 100,000 in 1995–96 to 199 in 2002–2003.

- Other age groups have remained relatively stable throughout this time period.

Figure 67
Robbery, female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 to 2002–2003



■ As was the case for males, the rate of offending was consistently highest among females aged 15 to 19 years. Rates increased sharply up to 1998–1999, before declining just as sharply and stabilising in recent years.

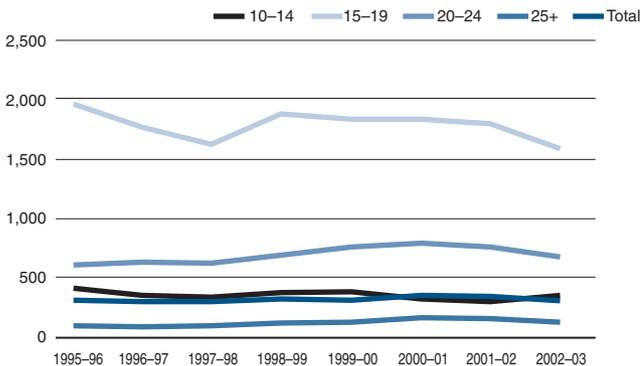
■ A similar but less dramatic pattern is shown for females in the 20–24 age group.

Source: References 2, 3, 4 and 10–13

Motor vehicle theft

In 2002–2003, 29% of motor vehicle theft offenders were juveniles, down from 36% in 1995–1996. Twelve per cent of motor vehicle theft offenders were female, an increase from 9% in 1995–1996.

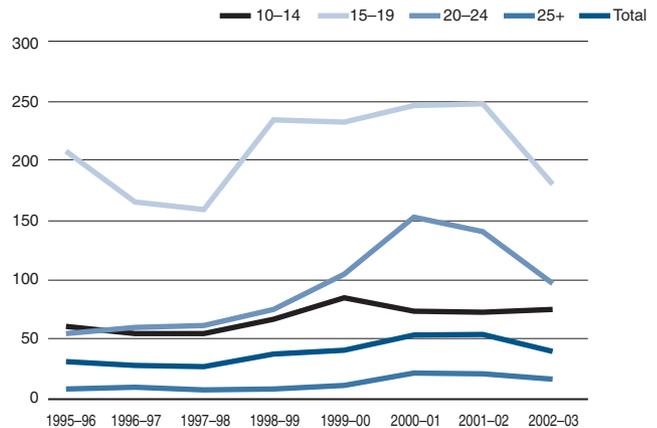
Figure 68
Motor vehicle theft, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 to 2002–2003



■ Motor vehicle theft was twice as high among males aged between 15 and 19 years than any other age group between 1995–1996 and 2002–2003.

■ The offender rate among males has increased slightly among those 20 years of age and older, and declined for those under 20.

Figure 69
Motor vehicle theft, female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 to 2002–2003



■ Female offending rates were highest among girls aged 15 to 19 years, although rates have fluctuated since 1995–1996.

■ The largest increase was shown for females aged 20–24, from 54 per 100,000 persons in 1995–1996 to 98 in 2002–2003. In 2000–2001 it was as high as 150 per 100,000 persons.

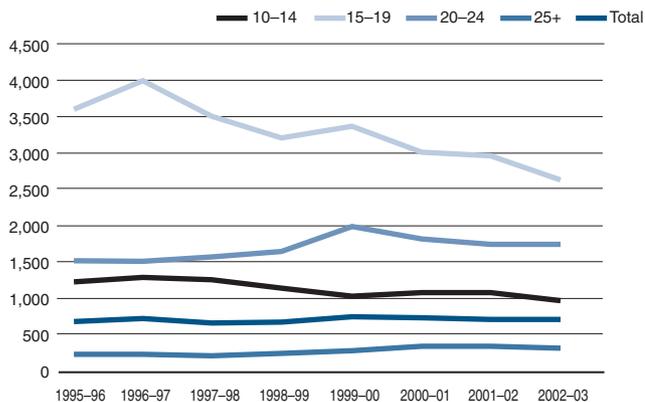
Source: References 2, 3, 4 and 10–13

Unlawful entry with intent

Females accounted for 10% of UEWI offenders, a slight change from 9% in 1995–1996. Juveniles accounted for 25% of UEWI offenders in 2002–2003, a decrease from 34% in 1995–1996.

Figure 70

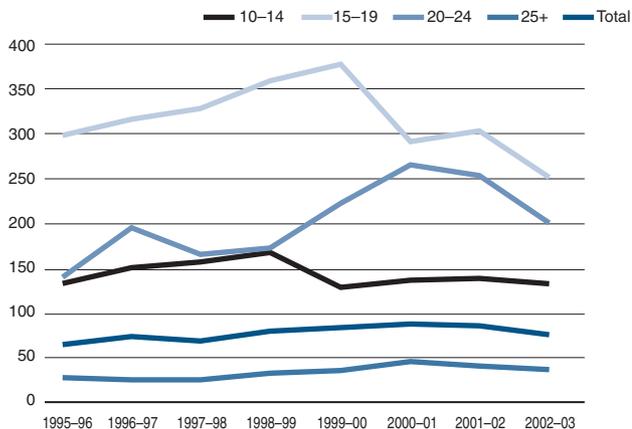
UEWI, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2002–2003



- Offender rates for UEWI have steadily decreased among males aged 15 to 19 years since 1995–1996. Despite this, it remains the age group with the highest rate of male offending.
- The offender rate declined among males under 20 years of age, and increased for those aged over 20 years.

Figure 71

UEWI, female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 to 2002–2003



- As was the case for males, female offender rates have been highest among individuals aged 15 to 19 years since 1995–1996.
- Rates of female offending declined in the 15–19 year age group and increased for those aged 20–24.

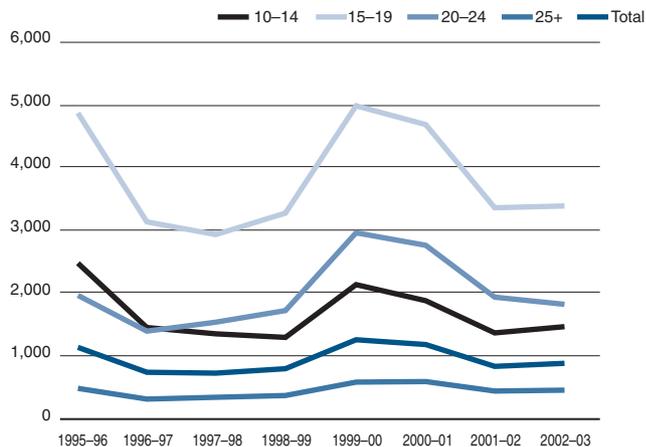
Source: References 2, 3, 4 and 10–13

Other theft

Relative to the other major crimes included in this chapter, ‘other’ theft offences such as shoplifting had relatively high involvement of both females and juveniles. In 2002–2003, 28% of offenders involved in this offence type were female and 30% were juveniles.

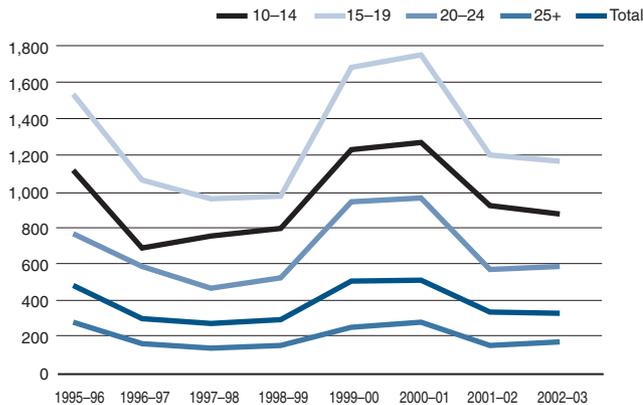
Figure 72

Other theft, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 to 2002–2003



- Similar to other property crimes, rates of other theft have consistently been highest among males aged 15 to 19 since 1995–1996.
- There was a rise in rates for all age groups in 1999–2001 and then a subsequent decline.
- Since 1995–1996, the rate of other theft among males decreased for those aged 10–14 and 15–19 by 42% and 32% respectively.

