

AUSTRALIAN CRIME



FACTS AND FIGURES 2003



AUSTRALIAN
INSTITUTE OF
CRIMINOLOGY

Acknowledgments

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Note

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

ISBN 0 642 24219 4

Foreword

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

While the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) has been collecting and analysing data for the past 29 years, the availability of national statistics on major crimes is a relatively recent phenomenon. This publication makes use of those national statistics as well as a variety of other sources.

Administrative collections, such as police and court statistics provide only one picture of the true level of crime in Australia. Crime victimisation surveys routinely find that only about 40% of crimes are reported to the police, and this varies according to crime type. Reporting rates are as high as 95% for motor vehicle theft and as low as 20% for sexual assault.

As a result, it is important to use both administrative and survey-based information, to help inform our understanding of the level and effects of crime in the community. The data here comprise national figures; where national data are not available other sources are used. 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 prepares materials containing the latest data on crime and justice issues and produces a number of publications on a wide range of issues. Further information may be obtained by visiting the AIC website (www.aic.gov.au), or contacting the Institute (see back cover).

Toni Makkai
Acting Director

December 2003

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This section presents data on recorded crime as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for the period 1996 to 2002. Recorded crime is based on counts of victims during the period from 1 January to 31 December each year. A victim can include a person, a premise or a motor vehicle.

Recorded crime statistics are generated annually from police data and are the most consistent data available on crime in Australia. However, a large proportion of crime is not reported to police and so will not be counted in police statistics. An alternative source of information is the ABS National Crime and Safety Survey conducted in 2002, in which over 40,000 Australian residents were interviewed about their experiences of crime. Results of this survey are presented at the end of this chapter.

Crimes known to police

Tables 1a and 1b show the number of victims recorded by police between 1996 and 2002 for the following seven major categories of offences: homicide, assault, sexual assault, robbery, unlawful entry with intent, motor vehicle theft, and other theft. It is estimated that these crimes account for about 60% of all crime recorded by police.

Table 1a

Violent crimes recorded by police, 1996–2002*

	Homicide	Assault	Sexual assault	Robbery
1996	350	114,156	14,542	16,372
1997	360	124,500	14,353	21,305
1998	332	130,903	14,336	23,801
1999	386	134,271	14,104	22,606
2000	363	138,708	15,759	23,336
2001	346	152,283	16,897	26,591
2002	363	159,548	17,850	20,961

* Data for 2000 and 2001 have been revised by the ABS.

- **Assault was the most commonly recorded violent crime in 2002, accounting for 80% of recorded violent crimes. Between 1996 and 2002, the number of assaults increased by 40%.**
- **The number of robbery offences increased by 28% from 1996 to 2002, while the number of sexual**

assaults increased by 23%. The number of homicides has remained relatively stable over this period, peaking at 386 in 1999. The 2002 figure was 4% higher than the number in 1996.

Source: Reference 1

Table 1b
Property crimes recorded by police, 1996–2002*

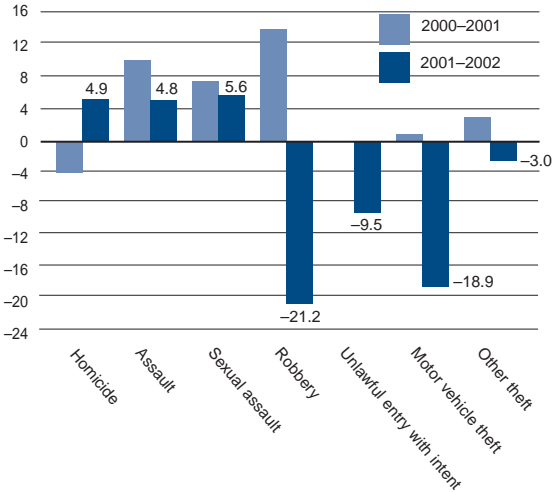
	Unlawful entry with intent	Motor vehicle theft	Other theft
1996	402,079	122,914	521,762
1997	421,569	130,138	530,881
1998	434,376	131,587	563,482
1999	415,735	129,552	612,559
2000	436,968	138,912	681,268
2001	435,754	139,894	700,137
2002	394,374	113,389	679,460

* Data for 2000 and 2001 have been revised by the ABS.

- In 2002, ‘other theft’ (which includes offences such as pickpocketing, bag snatching, and shoplifting) was the most commonly recorded property crime, accounting for 57% of property crime victims. Since 1996, the number of victims of ‘other theft’ has increased by 30%.
- Between 1996 and 2002, the number of victims of unlawful entry with intent and motor vehicle theft decreased by 2% and 8% respectively.
- Property offences accounted for 86% of the seven major crimes in 2002, a percentage that has declined since 1996 when they made up 89% of the total.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 1
Percentage change in crimes recorded by police, 2000–2001 compared with 2001–2002



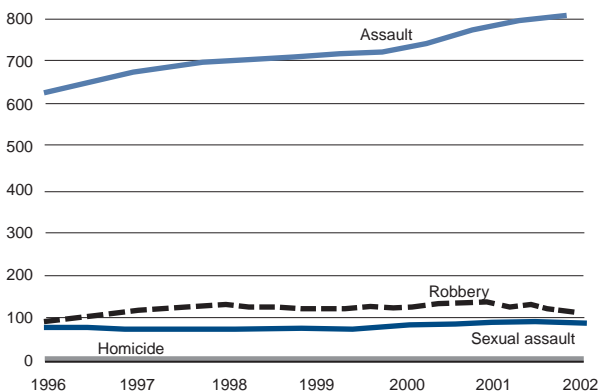
- **The number of homicides, assaults and sexual assaults increased between 2001 and 2002 by approximately 5%.**
- **Robbery, UEWI and motor vehicle theft recorded large decreases from 2001 to 2002 compared with the change recorded between 2000 and 2001.**

Source: Reference 1

Violent crime

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

Figure 2
Violent crimes recorded by police, rate per 100,000 persons, 1996–2002



- The rate of assault has increased steadily from 623 victims per 100,000 people in 1996 to 811 per 100,000 in 2002, a rise of 30%.
- In 2001 the rate for robbery peaked at 137 per 100,000, the highest recorded since 1996. Overall, robbery rate increased 19% between 1996 and 2002.
- In 2002 the rate of sexual assault was 91 per 100,000, which is higher than any previous year and 14% higher than in 1996.
- The homicide rate was highest in 1999 at 2.04 per 100,000, dropping to 1.85 in 2002.

Source: References 1, 2 and 3

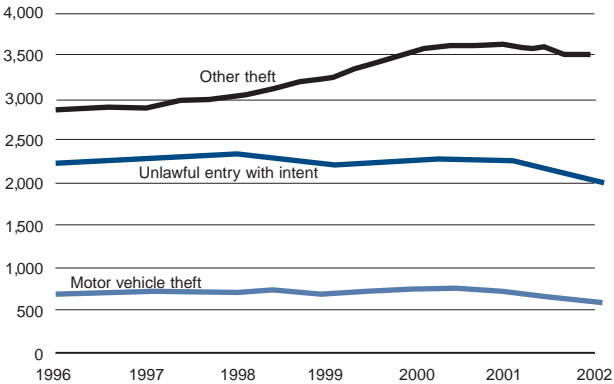
Property crime

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

- The rate of other theft (including shoplifting) has increased by 21% since 1996, from 2,849 to 3,456 per 100,000 population.
- The rate of unlawful entry has remained relatively stable since 1996, with a decrease recorded in 2002. The overall decline between 1996 and 2002 was 9%, from 2,196 to 2,006.

- **The rate of motor vehicle theft dropped in 2002 resulting in a 14% decline since 1996, from 671 to 577.**

Figure 3
Property crimes recorded by police, rate per 100,000 persons, 1996–2002



Source: References 1, 2 and 3

Location of crime

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

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

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

Table 2
Number of violent crimes by type of location, 2002

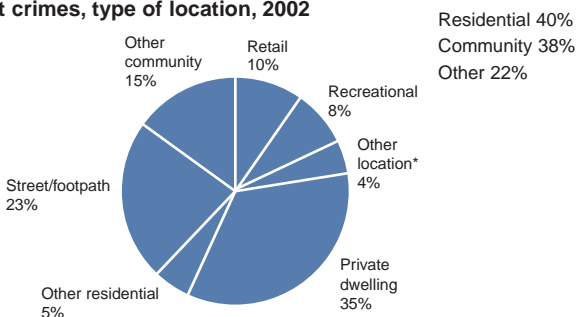
	Homicide	Assault	Sexual assault	Robbery
Residential				
Private dwelling	177	56,725	10,572	1,169
Other residential*	26	9,028	1,135	323
Community				
Street/footpath	55	36,261	1,382	8,610
Other community	57	22,850	2,300	3,645
Other				
Retail	9	14,580	565	4,616
Recreational	23	14,166	855	1,312
Other location	10	2,974	301	803
Unspecified	6	2,964	740	483
Total	363	159,548	17,850	20,961

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

- In 2002, 41% of robberies and 23% of assaults occurred on streets or footpaths, compared with 15% of homicides and 8% of sexual assaults.
- Fifty-nine per cent of sexual assaults, 49% of homicides and 36% of assaults occurred in private dwellings.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 4
Violent crimes, type of location, 2002



* Includes unspecified location (n=4,193)

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

Source: Reference 1

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

Table 3
Number of property crimes by type of location, 2002

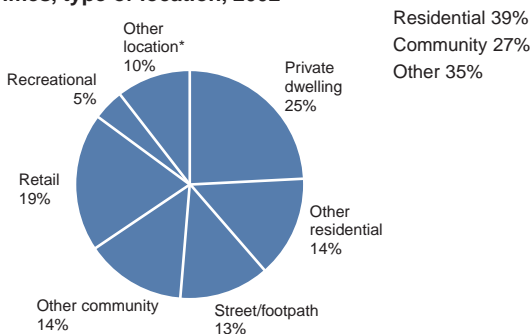
	Unlawful entry with intent	Motor vehicle theft	Other theft
Residential			
Private dwelling	221,177	253	64,970
Other residential*	36,233	25,768	109,019
Community			
Street/footpath	4	43,935	109,509
Other community	36,245	19,972	110,292
Other			
Retail	46,641	12,887	171,778
Recreational	11,047	2,117	41,022
Other location	37,636	3,163	39,608
Unspecified	5,391	5,294	33,262
Total	394,374	113,389	679,460

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

- **Motor vehicle thefts were more likely to occur in a community setting (56%) than in or around a private dwelling (23%).**
- **The majority, 65%, of unlawful entry with intent crimes occurred in a residential setting.**
- **Twenty-five per cent of other thefts (including shoplifting) occurred in a retail location and 32% in a community setting.**

Source: Reference 1

Figure 5
Property crimes, type of location, 2002



* Includes unspecified location (n=43,947)

- **Thirty-nine per cent of property offences occurred in residential locations.**
- **Nineteen per cent occurred in retail locations.**

Source: Reference 1

Fraud and cybercrime

Fraud and deception-related crime

Information about recorded 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 standard classification of fraud and deception-related offences includes cheque and credit card fraud, fraudulent trade practices, social security fraud, forgery, counterfeiting, bribery and other deception offences. Precise definitions may vary by state.

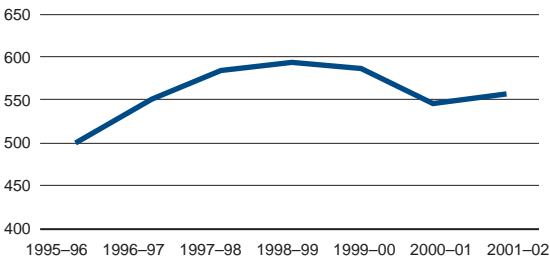
Fraud offences are recorded by the police on a financial year basis.

