



Australian Government

Australian Institute of Criminology

Australian Crime

Facts & Figures

2006



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GPO Box 2944
Canberra ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6260 9272
Fax: (02) 6260 9201
email: front.desk@aic.gov.au
<http://www.aic.gov.au>

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Tina Houliaras and Samantha Bricknell

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/2006/>

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Director's introduction

This compendium of information is intended to serve as a ready reference about current trends and patterns in crime and criminal justice in Australia. 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.

Crime statistics have always generated controversy among the public, the media, justice practitioners and policy makers. For 2004–05 Australia's recurrent expenditure on the criminal justice system was around \$8 billion; on any day during 2004–05 an average of 52,506 offenders were serving a community corrections order; and on 30 June 2005 there were 45,201 sworn state and territory police officers and 9,750 personnel working in Australian Government law enforcement agencies and 25,353 offenders in prisons.

The availability of national statistics on major crimes is relatively recent and still a work in progress. Current data suggest that property crime has been declining while trends in the much smaller category of violent crimes are mixed – some have declined, some have remained stable, and there is evidence of increases in other categories.

However, we lack nationally consistent data on many emerging crimes such as cybercrime and categories of crime such as fraud and family violence. Crimes that communities report in crime victim surveys as being of concern to them – disorderly behaviour in public and graffiti – are also not recorded. We lack national data on how many people are arrested by police in a year and their offending **profile**. Many countries have established national offender databases and allow researchers access in order to provide the analysis necessary for good decision making by governments and the criminal justice sector.

The data in this compendium 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 (AIC) produces publications from fact sheets to detailed reports, on a wide range of issues. For further information visit the AIC website (<http://www.aic.gov.au>), or contact the Institute.

Toni Makkai

Director

December 2006

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Crime and justice statistics

Statistics used in *Australian crime: facts & figures* come from a variety of sources. There are two types of data collections, administrative and survey, and both types of information are needed to help inform our understanding of the level and effects of crime in the community. The sources used to compile this issue are listed in the references on p. 103.

Administrative collections – 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 cover the whole population that comes into contact with the criminal justice system, and remain relatively stable in terms of collections and production over time.

There are limitations to these data, however, including comparability across agencies and jurisdictions. 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. There are as yet no national data on offenders. The collections are not all based on the same unit of measurement; for example, police record details about offences, courts record cases, and corrections agencies record information about individual prisoners.

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. More detailed information about crime and justice is often 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.

Surveys – 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 accurate 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 Personal safety survey and the Crime and safety survey, both conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Notes on using these statistics

It should be noted that police information on victims and offenders has not been tested in court. A murder as recorded by police might later be reclassified as manslaughter; there may be insufficient evidence to convict an alleged offender in any criminal case.

Where crime rates appear to fluctuate markedly, this may be due to small numbers involved. For example, where one jurisdiction records four homicides in a year, one more or less the next year will appear to be a 25 percent change.

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

Rates are determined against two different types of base population – either the total population or the relevant population. The property crime victimisation rate, for example, divides the total population by the number of victims of **property crime**. **In this publication data are presented as per 100,000 population where the total population is used.** Rates per relevant population refer to the number of persons as a proportion of a specified population group (for example, juveniles, males or females, or Indigenous persons).

1

Recorded crime

Data on recorded crime as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for the period 1996 to 2005 are presented in this first section. The information is based on crimes recorded by police from 1 January to 31 December each year. A victim can be a person, premises or a motor vehicle.

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

The ABS has not released aggregated data on assault or sexual assault since 2003 due to inconsistent recording across jurisdictions. As trends within jurisdictions appear to be consistent, however, they have since released these data for each jurisdiction. The AIC used these data to compile the Australian totals for assault and sexual assault included in this chapter.

Source: Reference 1

Number of recorded crimes

Violent crime

Violent crime includes homicide, assault, sexual assault, robbery and kidnapping (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.

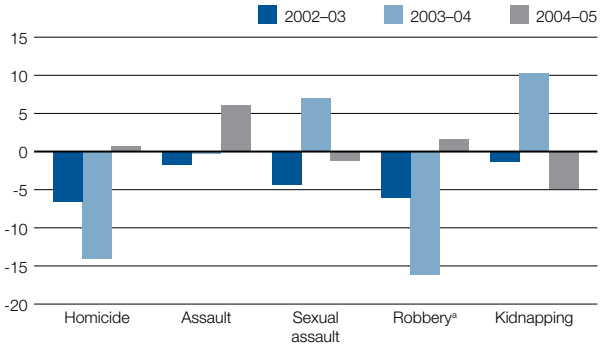
Table 1: Victims of violent crimes, 1996–2005 (number)

	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	157,280	18,237	19,709	696
2004	293	156,849	18,400	16,513	768
2005	295	166,499	18,172	16,787	730

- Between 1996 and 2003 the number of homicides has fluctuated between 330 and 390 victims. In 2004 and 2005 the number of homicides dropped below 300.
- A slight increase was reported in the number of robbery offences, from 16,513 in 2004 to 16,787 in 2005. The number of robbery offences in 2004 was the lowest recorded since 1996.
- The number of recorded kidnappings fluctuates yearly. Over the period 1996–2004 the number of kidnappings registered a steady increase. However, between 2004 and 2005 it decreased slightly, from 768 to 730.
- While the overall trend in recorded sexual assaults has shown a steady increase over the period 1996–2004, 2005 recorded a slight decrease on the previous year.
- Assaults have continued to represent the majority of recorded violent crimes. The overall trend since 1996 has been upward, with an increase of 46% between 1996 and 2005. Between 2004 and 2005 recorded assault offences increased by 6%.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 1: Percentage change in victims of selected violent crimes, 2002-05



a: Robbery is classified as a violent crime as the use or threat of violence is more serious than the property theft

- For violent crimes, the trend in the past three years has varied. Recorded homicide and robbery registered declines between 2002 and 2004, but increased slightly between 2004 and 2005.
- Sexual assault and kidnapping increased between 2003 and 2004, but registered a decline in the following year.
- Recorded assault changed little between 2003 and 2004 before increasing in 2005.
- Variability from year to year is generally more pronounced for offences that have a smaller number of victims, such as homicide.

Property crime

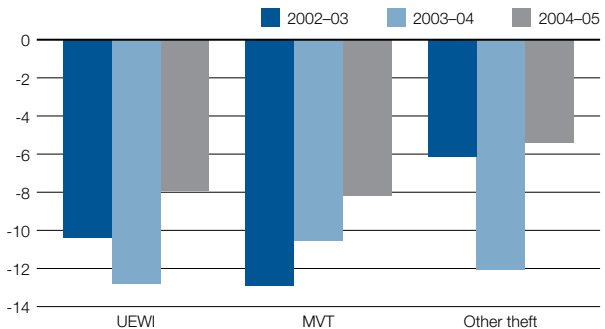
Property crime comprises UEWI (also referred to as break and enter or burglary), MVT, and other theft. Other theft includes offences such as pickpocketing, bag snatching, shoplifting and bicycle theft.

Table 2: Victims of property crimes, 1996–2005 (number)

	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	308,675	87,939	548,778
2005	284,188	80,738	519,128

- As in previous years, other theft was the most commonly recorded property crime in 2005, accounting for 59% of property crime victims.
- The number of recorded victims of other theft increased steadily until 2001, but since then has been decreasing. The total decline between 2001 and 2005 was 26%.
- In 2005 there were 284,188 recorded victims of an UEWI, a decline of 8% from the previous year and the lowest rate recorded since 1996.
- The number of MVT victims increased by 24% between 1996 and 2001 but decreased by 42% between 2001 and 2005.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 2: Percentage change in victims of selected property crimes, 2002–05

- The overall trend in property crime offences in the past four years has been one of decline.

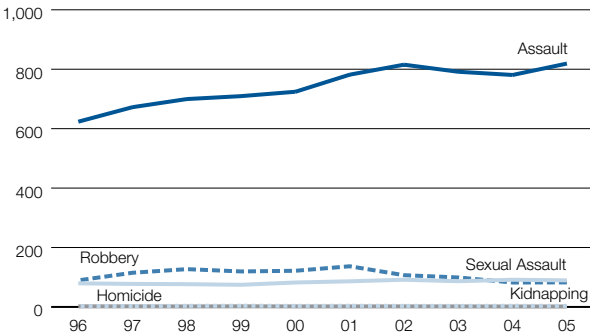
Source: Reference 1

Recorded crime rates

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

Violent crime rate

Figure 3: Violent crimes, 1996–2005 (rate per 100,000 persons)



Note: Homicide and kidnapping occur at rates of less than 5 per 100,000 each, and are difficult to distinguish on this chart

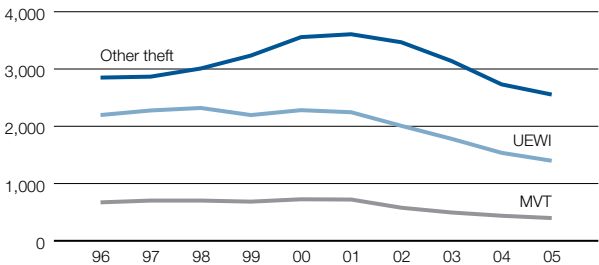
- The trend in the rate of recorded assault has shown a steady increase from 1996 to 2005. The rate in 2005 was 819 per 100,000 compared with 623 per 100,000 in 1996. The 2005 rate was the highest recorded since 1996.
- The rate for robbery peaked at 137 per 100,000 in 2001, the highest recorded since 1996. Since 2001 the rate has declined, to 83 per 100,000 in 2005.
- The rate of kidnapping was subject to substantial fluctuation between 1996 and 2005. In 2005 it stood at 3.6 per 100,000 persons.
- The homicide rate was 1.9 in 1996 (which includes the 35 victims of the Port Arthur shootings) and was at its highest in 1999 at 2.0 per 100,000 before dropping to 1.5 in 2005.

- The trend in the rate of recorded sexual assault has displayed a steady and significant increase between 1996 and 2005. However, between 2004 and 2005 the rate declined slightly (from 92 to 89 per 100,000).

Source: References 1 and 2

Property crime rate

Figure 4: Property crimes, 1996–2005 (rate per 100,000 persons)



- The rate of other theft, 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 and has declined since then.
- The rate of MVT declined by 41% between 1996 and 2005, from 671 to 397 per 100,000. 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)
- *other* (including retail premises, recreational facilities, government offices and warehousing/storage).

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

Table 3: Selected violent crimes by type of location, 2005 (number)

	Murder	Robbery	Kidnapping
Residential			
Private dwelling	165	1,091	176
Other residential ^a	5	99	5
Total residential^b	174	1,206	181
Community			
Transport	3	1,548	40
Street/footpath	28	7,349	295
Other community	34	924	109
Total community^b	72	9,856	444
Other			
Retail	7	3,927	39
Recreational	10	983	44
Other location	5	422	5
Total other^b	22	5,368	88
Unspecified location	3	357	17
Total	271	16,787	730

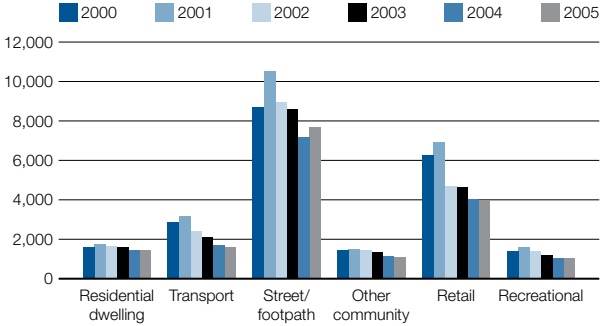
a: Includes non-private dwellings, dwellings not further defined, and land and other structures (for example, driveways) that lie within the curtilage of a residential location

b: Total includes not further defined

- The majority of murders (64%, n=174) occurred in a residential location, while most robberies (91%, n=15,224) occurred outside the home.
- In 2005, 44% (n=7,349) of robberies and 40% (n=295) of kidnappings occurred on streets or footpaths, compared with 10% (n=28) of murders.
- 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 5: Selected violent crimes by type of location, 2000–05 (number)



- Between 2000 and 2005, violent crimes (murder, robbery and kidnapping) declined in all categories of location, although the decrease was not uniform across all location types.
- Violent crimes carried out at transport and retail locations declined the most, by 44% and 36%, respectively.
- Violent crimes which occurred at recreational locations, the street/footpath and residential dwellings decreased by 25%, 12% and 11%, respectively, between 2000 and 2005.

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

**Table 4: Property crimes by type of location, 2005
(number)**

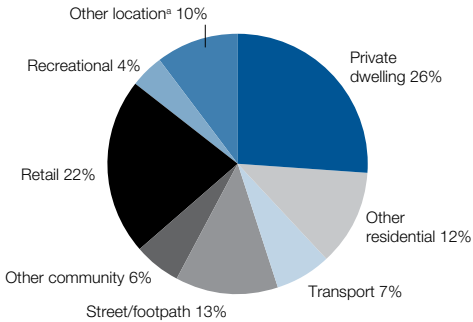
	UEWI	MVT	Other theft
Residential			
Private dwelling	167,725	–	61,330
Other residential ^a	16,404	22,305	64,395
Total residential^b	186,564	22,350	128,373
Community			
Transport	1,054	10,485	48,449
Street/footpath	4	30,419	81,205
Other community	19,959	1,644	30,338
Total community^b	21,690	42,612	161,254
Other			
Retail	34,683	8,103	148,219
Recreational	7,863	1,176	28,385
Other location	27,384	2,094	28,536
Total other^b	71,599	11,876	207,261
Unspecified location	4,335	3,900	22,240
Total	284,188	80,738	519,128

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

b: Total includes not further defined

- MVT was more likely to occur in a public location (67%, n=54,488) than in or around a private dwelling (28%, n=22,350).
- The majority of UEWI crimes (65%, n=186,564) occurred in a residential location, and 12% (n=34,683) occurred in a retail location.
- 31% (n=161,254) of other thefts occurred in a community location and 29% (n=148,219) in a retail location.

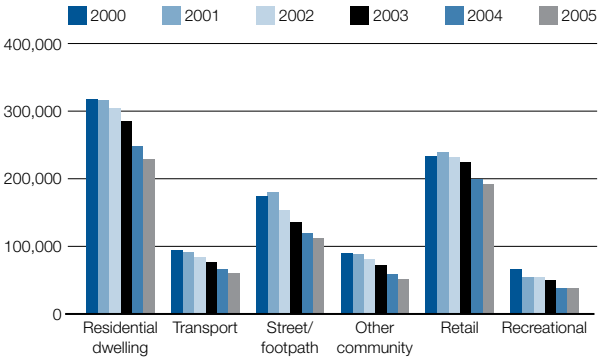
Source: Reference 1

Figure 6: Property crimes by type of location, 2005

a: Includes unspecified location (n=30,475)

- Property offences were most likely to occur at a private dwelling (26%), at a retail location (22%), or on the street/footpath (13%).
- Property offences were comparatively less likely to occur at recreational locations (4%) or on transport (7%).

Source: Reference 1

Figure 7: Property crimes by type of location, 2000–05 (number)

- Between 2000 and 2005 the number of property crimes carried out on transport, on the street/footpath, or in a recreational location declined the most, by 36%, 36% and 43%, respectively.
- Property crimes at residential locations declined by 28% and at retail locations by 18% between 2000 and 2005.

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
- *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.

Homicide 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.

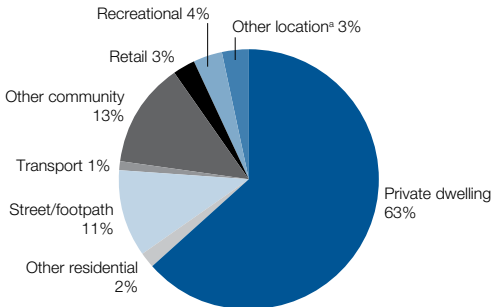
Data from the ABS are supplemented with more detailed information collected by the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) through the National Homicide Monitoring Program. The ABS reports on a calendar year and the AIC on a financial year basis.

There were 295 homicides in Australia in 2005, with 1.5 victims per 100,000 population. Murder accounted for 92% of the victims recorded in 2005. The remainder were victims of manslaughter.

Source: References 1 and 3

Location of homicides

Figure 8: Homicide by type of location, 2005



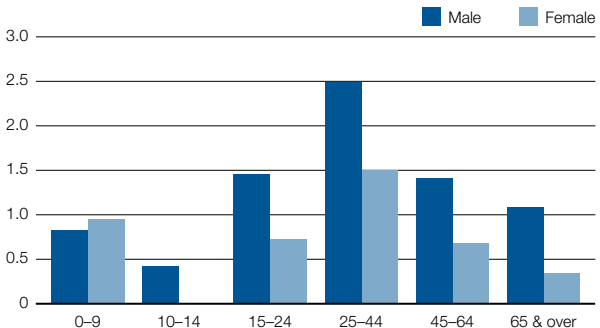
a: Includes unspecified location (n=3)

- The majority of homicides take place in the home. An increase from 56% in 2004 to 63% in 2005 of all homicides occurred in a private dwelling.
- Following private dwellings, 'other community' locations (e.g. offices, banks, shops, service stations, warehouses, recreation facilities and farms) were the second most common location (13%).
- Homicides were less likely to occur at recreational (4%), retail (3%) and transport (1%) locations.

