



Australian Government

Australian Institute of Criminology

Australian Crime

Facts & Figures

2005



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Notes

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

Minor revisions are occasionally made to publications after release. The

online version available on the AIC website will include any revisions

made since printing:

<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/facts/2005/>

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.

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 websites 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, from fact sheets to detailed reports, on a wide range of issues. Further information may be obtained by visiting the AIC website (www.aic.gov.au), or contacting the Institute (see back cover).

Toni Makkai
Director

December 2005

Contents

Foreword	3
1. Recorded crime	8
Number of recorded crimes	8
Recorded crime rates	10
Location of crime	12
2. Selected crime profiles	17
Homicide	17
Assault	21
Sexual assault	25
Robbery	28
Unlawful entry with intent	33
Motor vehicle theft	35
Other theft	38
Fraud and deception-related crime	40
Drug arrests	41
3. Crime victimisation	45
Rates of criminal victimisation	45
Farm crime	53
Cybercrime	54
4. Selected offender profiles	57
Alleged offenders	57
The national police custody survey	65
Drug use by offenders	67

5. Criminal courts	73
The criminal court process	74
Court decision	76
Sentencing	78
6. Corrections	84
Persons under corrective services	84
Prisons	84
Community corrections	90
Juveniles in detention	94
7. Criminal justice resources	97
Justice expenditure	97
Police	97
Court administration	101
Adult corrective services	102
References	105
Contacts	Back cover

Crime and justice statistics

There is not one single source of criminal justice data – they must be brought together from a variety of sources. The main crime and justice statistics come from two types of collections, administrative and survey, and we need to use both types of information to help inform our understanding of the level and effects of crime in the community.

Criminal justice agencies keep records of their workflow at different stages. For example police keep incident records, courts record the details of cases and their disposition, and corrections agencies have details of the offenders in their charge. Most basic information comes from these administrative collections, which have the advantage of covering the whole population that comes into contact with the criminal justice system, and remaining relatively stable in terms of collections and production over time.

There are limitations to these data, however, including comparability across agency and jurisdictional collections. Most of the data have been collated at a national level only relatively recently – recorded crime from police records since 1996, prisoners since 1983, and all criminal courts since 2001. The collections are not all based on the same unit of measurement; for example, police record details about victims, courts record cases, and corrections agencies record information about individual offenders.

Although there has been much improvement, definitions and collecting methods are not always uniform across jurisdictions, and recording quality may be an issue. It can take time to reach agreement at a

national level on key issues including definitions of new and emerging offences. Often more detailed information about crime and justice is available at a jurisdictional level, even when it is not possible to produce national statistics.

Not all crimes are reported to police – this is believed to vary from a low of 20 percent for sexual assaults to a high of 95 percent for motor vehicle thefts. This is one of the main reasons that the other main type of data collection, surveys, is undertaken. Crime victimisation surveys have the advantage of asking the same questions in the same way across the whole of the sample population. These answers are then recorded in a similarly uniform way so that the information they provide is reliable and comparable.

Crime victimisation surveys are believed to provide a more comprehensive picture of actual crime rates in society. Surveys are expensive, however, so they tend to be either one-off or infrequent. It is not always valid to extrapolate from a sample to the whole population, however, and all sample surveys have a certain amount of error. Surveys used in this publication this year include the Australian component of the International Crime Victimization Survey and a national farm crime survey, both conducted by the Australian Institute of Criminology.

1 RECORDED CRIME

Data on recorded crime as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for the period 1996 to 2004 are presented in this first section. 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.

The ABS has been collecting and publishing data on eight major categories of offences – homicide, assault, sexual assault, robbery, kidnapping, unlawful entry with intent (UEWI), motor vehicle theft (MVT), and other theft – since 1996. It is estimated that these crimes account for about 60% of all crime recorded by police.

The ABS did not report on assault or sexual assault for 2004. They have found that the recording of assault has not been consistent across jurisdictions, although the trend within jurisdictions should be consistent. We therefore assume that the national trend is consistent but that the absolute number may not be accurate. Because assault accounts for the vast majority of recorded violent crime and sexual assault is also a significant crime category they are included from 1996 to 2003 in some of the following tables and figures. However readers should exercise caution in how they interpret the numbers.

Source: Reference 1 and 28

Number of recorded crimes

Violent crime

Violent crime includes homicide, assault, sexual assault, robbery and kidnapping (also sometimes referred to as abduction). Although robbery may include an element of property crime, it is included as a violent crime, as the use or threat of violence is a more serious offence.

Table 1: Violent crimes, 1996–2004

	Homicide	Assault	Sexual assault	Robbery	Kidnapping
1996	354	114,156	14,542	16,372	478
1997	364	124,500	14,353	21,305	564
1998	332	130,903	14,336	23,801	707
1999	386	134,271	14,104	22,606	766
2000	363	138,708	15,759	23,336	695
2001	346	152,283	16,897	26,591	767
2002	365	160,118	17,977	20,989	706
2003	341	158,629	18,237	19,709	696
2004	293	na	na	16,490	768

na = not available.

- The number of homicides has usually fluctuated between 340 and 390. In 2004 the number dropped below 300 to 293.
- Robbery is the second largest violent crime category. The number of robbery offences in 2004 was the lowest recorded since 1996. Robbery offences have been in decline since 2001.
- The number of recorded kidnappings is small and subject to year to year variation. Over the period 1996–2004 kidnapping registered a slight upward trend. There were 768 recorded victims of kidnapping in 2004.
- The trend in recorded sexual assaults has shown an increase over the period 1996–2003.
- Assaults have consistently made up the vast majority of recorded violent crimes. The overall trend has been upward in the period 1996–2003.

Source: Reference 1

Property crime

Property crime comprises unlawful entry with intent (UEWI), also referred to as break and enter or burglary, motor vehicle theft (MVT), and other theft. Other theft includes offences such as pick-pocketing, bag snatching, shoplifting and bicycle theft.

Table 2: Property crimes, 1996–2004

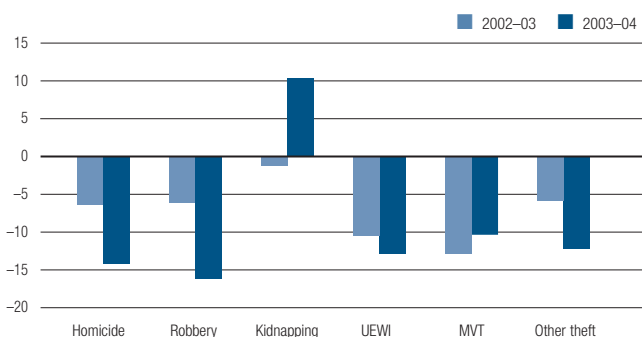
	UEWI	MVT	Other theft
1996	402,079	122,914	521,762
1997	421,569	130,138	530,881
1998	434,376	131,587	563,482
1999	415,735	129,552	612,559
2000	436,968	138,912	681,268
2001	435,754	139,894	700,137
2002	394,323	113,460	680,799
2003	354,020	98,298	624,036
2004	308,368	87,916	547,800

- In 2004, other theft was the most commonly recorded property crime, accounting for 58% of property crime victims. The number of recorded victims of other theft increased steadily until 2001, but since then has been decreasing.

- Between 1996 and 2004, the number of victims of UEWI increased until 2000, but has since declined by 29%. In 2004 there were 308,368 recorded victims of an UEWI.
- The number of MVT victims increased by 24% between 1996 and 2001; between 2001 and 2004, however, it declined by 37%. In 2004 there were 87,916 recorded victims of a MVT.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 1: Percentage change in selected crimes, 2002 to 2003 compared with 2003 to 2004



- Among the offence categories displayed on the chart the overall trend in the past three years has been one of decline.
- Of offences for which data were released, only kidnapping registered an increase between 2003 and 2004.
- Homicide (14%), robbery (16%), UEWI (13%), MVT (11%) and other theft (12%) all recorded decreases from 2003 to 2004.

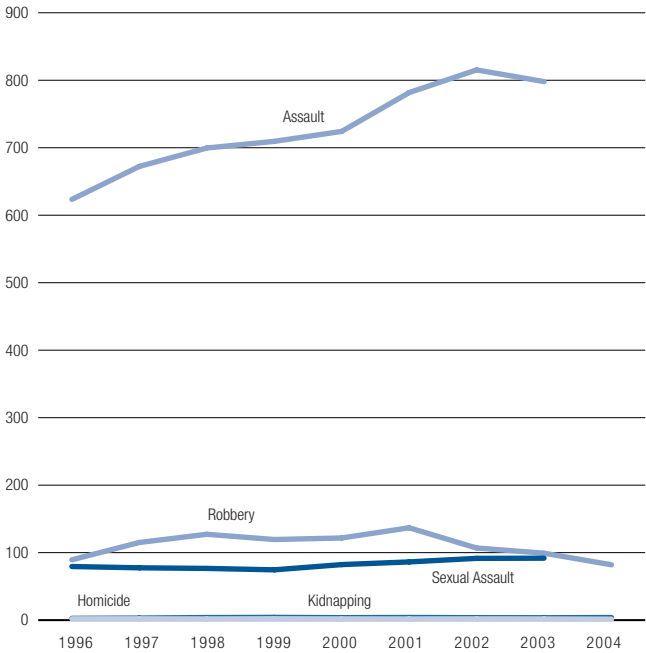
Source: Reference 1

Recorded crime rates

Trends in the number of recorded crimes do not take into account increases in the population over time. As a result an increasing number of recorded crime victims may reflect an increase in the general population over that time period rather than the actual likelihood of a person becoming a victim of crime. Crime rates adjust for changes in the population size and in this section are calculated for every 100,000 persons in the population.

Violent crime rate

Figure 2: Violent crimes, rate per 100,000 persons, 1996–2004



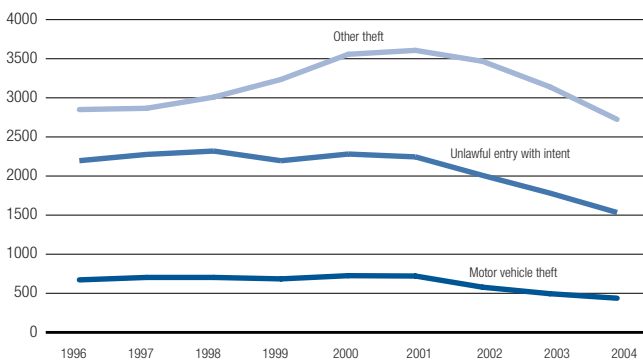
Note: Homicide and kidnapping occur at rates of under 5 per 100,000 each, and as such are difficult to distinguish on this chart.

- The rate for robbery peaked at 137 per 100,000 in 2001, the highest recorded since 1996. Rates have declined since 2001 by 40% to 82 per 100,000 in 2004.
- The rate of kidnapping was subject to substantial year to year fluctuation between 1996 and 2004. In 2004 it stood at 3.8 per 100,000 persons.
- The homicide rate was 1.9 in 1996 and was at its highest in 1999 at 2.0 per 100,000 before dropping to 1.5 in 2004.
- The trend in the rate of recorded assault has shown a steady increase from 1996 to 2003.
- The trend in the rate of recorded sexual assault has displayed a steady and significant increase between 1996 and 2003.

Source: References 1 and 2

Property crime rate

Figure 3: Property crimes, rate per 100,000 persons, 1996–2004



- The rate of other theft, which is the largest category of recorded property crime, increased between 1996 and 2001, and has declined thereafter.
- The rate of UEWI remained relatively stable from 1996 to 2001. Since then it has declined.
- The rate of MVT declined by 35% between 1996 and 2004, from 671 to 437 per 100,000 population. This decline largely occurred from 2001 onwards.

Source: References 1 and 2

Location of crime

The ABS classifies crime locations according to the function of the site where a criminal incident occurred. There are three broad locations:

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

Table 3 lists the number of selected violent offences that occurred within each type of location.

Table 3: Number of violent crimes by type of location, 2004

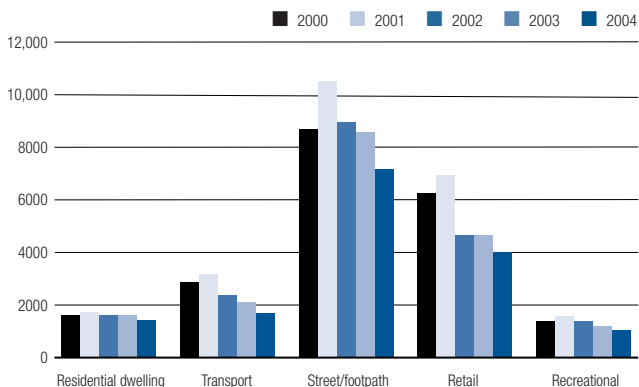
	Homicide	Robbery	Kidnapping
Residential			
Private dwelling	149	1,121	168
Other residential (a)	13	85	8
Total residential	162	1,206	176
Community			
Transport	8	1,634	45
Street/footpath	26	6,793	346
Other community	29	1,025	92
Total community	63	9,452	483
Other			
Retail	11	3,958	45
Recreational	4	1,012	31
Other location	8	416	7
Unspecified	9	446	26
Total other	32	5,832	109
Total	257	16,490	768

(a) 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.

- The majority of homicides (63%, n=162) occur in a residential location, while most robberies (93%, n=15,369) occur outside the home.
- In 2004, 41% (n=6793) of robberies and 45% (n=346) of kidnappings occurred on streets or footpaths, compared with 10% (n=26) of homicides.
- According to data released in previous years assault was likely to occur in both community and residential locations, while sexual assault was overwhelmingly likely to occur in residential locations.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 4: Number of violent crimes, by type of location, 2000–2004



- Between 2000 and 2004, violent crimes (homicide, robbery and kidnapping) declined in all categories of location, though the decrease was not uniform across all location types.
- Violent crimes carried out at transport and retail locations declined the most, by 31% and 36%, respectively.
- Violent crimes carried out at residential dwellings, the street/footpath and recreational locations decreased by 11%, 17% and 25%, respectively, between 2000 and 2004.

Table 4 lists the number of property offences (UEWI, MVT and other theft) that occurred within each type of location.

Table 4: Number of property crimes by type of location, 2004

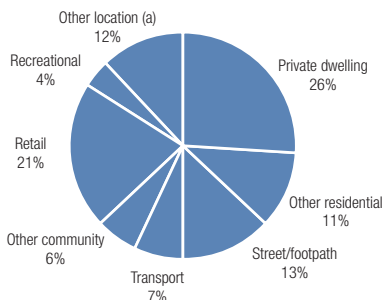
	UEWI	MVT	Other theft
Residential			
Private dwelling	182,967	–	64,846
Other residential (a)	18,386	23,251	67,022
Total residential	201,353	23,251	131,868
Community			
Transport	1,102	12,122	52,442
Street/footpath	–	33,059	86,423
Other community	21,411	2,163	35,256
Total community	22,513	47,344	174,121
Other			
Retail	37,551	9,194	151,453
Recreational	7,279	1,193	29,497
Other location	30,132	2,224	30,543
Unspecified	9,540	4,067	23,282
Total other	84,502	17,321	241,811
Total	308,368	87,916	547,800

(a) 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 public location (66%, n=58,374) than in or around a residential location (26%, n=23,251).
- The majority of unlawful entry with intent crimes (65%, n=201,353) occurred in a residential location, and 12% (n=37,551) occurred in a retail location.
- 32% (n=174,121) of other thefts occurred in a community location and 28% (n=151,453) in a retail location.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 5: Property crimes by type of location, 2004

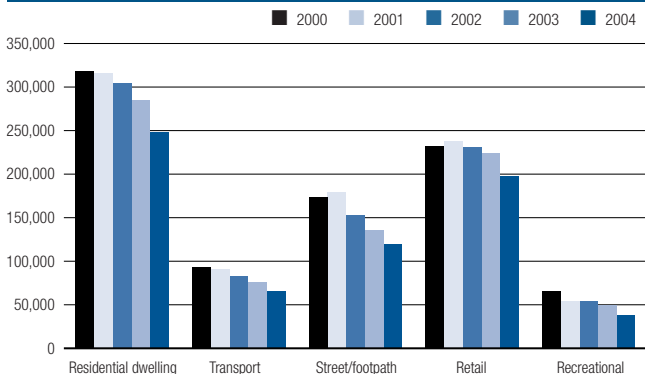


(a) Includes unspecified location (n=37,827).

- Property offences were most likely to occur at a private dwelling (26%), at a retail location (21%) or on the street/footpath (13%).
- Property offences were comparatively less likely to occur at recreational locations (4%) and on transport (7%).

Source: Reference 1

Figure 6: Number of property crimes, by type of location, 2000–2004



- Between 2000 and 2004, the number of property crimes carried out on transport, on the street/footpath, or in a recreational location declined the most, by 30%, 31% and 43%, respectively.
- Property crimes at residential locations declined by 22%, and at retail locations by 14% between 2000 and 2004.

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 necessarily reflect the final outcome at conviction of an offender.

It does not include:

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

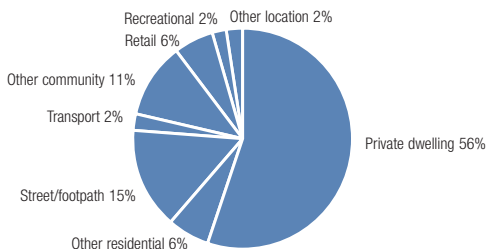
Data from the ABS are supplemented with more detailed information collected by the Australian Institute of Criminology through the National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP). The ABS reports on a calendar year and the AIC on a financial year basis.

There were 293 homicides in Australia in 2004, with 1.5 victims per 100,000 population. This represents a decrease of 14% over the 341 homicides in 2003. Murder accounted for 87% of the victims recorded in 2004. The remainder were victims of manslaughter.

Source: References 1 and 4

Location of homicides

Figure 7: Homicide, type of location, 2004

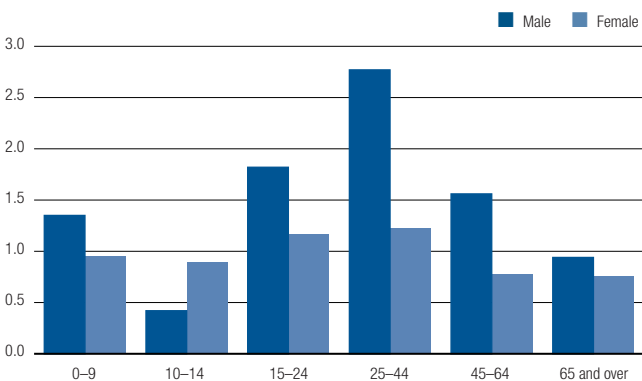


- Homicides are most likely to occur in the home. Of all homicides occurring in Australia in 2004, 56% took place in a private dwelling.
- The next most common location is on the street/footpath (15%).
- Homicides were comparatively less likely to occur at recreational (2%), transport (2%) and retail locations (6%).

