

Foreword

This booklet presents the most up-to-date information available on crime throughout Australia. It covers the number of different types of recorded crimes, their place of occurrence, victim details, responses of criminal justice agencies, and the government resources directed to deal with crime.

While the Australian Institute of Criminology has been collecting data for the past 25 years, it is only since 1993 that Australia has had comparative recorded crime statistics for some major crimes, and only since 1996 that a limited set of relevant statistics from court cases has become available.

It must be noted that crimes recorded by the police do not reflect the true level of crime in Australia. It is clear from surveys undertaken in Australia and overseas that victims report only about 40% of crimes to the police.

Crime and the administration of justice are the responsibility of each state and territory government, and their agencies publish state or territory based reports. The Australian Bureau of Statistics attempts to provide a national picture and in recent years has produced a number of reports on crime related issues. The Australian Institute of Criminology draws on these and other sources in developing its data, which it then publishes for a wide range of readers.

The data here comprise national figures only. Readers wishing to consult state based data or other material on crime and justice issues published by the Institute should visit the Institute's website or contact the Institute (see back cover).

Adam Graycar
Director

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