Source: Reference 1

Victims of homicide

Figure 9: Age and gender of homicide victims, 2005 (rate per 100,000 relevant persons)



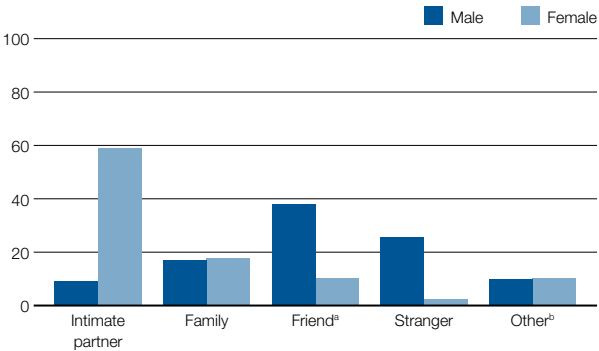
- 64% of homicide victims in 2005 were male.
- In all age categories the risk of being a victim of homicide was higher for males than for females, with the exception of those aged 0-9 years.

- Males in the 25 to 44 age group were most at risk of being a homicide victim in 2005.
- The age and gender breakdown of homicide victims in 2005 is largely unchanged from previous years.

Source: References 1 and 2

Victim–offender relationship

Figure 10: Homicide victims, relationship to offender, 2004–05 (percent)



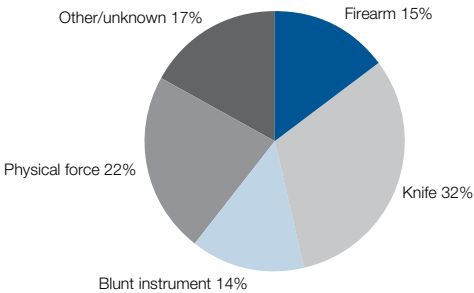
a: Includes acquaintances

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.
- Similar to 2003–04, male victims in 2004–05 were more likely than female victims to be killed by a friend or acquaintance (38% and 10%, respectively) whereas female victims were more likely than male victims to be killed by an intimate partner (59% and 9%, respectively).
- A similar percentage of male and female victims were killed by a family member (17% and 18% respectively).
- Only 2% of female victims were killed by a person unknown to them (i.e. a stranger), compared with 25% of male victims.

Source: Reference 4

Figure 11: Homicide, type of weapon, 2004–05

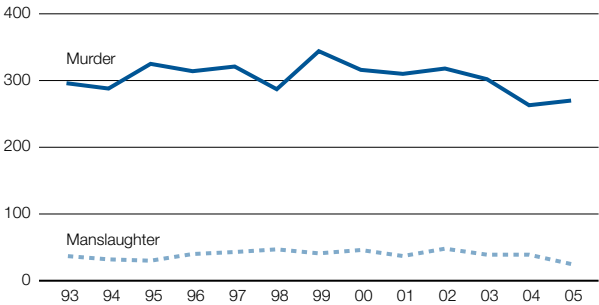


- In 2004–05 the most common weapon used in homicide was a knife (32%).
- A further 22% of homicides were committed using physical force (hands/feet), 15% with firearms and 14% with blunt instruments.

Source: Reference 4

Trend in homicide

Figure 12: Homicide victims, 1993–2005 (number)

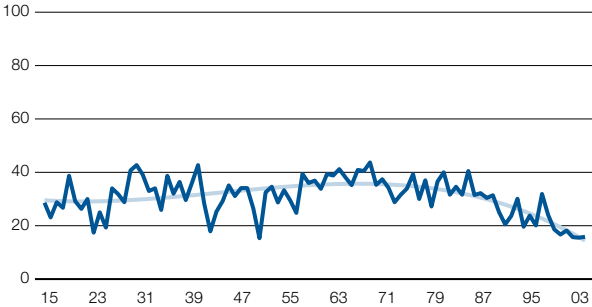


- The number of murders fluctuated slightly between 1993 and 2005, while manslaughter remained relatively stable. The number of murders peaked in 1999 at 344.
- The number of manslaughters peaked in 2002 with 48 recorded in that year.
- The 270 murders recorded in 2005 represented a slight increase over the previous year. The 263 murders recorded in 2004 was the lowest number recorded in any year since 1993.
- The number of victims of manslaughter recorded in 2005 was 25, lower than in any year since 1993.

Source: Reference 1

Trend in firearm homicides

Figure 13: Homicides involving firearms as a percentage of total homicides, 1915–2003



- The percentage of homicides committed with a firearm continued a declining trend which began 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

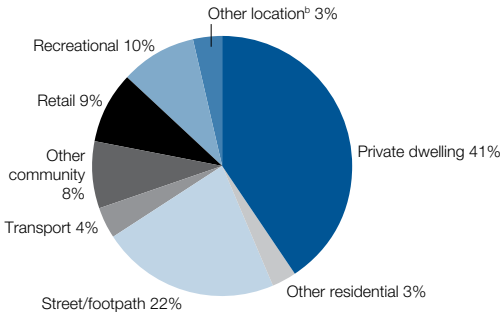
Assault

The ABS defines assault as the direct infliction of force, injury or violence upon a person, including attempts or threats. ABS assault data for 2005 have been aggregated using data from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia and included in charts regarding details of location, gender and age of victim. 2005 data on victim–offender relationship were not available and the corresponding chart refers to 2003 assault data, the most recent available for this variable.

Source: Reference 1

Location of assaults

Figure 14: Assault, type of location, 2005^a



a: Includes data from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia and represents 94% of all assaults recorded in 2005

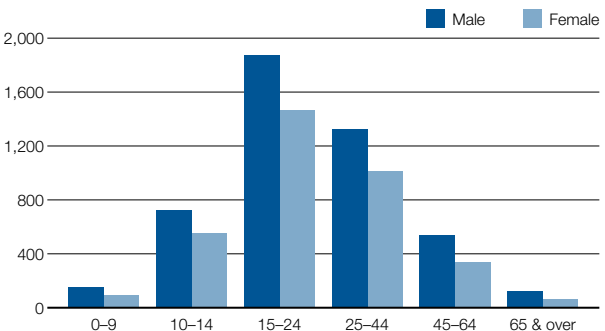
b: Includes unspecified location (n=2,755)

- Recorded assaults occurred most frequently in private dwellings (41%).
- Street/footpath locations accounted for 22% of recorded assaults.
- Recreational and retail locations accounted for 10% and 9% respectively of recorded assaults.
- Recorded assaults were least likely to occur on transport (4%) and at residential locations other than private dwellings (3%).

Source: Reference 1

Victims of assault

Figure 15: Age and gender of assault victims, 2005 (rate per 100,000 relevant persons)^a



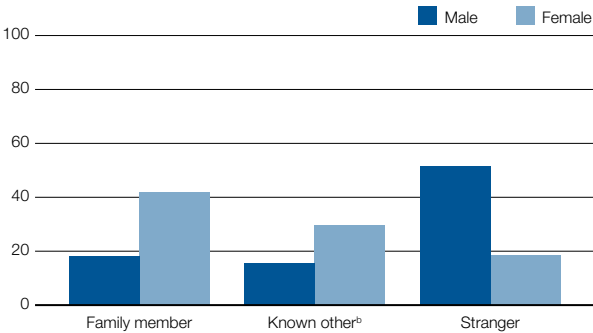
a: Includes data from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia and represents 94% of all assaults recorded in 2005

- 57% 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

Assault victim–offender relationship

Figure 16: Assault victims, relationship to offender, 2003 (percent)^a



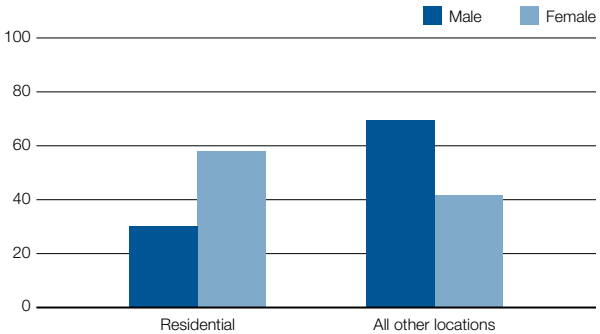
a: Excludes Queensland and Western Australia (information not available). Also excludes the 9% of instances where the relationship between victim and offender was not stated or known in the remaining jurisdictions

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 17: Assault victims, type of location, 2003 (percent)

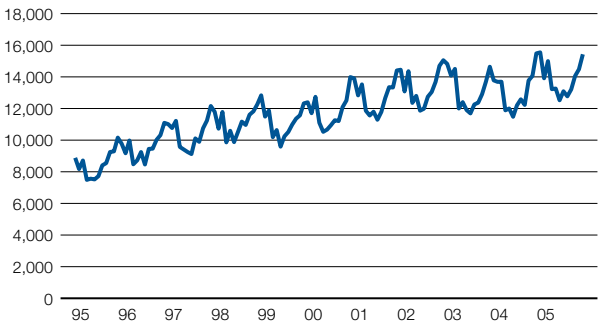


- Most male victims (70%) were assaulted in non-residential locations, whereas the majority of female victims (58%) were assaulted in residential premises.

Source: Reference 5

Trend in assault

Figure 18: Assaults, by month, 1995–2005 (number)



- The trend in assaults shows an average growth of 6% each year between 1995 and 2005. This is three times the annual growth of the Australian population over the same period.
- Assault is seasonal. The number of assaults peak in the spring and summer months of October to February, and is lowest during April to July.

Source: Reference 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
- gives consent as a result of intimidation or fraud
- is legally deemed incapable of giving consent because of youth or temporary/permanent incapacity.

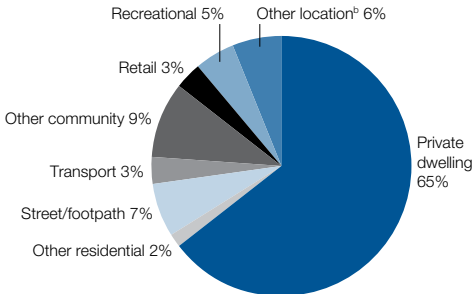
Sexual assault includes: rape, sodomy, buggery, oral sex, incest, carnal knowledge, unlawful sexual intercourse, indecent assault, and assault with intent to rape.

As with assault, sexual assault data for 2005 have been aggregated using data from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia and included in charts regarding details of location, and gender and age of victim. The chart on victim–offender relationship refers to 2003 data, the most recent available for this variable.

Source: Reference 1

Location of sexual assaults

Figure 19: Sexual assault, type of location, 2005^a



a: Includes data from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia and represents 96% of all sexual assaults recorded in 2005

b: Includes unspecified location (n=696)

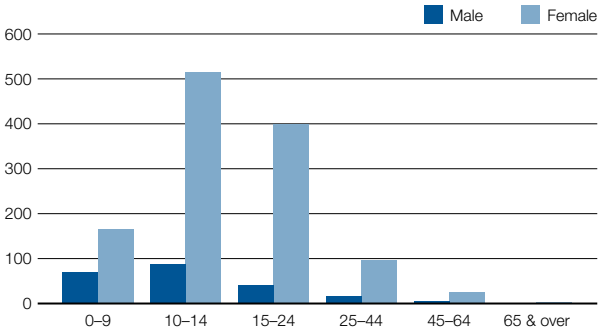
- Sexual assault was most likely to occur in the home environment. Of sexual assaults recorded in Australia in 2005, 65% occurred in private dwellings.
- Sexual assaults on streets/footpaths accounted for 7% of all recorded sexual assaults.

- 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

Figure 20: Age and gender of sexual assault victims, 2005 (rate per 100,000 relevant persons)^a



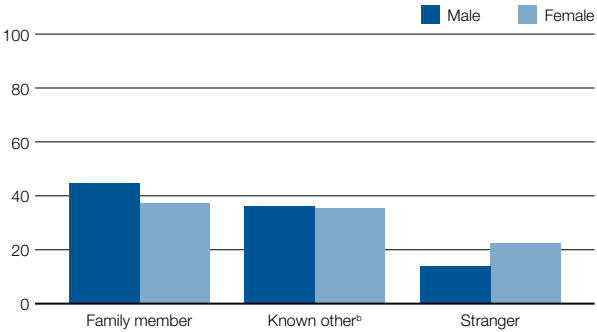
a: Includes data from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia and represents 96% of all sexual assaults recorded in 2005

- 84% of sexual assault victims in 2005 were female.
- The highest rate of sexual assault was recorded for girls 10–14 years of age at 516 per 100,000 females in that age group.
- For males, rates were highest for those aged 10–14 (88 per 100,000 relevant persons) and under 10 (70 per 100,000 relevant persons).
- Females consistently recorded higher rates of sexual assault than males irrespective of age.
- Males made up 30% of sexual assault victims aged less than 10 years and 15% or less in older age groups.

Source: References 1 and 2

Victim-offender relationship

Figure 21: Sexual assault victims, relationship to offender, 2003 (percent)^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

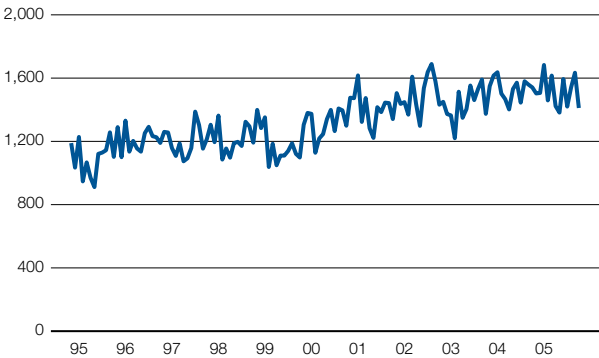
b: Known other includes known non-family and known not further defined and may include some family members

- 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 22: Sexual assault victims, by month, 1995–2005



- 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 September to November and lowest during April to July.

Source: Reference 5

Robbery

Robbery is defined by the ABS as 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 two categories of offences.

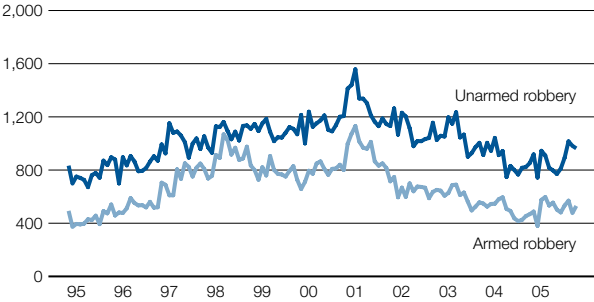
- *Armed robbery* – robbery conducted with the use of a weapon. A weapon is any object used to cause fear or injury, and includes imitation weapons and implied weapons; for example, where a weapon is not seen by the victim but the offender claims to possess one.
- *Unarmed robbery* – robbery conducted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

Of the 16,787 robberies recorded during 2005, 63% were unarmed and 37% were committed with some type of weapon. This was similar to the previous three years.

Source: Reference 1

Trend in robbery

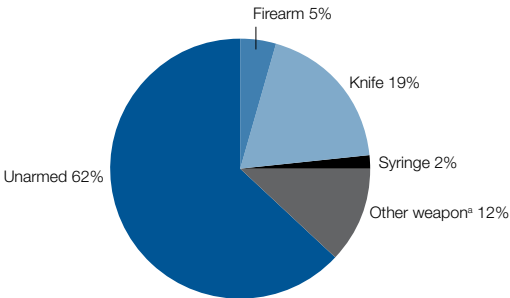
Figure 23: Robbery victims, by month, 1995–2005 (number)



- There were slightly more robberies in 2005 than in the previous year – 16,787 compared with 16,513 in 2004. However, there are still fewer robberies occurring than in the early 2000s.
- The proportion of robberies involving a weapon continues to decrease. In 1998, 46% of all robberies were armed, compared with 37% in 2005.
- The number of both armed and unarmed robberies peaked in March 2001, at 1,131 and 1,558 respectively.
- Armed and unarmed robberies follow similar monthly patterns.

