



Australian Government

Australian Institute of Criminology

# Australian Crime

# Facts & Figures 2007





# Australian Crime

---

## Facts & Figures 2007



ISSN 1832-228X  
ISBN 978 1 921185 68 7

Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth), no part of this publication may in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, microcopying, photocopying, recording or otherwise), be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted without prior written permission. Inquiries should be addressed to the publisher.

Published by the Australian Institute of Criminology  
GPO Box 2944  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Tel: (02) 6260 9272  
Fax: (02) 6260 9201  
email: [front.desk@aic.gov.au](mailto:front.desk@aic.gov.au)  
<http://www.aic.gov.au>

### **Acknowledgments**

Extraction of data and preparation of text:  
Jack Dearden and Samantha Bricknell

### **Notes**

Because of rounding, some percentages may not sum to 100. Minor revisions are occasionally made to publications after release. The online version available on the AIC website will include any revisions made since printing:  
<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/facts/2007/>

Edited by the Australian Institute of Criminology  
Typeset by [tk] type

# Director's introduction

This compendium of information is a ready reference for those wanting to inform themselves about current trends and patterns in crime and criminal justice in Australia. 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.

National statistics on some major crimes have become more widely available in recent years. However, we still lack nationally consistent data on many emerging crimes such as cybercrime or particular categories of crime such as fraud and family violence. There have also been recording and reporting issues surrounding crimes such as assault and sexual assault. This has significant implications for building an evidence base on the overall level of violent crime in Australia and whether those levels are increasing, decreasing or stable.

The recent report by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission (Source: Reference 32) has also highlighted the need for more comprehensive and accessible data on transnational and organised crime. We are unable to report any statistics in this area, yet the impact of crime on the community is substantial. In 2005–06, Australia's recurrent expenditure on the criminal justice system was around \$8.5 billion; there were 25,790 persons in prisons on 30 June 2006; on any day during 2005–06 an average of 53,243 offenders were serving a community corrections order, and there were 46,058 sworn state and territory police officers and 13,529 personnel working in Australian law enforcement agencies on 30 June 2006.

To produce insightful criminal justice research that effectively informs policy and practice, it is necessary to use both administrative and survey-based information. This issue of *Australian crime: facts and figures* draws from both. It primarily comprises national figures; where national data are not available, other sources are used. In particular, we have used data from our *Drug Use Monitoring in Australia* project to provide details on the characteristics of offenders, as we lack national and accessible data on known offenders.

Criminological research has consistently shown that a small group of offenders account for a large proportion of crimes.

The measurement of recidivism is a critical issue if we are to understand the nature of crime, as well as the capacity to assess the performance of the criminal justice system in changing the behaviour of those who repeatedly commit crime. In this report, we have provided some measures of recidivism, but further work that builds on our recent publication *Recidivism in Australia: findings and future research* needs to be undertaken.

Readers looking for additional information should consult the appropriate publications and websites included in the reference section of this document. The Australian Institute of Criminology is Australia's leading national criminal justice research agency. This publication is one of many publications we produce, from fact sheets to detailed reports, on a wide range of issues. Further information may be obtained by visiting the website (<http://www.aic.gov.au/>), or contacting the AIC directly (see back cover).

**Toni Makkai**

**Director**

December 2007

# Contents

Director's introduction	3
Crime and justice statistics	6
<b>1 Recorded crime</b>	<b>8</b>
Number of recorded crimes	8
Recorded crime rates	12
Location of crime	13
<b>2 Selected crime profiles</b>	<b>18</b>
Homicide	18
Assault	22
Sexual assault	25
Robbery	28
Unlawful entry with intent	32
Motor vehicle theft	34
Other theft	37
Fraud and deception-related crime	38
Drug arrests	39
<b>3 Crime victimisation</b>	<b>43</b>
Household and personal victimisation	43
Cybercrime	50
<b>4 Selected offender profiles</b>	<b>53</b>
Alleged offenders	53
Federal offenders	60
Drug use by offenders	61
Characteristics of police detainees	66
Most serious offence	69
<b>5 Criminal courts</b>	<b>71</b>
The criminal court process	72
Court decision	74
Sentencing	76
<b>6 Corrections</b>	<b>82</b>
Persons under corrective services management	82
Prisons	83
Community corrections	89
Juvenile corrective institutions	92
<b>7 Criminal justice resources</b>	<b>95</b>
Justice expenditure	95
Police	95
Court administration	99
Adult corrective services	101
<b>References</b>	<b>103</b>

# Crime and justice statistics

Statistics used in *Australian crime: facts & figures* come from a variety of sources. There are two types of data collections, administrative and survey, and both types of information are needed to help inform our understanding of the level and effects of crime in the community. The sources used to compile this issue are listed in the References section on p. 103.

**Administrative collections** – Criminal justice agencies keep records of their workflow at different stages. For example police keep incident records, courts record the details of cases and their disposition, and corrections agencies have details of the offenders in their charge. Most basic information comes from these administrative collections, which have the advantages of covering the whole population that comes into contact with the criminal justice system, and remaining relatively stable in terms of collections and production over time.

There are limitations to these data, however, including comparability across agencies and jurisdictions. Most of the data have been collated at a national level only relatively recently, if at all – recorded crime from police records since 1996, prisoners since 1983, and all criminal courts since 2001. There are as yet no national data on offenders. The collections are not all based on the same unit of measurement; for example, police record details about offences, courts record cases, and corrections agencies record information about individual prisoners.

Although there has been much improvement, definitions and collecting methods are not always uniform across jurisdictions, and recording quality may be an issue. It can take time to reach agreement at a national level on key issues including definitions of new and emerging offences. More detailed information about crime and justice is often available at a jurisdictional level, even when it is not possible to produce national statistics.

Not all crimes are reported to police – this is believed to vary from a low of 20 percent for sexual assaults to a high of 95 percent for motor vehicle thefts. This is one of the main reasons that the other main type of data collection, surveys, is undertaken.



**Surveys** – Crime victimisation surveys have the advantage of asking the same questions in the same way across the whole of the sample population. These answers are then recorded in a similarly uniform way so that the information they provide is reliable and comparable.

Crime victimisation surveys are believed to provide a more accurate picture of actual crime rates in society. Surveys are expensive, however, so they tend to be one-off or infrequent. It is not always valid to extrapolate from a sample to the whole population, however, and all sample surveys have a certain amount of error. Surveys used in this publication this year include the Personal safety survey and the Crime and safety survey, both conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

## **Notes on using these statistics**

It should be noted that police information on victims and offenders has not been tested in court. A murder as recorded by police might later be re-classified as manslaughter; there may be insufficient evidence to convict an alleged offender in any criminal case.

Where crime rates appear to fluctuate markedly, this may be due to small numbers involved. For example, where one jurisdiction records four homicides in a year, one more or less the next year will appear to be a 25 percent change.

Because of rounding, some percentages may not sum to 100.

Rates are determined against two different types of base population – either the total population or the relevant population. The property crime victimisation rate, for example divides the total population by the number of property victims. In this publication data are presented as per 100,000 population where the total population is used. Rates per relevant population refer to the number of persons as a proportion of a specified population group (for example, juveniles, males or females, or Indigenous persons).

# 1

## Recorded crime

Data on recorded crime as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for the period 1996 to 2006 are presented in this first section. The information is based on crimes recorded by police from 1 January to 31 December each year. A victim can be a person, premises or a motor vehicle.

The ABS has been collecting and publishing data since 1996 on the following eight major categories of offences: homicide, assault, sexual assault, robbery, kidnapping, unlawful entry with intent (UEWI), motor vehicle theft (MVT), and other theft. It is estimated that these crimes account for about 60% of all crimes recorded by police.

The ABS has not released aggregated data on assault or sexual assault since 2003 due to inconsistent recording across jurisdictions. As trends within jurisdictions appear to be consistent, however, the data for each jurisdiction have been released. The AIC used these data to compile the Australian totals for assault and sexual assault included in this chapter.

Caution must be exercised when comparing the number of robbery victims from different years due to an undercounting of victims in New South Wales prior to 2005. Similarly affected are data on the number of victims of UEWI prior to 2006, because of an overstatement of victims in NSW. General trends, however, appear not to be affected.

*Source: Reference 1*

## Number of recorded crimes

### Violent crime

Violent crime includes homicide, assault, sexual assault, robbery and kidnapping (sometimes referred to as abduction). Although robbery may include an element of property crime, it is included as a violent crime, as the use or threat of violence is a more serious offence.

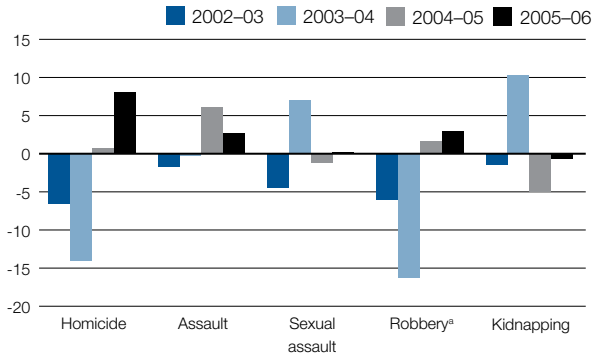
**Table 1: Victims of violent crimes, 1996–2006 (number)**

	Homicide	Assault	Sexual assault	Robbery	Kidnapping
1996	354	114,156	14,542	16,372	478
1997	364	124,500	14,353	21,305	564
1998	332	130,903	14,336	23,801	707
1999	386	134,271	14,104	22,606	766
2000	363	138,708	15,759	23,336	695
2001	346	152,283	16,897	26,591	767
2002	365	160,118	17,977	20,989	706
2003	341	157,280	18,237	19,709	696
2004	293	156,849	18,400	16,513	768
2005	295	166,499	18,172	16,787	730
2006	319	170,907	18,211	17,284	725

- Between 1996 and 2003, the number of homicide victims fluctuated between 332 and 386, before dropping below 300 in 2004 and 2005. In 2006, homicide rose above 300 again, to 319.
- Continuing the trend of recent years, robbery offences increased in 2006.
- The number of recorded kidnappings fluctuates yearly. Over the period 1996–2004 kidnappings registered a general increase, but decreased between 2004 and 2006, from 768 to 725.
- The trend in recorded sexual assaults showed a steady increase over the period 1996–2004. A slight decrease in 2005 was followed by another increase in 2006.
- Assaults continue to represent the majority of recorded violent crimes. The overall trend since 1996 has been upward, with an increase of 50% between 1996 and 2006.

Source: Reference 1

**Figure 1: Percentage change in victims of selected violent crimes, 2002–06**



a: Robbery is classified as a violent crime, as the use or threat of violence is more serious than property theft

- For violent crimes, the trend in the past five years has varied. Recorded homicide declined between 2002 and 2004, but increased slightly in 2004–2005 and then more so in 2005–06.
- Sexual assault increased in 2003–04, decreased slightly in 2004–05 and remained steady in 2005–06.
- Kidnapping is the only violent crime that registered a decline in 2006.
- Assault increased after 2004, with a more substantial rise occurring in 2004–05 than 2005–06.
- Variability from year to year is more pronounced for offences that have a smaller number of victims, such as homicide.

Source: Reference 1

## Property crime

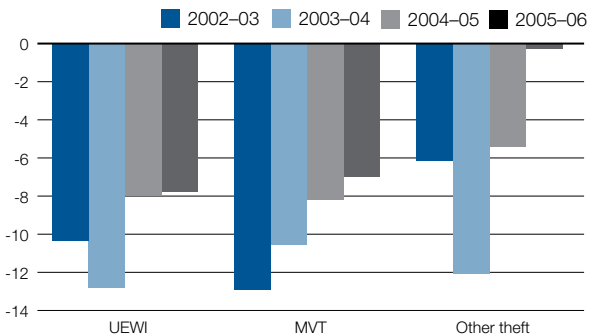
Property crime comprises unlawful entry with intent (UEWI, also referred to as break and enter or burglary), motor vehicle theft (MVT), and other theft. Other theft includes offences such as pickpocketing, bag snatching, shoplifting and bicycle theft.

**Table 2: Victims of property crimes, 1996–2006 (number)**

	UEWI	MVT	Other theft
1996	402,079	122,914	521,762
1997	421,569	130,138	530,881
1998	434,376	131,587	563,482
1999	415,735	129,552	612,559
2000	436,968	138,912	681,268
2001	435,754	139,894	700,137
2002	394,323	113,460	680,799
2003	354,020	98,298	624,036
2004	308,675	87,939	548,778
2005	284,188	80,738	519,128
2006	261,895	75,115	517,492

- As in previous years, other theft was the most commonly recorded property crime in 2006, accounting for 61% of property crime victims.
- The number of recorded victims of other theft has decreased by 26% since 2001, from 700,137 to 517,492 victims.
- In 2006 there were 261,895 recorded victims of an UEWI, a decline of 8% from the previous year.
- The number of MVT victims increased by 14% between 1996 and 2001 but decreased by 46% between 2001 and 2006.

Source: Reference 1

**Figure 2: Percentage change in victims of selected property crimes, 2002–06**

- The overall trend in property crime offences in the past five years has been one of decline.

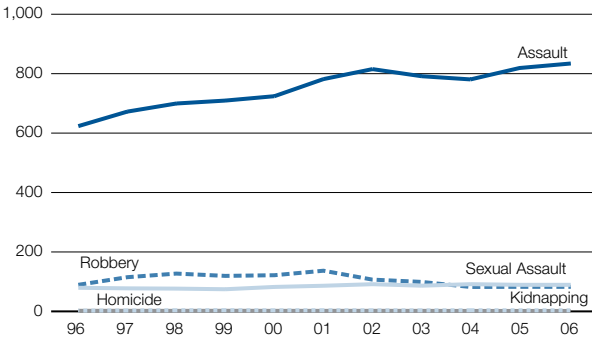
Source: Reference 1

# Recorded crime rates

Trends in the number of recorded crime victims do not take into account increases in the population over time. As a result, an increase may reflect an increase in the general population over that time period rather than an increase in the actual likelihood of a person becoming a victim of crime. Crime rates adjust for changes in population size and, in this section, are calculated for every 100,000 persons in the population.

## Violent crime rate

**Figure 3: Violent crimes, 1996–2006 (rate per 100,000 persons)**



Note: Homicide and kidnapping occur at rates of less than 5 per 100,000 each, and are difficult to distinguish on this chart

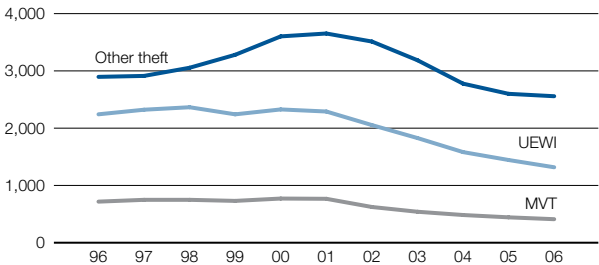
- The trend in the rate of recorded assault increased steadily from 1996 to 2006. The rate in 2006 was 829, compared with 623 per 100,000 in 1996. The 2006 rate was the highest recorded since 1996.
- The rate for robbery peaked in 2001. Following a subsequent decline, the rate has levelled out to 84 per 100,000 in 2006.
- The rate of kidnapping remained between 3 and 4 per 100,000 between 1996 and 2006.
- The homicide rate was 1.9 in 1996 (which includes the 35 victims of the Port Arthur massacre) and was at its highest in 1999 at 2.0 per 100,000. By 2004 it had dropped to 1.5 and has remained stable since then.

- The rate of recorded sexual assault increased between 1996 and 2006 from 79 to 88 persons per 100,000. However, the increase has been much less marked in more recent years.

Source: References 1 and 2

## Property crime rate

**Figure 4: Property crimes, 1996–2006 (rate per 100,000 persons)**



- The rate of other theft, which is the largest category of recorded property crime, increased between 1996 and 2001, and declined thereafter.
- The rate of UEWI remained relatively stable from 1996 to 2001 and has declined since then.
- The rate of MVT declined by 45% between 1996 and 2006, from 671 to 367 per 100,000. This includes a decrease of 13% between 2005 and 2006.

Source: References 1 and 2

## Location of crime

The ABS classifies crime locations according to the function of the site where a criminal incident occurred. There are three broad locations:

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

Table 3 shows the number of selected violent offences that occurred within each type of location.

**Table 3: Selected violent crimes by type of location, 2006 (number)**

	Murder	Assault	Sexual assault	Robbery	Kid-napping
<b>Residential</b>					
Dwelling	171	n.a.	n.a.	1,261	237
Outbuilding/ residential land	7	n.a.	n.a.	132	13
<b>Total residential<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>184</b>	<b>77,157</b>	<b>12,168</b>	<b>1,411</b>	<b>253</b>
<b>Community</b>					
Transport	7	n.a.	n.a.	1,427	29
Street/footpath	35	n.a.	n.a.	7,767	291
Other community	21	n.a.	n.a.	613	39
<b>Total community<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>68</b>	<b>58,317</b>	<b>3,374</b>	<b>9,864</b>	<b>362</b>
<b>Other</b>					
Retail	8	n.a.	n.a.	4,173	59
Recreational	9	n.a.	n.a.	1,303	37
Other location	4	n.a.	n.a.	309	6
<b>Total other<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>21</b>	<b>34,419</b>	<b>2,021</b>	<b>5,898</b>	<b>105</b>
Unspecified location	6	1,014	648	111	5
<b>(Total)</b>	<b>(279)</b>	<b>(170,907)</b>	<b>(18,211)</b>	<b>(17,284)</b>	<b>(725)</b>

a: Total includes not further defined

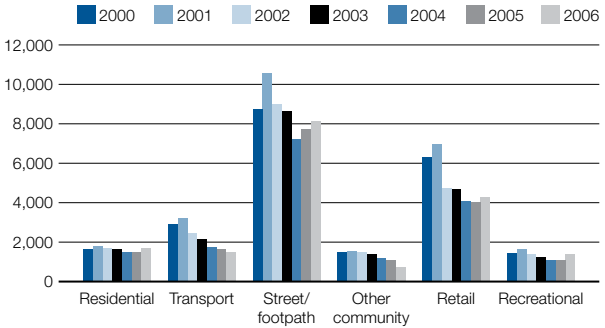
n.a.: not available

- The majority of murders (66%, n=184) occurred in a residential location, while most robberies (92%, n=15,873) occurred outside the home.
- In 2006, 45% (n=7,767) of robberies and 40% (n=291) of kidnappings occurred on streets or footpaths, compared with 13% (n=35) of murders.
- Assaults were more likely to occur in residential (45%) and community (34%) locations.
- The majority of sexual assaults occurred in residential locations (67%).

Source: Reference 1



**Figure 5: Selected violent crimes by type of location, 2000–06 (number)**



- Between 2000 and 2006, violent crimes declined overall in most categories of location, although the decrease was not uniform across all location types.
- Violent crimes carried out at transport and retail locations declined the most, by 49% and 32%, respectively.
- Violent crimes that occurred on the street/footpath and at recreational locations decreased by 7% and 3% respectively between 2000 and 2006.
- Violent crime rose by 3% at residential locations.

Source: Reference 1

Table 4 shows the number of property offences (UEWI, MVT and other theft) that occurred within each type of location.

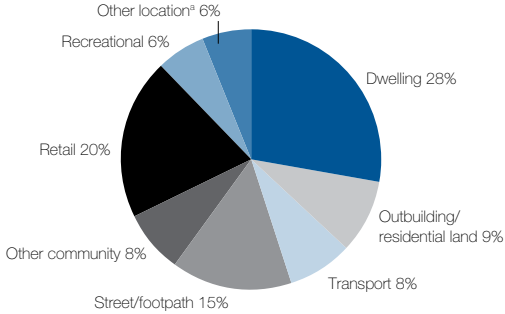
**Table 4: Property crimes by type of location, 2006  
(number)**

	UEWI	MVT	Other theft
<b>Residential</b>			
Dwelling	153,319	0	59,292
Outbuilding/ residential land	16,375	25,856	81,176
<b>Total residential<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>171,969</b>	<b>25,856</b>	<b>142,714</b>
<b>Community</b>			
Transport	748	5,797	38,059
Street/footpath	3	27,678	78,984
Other community	19,336	1,146	31,021
<b>Total community<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>20,109</b>	<b>34,681</b>	<b>148,784</b>
<b>Other</b>			
Retail	32,558	7,868	154,571
Recreational	7,212	1,339	24,302
Other location	25,408	2,180	29,070
<b>Total other<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>66,391</b>	<b>13,360</b>	<b>214,812</b>
Unspecified location	3,427	1,218	11,182
<b>Total</b>	<b>261,896</b>	<b>75,115</b>	<b>517,492</b>

a: Total includes not further defined

- Similar to previous years, MVT was more likely to occur in a public location (64%, n=48,041) than in or around a dwelling (34%, n=25,856).
- The majority of UEWI crimes (66%, n=171,969) occurred in a residential location, and 12% (n=32,558) in a retail location.
- In 2006, retail locations accounted for 30% (n=154,571) of other theft locations, replacing community areas (29%, n=148,784) as the primary location of such thefts.

