

AUSTRALIAN CRIME



FACTS AND FIGURES *2001*



AUSTRALIAN
INSTITUTE OF
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Note

Because of rounding, some percentages may not add up to 100.

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Foreword

This compendium of the most recent available national information on crime in Australia is intended to serve as a ready reference. The number of different types of recorded crimes, their place of occurrence, victim details, responses of criminal justice agencies, and government resources directed to deal with crime are covered.

While the Australian Institute of Criminology has been collecting data for the past 28 years, it is only since 1993 that Australia has had comparative statistics on recorded crimes for some major crimes, and only since 1996 that a limited set of statistics on cases/defendants processed in courts has become available.

It must be noted that crimes recorded by the police do not reflect the true level of crime in Australia. Crime and safety surveys in Australia and crime victim surveys from overseas clearly show that only about 40 per cent of crimes are reported to the police by the victims.

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 data here comprise national figures only, with some minor exceptions. Should readers want State-based data they should consult the appropriate publications included in the reference section of this document.

The Australian Institute of Criminology prepares materials containing the latest data on crime and justice issues and produces a number of publications on a wide range of issues. Further information may be obtained by visiting the AIC web site (<http://www.aic.gov.au>) or by contacting the Institute (see back cover).

Adam Graycar
Director

March 2002

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Since the 1970s, most industrialised countries have conducted crime victimisation surveys to estimate the extent of crime. The information gleaned from these surveys supplements the statistics produced by police services.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has conducted national crime surveys in 1975, 1983, 1993 and 1998, with the next survey being planned for April 2002.

The most recent crime survey data for Australia come from the International Crime Victims Survey (ICVS), which was conducted in March 2000. The following section provides data from the Australian component of the ICVS.

International Crime Victims Survey

The ICVS is a fully standardised survey conducted in a number of countries around the world that enables international comparisons of crime victimisation and attitudes toward crime and the criminal justice system. Seventeen industrialised countries participated in the 2000 ICVS. The Australian Institute of Criminology coordinated the Australian component of the survey.

Australia has participated in the 1989, 1992 and 2000 sweeps of the ICVS, but did not take part in the 1996 survey.

The Australian component of the ICVS collected data about experiences of victimisation for the following offences.

Household offences:

- break and enter (attempted and completed);
- motor vehicle theft;
- motor vehicle damage; and
- theft from motor vehicle.

Personal offences:

- robbery;
- assault;
- sexual offences (rape, attempted rape, indecent assault and offensive sexual behaviours);
- theft from the person; and
- consumer fraud.

There are some differences between the ABS crime victim surveys and the 2000 ICVS. Compared to the ABS surveys,

the ICVS has a much smaller sample size (3 031 persons), uses Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) as the data collection methodology, includes residents of private dwellings aged 16 years and over, uses a longer and more comprehensive questionnaire, and asks more detailed questions.

The 1998 ABS survey gained information from 42 200 persons and 20 900 households. The survey was conducted among residents of private dwellings aged 15 years and over, however, only females aged 18 years and over were asked sexual assault questions. Questionnaires were delivered to respondents, who mailed them back to the ABS upon completion.

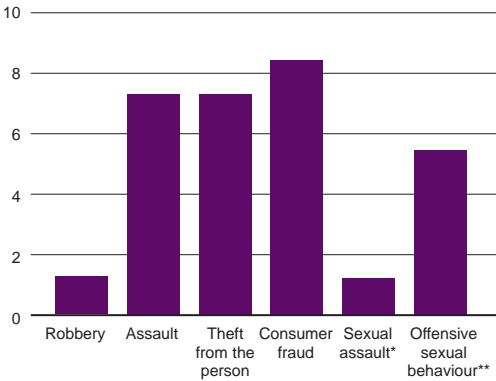
Notwithstanding these differences, at the national level both the ICVS and national crime and safety surveys produce estimates of similar magnitude.

The following data refer to persons' and households' experiences of crime in 1999, as estimated from the 2000 ICVS. *For personal crimes, excluding sexual offences, rates are computed as the number of victims per 100 persons aged 16 years and over. To obtain estimates of sexual offences that are comparable to those produced by the ABS, the rates of sexual assault and offensive sexual behaviour were calculated relative to the number of females aged 18 years and over.*

Figure 1a and Figure 1b contain data on the number of victims of crime per 100 persons or households.

Figure 1a

Selected crimes—persons victimised on at least one occasion in 1999, rate per 100 persons



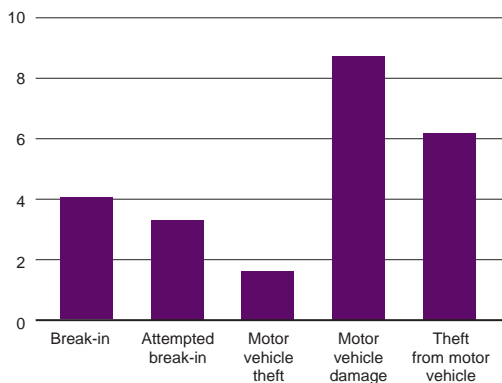
* Rape, attempted rape or indecent assault of females aged 18 years and over.

** Against females aged 18 years and over.

- **The most commonly mentioned personal crimes were consumer fraud (9%), assault (7%) and theft from the person (7%).**
- **Persons most at risk of assault and theft included young people, never-married persons, students and those who regularly go out in the evening for the purposes of entertainment.**
- **A female aged 18 years and over was four times more likely to be the victim of offensive sexual behaviour than rape, attempted rape or indecent assault.**
- **About one in five persons reported being a victim of a personal crime in 1999.**

Figure 1b

Selected crimes—households victimised on at least one occasion in 1999, rate per 100 households



- **The most common household crimes were motor vehicle damage (9%) and theft from a motor vehicle (6%).**
- **Just over 4% of households reported being a victim of a completed burglary (break-in).**
- **About one in five households reported being a victim of a household crime in 1999.**

Source: References 1 and 5

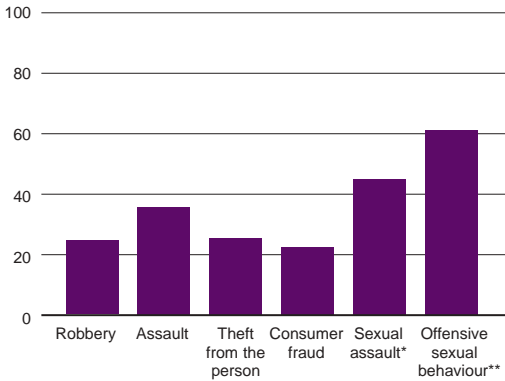
Repeat victimisation

Repeat victimisation refers to a person or household being a victim of the same offence on more than one occasion during 1999.

There was a total of 2 204 517 incidents of household crime compared to 1 356 247 victims, and 4 700 949 incidents of personal crime compared to 2 246 572 victims, indicating that many victims suffer repeated incidents of crime.

Figure 2a

Victims of selected personal crimes—percentage victimised on more than one occasion, 1999



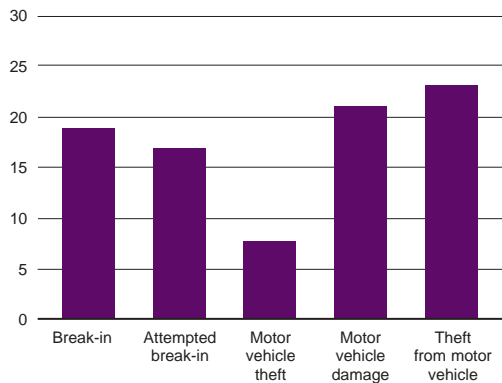
* Rape, attempted rape or indecent assault of females aged 18 years and over.

** Against females aged 18 years and over.

■ **For personal offences, repeat victimisation was particularly common among victims of sexual offences, with 45% of sexual assault victims and 61% of offensive sexual behaviour victims experiencing more than one incident in 1999.**

Figure 2b

Victims of selected household crimes—percentage victimised on more than one occasion, 1999



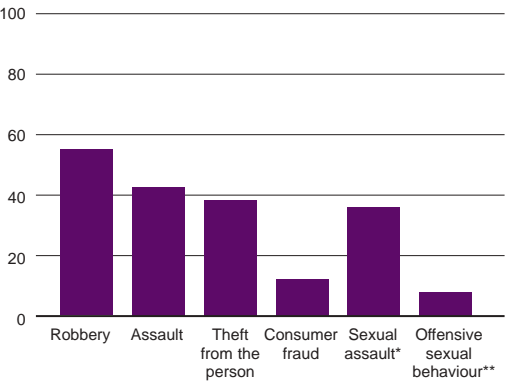
- **Victims of motor vehicle theft were less likely to be repeat victims compared to the victims of motor vehicle damage or theft from a motor vehicle.**
- **About one in five victims of break-in, either completed or attempted, reported being a victim on more than one occasion in 1999.**

Source: Reference 1

Reporting crime to police

It is well known that not all crime is reported to police, and rates of reporting vary depending on the type of offence, seriousness of incident, and victim–offender relationship.

Figure 3a
Personal offences, percentage of incidents reported to police, 1999



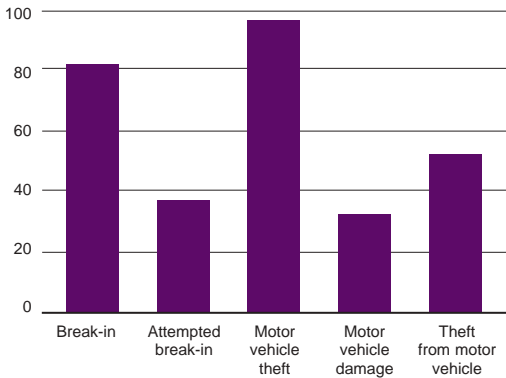
* Rape, attempted rape or indecent assault of females aged 18 years and over.

** Against females aged 18 years and over.

- **Robbery and assault recorded the highest rates of reporting, with 57% and 43% of victims, respectively, reporting the incident to police.**
- **Two in five victims of sexual assault (rape, attempted rape, indecent assault) reported the incident to the police, while police came to know about 8% of incidents of offensive sexual behaviour.**

- About 12% of victims of consumer fraud reported the incident to the police. Of the remaining victims, 25% reported the incident to an agency other than the police.

Figure 3b
Household offences, percentage of incidents reported to police, 1999



- The highest rates of reporting occurred for motor vehicle theft and completed break-in, with 96% and 83% of victims, respectively, reporting the incident to the police. Such a high level of reporting is most likely due to insurance considerations.
- The lowest rate of reporting was for motor vehicle damage (32%). This was the most common household offence, with 9% of households being victims in 1999. It is likely that the majority of incidents were not of a serious nature.
- Most crimes were not reported to police because victims thought it was 'too trivial/unimportant', 'there was nothing police could/would do', or it was a 'personal matter and they would take care of it themselves'.

Source: Reference 1

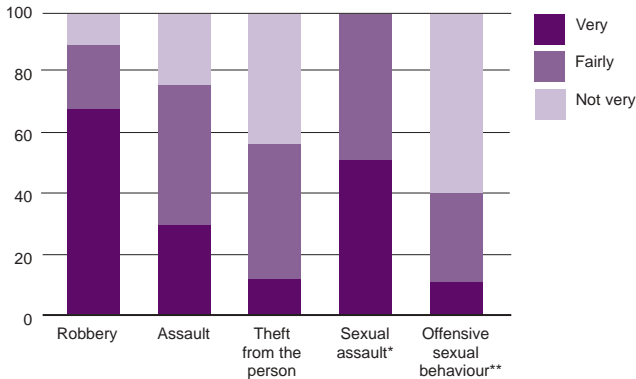
Perceptions of seriousness

Victims tend to perceive some types of crime as more serious than others, depending on factors such as the value of material losses or the amount of physical injury inflicted upon them.

Victims of crime were asked to assess the seriousness of the incident they experienced in 1999. A crime could be rated as being very serious, fairly serious or not very serious.

Figure 4a

Perceptions of seriousness among victims of personal offences, percentages, 1999

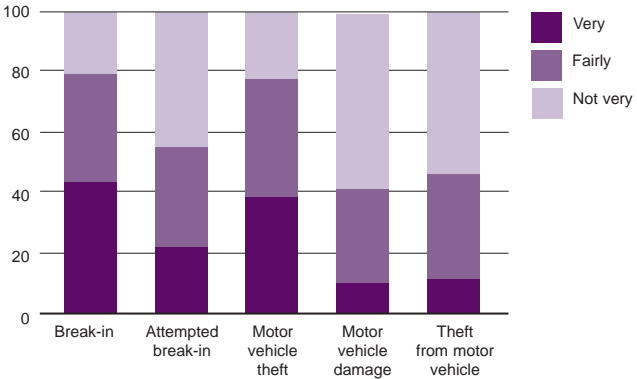


* Rape, attempted rape or indecent assault of females aged 18 years and over.

** Against females aged 18 years and over.

- **Two in three victims of robbery perceived the incident as being of a very serious nature.**
- **Half of the victims of sexual assault perceived the crime as being very serious, compared to only 11% of victims of offensive sexual behaviour.**
- **No victims of sexual assault perceived the incident as being not very serious.**

Figure 4b

Perceptions of seriousness among victims of household offences, percentages, 1999

- **Victims of motor vehicle theft were more likely to perceive the crime as being very serious (38%) compared to theft from a motor vehicle (12%) or motor vehicle damage (10%).**
- **Completed break-in incidents were twice as likely to be perceived as very serious compared to attempted break-ins.**

Source: Reference 1

Selected crime profiles

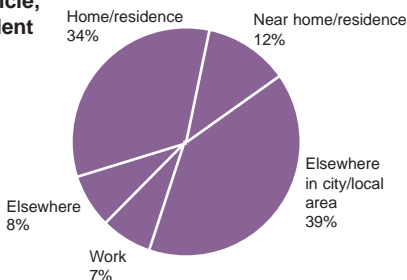
This section provides further details about the offences which are included in the ICVS but are excluded from the ABS survey—theft from a motor vehicle, motor vehicle damage and consumer fraud.

Theft from a motor vehicle

In the 2000 ICVS, respondents were asked if they, or members of their household, had been the victim of theft of property that was left in their car, or attached to their car.

Figure 5

Theft from a motor vehicle, by location where incident occurred, 1999

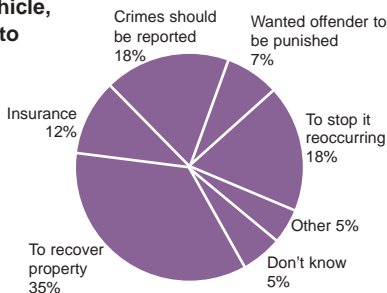


■ **Almost half of the incidents occurred at or near the victim's home or residence (46%), and 46% occurred in the city/local area or workplace.**

Over half of the incidents of theft from a motor vehicle in 1999 were reported to the police. The main reasons for reporting are highlighted in Figure 6.

Figure 6

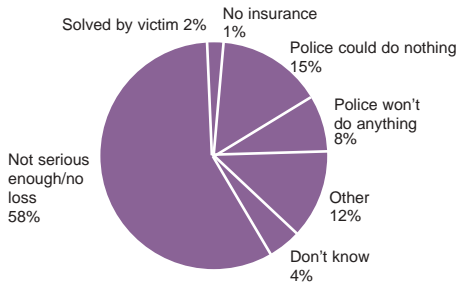
Theft from a motor vehicle, reasons for reporting to police, 1999



■ **The most common reason for reporting was to recover property (35%), followed by a sense of obligation to notify the police (18%), and the need to stop the crime reoccurring (18%).**

The reasons for incidents of theft from a motor vehicle not being reported to the police are shown in Figure 7.

Figure 7
Theft from a motor vehicle,
reasons for not reporting
to police, 1999



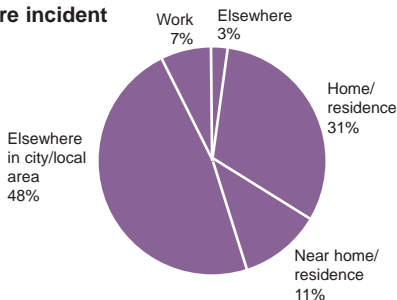
- The main reason for not reporting the incident to the police relates to the theft being trivial in nature (58%).

Source: Reference 1

Motor vehicle damage

Besides motor vehicle theft and theft from a motor vehicle, respondents were also asked if they, or other members of their household, were a victim, in 1999, of any type of deliberately inflicted damage to any vehicles they owned.

Figure 8
Motor vehicle damage,
by location where incident
occurred, 1999



- About 42% of incidents of motor vehicle damage occurred at or near the victim's place of residence.
- Over half of the incidents occurred elsewhere in the city/local area or workplace.

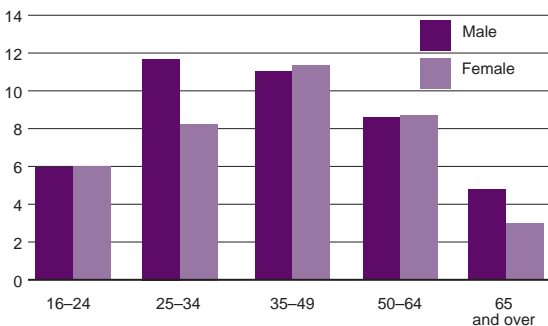
Source: Reference 1

Consumer fraud

Data on experiences of consumer fraud were obtained by asking respondents if someone, when selling something to them or delivering a service, cheated them in terms of quantity or quality of goods or services. The results indicate that about 9% of people were a victim of this type of crime in 1999, making consumer fraud the most prevalent type of personal crime covered in the survey.