Figure 73
Other theft, female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 to 2002–2003



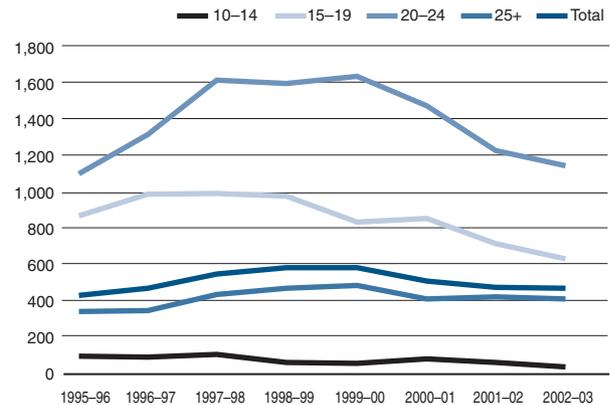
- A pattern similar to males was evident for female offenders in the 20–24 age group. The rate of female offending among 15 to 19-year-olds decreased from 1,538 per 100,000 in 1995–1996 to 1,166 per 100,000 in 2002–2003.
- Since 1995–1996 there has been an overall decrease in all age groups, although during this period the rates have fluctuated.

Source: References 2, 3, 4 and 10–13

Fraud and deception-related crime

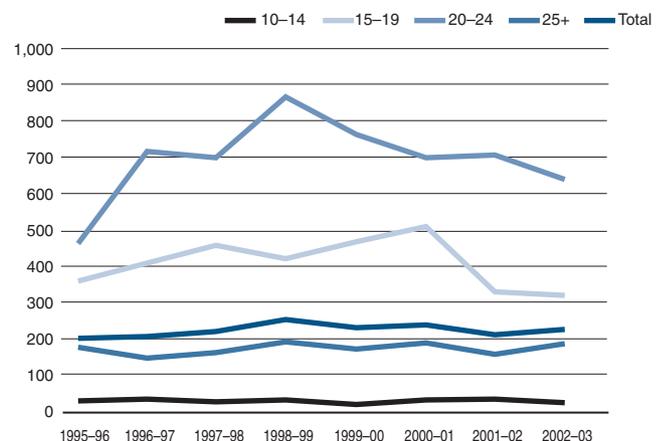
Fraud and deception-related crime has a relatively high female involvement (34%). Fraud offenders also tend to be older. In 2002–2003 approximately two in every three offenders were over 25 years of age. Juveniles accounted for less than 3% of persons alleged to have committed fraud and deception-related crime.

Figure 74
Fraud and deception-related crime, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 to 2002–2003



- The offending rate for males has remained highest among individuals aged 20 to 24 years since 1995–1996, but has dropped dramatically since 1999–2000.
- Since 1995–1996, rates have also declined for those in the 15–19 age group.

Figure 75
Fraud and deception-related crime, female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 to 2002–2003



- As was the case with males, the rate of fraud and deception-related crime among females has been highest among 20 to 24-year-olds since 1995–1996.
- Since 1995–1996 rates for female offenders aged 20–24 years have increased by 38%, peaking at a 90% increase in 1998–1999 from 1995–1996.
- Since 1995–1996 the 15–19 age group increased gradually, peaking in 2000–2001 at 513 per 100,000 persons. Since then it has decreased by 39%.

Source: References 2, 3, 4 and 10–13

Drug use by offenders

Police detainees

The AIC's Drug use monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program monitors illicit drug use among police detainees in several sites across Australia on a quarterly basis. DUMA provides a reasonable and independent indicator of drug-related crime within these specific areas. Two methods are used to obtain this information: a questionnaire and a urine sample. As an ongoing monitoring system, DUMA enables law enforcement to track long-term changes in drugs and crime. 2003 was the fifth year of data collection in the DUMA program, and the second year of the second phase of data collection. Funding was provided by the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department and South Australian Attorney-General's Department.

By 2002 seven sites were being monitored: East Perth in Western Australia, Southport and Brisbane City in Queensland, Bankstown and Parramatta in New South Wales, and Adelaide and Elizabeth in South Australia. Brisbane City, Adelaide City and Elizabeth began participating in 2002.

Data are collected quarterly and presented in the following figures as annual averages.

Figure 76
Percentage of adult male police detainees testing positive to methylamphetamines, 1999–2003

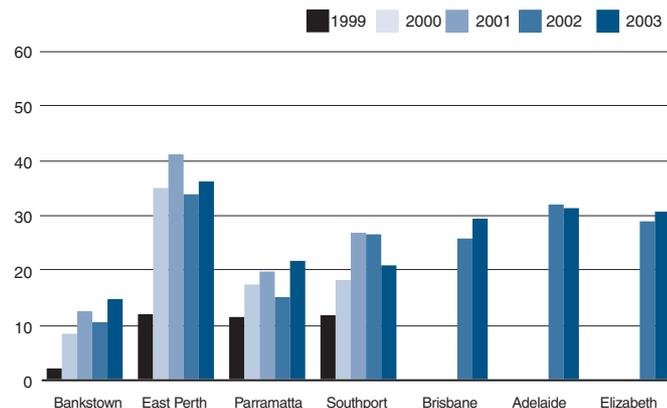
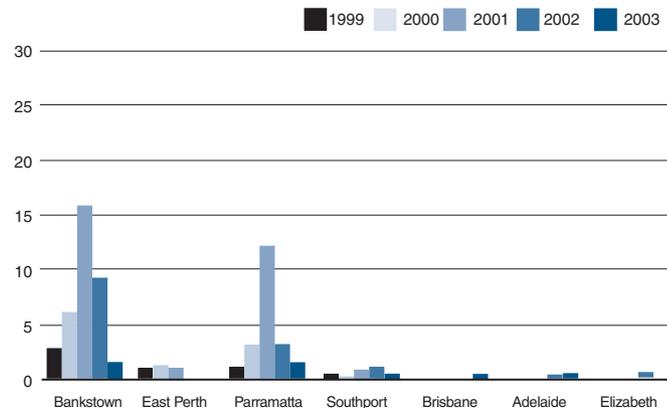
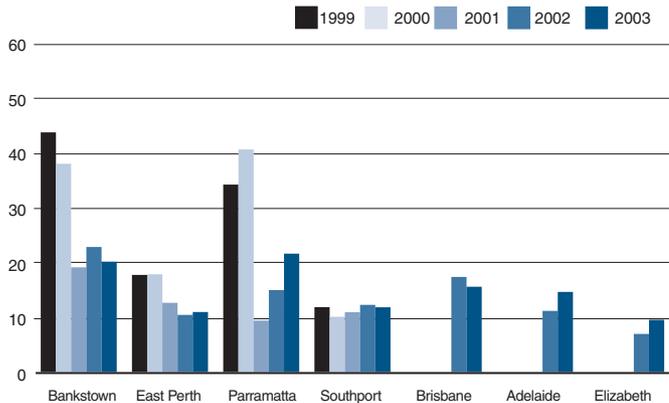


Figure 77
Percentage of adult male police detainees testing positive to cocaine, 1999–2003*



* The scale for this chart is considerably different from that of the other three charts as numbers are much smaller

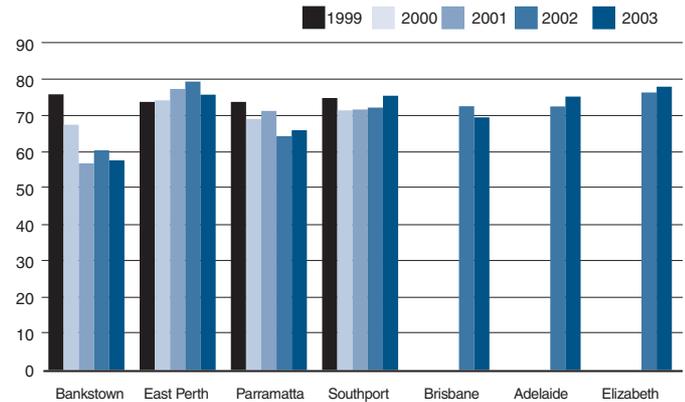
Figure 78
Percentage of adult male police detainees testing positive to heroin, 1999–2003



- The percentage of police detainees testing positive to methylamphetamines, cocaine and heroin varied across the seven sites.
- Methylamphetamine use has generally increased over this period.
- The proportion testing positive to cocaine was extremely low in all sites during 1999 and 2000. In 2001 there was an increase observed in the two NSW sites, but this declined in 2002 and continued to do so in 2003.
- The substantial decline in the percentage of detainees testing positive to heroin in NSW and East Perth sites in 2001 continued in 2002 and 2003.

