

AUSTRALIAN CRIME



FACTS AND FIGURES *2002*



AUSTRALIAN
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Note

Because of rounding, some percentages may not sum 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. It covers different types of recorded crimes, their place of occurrence, victim details, responses of criminal justice agencies, and government resources directed to deal with crime.

While the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) has been collecting data for the past 29 years, it is only since 1993 that there have been statistics on major crimes that can be compared across jurisdictions. It is only since 1996 that a limited set of statistics on cases/defendants processed in courts has become available.

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 (ABS) 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 topics. Further information may be obtained by visiting the AIC web site (www.aic.gov.au), or by contacting the Institute (see back cover).

Adam Graycar
Director

November 2002

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This section presents data on recorded crime as published by the ABS for the period 1995 to 2001. Recorded crime is based on counts of victims during the period from 1 January to 31 December each year. A victim can include a person, a premise or a motor vehicle.

Recorded crime statistics can be used generally as a measure of the nature of crime in Australia.

Crimes known to police

Tables 1a and 1b show the number of victims recorded by police between 1995 and 2001 for the following seven major categories of offences: homicide, assault, sexual assault, robbery, unlawful entry with intent, motor vehicle theft and other theft. It is estimated that these crimes account for about 60% of all crime recorded by police.

Table 1a

Violent crimes recorded by police, 1995–2001*

	Homicide	Assault	Sexual assault	Robbery
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
2001	340	151,753	16,744	26,565

* Data for 1995–1999 have been revised by the ABS.

- **Assault was the most commonly recorded violent crime in 2001, accounting for 78% of recorded violent crimes. Between 1995 and 2001, the number of assaults increased by 49%.**
- **The number of robbery offences increased by 82% from 1995 to 2001, whereas the number of sexual assaults increased by 28%. The number of homicides has remained relatively stable over this period, peaking at 386 in 1999.**

Source: Reference 1

Table 1b

Property crimes recorded by police, 1995–2001*

	Unlawful entry with intent	Motor vehicle theft	Other theft
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
2001	435,524	139,943	699,262

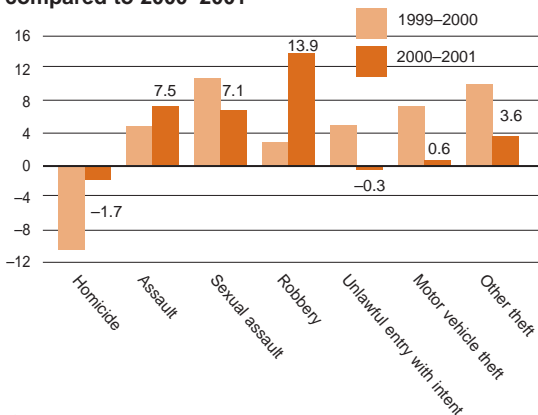
* Data for 1995–1999 have been revised by the ABS.

- In 2001, ‘other theft’ (which includes offences such as pickpocketing, bag snatching, and shoplifting) was the most commonly recorded property crime, accounting for 55% of property crime victims. Since 1995, the number of victims of ‘other theft’ has increased by 43%.
- Between 1995 and 2001, the number of victims of unlawful entry with intent and motor vehicle theft increased by 13% and 10% respectively.
- Property offences accounted for 87% of the seven major crimes in 2001, a pattern that has remained stable since 1995.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 1

Percentage change in crimes recorded by police, 1999–2000 compared to 2000–2001



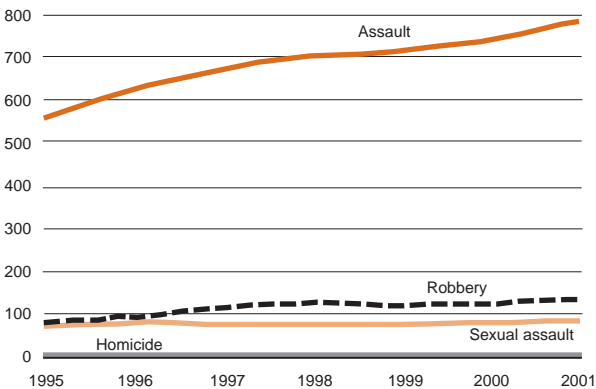
- **Assault and robbery recorded steady increases over 2000–2001 by 8% and 14% respectively.**

Source: Reference 1

Violent crime

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

Figure 2
Violent crimes recorded by police, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–2001



- **The rate of assault has increased steadily from 563 victims per 100,000 people in 1995 to 779 per 100,000 people in 2001.**
- **In 2001 the rate for robbery peaked at 136 per 100,000 people—the highest recorded since 1995.**
- **The rate of sexual assault was 86 per 100,000 people, which is higher than any previous year.**

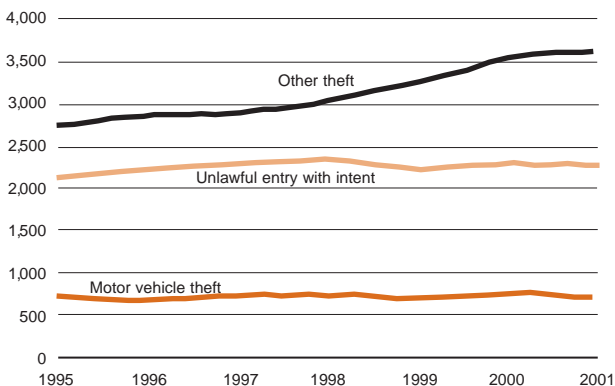
Source: References 1 and 3

Property crime

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

Figure 3

Property crimes recorded by police, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–2001



- **The rate of other theft (including shoplifting) has increased by 32% since 1995.**
- **The rate of unlawful entry has remained relatively stable since 1995, with a small decrease recorded in 2001.**
- **The rate of motor vehicle theft has remained stable since 1995.**

Source: References 1 and 3

Location of crime

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

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

Table 2 lists the number of violent offences (homicide, assault, sexual assault and robbery) that occurred within each type of location. Figure 4 shows the proportion of violent offences by the type of location.

Table 2
Number of violent crimes by type of location, 2001

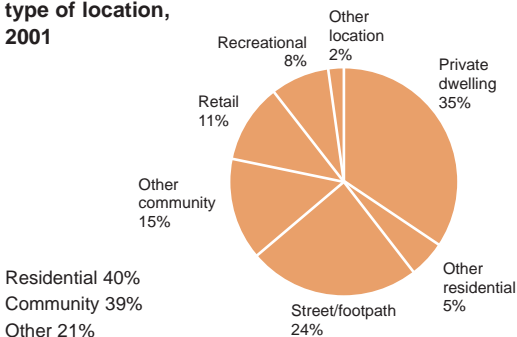
	Homicide	Assault	Sexual assault	Robbery
Residential				
Private dwelling	188	53,212	9,837	1,422
Other residential*	28	8,506	949	368
Community				
Street/footpath	48	34,528	1,365	10,150
Other community	32	21,358	2,136	4,523
Other				
Retail	14	13,545	493	6,863
Recreational	18	13,632	861	1,529
Other location	5	2,915	293	956
Unspecified	7	4,057	810	754
Total	340	151,753	16,744	26,565

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

- **Streets or footpaths accounted for 38% of robberies and 23% of assaults.**
- **Private dwellings accounted for 35% of assaults, 59% of sexual assaults and 55% of homicides.**

Source: Reference 1

Figure 4
Violent crimes,
type of location,
2001



- **Forty per cent of all violent offences occurred in residential locations, with 35% occurring in a private dwelling.**
- **Twenty-four per cent of all violent offences occurred on a street/footpath.**

Source: Reference 1

Table 3 lists the number of property offences (unlawful entry with intent, motor vehicle theft and other theft) that occurred within each type of location. Figure 5 shows the proportion of property offences by the type of location.

Table 3
Number of property crimes by type of location, 2001

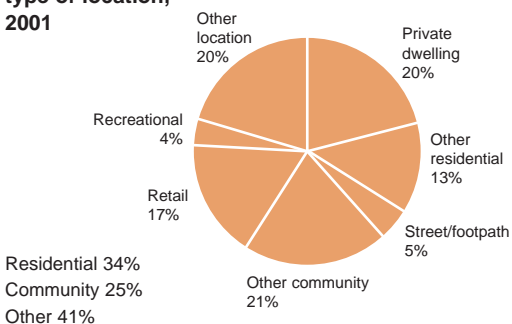
	Unlawful entry with intent	Motor vehicle theft	Other theft
Residential			
Private dwelling	233,222	1	63,761
Other residential*	42,147	28,712	108,807
Community			
Street/footpath	4	57,217	11,806
Other community	41,977	25,182	225,366
Other			
Retail	54,411	16,784	167,202
Recreational	12,363	2,638	38,582
Other location	41,496	3,733	246,018
Unspecified	9,904	5,676	43,504
Total	435,524	139,943	905,046

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

- **Forty-one per cent of motor vehicle thefts occurred on a street or footpath.**
- **Fifty-four per cent of unlawful entry with intent crimes occurred in a private dwelling.**
- **Eighteen per cent of other thefts (including shoplifting) occurred in a retail location.**

Source: Reference 1

Figure 5
**Property crimes,
type of location,
2001**



- **Forty-one per cent of property crimes occurred in 'other' locations.**
- **Thirty-four per cent of property offences occurred in residential locations.**
- **Seventeen per cent of property crimes occurred in retail locations.**

Source: Reference 1

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 340 homicides in Australia in 2001, with two victims per 100,000 population. This represents a reduction of 2% compared to the 346 homicides in 2000.**

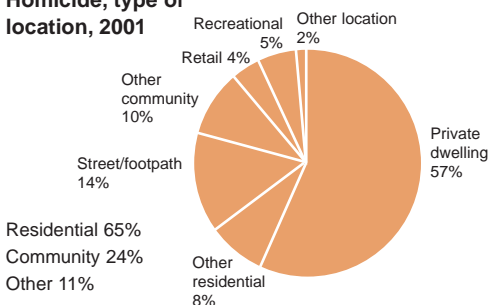
■ **Murder contributed 90% of the victims recorded in 2001. The remainder were victims of manslaughter.**

Source: References 1 and 5

Location of homicides

Figure 6

Homicide, type of location, 2001

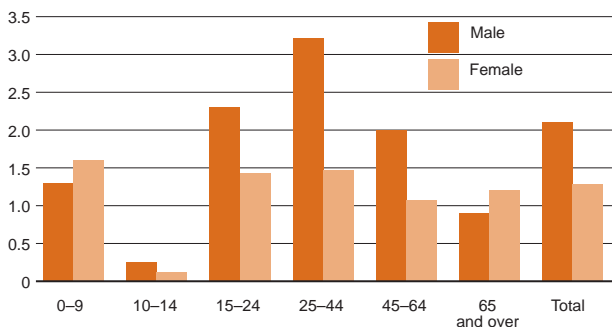


■ **Of all homicides occurring in Australia in 2001, 65% took place in residential locations, with 57% in a private dwelling.**

Source: Reference 5

Victims of homicide

Figure 7
Age and gender of homicide victims, rate per 100,000 persons, 2001

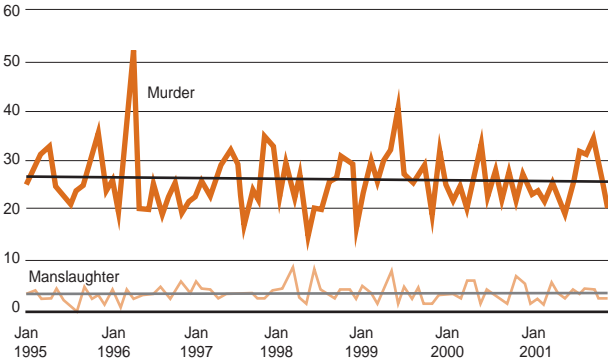


- **Sixty-one per cent of victims were male.**
- **In all age categories except the 0-9 age group and the 65 and over age group, the risk of being a victim of homicide was higher for males than for females.**
- **Males in the 25 to 44 age group were most at risk of being a homicide victim.**
- **The number of female victims in the 0-9 age group doubled from 10 victims in 2000 to 21 victims in 2001.**
- **The number of male victims remained constant in 2001, relative to 2000, while the number of female victims decreased by 7%.**

Source: References 1 and 3

Trend in homicide

Figure 8
Number of homicides by month, 1995–2001

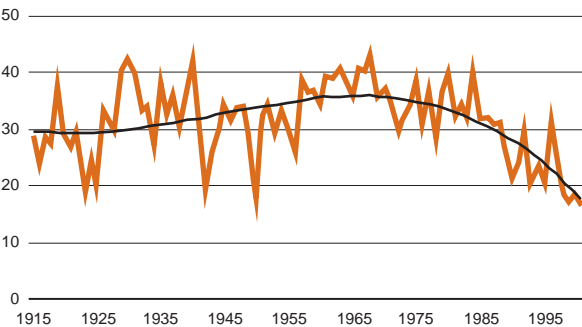


- **The number of murders and manslaughter fluctuated, on a monthly basis, between 1995 and 2001. The spike in the murder figures in April 1996 is due to the Port Arthur tragedy.**

Source: Reference 5

Trend in firearm homicides

Figure 9
Homicide involving firearms as a percentage of total homicide, 1915 to 2001



- **The percentage of homicides committed with a firearm continued its declining trend since 1969. In 2001, 16% of homicides involved firearms. The figure was 18% in 2000.**

