

3



Juveniles as Victims

Offending by juveniles and their disproportionate representation among arrestees has been well documented. Juveniles and young offenders have been the subject of criminological research since the early 1900s; there are more books and research reports on crimes by juveniles than those on adults. Indeed, certain types of research have almost entirely concentrated on juveniles or schoolchildren. This is the hidden delinquency or “dark figure” research through which levels of true criminality are estimated. Also, a large majority of programs concerned with preventing crime and reforming offenders are directed at juveniles.

Attempts to study causes of crime have naturally examined factors since early childhood. Constant societal changes have introduced new factors as possible causes of crime and delinquency. In these figure a large number of social institutions (for example, the structure of the family, occupational and employment structure), and lifestyle factors (for example, mass media, transport, leisure). Since the 1960s, the influence of the electronic media, in particular violence in the media, on human behaviour has been researched in many countries. While no definite causal links between violence portrayed in the media and crime has been established, the prevailing wisdom is that violence in the media has the potential to cause antisocial behaviour on the part of children. It is also mooted that some children among those who watch such violence regularly and who have been victims of violence tend to display aggressive behaviour.

In recent years, through Crime and Safety Surveys and victim-based National Crime Statistics, some data have emerged on children as victims of crime. This chapter presents these statistics, some of the highlights of which are:

- in 1995, of the 351 victims of homicide about 5 per cent were children under the age of 10; over 12 per cent of the 351 were under the age of 20;
- of the victims of sexual assault over 20 per cent, or 2602, were children under the age of 10 and almost 61 per cent were under the age of 20;
- of the 469 victims of kidnapping/abduction, about 24 per cent were children under the age of 10, about 45 per cent under the age of 15 and about 62 per cent were under the age of 20.

The Crime and Safety Survey data relate to persons aged 15 years and over. The 1993 National Crime and Safety Survey shows that:

- persons in the age group 15-19 were more likely to be a victim of personal crime such as assault, sexual assault, and robbery;
- young males were more likely than young females to be victims of these crimes;
- young unemployed people were more likely to be victims than those employed.

National Crime Statistics 1995

Table 3.1: AUSTRALIA, Victims of Homicide ¹, 1995
Age

Age	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
Number									
0 to 9	7	4	5	1	0	0	0	0	17
10 to 14	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	4
15 to 19	5	4	3	2	7	0	1	0	22
20 to 24	14	6	9	0	5	2	3	0	39
25 to 44	41	32	28	10	26	2	12	0	151
45 & over	27	19	9	10	11	2	4	1	83
Unknown	17	1	12	0	1	0	4	0	35
Total	111	67	68	23	51	6	24	1	351
Percentage									
0 to 9	6.3	6.0	7.4	4.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8
10 to 14	0.0	1.5	2.9	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
15 to 19	4.5	6.0	4.4	8.7	13.7	0.0	4.2	0.0	6.3
20 to 24	12.6	9.0	13.2	0.0	9.8	33.3	12.5	0.0	11.1
25 to 44	36.9	47.8	41.2	43.5	51.0	33.3	50.0	0.0	43.0
45 & over	24.3	28.4	13.2	43.5	21.6	33.3	16.7	100.0	23.6
Unknown	15.3	1.5	17.6	0.0	2.0	0.0	16.7	0.0	10.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1. Includes murder and manslaughter.

Source: Adapted from 1995 *National Crime Statistics* (Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat. No. 4501.0).

Figure 3.1: AUSTRALIA, National Crime Statistics
Victims of Homicide, Rate per 100 000 Relevant Population, 1995
Age Group