Source: Reference 1

Victims of homicide

Figure 8: Age and gender of homicide victims, rate per 100,000 persons, 2004



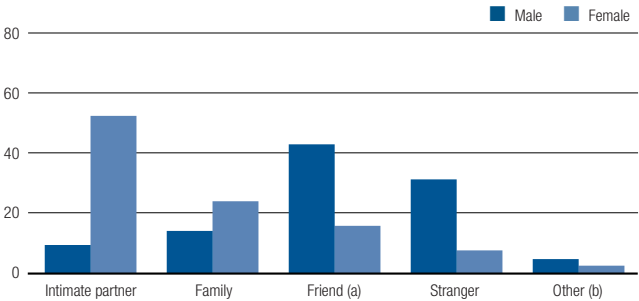
- 64% of homicide victims in 2004 were male.
- In all age categories the risk of being a victim of homicide was higher for males than for females, with the exception of persons aged 10-14.

- Males in the 25 to 44 age group were most at risk of being a homicide victim.
- The age and gender breakdown of homicide victims in 2004 is largely unchanged from previous years.

Source: References 1 and 2

Victim–offender relationship

Figure 9: Homicide victims, gender and relationship to offender, percentages, 2003–04



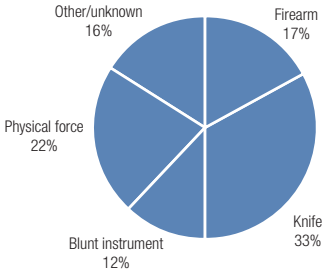
(a) Includes acquaintances.

(b) Other 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 are more likely to be killed by a friend or acquaintance, whereas female victims are more likely to be killed by a family member (intimate partner or family).
- In 2003–04 only 7% of female victims were killed by a person unknown to them (stranger), compared with 31% of male victims.

Source: Reference 4

Figure 10: Homicide, type of weapon, 2003–04

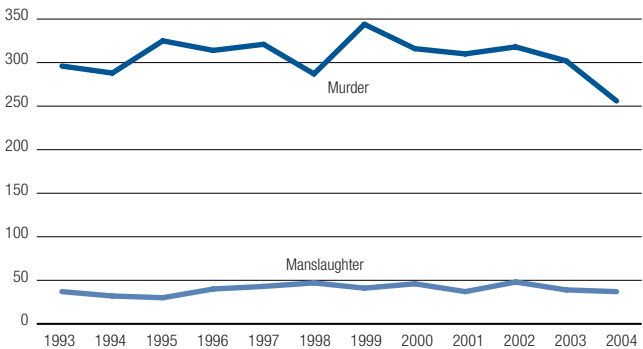


- There are a variety of means by which homicide is committed. In 2003–04 knives were more likely to be used than any other weapon (33%).
- A further 22% of homicides were committed using physical force (hands/feet), 17% with firearms, and 12% with blunt instruments.

Source: Reference 4

Trend in homicide

Figure 11: Number of homicides, 1993–2004



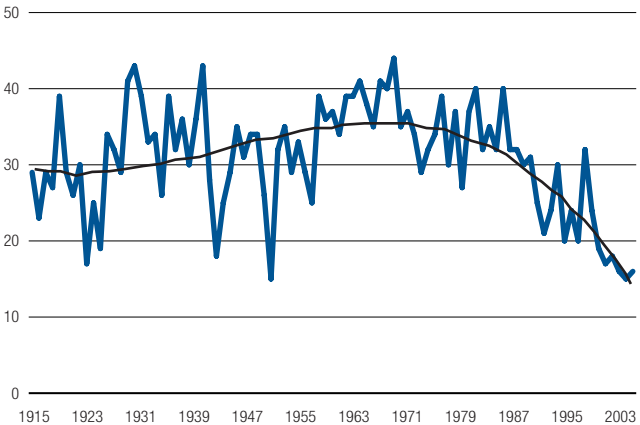
- The number of murders fluctuated slightly on an annual basis between 1993 and 2004, while manslaughter remained relatively stable. The number of murders peaked in 1999 with 343 recorded.
- The number of manslaughters peaked in 2002 with 48 being recorded in that year.

- The 256 murders recorded in 2004 was the lowest number recorded in any one year since 1993.

Source: Reference 1

Trend in firearm homicides

Figure 12: Homicides involving firearms as a percentage of total homicides, 1915–2003



- The percentage of homicides committed with a firearm continued a declining trend begun in 1969. In 2003, fewer than 16% of homicides involved firearms. The figure was similar in 2002 and 2001, down from a high of 44% in 1968.

Source: Reference 3

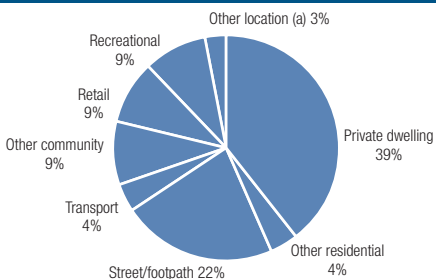
Assault

The ABS defines assault as the direct infliction of force, injury or violence upon a person, including attempts or threats. ABS did not release assault statistics for 2004. Consequently, the following four charts refer to 2003 assault data, the most recent available.

Source: References 1 and 4

Location of assaults

Figure 13: Assault, type of location, 2003



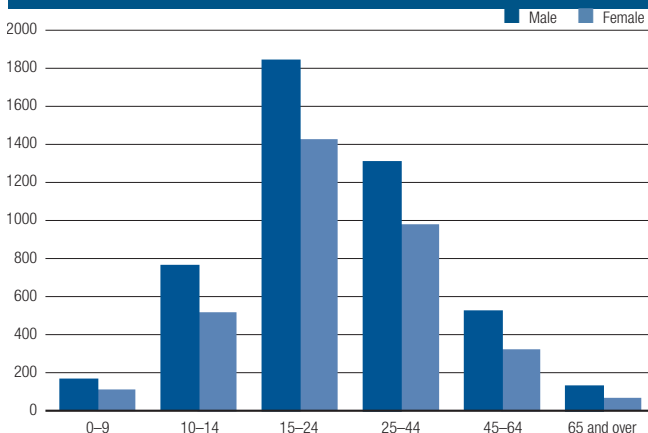
(a) Includes unspecified location (n=2838).

- Recorded assaults occurred most frequently in residential private dwellings (39%).
- Street/footpath locations accounted for 22% of recorded assaults in 2003.
- Retail, recreational and other community locations each accounted for 9% of recorded assaults.
- Recorded assaults were least likely to occur on transport and at residential locations other than private dwellings (both 4%).

Source: Reference 1

Victims of assault

Figure 14: Age and gender of assault victims, rate per 100,000 persons, 2003

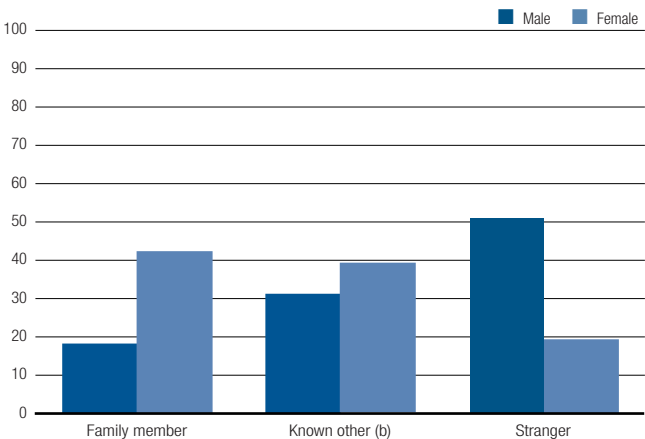


- 58% of recorded assault victims were male.
- Males had higher victimisation rates than females for all age categories.
- Both males and females aged between 15 and 24 years had the highest rates of assault.

Source: References 1 and 2

Victim–offender relationship

Figure 15: Assault victims, gender and relationship to offender, percentages, 2003 (a)



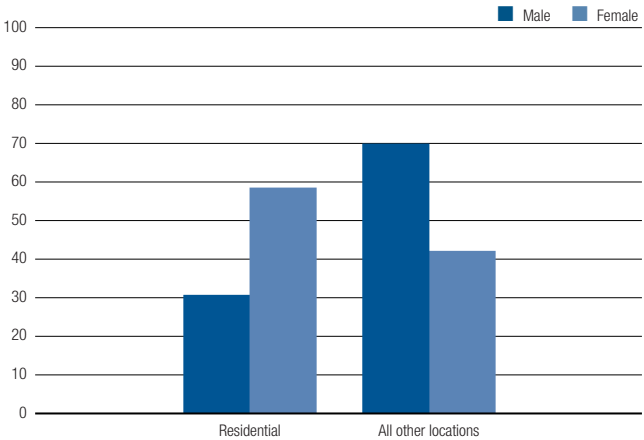
(a) Excludes Queensland and Western Australia (information not available). Also excludes the 9% of instances where the relationship between victim and offender was not stated or known in the remaining jurisdictions.

(b) Known other includes known non-family and known but not further defined, which may include some family members.

- Where the relationship between victim and offender was stated, 81% of female victims of assault knew the offender, compared with 49% 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, 51% of male victims were assaulted by strangers, compared with only 19% of female victims.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 16: Assault victims, type of location and gender of victim, percentages, 2003

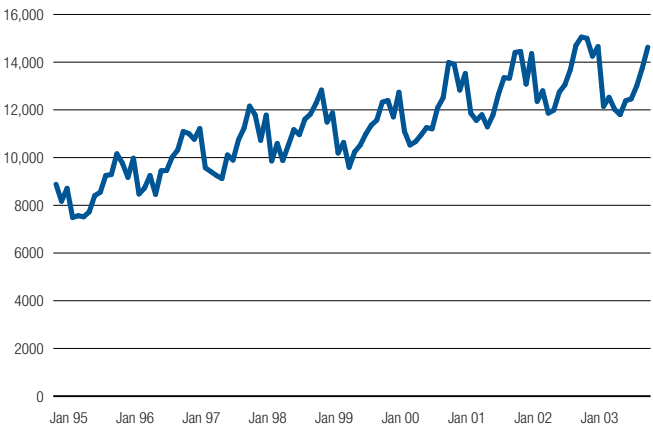


■ Most male victims (70%) were assaulted in non-residential locations, whereas the majority of female victims (58%) were assaulted in residential premises.

Source: Reference 5

Trend in assault

Figure 17: Trend in assaults, by month, 1995–2003



■ The trend in assaults shows an average growth 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 and 5

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.

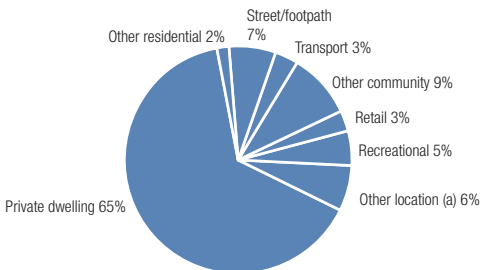
Sexual assault includes: rape, sexual assault, sodomy, buggery, oral sex, incest, carnal knowledge, unlawful sexual intercourse, indecent assault, and assault with intent to rape.

As with assault, the ABS did not release data on recorded sexual assault for 2004. This section refers to recorded sexual assault in 2003, or time series ending in 2003.

Source: Reference 1

Location of sexual assaults

Figure 18: Sexual assault, type of location, 2003



(a) Includes unspecified location (n=704).

- Sexual assault was overwhelmingly likely to occur in the home environment. Of all sexual assaults recorded in Australia in 2003, 65% occurred in private dwellings.
- Sexual assaults on streets/footpaths accounted for 7% of all recorded sexual assaults.
- 3% occurred on transport and 9% at other community locations.

- 5% of recorded sexual assaults took place at recreational locations and 3% at retail locations.

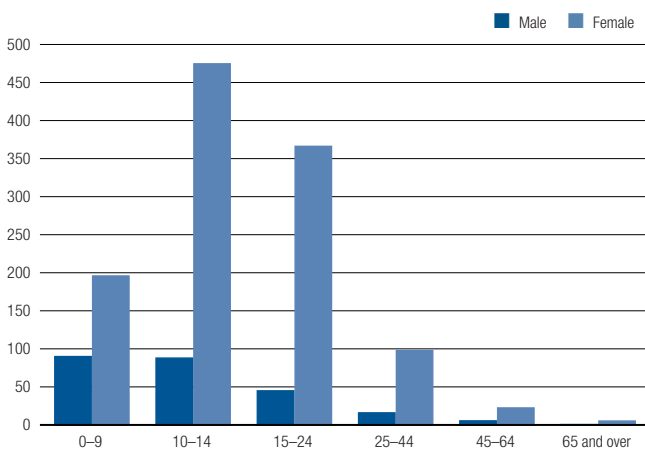
Source: Reference 1

Victims of sexual assault

82% of sexual assault victims in 2003 were female.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 19: Age and gender of sexual assault victims, rate per 100,000 persons, 2003

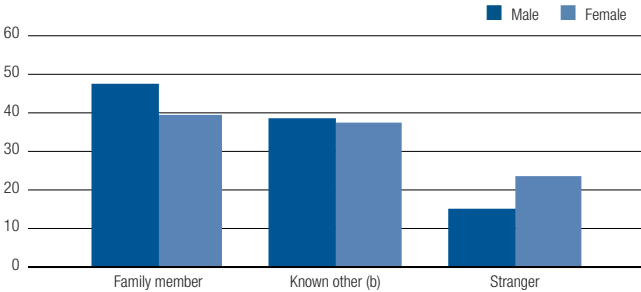


- The highest rate of sexual assault was reported by girls 10–14 years of age at 475 per 100,000 females in that age group.
- For males, rates were highest for those under 10, at 90 per 100,000.
- Females consistently recorded higher rates of sexual assault than males irrespective of age.
- Boys made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

Source: References 1 and 2

Victim–offender relationship

Figure 20: Sexual assault victims, gender and relationship to offender, percentages, 2003 (a)



(a) Excludes Queensland and Western Australia (information not available). Also excludes 5% of recorded assaults where the relationship between victim and offender was not stated or known in the remaining jurisdictions.

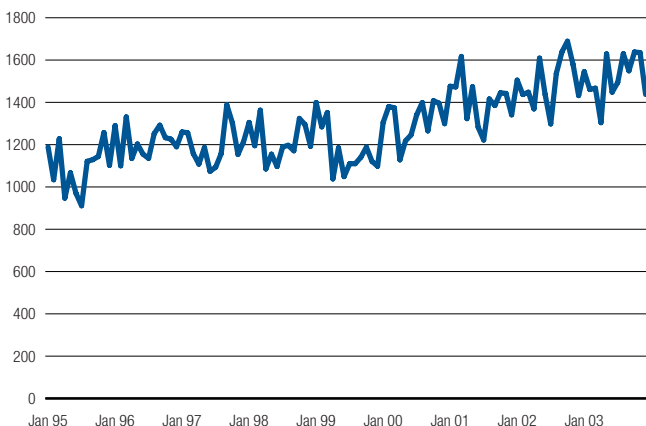
(b) Known other includes known non-family and known not further defined and may include some family members.

- Where the relationship between victim and offender was stated, most sexual assaults (78%) were committed by a person known to the victim.
- Two in five sexual assaults were perpetrated by a family member. The figure is higher (47%) for male victims.
- In 38% of sexual assaults the offender was a non-family member known to the victim.
- 22% 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 21: Trend in sexual assault victims, by month, 1995–2003



- Reported sexual assaults have increased by an average 4% each year since 1995.
- The number of recorded 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 5

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.

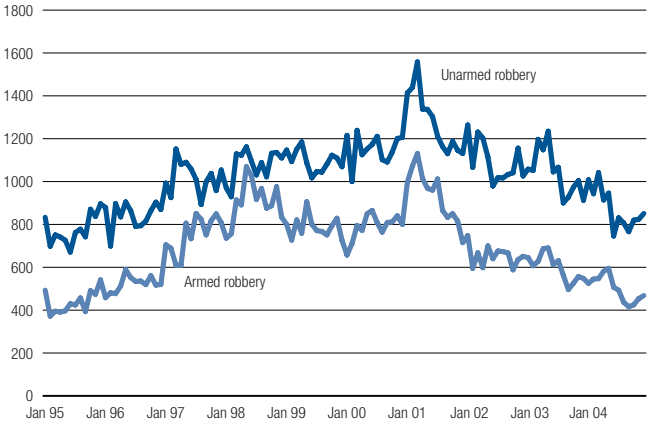
- *Armed robbery*: This is robbery conducted with the use of a weapon. A weapon is any object used to cause fear or injury, and includes imitation weapons and implied weapons; for example, where a weapon is not seen by the victim but the offender claims to possess one.
- *Unarmed robbery*: This is robbery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

Of the 16,490 robberies recorded during 2004, 64% were unarmed robberies and 36% were committed with some type of weapon. This was similar to 2003 and 2002.

Source: Reference 1

Trend in robbery

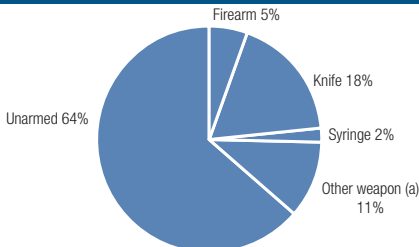
Figure 22: Number of robbery victims, by month, 1995–2004



- Overall the number of robberies in 2004 was significantly lower than the number of robberies recorded in previous years. Compared with 16,490 in 2004, there were 19,709 robberies recorded in 2003, 20,989 in 2002 and 26,591 in 2001.
- Since March 2001 the monthly number of robberies has decreased by 51%, or an average decline of 1% each month.
- Between 1998 and 2004 there was a decrease in the proportion of robberies involving a weapon. In June 1998, 48% of all robberies were armed robberies, compared with 36% of robberies in 2004.
- The number of both armed and unarmed robberies peaked in March 2001, at 1131 and 1558 respectively.
- Armed and unarmed robberies follow similar monthly patterns.

Source: Reference 5

Figure 23: Robbery, type of weapon, 2004



(a) Includes unspecified type of weapon (n=733).

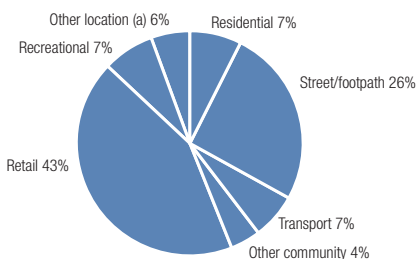
- Of robberies involving the use of weapons, a knife was the weapon most likely to be used. In 2004 knives were used in 18% of all robberies.
- Robberies involving firearms made up 5% of total robberies in 2004.
- A small percentage (2%) of robberies were carried out with the use of a syringe as a primary weapon.

Source: Reference 1

Armed robbery

There were 5993 armed robberies recorded during 2004. This represents a 16% decrease since 2003.

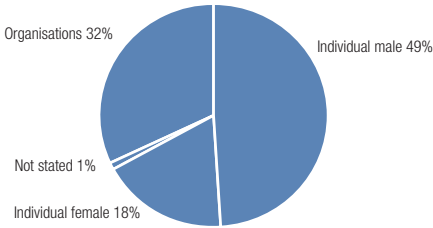
Figure 24: Armed robbery, type of location, 2004



(a) Includes unspecified location (n=83).