Source: Reference 5

Figure 24: Robbery, type of weapon, 2005

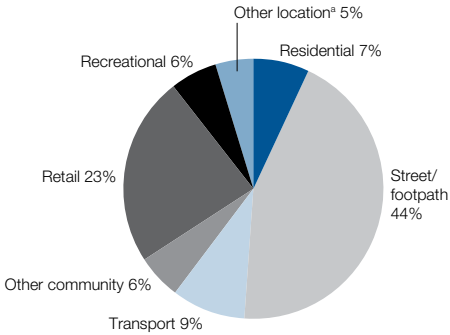


a: Includes unspecified type of weapon (n=811)

- A knife was most likely to be used in robberies involving the use of weapons. In 2005 knives were used in 19% of all robberies.
- Robberies involving firearms made up 5% of all robberies in 2005.
- A small percentage (2%) of robberies were carried out with the use of a syringe as the primary weapon.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 25: Robbery, type of location, 2005

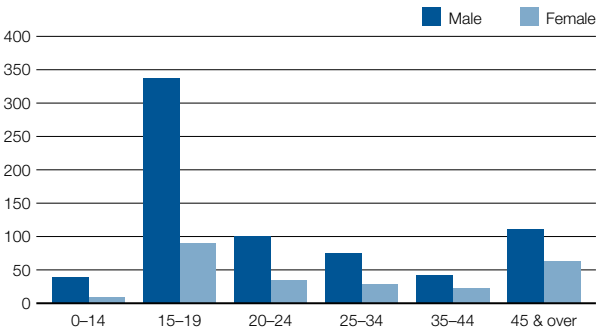


a: Includes unspecified location (n=357)

- Robberies in 2005 occurred most frequently on streets/footpaths (44%) and in retail premises (23%).
- Robberies were less likely to occur on transport (9%) or in residential (7%), recreational (6%) and other community (6%) locations.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 26: Age and gender of robbery victims, 2005 (rate per 100,000 relevant persons)



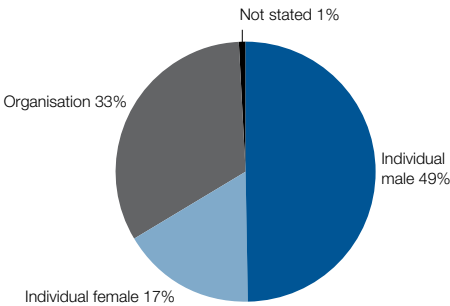
- In all age categories, males were at higher risk of being a victim of robbery than were females. In 2005, the discrepancy between male and female rates was highest among those aged 15 to 19 and decreased with age. However there was a slight increase again among those aged 45 and over.
- Males aged 15–19 years were more than twice as likely to be a victim of robbery as males or females in any other age category. The rate for males aged 15–19 was 337 per 100,000, compared with 42 per 100,000 for males aged 35–44.
- Rates for females were highest among the 15–19 age group at 90 per 100,000, and next highest in the 45 and over age group, at 63 per 100,000.

Source: References 1 and 2

Armed robbery

There were 6,222 armed robberies recorded during 2005. This represents a 3% increase since 2004.

Figure 27: Armed robbery victims, 2005



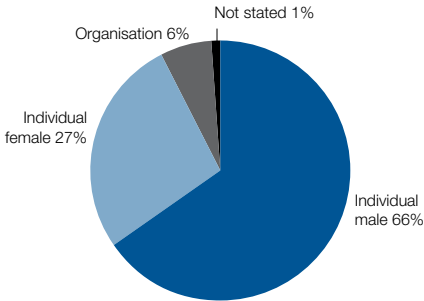
- 33% of armed robberies were committed against organisations, such as banks and chemists.
- A person (male or female) was the victim of 66% of armed robberies. Victims of armed robbery were almost three times more likely to be male than female.

Source: References 1 and 5

Unarmed robbery

There were 10,565 unarmed robberies recorded during 2005, a 0.8% increase from the number in 2004.

Figure 28: Unarmed robbery victims, 2005



- Unarmed robberies were much less likely than armed robberies to target organisations. 6% of unarmed robberies involved organisations compared with 33% of armed robberies.
- Males were more than twice as likely as females to be victims of unarmed robbery.

Source: Reference 5

Unlawful entry with intent

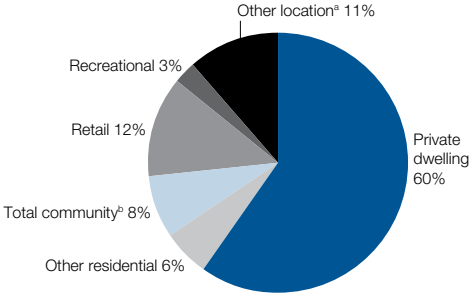
UEWI is defined by the ABS as the unlawful entry of a structure with the intent to commit an offence. UEWI offences include burglary, break and enter, and some stealing.

The rate of UEWI decreased from 2,244 victims per 100,000 in 2001 when it was at its highest, to 1,397 per 100,000 in 2005.

Source: References 1 and 2

Location of UEWI

Figure 29: UEWI, type of location, 2005



a: Includes unspecified location (n=4,335)

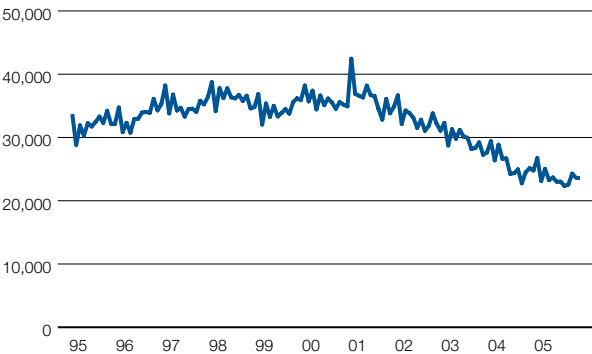
b: Includes transport, the street/footpath and other community locations

- UEWI is most likely to take place in residential locations. 60% of UEWI offences occurred in private dwellings, and an additional 6% in other residential locations.
- 12% of recorded UEWI offences took place in retail locations.
- Only 8% of UEWI offences occurred at community locations.
- Less than half of one percent of UEWI took place in transport locations.

Source: Reference 1

Trend in UEWI

Figure 30: UEWI, by month, 1995–2005 (number)



- There was a significant overall decline in the number of UEWI offences between 1995 and 2005.

- The number of UEWI offences peaked at 42,451 incidents in January 2001.
- UEWI incidents involving theft of property accounted for 72% of all UEWI offences in 2005, down from 78% in 1995.
- There were approximately 33 recorded incidents of UEWI every hour in Australia in 2005, down from 36 every hour in 2004.

Source: Reference 5

Motor vehicle theft

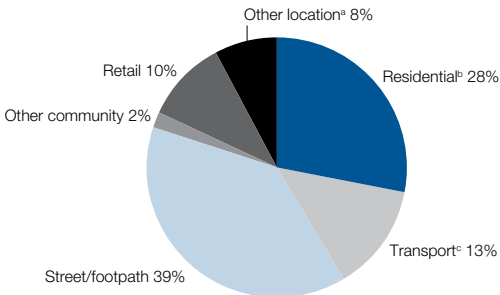
MVT is the taking of a motor vehicle unlawfully or without permission. It excludes damaging and tampering or interfering with motor vehicles. The theft of motor vehicle parts or contents is included under the offence category of other theft. Motor vehicle refers to cars, motorcycles, campervans and trucks.

There were 80,738 motor vehicles reported stolen to police in 2005, with 580 vehicles stolen per 100,000 registered vehicles. This represents an 8% decrease on the number of thefts recorded in 2004. On average, there was one MVT every seven minutes in Australia in 2005.

Source: References 1 and 6

Location of MVT

Figure 31: MVT, type of location, 2005



a: Includes unspecified location (n=3,900)

b: Includes private dwellings and other residential locations

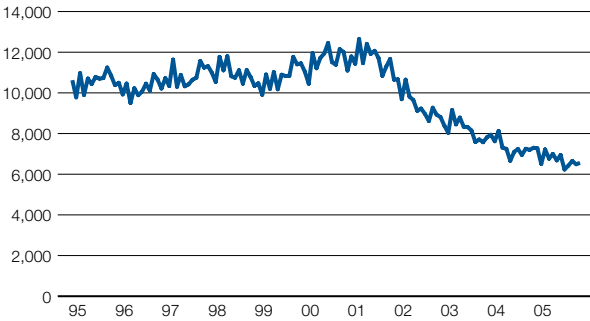
c: Transport includes public car parks

- The majority of MVTs occurred in community locations (52%), particularly streets/footpaths (39%) and transport locations (13%).
- 28% of MVTs occurred at a residential location.
- Retail locations accounted for 10% of MVTs in 2005.

Source: Reference 1

Trend in MVT

Figure 32: MVT, by month, 1995–2005 (number)



- In August 2005, MVT decreased to the lowest monthly level recorded since 1995 with 6,229 motor vehicles stolen. In the period 1995–2005, the average recorded number of vehicles stolen per month was 9,854.
- The incidence of recorded monthly MVT peaked in March 2001, with 12,651 cars being recorded stolen in that month. Incidentally, robbery and UEWI also peaked at that time.
- Between March 2001 and December 2005 MVT registered a 48% decrease. The overall decrease in the period 1995–2004 was 38%.
- Friday and Saturday evenings are the most popular periods for theft.
- 52% of vehicle thefts occurred between 5 pm and midnight.

Source: References 5 and 7

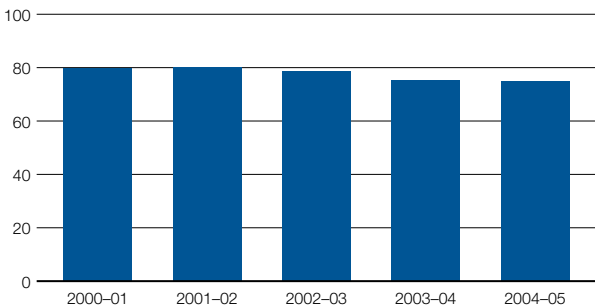
Recovery rates

This section presents data on recovery rates of stolen vehicles from the National CARS (Comprehensive Auto-theft Research System) Project.

- A total of 62,436 stolen cars were recovered in 2004–05, resulting in a national recovery rate of 75%.
- 46% of vehicles stolen and recovered during the year were found within 25 hours of theft, and 88% of recoveries occurred within a fortnight.

Source: Reference 7

Figure 33: Stolen motor vehicles recovered, 2000–01 to 2004–05 (percent)

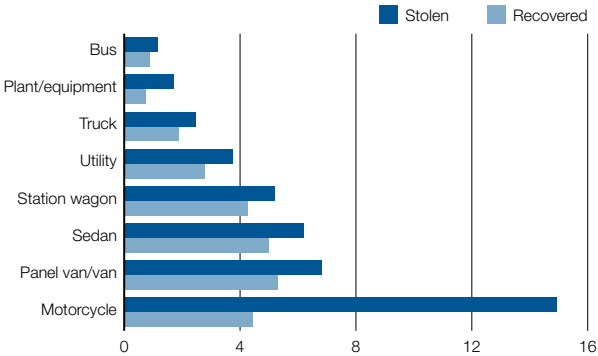


- The percentage of stolen vehicles that have been recovered decreased from 80% in 2000–01 to 75% in 2004–05.
- Vehicles manufactured in the 1980s recorded a theft rate of 143 thefts per 1,000 registrations compared with 4 per 1,000 for 1990s models and 2 per 1,000 for 2000–04 models. Newer models are less likely to be stolen because engine immobilising technology makes their theft more difficult.
- In 2004–05, models manufactured from 2000 onwards recorded a recovery rate of 64% compared with 83% for 1980s models and 74% 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 34: Theft and recovery by type of vehicle, 2004–05
(rate per 1,000 registrations)**



- In 2004–05, as in previous years, motorcycles were more likely to be stolen than any other type of vehicle, with a theft rate of 15 per 1,000 registrations.
- Motorcycles were also least likely to be recovered, with only 30% of stolen motorcycles being recovered during the course of the year, compared with 82% of station wagons, 80% of sedans and 76% of trucks.
- Vans and sedans were more likely to be stolen than station wagons, utilities or trucks.

Source: Reference 7

Other theft

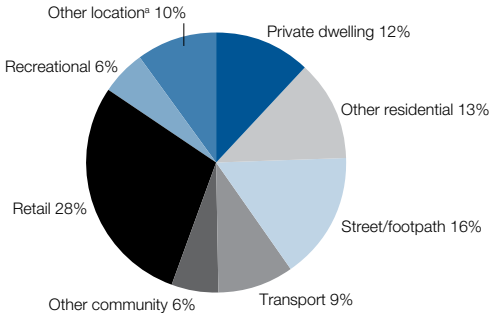
The ABS defines other theft (stealing) as the taking of another person’s property with the intention of permanently depriving the owner of the property illegally and without permission, but without force, threat of force, use of coercive measures, deceit or having gained unlawful entry to any structure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

This offence includes such crimes as pickpocketing, bag snatching, stealing (including shoplifting), theft from a motor vehicle, theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories/petrol, stealing of stock/domestic animals, and theft of non-motorised vehicles/boats/aircraft/bicycles. It is the largest of all the crime categories included in the national statistics.

Source: Reference 1

Location of other theft

Figure 35: Other theft, type of location, 2005



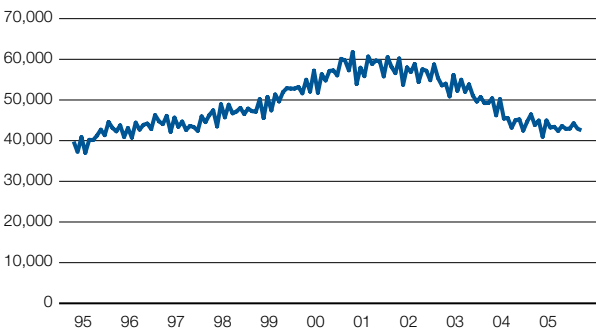
a: Includes unspecified location (n=22,240)

- Other theft was most likely to occur at retail locations (28% of all such thefts in 2005).
- 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 at transport locations (9%), recreational (6%) and other community (6%).

Source: Reference 1

Trend in other theft

Figure 36: Other thefts by month, 1995–2005 (number)



- During 2005 there was an average of 43,261 victims of theft per month, or one every minute.

- 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 2005 the monthly number of thefts decreased by 31%.

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: Fraud offences, 1995–96 to 2004–05 (number)

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
2004–05	89,198

- The overall trend in fraud that has been reported to and recorded by police over the eleven year period has been relatively stable, with 2005 being the lowest recorded.

Source: References 8–15

Drug arrests

This section provides an overview of arrest patterns for offenders between 1995–96 and 2004–05. 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 (ATS including amphetamine and methylamphetamine)
- cocaine
- other drugs (hallucinogens, phenethylamines (including ecstasy and MDMA), steroids and drugs not defined elsewhere).

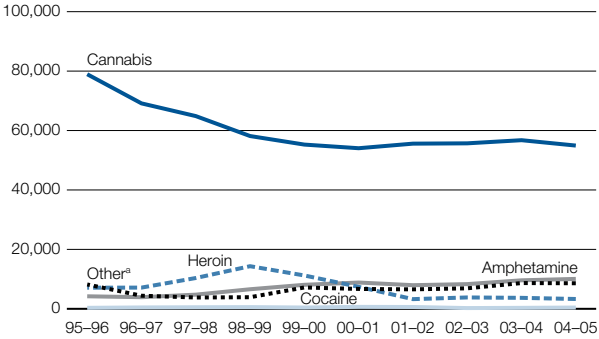
Cannabis arrests include expiation notices, drug infringement notices, and simple cannabis offence notices.

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)
- *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 37: Drug arrests by type of drug, 1995–96 to 2004–05 (number)

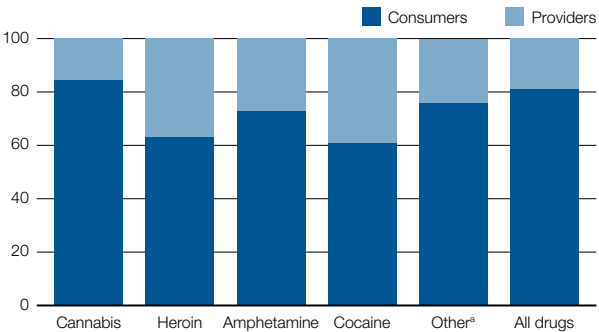


a: Other includes hallucinogens, phenethylamines, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere)

- Since 1995–96, there has been an overall decline of 22% in the number of arrests for drug offences.
- Arrests for cannabis offences declined by 30%.
- The number of arrests for heroin offences declined by 54%.
- Arrests for amphetamines have more than doubled.
- In 1995–96, 80% of drug arrests involved cannabis, compared with 71% in 2004–05.

Source: Reference 16

Figure 38: Drug arrests, consumers and providers, by type of drug, 2004–05 (percent)



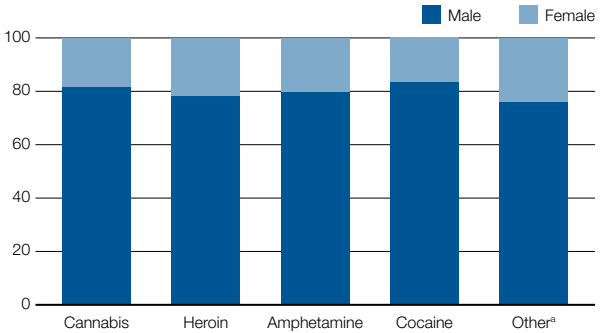
a: Other includes hallucinogens, phenethylamines, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere)

- The majority of people arrested for drug offences were consumers rather than providers.

- 81% of all arrests for drug offences in 2004–05 involved consumers, up from 75% in 1995–96.
- In 2004–05, 39% of persons arrested for cocaine offences were providers, 37% for heroin, 27% for amphetamine and 16% for cannabis offences.

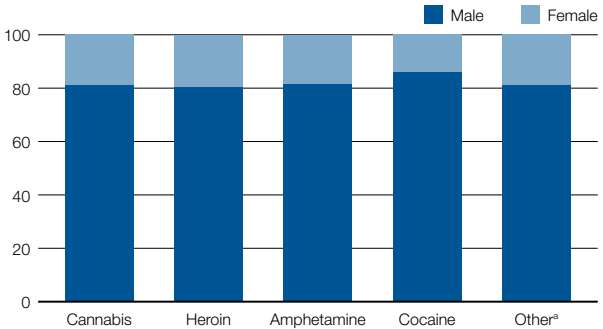
Source: Reference 16

Figure 39: Drug consumers, by gender and type of drug, 2004–05 (percent)



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

Figure 40: Drug providers, by gender and type of drug, 2004–05 (percent)



a: Other includes hallucinogens, phenethylamines, 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

3

Crime victimisation

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 percentages of reporting to police, such as violent crime.