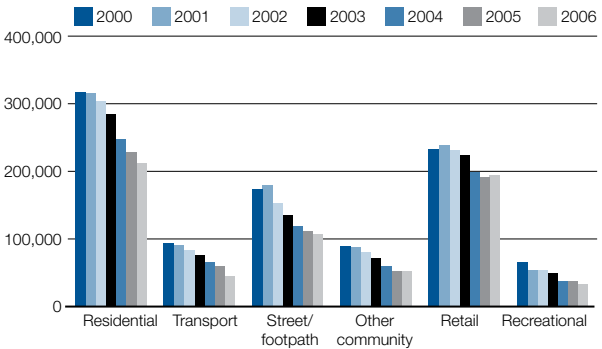
Source: Reference 1

**Figure 6: Property crimes by type of location, 2006**

a: Includes unspecified location (n=15,827)

- Property offences were most likely to occur at a dwelling (28%), at a retail location (20%) or on the street/footpath (15%).
- Property offences were least likely to occur at recreational locations (6%) or on transport (8%).

Source: Reference 1

**Figure 7: Property crimes by type of location, 2000–06 (number)**

- Between 2000 and 2006 the number of property crimes carried out on transport, in recreational locations and at other community locations, declined the most, by 52%, 50% and 42%, respectively.
- Property crimes on the street/footpath declined by 39% and at residential locations by 33% between 2000 and 2006.

Source: Reference 1

## Homicide

The definition of homicide used by the 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
- *manslaughter*: the unlawful killing of a person:
  - 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.

This reflects categories recorded by police at the time of the homicide and does not necessarily take into account the final outcome of the court case.

Homicide does not include:

- *attempted murder*: the attempt to unlawfully kill another person by any means, act or omission
- *driving causing death*: the unlawful killing of a person caused through culpable, dangerous or negligent driving.

Data from the ABS are supplemented with more detailed information collected by the AIC through the National Homicide Monitoring Program. The ABS reports on a calendar year and the AIC on a financial year basis.

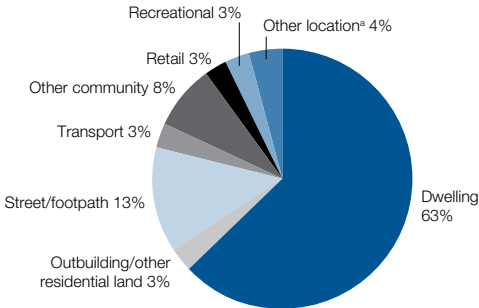
Data on the use of firearms in homicide are derived from victim data collected in the National Homicide Monitoring Program. Previous editions of *Facts and figures* used ABS causes of death data, but coding procedures used since 2004 (related to an increase in the number of open coroners' cases) have resulted in an undercounting of firearm deaths due to assault (i.e. homicide).

There were 319 homicides in Australia in 2006, with 1.5 victims per 100,000 population. Murder accounted for 88% of the victims recorded in 2006. The remainder were victims of manslaughter.

Source: References 1 and 3

## Location of homicides

**Figure 8: Homicide by type of location, 2006**



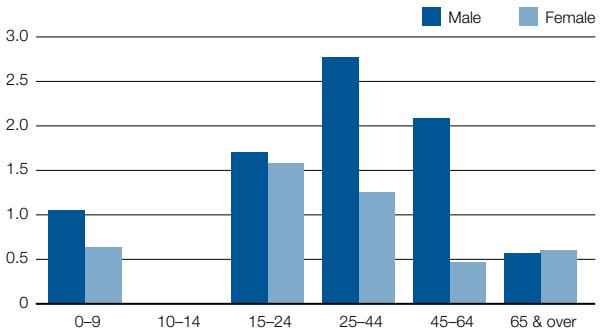
a: Includes unspecified location (n=6)

- The majority of homicides take place in the home (63%).
- The street/footpath was the second most common location where homicides occurred (13%).
- Homicides were least likely to occur at recreational, retail and transport locations (all 3%).

Source: Reference 1

## Victims of homicide

**Figure 9: Age and gender of homicide victims, 2006  
(rate per 100,000 relevant persons)**



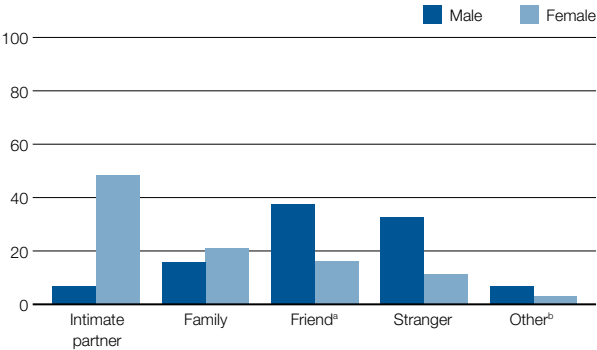
- 67% of homicide victims in 2006 were male.
- Except for persons aged 65 years and older, the risk of being a victim of homicide was higher for males than for females.

- Similar to past years, males in the 25 to 44 age group were most at risk of being a homicide victim in 2006.
- There were no victims of homicide aged between 10 and 14 years in 2006.

Source: References 1 and 2

## Victim–offender relationship

**Figure 10: Homicide victims, relationship to offender, 2005–06 (percent)**

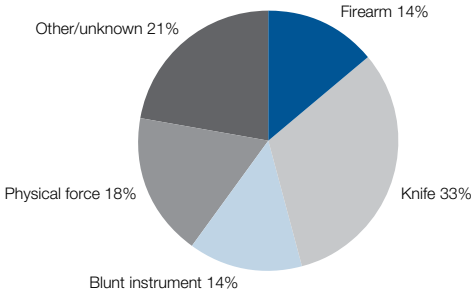


a: Includes acquaintances

b: Other includes business associates, employee/employer, colleagues and other relationships

- The victim–offender relationship for homicide differs according to the gender of the victims.
- Male victims in 2005–06 were more likely than female victims to be killed by a friend or acquaintance (38% and 16%, respectively) whereas female victims were more likely than male victims to be killed by an intimate partner (48% and 7%, respectively).
- Female victims were slightly more likely than male victims to have been killed by a family member (21% and 16% respectively).
- 11% of female victims were killed by a person unknown to them, a 9% increase from 2004–05. However, this is still noticeably less than the percentage of male victims killed by a stranger (33%).

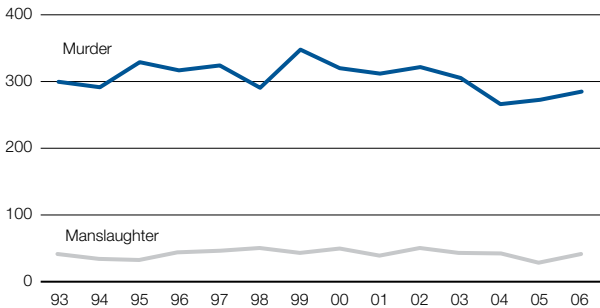
Source: Reference 3

**Figure 11: Homicide, type of weapon, 2005–06**

- In 2005–06 the most common weapon used in homicide was a knife (33%).
- A further 18% of homicides were committed using physical force (hands/feet), and 14% each with firearms or with blunt instruments.

Source: Reference 3

## Trend in homicide

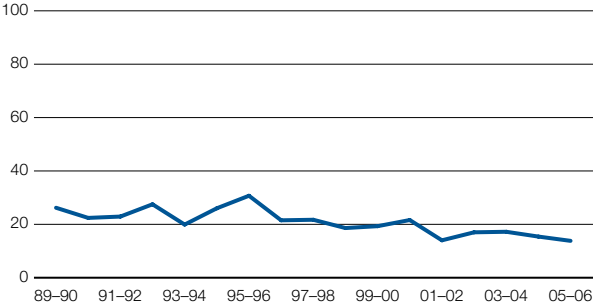
**Figure 12: Homicide victims, 1993–2006 (number)**

- The number of murders fluctuated slightly between 1993 and 2006, while manslaughter remained relatively stable.
- The number of murders peaked in 1999 at 344, while the number of manslaughters peaked in 2002 at 48.
- The 263 murders recorded in 2004 was the lowest number recorded in any year since 1993.
- The number of victims of manslaughter recorded in 2005 (25) was lower than in any year since 1993. However, 2006 saw an increase in manslaughters to 38.

Source: Reference 1

## Trend in firearm homicides

**Figure 13: Homicides involving firearms as a percentage of total homicides, 1989–90 to 2005–06**



- On average, 21% of homicide victims were killed with a firearm between 1989–90 and 2005–06.
- However, the use of firearms in homicide has decreased over the past 16 years, dropping below 20% from 2001–02 onwards.
- 14% of homicide victims in 2006 were killed with a firearm.

Source: Reference 3

## Assault

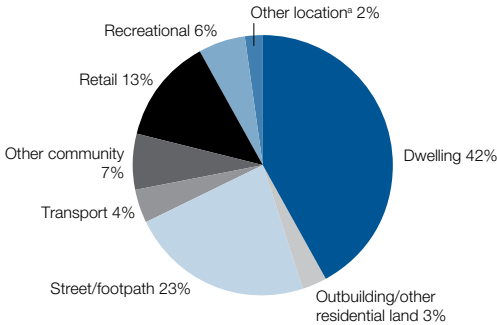
The ABS defines assault as the direct infliction of force, injury or violence upon a person, including attempts or threats. ABS data for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia have been aggregated for the following charts on location, and gender and age of victims. These states represent 94% of all assaults recorded in 2006. ABS has not released data on the victim–offender relationship since 2003, so the figure below refers to that year.

Source: Reference 1



## Location of assaults

**Figure 14: Assault, type of location, 2006**



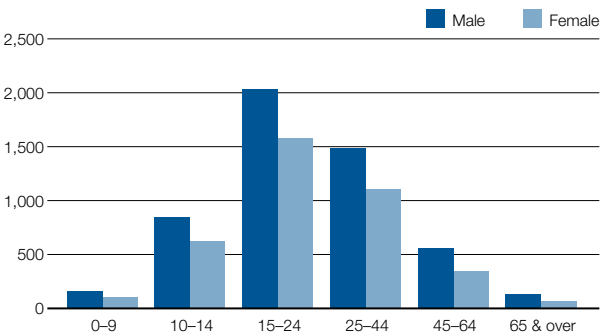
a: Includes unspecified location (n=865)

- Recorded assaults occurred most frequently in dwellings (42%), then on streets or footpaths (23%).
- Retail and recreational locations accounted for 13% and 6% respectively of recorded assaults.
- Recorded assaults were least likely to occur on transport (4%) and at other residential locations (3%).

Source: Reference 1

## Victims of assault

**Figure 15: Age and gender of assault victims, 2006  
(rate per 100,000 relevant persons)**

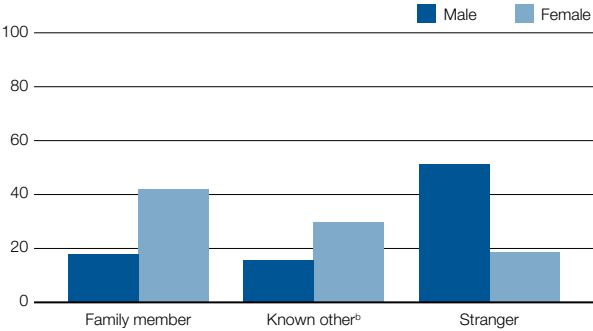


- 58% of recorded assault victims were male.
- Males had higher victimisation rates than females for all age categories.
- Both males and females aged between 15 and 24 years had the highest rates of assault.

Source: References 1 and 2

## Assault victim–offender relationship

**Figure 16: Assault victims, relationship to offender, 2003 (percent)<sup>a</sup>**



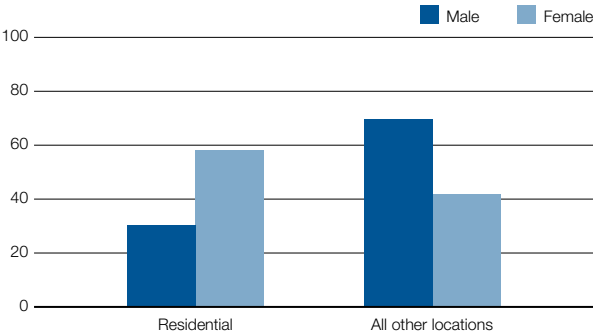
a: Excludes Queensland and Western Australia (information not available). Also excludes the 9% of instances where the relationship between victim and offender was not stated or not known in the remaining jurisdictions

b: Known other includes known non-family and known but not further defined, which may include some family members

- Where the relationship between victim and offender was stated, 81% of female victims of assault knew the offender, compared with 49% of male victims.
- Assaults against females were more than twice as likely to be perpetrated by a family member as those against males.
- Male victims were much more likely to have been assaulted by a stranger (51%) than female victims (19%).

Source: Reference 1

**Figure 17: Assault victims, type of location, 2003 (percent)<sup>a</sup>**



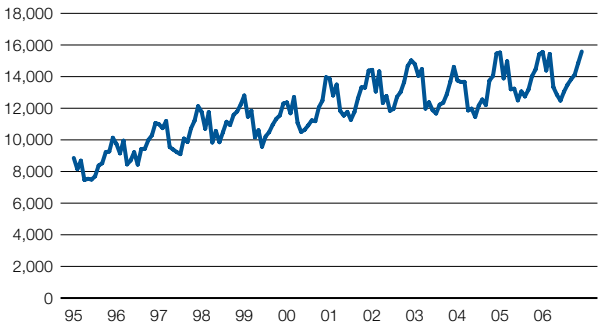
a: ABS has not released state-based data on location broken down by gender since 2003

- Most male victims (70%) were assaulted in non-residential locations, whereas the majority of female victims (58%) were assaulted in residential premises.

Source: Reference 4

## Trend in assault

**Figure 18: Assaults, by month, 1995–2006 (number)**



- The trend in assaults shows an average growth of 5% each year between 1995 and 2006. This is four times the annual growth of the Australian population over the same period.
- Assault is seasonal. The number of assaults peaks in the spring and summer months of October to February, and is lowest during April to July.

Source: Reference 4

## Sexual assault

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

- does not give consent
- gives consent as a result of intimidation or fraud
- is legally deemed incapable of giving consent because of youth or temporary/permanent incapacity.

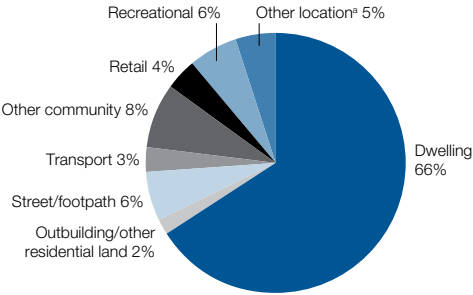
Sexual assault includes: rape, sexual assault, sodomy, buggery, oral sex, incest, carnal knowledge, unlawful sexual intercourse, indecent assault, and assault with intent to rape.

As with assault, sexual assault data for 2006 have been aggregated using ABS data from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia and included in charts regarding details of location, and gender and age of victim. These states represent 95% of all sexual assaults recorded in 2006. The chart on victim-offender relationship refers to 2003 sexual assault data, the most recent available for this variable.

Source: Reference 1

## Location of sexual assaults

**Figure 19: Sexual assault, type of location, 2006**



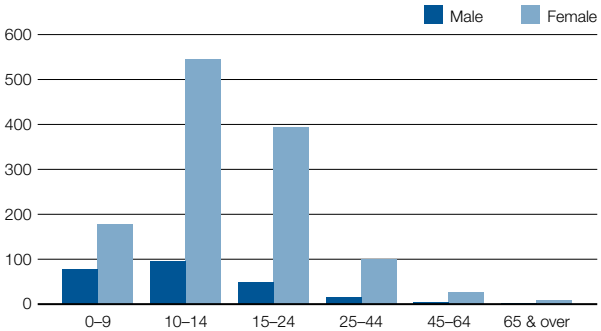
a: Includes unspecified location (n=633)

- Sexual assault was most likely to occur in the home environment. Of sexual assaults recorded in 2006, 66% occurred in dwellings.
- Sexual assaults on streets/footpaths and in recreational locations accounted for 6% each.
- Sexual assault was least likely to occur at retail locations (4%) or on transport (3%).

Source: Reference 1

## Victims of sexual assault

**Figure 20: Age and gender of sexual assault victims, 2006 (rate per 100,000 relevant persons)**

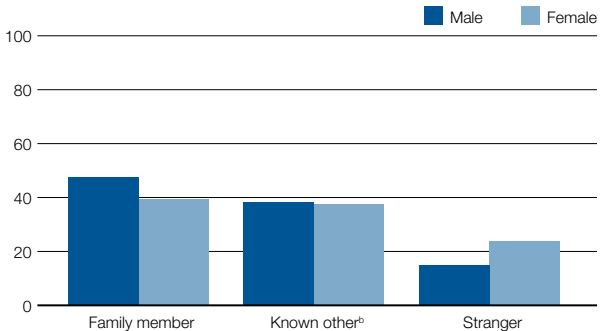


- 84% of sexual assault victims in 2006 were female.
- The highest rate of sexual assault was recorded for females 10–14 years of age at 544 per 100,000 females in that age group.
- For males, rates were also highest for those aged 10–14 (95 per 100,000 relevant persons) and less than 10 (78 per 100,000 relevant persons).
- Boys made up 32% of sexual assault victims aged less than 10 years.

Source: References 1 and 2

## Victim–offender relationship

**Figure 21: Sexual assault victims, relationship to offender, 2003 (percent)<sup>a</sup>**



a: Excludes Queensland and Western Australia (information not available). Also excludes the 5% of recorded assaults where the relationship between victim and offender was not stated or not known in the remaining jurisdictions

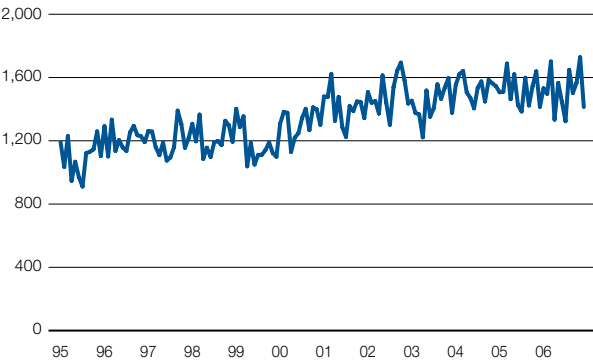
b: Known other includes known non-family and known not further defined and may include some family members

- Where the relationship between victim and offender was stated, most sexual assault victims had some form of relationship with the offender (78%).
- Two in five sexual assaults were perpetrated by a family member. The figure is higher (47%) for male victims.
- In 38% of sexual assaults the offender was a non-family member known to the victim.
- Females (23%) were more likely than males (15%) to be sexually assaulted by strangers.

Source: Reference 1

## Trend in sexual assault

**Figure 22: Sexual assault victims, by month, 1995–2006**



- Reported sexual assaults have increased by an average of 4% each year since 1995.
- The number of recorded sexual assaults is typically highest during the months of January to March and August to November and lowest during April to July.