Source: Reference 27

Figure 79
Percentage of adult male police detainees testing positive to any drug*, 1999–2003

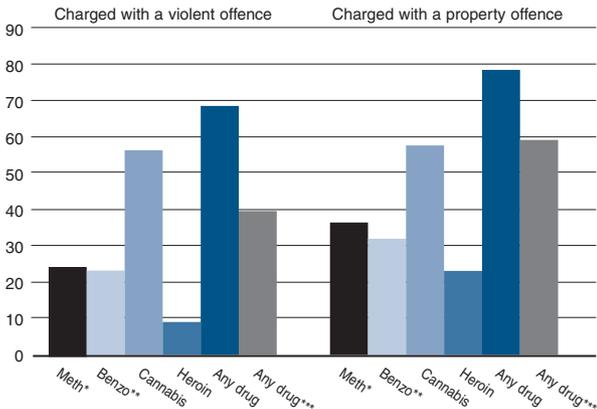


* 'Any drug' is defined as testing positive to cannabis, heroin, methylamphetamine, cocaine or benzodiazepine.

- Sites routinely have around 70% of the sample testing positive to any drug.
- With the exception of Bankstown and Parramatta, the percentage of detainees testing positive to any drug has remained relatively stable over time.

Source: Reference 27

Figure 80
Percentage of adult male police detainees testing positive to a drug, by most serious offence, 2003



* Methylamphetamine

** Benzodiazepines

*** Excluding cannabis

■ Detainees charged with a property offence were more likely to test positive to drugs than violent offenders. The difference is not as marked for cannabis users.

■ Twenty-three per cent of people detained for a property offence tested positive to heroin compared with only 9% for a violent offence.

Source: Reference 27

Structure of criminal courts in Australia

There is a hierarchy of criminal courts at both the federal and state/territory levels.

- *Magistrates court*: a lower court 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) court*: a higher court that, together with the supreme court, deals with more serious crimes. Intermediate courts hear the majority of cases involving indictable crimes.
- *Supreme court*: the highest level of court within a state or territory. Supreme courts deal with the most serious crimes.

Minor criminal offences are called summary offences and major offences are called indictable offences. Indictable offences normally require a trial by judge and jury.

Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory do not have intermediate courts; all relevant charges are dealt with by their respective supreme courts. In states with both supreme and intermediate courts, a majority of charges are decided at the intermediate court level.

All state, territory and Commonwealth courts handle a number of matters that appear in the court system for the first time, although 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 available for the first time this year. The ABS publishes statistics on defendants whose cases were initiated and finalised in higher and magistrates 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 are also heard.) The ABS magistrates court data are still experimental, and this should be taken into consideration when using these data. Furthermore, ABS

magistrates court data do not include defendants finalised in children's courts, electronic courts, family violence courts, Koori courts or drug courts.

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

Source: References 28 and 29

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 procedures (committal hearing or discussion and mediation between the parties);
- trial; and
- court decision – judgment or verdict followed by sentencing.

Source: References 28 and 29

Lodgments

Most lodgments are processed by the magistrates court in the relevant criminal jurisdiction.

- **In 2002–2003, 860,546 cases were lodged in criminal courts in Australia.**
- **Cases initiated in magistrates courts accounted for 96.4% of all lodgments in the criminal courts, while 3.1% were initiated in district/county courts and 0.5% in supreme courts.**

Source: Reference 28

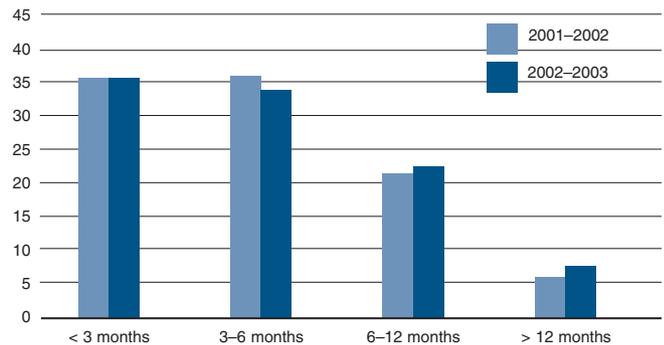
Timeliness

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 held in custody pending a committal hearing or trial, or released on bail. The conduct of the committal hearing is important for timely adjudication of the charges against the defendant.

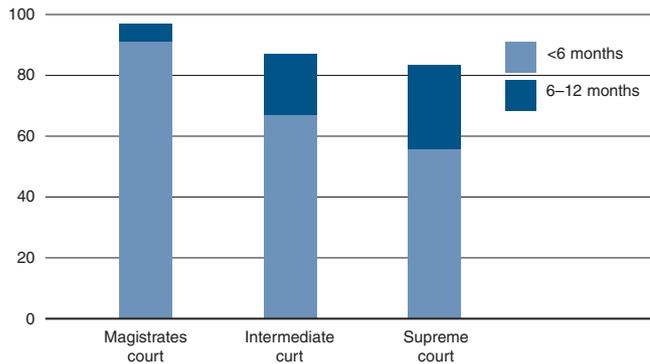
Figure 81
Committal (criminal) matters finalised in magistrates courts by timeliness, percentages, 2001–2002 and 2002–2003



- **On average, 36% of committal hearings in 2002–2003 were finalised within three months of the receipt of charges by the court and a similar percentage was finalised in the subsequent three months.**
- **The percentage of cases requiring six months or more for finalisation increased over this one-year period.**

Source: Reference 28

Figure 82
Non-appeal criminal matters finalised within 12 months by type of court, percentages, 2002–2003

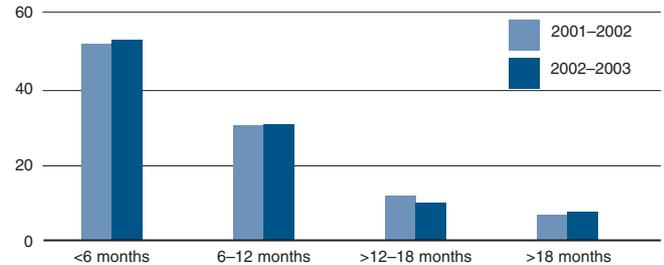


- In 2002–2003, magistrates courts finalised 91% of criminal cases in less than six months, and 97% in less than 12 months.
- Intermediate courts finalised 67% of matters in less than six months, and 87% in less than 12 months.
- Supreme courts finalised 56% of matters within six months and 83% within 12 months.

Appeals

Appeals from magistrates courts are heard at the intermediate court level in jurisdictions with intermediate courts. In the ACT, Tasmania and the Northern Territory, magistrates court appeals are heard in the supreme court. Appeals from the intermediate courts and the Northern Territory and Tasmanian supreme courts are heard in the court of criminal appeal in the supreme courts. Appeals from the ACT supreme court are heard in the federal court.

Figure 83
Supreme/federal courts, appeal matters finalised, percentages, 2001–2002 and 2002–2003



- Fifty-two per cent of criminal appeals heard in supreme courts were finalised within six months in 2002–2003.
- A further 30% were finalised in the subsequent six months.