Source: Reference 5

Assault

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

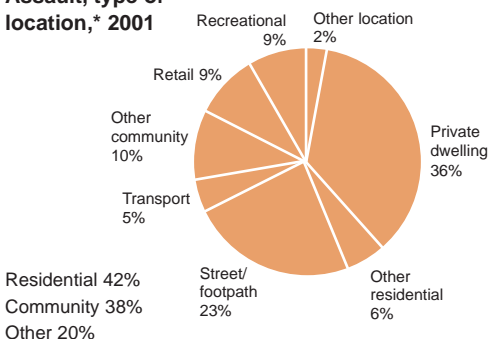
- **In 2001 there were 151,753 assaults recorded by the police, at a rate of 779 per 100,000 population, and an increase of 8% from the number of victims recorded during 2000.**

Source: References 1 and 3

Location of assaults

Figure 10

Assault, type of location,* 2001



* Excludes unspecified location (n=4,057)

- **Assaults occurred more frequently in residential locations (42%), particularly private dwellings (36%).**
- **Thirty-eight per cent of assaults occurred in community locations, with assaults on streets/footpaths accounting for 23% of all recorded assaults.**

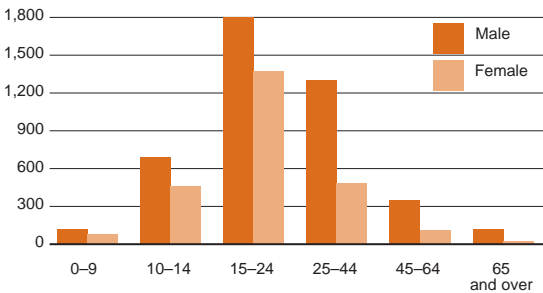
- **Twenty per cent of recorded assaults took place in other locations, including recreational facilities (9%).**
- **This pattern remained stable between 2000 and 2001.**

Source: Reference 1

Victims of assault

Figure 11

Age and gender of assault victims, rate per 100,000 persons, 2001



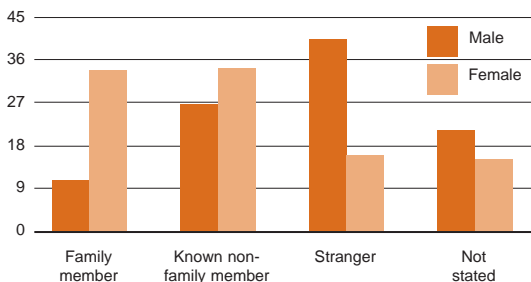
- **Fifty-six per cent of assault victims were male.**
- **Consistent with patterns in previous years, males had higher victimisation rates than females for all age categories.**
- **Both males and females were most at risk of being a victim of assault while aged between 15 and 24.**
- **The number of male and female victims of assault increased by 7% and 8%, respectively, in 2001 compared to 2000.**

Source: References 1 and 3

Victim-offender relationship

Figure 12

Assault victims, gender and relationship to offender, percentages, 2001

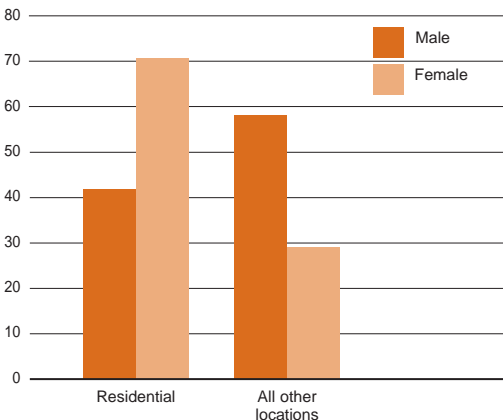


- **Thirty-eight per cent of male victims of assault knew the offender compared to 68% of female victims.**
- **Assaults occurring against females were three times more likely to be perpetrated by a family member than those occurring against males.**
- **In contrast, 40% of male victims of assault were assaulted by strangers compared to only 16% of female victims.**

Source: Reference 1

Figure 13

Assault, type of location and sex of victim, percentages, 2001



- **Most male victims (58%) were assaulted in non-residential locations, whereas a majority of female victims (71%) were assaulted in residential premises.**

Source: Reference 5

Trend in assault

Table 4
Number and percentage of assault victims by age, gender* and location, 2001

	Residential		All other locations	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Age	Number			
0–9	1,072	762	731	354
10–14	1,186	995	3,808	2,084
15–24	5,452	8,750	18,628	8,937
25–34	6,100	10,508	16,597	6,549
35–44	4,793	7,122	9,642	3,767
45 and over	4,614	4,493	7,445	2,453
Not specified	661	685	2,078	724
Total	23,878	33,315	58,929	24,868
Age	Percentage			
0–9	4.5	2.3	1.2	1.4
10–14	5.0	3.0	6.5	8.4
15–24	22.8	26.3	31.6	35.9
25–34	25.5	31.5	28.2	26.3
35–44	20.1	21.4	16.4	15.1
45 and over	19.3	13.5	12.6	9.9
Not specified	2.8	2.1	3.5	2.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* This table excludes cases where the victim's gender was not stated (n=5,293)

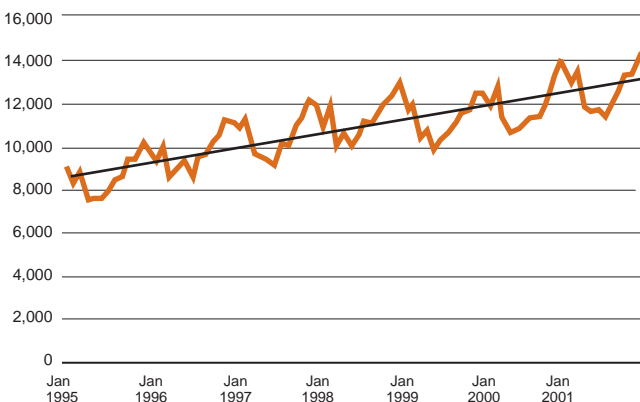
- **Assaults were more frequently committed in residential locations against:**
 - males aged 0–9 years;
 - females aged 25–44 years; and
 - males aged 45 years and over.
- **On the other hand, males and females aged 10–14 years, and males aged 15–24 years,**

experienced a higher frequency of assaults in non-residential locations compared to other age groups.

Source: Reference 1 and 5

Figure 14

Number of assaults, by month, 1995–2001



- **The number of assaults has grown by an average 5% each year between 1995 and 2001. This is almost five 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 assaults peaks in the spring and summer months of October, November, December and January, and declines in April, May, June and July.**

Source: References 3 and 5

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.

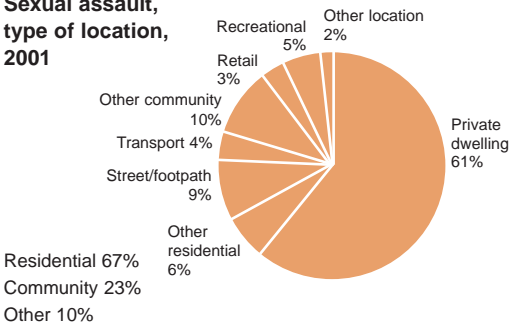
- **There were 16,744 victims of sexual assault recorded by the police in Australia in 2001, an increase of 7% from 2000.**
- **There were about 86 victims of sexual assault per 100,000 population.**

Source: Reference 1

Location of sexual assaults

Figure 15

**Sexual assault,
type of location,
2001**



- **Of all recorded sexual assaults in Australia in 2001, 67% occurred in residential locations, particularly private dwellings (61%).**
- **Twenty-three per cent of sexual assaults occurred in community locations. Sexual assaults on streets/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 2000 and 2001.**

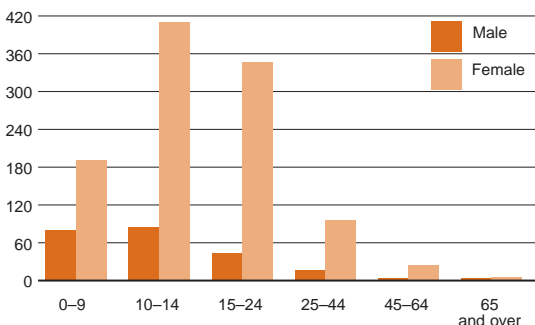
Source: Reference 1

Victims of sexual assault

- **Eighty-one per cent of sexual assault victims were female.**
- **In 2001 the number of male victims of sexual assault decreased slightly (2%) while the number of female victims increased by 9% relative to 2000.**

Source: Reference 1

Figure 16
Age and gender of sexual assault victims, rate per 100,000 persons, 2001



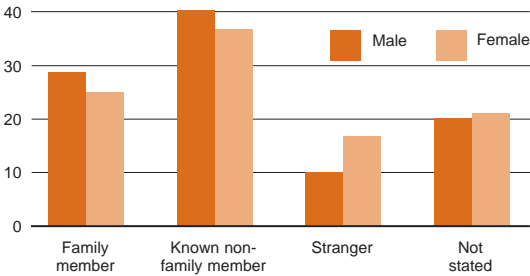
- **Sexual assault is more prevalent among young people under the age of 25 years.**
- **In each age group, females were more likely to be victims of sexual assault than males.**
- **Consistent with 2000, in 2001, both males and females in the 10-14 age range were most at risk of being sexually assaulted.**

Source: References 1 and 3

Victim-offender relationship

Figure 17

Gender of sexual assault victims and relationship to offender, percentages, 2001



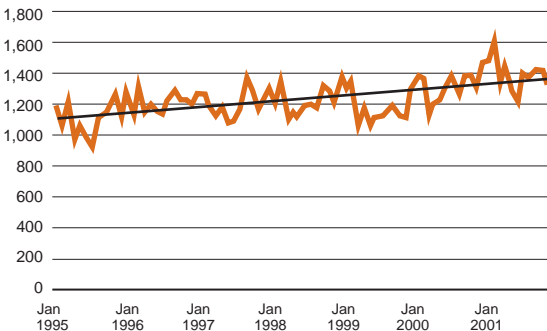
- **Most sexual assaults (63%) were committed by a person known to the victim.**
- **One in four sexual assaults was perpetrated by a family member.**
- **In about 38% of sexual assaults the offender was a non-family member known to the victim.**
- **Almost 16% of sexual assaults were committed by strangers. Females were more likely to be assaulted by a stranger, compared to males.**

Source: Reference 1

Trend in sexual assault

Figure 18

Number of sexual assault victims, by month, 1995–2001



- **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 the months of January, February and March, and lowest during April, June and July.**

Source: Reference 5

Robbery

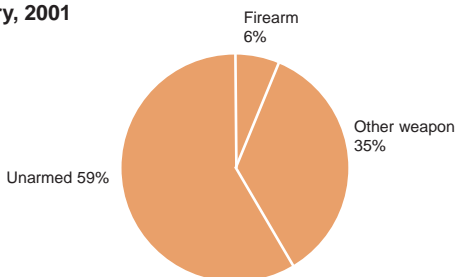
Robbery, as defined by the ABS, is the unlawful taking of property, without consent, accompanied by force or threat of force. Robbery victims can be persons or organisations.

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 19
Types of
robbery, 2001



- **Police recorded 26,565 victims of robbery during 2001, with 137 per 100,000 population. This represents a 14% increase on the number recorded in 2000.**

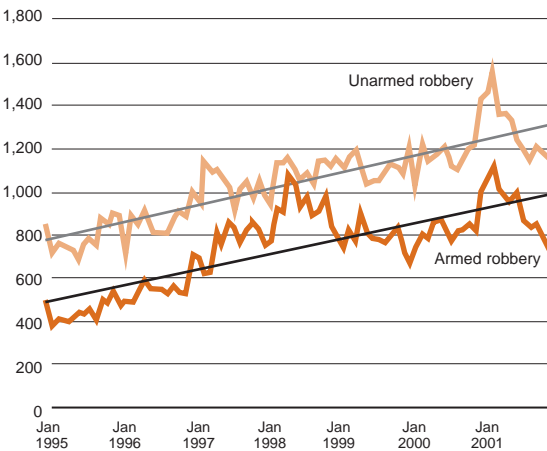
- Of the incidents recorded during 2001, 59% were unarmed robberies, 35% were committed with a weapon other than a firearm, and 6% were committed with a firearm. This was similar to the pattern of weapon use in 2000.

Source: Reference 1

Trend in robbery

Figure 20

Number of robbery victims, by month, 1995–2001



- As seen above, both armed and unarmed robberies display concurrent trends.
- The number of armed robberies peaked in March 2001. This was the highest number recorded since May 1998.
- Since March 2001 there has been an average 5% decline in the number of all robberies each month.
- In June 1998, 48% of all robberies were armed. Since then the figure has stabilised at about 45%.

Source: Reference 5

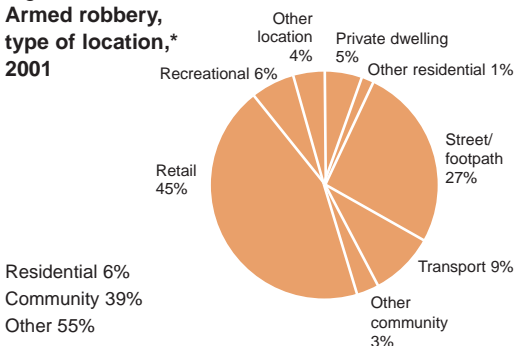
Armed robbery

- There were 11,056 armed robberies recorded during 2001. This represents a 17% increase since 2000.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 21

**Armed robbery,
type of location,*
2001**



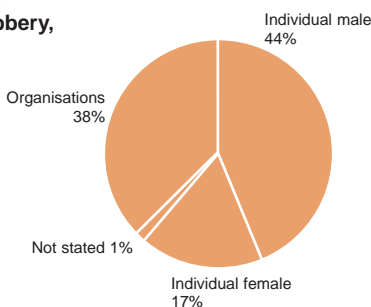
* Excludes unspecified location (n=267).