Source: Reference 4

## Robbery

Robbery is defined by the ABS as 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 two categories:

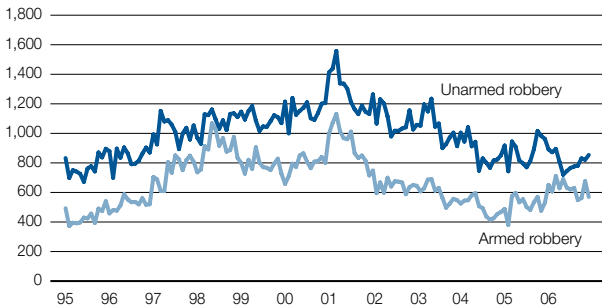
- *armed robbery* – robbery conducted with the use of a weapon; a weapon is any object used to cause fear or injury, and includes imitation weapons and implied weapons; for example, where a weapon is not seen by the victim but the offender claims to possess one
- *unarmed robbery* – robbery conducted without the use of a weapon.

Of the 17,284 robberies recorded during 2006, 56% were unarmed and 44% were committed with some type of weapon. This represents an increase in the percentage of armed robberies, compared with the previous four years.

Source: Reference 1

## Trend in robbery

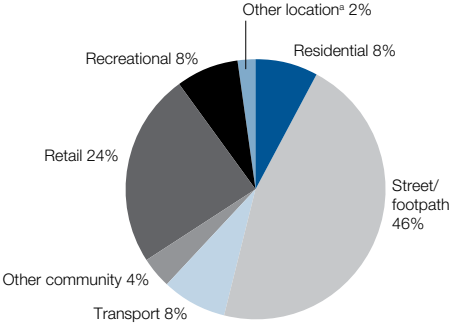
**Figure 23: Robbery victims, by month, 1995–2006 (number)**



- Robberies in 2006 rose to 17,284 from 16,787 in 2005. However, there are still fewer robberies occurring than in the early 2000s.
- Unlike previous years, the proportion of robberies involving a weapon increased in 2006. In 2005, 37% of all robberies were armed; in 2006 it was 44%.
- The number of both armed and unarmed robberies peaked in March 2001. Armed and unarmed robberies follow similar monthly patterns.

Source: Reference 4

**Figure 24: Robbery, type of location, 2006**

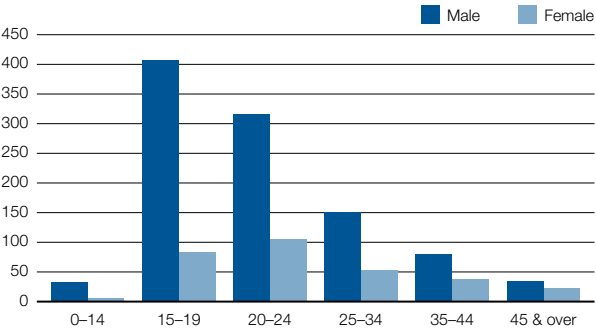


a: Includes unspecified location (n=111)

- Robberies in 2006 predominantly occurred on streets/footpaths (46%) or retail locations (24%).
- Robberies were less likely to occur on transport (8%), or in residential (8%), recreational (8%) or other community (4%) locations.

Source: Reference 1

**Figure 25: Age and gender of robbery victims, 2006  
(rate per 100,000 relevant persons)**



- In all age categories, males were at higher risk than females of being a victim of robbery. In 2006, the discrepancy between male and female rates was highest in those aged 15 to 19 and decreased with age.
- Males aged 15–19 years were more than twice as likely to be a victim of robbery as males or females in any other age group. The rate for males aged 15–19 was 408 per 100,000, compared with 80 per 100,000 for males aged 35–44.



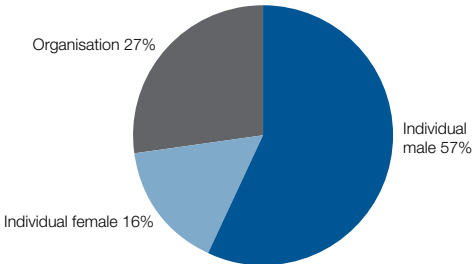
- Rates for females were highest among the 20–24 age group at 106 per 100,000, and next highest among those aged 15–19, at 84 per 100,000.

Source: References 1 and 2

## Armed robbery

There were 7,525 armed robberies recorded during 2006. This represents a 21% increase since 2005.

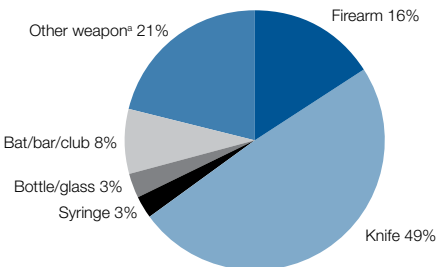
**Figure 26: Armed robbery victims, 2006**



- 27% of armed robberies were committed against organisations, such as banks and chemists.
- A person (male or female) was the victim of 73% of armed robberies. Victims of armed robbery were almost three and a half times more likely to be male than female.

Source: References 1 and 4

**Figure 27: Armed robbery, type of weapon, 2006**



a: Includes 'chemical' weapon (n=11) and unspecified type of weapon (n=504)

- A knife was most likely to be used in robberies involving the use of weapons. In 2006 knives were used in 49% of all armed robberies.
- Armed robberies involving firearms made up 16% of all such robberies in 2006.

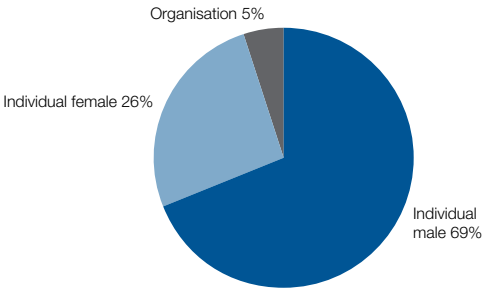
- A small percentage of armed robberies were carried out with the use of a syringe (3%) or bat/bar/club (8%) as the primary weapon.

Source: Reference 1

## Unarmed robbery

There were 9,759 unarmed robberies recorded during 2006, 8% fewer than in 2005.

**Figure 28: Unarmed robbery victims, 2006**



- Unarmed robberies were much less likely than armed robberies to target organisations. 5% of unarmed robberies involved organisations, compared with 27% of armed robberies.
- Males were more than twice as likely as females to be victims of unarmed robbery.

Source: References 1 and 4

## Unlawful entry with intent

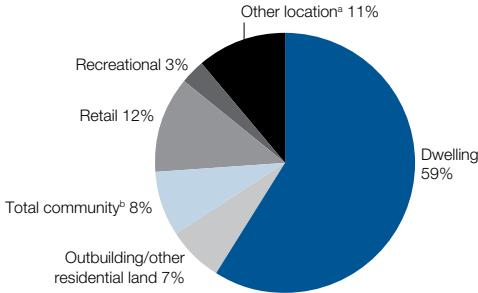
Unlawful entry with intent (UEWI) is defined by the ABS as the unlawful entry of a structure with the intent to commit an offence. UEWI offences include burglary, break and enter, and some stealing.

The rate of UEWI in 2006 was 1,271 per 100,000.

Source: References 1 and 2

## Location of unlawful entry with intent

**Figure 29: UEWI, type of location, 2006**



a: Includes unspecified location (n=3,427)

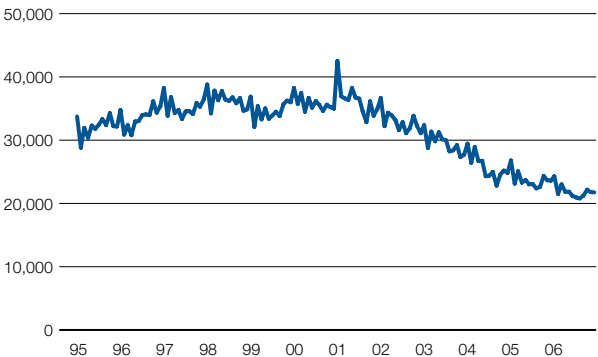
b: Includes transport, the street/footpath and other community locations

- UEWI is most likely to take place in residential locations. 59% of UEWI offences occurred in dwellings in 2006 and an additional 7% in outbuildings and other residential locations.
- 12% of recorded UEWI offences took place in retail locations and 8% occurred in community locations.
- Less than half of one percent of UEWI took place in transport locations (0.3%).

Source: Reference 1

## Trend in unlawful entry with intent

**Figure 30: UEWI, by month, 1995–2006 (number)**



- There was an overall decline in the number of UEWI offences between 1995 and 2006.
- There were approximately 30 recorded incidents of UEWI every hour in Australia in 2006.

Source: Reference 4

# Motor vehicle theft

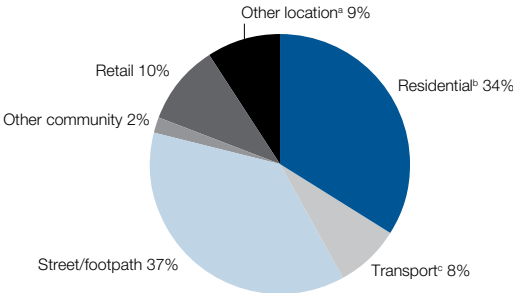
Motor vehicle theft is the taking of a motor vehicle unlawfully or without permission. It excludes damaging and tampering or interfering with motor vehicles. The theft of motor vehicle parts or contents is included under the offence category of other theft. Motor vehicle refers to cars, motorcycles,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

There were 75,115 motor vehicles reported stolen to police in 2006, with 523 vehicles stolen per 100,000 registered vehicles. This represents a 7% decrease on the number of thefts recorded in 2005. On average, there was one MVT every seven minutes in Australia in 2006.

Source: References 1 and 5

## Location of motor vehicle theft

**Figure 31: Motor vehicle theft, type of location, 2006**



a: Includes unspecified location (n=1,218)

b: Includes dwellings and other residential locations

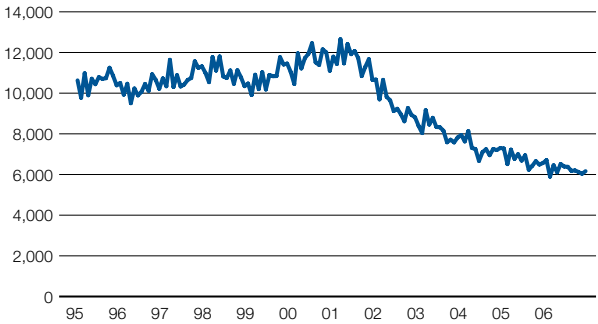
c: Transport includes public car parks

- The majority of motor vehicle thefts occurred on the street/footpath (37%) or in some sort of residential location (34%).
- Only 8% of motor vehicle thefts occurred in what are classified as transport locations, such as car parks.

Source: Reference 1

## Trend in motor vehicle theft

**Figure 32: Motor vehicle theft, by month, 1995–2006 (number)**



- In February 2006, motor vehicle theft decreased to the lowest monthly level recorded since 1995 with 5,890 motor vehicles reported stolen.
- The incidence of recorded monthly motor vehicle theft peaked in March 2001, with 12,651 cars recorded stolen in that month.
- Between March 2001 and December 2006 motor vehicle theft registered a 51% decrease. The overall decrease in the period 1995–2006 was 41%.
- Friday and Saturday evenings are the most popular periods for theft.
- In the period 1995–2006, the average recorded number of vehicles stolen per month was 9,621.

Source: Reference 4

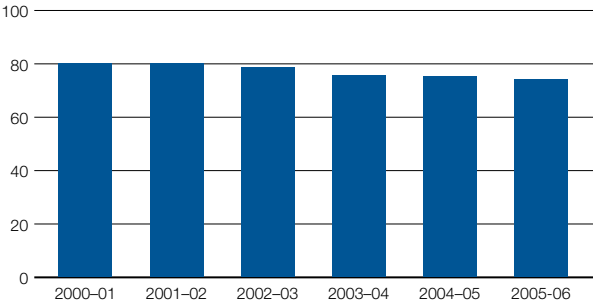
## Recovery rates

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

- In 2005–06 the national recovery rate for stolen vehicles was 75%, with 56,043 stolen vehicles recovered in that period.
- 47% of stolen vehicles were recovered within 25 hours of theft, and 87% of recoveries occurred within a fortnight.

Source: Reference 6

**Figure 33: Stolen motor vehicles recovered, 2000–01 to 2005–06 (percent)**

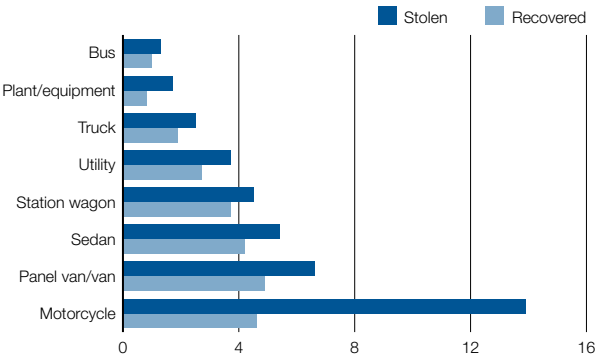


- The percentage of stolen vehicles that have been recovered decreased from 80% in 2000–01 to 75% in 2005–06.
- Vehicles manufactured in the 1980s recorded a theft rate of 12.6 thefts per 1,000 registrations compared with 4.3 thefts for 1990s models and 2.4 for 2000–05 models. Newer models are less likely to be stolen because engine immobilising technology makes their theft more difficult.
- In 2005–06, models manufactured from 2000 onwards recorded a recovery rate of 64% compared with 82% for 1980s models and 73% for 1990s models. Newer models have a lower recovery rate because they are more likely to be stolen for rebirthing and spare parts than older cars.

Source: Reference 6

## Theft and recovery by vehicle type

**Figure 34: Theft and recovery by type of vehicle, 2005–06 (rate per 1,000 registrations)**



- As in previous years, motorcycles were more likely to be stolen than any other type of vehicle, with a theft rate of 14 per 1,000 registrations.
- Panel/vans were the next most commonly stolen vehicle, at 7 per 1,000 registrations.
- Motorcycles were least likely to be recovered, with only 33% of stolen motorcycles being recovered. Other vehicle types had a much higher recovery rate such as 82% for station wagons, 80% for buses and 79% for sedans.

Source: Reference 6

## Other theft

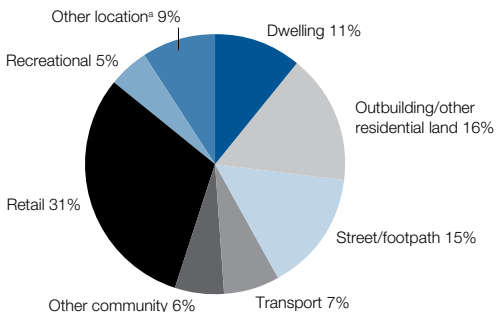
The ABS defines other theft (stealing) as the taking of another person's property with the intention of permanently depriving the owner of the property illegally and without permission, but without force, threat of force, use of coercive measures, deceit or having gained unlawful entry to any structure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

This offence includes such crimes as pickpocketing, bag snatching, stealing (including shoplifting), 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.

Source: Reference 1

### Location of other theft

**Figure 35: Other theft, type of location, 2006**



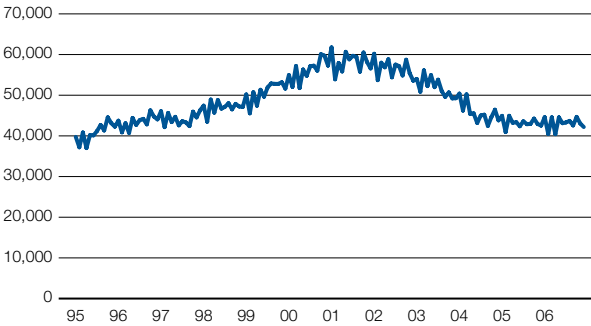
a: Includes unspecified location (n=11,182)

- Other theft was most likely to occur at retail locations (31%).
- 11% of other theft occurred at dwellings and 16% in outbuildings and other residential locations.
- Other theft was less likely at transport (7%), other community (6%) and recreational (5%) locations.

Source: Reference 1

## Trend in other theft

**Figure 36: Other thefts by month, 1995–2006 (number)**



- During 2006 there was an average of 43,214 victims of theft per month, or almost one every minute.
- Since 2001 the number of other thefts has been decreasing. The monthly number of other thefts peaked in January 2001, at 61,786. Between then and December 2006 the monthly number of thefts decreased by 32%.

Source: Reference 4

## Fraud and deception-related crime

As information about fraud and deception-related crime is not collected by the ABS, this section presents data extracted from information published by state and territory police agencies. The classifications of fraud and deception-related offences include cheque and credit card fraud, fraudulent trade practices, social security fraud, forgery, counterfeiting, bribery and other deception offences. Precise definitions may vary by state.



Fraud offences are recorded by the police on a financial year basis. Fraud is believed to be one of the most under-reported offences, with less than 50% of incidents being reported to police or other authorities.

**Table 5: Fraud offences, 1995–96 to 2005–06 (number)**

1995–96	91,495
1996–97	101,256
1997–98	109,404
1998–99	112,209
1999–00	112,264
2000–01	106,141
2001–02	109,080
2002–03	108,940
2003–04	102,863
2004–05	89,198
2005–06	101,222

- The overall trend in fraud, reported to and recorded by police over the twelve year period, has been relatively stable. The lowest number of fraud offences occurred in 2004–05.

Source: References 7–14

## Drug arrests

This section provides an overview of arrest patterns for offenders between 1995–96 and 2005–06. Drug arrests usually come to the attention of police either through specific drug law enforcement activity or coincidentally through an investigation into another matter, often related to property offences.

Arrest information is provided for the following types of drugs:

- cannabis
- heroin (and other opioids)
- amphetamines (including methylamphetamine and phenethylamines)
- cocaine
- other drugs (hallucinogens, steroids and drugs not defined elsewhere).

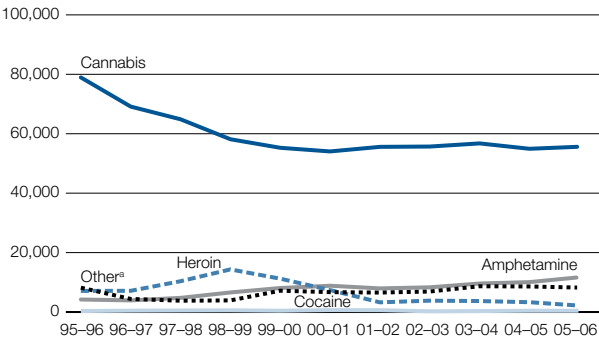
Cannabis arrests include expiation notices, drug infringement notices, and simple cannabis offence notices.

Offenders involved in drug arrests are divided into two categories:

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

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

**Figure 37: Drug arrests by type of drug, 1995–96 to 2005–06 (number)**

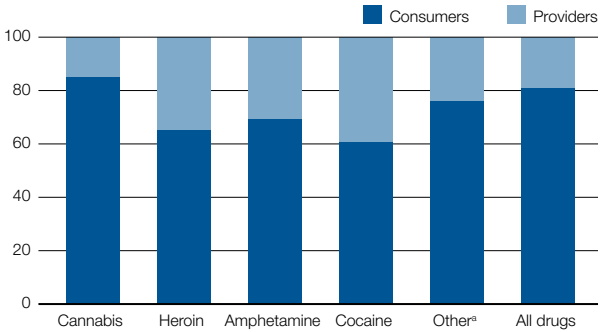


a: Other includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere)

- Since 1995–96, there has been an overall decline of 21% in the number of arrests for drug offences.
- Arrests for cannabis and heroin have both declined over this time period, by 30% and 68% respectively.
- Arrests for amphetamines have more than doubled, increasing by 181% since 1995–96.
- In 1995–96, 80% of drug arrests involved cannabis, compared with 71% in 2005–06.

Source: Reference 15

**Figure 38: Drug arrests, consumers and providers, by type of drug, 2005–06 (percent)**

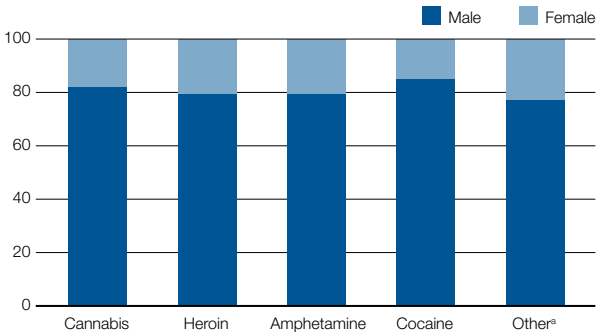


a: Other includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere)

- As in previous years, consumers (81%) comprised the majority of drug arrests in 2005–06.
- 39% of persons arrested for cocaine offences were providers, 35% for heroin, 31% for amphetamine and 15% for cannabis offences.