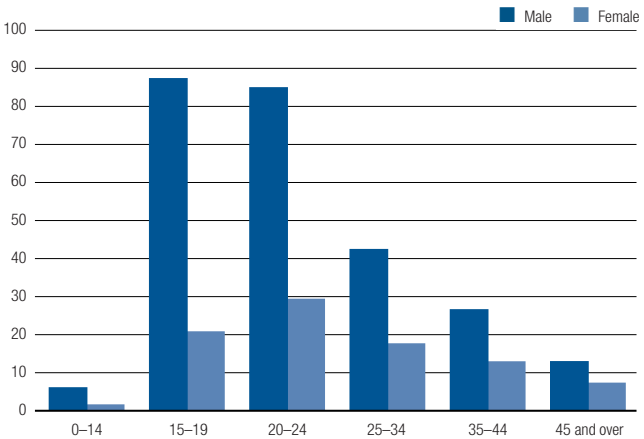
- Consistent with previous years, armed robberies in 2004 occurred most frequently in retail premises (43%).
- A large proportion of armed robberies were also committed on streets/footpaths (26%).
- Armed robberies were less likely to occur in residential (7%), transport (7%), recreational (7%) and other community (4%) locations.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 25: Victims of armed robbery, 2004

- 32% of armed robberies were committed against organisations, such as banks and chemists.
- A person (male or female) was the victim of 67% of armed robberies. Victims of armed robbery were almost three times more likely to be male than female.

Source: References 1 and 5

Figure 26: Age and gender of armed robbery victims, rate per 100,000 persons, 2004

- In all age categories, males were at higher risk of being a victim of armed robbery than were females. The discrepancy between male and female rates was highest among those aged 15 to 24 and decreased with age.
- Males aged 15–24 years were more than twice as likely to be a victim of armed robbery as males or females in any other age category. The rate for males aged 15–19 was 87 per 100,000 relevant population, while for males aged 20–24 it was 85 per 100,000.

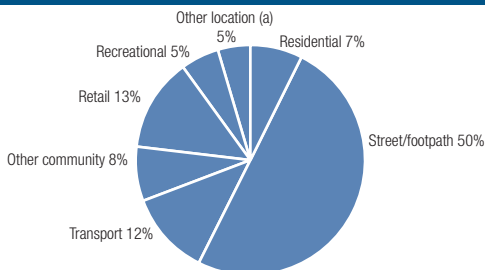
- Rates for females were highest among the 20–24 age group at 29 victims per 100,000 population.

Source: References 1 and 2

Unarmed robbery

There were 10,496 unarmed robberies recorded during 2004. This represents a 16% decrease from the number in 2003.

Figure 27: Unarmed robbery, type of location, 2004

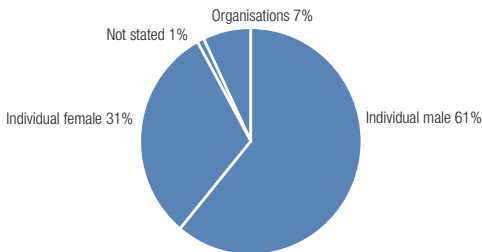


(a) Includes unspecified location (n=267).

- In 2004 unarmed robberies were most likely to occur on the street/footpath (50% of all unarmed robberies).
- 13% of unarmed robberies occurred in a retail location, compared with 43% of armed robberies.
- 12% of unarmed robberies were carried out on transport.
- Unarmed robberies were less likely at residential (7%), recreational (5%) and other community locations (8%).

Source: Reference 1

Figure 28: Victims of unarmed robbery, 2004

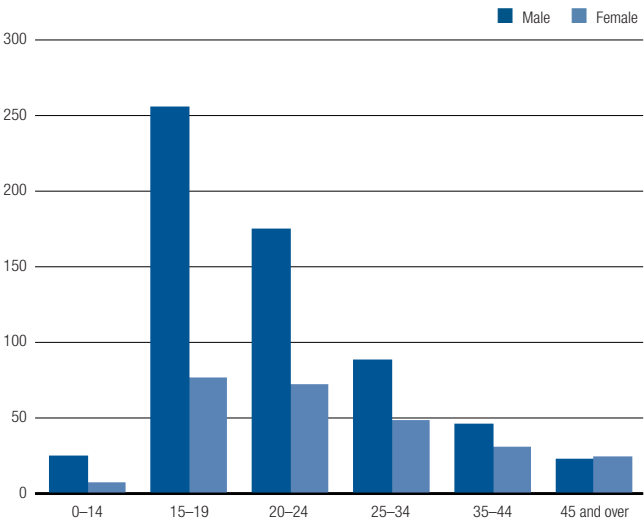


- Unarmed robberies were much less likely than armed robberies to target organisations. 7% of unarmed robberies involved organisations compared with 32% of armed robberies.

- Males were almost twice as likely as females to be victims of unarmed robbery.

Source: Reference 5

Figure 29: Age and gender of unarmed robbery victims, rate per 100,000 persons, 2004



- The age-gender pattern of unarmed robbery is similar to the pattern for armed robbery.
- Males aged 15 to 19 had the highest rates of unarmed robbery victimisation.

Source: References 1 and 2

Unlawful entry with intent

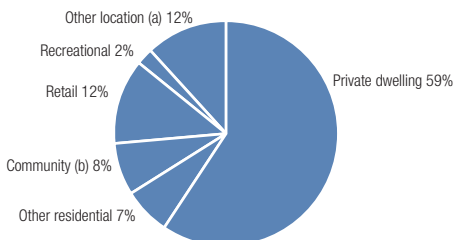
Unlawful entry with intent (UEWI) is defined by the ABS as the unlawful entry of a structure with the intent to commit an offence. UEWI offences include burglary, break and enter, and some stealing.

The rate of UEWI decreased from 2008 victims per 100,000 population in 2002 to 1782 in 2003, and to 1534 per 100,000 in 2004.

Source: References 1 and 2

Location of unlawful entry with intent

Figure 30: Unlawful entry with intent, type of location, 2004



(a) Includes unspecified location (n=4541).

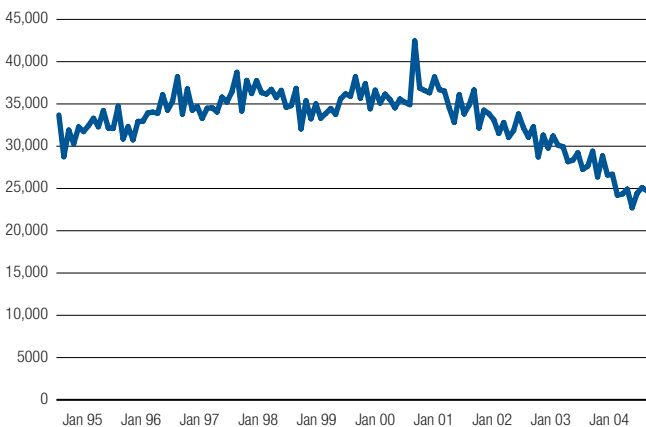
(b) Includes transport, the street/footpath and other community locations.

- UEWI is most likely to take place in residential locations. 59% of UEWI offences occurred in private dwellings, and an additional 7% in other residential locations.
- 12% of recorded UEWI offences took place in retail locations.
- Only 8% of UEWI offences occurred at community locations, which include transport, the street/footpath and other community locations.
- Less than half of one percent of UEWI took place in transport locations.

Source: Reference 1

Trend in unlawful entry with intent

Figure 31: Trend in unlawful entries with intent, by month, 1995–2004



- There has been an overall significant decline in the number of UEWI offences between 1995 and 2004.
- The number of UEWI offences peaked at 42,451 incidents in January 2001.
- UEWI incidents involving theft of property accounted for 73% of all UEWI offences in 2004, down from 78% in 1995.
- There were approximately 36 recorded incidents of UEWI every hour in Australia in 2004, down from 40 every hour in 2003.

Source: Reference 5

Motor vehicle theft

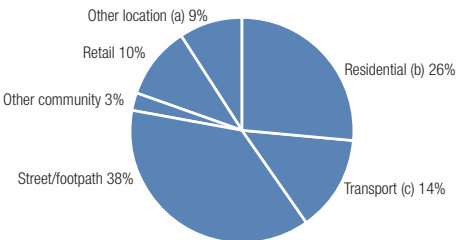
Motor vehicle theft (MVT) is the taking of a motor vehicle unlawfully or without permission. It excludes damaging and tampering or interfering with motor vehicles. The theft of motor vehicle parts or contents is included under the offence category of other theft. Motor vehicle refers to cars, motorcycles,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

There were 87,916 motor vehicles reported stolen to police in 2004, with 650 vehicles stolen per 100,000 registered vehicles. This represents an 11% decrease on the number recorded in 2003. On average, there was one MVT every six minutes in Australia in 2004.

Source: References 1 and 6

Location of motor vehicle theft

Figure 32: Motor vehicle theft, type of location, 2004



(a) Includes unspecified location (n=4698).

(b) Includes private dwellings and other residential locations.

(c) Transport includes public car parks.

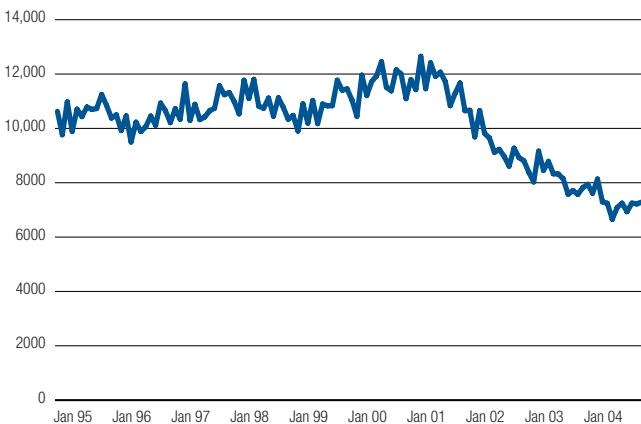
- The majority of motor vehicle thefts occurred in community locations (54%), particularly streets/footpaths (38%) and transport locations (14%).

- Retail locations accounted for 10% of motor vehicle thefts in 2004.
- 26% 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, 1995–2004



- In June 2004, motor vehicle theft decreased to the lowest level recorded since 1995 with 6657 motor vehicles stolen. In the period 1995–2004, the average recorded number of vehicles stolen per month was 10,167.
- The incidence of recorded monthly motor vehicle theft peaked in March 2001, with 12,651 cars being recorded stolen in that month. Incidentally, robbery and UEWI also reached a maximum peak at that time.
- Between March 2001 and December 2004 motor vehicle theft registered a 42% decrease. The overall decrease in the period 1995–2004 was 31%.

Source: Reference 5

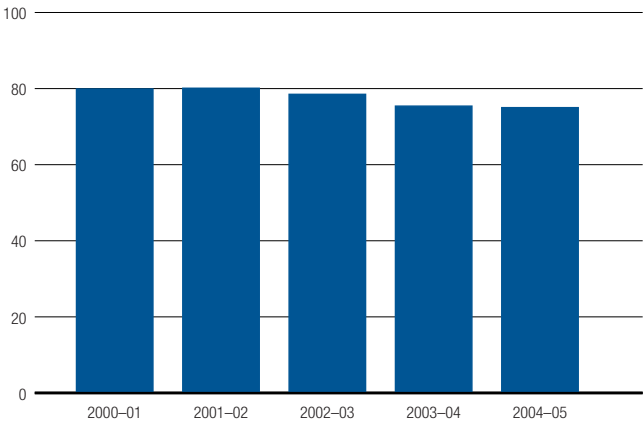
Recovery rates

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 2004, resulting in a national recovery rate of 77%.
- 41% of all recovered motor vehicles are recovered within one day, 67% within two days and 82% within one week.

Source: Reference 7

Figure 34: Percentage of stolen motor vehicles recovered, 2000–01 to 2004–05

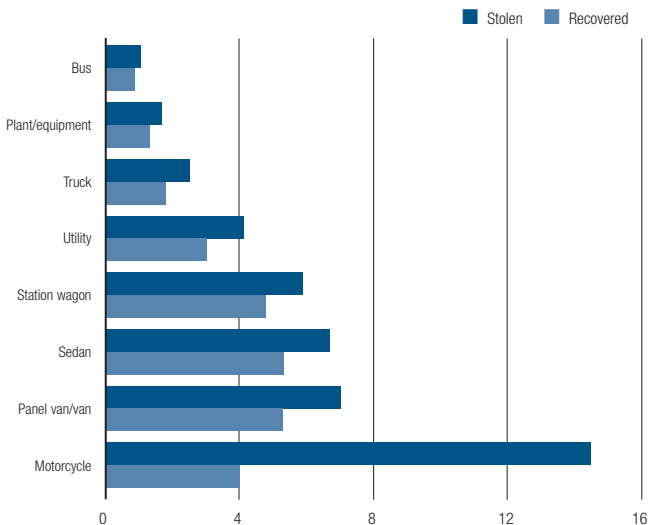


- The percentage of stolen vehicles that have been recovered decreased from 80% in 2000–01 to 75% in 2004–05.
- Vehicles manufactured in the 1980s recorded a theft rate of 14 thefts per 1000 registrations compared with 4 thefts for 1990s models and 3 for 2000–03 models. Newer models are less likely to be stolen because engine immobilising technology makes their theft relatively more difficult.
- In 2003–04, models manufactured from 2000 onwards recorded a recovery rate of 60% compared with 83% for 1980s models and 71% for 1990s models. Although significantly less likely to be stolen, newer models have a much lower recovery rate because they are more likely to be stolen for rebirthing and spare parts than older cars.

Source: Reference 7

Theft and recovery by vehicle type

Figure 35: Theft and recovery by type of vehicle, rate per 1000 registrations, 2003–04



- In 2003–04, motorcycles were more likely to be stolen than any other type of vehicle, with a theft rate of 15 per 1000 registrations.
- Motorcycles were also least likely to be recovered, with only 28% of stolen motorcycles being recovered during the course of the year, compared with 82% of station wagons, 80% of sedans and 72% of trucks.
- Vans and sedans were more likely to be stolen than station wagons, utilities or trucks.

Source: Reference 7

Other theft

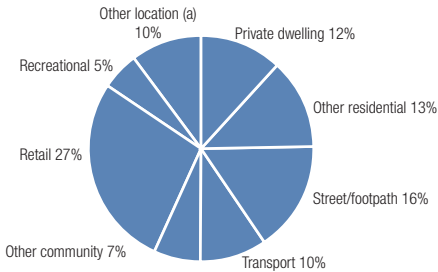
The ABS defines other theft (stealing) as the taking of another person’s property with the intention of permanently depriving the owner of the property illegally and without permission, but without force, threat of force, use of coercive measures, deceit or having gained unlawful entry to any structure 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 36: Other theft, type of location, 2004



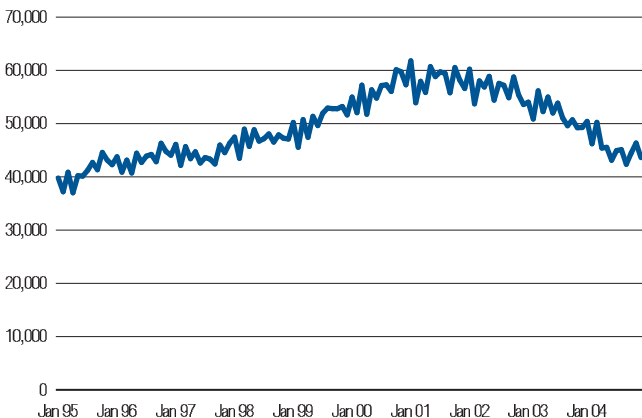
(a) Includes unspecified location (n=23,282).

- Other theft was most likely to occur at retail locations (27% of all such thefts in 2004).
- In 25% of cases, other theft occurred at residential locations, including 12% in private dwellings and 13% in other residential locations (which include yards, carports, garages and outbuildings associated with private dwellings).
- 16% of thefts took place on the street or footpath.
- Other theft was less likely in recreational (5%), other community (7%) and transport locations (10%).

Source: References 1 and 5

Trend in other theft

Figure 37: Number of other thefts by month, 1995–2004



- During 2004 there was an average of 45,650 victims of theft per month, or 62 per hour.
- Since 2001 the number of other thefts has been decreasing. The monthly number of other thefts peaked in January 2001, at 61,786. Between then and December 2004 the monthly number of thefts decreased by 29%.

Source: Reference 5

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 classifications of fraud and deception-related offences include 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. Fraud is believed to be one of the most under-reported offences with less than 50% of incidents being reported to police or other authorities.

Table 5: Number of recorded fraud offences, 1995–96 to 2003–04

1995–96	91,495
1996–97	101,256
1997–98	109,404
1998–99	112,209
1999–00	112,264
2000–01	106,141
2001–02	109,080
2002–03	108,940
2003–04	102,863

- The overall trend in fraud that has been reported to and recorded by police over the ten year period has been relatively stable.

Source: References 8–15

Drug arrests

This section provides an overview of arrest patterns for offenders between 1995–96 and 2003–04. Drug arrests usually come to the attention of police either through specific drug law enforcement activity or coincidentally through an investigation into another matter, often related to property offences.

Arrest information is provided for the following types of drugs:

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

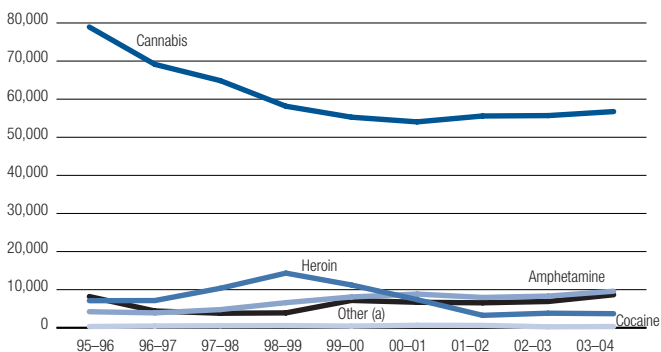
Cannabis arrests include expiation notices, drug infringement notices, and simple cannabis offence notices.

Offenders involved in drug arrests are divided into two categories:

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

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

Figure 38: Number of drug arrests by type of drug, 1995–96 to 2003–04

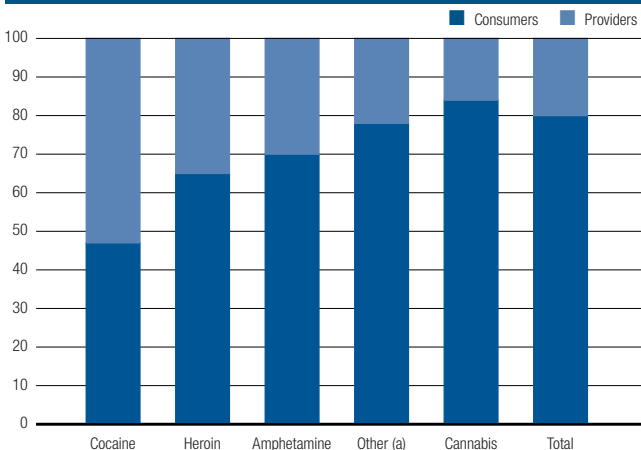


(a) Other includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere).

- Since 1995–96, there has been an overall decline of 24% in the number of arrests for drug offences.
- Arrests for cannabis offences declined by 28%.
- A declining trend is evident in the number of arrests for heroin offences.
- Arrests for amphetamines have almost doubled.
- In 1995–96, 80% of drug arrests involved cannabis, compared with 76% in 2003–04.