Table 4
**Fraud offences recorded by police,
 1995–1996 to 2001–2002**

	Number	Rate per 100,000
1995–96	91,495	499.68
1996–97	101,256	546.38
1997–98	109,404	583.46
1998–99	112,209	591.65
1999–00	112,264	586.02
2000–01	106,141	544.72
2001–02	109,080	554.75

- **The number of fraud offences and the rate per 100,000 recorded by police have increased between 1995–1996 and 2001–2002 by 19% and 11% respectively.**
- **The highest rate of fraud was recorded in 1998–1999, 6% higher than in 2001–2002. Changes in reporting behaviour may be one reason for the fluctuation in recorded fraud rates.**

Figure 6
**Fraud recorded by police, rate per 100,000 persons,
 1995–1996 to 2001–2002.**



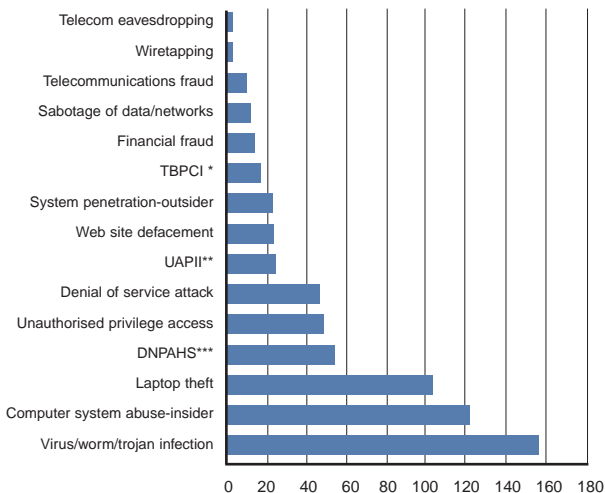
Source: References 4–12

Cybercrime

As few police agencies are able to identify cybercrimes separately, this section presents the results of the 2003 Australian Computer Crime and Security Survey, conducted by AusCert, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu and NSW Police. Over 200 organisations responded to the survey from manufacturing, information technology, federal and state government, utilities, finance, and education/research.

Eighty-eight or 42% of these organisations had experienced a harmful computer security incident in 2002.

Figure 7
Number of incidents by type, 2002



* Theft/breach of proprietary or confidential information

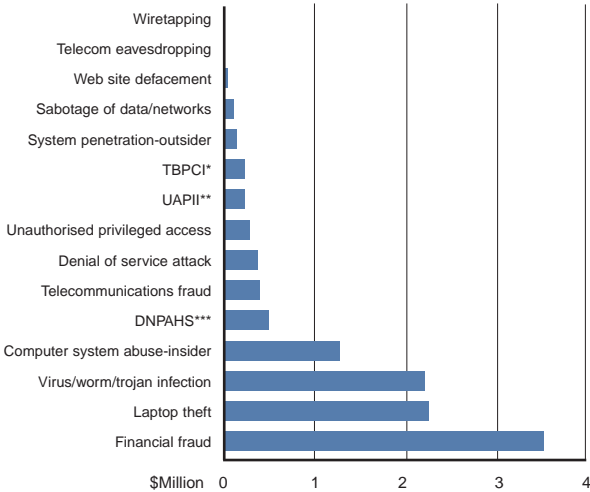
** Unauthorised access to privileged information by insider

*** Degradation of network performance associated with heavy scanning

■ **The type of incident reported to have occurred with the greatest frequency was a virus/worm/trojan infection with 157 occurrences. The type that occurred least frequently was wiretapping and telecom eavesdropping, each recording only two incidents.**

Source: Reference 13

Figure 8
Cost of computer crime, 2002



* Theft/breach of proprietary or confidential information

** Unauthorised access to privileged information by insider

*** Degradation of network performance associated with heavy scanning

- **The type of computer crime that generated the highest cost in 2002 was financial fraud, with a total cost of \$3.5 million. The highest cost for a single incident of financial fraud was \$1.4 million.**
- **These costs are estimates based on survey responses from 88 organisations only, so underestimate the true cost of computer crime in Australia.**

Source: Reference 13

Intellectual property crime

The Australasian Film and Visual Security Office reports that the Australian cinema and video industry lost approximately \$100 million to piracy in 2002, with an additional \$60 million lost to pirated video games. The illegal market in Australia is now estimated to amount to 8% of motion picture sales. The Business Software Alliance's (2003) annual survey of software piracy estimates that the software piracy rate in Australia is 32% (the volume of software pirated as a percent of total software installed) with losses of \$138.5 million in 2002.

Source: Reference 14

Victimisation reports

Since the 1970s, most industrialised countries have conducted crime victimisation surveys to estimate the extent of crime and the percentage of crimes reported to the police. These data are used to supplement police statistics.

The ABS conducted national crime victim surveys in 1975, 1983, 1993, 1998 and 2002.

In 2002, information concerning five selected crime types was collected:

- break-in/attempted break-in
- motor vehicle theft
- robbery
- assault
- sexual assault

Respondents were asked about experiences with these crimes in the 12 months prior to the survey, whether these crimes were reported to the police, and crime-related risk factors.

Over 40,000 Australian residents 15 years of age and older living in approximately 20,000 households were interviewed for this survey. Results have been weighted to represent the 15 million adults and 7.5 million households in Australia in April 2002. The survey includes those living in private dwellings; it excludes the homeless, those living in institutions or other special accommodation, and excludes crimes against commercial establishments or government agencies. Data are collected using a mail-back questionnaire so requires a certain level of literacy for participation.

Table 5 presents information on the prevalence of victimisation by household and personal crimes across Australia in the 12 months prior to April 2002.

Table 5
Number of victims and prevalence of selected household and personal crimes, 1998 and 2002*

Offence	1998		2002	
	Victims	%	Victims	%
Break-in – total	534,100	7.6	553,500	7.4
Break-in	349,900	5.0	354,000	4.7
Attempted break-in	226,400	3.2	254,600	3.4
Motor vehicle theft	117,990	1.7	134,300	1.8
Total household victims	652,000	9.0	665,400	8.9
Robbery	79,100	0.5	95,800	0.6
Assault	618,300	4.3	717,900	4.7
Sexual assault	30,100	0.4	33,000	0.2
Total personal victims	727,500	4.8	811,700	5.3

* Figures do not add to totals due to multiple responses.

- **In 2002, 8.9% of households were victims of at least one household crime in the 12 months prior to the survey. This is similar to the rate in 1998.**
- **The most frequent household offence was completed break-ins.**
- **5.3% of persons were victims of at least one of the selected types of personal crime, up from 4.8% in 1998.**
- **The most frequent personal crime was assault. In 2002, 4.7% of the adult population were victims of assault, up from 4.3% in 1998.**

Source: Reference 15

Repeat victimisation

Many victims suffer repeated incidents of crime. Table 6 presents the percentage of selected victims experiencing one or more incidents of victimisation in the 12 months prior to April 2002. Of those who were victimised, a significant proportion was victimised more than once. These figures include only those who were victimised more than once in the same crime category.

Table 6
Percentage of victims by number of incidents of victimisation in the 12 months prior to April 2002*

	Number of incidents		
	1	2	3 or more
	Percentage		
Break-in	82.1	12.1	5.8
Motor vehicle theft	93.0	7.0*	
Robbery	74.0	14.2	11.8
Assault	48.9	18.8	32.3
Sexual assault**	66.1	33.9*	

* Includes those who were victimised two times or more, due to low sample counts for these offences.

** Includes only female victims of sexual assault.

- **Repeat victimisation over the 12-month period prior to 2002 was most common for assault, with 51% of victims reporting two or more, and one third reporting three or more.**
- **One third of sexual assault victims experienced two or more incidents in the 12 months prior to the survey.**
- **Repeat victimisation of household offences declined in 2002 compared with 1998, whereas repeat victimisation of personal offences increased in 2002.**

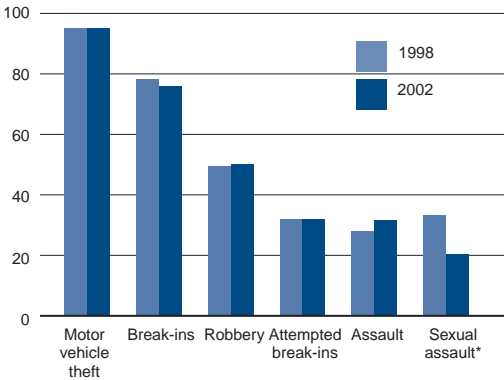
Source: Reference 15

Reporting crime to police

It is well known that not all crime is reported to the police, and rates of reporting vary depending on the type of offence. In addition, not all crimes that are reported to the police are recorded by them in official statistics.

Figure 9 shows the percentage of crimes that were reported to the police following the most recent incident.

Figure 9
**Percentage of crimes reported to the police, Australia
 1998 and 2002**



* Includes only female victims of sexual assault.

- **Victims of crimes involving property loss were more likely than victims of personal crime to report the incident to police.**
- **Households victimised by motor vehicle theft were most likely to report the crime to police (95%).**
- **Sexual assault victims had the lowest reporting rate in 2002 at 20%, down from 33% in 1998.**
- **Assault victims had the lowest reporting rate in 1998 (28%), a figure that increased to 31% in 2002.**
- **The main reasons given by victims of break-ins for not reporting to police were they thought there was nothing the police could or would do, and the matter was too trivial.**
- **The main reasons given by victims of assault for not reporting to police were that the matter was too trivial, it was a personal matter the victim would take care of themselves, the police would be unable or unwilling to do anything to help, and fear of reprisal from the offender.**

Perceived problems in the neighbourhood

When asked to identify crime-related problems in the neighbourhood from a list presented to them, survey respondents identified the following most often:

- **household break-ins: 44% in both 2002 and 1998**
- **dangerous/noisy driving: 39% in 2002, up from 34% in 1998**
- **vandalism and property damage: 27% in 2002, up from 25% in 1998**
- **car theft: 25% in 2002, up from 21% in 1998**
- **louts/youth gangs: 16% in both years**
- **illegal drugs: 13% in 2002, up from 11% in 1998**
- **drunkenness: 12% in 2002 and 11% in 1998**
- **other theft: 12% in 2002 and 11% in 1998**
- **twenty-six per cent said there were no problems in 2002, compared with 27% in 1998**

Source: Reference 15

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; and
- *manslaughter*: the unlawful killing of a person caused:
 - without intent to kill, usually as a result of a careless, reckless or negligent act; or
 - intentionally, but due to extreme provocation; or
 - when in a state of mind that impairs the capacity to understand or control one’s actions.

Data from the ABS are supplemented with more detailed information collected by the Australian Institute of Criminology through the National Homicide Monitoring Program.

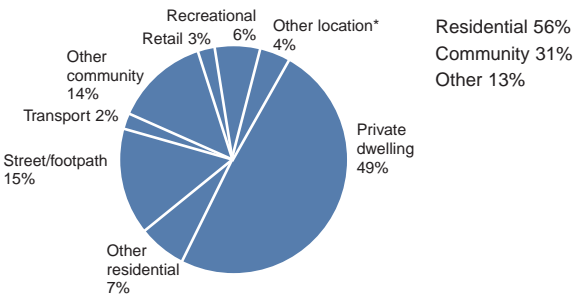
■ **There were 363 homicides in Australia in 2002, with two victims per 100,000 population. This represents an increase of 7% over the 340 homicides in 2001.**

■ **Murder accounted for 88% of the victims recorded in 2002. The remainder were victims of manslaughter.**

Source: Reference 1

Location of homicides

Figure 10
Homicide, type of location*, 2002



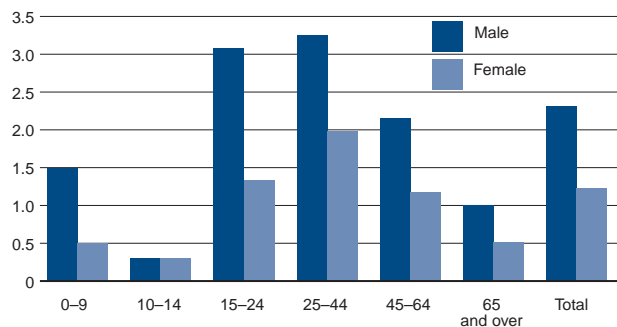
* Includes unspecified location (n=6)

- Of all homicides occurring in Australia in 2002, 56% took place in residential locations, with 49% in a private dwelling.