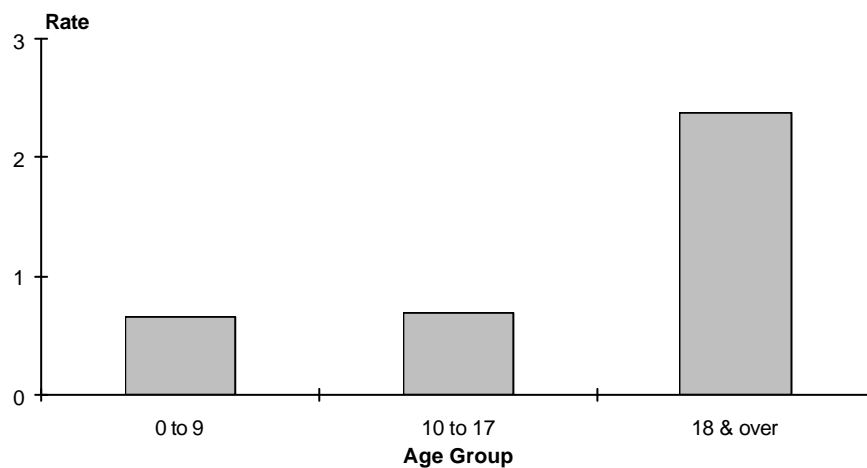


Table 3.2: AUSTRALIA, Victims of Attempted Murder, 1995
Age

Age	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
Number									
0 to 9	4	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	11
10 to 14	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	5
15 to 19	2	2	7	7	3	1	0	2	24
20 to 24	10	3	15	3	2	3	0	0	36
25 to 44	26	21	39	23	13	2	2	2	128
45 & over	7	14	15	7	1	0	0	0	44
Unknown	6	4	34	0	0	5	2	0	51
Total	55	46	119	40	20	11	4	4	299
Percentage									
0 to 9	7.3	4.3	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7
10 to 14	0.0	0.0	3.4	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7
15 to 19	3.6	4.3	5.9	17.5	15.0	9.1	0.0	50.0	8.0
20 to 24	18.2	6.5	12.6	7.5	10.0	27.3	0.0	0.0	12.0
25 to 44	47.3	45.7	32.8	57.5	65.0	18.2	50.0	50.0	42.8
45 & over	12.7	30.4	12.6	17.5	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.7
Unknown	10.9	8.7	28.6	0.0	0.0	45.5	50.0	0.0	17.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Adapted from 1995 *National Crime Statistics* (Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat. No. 4501.0).

Figure 3.2: AUSTRALIA, National Crime Statistics
Victims of Attempted Murder,
Rate per 100 000 Relevant Population, 1995
Age Group

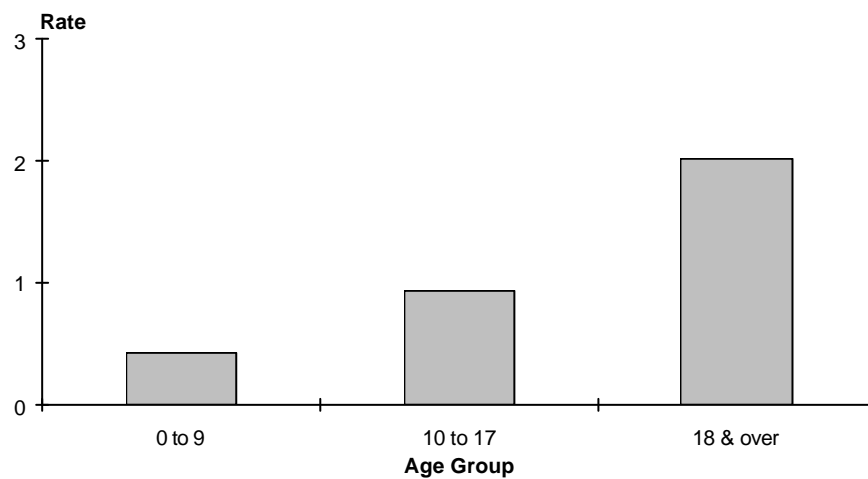


Table 3.3: AUSTRALIA, Victims of Assault, 1995
Age

Age	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
Number									
0 to 9	719	337	416	294	205	40	33	14	2 058
10 to 14	1 756	730	1 291	898	791	126	65	62	5 719
15 to 19	4 988	2 216	2 541	2 199	1 738	379	189	233	14 483
20 to 24	6 417	2 817	2 675	2 465	1 575	361	287	290	16 887
25 to 44	14 864	6 232	5 400	6 058	4 483	682	795	396	38 910
45 & over	4 042	1 476	1 627	1 530	1 170	167	151	82	10 245
Unknown	5 070	1 999	3 637	13	1 029	279	509	312	12 848
Total	37 856	15 807	17 587	13 457	10 991	2 034	2029	1389	101 150
Percentage									
0 to 9	1.9	2.1	2.4	2.2	1.9	2.0	1.6	1.0	2.0
10 to 14	4.6	4.6	7.3	6.7	7.2	6.2	3.2	4.5	5.7
15 to 19	13.2	14.0	14.4	16.3	15.8	18.6	9.3	16.8	14.3
20 to 24	17.0	17.8	15.2	18.3	14.3	17.7	14.1	20.9	16.7
25 to 44	39.3	39.4	30.7	45.0	40.8	33.5	39.2	28.5	38.5
45 & over	10.7	9.3	9.3	11.4	10.6	8.2	7.4	5.9	10.1
Unknown	13.4	12.6	20.7	0.1	9.4	13.7	25.1	22.5	12.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Adapted from 1995 *National Crime Statistics* (Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat. No. 4501.0).