- **Consistent with previous years, armed robberies in 2001 were concentrated in retail premises (45%).**
- **Thirty-nine per cent took place in community locations, with a large proportion being committed on streets/footpaths (27%).**

Source: Reference 1

Figure 22

**Victims of
armed robbery,
2001**

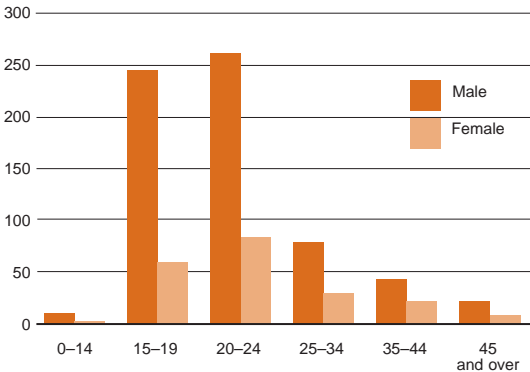


- **Thirty-eight per cent of armed robberies were committed against organisations, such as banks and chemists.**
- **A person (male or female) was the victim of 61% of armed robberies. Males were more than twice as likely to be robbed than females.**

Source: References 1 and 5

Figure 23

Age and gender of armed robbery victims, rate per 100,000 persons, 2001



- **In all age categories, males were more at risk of being a victim of armed robbery than females.**
- **Males aged 15 to 24 years were more than twice as likely to be a victim of armed robbery than persons in any other age category.**
- **Among males, the victimisation rate increased between 2000 and 2001 across all age groups.**
- **Among females, those aged 20 to 24 years were at the highest risk of victimisation.**

Source: References 1 and 3

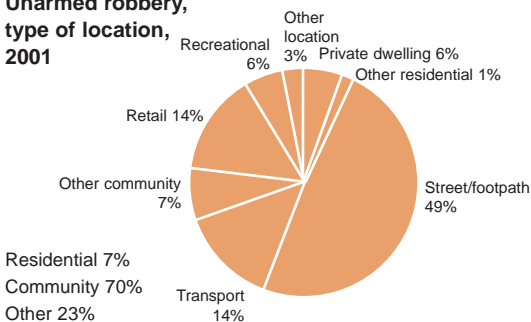
Unarmed robbery

- **There were 15,509 unarmed robberies recorded during 2001. This represents a 12% increase from the incidence in 2000.**

Source: Reference 1

Figure 24

**Unarmed robbery,
type of location,
2001**

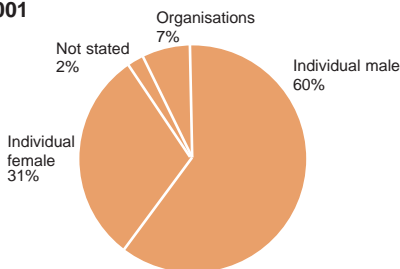


- **Seventy per cent of unarmed robberies occurred in community locations, including 49% on streets/footpaths and 14% in a transport location.**
- **Fourteen per cent of unarmed robberies occurred in a retail location (armed robbery: 45%).**

Source: Reference 1

Figure 25

**Victims of unarmed
robbery, 2001**

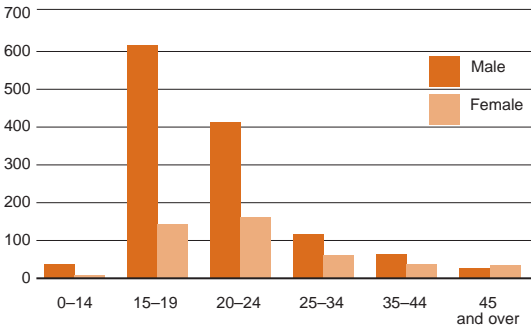


- **Unarmed robbery was much less likely to involve organisation victims. Seven per cent of unarmed robberies involved organisations compared to 38% of armed robberies.**
- **As in 2000, males comprised the majority of victims of unarmed robbery in 2001 (60%).**

Source: References 1 and 5

Figure 26

Age and gender of unarmed robbery victims, rate per 100,000 persons, 2001



- **Males aged 15 to 19 were the most likely victims of unarmed robbery. They experienced an increase in the rate of unarmed robbery from 415 per 100,000 in 2000 to 612 per 100,000 in 2001.**
- **In general males had a higher risk of being a victim of unarmed robbery.**

Source: References 1 and 3

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

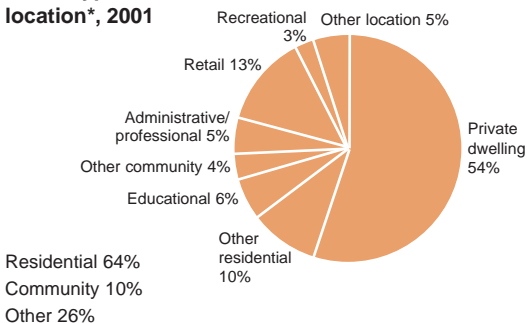
- **In 2001 there were 435,524 incidents of UEWI recorded by the police in Australia, a small decrease on the number recorded in 2000.**

- The rate of UEWI decreased from 2,281 victims per 100,000 population in 2000 to 2,235 victims per 100,000 population in 2001.
- The rate of unlawful entry at residential locations decreased slightly from 3,862 per 100,000 households in 2000 to 3,798 per 100,000 households in 2001.

Source: References 1 and 3

Location of unlawful entry with intent

Figure 27
Unlawful entry with
intent, type of
location*, 2001



* Excludes unspecified location (n=9,904).

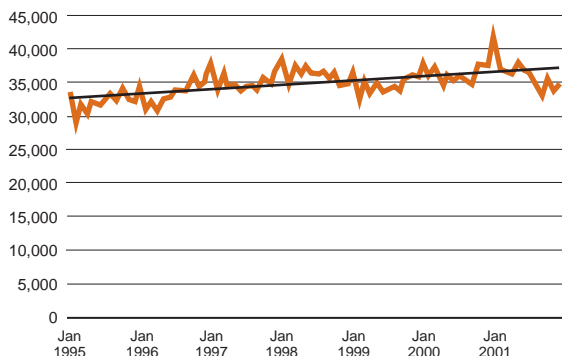
- Sixty-four per cent of UEWI offences occurred in residential locations, particularly private dwellings (54%).
- Ten per cent of recorded UEWI offences took place in community locations such as educational facilities (6%).
- Overall, UEWI has decreased marginally in 2001 compared to 2000 (0.3%).

Source: Reference 1

Trend in unlawful entry with intent

Figure 28

Number of unlawful entries with intent, by month, 1995–2001



- **The number of UEWI offences peaked with 42,451 incidents occurring in January 2001 (the highest recorded level).**
- **On average, UEWI incidents that involved taking property accounted for about 78% of all UEWI offences, a pattern that has remained consistent over the past six years.**
- **There were approximately 50 recorded incidents of UEWI every hour in 2001.**

Source: Reference 5

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.

- **There were 139,943 motor vehicles recorded stolen to police in 2001, with 1,121 vehicles stolen per 100,000 registered cars. This represents a 1% increase on the number recorded in 2000.**

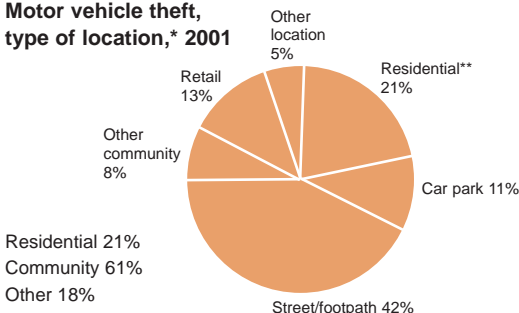
- **Motor vehicle thefts averaged one every four minutes across Australia in 2001.**
- **One motor vehicle was stolen for every 90 registered vehicles.**

Source: Reference 1 and 21

Location of motor vehicle theft

Figure 29

**Motor vehicle theft,
type of location,* 2001**



* Excludes unspecified location (n=5,676).

** Includes private dwellings and other residential locations.

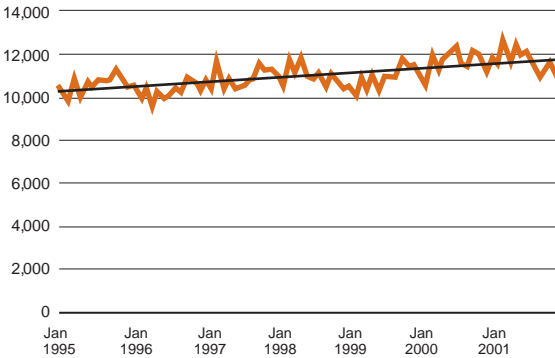
- **The majority of motor vehicle thefts occurred in community locations (61%), particularly streets/footpaths (42%) and car parks (11%).**
- **Retail locations accounted for 13% of motor vehicle thefts in 2001.**
- **Twenty-one per cent of motor vehicle thefts occurred at a residential location.**
- **The number of incidents of motor vehicle theft occurring in residential locations increased in 2001, relative to 2000, by 10%. The number occurring on streets/footpaths also increased (4%).**
- **The number of incidents of motor vehicle theft occurring in 'other community' locations decreased in 2001, relative to 2000 (9% decrease), as did those occurring in car parks (8% decrease), retail (7% decrease) and other locations (4% decrease).**

Source: References 1 and 5

Trend in motor vehicle theft

Figure 30

Number of motor vehicle thefts, by month, 1995–2001



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

Source: Reference 5

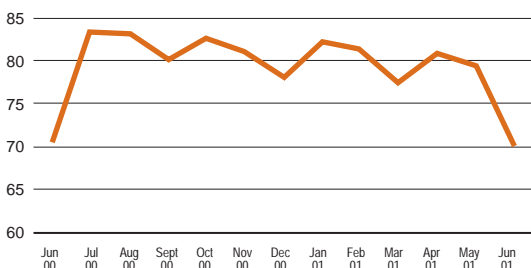
Recovery rates

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

- **A total of 110,990 stolen cars were recovered in the 2000–2001 financial year, resulting in a national recovery rate of 80%.**
- **Forty-three per cent of all stolen motor vehicles are recovered after one day, with 58% recovered after two days and 83% recovered after one week.**

Figure 31

Percentage of stolen motor vehicles recovered, 2000–2001



- **The percentage of stolen vehicles that have been recovered has fluctuated between 70% and 83% during 2000–2001.**

Source: Reference 22

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.

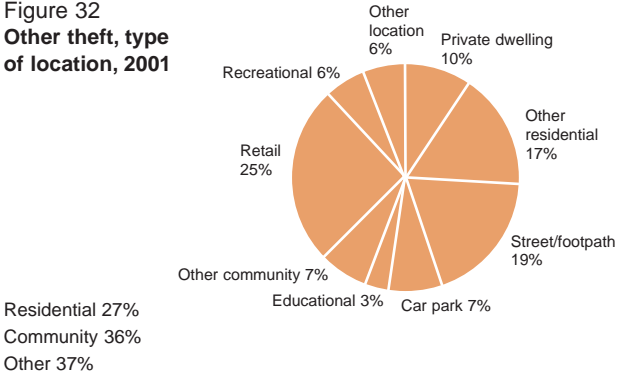
This offence includes such crimes as pickpocketing, bag snatching, stealing, theft from a motor vehicle, theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories/petrol, stealing of stock/domestic animals, and theft of non-motorised vehicles/boats/aircraft/bicycles. It is the largest of all the crime categories included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

- **A total of 699,262 victims of other theft was recorded by the police in 2001, with 3,588 victims per 100,000 population in Australia. This represents a 4% increase from the number recorded in 2000 (674,813).**

Source: Reference 1

Location of other theft

Figure 32
Other theft, type
of location, 2001



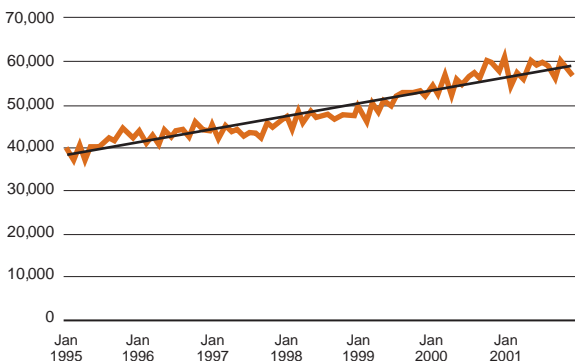
- **One-quarter of thefts took place in a retail location.**
- **Thirty-six per cent of incidents took place in community locations, with 19% on a street/footpath and 7% in a car park.**
- **In 27% of cases, thefts occurred in a residential location.**
- **The incidence of theft occurring in a residential location increased 10% in 2001, relative to 2000.**

Source: References 1 and 5

Trend in other theft

Figure 33

Number of other thefts by month, 1995–2001



- During 2001 there were 58,272 victims of theft per month, which represents an increase of 43% over the monthly average recorded in 1995 (upward trend was statistically significant, $p < 0.01$).

Source: Reference 5

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?
- 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. Therefore, the data in this chapter are taken from Victorian, Queensland and South Australian police statistics.

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' refer to alleged offenders and the alleged offender rate.

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 offences listed below 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 3).