In Australia, there are various sources of crime victimisation data. The ABS conducts a national crime and safety survey on a regular basis, with the most recently released data from the 2005 survey. In addition, in 2005 the ABS conducted a personal safety survey which focused on men's and women's experiences of physical and sexual assault.

Source: References 17 and 18

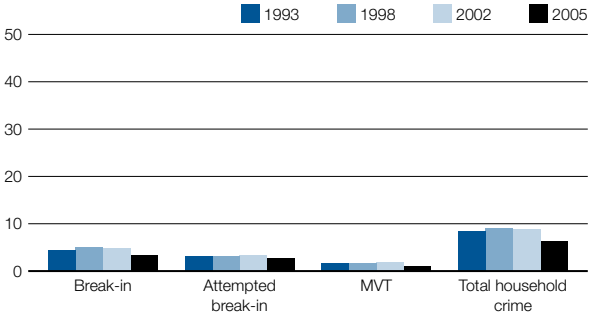
Percentages of criminal victimisation

The ABS crime and safety survey distinguishes between household and personal crime. Household crimes include those crimes in which the household (i.e. a group of persons resident in a private dwelling and sharing common facilities) is considered the victim of the crime. Such crimes include house break-in, attempted break-in and MVT. For personal crimes, it is the individual who is considered the victim of the crime. Personal crimes include robbery, assault and sexual assault.

Source: Reference 17

Household crime

Figure 41: Households experiencing household crime in the previous year, 1993–2005 (percent)



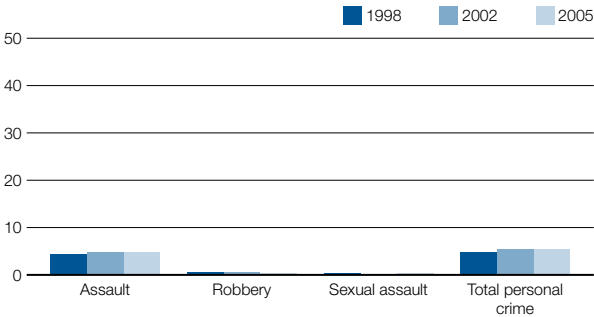
Note: The scale for this chart is 0 to 50 as the percentages involved are relatively small

- In 2005, 6% of households reported that they had experienced at least one crime within the past year, compared with 9% in 2002 and 1998, and 8% in 1993.
- The most common household crime in all survey years was house break-in (3% in 2005, 5% in 1998 and 2002, and 4% in 1993).
- In 2005 an estimated 3% of the households surveyed were affected by an attempted break-in in the previous year.
- Approximately 1% of those surveyed in 2005 experienced MVT in the past year, down from 2% in previous survey years.

Source: Reference 17

Personal crime

Figure 42: Persons aged 15 years and older experiencing personal crime in the previous year, 1998–2005 (percent)

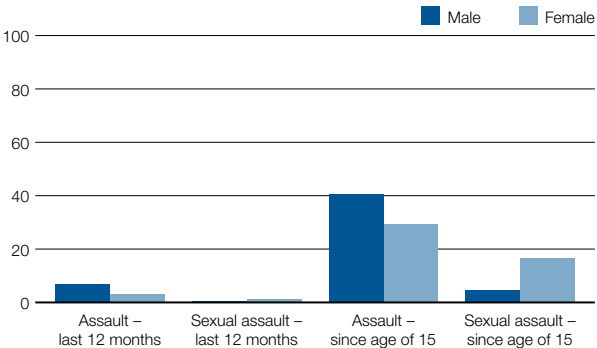


Note: The scale for this chart is 0 to 50 as the percentages involved are relatively small

- In 2005, 5% of persons surveyed were victims of personal crime in the preceding 12 months.
- In all survey years, victimisation percentages were highest for the offence category of assault followed by robbery and sexual assault. This is consistent with recorded crime.
- From 1998 to 2005 the percentage of persons reporting experiencing assault increased slightly, while robbery and sexual assault remained relatively stable.

Source: Reference 17

Figure 43: Adults experiencing assault or sexual assault, 2005 (percent)

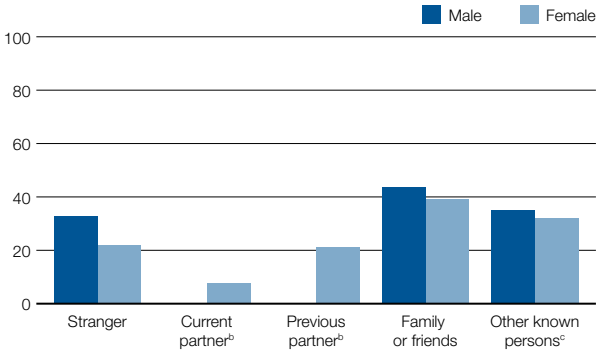


- In the 12 months prior to the survey 3% of women experienced assault and 1% experienced sexual assault. For males, 7% experienced assault and less than 1% experienced sexual assault.

- 41% of men reported experiencing an assault and 5% experienced a sexual assault since the age of 15.
- 29% of women experienced assault and 17% experienced sexual assault since the age of 15.

Source: Reference 18

Figure 44: Adults experiencing sexual assault, relationship to offender, 2005 (percent)^a



a: Most recent incident of sexual assault

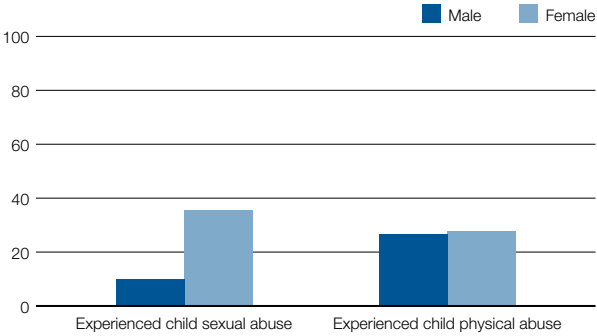
b: Not available for publication for males due to very small numbers

c: Includes acquaintance, neighbour, counsellor or psychologist, ex-boyfriend or girlfriend, doctor, teacher, minister, priest or clergy, and prison officer

- Of women who experienced sexual assault, in the most recent incident, 39% experienced sexual assault by a family member or friend, and 32% by an other known person.
- Of the men who experienced sexual assault, 44% had experienced sexual assault by a family member or friend in the most recent incident, and 35% by an other known person.
- Of those who experienced sexual assault, men were more likely than women to have experienced sexual assault by a stranger (33% compared with 22%).
- Of women who experienced sexual assault, 21% percent experienced sexual assault by a previous partner.

Source: Reference 18

Figure 45: Experience of physical and sexual abuse before the age of 15, 2005 (percent)



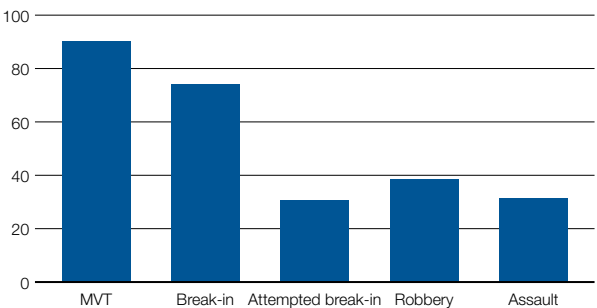
- Over one-third of women (36%) who experienced sexual assault from a partner in the preceding twelve months had also experienced sexual abuse as a child.
- A similar proportion of men and women who had been sexually assaulted by a partner had been physically abused as a child (28% and 27% respectively).

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 percentages depending on the type of crime. The following figures show the estimated reporting percentages for different categories of offence from the ABS 2005 crime and safety survey.

Figure 46: Selected crimes reported to police, 2005 (percent)



- Thefts of motor vehicles are more likely to be reported to police than any other of the major categories of crime. 90% of households that experienced MVT reported the incident to police.
- The reporting rate was also high for break-in, at 74%.
- Victims of robbery (39%), attempted break-in (31%) and assault (31%) were less likely to report these crimes to police.

Source: Reference 17

The crime and safety survey asked respondents who chose not to report a crime to the police why they did not.

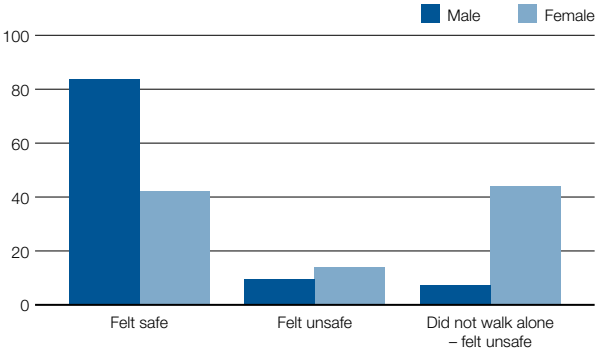
- The main reasons respondents gave for not reporting robberies were that they thought there was nothing police could/would do (30%) or that the incident was too trivial/unimportant (18%).
- Primary reasons given by victims for not reporting assault were that the incident was too trivial or unimportant (21%), it was a personal matter or that they would take care of it themselves (16%), or there was nothing police could do (9%).
- The main reasons victims gave for not reporting a break-in were that they thought there was nothing police could do (8%) or that the incident was too trivial/unimportant (5%).

Source: Reference 17

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 by the ABS crime and safety and personal safety surveys. These were feelings of safety walking alone in the local area after dark; feelings of safety using public transportation after dark; and perceived problems in the neighbourhood.

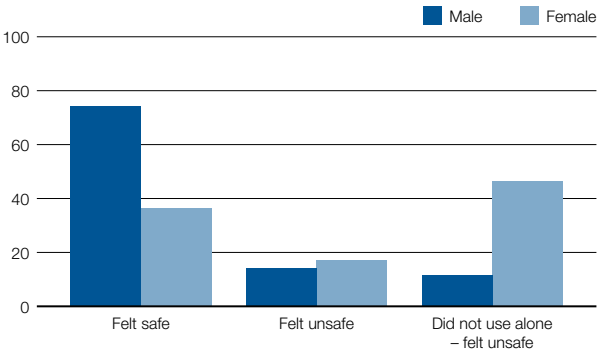
Figure 47: Feelings of safety walking alone in the local area after dark by gender, 2005 (percent)



- Of those who did or could walk alone in their local area after dark, the majority (84%) of males felt safe. In contrast, less than half (42%) of females felt safe doing so.
- Of this group, 44% of females compared with 7% of males chose not to walk alone in their local area after dark because they felt unsafe.

Source: Reference 18

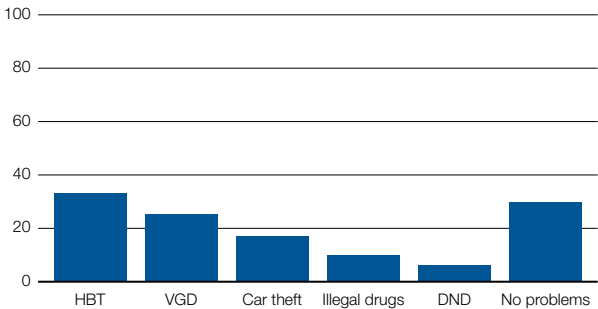
Figure 48: Feelings of safety using public transport alone after dark, by gender, 2005 (percent)



- Of those who did or could use public transport alone after dark, males were much more likely than females to report feeling safe (74% and 37% respectively), while females were more likely to feel unsafe (17% compared with 14% for males).
- Of this group, 46% of females did not use public transport alone after dark because they felt unsafe, compared with 12% of males.

Source: Reference 18

Figure 49: Commonly perceived problems in neighbourhood, 2005 (percent)



HBT: House break-ins, burglaries or theft

VGD: Vandalism, graffiti or damage to property

DND: Dangerous or noisy driving

- The most commonly perceived problem in respondents' neighbourhoods was house break-ins, burglaries or theft from homes (33% of respondents) followed by vandalism, graffiti or damage to property (25%) and car theft (17%).
- 30% of respondents perceived there to be no problems in their neighbourhood.

Source: Reference 17

Cybercrime

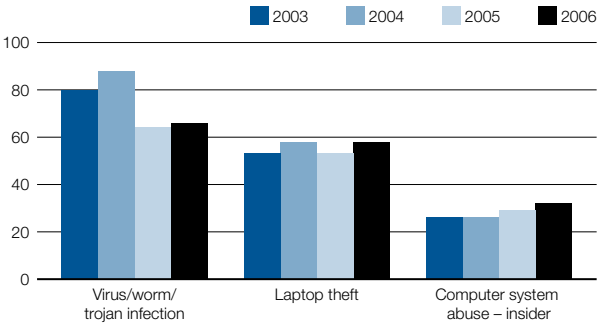
As few police agencies identify cybercrimes separately, this section presents the results of Australian surveys of computer crime and security from 2003 to 2006, conducted by AusCERT, the Australian High Tech Crime Centre and state, territory and federal police agencies. The organisations surveyed represent the manufacturing, information technology, federal and state government, utilities, finance, and education sectors, and the number of organisations included differed from year to year. In 2003, 126 organisations responded to the survey, 137 in 2004, 100 in 2005 and 201 in 2006.

These data are not representative of all businesses. Caution should be taken therefore when generalising from the following data.

Source: Reference 19

The proportion of surveyed organisations who reported experiencing electronic attacks that harmed the confidentiality, integrity or availability of network data or systems has decreased from 42% in 2003 to 22% in 2006. Almost half of organisations surveyed in 2004 reported at least one type of electronic attack.

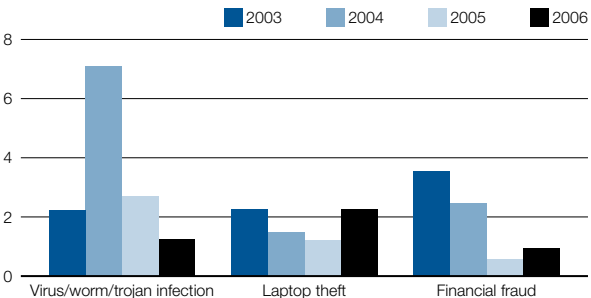
Figure 50: Most common computer crime and security breaches, 2003–06 (percent)



- Virus/worm/trojan infections were the most common breach. In 2003 and 2004, around 80% of organisations experienced this type of breach but in 2005 and 2006 the proportion dropped to 60%.
- The second most common breach was laptop theft.
- Insider abuse of computer systems, the third most common type of breach, increased over the four year period, from 26% in 2003 to 32% in 2006.

Source: Reference 19

Figure 51: Major sources of financial loss due to computer crime and security breaches, 2003–06 (\$ million)



- The security breaches that consistently generated the highest cost to surveyed organisations between 2003 and 2006 were virus/worm/trojan infections, laptop theft and financial fraud.
- The cost of virus/worm/trojan infections varied over the four year period, before dropping to \$1.24 million in 2006. The large increase in 2004 was mostly due to costs reported by one company.
- Costs associated with laptop theft showed similar fluctuation. In 2006, laptop theft accounted for an estimated cost of \$2.27 million.
- Self-reported financial fraud decreased from \$3.53 million in 2003 to \$0.94 million in 2005.

Source: Reference 19

4

Selected offender profiles

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 profiles of offenders from three sources: police annual reports from the three jurisdictions that release offender statistics, the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), and the AIC's Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program.

Alleged offenders

An alleged offender is a person who has allegedly committed a crime and has been processed for that offence by arrest, caution or warrant of apprehension.

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 are alleged to have committed a criminal offence and have been processed for that offence. Police statistics on alleged offenders are not published by 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, particularly the following:

- What is the age at which offender rates peak?
- How does the age pattern of male offender rates compare with that of females?
- Are female offender rates increasing?

The number of alleged offenders does not equal the number of individual 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:

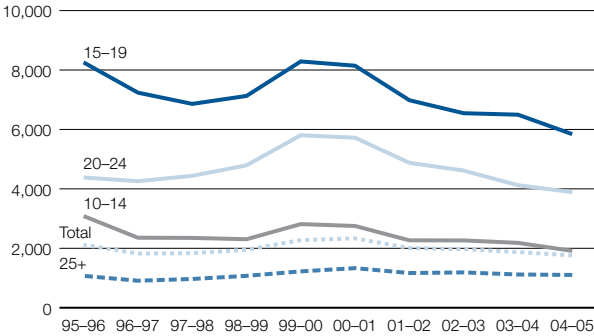
- homicide and related offences (murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, infanticide and driving causing death)
- assault
- sexual assault
- robbery
- UEWI
- MVT
- other theft (theft from a vehicle, theft from shops, other theft)
- fraud and deception related crime.

Source: References 8–10

Age

Persons aged 15 to 19 years are more likely to be processed by police for the commission of a crime than any other population group. In 2004–05 the offending rate for persons aged 15 to 19 years was four times the offender rate for the remainder of the population (5,841 and 1,417 per 100,000 relevant persons respectively).