Figure 3.3: AUSTRALIA - National Crime Statistics
Victims of Assault
Rate per 100 000 Relevant Population, 1995
Age Group

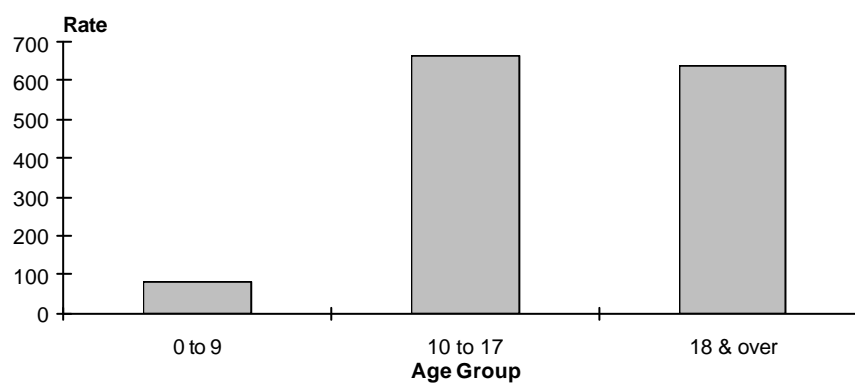


Table 3.4: AUSTRALIA, Victims of Sexual Assault, 1995
Age

<i>Age</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Australia</i>
Number									
0 to 9	863	351	595	274	443	30	24	22	2 602
10 to 14	933	468	598	306	428	25	25	16	2 799
15 to 19	708	559	432	287	349	43	17	8	2 403
20 to 24	421	420	254	168	143	27	12	7	1 452
25 to 44	629	687	345	278	319	24	28	10	2 320
45 & over	126	106	47	42	48	5	5	1	380
Unknown	359	208	199	1	51	6	16	11	851
Total	4 039	2 799	2 470	1 356	1 781	160	127	75	12 807
Percentage									
0 to 9	21.4	12.5	24.1	20.2	24.9	18.8	18.9	29.3	20.3
10 to 14	23.1	16.7	24.2	22.6	24.0	15.6	19.7	21.3	21.9
15 to 19	17.5	20.0	17.5	21.2	19.6	26.9	13.4	10.7	18.8
20 to 24	10.4	15.0	10.3	12.4	8.0	16.9	9.4	9.3	11.3
25 to 44	15.6	24.5	14.0	20.5	17.9	15.0	22.0	13.3	18.1
45 & over	3.1	3.8	1.9	3.1	2.7	3.1	3.9	1.3	3.0
Unknown	8.9	7.4	8.1	0.1	2.9	3.8	12.6	14.7	6.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Adapted from 1995 *National Crime Statistics* (Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat. No. 4501.0)

Figure 3.4: AUSTRALIA - National Crime Statistics
Victims of Sexual Assault
Rate per 100 000 Relevant Population, 1995
Age Group