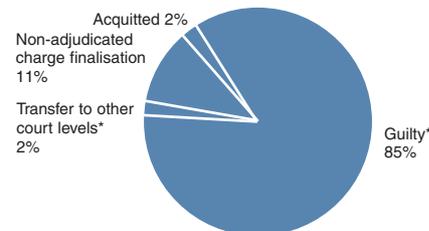
Source: Reference 28

Court decision

Cases are finalised at the courts in the following ways:

- *adjudicated* – determined whether guilty of the charges based on the court judgment, or plea of guilty; and
- *non-adjudicated* – occurs through a variety of means, including withdrawn by prosecution, defendant unfit to plead, accused dies, diplomatic immunity or a statute of limitations applies.

Figure 84
Criminal cases finalised in magistrates courts, by method of finalisation, 2002–2003 (a) (b) (c)



* Includes both guilty plea and guilty verdict

(a) NSW and NT refers to finalised appearances rather than defendants, resulting in possible over-counting

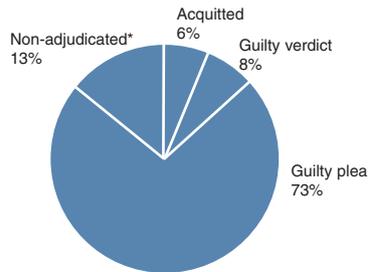
(b) NSW excludes defendants finalised by committal to a higher court

(c) Tasmania only includes southern Tasmanian magistrates criminal courts

- In 2002–2003 there were 488,642 defendants finalised in magistrates courts. Only 2% of these defendants were acquitted.
- 85% of defendants were proven guilty in magistrates courts in 2002–2003 and only 2% were transferred to other court levels.

Source: Reference 29

Figure 85
Criminal cases finalised in higher courts, by method of finalisation, 2002–2003

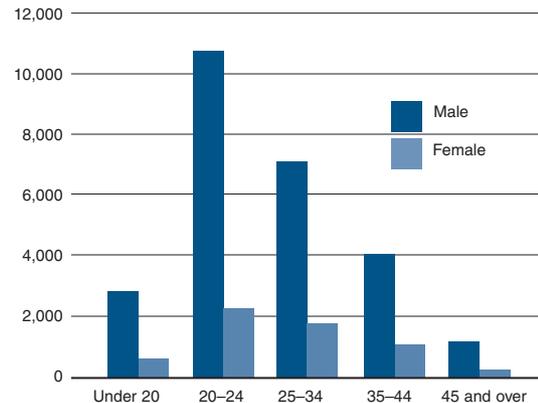


* Excludes Queensland defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued

- In 2002–2003 there were 16,643 defendants finalised in the higher courts. This represented a decrease of 8% from 17,997 defendants in 2001–2002.
- Overall, 81% of the defendants whose cases were heard by a higher court either pleaded guilty or were found guilty of an offence.
- In 6% of cases the defendant was acquitted of an offence.

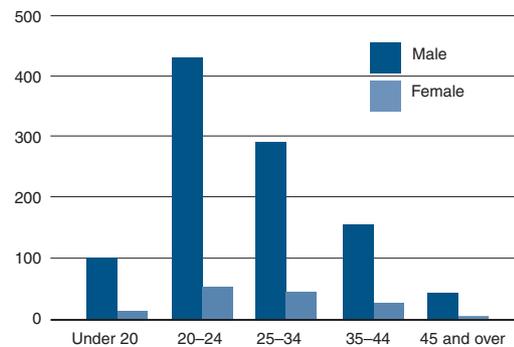
Source: Reference 29

Figure 86
Adjudicated defendants in magistrates courts by age and gender, rate per 100,000 persons, 2002–2003



- In 2002–2003 the characteristics of defendants in magistrates court were similar to those appearing in higher courts.

Figure 87
Adjudicated defendants in higher courts by age and gender, rate per 100,000 persons, 2002–2003



- In all age groups males are far more likely than females to appear as defendants in court.
- The highest rate of defendants per 100,000 population occurred in the 20–24 age group for both males and females. This pattern reflects adult offending patterns shown in Chapter 3.

- Females are proportionately less likely to appear before higher courts compared with magistrates courts. Women made up 13% of defendants in higher courts and 20% in magistrates courts.

Source: Reference 29

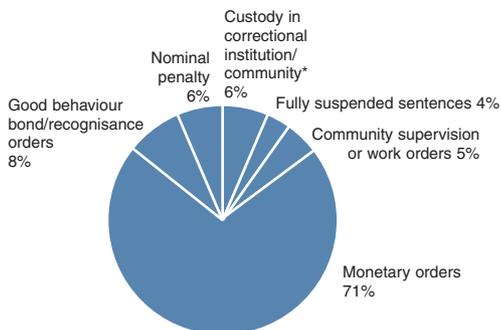
Sentencing

There is a variety of sentencing options available at each court level, including but not limited to:

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

Sentencing data for adult offenders are available for the first time this year across the states and territories. The ABS is continuing to work towards a regular detailed sentencing collection for higher courts and magistrates courts.

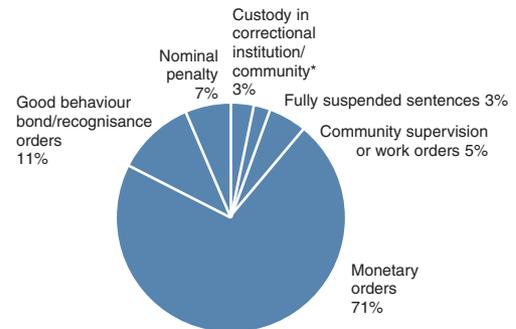
Figure 88
Male defendants proven guilty by principal sentence type, magistrates courts, 2002–2003



* Custody in the community includes intensive corrections orders, home detention and other orders where liberty is restricted while living within the community.

- In the majority of cases, the principal sentence handed down in magistrates courts for male offenders was for monetary orders such as a fine (71%). Fully suspended sentences were imposed least often (4%).
- Custodial sentences accounted for only 6% of the total number of sentences in magistrates courts in 2002–2003.

Figure 89
Female defendants proven guilty by principal sentence type, magistrates courts, 2002–2003

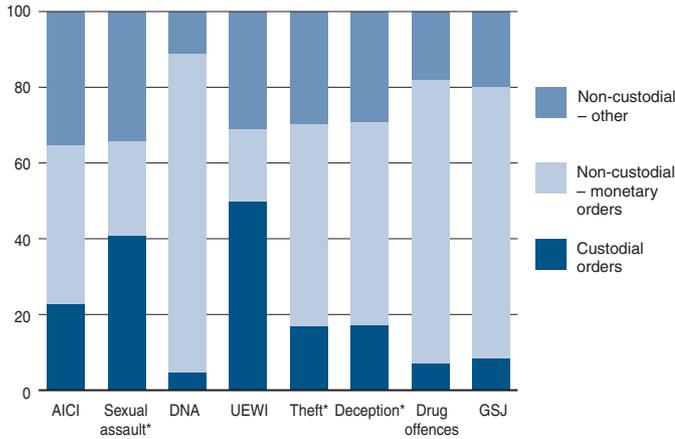


* Custody in the community includes intensive corrections orders, home detention and other orders where liberty is restricted while living within the community.

- Custodial sentences accounted for only 3% of principal sentences for female offenders in magistrates courts in 2002–2003. This, and fully suspended sentences were the sentences imposed the least, each accounting for 3%.
- Monetary order was the most common sentence (71%) followed by good behaviour bond/recognition order (11%).