Source: Reference 1

Victims of homicide

Figure 11
Age and gender of homicide victims, rate per 100,000 persons, 2002



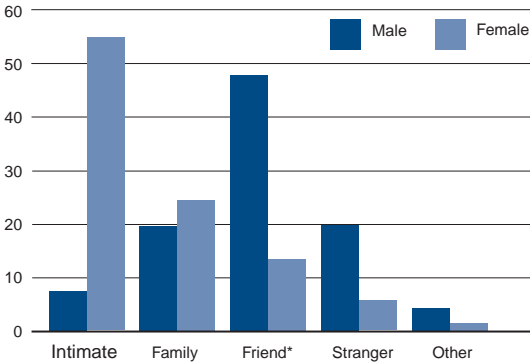
- Sixty-three per cent of victims were male.
- In all age categories, the risk of being a victim of homicide was higher for males than for females, with the exception of those aged 10-14.
- Males in the 25 to 44 age group were most at risk of being a homicide victim.
- The total number of male victims increased in 2002 by 10%, while the number of female victims decreased by 5%.

Source: References 1 and 3

Victim-offender relationship

Figure 12

Homicide victims, gender and relationship to offender, percentages, 2001–2002



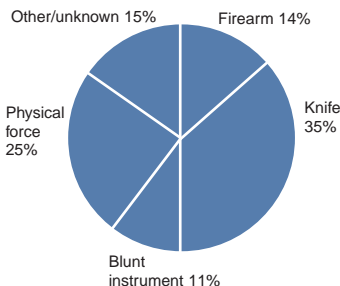
* Includes acquaintances

- **The victim-offender relationship for homicides differs for male and female victims. Ninety-three per cent of female victims knew the offender, compared with 76% of male victims.**
- **Homicides against females were more than seven times more likely than those involving males to be perpetrated by an intimate.**
- **Male victims were more likely than females to be killed by friends and acquaintances, 48% compared with 13%.**

Source: Reference 16

Figure 13

Homicide, type of weapon, 2002

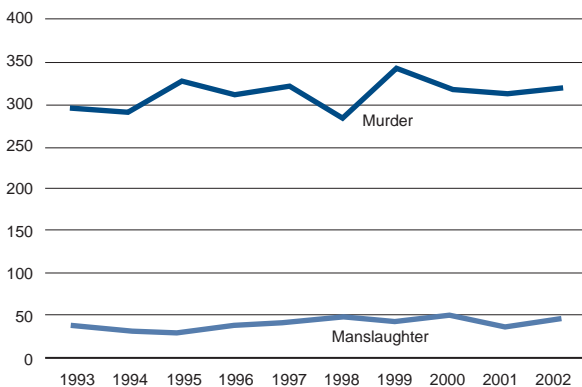


- Knives were used in 35% of homicides committed in 2001-2002.
- One quarter of homicides were committed using physical force, 14% with firearms, and 11% with blunt instruments.

Source: Reference 16

Trend in homicide

Figure 14
Number of homicides, 1993–2002

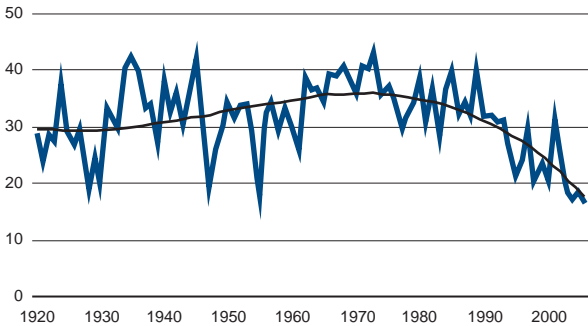


- The number of murders fluctuated slightly on an annual basis between 1993 and 2002, while manslaughter remained relatively stable. The number of murders peaked in 1999 with 343 recorded.
- The number of manslaughters peaked in 2000 at 48.

Source: Reference 1

Trend in firearm homicides

Figure 15
Homicide involving firearms as a percentage of total homicide, 1915–2001



- The percentage of homicides committed with a firearm continued a declining trend since 1969. In 2001, 13% of homicides involved firearms. The figure was 16% in 2000.

Source: Reference 17

Assault

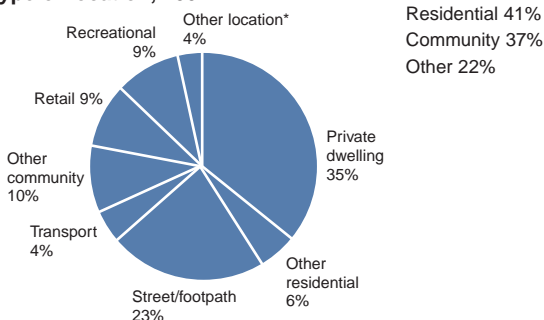
The ABS defines assault as the direct infliction of force, injury or violence upon a person, including attempts or threats.

- In 2002 there were 159,548 assaults recorded by the police, at a rate of 811 per 100,000 population, an increase of 3% over the rate recorded in 2001.

Source: References 1 and 3

Location of assaults

Figure 16
Assault, type of location, 2002



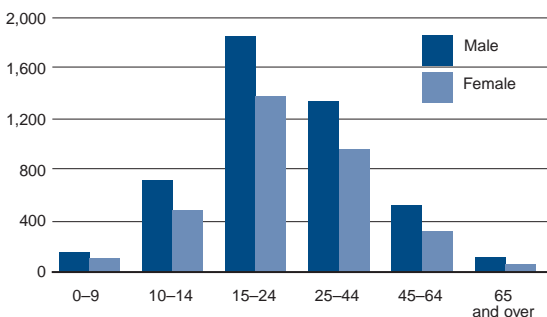
* Includes unspecified location (n=2,964)

- Assaults occurred most frequently in residential locations (41%), particularly private dwellings (35%).
- Thirty-seven per cent of assaults occurred in community locations, with those on streets/footpaths accounting for 23%.
- Twenty-two per cent of recorded assaults took place in other locations, including recreational facilities (9%).

Source: Reference 1

Victims of assault

Figure 17
Age and gender of assault victims, rate per 100,000 persons, 2002



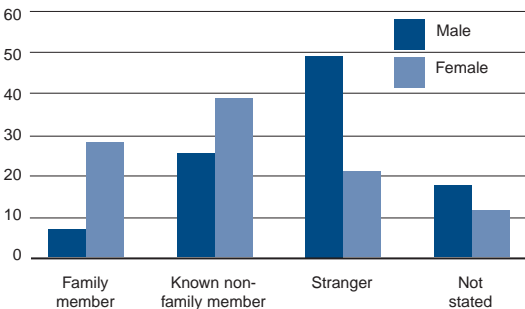
- Fifty-seven per cent of assault victims were male.
- Consistent with patterns in previous years, males had higher victimisation rates than females for all age categories.
- Both males and females were most at risk of being a victim of assault aged between 15 and 24 years.
- The number of male and female victims of assault increased by 6% each between 2001 and 2002.

Source: References 1 and 3

Victim-offender relationship

Figure 18

Assault victims, gender and relationship to offender, percentages, 2002

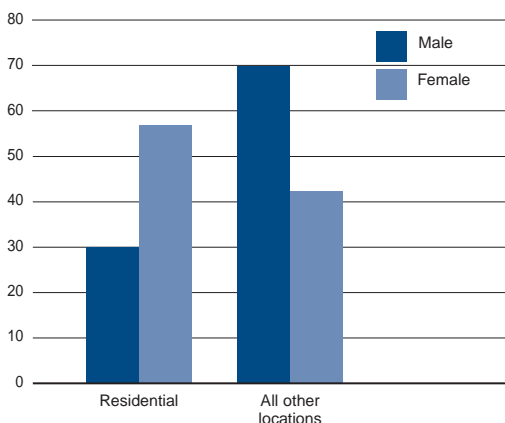


Excludes NSW and Queensland (information not available).

- Sixty-seven per cent of female victims of assault knew the offender compared with 33% of male victims.
- Assaults against females were four times more likely to be perpetrated by a family member than those against males.
- In contrast, 49% of male victims of assault were assaulted by strangers, compared with only 21% of female victims.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 19
Assault, type of location and gender of victim, percentages, 2002

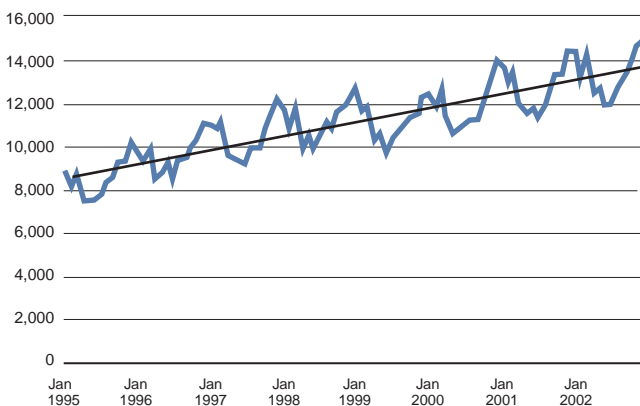


■ **Most male victims (70%) were assaulted in non-residential locations, whereas the majority of female victims (57%) were assaulted in residential premises.**

Source: Reference 18

Trend in assault

Figure 20
Number of assaults, by month, 1995–2002



■ **The number of assaults has grown by an average of 5% each year between 1995 and 2002. This is**

almost five 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 January, and declines from April through July.

Source: References 2, 3 and 18

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; or
- gives consent as a result of intimidation or fraud; or
- is legally deemed incapable of giving consent because of youth or temporary/permanent incapacity.

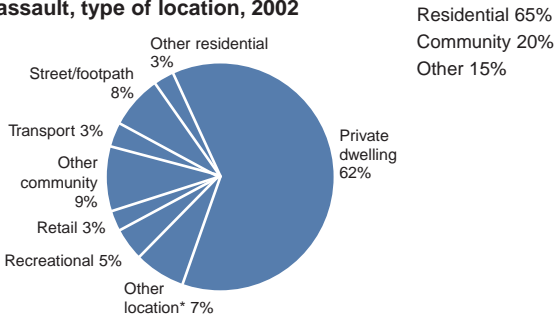
Sexual assault includes: rape, sexual assault, sodomy, buggery, oral sex, incest, carnal knowledge, unlawful sexual intercourse, indecent assault, and assault with intent to rape.

- **There were 17,850 victims of sexual assault recorded by the police in Australia in 2002, an increase of 6% from 2001.**
- **There were about 91 victims of sexual assault per 100,000 population, 145 per 100,000 females and 33 per 100,000 males.**

Source: Reference 1

Location of sexual assaults

Figure 21
Sexual assault, type of location, 2002



* Includes unspecified location (n=927)

- Of all recorded sexual assaults in Australia in 2002, 65% occurred in residential locations, particularly private dwellings (62%).
- Twenty per cent of sexual assaults occurred in community locations. Sexual assaults on streets/footpaths accounted for 8% of all recorded sexual assaults.
- Fifteen per cent of recorded sexual assaults took place in other locations, including recreational facilities such as parks and ovals (5%).
- This pattern remained relatively stable between 2001 and 2002.

Source: Reference 1

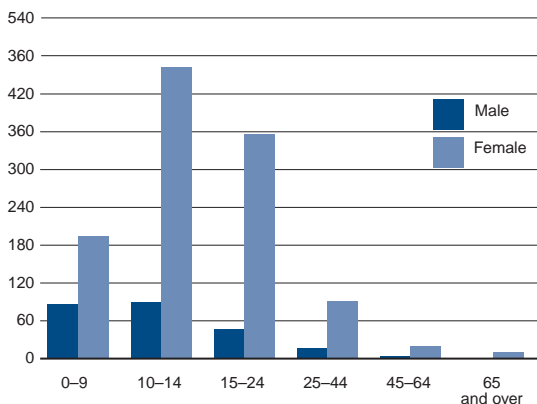
Victims of sexual assault

- Eighty per cent of sexual assault victims were female.
- In 2002 the number of male victims of sexual assault increased by 17% while the number of female victims increased by 6% relative to 2001.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 22

Age and gender of sexual assault victims, rate per 100,000 persons, 2002



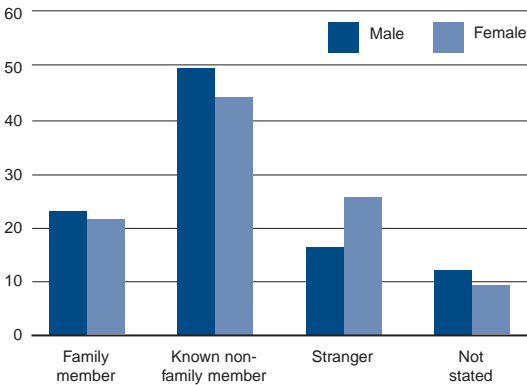
- The highest rate of sexual assault was reported by girls 10–14 years of age at 462 per 100,000 females in that age group.
- For males, rates were highest for those under 15, at about 90 per 100,000.
- Females consistently recorded higher rates of sexual assault than males irrespective of age.