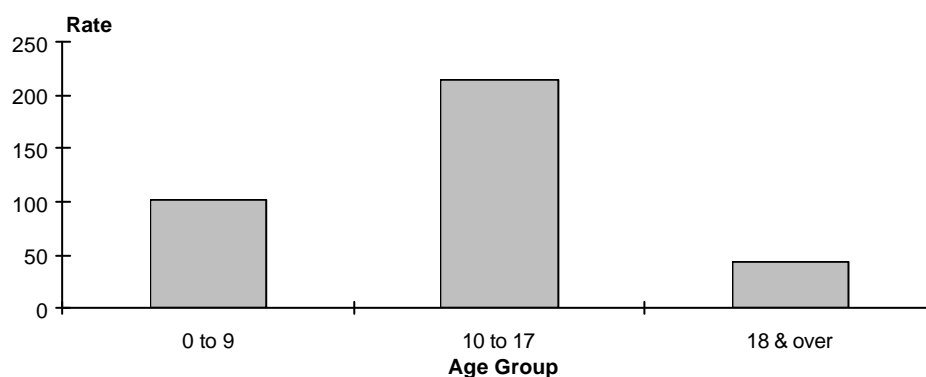
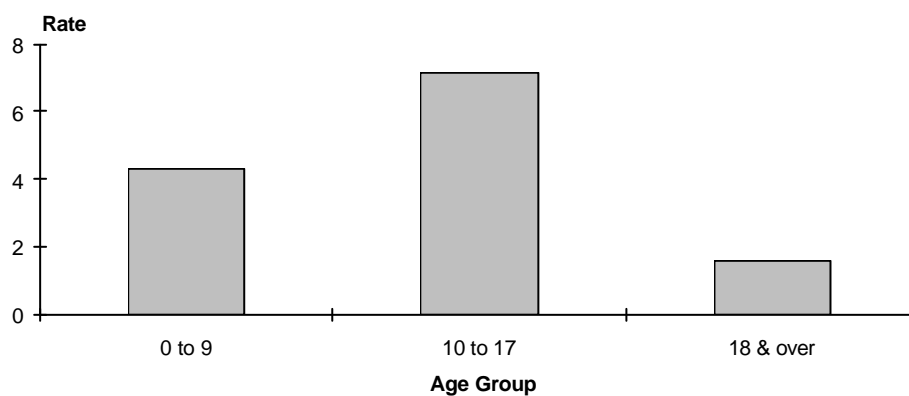


Table 3.5: AUSTRALIA, Victims of Kidnapping/Abduction, 1995
Age

Age	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
Number									
0 to 9	35	18	20	24	14	0	0	0	111
10 to 14	24	23	20	24	7	0	0	0	98
15 to 19	39	17	11	10	5	0	0	0	82
20 to 24	30	14	4	8	2	0	3	1	62
25 to 44	33	20	8	11	2	0	5	0	79
45 & over	6	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	10
Unknown	11	2	7	0	3	1	3	0	27
Total	178	95	71	78	34	1	11	1	469
Percentage									
0 to 9	19.7	18.9	28.2	30.8	41.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.7
10 to 14	13.5	24.2	28.2	30.8	20.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.9
15 to 19	21.9	17.9	15.5	12.8	14.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.5
20 to 24	16.9	14.7	5.6	10.3	5.9	0.0	27.3	100.0	13.2
25 to 44	18.5	21.1	11.3	14.1	5.9	0.0	45.5	0.0	16.8
45 & over	3.4	1.1	1.4	1.3	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1
Unknown	6.2	2.1	9.9	0.0	8.8	100.0	27.3	0.0	5.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Adapted from 1995 *National Crime Statistics* (Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat. No. 4501.0).

Figure 3.5: AUSTRALIA, National Crime Statistics
Victims of Kidnapping/Abduction
Rate per 100 000 Relevant Population, 1995
Age Group



Crime and Safety Surveys

Crime and Safety Survey Australia 1993

Table 3.6: AUSTRALIA, Crime and Safety Survey Australia, April 1993
Victimisation Rates per 100 Persons: Age Group
Personal Crimes