Source: Reference 16

Figure 39: Percentage of providers arrested for all drug arrests, by type of drug, 2003–04



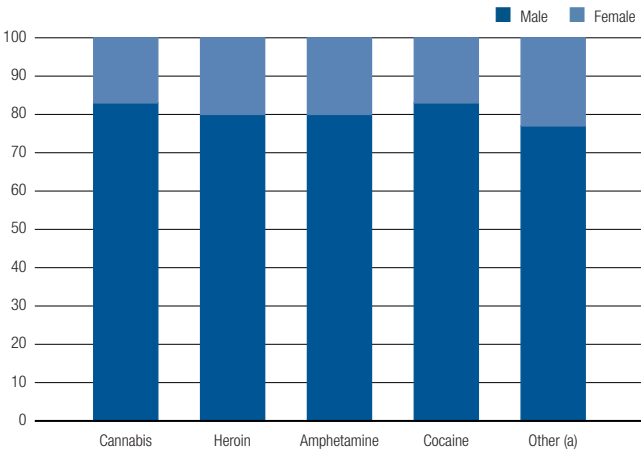
(a) Other includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere).

- The majority of people arrested for drug offences for most drug types are consumers rather than providers. In 2003–04, cocaine was the only exception.
- 80% of all arrests for drug offences in 2003–04 involved consumers, up from 75% in 1995–96.
- In 2003–04, 53% of persons arrested for cocaine offences were providers, compared with 35% of arrests for heroin, 29% for amphetamine offences and 17% for cannabis offences.

Source: Reference 16

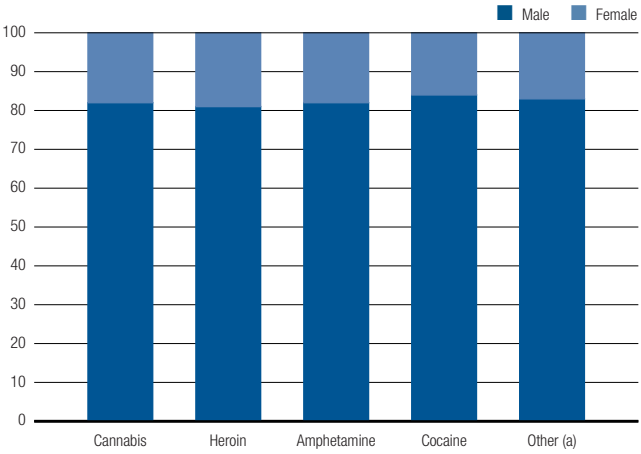
The gender breakdown for drug consumers is shown in Figure 40 and for providers in Figure 41.

Figure 40: Drug consumers, number of arrests as a percentage of total drug arrests by gender and type of drug, 2003–04



(a) 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, 2003–04



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

■ **Males accounted for approximately 8 in 10 arrests of both consumer and provider offenders irrespective of drug type.**

Source: Reference 16

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 a national crime and safety survey on a regular basis, with the most recently released data from the 2002 survey. The Australian Institute of Criminology has been responsible for the Australian component of the International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS) which is conducted at four-year intervals, most recently in 2004. The ICVS was funded through the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department and the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

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 2005 Australian computer crime and security survey, conducted by AusCERT, the Australian High Tech Crime Centre and various state, territory and federal police agencies.

Source: References 17 and 18

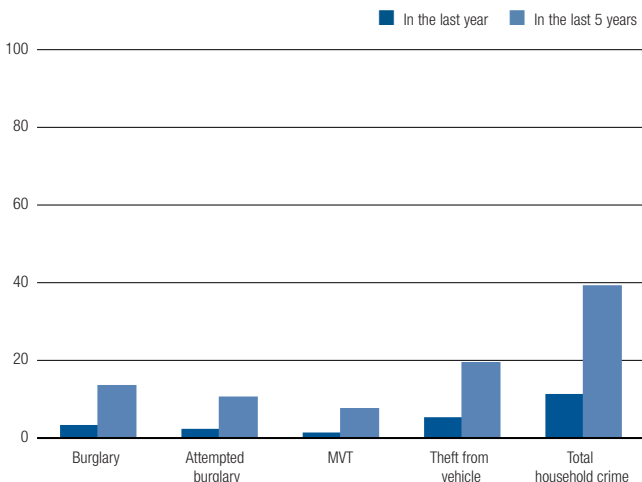
Rates of criminal victimisation

The Australian component of the ICVS, administered by the Australian Institute of Criminology, provides the most current estimates of crime victimisation. A consistent data collection methodology was used across all jurisdictions. The 2004 Australian ICVS is based on a sample size of 7000 respondents aged 16 and over.

Figures 42 to 44 show the prevalence of crime in the community through victimisation rates from the 2004 ICVS. Victimization rates are calculated per 100 persons and per 100 households, and estimate the percentage of people or households victimised once or more within either the preceding one year or five year period.

Overall, 52% of those surveyed experienced crime at least once in the previous five years. Within the previous year, 17% had been victims of crime.

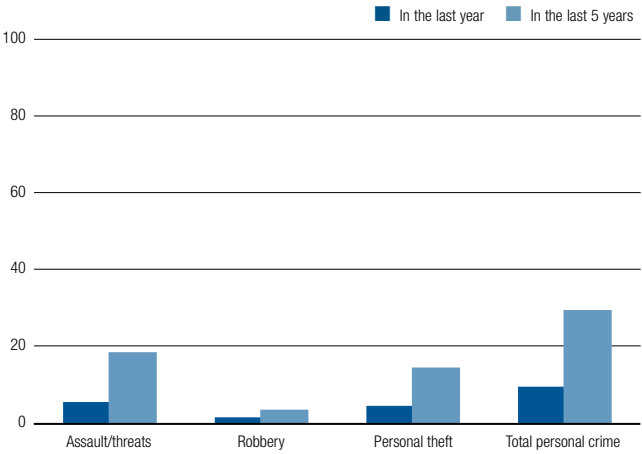
Figure 42: Percentage of surveyed households experiencing household crime in the preceding five years, 2004



- A total of 39% experienced at least one household crime in the past five years, while 11% experienced at least one within the past year.
- The most common household crime was theft from vehicle (19% in the past 5 years and 5% in the past year).
- An estimated 3% of the households surveyed were affected by burglary in the year preceding the survey. A total of 13% of households in the sample were burgled in the five years to 2004.
- Approximately 2% of the sample experienced motor vehicle theft in the past year, and 7% in the past five year period.

Source: Reference 18

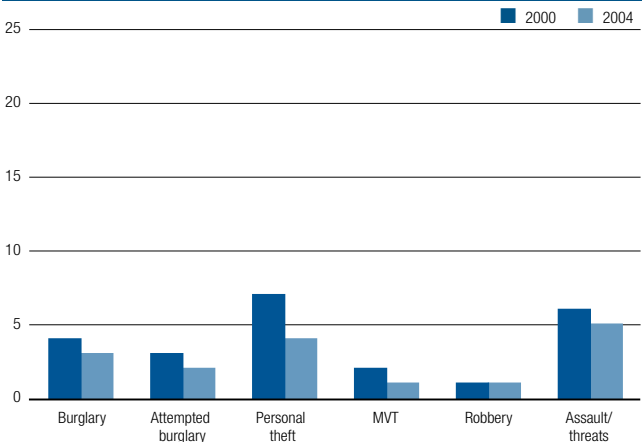
Figure 43: Percentage of surveyed persons experiencing personal crime, in the preceding five years, 2004



- Approximately 29% of the sample surveyed were victims of personal crime in the five years to 2004, and 9% experienced it within the past year.
- The most common personal crime experienced was assault/threats (18% of surveyed persons in the past 5 years and 5% in the past year). This was followed by personal theft (14% and 4%, respectively).

Source: Reference 18

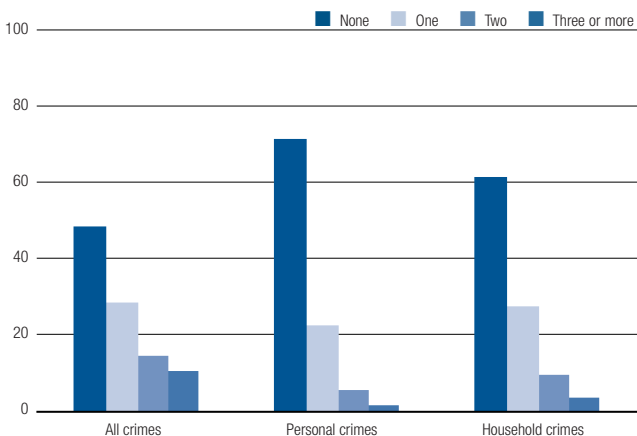
Figure 44: Percentage of surveyed persons experiencing victimisation in the previous year, 2000 and 2004



- In 2004, 17% of the ICVS sample were victims of crime in the preceding 12 months, down from 24% in 2000, when the previous ICVS was conducted.
- In both survey years, victimisation rates were highest for the offence categories of personal theft, assault/threats, followed by burglary.
- Comparing rates of victimisation within the preceding 12 months over the two time periods, all crimes with the exception of robbery declined in 2004. Victimization from robbery remained stable.

Source: Reference 18

Figure 45: Number of crime victimisations in past five years, percentage, 2004



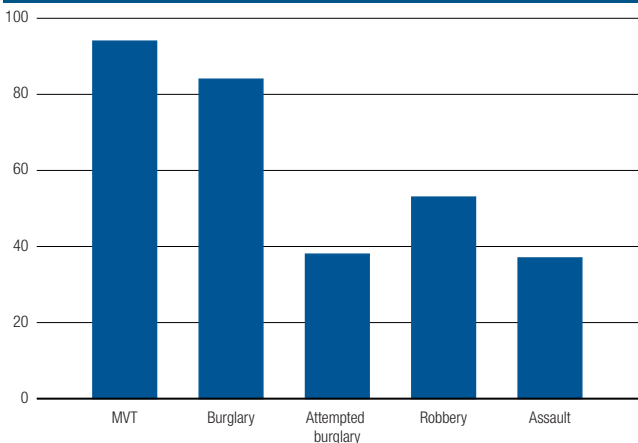
- Incidents of crime committed against the same victims contribute substantially to the overall crime rate. 24% of the ICVS sample reported being the victims of crime two or more times in the past five years, compared with 28% who reported one crime and 48% who reported none.
- Victims of multiple household crimes were more common than victims of multiple personal crimes.
- The crime most likely to be experienced three or more times was assault or threat of assault: 19% of victims of assault/threat of assault reported experiencing three or more assaults or threats of assault within one year.

Source: Reference 18

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. Figure 46 shows the estimated reporting rates for different categories of offence based on the ICVS in 2004.

Figure 46: Percentage of crimes reported to police, 2004



- **Thefts of motor vehicles are more likely to be reported to police than any other of the major categories of crime included in the ICVS. 94% who had experienced motor vehicle theft reported the incident to police.**
- **The reporting rate was also high for burglary, at 84%.**
- **Victims of robbery (53%), attempted burglary (38%) and assault (37%) were less likely to report these crimes to police.**

Source: Reference 18

The ICVS also asked victims of two offence categories, burglary and assault, who did not report the crime to police about their reasons for not doing so. Primary reasons given by victims for not reporting burglaries were that they thought there was nothing the police could do about it, the incident was not serious enough or the value of the property stolen was small.

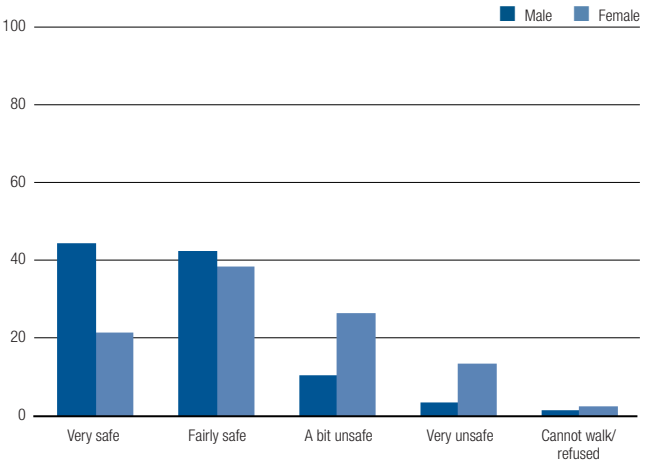
Main reasons for not reporting assault were that the incident was not serious enough to warrant police involvement, the offender was known to the victim, there was nothing the police could do, and fear of reprisal from the offender.

Source: Reference 18

Fear and perception of crime

Concerns about crime are generally more widespread than recent direct experiences of victimisation. Three dimensions of perceptions of personal safety and risk of victimisation were assessed in the ICVS: feelings of safety walking alone in the local area after dark; feelings of safety waiting for or using public transportation after dark; and the perceived likelihood of experiencing a burglary in the next 12 months.

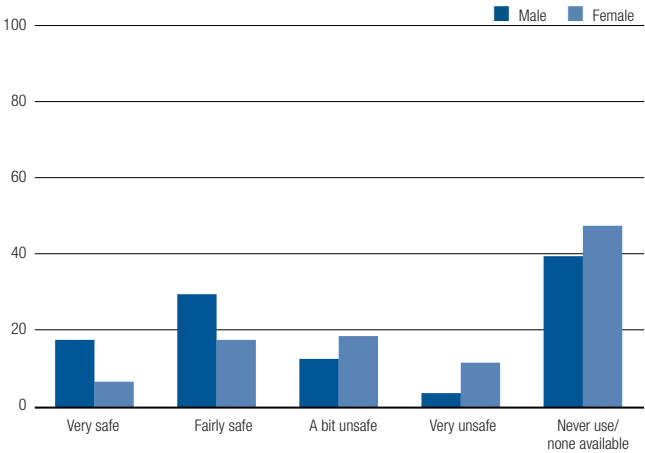
Figure 47: Feelings of safety walking alone in the local area after dark, by gender, percentage, 2004



- The majority of the persons surveyed felt either very safe or fairly safe in their neighbourhoods after dark. However, there were significant differences in the way in which men and women perceived safety.
- Males were more likely to feel very safe (44%) or fairly safe (42%) walking alone after dark than females (21% and 38% respectively).
- Women were much more likely to feel unsafe walking alone after dark than men. 26% of females reported feeling a bit unsafe, and a further 13% very unsafe. Among the men surveyed, 10% said they felt a bit unsafe and 3% very unsafe.

Source: Reference 18

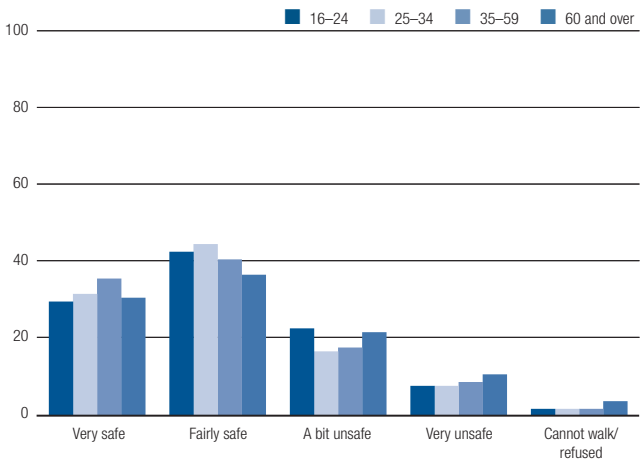
Figure 48: Feelings of safety using public transport after dark, by gender, percentage, 2004



- Among those who used public transport most people reported feeling safe using public transport after dark.
- There were significant differences in the way men and women perceived safety on public transport.
- The majority of males reported feeling safe, while females were more likely to feel unsafe.

Source: Reference 18

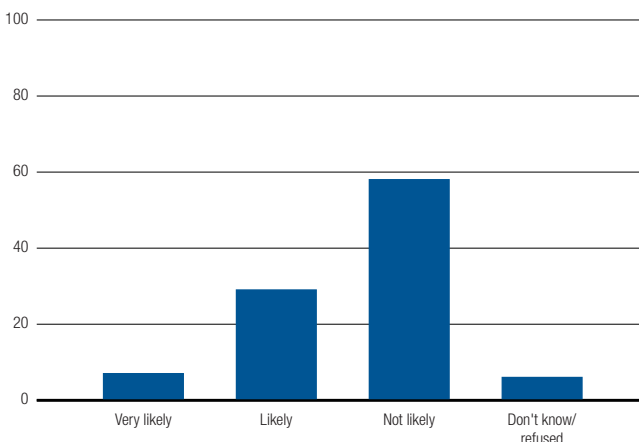
Figure 49: Feelings of safety walking alone in the local area after dark by age group, percentage, 2004



- Most people in all age groups reported feeling safe walking alone in their local area after dark.
- Those aged 60 and over were more likely to report feeling very unsafe when walking alone after dark in their local area than those in other age categories.
- Those aged between 25 and 59 were more likely to perceive walking alone after dark in local neighbourhoods as either very safe or fairly safe, compared with those aged 16–24 and 60 and over.

Source: Reference 18

Figure 50: Perceived likelihood of burglary over the next 12 months, percentage



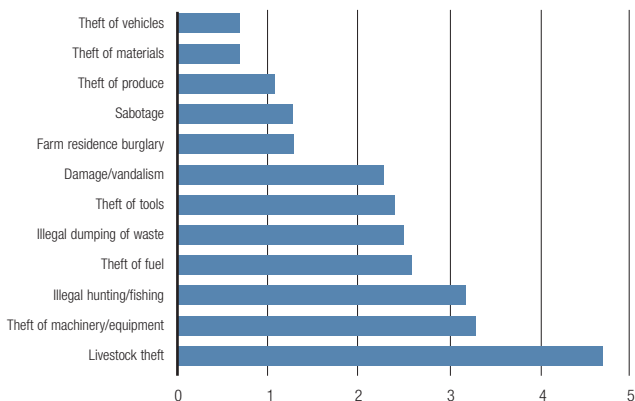
- Most (58%) of the sample surveyed did not think it was likely that their house would be burgled within the next year.
- 29% thought burglary in the next twelve months was likely, and a further 7% thought it was very likely. By contrast, only 3% of ICVS respondents reported actually being burgled in the previous twelve months (see Figure 42).

Source: Reference 18

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 51 illustrates rates of various types of crimes against farms. The farm crime survey was funded by the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department.

Figure 51: Percentage of farms victimised, by type of crime, 2003 (a)

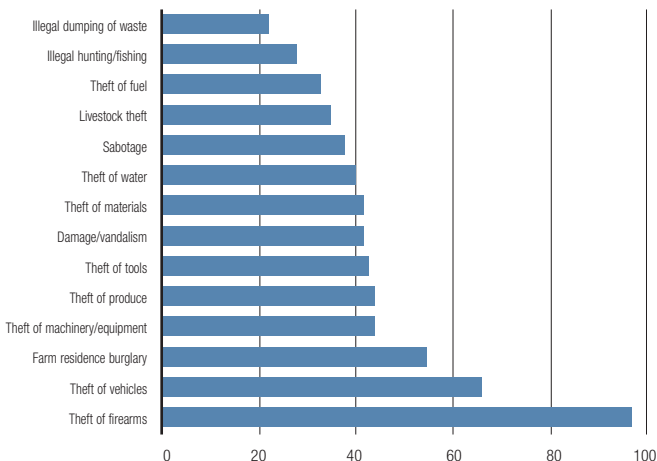


(a) Figures do not add to totals due to multiple responses.

- Overall, 17% of farmers surveyed reported experiencing at least one type of crime in the 12 months prior to the survey. 54% 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.