Figure 9

Consumer fraud, persons victimised at least once, age and gender, rate per 100 persons, 1999

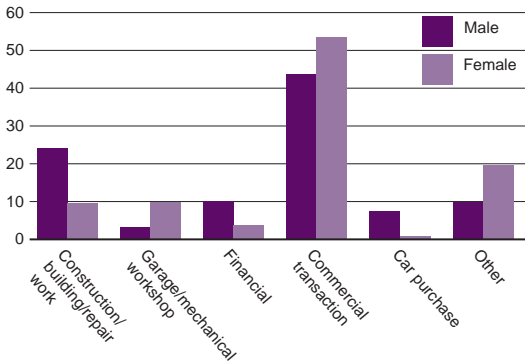


- **Overall, 9% of males and 8% of females were the victim of consumer fraud in 1999. The victimisation rate peaked between the ages of 25 and 34 years for males, whereas for females, the peak occurred among 35-49-year-olds.**
- **Males and females aged 16-24 and 35-64 years experienced similar levels of fraud victimisation in 1999.**
- **Within the older age group (65 years and over), males were more likely to experience consumer fraud compared to females.**

Source: Reference 1

Type of fraud

Figure 10
Type of fraud, percentages, 1999



- **The majority of victims (44% of males, 54% of females) experienced fraud related to some type of commercial transaction (for example, mail-order purchases, telemarketing, door-to-door selling).**
- **Males were more frequently affected by fraud related to construction, building or repair work, financial fraud and fraud involving car purchases. In contrast, females were more frequently defrauded as a result of work done at a garage or mechanical workshop, commercial transactions, and other types of fraud not classified elsewhere.**

Source: Reference 1

International comparisons

National crime surveys may be of limited use for international comparisons due to factors such as differences in survey design, coverage, methodology for data collection, and offence definitions.

In contrast, the 2000 ICVS was designed to enable comparisons between countries regarding inhabitants' experiences of crime, perceptions of safety and the criminal justice system.

This section compares Australia and a selection of countries participating in the 2000 ICVS (England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Canada and the United States) in terms of reporting behaviour, firearm ownership and perceptions of policing.

Reporting crime

Table 1a
Percentage of personal crimes reported to the police,
Australia and selected countries, 1999

Offence	Australia	England & Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	USA	Canada
Robbery	57	59	68	73	68	41
Assault with force	58	55	48	63	58	47
Threats	34	29	34	36	51	30
Sexual assault*	38	30	59	32	30	32
Offensive behaviour**	7	5	7	11	11	6
Pickpocketing	36	47	53	31	33	37
Other personal theft	40	49	60	29	30	26
Consumer fraud	13	10	9	7	8	13

* Rape, attempted rape and indecent assault against females aged 16 years and over.

** Against females aged 16 years and over.

- **Robbery and assault with force are the offences more frequently reported to police in most countries.**
- **The lowest rates of reporting for robbery occurred in Canada where less than half of the victims reported the incident to the police. In contrast, almost three-quarters of victims of robbery in Northern Ireland contacted the police.**
- **Reporting rates for sexual assault were low across all countries, with the exception of Scotland, where a majority of victims reported the incident to the police.**
- **In the United States, victims were more likely to report threats to the police, compared to Australia and other countries.**

■ **Together with Canada, Australia recorded the highest reporting rate for consumer fraud.**

Table 1b

Percentage of household crimes reported to the police, Australia and selected countries, 1999

Offence	Australia	England & Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	USA	Canada
Break-in	83	90	91	86	68	80
Attempted break-in	37	62	49	40	45	46
Motor vehicle theft*	96	89	89	95	95	99
Theft from motor vehicle	52	71	69	61	61	58
Motor vehicle damage	32	43	47	44	48	47
Motorcycle theft	100	94	100	100	71	34
Bicycle theft	65	69	78	64	55	50

* Theft of car, van or truck.

- **Reporting levels were highest for motor vehicle theft, motorcycle theft and completed break-in. Completed break-ins were reported to the police at a considerably lower rate in the United States than in the remaining countries.**
- **Australia had the lowest reporting rates for theft from a motor vehicle and motor vehicle damage.**

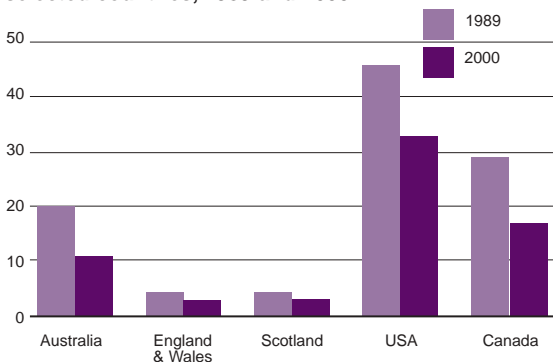
Source: References 1, 17, 18

Firearm ownership

The extent and characteristics of civilian firearm ownership may impact upon the use of firearms in the commission of crimes. In the 2000 ICVS, respondents were asked details about their own and their household's level of firearm ownership. Figure 11 shows the percentage of households owning a firearm in 1989 and 2000, for Australia and selected countries.

Figure 11

Percentage of households owning a firearm, Australia and selected countries, 1989 and 2000



- **On average, levels of firearm ownership have declined since the initial sweep of the ICVS by about 36% among the selected countries. In Australia, levels of firearm ownership declined by 45% between 1989 and 2000.**
- **The United States recorded the highest level of firearm ownership in 2000. An American household was three times as likely to own a firearm as an Australian household, and almost 12 times more likely than households in England and Wales, and Scotland.**
- **In Australia, the majority of households which owned a firearm did so for hunting or sport-related purposes.**
- **About 66% of murders and 41% of robberies occurring in the United States in 2000 involved the use of a firearm, compared to 20% and 6% of murders and robberies, respectively, in Australia.**

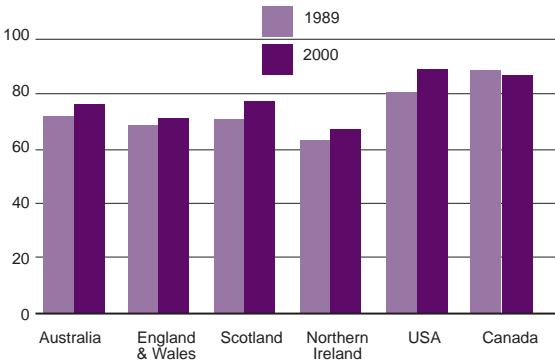
Source: References 1, 2, 17, 18 and 19

Perceptions of policing

Respondents were asked to assess the overall success of police at controlling crime in their area.

Figure 12

Percentage who think police do a good job controlling crime in their area, Australia and selected countries, 1989 and 2000



- **Perceptions of police performance improved slightly in all countries in 2000, compared to 1989, with the exception of Canada.**

Source: References 1, 17, 18

This section presents data on recorded crime as published by the ABS for the period 1993–2000. Recorded crime is based on counts of victims during the period from 1 January to 31 December each year.

Crimes known to police

Tables 2a and 2b show the number of victims recorded by police between 1993 and 2000 for the following seven categories of major offences.

Violent crimes:

- homicide (murder and manslaughter);
- assault;
- sexual assault; and
- robbery.

Property crimes:

- unlawful entry with intent (UEWI);
- motor vehicle theft; and
- other theft.

It is estimated that these crimes account for about 60% of all crime recorded by police.

Table 2a

Violent crimes recorded by police, 1993–2000*

	Homicide	Assault	Sexual assault	Robbery
1993	333	n/a	12 186	12 765
1994	320	n/a	12 722	13 967
1995	356	101 710	13 099	14 564
1996	350	114 156	14 542	16 372
1997	360	124 500	14 353	21 305
1998	332	130 903	14 336	23 801
1999	386	134 271	14 104	22 606
2000	346	141 124	15 630	23 314

* Data for 1993–1999 have been revised.

n/a Data for this offence were not available.

- **Assault was the most commonly recorded violent crime in 2000, accounting for 78% of violent crime victims. Between 1995 and 2000, the number of assaults increased by 39%.**

- The number of robbery offences almost doubled between 1993 and 2000, whereas the number of sexual assaults increased by 28%. The number of homicides has remained stable over this period.

Table 2b

Property crimes recorded by police, 1993–2000*

	Unlawful entry with intent	Motor vehicle theft	Other theft
1993	381 783	112 472	n/a
1994	379 505	119 469	n/a
1995	385 162	127 094	490 518
1996	402 079	122 914	519 762
1997	421 569	130 138	530 881
1998	434 376	131 587	563 482
1999	415 735	129 552	612 559
2000	436 865	139 094	674 813

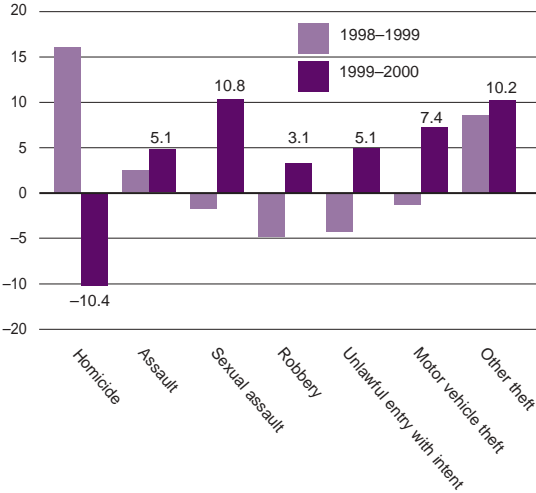
* Data for 1993–1999 have been revised.

n/a Data for these offences were not available.

- In 2000, ‘other theft’ (which includes offences such as pickpocketing, bag-snatching and shoplifting) was the most commonly recorded property crime, accounting for 54% of property crime victims. Since 1995, the number of victims of ‘other theft’ has increased by 38%.
- Between 1993 and 2000, the number of victims of UEWI and motor vehicle theft increased by 14% and 24% respectively.
- Property offences accounted for 87% of the seven major crimes in 2000, a trend that has remained stable since 1995.

Figure 13

Percentage change in crimes recorded by police, 1999 compared to 1998, 2000 compared to 1999



- There was an increase across all offences in 2000 compared to 1999, except for homicide.
- This contrasts with 1999 when, compared to 1998, there were declines for the offences of sexual assault, robbery, unlawful entry with intent and motor vehicle theft, but an increase for homicide.
- Sexual assault and ‘other theft’ recorded the largest increase between 1999 and 2000, the former by 11% and the latter by 10%.
- There was a 10% decline in the number of homicides. In 2000 there were 346 homicides compared to 386 in 1999.

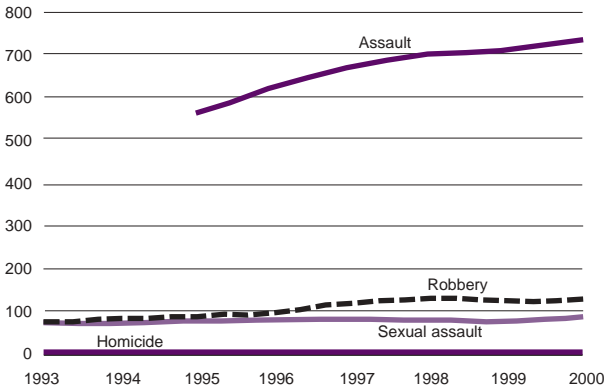
Source: References 2 and 4

Violent crime

Violent crime comprises homicide, assault, sexual assault and robbery.

Figure 14

Violent crimes recorded by police, rate per 100 000 persons, 1993–2000



- **The rate of assault has increased steadily since 1995.**
- **The rate of robbery remained relatively constant between 1993 and 1996 before increasing significantly in 1997 and peaking in 1998. It has remained stable since then.**
- **Rates of homicide and sexual assault have remained relatively stable since 1993. The number of homicides has fluctuated, while the number of sexual assaults has increased by an average 4% per year.**

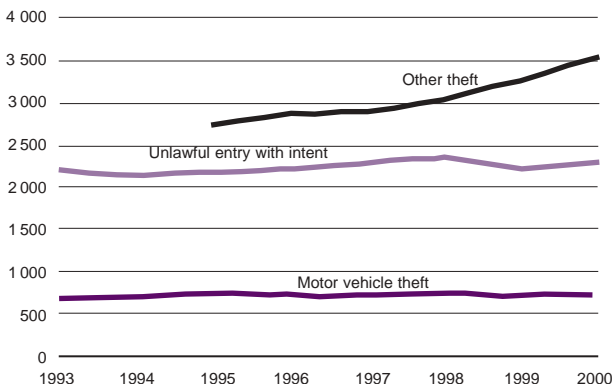
Source: References 2 and 4

Property crime

Property crime comprises unlawful entry with intent, motor vehicle theft and other theft.

Figure 15

Property crimes recorded by police, rate per 100 000 persons, 1993–2000



- Since 1995, 'other theft' has increased by 7% each year.
- The rate of unlawful entry with intent recovered its upward trend in 2000 after having recorded a decline in 1999 relative to 1998.
- The rate of motor vehicle theft has remained stable since 1993.

Source: References 2 and 4

Location of crime

The ABS classifies crime locations according to the function of the site where a criminal incident occurred, as follows:

- *residential location* (e.g. houses, garages/carports, motels and hostels);
- *community location* (e.g. car parks, transport facilities, street/footpaths and schools); and
- *other location* (e.g. retail premises, recreational facilities, government offices and warehousing/storage).

Table 3 and Table 4 list the number of offences that occurred within each type of location.

Table 3
Number of violent crimes by type of location, 2000

	Homicide	Assault	Sexual assault	Robbery
Residential				
Private dwelling	156	48 944	9 047	1 214
Other residential*	51	7 825	934	325
Community				
Street/footpath	44	32 554	1 296	8 655
Other community	45	20 088	2 027	4 177
Other				
Retail	11	12 644	473	6 189
Recreational	17	12 605	801	1 343
Other location	10	2 805	272	807

* Includes non-private dwellings, dwellings not further defined, and land and other structures (e.g. driveways) which lie within the curtilage of a residential location.

Table 4
Number of property crimes by type of location, 2000

	Unlawful entry with intent	Motor vehicle theft	Other theft
Residential			
Private dwelling	241 613	n/a	57 807
Other residential*	41 596	25 691	104 631
Community			
Street/footpath	0	55 142	118 881
Other community	40 094	27 500	115 500
Other			
Retail	52 504	18 114	161 816
Recreational	11 561	2 951	36 467
Other location	40 595	3 667	39 872

* Includes non-private dwellings, dwellings not further defined, and land and other structures (e.g. driveways) that lie within the curtilage of a residential location.

n/a National data not available.

Figure 16
**Violent crimes,
type of location,
2000**

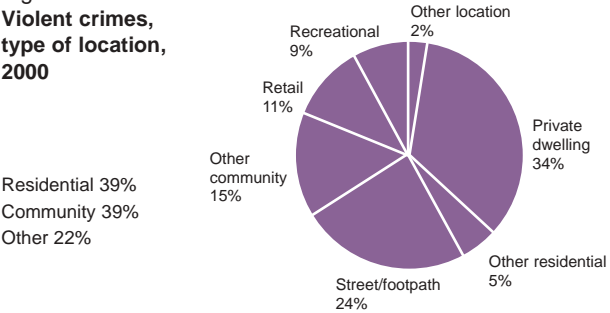
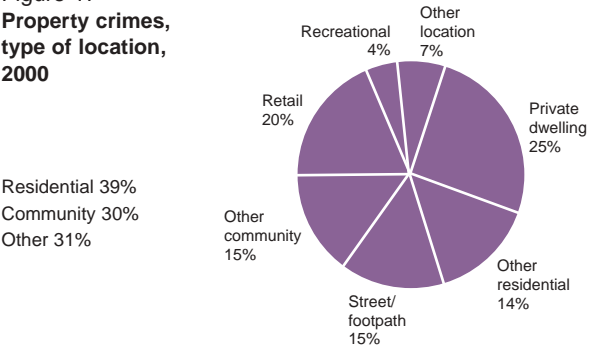


Figure 17
**Property crimes,
type of location,
2000**



- **Thirty-nine per cent of violent and property offences occurred in residential locations, primarily private dwellings.**
- **The crimes most likely to occur in a private dwelling were sexual assault (61%), homicide (47%), assault (36%) and unlawful entry with intent (56%).**
- **Violent crimes occurred more frequently in a community location (39%) compared to property crimes (30%). Twenty-four per cent of violent crimes occurred on a street/footpath compared to 15% of property crimes.**
- **Motor vehicle theft (62%), robbery (57%), assault (38%) and other theft (37%) were the offences most likely to be committed in a community location.**

- **Other locations (including retail and recreational locations) accounted for 22% of violent crimes and 31% of property crimes.**
- **In particular, 11% of violent crimes and 20% of property crimes occurred in retail locations.**
- **About one-quarter of robbery offences and other theft offences occurred in a retail location in 2000.**

Source: Reference 6

3 SELECTED CRIME PROFILES

Homicide

The definition of homicide used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (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 caused:
 - without intent to kill, usually as a result of a careless, reckless or negligent act; or
 - intentionally but due to extreme provocation; or
 - when in a state of mind that impairs the capacity to understand or control one's actions.

