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Australian Institute of Criminology

Australian crime: Facts & figures

2009



Australian crime:
Facts & figures

2009

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Notes

Because of rounding, some percentages may not sum to 100.
Minor revisions are occasionally made to publications after release.
The online version available on the AIC website will include any revisions made since printing: [http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/current series/facts/1-20/2009.aspx](http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/current_series/facts/1-20/2009.aspx)

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Foreword

Australian crime: Facts & figures 2009 is a quick reference guide summarising trends in crime and criminal justice in Australia. It includes information on different categories of crime, location, victim and offender details and the response of the criminal justice system.

For the first time, this edition of *Australian crime: Facts & figures* includes national data on offenders derived from the first Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) survey to include information on offender characteristics. This edition also contains data on financial instruments fraud provided by the Australian Payments Clearing Association.

Both administrative and survey-based collections serve as sources of data for *Australian crime: Facts & figures*. The data here are primarily 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) prepares publications, from fact sheets to detailed reports, on a wide range of more specific crime and justice issues. For further information visit the AIC website at www.aic.gov.au or contact the AIC directly.

Highlights

A number of findings in this year's *Australian crime: Facts & figures* are worthy of note:

- Property crime, including theft of motor vehicles, remained the most commonly reported class of crime, with just over 800,000 incidents in 2008; although recorded crime data show that property crime offences continue to decline each year.

Property crime
remained the
most commonly
reported crime

- Victimization survey data suggest that victims are much less likely to report experiencing a violent crime than they are a property crime. Assault was the most common violent crime, with 170,277 victims recorded in 2008; a small decrease from 2007.
- The majority of offenders were male and the offending rate for persons aged 15 to 19 years was almost four times the rate of all other offenders in 2007–08.
- Although the availability of national statistics on major crimes continues to improve, nationally-consistent data on offenders and emerging crimes, including cybercrime, remain unavailable. Furthermore, recording issues affecting particular crimes, such as assault and sexual assault, limit the ability to confidently identify real trends in these crimes over time.
- Fines were the most common penalty issued by the courts. However, it should be noted that there was a 1.4 percent rise in prison numbers, with 27,615 persons in prison on 30 June 2008. The rate per 100,000 of adult males and females serving community correction orders decreased by 18 percent for adult males and 19 percent for adult females.
- Australia's recurrent expenditure on the criminal justice system in 2007–08 was approximately \$10 billion. A large part of government expenditure on criminal justice is for law enforcement; in 2007–08 there were 48,024 sworn state and territory police officers employed across the nation.

Adam Tomison
Director
Australian Institute of Criminology

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Acronyms

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACC	Australian Crime Commission
AFP	Australian Federal Police
AIC	Australian Institute of Criminology
APCA	Australian Payments Clearing Association
CARS	Comprehensive Auto-theft Research System
CSS	Crime and Safety Survey
DPP	Director of Public Prosecutions
DUMA	Drug Use Monitoring in Australia
MPHS	Multi-Purpose Household Survey
MSO	most serious offence
MVT	motor vehicle theft
NHMP	National Homicide Monitoring Program
SCRGSP	Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision
UEWI	unlawful entry with intent

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 understanding of the incidence and effects of crime in the community. The sources used to compile this edition are listed in the *References* section.

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 have the advantages of covering the whole population that comes into contact with the criminal justice system and of remaining relatively stable in their collection and production over time.

There are limitations to these data, however, including issues of comparability among agencies and jurisdictions, and it is only recently that most of the data have been collated at a national level, if at all. Specifically, national collections of recorded crime from police records has been collated since 1996; prisoner data from corrections agencies has been collated since 1983; and the data for all criminal courts has been collated since 2001. However:

- In 2009, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released its first report on offenders. Prior to this, offender data had only been collected in a limited number of jurisdictions.
- The collections are not all based on the same unit of measurement. For example, police record details about offences, courts record data at an individual case level and corrections agencies record information about individual offenders.
- Although much has improved, national collections are hampered by jurisdictional differences in legislation, definitions and data collection methods that are often not uniform. Data recording quality may also be an issue.
- Further, it can take time to reach agreement at a national level on key issues, including definitions of new and emerging offences. As a result, more detail about crime and justice is often available at a jurisdictional level, even when it is not possible to produce national statistics.

It is also worth noting that the datasets can only encapsulate reported crimes, yet not all crimes are reported to police. For example, it is estimated that only 20 percent of all

sexual assaults are reported to police, compared with a reporting rate of nearly 100 percent for motor vehicle thefts (Reference 24). This is a primary reason that the other main type of data collection—crime surveys—are undertaken.

Surveys—Crime victimisation surveys are believed to provide a more accurate picture of actual crime rates in society as they attempt to measure all crime, including crime that has not been reported to police. They have the advantage of asking the same questions in the same way to the whole of the sampled population. These answers are then recorded in a similarly uniform way so that the information they provide is reliable and comparable.

However, it is not always valid to extrapolate from a sample to the whole population and all sample surveys have a certain amount of error. Surveys are also expensive, so they tend to be 'one off' or infrequent. Surveys used in preparing this year's edition of *Australian crime: Facts & figures* include the *Personal Safety Survey*, the *Crime and Safety Survey* and the *Personal Fraud Survey*, all conducted by the ABS.

Notes on using these statistics

It should be noted that police information on victims and offenders has not been tested in court. An offence recorded by police as murder may later be re-classified as manslaughter, or there may be insufficient evidence to convict an alleged offender in any criminal case.

The apparent marked fluctuation in crime rates may be due to the small numbers involved. For example, if only four homicides have occurred in one year, the addition or removal of one homicide per year will appear as a 25 percent increase or decrease.

Rates are determined against one of two different types of base population—either the total population, or total relevant population. The property crime victimisation rate, for example, divides the number of property victims by the total population. In this publication, data in relation to the total population are presented as per 100,000. Rates in relation to a relevant population refer to the number of persons as a proportion of that population (eg juveniles, males, females, or Indigenous persons).

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 contain certain assumptions about births, deaths and migration. Figures in this publication are based on high-series population data. This method accounts for the effects of the increasing propensity for people to identify as Indigenous in the 1991 to the 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 those in some previous publications.

Data on juveniles refer to persons aged 10 to 17 years and adult to persons aged 18 years and over. Issues of *Australian crime: Facts & figures* up to 2004 defined adults as persons aged 17 years and over, affecting calculations such as rates of imprisonment. From the 2005 issue onward, imprisonment rates were recalculated based on the revised adult age and will therefore differ from those quoted in older issues.



Chapter 1

Recorded crime

Data on recorded crime as published by the ABS for the period 1996 to 2008 are presented in this first chapter. The information is based on police records of crimes from 1 January to 31 December each year. A victim of crime 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 (murder and manslaughter), 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 percent of all crimes recorded by police.

Due to inconsistency among jurisdictions in recording, the ABS has not released aggregated data on assault or sexual assault since 2003. As trends within jurisdictions appear to be consistent, however, the data for each jurisdiction have been released. The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) used these data to compile the Australian totals for assault and sexual assault included in this chapter.

Caution must be exercised when comparing the number of robbery victims from different years, due to an undercounting of victims in New South Wales prior to 2005. Similarly affected are data on the number of victims of UEWI prior to 2006, because of an overstatement of victims in New South Wales. General trends, however, appear not to be affected.

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 than the theft.

Table 1 Victims of violent crimes, 1996–2008 (n)

	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	334	130,903	14,689	23,801	707
1999	385	134,271	14,699	22,606	766
2000	362	138,708	16,406	23,336	695
2001	347	152,283	17,577	26,591	767
2002	366	159,548	18,718	20,989	706
2003	341	157,280	18,025	19,709	696
2004	302	156,849	19,171	16,513	768
2005	301	166,507	18,695	17,176	729
2006	321	172,441	19,555	17,375	726
2007	283	176,427	19,781	17,996	733
2008	290	170,277	19,733	16,508	782

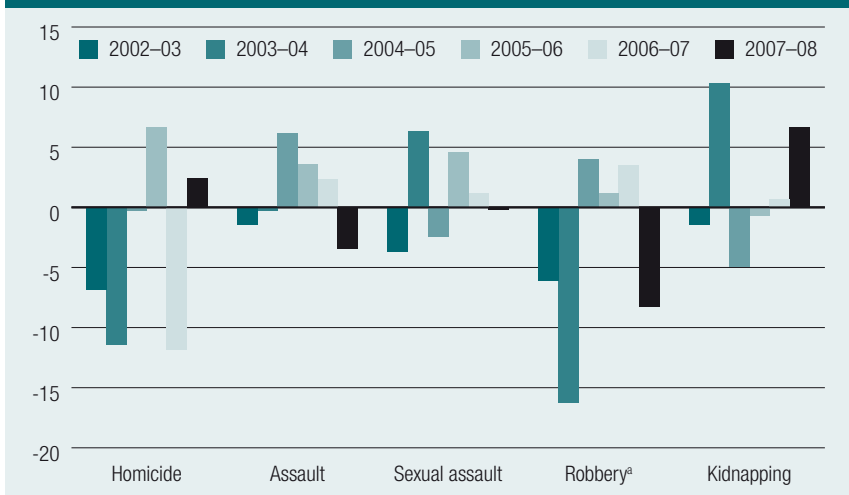
Note: Number of victims presented here represents revised estimates on numbers published in earlier editions of *Australian crime: Facts & figures*

- Assaults continue to represent the majority of recorded violent crimes, with an overall trend of increased offending since 1996. Although a decrease was recorded between 2007 and 2008, there has been a 49 percent increase in assaults between 1996 and 2008.
- Although sexual assault is one of the least reported types of crime, there was an overall increase over the period 1996–2007 (although the number of assaults decreased between 2007 and 2008). The highest numbers of victims of sexual assault and of assaults in general were recorded in 2007.
- For violent crime, the trend in the past five years has varied. Variability from year to year is more pronounced in offences that have a smaller number of victims, such as homicide.

- Recorded homicide declined from 2002 to 2005, increased in 2006, decreased in 2007 and increased in 2008. There were 290 victims of homicide in 2008. Although this represented a two percent increase from 2007, it was still the second lowest incidence recorded in the past 12 years.
- Contrary to an increasing trend since 2004, robbery offences decreased in 2008 to 16,508.
- The number of recorded kidnappings fluctuates yearly. Over the period 1996 to 2004, a general increase was recorded for kidnapping. Figures then remained relatively steady in the period 2005 to 2007 and increased in 2008 to 782.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 1 Annual change in number of victims of selected violent crimes, 2002–08 (%)



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

- Victim numbers have decreased since 2007 for both assault and robbery.

Source: Reference 1

Property crime

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

Table 2 Victims of property crimes, 1996–2008 (n)

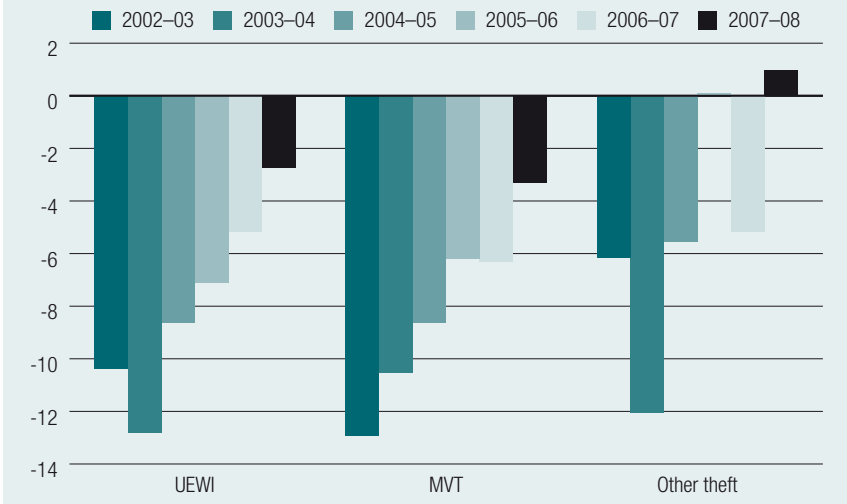
	UEWI	MVT	Other theft
1996	402,079	122,914	521,762
1997	421,569	130,138	530,881
1998	434,376	131,587	563,482
1999	415,735	129,552	612,559
2000	436,968	138,912	681,268
2001	435,754	139,894	700,137
2002	394,323	113,460	680,799
2003	354,020	98,298	624,036
2004	308,675	87,939	548,778
2005	281,994	80,365	518,335
2006	262,005	75,377	518,734
2007	248,475	70,614	491,935
2008	241,690	68,270	496,697

Note: Number of victims presented here represents revised estimates on numbers published in earlier editions of *Australian crime: Facts & figures*

- As in previous years, ‘other theft’ was the most commonly recorded property crime in 2008, accounting for 62 percent of property crime victims.
- The number of recorded victims of ‘other theft’ has decreased by 29 percent since 2001, from 700,137 to 496,697.
- In 2008, there were 241,690 recorded victims of a UEWI, a decline of three percent from the previous year.
- The number of MVT victims increased by 14 percent from 1996 to 2001, yet has decreased by 51 percent between 2001 to 2008.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 2 Annual change in number of victims of property crime, 2002–08 (%)



- The overall trend in property crime offences in the past five years has been one of decline. Both UEWI and MVT exhibited a decline in 2008, while ‘other theft’ experienced a slight increase (1%). For victims of property crime, an overall five percent decrease from the previous year was noted.

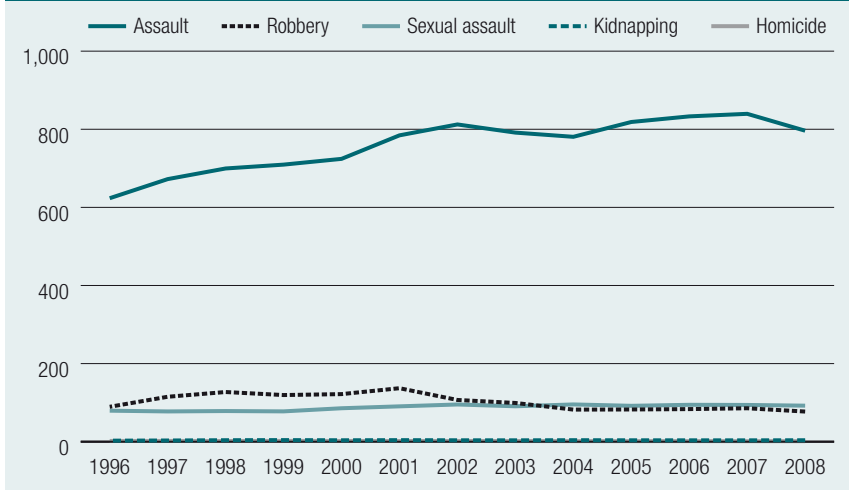
Source: Reference 1

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 in that 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. In this section, they are calculated per 100,000 persons in the population per year.

Violent crime rate

Figure 3 Violent crimes, 1996–2008 (per 100,000 persons per year)



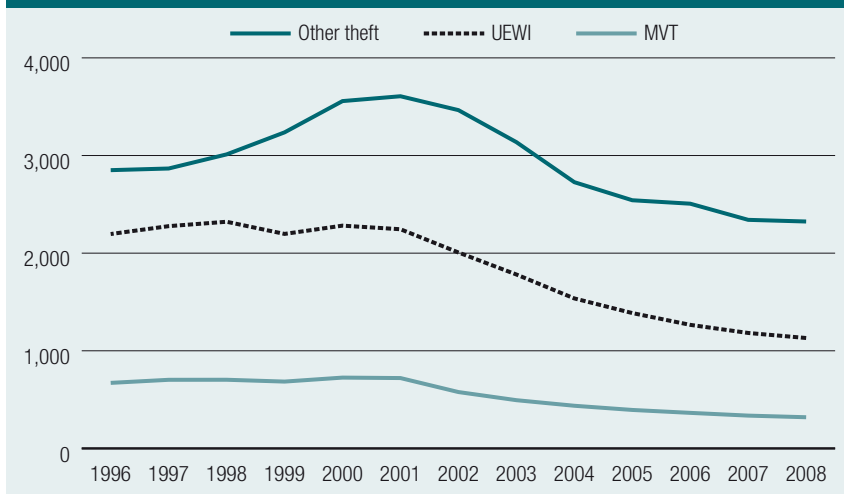
Note: Homicide and kidnapping each occur at rates of fewer than 5 per 100,000 population per year and are difficult to distinguish on this chart

- The trend in the rate of recorded assaults increased steadily from 1996 to 2008, from 623 assaults per 100,000 in 1996 to 796 per 100,000 in 2008. The 2008 rate was the lowest rate recorded since 2005, decreasing from a high of 840 per 100,000 in 2007.
- The rate for robbery peaked in 2001. Rates have declined by 44 percent since 2001, to 77 per 100,000 per year, with the 2008 rate representing the lowest rate recorded since 1996.
- From 1996 to 2008, the rate of kidnapping remained between three and four per 100,000 per year.
- The homicide rate was 1.9 per 100,000 in 1996 (which includes the 35 victims of the Port Arthur massacre) and was at its highest in 1999, at two per 100,000. In 2008, the rate was 1.4 per 100,000, the second lowest recorded (since 1996).
- The rate of recorded sexual assault increased between 1996 and 2008, from 80 to 92 persons per 100,000 per year. However, between 2007 and 2008 the rate declined from 94 per 100,000 to 92 per 100,000.

Source: References 1 and 2

Property crime rate

Figure 4 Property crimes, 1996–2008 (per 100,000 persons per year)



- Property crime rates in 2008 were the lowest recorded in the 12 year period since 1996.
- The rate of 'other theft' peaked at 3,607 per 100,000 per year in 2001, declining thereafter.
- The rate of UEWI remained relatively stable from 1996 to 2001 but has since declined.
- The rate of MVT declined by 52 percent between 1996 and 2008, from 671 to 319.

Source: References 1 and 2

Location of crime

The ABS classifies crime locations according to the function of the site of the crime. There are three broad location types:

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

National data on the location of victims of assault and sexual assault cannot, as it was in previous years, be presented here due to the incompleteness of published data inclusive of all states and territories.

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

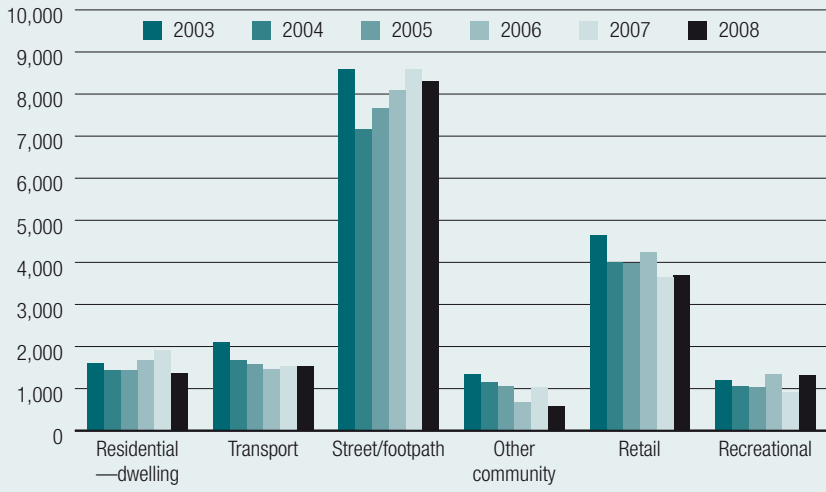
Table 3 Location type of violent crimes, 2008 (n)			
	Murder	Robbery	Kidnapping
Residential			
Dwelling	145	1,013	215
Outbuilding/residential land	14	134	12
Total residential ^a	163	1,155	230
Community			
Transport	3	1,509	29
Street/footpath	39	7,922	351
Other community	18	500	56
Total community ^a	64	9,986	436
Other			
Retail	11	3,623	56
Recreational	13	1,265	30
Other location	6	357	13
Unspecified location	3	96	14
Total ^a	260	16,508	783

a: Total includes locations not further defined

- Of all murders (n=260), 63 percent occurred in a residential location. Of all robberies (n=16,508), 93 percent occurred outside the home.
- Streets and footpaths represented the most common location for robberies (48% of 16,508) and kidnappings (45% of 783).

Source: Reference 1

Figure 5 Selected violent crimes^a, 2003–08, by location type (n)



a: Excludes assault and sexual assault

- Between 2003 and 2008, violent crimes declined in all categories of location, except recreational locations.
- Since 2003, violent crimes perpetrated in retail locations have declined by 21 percent. Declines in violent crimes were also recorded at transport locations (27%), residential (15%) and other community locations (57%).
- There was an increase from 2007 to 2008 in the number of violent crimes carried out in transport, retail and recreational settings (1%, 1% and 43% respectively).
- Conversely, violent crime that occurred at residential, street/footpath and other community locations declined between 2007 and 2008.

Source: Reference 1

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

Table 4 Location type of property crimes, 2008 (n)

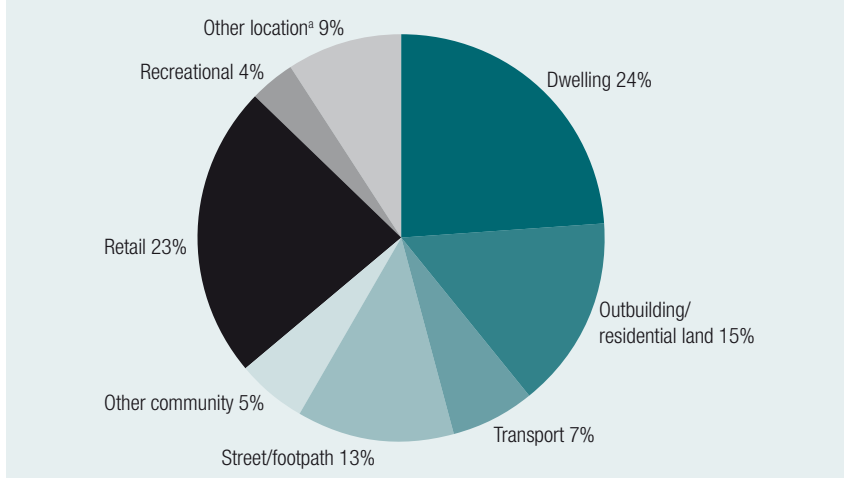
	UEWI	MVT	Other theft
Residential			
Dwelling	142,640	207	48,987
Outbuilding/residential land	16,372	22,558	81,702
Total residential ^a	160,983	24,766	132,917
Community			
Transport	788	6,535	44,985
Street/footpath	108	23,643	77,423
Other community	16,916	1,048	26,281
Total community ^a	17,839	31,314	149,473
Other			
Retail	30,230	5,657	149,862
Recreational	7,008	908	20,444
Other location	21,733	3,549	30,783
Unspecified location	1,898	1,956	11,252
Total ^a	241,690	68,270	496,697

a: Total includes locations not further defined

- Of all UEWI crimes (n=241,690), the majority (67%) occurred in a residential location and 13 percent in a retail location.
- Of all MVT offences (n=68,270), most (55%) occurred in a public location.
- Of all other theft crimes (n=496,697), retail was the most prevalent theft location (30%).

Source: Reference 1

Figure 6 Location type of property crimes, 2008 (%)



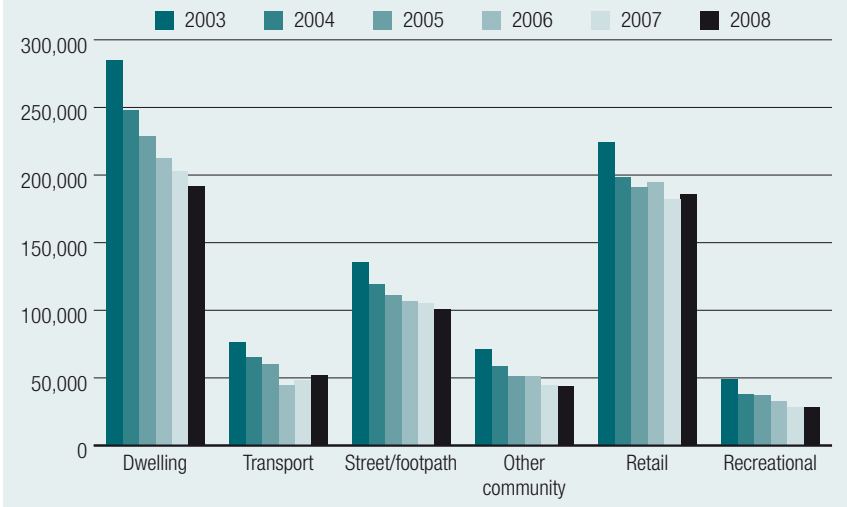
a: Includes unspecified location

n=795,473. Excludes residential locations that could not be classified as a dwelling or outbuilding/residential land and locations not further defined

- Property offences were most likely to occur at a dwelling (24%), retail location (23%) or outbuilding/residential land (15%).
- Property offences were least likely to occur at recreational locations (4%) or other community (5%).

Source: Reference 1

Figure 7 Property crimes, 2003–08, by location type (n)



- Between 2003 and 2008, property crimes generally declined in all categories of location.
- From 2003 to 2008, the greatest relative declines in property crimes were in those which occurred at recreational locations (43%), other community locations (38%) and in dwellings (33%).
- Property crimes on transport declined by 32 percent and those perpetrated on streets and footpaths declined by 25 percent between 2003 and 2008.

Source: Reference 1

Chapter 2

Selected crime profiles

Homicide

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

- *murder*—the wilful killing of a person either intentionally or with reckless indifference to life; and
- *manslaughter*—the unlawful killing of a person:
 - 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 take into account the final outcome of the court case.

Homicide does not include:

- *attempted murder*—the attempt to unlawfully kill another person by any means, act or omission; and
- *driving causing death*—the unlawful killing of a person without intent to kill, caused through culpable, dangerous or negligent driving.

The data collected by the AIC through the National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) is supplemented with greater detail than that collected by the ABS.

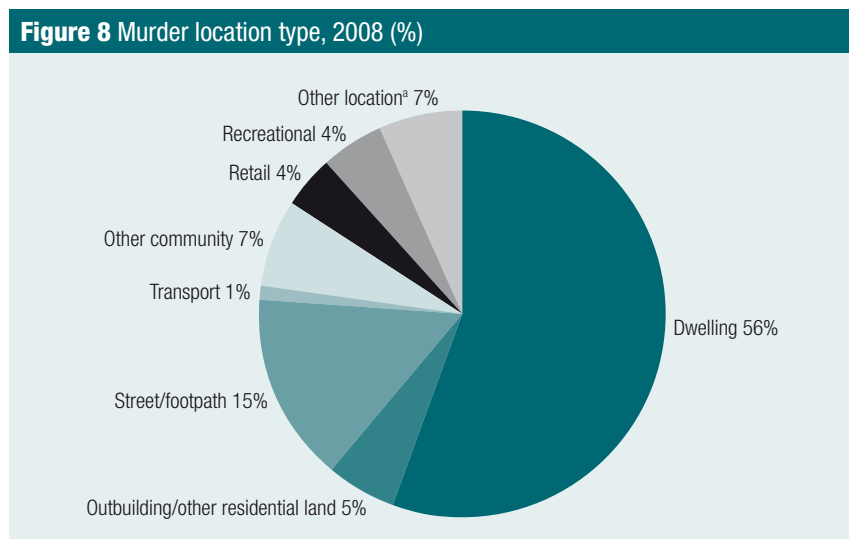
Data on the use of firearms in homicide are derived from victim data collected in the NHMP. Previous editions of *Australian crime: Facts & figures* used ABS data on causes of death, but coding procedures used since 2004 (related to an increase in the number of open coroners' cases) have resulted in an undercounting in those data of firearm deaths due to assault (ie firearm homicide).

There were 290 homicides in Australia in 2008, with 1.35 victims per 100,000 population. In 2008, murder accounted for 230, or 90 percent, of the victims recorded. The remaining 30 victims, or 10 percent, were victims of manslaughter.

National data on the location of manslaughter victims (30 victims) cannot be presented here as it was in previous years, due to incompleteness of ABS published data, particularly regarding the breakdown of manslaughter by residential and community locations.

Source: References 1 and 3

Location of murders



a: Includes unspecified location

n=260

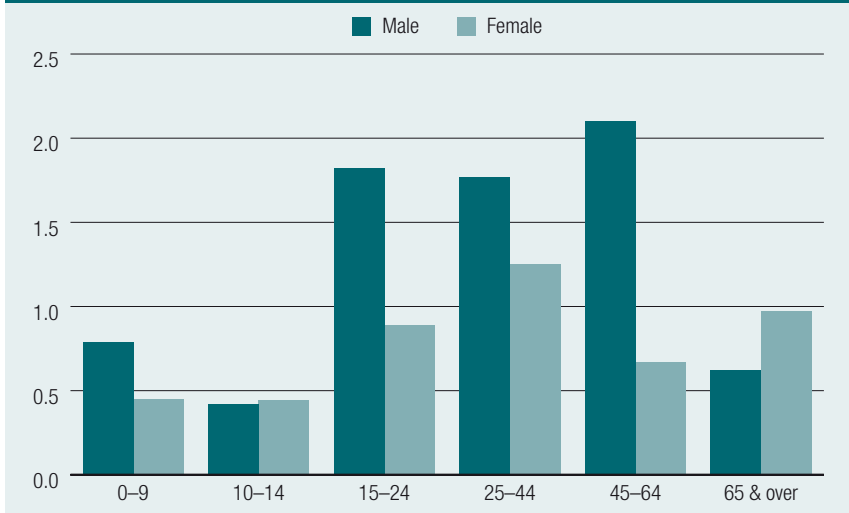
- Similar to prior years, the majority (56%) of murders took place in a dwelling.
- The street/footpath was the second most common location of murders (15%).