Source: Reference 19

Figure 52: Reporting to police by crime type, percentage, 2003



- 60% of crimes were not reported to police for reasons similar to crime occurring in other locations – a belief that the police wouldn’t be able to do anything about it, and that it was not serious enough to report.
- Theft of firearms was most likely to be reported (97% of such thefts), followed by theft of vehicles (66%) and farm residence burglary (55%).
- Crimes least likely to be reported included illegal dumping of waste (22%), illegal hunting/fishing (28%), theft of fuel (33%) and livestock theft (35%).

Source: Reference 19

Cybercrime

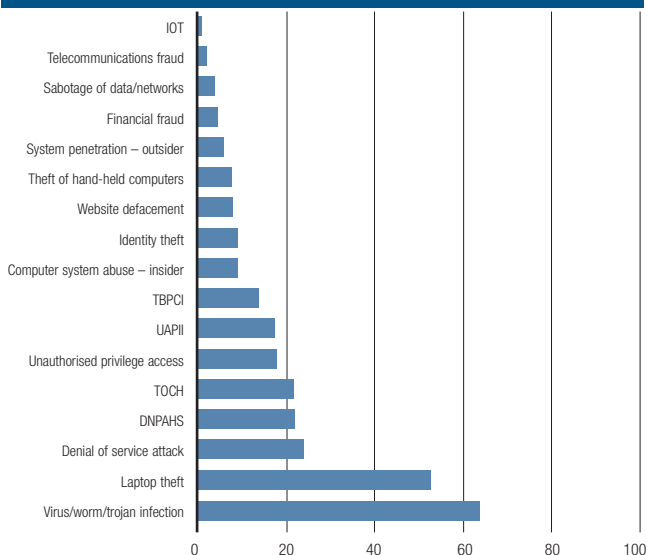
As few police agencies identify cybercrimes separately, this section presents the results of the 2005 Australian computer crime and security survey, conducted by AusCERT, Australian High Tech Crime Centre and various state, territory and federal police agencies. One hundred and eighty-one organisations 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 generalising from the following data.

Differences published in previous editions of *Facts & figures* may be due to differences in the organisations participating each year. In the 2005 survey 35% (n= 63) of these organisations reported experiencing electronic attacks that harmed the confidentiality, integrity or availability of network data or systems.

Source: Reference 20

Figure 53: Computer crime and security breaches experienced in the previous 12 months by type of incident, percentage of surveyed organisations, 2005



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.

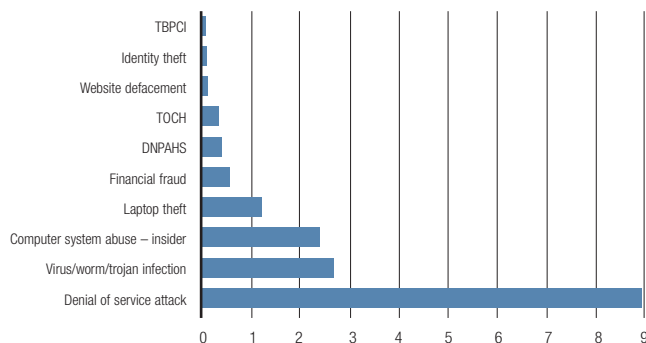
DNPAHS – Degradation of network performance associated with heavy scanning.

■ The type of incident reported to have occurred with the greatest frequency in the previous 12 months was a virus/worm/trojan infection, reported by 64% of the surveyed organisations. This was followed by laptop theft, at 55%.

■ The type that occurred least frequently was interception of telecommunications (voice or data), reported by only 1% of the organisations.

Source: Reference 20

Figure 54: Cost of computer and security breaches experienced by surveyed organisations in the previous 12 months, by type of incident, \$ million, 2005



TBPCI – Theft/breach of proprietary or confidential information.

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 total cost to the surveyed organisations was denial of service attack, at \$8.9 million. However, much of this was the result of a single organisation reporting a loss of \$8 million.
- Virus/worm/trojan infection and computer system abuse by insiders cost the organisations surveyed \$2.7 million and \$2.4 million, respectively.
- Not shown on the chart are system penetration by outsiders, sabotage of data and networks, unauthorised privileged access, telecommunications fraud and theft of hand-held computers, each of which cost the surveyed organisations under \$50,000 within the previous 12 months.
- The total estimated 12-month cost of computer crime experienced by the 110 organisations that answered this question was \$16.9 million.

Source: Reference 20

The ABS does not yet publish offender data but is working towards developing an offender-based collection. Until this new dataset becomes available, examination of offenders and some of their characteristics is possible only by compiling data from other sources. This chapter brings together information on the profiles of offenders from three sources: police annual reports from the three jurisdictions which release offender statistics; the national police custody survey; and the Drug Use Monitoring in Australia program.

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 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 2). The data are presented on a financial year basis.

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

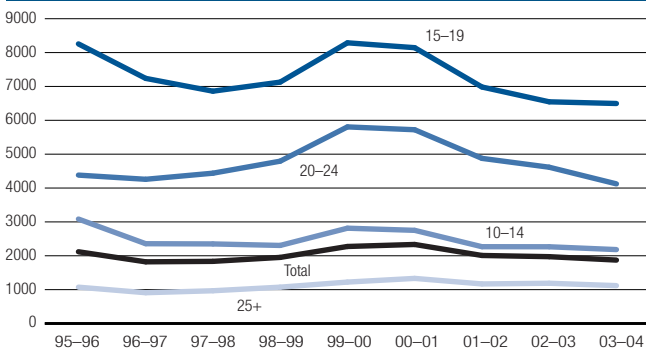
- homicide and related offences (murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, infanticide and driving causing death);
- assault;
- sexual assault;
- robbery;
- unlawful entry with intent;
- motor vehicle theft;
- other theft (theft from a vehicle, theft from shops, other theft); and
- fraud and deception-related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

Source: References 8–10

Age

Persons aged 15 to 19 years are most likely to be processed by police for the commission of a crime. In 2003–04 the offending rate for persons aged 15 to 19 years was more than four times the offender rate for the remainder of the population (6496 per 100,000 and 1475 per 100,000 respectively).

Figure 55: Offenders by age, rate per 100,000 relevant persons, 1995–96 to 2003–04



- In the past nine years offender rates have been subject to change over time.
- Between 1995–96 and 2003–04, offender rates reached a maximum in 1999–2000 and have since declined for most age categories. The one exception was the rate for 10–14 year-olds, which peaked in 1995–96.

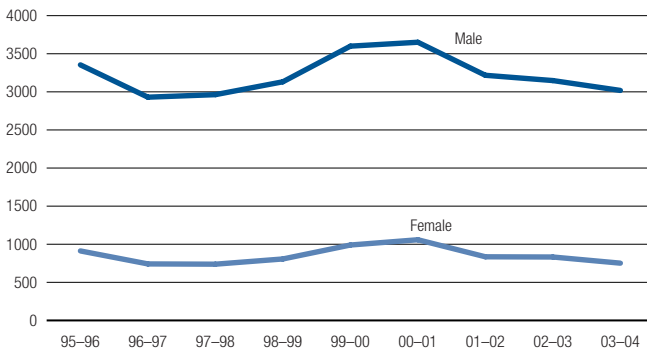
- Declines were greatest among the 15–19 and 20–24 year age groups.
- Throughout the past nine years offender rates were consistently lowest among persons aged 25 and over and highest among those aged 15 to 19.

Source: References 2 and 8–10

Gender

In 2003–04, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia processed a total of 169,280 offenders, of whom 134,915 were male and 34,365 were female. Females made up 22% of all offenders in 1995–96 and 20% in 2003–04.

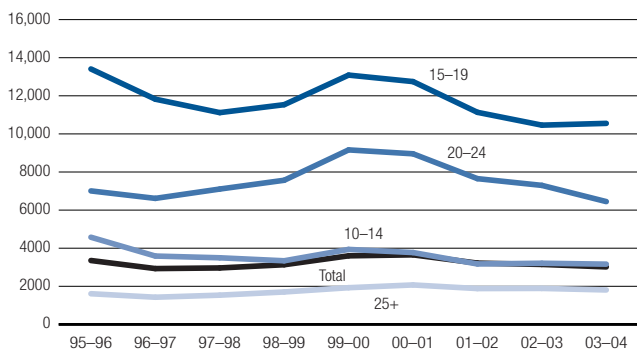
Figure 56: Offenders by gender, rate per 100,000 relevant persons, 1995–96 to 2003–04



- Males are almost four times more likely than females to be identified as offenders. In 2003–04, the rate of offending by males was 3019 per 100,000 compared with a rate of 749 by females.
- Offending rates for both males and females were highest between 1999 and 2001 and have since declined.

Source: References 2 and 8–10

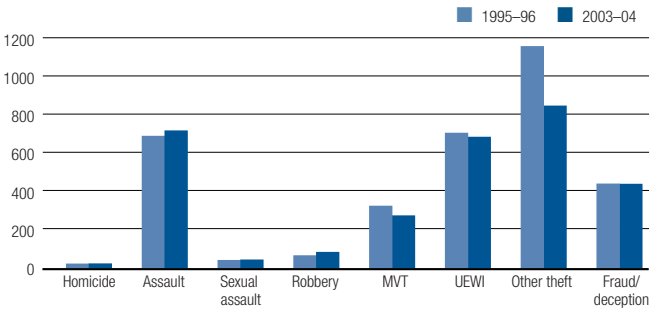
Figure 57: Male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 relevant persons, 1995–96 to 2003–04



- Since 1995–96, the rate for male offenders has consistently been highest among the 15–19 year-old age group, at between 10,400 and 13,500 per 100,000 relevant population.
- Rates were also high during this period among males aged 20–24, ranging between 6400 and 9200 per 100,000 relevant population. Males in the other age groups offend at much lower rates, generally under 4500 per 100,000.
- Since 1999–2000 there has been a significant decrease in rates for male offenders in the 10–14, 15–19 and 20–24 age groups. Offender rates among males aged 25 and over changed comparatively little over this period.
- In the period 1995–2004, for 10–14 and 15–19 year-old males, offender rates were highest in 1995–96. For the other age groups offender rates peaked in 1999–2000.

Source: References 2 and 8–10

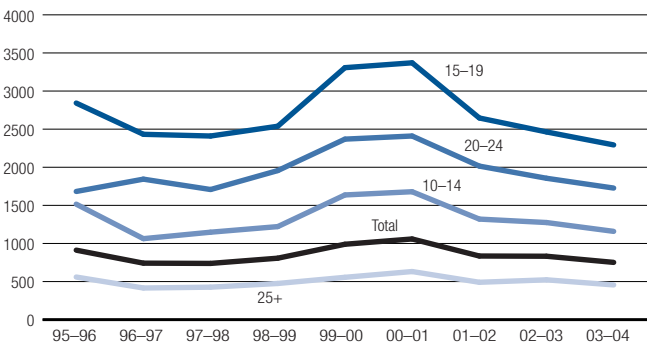
Figure 58: Male offenders by offence type, rate per 100,000 relevant persons, 1995–96 and 2003–04



- Male offender rates were highest for the offences of other theft, assault and unlawful entry with intent.
- Rates were lowest for robbery, sexual assault and homicide in both 1995–96 and 2003–04.
- Most rates were similar in both years, but other theft declined.

Source: References 2 and 8–10

Figure 59: Female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 relevant persons, 1995–96 to 2003–04

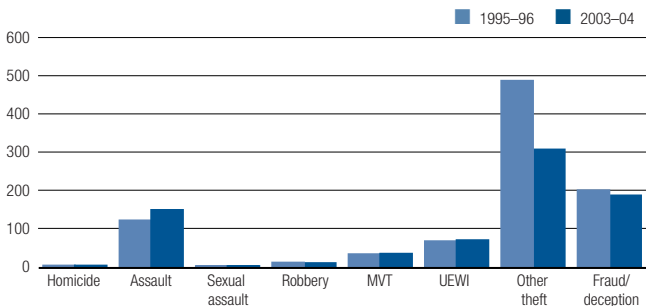


- Similar to male offending rates, rates among females since 1995–96 have been consistently highest among the 15–19 year-old age group.
- Since 1995–96 there has been an overall decrease across most age groups in rates of female offending, with the largest decrease occurring in the 15–19 year-old age group.

- Between 1995 and 2004 for all age groups the female offender rate peaked in the period 1999–2001 and has since declined. However, the decline was not statistically significant among females aged 25 plus.

Source: References 2 and 8–10

Figure 60: Female offenders by offence type, rate per 100,000 relevant persons, 1995–96 and 2003–04



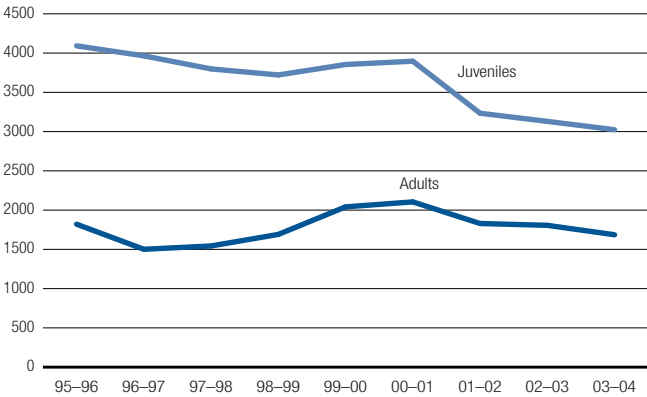
- Female offender rates were highest for other theft, fraud/deception-related crime and assault and lowest for sexual assault, robbery and homicide in both 1995–96 and 2003–04.
- Compared with 1995–96, in 2003–04 female offending rates increased for assault, motor vehicle theft, and unlawful entry with intent. The rate for assault rose by 33%, compared with 4% for males during this period.
- Rates for other theft dropped by 37%.

Source: References 2 and 8–10

Juveniles

There are differences among the states in the definition of a juvenile. Data in this section include alleged offenders aged between 10 and 17 years.

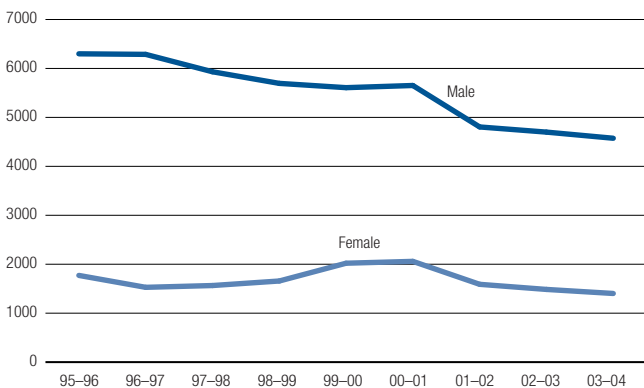
Figure 61: Juvenile and adult offenders, rate per 100,000 relevant persons, 1995–96 to 2003–04



- Juvenile rates of offending are 50% higher than rates for adults.
- The offender rate among juveniles declined from 4092 per 100,000 juveniles in 1995–96 to 3023 in 2003–04. The largest decline was between 2000–01 and 2002–03 at 20%.
- The adult rate increased from 1820 per 100,000 adults in 1995–96 to 2105 in 2000–01 before dropping to 1685 per 100,000 adults in 2003–04.

Source: References 2 and 8–10

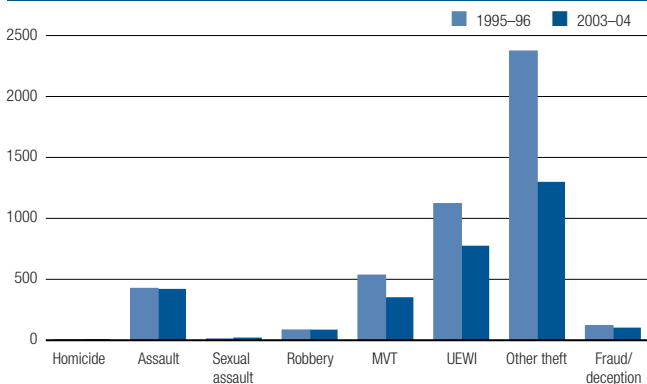
Figure 62: Juvenile offenders by gender, rate per 100,000 relevant persons, 1995–96 to 2003–04



- There were differences in the patterns of offending by male and female juveniles.
- Rates of male juvenile offending have dropped by 27% since 1995, with a 19% drop in the past three years.
- Female juvenile offending rates have generally declined, with an initial increase followed by a decline in the past four years.
- There has been a slight increase in the percentage of juvenile offenders who are female, from 21% in 1995–96 to 23% in 2003–04.

Source: References 2 and 8–10

Figure 63: Juvenile offenders by offence type, rate per 100,000 relevant persons, 1995–96 and 2003–04



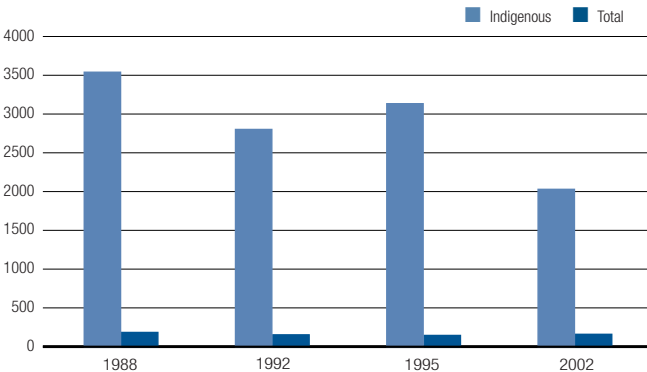
- Juvenile offender rates were similar in 1995–96 and 2003–04 for the offences of homicide, assault, and robbery.
- Juvenile offender rates have declined for the offences of motor vehicle theft, unlawful entry with intent, and other theft.

Source: References 2 and 8–10

The national police custody survey

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 provides only a snapshot in time. In focusing on detainees in police custody it provides a glimpse of selected characteristics of persons who are detained by police. It is important to note that a substantial proportion of persons detained by police are not necessarily arrested and charged with an offence.

Figure 64: Indigenous and total custody rates, per 100,000 relevant persons, 1988, 1992, 1995 and 2002



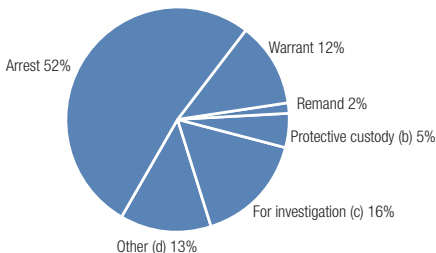
- The total custody rate decreased 13% over the time of the four surveys.
- The Indigenous custody rate fluctuated over the four surveys but has decreased overall from 3539 in 1988 to 2028 per 100,000 in 2002.
- The level of over-representation of Indigenous Australians in police custody has declined from 28.6 in 1988 to 17 in 2002.

Source: References 2 and 21

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 18) 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.

Figure 65: Reasons for being in custody (a)



(a) Excludes not stated (n=38).

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

(c) Includes questioning.