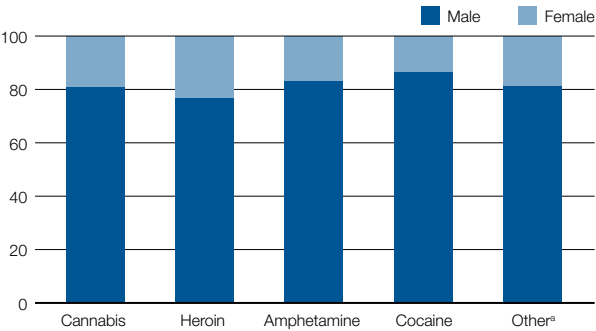
Source: Reference 15

**Figure 39: Drug consumers, by gender and type of drug, 2005–06 (percent)**



a: Other includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere)

**Figure 40: Drug providers, by gender and type of drug, 2005–06 (percent)**



a: Other includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere)

- Males accounted for approximately 8 in 10 arrests of both consumer and provider offenders regardless of drug type.

Source: Reference 15

The majority of industrialised countries conduct crime victimisation surveys to estimate the extent of certain crimes and the percentage reported to the police. These data are used to supplement police statistics and are particularly useful for examining crimes that have low percentages of reporting to police, such as sexual assault.

In Australia, there are various sources of crime victimisation data. The ABS conducts a national crime and safety survey on a regular basis, with the most recently released data from the 2005 survey. In addition, in 2005 the ABS conducted a personal safety survey which focused on men's and women's experiences of physical and sexual assault.

The method developed for crime victimisation surveys has been extended to address crimes of specific interest. One such example is the Australian computer crime and security survey, conducted by AusCERT, the Australian High Tech Crime Centre and state, territory and federal police agencies.

*Source: References 16 and 17*

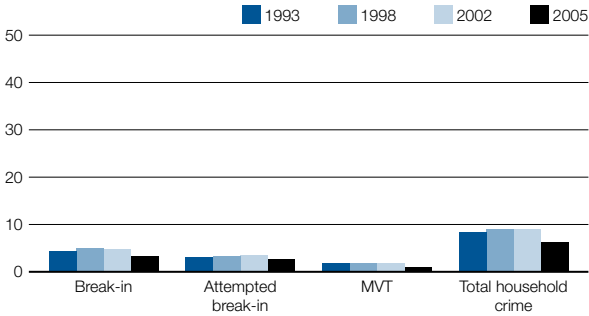
## Household and personal victimisation

The ABS crime and safety survey distinguishes between household and personal crime. Household crimes include those crimes in which the household (a group of persons resident in a private dwelling and sharing common facilities) is considered the victim of the crime. This includes home break-in, attempted break-in and motor vehicle theft. For personal crimes, it is the individual who is considered the victim of the crime. Personal crimes include robbery, assault and sexual assault.

*Source: Reference 16*

Household crime

Figure 41: Households experiencing household crime in the previous year, 1993–2005 (percent)



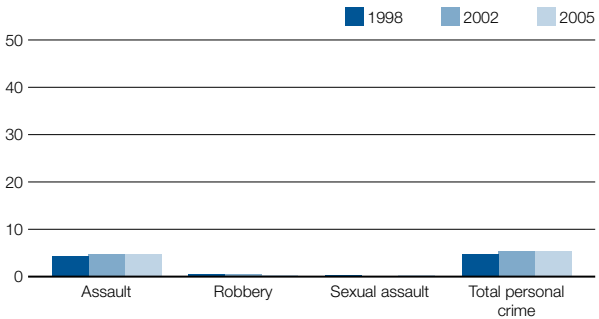
Note: The scale for this chart is different from that of other charts as the percentages involved are small

- The number of households reporting a recent experience of household crime decreased from 9% in 1998 and 2002 to 6% in 2005.
- For all years surveyed, break-in was the most common household crime (3% in 2005, 5% in 1998 and 2002, and 4% in 1993).
- A similar or slightly smaller percentage of households experienced attempted break-ins, compared with actual break-ins, over the survey years.
- The least common household crime was MVT, with only 1% of those surveyed in 2005 having experienced a motor vehicle theft in the past year.

Source: Reference 16

## Personal crime

**Figure 42: Persons aged 15 years and older experiencing personal crime in the previous year, 1998–2005 (percent)**

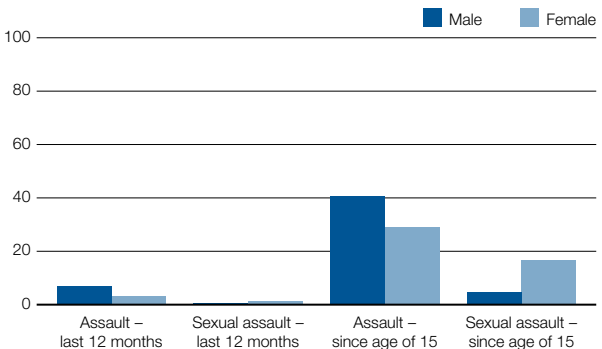


Note: The scale for this chart is different from that of other charts as the percentages involved are relatively small

- In 2005, 5% of persons surveyed were victims of personal crime in the preceding 12 months.
- In all years, assault was the most prevalent personal crime experienced by victims, followed by robbery and then sexual assault.
- From 1998 to 2005 the percentage of persons reporting experiencing assault increased slightly from 3% to 5%. Robbery and sexual assault remained relatively stable during the same period (less than 1%).

Source: Reference 16

**Figure 43: Adults experiencing assault or sexual assault, 2005 (percent)**

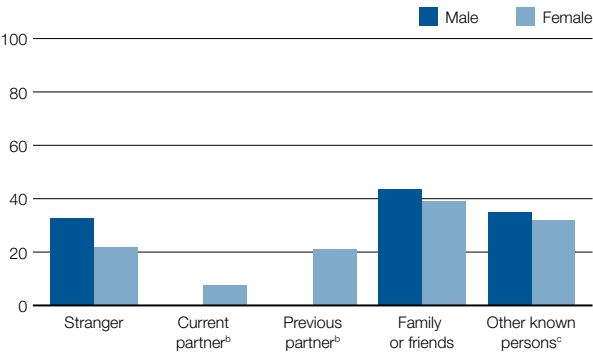


- In the 12 months prior to the survey, 7% of men experienced assault and less than 1% experienced sexual assault. For women, 3% experienced assault and 1% experienced sexual assault.

- 41% of men reported experiencing an assault since the age of 15 and 5% experienced sexual assault in this time.
- 29% of women experienced assault and 17% experienced sexual assault since the age of 15.
- Overall, almost half (46%) of men and women reported having experienced an assault and/or sexual assault since the age of 15.

Source: Reference 17

**Figure 44: Adults experiencing sexual assault, relationship to offender, 2005 (percent)<sup>a</sup>**



a: Most recent incident of sexual assault

b: Not released for males due to very small numbers

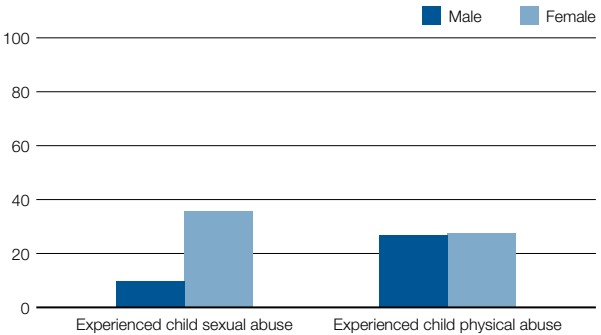
c: Includes acquaintance, neighbour, counsellor or psychologist, ex-boyfriend or girlfriend, doctor, teacher, minister, priest or clergy and prison officer

- Of women who experienced sexual assault, 39% experienced sexual assault by a family member or friend, and 32% by an other known person, in the most recent incident.
- Of men who experienced sexual assault, 44% of men experienced sexual assault by a family member or friend, and 35% by an other known person, in the most recent incident.
- Men were more likely than women to have been sexually assaulted by a stranger (33% and 22% respectively).
- One-fifth of women who experienced sexual assault had been sexually assaulted by a previous partner, and 8% by a current partner.

Source: Reference 17



**Figure 45: Experience of physical and sexual abuse before the age of 15, 2005 (percent)**



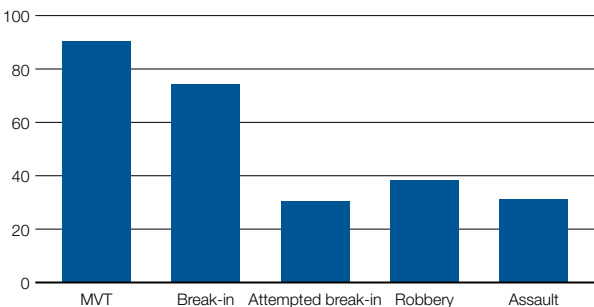
- A similar proportion of men and women who had been sexually assaulted by a partner had been physically abused as a child (27% and 28% respectively).
- Over one-third of women (36%) who experienced sexual assault from a partner in the preceding twelve months had also experienced sexual abuse as a child.

Source: Reference 17

## Reporting crime to the police

Victimisation surveys are useful for assessing the extent of crime that is not reported to the police. Surveys find a wide variation in reporting, depending on the type of crime. The following figures show the estimated reporting percentages for different categories of offence from the ABS 2005 crime and safety survey.

**Figure 46: Selected crimes reported to police, 2005 (percent)**



- Motor vehicle thefts (90%), followed by home break-ins (74%), were reported more often to police than other major categories of crime.
- Robbery (39%), attempted break-in (31%) and assault (31%) were less likely to be reported by victims to the police.

*Source: Reference 16*

The crime and safety survey asked respondents who chose not to report a crime to the police why they did not do so.

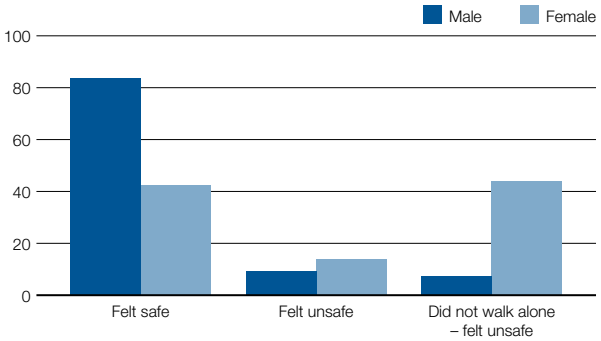
- People mostly chose not to report a recent experience of robbery either because they felt there was nothing police could/would do (30%) or they considered the incident too trivial or unimportant (18%).
- Similarly, the belief there was nothing police could/would do (8%) or that the incident was too trivial or unimportant (5%) were the primary reasons people did not report break-ins to the police.
- The main reasons given for not reporting an assault were that the incident was too trivial or unimportant (21%), it was a personal matter or they would take care of it themselves (16%), or there was nothing the police could/would do (9%).

*Source: Reference 16*

### **Fear and perception of crime**

Concerns about crime are generally more widespread than recent direct experiences of victimisation. Three dimensions of perceptions of personal safety and risk of victimisation were assessed by the ABS crime and safety and personal safety surveys. These were feelings of safety walking alone in the local area after dark; feelings of safety using public transport after dark; and perceived problems in the neighbourhood.

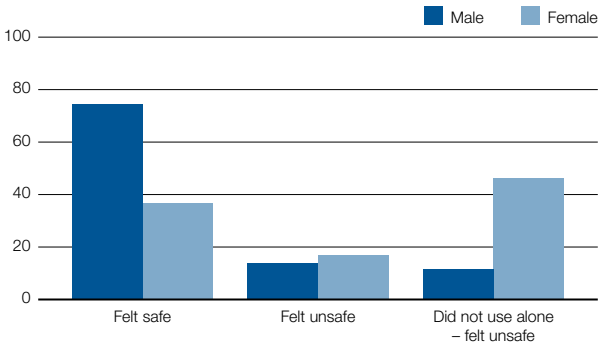
**Figure 47: Feelings of safety walking alone in the local area after dark by gender, 2005 (percent)**



- Of those who did or could walk alone in their local area after dark, the majority (84%) of males reported feeling safe. In contrast, less than half (42%) of females felt safe doing so.
- 44% of females reported choosing not to walk alone in their local area after dark because they felt unsafe, compared with 7% of males.

Source: Reference 17

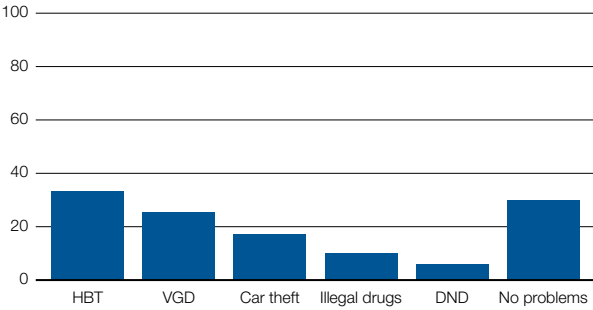
**Figure 48: Feelings of safety using public transport alone after dark, by gender, 2005 (percent)**



- Of those who did or could use public transport alone after dark, males were much more likely than females to report feeling safe (74% and 37% respectively), while females were more likely to feel unsafe (17% compared with 14% for males).
- Of this group, females (46%) were more likely than males (12%) to not use public transport alone after dark because they felt unsafe.

Source: Reference 17

**Figure 49: Commonly perceived problems in neighbourhood, 2005 (percent)**



HBT – Home break-ins, burglaries or theft

VGD – Vandalism, graffiti or damage to property

DND – Dangerous or noisy driving

- Home break-ins, burglaries or theft from homes (33% of respondents) was the most commonly perceived problem in respondents' neighbourhoods. Vandalism, graffiti or damage to property was second (25%), followed by car theft (17%).
- 30% of respondents perceived there to be no crime-related problems in their neighbourhood.

Source: Reference 17

## Cybercrime

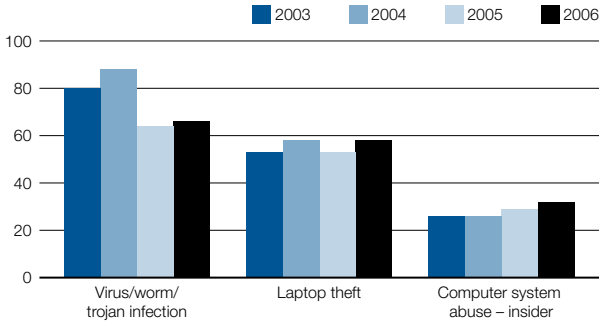
As few police agencies identify cybercrimes separately, this section presents the results of Australian surveys of computer crime and security from 2003 to 2006, conducted by AusCERT, the Australian High Tech Crime Centre and state, territory and federal police agencies. The organisations surveyed represent the manufacturing, information technology, federal and state government, utilities, finance, and education sectors, and the number of organisations included differed from year to year. In 2003, 126 organisations responded, 137 in 2004, 100 in 2005 and 201 in 2006.

*These data are not representative and caution should be taken therefore when generalising from the following data.*

Source: Reference 18

The proportion of surveyed organisations who reported experiencing electronic attacks that harmed the confidentiality, integrity or availability of network data or systems decreased from 42% in 2003 to 22% in 2006. Almost half the organisations that responded in 2004 reported at least one type of electronic attack.

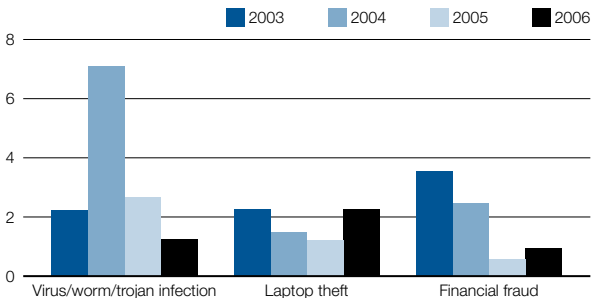
**Figure 50: Most common computer crime and security breaches, 2003–06 (percent)**



- Virus/worm/trojan infections were the most common breach. Around 80% of organisations in 2003 and 2004 experienced this type of breach, but the proportion dropped to 60% in 2005 and 2006.
- The second most common breach was laptop theft.
- Insider abuse of computer systems was the third most common type of breach. This increased over the four year period, from 26% in 2003 to 32% in 2006.

Source: Reference 18

**Figure 51: Major sources of financial loss due to computer crime and security breaches, 2003–06 (\$ million)**



- Virus/worm/trojan infections, laptop theft and financial fraud consistently generated the highest costs to surveyed organisations between 2003 and 2006.
- The cost of virus/worm/trojan infections varied over the four year period, before dropping to \$1.24 million in 2006. The large increase in 2004 was mostly due to costs reported by one company.
- Costs associated with laptop theft also fluctuated. In 2006, laptop theft accounted for an estimated cost of \$2.27 million.
- Self-reported financial fraud decreased from \$3.53 million in 2003 to \$0.94 million in 2006.

*Source: Reference 18*

The ABS does not yet publish offender data but is developing an offender-based collection. Until this new dataset becomes available, examination of offenders and some of their characteristics is possible only by compiling data from other sources. This chapter brings together information on offenders from three sources: police annual reports from the three jurisdictions that release offender statistics, the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, and the AIC's Drug Use Monitoring in Australia program.

### Alleged offenders

An alleged offender is a person who has allegedly committed a crime and has been processed for that offence by arrest, caution or warrant of apprehension.

Official data on gender and age of alleged offenders are published by the police services of Victoria, Queensland and South Australia. Police statistics on alleged offenders are not available from the remaining states and territories.

This chapter presents data on alleged offenders classified according to gender and age. These data should be interpreted with caution as they only reflect police processing of offenders in three states and may not be representative of national trends. They also do not reflect court outcomes. The main purpose here is to give an indicative view of major issues relating to offenders, particularly the following:

- At what age do offender rates peak?
- How does the age pattern of male offending compare with that of females?
- Are female offender rates increasing?

The number of alleged offenders does not equal the number of distinct 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 type. Neither does it equate to the total number of crimes cleared during a given period, as one crime may involve more than one offender.

Throughout this chapter, the terms 'offender' and 'offender rate' refer to alleged offenders and the alleged offender rate.

The term ‘total offender population’ refers to the total number of (not necessarily distinct) individuals aged 10 years and more, processed by police for any of the offences listed below, in 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 more in these jurisdictions (reference 2). The data are presented on a financial year basis.

The offender data are for the following major types of crime:

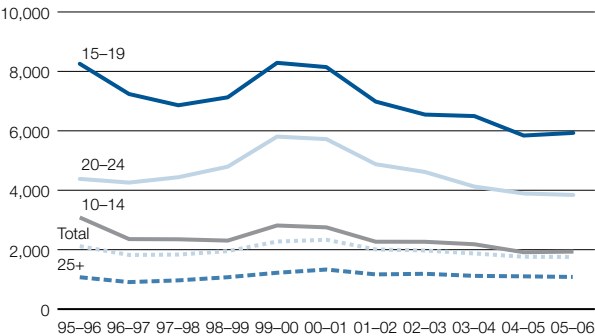
- homicide and related offences (murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, infanticide and driving causing death)
- assault
- sexual assault
- robbery
- unlawful entry with intent
- motor vehicle theft
- other theft (theft from a vehicle, theft from shops, other theft)
- fraud and deception related crime.

Source: References 7–9

## Age

Persons aged 15 to 19 years are more likely to be processed by police for the commission of a crime than any other population group. In 2005–06 the offending rate for persons aged 15 to 19 years was more than three times the rate for offenders aged more than 19 years (5,918 and 1,581 per 100,000 relevant persons respectively).

**Figure 52: Offenders, by age, 1995–96 to 2005–06**  
(rate per 100,000 relevant persons)





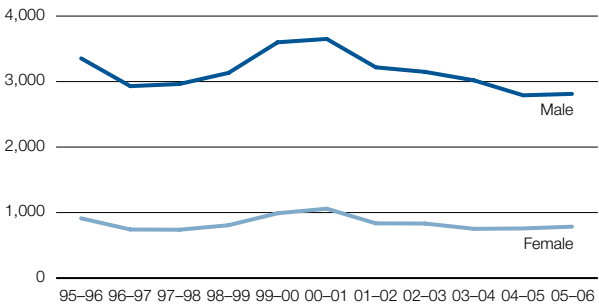
- Offender rates reached a maximum in 1990–2000 and have since declined for most age groups. The rate of offending among persons aged 10–14 years peaked earlier, in 1995–96.
- Offender rates have been consistently highest among persons aged 15–19 years and lowest among those aged 25 and more.
- Declines were greatest among the 15–19 and 20–24 year age groups.