Figure 52: Offenders, by age, 1995–96 to 2004–05 (rate per 100,000 relevant persons)



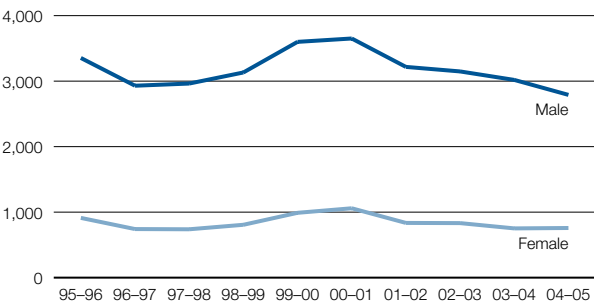
- Over the past 10 years, offender rates generally increased to a maximum in 1999–2000 and declined from then on. A peak offender rate for 10–14 year olds occurred earlier, in 1995–96.
- Declines were greatest among the 15–19 and 20–24 year age groups.
- Offender rates have been highest among persons aged 15–19 years and lowest among those aged 25 and over.

Source: References 2 and 8–10

Gender

In 2004–05, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia processed a total of 162,055 offenders, of whom 126,776 were male and 35,279 were female. Females made up 21% of all offenders in 2004–05, a similar proportion to previous years.

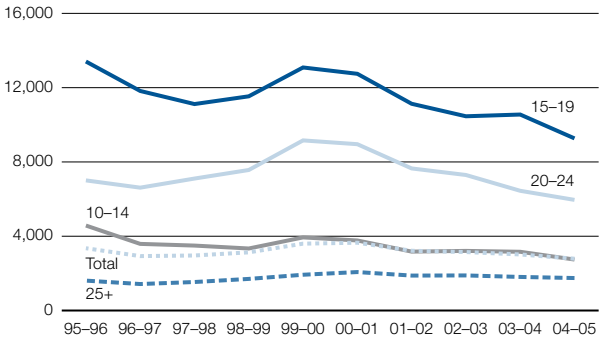
Figure 53: Offenders, by gender, 1995–96 to 2004–05 (rate per 100,000 relevant persons)



- Between 1995–96 and 2004–05, males were 3 to 4 times more likely than females to be identified as offenders. In 2004–05, the rate of offending by males was 2,790 per 100,000 compared with a rate of 758 for females.
- Offending rates for both males and females were highest between 1999 and 2001 and have since declined.

Source: References 2 and 8–10

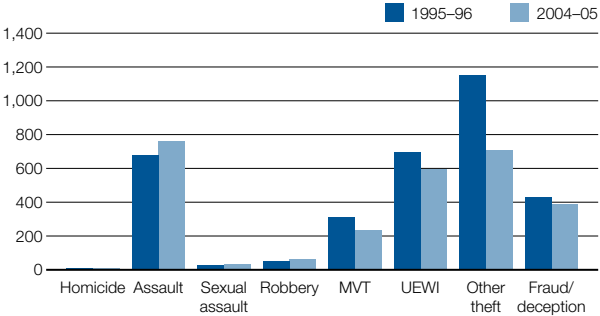
**Figure 54: Male offenders, by age, 1995–96 to 2004–05
(rate per 100,000 relevant persons)**



- Since 1995–96, the rate for male offenders has consistently been highest among the 15–19 year old age group, at between 9,300 and 13,400 per 100,000 relevant population.
- Rates were also high during this period among males aged 20–24, ranging between 6,000 and 9,200 per 100,000 relevant population. Males in the other age groups offended at much lower rates, generally less than 4,500 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. However, offender rates among males aged 25 and older changed comparatively little over this period.
- Offender rates for 10–14 and 15–19 year old males were highest in 1995–96. For the other age groups offender rates peaked in 1999–2000.

Source: References 2 and 8–10

Figure 55: Male offenders, by offence type, 1995–96 and 2004–05 (rate per 100,000 relevant persons)

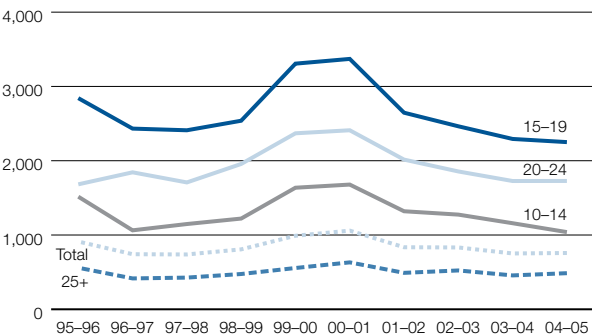


- In 1995–96 and 2004–05, male offender rates were highest for the offences of other theft, assault and UEWI.
- Rates were lowest for robbery, sexual assault and homicide.
- Compared with 1995–96, in 2004–05 male offending rates increased for assault and declined for other theft, UEWI and MVT.

Source: References 2 and 8–10

Females

Figure 56: Female offenders, by age, 1995–96 to 2004–05 (rate per 100,000 relevant persons)

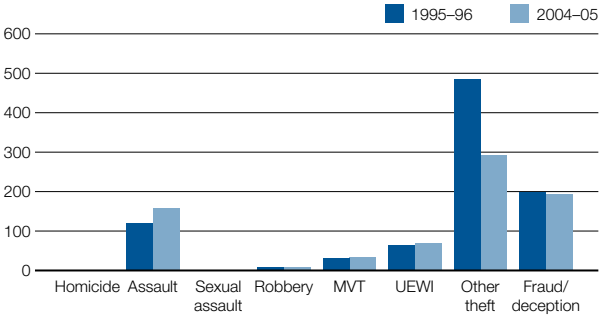


- Similar to male offending rates, rates among females since 1995–96 have been consistently highest among the 15–19 year old age group.

- For all age groups, the female offender rate peaked in the period 1999–2001 and has since declined. The largest decrease has occurred in the 15–19 year old age group.

Source: References 2 and 8–10

Figure 57: Female offenders, by offence type, 1995–96 and 2004–05 (rate per 100,000 relevant persons)



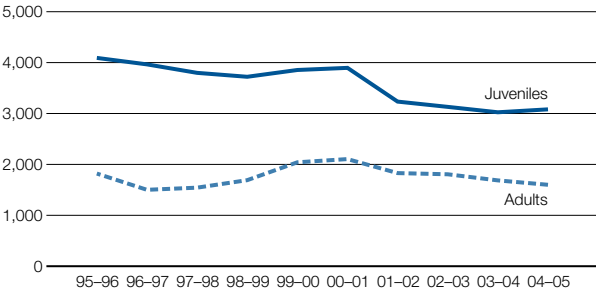
- Female offender rates were highest for other theft, fraud/deception and assault in both 1995–96 and 2004–05 and lowest for robbery, homicide (less than 2%) and sexual assault (less than 1%).
- Between 1995–96 and 2004–05, female offending rates increased for assault: 32% compared with 12% for males.
- Rates for other theft dropped by 40%.

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.

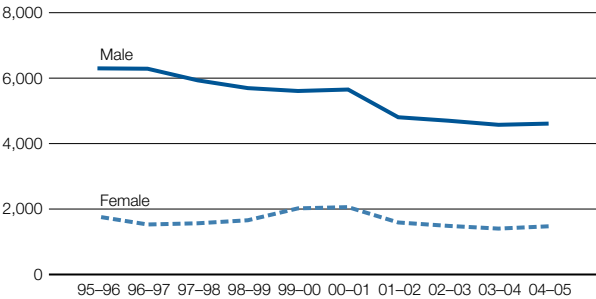
Figure 58: Juvenile and adult offenders, 1995–96 to 2004–05 (rate per 100,000 relevant persons)



- The offender rate among juveniles declined from 4,092 per 100,000 juveniles in 1995–96 to 3,081 in 2004–05.
- The adult rate increased from 1,820 per 100,000 adults in 1995–96 to 2,105 in 2000–01 before dropping to 1,600 per 100,000 adults in 2004–05.
- Juvenile rates of offending are generally double the rates for adults.

Source: References 2 and 8–10

Figure 59: Juvenile offenders, by gender, 1995–96 to 2004–05 (rate per 100,000 relevant persons)

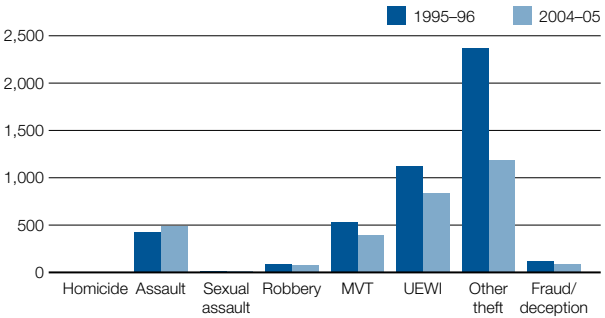


- There were differences in the patterns of offending by male and female juveniles.
- Rates of male juvenile offending have dropped by 27% since 1995, with an 18% drop in the past four years.
- The rate of female juvenile offending increased until 2000–01 then declined by 28% to 2004–05.
- Both male and female juvenile offending rates rose slightly between 2003–04 and 2004–05.

- There has been a slight increase in the percentage of juvenile offenders who are female, from 21% in 1995–96 to 23% in 2004–05.

Source: References 2 and 8–10

Figure 60: Juvenile offenders, by offence type, 1995–96 and 2004–05 (rate per 100,000 relevant persons)



- Juvenile offender rates were similar in 1995–96 and 2004–05 for the offences of homicide and robbery. Rates for assault have increased by 14%.
- Juvenile offender rates have decreased by 50% for other theft and 25% for MVT and UEWI.

Source: References 2 and 8–10

Federal offenders

The DPP publishes annual statistics on summary and indictable offences against Commonwealth law dealt with in the preceding year. These statistics are presented as charges dealt with against various Commonwealth Acts and Regulations, specifically, the *Criminal Code Act 1995* and *Crimes Act 1914*.

In 2004–05 the DPP dealt with 6,123 people for a total of 9,447 charges.

Source: Reference 20

Table 6: Offences against Commonwealth legislation, charges dealt with, 2004–05 (number)

	Summary	Indictable
<i>Crimes Act 1914</i>	228	164
<i>Criminal Code Act 1995</i>	3,347	216
All Acts and Regulations	8,345	1,102

- In 2004–05, there were 8,345 charges relating to summary offences and 1,102 charges relating to indictable offences against various Commonwealth Acts and Regulations.
- The most common summary charge dealt with was for offences against the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (40%), followed by the *Social Security (Administration) Act 1999* (26%) and the *Social Security Act 1991* (9.3%).
- For indictable offences, the most common charges dealt with were related to the *Customs Act 1901* (24%) and the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (20%).
- Within the Crimes Act, 29% of summary charges referred to imposition, 26% to telecommunications offences and 23% to fraud. For indictable offences, 71% of charges related to fraud.
- For summary charges referring to the *Criminal Code Act 1995*, the overwhelming majority dealt with fraudulent conduct offences (94%). This was also the case for indictable offences (64%).

Source: Reference 20

Drug use by offenders

Police detainees

The AIC’s 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: questionnaire and urine sample. As an ongoing monitoring system, DUMA enables law enforcement agencies to track long term changes in drugs and crime. Funding is 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

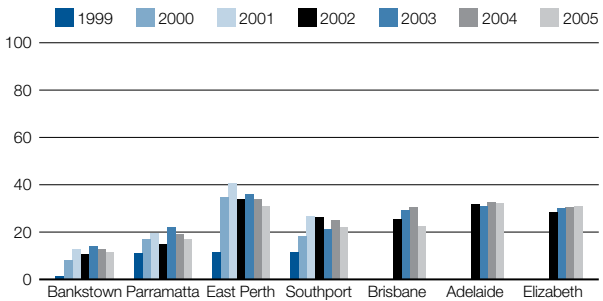
Queensland, Bankstown and Parramatta in New South Wales, and Adelaide City and Elizabeth in South Australia. Brisbane City, Adelaide City and Elizabeth began participating in 2002.

Data are collected quarterly and presented in the following figures as annual averages. Data are presented for males only, who represent the majority (around 85%) of police detainees in the DUMA collection.

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

Source: Reference 21

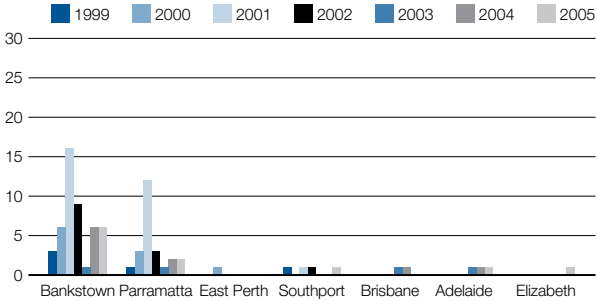
Figure 61: Adult male police detainees testing positive to methylamphetamine, 1999–2005 (percent)



- Methylamphetamine use increased at all long term sites between 1999 and 2003 before decreasing over the next two years.
- Methylamphetamine use has been consistently lower in Sydney than other sites, and consistently higher in East Perth.
- Of the sites participating since 2002, methylamphetamine use remained relatively steady at the two Adelaide sites but decreased in Brisbane after an initial increase. Use at all three sites was higher than at the long term sites except East Perth.

Source: Reference 21

Figure 62: Adult male police detainees testing positive to cocaine, 1999–2005 (percent)

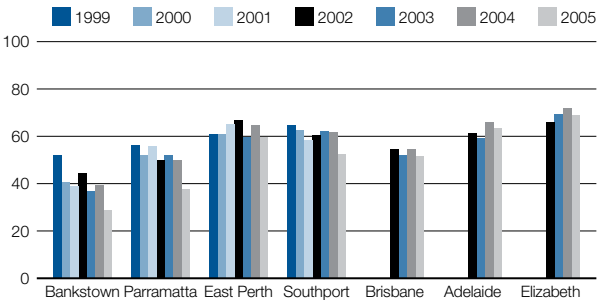


Note: The scale for this chart is 0 to 30 as the percentages involved are comparatively small

- The proportion testing positive to cocaine was very low at all sites during 1999 and 2000.
- In 2001 an increase was observed at the two NSW sites, but use declined in 2002 and 2003 before increasing again in 2004.
- In all other sites, the proportion testing positive has consistently remained low.

Source: Reference 21

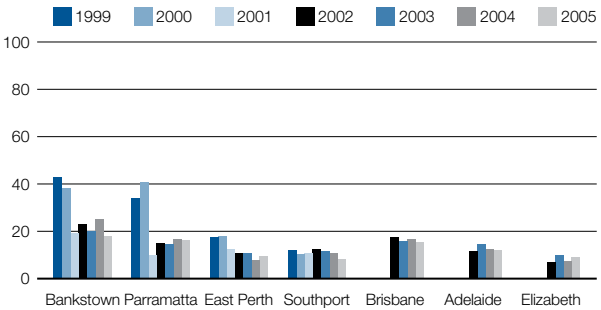
Figure 63: Adult male police detainees testing positive to cannabis, 1999–2005 (percent)



- The percentage of detainees testing positive to cannabis ranged from 29% to 72%.
- In 2005, cannabis use was greater among detainees at East Perth, Adelaide and Elizabeth than the other sites.
- Between 1999 and 2005, the percentage of detainees testing positive to cannabis decreased at both Sydney and Brisbane sites but increased at the two Adelaide sites.

Source: Reference 21

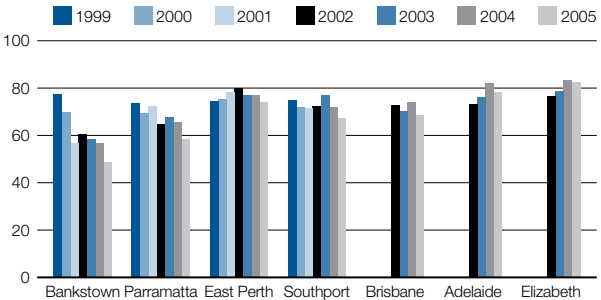
Figure 64: Adult male police detainees testing positive to heroin, 1999–2005 (percent)



- The two NSW sites registered a substantial decline in the percentage of detainees testing positive to heroin in 2001. Since then there has been a slight upward trend, although Bankstown decreased again in 2005.
- The percentage of detainees testing positive to heroin at the East Perth site declined steadily between 2000 and 2004, with a slight increase in 2005.
- All other sites have remained relatively stable in the percentage of detainees testing positive to heroin.

Source: Reference 21

Figure 65: Adult male police detainees testing positive to any drug, 1999–2005 (percent)^a



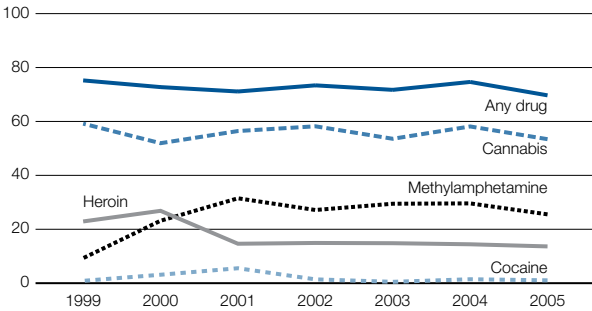
a: Any drug is defined as testing positive to cannabis, heroin, methylamphetamine, cocaine or benzodiazepines

- Sites routinely show around 60–80% of detainees testing positive to any drug. The exceptions were Bankstown and Parramatta where 49% and 58% detainees respectively tested positive to any drug in 2005.

- In the other sites, the percentage of detainees testing positive to any drug has remained relatively steady or increased since monitoring began at each site.
- The drop in Bankstown and Parramatta sites is largely explained by the drop in heroin at both sites and the drop in cannabis at Bankstown.