- Murders were least likely to occur on transport (1%), retail and recreational locations (4% each) and outbuilding/other residential land (5%).

Source: Reference 1

Victims of murders

Figure 9 Murder victimisation rates, 2008, by age in years and sex (per 100,000 population of that age group and sex)



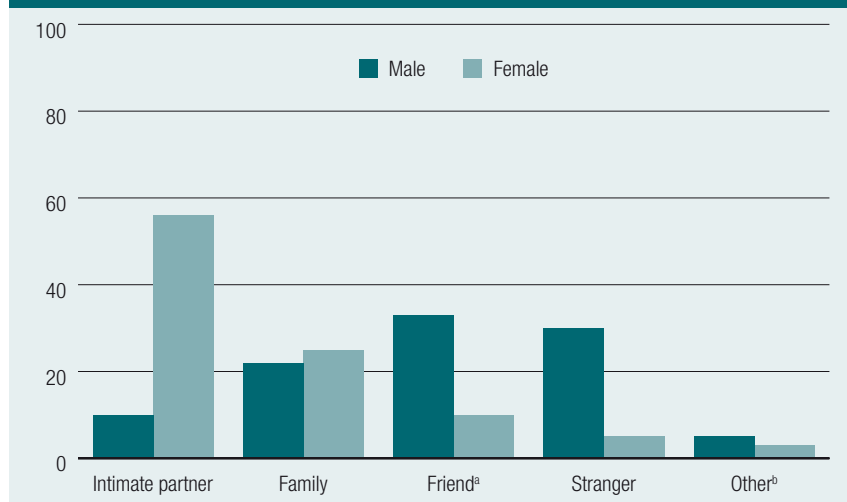
Note: National data on the age and sex of manslaughter victims (30 victims) cannot be presented here as it was in previous years, due to incompleteness of published data, particularly regarding the breakdown of manslaughter by age categories

- In 2008, 62 percent of murder victims were male.
- Except in the 10 to 14 years age group and in the 65 years and over age group, males had a higher risk of being a victim of murder than did females.
- The highest risk male age group was 45 to 64 years. The highest risk age group for women was 25 to 44 years.

Source: References 1 and 2

Victim–offender relationship

Figure 10 Homicide victim's relationship to offender, 2007–08 (%)



a: Includes acquaintances

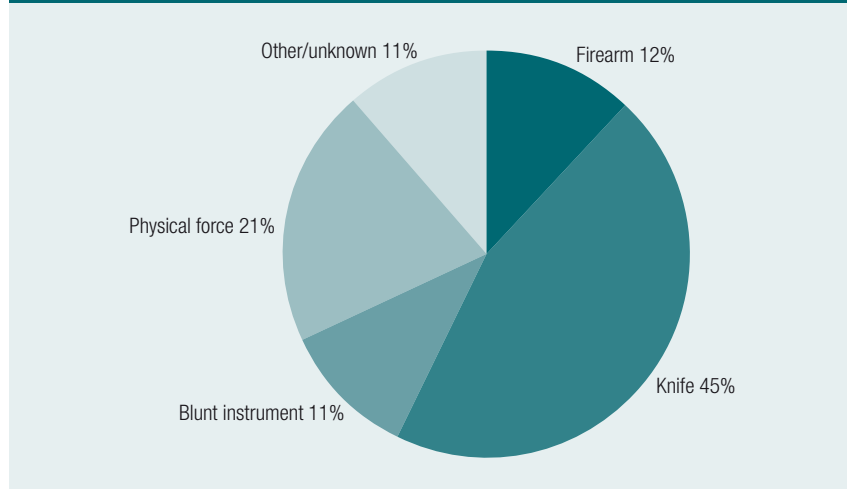
b: Includes business associates, employee/employer, colleagues and other relationships

n=306

- Male victims in 2007–08 were more likely than female victims (33% and 10% respectively) to have been killed by a friend or acquaintance, whereas female victims were more likely than male victims (56% and 10% respectively) to have been killed by an intimate partner.
- Female victims were also slightly more likely than male victims (26% and 22% respectively) to have been killed by a family member.
- Thirty percent of males and six percent of females were killed by a stranger.

Source: Reference 3

Figure 11 Type of weapon used in homicide, 2007–08 (%)



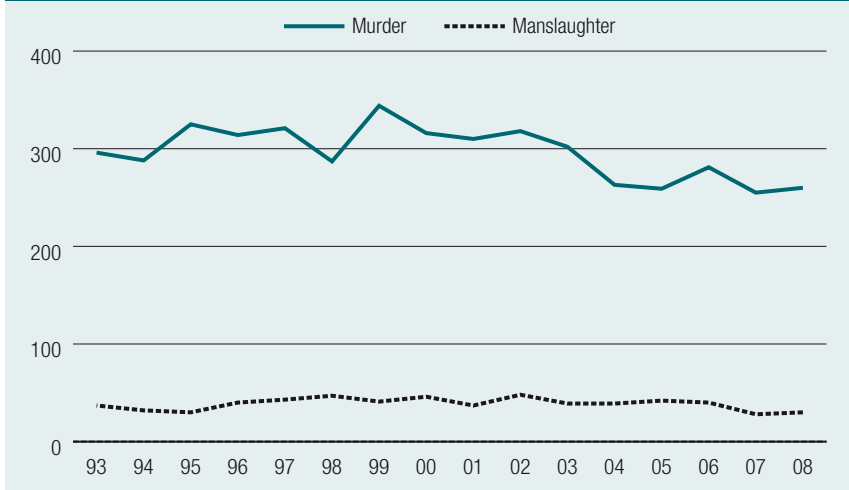
n=248

- In 2007–08, the most common weapon used in homicide was a knife (45%); in 2006–07, knives were used in 42 percent of homicides.
- A further 21 percent of homicides were committed using physical force, 12 percent by firearms and 11 percent by blunt instruments.

Source: Reference 3

Trend in homicide

Figure 12 Homicide victims, 1993–2008 (n per year)

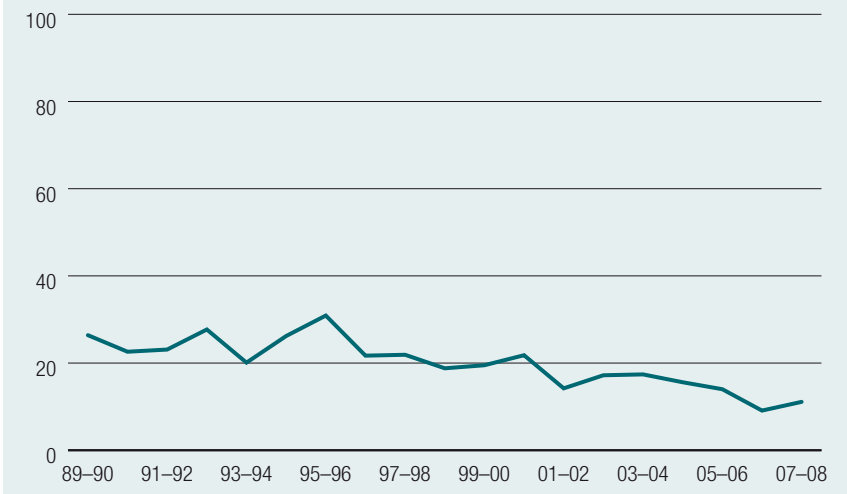


- The number of murders peaked in 1999 at 344, while the number of manslaughters peaked in 2002 at 48.
- In 2007, the 255 murder and 28 manslaughter victims recorded were the lowest annual number of offences recorded in any year since 1993. However, the number of murders in 2008 increased slightly from 255 in 2007 to 260 in 2008. The number of manslaughters also increased from 28 to 30 between 2007 and 2008.

Source: Reference 1

Trend in firearm homicides

Figure 13 Victims killed by firearms, 1989–90 to 2007–08 (% homicide victims)



- On average, 20 percent of homicide victims from 1989–90 to 2007–08 were killed by a firearm. The use of firearms in homicide has decreased over this period, however, from 26 percent in 1989–90 to 11 percent in 2007–08.

Source: Reference 3

Assault

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

In 2008, in Australia, there were 170,277 recorded assaults, constituting 795 victims per 100,000 population.

ABS data for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania have been aggregated for the following charts on the locations of assaults. These states represent 96 percent of all assaults recorded in 2008. National data on the age and gender of victims of assault is presented here, based on data from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia.

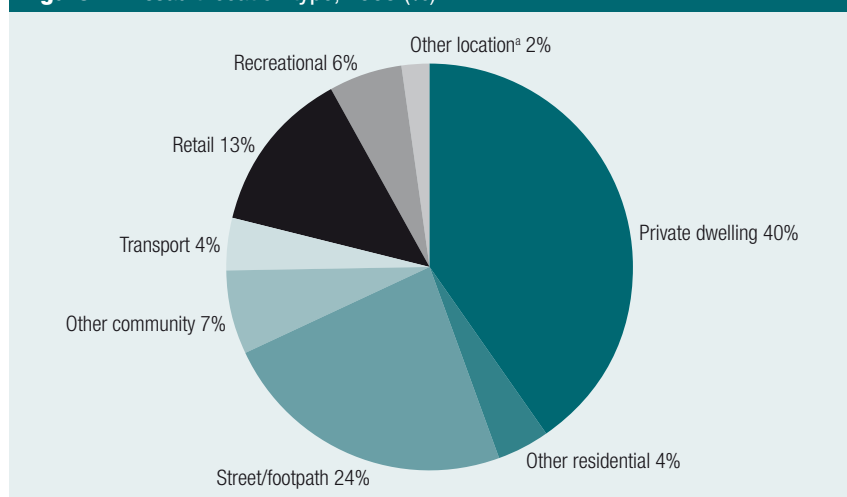
ABS data for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory have been aggregated for Figure 16

on victim–offender relationship for assaults; information for Western Australia was not available. These states, excluding Western Australia, represent 88 percent of all assaults recorded in 2008.

National data on victims of assault cannot be presented here as it was in previous years due to differences in business rules, procedures, systems, policies and recording practices between states and territories.

Location of assault

Figure 14 Assault location type, 2008 (%)



a: Includes unspecified location

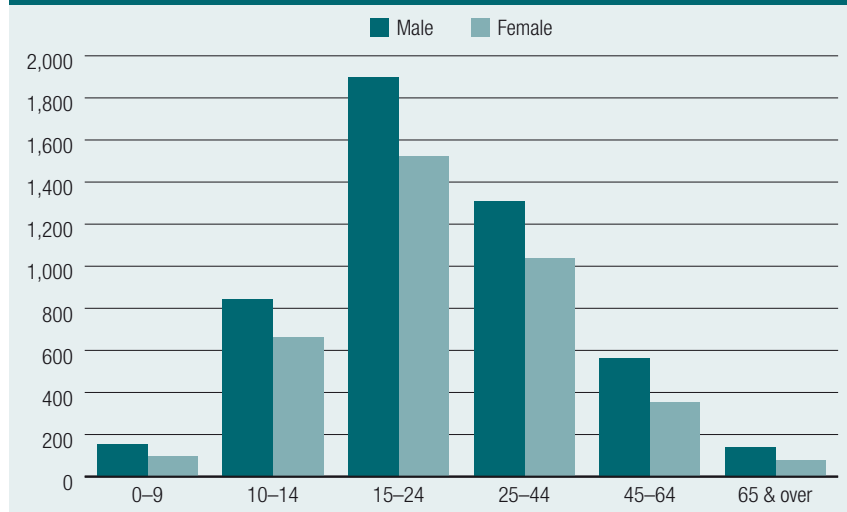
n=162,720 (excludes Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory as the residential locations could not be classified as a dwelling or as outbuilding/other residential land)

- Recorded assaults occurred most frequently in dwellings (40%), then on streets or footpaths (24%).
- Retail locations accounted for 13 percent of recorded assaults.
- Recorded assaults were least likely to occur in other locations (2%) and transport and other residential locations (4% each).

Source: Reference 1

Victims of assault

Figure 15 Assault victims, 2008, by age in years and sex (per 100,000 of that age group and sex)



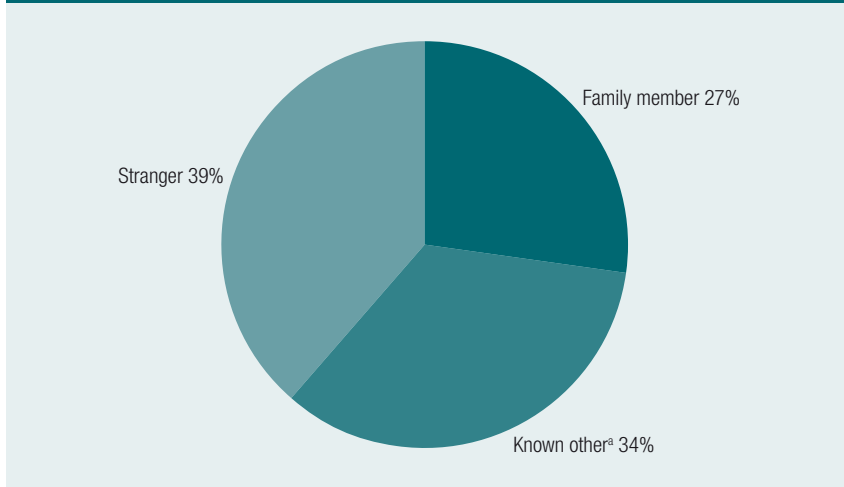
Note: Excludes Tasmania, Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory (information not available)

- In 2008, 57 percent of recorded assault victims were male.
- Males had higher victimisation rates than females in all age groups.
- As in previous years, 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, 2008, relationship to offender (%)



a: Known other includes known non-family member and known but not further defined, which may include some family members

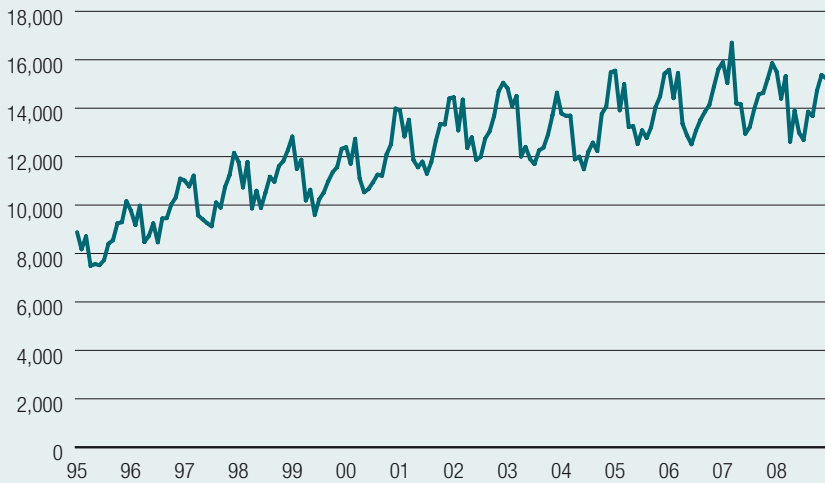
Note: Excludes Western Australia (information not available). Also excludes the 7% of instances where the relationship between the victim and offender was not stated or not known in the remaining jurisdictions

- Where the relationship between victim and offender was stated, 61 percent of victims of assault knew the offender.

Source: Reference 1

Trend in assault

Figure 17 Assaults, 1995–2008 (n per month)



Note: The ABS does not endorse the summing of state/territory data due to differences in recording practices, business rules, procedures, systems and policies (refer ABS cat. no. 4510.0 *Recorded Crime Victims, 2008*, Explanatory notes paragraphs 12–17) and therefore the data in Figures 17 and 20 are indicative only.

- The trend in assaults shows an average growth of five percent each year from 1995 to 2008, nearly four times the annual growth of the Australian population in the same period.
- Assault is seasonal. The number of assaults peaks in the spring and summer months of October to March and is lowest from April to July.

Source: Reference 4

Sexual assault

The ABS defines *sexual assault* as a *physical assault of a sexual nature, directed toward another person who:*

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

In 2008, in Australia, there were 19,733 recorded sexual assaults, with 92 victims per 100,000 population.

As with assault data, sexual assault data for 2008 have been aggregated using ABS data from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia and are included in Figure 18 showing details of location. Of all sexual assaults recorded in 2008, 96 percent occurred in these states.

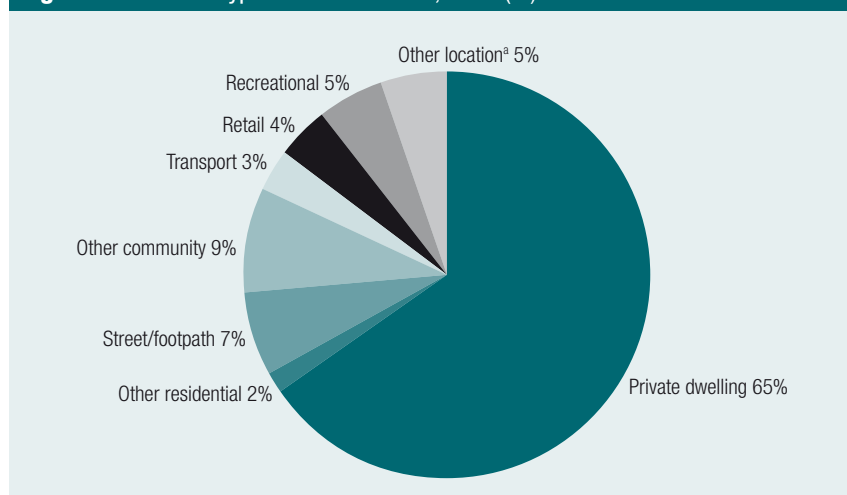
ABS data for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory have been aggregated for Figure 19 on victim–offender familiarity for sexual assaults; information for Western Australia was not available. These states, excluding Western Australia, represent 91 percent of all sexual assaults recorded in 2008.

National data on the age and gender of victims of sexual assault cannot, as it was in previous years, be presented here due to incompleteness of published state and territory age data (particularly regarding victims aged 55 and over), differences in business rules, procedures, systems, policies and recording practices between states and territories.

Source: Reference 1

Location of sexual assaults

Figure 18 Location type of sexual assault, 2008 (%)



a: Includes unspecified location

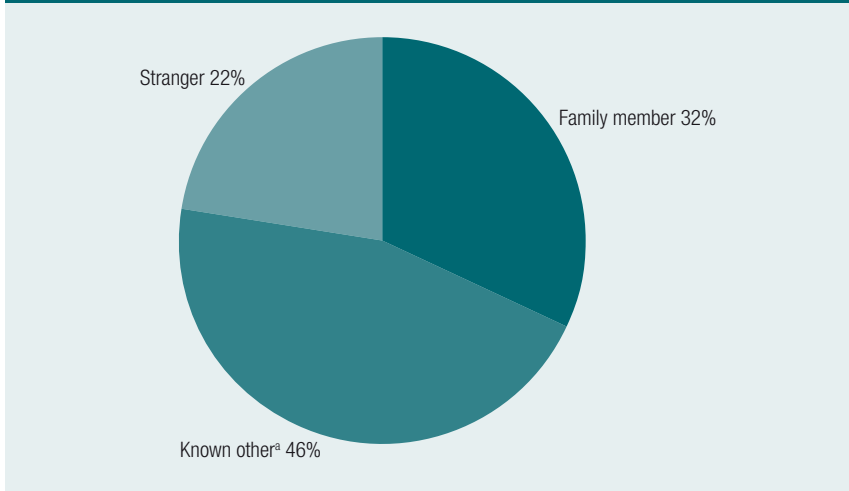
n = 18,947. Excludes residential locations that could not be classified as a dwelling or outbuilding/residential land and recreational and other

- Of the sexual assaults recorded in 2008, 65 percent occurred in private dwellings.
- Sexual assault was least likely to occur in other residential locations (2%) and transport locations (3%).

Source: Reference 1

Sexual assault victim–offender relationship

Figure 19 Sexual assault victims, 2008, relationship to offender (%)



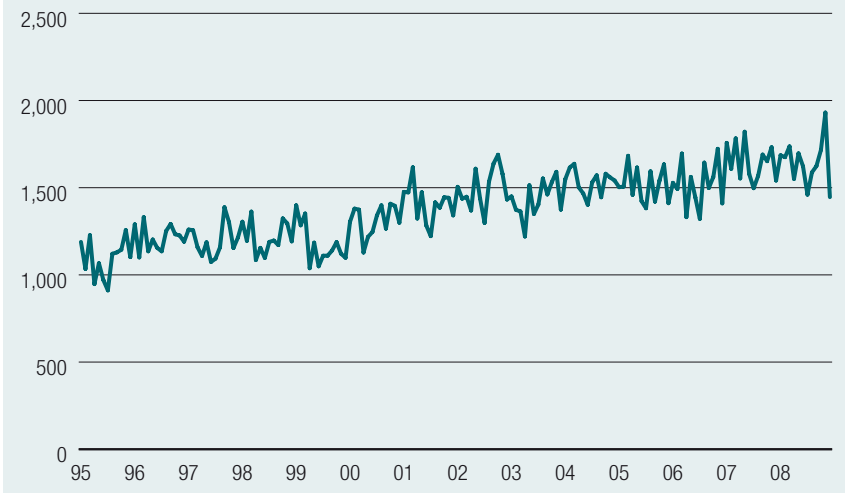
a: Known other includes known non-family member and known but not further defined, which may include some family members
 Note: Excludes Western Australia (information not available). Also excludes the 8% of instances where the relationship between the victim and offender was not stated or not known in the remaining jurisdictions

- Where the relationship between victim and offender was stated, 78 percent of victims of sexual assault knew the offender.

Source: Reference 1

Trend in sexual assault

Figure 20 Sexual assault victims, 1995–2008 (n per month)



Note: The ABS does not endorse the summing of state/territory data due to differences in recording practices, business rules, procedures, systems and policies (refer ABS cat. no. 4510.0 *Recorded Crime Victims, 2008*, Explanatory notes paragraphs 12–17) and therefore the data in Figures 17 and 20 are indicative only

- Reported sexual assaults have increased by 51 percent since 1995, at an average of four percent each year.
- The number of recorded sexual assaults by month is typically highest from January to March and from September to November and lowest from April to July.

Source: Reference 4

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:

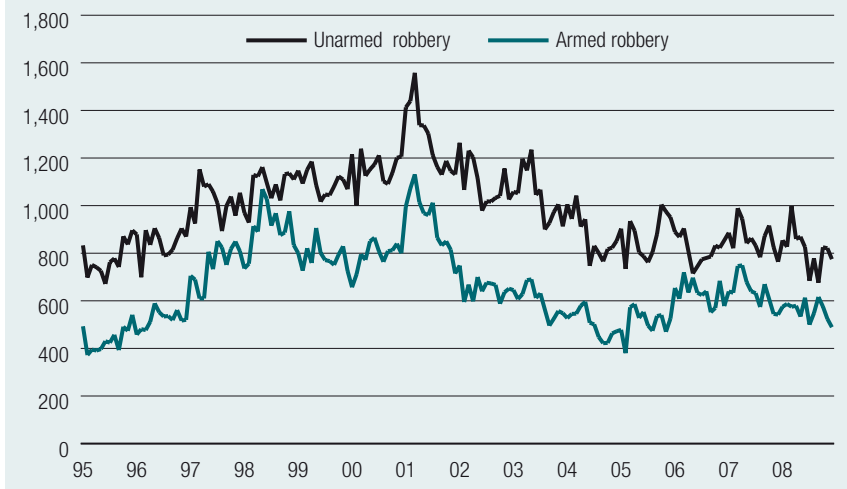
- *armed robbery*—robbery conducted with the use of a weapon. A weapon is any object used to cause fear or injury and includes imitation weapons and implied weapons; for example, where a weapon is not seen by the victim but the offender claims to possess one.
- *unarmed robbery*—robbery conducted without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

Of the 16,508 robberies recorded during 2008, 59 percent were unarmed and 41 percent were committed with some type of weapon.

Source: Reference 1

Trend in robbery

Figure 21 Robbery victims, 1995–2008 (n per month)



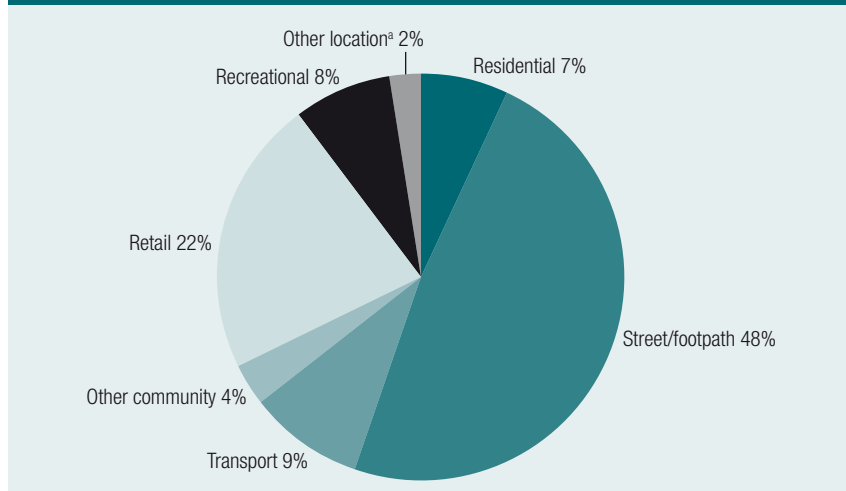
n = 16,508

- In 2008, robberies fell from 17,996 (in 2007) to 16,508 and remain substantially lower than incidents recorded in the early 2000s.
- In 2008, the proportion of robberies involving a weapon (41%) was similar to that of 2007 (43%).
- The numbers of both armed and unarmed robberies peaked in March 2001. Armed and unarmed robberies follow similar monthly patterns.

Source: Reference 4

Location of robberies

Figure 22 Robbery location type, 2008 (%)



a: Includes unspecified location

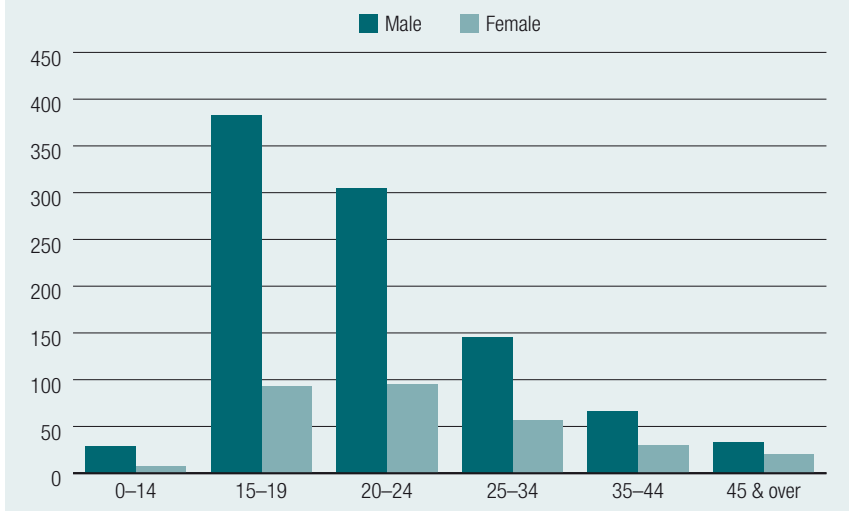
n=16,508

- In 2008, robberies predominantly occurred on streets/footpaths (48%) or in retail locations (22%).
- Robberies were least likely to occur in other location (2%), other community (4%) and residential locations (7%).