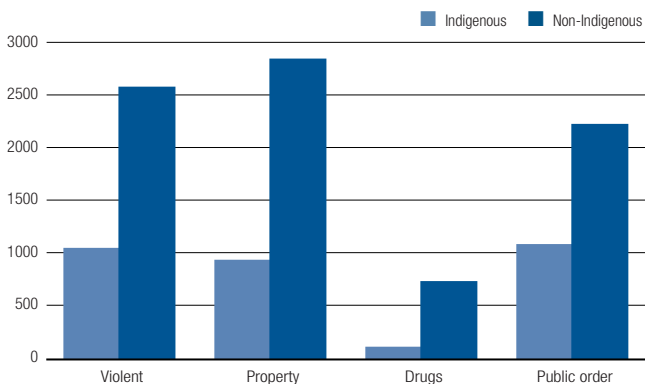
(d) Includes awaiting transit to/from court and awaiting extradition and breaches of court orders and fine defaults, where the person was not arrested.

■ Arrests made up 52% of reasons for people being 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 2%.

Source: Reference 21

Figure 66: Most serious offence associated with being in custody, number, by Indigenous status



- Among the 52% of persons arrested, most non-Indigenous people were in police custody for property offences.
- Indigenous people were mostly in police custody for public order, violence and property offences.
- The least common offence for which people were held in police custody was drug offences. Many detainees charged with drug offences, however, are also charged with more serious offences.

Source: Reference 21

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. 2004 was the fifth year of data collection 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.

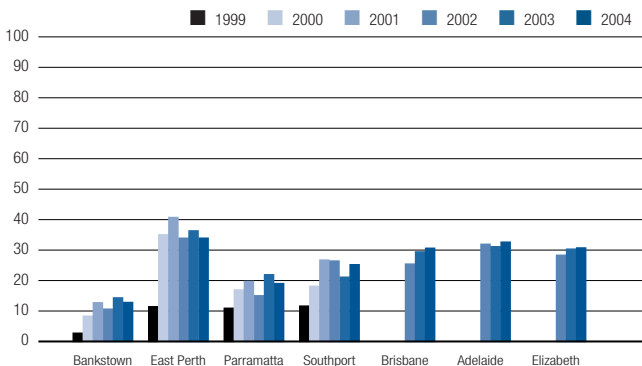
By 2002 seven sites were being monitored: East Perth in Western Australia, Southport and Brisbane City in Queensland, Bankstown and Parramatta in New South Wales, and Adelaide City and Elizabeth in South Australia. Brisbane City, Adelaide City and Elizabeth began participating in 2002.

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

The percentage of police detainees testing positive to methylamphetamine (speed), cocaine, cannabis and heroin differs across the seven sites.

Source: Reference 22

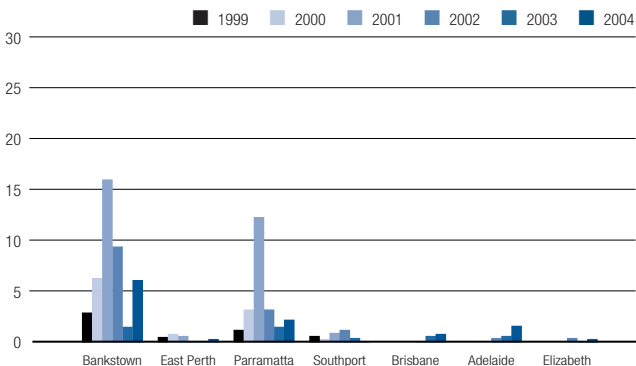
Figure 67: Percentage of adult male police detainees testing positive to methylamphetamine, 1999–2004



- Methylamphetamine use has increased at all long-term sites since monitoring began in 1999.
- The first noticeable increase in methylamphetamine use occurred in 2000.
- Methylamphetamine use is consistently lower in Sydney than other sites.
- Of the sites participating since 2002, Adelaide is the only site not to show an upward trend, although all three sites are high relative to the pre-existing sites, other than the East Perth site.

Source: Reference 22

Figure 68: Percentage of adult male police detainees testing positive to cocaine, 1999–2004

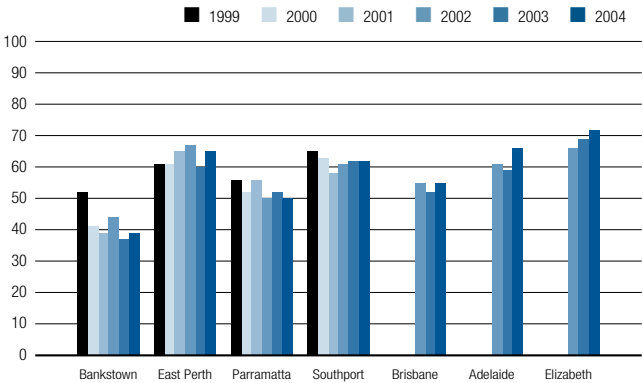


Note: The scale for this chart is considerably different from that of the other three charts as the percentages involved are comparatively small.

- The proportion testing positive to cocaine was extremely low at all sites during 1999 and 2000.
- In 2001 there was an increase observed at the two NSW sites, but they declined in 2002 and in 2003.
- Compared with 2003, in 2004 the proportion testing positive increased at all sites except Southport, although the numbers are small.

Source: Reference 22

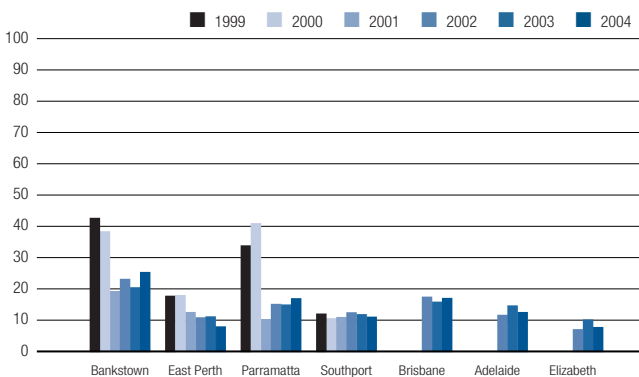
Figure 69: Percentage of adult male police detainees testing positive to cannabis, 1999–2004



- The percentage of detainees testing positive to cannabis ranged from 37% (Bankstown) to 72% (Elizabeth).
- Between 1999 and 2004 the percentage of detainees testing positive to cannabis was relatively unchanged at most sites.
- The percentage of detainees testing positive to cannabis was highest at the two South Australian sites of Adelaide and Elizabeth.
- Bankstown was the only site to register a marked downward trend, while Elizabeth has registered an increase in the three years of monitoring.

Source: Reference 22

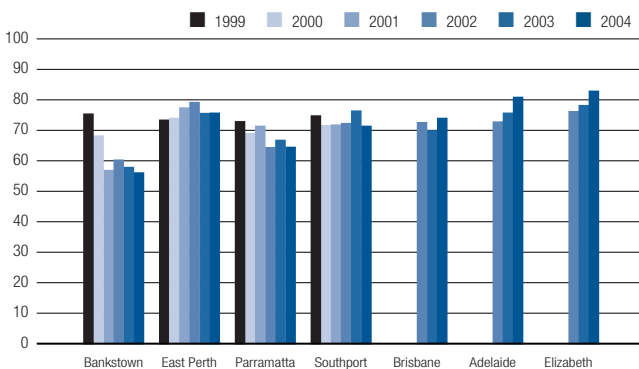
Figure 70: Percentage of adult male police detainees testing positive to heroin, 1999–2004



- The two NSW sites registered a substantial decline in the percentage of detainees testing positive to heroin in 2001. However, since then there has been a slight upward trend.
- The percentage of detainees testing positive to heroin at the East Perth site declined steadily between 2000 and 2004, from 18% to 8% of detainees.
- All other sites have remained relatively stable in the percentage of detainees testing positive to heroin.

Source: Reference 22

Figure 71: Percentage of adult male police detainees testing positive to any drug, 1999–2004 (a)

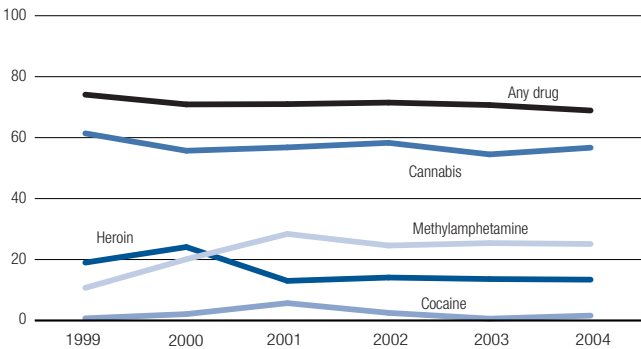


(a) 'Any drug' is defined as testing positive to cannabis, heroin, methylamphetamine, cocaine or benzodiazepines.

- Sites routinely have around 60–80% of detainees testing positive to any drug.
- With the exception of Bankstown and Parramatta, the percentage of detainees testing positive to any drug has remained roughly steady or increased since monitoring began at each site.
- The drop in detainees testing positive for any drug at Bankstown and Parramatta sites could largely be explained by the drop in heroin at these sites and the drop in cannabis at Bankstown.

Source: Reference 22

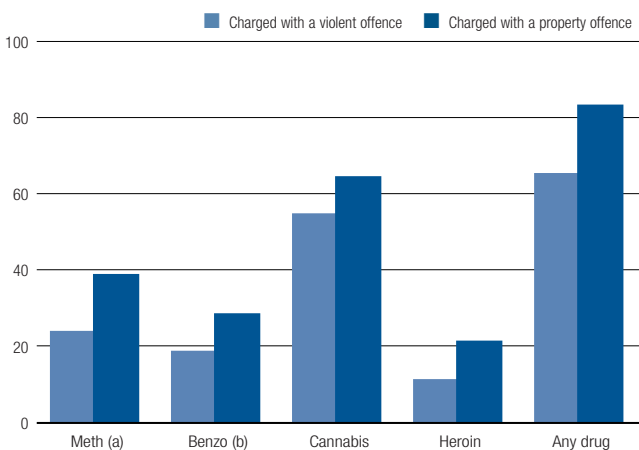
Figure 72: Percentage of adult male police detainees testing positive to selected drugs at the four long-term sites, 1999–2004



- Between 1999 and 2004 the percentage of detainees testing positive to any drug or to cannabis has remained relatively steady.
- Heroin use has decreased over the period. Most of this decrease was registered between 2000 and 2001.
- Methylamphetamine use increased until 2001 but has since then levelled off.
- The percentage of detainees testing positive to cocaine increased until 2001 but has since then decreased.

Source: Reference 22

Figure 73: Percentage of adult male police detainees testing positive to a drug, by most serious offence, 2004



(a) *Methylamphetamine*

(b) *Benzodiazepines*

- Detainees charged with a property offence were more likely to test positive to drugs than violent offenders.
- Overall, 83% of all offenders charged with property offences and 65% of those charged with violent offences tested positive to a drug.

Source: Reference 22

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 now available from the ABS. 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. ABS magistrates 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.

Criminal court data from both ABS and the Productivity Commission report on financial rather than calendar years.

Source: References 23 and 24

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 23 and 24

Lodgments

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

In 2003–04, 777,162 cases were lodged in criminal courts in Australia. This figure excludes lodgments in electronic courts (1480,744 lodgments in the four jurisdictions which use them), and 19,844 lodgments in coroners courts.

Cases initiated in magistrates courts accounted for 95.9% of all lodgments in the criminal courts in 2003–04, while 3.5% were initiated in district/county courts and 0.6% in supreme courts.

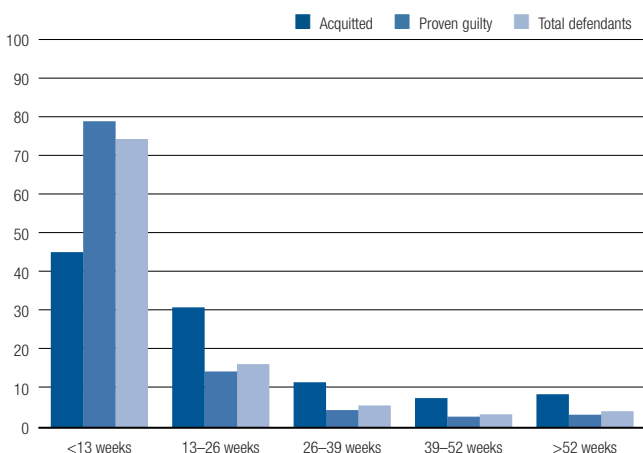
Source: Reference 23

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 cases are of a routine or minor nature. The disputes and prosecutions heard are usually less complex than those in higher courts.

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.

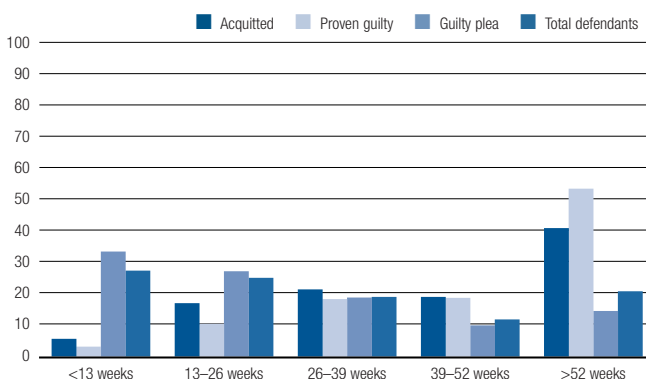
Figure 74: Matters finalised in magistrates courts, duration from initiation to finalisation, by method of finalisation, percentages, 2003–04



- On average, 74% of committal hearings in magistrates courts in 2003–04 were finalised within thirteen weeks of the receipt of charges by the court and a further 16% were finalised in the subsequent three months.
- The percentage of cases requiring 52 weeks or more for finalisation was only 3%.
- Cases where the defendant was acquitted tended to last longer than those where the defendant was proven guilty.

Source: Reference 24

Figure 75: Matters finalised in higher courts, duration from initiation to finalisation, by method of finalisation, percentages, 2003–04



- In 2003–04, 20% of matters finalised in higher courts lasted more than 52 weeks and 27% took less than 13 weeks to finalise.
- Matters involving a guilty plea tend to take the shortest time to finalise. Cases which result in a guilty verdict tend to take the longest.

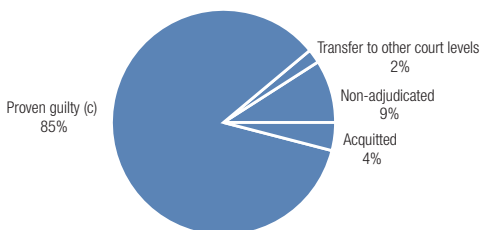
Source: Reference 24

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, unfit to plead, accused dies, diplomatic immunity, statute of limitations applies.

Figure 76: Criminal cases finalised in magistrates courts, by method of finalisation, 2003–04 (a) (b)



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

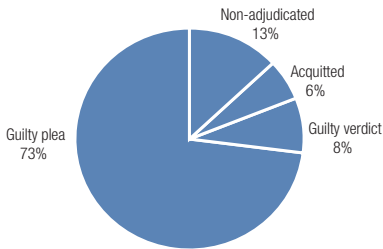
(b) NSW excludes defendants finalised by committal to a higher court.

(c) Includes both guilty plea and guilty verdict.

- In 2003–04 there were 527,367 defendants finalised in the magistrates courts. Only 4% of these defendants were acquitted.
- In 85% of cases defendants were proven guilty in the magistrates courts and only 2% were transferred to other court levels.

Source: Reference 24

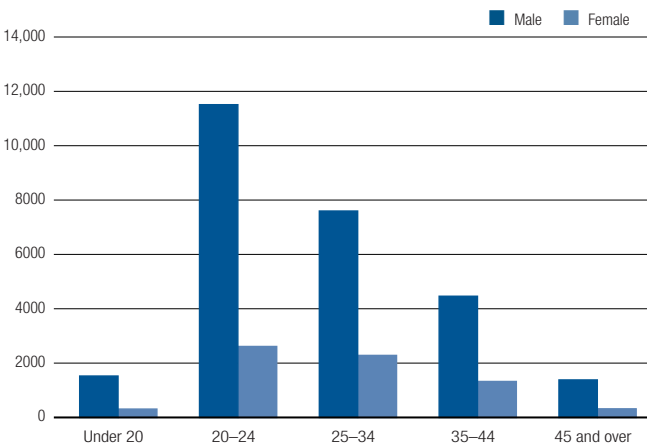
Figure 77: Criminal cases finalised in higher courts, by method of finalisation, 2003–04



- In 2003–04 there were 17,315 defendants finalised in the higher courts. This represented an increase of 4% from 16,643 defendants in 2002–03.
- Overall, 73% of the defendants whose cases were heard by a higher court pleaded guilty, and a further 8% were found guilty of an offence.
- In 6% of cases the defendant was acquitted of an offence.

Source: Reference 24

Figure 78: Adjudicated defendants in magistrates courts by age and gender, rate per 100,000 persons, 2003–04

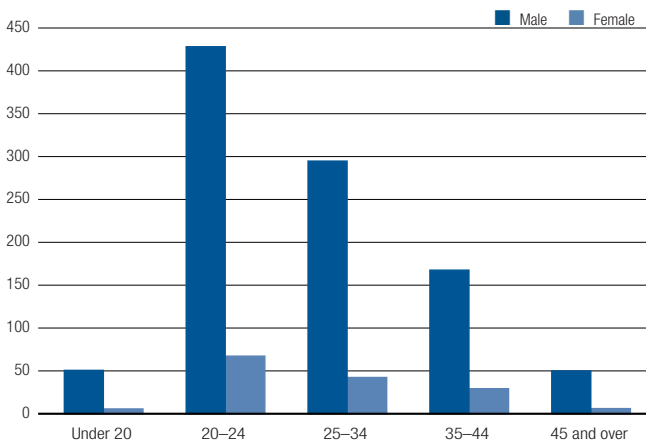


- In 2003–04, 20% of defendants in magistrates courts were female.
- In all age groups males are much more likely than women to appear as defendants in court. This is relatively consistent with the gender profile of offenders.

- For both males and females, individuals in the 20–24 and 25–34 age groups were much more likely to appear in court as defendants than those in the other age categories. This pattern reflects adult offending patterns shown in chapter 3.

Source: References 2 and 24

Figure 79: Adjudicated defendants in higher courts by age and gender, rate per 100,000 persons, 2003–04



- In the higher courts the highest rate of defendants per 100,000 population occurred in the 20 to 24 age group for both males and females.
- Females are proportionately less likely than men to appear before higher courts compared with magistrates courts. Women made up 13% of defendants in higher courts and 20% in magistrates courts.

Source: References 2 and 24

Sentencing

Sentencing options available at each court level, include but are not limited to:

- fine;
- good behaviour bond;
- probation order;
- suspended sentence;
- community supervision;
- community custody;

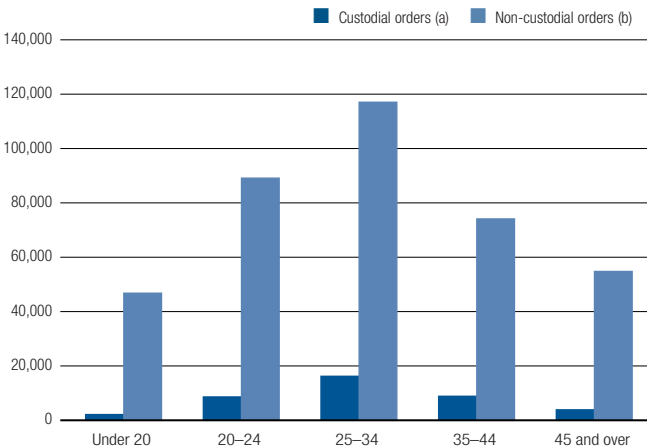
- home detention;
- periodic detention; and
- imprisonment.