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;

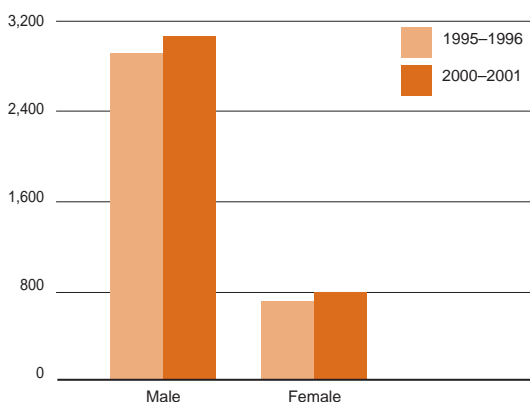
- motor vehicle theft; and
- other theft (theft from a vehicle, theft from shops, other theft).

Source: References 3, 16, 17, 18 and 19

Gender

Figure 34

Offenders by gender, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001



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

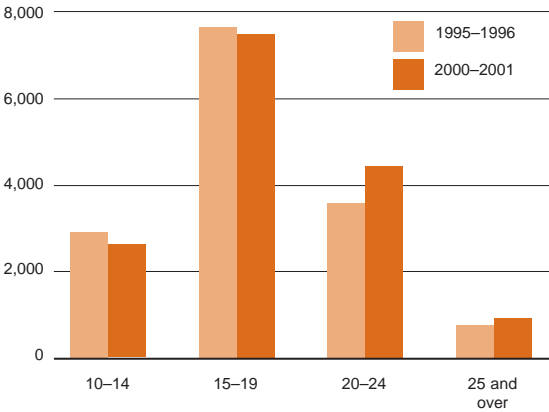
Source: References 3, 16, 17, 18 and 19

Age

Persons aged 15 to 19 years (males and females) are most likely to be processed by police regarding the commission of a crime. In 2000–2001 the offending rate for persons aged 15 to 19 years was more than five times the offender rate for the remainder of the population.

Figure 35

Offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001



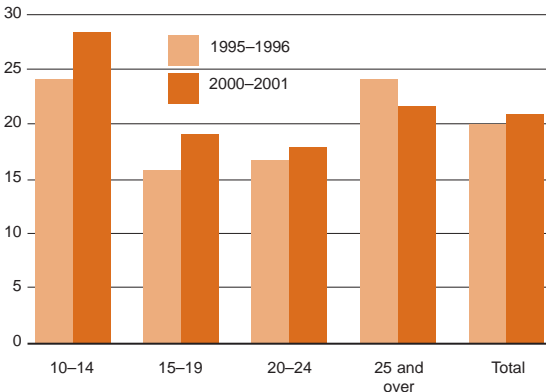
- **Except for persons aged between 20 and 24, offender rates have remained fairly stable between 1995–1996 and 2000–2001. The offender rate for persons in this age group increased by 32%, from 3,608 in 1995–1996 to 4,752 in 2000–2001.**

Source: References 3, 16, 17, 18 and 19

Females

Figure 36

Female offenders as a percentage of total offenders by age, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001

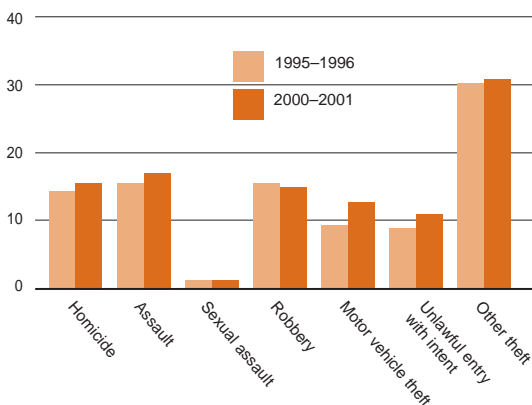


- Overall, just over one in five offenders was female. The proportion is higher for 10–14-year-olds.
- A slight increase in female participation among the offender population was recorded between 1995–1996 and 2000–2001. However, this increase has not been uniform across age groups.
- For persons aged 10 to 14 years, the percentage of offenders that were female increased from 24% to 29% between 1995–1996 and 2000–2001.
- Among persons aged 25 years and over there was a slight decline in female contribution to total offenders from 24% in 1995–1996 to 22% in 2000–2001.

Source: References 3, 16, 17, 18 and 19

Figure 37

Female offenders as a percentage of total offenders by offence type, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001



- Female participation in the offender population was highest for other theft and lowest for sexual assault between 1995–1996 and 2000–2001.
- Compared to 1995–1996, in 2000–2001 female offending increased for homicide, assault, motor vehicle theft and unlawful entry with intent.

References 3, 16, 17, 18 and 19

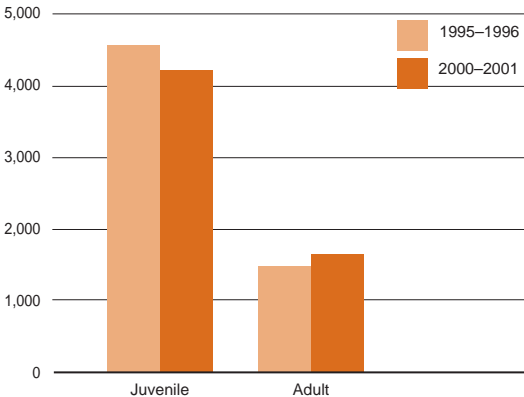
Juveniles

There are differences between the states in the definition of a juvenile. In Victoria and Queensland the definition 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 2000–2001, juveniles accounted for about one-quarter of the total offender population.

Figure 38

Juvenile and adult offenders, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001

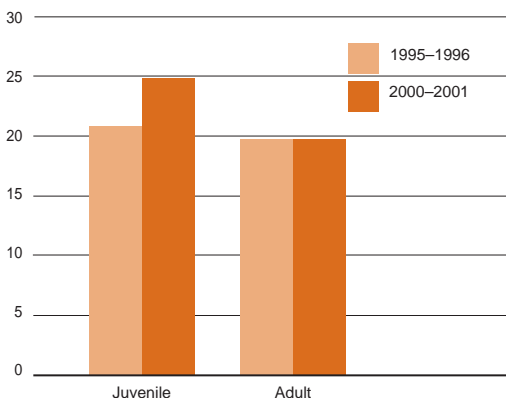


- **Compared to adults, juveniles are three times more likely to be identified as offenders.**
- **The offender rate among juveniles has declined from 4,545 in 1995–1996 to 4,165 in 2000–2001. In contrast, the adult rate has increased (statistically significant, $p < 0.01$).**

Source: References 3, 16, 17, 18 and 19

Figure 39

Female offenders as a percentage of total juvenile and adult offenders, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001



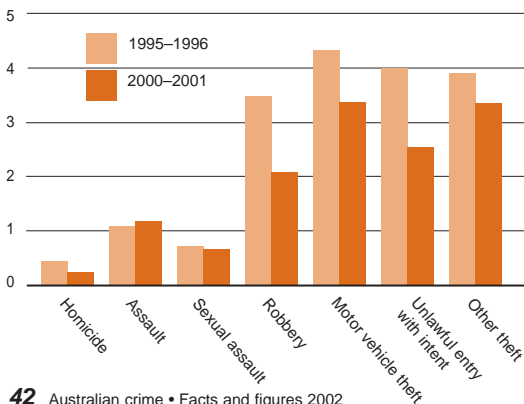
- **In 2000–2001, females contributed about 25% of the juvenile offender population and 20% of the adult offender population.**
- **There has been an increase in the percentage of female juvenile offenders, from 21% in 1995–1996 to 25% in 2000–2001.**

Compared to adults, juveniles are less likely to commit violent offences such as homicide, assault and sexual assault. They are more likely to commit other offences.

Source: References 3, 16, 17, 18 and 19

Figure 40

Ratio of juvenile to adult offenders, by offence type, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001



- **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 3, 16, 17, 18 and 19

Specific offences

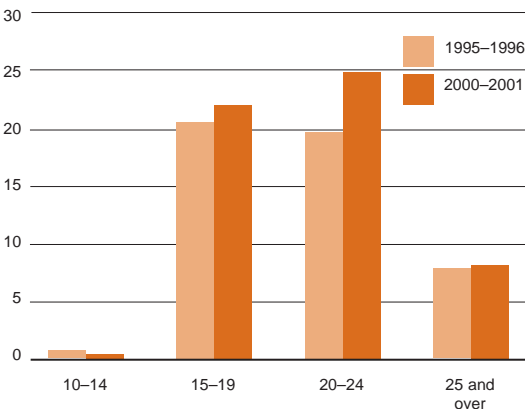
Gender–age patterns of offenders vary between offences and over time.

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

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 41
Homicide, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001

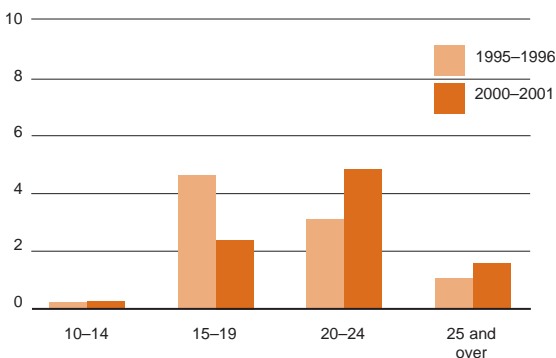


- **The male offender rate has remained highest among individuals aged 15 to 24 years between 1995–1996 and 2000–2001.**
- **Since 1995–1996, the rate has increased across all age groups, with the exception of children (10 to 14 years).**

Source: References 3, 16, 17, 18 and 19

Figure 42

Homicide, female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001

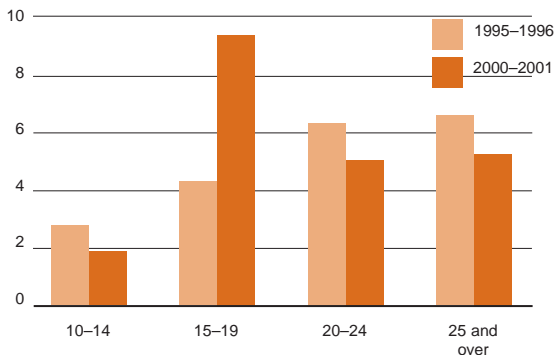


- **As was the case for males, the rate of female homicide offending was highest among 15–24-year-olds between 1995–1996 and 2000–2001.**

Source: References 3, 16, 17, 18 and 19

Figure 43

Homicide, ratio of male to female offender rates by age, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001



- **Homicide is committed mainly by males.**
- **The ratio of male to female offending has remained stable over most age groups between 1995–1996 and 2000–2001, with the exception of persons aged 15–19 years. The risk of males in this age group being an offender has increased relative to females.**

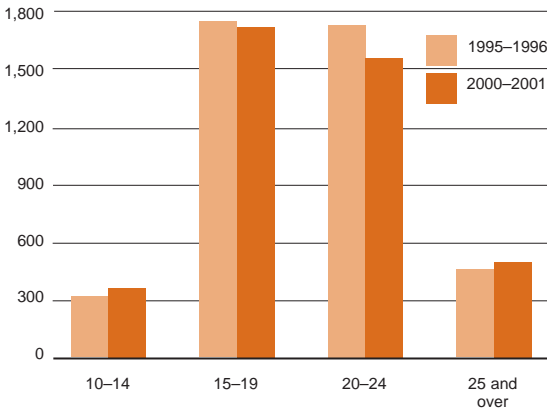
Source: References 3, 16, 17, 18 and 19

Assault

Approximately 13% of assault offenders in 2000–2001 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 44

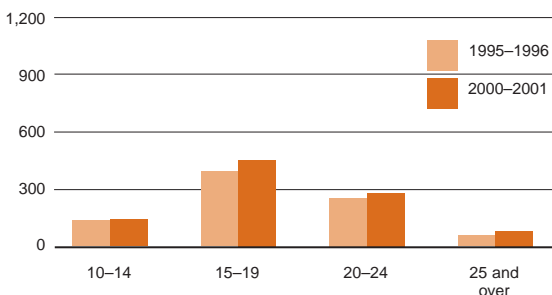
Assault, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001



- **Males aged 15 to 24 years had the highest offender rates for assault.**
- **Between 1995–1996 and 2000–2001, 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 45

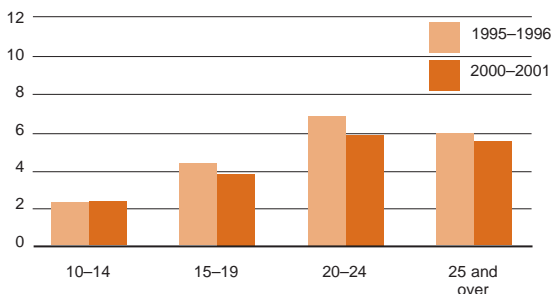
Assault, female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001



- **The rate of female offending peaked between 15 and 19 years, both in 1995–1996 and 2000–2001.**
- **Since 1995–1996, female offender rates have remained stable for all age groups. Female offender rates have not increased significantly for any age group ($p < 0.01$).**

Figure 46

Assault, ratio of male to female offender rates by age, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001



- **Females aged 15 to 24 years increased their participation in the offender population relative to males between 1995–1996 and 2000–2001.**