■ **There were 346 homicides in Australia in 2000; that is, two homicides per 100 000. This represents a reduction of 10% compared to 1999 (386).**

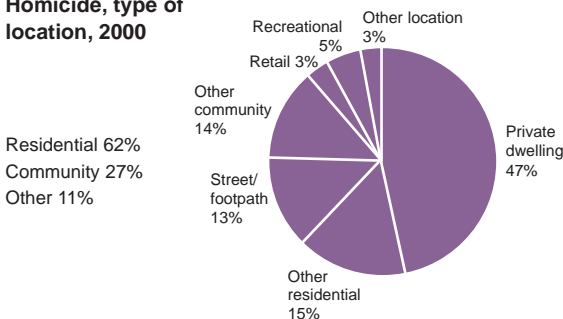
■ **Murder contributed 87% of the victims recorded in 2000. The remainder were victims of manslaughter.**

Source: Reference 2

Location of homicides

■ **Of all homicides occurring in Australia in 2000, 62% took place in residential locations, with 47% in a private dwelling.**

Figure 18
Homicide, type of location, 2000



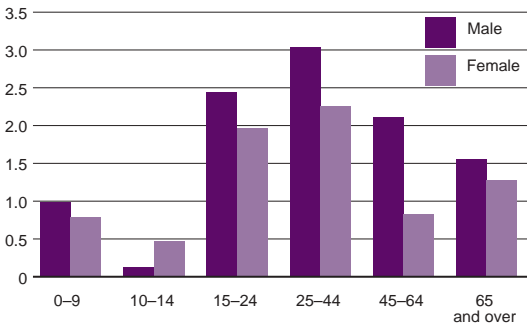
Source: Reference 6

Victims of homicide

- Fifty-nine per cent of victims were male.
- Relative to 1999, in 2000 the number of male victims of homicide decreased by 17%, while the number of female victims increased by 6%.

Figure 19

Age and gender of homicide victims, rate per 100 000 persons, 2000

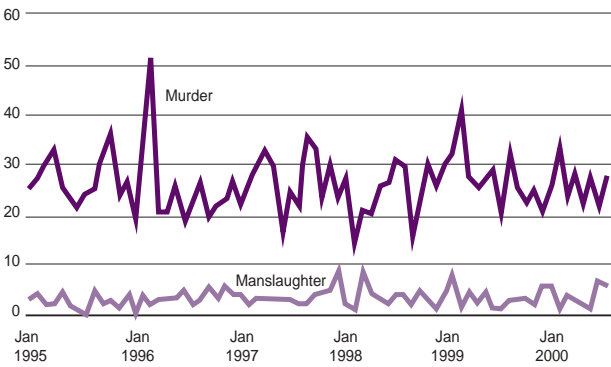


- In all age categories except the 10-14 age group, the risk of being a victim of homicide was higher for males than for females.
- Males and females in the 25-44 age group were most at risk of being a homicide victim.

Source: References 2 and 4

Trend in homicide

Figure 20
Number of homicides by month, 1995–2000

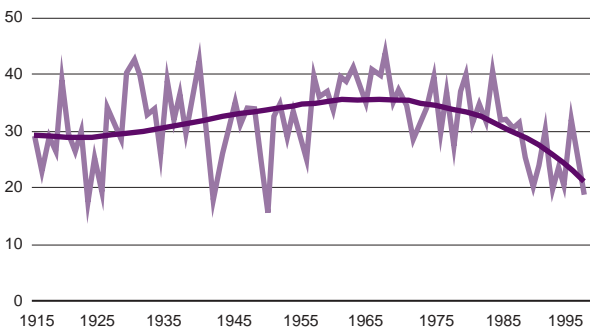


■ The number of murders and manslaughter fluctuated on a monthly basis between 1995 and 2000. The spike in the murder figures in April 1996 is due to the Port Arthur tragedy.

Source: Reference 6

Trend in firearm homicides

Figure 21
Homicide involving firearms as a percentage of total homicide, 1915 to 1999



■ The percentage of homicides committed with a firearm continued its declining trend since 1969. In 1999, 17% of homicides involved firearms.

Source: Reference 3

Assault (excluding sexual assault)

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

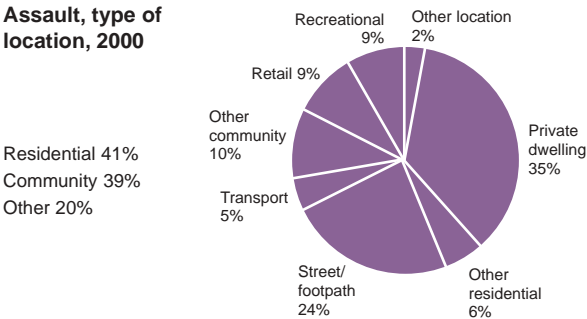
- **In 2000 there were 141 124 assaults recorded by the police at a rate of 737 per 100 000 population, an increase of 5% from the number of victims recorded during 1999.**

Source: Reference 2

Location of assaults

Figure 22

Assault, type of location, 2000



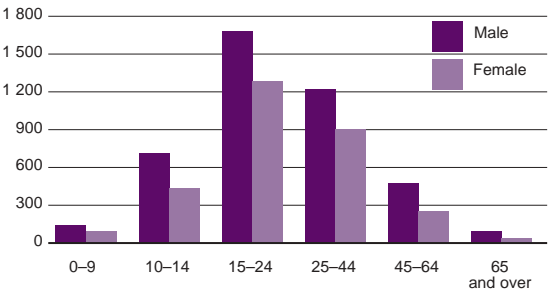
- **Assaults occurred more frequently in a residential location (41%), particularly in private dwellings (35%). There was an 8% increase in the number of assaults recorded in private dwellings in 2000 relative to 1999.**
- **Thirty-nine per cent of assaults occurred in community locations, with assaults on street/footpaths accounting for 24% of all recorded assaults.**
- **Twenty per cent of recorded assaults took place in other locations, including recreational facilities (9%).**
- **This pattern remained stable between 1999 and 2000.**

Source: References 2 and 6

Victims of assault

- Fifty-seven per cent of assault victims were male.
- Relative to 1999, in 2000 the number of male and female victims of assault increased by 5% and 7% respectively.

Figure 23
Age and gender of assault victims, rate per 100 000 persons, 2000

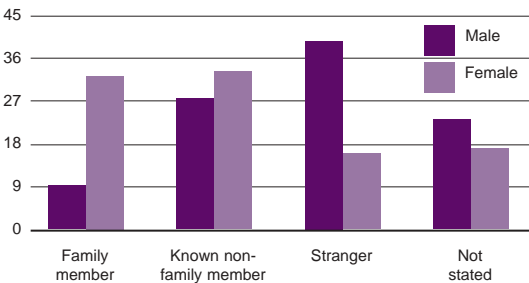


- Consistent with patterns in previous years, males exhibited higher victimisation rates than females for all age categories.
- Both males and females were most at risk of being a victim of assault while aged between 15 and 24.

Source: References 2 and 4

Victim-offender relationship

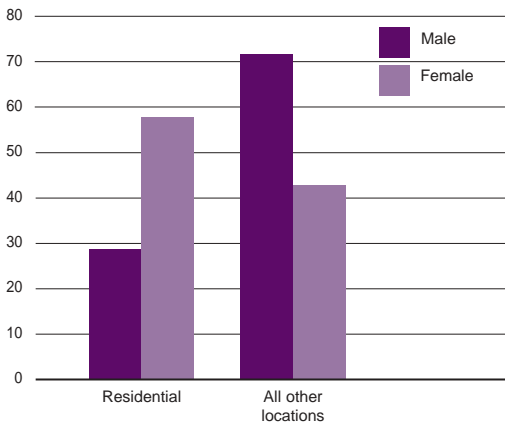
Figure 24
Assault victims, gender and relationship to offender, percentages, 2000



- **Thirty-seven per cent of male victims of assault knew the offender compared to 67% of female victims.**
- **Assaults occurring against females were three times more likely to be perpetrated by a family member than those occurring against males.**
- **In contrast, 40% of male victims were assaulted by strangers compared to only 16% of female victims.**

Figure 25

Assault, type of location and sex of victim, percentages, 2000



- **A large majority of male victims (72%) was assaulted in non-residential locations, whereas a majority of female victims (58%) was assaulted in residential premises.**

Table 5

Number and percentage of assault victims by age, gender and location, 2000

	Residential		All other locations	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Age	Number			
0–9	1 089	781	699	344
10–14	1 161	965	3 682	1 928
15–24	5 330	8 512	18 119	8 797
25–34	5 652	9 946	16 389	6 227
35–44	4 545	6 804	9 284	3 618
45 and over	4 442	4 103	7 129	2 361
Not specified	586	651	1 969	705
Total	22 805	31 762	57 271	23 980
Age	Percentage			
0–9	4.8	2.5	1.2	1.4
10–14	5.1	3.0	6.4	8.0
15–24	23.4	26.8	31.6	36.7
25–34	24.8	31.3	28.6	26.0
35–44	19.9	21.4	16.2	15.1
45 and over	19.5	12.9	12.4	9.8
Not specified	2.6	2.0	3.4	2.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

■ **Assaults were more frequently committed in residential locations against:**

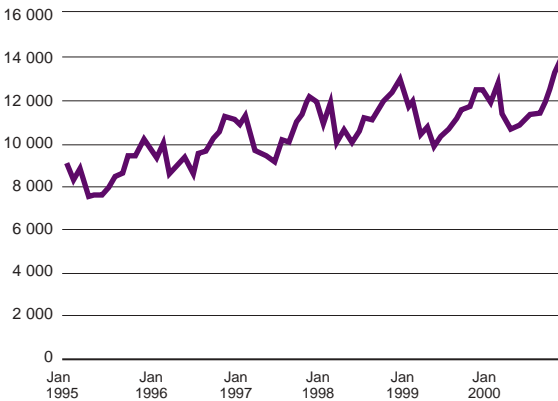
- **males aged 0–9 years;**
- **females aged 25–44 years; and**
- **males aged 45 years and over.**

■ **On the other hand, males and females aged 10–14 years, and females aged 15–24 years, experienced a higher frequency of assaults in non-residential locations compared to other age groups.**

Source: Reference 2 and 6

Trend in assault

Figure 26
Number of assaults, by month, 1995–2000



- **The number of assaults has grown by an average 7% each year between 1995 and 2000. This is almost six times the annual growth of the Australian population over the same period (upward trend was statistically significant, $p < 0.01$).**
- **Assault is seasonal. The number of recorded assault victims was often highest during late spring and the entire summer period.**

Source: References 4 and 6

Sexual assault

The ABS definition of sexual assault is a physical assault of a sexual nature, directed toward another person where that person:

- 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 temporary/permanent incapacity.

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

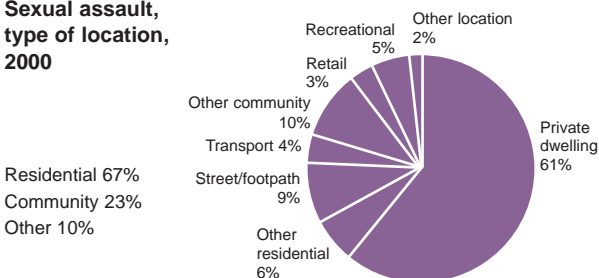
- There were 15 630 victims of sexual assault recorded by the police in Australia in 2000, an increase of 11% from 1999.
- There were about 82 victims of sexual assault per 100 000 population.

Source: Reference 2

Location of sexual assaults

Figure 27

**Sexual assault,
type of location,
2000**



- Of all recorded sexual assaults in Australia in 2000, 67% occurred in residential locations, particularly in private dwellings (61%).
- Twenty-three per cent of sexual assaults occurred in community locations. Sexual assaults on street/footpaths accounted for 9% of all recorded sexual assaults.
- Only 10% of recorded sexual assaults took place in other locations, including recreational facilities such as parks and ovals (5%).
- This pattern remained relatively stable between 1999 and 2000.

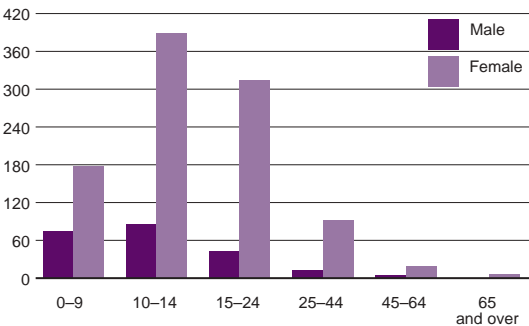
Source: References 2 and 6

Victims of sexual assault

- Seventy-nine per cent of sexual assault victims were female.
- In 2000 the number of male and female victims of sexual assault increased by 17% and 9% respectively, relative to 1999.

Figure 28

Age and gender of sexual assault victims, rate per 100 000 persons, 2000

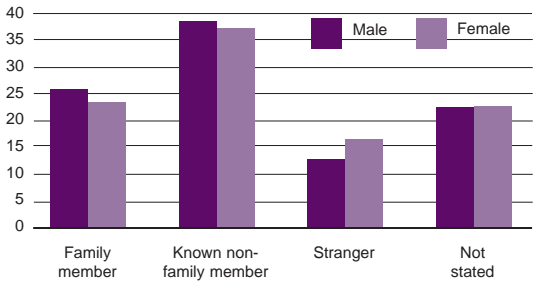


- Sexual assault is more prevalent among young people under the age of 25 years.
- In each age group, females were more likely to be victims of sexual assault than males.
- Consistent with 1999, in 2000 both males and females in the 10-14 age range were most at risk of being sexually assaulted. There were 13% more victims recorded in this age group between 1999 and 2000.
- Persons aged 0-9 years recorded the largest increase in their rate of victimisation between 1999 and 2000. The rate increased from 102 victims per 100 000 persons in 1999, to 125 in 2000.

Source: Reference 1, 2 and 4

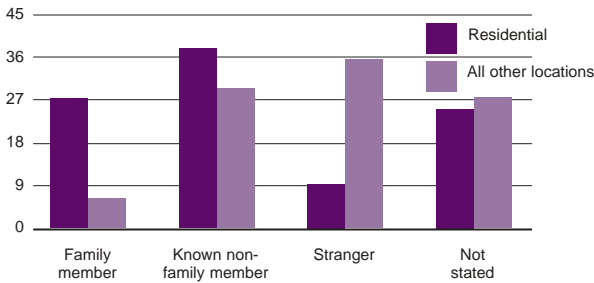
Victim-offender relationship

Figure 29
Gender of sexual assault victims and relationship to offender, percentages, 2000



- The majority of sexual assaults (61%) were committed by a person known to the victim.
- One in four sexual assaults were perpetrated by family members.
- In about 38% of sexual assaults the offender was a non-family member known to the victim.
- Almost 16% of sexual assaults were committed by strangers. Females were more likely to be assaulted by a stranger, compared to males.

Figure 30
Sexual assault, type of location and victim-offender relationship, percentages, 2000*



* Data for New South Wales not included.

- Sexual assaults occurring at a residential location were most likely to be have been perpetrated by a

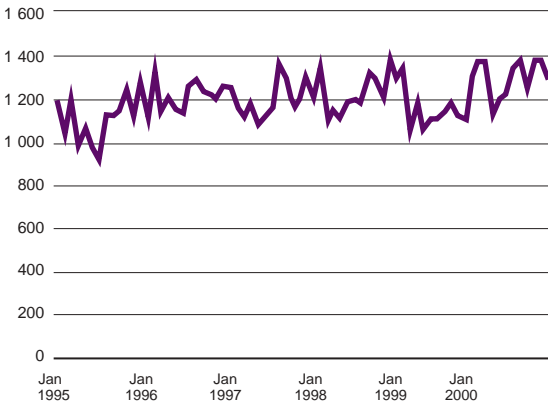
known non-family member (38%) or family member (28%).

- **In contrast, over one-third of sexual assaults committed at other locations involved an offender unknown to the victim.**

Source: Reference 2

Trend in sexual assault

Figure 31
Number of sexual assault victims, by month, 1995–2000



- **Sexual assaults have increased by an average 0.1% each month since 1995 (upward trend was statistically significant, $p < 0.01$).**
- **The number of sexual assaults was typically highest during spring and summer.**

Source: Reference 6

Robbery

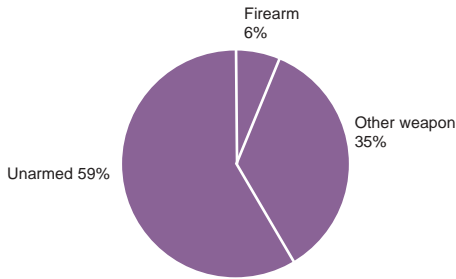
Robbery, as defined by the ABS, is the unlawful taking of property, without consent, accompanied by force or threat of force. Robbery victims can be persons or organisations.