Sentence types can be broadly divided into custodial and non-custodial sentences, or orders. A custodial order requires a person to have restricted liberty for a specified period of time either through detainment in a correctional facility or home, or being subject to regular supervision while in the community. Custodial orders include custody in a correctional institution, custody in the community, and suspended sentences.

Non-custodial orders are sentences imposed on the offender that do not involve being held in custody. They include community supervision or work orders, monetary orders and other non-custodial orders.

Sentencing data for adult offenders have been available since 2002–03 across the states and territories. The ABS is continuing to work towards a regular detailed sentencing collection for higher courts and magistrates courts.

Figure 80: Defendants found guilty, by age and principal sentence, magistrates courts, 2003–04



(a) Includes custody in a correctional institution, custody in the community, and suspended sentence.

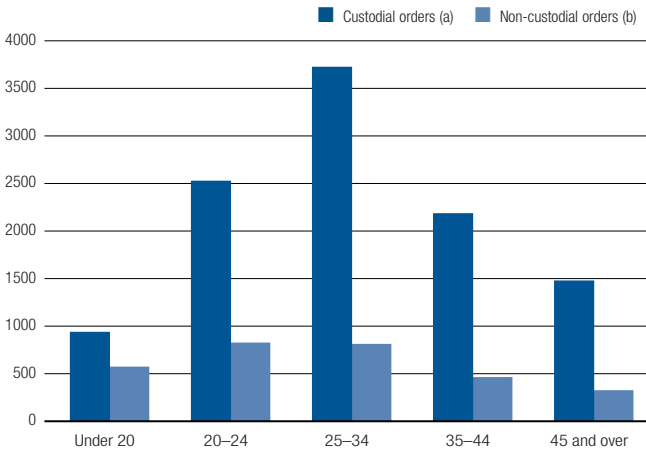
(b) Includes community supervision or work orders, monetary orders, and other non-custodial orders.

- In magistrates courts 91% of all defendants found guilty are given non-custodial sentences, while the remaining 9% are given custodial sentences.
- Defendants aged 25–34 are more likely to receive custodial sentences than defendants in other age groups.

- In 2003–04, 12% of those defendants aged 25–34 and found guilty received custodial sentences, compared with only 4% of defendants aged under 20, 7% of those aged 45 and over and 9% of defendants aged 20–24.

Source: Reference 24

Figure 81: Defendants found guilty, by age and principal sentence, higher courts, 2003–04

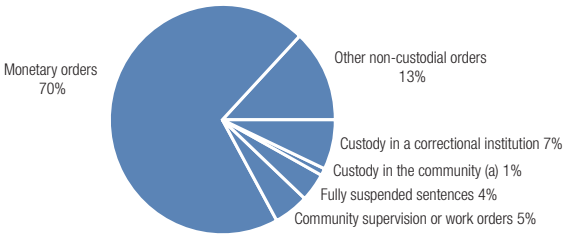


- (a) Includes: custody in a correctional institution; custody in the community; and suspended sentence.
- (b) Includes: community supervision or work orders; monetary orders; and other non-custodial orders.

- Compared with magistrates courts, a much higher proportion of the defendants found guilty in higher courts received custodial sentences (78%). The remaining 12% received non-custodial sentences.
- Defendants aged 24 and under found guilty were slightly less likely to receive custodial sentences than older counterparts.
- 62% of those aged under 20, and 76% of those aged 20–24 received custodial sentences, compared with between 82 and 83% for all other categories.

Source: Reference 24

Figure 82: Male defendants found guilty by principal sentence type, all courts, 2003–04

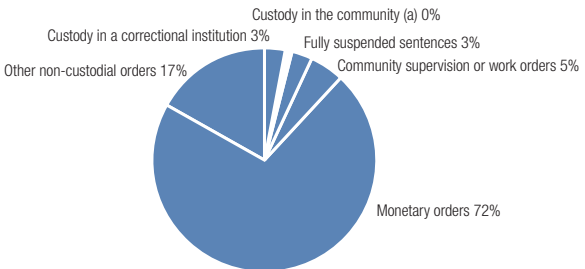


(a) Custody in the community includes intensive corrections orders, home detention, and other orders where liberty is restricted while living within the community.

- In the majority of cases, the principal sentence handed down in magistrates courts for male offenders was for monetary orders such as a fine (70%).
- Custody in a correctional institution accounted for only 7% of the total number of sentences in all courts in 2003–04.
- Custody in the community occurred in only 1% of cases, while community supervision or work orders were issued in 5% of cases.
- 4% of male defendants found guilty received fully suspended sentences.

Source: Reference 24

Figure 83: Female defendants found guilty by principal sentence type, all courts, 2003–04



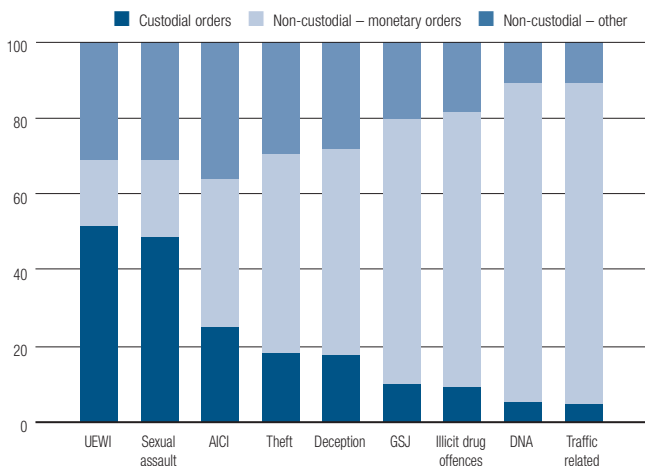
(a) Custody in the community includes intensive corrections orders, home detention and other orders where liberty is restricted while living within the community.

- Custody in a correctional institution accounted for only 3% of principal sentences for female offenders in 2003–04.
- Monetary orders were the most common sentence type (72%).

- Custody in the community was the principal sentence in less than one half of one percent of cases involving female defendants found guilty.
- Female defendants were issued with community supervision or work orders in 5% of cases, while fully suspended sentences were handed down in 3% of cases.

Source: Reference 24

Figure 84: Defendants found guilty by principal sentence type and most serious offence, magistrates courts, percentages 2003–04



UEWI – Unlawful entry with intent.

AICI – Acts intended to cause injury.

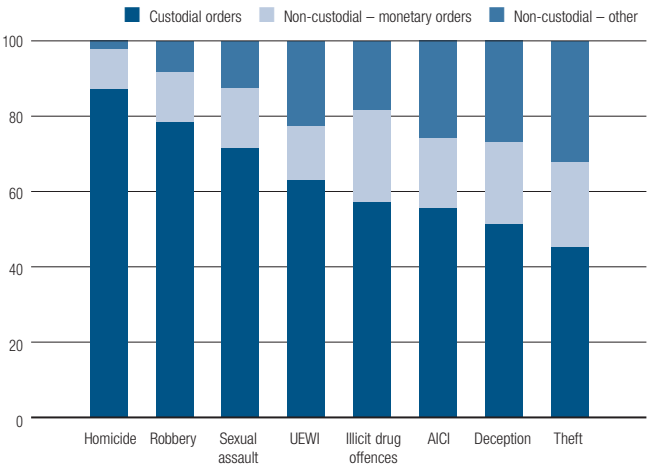
GSJ – Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations.

DNA – Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons.

- In magistrates courts 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 acts endangering persons, and traffic related offences had the highest percentage of non-custodial monetary orders imposed on defendants (85% and 84%, respectively).

Source: Reference 24

Figure 85: Defendants found guilty by principal sentence type and most serious offence, higher courts, percentages, 2003–04



UEWI – Unlawful entry with intent.

AICI – Acts intended to cause injury.

- A custodial sentence was the most common sentence in higher courts for all offences.
- Defendants found guilty of homicide, robbery or sexual assault in higher courts were overwhelmingly likely to receive a custodial sentence (87%, 79% and 72%, respectively).
- Least likely to receive custodial sentences in higher courts were defendants found guilty of theft (46%), deception (50%), acts intended to cause injury (56%) and illicit drug offences (57%).
- Defendants found guilty of theft, deception, acts intended to cause injury, and UEWI were more likely to receive non-monetary non-custodial orders than monetary ones.

Source: Reference 24

6

CORRECTIONS

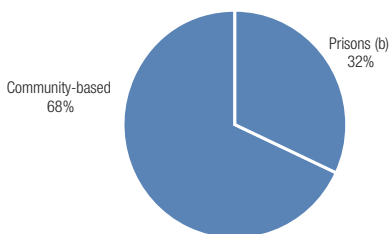
The definition of adult varies among jurisdictions and over time. Data in this section refer to persons aged 18 years and over.

Past editions of *Facts & figures* have defined adults as persons aged 17 years and over when calculating rates of imprisonment. In this edition imprisonment rates for reference periods prior to 2004 have been recalculated based on the revised adult age.

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 86: Offenders by type of corrective program, 2003–04 (a)



(a) Figures based on daily average counts.

(b) Includes periodic detention (available only in NSW and ACT).

- **68% of offenders managed by corrective service authorities in 2003–04 were placed in community-based programs.**
- **32% were in prison serving sentences or on remand.**

Source: Reference 23

Prisons

A national census of adult prisoners is taken on 30 June each year. The most recent statistics available are from the 2004 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.

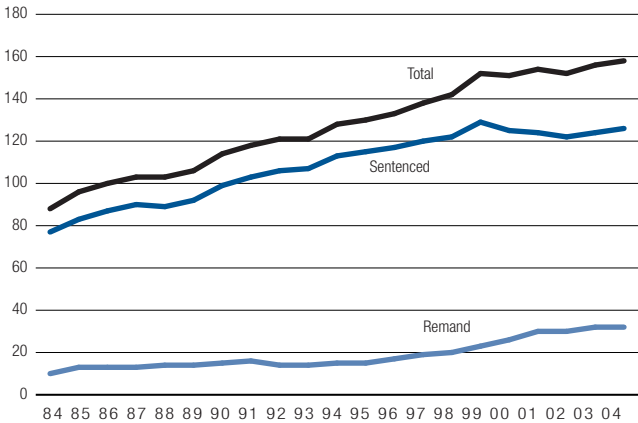
A total of 24,171 persons were in custody in Australian prisons on the night of 30 June 2004, a 2.6% increase on the number recorded in 2003. This corresponds to a rate of 158 per 100,000 adult population. This is 1% higher than the 2003 rate of 156, and continues the

increasing trend for the national imprisonment rate in the past decade. The majority, 19,236, were sentenced prisoners and 4935 were remandees.

Source: Reference 25

Trend in prison populations

Figure 87: Prisoners, rate per 100,000 adults, 1984–2004



- Between 1984 and 2004, the overall imprisonment rate increased from 88 to 158 per 100,000 adult population. The prison population has grown by an average 5% a year since 1984.
- At 30 June 2004 remanded prisoners (those awaiting trial or sentence), accounted for 20% of the total prisoner population, up from 12% in 1984.
- The rate of prisoners remanded in custody tripled between 1984 and 2004, from 10 to 32 per 100,000 population.
- The rate of increase has slowed since 1999.

Source: References 2 and 25

Most serious offence

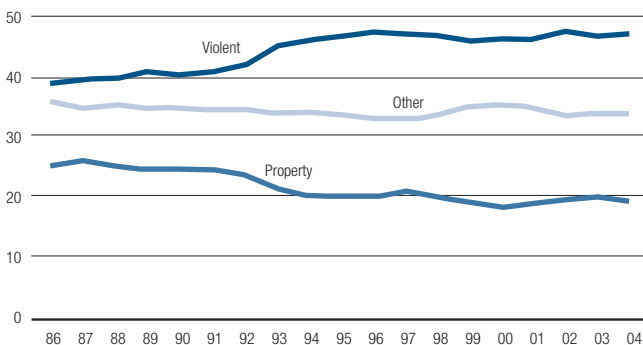
Offenders can be sentenced to a prison term for one or a number of offences. Offenders are categorised according to their most serious offence, that being the one with the longest sentence.

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.

On 30 June 2004 there were 9110 sentenced prisoners in Australia whose most serious offence was a violent offence, 3661 whose most serious offence was a property offence, and 6465 who were sentenced for other offences.

Figure 88: Prisoners sentenced for violent, property and other offences, percentage of total prisoners, 1986–2004



- 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: Reference 25

Table 6: Sentenced prisoners by most serious offence, by gender, number and percentage, 2004

	Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%
Violent				
Homicide	1,784	10	137	11
Assault	2,483	14	157	12
Sex offences	2,168	12	14	1
Robbery	2,269	13	98	8
Property				
Break & enter	2,307	13	127	10
Other theft (a)	1,075	6	152	12
Fraud (b)	509	3	165	13
Other				
GSJ (c)	1,431	8	131	10
Drug offences	1,739	10	186	15
Other (d)	2,194	12	110	9
Total	17,959	100	1277	100

(a) Includes motor vehicle theft.

(b) Deception and related offences.

(c) 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.

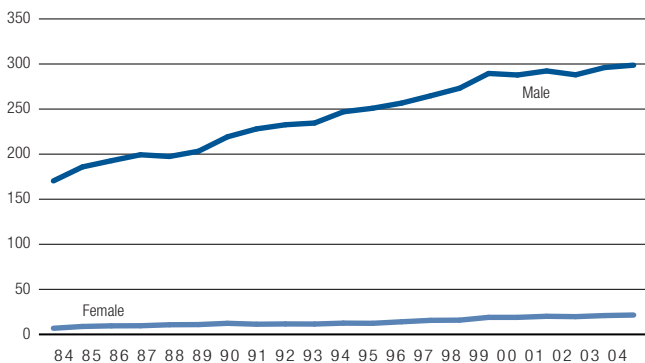
(d) Includes other offences against the person and property, public order offences and driving offences.

- The most serious offences for which male prisoners were sentenced included assault, robbery, break and enter and other offences.
- For female prisoners the most serious offences included drug offences, fraud, other theft, assault and homicide.
- Males imprisoned for the violent offences of homicide, assault, sex offences and robbery accounted for almost half of all sentenced male prisoners in 2002 (48%).
- One-third of sentenced females (32%) were imprisoned for violent offences.
- These patterns have remained relatively stable between 2003 and 2004.

Source: Reference 25

Gender

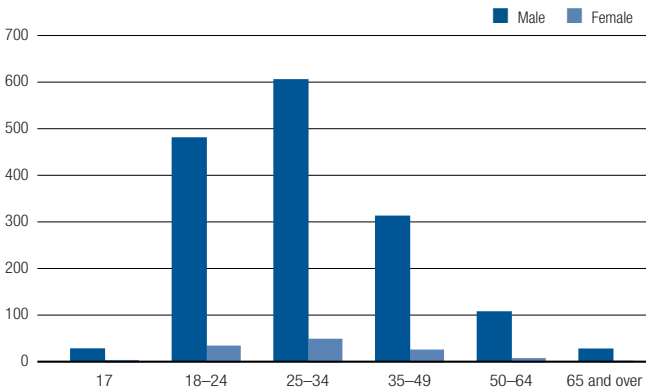
Figure 89: Prisoners by gender, rate per 100,000 adults, 1984–2004



- Between 1984 and 2004, the overall imprisonment rate for males increased from 170 to 299 per 100,000 adult male population.
- The female rate of imprisonment was 7 per 100,000 in 1984 and 22 per 100,000 in 2004.
- 7% of prisoners were women in 2004, up from 4% in 1984.
- The number of male and female prisoners increased annually by an average of 5% and 8% respectively over the period 1984–2004.
- 58% of males and 50% of females imprisoned in 2004 were known to have been in prison previously.

Source: References 2 and 25

Figure 90: Age and gender of prisoners, rate per 100,000 relevant population, 2004



- 93% of all prisoners in 2004 were male.
- 60% 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 2004, followed by 18 to 24 year-olds.
- This breakdown of prisoners by age and gender reflects court data patterns.

Source: References 2 and 25

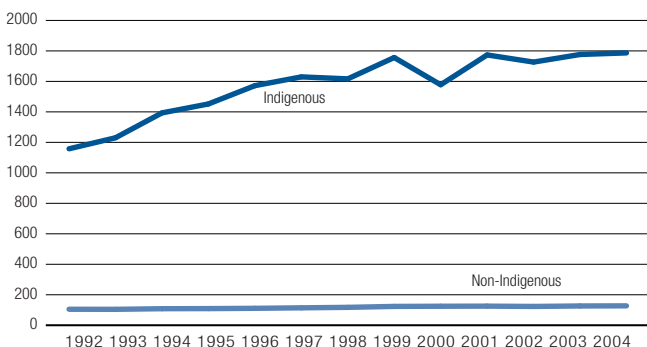
Indigenous status

Figure 91 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 27

Figure 91: Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoners, rate per 100,000 adults, 1992–2004



- On 30 June 2004 the Indigenous imprisonment rate was almost fourteen times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous persons, 1787 per 100,000 Indigenous adult population compared with 127 for non-Indigenous adult population.
- Indigenous prisoners comprised 21% of the total prisoner population in 2004, an increase from 14% in 1992.
- 77% of Indigenous prisoners were known to have previously been in prison.

Source: References 2, 25 and 27

Community corrections

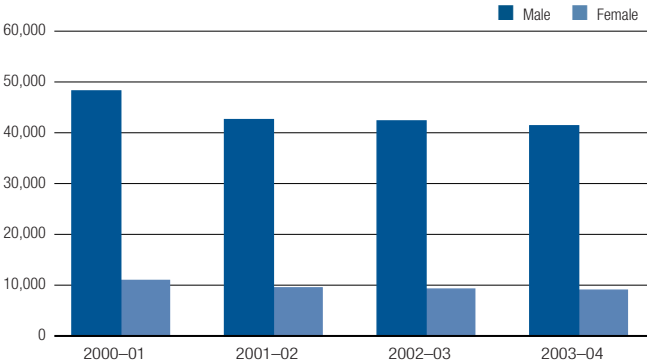
Community corrections comprise a variety of non-custodial programs which vary in the extent and nature of supervision, the conditions of the order, and the restrictions on the person’s freedom of movement in the community. They generally provide either a non-custodial sentencing alternative or a post-custodial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

- In Australia during 2003–04, there were 50,821 offenders per day, on average, serving community corrections orders, a decrease of 2% from the number recorded in 2002–03.
- This corresponds to a rate of 332 per 100,000 adults; 549 per 100,000 adult males and 116 per 100,000 adult females.

- Females accounted for a larger proportion of the community corrections population compared with the prison population: 18% and 7% respectively.