Source: References 2 and 7–9

## Gender

In 2005–06, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia processed a total of 165,538 offenders, of whom 129,595 were male and 35,943 were female. Females made up 22% of all offenders in 2005–06, a similar proportion to previous years.

**Figure 53: Offenders, by gender, 1995–96 to 2005–06  
(rate per 100,000 relevant persons)**

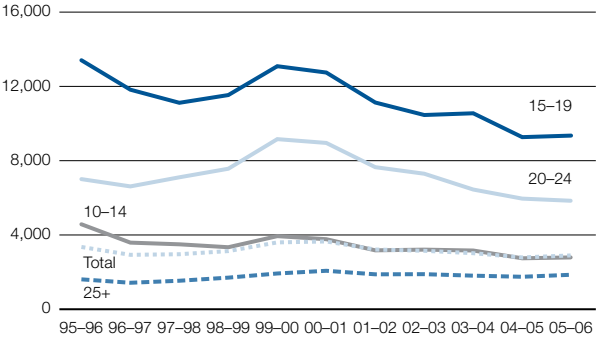


- Between 1995–96 and 2005–06, males were 3 to 4 times more likely than females to be identified as offenders. In 2005–06, the rate of offending by males was 2,800 per 100,000 compared with 760 for females.
- Offending rates for both males and females have declined since 2001.

Source: References 2 and 7–9

Males

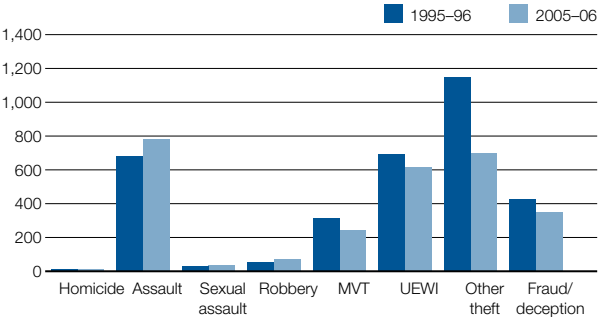
**Figure 54: Male offenders, by age, 1995–96 to 2005–06 (rate per 100,000 relevant persons)**



- Since 1995–96, the rate for male offenders has consistently been highest among the 15–19 year age group. In 2005–06 the rate was 9,400 per 100,000 of the relevant population.
- Rates were also high during this period among males aged 20–24, ranging between 5,800 and 9,200 per 100,000 relevant population. Males in the other age groups offended at much lower rates, generally less than 4,500 per 100,000.
- Since 1999–2000 there has been a significant decrease in rates for male offenders in the 10–14, 15–19 and 20–24 age groups.

Source: References 2 and 7–9

**Figure 55: Male offenders, by offence type, 1995–96 and 2005–06 (rate per 100,000 relevant persons)**

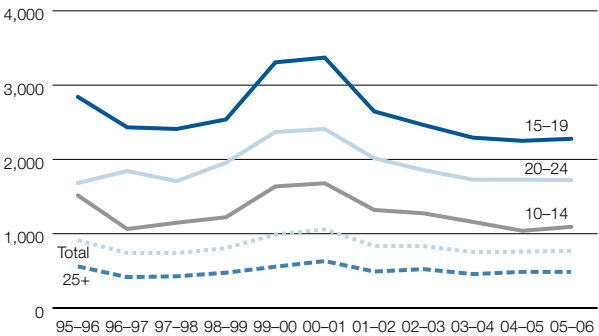


- In 1995–96 and 2005–06, male offender rates were highest for the offences of other theft, assault and unlawful entry with intent.
- Rates were lowest for robbery, sexual assault and homicide in both years.
- Compared with 1995–96, in 2005–06 male offending rates increased for assault and declined for unlawful entry with intent, motor vehicle theft, fraud/deception and particularly for other theft.

Source: References 2 and 7–9

## Females

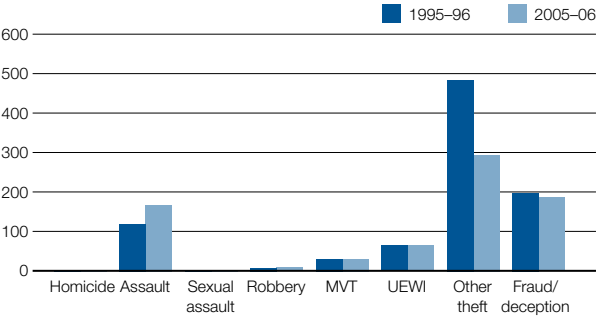
**Figure 56: Female offenders, by age, 1995–96 to 2005–06  
(rate per 100,000 relevant persons)**



- Similar to male offending rates, rates among females since 1995–96 have been consistently highest among the 15–19 year-old age group.
- For all age groups, the female offender rate peaked in the period 1999–2001. The largest decrease has occurred in the 15–19 year-old age group. Some stabilisation in offending rates has occurred since 2003–04, with the exception of the 10–14 year age group.

Source: References 2 and 7–9

**Figure 57: Female offenders, by offence type, 1995–96 and 2005–06 (rate per 100,000 relevant persons)**



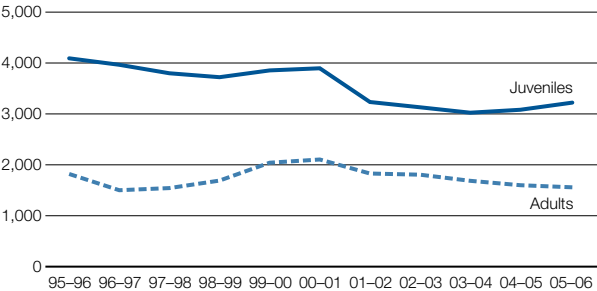
- Female offender rates were highest for other theft, fraud/deception and assault in both 1995–96 and 2005–06. They were lowest for robbery, homicide (less than 2 per 100,000) and sexual assault (less than 1 per 100,000).
- Between 1995–96 and 2005–06, female offending rates increased only for assault; an increase of 40% compared with 15% for males.
- Rates for other theft dropped by 39%.

Source: References 2 and 7–9

## Juveniles

There are differences among the states in the definition of a juvenile. Data in this section include alleged offenders aged between 10 and 17 years.

**Figure 58: Juvenile and adult offenders, 1995–96 to 2005–06 (rate per 100,000 relevant persons)**

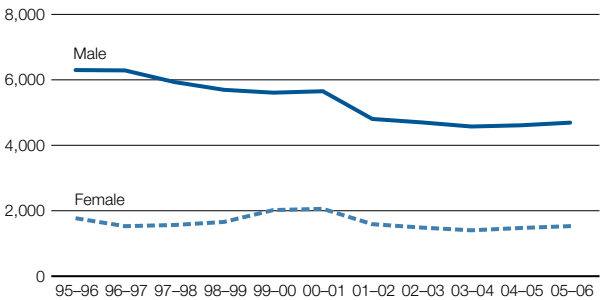


- Juvenile rates of offending are generally around 50% higher than rates for adults.

- The offender rate amongst adults peaked in 2000–01 at 2,100 per 100,000 adults, and has since declined to an 11 year low at 1,581 per 100,000 in 2005–06.
- The offender rate among juveniles declined from 4,092 per 100,000 juveniles in 1995–96 to 3,081 in 2004–05. Juvenile offending rates increased again in 2005–06 to 3,207 per 100,000.

Source: References 2 and 7–9

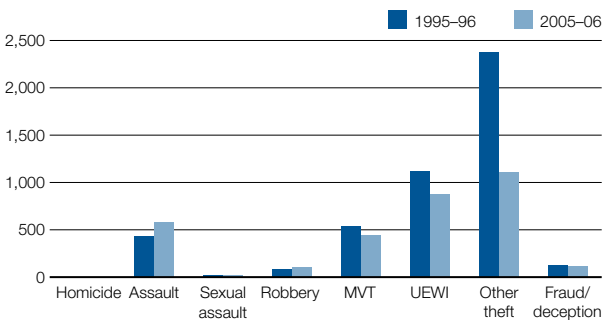
**Figure 59: Juvenile offenders, by gender, 1995–96 to 2005–06 (rate per 100,000 relevant persons)**



- Rates of juvenile offending have dropped by 24% for males and by 11% for females.
- Both male and female juvenile offending rates increased after 2003–04.
- There has been a slight increase in the percentage of juvenile offenders who are female, from 21% in 1995–96 to 24% in 2005–06.

Source: References 2 and 7–9

**Figure 60: Juvenile offenders, by offence type, 1995–96 and 2005–06 (rate per 100,000 relevant persons)**



- Juvenile offender rates for assault increased by 14% between 1995–96 and 2005–06.
- Juvenile offender rates decreased by 54% for other theft, 19% for motor vehicle theft and 22% for unlawful entry with intent. Rates were similar for the offences of homicide and fraud/deception.

Source: References 2 and 7–9

## Federal offenders

The Australian Government Director of Public Prosecutions publishes annual statistics on summary and indictable offences against Commonwealth law dealt with in the preceding year. These statistics are presented as charges dealt with against Commonwealth Acts and Regulations, and specifically, the *Criminal Code Act 1995* and *Crimes Act 1914*.

In 2005–06 the DPP dealt with 6,255 people for a total of 8,784 charges.

Source: Reference 19

**Table 6: Offences against Commonwealth legislation, charges dealt with, 2005–06 (number)**

	Summary	Indictable
<i>Crimes Act 1914</i>	147	139
<i>Criminal Code Act 1995</i>	3,719	217
<b>All Acts and Regulations</b>	<b>7,904</b>	<b>880</b>

- The most common summary charge was for offences against the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (47%), followed by the *Social Security (Administration) Act 1999* (18%) and the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* (10%).
- In 2005–06 charges made under the *Criminal Code Act 1995* accounted for 7% more summary offences than in 2004–05.
- The most common indictable charges were related to the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (25%) and the *Customs Act 1901* (24%).
- 33% of summary offences under the *Crimes Act 1995* dealt with fraud, 31% with imposition and 9% with telecommunications offences. 76% of charges for indictable offences under this Act related to fraud.

- Fraudulent conduct offences comprised 93% of all summary charges and 59% of indictable offences under the *Criminal Code Act 1995*.

Source: Reference 19

## Drug use by offenders

### Police detainees

The AIC's Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program monitors illicit drug use among police detainees in several sites across Australia on a quarterly basis. DUMA provides a reasonable and independent indicator of drug related crime within these locations. Two methods are used to obtain this information: questionnaire and urine sample. As an ongoing monitoring system, DUMA enables law enforcement agencies to track long term changes in drugs and crime.

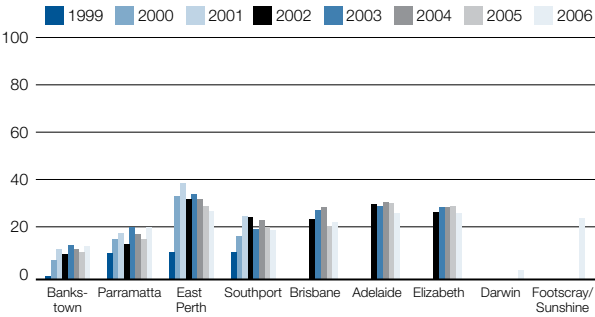
By 2006 nine sites were being monitored: East Perth in Western Australia, Southport and Brisbane City in Queensland, Bankstown and Parramatta in New South Wales, Adelaide City and Elizabeth in South Australia, Darwin in the Northern Territory and Footscray in Victoria. Brisbane City, Adelaide City and Elizabeth began participating in 2002, and Darwin and Footscray in 2006.

Data are collected quarterly and presented in the following figures as annual averages. Data are presented for males only, as they represent the majority (84%) of police detainees in the DUMA collection.

The percentage of police detainees testing positive to methylamphetamine (speed), cocaine, cannabis and heroin differed across the nine sites.

Source: Reference 20

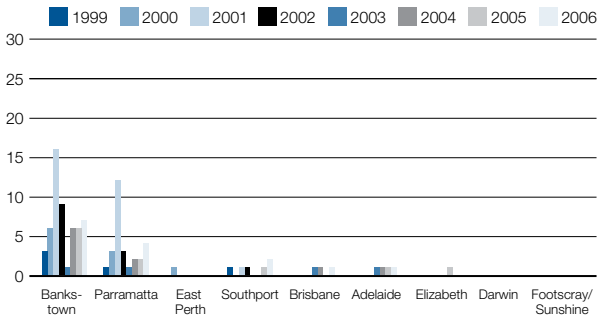
**Figure 61: Adult male police detainees testing positive to methylamphetamine, 1999–2006 (percent)**



- Methylamphetamine use increased at all long term sites between 1999 and 2003 before decreasing again over the next three years. The exceptions were Bankstown and Parramatta where the initial decrease was followed by another increase in 2006.
- East Perth continues to be the site with the highest percentage of detainees testing positive to methylamphetamine. The Sydney sites have the lowest use.
- Methylamphetamine use at the South Australian sites decreased in 2006 after a relatively steady period, while in Brisbane an initial increase was followed by a decrease.

Source: Reference 20

**Figure 62: Adult male police detainees testing positive to cocaine, 1999–2006 (percent)**



Note: The scale for this chart is different from that of the other three charts as the percentages involved are comparatively small

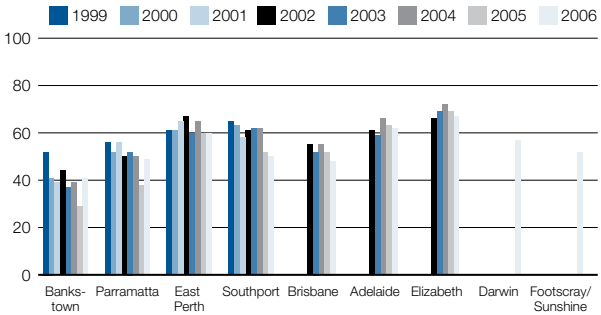
- The proportion of detainees testing positive to cocaine is very low at all sites, and consistently higher at Bankstown and Parramatta than the other sites.



- An increase in cocaine use at the two Sydney sites occurred in 2001, 2004 and 2006.

Source: Reference 20

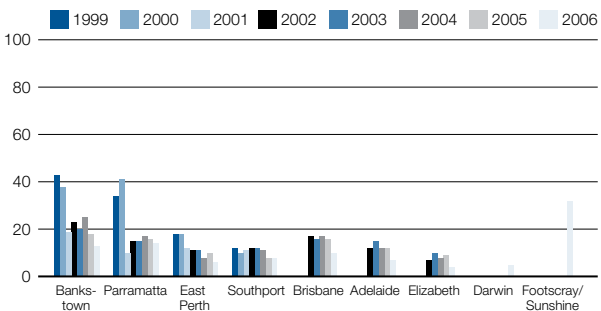
**Figure 63: Adult male police detainees testing positive to cannabis, 1999–2006 (percent)**



- The percentage of detainees testing positive to cannabis in 2006 ranged from 41% (Bankstown) to 67% (Elizabeth).
- In 2006, cannabis use was greatest at both South Australian sites and East Perth.
- Since 2004, most sites have registered a decrease in the percentage of detainees testing positive to cannabis. The exceptions were Bankstown and Parramatta which experienced a marked increase in 2006.

Source: Reference 20

**Figure 64: Adult male police detainees testing positive to heroin, 1999–2006 (percent)**

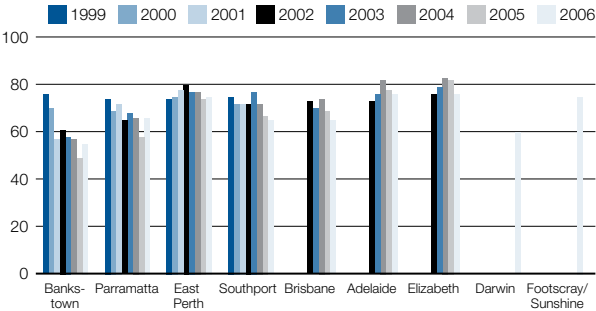


- The two NSW sites have registered a substantial decline in the percentage of detainees testing positive to heroin since 2001. A slight increase occurred in the subsequent year although use decreased again in 2006, particularly at Bankstown.

- The percentage of detainees testing positive to heroin at East Perth has declined steadily since 1999.
- In 2006 more than twice as many detainees at the Footscray/Sunshine site than at other sites tested positive to heroin.
- All other sites have remained relatively stable in the percentage of detainees testing positive to heroin.

Source: Reference 20

**Figure 65: Adult male police detainees testing positive to any drug, 1999–2006 (percent)<sup>a</sup>**

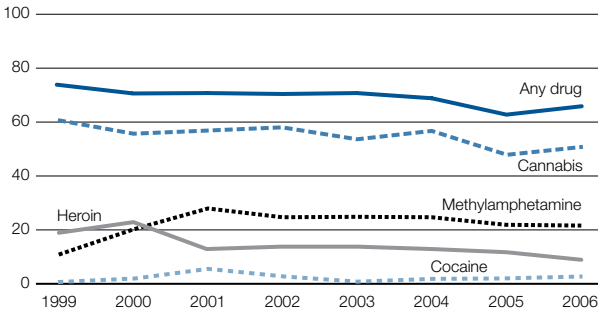


a: Any drug is defined as cannabis, heroin, methylamphetamine, cocaine or benzodiazepines

- Sites routinely show around 60–80% of detainees testing positive to any drug. Since 2001, the proportion of detainees at Bankstown testing positive to any drug has been 60% or less.
- The percentage of detainees testing positive to any drug varies from site to site. At East Perth it has remained relatively stable whereas at Southport, Brisbane and the two South Australian sites, a decrease in use has followed an initial increase. A general decrease at the Sydney sites was reversed in 2006.
- The proportion of detainees testing positive to any drug was consistently highest at the Adelaide and Elizabeth sites.
- The drop in detainees testing positive for any drug at Bankstown and Parramatta could largely be explained by the drop in heroin at these sites and the drop in cannabis at Bankstown. The increase observed in 2006 is probably attributable to an increase in cannabis use.

Source: Reference 20

**Figure 66: Adult male police detainees testing positive to selected drugs, four long term sites<sup>a</sup>, 1999–2006 (percent)**

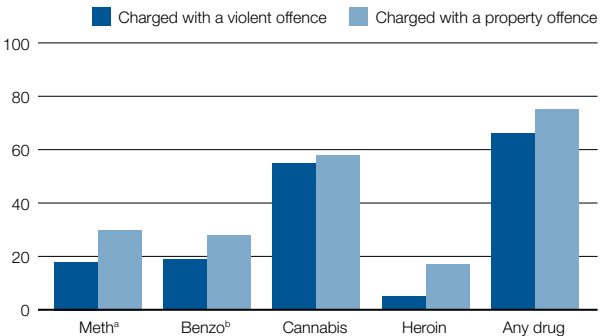


a: Bankstown, Parramatta, East Perth, Southport

- Between 1999 and 2005 the percentage of detainees testing positive to any drug or to cannabis has remained relatively steady. In 2006 both registered an increase in use.
- Heroin use has decreased over the period. Most of this decrease occurred between 2000 and 2001.
- Methylamphetamine use increased until 2001 but has since levelled off.
- The percentage of detainees testing positive to cocaine increased until 2001, decreased until 2004 and rose slightly again in 2006.

Source: Reference 20

**Figure 67: Adult male police detainees testing positive to a drug, by type of charge, 2006 (percent)**



a: Methylamphetamine

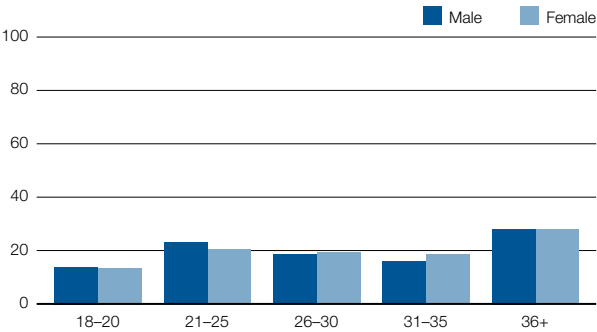
b: Benzodiazepines

- Detainees charged with a property offence were more likely to test positive to drugs than were violent offenders, however the difference is not as substantial for cannabis users.
- Overall, 75% of all offenders charged with property offences and 66% of those charged with violent offences tested positive to a drug.