Source: Reference 1

Victims of robberies

Figure 23 Robbery victims, 2008, by age in years and sex (per 100,000 population of that age group and sex)



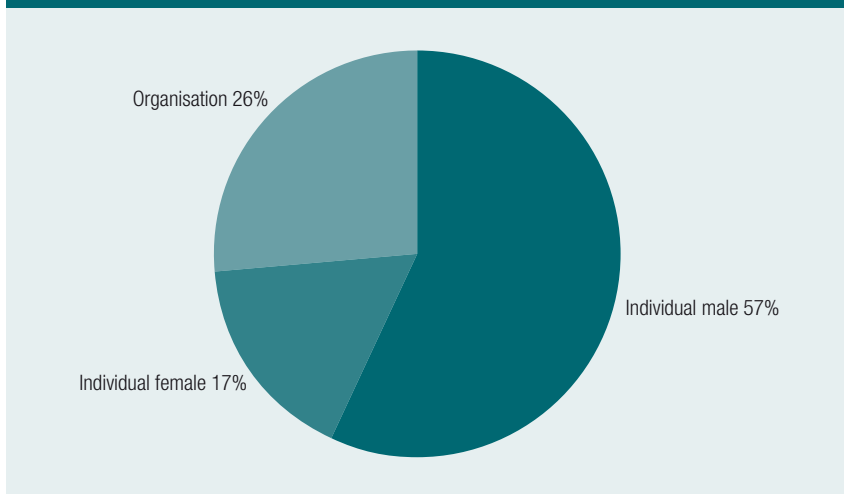
- In all age categories, males were at higher risk than females of being a victim of robbery. In 2008, the discrepancy between male and female rates was highest in those aged 15 to 19 years and thereafter decreased with age.
- Males aged 15 to 24 years were more than three times as likely to become a victim of robbery than males aged 25 years and over. The rate of victimisation of males aged 15 to 19 years was 383 per 100,000.
- Females at highest risk were those aged 20 to 24 years at 95 per 100,000 and next highest were those aged 15 to 19 years at 93 per 100,000.

Source: References 1 and 2

Armed robbery

There were 6,716 armed robberies recorded during 2008, a 12 percent decrease from 2007.

Figure 24 Armed robbery victims, 2008 (%)

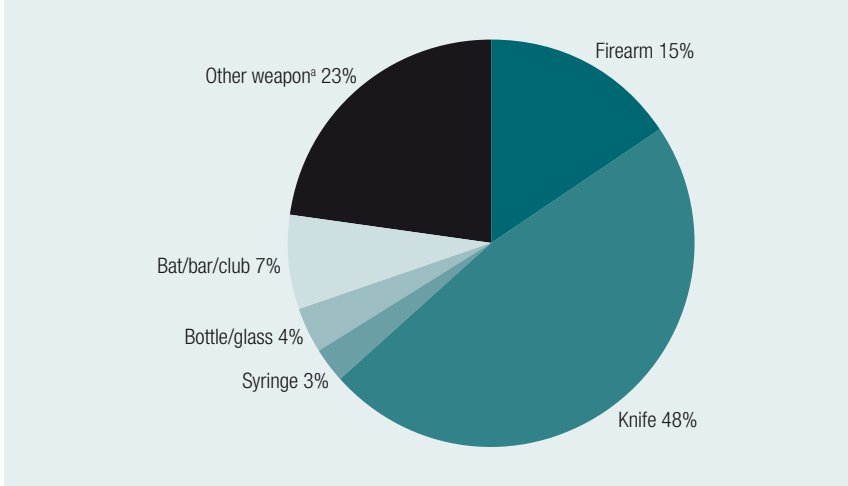


n=6,716

- Twenty-six percent of armed robberies were committed against organisations, such as banks and chemists.
- A person was the victim of the remaining 74 percent of armed robberies. Victims of armed robbery were over three times more likely to be male than female.

Source: Reference 4

Figure 25 Types of weapon used in armed robbery, 2008 (%)



a: Includes 'chemical' weapon and unspecified type of weapon
n=6,716

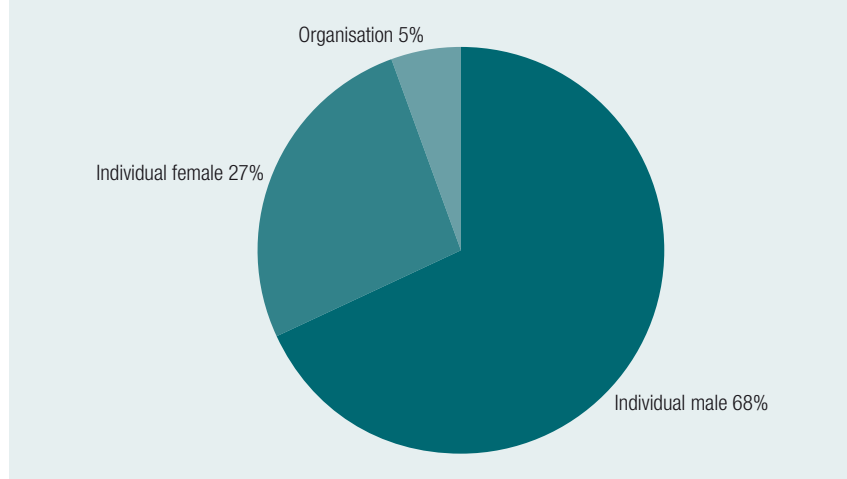
- In 2008, 48 percent of armed robberies were perpetrated with a knife.
- Armed robberies involving firearms made up 15 percent of all armed robberies in 2008.

Source: Reference 1

Unarmed robberies

There were 9,793 unarmed robberies recorded during 2008; five percent fewer than in 2007.

Figure 26 Unarmed robbery victims, 2008 (%)



n = 9,792 (Total is 1 less as 1 victim was unable to be classified)

- Unarmed robbers were much less likely than armed robbers to target organisations; five percent of unarmed robberies involved organisations, compared with 26 percent of armed robberies.
- Males were 2.5 times more likely than females to be victims of unarmed robbery.

Source: Reference 4

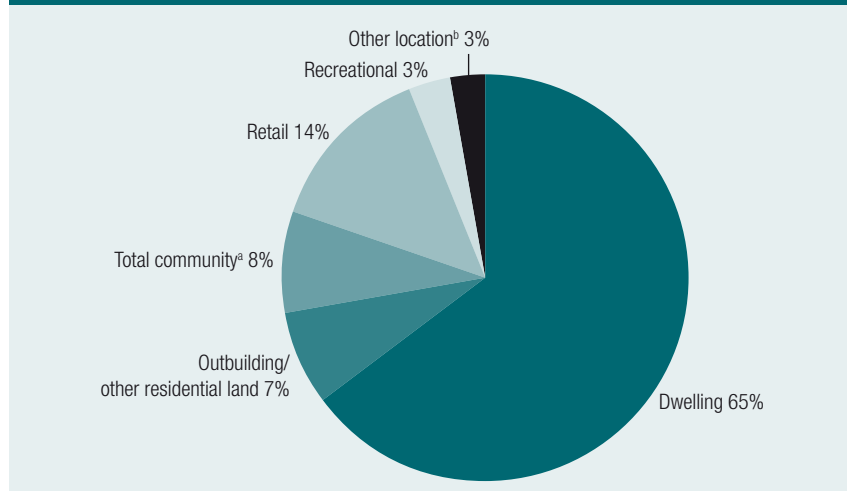
Unlawful entry with intent

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 theft.

In 2008, there were 241,690 recorded victims of UEWI offences, constituting a rate of 1,128 per 100,000.

Location of unlawful entry with intent

Figure 27 Location type of UEWI, 2008 (%)



a: Includes transport, the street and footpath, and other community locations

b: Includes unspecified location

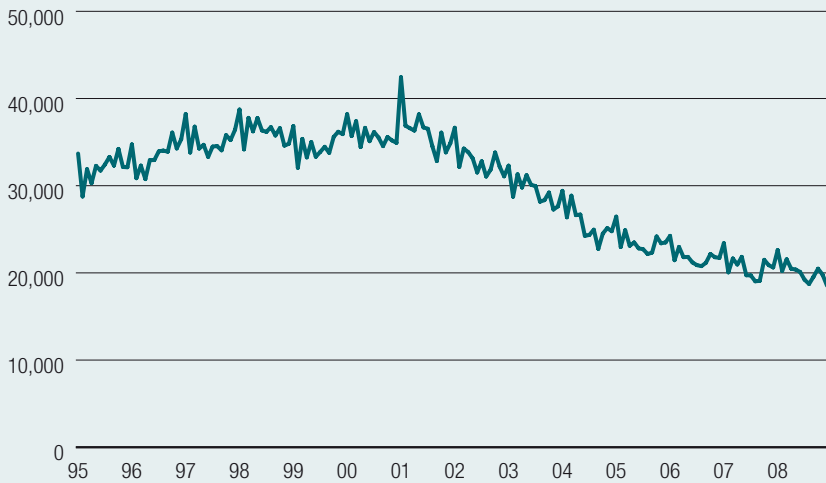
n=241,690 (excludes residential locations that could not be classified as dwelling or outbuilding/residential land)

- UEWI is most likely to take place in residential locations. In 2008, 65 percent of UEWI offences occurred in dwellings and an additional seven percent occurred in outbuildings and other residential locations.
- Fourteen percent of recorded UEWI offences took place in retail locations and eight percent occurred in community locations.

Source: Reference 1

Trend in unlawful entry with intent

Figure 28 UEWIs, 1995–2008 (n per month)



- From 1995 to 2008, there was an overall decline in the monthly number of UEWI offences.
- In 2008, on average, there were approximately 28 recorded incidents of UEWI every hour in Australia.

Source: Reference 4

Motor vehicle theft

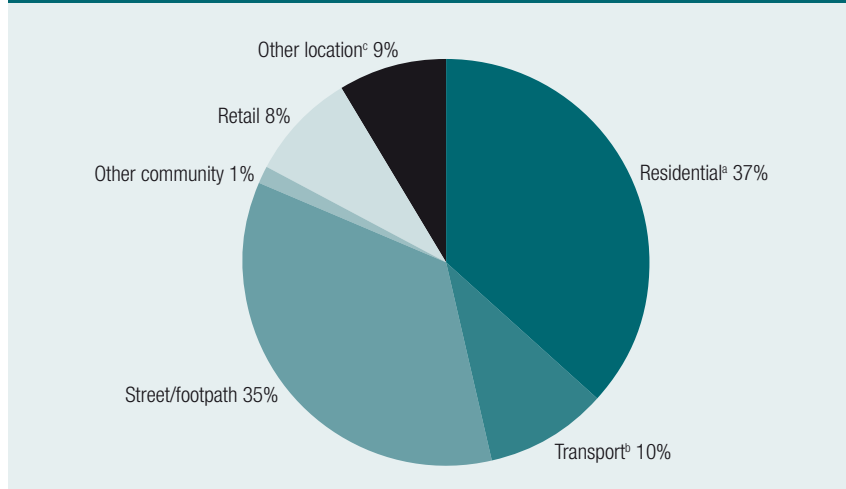
MVT involves the taking of a motor vehicle unlawfully or without permission. It excludes damaging, tampering with and interfering with motor vehicles. The theft of motor vehicle parts or contents is included under the offence category of 'other theft'. *Motor vehicle* refers to cars, motorcycles, campervans,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

In 2008, there were 68,270 motor vehicles reported stolen to police, with 437 vehicles stolen per 100,000 registered vehicles. This represents an eight percent decrease in the number of thefts recorded in 2007. In 2008, on average, there was one MVT every eight minutes in Australia.

Source: References 1 and 6

Location of motor vehicle theft

Figure 29 Location type of motor vehicle thefts, 2008 (%)



a: Includes dwellings and other residential locations

b: Includes public car parks

c: Includes unspecified location (n=1,956)

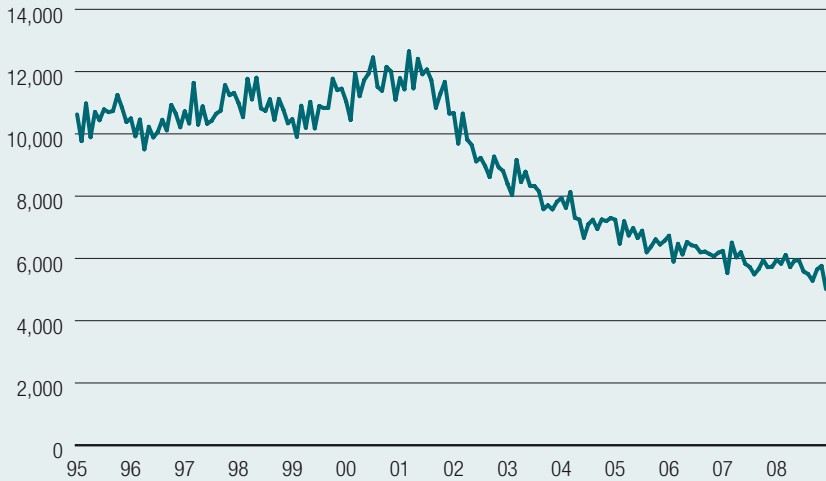
n=68,270

- The majority of motor vehicle thefts occurred in a residential location (37%) or the street or footpath (35%).

Source: Reference 1

Trend in motor vehicle theft

Figure 30 Motor vehicle thefts, 1995–2008 (n per month)



- In December 2008, motor vehicle theft decreased to the lowest monthly level recorded since 1995, with 5,011 motor vehicles reported stolen.
- In March 2001, the incidence of monthly recorded motor vehicle theft peaked, with 12,651 motor vehicles recorded stolen in that month.
- From March 2001 to December 2008, motor vehicle theft registered a 60 percent decrease. The overall annual decrease in the period 1995–2008 was 46 percent.
- In the period 1995–2008, the average recorded number of vehicles stolen per month was 9,016.

Source: Reference 4

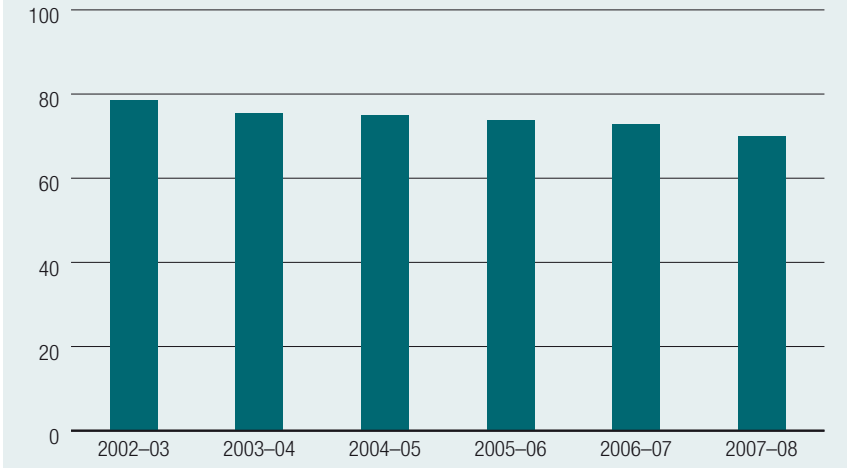
Recovery rates

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

- In 2007–08, the national recovery rate for stolen vehicles was 70 percent, with 48,002 stolen vehicles recovered in that period.
- Forty-seven percent of stolen vehicles were recovered within 24 hours of theft, with 86 percent of recoveries occurring within a fortnight.

Source: Reference 6

Figure 31 Stolen motor vehicles recovered, 2002–03 to 2007–08 (% stolen)

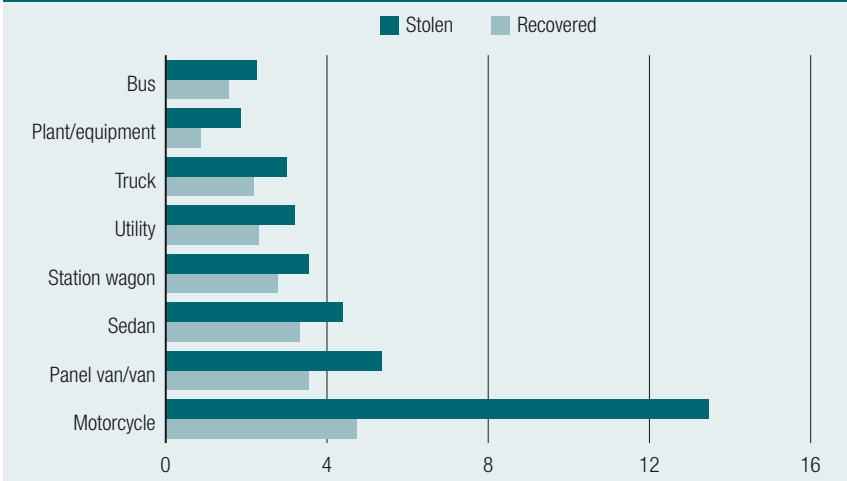


- The percentage of stolen vehicles recovered has decreased from 79 percent in 2002–03 to 70 percent in 2007–08.

Source: Reference 6

Theft and recovery by vehicle type

Figure 32 Theft and recovery, 2007–08, by type of vehicle (per 1,000 registrations of that type)



- As in previous years, motorcycles were more likely to be stolen than any other type of vehicle, with a theft rate of 13 per 1,000 registrations.
- Vans and panel vans were the next most commonly stolen vehicle, at five per 1,000 registrations.
- Motorcycles were least likely to be recovered, with only 35 percent of those stolen being recovered, followed by plant/equipment vehicles (47%). Other vehicle types had a much higher recovery rate, such as 79 percent (station wagons), 76 percent (sedans), 73 percent (trucks) and 72 percent (utility vehicles).

Source: Reference 6

Other theft

The ABS defines *other theft* 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.*

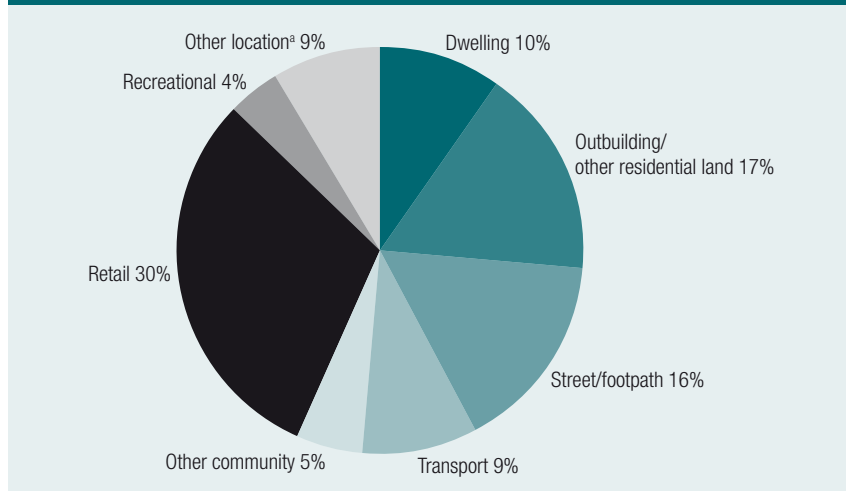
This offence includes such crimes as pickpocketing, bag snatching, stealing (including shoplifting), theft from a motor vehicle, theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories or petrol, theft of stock/domestic animals and theft of non-motorised vehicles/boats/aircraft/bicycles. It is the largest of all the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

There were 496,697 victims of other theft in 2008; a rate of 2,324 per 100,000 population.

Source: Reference 1

Location of other theft

Figure 33 Location type of other thefts, 2008 (%)



a: Includes unspecified location

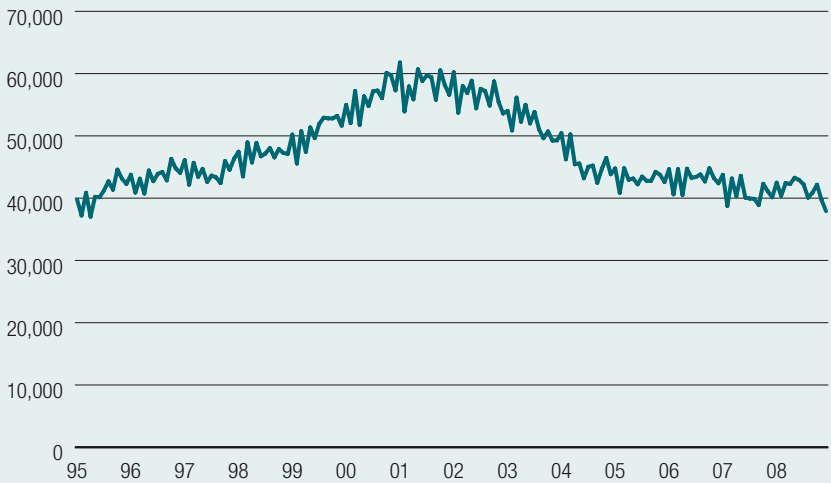
n=496,697. Excludes residential locations that could not be classified as a dwelling or as outbuilding/residential land

- Other theft was most likely to occur at retail locations (30%), followed by outbuilding/other residential land (17%), on streets and footpaths (16%) and at dwellings (10%).

Source: Reference 1

Trend in other theft

Figure 34 Other thefts, 1995–2008 (n per month)



- During 2008, there was an average of 41,391 victims of recorded 'other theft' per month, or almost one every minute.
- Since 2001, the number of 'other thefts' has been declining, after a peak in January 2001 of 61,786. From then to December 2008, the average monthly number of 'other thefts' has decreased by 39 percent.

Source: Reference 4

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 as well as the Australian Payments Clearing Association (APCA). Police agency's 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.

Police record fraud offences by financial year. Fraud is believed to be one of the most under-reported offences, with fewer than 50 percent of incidents being reported to police or other authorities.

Table 5 Reported fraud offences, 1995–96 to 2007–08 (n)

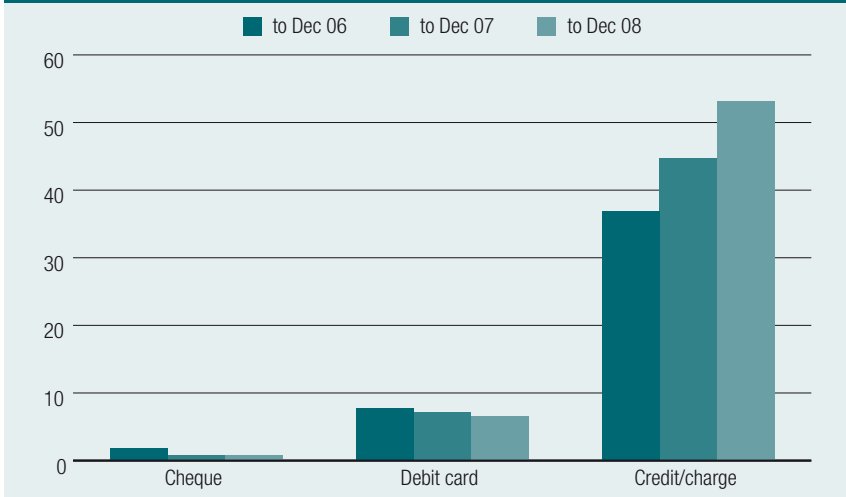
1995–96	91,495
1996–97	101,256
1997–98	109,404
1998–99	112,209
1999–00	112,264
2000–01	106,141
2001–02	109,080
2002–03	108,940
2003–04	102,863
2004–05	89,198
2005–06	101,222
2006–07	95,606
2007–08	93,894

- The trend in fraud reported to and recorded by police annually over the 13 year period has been relatively stable. The number of fraud offences in 2007–08 was the second lowest since 1995–96.

Source: References 7–14

This section presents data on rates of fraud on transactions from the APCA. The APCA coordinates and manages payments clearing systems in Australia including cheques, direct debit and credit payments, EFTPOS and ATM, high value and bulk cash.

Figure 35 Fraud, cents per \$1,000 transacted, by payment type, 2006–08



- Fraud on credit and charge cards has increased by 44.1 percent since 2006, increasing from 36.93 cents per \$1,000 transacted in 2006 to 53.20 cents per \$1,000 transacted in 2008.
- Cheque fraud declined by more than half, from 1.92 cents per \$1,000 transacted using cheques to 0.88 cents per \$1,000 transacted between 2006 and 2008.
- Debit card fraud also declined from 7.73 cents per \$1,000 transacted in 2006 to 6.60 cents per \$1,000 transacted in 2008, representing a decline of 14.6 percent.
- The prevalence of credit and charge card fraud in the years reviewed was substantially greater than cheque and debit card fraud.

Source: Reference 5

Federal charges

The Australian Government Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) publishes annual statistics on summary and indictable offences against Commonwealth law that were dealt with in the preceding year. Prior years have presented the statistics as charges dealt with against Commonwealth Acts and Regulations, specifically the *Criminal Code Act 1995* and the *Crimes Act 1914*. In 2007–08, the DPP has presented data relating to defendants dealt with in 2007–08, categorised by referring agency.

In 2008–09, the DPP reviewed and improved the way in which it calculated the number of charges and defendants dealt with. As a result of these changes in methodology,

the current financial year figures for charges and defendants dealt with are not directly comparable to published figures for previous financial years. The DPP has begun to recalculate past number of charges based on a new methodology and the 2007–08 figures have been calculated in line with this new methodology.

In 2007–08, the DPP dealt with 6,145 people, on a total of 24,250 charges. Summary offences accounted for 20,891 charges and indictable offences accounted for 3,359 charges.

Source: Reference 15

Table 6 Defendants dealt with by most common referring Commonwealth agency, 2007–08

	Number of defendants	% of total
Summary		
Centrelink	3,669	66
Australian Federal Police	343	6
Australian Fisheries Management Authority	317	6
Other Commonwealth agencies	1,228	22
Total	5,557	100
Indictable		
Australian Federal Police	276	47
Centrelink	71	12
Australian Crime Commission	50	9
Other Commonwealth agencies	191	32
Total	588	100

- The majority of defendants charged with a summary offence were referred by Centrelink (66%), followed by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (both 6%). These numbers are similar to 2006–07 figures, with Centrelink again referring the greatest number of defendants (66%) followed by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (7%) and the AFP (7%).
- The most common indictable charges were referred by the AFP (47%), Centrelink (12%) and the Australian Crime Commission (ACC; 9%). Similarly in 2006–07, 41 percent of defendants charged with indictable offences were referred by the AFP, followed by Centrelink (11%) and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (9%).

Source: Reference 15

Drug arrests

This section provides an overview of drug arrest patterns for offenders from 1996–97 to 2007–08 as collated by the ACC in its *Illicit Drug Data Report* series. Drug arrests usually come to the attention of police either through specific activity in drug law enforcement or coincidentally through an investigation into another matter, often related to property offences.

Arrest information is provided for the following types of drugs:

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

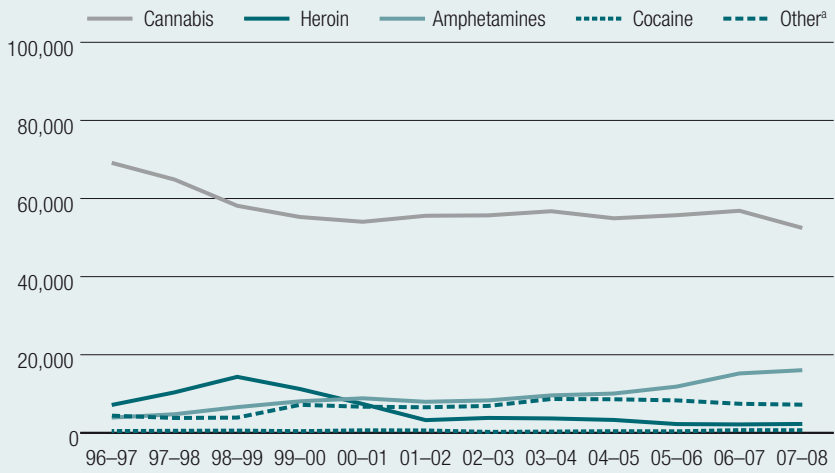
Cannabis arrests include expiation notices, drug infringement notices and simple cannabis offence notices.

Offenders involved in drug arrests are divided into two categories:

- *consumers*—persons charged with user offences (eg possessing or administering drugs for own personal use); and
- *providers*—persons charged with supply offences (eg importation, trafficking, selling, cultivation, 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. A person charged with multiple drug offences is counted as a consumer or provider of each drug type.

Figure 36 Drug arrests, 1996–97 to 2007–08, by type of drug (n per year)

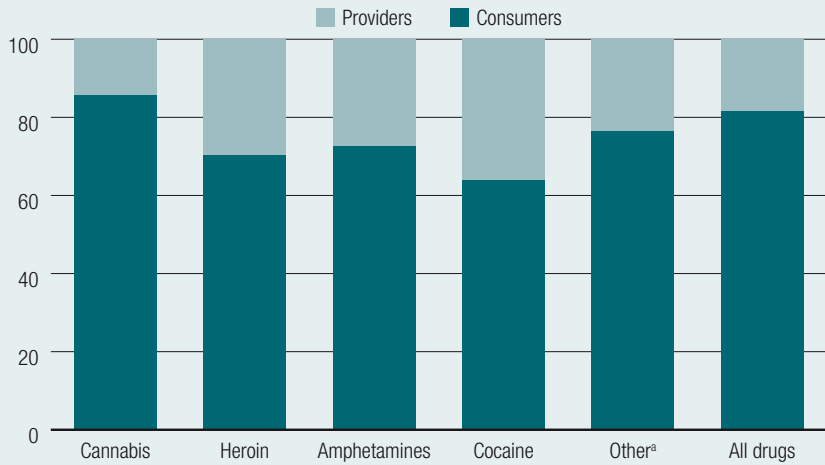


a: Includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere)

- Since 1996–97, there has been an overall decline of eight percent in the annual number of arrests for drug offences. From 2006–07 to 2007–08, drug arrests decreased by five percent.
- Arrests for cannabis and heroin have both declined since 1996–97, by 24 percent and 68 percent respectively.
- Since 1996–97, arrests for amphetamines have more than quadrupled, increasing by 310 percent.
- In 1996–97, 81 percent of drug arrests involved cannabis, compared with 67 percent in 2007–08.