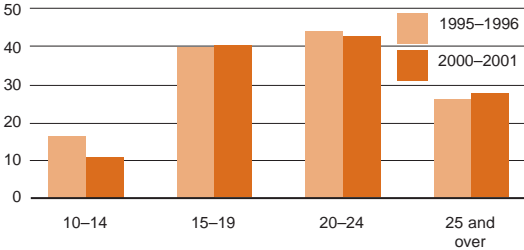
Source: References 3, 16, 17, 18 and 19

Sexual assault

In 2000–2001, 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 47

Sexual assault, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001



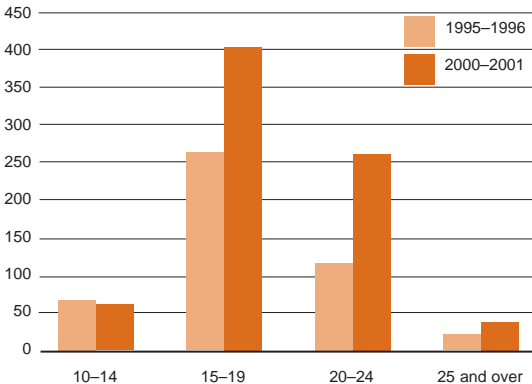
- **Offender rates have either declined or remained stable across all age groups, with the exception of the over-25 group (which increased slightly between 1995–1996 and 2000–2001).**
- **The peak age of male offenders remained between 15 and 24 years in 2000–2001.**

Source: References 3, 16, 17, 18 and 19

Robbery

Figure 48

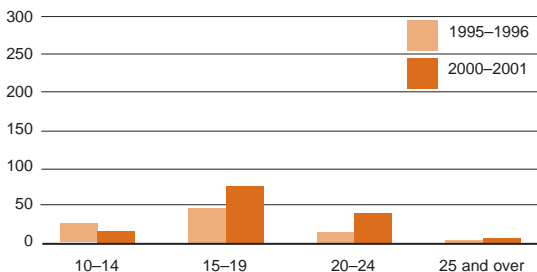
Robbery, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001



- **Male offending peaked between the ages of 15 and 19 years. This is consistent with offenders in 1995–1996.**
- **The offender rate among males aged 20 to 24 years has more than doubled from 114 per 100,000 in 1995–96 to 260 per 100,000 in 2000–2001.**

Figure 49

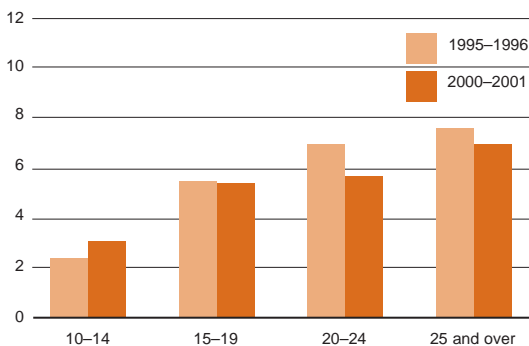
Robbery, female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001



- **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 to 24 years between 1995–1996 and 2000–2001.**

Figure 50

Robbery, ratio of male to female offender rates by age, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001



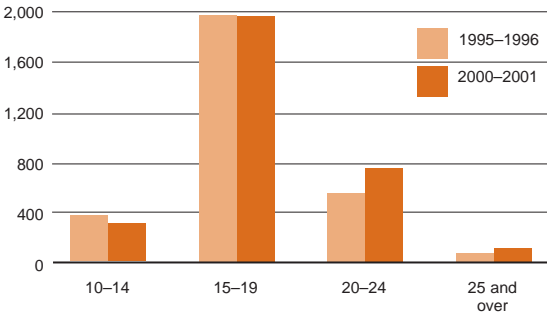
- Females aged 20 years and over increased their participation in the offender population, relative to males, between 1995–1996 and 2000–2001.

Source: References 3, 16, 17, 18 and 19

Motor vehicle theft

Figure 51

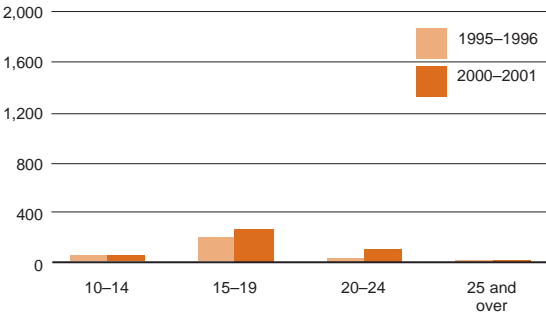
Motor vehicle theft, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001



- Male offending peaked among individuals aged between 15 and 19 years. This pattern has remained stable between 1995–1996 and 2000–2001.
- The offender rate among males has increased slightly in the 20–24-year age group.

Figure 52

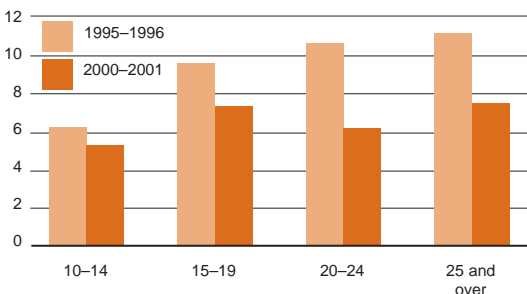
Motor vehicle theft, female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001



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

Figure 53

Motor vehicle theft, ratio of male to female offender rates by age, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001



- **Females increased their participation in the offender population, relative to males, between 1995–1996 and 2000–2001 across all age groups (significant, $p < 0.01$).**

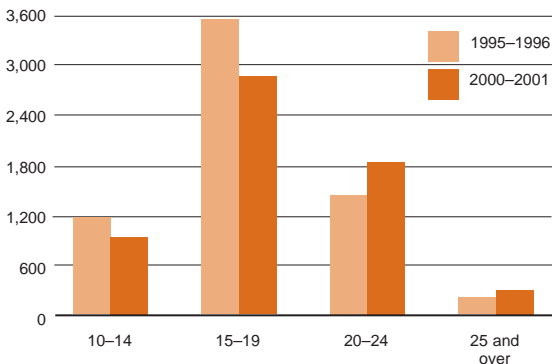
Source: References 3, 16, 17, 18 and 19

Unlawful entry with intent

In 2000–2001, one in every two offenders involved with UEWI was less than 20 years of age.

Figure 54

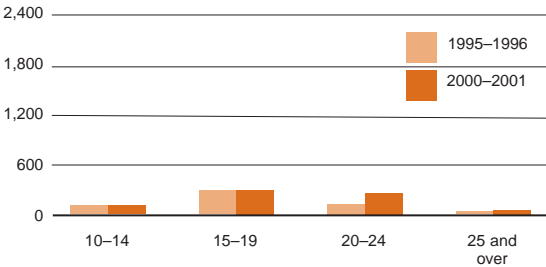
UEWI, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001



- 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 over 20 years.

Figure 55

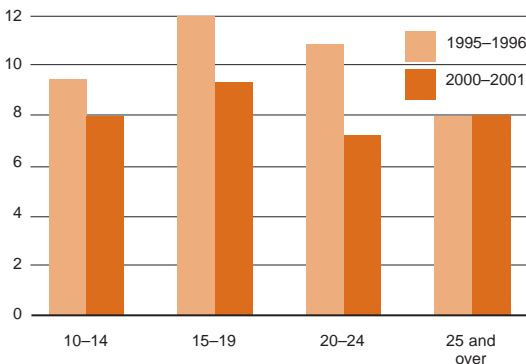
UEWI, female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001



- As was the case for males, female offender rates were highest among individuals aged 15 to 19 years.
- The rate of female offending in the 20–24 age group doubled from 135 per 100,000 in 1995–1996 to 273 per 100,000 in 2000–2001.

Figure 56

UEWI, ratio of male to female offender rates by age, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001



- **Females aged under 25 years increased their participation among the offender population, relative to males, between 1995–1996 and 2000–2001.**

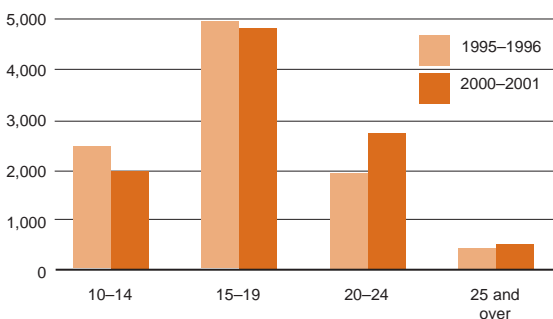
Source: References 3, 16, 17, 18 and 19

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 2000–2001, about one in 3.5 offenders involved with stealing was female.

Figure 57

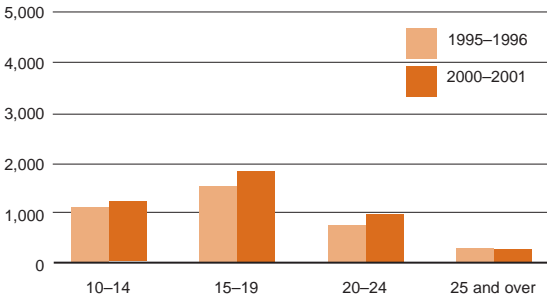
Other theft, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001



- **Similar to other property crimes, the offender rate for other theft was highest among males aged 15 to 19 years, with a minority of male offenders aged 25 or over.**
- **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 58

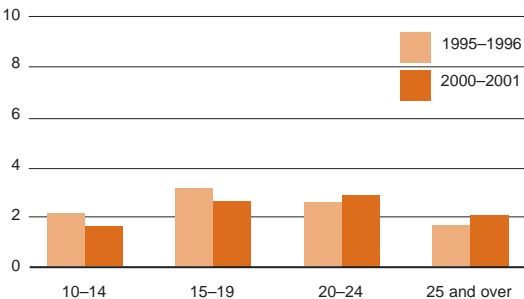
Other theft, female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001



- **Female offending peaked among individuals aged between 15 and 19 years. The rate of female offending in this age category increased from 1,538 per 100,000 in 1995–1996 to 1,824 per 100,000 in 2000–2001.**

Figure 59

Other theft, ratio of male to female offender rates by age, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001



- **Females aged 10 to 19 years recorded a slight increase among the total offender population, relative to males, between 1995–1996 and 2000–2001.**
- **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 2000–2001.**

Source: References 3, 16, 17, 18 and 19

4 CRIMINAL COURTS

Structure of criminal courts in Australia

There is a hierarchy of criminal courts at both the Commonwealth and state/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 courts 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 Productivity Commission has produced statistics on the number of lodgments at each court level.

Source: References 6 and 7

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 6 and 7

Lodgments

Most lodgments are processed by a Magistrate's Court in the relevant criminal jurisdiction.

- **Cases initiated in Magistrate's Courts accounted for 96% of all lodgments in the criminal courts.**
- **Only 3% of cases were initiated in Intermediate Courts and about 1% of cases in Supreme Courts.**

Source: Reference 6

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 902,935 court hearings in 2000–2001.**
- **Of these hearings, 54% were of a criminal nature.**
- **The majority of criminal hearings took place in Magistrate's Courts (465,861).**

Source: Reference 6

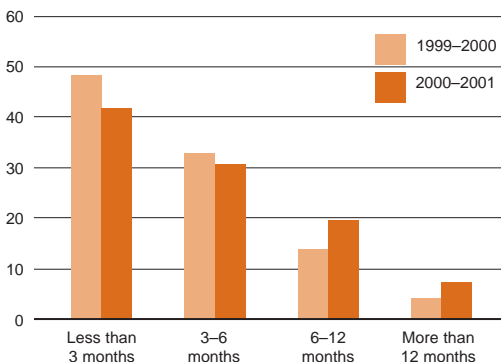
Timeliness

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 60

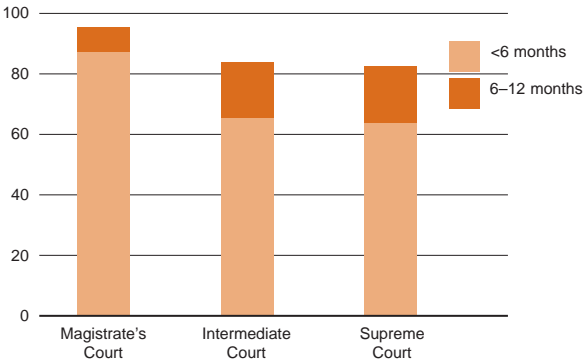
Committal (criminal) matters finalised in Magistrate's Courts by timeliness, percentages, 1999–2000 and 2000–2001



- **On average, 42% of committal hearings in 2000–2001 were finalised within three months of the receipt of charges by the court and a further 31% were finalised in the subsequent three months.**
- **Six per cent fewer cases were finalised within three months, while 6% more cases were finalised between six and 12 months in 2000–2001 compared to the previous year.**

Figure 61

Non-appeal criminal matters finalised in less than 12 months by type of court, percentages, 2000–2001

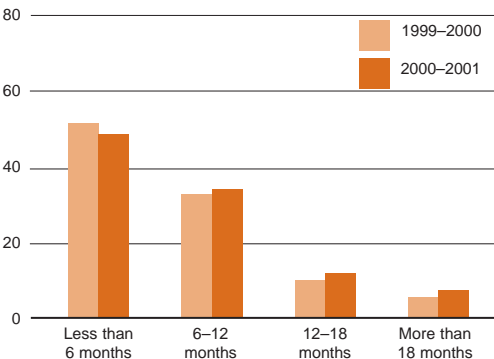


- **In 2000–2001, Magistrate's Courts finalised 88% of criminal cases in less than six months, and 96% in less than 12 months.**
- **Intermediate Courts finalised 65% of matters in less than six months, and 84% in less than 12 months.**
- **Supreme Courts finalised 64% of matters within six months and 83% within 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 62

Supreme/Federal Courts, appeal matters finalised, percentages, 1999–2000 and 2000–2001



- **On average, 48% of criminal appeals were finalised within six months in 2000–2001.**
- **A further 34% were finalised in the subsequent six months.**

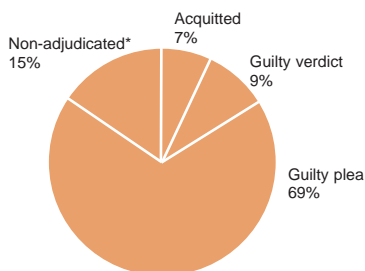
Source: Reference 6

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 63
**Defendants' cases finalised
in higher courts, by method of
finalisation, 2000–2001**

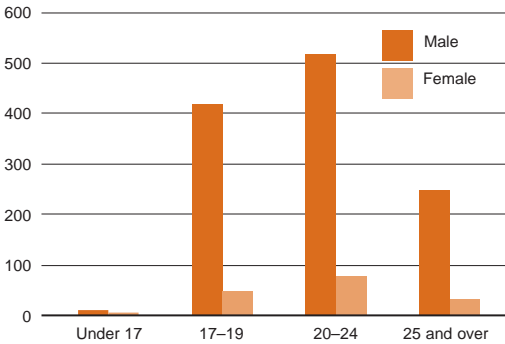


* Excludes Queensland defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

- **In 2000–2001 there were 18,018 defendants finalised in the higher courts. This represented a decrease of 5% from 1999–2000, when there were 18,890 defendants.**
- **Overall, 78% of the defendants whose cases were heard by a higher court were found guilty of an offence.**
- **In only 7% of cases was the defendant acquitted of an offence.**

Figure 64

Number of defendants finalised by age and gender, rate per 100,000 persons, 2000–2001



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

Source: Reference 7

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.