Types of robbery

Robbery is divided into the following two categories of offences.

- *Armed robbery*: This is robbery conducted with use of a weapon. A weapon is any object used to cause fear or injury. It also 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*: This is robbery conducted without the use of a weapon.

Figure 32
Types of robbery, 2000

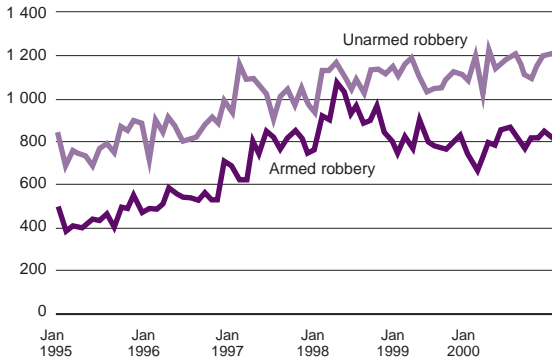


- **Police recorded 23 314 victims of robbery during 2000, with 122 per 100 000 population. This represents a 3% increase on the number recorded in 1999.**
- **This increase was due to a 5% increase in the number of unarmed robberies. The number of armed robberies remained relatively constant over this period.**
- **Of the incidents recorded during 2000, 59% were unarmed robberies, 35% were committed with a weapon other than a firearm, and 6% were committed with a firearm.**

Source: Reference 2

Trend in robbery

Figure 33
Number of robberies, by month, 1995–2000



- **Unarmed robbery has increased by an average 0.5% each month since 1995 (upward trend was statistically significant, $p < 0.01$).**
- **Armed robbery increased by 2.4% per month between June 1995 and June 1998 (upward trend was statistically significant, $p < 0.01$) then declined until January 1999, and has remained stable thereafter.**
- **The proportion of total robbery accounted for by armed robbery increased from 39% in June 1995 to 48% in June 1998. Since then, armed robberies have accounted for about 42% of total robberies each month, on average.**

Source: Reference 6

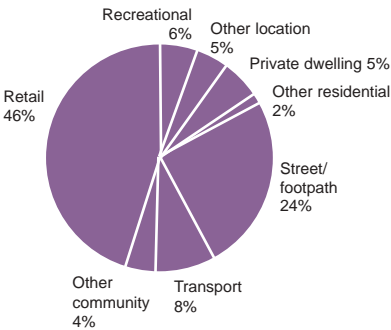
Armed robbery

- **There were 9 474 armed robberies recorded during 2000. This represents a 0.2% increase from 1999.**

Source: Reference 2

Figure 34
**Armed robbery,
type of location,
2000**

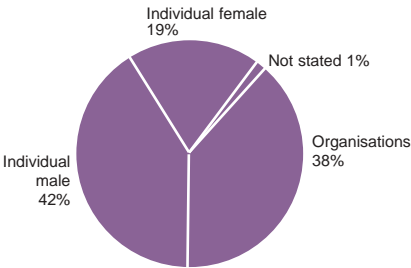
Residential 7%
Community 36%
Other 57%



- Consistent with previous years, in 2000 armed robbery was concentrated in retail premises (46%).
- Thirty-six per cent took place in community locations, with a large proportion being committed on street/footpaths (24%).

Source: References 2 and 6

Figure 35
**Victims of
armed robbery,
2000**

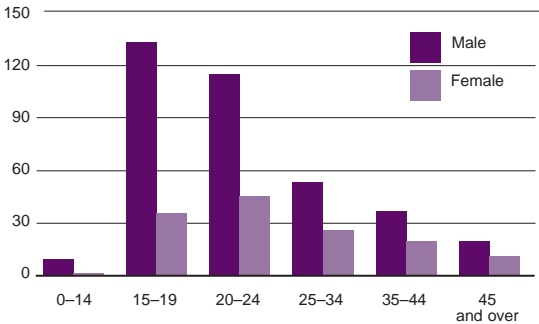


- Thirty-eight per cent of armed robberies were committed against organisations. This represents a 3% decline compared to 1999.
- A person (male or female) was the victim of 61% of armed robberies. Males were more than twice as likely to be robbed than females.

Source: References 2 and 6

Figure 36

Age and gender of armed robbery victims, rate per 100 000 persons, 2000



- In all age categories, males were more at risk of being a victim of armed robbery than were females.
- Males aged between 15 and 24 were at least twice as likely to become a victim of armed robbery than persons in any other age category.
- Among males, the rate for persons aged 15-34 years increased between 1999 and 2000, whereas it remained stable for the other age groups.
- Among females, those aged 20 to 24 years had the highest risk of victimisation.
- Between 1999 and 2000, rates for females declined across all age groups, except for the 20-24-year age group.

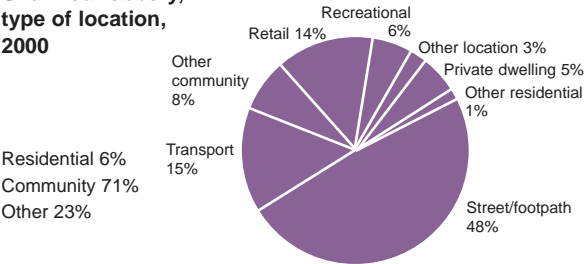
Source: References 2 and 4

Unarmed robbery

- There were 13 840 unarmed robberies recorded during 2000. This represents a 5% increase from the incidence in 1999.

Source: Reference 2

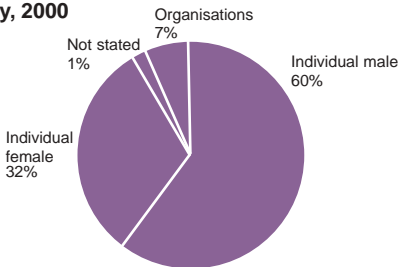
Figure 37
Unarmed robbery,
type of location,
2000



- **Seventy-one per cent of unarmed robberies occurred in community locations, including 48% on street/footpaths and 15% in a transport location.**
- **Fourteen per cent of unarmed robberies occurred in a retail location (armed robbery: 46%).**

Source: Reference 6

Figure 38
Victims of
unarmed robbery, 2000

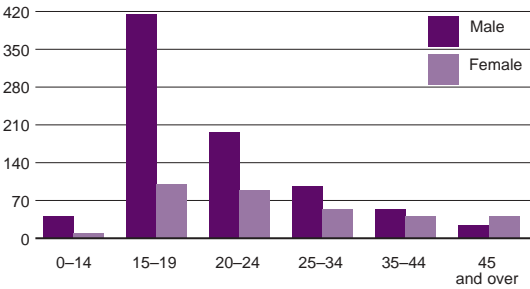


- **Ninety-two per cent of unarmed robbery victims were persons (as opposed to organisations), compared to 61% of armed robberies.**
- **Males comprised the majority of victims (60%). A similar trend was observed in 1999 (58%).**
- **Only 7% of victims of unarmed robbery were organisations (armed robbery: 38%). This represents a 1% decline relative to 1999.**

Source: References 2 and 6

Figure 39

Age and gender of unarmed robbery victims, rate per 100 000 persons, 2000



- Compared to females, males had a higher risk of unarmed robbery, except for persons aged 35 years and over, among whom males and females experienced similar risks.
- Males aged 15 to 19 were the most likely victims of unarmed robbery. This group experienced an increase in the rate of unarmed robbery from 353 per 100 000 in 1999, to 415 per 100 000 in 2000.
- The rate remained stable for all other gender age groups.

Source: References 2 and 4

Unlawful entry with intent

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

Types of UEWI

UEWI is divided into the following two categories of offences.

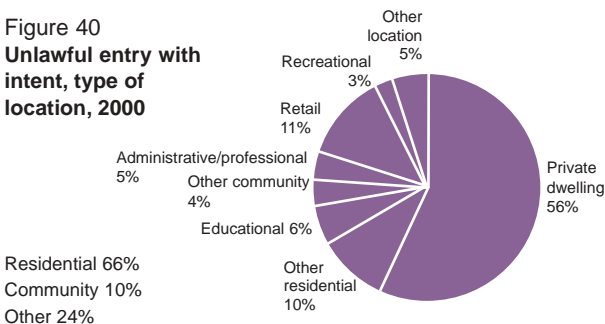
- *UEWI—property*: This is UEWI involving the taking of property from a structure.
- *UEWI—other*: This is UEWI where no property is taken from a structure.

- In 2000, there were 436 865 incidents of UEWI recorded by the police in Australia, an increase of 5% on the number recorded in 1999.
- The rate of UEWI increased from 2 196 victims per 100 000 population in 1999 to 2 281 victims per 100 000 population in 2000.
- The rate of unlawful entry at residential locations increased from 3 811 per 100 000 households in 1999 to 3 862 per 100 000 households in 2000.

Source: Reference 2

Location of unlawful entry with intent

Figure 40
Unlawful entry with
intent, type of
location, 2000



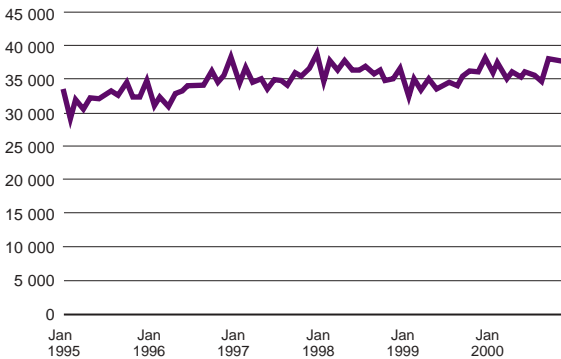
- Sixty-six per cent of UEWI offences occurred in residential locations, in particular, private dwellings (56%).
- Ten per cent of recorded UEWI offences took place in community locations such as educational facilities (6%).
- Twenty-four per cent of UEWI offences were committed in other locations, including retail premises (11%).
- UEWI offences occurring in administrative/professional locations increased by 19% between 1999 and 2000.

Source: Reference 6

Trend in unlawful entry with intent

Figure 41

Number of unlawful entries with intent, by month, 1995–2000



- **The number of UEWI incidents has increased by an average 0.2% each month since January 1995 (upward trend was statistically significant, $p < 0.01$).**
- **On average, UEWI incidents involving the taking of property accounted for about 78% of all UEWI, a pattern that has remained consistent over the last six years.**

Source: Reference 6

Motor vehicle theft

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

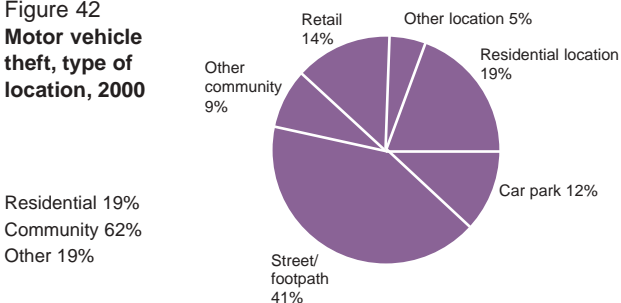
- **Police recorded 139 094 motor vehicles stolen in 2000, with 726 victims per 100 000 population. This represents a 7% increase on the number recorded in 1999.**
- **Motor vehicle thefts averaged one every four minutes across Australia in 2000.**

- **One motor vehicle was stolen for every 90 registered vehicles.**

Source: Reference 2

Location of motor vehicle theft

Figure 42
Motor vehicle theft, type of location, 2000



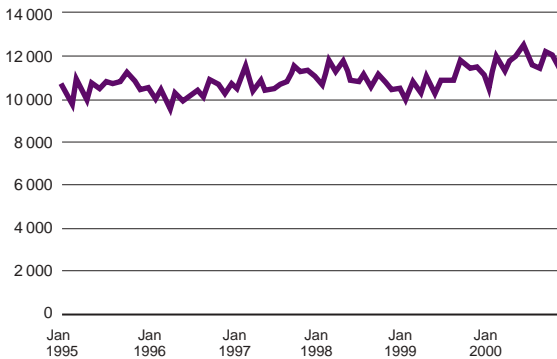
- **The majority of motor vehicle thefts occurred in community locations (62%), in particular street/footpaths (41%) and car parks (12%).**
- **Retail locations accounted for 14% of motor vehicle thefts in 2000.**
- **Nineteen per cent of motor vehicle thefts occurred at a residential location.**
- **The number of motor vehicle thefts occurring in car parks and on street/footpaths increased in 2000 by 14% and 8% respectively, relative to 1999.**
- **The number of motor vehicle thefts occurring at retail locations continued its increasing trend in 2000. An additional 1 631 motor vehicle thefts were recorded in this type of location between 1999 and 2000, an increase of 10%.**

Source: References 2 and 6

Trend in motor vehicle theft

Figure 43

Number of motor vehicle thefts, by month, 1995–2000



- **Motor vehicle theft has remained stable since January 1995 (the observed upward trend is not statistically significant).**

Source: Reference 6

Other theft

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

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

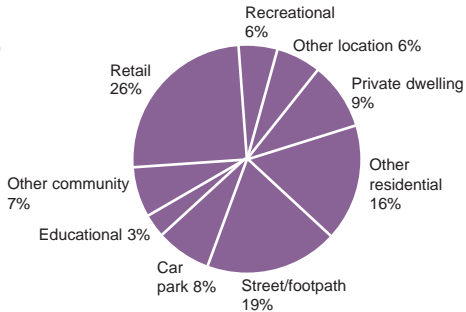
- **A total of 674 813 victims of 'other theft' was recorded by the police in 2000, with 3 523 victims per 100 000 population in Australia. This represents a 10% increase from the number recorded in 1999 (612 559).**

Source: Reference 2

Location of other theft

Figure 44
Other theft,
type of location,
2000

Residential 25%
Community 37%
Other 38%

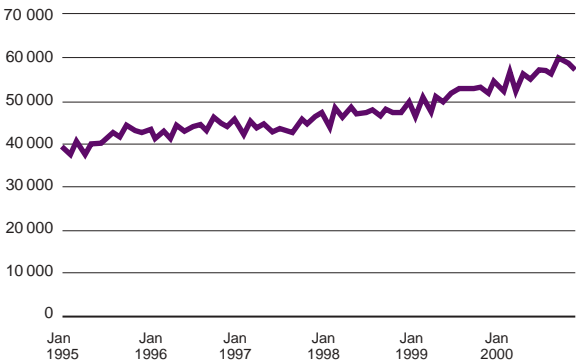


- One-quarter of thefts took place in a retail location.
- Thirty-seven per cent of incidents took place in community locations, with 19% on a street/footpath and 8% in a car park. The number of other thefts occurring in a car park increased by 27% between 1999 and 2000.
- In 25% of cases, thefts occurred in a residential location, comprising 9% from private dwellings.

Source: References 2 and 6

Trend in other theft

Figure 45
Number of other thefts by month, 1995–2000



- **During 2000, there were 56 234 victims of theft per month. This represents an increase of 38% over the monthly average recorded in 1995 (upward trend was statistically significant, $p<0.01$).**

Source: Reference 6

4

ALLEGED OFFENDERS

This chapter presents data on alleged offenders, classified according to gender and age. **These data should be interpreted with great caution. The main purpose is to give an indicative view of major issues relating to offenders**, in particular the following:

- What is the age at which offender rates peak, and does it shift over time?
- Is the age pattern of male offender rates similar or different to that of females?
- Are female offender rates on the increase?

The ABS does not publish offender data. Official data on gender and age of alleged offenders are published by the police services of Victoria, Queensland and South Australia and refer to the number of persons who have allegedly committed a criminal offence and who have been processed for that offence. Police statistics on alleged offenders are not available from New South Wales or the remaining States and Territories.

The number of alleged offenders does not equate to 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. Nor does it equate to the total number of crimes cleared during a given period.

Throughout this chapter, the terms 'offender' and 'offender rate' mean 'alleged offender' and 'alleged offender rate' respectively.

The term 'total (alleged) offender population' refers to the total number of (not necessarily distinct) individuals aged 10 years and over processed by police for any of the above offences in the states of Victoria, Queensland and South Australia. The rates of total offenders included in the tables and graphs in this chapter are calculated relative to the total population aged 10 years and over in these jurisdictions (Reference 4).

The offender data included here are specific to the following major types of crime:

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

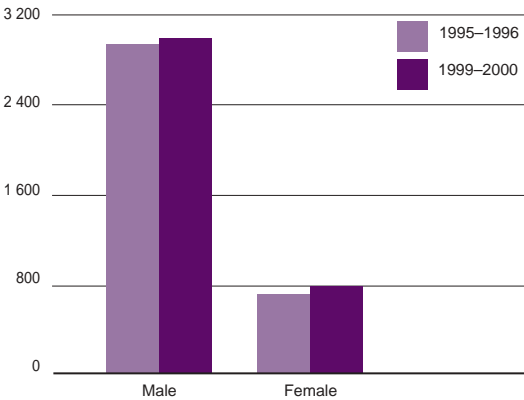
- unlawful entry with intent;
- motor vehicle theft; and
- other theft (theft from a vehicle, theft from shops, other theft).