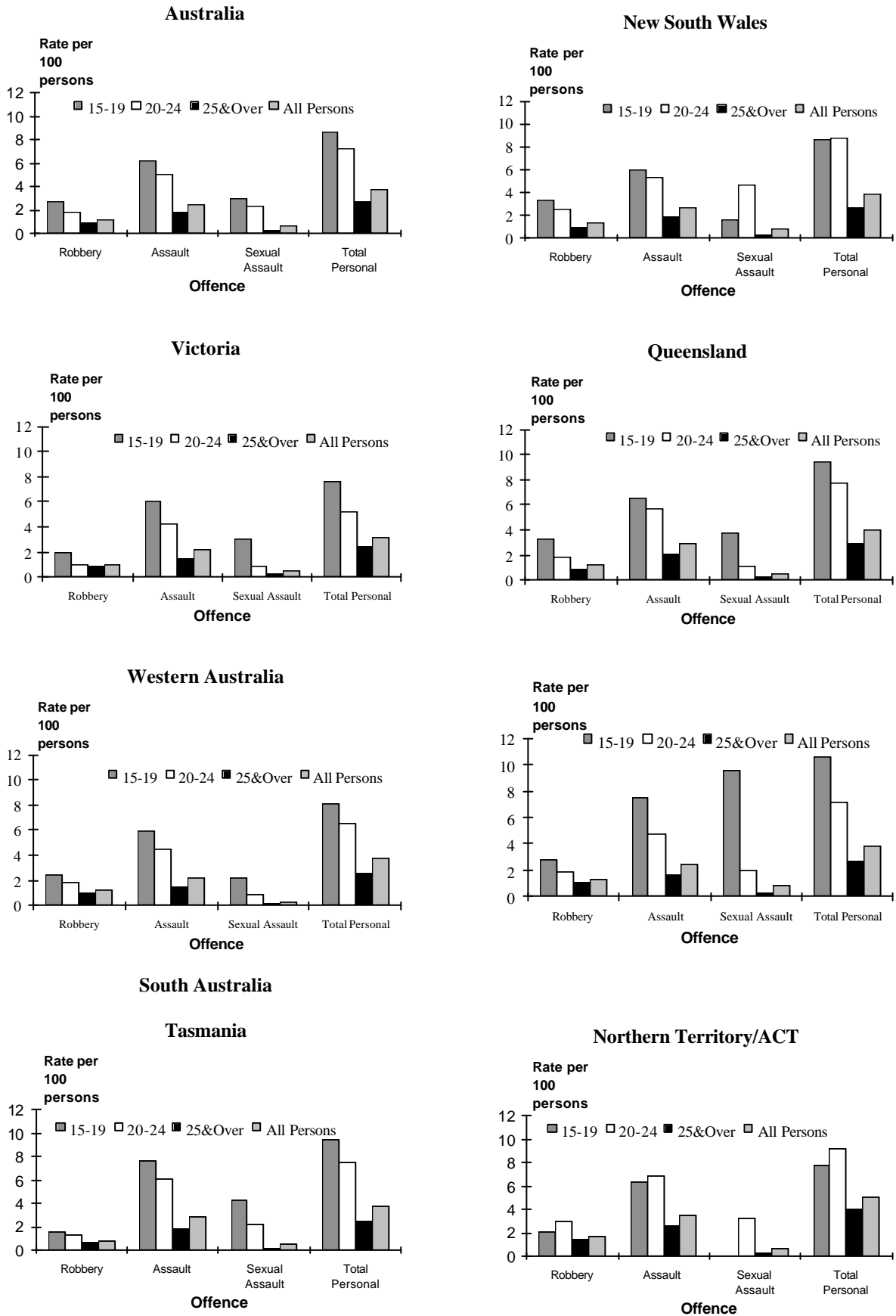
State/Territory	Age Group (Years)	Offence			Total Personal
		Robbery	Assault	Sexual Assault ¹	
NSW	15-19	3.3	5.9	1.6	8.7
	20-24	2.6	5.3	4.7	8.7
	25&Over	0.9	1.9	0.3	2.7
	All Persons	1.3	2.6	0.8	3.9
Vic.	15-19	1.9	6.0	3.0	7.6
	20-24	1.0	4.2	0.9	5.3
	25&Over	0.9	1.5	0.3	2.4
	All Persons	1.0	2.2	0.5	3.2
Qld	15-19	3.3	6.5	3.7	9.4
	20-24	1.9	5.7	1.1	7.7
	25&Over	0.9	2.1	0.3	2.9
	All Persons	1.2	2.9	0.5	4.0
WA	15-19	2.4	6.0	2.2	8.2
	20-24	1.8	4.5	0.8	6.5
	25&Over	1.0	1.5	0.2	2.5
	All Persons	1.3	2.2	0.3	3.8
SA	15-19	2.8	7.5	9.6	10.6
	20-24	1.9	4.7	2.0	7.1
	25&Over	1.1	1.7	0.3	2.6
	All	1.3	2.5	0.8	3.8
Tas.	15-19	1.5	7.7	4.3	9.4
	20-24	1.3	6.1	2.2	7.5
	25&Over	0.7	1.8	0.1	2.5
	All Persons	0.8	2.8	0.5	3.7
NT/ACT ²	15-19	2.1	6.4	0.0	7.7
	20-24	3.0	6.9	3.2	9.2
	25&Over	1.4	2.6	0.3	4.0
	All Persons	1.7	3.5	0.6	5.0
Australia	15-19	2.8	6.2	3.0	8.6
	20-24	1.9	5.0	2.3	7.3
	25&Over	0.9	1.8	0.3	2.7
	All Persons	1.2	2.5	0.6	3.7

1. Victimisation rates for sexual assault are based on the number of females aged 18 years and over.

2. Unit records for the ACT and the Northern Territory have been given the same jurisdiction indicative. Therefore, it is not possible to generate separate estimates for each Territory.