There are currently no national figures on the number of persons sentenced in each particular category.

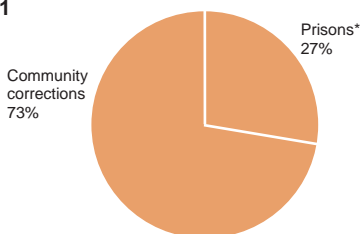
5 CORRECTIONS

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

There is a variety of sentencing options available to the courts. Corrective service authorities manage those offenders sentenced to either imprisonment, community corrections or periodic detention.

Figure 65
Offenders, by type of corrective program, 2000–2001



* Includes periodic detention (only available in NSW and the ACT).

- **Seven out of 10 offenders managed by corrective service authorities were placed in community-based programs.**
- **Twenty-seven per cent of offenders served a sentence in prison.**

Source: Reference 6

Prisons

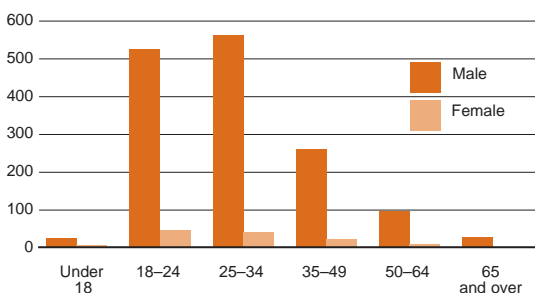
A national census of adult prisoners is taken on 30 June each year. The Australian Institute of Criminology began this collection in 1982, and conducted the censuses annually until 1993. This role was then taken over by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1994. The most recent statistics available are from the 2001 prison census.

Prisoners in 2001

A total of 22,458 persons were in custody in Australian prisons on the night of 30 June 2001, an increase of 4% on the number recorded in 2000. This corresponds to a rate of 150 per 100,000 adult persons. Of these, 18,123 were sentenced prisoners and 4,335 were remandees.

Figure 66

Age and gender of prisoners, rate per 100,000 adults, 2001



- **Ninety-three per cent of all prisoners were male.**
- **Sixty-four per cent of all prisoners were aged less than 35 years.**
- **For both males and females, 18-34-year-olds had the highest imprisonment rates in 2001.**

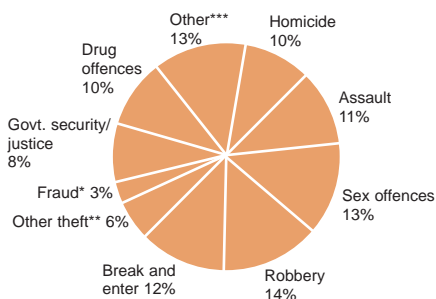
Source: References 3 and 9

Most serious offence

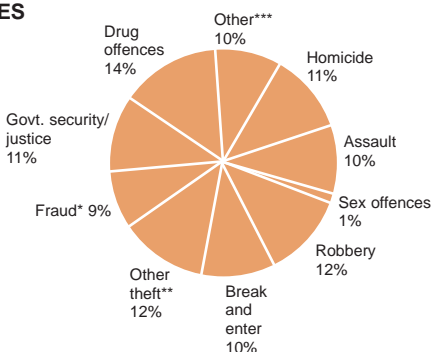
Offenders can be sentenced to a prison term for one or a number of offences. The offence for which a prisoner is categorised as being incarcerated is the offence that is deemed most serious.

Figure 67
Sentenced prisoners by most serious offence, 2001

MALES



FEMALES



* Deception and related offences.

** Includes motor vehicle theft.

*** Includes other offences against the person and property, public order offences 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 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 2001, whereas only one-third of female sentenced prisoners were incarcerated for violent offences.**
- **These patterns have remained relatively stable between 2000 and 2001.**

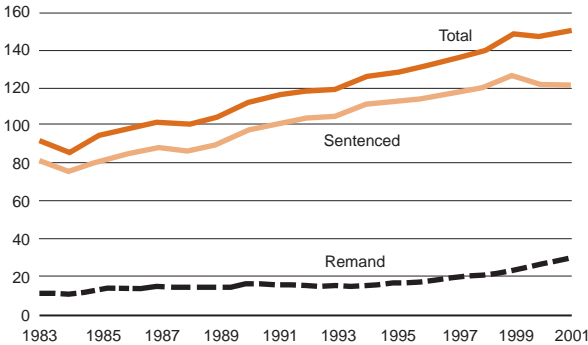
Source: Reference 9

Trends in prison populations

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

Figure 68

Prisoners, rate per 100,000 adults, 1983–2001



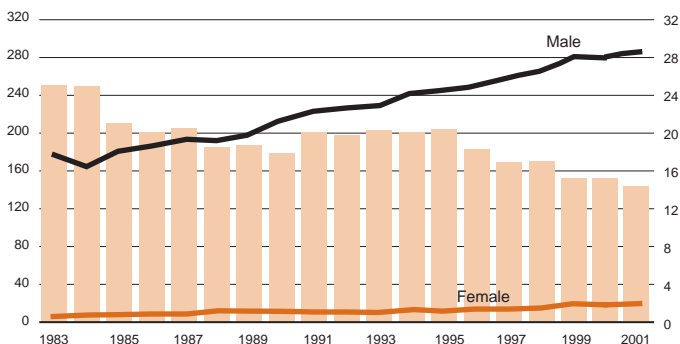
- **Between 1983 and 2001, the overall imprisonment rate increased from 92 to 150 per 100,000 adult population. The prison population has grown by an average 5% a year since 1983.**
- **At 30 June 2001, sentenced prisoners accounted for 81% of the total prisoner population.**
- **The number of prisoners who were remanded in custody (awaiting trial or sentence), increased from 26 to 29 per 100,000 relevant population, between 2000 and 2001.**

Gender

Figure 69 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 2001.

Figure 69

Prisoners by gender, rate per 100,000 adults and ratio of male to female imprisonment rates, 1983–2001



- **Between 1983 and 2001, the overall imprisonment rate for males increased from 178 to 285 per 100,000 relevant population.**
- **The female rate of imprisonment was 7 per 100,000 in 1983 and 20 per 100,000 in 2001.**
- **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 18-year period.**
- **The ratio of male to female imprisonment rates declined from 25 in 1983 to 15 in 2001.**

Source: References 3, 8 and 9

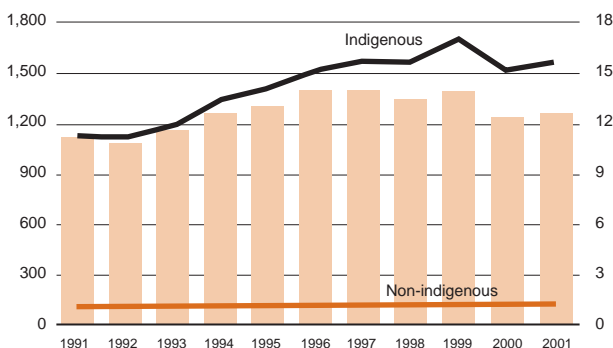
Indigenous status

Figure 70 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 70

Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoners, rate per 100,000 adults and ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous imprisonment rates, 1991–2001



- **On 30 June 2001 the Indigenous imprisonment rate was 13 times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous prisoners.**
- **Indigenous prisoners comprised 20% of the total prisoner population in 2001.**

Source: References 3, 8, 9, 12 and 13

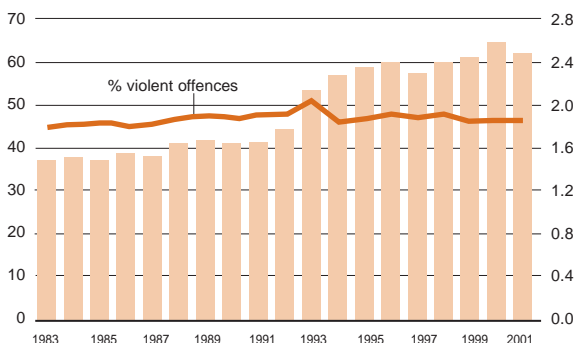
Most serious offence

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 71 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 71

Prisoners sentenced for violent offences, percentage of total sentenced prisoners and ratio of violent offence to property offence imprisonment rates, 1983–2001



- **The percentage of prisoners sentenced for violent offences increased from 45% in 1983 to 51% in 1993 and declined to around 46% 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 2001.**

Source: References 3, 8 and 9

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 2000–2001, there were 59,733 offenders per day, on average, serving community correction orders (an increase of 1% on the number recorded in 1999–2000).**
- **This corresponds to a rate of 407 per 100,000 adults.**

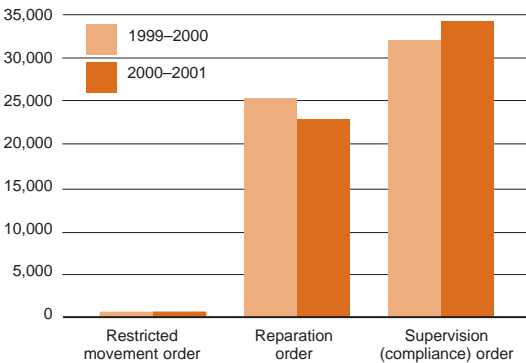
■ **Males accounted for about 81% of the community corrections population in 2000–2001.**

Community corrections orders are classified into three main categories:

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

Figure 72

Average daily community corrections populations, 1999–2000 and 2000–2001*



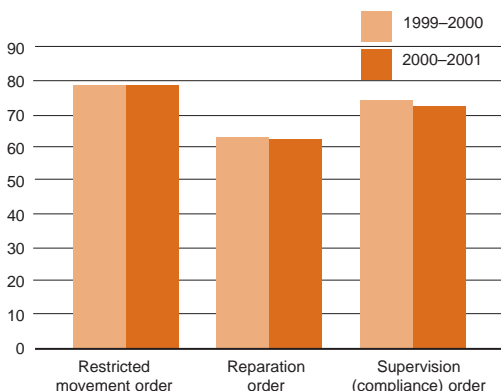
* Excludes Victoria.

■ **Supervision orders are the most commonly used option, with 34,279 offenders under supervision orders in 2000–2001 (excluding Victoria). This represents a 7% increase on the number recorded in 1999–2000.**

■ **Reparation orders are also common, with 22,967 offenders serving this option in 2000–2001 (excluding Victoria), a decline from 25,362 reparation orders in 1999–2000.**

Figure 73

Successful completion of community corrections orders, percentages, 1999–2000 to 2000–2001



- **On average, 67% of all community corrective orders were successfully completed in 2000–2001; this figure has remained stable since 1999–2000.**
- **In 2000–2001, restricted movement orders had the highest percentage of successful completion (79%), while reparation orders had the lowest (63%).**

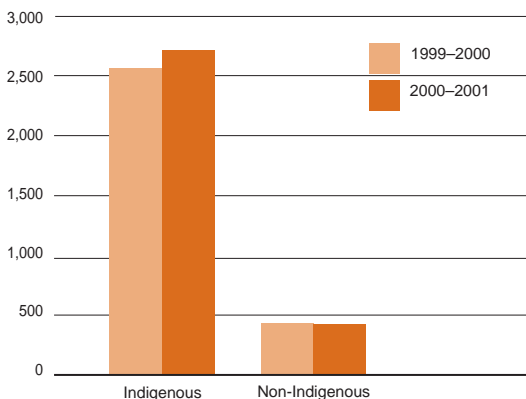
Source: Reference 6

Indigenous status

- **On average, 44,954 non-Indigenous offenders and 7,287 Indigenous offenders were serving community corrections orders in 2000–2001 (excluding Victoria).**

Figure 74

Average daily community corrections population by Indigenous status, rate per 100,000 adults, 1999–2000 and 2000–2001*



* Excludes Victoria.

- **In 2000–2001, the Indigenous community corrections rate was seven times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous offenders.**
- **The community corrections rate for Indigenous persons increased slightly between 1999–2000 and 2000–2001.**

Source: References 3, 6 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. The census consists of a count of the number of persons detained in institutions on the last day of each quarter each year. Note that the long-term trend data shown in Figure 75 is based on the census conducted on 30 June of each year.