Source: References 4, 20, 21, 22 and 23

Gender

Figure 46

Offenders by gender, rate per 100 000 persons, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



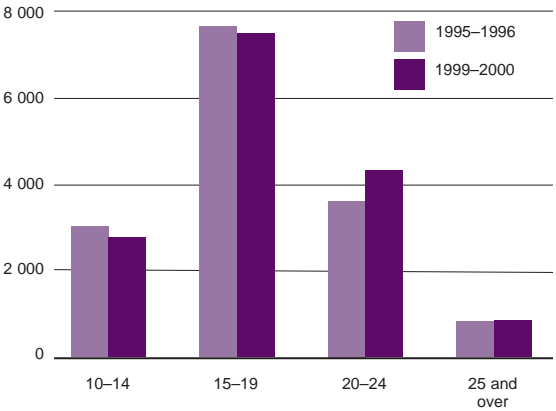
■ **Males are about four times more likely to be identified as offenders than females.**

Source: References 4, 20, 21, 22 and 23

Age

Persons aged 15 to 19 years (males and females) are more likely to be processed by police regarding the commission of a crime compared to persons in other age groups. In 1999–2000 the offending rate for persons aged 15 to 19 years was six times the offender rate for the remainder of the population.

Figure 47
Offenders by age, rate per 100 000 persons, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000

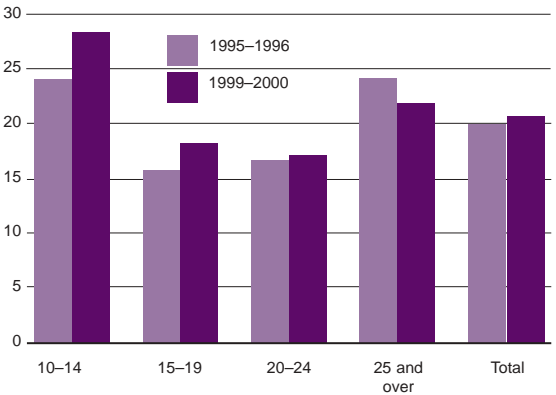


■ Except for persons aged between 20 and 24, offender rates have remained stable between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000. The offender rate for persons in this age group increased by 21%, from 3 608 in 1995–1996 to 4 353 in 1999–2000.

Source: References 4, 20, 21, 22 and 23

Females

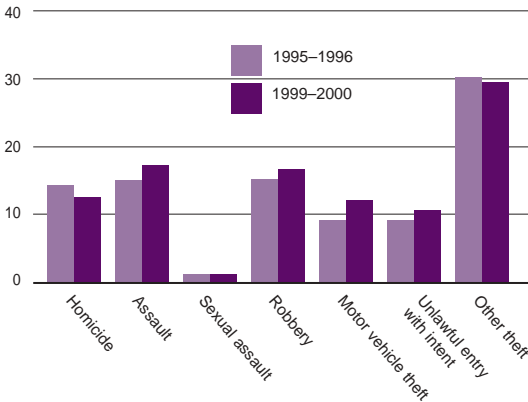
Figure 48
Female offenders as a percentage of total offenders by age, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



- A slight increase in female participation among the offender population was recorded between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000. However, this increase has not been uniform across age groups.
- For persons aged 10–14 years, the percentage of offenders that were female increased from 24% to 29% between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000.
- Among persons aged 25 years and over, the female contribution to total offenders had a slight decline from 24% in 1995–1996 to 22% in 1999–2000.

Figure 49

Female offenders as a percentage of total offenders by offence type, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



- Compared to 1995–1996, in 1999–2000 female offending increased for assault, robbery, UEWI and motor vehicle theft.
- Female participation in the offender population was highest for ‘other theft’ and lowest for sexual assault between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000.

Source: References 4, 20, 21, 22 and 23

Juveniles

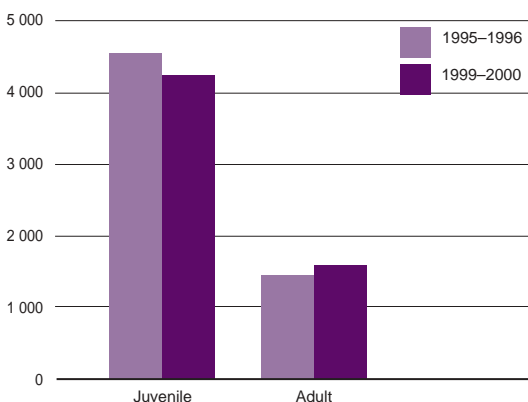
There are differences between the states in the definition of a juvenile. In Victoria and Queensland the definition of juvenile includes persons aged between 10 and 16 years. In

South Australia, however, a juvenile is a person aged between 10 and 17 years. In this section, for the purposes of maintaining comparability, the term 'juvenile offender' includes alleged offenders aged 10 to 16 years.

In 1999–2000, juveniles accounted for about one-quarter of the total offender population.

Figure 50

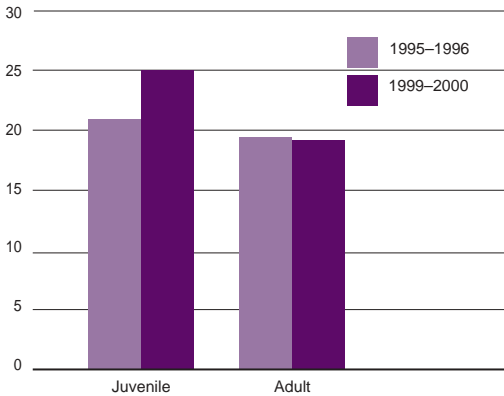
Juvenile and adult offenders, rate per 100 000 persons, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



- **Compared to adults, juveniles are three times more likely to be identified as offenders.**
- **The offender rate among juveniles has declined between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000; in contrast, the adult rate has increased (statistically significant, $p < 0.01$).**

Figure 51

Female offenders as a percentage of total juvenile and adult offenders, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000

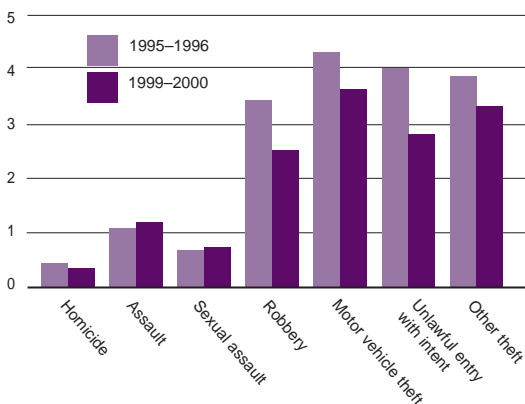


- **In 1999–2000, females comprised about 25% of the juvenile offender population and 19% of the adult offender population.**
- **There has been an increase in the percentage of female juvenile offenders between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000, while the percentage of female adult offenders has remained stable.**

Compared to adults, juveniles are less likely to commit violent offences such as homicide, assault and sexual assault than property offences.

Figure 52

Ratio of juvenile to adult offenders, by offence type, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



- **Relative to adult offender rates, juvenile rates have remained stable for the offences of homicide, assault and sexual assault between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000.**
- **Juvenile rates have declined, relative to adult rates, for the offences of robbery, motor vehicle theft, unlawful entry with intent and other theft.**

Source: References 4, 20, 21, 22 and 23

Specific offences

Gender–age patterns of offenders vary between offences and over time.

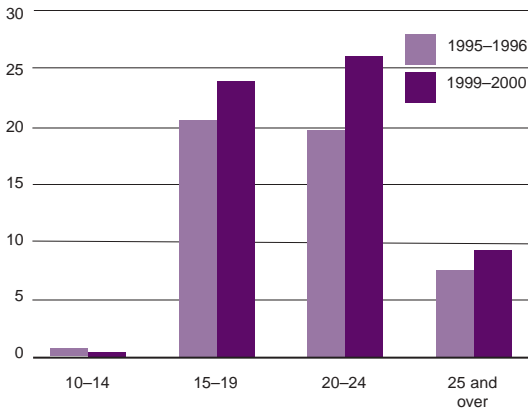
While the majority of offenders for each type of crime discussed in this section are male, the level of female involvement in crime has increased since 1995–1996 for most offences.

The age structure of the offender population also differs according to gender. A larger percentage of female offenders are juvenile compared to male offenders.

Homicide

Figure 53

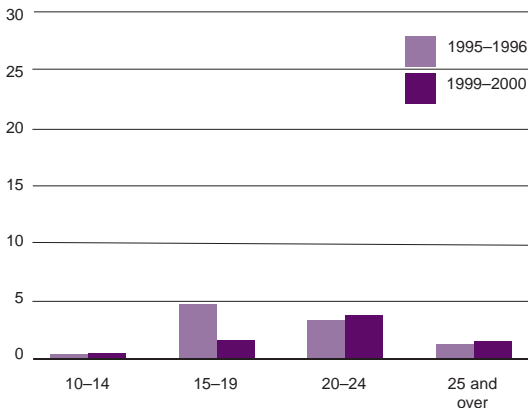
Homicide, male offenders by age, rate per 100 000 persons, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



- **The male offender rate has remained highest among individuals aged 15 to 24 years between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000.**
- **Since 1995–1996, the rate has increased across all age groups, with the exception of children (10 to 14 years).**

Figure 54

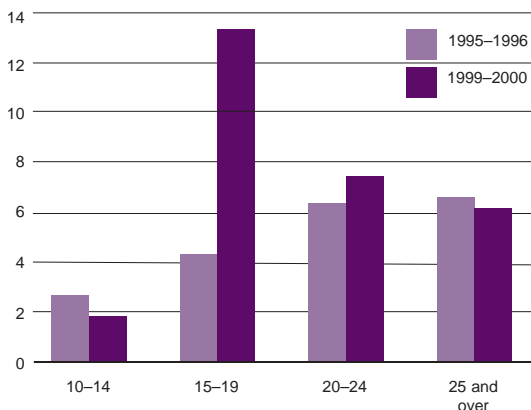
Homicide, female offenders by age, rate per 100 000 persons, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



- **As was the case for males, the rate of female homicide offending was highest among 15–24-year-olds between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000.**

Figure 55

Homicide, ratio of male to female rates of offending by age, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



- **Homicide is committed mainly by males.**
- **The ratio of male to female offending has remained stable over most age groups between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000, with the exception of persons aged 15 to 19 years. Males in this age group have increased their risk of being an offender relative to females.**

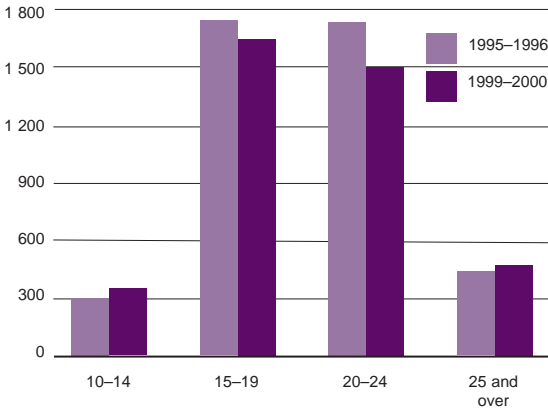
Source: References 4, 20, 21, 22 and 23

Assault

Approximately 13% of assault offenders in 1999–2000 were juveniles, although this trend was not uniform across gender groups. Juveniles accounted for 21% of female offenders compared to only 11% of male offenders.

Figure 56

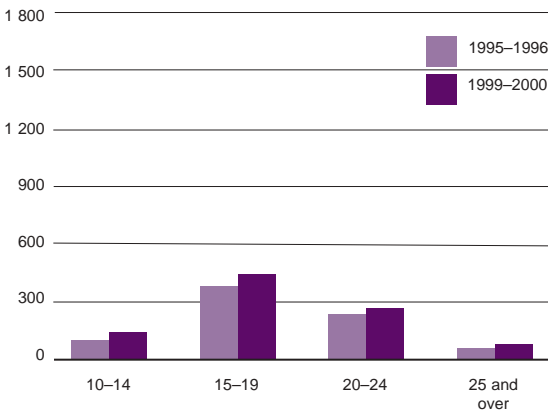
Assault, male offenders by age, rate per 100 000 persons, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



- **Males aged 15 to 24 years had the highest offender rates for assault.**
- **Between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000, there was a decline in the offender rate among males aged 15 to 24 years, whereas it remained stable for children (10–14) and those aged 25 years and over.**

Figure 57

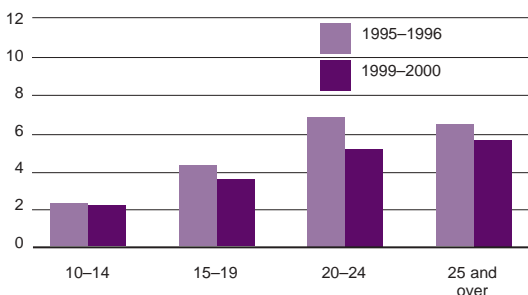
Assault, female offenders by age, rate per 100 000 persons, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



- **The rate of female offending peaked between 15 and 19 years, both in 1995–1996 and 1999–2000.**
- **Since 1995–1996, female offender rates have remained stable except for the 15–19-year age group, which recorded a significant increase ($p < 0.01$).**

Figure 58

Assault, ratio of male to female offender rates by age, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



- **Females aged 15 to 24 years increased their participation in the offender population relative to males between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000.**

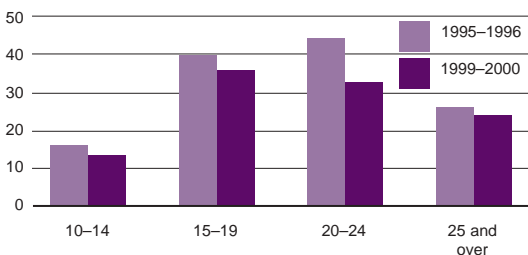
Source: References 4, 20, 21, 22 and 23

Sexual assault

In 1999–2000, 99% of all sexual assault offenders were male. Eight per cent of the offender population were juveniles, a pattern that has remained stable since 1995–1996.

Figure 59

Sexual assault, male offenders by age, rate per 100 000 persons, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



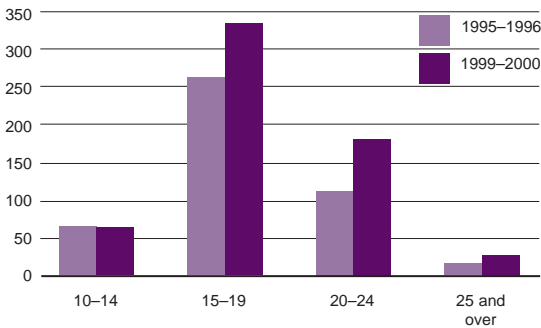
- **Offender rates have declined across all age groups between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000.**
- **The peak age of male offenders declined from 20–24 years in 1995–1996 to 15–19 years, in 1999–2000.**

Source: References 4, 20, 21, 22 and 23

Robbery

Figure 60

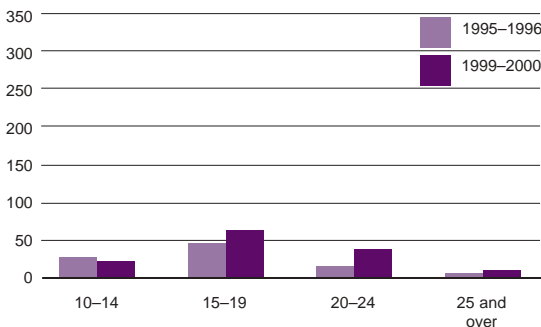
Robbery, male offenders by age, rate per 100 000 persons, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



- **Most male robbery offenders were between the ages of 15 and 19. This pattern has remained stable since 1995–1996.**
- **Since 1995–1996 there has been an increase in the offender rate among males aged 15 to 24 years.**

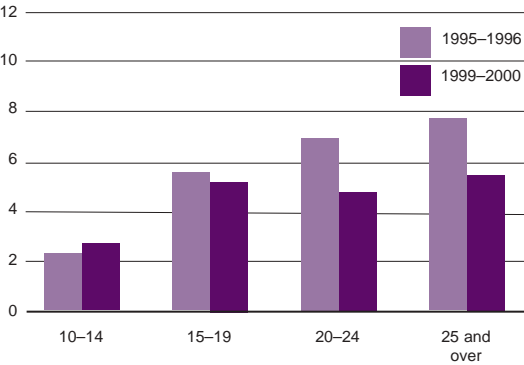
Figure 61

Robbery, female offenders by age, rate per 100 000 persons, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



- As was the case for males, the rate of female offending was highest among individuals aged 15 to 19 years.
- There has been a slight increase in the offender rate for females aged 15–24 years between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000.

Figure 62
Robbery, ratio of male to female offender rates by age, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000

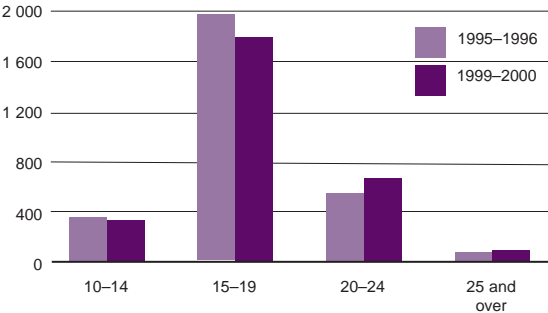


- Females aged 20 years and over increased their participation in the offender population, relative to males, between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000.