Source: References 1 and 3

Victim–offender relationship

Figure 23

Sexual assault victims, gender and relationship to offender, percentages, 2002



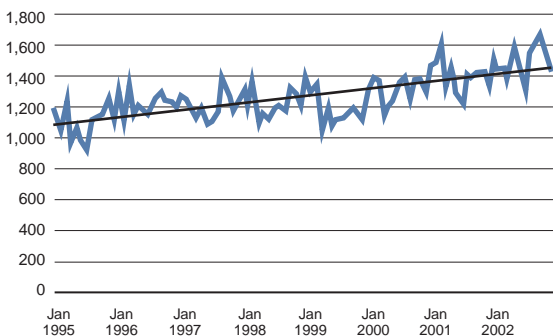
Excludes NSW and Queensland (information not available).

- Most sexual assaults (66%) were committed by a person known to the victim.
- One in five sexual assaults was perpetrated by a family member.
- In about 44% of sexual assaults the offender was a non-family member known to the victim.
- Twenty-four per cent of sexual assaults were committed by strangers. Females were more likely than males to be sexually assaulted by strangers.

Source: Reference 1

Trend in sexual assault

Figure 24
Number of sexual assault victims, by month, 1995–2002



- **Sexual assaults have increased by an average 5% each year since 1995.**
- **The number of sexual assaults was typically highest during the months of January to March, and lowest during April to July.**

Source: Reference 18

Robbery

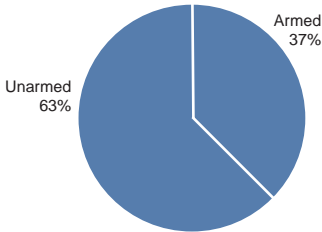
Robbery, as defined by the ABS, is the unlawful taking of property, without consent, accompanied by force or threat of force. Robbery victims can be persons or organisations.

Types of robbery

Robbery is divided into the following two categories of offences.

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

Figure 25
Types of robbery, 2002

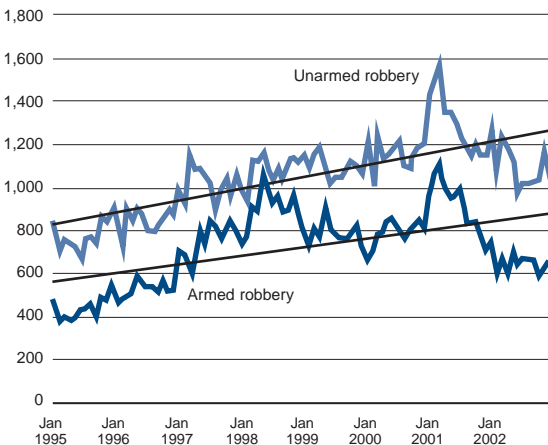


- Police recorded 20,961 victims of robbery during 2002, a rate of 107 per 100,000 population. This represents a 21% decrease over the number recorded in 2001.
- Of the incidents recorded during 2002, 63% were unarmed robberies and 37% were committed with some type of weapon. This was similar to the pattern of weapon use in 2001.

Source: Reference 1

Trend in robbery

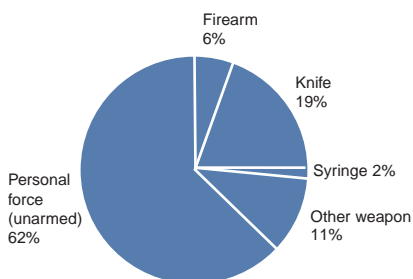
Figure 26
Number of robbery victims, by month, 1995–2002



- **The number of armed robberies peaked in March 2001 at 1,112. This was the highest number recorded since May 1998 (1,069).**
- **Armed and unarmed robberies follow similar patterns.**
- **Since March 2001 there has been an average 5% decline in the number of all robberies each month.**
- **In June 1998, 48% of all robberies involved a weapon. The percentage of robberies involving weapons in 2002 averaged 37%.**

Source: Reference 18

Figure 27
Robbery, type of weapon, 2002



Other weapon includes type of weapon not specified (n=962).

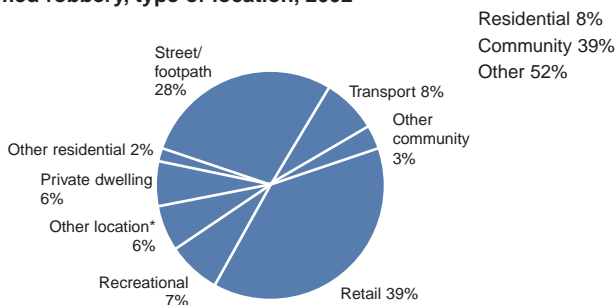
- **Most weapons used in robbery were knives followed by other types of weapons. Robberies involving firearms made up 6% of total robberies in 2002. A small percentage were syringes.**
- **Between 1993 and 2002 the number of firearm robberies declined by 41% while the number involving personal force (unarmed) and other types of weapons almost doubled.**

Source: Reference 1

Armed robbery

- There were 7,817 armed robberies recorded during 2002. This represents a 29% decrease compared with 2001.

Figure 28
Armed robbery, type of location, 2002

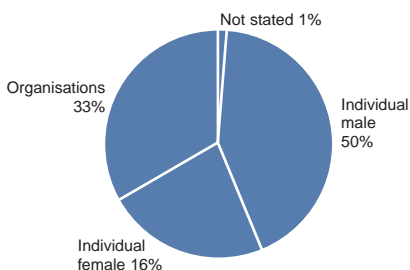


* Includes unspecified location (n=107).

- Consistent with previous years, armed robberies in 2002 occurred most frequently in retail premises (39%).
- Thirty-nine per cent took place in community locations, with a large proportion committed on streets/footpaths (28%).

Source: Reference 1

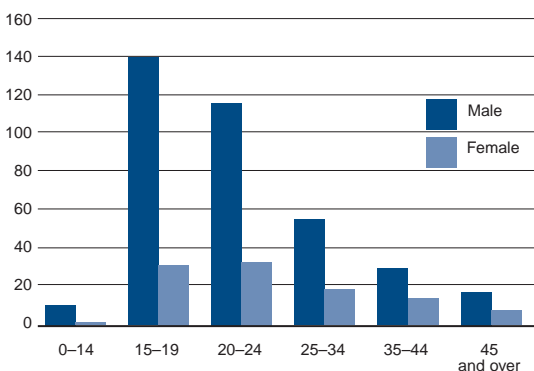
Figure 29
Victims of armed robbery, 2002



- **Thirty three per cent of armed robberies were committed against organisations, such as banks and chemists, a decrease from 38% in 2001.**
- **A person (male or female) was the victim of 66% of armed robberies, an increase from 61% in 2001. Victims of armed robbery were three times more likely to be male than female.**

Source: References 1 and 18

Figure 30
Age and gender of armed robbery victims, rate per 100,000 persons, 2002



- **In all age categories, males were at higher risk of being a victim of armed robbery than were females.**
- **Males aged 15 to 24 years were more than twice as likely to be a victim of armed robbery than males or females in any other age category.**
- **Among males, the victimisation rate decreased between 2001 and 2002 across all age groups, with the exception of those 14 years of age and under.**
- **Similar to males, females aged 15 to 24 years were at the highest risk of victimisation.**

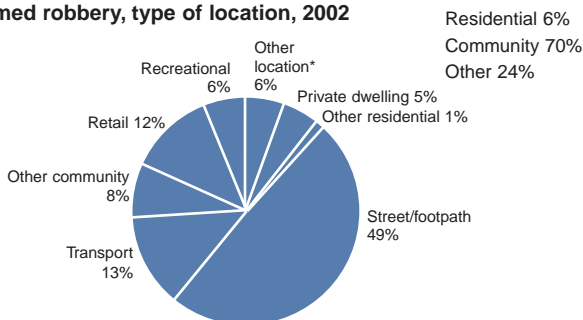
Source: References 1 and 3

Unarmed robbery

- There were 13,144 unarmed robberies recorded during 2002. This represents a 14% decrease from the number in 2001.

Figure 31

Unarmed robbery, type of location, 2002



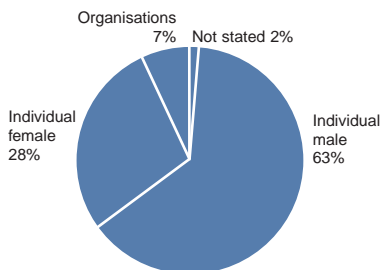
* Includes unspecified location (n=376)

- Seventy per cent of unarmed robberies occurred in community locations, including 49% on streets/footpaths and 13% in a transport location.
- Twelve per cent of unarmed robberies occurred in a retail location compared with 39% of armed robberies.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 32

Victims of unarmed robbery, 2002



- Unarmed robberies were much less likely to target organisations. Seven per cent of unarmed

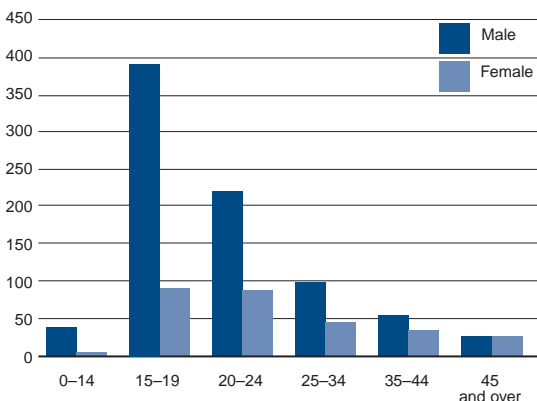
robberies involved organisations compared with 33% of armed robberies.

- **Males were more than twice as likely as females to be individual victims.**

Source: References 1 and 18

Figure 33

Age and gender of unarmed robbery victims, rate per 100,000 persons, 2002



- **The age-gender pattern of unarmed robbery is similar to the pattern for armed robbery.**
- **Males aged 15 to 19 had the highest rates of unarmed robbery victimisation. However, they experienced a decrease in the rate of unarmed robbery from 612 per 100,000 in 2001 to 391 per 100,000 in 2002.**

Source: References 1 and 3

Unlawful entry with intent

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

Types of unlawful entry with intent

UEWI is divided into the following two categories of offences.

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

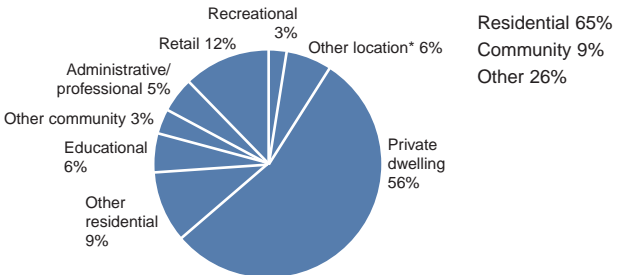
- **In 2002 there were 394,374 incidents of UEWI recorded by the police in Australia, a 9% decrease over the number recorded in 2001.**
- **The rate of UEWI decreased from 2,245 victims per 100,000 population in 2001 to 2,006 victims per 100,000 in 2002.**
- **The rate of unlawful entry at residential locations decreased from 3,798 per 100,000 households in 2001 to 3,080 per 100,000 households in 2002.**

Source: References 1 and 3

Location of unlawful entry with intent

Figure 34

Unlawful entry with intent, type of location, 2002



* Includes unspecified location (n=5,391).