Source: References 2, 23 and 25

Figure 92: Average daily community corrections populations, by gender, number, 2000–01 to 2003–04



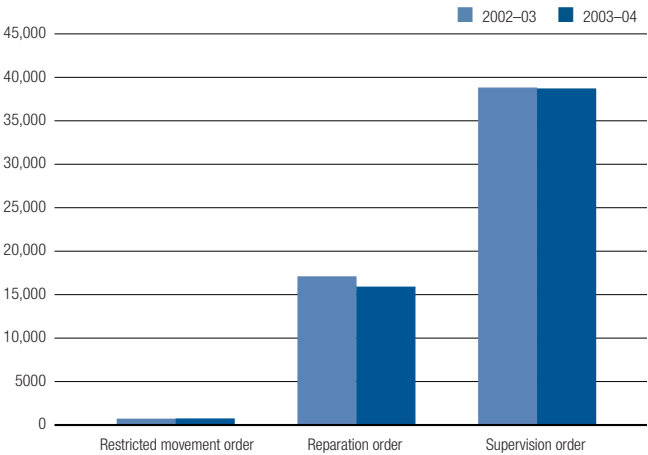
- The average daily number of male offenders on community corrections orders declined from 48,234 in 2000–01, to 41,369 in 2003–04. The number of female offenders declined from 10,928 to 9,011.
- Between 2000–01 and 2003–04 the rate of offenders on community corrections orders per 100,000 adults declined by 18% for males and 21% for females. Conversely, the rate of imprisonment increased by 3% for males and 10% for females during the same period.

Source: References 2, 23 and 25

Community corrections orders are classified into three main categories:

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

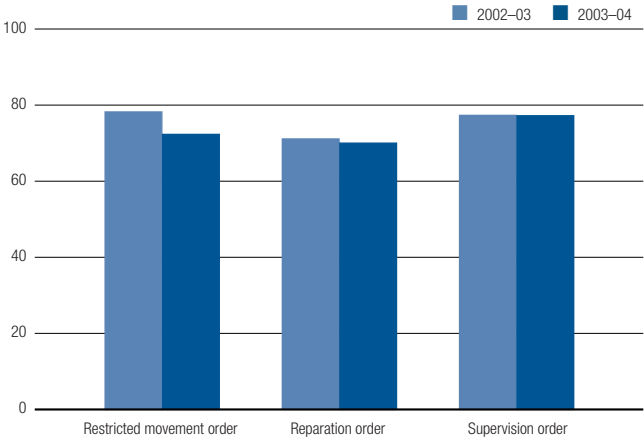
Figure 93: Average daily community corrections populations, by type of order, 2002–03 and 2003–04



- Supervision orders are the most commonly used option, with 38,648 offenders under supervision orders in 2003–04. This is approximately the same number as in 2002–03.
- Reparation orders are also common, with 15,850 offenders serving this option in 2003–04, a 7% decline from 17,031 reparation orders in 2002–03.
- In 2003–04, 684 offenders were serving restricted movement orders, up from 657 the previous year.

Source: Reference 23

Figure 94: Successful completion of community corrections orders, percentages, 2002–03 and 2003–04



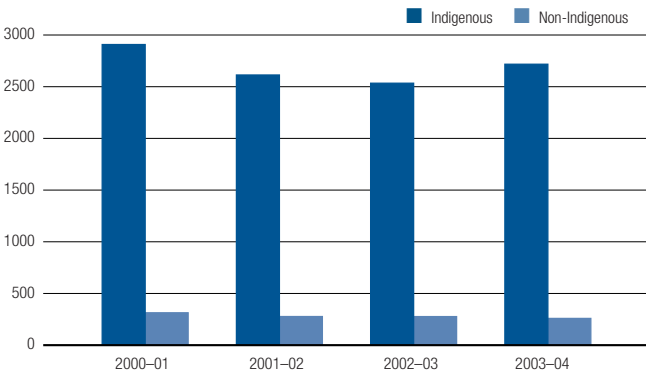
- On average, 74% of all community corrections orders were successfully completed in 2003–04, the same proportion as in 2002–03.
- Successful completions ranged from 70% for reparation orders to 77% for supervision orders.

Source: Reference 23

Indigenous status

On average, 38,853 non-Indigenous offenders and 7676 Indigenous offenders were serving community corrections orders in 2003–04.

Figure 95: Average daily community corrections population by Indigenous status, rate per 100,000 adults, 2000–01 to 2003–04



- In 2003–04, the Indigenous community corrections rate was ten times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous offenders, at 2717 per 100,000 relevant adult population compared with 259.
- The community corrections rate for Indigenous people decreased between 2000–01 and 2002–03, from 2908 per 100,000 to 2534. However, in 2003–04 there was an increase over the previous year, rising to 2717 per 100,000 relevant adult population.
- The community corrections rate for non-Indigenous people declined by 17% in the period 2000–01 to 2003–04, from 313 to 259 per 100,000 non-Indigenous adults.

Source: References 2, 23 and 27

Juveniles in detention

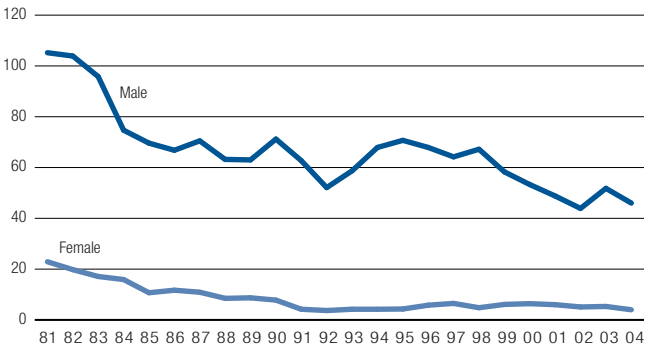
The Australian Institute of Criminology has maintained a collection on the number of persons detained in juvenile corrective institutions since 1981. The census consists of a count of the number of persons detained in institutions on the last day of each quarter each year. Similar information is not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

The long-term trend data shown in Figure 96 are based on the census conducted on 30 June of each year.

Trend in juveniles in detention

Given the differences among jurisdictions regarding the definition of a juvenile, statistics are shown for people aged between 10 and 17 years. Figure 96 depicts the imprisonment rate of male and female juveniles from 1981 to 2004.

Figure 96: Persons in juvenile corrective institutions by gender, rate per 100,000 juveniles, 1981–2004



- Between 1981 and 2004, the overall incarceration rate for juveniles declined 60%, from 65 to 26 per 100,000.
- In 2004, the rate for males declined to 56 per 100,000 from 105 in 1981. The rate for females dropped from 23 to 4.
- The percentage of females in the total juvenile prison population has dropped from 17% in 1981 to 8% in 2004.
- In 2004, the male incarceration rate was 10 times higher than the rate for female juveniles.

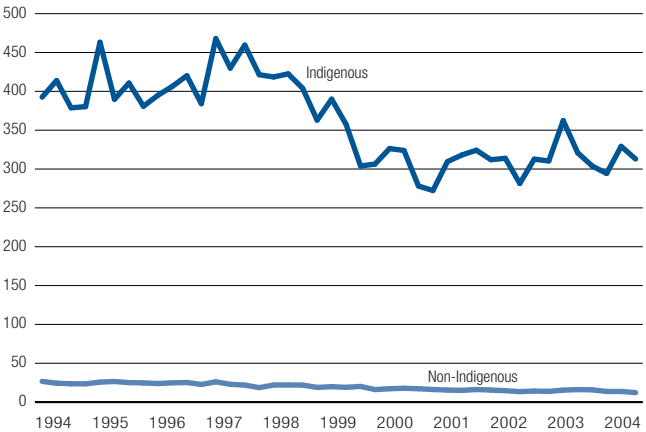
Source: Reference 26

Indigenous status

Data on incarcerated juveniles by Indigenous status have been made available since 1994. This section shows the incarceration rate of Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons in juvenile corrective institutions, from 31 March 1994 to 30 June 2004 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. In 2004 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 some previous publications, in particular where juveniles are concerned.

Figure 97: Persons in juvenile corrective institutions by Indigenous status, rate per 100,000 juveniles, 31 March 1994–30 June 2004 (a)



(a) Between 30 September 1996 and 31 December 2002, rates have been calculated using detainee totals and population estimates excluding Tasmania. Detainee Indigenous status data for Tasmania are unavailable for this period.

- The total number of Indigenous persons in juvenile corrective institutions on 30 June 2004 was 306. This represents 54% of the total number of persons detained in juvenile corrective institutions.
- The incarceration rate for Indigenous juveniles was 313 per 100,000, 26 times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous juveniles (12 per 100,000).
- There has been a 33% decline in the Indigenous juvenile imprisonment rate since the high of 468 per 100,000 recorded in March 1997.

Source: References 2, 26 and 27

Justice expenditure

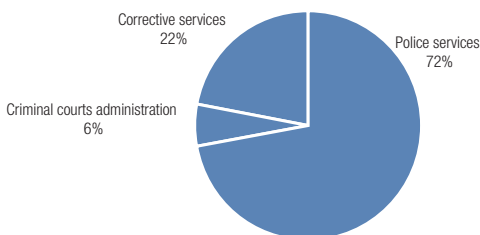
According to the *Report on government services 2005* (Reference 23) the total real recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources) on justice in 2003–04 was nearly \$7.6 billion.

The total real recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources) on criminal justice in 2003–04 was almost \$7.2 billion. The remaining \$0.4 billion was spent on the administration of the civil courts. Since 1998–99, expenditure on criminal justice has increased by 19% overall and by an average of 4% 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%, while criminal court administration accounts for the remaining 6% (Figure 98).

Source: Reference 23

Figure 98: Composition of government expenditure on criminal justice, 2003–04



Source: Reference 23

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 \$5.6 billion. This amounts to \$276 for every person in Australia, and \$359 per adult. Recurrent expenditure on salaries accounted for 75% of this expenditure.

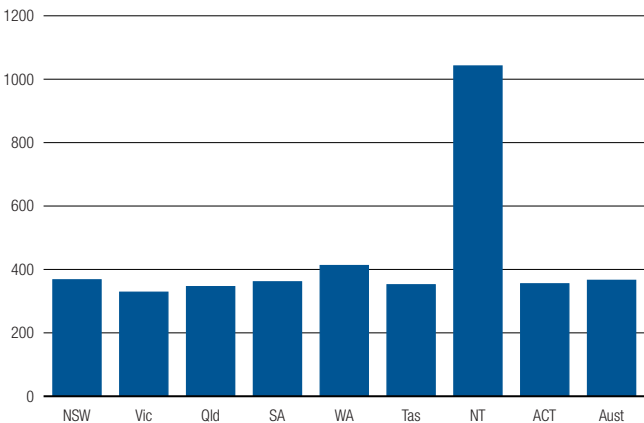
Real total recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources and payroll tax) in 2003–04 was \$5.2 billion, or \$259 for every person and \$342 per adult.

Table 7: Expenditure on Australian police services, 2003–04

Expenditure	(\$'000)
Total recurrent expenditure	5,554,100
Total capital expenditure	322,600
Total expenditure	5,876,000
Staff salaries	(\$)
Average police staff salaries	78,413
Average non-police staff salaries	53,112

Source: Reference 23

Figure 99: Recurrent expenditure on police services per head of adult population, in dollars, 2003–04



■ Recurrent expenditure on police services per head of adult population ranged from \$328 in Victoria to \$1042 in the Northern Territory.

Source: References 2 and 23

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 2004 was 61,879. This averages 304 per 100,000 persons (235 sworn police officers and 69 civilian employees).
- There were 47,248 sworn police officers and 13,851 civilian employees making up Australian police services in 2004.

Source: References 2 and 23

Table 8: Composition of police services by jurisdiction, 30 June 2004

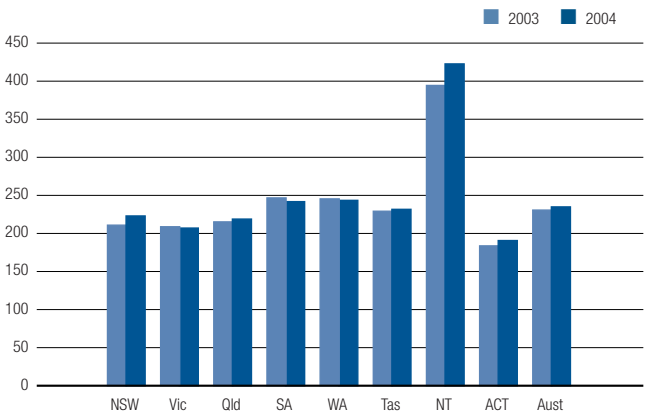
Jurisdiction	Sworn police officers	Civilian	Total	Sworn officers per 1000 sq km
NSW	15,009	3,912	18,921	24
Vic	10,300	2,464	12,764	56
Qld	8,496	3,205	11,701	7
SA	3,710	988	4,698	5
WA	4,827	1,186	6,013	2
Tas	1,117	365	1,482	22
NT	845	393	1,238	1
ACT	618	191	809	344
Australia (a)	47,248	13,851	61,099	8

(a) Includes Australian Federal Police for non-ACT policing (2326 sworn officers and 1147 civilians).

- New South Wales had the largest police service across Australia, while the Australian Capital Territory had the smallest.
- The Northern Territory and Queensland employed the highest proportion of civilian staff (32% and 27% respectively), and Victoria and Western Australia employed the lowest (19% and 20%, respectively).

Source: Reference 23

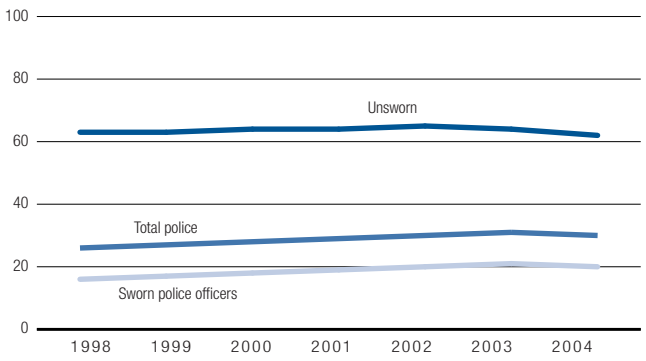
Figure 100: Sworn police officers, rate per 100,000 persons by jurisdiction, 30 June 2003 and 30 June 2004



- 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.
- On 30 June 2004 the Northern Territory had the largest number of police officers per 100,000 population (423), while the ACT had the smallest (191). However, the ACT had 344 police officers per 1000 square km, while the Northern Territory had only one.

Source: References 2 and 23

Figure 101: Females in police services, percentage, 1998–2004



- 21% of sworn police officers in 2004 were female.

- Between 1998 and 2004 there has been a steady increase in the percentage of female sworn police, from 16% to 21%.
- In that period the percentage of females constituting total police services increased from 26% to 31%.
- The percentage of females among unsworn police services personnel remained steady between 1998 and 2004.

Source: Reference 23

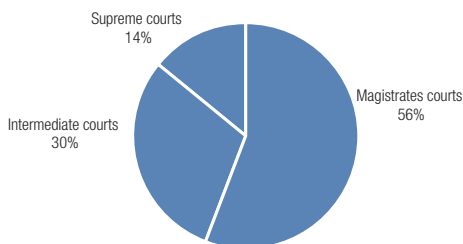
Court administration

The total recurrent expenditure on court administration services across Australia (excluding the High Court) was \$1.1 billion in 2003–04, approximately the same as in 2002–03. Expenditure for criminal court administration was about \$454 million for 2003–04, up from \$424 million the previous year.

Total criminal court expenditure less income (excluding fines) was \$443 million. This amounts to \$22 for every person in Australia, and \$29 per adult.

Source: Reference 23

Figure 102: Total expenditure (less income) for criminal courts, 2003–04

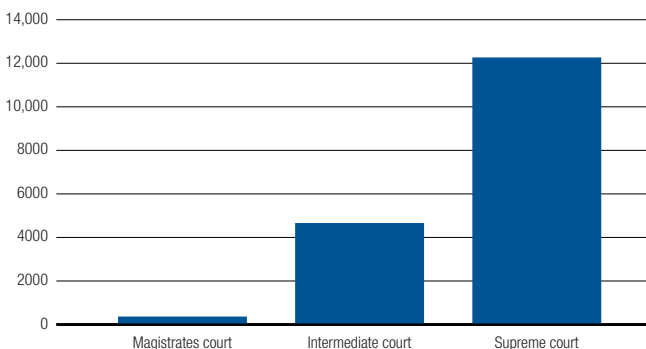


- Magistrates courts incurred 56% of total criminal court expenditure in 2003–04, compared with 58% in 2002–03.
- Intermediate courts incurred 30% and supreme courts 14% in 2003–04 (29% and 12% respectively in the previous year).

Source: Reference 23

Figure 103 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 heard in the higher courts.

Figure 103: Average expenditure per criminal case lodgment, in dollars, 2003–04



- In 2003–04, average expenditure per criminal case lodgment was \$336 in magistrates courts, \$4633 in intermediate courts and \$12,238 in supreme courts.

Source: Reference 23

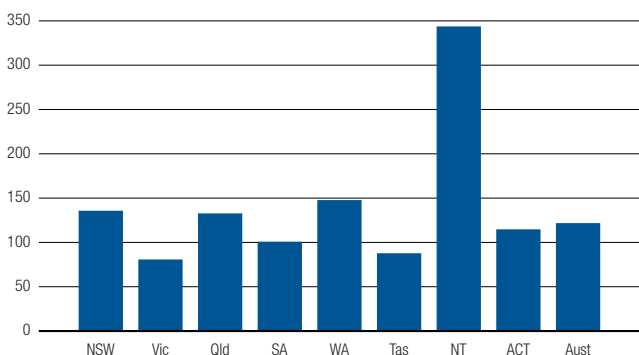
Adult corrective services

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 \$1.8 billion in 2003–04: \$1.6 billion (86%) for prisons, \$198 million (11%) for community corrections and \$67 million (4%) for transport and escort services. This corresponds to \$86 for every person in Australia and \$121 for every adult.

Source: References 2 and 23

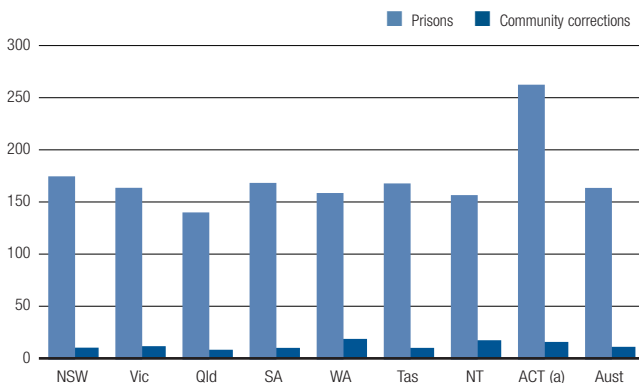
Figure 104: Recurrent expenditure on corrective services per head of adult population, in dollars, 2003–04



- Recurrent expenditure on corrective services per head of adult population ranged from \$80 in Victoria and \$87 in Tasmania to \$343 in the Northern Territory.

Source: References 2 and 23

Figure 105: Corrective services expenditure per offender per day, by jurisdiction, in dollars, 2003–04



(a) Includes both remand prisoners in ACT and sentenced prisoners in NSW.

- Expenditure per prisoner per day was \$162, ranging from \$139 in Queensland to \$261 in the Australian Capital Territory.
- Expenditure per offender sentenced to community corrections programs per day was \$10. The cost for offenders sentenced to prison was 16 times as high, at \$162 per day.

- Overall in 2003–04, \$59,203 was spent for every prisoner and \$3,796 for each offender sentenced to community corrections programs.

Source: Reference 23

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