Source: Reference 20

## Characteristics of police detainees

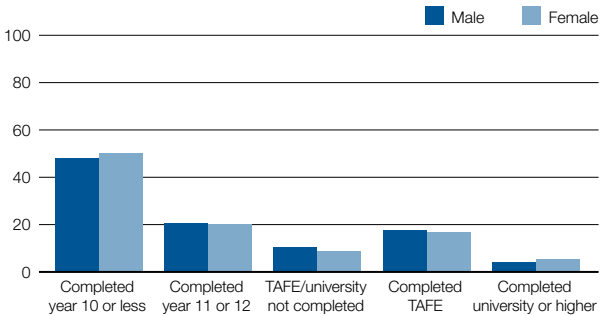
**Figure 68: Adult police detainees, by age, 2006 (percent)**



- More than one-quarter of both male and female offenders detained were aged 36 years or more. Another 23% of males and 21% of females were aged 21–25.
- Male detainees were more likely than female detainees to be aged 21–25 years (23% compared with 21%), while females were more likely to be aged 31–35 (18% compared with 16%).

Source: Reference 21

**Figure 69: Adult police detainees, by education level, 2006 (percent)**

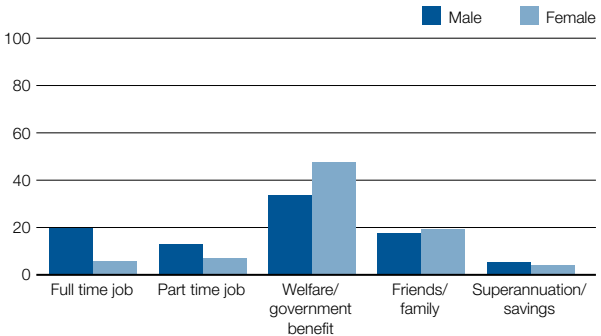


- Half the female (50%) and almost half the male (48%) police detainees in 2006 had completed Year 10 or less, and one-fifth had completed Years 11 and 12.
- In terms of tertiary education, 18% of male detainees had completed a TAFE qualification and 4% had completed a university qualification.
- A similar proportion of female detainees had completed a TAFE (17%) or university qualification (5%).

Source: Reference 21

Figures 70 and 71 refer to the same question on source of income and add up to 100%.

**Figure 70: Adult police detainees, by source of income (non-crime generated) in past 30 days, 2006 (percent)**

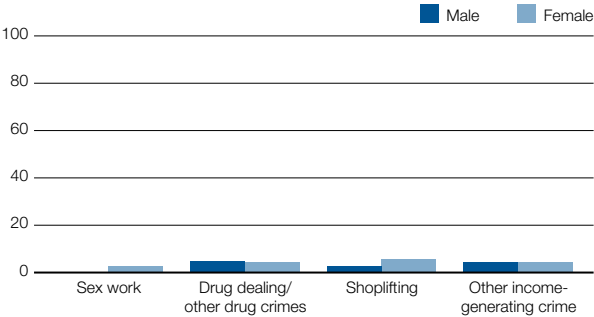


- One-third of male detainees (34%) and almost half the female detainees (47%) received a welfare or government benefit as their main source of income.

- Income derived from a full time job was the next most common income source for male detainees (19%), followed by money obtained from friends and family (17%).
- Female detainees' next most common sources of income were family or friends (19%) and a part time job (7%).

Source: Reference 21

**Figure 71: Adult police detainees, by source of income (crime-generated)<sup>a</sup> in past 30 days, 2006 (percent)**

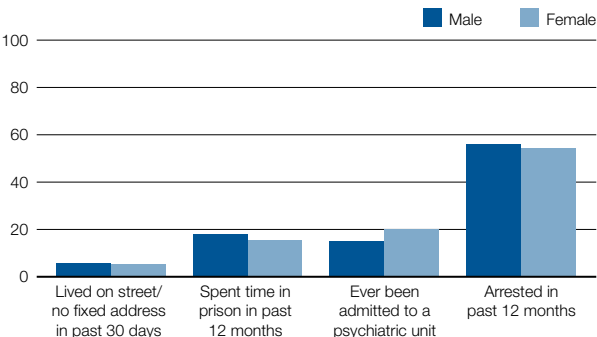


a: Sex work is decriminalised in some states and territories

- 12% of male detainees and 17% of female detainees sourced their income from criminal activity.
- Drug dealing and other drug-related crimes were reported by 5% of male detainees as their main source of income.
- 6% of female detainees relied on shoplifting as their main source of income; 5% on drug dealing and drug-related crimes and 3% on sex work.

Source: Reference 21

**Figure 72: Adult police detainees, by previous experience of homelessness, arrest and imprisonment, and mental illness, 2006 (percent)**



- Around half the male (56%) and female (54%) detainees had been arrested in the 12 months prior to their current arrest. Male detainees were more likely (18%) than female detainees (15%) to have spent time in prison in the previous 12 months.
- Female detainees (20%) were more likely than male detainees (15%) to have ever been admitted to a psychiatric unit.
- A similar proportion of male and female detainees (6% and 5% respectively) experienced homelessness in the month before their arrest, either living on the street or having no fixed address.

Source: Reference 21

## Most serious offence

**Table 7: Adult male police detainees, by most serious offence, 2002–06 (percent)**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Violent offences	25	26	26	25	28
Property offences	28	31	28	24	23
Drug offences	6	6	7	7	7
Drink driving offences	4	5	6	4	5
Traffic offences	10	10	9	12	9
Disorder offences	6	6	6	6	7
Breaches	16	14	15	18	17
Other offences	5	3	4	4	5

**Table 8: Adult female police detainees, by most serious offence, 2002–06 (percent)**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Violent offences	16	16	17	18	20
Property offences	41	47	41	37	37
Drug offences	8	7	7	7	7
Drink driving offences	3	2	3	3	2
Traffic offences	6	7	8	10	10
Disorder offences	7	7	6	7	5
Breaches	14	12	13	13	13
Other offences	6	3	6	5	5

- Between 2002 and 2005, property offences were the most common serious offence for adult male detainees, but in 2006 it was violent offences.

- Property offences were the most common serious offence for adult female detainees over the five year period. Female detainees were 2–3 times more likely to be detained for a property offence than a violent offence.
- Since 2002, the percentage of female detainees whose most serious offence was a violent offence has increased from 16% to 20%.
- There has been a decrease in the percentage of male detainees whose most serious offence was a property offence, from 28% to 23%.

*Source: Reference 21*



There is a hierarchy of criminal courts at the federal and state/territory levels.

The state and territory court systems comprise:

- *Magistrates courts*: lower courts that deal 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) courts*: courts that deal with more serious crimes. Intermediate courts hear the majority of cases involving indictable crimes.
- *Supreme courts*: the highest level of court within a state or territory. Supreme courts deal with the most serious crimes.

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 are heard. Magistrates courts are called lower courts.

Minor criminal offences are called summary offences and major offences are called indictable offences. Indictable offences normally require a trial by judge and jury.

Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory do not have intermediate courts; all relevant charges are dealt with by their supreme courts. In states with both supreme and intermediate courts, the majority of charges are decided at the intermediate court level.

All state, territory and federal courts handle a number of matters that appear in the court system for the first time, although almost all criminal charges, including those for federal criminal offences, are lodged initially at the magistrates court level.

The ABS publishes statistics on criminal defendants whose cases were initiated and finalised in higher and magistrates courts. ABS data do not include defendants finalised in children's courts, electronic courts, family violence courts, Koori courts or drug courts.

In addition, in recent years the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (SCRGSP) has produced statistics on the number of lodgments at each court level.

Both the ABS and the SCRGSP report on criminal court data for financial rather than calendar years.

*Source: References 22 and 23*

# 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 procedures* – committal hearing or discussion and mediation between the parties
- *trial*
- *court decision* – judgment or verdict followed by sentencing.

*Source: References 22 and 23*

## Lodgments

Most lodgments are processed by the magistrates court in the relevant criminal jurisdiction.

In 2005–06, 800,532 cases were lodged in criminal courts in Australia.

Cases initiated in magistrates courts accounted for 96% of all lodgments in the criminal courts in 2005–06, while 3.3% were initiated in district/county courts and 0.6% in supreme courts.

*Source: Reference 22*

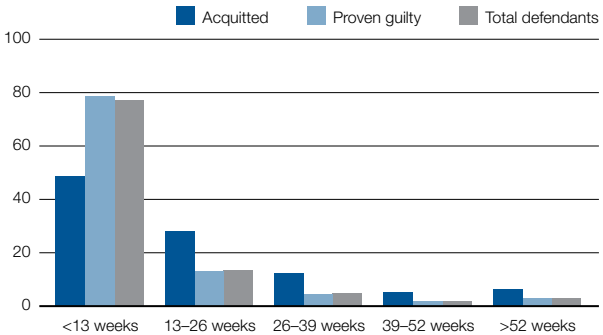
## Timeliness

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 cases are of a more straightforward nature. The disputes and prosecutions heard are usually less complex than those in higher courts.

Committal is the first stage of hearing an indictable offence 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 held in custody pending a committal hearing or trial, or released on bail. The conduct of the committal hearing is important for timely adjudication of the charges against the defendant.

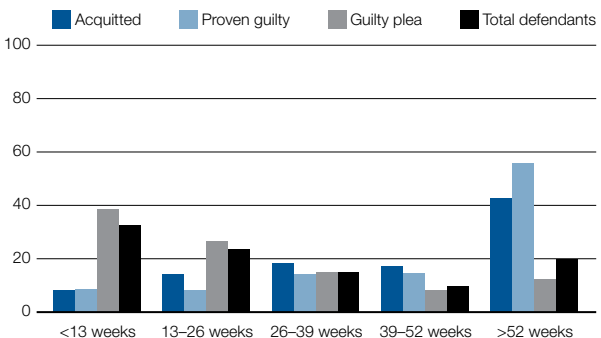
**Figure 73: Duration of matters finalised in magistrates courts, by method of finalisation, 2005–06 (percent)**



- On average, 77% of committal hearings in magistrates courts in 2005–06 were finalised within thirteen weeks from the initial hearing of charges by the court. A further 13% were finalised in the subsequent three months.
- Defendants were more likely to be acquitted in cases that took longer than 13 weeks to finalise.
- 3% of hearings took 52 or more weeks to finalise.
- When defendants were acquitted, the case generally took longer than those which delivered a guilty verdict.

Source: Reference 23

**Figure 74: Duration of matters finalised in higher courts, by method of finalisation, 2005–06 (percent)**



- In 2005–06, 20% of matters finalised in higher courts lasted more than 52 weeks and 32% took less than 13 weeks to finalise.
- Cases involving a guilty plea generally took the least time to finalise. Cases resulting in a guilty verdict tended to take the longest time – 56% of cases that took 52 weeks or more to finalise ended in a proven guilty verdict.

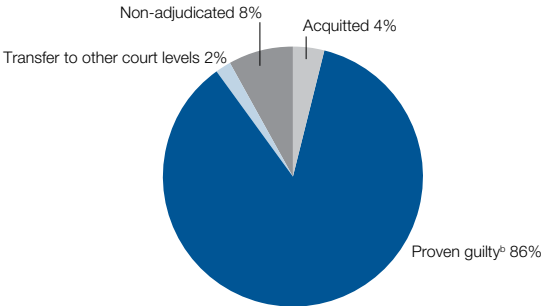
Source: Reference 23

## Court decision

Cases are finalised at the courts in the following ways:

- *adjudicated* – determined whether guilty of the charges by court judgement, or plea of guilty
- *non-adjudicated* – case not resolved for a variety of reasons, including withdrawn by prosecution, unfit to plead, accused dies, diplomatic immunity, statute of limitations.

**Figure 75: Criminal cases finalised in magistrates courts, by method of finalisation, 2005–06<sup>a</sup>**



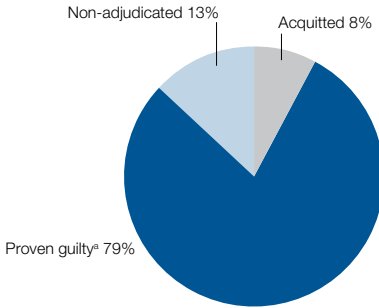
a: NSW refers to finalised appearances rather than defendants, resulting in possible overcounting. NSW excludes defendants finalised by committal to a higher court

b: Includes guilty plea and guilty verdict

- In 2005–06, 96% (n=569,883) of defendants were finalised in the magistrates courts. Only 4% (n=21,687) of magistrate court defendants were acquitted.
- In 86% of cases, defendants were proven guilty in the magistrates courts and only 2% were transferred to other court levels.

Source: Reference 23

**Figure 76: Criminal cases finalised in higher courts, by method of finalisation, 2005–06**

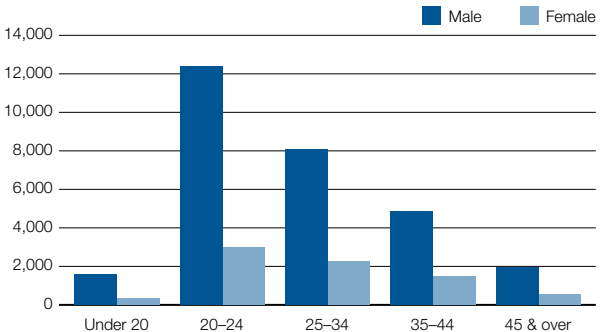


a: Includes guilty plea and guilty verdict

- In 2005–06 there were 16,319 defendants finalised in the higher courts, down slightly from 16,523 in 2004–05.
- The majority of defendants whose cases were heard in higher courts were proven guilty (79%).
- In 8% of cases the defendant was acquitted.

Source: Reference 23

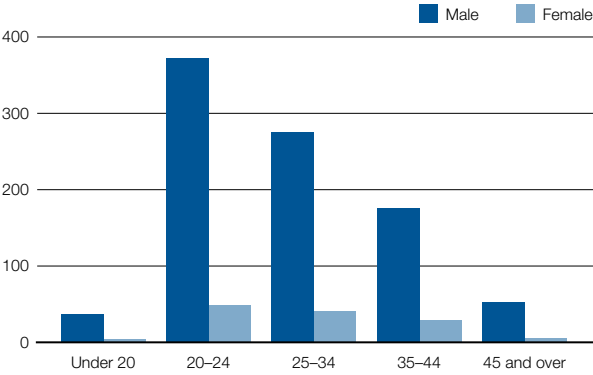
**Figure 77: Adjudicated defendants in magistrates courts by age and gender, 2005–06 (rate per 100,000 persons)**



- In 2005–06, 21% of defendants in magistrates courts were female.
- In all age groups males were more likely than females to appear as defendants in court.
- As in previous years, males and females aged 20–24 were more likely than other age groups to appear in magistrates courts.

Source: References 2 and 23

**Figure 78: Adjudicated defendants in higher courts by age and gender, 2005–06 (rate per 100,000 persons)**



- Females are less likely to appear before higher courts than magistrates courts. Women made up 12% of defendants in higher courts and 21% in magistrates courts.
- The highest rate of defendants in higher courts occurred in the 20–24 age group for both males and females.

Source: References 2 and 23

## Sentencing

Sentencing options available at each court level include but are not limited to:

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

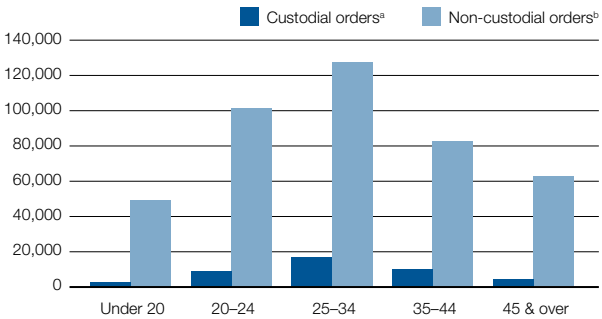
Sentence types can be broadly divided into custodial and non-custodial sentences, or orders. A custodial order requires a person's liberty to be restricted for a specified period of time either through detention in a correctional facility or home, or being subject to regular supervision

while in the community. Custodial orders include custody in a correctional institution, custody in the community, and suspended sentences.

Non-custodial orders are sentences that do not involve being held in custody. They include community supervision or work orders and monetary orders.

Sentencing data for adult offenders have been available since 2002–03 for all states and territories. The ABS is continuing to work towards a more detailed and regular sentencing collection for higher courts and magistrates courts.

**Figure 79: Defendants found guilty in magistrates courts, by age and principal sentence, 2005–06 (number)**



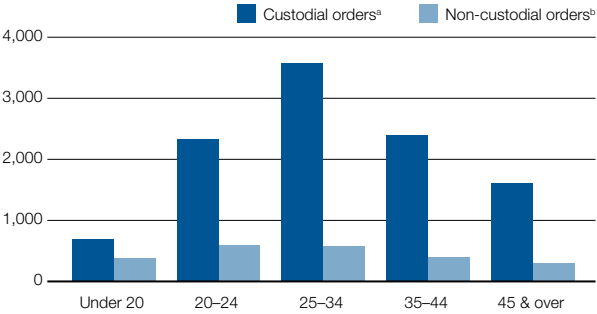
a: Includes custody in a correctional institution, custody in the community, and suspended sentence

b: Includes community supervision or work orders, monetary orders, and other non-custodial orders

- In 2005–06, most defendants found guilty in magistrates courts were given non-custodial sentences (91%).
- Defendants aged 25–34 were more likely to receive a custodial sentence than were defendants in other age groups.
- In 2005–06, 10% of guilty defendants aged 25–34 received custodial sentences, compared with only 4% of defendants aged less than 20, 7% of those aged 45 and older and 8% of defendants aged 20–24.

Source: Reference 23

**Figure 80: Defendants found guilty in higher courts, by age and principal sentence, 2005–06 (number)**



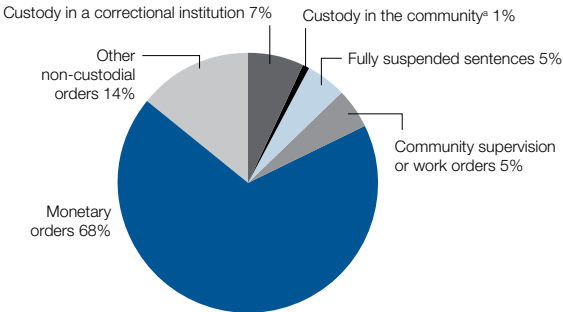
a: Includes custody in a correctional institution, custody in the community, and suspended sentence

b: Includes community supervision or work orders, monetary orders, and other non-custodial orders

- Compared with magistrates courts, a much higher proportion of defendants found guilty in higher courts received custodial sentences (82%). Non-custodial sentences were given to 18% of defendants found guilty in higher courts.
- Defendants aged 24 or less found guilty were slightly less likely to receive custodial sentences than were older defendants.
- 64% of those aged less than twenty, and 80% of those aged 20–24 received custodial sentences, compared with 83–86% for all other age groups.

Source: Reference 23

**Figure 81: Male defendants found guilty in all courts, by principal sentence type, 2005–06**



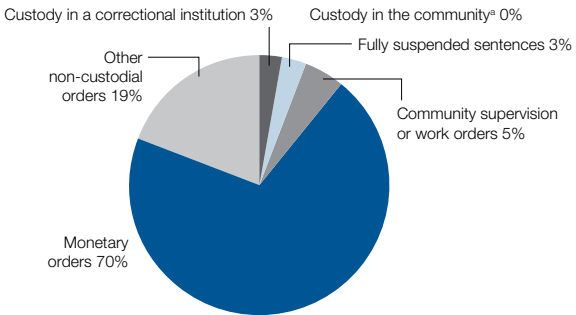
a: Custody in the community includes intensive corrections orders, home detention, and other orders where liberty is restricted while living within the community



- In the majority of cases, the principal sentence handed down for male offenders was a monetary order, such as a fine (68%).
- Custody in a correctional institution accounted for only 7% of the total number of sentences in all courts in 2005–06.
- 5% of male defendants found guilty received fully suspended sentences.
- Custody in the community occurred in only 1% of cases, while community supervision or work orders were issued in 5% of cases.