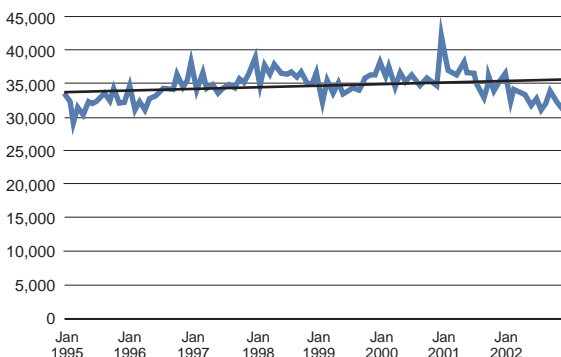
- **Sixty-five per cent of UEWI offences occurred in residential locations, particularly private dwellings (56%).**
- **Nine per cent of recorded UEWI offences took place in community locations such as educational facilities (6%).**

Source: Reference 1

Trend in unlawful entry with intent

Figure 35

Number of unlawful entries with intent, by month, 1995–2002



- **The number of UEWI offences peaked with 42,451 incidents occurring in January 2001 (the highest recorded level).**
- **UEWI incidents that involved theft of property accounted for 74% of all UEWI offences in 2002, down from 78% in 1995.**
- **There were approximately 45 recorded incidents of UEWI every hour in Australia in 2002.**

Source: Reference 18

Motor vehicle theft

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

- **There were 113,389 motor vehicles reported stolen to police in 2002, with 884 vehicles stolen per 100,000 registered cars. This represents a 19% decrease on the number recorded in 2001.**
- **Motor vehicle thefts averaged one every five minutes across Australia in 2002.**

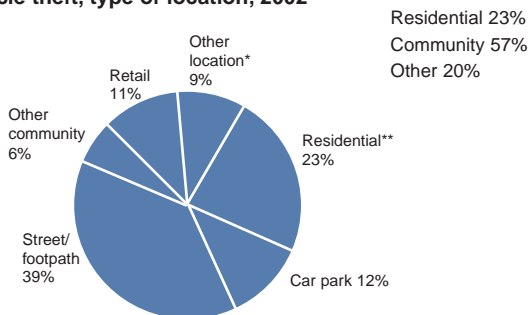
- One motor vehicle was stolen in 2002 for every 113 registered vehicles.

Source: Reference 1 and 19

Location of motor vehicle theft

Figure 36

Motor vehicle theft, type of location, 2002



* Includes unspecified location (n=5,294).

** Includes private dwellings and other residential locations.

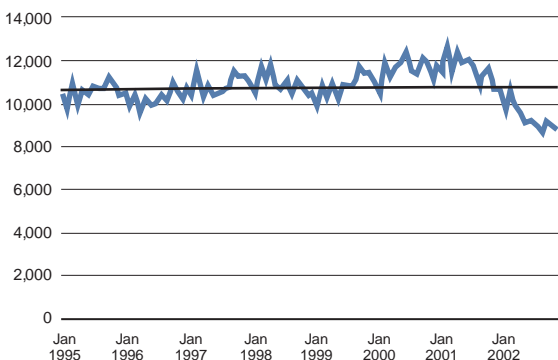
- The majority of motor vehicle thefts occurred in community locations (57%), particularly streets/footpaths (39%) and car parks (12%).
- Retail locations accounted for 11% of motor vehicle thefts in 2002.
- Twenty-three per cent of motor vehicle thefts occurred at a residential location.

Source: Reference 1

Trend in motor vehicle theft

Figure 37

Number of motor vehicle thefts, by month, 1995–2002



- In September 2002, motor vehicle theft decreased to the lowest recorded level with 8,611 motor vehicles stolen.

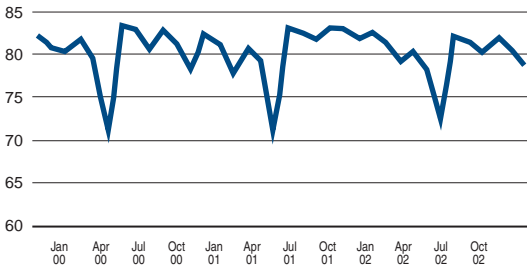
Source: Reference 18

Recovery rates

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

- A total of 87,011 stolen cars were recovered in 2002, resulting in a national recovery rate of 80%.
- Forty-one per cent of all recovered motor vehicles are recovered after one day, 67% after two days and 82% after one week.

Figure 38
**Percentage of stolen motor vehicles recovered,
 2000–2002**



- **The percentage of stolen vehicles that have been recovered fluctuated between 70% and 83% during 2000–2002.**
- **Recovery rates were consistently lowest in the month of June.**

Source: Reference 20

Other theft

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

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

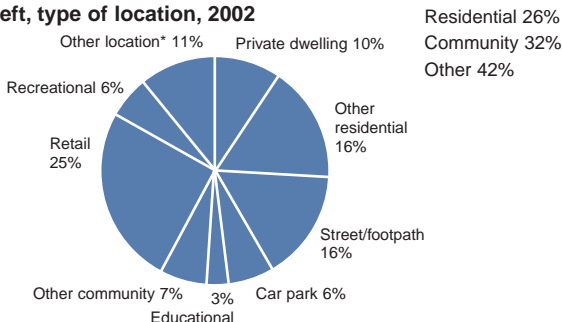
- **A total of 679,460 victims of other theft were recorded by the police in 2002, with 3,448 victims per 100,000 persons. This represents a 3% decrease from the number recorded in 2001.**

Source: Reference 1

Location of other theft

Figure 39

Other theft, type of location, 2002



* Includes unspecified location (n=33,262)

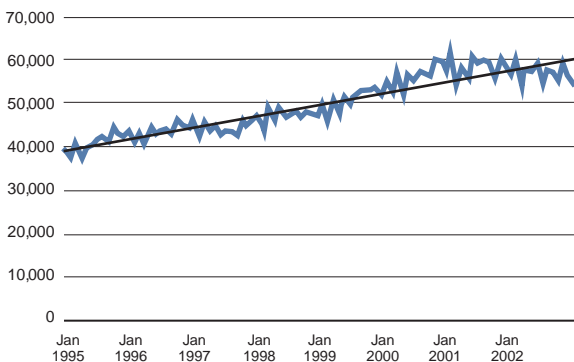
- Twenty-five per cent of thefts took place in a retail location.
- Thirty-two per cent of incidents took place in community locations, with 16% on a street/footpath and 6% in a car park.
- In 26% of cases, thefts occurred in a residential location.

Source: References 1 and 18

Trend in other theft

Figure 40

Number of other thefts by month, 1995–2002



- During 2002 there was an average of 56,622 victims of theft per month, or 78 per hour.

Source: Reference 18

The ABS does not yet publish offender data but is working towards developing an offender-based collection. Official data on gender and age of alleged offenders are published by the police services of Victoria, Queensland and South Australia and refer to the number of persons who have allegedly committed a criminal offence and who have been processed for that offence. Police statistics on alleged offenders are not available from the remaining states and territories.

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

- What is the age at which offender rates peak?
- Is the age pattern of male offender rates similar or different from that of females?
- Are female offender rates on the increase?

The number of alleged offenders does not equate to the number of distinct alleged offenders during a year because police may take action against the same individual for several offences, or the individual may be processed on more than one occasion for the same offence type. Nor does it equate to the total number of crimes cleared during a given period, as one crime may involve more than one offender and many crimes go unsolved.

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 over processed by police for any of the offences listed below in the states of Victoria, Queensland and South Australia. The rates of total offenders included in the tables and graphs in this chapter are calculated relative to the total population aged 10 years and over in these jurisdictions (Reference 3).

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

- homicide 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); and
- fraud and deception related crime

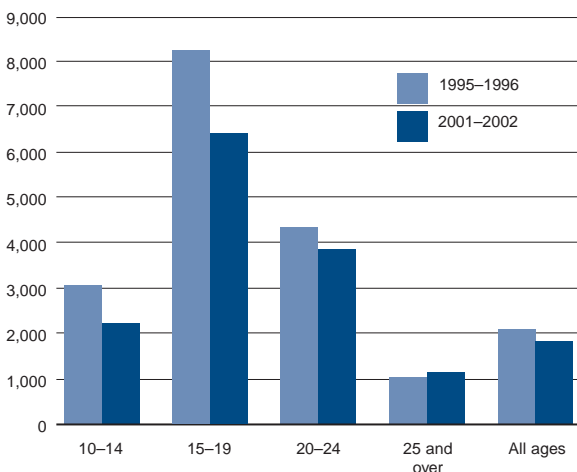
Note: This is the first year data have been included on this offence. Data since 1995-1996 have been updated to include this offence.

Source: References 4, 5, 6 and 7

Age

Persons (males and females) aged 15 to 19 years are most likely to be processed by police for the commission of a crime. In 2001-2002 the offending rate for persons aged 15 to 19 years was four times the offender rate for the remainder of the population (6,421 per 100,000 and 1,544 per 100,000 respectively).

Figure 41
Offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995-1996 and 2001-2002



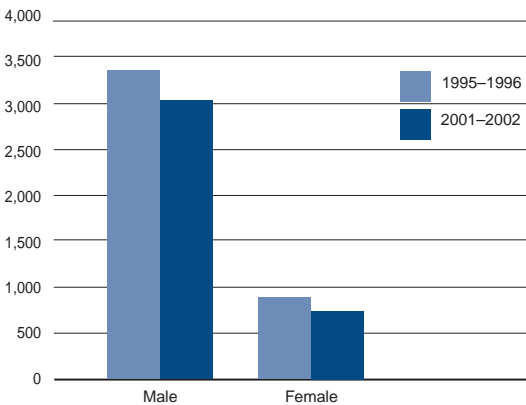
- Except for persons aged 25 and older, offender rates dropped between 1995–1996 and 2001–2002.
- The offender rate for persons in the 10–14 age group decreased by 26%, from 3,084 to 2,269 per 100,000. For those aged 15 to 19, rates dropped 22%, from 8,256 to 6,421.

Source: References 2–7

Gender

In 2001–2002, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia processed a total of 175,822 offenders, of which 138,724 were males and 37,098 were females. Females made up 22% of all offenders in 1995–1996 and 21% in 2001–2002.

Figure 42
Offenders by gender, rate per 100,000 persons,
1995–1996 and 2001–2002

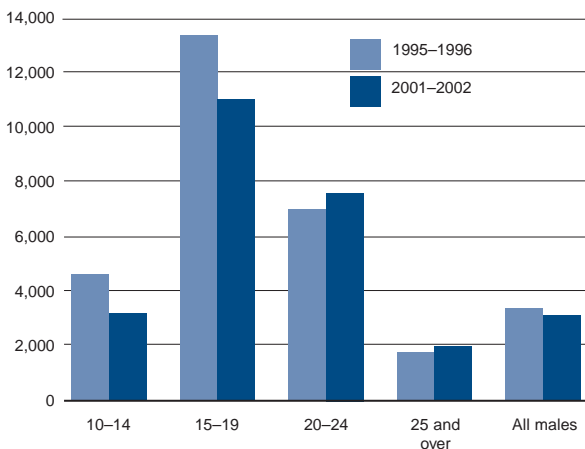


- Calculated as a rate per 100,000 population, males are almost four times more likely than females to be identified as offenders. In 2001–2002, the rate of offending by males was 3,033 per 100,000 compared with a rate of 753 by females.

Source: References 2–7

Males

Figure 43
Male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002

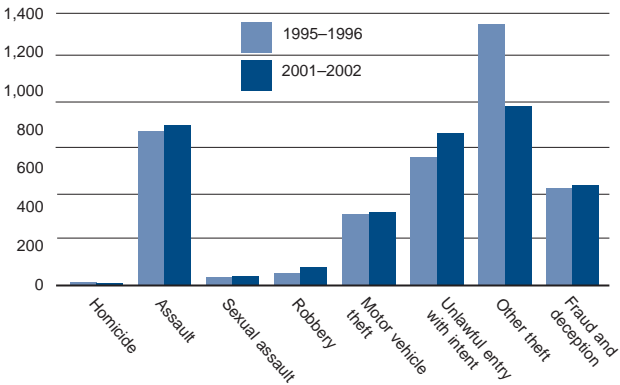


- In 1995–1996 and 2001–2002, the rate per 100,000 for male offenders was highest among the 15–19-year-old age group.
- Since 1995–1996 there has been a decrease across the younger age groups (10–19) in rates for male offenders, with the largest decrease occurring in the 15–19 age group.