Source: Reference 29

Figure 90
Defendants proven guilty by principal sentence type and most serious offence, magistrates courts, percentages 2002–2003



* and related offences

AICI – acts intended to cause injury

DNA – dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons

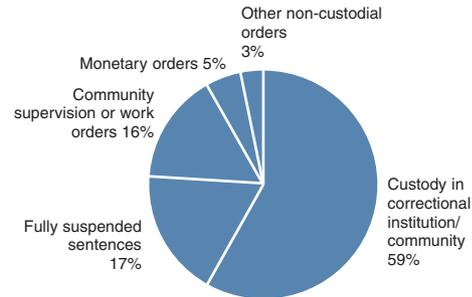
UEWI – unlawful entry with intent

GSJ – offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations

- **The offences of UEWI and sexual assault had the highest percentage of defendants who received a custodial order, both over 40%.**
- **The offence of dangerous or negligent act endangering persons had the highest percentage of non-custodial monetary orders imposed on defendants.**

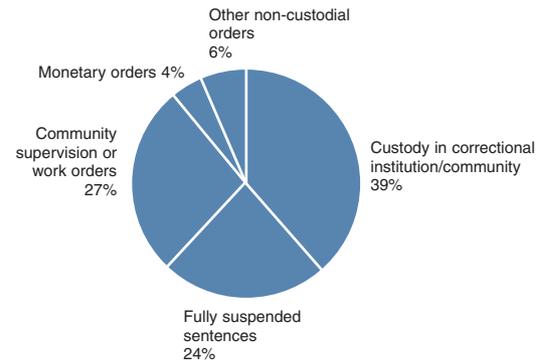
Source: Reference 29

Figure 91
Male defendants proven guilty by principal sentence type, higher courts, 2002–2003



- **Contrary to sentencing patterns in magistrates courts, custody was the most common sentence handed down to males in the higher courts (59%).**
- **Non-custodial orders accounted for 24% and suspended sentences 17% of all sentences handed down in the higher courts.**

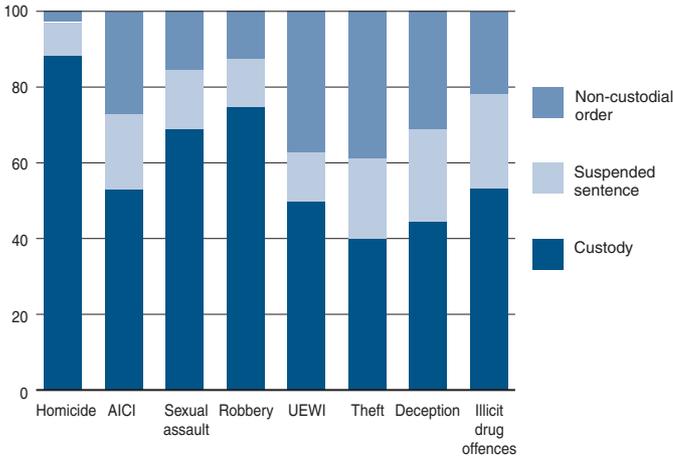
Figure 92
Female defendants proven guilty by principal sentence type, higher courts, 2002–2003



- **Custodial orders accounted for 39% and non-custodial orders accounted for 37% of all sentences handed down to female defendants in the higher courts, and 24% were suspended.**

Source: Reference 29

Figure 93
Defendants proven guilty by principal sentence type and most serious offence, higher courts, percentages, 2002–2003



AICI – acts intended to cause injury

UEWI – unlawful entry with intent

- A custodial sentence was the most common sentence in higher courts for all offences.
- Homicide-related offences and illicit drug offences were the only offences where the percentage of suspended sentences handed down outnumbered the number of non-custodial orders.

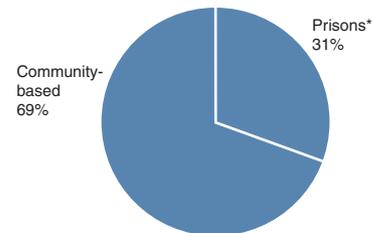
Source: Reference 29

The definition of adult varies among jurisdictions and over time. In 2002–2003, ‘adult’ referred to persons aged 18 years and over in all states and territories except Victoria and Queensland where adults are aged 17 and over. For the purpose of this publication, ‘adult’ refers to persons aged 17 years and over.

Persons under corrective services

Of the sentencing options available to the courts, corrective service authorities manage the offenders sentenced to imprisonment, community corrections or periodic detention.

Figure 94
Offenders by type of corrective program, 2002–2003



* Includes periodic detention (available only in NSW and ACT). Figures based on daily average counts.

- Seven out of 10 offenders managed by corrective service authorities in 2002–2003 were placed in community-based programs.
- Thirty-one per cent were in prison serving sentences or on remand.

Source: Reference 28

Prisons

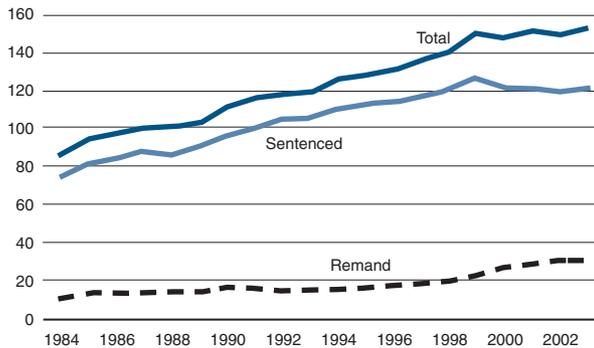
A national census of adult prisoners is taken on 30 June each year. The Australian Institute of Criminology began this collection in 1982, and conducted the census until 1993. This role was then taken over by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1994. The most recent statistics available are from the 2003 prison census.

It should be noted that the prisoner counts include both sentenced prisoners and those on remand (awaiting trial or sentence), unless otherwise specified.

A total of 23,555 persons were in custody in Australian prisons on the night of 30 June 2003, a 4.7% increase on the number recorded in 2002. This corresponds to a rate of 153 per 100,000 adult population. This is 3% higher than the 2002 rate of 148, and continues the increasing trend for the national imprisonment rate in the last decade. The majority (18,738) were sentenced prisoners and 4,817 were remandees.

Trend in prison populations

Figure 95
Prisoners, rate per 100,000 adults, 1984–2003



- Between 1984 and 2003, the overall imprisonment rate increased from 86 to 153 per 100,000 adult population. The prison population has grown by an average 5% a year since 1984.
- At 30 June 2003, remanded prisoners (those awaiting trial or sentence), accounted for 21% of the total prisoner population, up from 12% in 1984.
- The rate of prisoners remanded in custody tripled between 1984 and 2003, from 10 to 31 per 100,000 population.
- The rate of sentenced prisoners dropped from a high of 127 per 100,000 population in 1999 to 122 in 2003.

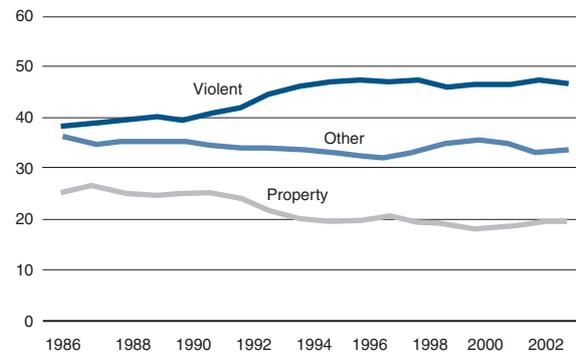
Source: References 2, 3, 4, 30 and 31

Most serious offence

Offenders can be sentenced to a prison term for one or a number of offences. The offence that an offender is categorised as being in prison for is the offence that is deemed most serious, as determined by length of sentence.

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). Other offenders are those who have been convicted of fraud, offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations, drug offences and others, such as public order and driving offences.

Figure 96
Prisoners sentenced for violent, property and other offences, percentage of total prisoners, 1986–2003



- The percentage of prisoners sentenced for violent offences increased from 38% in 1986 to 47% in 1995 and remained steady thereafter.
- Those sentenced for property offences declined from 25% in 1986 to 20% in 1994, a percentage that has since remained steady.
- The percentage sentenced for other offences has remained steady at about one-third.