Source: Reference 23

**Figure 82: Female defendants found guilty in all courts, by principal sentence type, 2005–06**

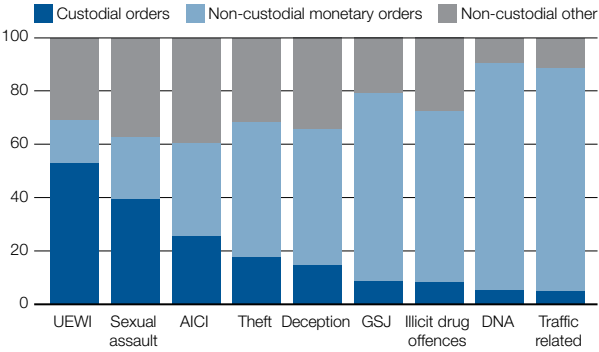


a: Custody in the community includes intensive corrections orders, home detention, and other orders where liberty is restricted while living within the community

- Custody in a correctional institution accounted for only 3% of principal sentences for female offenders in 2005–06.
- Monetary orders were the most common sentence type (70%).
- Defendants were issued with community supervision or work orders in 5% of cases, while fully suspended sentences were handed down in 3% of cases. The issuing of other non-custodial orders rose slightly from 17% in 2004–05 to 19% in 2005–06.

Source: Reference 23

**Figure 83: Defendants found guilty in magistrates courts, by principal sentence type and most serious offence, 2005–06 (percent)**



AICI: Acts intended to cause injury

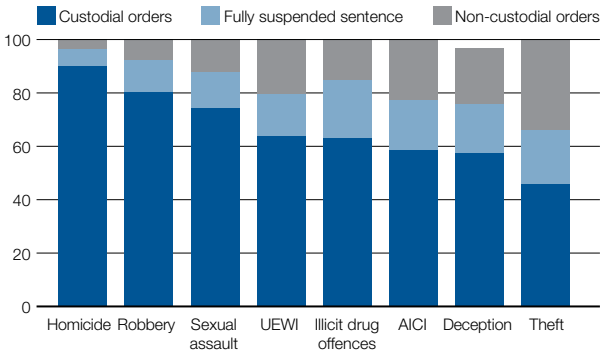
GSJ: Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations

DNA: Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons

- Overall, monetary orders were the most common sentence in magistrates courts.
- The offences of UEWI (53%) and sexual assault (39%) had the highest percentage of defendants who received a custodial order.
- The highest percentage of monetary orders imposed on defendants were for the offences of dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons (85%) and traffic related offences (84%).

Source: Reference 23

**Figure 84: Defendants found guilty in higher courts, by principal sentence type and most serious offence, 2005–06 (percent)**



AICI: Acts intended to cause injury

- A custodial sentence was the most common sentence in higher courts for all offences.
- Defendants found guilty of homicide, robbery or sexual assault in higher courts were overwhelmingly likely to receive a custodial sentence (90%, 80% and 74%, respectively).
- Least likely to receive custodial sentences in higher courts were defendants found guilty of acts intended to cause injury (58%), deception (57%) and theft (46%).

Source: Reference 23

# 6 Corrections

The definition of adult varies among jurisdictions and over time. Data in this section refer to persons aged 18 years and older.

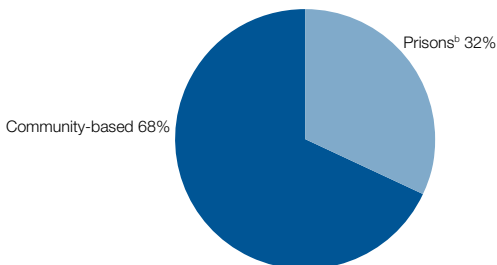
Issues of *Facts & figures* up to 2004 defined adults as persons aged 17 years and older when calculating rates of imprisonment. From the 2005 issue onwards, imprisonment rates for reference periods prior to 2004 have been recalculated based on the revised adult age and will thus be different from older issues.

Rates per relevant population refer to the number of persons per specified population group (for example, juveniles, males or females, or Indigenous persons).

## Persons under corrective services management

Corrective services agencies manage offenders sentenced to imprisonment, community corrections or periodic detention.

**Figure 85: Offenders, by type of corrective program, 2005–06<sup>a</sup>**



a: Figures based on daily average counts

b: Includes periodic detention (available only in NSW and ACT)

- 68% of offenders managed by corrective service authorities in 2005–06 were placed on community-based programs.
- 32% were in prison serving sentences or on remand.

Source: Reference 22

# Prisons

A national census of adult prisoners is taken on 30 June each year. This section uses statistics from the 2006 prison census.

It should be noted that the prisoner counts include both sentenced prisoners and those on remand (awaiting trial or sentence), unless otherwise specified.

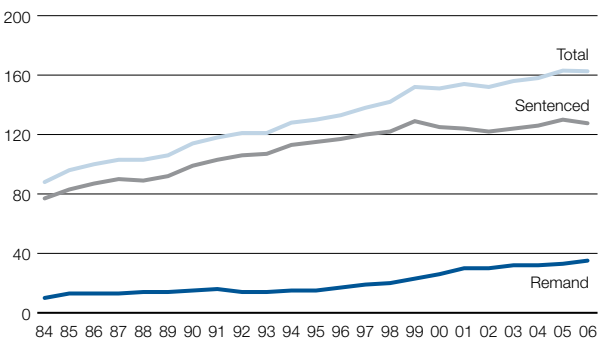
On 30 June 2006, a total of 25,790 persons were in custody in Australian prisons, a 1.7% increase on the number recorded in 2005. This corresponds to a rate of 163 per 100,000 adult population. This is the same rate as 2005, and follows an increasing trend over the past decade. The majority, 20,209, were sentenced prisoners and 5,581 were remandees.

In 2005–06, a total of 313,699 offenders were sentenced to some form of corrective service, with 78–79,000 imprisoned at each quarter. This count is likely to include some individual prisoners counted more than once, due to their serving different sentences or their sentences spanning multiple quarters.

Source: References 24 and 25

## Trend in prison population

**Figure 86: Prisoners, 1984–2006 (rate per 100,000 persons)**



- Between 1984 and 2006, the overall imprisonment rate increased from 88 to 163 per 100,000 adult population. However, this rate of increase has slowed since 1999.
- At 30 June 2006 remanded prisoners (those awaiting trial or sentence), accounted for 22% of the total prisoner population, up from 12% in 1984.

- The rate of prisoners remanded in custody more than tripled between 1984 and 2005, from 10 to 35 per 100,000 population.

Source: References 2 and 24

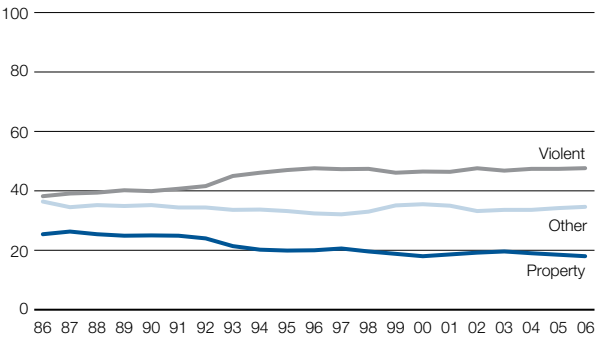
## Most serious offence

Some offenders are sentenced to a prison term for more than one offence. The offence for which they are categorised as being in prison is the one deemed most serious, that is, the one with the longest sentence.

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). Other offenders are those who have been convicted of fraud, offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations, drug offences and others, such as public order and driving offences.

On 30 June 2006, there were 9,641 sentenced prisoners in Australia whose most serious offence was a violent offence, 3,553 whose most serious offence was a property offence, and 7,015 who were sentenced for other offences.

**Figure 87: Prisoners sentenced for violent, property and other offences, 1986–2006 (percent)**



- The percentage of prisoners sentenced for violent offences increased from 38% in 1986 to 47% in 1995 and has remained steady since then.
- Those sentenced for property offences declined from 25% in 1986 to 18% in 2006.
- The proportion sentenced for other offences has remained steady at about one-third.

Source: Reference 24

**Table 9: Sentenced prisoners by most serious offence, 2006**

	Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Violent</b>				
Homicide	1,917	10	150	11
Assault	2,829	15	187	14
Sex offences	2,494	13	20	1
Robbery	1,962	10	82	6
<b>Property</b>				
Break and enter	2,290	12	134	10
Other theft <sup>a</sup>	981	5	148	11
<b>Other</b>				
GSJ <sup>b</sup>	1,709	9	174	13
Drug offences	1,863	10	193	14
Fraud <sup>c</sup>	494	3	141	10
Other <sup>d</sup>	2,308	12	132	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,847</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,361</b>	<b>100</b>

a: Includes motor vehicle theft

b: Government security and justice procedures, includes offences such as breach of court order, breach of parole, escape custody, offences against justice procedures, treason, sedition and resisting customs officials

c: Deception and related offences

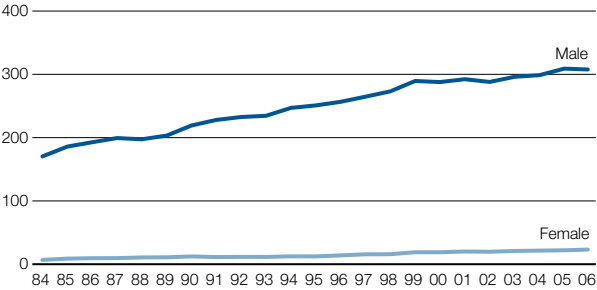
d: Includes other offences against the person and property, public order offences and driving offences

- The most serious offences for which male prisoners were sentenced included assault, sex offences, and break and enter.
- For female prisoners the most serious offences were drug offences, assault and offences related to government and security and justice procedures.
- Males imprisoned for the violent offences of homicide, assault, sex offences and robbery accounted for almost half of all sentenced male prisoners in 2006 (49%).
- One-third of sentenced females (32%) were imprisoned for violent offences.
- These patterns remained relatively consistent between 2005 and 2006.

Source: Reference 24

## Gender

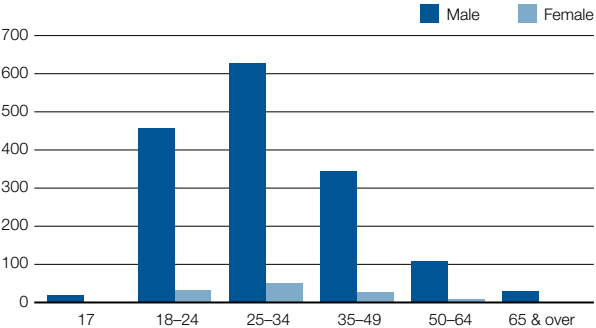
**Figure 88: Prisoners by gender, 1984–2006 (rate per 100,000 persons)**



- Between 1984 and 2006, the overall imprisonment rate for males increased from 170 to 308 per 100,000 adult male population.
- The female rate of imprisonment was 7 per 100,000 in 1984 and 23 per 100,000 in 2006.
- As for the past five years, 7% of prisoners in 2006 were women, up from 4% in 1984.
- The number of male and female prisoners increased annually by an average of 4% and 8% respectively over the period 1984–2006.
- 58% of prisoners in 2006 were known to have served a sentence prior to their current prison term.

Source: References 2 and 24

**Figure 89: Age and gender of prisoners, 2006 (rate per 100,000 relevant population)**



- 93% of prisoners in 2006 were male.
- 58% of all prisoners were under 35 years of age.



- For both males and females, 25 to 34 year olds had the highest imprisonment rates in 2006, followed by 18 to 24 year olds.

Source: References 2 and 24

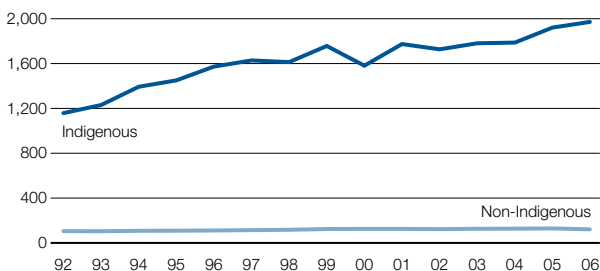
## Indigenous status

Figure 90 shows the imprisonment rate of Indigenous (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) and non-Indigenous persons. These data include both sentenced prisoners and remandees.

Note: Population projections for Indigenous adults are based on data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The ABS uses two methods to estimate Indigenous populations: the low series and the high series. Both employ certain assumptions about births, deaths and migration. The high series also incorporates assumptions about a change in the propensity to identify as Indigenous. Figures in this publication are based on high series population data.

Source: Reference 24

**Figure 90: Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoners, 1992–2006 (rate per 100,000 relevant persons)**

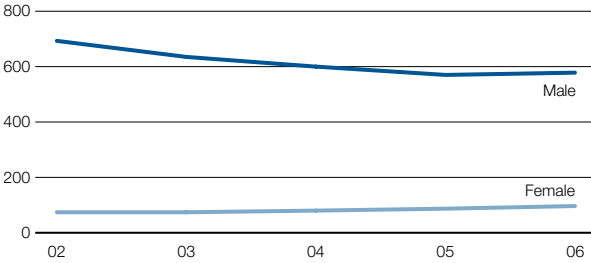


- At June 30 2006 the Indigenous imprisonment rate (1,985 per 100,000) was nearly sixteen times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous persons (127 per 100,000). The difference in prisoner rates has increased slightly since 2005.
- Indigenous prisoners comprised 24% of the total prisoner population in 2006, an increase from 14% in 1992.
- 74% of Indigenous prisoners were known to have previously been in prison, compared with 52% of non-Indigenous prisoners.

Source: References 2, 24 and 26

## Federal prisoners

**Figure 91: Federal prisoners, by gender, 2002–06 (number)**



- In June 2006, there were 574 male and 91 female federal prisoners.
- Between June 2002 and June 2006, the number of male federal prisoners decreased by 17% and the number of female federal prisoners increased by 23%.

Source: Reference 25

## Recidivism

One measure of recidivism is rate of return to prison, which has remained stable in Australia over the past five years. Similar to previous years, 38% of prisoners released in 2003–04 returned to prison under sentence in 2005–06.

Source: Reference 22

Another measure, collected by the ABS, is previous imprisonment of inmates currently serving custodial sentences. Note that the prior imprisonment was not necessarily for the same type of offence.

**Table 10: Previous imprisonment, by current offence and Indigenous status, 30 June 2006**

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	Number	%	Number	%
Homicide	396	65	2,164	38
AICI	1,937	75	2,645	53
Sexual assault	597	66	2,331	32
Robbery	534	71	2,032	62
UEWI	835	76	2,247	74
Theft	266	73	1,180	67
Illicit drug offences	84	63	2,398	35

AICI: Acts intended to cause injury

- The proportion of Indigenous prisoners with a prior imprisonment was greater for all selected offences, compared with non-Indigenous prisoners
- Indigenous prisoners had consistently high levels of prior imprisonment, ranging from 63% for illicit drug offences to 75% for AICI.
- Non-Indigenous prisoners were most likely to have had a prior imprisonment for UEWI (break and enters), at 74%, followed by theft (67%), robbery (62%) and AICI (53%).
- Non-Indigenous prisoners were less likely to have been in prison previously when their current offence was homicide (38%), illicit drug offences (35%) or sexual assault (32%).

*Source: Reference 24*

## 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.

The definition of community corrections in this chapter is somewhat different from the definition of non-custodial sentences given in Chapter 5. This chapter includes weekend detention and home detention as community-based sentences, whereas they are considered custodial sentences in the previous chapter. The difference is due to different definitions in the source material.

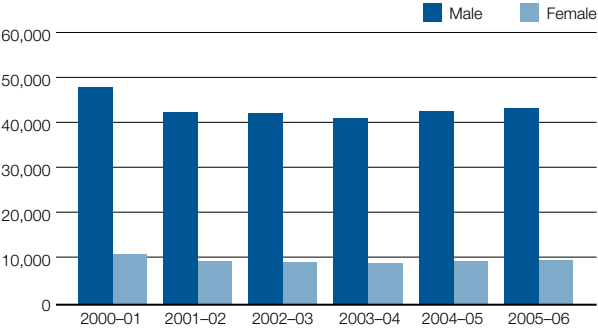
In Australia during 2005–06, there was an average of 53,243 offenders per day serving community corrections orders, an increase of 1% from the number recorded in 2004–05.

This corresponds to a rate of 336 per 100,000 adults – 560 per 100,000 adult males and 119 per 100,000 adult females.

As in previous years, females accounted for a larger proportion of the community corrections population than of the prison population, at 18% and 7% respectively.

*Source: References 2, 22 and 24*

**Figure 92: Average daily community corrections population, 2000–01 to 2005–06 (number)**



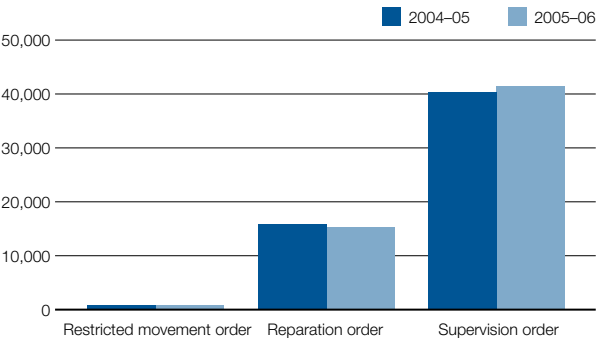
- The average daily number of male offenders on community correction orders declined from 48,234 in 2000–01, to 43,538 in 2005–06. The number of female offenders declined from 10,928 to 9,597.
- Between 2000–01 and 2005–06 the rate of offenders on community corrections orders per 100,000 adults decreased by 17% for males and 19% for females, while the rate of imprisonment increased.

Source: References 2, 22 and 24

Community corrections orders are classified into three main categories:

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

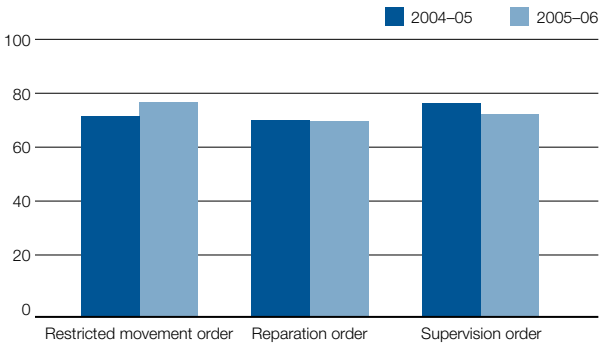
**Figure 93: Average daily community corrections population, by type of order, 2004–05 and 2005–06 (number)**



- Supervision orders (the most commonly used option) increased again in 2005–06, to the highest number recorded since 2000–01 (41,515 offenders).
- Reparation orders are also common, with 15,367 offenders serving this option in 2005–06. This represents a 3% decrease from 2004–05.
- In 2005–06, 866 offenders were serving restricted movement orders, up from the 792 recorded in the previous year.

Source: Reference 22

**Figure 94: Successful completion of community corrections orders, 2004–05 and 2005–06 (percent)**



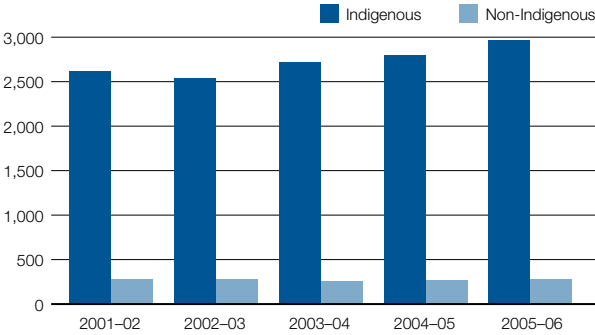
- On average, 72% of all community corrections orders were successfully completed in 2005–06, a small decrease from 74% in 2004–05.
- Successful completions ranged from 70% for reparation orders to 77% for supervision orders.

Source: Reference 22

## Indigenous status

On average, 42,017 non-Indigenous and 9,088 Indigenous offenders were serving community corrections orders in 2005–06.