Source: References 4, 20, 21, 22 and 23

Motor vehicle theft

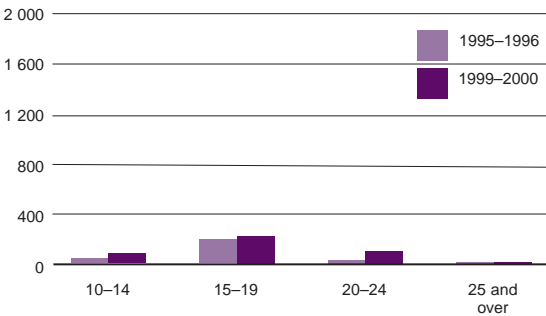
Figure 63
Motor vehicle theft, male offenders by age, rate per 100 000 persons, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



- **Male offending peaked among individuals aged between 15 and 19 years. This pattern has remained stable between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000.**
- **The offender rate among males aged 15–19 years has declined in 1999–2000, while there has been an increase in the offending rate of 20–24-year-olds.**

Figure 64

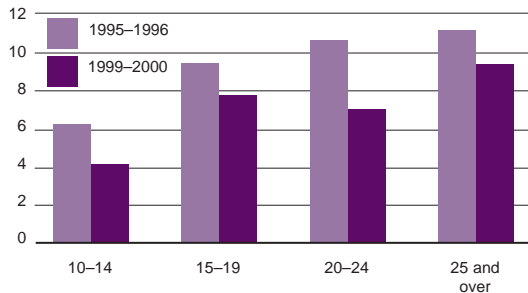
Motor vehicle theft, female offenders by age, rate per 100 000 persons, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



- **Female offender rates were highest among individuals aged 15–19 years, a pattern that has remained consistent since 1995–1996.**

Figure 65

Motor vehicle theft, ratio of male to female offender rates by age, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



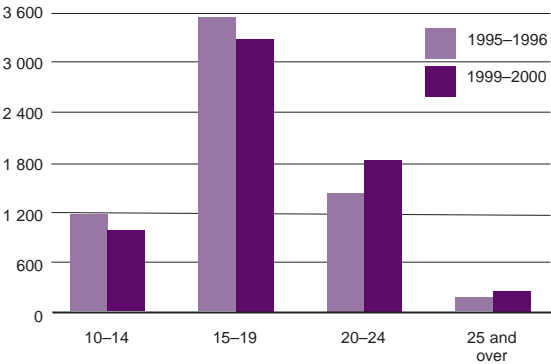
- **Females increased their participation in the offender population, relative to males, between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000 across all age groups (significant, $p < 0.01$).**

Source: References 4, 20, 21, 22 and 23

Unlawful entry with intent

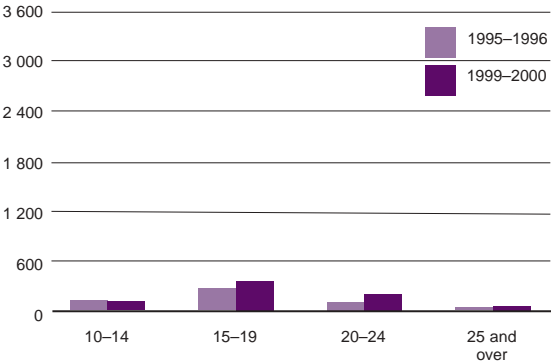
In 1999–2000, one in every two offenders involved in unlawful entry with intent was less than 20 years of age.

Figure 66
UEWI, male offenders by age, rate per 100 000 persons, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



- Offender rates for UEWI peaked among males aged 15 to 19 years.
- The offender rate declined among males aged less than 20 years, whereas an increase in rates was recorded for males aged between 20 and 24 years.

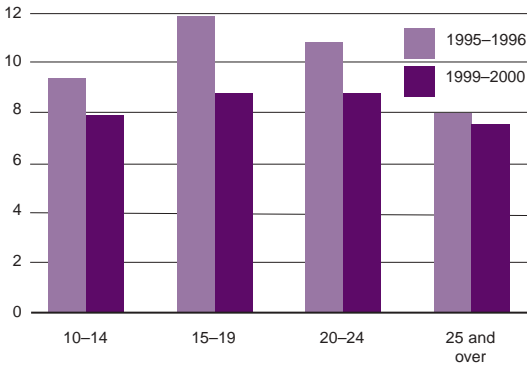
Figure 67
UEWI, female offenders by age, rate per 100 000 persons, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



- As was the case for males, female offender rates were highest among individuals aged 15 to 19 years.

Figure 68

UEWI, ratio of male to female offender rates by age, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



- Females aged 10 to 24 years increased their participation among the offender population, relative to males, between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000.

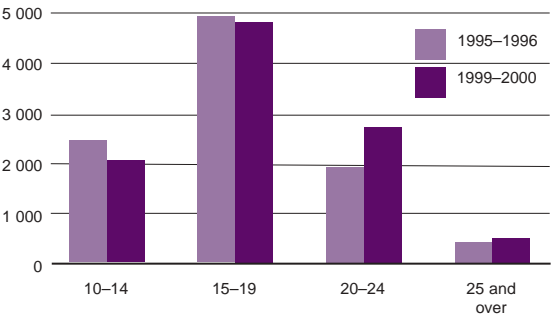
Source: References 4, 20, 21, 22 and 23

Other theft

Relative to the other major crimes included in this chapter, 'other theft' offences, such as shoplifting, had the greatest amount of female involvement. In 1999–2000, about one in three offenders involved with stealing was female.

Figure 69

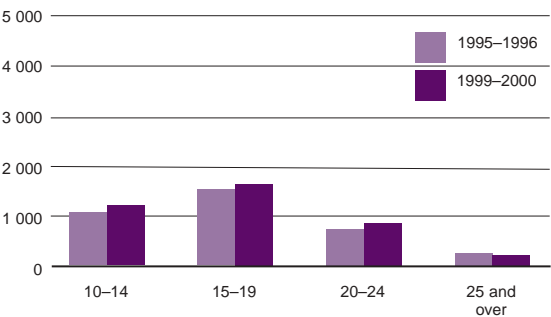
Other theft, male offenders by age, rate per 100 000 persons, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



- **Similar to other property crimes, the offender rate for other theft was highest among males aged 15 to 19 years.**
- **Since 1995–1996, the rate of other theft offenders has increased among the older age groups, in particular males aged 20 to 24 years.**

Figure 70

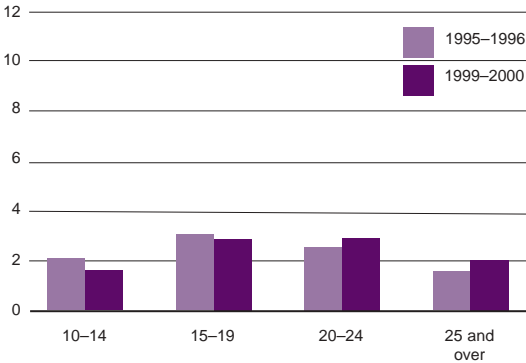
Other theft, female offenders by age, rate per 100 000 persons, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



- **The rate of female offending was highest among individuals aged between 10 and 19 years.**

Figure 71

Other theft, ratio of male to female offender rates by age, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000



- **Females aged 10 to 19 years recorded a slight increase among the total offender population, relative to males, between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000.**
- **In contrast, among females aged 20 years and over, there was a decline in female participation in the offender population, relative to males, between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000.**

Source: References 4, 20, 21, 22 and 23

5 CRIMINAL COURTS

Structure of criminal courts in Australia

There is a hierarchy of criminal courts at both the Commonwealth and State or Territory levels.

- *Magistrate's Court*: A lower court level that deals with relatively minor or summary criminal offences. Under some circumstances, these courts may also deal with less serious indictable offences. They are also responsible for conducting preliminary (committal) hearings for indictable offences.
- *Intermediate (District/County) Court*: A higher court level that, together with the Supreme Court, deals with the more serious crimes. Intermediate courts hear the majority of cases involving indictable crimes.
- *Supreme Court*: The highest level of court within a State or Territory. Supreme Courts deal with the most serious crimes.

Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory do not have Intermediate Courts; all relevant charges are dealt with at their respective Supreme Courts. In States with both Supreme and Intermediate Courts, a large majority of charges are decided at the Intermediate Court level.

All State, Territory and Commonwealth courts handle a number of matters that appear in the court system for the first time. Almost all criminal charges are lodged for the first time at the Magistrate's Court level.

National statistics on charges, trials and sentencing of suspects at all levels of court are not yet available in Australia. However, the Australian Bureau of Statistics publishes a limited amount of statistics on defendants whose cases were initiated and finalised at higher criminal courts. (Higher courts comprise those at the Intermediate and Supreme Court levels, where defendants charged with serious or indictable offences are dealt with, and where appeals and civil cases are also heard.)

In addition, in recent years the Industry Commission has produced statistics on the number of lodgments at each court level.

Source: References 7 and 8

The criminal court process

Case flows

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

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

Source: References 7 and 8

Lodgments

Most lodgments are processed by a Magistrate's Court in their criminal jurisdictions.

- **Cases initiated in Magistrates' Courts accounted for 98.1% of all lodgments in the criminal courts.**
- **Only 1.6% (26 179) of cases were initiated in the Intermediate Courts and 0.3% (5 246) of cases in the Supreme Courts.**

Source: Reference 7

Hearings

Hearings, particularly full court hearings and trials, are the primary cost driver for court administrations. Hearings encompass court trials in the criminal and civil jurisdictions, as well as inquests and inquiries in the coronial jurisdiction.

- **Nationally, there were 1 127 709 court hearings in 1999–2000.**
- **Of these hearings, 61% were of a criminal nature.**
- **The majority of criminal hearings (96%) took place in Magistrate's Court.**

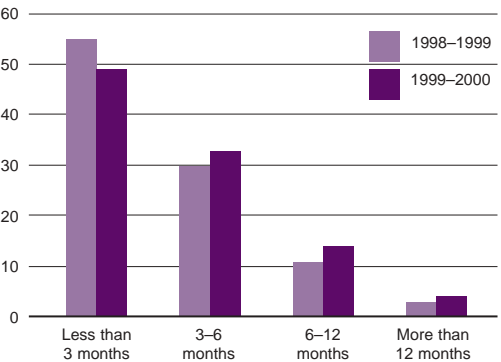
Source: Reference 7

Timeliness

The duration between the lodgment of a matter with the court and its finalisation is referred to as 'timeliness'. Generally, lower courts complete a greater proportion of their workload more quickly because the disputes and prosecutions heard are less complex than those in higher courts, and cases are of a routine or minor nature.

Committals are the first stage of hearing indictable offences in the criminal justice system. A magistrate assesses the sufficiency of evidence presented against the defendant and decides whether to commit the matter for trial in a superior court. Defendants are often held in custody pending a committal hearing or trial, if ordered. The timely conduct of the committal hearing is therefore important for timely adjudication of the charges against the defendant.

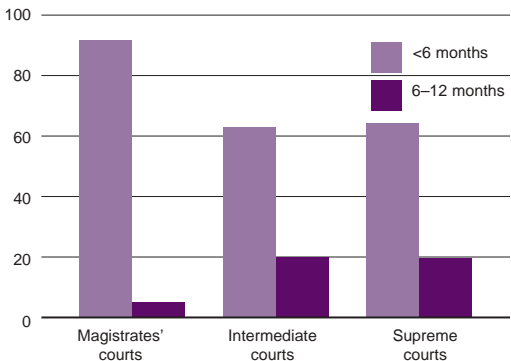
Figure 72
Committal (criminal) matters finalised in Magistrate's Court by timeliness, percentages, 1998–1999 and 1999–2000



- **On average, 49% of committal hearings in 1999–2000 were finalised within three months of the receipt of charges by the court and a further 33% were finalised in the subsequent three months.**
- **Six per cent fewer cases were finalised within three months, while 3% more cases were finalised between three and six months in 1999–2000, compared to the previous year.**

Figure 73

Non-appeal criminal matters finalised in less than 12 months by type of court, percentages, 1999–2000



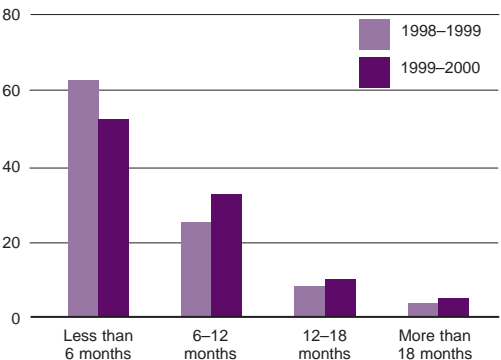
■ **In 1999–2000, Magistrates' Courts finalised 92% of criminal cases in less than six months and a further 5% between six and 12 months.**

■ **Intermediate and Supreme Courts finalised about 60% of matters in less than six months, with a further 20% finalised between six and 12 months.**

Appeals from lower courts are predominantly heard by the District Courts and Supreme Courts of the States and Territories. The full bench of the Federal Court also hears appeals from a single Federal Court justice.

Figure 74

Supreme/Federal Courts, appeal matters finalised, percentages, 1998–1999 and 1999–2000



- On average, 52% of criminal appeals were finalised within six months in 1999–2000.
- A further 33% were finalised in the subsequent six months.
- There has been an increase in the percentage of appeal matters finalised after at least six months, in 1999–2000 compared to 1998–1999.
- In 1999–2000, almost half (48%) of the appeal matters heard were finalised after at least six months, compared to 37% in 1998–1999.

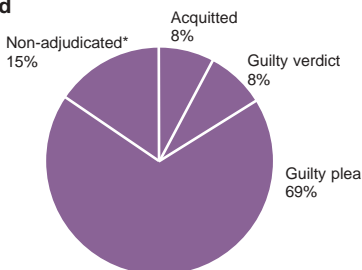
Source: Reference 7

Court decision

In the main, defendants' cases are finalised at the higher courts in one of the following two ways:

- *adjudicated*—determined whether or not guilty of the charges based on the judge's decision; and
- *non-adjudicated*—a method of determining the completion of a case thereby making it effectively inactive.

Figure 75
Defendants' cases finalised
in higher courts, by
method of finalisation,
1999–2000



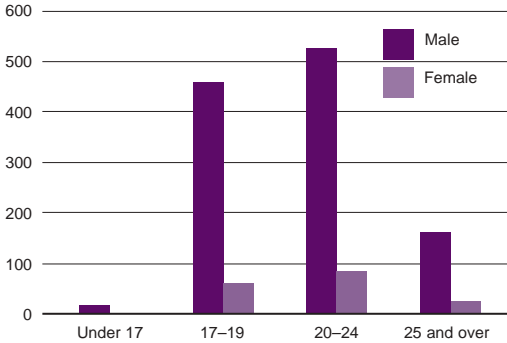
* Excludes Queensland defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

- In 1999–2000 there were 18 890 defendants finalised in the higher courts. This represented an increase of 3% on 1998–1999, when 18 426 defendants were finalised.
- Overall, 77% of the defendants whose cases were heard by a higher court were found guilty of an offence.

- **In only 8% of cases was the defendant acquitted of an offence.**

Figure 76

Number of defendants finalised by age and gender, rate per 100 000 persons, 1999–2000



- **In all age groups, males are far more likely to appear before a higher court than females.**
- **The highest number of defendants, both male and female, occurred in the 20–24 age group. This pattern reflects offending patterns for both males and females.**

Source: Reference 8

Sentencing

There is a variety of sentencing options available at each court level:

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

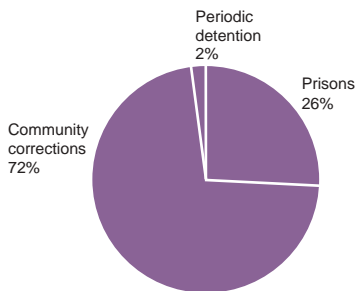
At present there are no national figures on the number of persons sentenced in each particular category.

The definition of 'adult' varies between jurisdictions and over time. In 2000, 'adult' referred to persons aged 18 years and over in all States and Territories except Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania. In this section, 'adult' refers to persons aged 17 years and over.

Persons under corrective services

As mentioned in Chapter 5, there is a variety of sentencing options available to the courts. Corrective service authorities manage the offenders placed under the sentencing options of imprisonment, community corrections and periodic detention.

Figure 77
Offenders, by type of corrective program, 1999–2000



- **Seven out of 10 offenders managed by corrective service authorities were placed in community-based programs.**
- **Twenty-six per cent of offenders served a sentence in prison. Seventy-one per cent of prisoners were held in secure prisons.**
- **Periodic detention orders are only available to offenders in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.**

Source: Reference 7

Prisons

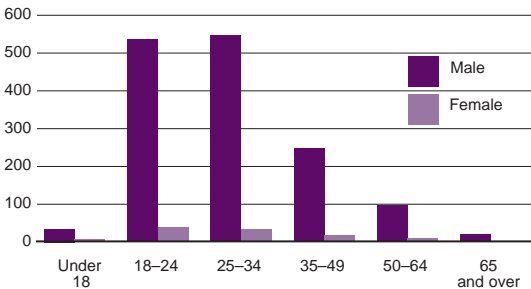
A national census of adult prisoners is taken on 30 June each year. The Australian Institute of Criminology began this collection in 1982, and conducted the censuses annually until 1993. This role was then taken over by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1994. The latest prison census was conducted in 2000.