Source: References 30 and 31

Table 5
Sentenced prisoners by most serious offence, by gender, number and percentage, 2003

	Male		Female	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Homicide	1,807	10	134	11
Assault	2,325	13	138	12
Sex offences	1,904	11	13	1
Robbery	2,310	13	138	12
Break and enter	2,260	13	131	11
Other theft*	1,157	7	134	11
Fraud**	507	3	140	12
GSJ***	1,249	7	109	9
Drug offences	1,674	10	167	14
Other****	2,347	13	94	8
Total	17,540	100	1,198	100

* Includes motor vehicle theft

** Deception and related offences

*** Government security and justice procedures, includes offences such as breach of court order, breach of parole, escape custody, offences against justice procedures, treason, sedition and resisting customs officials

**** Includes other offences against the person and property, public order offences and driving offences

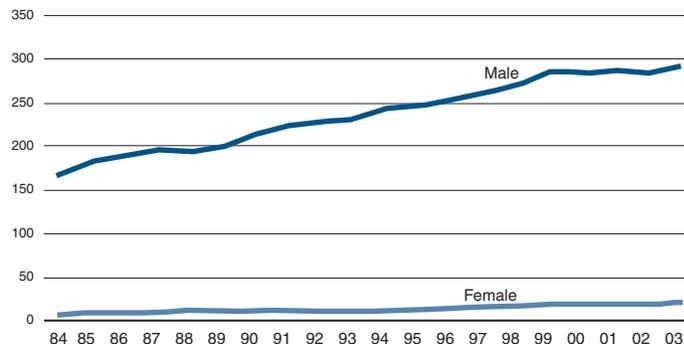
- The main offences for which male prisoners were sentenced included assault, robbery, break and enter, and other offences. For female prisoners the main offences included drug offences, assault, robbery and fraud.
- Males imprisoned for the violent offences of homicide, assault, sex offences and robbery accounted for almost half of all sentenced male prisoners in 2002 (47%), compared with one-third of sentenced females (36%).
- These patterns have remained relatively stable between 2002 and 2003.

Source: Reference 30

Gender

Figure 97 shows the imprisonment rate of male and female persons, from 1984 to 2003.

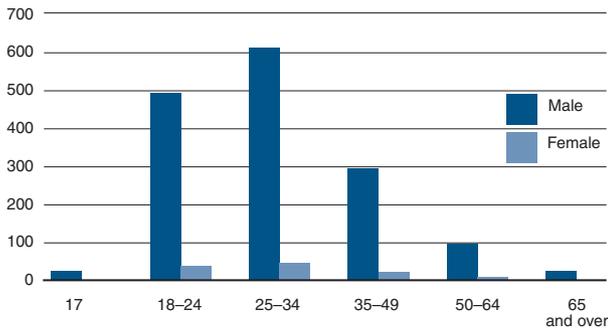
Figure 97
Prisoners by gender, rate per 100,000 adults, 1984–2003



- Between 1984 and 2003, the overall imprisonment rate for males increased from 166 to 291 per 100,000 male population.
- The female rate of imprisonment was 7 per 100,000 in 1984 and 20 per 100,000 in 2003.
- Almost 7% of prisoners were women in 2003, up from 4% in 1984.
- The number of male and female prisoners increased annually by an average of 5% and 8% respectively over the 19-year period.
- Fifty-eight per cent of males and 49% of females imprisoned in 2003 were known to have been in prison previously.

Source: References 2, 3, 4, 30 and 31

Figure 98
Age and gender of prisoners, rate per 100,000 adults, 2003



- **Ninety-three per cent of all prisoners in 2003 were male.**
- **Sixty-two per cent of all prisoners were under 35 years of age.**
- **For both males and females, 25 to 34-year-olds had the highest imprisonment rates in 2003.**

Source: References 4 and 30

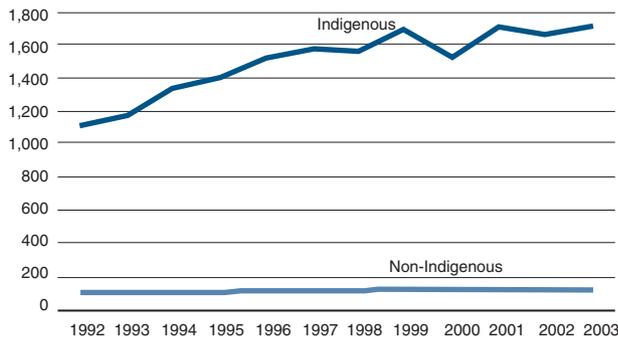
Indigenous status

Figure 99 depicts the imprisonment rate of Indigenous (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) and non-Indigenous persons. These data include both sentenced prisoners and remandees.

Note: Population projections for Indigenous adults are based on data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The ABS uses two methods to estimate Indigenous populations: the 'low series' and the 'high series'. Both employ certain assumptions about births, deaths and migration. The 'high series' also incorporates assumptions about a change in the propensity to identify as Indigenous. Figures in this publication present rates based on 'high series' population data (Source: Reference 33).

This year the ABS released revised Indigenous population figures in the 'high series' for 2001–2003, based on the 2001 census. Rate calculations for these years therefore differ from previous publications, particularly where juveniles are concerned.

Figure 99
Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoners, rate per 100,000 adults, 1992–2003



- **On 30 June 2003 the Indigenous imprisonment rate was 13 times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous persons: 1,710 per 100,000 Indigenous adult population compared with 124 per 100,000 non-Indigenous adult population.**
- **Indigenous prisoners comprised 21% of the total prisoner population in 2003, an increase from 14% in 1992.**
- **Seventy-seven per cent of Indigenous prisoners were known to have previously been in prison.**

Source: References 2, 3, 4 and 30

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 reintegrating prisoners into the community under continued supervision.

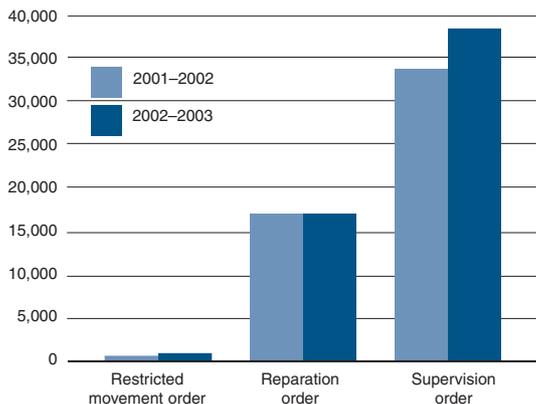
- **In Australia during 2002–2003 there were 51,929 offenders per day, on average, serving community correction orders, a decrease of 1% on the number recorded in 2001–2002.**

- This corresponds to a rate of 261 per 100,000 adults in the population; 429 per 100,000 males and 92 per 100,000 females.
- Females accounted for a larger proportion of the community corrections population as compared with the prison population: 18% and 7% respectively.

Community corrections orders are classified into three main categories:

- restricted movement orders (for example, home detention);
- reparation orders (for example, fine options, community service); and
- supervision (compliance) orders (for example, parole, bail, sentenced probation).

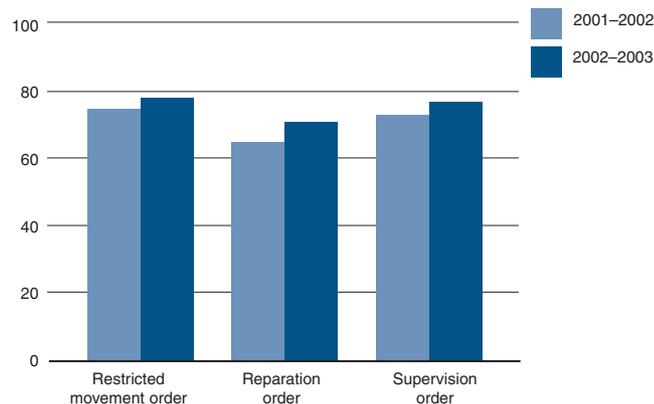
Figure 100
Average daily community corrections populations, 2001–2002 and 2002–2003



- Supervision orders are the most commonly used option, with 38,753 offenders under supervision orders in 2002–2003 (excluding Victoria). This represents a 15% increase on the number recorded in 2001–2002.
- Reparation orders are also common, with 17,031 offenders serving this option in 2002–2003, a 1% decline from 17,175 reparation orders in 2001–2002.