Source: Reference 21

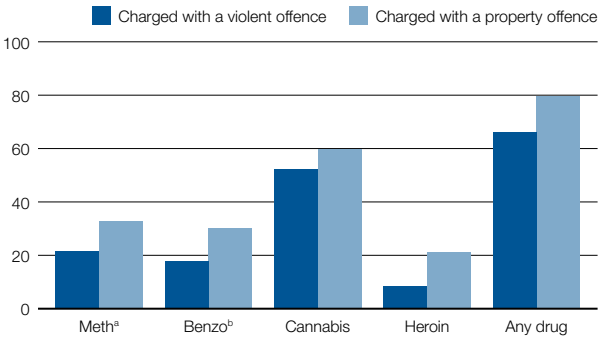
Figure 66: Adult male police detainees testing positive to selected drugs, four long term sites, 1999–2005 (percent)



- Between 1999 and 2005 the percentage of detainees testing positive to any drug or to cannabis has remained relatively steady.
- The percentage of detainees testing positive to heroin decreased over the period.
- Methylamphetamine use increased until 2001 but has since levelled off.
- The percentage of detainees testing positive to cocaine increased until 2001 but has since decreased.

Source: Reference 21

Figure 67: Adult male police detainees testing positive to a drug, by most serious offence, 2005 (percent)



a: Methylamphetamine

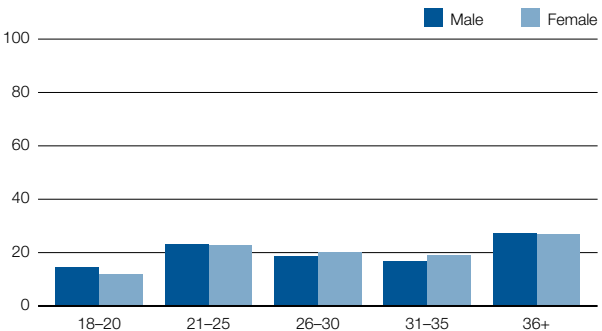
b: Benzodiazepines

- Detainees charged with a property offence were more likely to test positive to drugs than violent offenders.
- Overall, 80% of all offenders charged with property offences and 66% of those charged with violent offences tested positive to a drug.

Source: Reference 21

Characteristics of police detainees

Figure 68: Adult police detainees, by age, 2005 (percent)

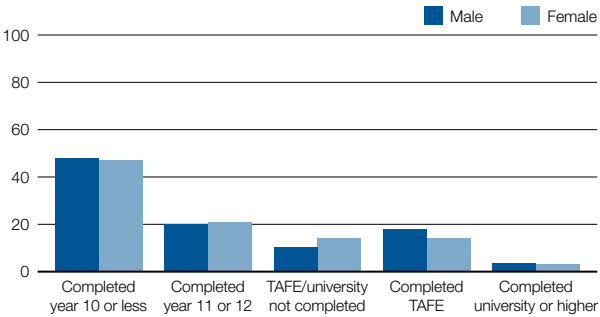


- More than one-quarter of male and female offenders detained were aged 36 years or more. Another 23% were aged 21-25.

- Proportionally more males than females were aged 18–20 (15% compared with 12%) while more females were aged 31–35 (19% compared with 16%).

Source: Reference 22

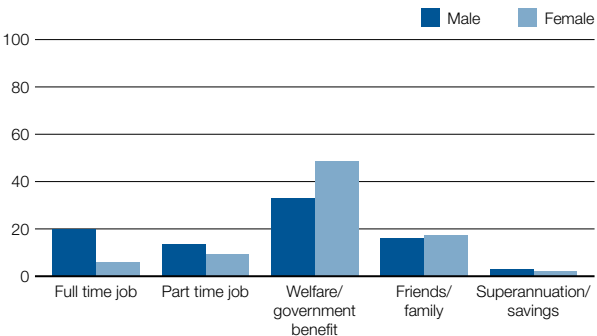
Figure 69: Adult police detainees, by education level, 2005 (percent)



- Almost half of male (48%) and female (47%) police detainees completed Year 10 or less, and around one-fifth had completed Years 11 or 12.
- In terms of tertiary education, 18% of male detainees had completed a TAFE qualification and 4% had completed a university qualification.
- A similar proportion of female detainees had completed a university qualification (3%) but less had completed a TAFE qualification (14%).

Source: Reference 22

Figure 70: Adult police detainees, by source of income (non-crime generated) in past 30 days, 2005 (percent)

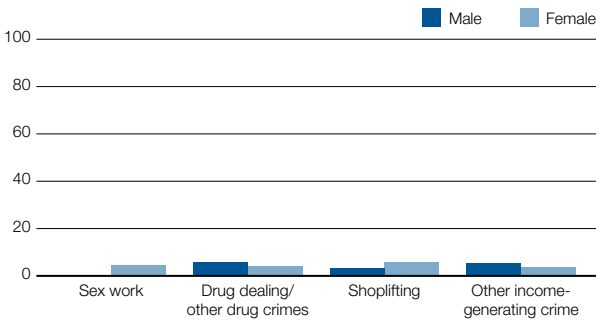


Note: Figures 70 and 71 refer to the same question on source of income and add up to 100%

- One-third of male detainees (33%) and almost half of female detainees (48%) received welfare or a government benefit as their main source of income.
- Income derived from a full time job was the next most common income source for male detainees (20%), followed by money obtained from friends and family (16%).
- Female detainees' next most common sources of income were family or friends (17%) and a part time job (9%).

Source: Reference 22

Figure 71: Adult police detainees, by source of income (crime-generated)^a in past 30 days, 2005 (percent)



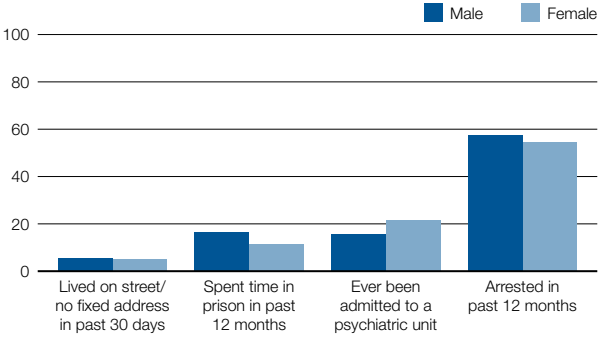
a: Sex work is decriminalised in some states and territories

Note: Figures 70 and 71 refer to the same question on source of income and add up to 100%

- 14% of male detainees and 17% of female detainees sourced their income from criminal activity.
- Drug dealing and other drug related crimes were reported by 6% of male detainees as their main source of income.
- 6% of females relied on income derived from shoplifting as their main source of income, and 4% on drug related crimes and sex work respectively.

Source: Reference 22

Figure 72: Adult police detainees, by previous experience of homelessness, arrest and imprisonment, and mental illness, 2005 (percent)



- More than half of male detainees (58%) and female detainees (55%) had been arrested in the 12 months prior to their current arrest. Male detainees were more likely (16%) than female detainees (12%) to have spent time in prison in the previous 12 months.
- A similar proportion of male and female detainees (6% and 5% respectively) experienced homelessness in the month before their arrest, either living on the street or having no fixed address.
- Female detainees were more likely than male detainees to have been admitted to a psychiatric facility (21% compared with 16%).

Source: Reference 22

Most serious offence

Table 7: Adult male police detainees, by most serious offence, 2002–05 (percent)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Violent offences	24.9	26.3	25.5	25.3
Property offences	27.7	30.6	28.2	24.0
Drug offences	5.9	5.9	6.5	6.9
Drink driving offences	4.4	4.9	5.9	4.4
Traffic offences	10.1	10.1	9.3	11.7
Disorder offences	6.3	6.0	5.7	6.0
Breaches	15.7	13.5	15.3	17.7
Other offences	5.2	2.9	3.6	4.1

Table 8: Adult female police detainees, by most serious offence, 2002–05 (percent)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Violent offences	15.5	15.7	16.5	17.6
Property offences	41.0	47.3	40.7	36.9
Drug offences	8.2	6.5	6.6	6.6
Drink driving offences	3.1	2.4	2.8	3.4
Traffic offences	5.9	6.8	8.3	9.9
Disorder offences	7.1	6.6	6.1	7.0
Breaches	13.5	11.9	13.2	13.3
Other offences	5.7	2.8	5.9	5.4

- Between 2002 and 2005, property offences were the most common serious offence for which both adult male and female police detainees were detained. Proportionally, females were more commonly detained for property offences than males.
- The next most serious offence was violent offences followed by breaches.
- Since 2003, there has been a decrease in the percentage of male and female detainees whose most serious offence was a property offence.

Source: Reference 22

5

Criminal courts

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

The state and territory court systems comprise:

- *Magistrates court* – lower courts that deal 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 (ACT) do not have intermediate courts; all relevant charges are dealt with by their supreme courts. In states with both supreme and intermediate courts, the majority of charges are decided at the intermediate court level.

All state, territory and federal courts handle a number of matters that appear in the court system for the first time, although almost all criminal charges, including those for federal criminal offences, are lodged initially at the magistrates court level.

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 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 Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (SCRGSP) has

produced statistics on the number of lodgments at each court level.

Both the ABS and the SCRGSP report on criminal court data for 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*
- *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 2004–05, 774,863 cases were lodged in criminal courts in Australia.

Cases initiated in magistrates courts accounted for 96% of all lodgments in the criminal courts in 2004–05, while 3.4% were initiated in district/county courts and 0.7% in supreme courts.

Source: Reference 23

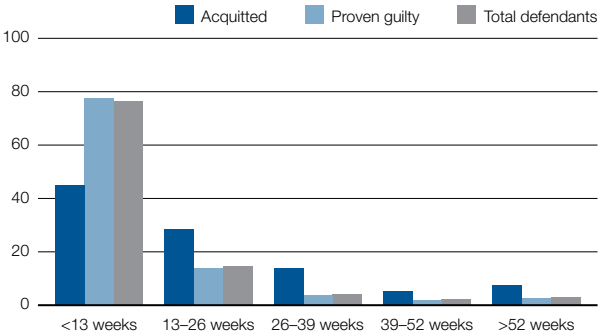
Timeliness

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 more straightforward nature. The disputes and prosecutions heard are usually less complex than those in higher courts.

Committal is the first stage of hearing an indictable offence 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.

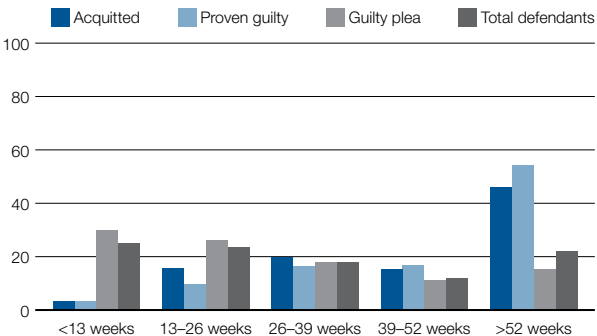
Figure 73: Duration of matters finalised in magistrates courts, by method of finalisation, 2004–05 (percent)



- On average, 77% of hearings in magistrates courts in 2004–05 were finalised within 13 weeks from the initial instigation of charges by the court and a further 14% were finalised in the subsequent three months.
- Only 3% of hearings took 52 or more weeks to finalise.
- Cases where defendants were acquitted generally continued for a longer period than those where the defendant was proven guilty.

Source: Reference 24

Figure 74: Duration of matters finalised in higher courts, by method of finalisation, 2004–05 (percent)



- In 2004–05, 22% of matters finalised in higher courts lasted more than 52 weeks and 25% took less than 13 weeks to finalise.
- Cases involving a guilty plea generally took the shortest time to finalise. Cases resulting in a guilty verdict tended to take the longest time.

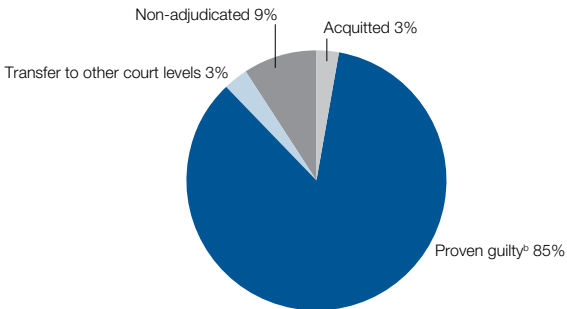
Source: Reference 24

Court decision

Cases are finalised at the courts in the following ways:

- *adjudicated* – determined whether guilty of the charges by court judgement, or plea of guilty
- *non-adjudicated* – case not resolved for a variety of reasons, including withdrawn by prosecution, unfit to plead, accused dies, diplomatic immunity, statute of limitations.

Figure 75: Criminal cases finalised in magistrates courts, by method of finalisation, 2004–05^a



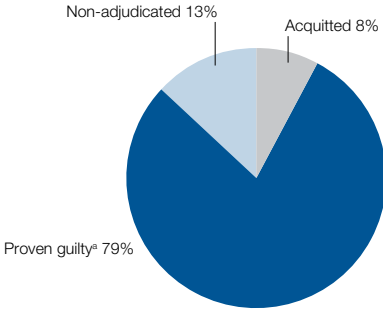
a: NSW refers to finalised appearances rather than defendants, resulting in possible over counting. NSW excludes defendants finalised by committal to a higher court

b: Includes both guilty plea and guilty verdict

- In 2004–05, 97% (n=557,426) of defendants were finalised in the magistrates courts. Only 3% (n=19,309) of these defendants were acquitted.
- In 85% of cases defendants were proven guilty in the magistrates courts and only 3% were transferred to other court levels.

Source: Reference 24

Figure 76: Criminal cases finalised in higher courts, by method of finalisation, 2004–05

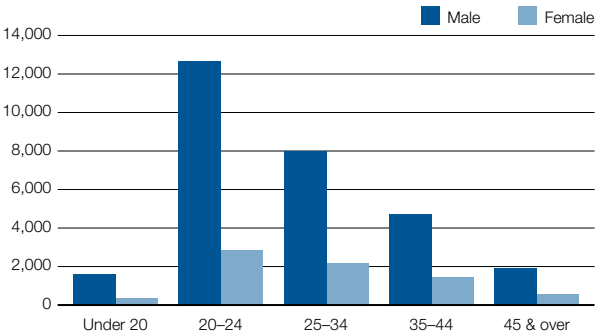


a: Includes both guilty plea and guilty verdict

- In 2004–05 there were 16,523 defendants finalised in the higher courts, a decrease from the 17,315 defendants in 2003–04.
- Overall, 70% of the defendants whose cases were heard by a higher court pleaded guilty and a further 9% were found guilty.
- In 8% of cases the defendant was acquitted.

Source: Reference 24

Figure 77: Adjudicated defendants in magistrates courts by age and gender, 2004–05 (rate per 100,000 persons)

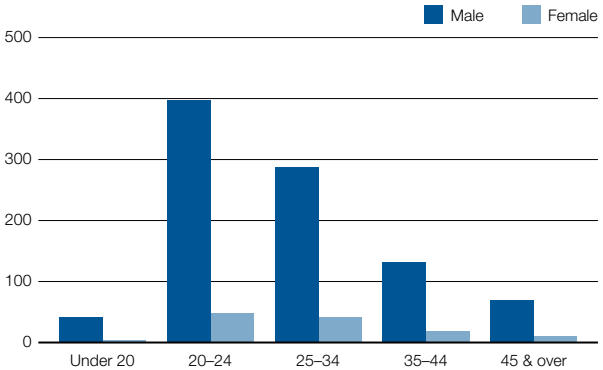


- In 2004–05, 21% of defendants in magistrates courts were female.
- In keeping with the gender profile of offenders, in all age groups males were more likely than females to appear as defendants in court.

- In 2004–05, males and females aged 20–24 and 25–34 were more likely to appear in magistrates courts than other age groups.

Source: References 2 and 24

Figure 78: Adjudicated defendants in higher courts by age and gender, 2004–05 (rate per 100,000 persons)



- As in magistrates courts, the highest rate of defendants in the higher courts occurred in the 20–24 age group for both males and females.
- Females are less likely to appear before higher courts than magistrates courts. Women made up 12% of defendants in higher courts and 21% in magistrates courts.

Source: References 2 and 24

Sentencing

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

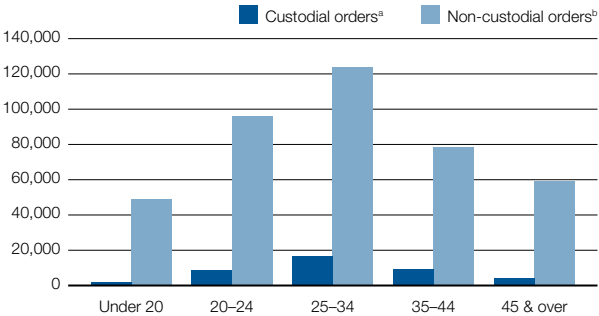
- fine
- good behaviour bond
- probation order
- suspended sentence
- community supervision
- community custody
- home detention
- periodic detention
- imprisonment.

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

Non-custodial orders are sentences 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 more detailed and regular sentencing collection for higher courts and magistrates courts.