Source: Reference 16

Figure 37 Consumer/provider status of drug arrestees, 2007–08, by type of drug (%)

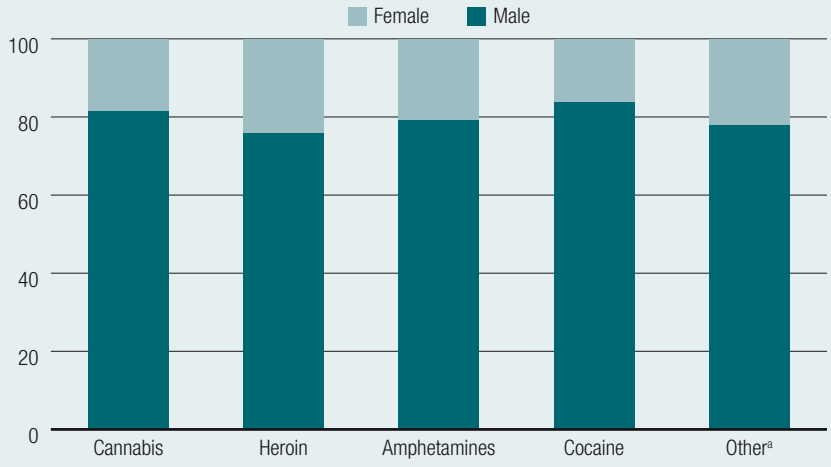


a: Includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere)

- As in previous years, consumers comprised the majority (82%) of drug arrests in 2007–08.
- Providers accounted for 36 percent of persons arrested for cocaine offences, 30 percent of heroin arrests, 28 percent of amphetamines arrests and 14 percent of cannabis arrests.

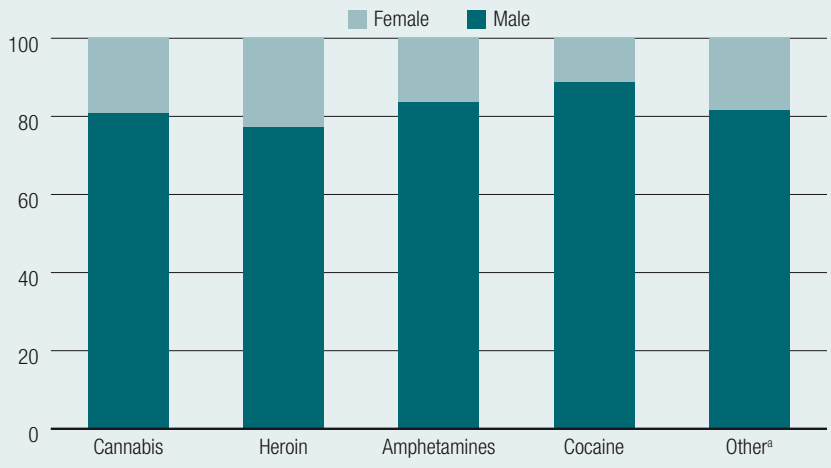
Source: Reference 16

Figure 38 Sex of arrested drug consumers, 2007–08, by type of drug (%)



a: Includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere)

Figure 39 Sex of arrested drug providers, 2007–08, by type of drug (%)



a: Includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere)

- Males accounted for approximately 80 percent of arrests of both consumer and provider offenders, irrespective of drug type.

Source: Reference 16

Chapter 3

Crime victimisation

It should be noted that the data contained in this chapter has been reported in previous editions of *Australian crime: Facts & figures*. In the absence of updates to this data being available for future publications, 2008–09 is the last edition that will contain this reporting.

The majority of industrialised countries conduct crime victimisation surveys to estimate the frequency of certain crimes and the proportion 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 sexual assault.

The method developed for crime victimisation surveys has been extended to address crimes of specific interest. One example used here is the 2007 ABS *Personal Fraud Survey*, which measures rates of victimisation through various types of personal fraud, including credit card fraud, identity fraud and scams.

In addition, in 2005, the ABS conducted the *Personal Safety Survey* that focused on men's and women's experiences of physical and sexual assault.

Source: *References 17–19*

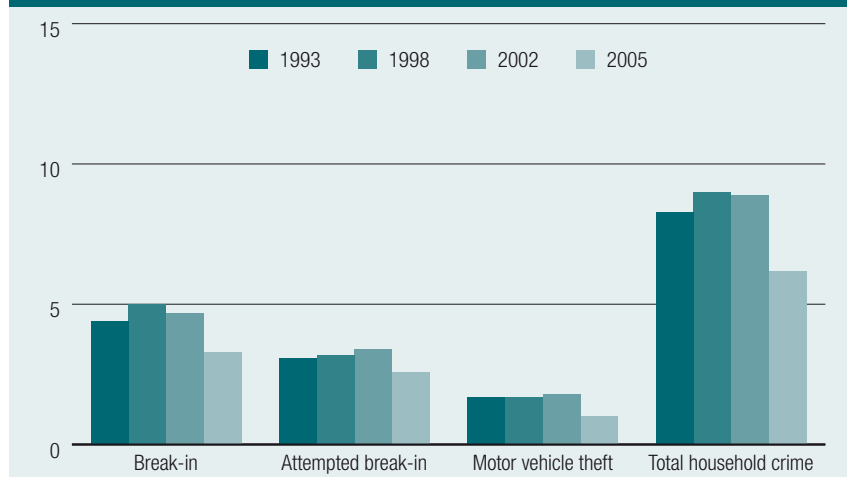
Household and personal victimisation

The CSS distinguishes between household and personal crime. Household crimes include those in which the household (a group of persons resident in a private dwelling and sharing common facilities) is considered the victim of the crime. This

includes home break-in, attempted break-in and motor vehicle theft. 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

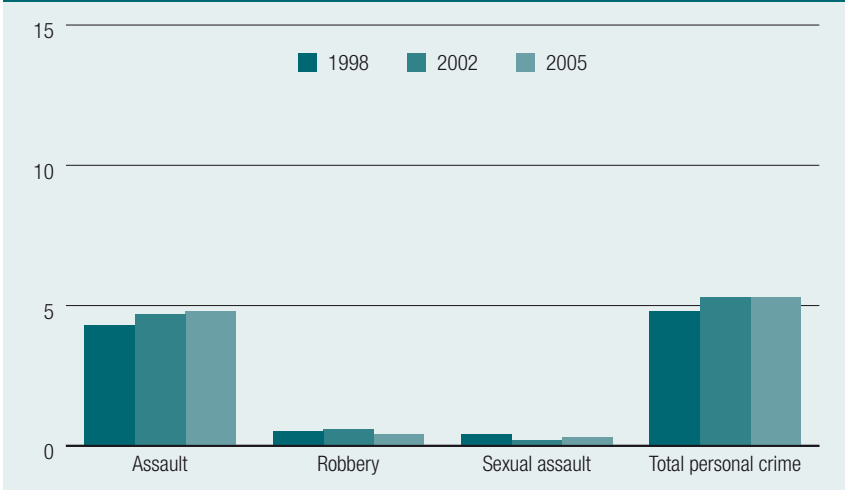
Figure 40 Households experiencing household crime in the previous 12 months, 1993–2005 (%)



- In 2005, six percent of households surveyed had been victims of household crime in the preceding 12 months.
- The number of households reporting a recent experience of household crime decreased from eight percent in 1993 to six percent in 2005, representing a 25 percent decline.
- For all years reviewed, break-in was the most common household crime reported by survey respondents (3.3% in 2005, 4.7% in 2002, 5% in 1998 and 4.4% in 1993); MVT was the least common (2% in 1993, 1998, 2002 and 1% in 2005).
- A smaller percentage of households experienced attempted break-ins, compared with actual break-ins, in the years under review.

Source: Reference 17

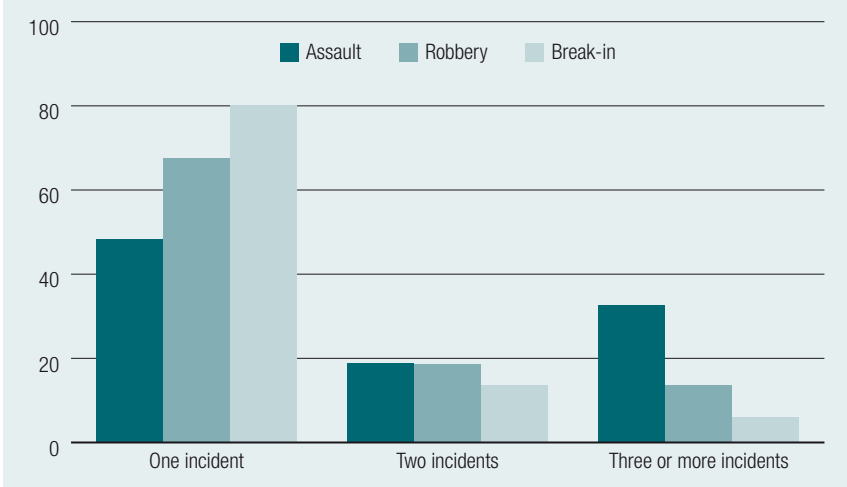
Figure 41 Persons aged 15 years and over who experienced personal crime in the previous 12 months, 1998–2005 (%)



- In 2005, five percent of persons surveyed reported an experience of personal crime in the preceding 12 months.
- The majority of personal crime victims had experienced an assault (4.3% in 1998 and 4.7% in 2002 and 4.8% in 2005 of all persons surveyed). Fewer than one percent of respondents reported being the victim of a robbery or sexual assault.
- From 1998 to 2005, the percentage of persons reporting a recent experience of assault increased by 12 percent, while robbery and sexual assault declined by 20 percent and 25 percent during the same period.

Source: Reference 17

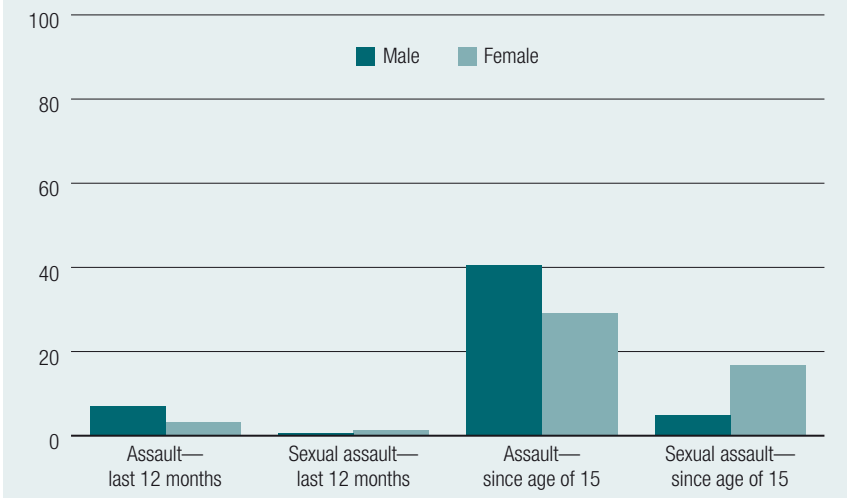
Figure 42 Experience of repeat victimisation for selected crimes in the 12 months preceding 2005 survey, by crime type (%)



- Of persons assaulted in the 12 months preceding the survey, 48 percent had experienced one incident of assault, 19 percent, two incidents and 33 percent, three or more incidents.
- Sixty-eight percent of victims of robbery had experienced one incident of robbery, 19 percent, two incidents and 14 percent, three or more incidents.
- The majority (80%) of victims of house break-ins reported just one incident of break-in in the previous 12 months, 14 percent experienced two incidents and six percent reported three or more incidents.

Source: Reference 17

Figure 43 Adults experiencing assault or sexual assault in previous 12 months and since age of 15 years (%)



- In the 12 months prior to the survey, seven percent of men experienced assault and less than one percent experienced sexual assault. Among women, three percent experienced assault and one percent experienced sexual assault.
- Forty-one percent of men and 29 percent of women had reported having experienced an assault since the age of 15 years.
- Seventeen percent of women and five percent of men had reported experiencing a sexual assault since the age of 15 years.
- Overall, almost half (46%) of men and women reported having experienced an assault and/or sexual assault since the age of 15 years.

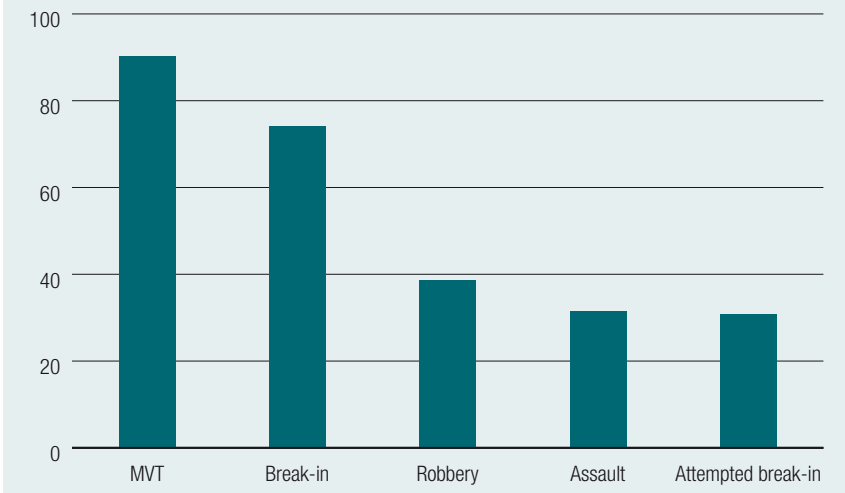
Source: Reference 18

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, depending on the type of crime. Figure 44 shows the estimated reporting percentages of categories of offence reported in the 2005 *Crime and Safety Survey*.

Source: Reference 17

Figure 44 Rate of reporting to police of selected crimes, 2005 (%)



- Motor vehicle thefts (90%), followed by home break-ins (74%), were reported more often to police than other major categories of crime.
- Robbery (39%), attempted break-in (31%) and assault (31%) were less likely to be reported by victims to the police.

Source: Reference 17

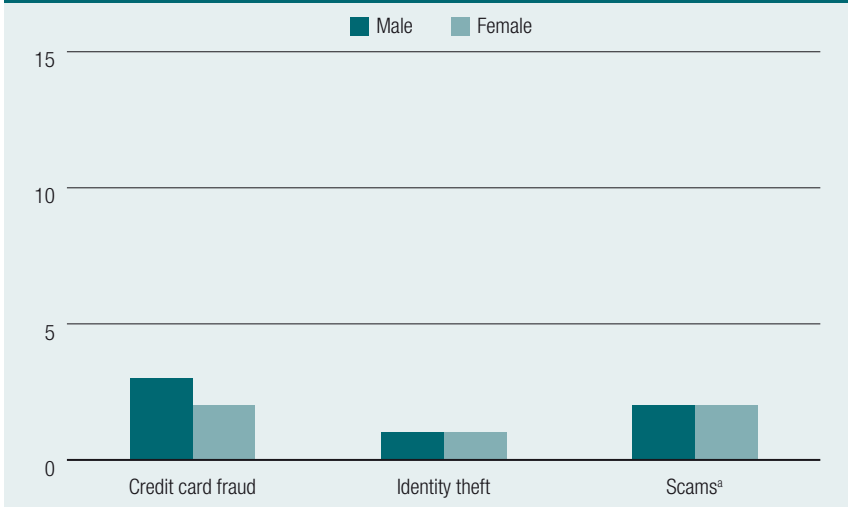
Personal fraud

The ABS *Personal Fraud Survey* (Reference 19) provides an estimate of the number of Australians exposed to scams or attempts at personal fraud, the proportion falling victim to them and the financial losses incurred. Respondents to the survey were interviewed about their experience of personal fraud, specifically incidents of:

- *credit card fraud*—the unauthorised use of a credit or bank card;
- *identity theft*—the theft and fraudulent use of personal details or personal documents; and
- *scams*—a fraudulent invitation, request or offer whereby a person’s personal information and/or money are obtained using deceptive means.

An estimated 806,000 Australians aged 15 years and over were the victim of one or more incidents of personal fraud in the 12 months preceding the survey interview.

Figure 45 Victims of personal fraud, 2007, by sex and fraud type (% of that sex)

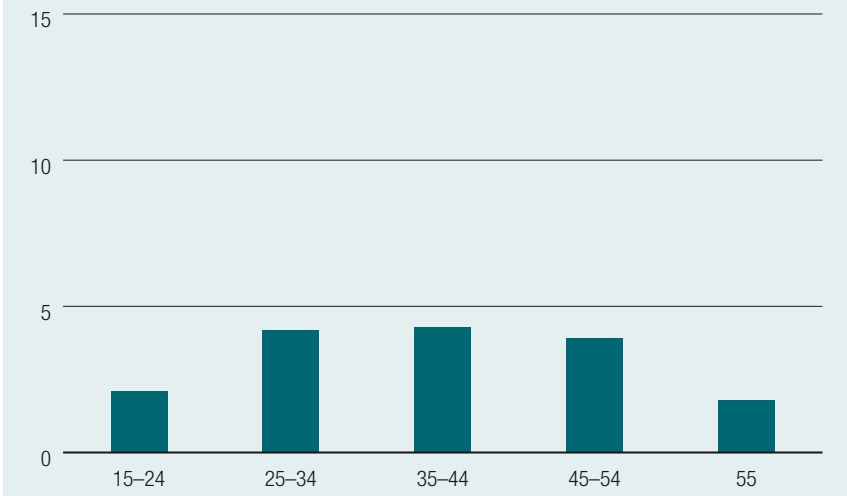


a: Includes lotteries, pyramid schemes, phishing, financial advice, chain letters, advance-fee fraud and other

- Males and females experienced similar rates of victimisation from personal fraud in the previous 12 months.
- Three percent of males and two percent of females reported being the victim of at least one incident of credit card fraud, two percent each of scams and one percent each of identity theft.

Source: Reference 19

Figure 46 Victims of personal fraud, 2007, by age in years (% of that age group)



- Persons aged between 25 to 34 years and 35 to 44 years reported the highest victimisation rates (4.2% and 4.3% respectively) closely followed by individuals aged 45 to 54 years (3.9%).
- Personal fraud victimisation of those aged 15 to 24 years and 55 years and over was half that of those aged 25 to 44 years of age.

Source: Reference 19

Chapter 4

Selected offender profiles

In 2009, for the first time, the ABS published a report on offender characteristics, entitled *Recorded Crime—Offenders, Selected States and Territories, 2007–08*. This publication includes national data on offender age and gender for four key offence categories:

- acts intended to cause injury;
- theft and related offences;
- illicit drug offences; and
- public order offences.

It also contains information on offender characteristics for other offences on a state-by-state basis.

This chapter brings together information on offenders from three sources:

- police annual reports from the three jurisdictions that release offender statistics;
- the AIC's DUMA program; and
- the first issue of the ABS *Recorded Crime—Offenders, Selected States and Territories, 2007–08*.

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

Official data on sex and age of alleged offenders are published by the police services of Victoria, Queensland and South Australia. Police statistics on alleged offenders are unavailable from the remaining states and territories.

This chapter presents data on alleged offenders classified according to sex 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. They also do not reflect findings of guilt. The main purpose here is to give an indicative view of major issues relating to offenders, particularly the following:

- At what age do offender rates peak?
- How does the age pattern of male offenders compare with that of female offenders?
- Are female offender rates increasing?

The number of alleged offenders does not equal the number of *distinct* alleged 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. Neither 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 term *total offender population* refers to the total number of (not necessarily distinct) individuals aged 10 years and over in Victoria, Queensland and South Australia who have been processed by police for any of the offences listed below. The rates of total offenders included in the tables and figures in this chapter are calculated relative to the total population aged 10 years and over in these jurisdictions (see Reference 2). The data are presented by financial year.

In addition, in 2007–08, the classification of ‘other theft’ has been updated to a more inclusive figure. This has caused an increase in the number of offenders in 2007–08 which is partially explained by the re-classification of ‘other theft’ to include theft from motor vehicle, theft (shopsteal), theft of bicycle and theft (other). Prior editions of *Australian crime: Facts & figures* have only included ‘theft (other)’ for Victoria. This edition’s inclusion of theft from motor vehicle, theft (shopsteal) and theft of bicycle for Victoria brings it in line with South Australia and Queensland classification of ‘other theft’.

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

- homicide and related offences (murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, infanticide and driving causing death);
- assault;
- sexual assault;
- robbery;

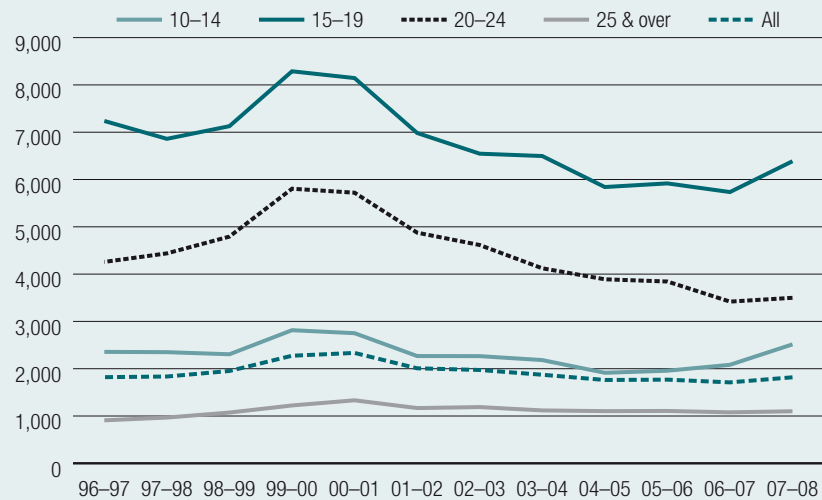
- unlawful entry with intent;
- motor vehicle theft;
- other theft; and
- fraud and deception-related crime.

Source: References 7–9

Age

Persons aged 15 to 19 years are more likely to be processed by police for the commission of a crime than are members of any other population. In 2007–08, the offending rate for persons aged 15 to 19 years was almost four times the rate for total offenders (6,387 and 1,818 respectively per 100,000).

Figure 47 Offenders, 1996–97 to 2007–08, by age in years (per 100,000 of that age per year)



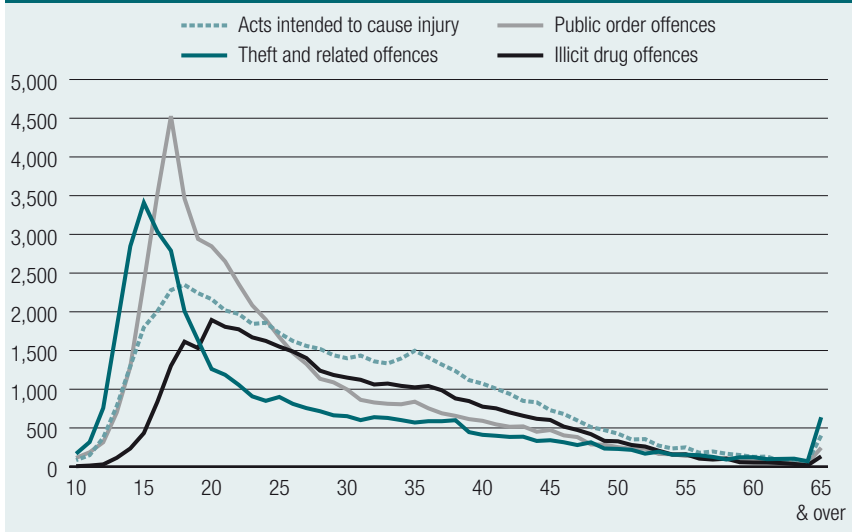
Notes: 'All' refers to all offenders aged 10 years and over. The increase in offenders in 2007–08 is partially explained by the re-classification of 'other theft' to include theft from motor vehicle, theft (shopsteal), theft of bicycle and theft (other). Prior editions of *Australian crime: Facts & figures* have only included 'theft (other)' for Victoria. This edition's inclusion of theft from motor vehicle, theft (shopsteal) and theft of bicycle for Victoria brings it in line with South Australia and Queensland classification of 'other theft'

- Offender rates have been consistently highest among persons aged 15 to 19 years and lowest among those aged 25 years and over.

- Rates have declined from 1996–97 for the 20 to 24 year age group and 15 to 19 year age group, declining by 18 percent and 12 percent respectively. Rates of offenders aged 10 to 14 years and 25 years and over increased in this same period (7% and 21% respectively).

Source: References 2 and 7–9

Figure 48 Offenders, 2007–08, by selected principal offence and age in years for Australia (excluding Western Australia)



Note: In the Australian Capital Territory, only 4 categories of selected principal offences have been reported by ABS. Therefore, to get a national figure (excluding Western Australia), only these 4 categories across states and territories could be aggregated into a national figure

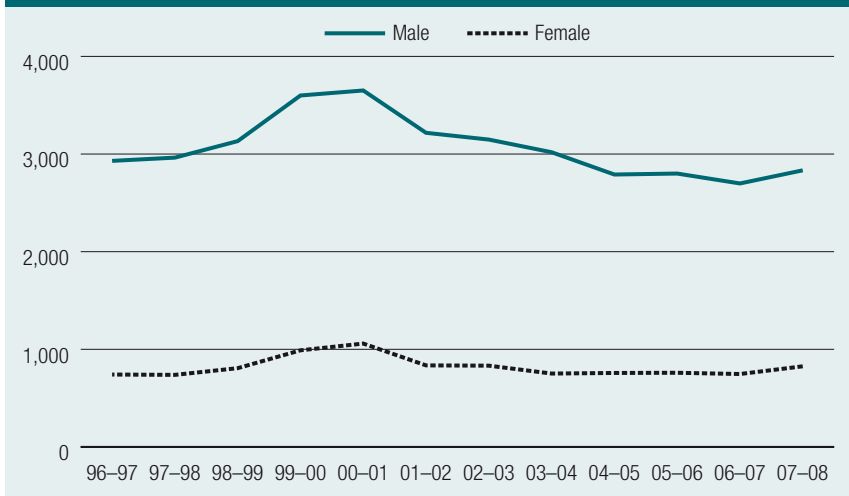
- For these selected offences, the number of offenders peaks for persons aged between 15 to 21 years and substantially declines thereafter.
- For acts intended to cause injury:
 - those aged 18 years made up the majority of offenders for this offence type;
 - public order offenders reaches a high at age 17 years;
 - theft and other related offences peaks earlier, aged 15 years; and
 - illicit drug offenders is highest among those aged 20 years.

Source: Reference 27

Sex

In 2007–08, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia processed a total of 178,046 alleged offenders, 137,163 of whom were male and 40,883 were female. Females made up 23 percent of all offenders in 2007–08, a proportion similar to that of previous years.

Figure 49 Offenders, 1996–97 to 2007–08, by sex (per 100,000 of that sex per year)



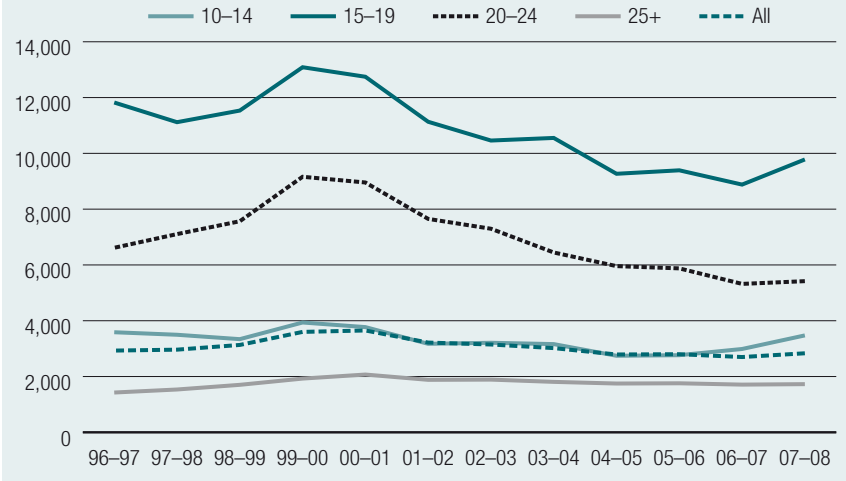
Note: The increase in offenders in 2007–08 is partially explained by the re-classification of 'other theft' to include theft from motor vehicle, theft (shopsteal), theft of bicycle and theft (other). Prior editions of *Australian crime: Facts & figures* have only included 'theft (other)' for Victoria. This edition's inclusion of theft from motor vehicle, theft (shopsteal) and theft of bicycle for Victoria brings it in line with South Australia and Queensland classification of 'other theft'

- Between 1996–97 and 2007–08, males were three times more likely than females to be identified as offenders. In 2007–08, the male offender rate was 2,833 offenders per 100,000 males aged 10 years and over; the female offender rate was 826 per 100,000 females aged 10 years and over.
- Offender rates for both males and females reached a peak in 2000–01. Since then, rates have declined by 22 percent for both males and females.