**Figure 95: Average daily community corrections population, by Indigenous status, 2001–02 to 2005–06 (rate per 100,000 relevant population)**



- In 2005–06, the Indigenous community corrections rate was 11 times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous offenders, at 2,962 compared with 272 per 100,000 relevant population.
- The community corrections rate for Indigenous people rose from 2,613 per 100,000 in 2001–02 to 2,962 per 100,000 in 2005–06, a 13% increase.
- The community corrections rate for non-Indigenous people remained relatively stable over the same period.

Source: References 2, 24 and 26

## Juvenile corrective institutions

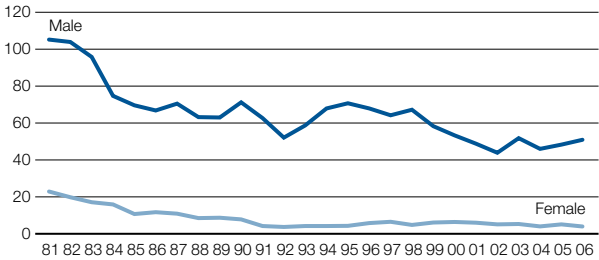
The AIC has maintained a data collection on the number of persons detained in juvenile corrective institutions since 1981, consisting of a count of persons detained in institutions on the last day of each quarter each year. Similar information is not available for the sentenced non-custodial juvenile population.

The long term trend data shown in this section are based on the census conducted on 30 June of each year.

### Trend in juvenile corrective institution population

As there are differences between jurisdictions regarding the definition of a juvenile, statistics are shown for persons aged between 10 and 17 years. Figure 96 depicts the imprisonment rate of male and female juveniles from 1981 to 2006.

**Figure 96: Persons in juvenile corrective institutions, 1981–2006 (rate per 100,000 relevant population)**



- Between 1981 and 2006, the overall incarceration rate for juveniles declined 55%, from 65 to 30 per 100,000.
- The rate for males had declined to 52 per 100,000 in 2006, from 105 in 1981. The rate for females dropped from 23 to 5.
- The percentage of females in the total juvenile prison population has dropped from 17% in 1981 to 8% in 2006.
- In 2006, the male incarceration rate was 11 times higher than the rate for female juveniles.

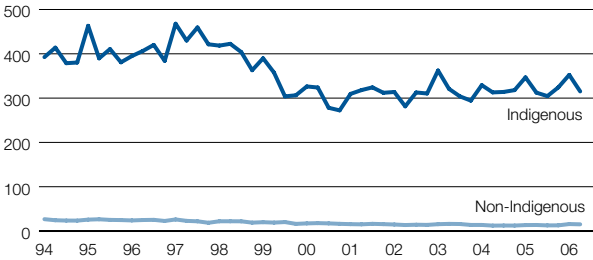
Source: Reference 27

## Indigenous status

Data on incarcerated juveniles by Indigenous status have been made available since 1994. This section shows the incarceration rate of Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons in juvenile corrective institutions, from 31 March 1994 to 30 June 2006 for each quarter.

Note: These data are based on the high series of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population projections for juveniles. This method accounts for the effects of increased propensity to identify as Indigenous between the 1991, 1996 and 2001 censuses. In 2004 the ABS released revised Indigenous population figures in the high series for 2001–2003, based on the 2001 census. Rate calculations for these years therefore differ from some previous publications.

**Figure 97: Persons in juvenile corrective institutions by Indigenous status, 31 March 1994 – 30 June 2006 (rate per 100,000 relevant population)<sup>a</sup>**



a: Rates between 30 September 1996 and 31 December 2002 have been calculated using detainee totals and population estimates excluding Tasmania because detainee Indigenous status data for Tasmania are unavailable for this period

- The total number of Indigenous persons in juvenile corrective institutions on 30 June 2006 was 330. This represents 51% of the total number of persons detained in juvenile corrective institutions.
- The incarceration rate for Indigenous juveniles was 315 per 100,000, 21 times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous juveniles (15 per 100,000).
- There has been a 33% decline in the Indigenous juvenile imprisonment rate since the high of 468 per 100,000 recorded in March 1997.

Source: References 2, 26 and 27



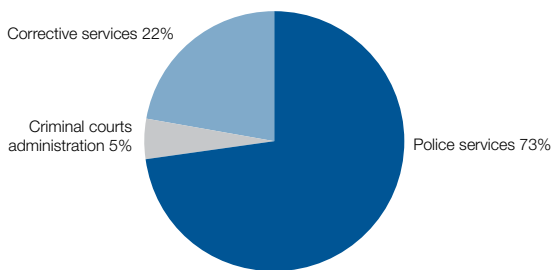
## Justice expenditure

According to the *Report on government services 2007* (reference 22) the total real recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources) on justice in 2005–06 was slightly more than \$9 billion. Of this, approximately \$8.5 billion was spent on criminal justice. The remaining \$540 million was spent on the administration of civil courts. Since 2001–02, expenditure on criminal justice has increased by 33% overall and by an average of 8% each year.

Police services represent the largest component of the criminal justice system, accounting for approximately 73% of total expenditure. Corrective services account for a further 22%, while criminal courts administration accounts for the remaining 5% (Figure 98).

Source: Reference 22

**Figure 98: Composition of government expenditure on criminal justice, 2005–06**



Source: Reference 22

## 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 provided by the Australian Government.

The figures below exclude resource data for the AFP for non-ACT policing functions.

### Expenditure

The total recurrent expenditure on police services across Australia in 2005–06 was approximately \$6.4 billion. This amounts to \$310 for every person in Australia, or \$404 per adult. Salaries accounted for 76% of this expenditure.

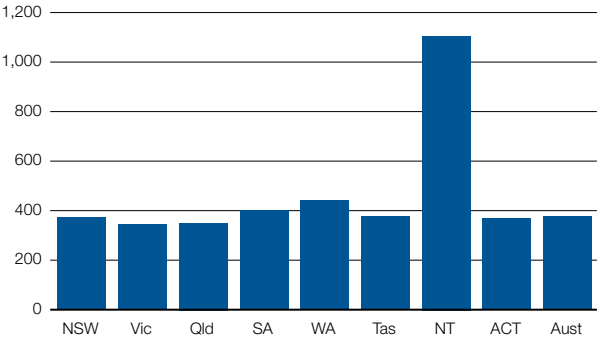
Real total recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources and payroll tax) in 2005–06 was \$5.9 billion, or \$288 for every person or \$374 per adult.

**Table 11: Expenditure on state and territory police services, 2005–06**

Expenditure	(\$'000)
Total recurrent expenditure	6,400.4
Total capital expenditure	447.4
Total expenditure	6,487.8
<b>Staff salaries</b>	<b>(\$)</b>
Average police staff salaries	88,765
Average non-police staff salaries	56,002

Source: Reference 22

**Figure 99: Recurrent expenditure on state and territory police services per head of adult population, 2005–06**



- Recurrent expenditure on police services per head of adult population ranged from about \$374 in Victoria to \$1,189 in the Northern Territory.

Source: References 2 and 22

## Staffing

Most people involved directly in the delivery of police services are sworn police officers (employees recognised under each jurisdiction's policing legislation). Sworn 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 unsworn officers or contracted to external providers.

- Total police services staffing in Australia (excluding the AFP) on 30 June 2006 was 59,587. This averages 289 per 100,000 persons (224 sworn police officers and 66 civilian employees).
- There were 46,058 sworn police officers and 13,529 civilian employees making up Australian police services in 2006.

Source: References 2 and 22

**Table 12: Composition of state and territory police services by jurisdiction, 30 June 2006<sup>a</sup>**

Jurisdiction	Sworn police officers	Civilian	Total	Sworn officers per 1,000 sq km
NSW	14,634	3,936	18,570	18
Vic	10,762	2,683	13,445	47
Qld	9,027	3,343	12,370	5
SA	3,975	1,374	6,353	4
WA	4,979	1,113	5,088	2
Tas	1,184	376	1,560	17
NT	877	509	1,386	1
ACT	620	195	815	264
<b>Australia</b>	<b>46,058</b>	<b>13,529</b>	<b>59,587</b>	<b>6</b>

a: Excludes Australian Federal Police for non-ACT policing

- New South Wales had the largest police service in Australia, while the ACT had the smallest.
- The Northern Territory and Queensland employed the largest proportion of civilian staff (37% and 27% respectively), and Victoria the smallest (20%).

Source: Reference 22

**Table 13: Selected Commonwealth law enforcement agency personnel, by gender, 30 June 2006<sup>a</sup>**

Agency	Male	Female	Total
AFP <sup>b</sup>	1,955	1,217	3,172
Sworn	1,326	416	1,742
Unsworn	629	801	1,430
ACC	227	203	430
ACS	3,304	2,274	5,578
APS	1,254	193	1,447
CrimTrac	32	22	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,772</b>	<b>3,909</b>	<b>10,681</b>

a: Includes full-time, part-time and casual staff

b: Excludes ACT Policing and APS personnel

AFP – Australian Federal Police

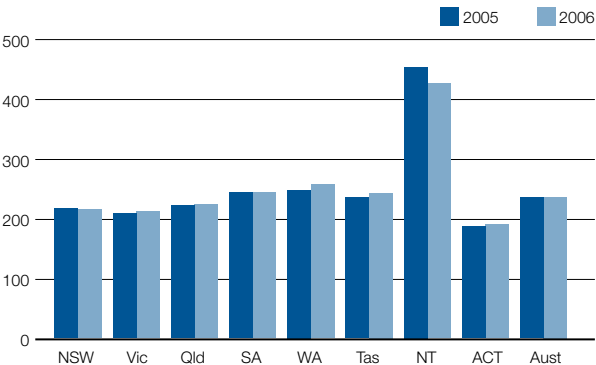
ACC – Australian Crime Commission

ACS – Australian Customs Service

APS – Australian Protective Service

- More than half the Australian Government law enforcement personnel are employed by the Australian Customs Service (52%) with another 30% in the AFP and 14% in the APS.
- Males represented between 53% and 62% of personnel in each agency, except the APS where they comprised 87% of all personnel.
- On 30 June 2006, 55% of AFP staff were sworn officers, of whom 76% were male. Females made up 56% of civilian staff in the AFP.

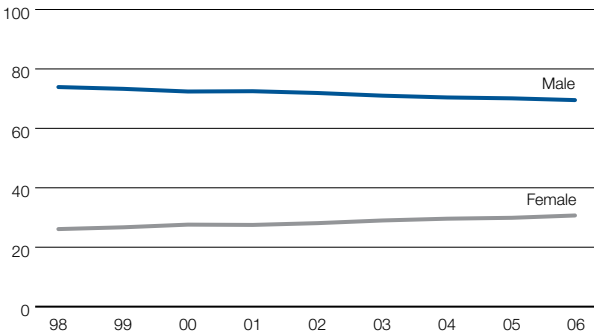
Sources: References 28, 29, 30, 31

**Figure 100: Sworn police officers, by jurisdiction, 30 June 2005 and 30 June 2006 (rate per 100,000 persons)**

- On 30 June 2006 the Northern Territory had the largest number of police officers per 100,000 population (424), while the ACT had the smallest (189). However, the ACT had 264 sworn police officers per 1,000 square km, while the Northern Territory had only one.
- Excluding the Northern Territory, there is little difference across jurisdictions in the number of sworn police officers per 100,000 population.

Source: References 2 and 22

**Figure 101: Sworn and unsworn police by gender, 1998–2006 (percent)**



- Between 1998 and 2006 there has been an increase in the percentage of female police staff (sworn and unsworn) from 26% to 31%.

Source: Reference 22

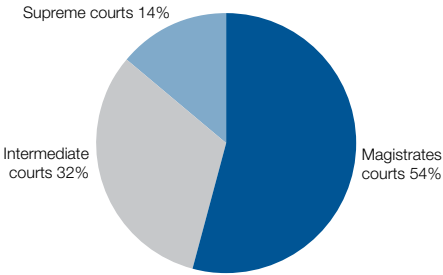
## Court administration

Total recurrent expenditure on court administration services across Australia (excluding the High Court) was \$1.25 billion in 2005–06, approximately \$500,000 more than 2004–05. Expenditure for criminal courts administration was about \$525 million for 2005–06, an increase from \$493 million the previous year.

Total criminal court expenditure less income (excluding fines) was \$504 million. This amounts to \$24 for every person in Australia, or \$32 per adult.

Source: Reference 22

**Figure 102: Total expenditure (less income) for criminal courts, 2005–06**

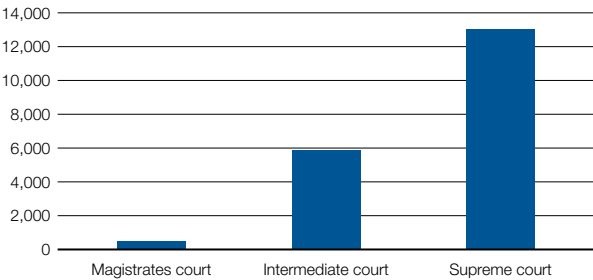


- Magistrates courts incurred 54% of total criminal court expenditure in 2005–06, the same as in 2004–05.
- Intermediate courts incurred 32% and supreme courts were 14%, and again the same as the previous year.

Source: Reference 22

Figure 103 shows the average expenditure per case lodgment in the criminal courts. The higher the level of court, the higher the cost associated with each criminal case lodgment. This is because more complex and lengthy cases are typically heard in the higher courts.

**Figure 103: Average expenditure per criminal case lodgment, 2005–06**



- In 2005–06, average expenditure per criminal case lodgment was \$367 in magistrates courts, \$5,831 in intermediate courts and \$13,032 in supreme courts. This expenditure has increased in all courts since the previous year.

Source: Reference 22

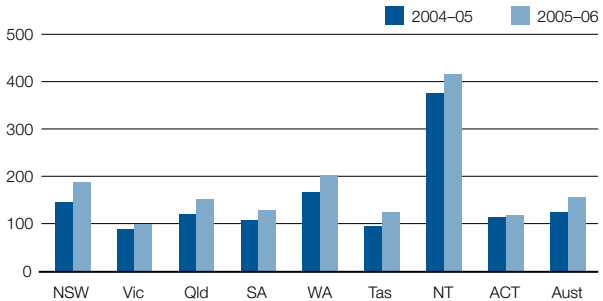
## Adult corrective services

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

Total net expenditure on corrective services in Australia was approximately \$2.5 billion in 2005–06: \$2.2 billion (88%) for prisons, \$236 million (10%) for community corrections and \$63 million (3%) for transport and escort services. This corresponds to \$120 for every person in Australia, or \$156 for every adult.

Source: References 2 and 22

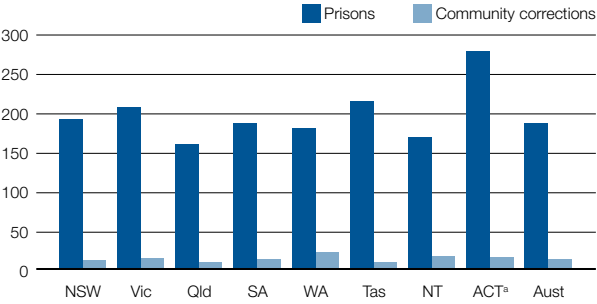
**Figure 104: Recurrent expenditure on corrective services per head of adult population, 2004–05 to 2005–06 (\$)**



- Recurrent expenditure on corrective services per head of adult population ranged from \$100 in Victoria to \$418 in the Northern Territory.
- In 2005–06 each state and territory increased their recurrent expenditure on corrective services per head of the population.

Source: References 2 and 22

**Figure 105: Corrective services expenditure per offender per day, by jurisdiction 2005–06 (\$)**



a: Includes both remand prisoners in ACT and sentenced prisoners in NSW

- Average expenditure per prisoner per day was \$185, ranging from \$158 in Queensland to \$276 in the Australian Capital Territory.
- Expenditure per offender sentenced to community corrections programs per day was \$12. The cost for offenders sentenced to prison was 15 times greater.
- Overall in 2005–06, \$67,343 was spent for every prisoner and \$4,271 for each offender sentenced to community corrections programs.

Source: Reference 22



1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 1997–2007. *Recorded crime, victims, Australia* (various years; title varies). ABS cat. no. 4510.0. Canberra: ABS
2. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2002–2006. *Population by age and sex, Australian states and territories* (various issues). ABS cat. no. 3201.0. Canberra: ABS
3. Davies M & Mouzos J 2007. *Homicide in Australia: 2005–06 National Homicide Monitoring Program annual report*. Research and public policy series no. 77. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology. <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/rpp/77/>
4. Extracted from Australian Bureau of Statistics recorded crime data
5. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006. *Motor vehicle census, Australia 31 March 2006*. ABS cat. no. 9309.0. Canberra: ABS
6. National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council 2006. *Comprehensive Auto Theft Research System (CARS) 2005/2006 statistical data*. [datafile] Adelaide: CARS <http://ncars.on.net/>
7. Victoria Police 1992–2006. *Victoria Police crime statistics* (various issues). Melbourne: Victoria Police
8. South Australia Police 1996–2006. *Statistical review/Annual report* (various issues). Adelaide: SAPOL
9. Queensland Police Service 1992–2006. *Annual statistical review* (various issues). Brisbane: QPS
10. New South Wales. Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research 1992–2006. *New South Wales recorded crime statistics* (various issues). Sydney: BOCSAR
11. Western Australia Police 1992–2006. *Western Australia Police Service annual crime statistics report* (various issues). Perth: WAPS
12. Tasmania. Department of Police and Emergency Management 1992–2006. *Annual report of the Department of Police and Public Safety* (various issues). Hobart: DPPS
13. Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services 1992–2006. *Annual report of the Police Force of the Northern Territory, Northern Territory Emergency Services, Fire Service of the Northern Territory* (various issues). Darwin: NTPFES
14. Australian Federal Police 2006. *Annual report 2005–2006*. Canberra: AFP
15. Australian Crime Commission 2002–2007. *Illicit drug data report* (various issues, title varies). Canberra: ACC. 2002 report released by Australian Bureau of Crime Intelligence

16. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006. *Crime and safety, Australia 2005*. ABS cat. no. 4509.0. Canberra: ABS
17. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006. *Personal safety survey, Australia 2005*. ABS cat. no. 4906.0. Canberra: ABS
18. Australian Computer Emergency Response Team 2006. *2006 Australian computer crime and security survey*. Brisbane: AusCERT
19. Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions 2004–2006. *Annual report* (various issues). Canberra: CDDP
20. Mouzos J et al. 2007. *Drug use monitoring in Australia: 2006 annual report on drug use among police detainees*. Research and public policy series no. 75. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology. <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/rpp/75/>
21. Extracted from unpublished data from AIC DUMA 2006 data
22. Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision 2007. *Report on government services, volume 1: education, justice, emergency management*. Melbourne: Productivity Commission
23. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2007. *Criminal courts, Australia 2005–06*. ABS cat. no. 4513.0. Canberra: ABS
24. Australian Bureau of Statistics 1982–2006. *Prisoners in Australia* (various issues, title varies). ABS cat. no. 4517.0. Canberra: ABS. 1982–1993 published by Australian Institute of Criminology
25. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2002–2006. *Corrective services, Australia* (various issues). ABS cat. no. 4512.0. Canberra: ABS
26. Extracted from June 1991–June 2009 unpublished data from high-series projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population provided by Australian Bureau of Statistics
27. Taylor N 2007. *Juveniles in detention in Australia, 1981–2006*. Technical and background paper no. 26. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology. <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tbp/tbp026>
28. Unpublished data supplied by Australian Federal Police.
29. Australian Crime Commission 2006. *Annual report 2005–2006*. Canberra: ACC
30. Australian Customs Service 2006. *Annual report 2005–2006*. Canberra: ACS
31. CrimTrac 2006. *Annual report 2005–2006*. Canberra: CrimTrac
32. Parliament of Australia 2007. *Inquiry into the future impact of serious organised crime on Australian society*. Canberra: Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission. [http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/acc\\_ctte/organised\\_crime/submissions/sub10.pdf](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/acc_ctte/organised_crime/submissions/sub10.pdf)



# **Australian Crime Facts & Figures 2007**

## **Australian Institute of Criminology**

GPO Box 2944

Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

Tel: +61 2 6260 9200

Fax: +61 2 6260 9201

Email: [front.desk@aic.gov.au](mailto:front.desk@aic.gov.au)

Web: <http://www.aic.gov.au>