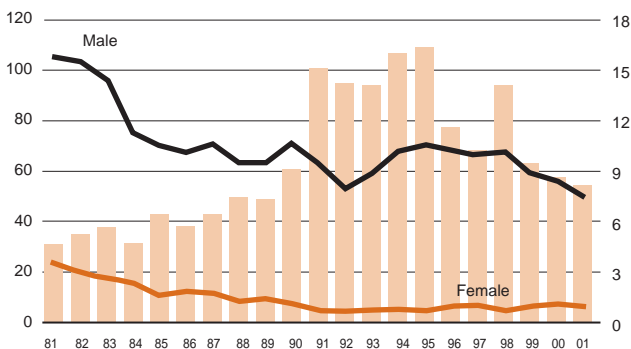
Trends in juvenile corrective institution population

Given the differences among jurisdictions regarding the definition of a juvenile, statistics are shown for people aged

between 10 and 17 years. Figure 75 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 2001.

Figure 75

Persons in juvenile corrective institutions by gender, rate per 100,000 juveniles and ratio of male to female imprisonment rates, 1981–2001



- **Between 1981 and 2001, the overall incarceration rate for persons in juvenile corrective institutions declined from 65 to 28 per 100,000.**
- **The number of persons detained in juvenile corrective institutions declined by an average annual rate of 3% (males) and 6% (females), between 1981 and 2001.**
- **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 1995.**
- **The male rate declined from 55 per 100,000 in 1999–2000 to 49 per 100,000 in 2000–2001.**
- **In 2001, the incarceration rate for male juveniles was almost eight times higher than that for female juveniles.**
- **Just over 10% of all persons incarcerated in juvenile corrective institutions were female in 2001, compared to 17% in 1981.**

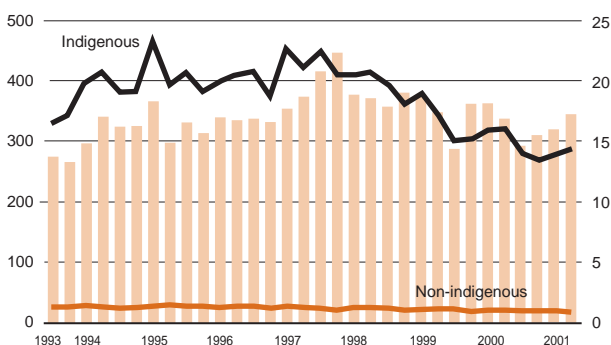
Source: Reference 3, 10 and 11

Indigenous status

Data on incarcerated juveniles by Indigenous status has been made available since 1993. Figure 76 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).

Figure 76

Persons in juvenile corrective institutions by Indigenous status, rate per 100,000 juveniles, and ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous imprisonment rates, 1993–2001



- **The total number of Indigenous persons in juvenile corrective institutions on 30 June 2001 was 269. This represented 45% of the total number of persons detained in juvenile corrective institutions.**
- **This incarceration rate was 17 times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous juveniles.**
- **Since 1998, the rate of Indigenous detention has declined much faster than the rate for non-Indigenous persons.**

Source: References 3, 10, 11, 12 and 13

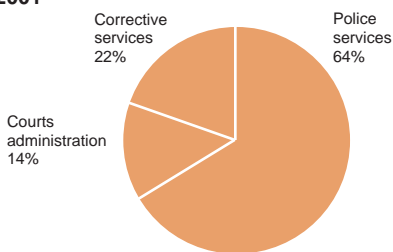
6 CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESOURCES

Justice expenditure

According to the *Report on Government Services 2002*, the total government expenditure on justice in 2000–2001 was over \$6.8 billion. Since 1996–97, government expenditure on justice has increased at a real average annual growth rate of 4%.

Police services represent the largest component of the justice system, accounting for approximately 64% of the total justice-related expenditure. Corrective services account for a further 22%, and court administration accounts for the remaining 14% (Figure 77).

Figure 77
Composition of government expenditure on justice, 2000–2001



Source: Reference 6

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 ACT 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 \$4.6 billion. This amounts to \$236 for every

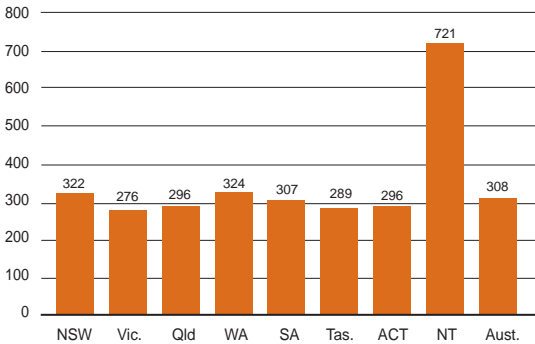
person in Australia, and \$308 per adult. Recurrent expenditure on staff salaries accounted for 77% of this total expenditure.

Table 5
Expenditure on Australian police services, 2000–2001

Expenditure	(\$'000)
Total recurrent expenditure	4,598,084
Total capital expenditure	271,382
Total expenditure	4,869,466
Staff salaries	(\$)
Average police staff salaries	70,127
Average non-police staff salaries	50,114

Source: Reference 6

Figure 78
Recurrent expenditure on police services per head of adult population, 2000–2001



■ **Recurrent expenditure on police services per head of adult population in 2000–2001 ranged from \$276 in Victoria to \$721 in the Northern Territory.**

Source: Reference 6

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 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 2001 was 57,035, an increase of 3% on the number recorded in 2000. This averages 293 per 100,000 persons (231 sworn police officers and 62 civilian employees).**
- **There were 44,922 sworn police officers and 12,113 civilian employees making up Australian police services in 2001.**

Table 6

Composition of police services by jurisdiction, 30 June 2001

Jurisdiction	Sworn police officers	Civilian	Total	Sworn officers per 1,000 km ²
NSW	13,614	3,887	17,501	17
Vic.	10,291	1,841	12,132	45
Qld	8,082	2,981	11,063	5
WA	4,993	1,325	6,318	2
SA	3,808	837	4,645	4
Tas.	1,131	406	1,537	17
NT	985	223	1,208	1
ACT	597	172	769	254
Australia*	44,922	12,113	57,035	6

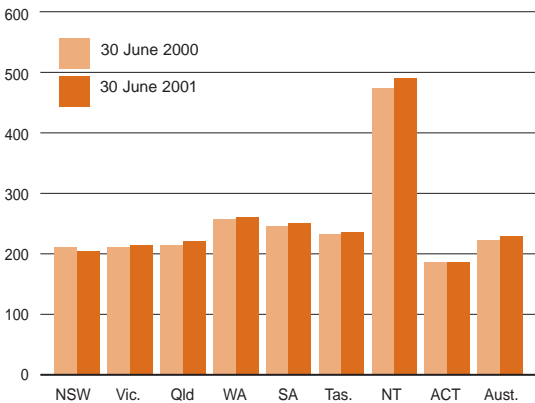
* Includes Australian Federal Police.

- **New South Wales had the largest police service across Australia, while the Australian Capital Territory had the smallest.**
- **Queensland employed the highest proportion of civilian staff (27%), and Victoria employed the lowest (15%).**

Source: References 6 and 14

Figure 79

Sworn police officers per 100,000 persons by jurisdiction, 30 June 2000 and 30 June 2001



- **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 Northern Territory had the largest number of police officers per 100,000 population (493), while the ACT had the smallest (186). However, the ACT had 254 police officers per 1,000km², while the Northern Territory had only one (Table 6).**
- **The number of police officers increased slightly in 2001 relative to 2000.**

Source: References 3 and 14

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.

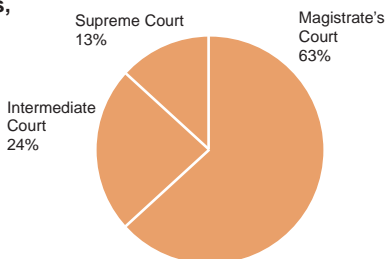
- **The total recurrent expenditure by state, territory and Commonwealth court authorities was**

approximately \$912 million in 2000–2001, an increase from \$850 million in 1999–2000.

- **Expenditure for criminal court administration was about \$420 million for 2000–2001.**

Figure 80

**Total expenditure
(less in-house revenue)
for criminal courts,
2000–2001**

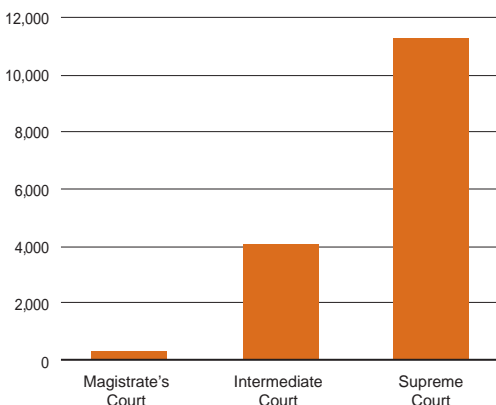


- **Magistrate's Courts incurred 63% of total criminal court expenditure in 2000–2001, compared to 59% in 1999–2000.**

Figure 81 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 more complex and lengthy cases are tried in the higher courts.

Figure 81

Average expenditure per criminal case lodgment, 2000–2001



- In 2000–2001, average expenditure per criminal case lodgment was \$132 in the Magistrate's Courts, \$4,090 in the Intermediate Courts and \$11,281 in the Supreme Courts.

Source: Reference 6

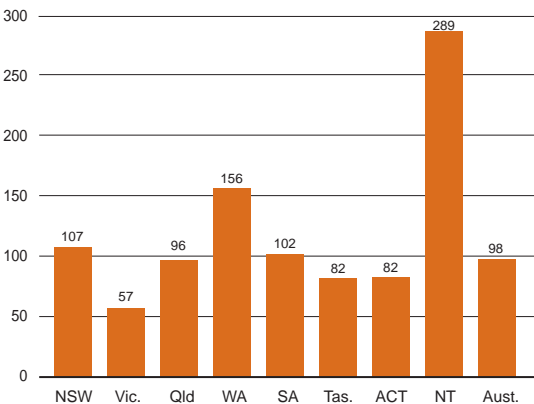
Adult corrective services

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 \$1.46 billion in 2000–2001; \$1.3 billion (87%) for prisons, \$149 million (10%) for community corrections and \$35 million (3%) for transport and escort services. This corresponds to an average of \$98 for every adult in Australia.

Figure 82

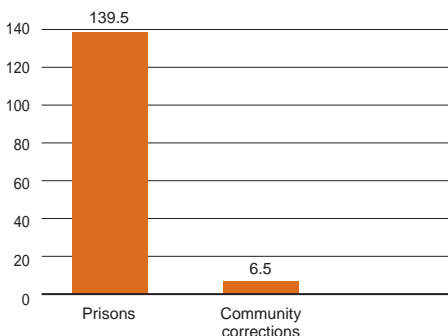
Recurrent expenditure on corrective services per head of adult population, 2000–2001



- Recurrent expenditure on corrective services per head of adult population in 2000–2001 ranged from \$57 in Victoria to \$289 in the Northern Territory.

Figure 83

Corrective services expenditure per prisoner/offender per day, 2000–2001



- **Expenditure per prisoner per day was about \$140 in 2000–2001, ranging from \$108 in Queensland to \$196 in the Northern Territory.**
- **Expenditure per offender sentenced to community correction programs per day was only \$7 in 2000–2001; this was 20 times less than for offenders sentenced to prison.**
- **Overall, in 2000–2001 approximately \$50,917 was spent on each prisoner and \$2,372 on each offender sentenced to community correction programs.**

Source: References 3 and 6

This section is in two parts. The first part is based on ‘consumer’ and ‘provider’ arrests for illicit drugs in Australia, using data from the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence. (Consumers are those who are caught in possession of drugs for personal consumption; providers are those arrested for drug dealing and trafficking.) The second part details trends in illicit drug use based on the 2001 National Drug Strategy Household Survey and the AIC’s Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) project.

The Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence has reported drug arrest and seizure statistics since 1992. Following is an overview of arrest patterns for offenders between 1995–1996 and 2000–2001.

Information on arrests is available 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.

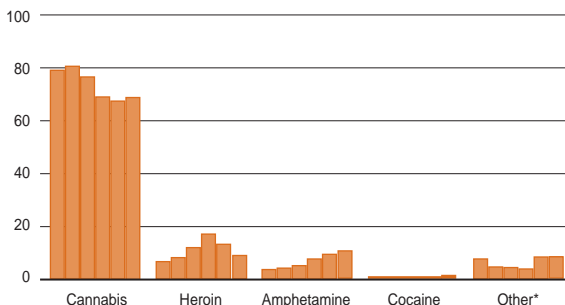
Offenders involved in drug arrests are divided into two categories:

- *consumers*—persons charged with user-type offences (for example, possessing or administering drugs for own personal use); and
- *providers*—persons charged with supply-type offences (for example, 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 84

Number of arrests as a percentage of total drug arrests by type of drug, 1995–1996 to 2000–2001



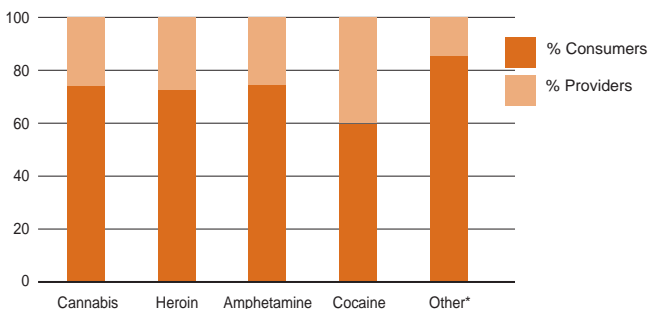
* 'Other' includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere).