Source: Derived from unit record files (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1994).

Figure 3.6: AUSTRALIA, Crime and Safety Survey Australia, April 1993
 Victimisation Rates per 100 Persons: Age Group
 Personal Crimes



Note: Victimisation rates for sexual assault are based on number of females aged 18 years and over.

Table 3.7: AUSTRALIA, Crime and Safety Survey Australia, April 1993
Victimisation Rates per 100 Persons Aged 15-24 Years
Gender and Labour Force Status

Robbery								
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT/ACT ¹	Australia
15 - 19 Years								
<i>Gender</i>								
Male	3.5	2.9	3.9	3.6	1.6	2.4	2.1	3.2
Female	3.1	0.9	2.7	1.3	4.0	1.5	2.1	2.3
<i>Labour Force Status</i>								
Employed	2.5	1.9	2.8	1.9	3.7	2.8	1.2	2.4
Unemployed	7.1	1.4	5.3	2.6	2.3	0.0	6.8	4.2
Not in labour force	3.1	2.1	3.1	2.9	2.1	0.6	2.0	2.6
20 - 24 Years								
<i>Gender</i>								
Male	2.6	1.3	2.2	1.8	2.6	2.0	4.2	2.1
Female	2.6	0.6	1.5	1.8	1.1	0.7	1.7	1.6
<i>Labour Force Status</i>								
Employed	2.1	0.9	1.5	1.6	2.0	0.3	2.8	1.6
Unemployed	7.4	2.1	3.5	3.5	0.0	6.9	9.6	4.0
Not in labour force	1.6	0.5	2.7	1.6	3.1	1.5	1.7	1.6

1. Unit records for the ACT and the Northern Territory have been given the same jurisdiction indicative. Therefore, it is not possible to generate separate estimates for each Territory.

Source: Derived from unit record files (Australian Bureau of Statistics 1994).

Table 3.8: AUSTRALIA, Crime and Safety Survey Australia, April 1993
 Victimization Rates per 100 Persons Aged 15-24 Years
 Gender and Labour Force Status
 Assault

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT/ACT ¹	Australia
15-19 Years								
<i>Gender</i>								
Male	8.4	8.1	8.1	7.3	8.0	8.9	8.3	8.1
Female	3.3	3.7	4.9	4.6	7.0	6.4	4.4	4.2
<i>Labour Force Status</i>								
Employed	5.0	4.4	4.9	5.4	8.2	6.5	6.2	5.2
Unemployed	8.6	10.0	11.3	8.8	14.0	14.9	13.8	10.3
Not in labour force	5.9	6.0	6.5	5.8	4.9	6.7	4.5	5.9
20 - 24 Years								
<i>Gender</i>								
Male	6.5	5.6	7.6	7.1	4.9	8.1	9.6	6.5
Female	4.0	2.8	3.8	1.9	4.5	4.1	4.1	3.5
<i>Labour Force Status</i>								
Employed	5.0	4.8	4.6	4.6	3.8	5.6	7.3	4.8
Unemployed	11.1	2.6	7.3	4.9	11.6	9.6	16.0	7.3
Not in labour force	2.9	3.4	10.9	4.2	2.6	5.6	2.2	4.4

1. Unit records for the ACT and the Northern Territory have been given the same jurisdiction indicative. Therefore, it is not possible to generate separate estimates for each Territory.

Source: Derived from unit record files (Australian Bureau of Statistics 1994).

Table 3.9: AUSTRALIA, Crime and Safety Survey Australia, April 1993
Percentage of Victims Reporting more than One Incident of the Same Offence:
Age Group
Robbery and Assault

State/Territory	Age Group (Years)	Offence	
		Robbery	Assault
NSW	15-19	30.9	45.4
	20-24	49.3	40.7
	25&Over	29.7	43.5
Vic.	15-19	41.0	36.8
	20-24	39.5	40.6
	25&Over	23.2	38.5
Qld	15-19	39.6	41.1
	20-24	39.2	52.0
	25&Over	34.4	46.8
WA	15-19	35.4	54.6
	20-24	19.5	34.7
	25&Over	19.0	41.2
SA	15-19	24.8	51.2
	20-24	32.0	34.9
	25&Over	28.9	50.3
Tas.	15-19	19.2	33.8
	20-24	35.1	35.5
	25&Over	34.5	32.7
NT/ACT ¹	15-19	24.2	35.2
	20-24	54.7	69.3
	25&Over	41.0	47.1
Australia	15-19	34.2	43.2
	20-24	41.9	43.0
	25&Over	28.1	43.2

1. Unit records for the ACT and the Northern Territory have been given the same jurisdiction indicative. Therefore, it is not possible to generate separate estimates for each Territory.