- In 2002–2003, 657 offenders were serving restricted movement orders, up from 557 the previous year.

Figure 101
Successful completion of community corrections orders, percentages, 2001–2002 and 2002–2003



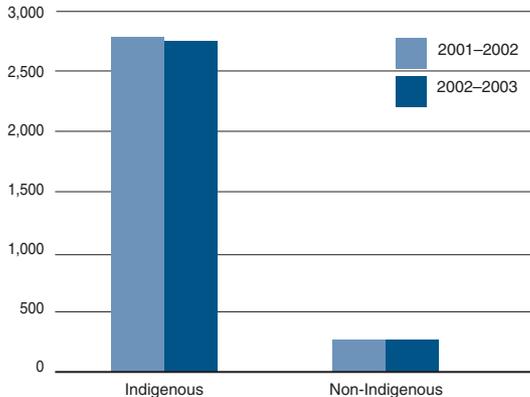
- On average, 74% of all community corrections orders were successfully completed in 2002–2003, an increase from 70% in 2001–2002.
- In 2002–2003, restricted movement and supervision orders had the highest percentage of successful completion at 78% and 77%, respectively, while reparation orders had the lowest at 71%.

Source: Reference 28

Indigenous status

On average, 40,893 non-Indigenous offenders and 6,871 Indigenous offenders were serving community corrections orders in 2002–2003 (excluding Victoria).

Figure 102
Average daily community corrections population by Indigenous status, rate per 100,000 adults, 2001–2002 and 2002–2003



- In 2002–2003, the Indigenous community corrections rate was 10 times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous offenders, at 2,764 per 100,000 population, compared with 275.
- The community corrections rate for Indigenous people decreased slightly between 2001–2002 and 2002–2003, from 2,804 per 100,000 population to 2,764.

Source: Reference 28

Juvenile corrective institutions

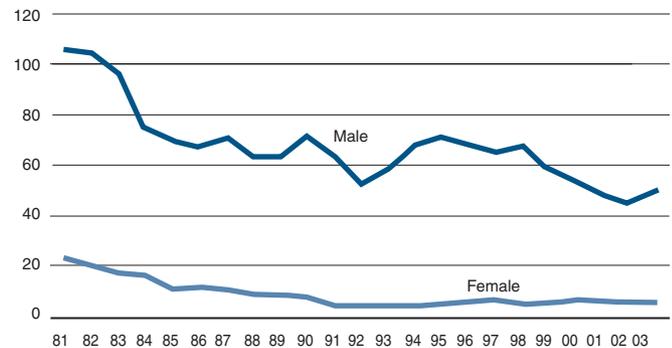
The Australian Institute of Criminology has maintained a collection on the number of persons detained in juvenile corrective institutions since 1981. The census comprises a count of the number of persons detained in institutions on the last day of each quarter each year. Similar information is not available for the non-custodial juvenile population.

Note that the long-term trend data shown in Figure 103 is based on the census conducted on 30 June of each year.

Trend in juvenile corrective institution population

Given the differences among jurisdictions regarding the definition of a juvenile, statistics in this section are shown for people aged between 10 and 17 years. Figure 103 depicts the imprisonment rate of male and female juveniles from 1981 to 2003.

Figure 103
Persons in juvenile corrective institutions by gender, rate per 100,000 juveniles, 1981–2003



- Between 1981 and 2003, the overall incarceration rate for juveniles declined 57% from 65 to 28 per 100,000.
- In 2003, the rate for males declined to 50 per 100,000 from 105 in 1981. The rate for females dropped from 23 to 5.
- The percentage of females in the total juvenile prison population has dropped since 1981, at which point females made up 17% of the total. This figure remained at about 6% between 1991 and 1995 before rising to 10% in 2000. In 2003 it was 9%.
- In 2003, the male incarceration rate was almost 10 times higher than the rate for female juveniles.

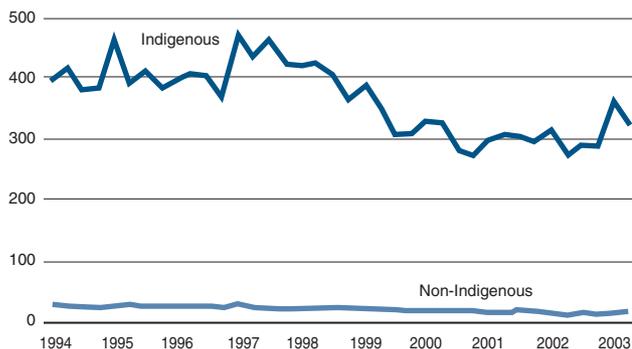
Source: Reference 32

Indigenous status

Data on incarcerated juveniles by Indigenous status have been made available since 1994. Figure 104 depicts the incarceration rate of Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons in juvenile corrective institutions, from 31 March 1994 to 30 June 2003 for each quarter.

Note: These data are based on the 'high series' of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population projections for juveniles. This method accounts for the effects of increased propensity to identify as Indigenous between the 1991, 1996 and 2001 censuses. This year the ABS released revised Indigenous population figures in the high series for 2001–2003, based on the 2001 census. Rate calculations for these years therefore differ from previous publications, particularly where juveniles are concerned.

Figure 104
Persons in juvenile corrective institutions by Indigenous status, rate per 100,000 juveniles, 31 March 1994 to 30 June 2003



- **The total number of Indigenous persons in juvenile corrective institutions on 30 June 2003 was 302. This represents 47% of the total number of persons detained in juvenile corrective institutions.**
- **The incarceration rate for Indigenous juveniles was 321 per 100,000, 20 times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous juveniles (16 per 100,000).**

- **There has been a 31% decline in the Indigenous juvenile imprisonment rate since the high of 468 per 100,000 recorded in March 1997.**

Source: References 32 and 33

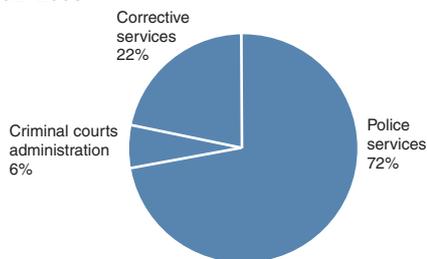
Justice expenditure

According to the *Report on government services 2004* (Reference 28), the total real recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources) on justice in 2002–2003 was nearly \$7.2 billion.

The total real recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources) on criminal justice in 2002–2003 was almost \$6.8 billion. The remaining \$0.4 billion was spent on the administration of the civil courts. Since 1998–1999, expenditure on criminal justice has increased by 13% overall and by an average of 3% each year.

Police services represent the largest component of the criminal justice system, accounting for approximately 72% of the total criminal justice-related expenditure. Corrective services account for a further 22%, and criminal court administration accounts for the remaining 6%.

Figure 105
Composition of government expenditure on criminal justice, 2002–2003



Source: Reference 28

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 provided by the Australian Government.

The figures below exclude resource data for the AFP for non-ACT policing functions.

Expenditure

The total recurrent expenditure on police services across Australia was \$5.2 billion. This amounts to \$264 for every person in Australia, and \$357 per adult. Recurrent expenditure on salaries accounted for 77% of this expenditure.

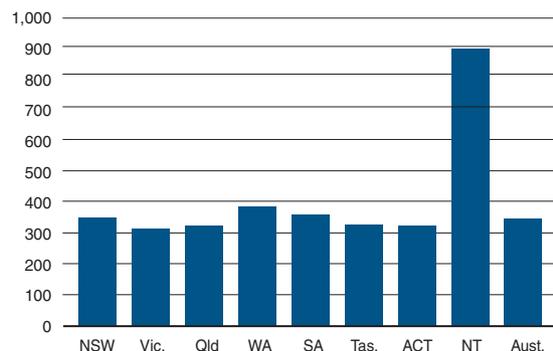
Total recurrent expenditure, less revenue from own sources in 2002–2003 was \$4.8 billion, or \$245 for every person and \$332 per adult.