- Between 1998–1999 and 2000–2001, a declining trend is evident in the percentage of drug arrests related to heroin.
- In 1995–1996, 80% of drug arrests involved cannabis compared to 69% in 2000–2001.

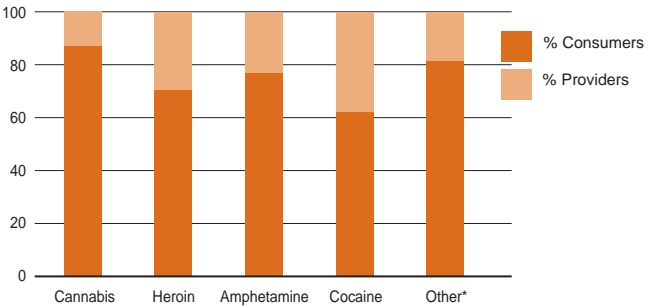
Figure 85

Number of consumers and providers arrested as percentage of all drug arrests specific to each type of drug, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001

1995–1996



2000–2001



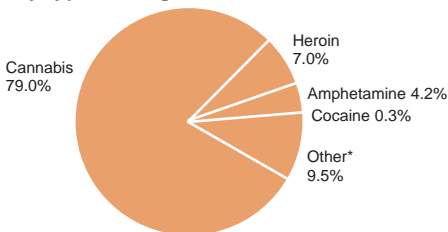
* 'Other' includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere).

- **The majority of people arrested for drug offences are consumers rather than providers, irrespective of drug type.**
- **In 2000–2001, 87% of persons arrested for cannabis offences were consumers, compared to 62% of arrests for cocaine offences.**
- **The percentage of total cannabis arrests accounted for by consumers increased from 74% to 87% between 1995–1996 and 2000–2001.**

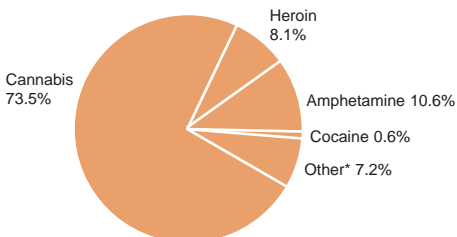
Figure 86

Drug consumers, number of arrests as a percentage of total drug arrests by type of drug, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001

1995–1996



2000–2001



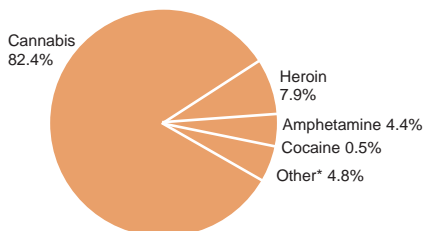
* 'Other' includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere).

- Arrests for cannabis, heroin and amphetamines accounted for 92% of all consumer arrests in 2000–2001.
- Consumers were most likely to be arrested for a cannabis offence in both 1995–1996 and 2000–2001. However, there has been some change in the past six years, with a decrease in the percentage of arrested cannabis users from 79% to 74%.
- Between 1995–1996 and 2000–2001 there was an increase in the percentage of consumers arrested for amphetamine offences, from 4% to 11%.

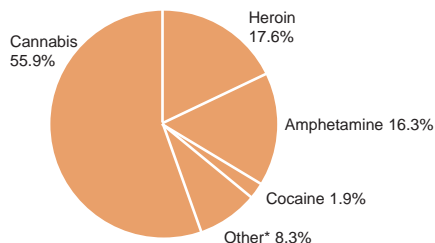
Figure 87

Drug providers, number of arrests as a percentage of total drug arrests by type of drug, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001

1995–1996



2000–2001



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

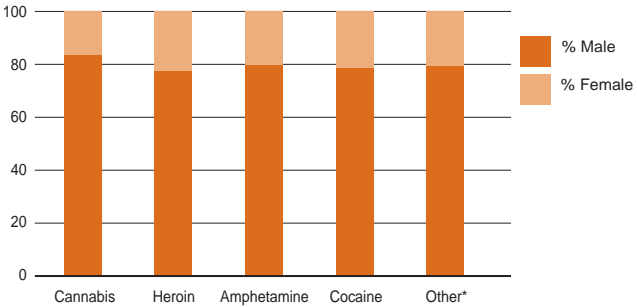
- As with consumers, most providers are arrested for importing, producing, trafficking or selling cannabis.
- In 2000–2001, cannabis accounted for 56% of all provider arrests. Heroin and amphetamines

accounted for 18% and 16% of provider arrests, respectively.

- Over the past five 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 56% in 2000–2001.
- The percentage of total provider arrests accounted for by amphetamine offences increased four-fold, from 4% in 1995–1996 to 16% in 2000–2001.

Figure 88

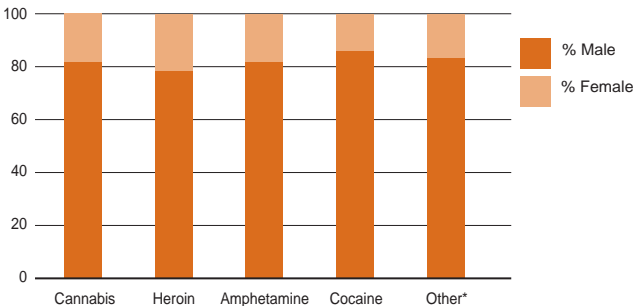
Drug consumers, number of arrests as a percentage of total drug arrests by gender and type of drug, 2000–2001



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

Figure 89

Drug providers, number of arrests as a percentage of total drug arrests by gender and type of drug, 2000–2001



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

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

Source: Reference 15

The 2001 National Drug Strategy Household Survey was conducted between July and October of 2001. Almost 27,000 Australians aged 14 years and over were surveyed about their experience, knowledge and attitudes towards drugs.

This section details:

- recent use of illicit drugs;
- the proportion of the population who used cannabis, heroin, amphetamines, designer drugs, cocaine or hallucinogens; and
- the proportion who reported injecting drugs.

Figure 90

Recent use of any illicit drug: proportion of the male population aged 14 years and over, 1998 and 2001

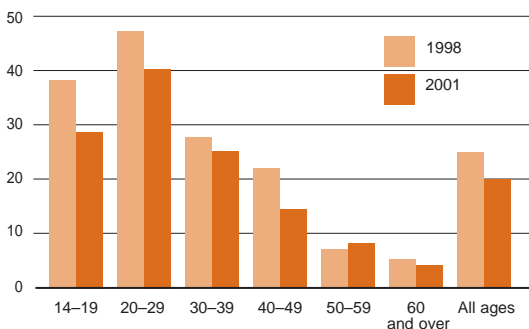
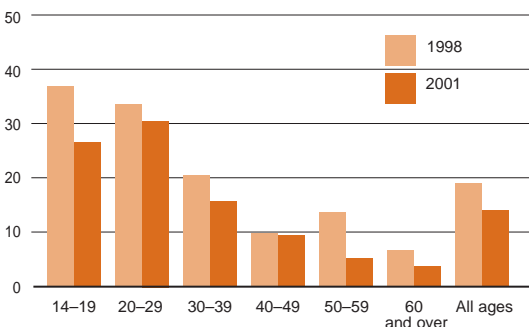


Figure 91

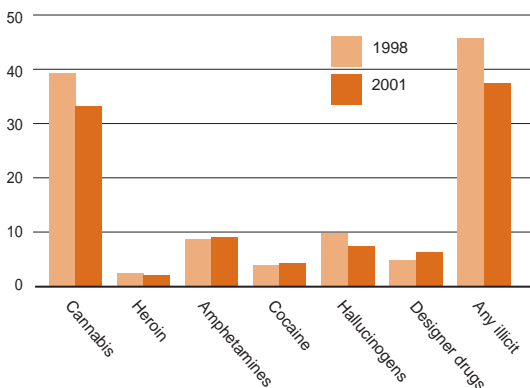
Recent use of any illicit drug: proportion of the female population aged 14 years and over, 1998 and 2001



- For both males and females, recent illicit drug use declined in 2001 compared to 1998, except for males in the 50 to 59 age group for whom drug use rose in 2001.
- Males had recently used illicit drugs more than females in every age group.
- Recent drug use is most common in the 20 to 29 age group, followed by the 14 to 19 age group, for both males and females.

Figure 92

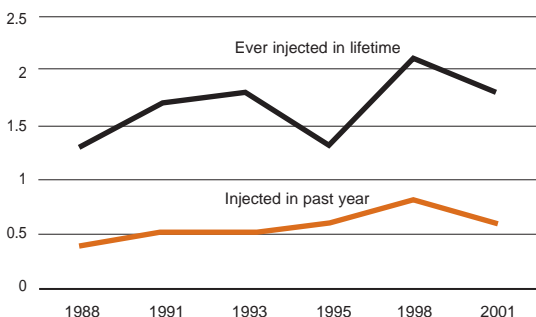
Proportion of population aged 14 years and over who reported ever using selected drugs, 1998 and 2001



- The proportion of the population who had ever used an illicit drug dropped from 46% in 1998 to 38% in 2001. This was contributed to by a reduction in the proportion of the population who have ever used cannabis, heroin and hallucinogens in 2001 compared to 1998.
- The proportion of people who reported using amphetamines, cocaine and designer drugs all increased in 2001 relative to 1998.

Figure 93

Percentage of population aged 14 years and over who reported injecting illicit drugs, 1988–2001



- **The percentage of people who reported injecting illicit drugs ever in their lifetime almost doubled from 1.3% in 1995 to 2.1% in 1998. In 2001 this decreased to 1.8%.**
- **The percentage of people who reported injecting illicit drugs in the past year has remained relatively stable, peaking at 0.8% of the population in 1998, with a current level of 0.6%.**

Source: Reference 20

The AIC's Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) project monitors illicit drug use among police detainees in several sites across Australia. DUMA provides a reasonable and independent indicator of drug-related crime within these specific areas. As an ongoing monitoring system, it enables law enforcement to track long-term changes in drugs and crime. 2001 was the third year of data collection in the DUMA project, and funding has been provided by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department for a further two years. Between 1999 and 2001, four sites were monitored: East Perth in Western Australia, Southport in Queensland, and Bankstown and Parramatta in New South Wales. From 2002, three new sites will be included in the project: Brisbane in Queensland, and Adelaide and Elizabeth in South Australia.

Figure 94

Percentage of adult male police detainees testing positive to amphetamines, 1999–2001

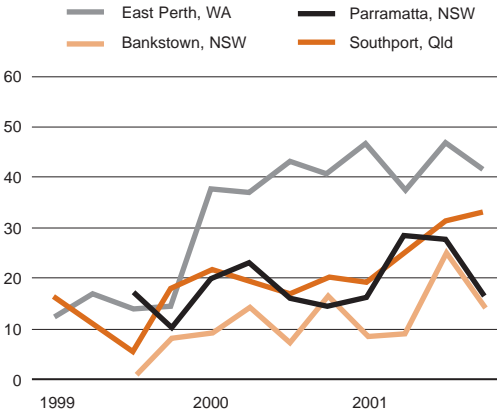


Figure 95

Percentage of adult male police detainees testing positive to cocaine, 1999–2001

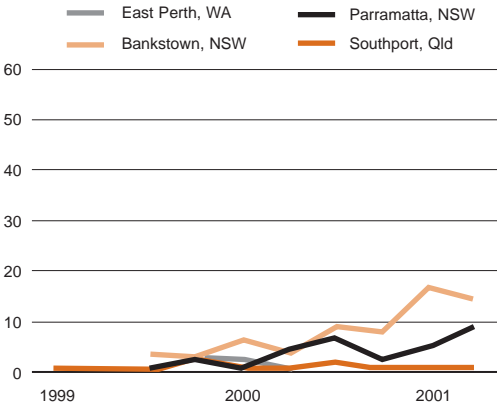
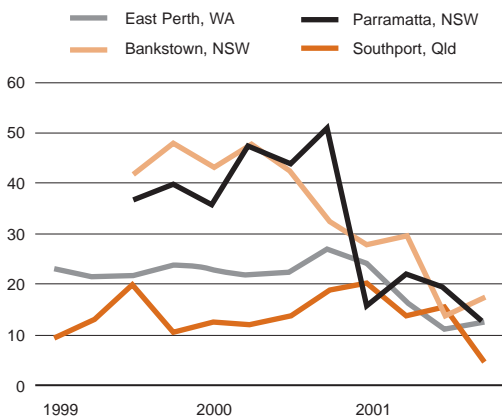


Figure 96

Percentage of adult male police detainees testing positive to opiates*, 1999–2001



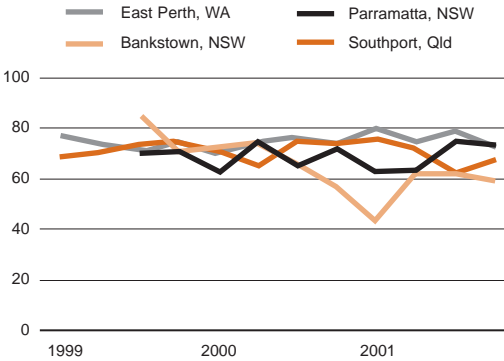
* 'Opiates' includes heroin.

- The percentage testing positive to amphetamines, cocaine and opiates varied across the four sites.
- Opiate use declined in 2001.
- Amphetamine use has increased over the three-year period.

Source: Reference 23

Figure 97

Percentage of adult male police detainees testing positive to any drug, 1999–2001



- **‘Any drug use’ is defined as testing positive to cannabis, opiates, amphetamines or cocaine.**
- **Sites routinely have around 70% of the sample testing positive to any drug.**

Source: Reference 23

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