Source: References 2–7

Figure 44

Male offenders by offence type, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



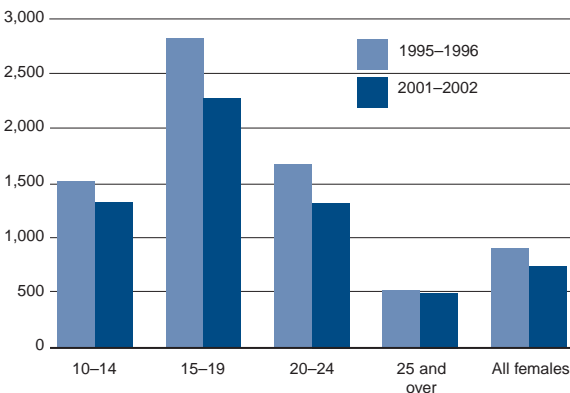
- Male offender rates per 100,000 were highest for other theft, unlawful entry with intent and assault and lowest for sexual assault, robbery and homicide in both 1995–1996 and 2001–2002.
- Between 1995–1996 and 2001–2002, male offending rates remained relatively stable for most offences with the exception of other theft, which decreased by 32%.

Source: References 2–7

Females

Figure 45

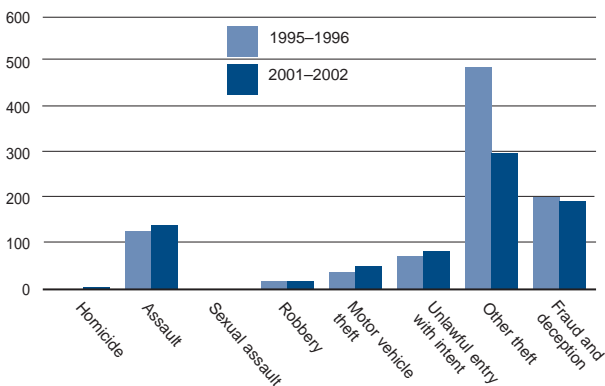
Female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



- Offending rates for females in both years were highest among the 15–19-year-old age group.
- Since 1995–1996 there has been a decrease across all age groups in rates of female offending, with the largest decrease occurring in the 15–19-year-old age group.

Source: References 2–7

Figure 46
Female offenders by offence type, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



- Female offender rates per 100,000 were highest for other theft and fraud/deception-related crime and lowest for sexual assault, robbery and homicide in both 1995–1996 and 2001–2002.
- Compared with 1995–1996, in 2001–2002 female offending rates increased for assault, motor vehicle theft and unlawful entry with intent and remained stable or decreased for other offences.
- Rates of other theft dropped by 39%.

Source: References 2–7

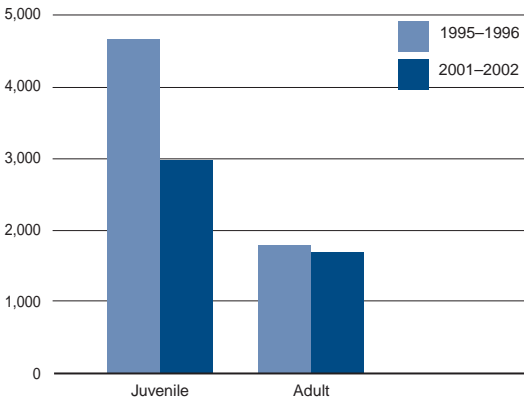
Juveniles

There are differences among the states in the definition of a juvenile. In Victoria and Queensland the definition includes persons aged between 10 and 16 years. In South Australia, however, a juvenile is a person aged between 10 and 17 years. In this section, for the purposes of maintaining comparability, the term 'juvenile offender' includes alleged offenders aged between 10 and 16 years.

In 2001–2002, juveniles accounted for one-fifth of the total offender population.

Figure 47

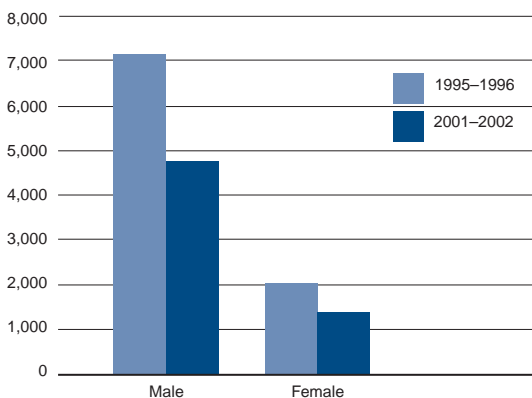
Juvenile and adult offenders, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



- **Juvenile rates of offending are twice as high as rates for adults.**
- **The offender rate among juveniles declined from 4,664 per 100,000 juveniles in 1995–1996 to 3,003 in 2001–2002. The adult rate decreased slightly.**

Source: References 2–7

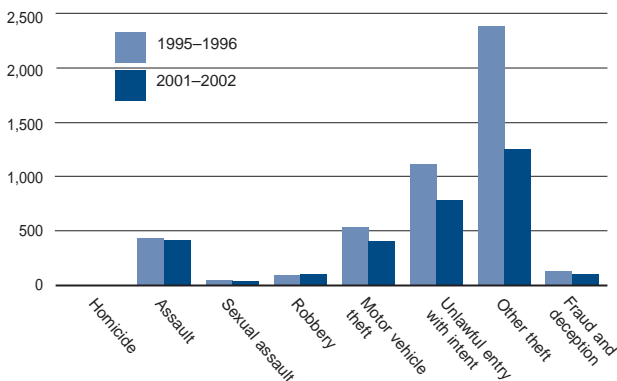
Figure 48
Juvenile offenders by gender, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



- Rates of juvenile offending dropped by 33% for males and by 32% for females.
- There has been an increase in the percentage of female juvenile offenders, from 21% in 1995–1996 to 24% in 2001–2002.

Source: References 2–7

Figure 49
Juvenile offenders, by offence type, rate per 100,000 persons 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



- Juvenile offender rates remained stable between 1995–1996 and 2001–2002 for the offences of

homicide, assault, sexual assault, robbery and fraud/deception-related crime.

- **Juvenile rates have declined for the offences of motor vehicle theft, unlawful entry with intent, and by 47% for other theft.**
- **By comparison, for adult offenders, other theft (taking of property without force or threat of force, such as shoplifting) was the only offence to record a substantial change, decreasing by 31%.**

Source: References 2–7

Specific offences

Gender–age patterns of offenders vary by offence type and over time.

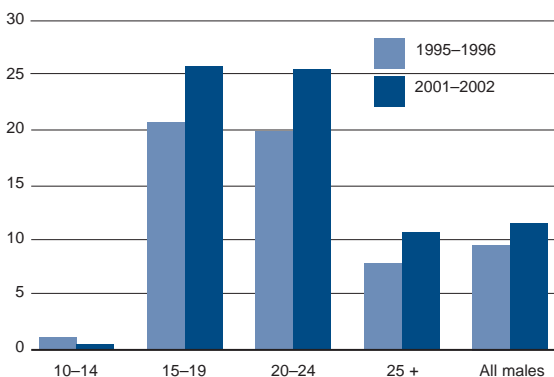
While males account for the majority of offenders for each type of crime discussed in this section, the level of female involvement in crime has increased for some offences since 1995–1996.

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

Homicide

Approximately 5% of homicide offenders in 2001–2002 were juveniles and 15% were female. These figures have remained stable since 1995–1996.

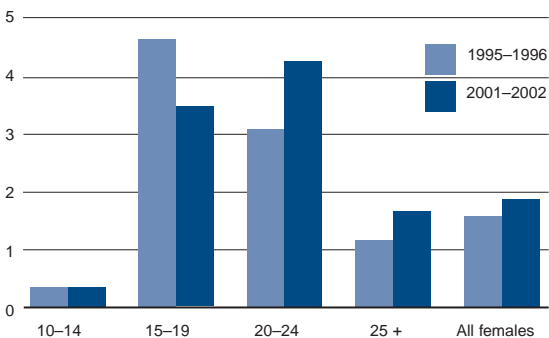
Figure 50
Homicide, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



- **The male offender rate remained highest among individuals aged 15 to 24 years in 1995–1996 and in 2001–2002.**
- **Since 1995–1996, the rate has increased across all age groups, with the exception of children (10 to 14 years).**

Source: References 2–7

Figure 51
Homicide, female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



- **As was the case for males, the rate of female homicide offending was highest among 15–24-year-olds in both 1995–1996 and 2001–2002.**

- Homicide rates increased for females aged 20 and older.
- Female offenders made up 13–20% of homicide offenders in all age groups.

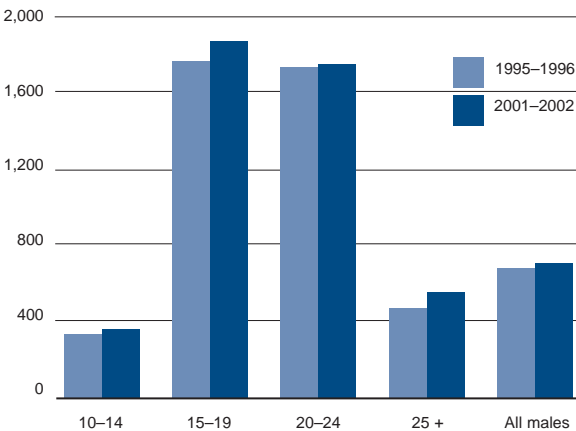
Source: References 2–7

Assault

Approximately 13% of assault offenders in 2001–2002 were juveniles, and 17% were female. Juveniles accounted for a higher percentage of female assault offenders (20%) as compared with males (11%).

Figure 52

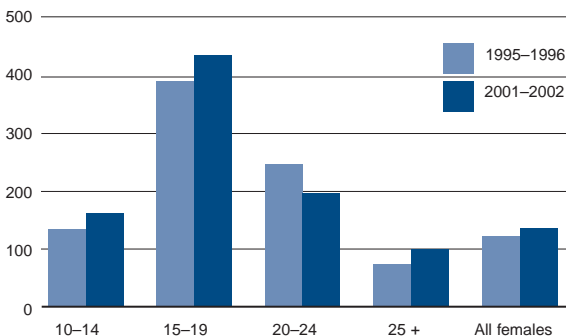
Assault, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



- Males aged 15 to 24 years had the highest offender rates for assault in both years.
- Between 1995–1996 and 2001–2002, there were small increases in the offender rate among males aged 15 to 19 years and 25 years and over, while rates remained stable for children (10–14) and those aged 20 to 24 years.

Figure 53

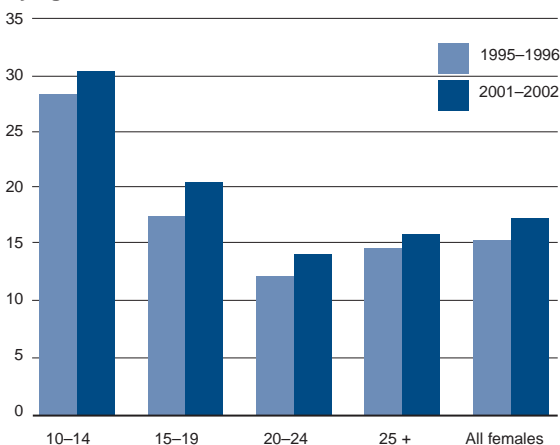
Assault, female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



- **The rate of assault among females peaked at 15–19 years, in both 1995–1996 and 2001–2002.**
- **Since 1995–1996, female rates of assault have remained relatively stable for all age groups.**

Figure 54

Assault, female offenders as a percentage of total offenders, by age, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



- **The percentage of all assault offenders who were female increased across all age groups between 1995–1996 and 2001–2002.**
- **Thirty per cent of those in the 10–14 age group were female.**

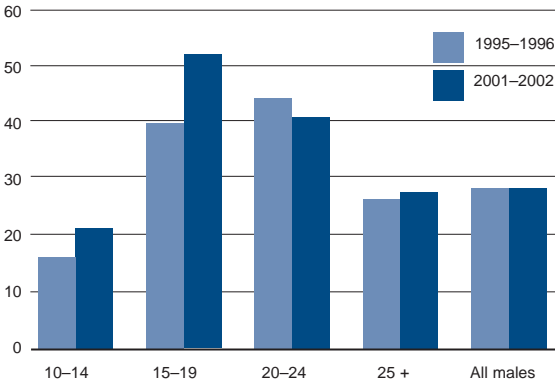
Source: References 2–7

Sexual assault

In 2001–2002, 98% of sexual assault offenders were male. Twelve per cent of the offender population were juveniles, a percentage that has increased since 1995–1996, from 8%.