Source: References 2 and 7–9

Males

Figure 50 Male offenders, 1996–97 to 2007–08, by age in years (per 100,000 males of that age group per year)

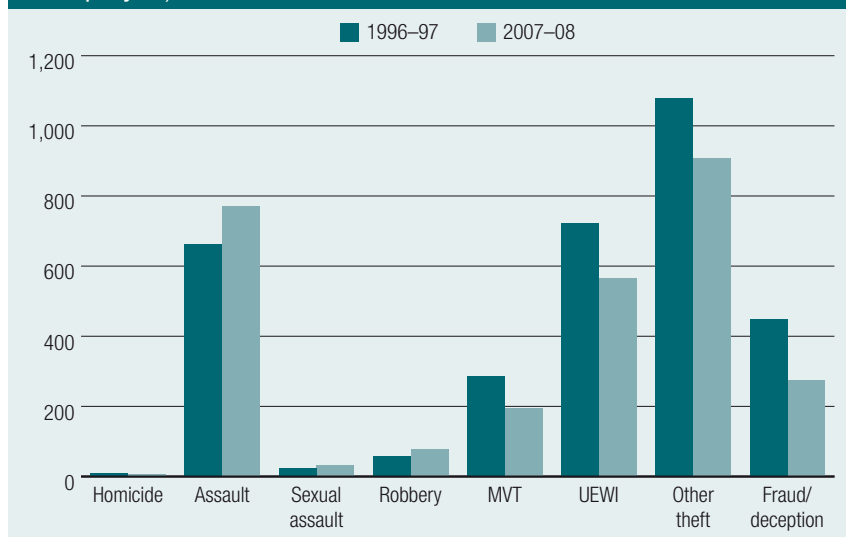


Notes: 'All' refers to all male offenders aged 10 years and over. The increase in offenders in 2007–08 is partially explained by the re-classification of 'other theft' to include theft from motor vehicle, theft (shopsteal), theft of bicycle and theft (other). Prior editions of *Australian crime: Facts & figures* have only included 'theft (other)' for Victoria. This edition's inclusion of theft from motor vehicle, theft (shopsteal) and theft of bicycle for Victoria brings it in line with South Australia and Queensland classification of 'other theft'

- From 1996–2008, the rate for male offenders was consistently highest in the 15 to 19 year age group. In 2007–08, the offender rate of males aged 15 to 19 years was 9,781 per 100,000, following a peak of 13,087 per 100,000 in 1999–2000.
- Rates were also high during this period among males in the 20 to 24 year age group, ranging between 5,320 and 9,160 per 100,000 relevant population.
- Since 1999–2000, there has been a substantial decrease in male offender rates in 15 to 19 years and 20 to 24 year age groups. These decreases have been of one-quarter or more. In this period, the rates of male offenders aged 10 to 14 years and 25 years and over decreased by more than 10 percent.

Source: References 2 and 7–9

Figure 51 Male offenders, 1996–97 and 2007–08, by offence type (per 100,000 males per year)

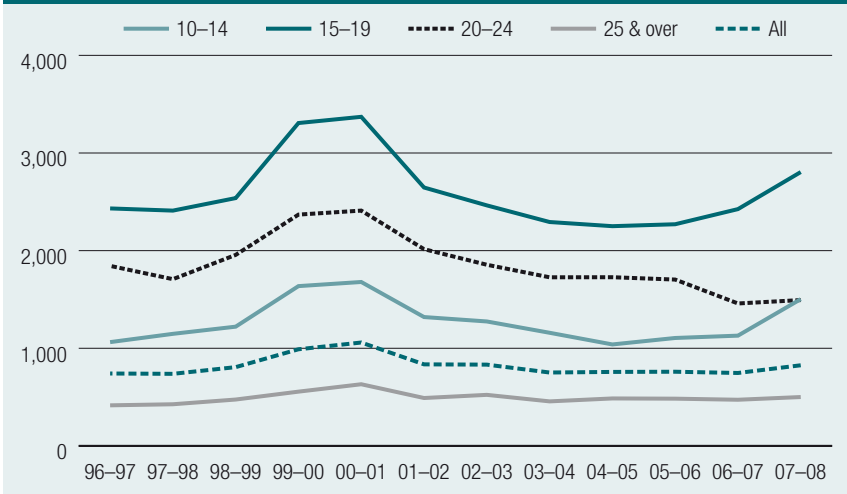


- In 1996–97 and 2007–08, male offender rates were highest for the offences of other theft, unlawful entry with intent and assault. Rates were lowest for robbery, sexual assault and homicide in both years.
- Compared with 1996–97, male offending rates in 2007–08 increased for all violent crimes except homicide (ie for assault, robbery and sexual assault) and declined for motor vehicle theft, unlawful entry with intent, ‘other theft’ and particularly for fraud/deception.

Source: References 2 and 7–9

Females

Figure 52 Female offenders, 1996–97 to 2007–08, by age in years (per 100,000 females of that age group per year)

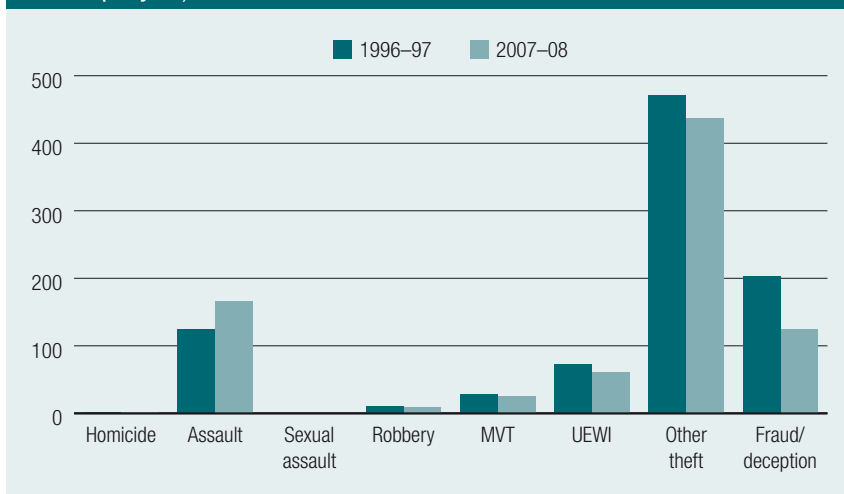


Notes: 'All' refers to all female offenders aged 10 years and over. The increase in offenders in 2007–08 is partially explained by the re-classification of 'other theft' to include theft from motor vehicle, theft (shopsteal), theft of bicycle and theft (other). Prior editions of *Australian crime: Facts & figures* have only included 'theft (other)' for Victoria. This edition's inclusion of theft from motor vehicle, theft (shopsteal) and theft of bicycle for Victoria brings it in line with South Australia and Queensland classification of 'other theft'

- Similar to male offending rates, rates among females since 1996–97 have been consistently highest in the 15 to 19 years age group.
- In all age groups, the female offender rate peaked in 2000–01, followed by a general decline. Offender rates began to increase again in the three years prior to 2008 in the 10 to 14 years, 15 to 19 years and the 25 years and over age groups.

Source: *References 2 and 7–9*

Figure 53 Female offenders, 1996–97 and 2007–08, by offence type (per 100,000 females per year)



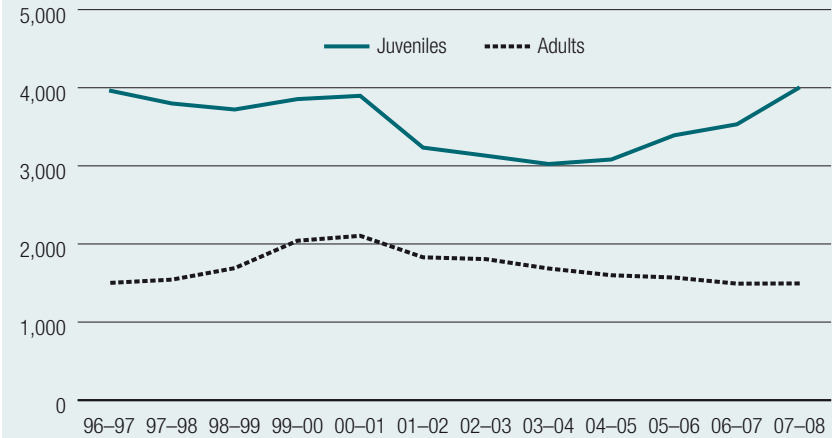
- Female offender rates were highest for ‘other theft’, fraud/deception and assault in both 1996–97 and 2007–08, and lowest for robbery, homicide (fewer than 2 per 100,000) and sexual assault (fewer than 1 per 100,000).

Source: References 2 and 7–9

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 54 Juvenile and adult offenders, 1996–97 to 2007–08, by age group (per 100,000 of that age group per year)

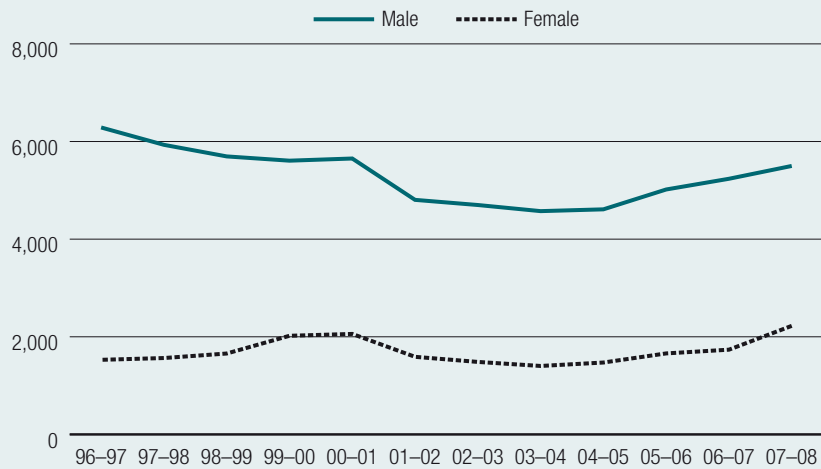


Note: The increase in offenders in 2007–08 is partially explained by the re-classification of 'other theft' to include theft from motor vehicle, theft (shopsteal), theft of bicycle and theft (other). Prior editions of *Australian crime: Facts & figures* have only included 'theft (other)' for Victoria. This edition's inclusion of theft from motor vehicle, theft (shopsteal) and theft of bicycle for Victoria brings it in line with South Australia and Queensland classification of 'other theft'

- Juvenile offender rates are generally twice as high as adult rates.
- The offending rate among adults peaked in 2000–01, at 2,105 per 100,000. In 2007–08, it was 1,495 per 100,000—the second lowest rate recorded.
- The offender rate among juveniles decreased overall from 1996–97 to 2003–04 from 3,965 to 3,024 per 100,000. It increased in 2004–05, 2006–07 and again in 2007–08 to 4,006 per 100,000.

Source: References 2 and 7–9

Figure 55 Juvenile offenders, 1996–97 to 2007–08, by sex (per 100,000 juveniles of that sex per year)

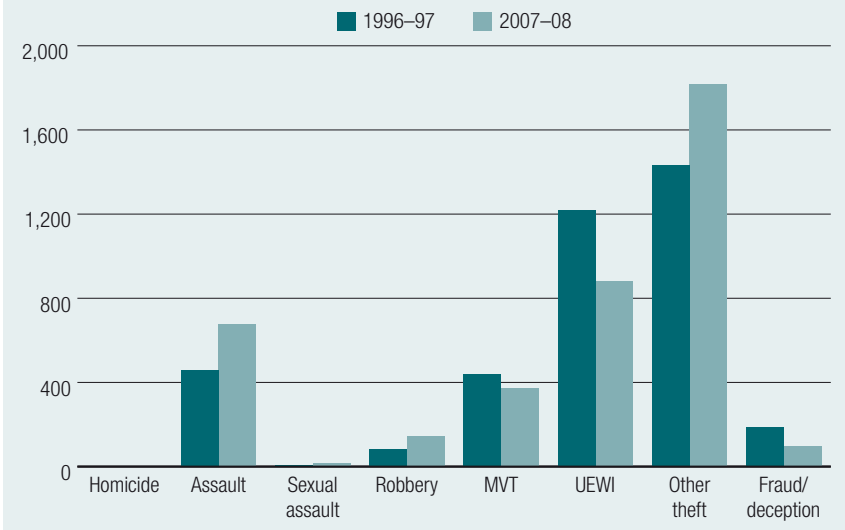


Note: The increase in offenders in 2007–08 is partially explained by the re-classification of 'other theft' to include theft from motor vehicle, theft (shopsteal), theft of bicycle and theft (other). Prior editions of *Australian crime: Facts & figures* have only included 'theft (other)' for Victoria. This edition's inclusion of theft from motor vehicle, theft (shopsteal) and theft of bicycle for Victoria brings it in line with South Australia and Queensland classification of 'other theft'

- Since 1996–97, offender rates have declined by 13 percent for juvenile males, but have increased by 46 percent for juvenile females. This increase is primarily due to the re-classification of 'other theft' in 2007–08 to be more inclusive. Although the inclusion of more crime types in 'other theft' also affected the figures for juvenile males, their rates still registered a decline.
- Female juvenile offenders comprised 20 to 29 percent of all juvenile offenders in any given year from 1996–97 to 2007–08.

Source: References 2 and 7–9

Figure 56 Juvenile offenders, 1996–97 and 2007–08, by offence type (per 100,000 juveniles per year)



Note: The increase in offenders in 2007–08 is partially explained by the re-classification of ‘other theft’ to include theft from motor vehicle, theft (shopsteal), theft of bicycle and theft (other). Prior editions of *Australian crime: Facts & figures* have only included ‘theft (other)’ for Victoria. This edition’s inclusion of theft from motor vehicle, theft (shopsteal) and theft of bicycle for Victoria brings it in line with South Australia and Queensland classification of ‘other theft’

- From 1996–97 to 2007–08, juvenile offender rates for sexual assault, robbery and assault and other theft rose by 96 percent, 78 percent, 47 percent and 27 percent respectively.
- Juvenile offender rates decreased for fraud and deception (49%), homicide (40%), UEWI (28%) and motor vehicle theft (15%).

Source: References 2 and 7–9

Drug use by offenders

Police detainees

The AIC’s DUMA program monitors illicit drug use by police detainees at several sites around Australia on a quarterly basis. DUMA provides a reasonable and independent indicator of drug-related crime at these locations. Two methods are used to obtain information—questionnaire and urine sample.

By 2008, nine sites were being monitored: East Perth in Western Australia; Southport and Brisbane City in Queensland; Bankstown and Parramatta in New South Wales; Adelaide City in South Australia; Darwin and Alice Springs in the Northern Territory; and Footscray in Victoria. Brisbane City and Adelaide City began participating in 2002, Darwin and Footscray in 2006 and Alice Springs in 2007.

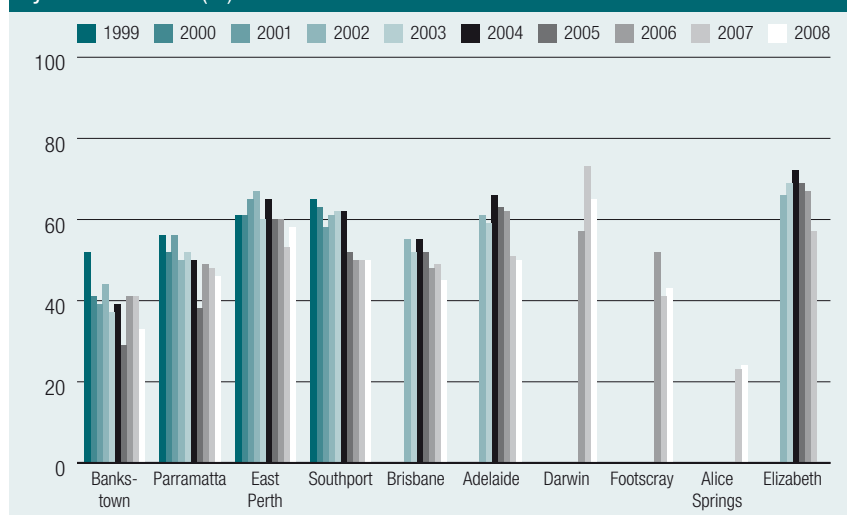
Data collection at a tenth site in Elizabeth, South Australia ceased as at the end of Quarter Four 2007 and therefore, there is no data for Elizabeth in 2008.

Data are collected quarterly and presented in the following figures as annual averages. Data is presented here for males only, unless otherwise stated, as they represent the majority (more than 80%) of police detainees in the DUMA collection.

The 10 sites differed in the percentage of police detainees testing positive to each of cannabis, methamphetamine, heroin and cocaine.

Source: Reference 20

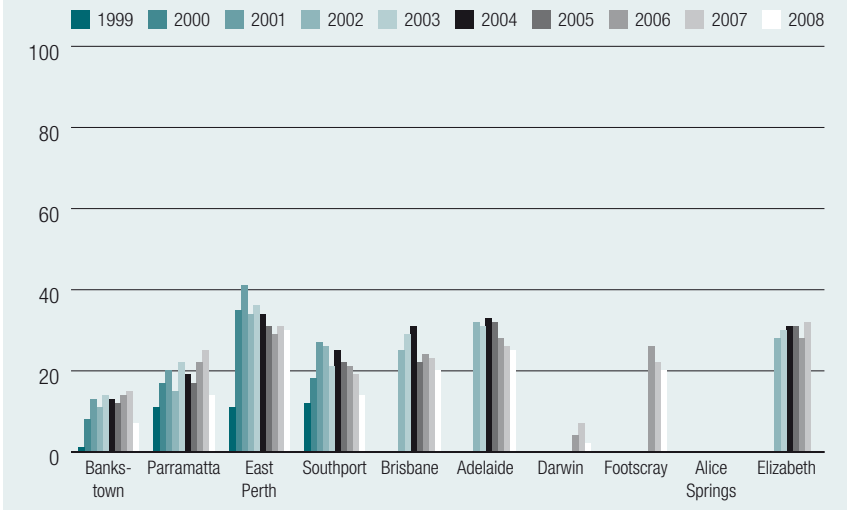
Figure 57 Adult male police detainees testing positive to cannabis, 1999–2008, by DUMA location (%)



- The proportion of adult male detainees testing positive to cannabis in 2008 ranged from 24 percent (Alice Springs) to 65 percent (Darwin).
- Since 2004, most sites have registered a decrease in the percentage of detainees testing positive to cannabis.

Source: Reference 20

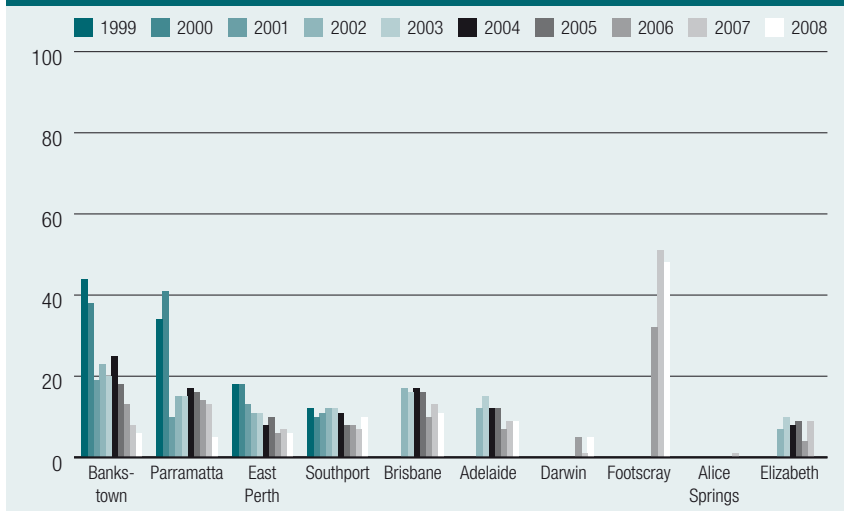
Figure 58 Adult male police detainees testing positive to methamphetamine, 1999–2008, by DUMA location (%)



- The proportion of adult male detainees testing positive to methamphetamine in 2008 ranged from two percent (Darwin) to 30 percent (East Perth). No detainees tested positive to methamphetamine at Alice Springs.
- Methamphetamine use increased at all long-term sites from 1999 to 2001. The majority of sites recorded a general peak in methamphetamine use in 2001 and then from 2001, reported an overall decline in the following years. The exception to this trend were Sydney sites.
- Sydney sites recorded a peak in methamphetamine use in 2007 and have declined thereafter.
- Methamphetamine use by police detainees has been consistently higher in East Perth and Adelaide, and lower at the Sydney sites.

Source: Reference 20

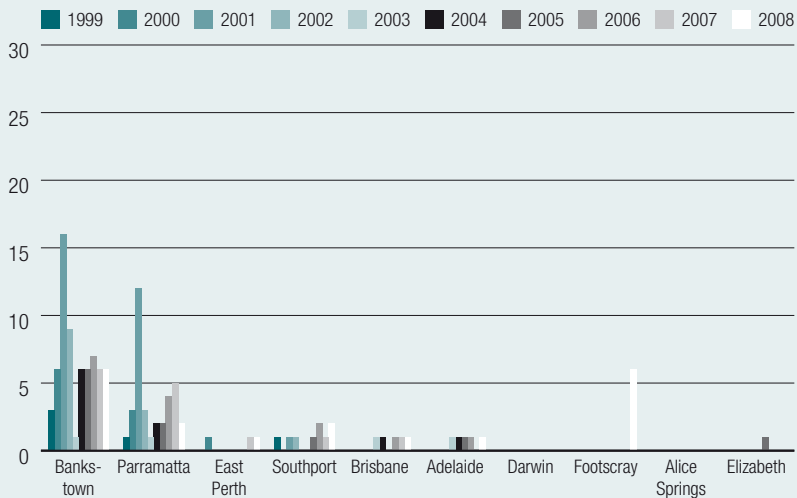
Figure 59 Adult male police detainees testing positive to heroin, 1999–2008, by DUMA location (%)



- Most sites have registered either a decline or remained relatively stable in heroin use. The proportion of adult male detainees testing positive to heroin in 2008 ranged from no positive result (Alice Springs) to 48 percent (Footscray).
- In 2008, nearly half the detainees at the Footscray site tested positive to heroin.

Source: Reference 20

Figure 60 Adult male police detainees testing positive to cocaine, 1999–2008, by DUMA location (%)

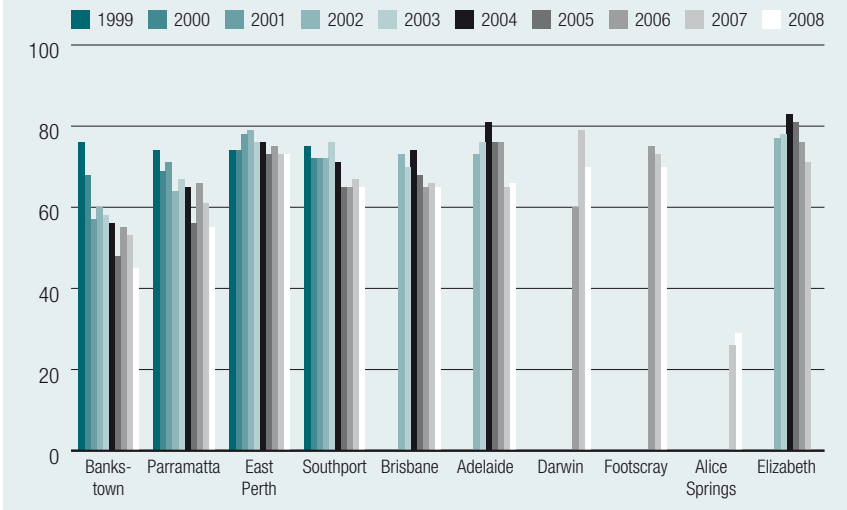


Note: The scale for this chart is different from that of other charts as the percentages involved are relatively small

- The proportion of adult male detainees testing positive to cocaine is very low at all sites, but consistently higher at Bankstown and Parramatta than at the other sites.
- Cocaine use has fluctuated at the two Sydney sites; the greatest proportion of detainees there testing positive in 2001.

Source: Reference 20

Figure 61 Adult male police detainees' positive testing to a drug^a, 1999–2008, by DUMA location (%)

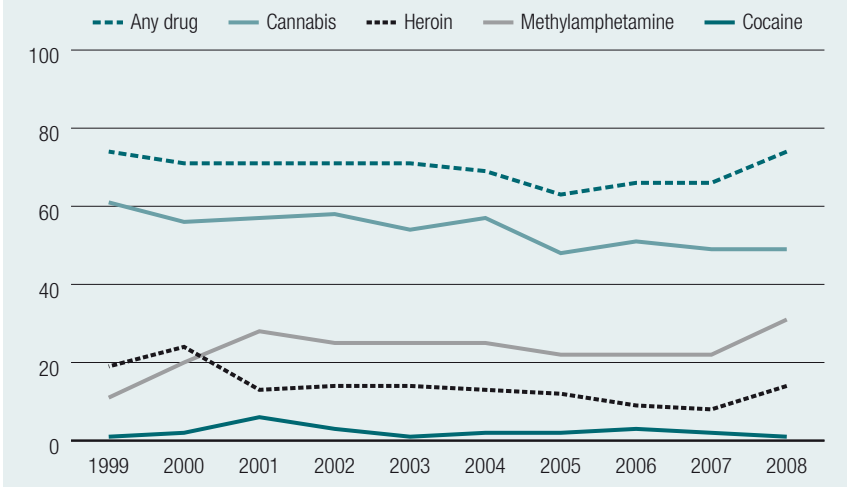


a: A drug is defined as cannabis, heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, or benzodiazepines

- Sites routinely show around 60 to 80 percent of adult male detainees test positive to a drug. Since 2001, the proportion of detainees at Bankstown testing positive to a drug has been 60 percent or less.
- At the majority of sites, the percentage of adult male detainees testing positive to a drug has remained steady or decreased since monitoring at the site began.
- The exception to this decline is Alice Springs and Darwin, where there was an increase in the reported percentage of adult male detainees testing positive to any drug since monitoring at these sites began.
- Before 2007, the proportion of adult male detainees testing positive to a drug was consistently highest at the Adelaide and East Perth sites.

Source: Reference 20

Figure 62 Adult male police detainees testing positive to selected drugs, at four long-term sites^a, 1999–2008 (%)

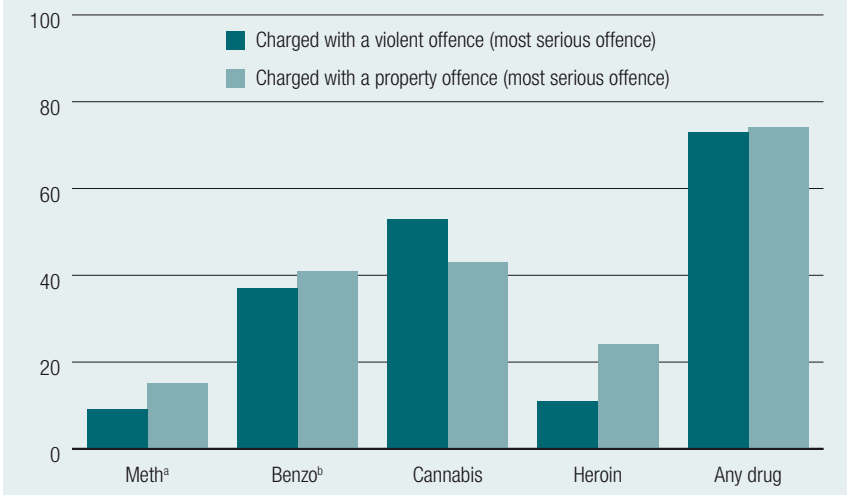


a: Bankstown, Parramatta, East Perth, Southport

- The proportion of adult male detainees using any drug and those using methamphetamine was relatively stable between 2005 and 2007, but have since increased between 2007 and 2008.
- From 1999 to 2008, the percentage of adult male detainees testing positive to cocaine and the percentage testing positive to cannabis have remained relatively steady.
- The proportion of adult male detainees using heroin increased in 2008 compared with the prior year. This is in contrast to a general decrease between 2000 and 2007.