Prisoners in 2000

A total of 21 714 persons were in custody in Australian prisons on the night of 30 June 2000, an increase of 1% on the number recorded in 1999. This corresponds to a rate of 148 per 100 000 adult persons. Of these, 17 929 were sentenced prisoners and 3 785 were remandees.

Figure 78

Age and gender of prisoners, rate per 100 000 adults, 2000



- **Ninety-four per cent of all prisoners were male.**
- **Two-thirds of all prisoners were aged less than 35 years.**
- **For both males and females, 18-24-year-olds and 25-34-year-olds had the highest imprisonment rates in 2000.**

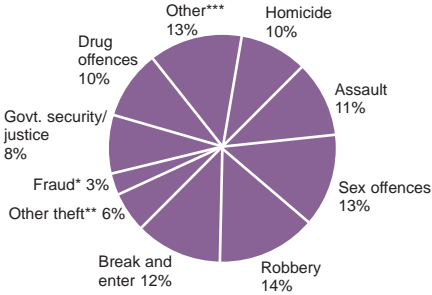
Source: References 4 and 10

Most serious offence

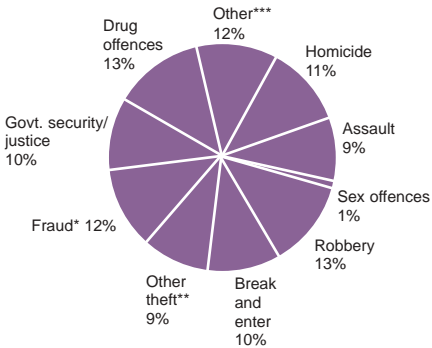
Offenders can be sentenced to a prison term for one or a number of offences. The offence for which a prisoner is categorised as being incarcerated is the offence that is deemed most serious.

Figure 79
Sentenced prisoners by most serious offence, 2000

MALES



FEMALES



* Also includes misappropriation.

** Includes motor vehicle theft.

*** Includes extortion, property damage and driving offences.

■ The main offences for which male offenders were sentenced included break and enter, robbery and sex offences. For female offenders the main offences included drug offences, fraud and robbery.

■ Male prisoners sentenced for the violent offences of homicide, assault, sex offences and robbery accounted for almost half of all sentenced male prisoners in 2000, whereas for females only one-third of sentenced prisoners were incarcerated for violent offences.

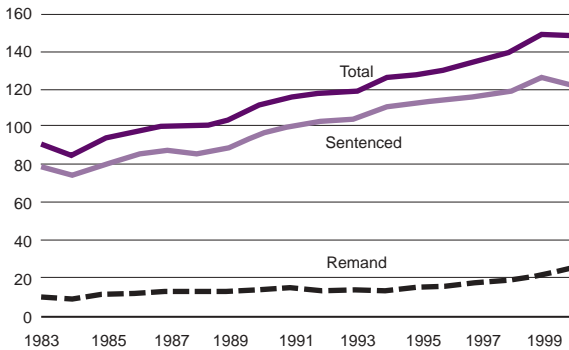
■ These patterns have remained relatively stable between 1999 and 2000.

Source: References 6 and 10

Trends in prison populations

It should be noted that the prisoner counts can include both sentenced prisoners and those on remand (unsentenced).

Figure 80
Prisoners, rate per 100 000 adults, 1983–2000



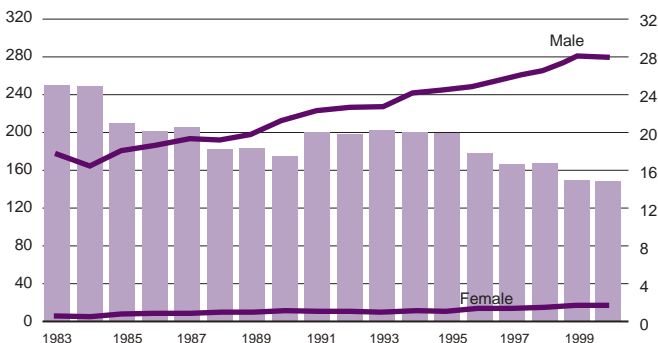
- Between 1983 and 2000 the overall imprisonment rate increased from 92 to 147 per 100 000 adult population. The prison population has grown by an average 5% a year since 1983.
- At 30 June 2000, sentenced prisoners accounted for 83% of the total prisoner population.
- The number of prisoners who were remanded in custody (awaiting trial or sentence), increased between 1999 and 2000 from 22 to 26 per 100 000 relevant population.

Gender

Figure 81 depicts the imprisonment rate of male and female persons (line graph and left axis) and the ratio of male rates to female rates (bar graph and right axis), from 1983 to 2000.

Figure 81

Prisoners by gender, rate per 100 000 adults and ratio of male to female imprisonment rates, 1983–2000



- **Between 1983 and 2000, the overall imprisonment rate for males increased from 178 to 280 per 100 000 relevant population. The rate declined in 2000 relative to 1999 (283 per 100 000 relevant population).**
- **The female rate of imprisonment was seven per 100 000 in 1983 and 19 per 100 000 in 2000. Just over 6% of all prisoners were women.**
- **The number of male and female prisoners increased annually by an average of 4% and 8% respectively over the entire 17-year period.**
- **The ratio of male to female imprisonment rates declined from 25 in 1983 to 15 in 2000.**

Source: References 4, 9 and 10

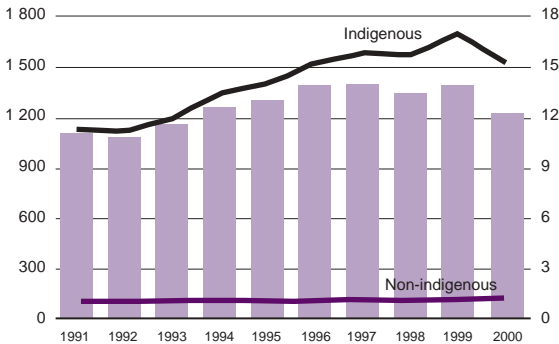
Indigenous status

Figure 82 depicts the imprisonment rate of Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons (line graph and left axis) and the ratio of Indigenous rates to non-Indigenous rates (bar graph and right axis). These data include both sentenced prisoners and remandees.

Note: Rate calculations for Indigenous and non-Indigenous adult prisoners are based on the 'high-series' of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population projections. This accounts for the effects of increased propensity to identify as Indigenous between the 1991 and 1996 censuses.

Figure 82

Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoners, rate per 100 000 adults and ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous imprisonment rates, 1991–2000



- **The level of Indigenous over-representation within the total prisoner population increased between 1991 and 1999. A decline was recorded in 2000.**
- **The decline in Indigenous over-representation was due to a decline in the rate of Indigenous imprisonment between 1999 and 2000. The rate of non-Indigenous imprisonment remained stable over this period.**
- **On 30 June 2000, the Indigenous imprisonment rate was 12 times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous prisoners.**
- **Indigenous prisoners comprised 19% of the total prisoner population in 2000 (1991: 14%).**

Source: References 4, 9, 10, 12 and 13

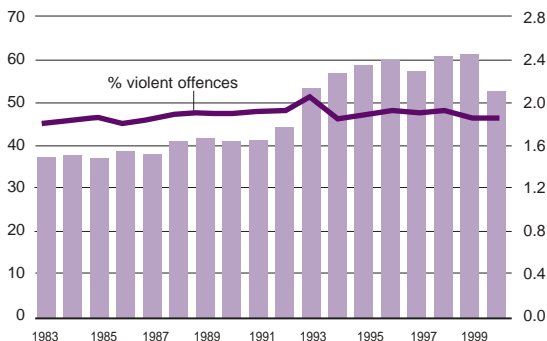
Most serious offence

Violent prisoners are those convicted of homicide, assault, sex offences and robbery. Prisoners convicted of property offences include those charged with break and enter and with other theft (including motor vehicle theft).

Figure 83 depicts the percentage of sentenced prisoners convicted of violent offences (line graph and left axis) and the ratio of the rate of imprisonment for violent offences to the imprisonment rate for property offences (bar graph and right axis).

Figure 83

Prisoners sentenced for violent offences, percentage of total sentenced prisoners and ratio of violent offence to property offence imprisonment rates, 1983–2000



- **The percentage of prisoners sentenced for violent offences increased from 45% in 1983 to 51% in 1993 and declined to around 47% thereafter.**
- **Prisoners sentenced for violent offences outnumbered those sentenced for property offences. The ratio between the two populations increased from 1.5 in 1983 to 2.5 in 1999, but declined to 2.1 in 2000.**

Source: References 4, 9 and 10

Community corrections

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

- **In Australia during 1999–2000, there were 58 979 offenders per day (on average) serving community correction orders, an increase of 7% on the number recorded in 1998–1999.**
- **This corresponds to a rate of 401 per 100 000 adults.**

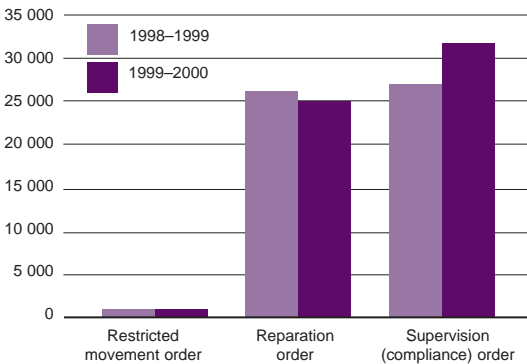
■ **Males accounted for about 81% of the community corrections population in 1999–2000.**

Community corrections orders are classified into three main categories:

- restricted movement orders (e.g. home detention);
- reparation orders (e.g. fine options, community service); and
- supervision (compliance) orders (e.g. parole, bail, sentenced probation).

Figure 84

Average daily community corrections populations, 1998–1999 and 1999–2000*

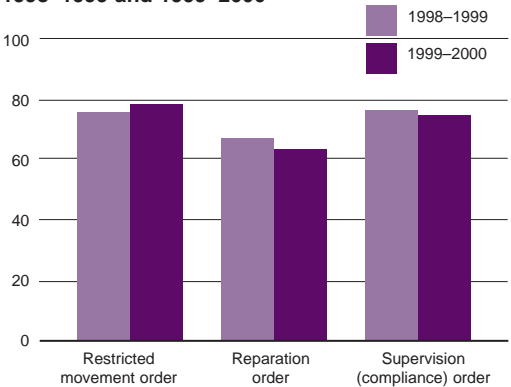


* Excludes Victoria.

■ **Supervision orders are the most commonly used option, with 31 966 offenders under supervision orders in 1999–2000 (excluding Victoria). This represents an 18% increase on the number recorded in 1998–1999.**

■ **Reparation orders are also common, with 25 362 offenders serving this option in 1999–2000 (excluding Victoria), a decline of 3% on the number recorded in 1998–1999.**

Figure 85
Successful completion of community corrections orders,
1998–1999 and 1999–2000



- On average, 67% of all community corrective orders were successfully completed in 1999–2000.
- In 1999–2000, restricted movement orders had the highest percentage of successful completion (79%), while reparation orders had the lowest (63%).

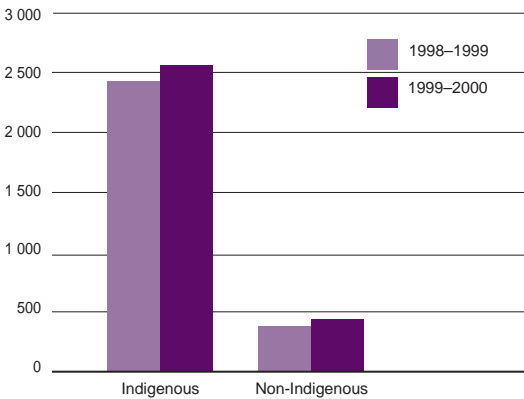
Source: References 4 and 7

Indigenous status

- On average, 45 569 non-Indigenous offenders and 6 528 Indigenous offenders were serving community corrections orders in 1999–2000 (excluding Victoria).

Figure 86

Average daily community corrections population by Indigenous status, rate per 100 000 adults, 1998–1999 and 1999–2000*



* Excludes Victoria.

- **In 1999–2000, the Indigenous community corrections rate was six times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous offenders.**
- **The community corrections rate for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons increased slightly between 1998–1999 and 1999–2000.**

Source: References 4, 7 and 12

Juvenile corrective institutions

The Australian Institute of Criminology has maintained a collection on the number of persons detained in juvenile corrective institutions since 1981. It is a count of the number of persons detained in institutions on the last day of each quarter.

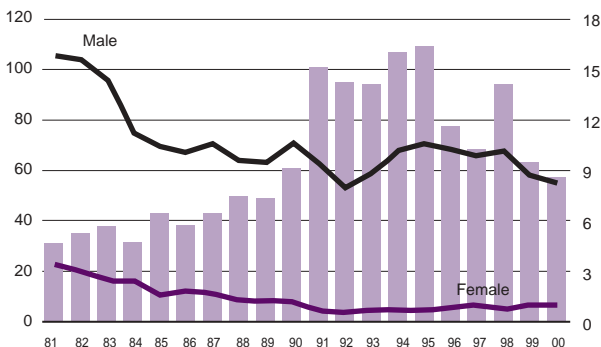
Trends in juvenile corrective institution population

Given the differences among jurisdictions regarding the definition of a juvenile, statistics are shown for people aged between 10 and 17 years. Figure 87 depicts the

imprisonment rate of male and female juveniles (line graph and left axis) and the ratio of male incarceration rates to female rates (bar graph and right axis), from 1981 to 2000.

Figure 87

Persons in juvenile corrective institutions by gender, rate per 100 000 juveniles and ratio of male to female imprisonment rates, 1981–2000



- **Between 1981 and 2000, the overall incarceration rate declined from 65 to 32 per 100 000.**
- **The number of male and female persons detained in juvenile corrective institutions declined by an average annual rate of 3% and 6% respectively, between 1981 and 2000.**
- **Between 1981 and 1995, males were increasingly over-represented in juvenile correctional institutions. With the exception of 1998, a decline in the level of male over-representation has been recorded since 1996.**
- **In 2000, the male incarceration rate was almost nine times higher than the rate for female juveniles.**
- **Just over 10% of all persons incarcerated in juvenile corrective institutions were female in 2000, compared to 17% in 1981.**

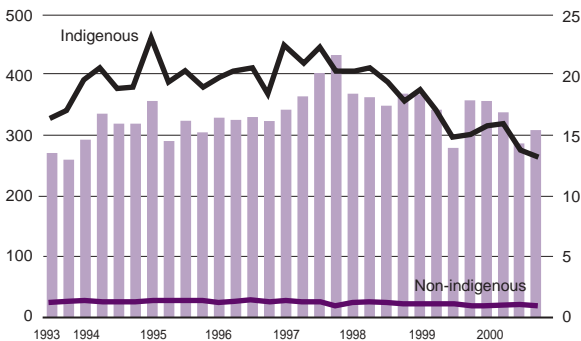
Source: Reference 4 and 11

Indigenous status

Data on incarcerated persons by Indigenous status has been made available since 1993. Figure 88 depicts the incarceration rate of Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons (line graph and left axis) in juvenile corrective institutions, and the ratio of Indigenous rates to non-Indigenous rates (bar graph and right axis), from 30 September 1993 to 31 December 2000 for each quarter.

Figure 88

Persons in juvenile corrective institutions by Indigenous status, rate per 100 000 juveniles, and ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous imprisonment rates, 30 September 1993–31 December 2000



- **The total number of Indigenous persons in juvenile corrective institutions on 31 December 2000 was 239. This represents 41% of the total number of persons detained in juvenile corrective institutions.**
- **The rate of Indigenous incarceration in the December quarter of 2000 (267 persons per 100 000) was the lowest recorded since 1993.**
- **This incarceration rate was almost 16 times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous juveniles.**
- **The rate of Indigenous incarceration increased between 1993 and 1997, whereas the rate for non-Indigenous persons remained stable.**
- **Since 1998, the rate of Indigenous detention has declined much faster than the rate for non-Indigenous persons.**

Source: References 4, 11, 12 and 13

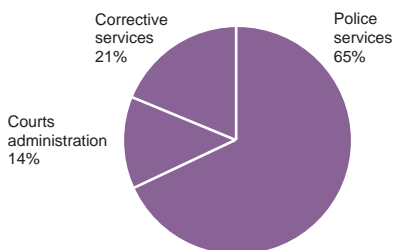
7 CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESOURCES

Justice expenditure

According to the *Report on Government Services 2001*, the total government expenditure on justice in 1999–2000 was over \$6.4 billion. Since 1994–95, government expenditure on justice has increased at a real average annual growth rate of 8.4%.

Police services represented the largest component of the justice system, accounting for approximately 65% of the total justice-related expenditure covered by the report. Corrective services accounted for a further 21% and court administration accounted for the remaining 14% (Figure 89).