Source: Derived from unit record files (Australian Bureau of Statistics 1994).

Figure 3.7: AUSTRALIA, Crime and Safety Survey Australia, April 1993
Percentage of Victims Reporting more than One Incident of the Same Offence:
Age Group
Robbery and Assault

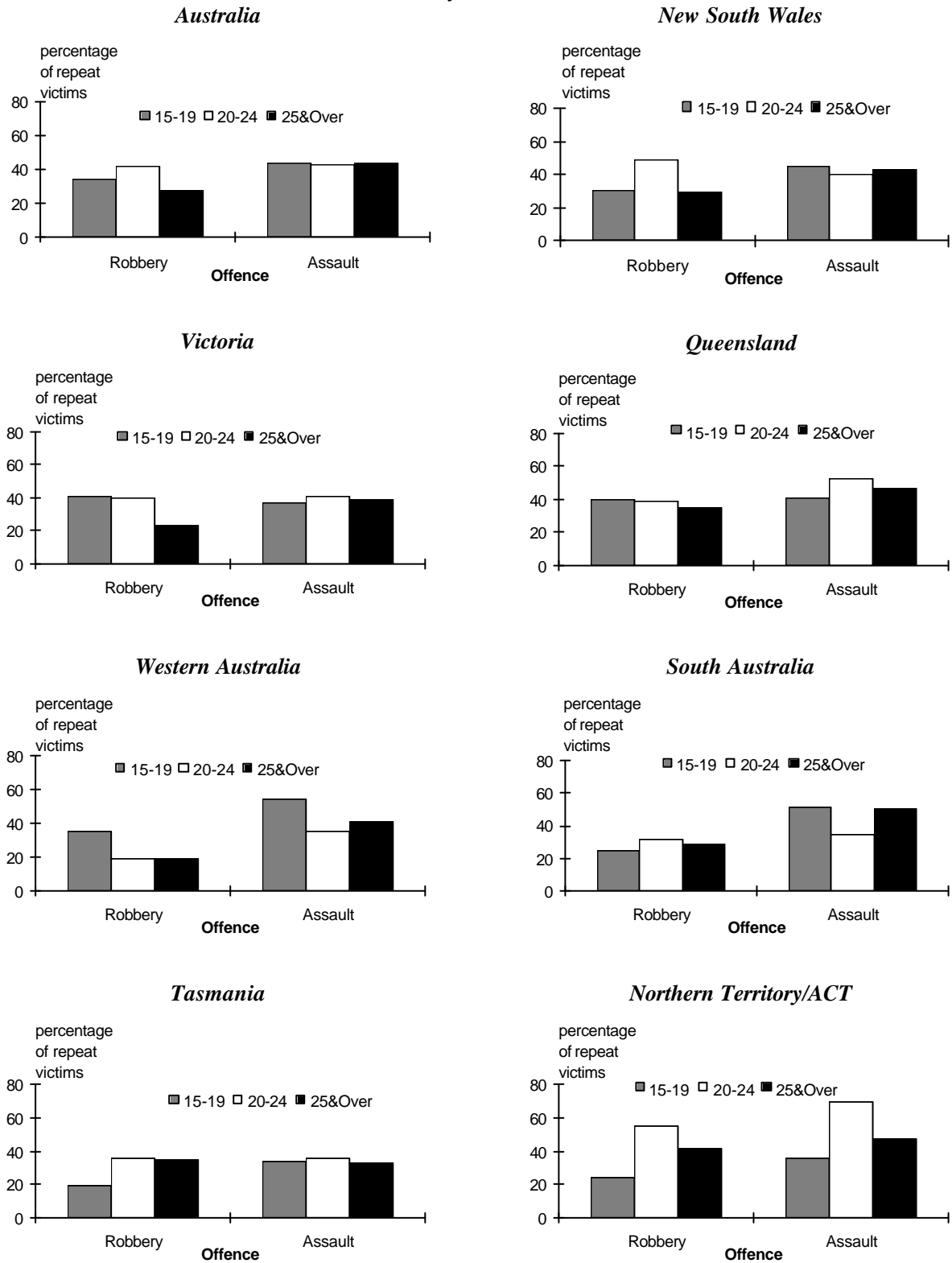


Table 3.10: AUSTRALIA, Crime and Safety Survey Australia, April 1993
Percentage of Victims Aged 15-24 Years Reporting more than One Incident of the Same Offence
Gender and Labour Force Status

Robbery								
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT/ACT¹	Australia
15 - 19 Years								
<i>Gender</i>								
Male	35.5	42.0	31.4	39.8	36.0	23.2	26.1	36.2
Female	25.6	37.5	52.3	22.5	20.2	0.0	22.2	31.3
<i>Labour Force Status</i>								
Employed	32.1	48.8	34.3	55.1	23.6	22.9	0.0	35.6
Unemployed	42.8	46.5	55.7	46.3	42.1	0.0	68.9	47.8
Not in labour force	23.7	35.0	34.6	18.7	21.0	0.0	0.0	27.0
20-24 Years								
<i>Gender</i>								
Male	72.6	41.8	51.5	0.0	36.3	46.9	61.9	52.3
Female	26.6	34.5	20.0	40.4	21.7	0.0	36.9	27.6
<i>Labour Force Status</i>								
Employed	41.4	50.0	33.5	19.9	43.2	100.0	61.0	40.7
Unemployed	56.7	30.0	27.8	0.0	0.0	31.4	60.6	42.3
Not in labour force	69.1	0.0	68.3	50.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	46.1

1. Unit records for the ACT and the Northern Territory have been given the same jurisdiction indicative. Therefore, it is not possible to generate separate estimates for each Territory.

Source: Derived from unit record files (Australian Bureau of Statistics 1994).

Table 3.11: AUSTRALIA, Crime and Safety Survey Australia, April 1993
Percentage of Victims Aged 15-24 Years Reporting more than One Incident of the Same Offence
Gender and Labour Force Status

<i>Assault</i>								
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT/ACT ¹	Australia
15 - 19 Years								