Source: Reference 20

Figure 63 Adult male police detainees testing positive to a drug, 2008, by type of charge for most serious offence (% of those with that type of charge)



a: Methamphetamine

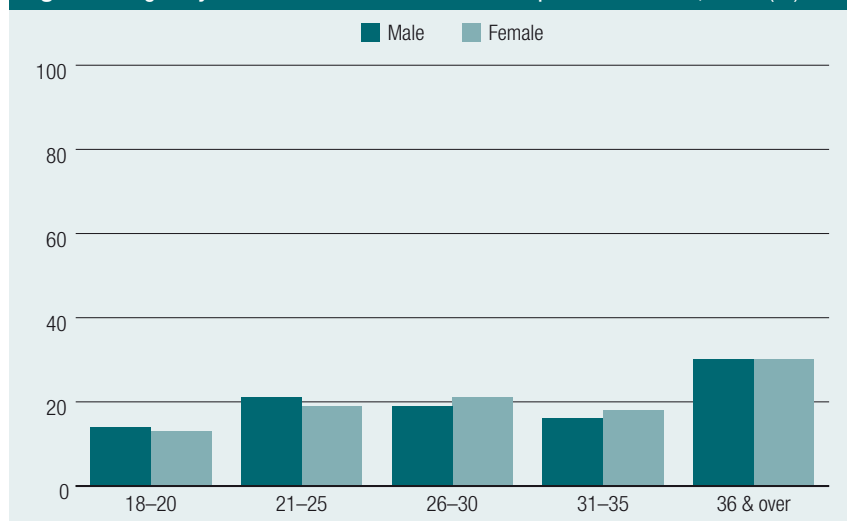
b: Benzodiazepines

- Adult male detainees who tested positive for benzodiazepines or cannabis were more likely to be charged with both property offences and violent offences as their most serious offence (MSO) than detainees who tested positive to methamphetamine or heroin.
- Seventy-four percent of all adult male detainees charged with property offences as their MSO, and 73 percent of those charged with violent offences, tested positive to a drug.

Source: Reference 20

Characteristics of police detainees

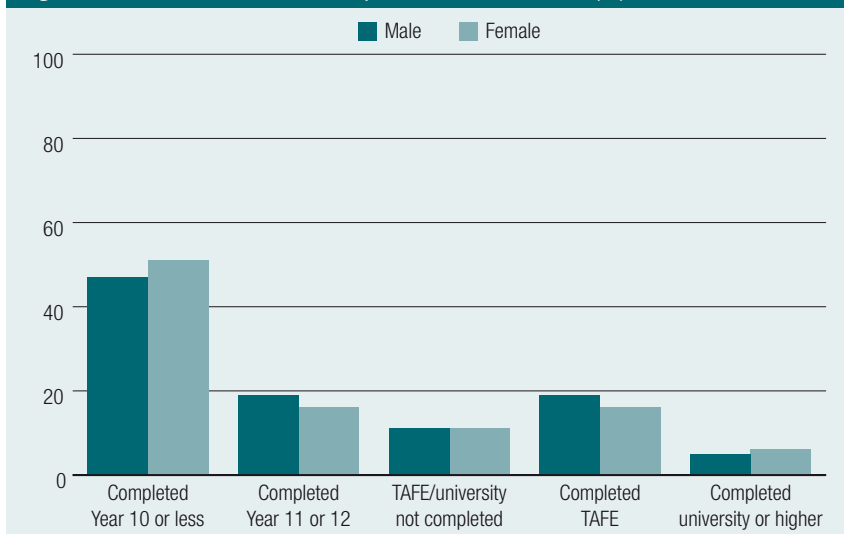
Figure 64 Age in years and sex distribution of adult police detainees, 2008 (%)



- Nearly one-third of male and female adult detainees were aged 36 years and over. Another 21 percent of males and 19 percent of females were aged 21 to 25 years.
- There was little difference between the sexes in the proportion of detainees in each age group.

Source: Reference 20

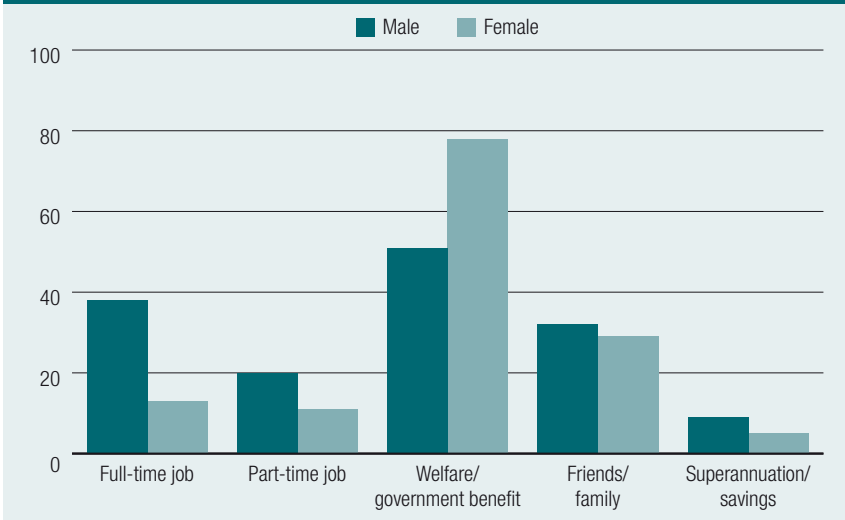
Figure 65 Education level of adult police detainees, 2008 (%)



- Forty-seven percent of male and 51 percent of female detainees had not completed any education beyond Year 10. Nearly one-fifth of males and 16 percent of females had completed Year 11 or 12.
- Nineteen percent of adult male detainees had completed a TAFE qualification and five percent had completed a university qualification.
- A similar proportion of adult female detainees had completed a TAFE (16%) or university qualification (6%).

Source: Reference 20

Figure 66 Non-crime generated sources of income of adult police detainees, 2008, during 30 days before arrest, by sex (%)

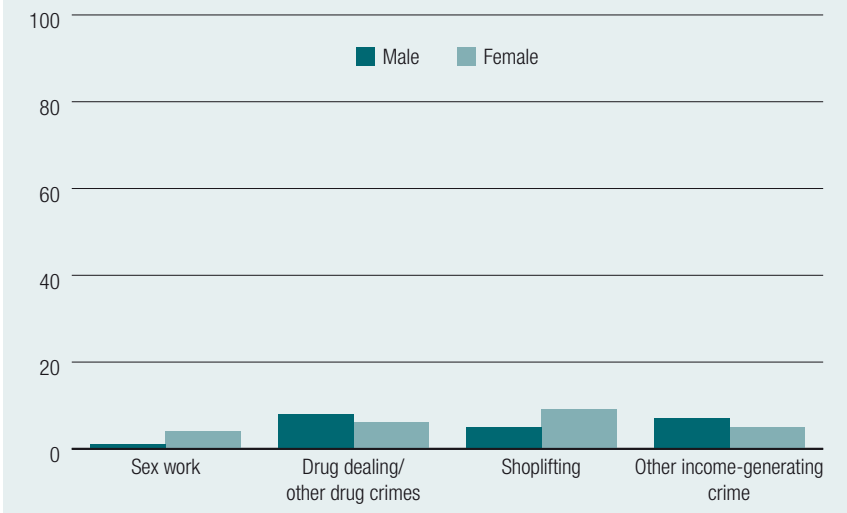


Note: Previous DUMA surveys required respondents to identify their 'main source of income'. In the 2008 survey, respondents could select more than one source of income. As such, Figure 66 and 67 do not total 100% for each sex

- More than half (51%) of adult male detainees and more than three-quarters of adult female detainees (78%) received a welfare or government benefit as a source of income in the 30 days prior to arrest.
- Adult male detainees' next most common income source was a full-time job (38%), followed by money obtained from friends and family (32%).
- Adult female detainees' next most common sources of income were family or friends (29%) and a full-time job (13%).

Source: Reference 20

Figure 67 Crime-generated^a sources of income of adult police detainees, 2008, during 30 days before arrest, by sex (%)



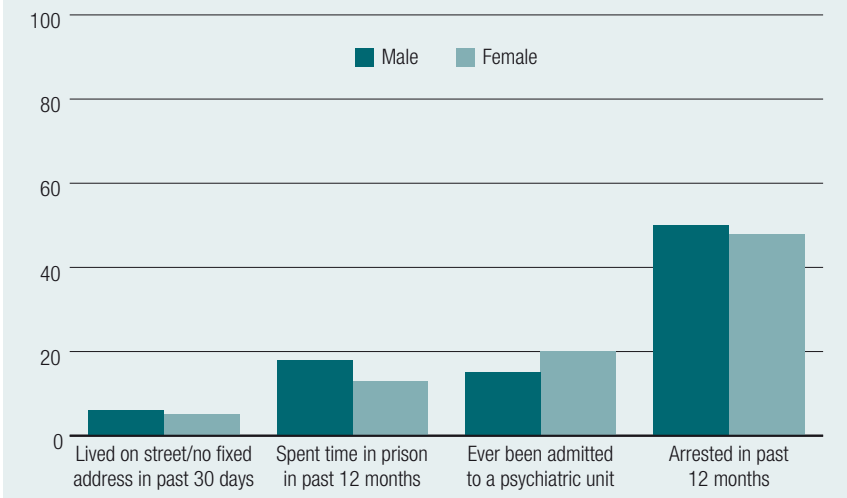
a: Sex work is decriminalised in some states and territories

Note: Previous DUMA surveys required respondents to identify their 'main source of income'. In the 2008 survey, respondents could select more than one source of income. As such, Figure 66 and 67 do not total 100% for each sex

- Twenty-one percent of adult male detainees and 24 percent of adult female detainees obtained a portion of their income from criminal activity.
- Drug dealing and other drug-related crimes were reported by eight percent of male detainees as a source of income and shoplifting by five percent.
- Nine percent of female detainees engaged in shoplifting to supplement their income, six percent in drug dealing and drug-related crimes and four percent in sex work.

Source: Reference 20

Figure 68 Previous experience of homelessness, arrest and imprisonment, and mental illness of adult police detainees, 2008 (%)



- Half of adult male (50%) and approximately half of adult female (48%) detainees had been arrested in the 12 months prior to their current arrest. Adult male detainees were more likely (18%) than adult female detainees (13%) to have spent time in prison in the previous 12 months.
- Adult female detainees (20%) were more likely than adult male detainees (15%) to have been admitted to a psychiatric unit.
- A similar proportion of adult 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.

Source: Reference 20

Most serious offence

Table 7 MSO of adult male police detainees, 2004–08 (%)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Violent offences	26	25	28	27	28
Property offences	28	24	23	21	20
Drug offences	7	7	7	7	8
Drink-driving offences	6	4	5	6	6
Traffic offences	9	12	9	9	8
Disorder offences	6	6	7	6	7
Breaches	15	18	17	19	20
Other offences	4	4	5	5	4

Table 8 MSO of adult female police detainees, 2004–08 (%)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Violent offences	17	18	20	20	18
Property offences	41	37	37	35	36
Drug offences	7	7	7	9	9
Drink-driving offences	3	3	2	4	5
Traffic offences	8	10	10	6	8
Disorder offences	6	7	5	7	5
Breaches	13	13	13	16	15
Other offences	6	5	5	3	4

- In 2004, the MSO committed by adult male detainees was most commonly a property offence, but in 2005 to 2008, it was most commonly a violent offence.
- The MSO committed by adult female detainees in each of the five years from 2004 to 2008 was most commonly a property offence. Adult female detainees were twice as likely to have been detained for a property offence as for a violent offence.
- Since 2004, the proportion of adult female detainees whose MSO was a violent offence increased marginally from 17 percent to 18 percent. The proportion whose MSO was a property offence decreased from 41 percent to 36 percent in the same period.
- There has been a decrease in the proportion of adult male detainees whose MSO was a property offence, from 28 percent to 20 percent.

Source: Reference 20

Chapter 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' courts*—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) courts*—courts that deal with crimes of greater seriousness. Intermediate courts hear the majority of cases involving indictable crimes.
- *Supreme courts*—the highest level of court within a state or territory. Supreme Courts deal with the most serious crimes.

Higher courts comprise intermediate and Supreme Courts, where defendants charged with serious or indictable offences are dealt with and where appeals are heard.

Magistrates' courts are called *lower courts*.

Each state and territory also has a children's court, which sits within the Magistrates' court system. Children's courts deal solely with defendants who committed an offence when aged under 18 years (or in Queensland, under 17 years).

Minor criminal offences, called *summary offences*, are dealt with in the lower courts where penalties are less severe; major offences, dealt with by the higher courts, are called *indictable offences*. If a defendant pleads not guilty, indictable offences normally require a trial by judge and jury.

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 with a Magistrates' court.

In states with both Supreme and intermediate courts, the majority of charges are decided in intermediate courts. Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory do not have intermediate courts; all relevant charges are dealt with by Supreme Courts.

The ABS publishes statistics on criminal defendants whose cases were initiated or finalised in higher and Magistrates' courts and, recently, in children's courts. ABS data do not include defendants finalised in 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 lodgements at each court level.

Both the ABS and the SCRGSP report on criminal court data for financial, rather than calendar, years.

Source: References 21 and 22

The criminal court process

Case flows

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

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

Source: References 21 and 22

Lodgements

Most lodgements are processed by the Magistrates' court in the relevant criminal jurisdiction.

In 2007–08, 869,700 cases were lodged in criminal courts in Australia: 96.3 percent were initiated in Magistrates' courts, three percent were initiated in district/county courts and the remainder initiated in the Supreme courts.

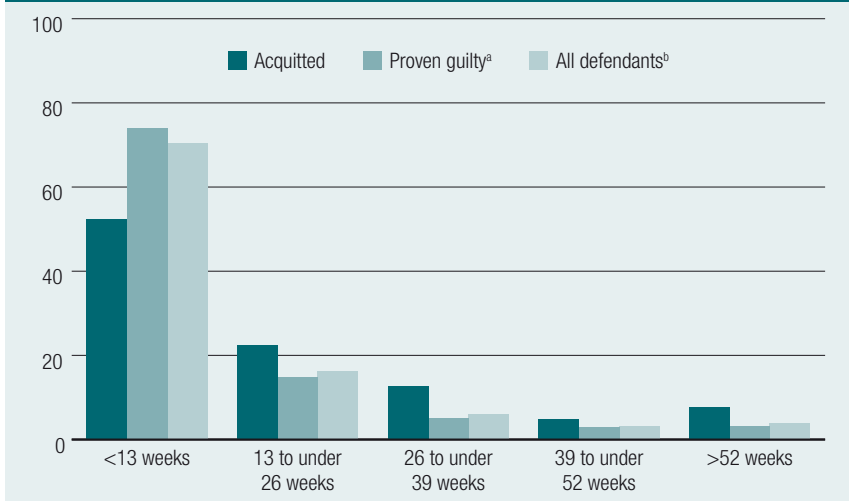
Source: Reference 21

Timeliness

The duration between the lodgement of a matter with the court and its finalisation is referred to as timeliness. Generally, lower courts complete a similar proportion of their workload with greater timeliness than higher courts, because cases are of a more straightforward nature, the disputes and prosecutions heard are usually less complex and there is a greater proportion of guilty pleas.

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

Figure 69 Duration of matters finalised in Magistrates' courts, 2007–08, by method of finalisation (%)



a: Includes guilty plea and guilty verdict

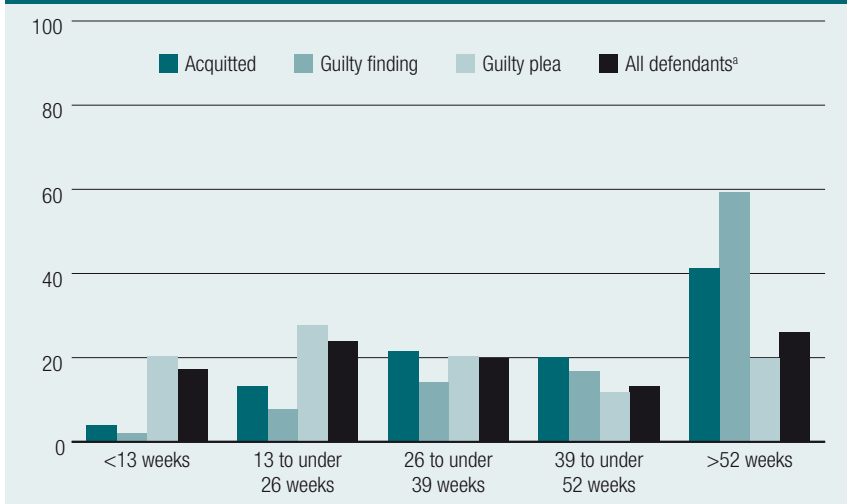
b: Includes those whose cases were finalised by other means (eg transferred to other court levels, withdrawn by prosecution) or whose finalisation method was unknown

- On average, 71 percent of matters finalised in the Magistrates' court were finalised within 13 weeks of the initial hearing of the matter by the court. A further 16 percent were finalised in the subsequent three months.
- Four percent of hearings took 52 or more weeks to finalise.

- Generally, cases resulting in acquittal of the defendant took longer to resolve than cases where the defendant was found to be guilty of the offence.

Source: Reference 22

Figure 70 Duration of matters finalised in higher courts, 2007–08, by method of finalisation (%)

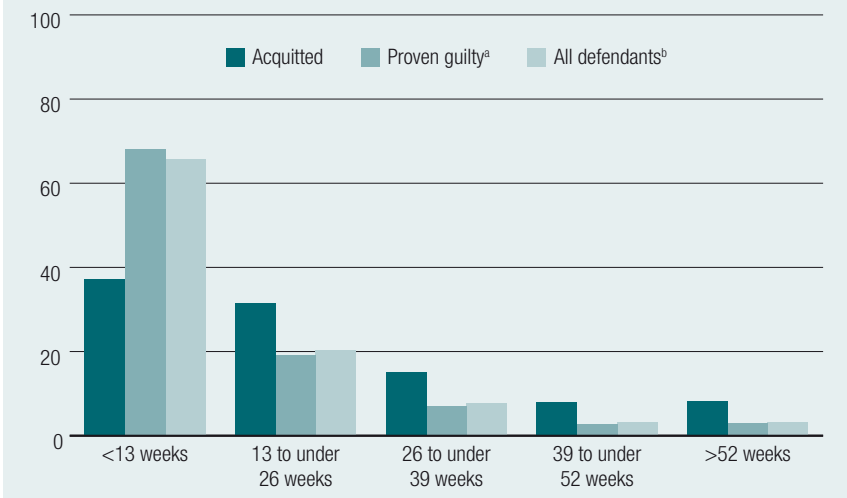


a: Includes defendants who were found guilty but whose method of finalisation was unknown (ie guilty verdict or guilty plea), cases that were transferred to other court levels or whose finalisation was achieved by some other method

- In 2007–08, 26 percent of matters finalised in higher courts lasted more than 52 weeks. Seventeen percent took less than 13 weeks to finalise.
- Cases where the defendant pleaded guilty generally took the least time to finalise: 20.4 percent of cases where the defendant pleaded guilty to the offence were resolved in less than 13 weeks, compared with four percent of cases ending in an acquittal and two percent of cases where the defendant was found guilty.
- Cases where the defendant was found guilty by the court generally took longer to finalise than cases involving either an acquittal or a guilty plea: 59 percent of cases resulting in a finding of guilt took 52 weeks or more to finalise, compared with 41 percent of acquittals and 20 percent of cases where the defendant pleaded guilty.

Source: Reference 22

Figure 71 Duration of matters finalised in children’s courts, 2007–08, by method of finalisation (%)



a: Includes guilty plea and guilty verdict

b: Includes defendants whose cases were finalised by other means (eg transferred to other court levels, withdrawn by prosecution)

- In 2007–08, 66 percent of matters in children’s courts were finalised within 13 weeks from the initial hearing of charges.
- Sixty-eight percent of matters resulting in the defendant being proven guilty were finalised in fewer than 13 weeks. Sixty-three percent of cases ending in an acquittal took 13 weeks or longer to finalise.

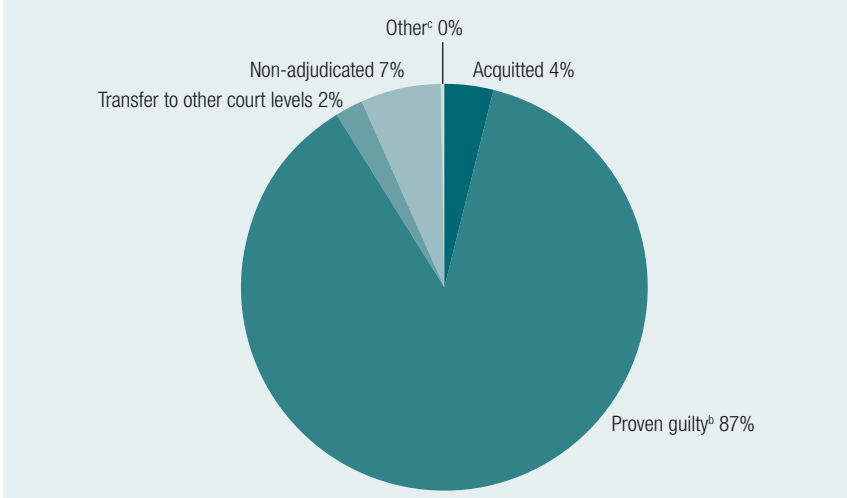
Source: Reference 22

Court decisions

Cases are finalised in the courts in the following ways:

- *adjudicated*—determined whether guilty of the charges, by court judgement or plea of guilty; and
- *non-adjudicated*—unresolved for a variety of reasons, including withdrawal by prosecution, unfitness to plead, death of the accused, diplomatic immunity and statute of limitations.

Figure 72 Method of finalisation of criminal cases finalised in Magistrates' courts, 2007–08^a (%)



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

b: Includes guilty plea and guilty verdict

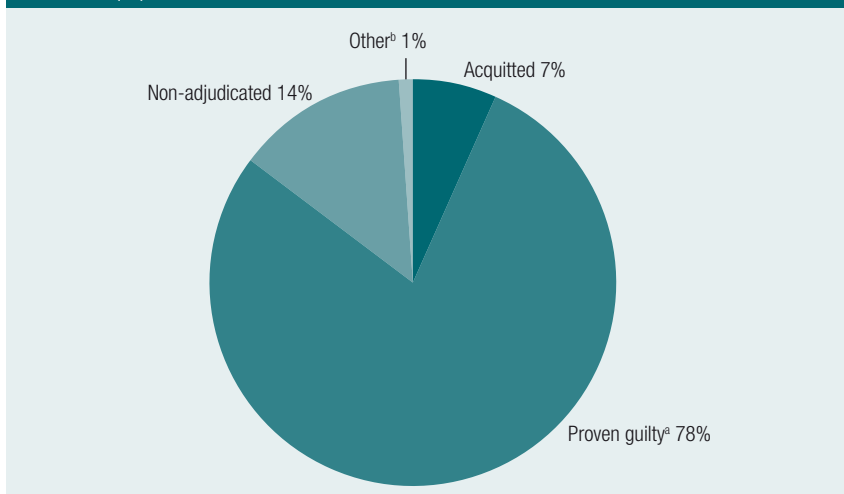
c: Includes defendants unfit to plead, defendants deceased, other non-adjudicated finalisations and cases finalised by unknown method

n=619,542

- In 2007–08, four percent of the 619,542 cases finalised in the Magistrates' courts resulted in acquittal of the defendant.
- Eighty-seven percent of defendants in cases brought before the Magistrates' court were found guilty, while proceedings in two percent of cases were transferred to other courts.

Source: Reference 22

Figure 73 Method of finalisation of criminal cases finalised in higher courts, 2007–08 (%)



a: Includes guilty plea and guilty verdict

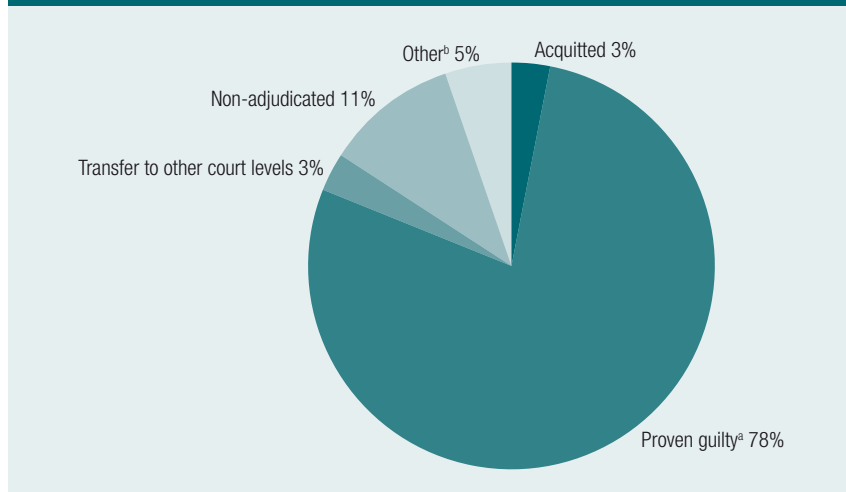
b: Includes defendants unfit to plead, defendants deceased, transfers to other court levels and other non-adjudicated finalisations

n=16,815

- In 2007–08, higher courts finalised 16,815 cases.
- In 78 percent of those cases, the defendant was found to be guilty, while seven percent of cases resulted in the defendant's acquittal.

Source: Reference 22

Figure 74 Method of finalisation of criminal cases finalised in children's courts, 2007–08 (%)



a: Includes guilty plea and guilty verdict

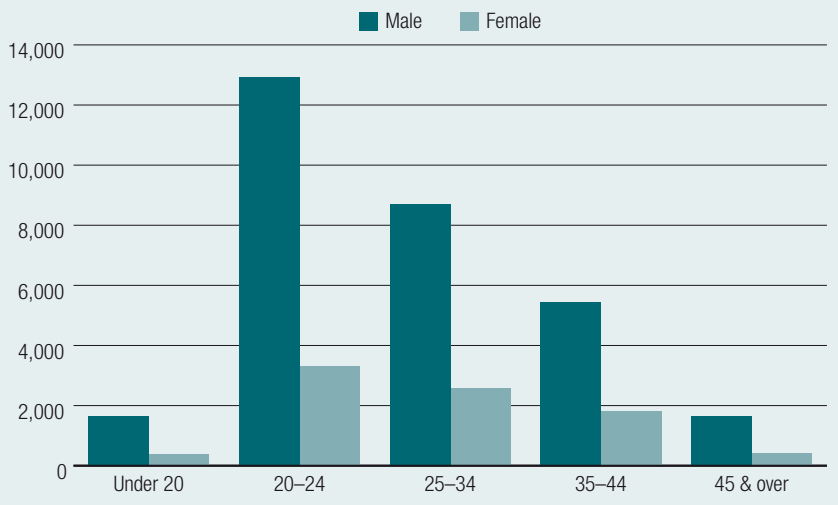
b: Includes defendants unfit to plead, defendants deceased and other non-adjudicated finalisations

n = 39,412

- In 2007–08, children's courts finalised 39,412 cases.
- The defendant was proven guilty in 78 percent of cases and acquitted in three percent.

Source: Reference 22

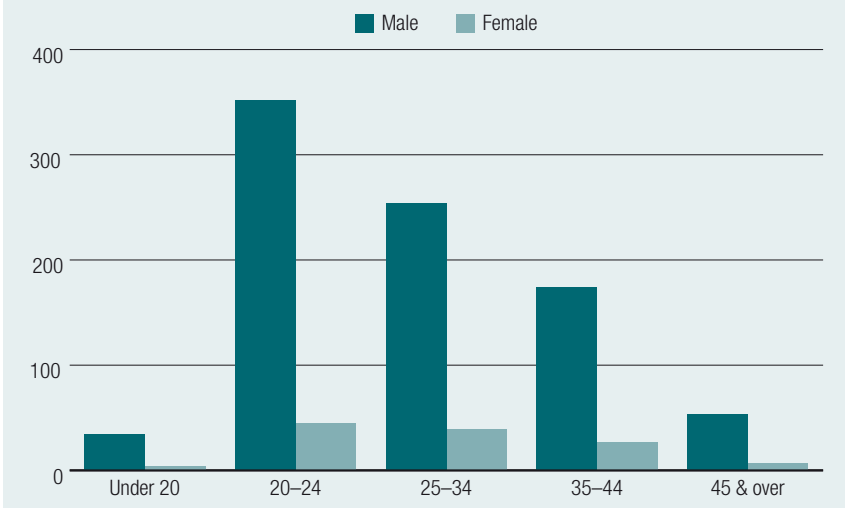
Figure 75 Adjudicated defendants in Magistrates' courts, 2007–08, by age in years and sex (per 100,000 of that age group and sex)



- In 2007–08, 22 percent of defendants in Magistrates' courts were adult females.
- Adult males were more likely than adult females to appear as defendants in court, regardless of age.
- Adult males and females 20 to 24 years of age are more likely to appear as defendants before the Magistrates' court than males and females of other age groups.

Source: References 2 and 22

Figure 76 Adjudicated defendants in higher courts, 2007–08, by age in years and sex (per 100,000 persons of that age group and sex)



- Males and females aged 20 to 24 years were most likely to appear as defendants before higher courts, followed by males and females aged 25 to 34 years: 352 per 100,000 males and 45 per 100,000 females; 254 per 100,000 males and 40 per 100,000 females respectively.
- Adult females were the defendants in 12 percent of cases heard before higher courts in 2007–08.