Table 6
Expenditure on Australian police services, 2002–2003

Expenditure	(\$'000)
Total recurrent expenditure	5,247,309
Total capital expenditure	289,680
Total expenditure	5,536,989
Staff salaries	(\$)
Average police staff salaries	78,477
Average non-police staff salaries	51,401

Source: Reference 28

Figure 106
Recurrent expenditure on police services per head of adult population, 2002–2003



■ Recurrent expenditure on police services per head of adult population in 2002–2003 ranged from \$310 in Victoria to \$890 in the Northern Territory.

Source: Reference 28

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 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 on 30 June 2003 was 61,879, an increase of 7% on the number recorded in 2002. This averages 311 per 100,000 persons (242 sworn police officers and 69 civilian employees).**
- **There were 48,130 sworn police officers and 13,749 civilian employees making up Australian police services in 2003.**
- **Twenty-one per cent of sworn police officers in 2003 were female.**

Table 7

Composition of police services by jurisdiction, 30 June 2003

Jurisdiction	Sworn police officers	Civilian	Total	Sworn officers per 1,000 m ²
NSW	14,739	4,059	18,798	23
Vic.	10,691	2,233	12,924	57
Qld	8,704	3,257	11,961	7
WA	5,063	1,284	6,347	3
SA	3,916	937	4,853	5
Tas.	1,118	430	1,548	23
NT	974	204	1,178	1
ACT	628	146	774	329
Australia*	48,130	13,749	61,879	8

* Includes Australian Federal Police for non-ACT policing (2,297 sworn officers and 1,199 civilians)

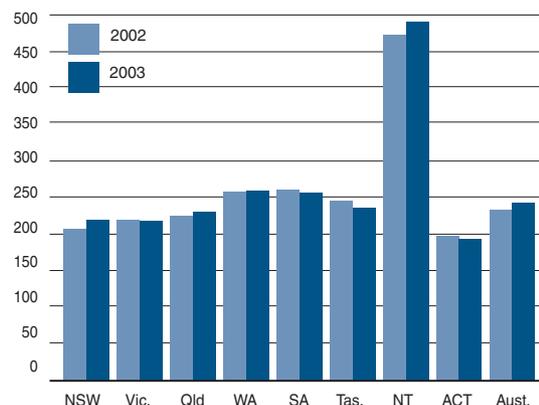
- **New South Wales had the largest police service across Australia, while the ACT had the smallest.**

- **Tasmania and Queensland employed the highest proportion of civilian staff (28% and 27% respectively), and Victoria and the Northern Territory employed the lowest (17%).**

Source: Reference 34

Figure 107

Sworn police officers, rate per 100,000 persons by jurisdiction, 30 June 2002 and 30 June 2003



- **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 (491), while the ACT had the smallest (195). However, the ACT had 329 police officers per 1,000 square kilometres, while the Northern Territory had only one.**
- **The number of police officers increased slightly in 2003 relative to 2002 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.**

Source: References 4 and 34

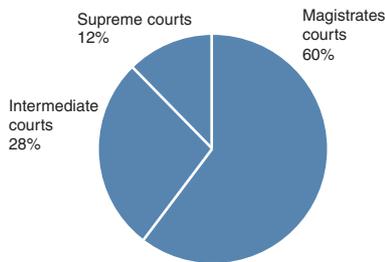
Court administration

The total recurrent expenditure on court administration services across Australia was \$1.1 billion in 2002–2003, an increase from \$1.01 billion in 2001–2002. Expenditure for criminal court administration was about \$468 million for 2002–2003, up from \$431 million the previous year.

Total criminal court expenditure less income (excluding fines) was \$456 million. This amounts to \$23 for every person in Australia, and \$30 per adult. All criminal court costs are attributed to state and territory governments.

Source: Reference 28

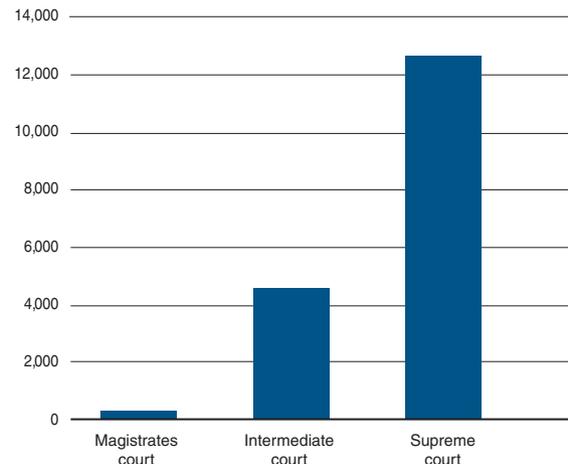
Figure 108
Total expenditure (less income) for criminal courts, 2002–2003



- Magistrates courts incurred 60% of total criminal court expenditure in 2002–2003, compared with 61% in 2001–2002.

Figure 109 shows the average expenditure per case lodgment in the criminal courts. The higher the level of court, the higher the cost associated with each criminal case lodgment. This is because more complex and lengthy cases are typically tried in the higher courts.

Figure 109
Average expenditure per criminal case lodgment, 2002–2003



- In 2002–2003, average expenditure per criminal case lodgment was \$323 in magistrates courts, \$4,658 in intermediate courts and \$12,654 in supreme courts.

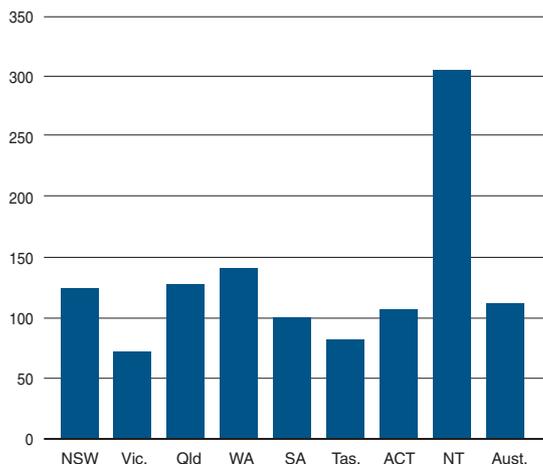
Source: Reference 28

Adult corrective services

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

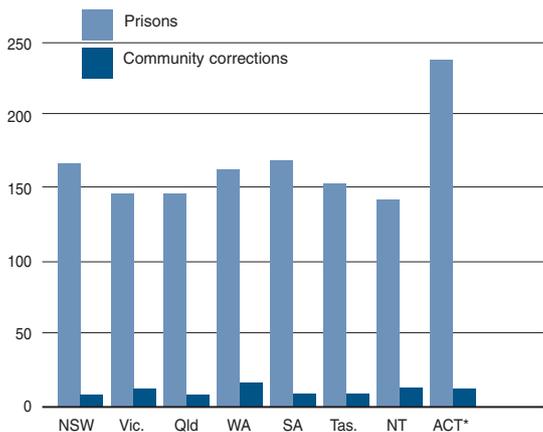
Total net expenditure on corrective services in Australia was approximately \$1.72 billion in 2002–2003: \$1.5 billion (86%) for prisons, \$188 million (11%) for community corrections and \$59 million (3%) for transport and escort services. This corresponds to \$86 for every person in Australia and \$112 for every adult.

Figure 110
Recurrent expenditure on corrective services per head of adult population, 2002–2003



- **Recurrent expenditure on corrective services per head of adult population in 2002–2003 ranged from \$72 in Victoria to \$305 in the Northern Territory.**

Figure 111
Corrective services expenditure per offender per day, by jurisdiction 2002–2003



* Includes both remand prisoners in ACT and sentenced prisoners in NSW

- **Expenditure per prisoner per day was about \$159 in 2002–2003, ranging from \$146 in Queensland to \$238 in the ACT.**
- **Expenditure per offender sentenced to community correction programs per day was \$10 in 2002–2003. The cost for offenders sentenced to prison was almost 16 times as high.**
- **Overall, in 2002–2003 approximately \$58,181 was spent on each prisoner and \$3,541 on each offender sentenced to community corrections programs.**

Source: References 4 and 28

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