Figure 89
Composition of government expenditure on justice, 1999–2000



Source: Reference 7

Police

Policing activities are predominantly the responsibility of the police agencies of State and Territory governments, with the Australian Federal Police 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 being provided by the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Government operates the Australian Federal Police. The figures discussed below exclude resource data for the AFP.

Expenditure

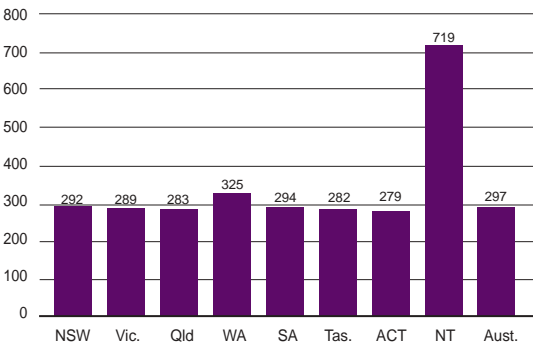
The total recurrent expenditure on police services across Australia was \$4.4 billion. This amounts to \$228 for every person in Australia, and \$297 per adult. Recurrent expenditure on staff salaries accounted for 77% of this total expenditure.

Table 6
Expenditure on Australian police services, 1999–2000

Expenditure	(\$'000)
Total recurrent expenditure	4 362 496
Total capital expenditure	306 747
Total expenditure	4 669 243
Staff salaries	(\$)
Average police staff salaries	70 851
Average non-police staff salaries	40 158

Source: Reference 7

Figure 90
Recurrent expenditure on police services per head of adult population, 1999–2000



- **Recurrent expenditure on police services per head of adult population in 1999–2000 ranged from \$279 in the ACT to \$719 in the Northern Territory.**

Source: Reference 7

Staffing

Most people involved directly in the delivery of police services are sworn police officers (employees recognised under each jurisdiction's Police Act). Sworn police officers exercise police powers such as the powers to arrest, summons, caution, detain, fingerprint and search.

In recent years there has been a trend towards 'civilianisation' of police services, with some non-core activities undertaken by non-sworn officers or contracted to external providers.

- **The total police services staffing in Australia on 30 June 2000 was 55 607, an increase of 1% on the number recorded in 1999. This averages out at 290 per 100 000 persons (228 sworn police officers and 62 civilian employees).**
- **There were 43 722 sworn police officers and 11 885 civilian employees making up Australian police services in 2000.**

Table 7
Composition of police services by jurisdiction, 30 June 2000

Jurisdiction	Sworn police officers	Civilian	Total	Sworn officers per 1 000 km ²
NSW	13 483	3 820	17 303	17
Vic.	9 955	1 751	11 706	44
Qld	7 700	2 907	10 607	4
WA	4 869	1 340	6 209	2
SA	3 696	823	4 519	4
Tas.	1 109	374	1 483	16
NT	934	208	1 142	1
ACT	584	86	670	248
Australia*	43 722	11 885	55 607	6

* Includes Australian Federal Police.

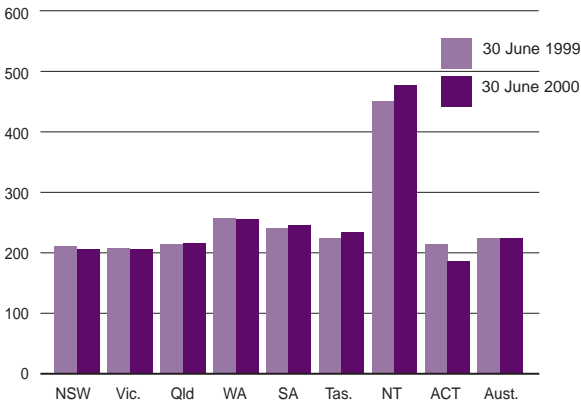
- **New South Wales had the largest police service across Australia, while the ACT had the smallest.**
- **Queensland employed the highest proportion of civilian staff (27%), and the ACT employed the lowest (13%).**

- Since June 1995 there has been a 3% increase in the number of sworn police officers and a 21% increase in the number of civilian employees in the police services of Australia.

Source: References 7, 14 and 15

Figure 91

Sworn police officers per 100 000 persons by jurisdiction, 30 June 1999 and 30 June 2000



- Generally there is little difference across jurisdictions in the number of sworn police officers per 100 000 population, with the exception of the Northern Territory which is well above the national average.
- The number of sworn police officers remained relatively constant in all States and Territories in Australia between 30 June 1999 and 30 June 2000, with the exception of the ACT. In this case, the number of sworn officers per 100 000 population declined by 14%.
- The Northern Territory had the largest number of police officers per 100 000 population (478), while the ACT had the smallest (188). However, the ACT had 248 police officers per 1 000km², while the Northern Territory had only one (Table 7).

Source: References 4 and 15

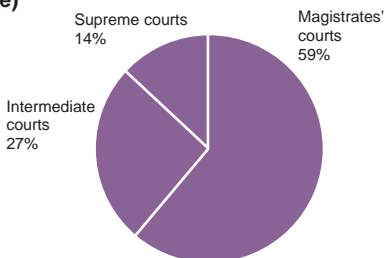
Court administration

Court administration agencies throughout Australia provide a range of services integral to the effective performance of the judicial system. These agencies work with the judiciary and the community to provide a court system that allows the prompt resolution of disputes and appropriate access to justice for the community.

- **The total recurrent expenditure by State, Territory and Commonwealth court authorities was approximately \$850 million in 1999–2000, an annual increase of 5% (in real terms) since 1997–1998.**
- **Expenditure for criminal court administration was about \$378 million for 1999–2000.**

Figure 92

**Total expenditure
(less in-house revenue)
for criminal courts,
1999–2000**

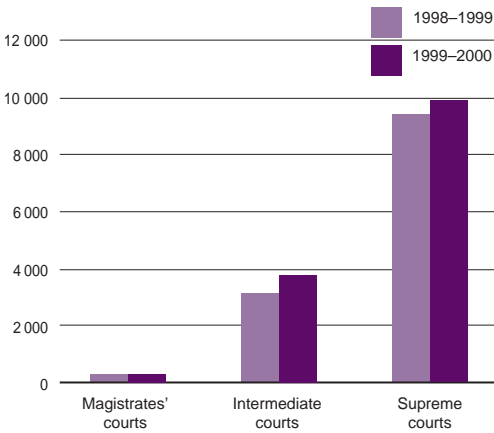


- **The Magistrates' Courts incurred 59% of total criminal court expenditure in 1999–2000, compared to 63% in 1998–1999.**

Figure 93 shows the average expenditure per case lodgment in the criminal courts. The higher the level of court, the more expensive each criminal case lodgment becomes. This is because the more complex and lengthy cases are tried in the higher courts.

Figure 93

Average expenditure per criminal case lodgment, 1998–1999 and 1999–2000



- **Relative to 1998–1999, in 1999–2000 average expenditure per criminal case lodgment increased from \$128 to \$138 in the Magistrates' Courts, \$3 262 to \$3 860 in the Intermediate Courts, and \$9 438 to \$9 869 in the Supreme Courts.**

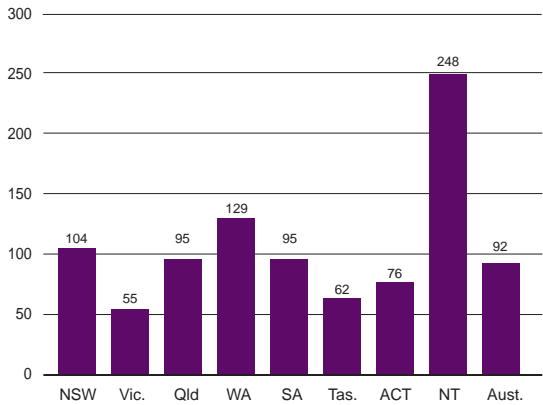
Source: Reference 7

Adult corrective services

Resources allocated for corrective services in Australia are divided into two broad categories: prisons and community corrections.

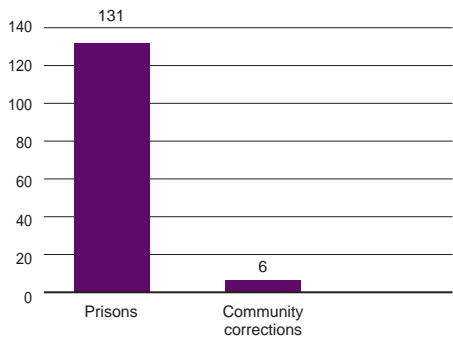
Total recurrent expenditure on corrective services in Australia was approximately \$1 345 million in 1999–2000; \$1 174 million (87%) for prisons, \$137 million (10%) for community corrections and \$35 million (3%) for transport and escort services. This corresponds to an average of \$92 for every adult in Australia.

Figure 94
Recurrent expenditure on corrective services per head of adult population, 1999–2000



■ Recurrent expenditure on corrective services per head of adult population in 1999–2000 ranged from \$55 in Victoria to \$248 in the Northern Territory.

Figure 95
Corrective services expenditure per prisoner/offender per day, 1999–2000



■ Expenditure per prisoner per day was \$131 in 1999–2000, ranging from \$100 in Queensland to \$190 in the ACT.

- **Expenditure per offender sentenced to community correction programs per day was only \$6 in 1999–2000.**
- **Prison expenditure was 22 times higher compared to community corrections.**
- **Overall in 1999–2000 approximately \$47 888 was spent on each prisoner and \$2 190 on each offender sentenced to community correction programs.**

Source: References 4 and 7

8

DRUG OFFENCES

The Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence has reported drug arrest and seizure statistics since 1992. This section provides an overview of arrest patterns for offenders between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000.

Information is provided on arrests for the following types of drugs:

- cannabis;
- heroin (and other opioids);
- amphetamines;
- cocaine; and
- other drugs (not defined elsewhere).

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

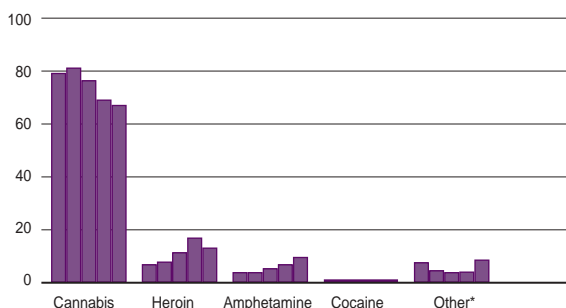
Offenders involved in drug arrests are divided into the following two categories:

- *consumers*—persons charged with user-type offences (e.g. possessing or administering drugs for own personal use); and
- *providers*—persons charged with supply-type offences (e.g. importation, trafficking, selling, cultivation and manufacture).

In the case of a person being charged with consumer and provider offences, the provider charge takes precedence and the person is counted only as a provider of that drug.

Figure 96

Number of arrests as a percentage of total drug arrests by type of drug, 1995–1996 to 1999–2000

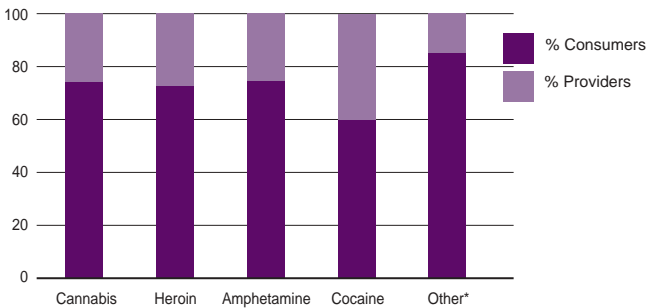
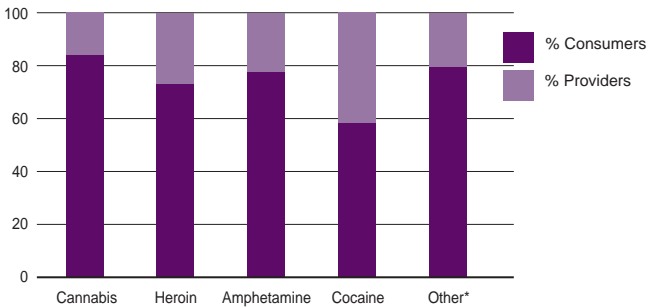


* 'Other' includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere).

- **Between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000, a declining trend is evident in the percentage of drug arrests related to cannabis. In 1995–1996, 80% of drug arrests involved cannabis compared to 67% in 1999–2000.**

Figure 97

Number of consumers and providers arrested as percentage of all drug arrests specific to each type of drug, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000

1995–1996**1999–2000**

* 'Other' includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere).

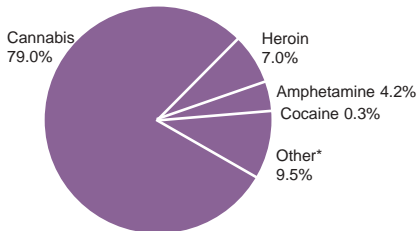
- **The majority of people arrested for drug offences are consumers rather than providers, irrespective of drug type.**
- **In 1999–2000, 85% of persons arrested for cannabis offences were consumers, compared to 58% of arrests for cocaine offences.**

- **The percentage of total cannabis arrests accounted for by consumers increased from 74% to 85% between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000.**

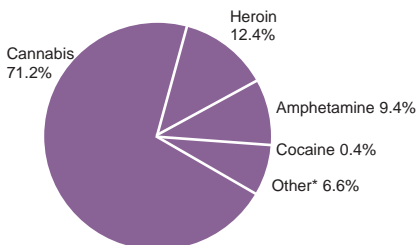
Figure 98

Drug consumers, number of arrests as a percentage of total drug arrests by type of drug, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000

1995–1996



1999–2000



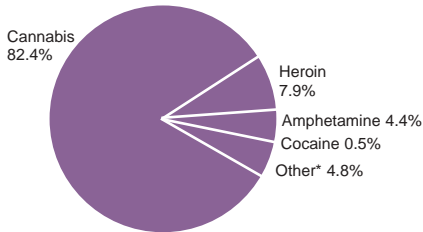
* 'Other' includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere).

- **Arrests for cannabis, heroin and amphetamines accounted for 93% of all consumer arrests in 1999–2000.**
- **Consumers were most likely to be arrested for a cannabis offence in both 1995–1996 and 1999–2000. However, there has been some change in the past four years, with a decrease in the percentage of arrested cannabis users from 79% to 71%.**
- **Between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000 there was an increase in the percentage of consumers arrested for heroin and amphetamine offences. The percentage of consumers arrested for amphetamine offences more than doubled over the four-year period.**

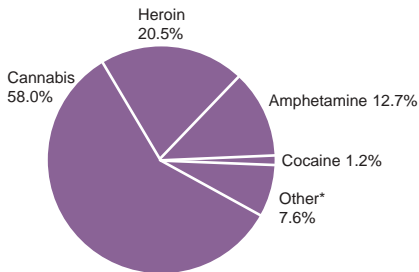
Figure 99

Drug providers, number of arrests as a percentage of total drug arrests by type of drug, 1995–1996 and 1999–2000

1995–1996



1999–2000

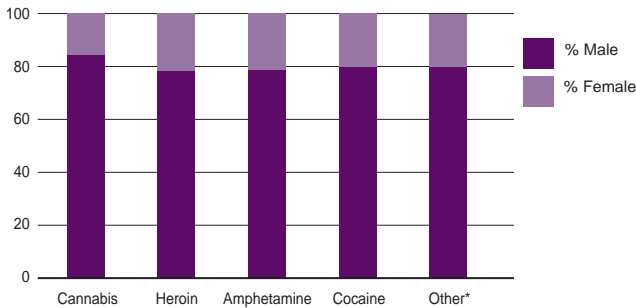


* 'Other' includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere).

- **As with consumers, most providers are arrested for importing, producing, trafficking or selling cannabis.**
- **In 1999–2000, cannabis accounted for 58% of all provider arrests. Heroin and amphetamines accounted for 20% and 13% of provider arrests, respectively.**
- **Over the past three years there has been a substantial decline in the percentage of provider arrests related to cannabis offences. In 1995–1996, 82% of arrests against providers were for cannabis offences compared to 58% in 1999–2000.**
- **The percentage of total provider arrests accounted for by heroin and amphetamine offences almost tripled between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000.**

Figure 100

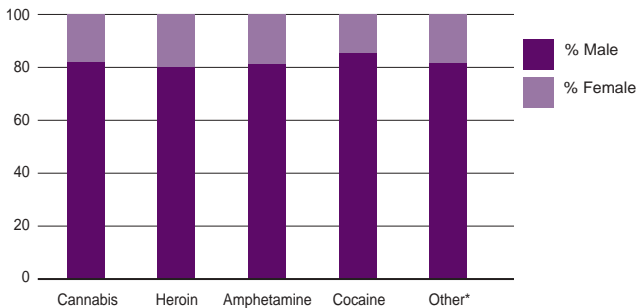
Drug consumers, number of arrests as a percentage of total drug arrests by gender and type of drug, 1999–2000



* 'Other' includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere).

Figure 101

Drug providers, number of arrests as a percentage of total drug arrests by gender and type of drug, 1999–2000



* 'Other' includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere).

■ **Irrespective of drug type, males accounted for four in five arrests of both consumer and provider offences.**

Source: Reference 16

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