



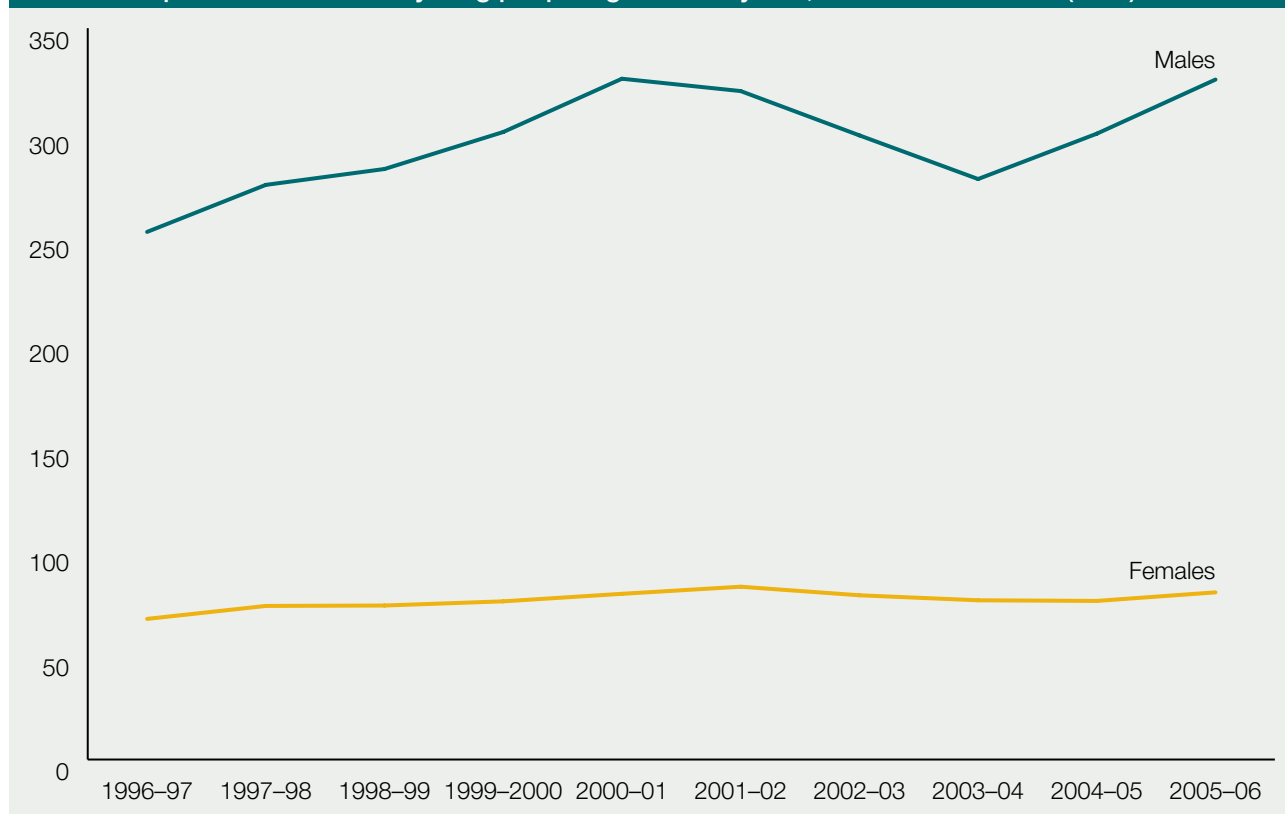
# Crime Facts Info

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## Assault-related injuries among young Australians

A recent research paper highlights the steady increase in assaults against young Australians recorded by police (Bricknell 2008). National health data also show that the incidence of assault-related injuries to young Australians that result in hospitalisation continues to increase (AIHW 2008). The assault hospitalisation rate (the number of hospitalisations due to assault per 100,000 young people – those aged between 12 and 24 years) increased by 27 percent between 1996–97 and 2005–06. The increase for males (29%) was far greater than that for females (19%). The overwhelming majority (around two-thirds) of these hospitalisations were attributed to assault by bodily force, such as an unarmed fight. Assault using a sharp object (such as a knife) accounted for 12 percent and assault with a blunt object accounted for 11 percent. Hospitalisation rates attributed to assault for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were substantially higher than for other young Australians: six times as high in 2005–06, after the figures were adjusted for differences in age structures between the two groups.

Assault hospitalisation rates for young people aged 12–24 years, 1996–97 to 2005–06 (rate<sup>a</sup>)



a: per 100,000 relevant population

Source: Adapted from AIHW (2008: 34)

## References

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2008. Injury among young Australians. *Bulletin* no. 60. <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/aus/bulletin60/bulletin60.pdf>

Bricknell S 2008. Trends in violent crime. *Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice* no. 359. <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi2/tandi359.html>