Figure 55

Sexual assault, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



- **Rates of sexual assault offending among the 15–19 age group increased from 40 to 52 per 100,000 persons between 1995–1996 and 2001–2002.**
- **The peak age in the commission of sexual assault for male offenders was 20–24 in 1995–1996 and 15–19 in 2001–2002.**

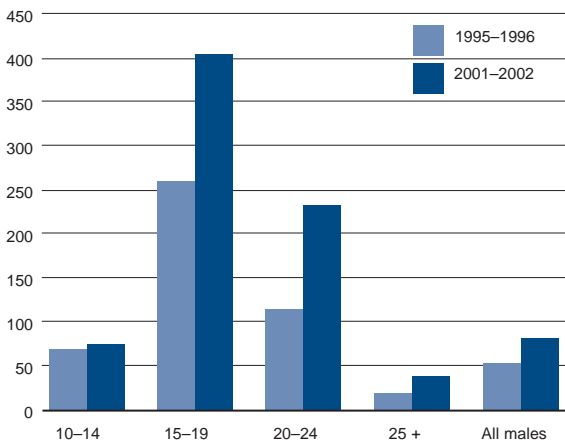
Source: References 2–7

Robbery

In 2001–2002, 12% of robbery offenders were female. Twenty-three per cent were juveniles, a percentage that has decreased from 31% since 1995–1996.

Figure 56

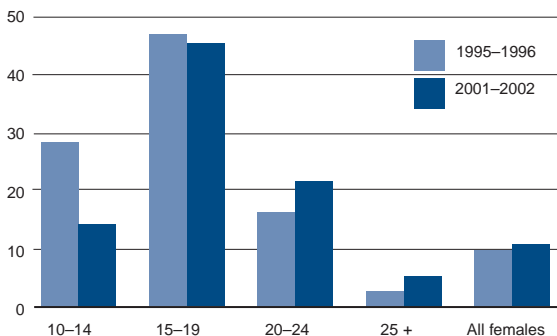
Robbery, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



- **The highest robbery rates are for males between the ages of 15 and 19 years. The offending rate for this age group increased from 260 to 405 per 100,000 persons.**
- **Rates of offending among males aged 20 to 24 years has more than doubled from 114 per 100,000 in 1995–96 to 233 per 100,000 in 2001–2002.**

Figure 57

Robbery, female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002

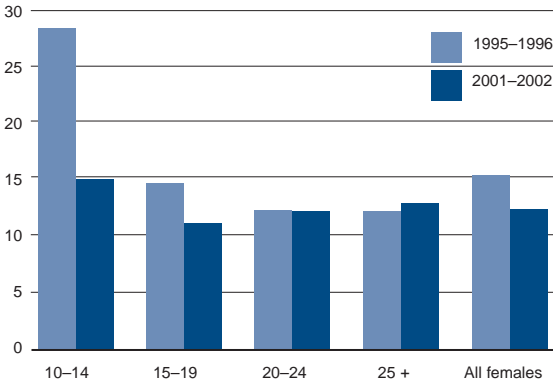


- **As was the case for males, the rate of female offending was highest among individuals aged 15 to 19 years, although rates remained stable for females in this age group.**

- Increases were less dramatic for females than for males in the 20–24 age group.

Figure 58

Robbery, female offenders as a percentage of total offenders, by age, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



- The percentage of female offenders remained fairly stable in the older age groups between 1995–1996 and 2001–2002. The percentage of female offenders in the 10–14 year age group dropped by almost half.

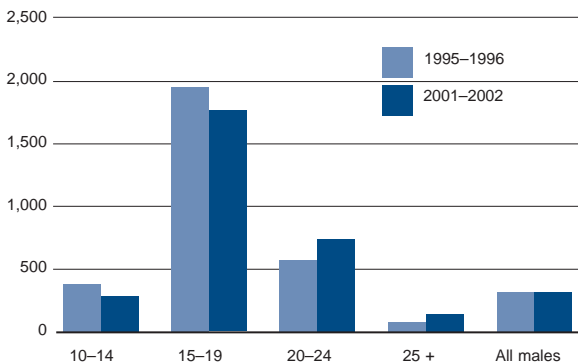
Source: References 2–7

Motor vehicle theft

In 2001–2002, 28% of the offender population were juveniles, a percentage that has decreased from 36% since 1995–1996. Fourteen per cent of motor vehicle theft offenders were female, an increase from 9% in 1995–1996.

Figure 59

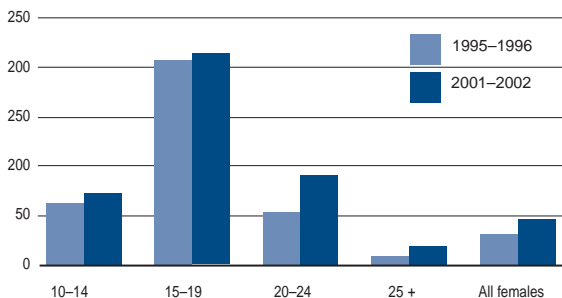
Motor vehicle theft, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



- **Male offending peaked among individuals aged between 15 and 19 years. This pattern has remained stable between 1995–1996 and 2001–2002.**
- **The offender rate among males has increased slightly among those 20 years of age and older, and declined for those under 20.**

Figure 60

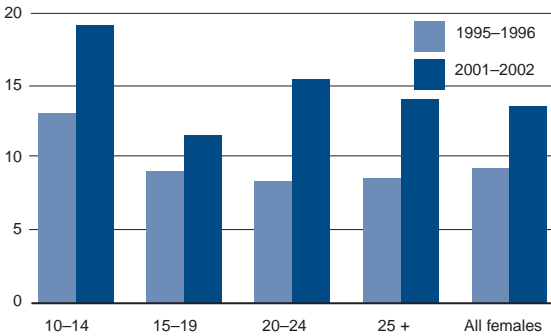
Motor vehicle theft, female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



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

Figure 61

Motor vehicle theft, female offenders as a percentage of total offenders, by age, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



- **The percentage of female offenders involved in motor vehicle theft, in relation to total offenders, increased across all age groups between 1995–1996 and 2001–2002.**

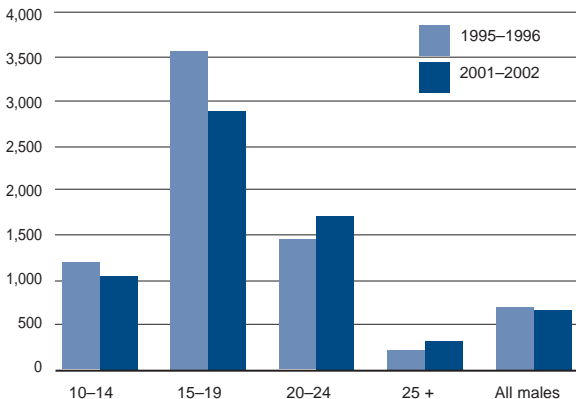
Source: References 2–7

Unlawful entry with intent

Females accounted for 11% of UEWI offenders, an increase from 9% in 1995–1996. Juveniles accounted for 27% of UEWI offenders in 2001–2002, a decrease from 34% in 1995–1996. In 2001–2002, almost one in every two offenders involved with UEWI was under 20 years of age.

Figure 62

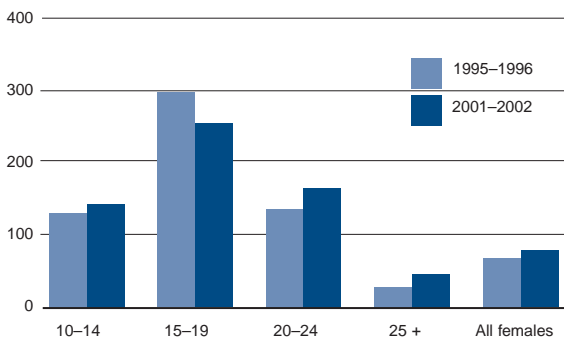
UEWI, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



- Offender rates for UEWI peaked among males aged 15 to 19 years in both years.
- The offender rate declined among males under 20 years of age, whereas an increase in rates was recorded for males aged over 20 years.

Figure 63

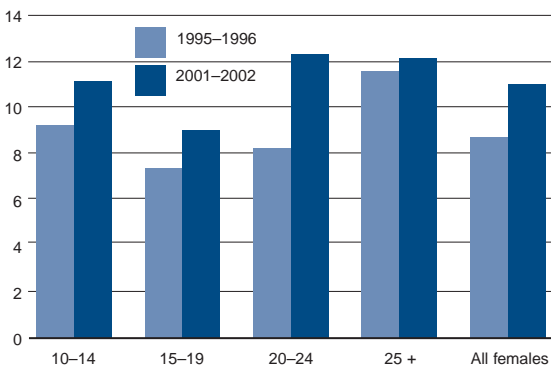
UEWI, female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



- As was the case for males, female offender rates were highest among individuals aged 15 to 19 years.
- Rates of female offending in all age groups remained relatively stable between 1995–1996 and 2001–2002.

Figure 64

UEWI, female offenders as a percentage of total offenders by age, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



- **Female offenders increased as a percentage of total UEWI offenders between 1995–1996 and 2001–2002.**

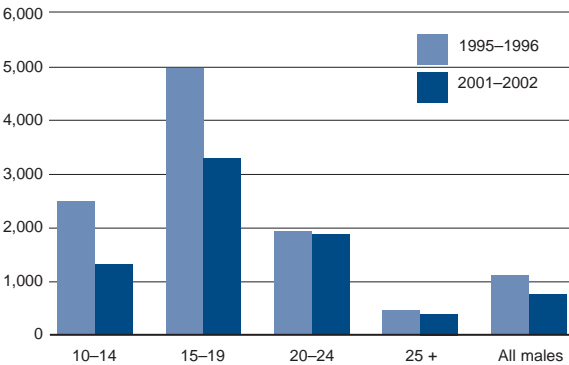
Source: References 2–7

Other theft

Relative to the other major crimes included in this chapter, ‘other theft’ offences, such as shoplifting, had relatively high female involvement. In 2001–2002, 29% of offenders involved in this offence were female and 30% were juveniles.

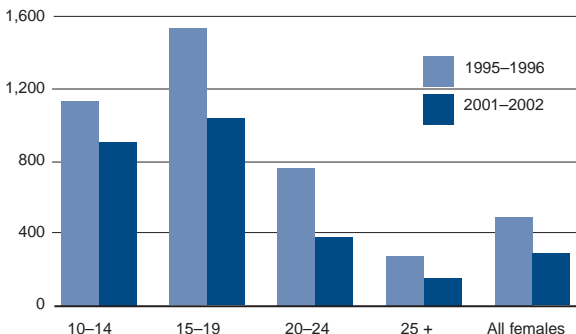
Figure 65

Other theft, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



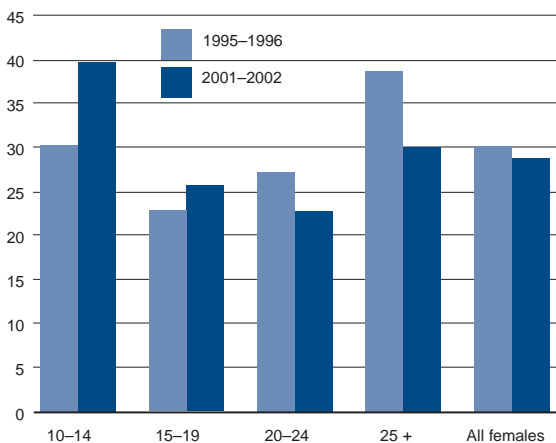
- **Similar to other property crimes, rates of other theft were highest among males aged 15 to 19 in both years.**
- **Since 1995–1996, the rate of other theft among males decreased for those 10–14 and 15–19 by 47% and 33%, respectively.**

Figure 66
Other theft, female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



■ **A pattern similar to males was shown for female offenders but with substantial declines in rates for all age groups. The rate of female offending among 15 to 19 year olds decreased from 1,538 per 100,000 in 1995–1996 to 1,034 per 100,000 in 2001–2002.**

Figure 67
Other theft, female offenders as a percentage of total offenders, by age, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



■ **Other theft is the offence category with the highest percentage of females.**

- Among those aged 10–19, females increased as a percentage of those accused of other theft, while those aged 20 and over declined as a percentage of the total.