Source: References 2 and 22

Sentencing

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

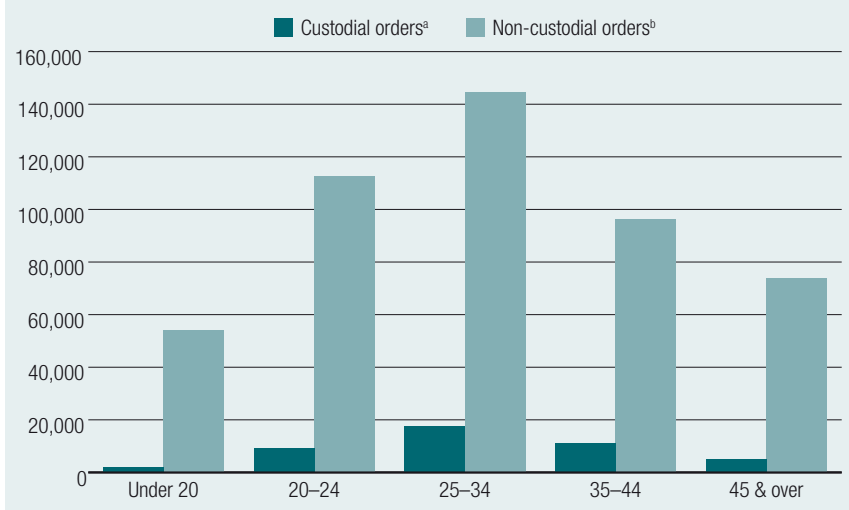
- fine;
- good behaviour bond;
- probation order;
- suspended sentence;
- community service order;
- community custody (including home detention and periodic detention); and
- imprisonment.

A custodial order restricts an offender’s liberty and may be served in a correctional facility or under supervision in the community. Suspended sentences are also classified as a form of custodial order.

Non-custodial orders are sentences that do not involve being held in custody. They may include supervision by a probation officer, community service orders or monetary penalties.

Sentencing data for adult offenders have been available since 2002–03 from all states and territories. The ABS is continuing to work towards a more detailed and regular sentencing collection for higher courts, Magistrates’ courts and children’s courts.

Figure 77 Principal sentence of defendants found guilty in magistrates’ courts, 2007–08, by age in years (n)



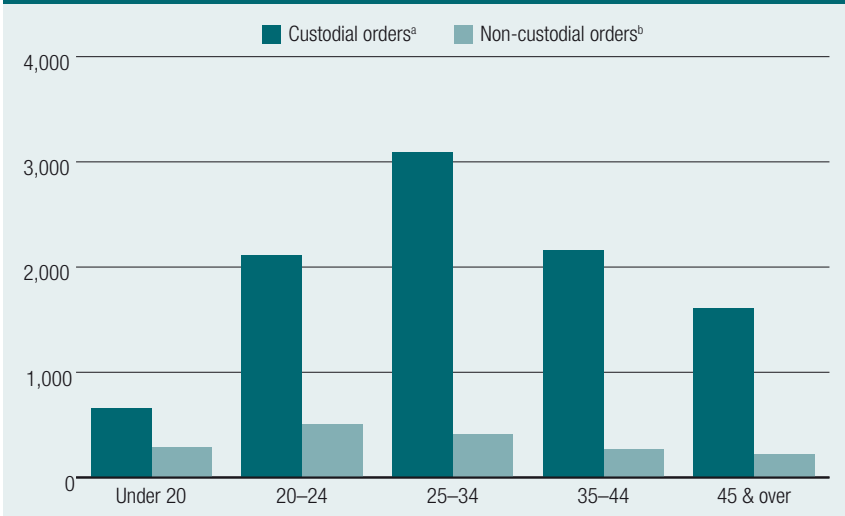
a: Includes custody in a correctional institution, custody in the community and suspended sentence

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

- In 2007–08, only 8.4 percent of defendants found guilty in Magistrates’ courts were given a custodial sentence.
- Defendants aged 25 to 34 years and 35 to 44 years were more likely to receive a custodial sentence than were defendants in other age groups (10.9% and 10.5% respectively).

Source: Reference 22

Figure 78 Principal sentence of defendants found guilty in higher courts, 2007–08, by age in years (n)



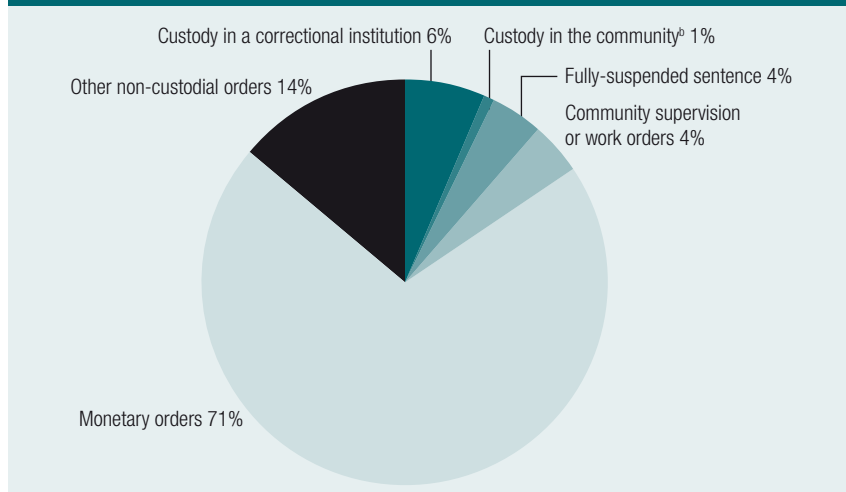
a: Includes custody in a correctional institution, custody in the community and suspended sentence

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

- A much higher proportion (85%) of defendants found guilty in higher courts than of those found guilty in Magistrates' courts received custodial sentences.
- Of defendants found guilty in higher courts, over 80 percent of defendants over 20 years of age received custodial sentences. Seventy percent of defendants under 20 years of age received custodial sentences.

Source: Reference 22

Figure 79 Principal sentence of adult male defendants found guilty in any court^a, 2007–08 (%)



a: Includes Magistrates' and higher courts

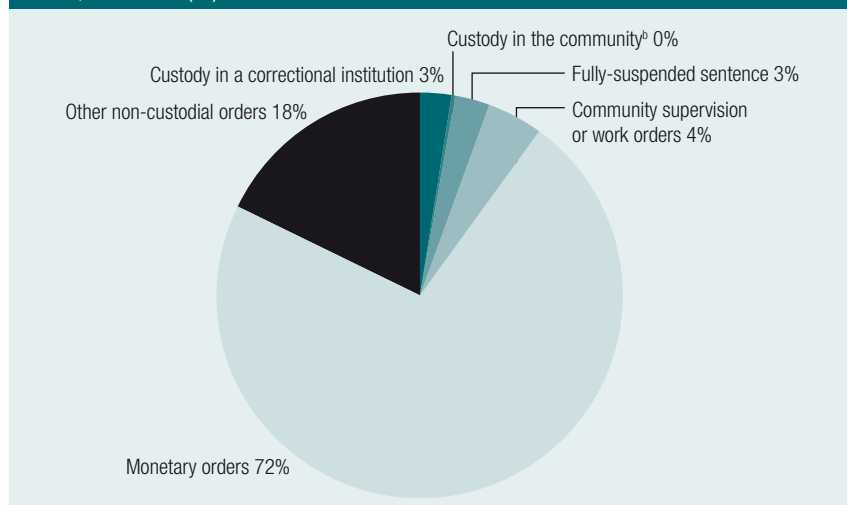
b: Includes intensive corrections orders, home detention and other orders restricting liberty though allowing living within the community

n=427,642 (excludes male defendants whose type of custodial order handed down was unknown)

- In 71 percent of cases, the principal sentence handed down was a monetary order.
- Custody in a correctional institution accounted for 6 percent of the total number of sentences in all courts in 2007–08.
- Four percent of defendants found guilty received fully-suspended sentences.

Source: Reference 22

Figure 80 Principal sentence of adult female defendants found guilty in any court^a, 2007–08 (%)



a: Include Magistrates' and higher courts

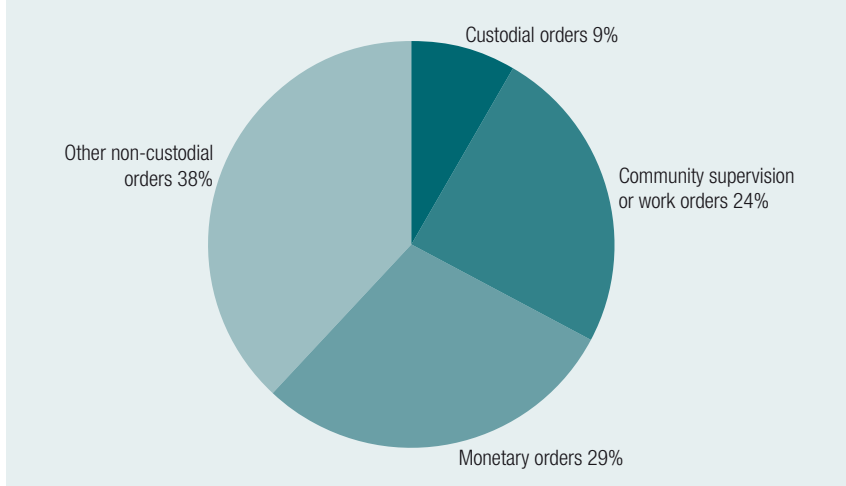
b: Includes intensive corrections orders, home detention and other orders restricting liberty though allowing living within the community

n=119,418

- Seventy-two percent of defendants found guilty received monetary orders.
- Three percent of defendants received custodial sentences in a correctional facility as the principal sentence in 2007–08.

Source: Reference 22

Figure 81 Principal sentence of defendants found guilty in a children's court, 2007–08 (%)

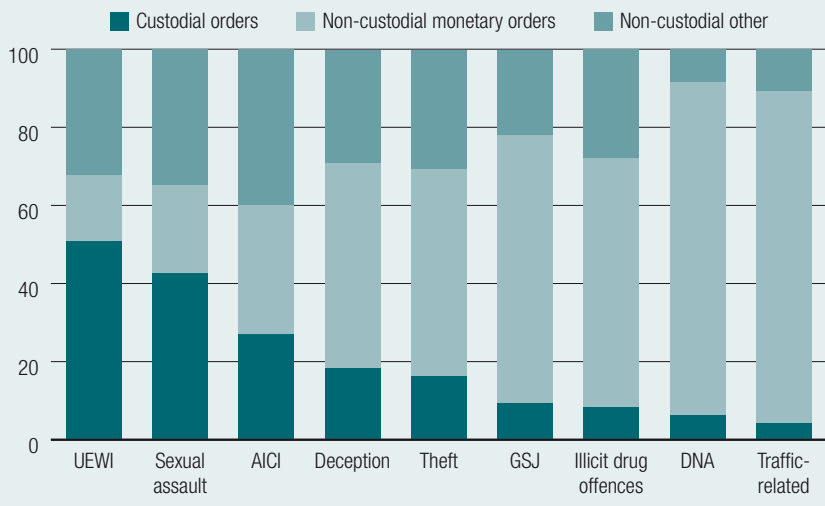


n=28,075

- Community supervision or work orders were handed down to 24 percent of defendants found guilty in children's courts, while a further 29 percent received a monetary order as their principal sentence type.
- Custodial sentences accounted for nine percent of sentences handed down in children's courts in 2007–08.

Source: Reference 22

Figure 82 Principal sentence of adult defendants found guilty in magistrates' courts, 2007–08, by most serious offence (%)



AICI: Acts intended to cause injury

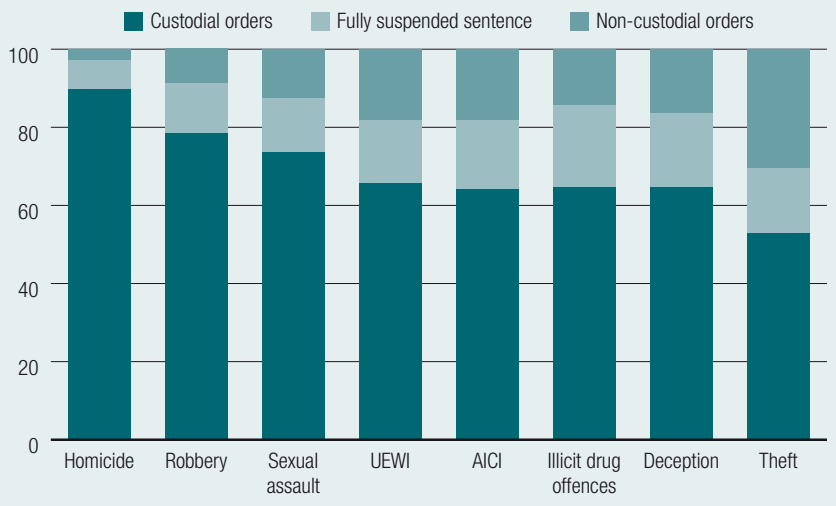
GSJ: Offences against justice procedures, government security, or government operations

DNA: Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons

- In 2007–08, UEWI (51%), sexual assault (42%) and AICI (27%) were the proven offences most commonly incurring custodial orders.
- DNA (85%) and traffic-related offences (85%) were the proven offences most commonly incurring monetary orders in 2007–08.

Source: Reference 22

Figure 83 Principal sentence of defendants found guilty in higher courts, 2007–08, by most serious offence (%)

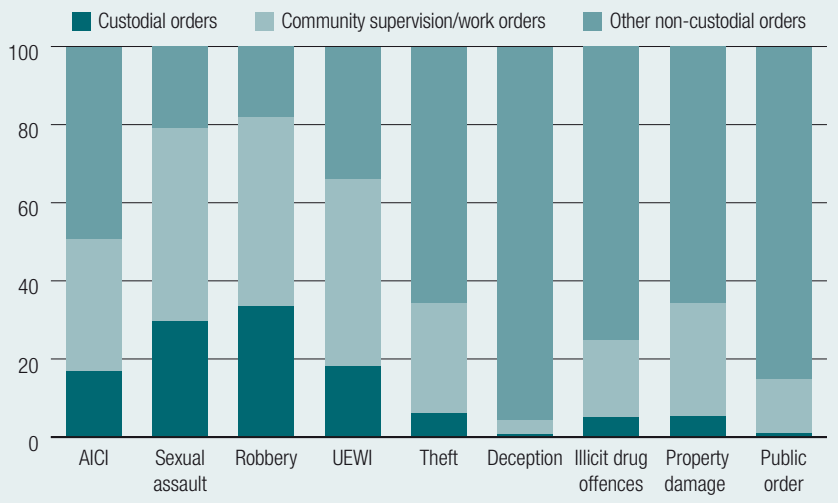


AICI: Acts intended to cause injury

- Homicide (90%), robbery (79%) and sexual assault (73.5%) were the proven offences most likely to receive a custodial sentence in higher courts.
- Theft (30%), AICI (18%) and UEWI (18%) were the proven offences most likely to receive a non-custodial sentence in higher courts.

Source: Reference 22

Figure 84 Principal sentence of defendants found guilty in a children's court, 2007–08, by most serious offence (%)



AICI: Acts intended to cause injury

- Robbery (33.5%), sexual assault (29%), UEWI (18%) and AICI (17%) were the proven offences most likely to result in custodial sentences in children's courts.
- Community supervision orders were the most likely sentencing outcomes for defendants found guilty of sexual assault (49%), robbery (48%) and UEWI (48%).

Source: Reference 22

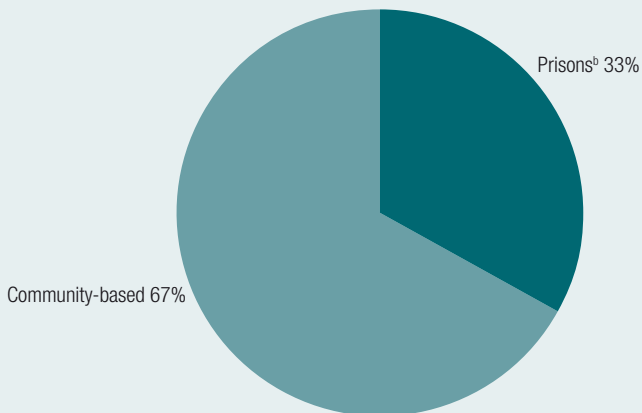
Chapter 6

Corrections

In this chapter, corrective services includes prison custody, community corrections and juvenile detention.

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

Figure 85 Offenders' by type of corrective program^a, 2007–08 (%)



a: Figures based on average daily population (prisons and community corrections)

b: Includes periodic detention (available only in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)

n= 82,153

- In 2007–08, 33 percent of offenders managed by corrective services authorities were serving custodial sentences, or on remand.
- The remaining 67 percent were serving community-based orders.

Source: Reference 21

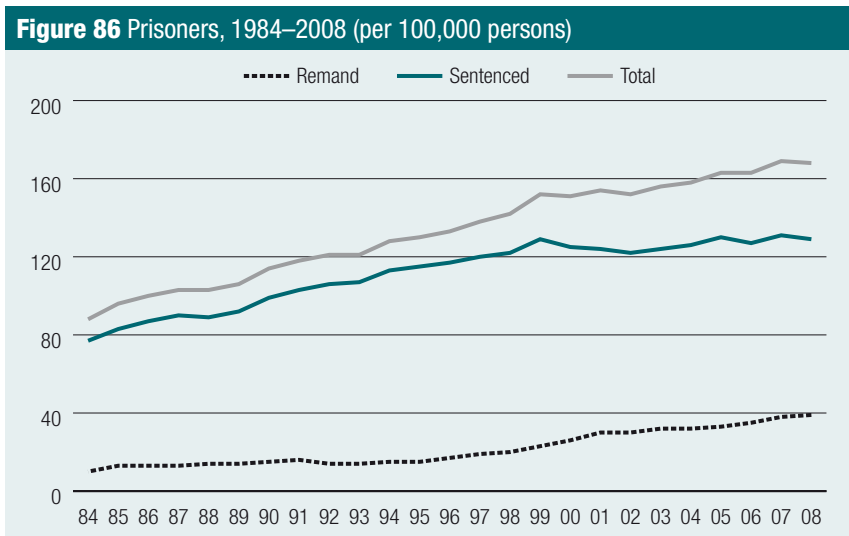
Prisons

A national census of adult prisoners is taken on 30 June each year. Prisoner counts include both sentenced prisoners and those on remand (awaiting trial or sentence), unless otherwise specified.

A total of 27,615 persons were in custody in Australian prisons on 30 June 2008—a 1.4 percent increase on the number recorded in 2007. This corresponds to a rate of 168 per 100,000 of the adult population; one percent lower than the 2007 rate. Of these prisoners, 21,275 were serving sentences, while 6,340 were on remand awaiting trial.

Source: Reference 23

Trend in prison population



- The overall imprisonment rate per 100,000 of the adult population increased from 88 to 168 between 1984 and 2008, an average growth rate of five percent per year, despite a slight (1.4%) decrease from 2006–07.

- Over this period, the rate of prisoners on remand nearly quadrupled, from 10 per 100,000 in 1984, to 39 per 100,000 in 2008, while the rate of sentenced prisoners increased from 77 to 129 per 100,000 over the same period.
- On 30 June 2008, 23 percent of all prisoners were on remand, a rise from 12 percent in 1984.

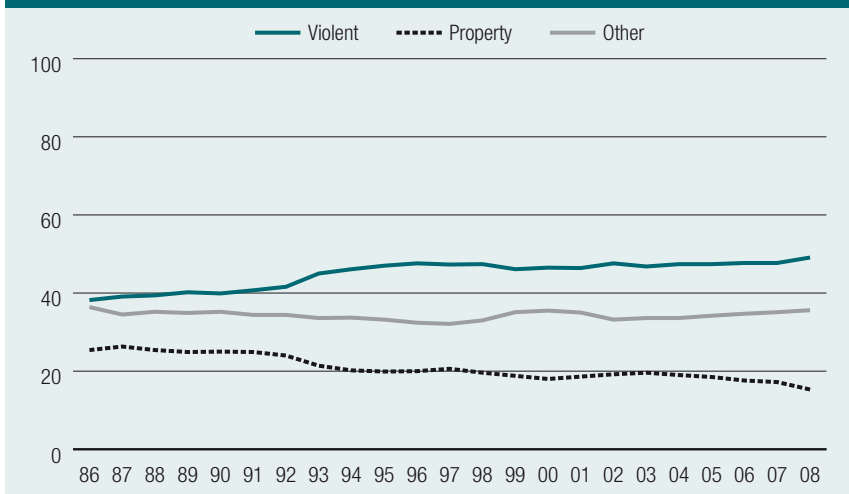
Source: References 2 and 23

Most serious offence

Some offenders serve sentences for multiple offences concurrently. These offenders are categorised as being in prison for the offence with the longest sentence, usually the offence deemed most serious. Violent prisoners are those convicted of homicide, assault, sex offences or robbery. Prisoners convicted of property offences include those charged with breaking and entering or with ‘other theft’ (including motor vehicle theft). ‘Other’ offenders are those who have been convicted of fraud; offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations; drug offences and others, such as public order and driving offences.

On 30 June 2008, the MSO for which 10,445 prisoners were sentenced was a violent offence. There were 3,259 prisoners whose MSO was a property offence and 7,571 prisoners who were sentenced for other MSOs.

Figure 87 Prisoners sentenced, 1986–2008, by most serious offence type (%)



- The percentage of prisoners sentenced for violent offences as their MSO increased from 38 percent in 1986 to 49 percent in 2008.

- Those sentenced for property offences as their MSO has steadily declined from 25 percent in 1986 to 15 percent in 2008.
- The proportion of prisoners sentenced for other offences as their MSO has remained steady, at about one-third.

Source: Reference 23

Table 9 Most serious offence of prisoners sentenced in 2008, by sex				
	Male		Female	
	n	%	n	%
Violent				
Homicide	2,062	10	158	11
Assault	3,150	16	207	15
Sex offences	2,857	14	23	2
Robbery	1,907	10	81	6
Property				
Break and enter	2,281	11	123	9
Other theft ^a	737	4	118	8
Other				
GSJ ^b	1,898	10	168	12
Drug offences	1,870	9	206	15
Fraud	489	2	172	12
Other ^c	2,614	13	154	11
Total	19,865	100	1,410	100

a: Includes motor vehicle theft

b: Classified as offences against government security and operations, and justice procedures (GSJ). Includes offences such as breach of court order, breach of parole, escape from custody, offences against justice procedures, treason, sedition and resisting customs officials

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

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

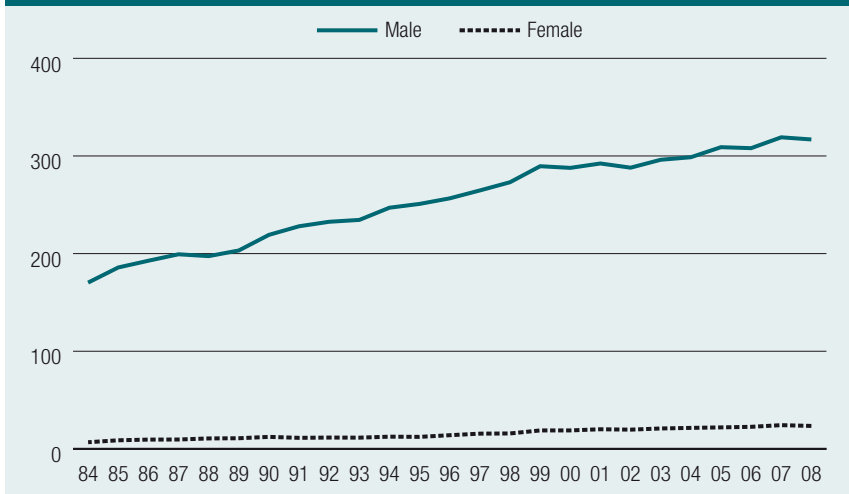
- Assault (16%), sex offences (14%) and breaking and entering (11%) were the most common MSO for which adult male prisoners were sentenced.
- Drug offences (15%), assault (15%), fraud (12%) and offences related to government, security and justice procedures (12%) were the most common MSO for adult female prisoners.

- Adult males imprisoned for the violent offences of homicide, assault, sex offences, or robbery as their MSO accounted for half of all sentenced adult male prisoners in 2007 (50%).
- One-third of sentenced adult female prisoners (34%) were imprisoned for violent offences as their MSO.

Source: Reference 23

Sex

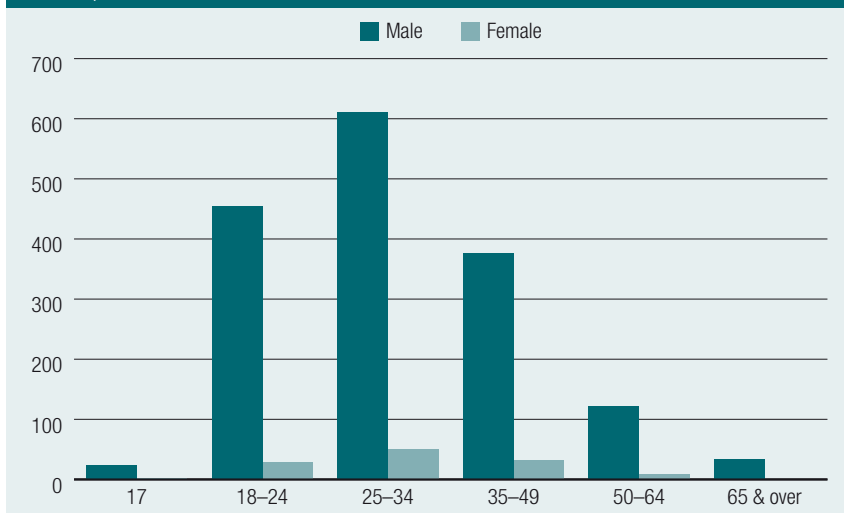
Figure 88 Prisoners, 1984–2008, by sex (per 100,000 of that sex)



- Between 1984 and 2008, the overall imprisonment rate for adult males increased from 170 to 317 per 100,000 of the adult male population per year.
- The adult female rate of imprisonment was seven per 100,000 per year in 1984 and 24 per 100,000 per year in 2008.
- As in the previous seven years, seven percent of prisoners in 2008 were women.
- The number of adult male and female prisoners increased by an average of five percent and seven percent respectively per annum over the period 1984–2008.

Source: References 2 and 23

Figure 89 Prisoners, 2008, by age in years and sex (per 100,000 of that age group and sex)

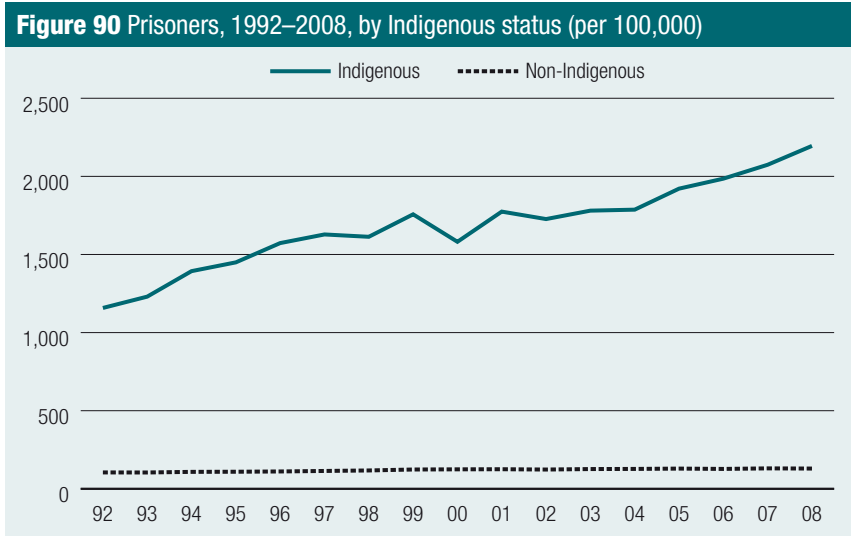


- On 30 June 2008, 55 percent of all prisoners were under 35 years of age.
- The 25 to 34 year age bracket had the highest rates of imprisonment per 100,000 for both males and females (612 and 50 per 100,000 respectively).

Source: References 2 and 23

Indigenous status

Figure 90 shows the imprisonment rate of Indigenous (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) and non-Indigenous persons.

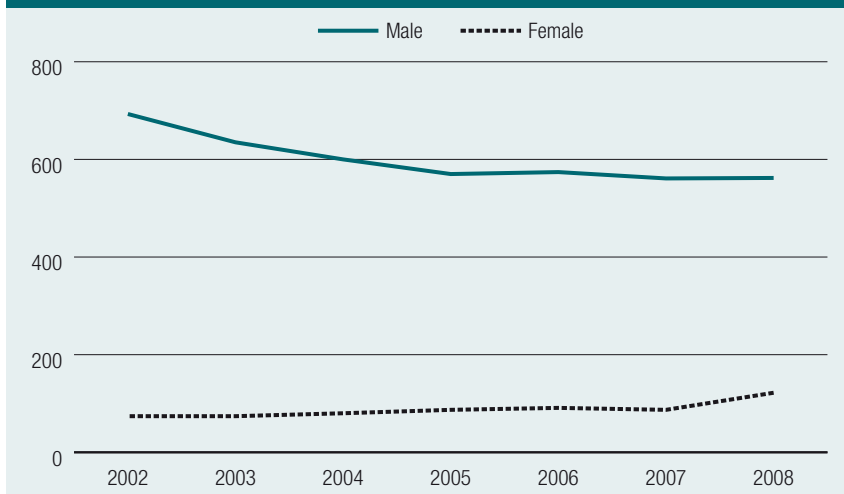


- At 30 June 2008, the Indigenous imprisonment rate (2,195 per 100,000) was over 17 times as high as the non-Indigenous rate (130 per 100,000).
- Indigenous prisoners comprised 24 percent of the total prisoner population in 2008, in comparison with 14 percent in 1992.