<i>Gender</i>								
Male	44.3	41.2	42.9	51.5	47.7	27.6	47.1	43.7
Female	48.2	26.6	37.8	59.6	55.3	42.9	12.0	42.1
<i>Labour Force Status</i>								
Employed	36.1	26.4	43.6	55.7	45.1	41.7	42.9	39.5
Unemployed	67.6	42.0	63.4	36.3	62.9	18.7	44.9	57.3
Not in labour force	44.3	37.1	21.1	60.9	50.2	35.9	13.2	39.3
20-24 Years								
<i>Gender</i>								
Male	42.7	43.7	45.7	37.3	29.6	28.5	82.8	43.4
Female	37.3	34.5	65.3	24.8	40.8	49.6	39.1	42.3
<i>Labour Force Status</i>								
Employed	34.8	41.0	50.2	48.6	29.2	37.5	67.0	41.6
Unemployed	55.0	77.7	44.7	0.0	45.7	46.1	70.4	50.8
Not in labour force	47.4	16.0	60.2	0.0	29.8	20.4	100.0	39.9

1. Unit records for the ACT and the Northern Territory have been given the same jurisdiction indicative. Therefore, it is not possible to generate separate estimates for each Territory.

Source: Derived from unit record files (Australian Bureau of Statistics 1994).

State Crime and Safety Surveys, 1995

Table 3.12: AUSTRALIA, State Crime and Safety Surveys, 1995
Victimisation Rates per 100 Persons: Age Group
Personal Offences

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	ACT
<i>Age (Years)</i>						
15-24	8.6	6.2	8.7	8.2	8.6	9.4
25 years and over	3.3	2.4	3.7	3.5	3.1	4.0

Source: Adapted from:

April 1995 Crime and Safety New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory (Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat. No. 4509.1).

April 1995 Crime and Safety Victoria (Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat. No. 4509.2).

April 1995 Crime and Safety Queensland (Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat. No. 4509.3).

April 1995 Crime and Safety South Australia (Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat. No. 4509.4).

October 1995 Crime and Safety Western Australia (Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat. 4509.5).