Figure 79: Defendants found guilty in magistrates courts, by age and principal sentence, 2004–05 (number)



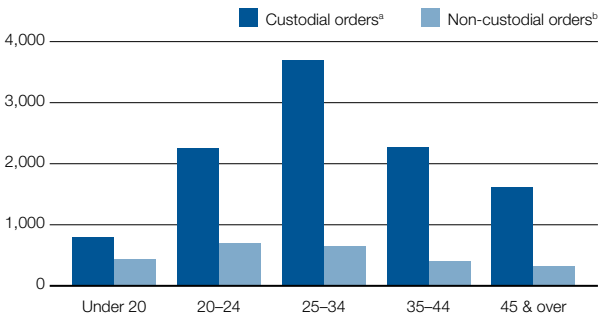
a: Includes custody in a correction institution, custody in the community, and suspended sentence

b: Includes community supervision or work orders, monetary orders, and other non-custodial orders

- In 2003–04, 91% of all defendants found guilty in magistrates courts were given non-custodial sentences, while the remaining 9% were given custodial sentences.
- Defendants aged 25–34 are more likely to receive custodial sentences than defendants in other age groups.
- In 2004–05, 12% of guilty defendants aged 25–34 received custodial sentences, compared with only 4% of defendants aged less than 20, 7% of those aged 45 and older and 8% of defendants aged 20–24.

Source: Reference 24

Figure 80: Defendants found guilty in higher courts, by age and principal sentence, 2004–05 (number)



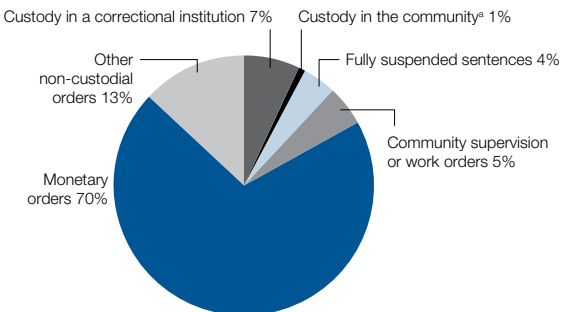
a: Includes: custody in a correction institution, custody in the community, and suspended sentence

b: Includes: community supervision or work orders, monetary orders, and other non-custodial orders

- Compared with magistrates courts, a much higher proportion (81%) of defendants found guilty in higher courts received custodial sentences. The remaining 19% received non-custodial sentences.
- Defendants aged 24 or less found guilty were slightly less likely to receive custodial sentences than older defendants.
- 64% of those aged less than 20 and 76% of those aged 20–24 received custodial sentences, compared with between 84 and 85% for all other age groups.

Source: Reference 24

Figure 81: Male defendants found guilty in all courts, by principal sentence type, 2004–05

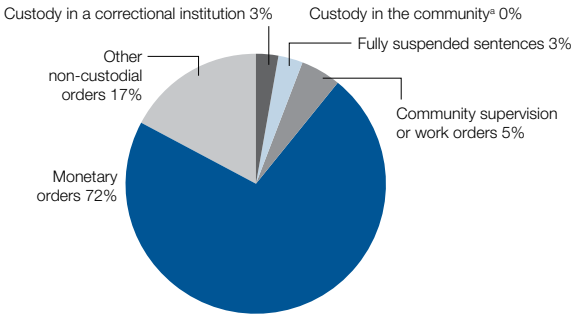


a: Custody in the community includes intensive corrections orders, home detention, and other orders where liberty is restricted while living within the community

- In the majority of cases, the principal sentence handed down for male offenders was a monetary order such as a fine (70%).
- Custody in a correctional institution accounted for only 7% of the total number of sentences in all courts in 2004–05.
- 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 82: Female defendants found guilty in all courts, by principal sentence type, 2004–05

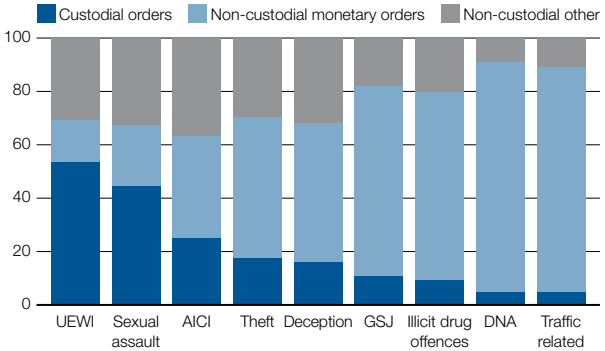


a: Custody in the community includes intensive corrections orders, home detention, and other orders where liberty is restricted while living within the community

- Custody in a correctional institution accounted for only 3% of principal sentences for female offenders in 2004–05.
- Monetary orders were the most common sentence type (72%).
- As in 2003–04 custody in the community was the principal sentence in less than one half of 1% 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 and other non-custodial orders in 17% of cases.

Source: Reference 24

Figure 83: Defendants found guilty in magistrates courts, by principal sentence type and most serious offence, 2004–05 (percent)



AICI: Acts intended to cause injury

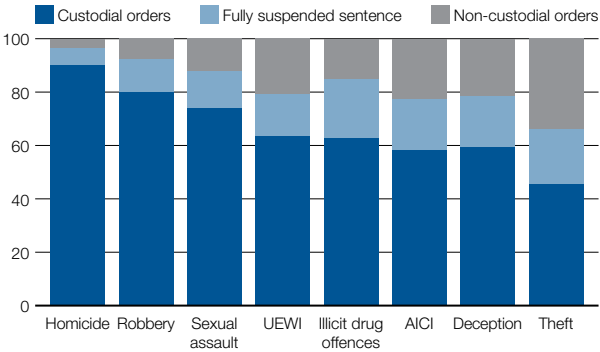
GSJ: Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations

DNA: Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons

- Overall, monetary orders were the most common sentence in magistrates courts.
- The offences of UEWI and sexual assault had the highest percentage of defendants who received a custodial order, both more than 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 (86% and 84%, respectively).

Source: Reference 24

Figure 84: Defendants found guilty in higher courts, by principal sentence type and most serious offence, 2004–05 (percent)



AICI: Acts intended to cause injury

- A custodial sentence was the most common sentence in higher courts for all offences.
- Defendants found guilty of violent and serious crimes such as homicide, robbery or sexual assault in higher courts were overwhelmingly likely to receive a custodial sentence (90%, 80% and 74%, respectively).
- Least likely to receive custodial sentences in higher courts were defendants found guilty of acts intended to cause injury (58%), deception (59%) and theft (46%).

Source: Reference 24

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

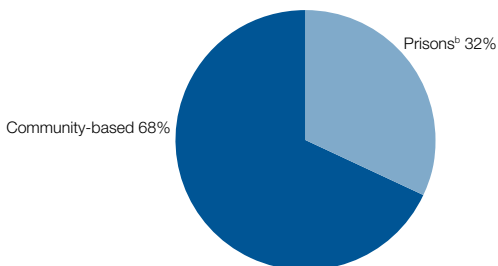
Past issues of *Facts & figures* have defined adults as persons aged 17 years and older when calculating rates of imprisonment. In this issue imprisonment rates for reference periods prior to 2004 have been recalculated based on the revised adult age and will thus be different from previous issues.

Rates per relevant population refer to the number of persons as per a specified population group (for example, juveniles, males or females, or Indigenous persons).

Persons under corrective services management

Corrective services agencies manage offenders sentenced to imprisonment, community corrections or periodic detention.

Figure 85: Offenders, by type of corrective program, 2004–05^a



a: Figures based on daily average counts

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

- As in 2003–04, 68% of offenders managed by corrective service authorities in 2004–05 were placed on 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 2005 prison census.

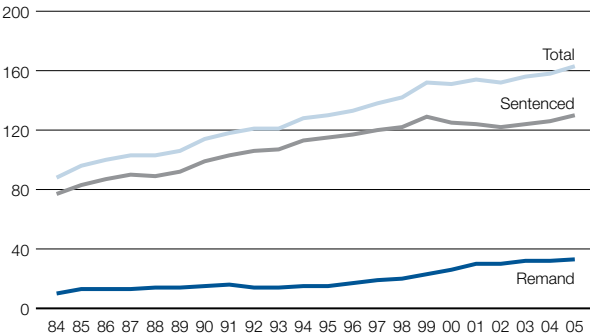
It should be noted that the prisoner counts include both sentenced prisoners and those on remand (awaiting trial or sentence), unless otherwise specified.

On 30 June 2005 a total of 25,353 persons were in custody in Australian prisons, a 4.9% increase on the number recorded in 2004. This corresponds to a rate of 163 per 100,000 adult population. This is 3.7% higher than the 2004 rate of 158, and continues the increasing trend for the national imprisonment rate in the past decade. The majority, 20,220, were sentenced prisoners and 5,133 were remandees.

Source: Reference 25

Trend in prison populations

Figure 86: Prisoners, 1984–2005 (rate per 100,000 persons)



- Between 1984 and 2005, the overall imprisonment rate increased from 88 to 163 per 100,000 adult population. The prison population has grown by an average 5% a year since 1984.
- At 30 June 2005 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 2005, from 10 to 33 per 100,000 population.

Source: References 2 and 25

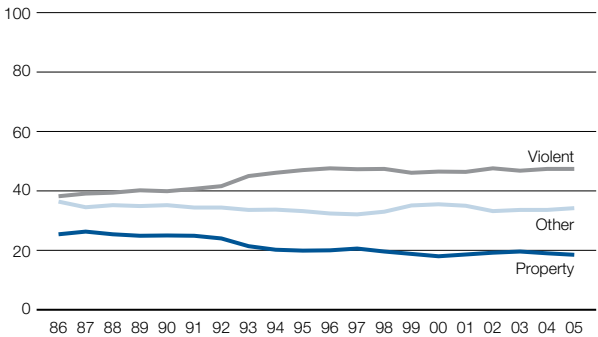
Most serious offence

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

Violent prisoners are those convicted of homicide, assault, sex offences, or robbery. Prisoners convicted of property offences include those charged with break and enter and with other theft (including MVT). 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 2005 there were 9,579 sentenced prisoners in Australia whose most serious offence was a violent offence, 3,734 whose most serious offence was a property offence, and 6,907 who were sentenced for other offences.

Figure 87: Prisoners sentenced for violent, property and other offences, 1986–2005 (percent)



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

Source: Reference 25

Table 9: Sentenced prisoners by most serious offence, 2005

	Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%
Violent				
Homicide	1,900	10	137	11
Assault	2,847	15	159	12
Sex offences	2,341	12	20	2
Robbery	2,090	11	85	7
Property				
Break and enter	2,414	13	129	10
Other theft ^a	1,048	6	143	11
Fraud ^b	524	3	190	15
Other				
GSJ ^c	1,598	8	148	11
Drug offences	1,844	10	176	14
Other ^d	2,313	12	114	9
Total	18,919	100	1,301	100

a: Includes MVT

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

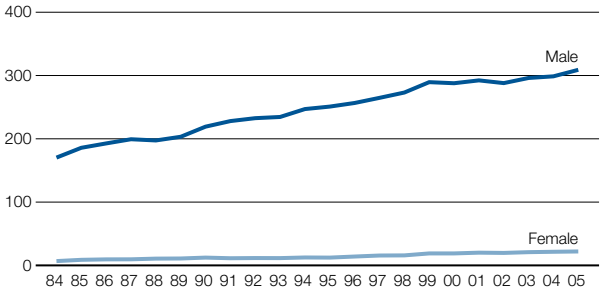
d: Includes other offences against the person and property, public order offences and driving offences

- The most serious offences for which male prisoners were most likely to be sentenced included assault, sex offences, break and enter and robbery.
- Female prisoners were most likely to be sentenced for fraud, drug offences, 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 2005 (48%).
- One-third of sentenced females (32%) were imprisoned for violent offences.
- These patterns remained consistent between 2004 and 2005.

Source: Reference 25

Gender

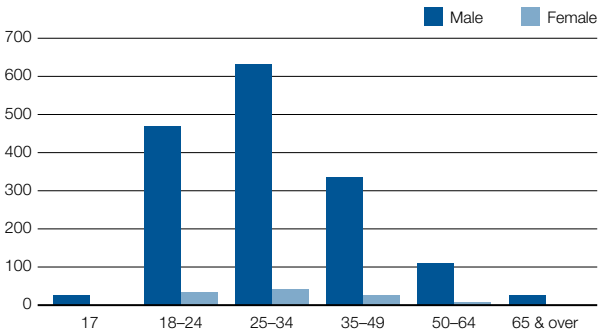
Figure 88: Prisoners by gender, 1984–2005 (rate per 100,000 persons)



- Between 1984 and 2005, the overall imprisonment rate for males increased from 170 to 309 per 100,000 adult male population.
- The female rate of imprisonment was 7 per 100,000 in 1984 and 22 per 100,000 in 2005.
- As for the past four years, in 2005 7% of prisoners were women, 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 1984–2005.
- 60% of prisoners in 2005 were known to have been in prison previously.

Source: References 2 and 25

Figure 89: Age and gender of prisoners, 2005 (rate per 100,000 relevant population)



- 93% of prisoners in 2005 were male.
- 59% of male and 55% of female prisoners were under 35 years of age.

- For both males and females, 25 to 34 year olds had the highest imprisonment rates in 2005, followed by 18 to 24 year olds.

Source: References 2 and 25

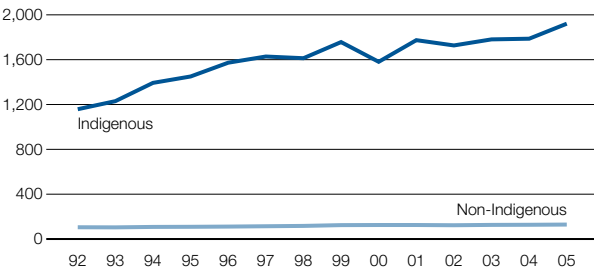
Indigenous status

Figure 90 shows 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 ABS. 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 26

Figure 90: Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoners, 1992–2005 (rate per 100,000 adults)

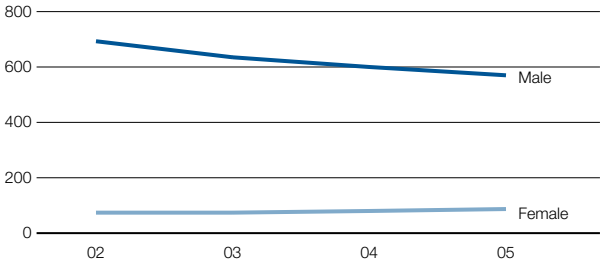


- On 30 June 2005 the Indigenous imprisonment rate was almost 15 times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous persons, at 1,921 per 100,000 Indigenous adult population compared with 129 for the non-Indigenous adult population. The rate shows a slight increase over 2004.
- Indigenous prisoners comprised 22% of the total prisoner population in 2005, compared with 14% in 1992.
- 77% of Indigenous prisoners were known to have previously been in prison.

Source: References 2, 25 and 26

Federal prisoners

Figure 91: Federal prisoners, by gender, 2002–05 (number)



- In June 2005, there were 570 male and 87 female federal prisoners.
- Between June 2002 and June 2005, the number of male federal prisoners decreased by 17% and the number of female federal prisoners increased by 18%.

Source: Reference 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 reintegrating prisoners into the community under continued supervision.

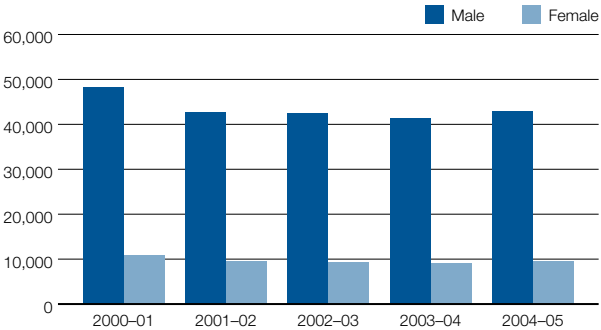
The definition of community corrections in this chapter is somewhat different from the definition of non-custodial sentences given in Chapter 5. This chapter includes weekend detention and home detention as community-based sentences, whereas they are considered custodial sentences in the previous chapter. The difference is due to differing definitions in the source material.

- In Australia during 2004–05, there was an average of 52,506 offenders per day serving community correction orders, an increase of 3% from the number recorded in 2003–04.
- This corresponds to a rate of 338 per 100,000 adults – 560 per 100,000 adult males and 119 per 100,000 adult females.

- As in the previous year, females accounted for a larger proportion of the community corrections population than the prison population, at 18% and 7% respectively.

Source: References 2, 23 and 25

Figure 92: Average daily community corrections population, 2000–01 to 2004–05 (number)



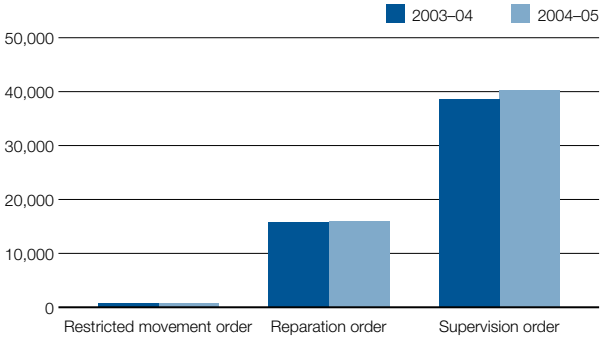
- The average daily number of male offenders on community correction orders declined from 48,234 in 2000–01, to 42,811 in 2004–05. The number of female offenders declined from 10,928 to 9,386. There was, however, a small increase in the number of males and female offenders on community correction orders between 2003–04 and 2004–05.
- Between 2000–01 and 2004–05 the rate of offenders on community correction orders per 100,000 adults decreased by 17% for males and 19% for females, while the rate of imprisonment increased.