Source: References 2, 23 and 26

Federal prisoners

Figure 91 Federal prisoners, 2002–08, by sex (n)



- In June 2008, the ratio of male (562) to female (122) federal prisoners was 4.6:1.
- From June 2002 to June 2008, the number of male federal prisoners decreased by 19 percent and the number of female federal prisoners increased by 65 percent.

Source: Reference 25

Recidivism

One measure of recidivism is rate of return to prison, which has remained stable in Australia over the past five years of data collection. Of those prisoners released in 2005–06, 38 percent had returned to prison under sentence by 30 June 2008, while 44 percent were returned to corrective services.

Source: Reference 21

Another measure, collected by the ABS, is previous imprisonment of inmates currently serving custodial sentences. Note that the prior imprisonment was not necessarily for the same type of offence.

Table 10 Previously imprisoned detainees as at 30 June 2008, by current offence and Indigenous status

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	n	%	n	%
Homicide	429	62	2,263	35
AICI	2,107	75	2,856	53
Sexual assault	715	62	2,682	28
Robbery	597	67	2,063	59
UEWI	927	73	2,202	75
Theft	259	68	890	65
Illicit drug offences	112	69	2,693	34

AICI: Acts intended to cause injury

- Indigenous prisoners serving time for any of the selected current offences were more likely than non-Indigenous prisoners to have a history of prior imprisonment, 73 percent and 50 percent respectively.
- Rates of prior imprisonment of these Indigenous prisoners were consistently high in all offence categories.
- The least likely causes of re-imprisonment of non-Indigenous prisoners were sexual assault, illicit drug offences and homicide.

Source: Reference 23

Community corrections

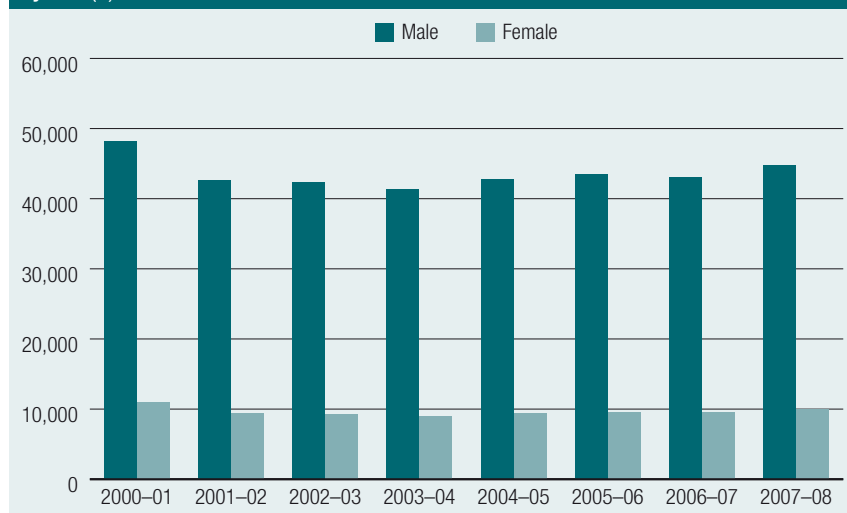
Community corrections comprise a variety of non-custodial programs, varying in the extent and nature of supervision, the conditions of the order and the restrictions on the person's freedom of movement in the community. They generally provide either a non-custodial sentencing alternative or a post-custodial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

Due to different definitions in the source material, the definition of community corrections in this chapter is somewhat different from the definition of non-custodial sentences given in Chapter 5. Whereas, in that chapter, weekend detention and home detention are considered custodial sentences, this chapter includes them as community-based sentences.

In Australia during 2007–08, an average of 54,914 offenders were serving community corrections orders on any given day—an increase of four percent from the number recorded in 2006–07. This corresponds to a rate of 334 per 100,000 adults, with 554 per 100,000 adult males and 119 per 100,000 adult females.

Source: References 2, 21 and 25

Figure 92 Average daily community corrections population, 2000–01 to 2007–08, by sex (n)



- The average daily number of adult male offenders on community correction orders decreased slightly, from 48,234 in 2000–01 to 44,815 in 2007–08, as did the number of adult female offenders (10,928 and 9,920 respectively).
- Between 2000–01 and 2007–08, the rate of offenders on community corrections orders per 100,000 decreased by 18 percent for adult males and 19 percent for adult females.

Source: References 2 and 25

There are three main categories of community corrections orders:

- restricted-movement orders (eg home detention);
- reparation orders (eg fines, community service); and
- supervision (compliance) orders (eg parole, bail, sentenced probation).

Figure 93 Average daily community corrections population, 2006–07 and 2007–08, by type of order (n)



- The number of supervision orders (the most commonly used option) in 2007–08 (n=44,993) increased from the number recorded in 2006–07 (n=41,715). Use of supervision orders has increased by 31 percent since 2000–01.
- Reparation orders continued to decrease, from 13,711 in 2006–07 to 12,973 in 2007–08. This is a decrease of 43.5 percent since 2000–01.
- The number of offenders serving restricted-movement orders continued to fall, from 772 in 2006–07, to 708 in 2007–08.

Source: Reference 25

Figure 94 Successful completion of community corrections orders, 2006–07 and 2007–08, by type of order (%)



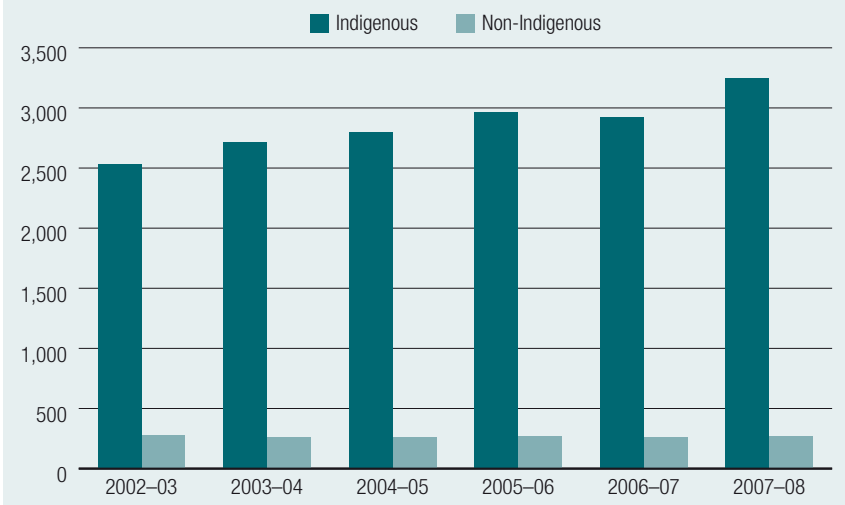
- Seventy percent of all community corrections orders that ended in 2007–08 were successfully completed, unchanged from 2006–07.
- Restricted-movement orders were most likely to be successfully completed (79%), while reparation orders were least likely to be successfully completed (63%).

Source: Reference 25

Indigenous status

In 2007–08, 43,289 non-Indigenous and 9,918 Indigenous offenders served community corrections orders.

Figure 95 Average daily community corrections population, 2002–03 to 2007–08, by Indigenous status (per 100,000 of that status)



- In 2007–08, the rate of Indigenous people subject to community corrections orders was 12 times the rate for non-Indigenous adults, 3,246 per 100,000 Indigenous adults, compared with 268 per 100,000 non-Indigenous adults.
- The community corrections rate for Indigenous people rose by 11 percent in 2007–08, after falling slightly between 2005–06 and 2006–07.

Source: References 2, 21, 23 and 26

Juvenile detention centres

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

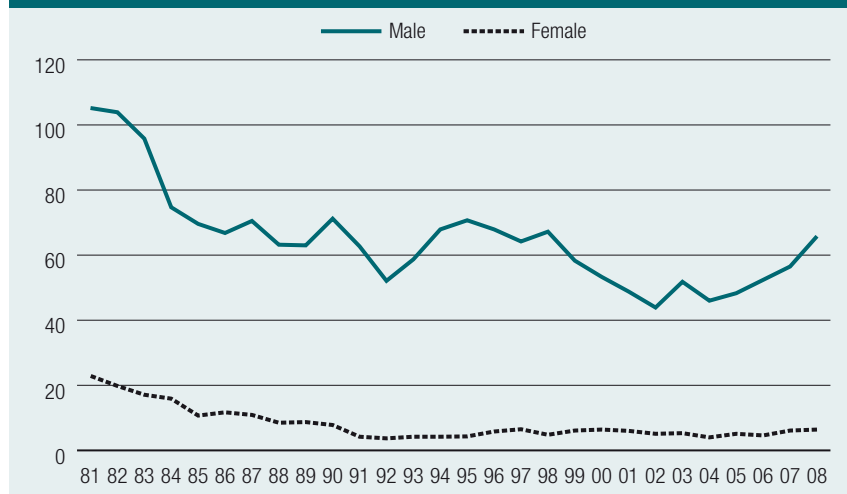
The long-term trend data shown in this section are based on the census of juvenile detention centres conducted on 30 June of each year by the AIC.

Trend in juvenile detention centre population

As there are differences between jurisdictions regarding the definition of a juvenile, statistics are shown for persons aged from 10 to 17 years. Figure 96 depicts the

detention rate of male and female juveniles from 1981 to 2008, including those on remand and those sentenced.

Figure 96 Persons in juvenile detention centres, 1981–2008, by sex (per 100,000 of that sex per year)^a



a: Rates as at 30 June of each year

- From 1981 to 2008, the overall detention rate for juveniles fell by 37 percent, from 105 to 66 per 100,000.
- In 2008, the rate for male juveniles reached 66 per 100,000, a 43 percent rise since 2004 but a 37 percent fall from 105 in 1981.
- The rate for female juveniles also fell, from 23 to six per 100,000. The proportion of females in the total juvenile detention centre population was nine percent on 30 June 2008, down from 17 percent in 1981.
- The incarceration rate of male juveniles was 10 times as high as the rate of females.

Source: Reference 26

Indigenous status

Data on incarcerated juveniles by Indigenous status have been made available since 1994. This section shows the incarceration rate of Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons in juvenile corrective institutions, from 31 March 1994 to 30 June 2008, for each quarter.

Figure 97 Persons in juvenile detention centres, 31 March 1994 to 30 June 2008, by Indigenous status (per 100,000 of that status per year)^a



a: Rates from 30 September 1996 and 31 December 2002 have been calculated using detainee totals and population estimates that exclude Tasmania, because data on detainee Indigenous status in Tasmania are unavailable for this period

- The number of Indigenous persons in all juvenile detention centres on 30 June 2008 was 459. This represents 56 percent of the total number of persons detained in juvenile detention centres, a decline from 58 percent in the previous year.
- The detention rate per 100,000 of Indigenous juveniles was 446, more than 26 times as high as that of non-Indigenous juveniles (17).
- There has been a 64 percent increase in the rate per 100,000 of Indigenous juvenile detention since a low of 272 recorded in December 2000.

Source: References 2, 23 and 26

Chapter 7

Criminal justice resources

Justice expenditure

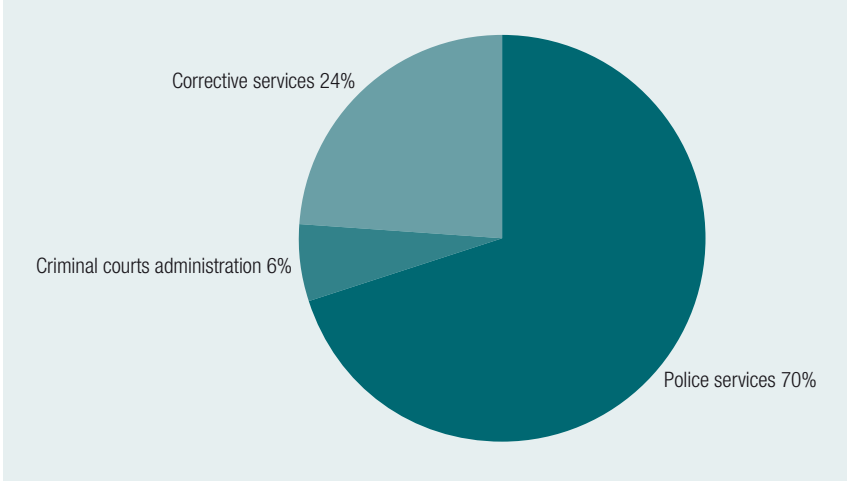
According to the *Report on Government Services* in 2009 (Reference 21), the total real recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources) on justice in 2007–08 was \$10.7b. Of this, approximately \$10.2b was spent on criminal justice. The remaining \$521m was spent on the administration of civil courts. Since 2002–03, expenditure on criminal justice has increased by 33 percent overall and by an average of seven percent each year.

Police services represent the largest component of the criminal justice system, accounting for approximately 70 percent of total expenditure. Corrective services account for a further 24 percent, while criminal courts administration accounts for the remaining six percent (Figure 98).

Source: Reference 21

Police services represent the largest component of the criminal justice system

Figure 98 Composition of government expenditure on criminal justice, 2007–08 (%)



Total = \$10,202,000,000

Source: Reference 21

Police

Policing activities are predominantly the responsibility of the state and territory government policing agencies, with the AFP providing a community policing service in the Australian Capital Territory 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.

Figures 99 to 101 exclude resource data for the AFP for non-ACT policing functions.

Expenditure

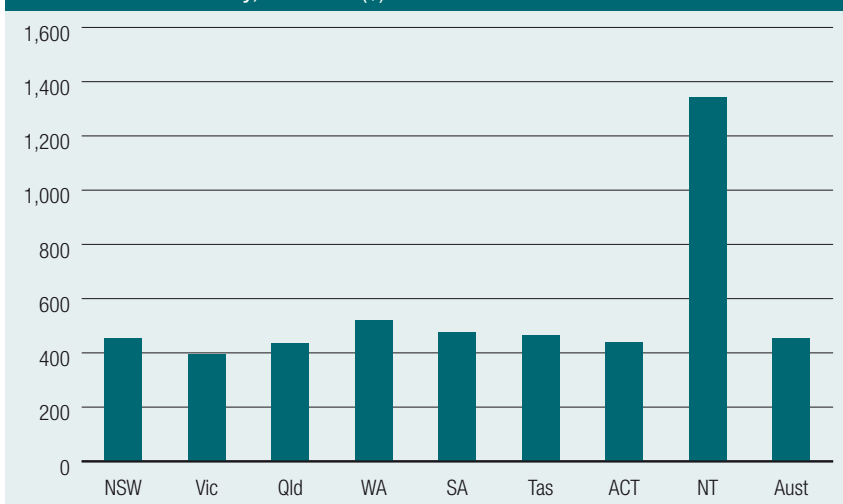
The total recurrent expenditure on police services around Australia in 2007–08 was approximately \$7.4b. This amounts to \$348 per person in Australia, or \$453 per adult. Salaries accounted for 76 percent (ie \$5,644,200) of this expenditure.

Real total recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources and payroll tax) in 2007–08 was \$7.2b, or \$334 per person or \$435 per adult.

Table 11 Expenditure on state and territory police services in 2007–08

Expenditure, including salaries	(\$'000)
Total recurrent expenditure	7,447.6
Total capital expenditure	468.8
Total expenditure	7,916.4
Average staff salaries	(\$)
Average police staff salaries	103,262
Average non-police staff salaries	63,781

Source: Reference 21

Figure 99 Recurrent expenditure on police services per head of adult population in each state or territory, 2007–08 (\$)

- Recurrent expenditure on police services per head of adult population ranged from about \$394 in Victoria to \$1,343 in the Northern Territory.
- The national average was \$453 per head of adult population.

Source: References 2 and 21

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 peripheral activities undertaken by unsworn officers or contracted to external providers.

- Total police services staffing in Australia (excluding the AFP) on 30 June 2008 was 62,455. This averages 291 per 100,000 persons (224 sworn police officers and 67 civilian employees).
- There were 48,024 sworn police officers and 14,432 civilian employees making up Australian police services in 2008.

Source: References 2 and 21

Table 12 Composition of state and territory police services^a at 30 June 2008, by jurisdiction (n)

Jurisdiction	Sworn police officers	Civilian	Total	Sworn officers per 1,000 sq km
NSW	15,020	3,803	18,822 ^b	19
Vic	11,021	2,734	13,755	48
Qld	9,695	3,875	13,570	6
SA	4,116	1,217	5,333	4
WA	5,382	1,634	7,016	2
Tas	1,181	432	1,613	17
NT	931	533	1,464	1
ACT	678	204	882	288
Australia	48,024	14,432	62,455	6

a: Excludes Australian Federal Police for non-ACT policing

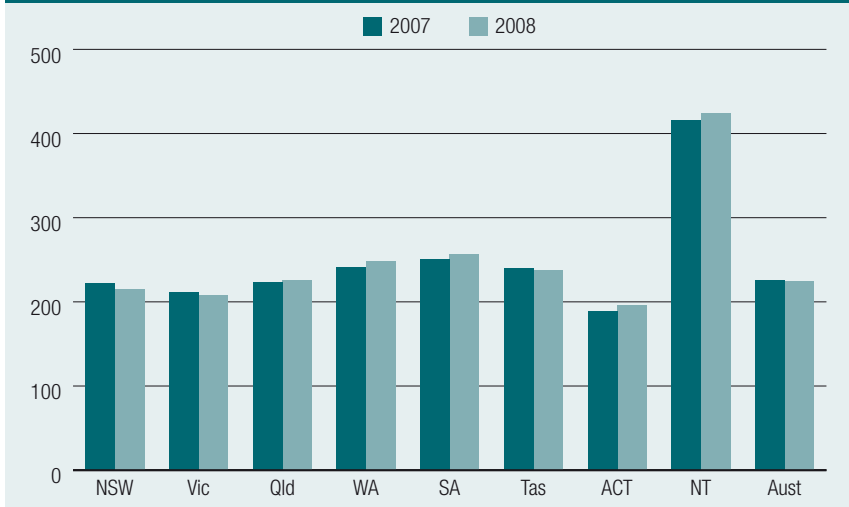
b: Difference in totals is a result of rounding

- New South Wales had the largest police service in Australia and the Australian Capital Territory had the smallest.
- The Northern Territory employed the largest proportion of civilian staff (36%), while New South Wales and Victoria both employed the smallest proportion (20% for both states).

- Per 1,000 square km, the Australian Capital Territory had 288 sworn police officers and the Northern Territory had one.

Source: Reference 21

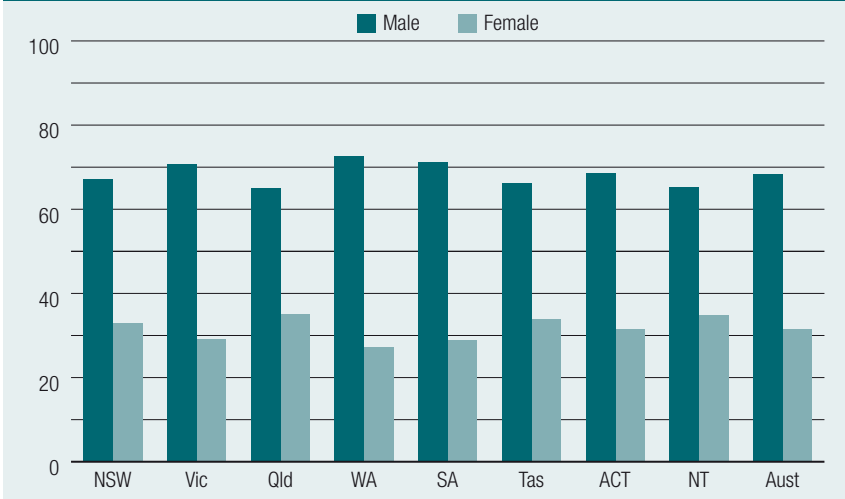
Figure 100 Sworn police officers at 30 June 2007 and 30 June 2008, by jurisdiction (per 100,000 persons in that jurisdiction)



- On 30 June 2008, the Northern Territory had the largest number of police officers (424 per 100,000 persons in that jurisdiction); the Australian Capital Territory had the smallest (196 per 100,000).
- The national average was 224 sworn police officers per 100,000 persons.

Source: References 2 and 21

Figure 101 Composition of sworn and unsworn police staff, 2007–08, by jurisdiction, by sex (%)



- Male staff represented 68 percent of all staff (sworn and unsworn) in state and territory police services in 2007–08. The highest proportion of male staff was 73 percent in Western Australia.

Source: Reference 21

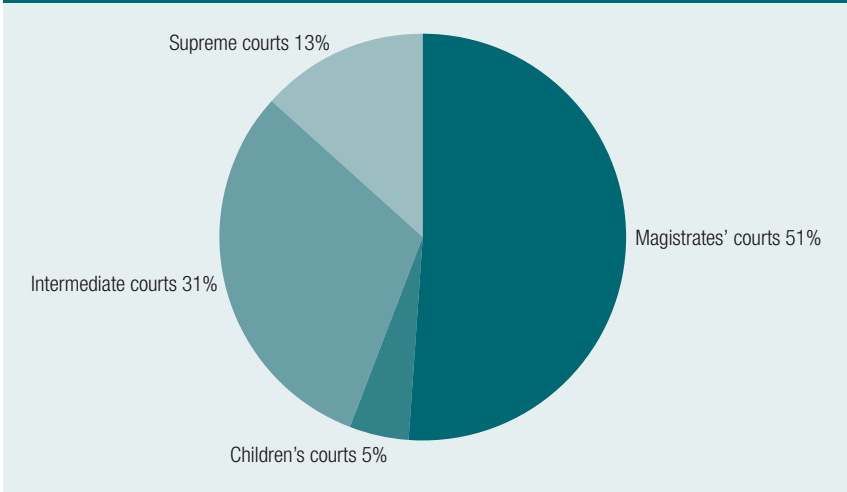
Court administration

Total recurrent expenditure on court administration services around Australia (excluding the High Court and specialist jurisdiction courts) was \$1.44b in 2007–08, approximately \$100m more than in 2006–07. Expenditure on criminal courts' administration was about \$617m for 2007–08, an increase from \$570m in the previous year.

Total criminal court expenditure less income (excluding fines) was \$595m. This amounts to \$28 per person in Australia, or \$36 per adult.

Source: Reference 21

Figure 102 Total expenditure (less income) on criminal courts, 2007–08 (%)



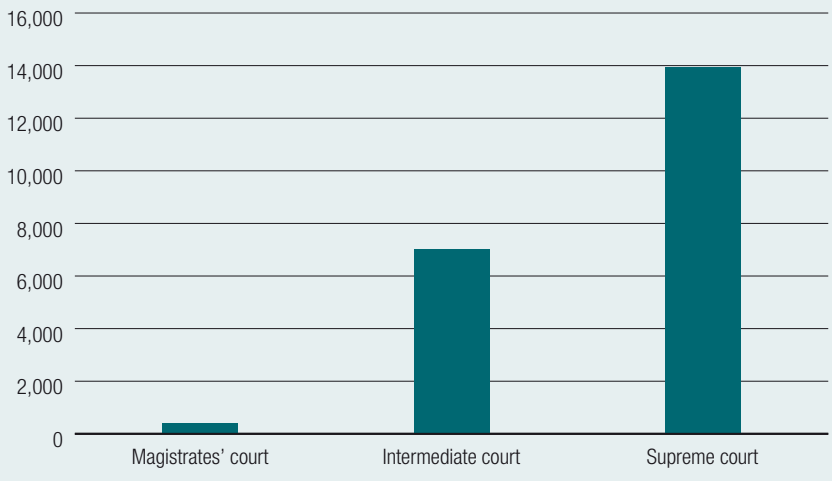
Total = \$595,426,501

- Magistrates' courts incurred 51 percent of all criminal court expenditure in 2007–08, down only one percent from prior year. Children's courts incurred five percent, as they did in 2006–07.
- Intermediate courts incurred 31 percent and Supreme Courts incurred 13 percent of total criminal court expenditure, similar to previous year figures of 30 percent and 13 percent respectively.

Source: Reference 21

Figure 103 shows the average expenditure per case lodgement in the criminal courts. The higher the level of court, the higher the cost associated with each criminal case lodgement. This is because more complex and lengthy cases are generally heard in the higher courts.

Figure 103 Average expenditure per criminal case lodgement, 2007–08, by court (\$)



- In 2007–08, average expenditure per criminal case lodgement was \$393 in Magistrates' courts, \$7,020 in intermediate courts and \$13,927 in Supreme Courts. Compared with the previous year, the expenditure has increased in intermediate courts, while the average expenditure per lodgement in Supreme Courts and Magistrates' Courts has declined since 2006–07.

Source: Reference 21

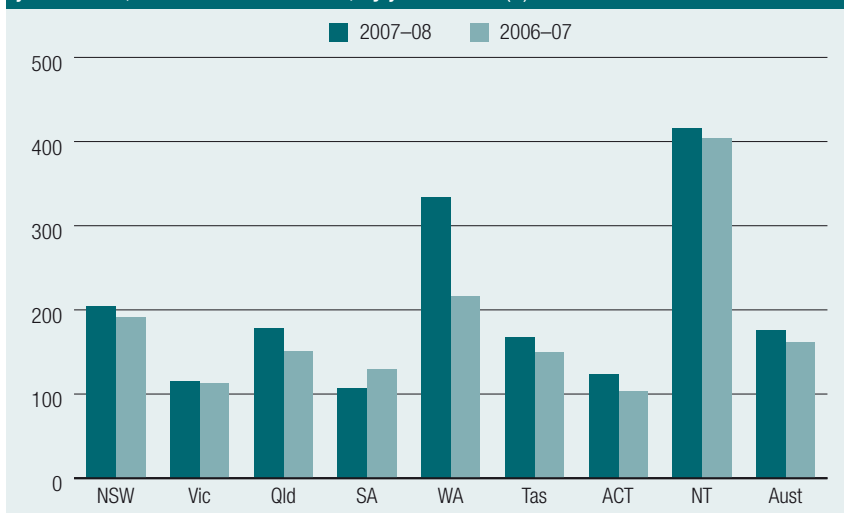
Adult corrective services

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 \$3b in 2007–08; \$2.6b (89%) for prisons, \$274m (9%) for community corrections and \$66m (2%) for transport and escort services. This corresponds to \$138 for every person in Australia, or \$180 for every adult.

Source: References 2 and 21

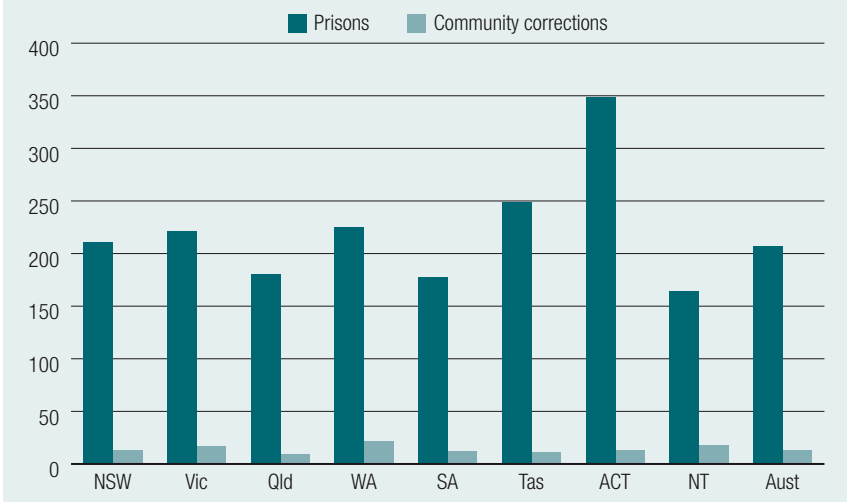
Figure 104 Recurrent expenditure on corrective services per adult in the jurisdiction, 2006–07 to 2007–08, by jurisdiction (\$)



- In 2007–08, recurrent expenditure on corrective services per adult in the jurisdiction ranged from \$107 in South Australia to \$416 in the Northern Territory.
- In 2007–08, each state and territory, except South Australia, increased their recurrent expenditure on corrective services per head of the population.

Source: References 2 and 21

Figure 105 Corrective services expenditure per offender per day, 2007–08, by jurisdiction (\$)



- Average expenditure per prisoner per day was \$207, ranging from \$164 in the Northern Territory to \$349 in the Australian Capital Territory.
- National average expenditure per offender sentenced to community corrections programs per day was \$13. The cost for offenders sentenced to prison was 16 times as great.
- In 2007–08, \$75,468 was spent for every prisoner and \$4,793 for each offender sentenced to community corrections programs.

Source: Reference 21

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