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)
- supervision (compliance) orders (e.g. parole, bail, sentenced probation).

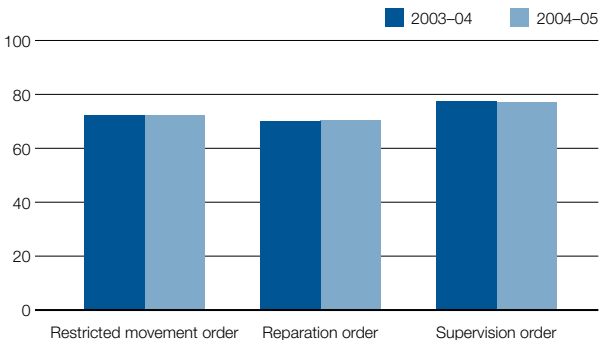
Figure 93: Average daily community corrections population, by type of order, 2003–04 and 2004–05 (number)



- The year 2004–05 saw the highest recording of supervision orders (the most commonly used option) since 2000–01 (40,359 offenders).
- Reparation orders are also common, with 15,877 offenders serving this option in 2004–05. This represents a slight increase (2%) from 2003–04.
- In 2004–05, 792 offenders were serving restricted movement orders, up from 684 the previous year.

Source: Reference 23

Figure 94: Successful completion of community corrections orders, 2003–04 and 2004–05 (percent)



- On average, 74% of all community corrections orders were successfully completed in 2004–05, the same as in 2003–04.

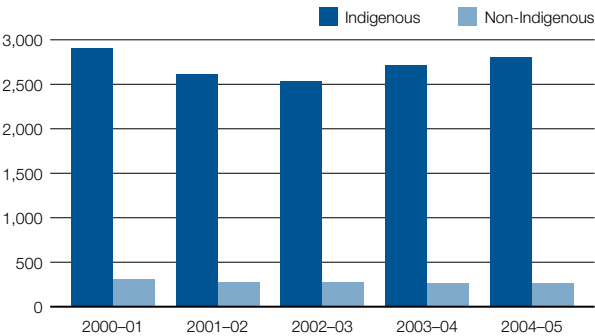
- Successful completions ranged from 71% for reparation orders to 77% for supervision orders.

Source: Reference 23

Indigenous status

On average, 40,145 non-Indigenous offenders and 8,240 Indigenous offenders were serving community corrections orders in 2004–05.

Figure 95: Average daily community corrections population, by Indigenous status, 2000–01 to 2004–05 (rate per 100,000 relevant population)



- In 2004–05, the Indigenous community corrections rate was ten times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous offenders, at 2,799 compared with 264 per 100,000 relevant population.
- The community corrections rate for Indigenous people continued an upward trend from the previous year: 2,717 rising to 2,799 per 100,000 Indigenous adults.
- The community corrections rate for non-Indigenous people declined in the period 2000–01 to 2004–05, from 313 to 264 per 100,000 non-Indigenous adults.

Source: References 2, 23 and 26

Juvenile corrective institutions

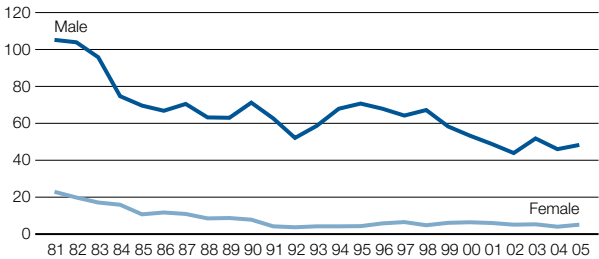
The AIC has maintained a data collection since 1981 on the number of persons detained in juvenile corrective institutions, consisting of a count of the number of persons detained in institutions on the last day of each quarter each year. Similar information is not available for the sentenced non-custodial juvenile population.

The long term trend data shown in this section are based on the census conducted on 30 June of each year.

Trend in juvenile corrective institution population

As there are differences between 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 2005.

Figure 96: Persons in juvenile corrective institutions, 1981–2005 (rate per 100,000 relevant population)



- Between 1981 and 2005, the overall incarceration rate for juveniles declined 58%, from 65 to 27 per 100,000.
- In 2005, the rate for males declined to 48 per 100,000 from 105 in 1981. The rate for females dropped from 23 to 5.
- The percentage of females in the total juvenile prison population has dropped from 17% in 1981 to 9% in 2005.
- In 2005, the male incarceration rate was 10 times higher than the rate for female juveniles.

Source: Reference 28

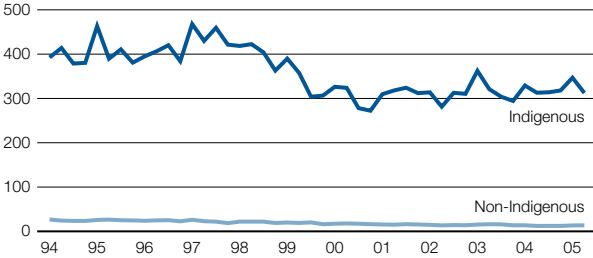
Indigenous status

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 2005 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 2001–03, based on the 2001 census. Rate calculations for these years therefore differ from some previous publications.

Figure 97: Persons in juvenile corrective institutions by Indigenous status, 31 March 1994 – 30 June 2005 (rate per 100,000 relevant population)^a



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

- The total number of Indigenous persons in juvenile corrective institutions on 30 June 2005 was 317. This represents 52% of the total number of persons detained in juvenile corrective institutions.
- The incarceration rate for Indigenous juveniles was 312 per 100,000, 23 times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous juveniles (14 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.

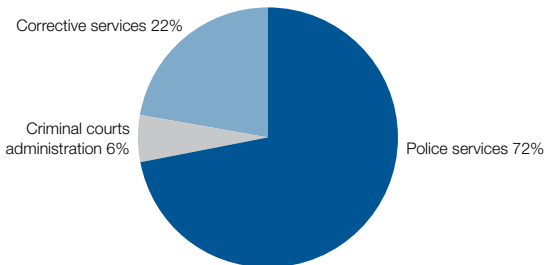
Source: References 2, 26 and 28

Justice expenditure

According to the *Report on government services 2006* (Reference 23) the total real recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources) on justice in 2004–05 was approximately \$8.3 billion. Of this approximately \$7.9 billion was spent on criminal justice. The remaining \$470 million was spent on the administration of civil courts. Since 2000–01, expenditure on criminal justice has increased by 16% 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 total expenditure. Corrective services account for a further 22%, while criminal courts administration accounts for the remaining 6%.

Figure 98: Composition of government expenditure on criminal justice, 2004–05



Source: Reference 23

Police

Policing activities are predominantly the responsibility of the police agencies of state and territory governments, with the Australian Federal Police (AFP) 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 in 2004–05 was approximately \$5.9 billion. This amounts to \$289 for every person in Australia, or \$379 per adult. Salaries accounted for 72% of this expenditure.

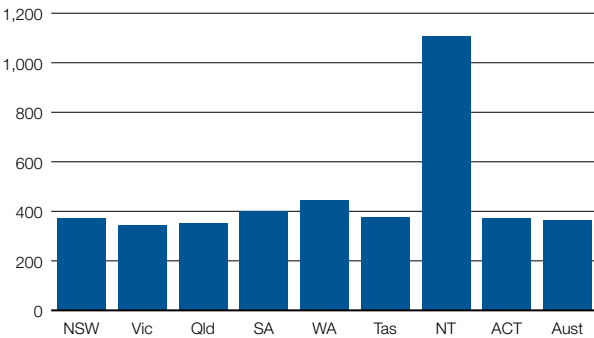
Real total recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources and payroll tax) in 2004–05 was \$5.5 billion, or \$280 for every person or \$354 per adult.

Table 10: Expenditure on state and territory police services, 2004–05

Expenditure	(\$'000)
Total recurrent expenditure	5,874.9
Total capital expenditure	359.6
Total expenditure	6,234.5
Staff salaries	(\$)
Average police staff salaries	84,379
Average non-police staff salaries	55,469

Source: Reference 23

Figure 99: Recurrent expenditure on state and territory police services per head of adult population, 2004–05



- Recurrent expenditure on police services per head of adult population ranged from about \$345 in Victoria to \$1,107 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 policing legislation). Sworn 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 unsworn officers or contracted to external providers.

- The total police services staffing in Australia (excluding the AFP) on 30 June 2005 was 58,167. This averages 286 per 100,000 persons (222 sworn police officers and 64 civilian employees).
- There were 45,201 sworn police officers and 12,966 civilian employees making up Australian police services in 2005.

Source: References 2 and 23

Table 11: Composition of state and territory police services by jurisdiction, 30 June 2005^a

Jurisdiction	Sworn police officers	Civilian	Total	Sworn officers per 1,000 sq km
NSW	14,643	3,860	18,503	23
Vic	10,446	2,589	13,035	57
Qld	8,765	3,185	11,950	7
SA	3,801	1,060	4,861	5
WA	4,890	1,282	6,172	2
Tas	1,134	370	1,504	22
NT	916	424	1,340	1
ACT	606	196	802	341
Australia	45,201	12,966	58,167	8

a: Excludes AFP for non-ACT policing

- New South Wales had the largest police service in Australia, while the ACT had the smallest.
- The Northern Territory and Queensland employed the largest proportion of civilian staff (32% and 27% respectively), and Victoria and Western Australia employed the smallest (20% each).

Source: Reference 23

Table 12: Selected Commonwealth law enforcement agency personnel, by gender, 30 June 2005^a

Agency	Male	Female	Total
AFP ^b	1,750	1,084	2,834
Sworn	1,290	412	1,702
Unsworn	460	672	1,132
ACC	230	190	420
ACS	3,070	1,985	5,055
APS	1,206	183	1,389
CrimTrac	31	21	52
Total	6,287	3,463	9,750

a: Includes full time, part time and casual staff

b: Excludes ACT Policing and APS personnel

ACC: Australian Crime Commission

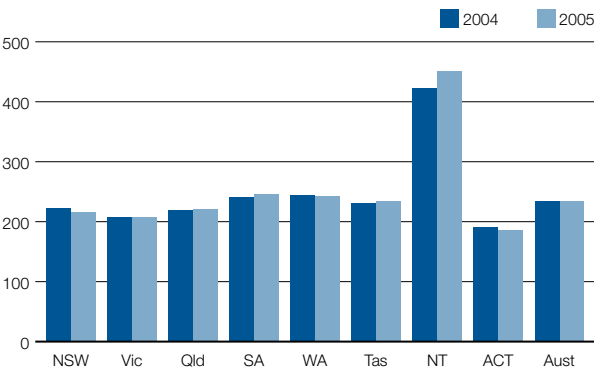
ACS: Australian Customs Services

APS: Australian Protective Service

- More than half of Commonwealth law enforcement personnel are employed by the Australian Customs Service (52%), with another 30% in the AFP and 14% in the Australian Protective Services.
- Males represented between 55% and 61% of personnel in each agency except the APS where they comprised 87% of all personnel.
- On 30 June 2005, 60% of AFP staff were sworn officers of whom 76% were male. Females made up 60% of civilian staff in the AFP.

Sources: References 29, 30, 31, 32

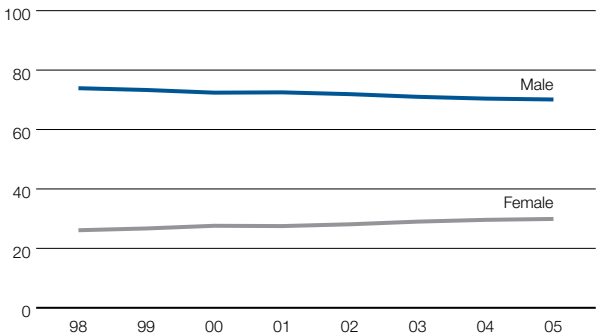
Figure 100: Sworn police officers, by jurisdiction, 30 June 2004 and 30 June 2005 (rate per 100,000 persons)



- With the exception of the Northern Territory, there is little difference across jurisdictions in the number of sworn police officers per 100,000 population.
- On 30 June 2005 the Northern Territory had the largest number of police officers per 100,000 population (452), while the ACT had the smallest (186). However, the ACT had 341 police officers per 1,000 square km, while the Northern Territory had only one.

Source: References 2 and 23

Figure 101: Sworn and unsworn police by gender, 1998–2005 (percent)



- Between 1998 and 2005 there has been a slight increase in the percentage of female police staff (sworn and unsworn) from 26% to 30%.

Source: Reference 23

Court administration

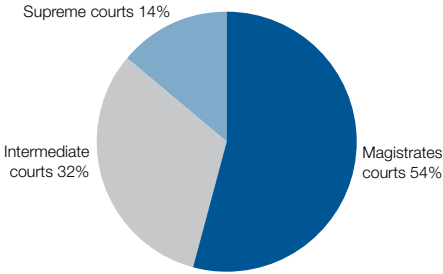
Total recurrent expenditure on court administration services across Australia (excluding the High Court) was \$1.2 billion in 2004–05, approximately the same as in 2003–04.

Expenditure for criminal courts administration was about \$493 million for 2004–05, an increase from \$454 million the previous year.

Total criminal court expenditure less income (excluding fines) was \$477 million. This amounts to \$23 for every person in Australia, or \$31 per adult.

Source: Reference 23

Figure 102: Total expenditure (less income) for criminal courts, 2004–05

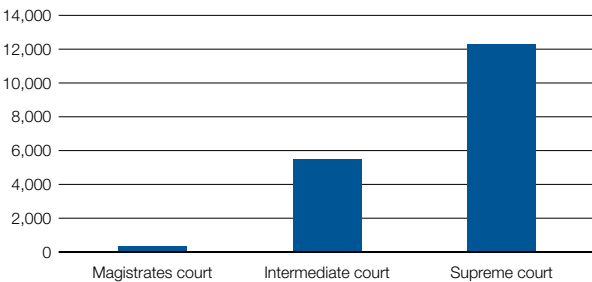


- Magistrates courts incurred 54% of total criminal court expenditure in 2004–05, compared with 56% in 2003–04.
- Intermediate courts incurred 32% (30% in the previous year) and supreme courts were the same as in 2003–04, at 14%.

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, 2004–05



- In 2004–05, average expenditure per criminal case lodgment was \$351 in magistrates courts, \$5,499 in intermediate courts and \$12,271 in supreme courts. This expenditure is approximately the same as in the previous year.

Source: Reference 23

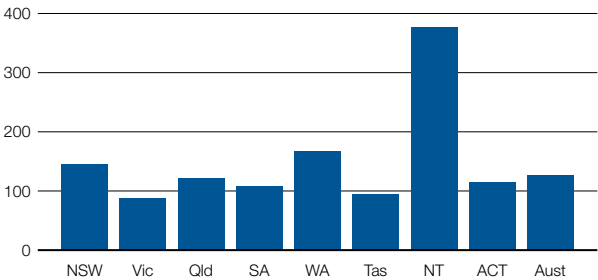
Adult corrective services

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 \$2 billion in 2004–05: \$1.7 billion (85%) for prisons, \$222 million (11%) for community corrections and \$72 million (4%) for transport and escort services. This corresponds to \$98 for every person in Australia or \$128 for every adult.

Source: References 2 and 23

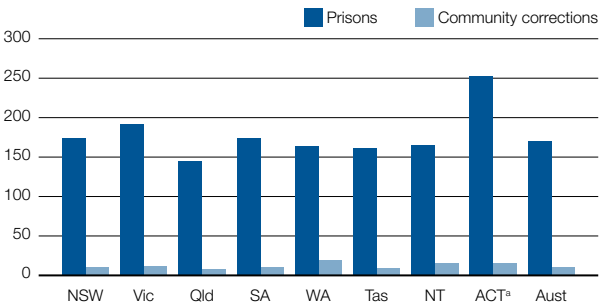
Figure 104: Recurrent expenditure on corrective services per head of adult population, 2004–05 (\$)



- Recurrent expenditure on corrective services per head of adult population ranged from \$88 in Victoria and \$95 in Tasmania to \$377 in the Northern Territory.

Source: References 2 and 23

Figure 105: Corrective services expenditure per offender per day, by jurisdiction 2004–05 (\$)



a: Includes both remand prisoners in ACT and sentenced prisoners in NSW

- Average expenditure per prisoner per day was \$170, ranging from \$145 in Queensland to \$252 in the ACT.
- Expenditure per offender sentenced to community corrections programs per day was \$10. The cost for offenders sentenced to prison was 17 times greater, at \$170 per day.
- Overall in 2004–05, \$62,087 was spent for every prisoner and \$3,796 for each offender sentenced to community corrections programs.

Source: Reference 23

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Australian Crime Facts & Figures 2006

Australian Institute of Criminology

GPO Box 2944

Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

Tel: +61 2 6260 9200

Fax: +61 2 6260 9201

Email: front.desk@aic.gov.au

Web: <http://www.aic.gov.au>