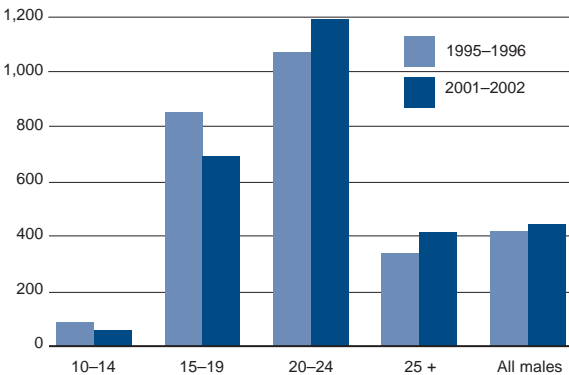
Source: References 2–7

Fraud and deception-related crime

Like other theft, fraud and deception-related crime has a relatively high female involvement (31%), as well as older offenders. In 2001–2002 approximately three in every five offenders were over 25 years of age. Juveniles accounted for less than 5% of total persons alleged to have committed fraud and deception-related crime.

Figure 68

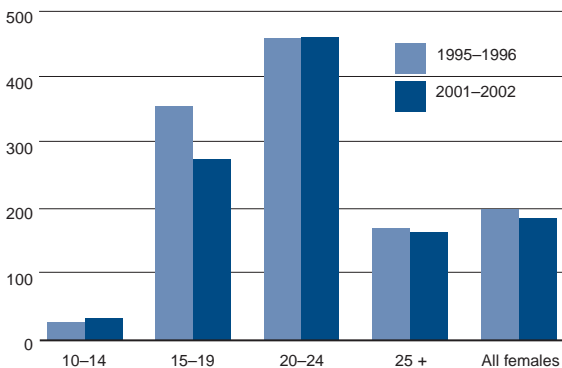
Fraud and deception-related crime, male offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



- The offending rate for males has remained the highest among individuals aged 20 to 24 years between 1995–1996 and 2001–2002.
- Since 1995–1996, rates have increased for offenders aged 20 years and older and declined for younger age groups.

Figure 69

Fraud and deception-related crime, female offenders by age, rate per 100,000 persons, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002

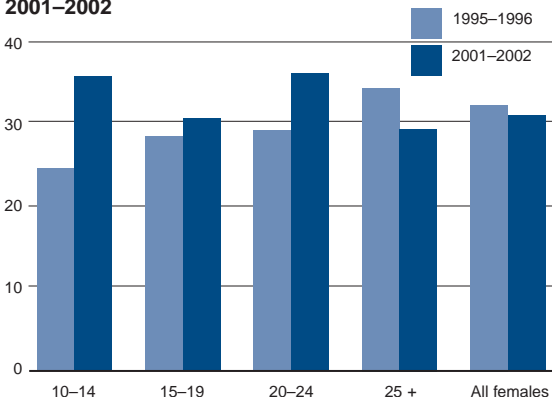


■ As was the case with males, the rate of fraud and deception-related crime among females was the highest among 20 to 24 year olds in both 1995–1996 and 2001–2002.

■ Since 1995–1996 rates for offenders aged 15–19 years old decreased by 22%.

Figure 70

Fraud and deception-related crime, female offenders as a percentage of total offenders, by age, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



■ The percentage of female offenders in relation to total offenders has increased for all age groups with the exception of the 25 and over age group.

Source: References 2–7

Structure of criminal courts in Australia

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

Magistrates' court: a lower court that deals with relatively minor or summary criminal offences. Under some circumstances, these courts may also deal with less serious indictable offences. They are also responsible for conducting preliminary (committal) hearings for indictable offences.

Intermediate (district/county) court: A higher court that, together with the supreme court, deals with the more serious crimes. Intermediate courts hear the majority of cases involving indictable crimes.

Supreme court: the highest level of court within a state or territory. Supreme courts deal with the most serious crimes.

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

All state, territory and Commonwealth courts handle a number of matters that appear in the court system for the first time. Almost all criminal charges are lodged for the first time at the magistrates' court level.

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

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

Source: References 21 and 22

The criminal court process

Case flows

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

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

Source: References 21 and 22

Lodgments

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

- **In 2001-2002, 816,824 cases were lodged in criminal courts in Australia.**
- **Cases initiated in magistrates' courts accounted for 96% of all lodgments in the criminal courts, while 3% were initiated in district/county courts and 1% in supreme courts.**

Source: Reference 21

Hearings

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

- **Nationally, there were 986,594 criminal court hearings in 2001–2002.**
- **There were 449,352 civil court hearings**
- **The majority of criminal hearings took place in magistrates' courts (972,679).**

Source: Reference 21

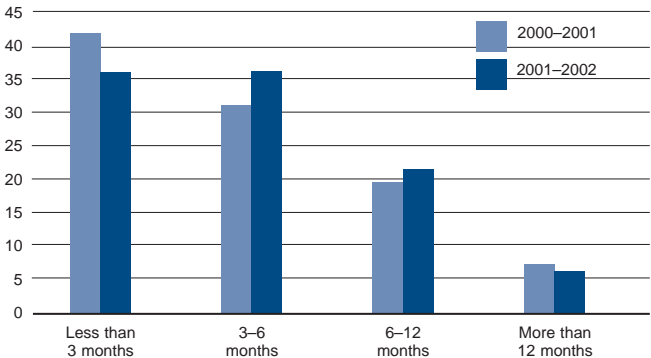
Timeliness

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

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

Figure 71

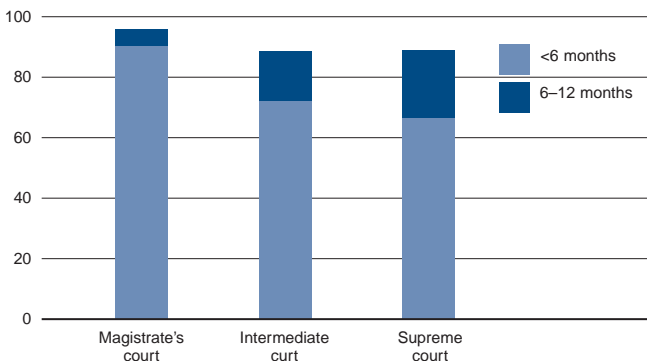
Committal (criminal) matters finalised in magistrates' courts by timeliness, percentages, 2000–2001 and 2001–2002



- **On average, 36% of committal hearings in 2001–2002 were finalised within three months of the receipt of charges by the court and a similar percentage were finalised in the subsequent three months.**
- **This represents a decline over the previous year in the percentage of cases finalised within three months, from 42%.**

Figure 72

Non-appeal criminal matters finalised in less than 12 months by type of court, percentages, 2001–2002

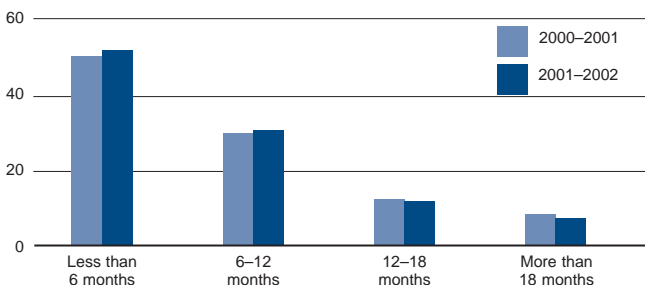


- **In 2001–2002, magistrates' courts finalised 91% of criminal cases in less than six months, and 96% in less than 12 months.**
- **Intermediate courts finalised 73% of matters in less than six months, and 89% in less than 12 months.**
- **Supreme courts finalised 67% of matters within six months and 89% within 12 months.**

Appeals from lower courts are predominantly heard by the district/county courts and supreme courts of the states and territories. The Federal Court hears appeals in criminal matters from the ACT and Norfolk Island Supreme Courts.

Figure 73

Supreme/Federal courts, appeal matters finalised, percentages, 2000–2001 and 2001–2002



- **Fifty-two per cent of criminal appeals heard in supreme courts were finalised within six months in 2001–2002.**
- **A further 30% were finalised in the subsequent six months.**

Source: Reference 21

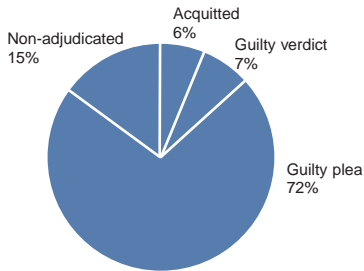
Court decision

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

- *adjudicated*—determined whether guilty of the charges based on the decision of a judge or jury; and
- *non-adjudicated*—occurs through a variety of means, including withdrawn by prosecution, unfit to plead, accused dies, diplomatic immunity, statute of limitations applies.

Figure 74

Defendants' cases finalised in higher courts, by method of finalisation, 2001–2002

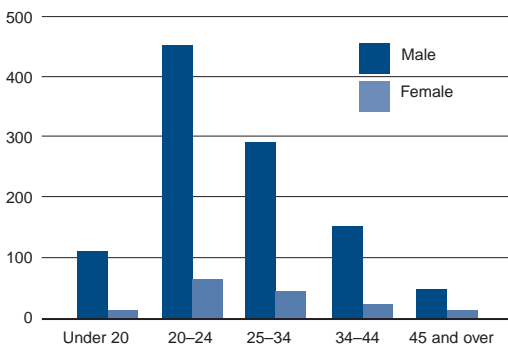


Excludes Queensland defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

- **In 2001–2002 there were 17,997 defendants finalised in the higher courts. This represented an increase of 2% from 2000–2001, when there were 17,718 defendants.**
- **Overall, 79% of the defendants whose cases were heard by a higher court were found guilty of an offence.**
- **In 6% of cases the defendant was acquitted of an offence.**

Source: Reference 22

Figure 75
Adjudicated defendants by age and gender, rate per 100,000 persons, 2001–2002



- **In all age groups males are more likely than females to appear as defendants in court.**
- **The highest rate of defendants per 100,000 population occurred in the 20 to 24 age group for both males and females. This pattern reflects offending patterns.**

Source: Reference 22

Sentencing

There is a variety of sentencing options available at each court level, including but not limited too:

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

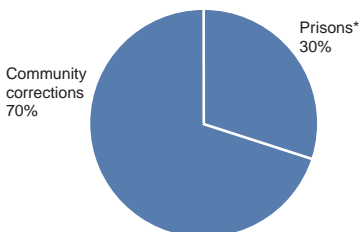
Detailed sentencing data are not currently available uniformly across the states and territories. The ABS is working towards a detailed sentencing collection for higher courts and magistrates' courts.

Note: The definition of adult varies among jurisdictions and over time. In 2001–2002, ‘adult’ referred to persons aged 18 years and over in all states and territories except Victoria and Queensland where adults are aged 17 and over. For the purpose of this publication, ‘adult’ refers to persons aged 17 years and over.

Persons under corrective services

Of the sentencing options available to the courts, corrective service authorities manage the offenders sentenced to imprisonment, community corrections or periodic detention.

Figure 76
Offenders by type of corrective program, 2001–2002



* Includes periodic detention available only in NSW and ACT. Figures based on daily average counts.

- **Seven out of ten offenders managed by corrective service authorities in 2001-2002 were placed in community-based programs.**
- **Thirty per cent were in prison serving sentences or on remand.**

Source: Reference 21

Prisons

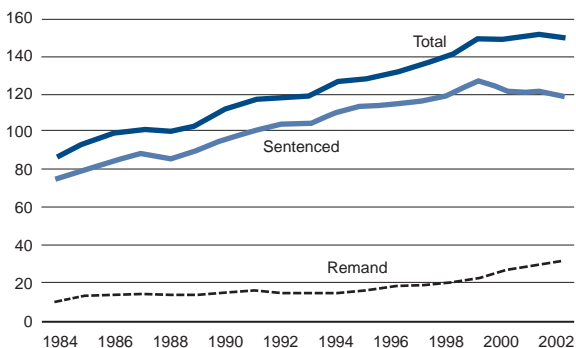
A national census of adult prisoners is taken on 30 June each year. The Australian Institute of Criminology began this collection in 1982, and conducted the census annually until 1993. This role was taken over by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1994. The most recent statistics available are from the 2002 prison census.

A total of 22,492 persons were in custody in Australian prisons on the night of 30 June 2002, a slight increase (0.2%) on the number recorded in 2001. This corresponds to a rate of 148 per 100,000 adult population. This is 1% lower than the 2001 rate of 151, and the first decrease in the national imprisonment rate in the last decade. The majority, 18,078, were sentenced prisoners and 4,414 were remandees.

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

Trend in prison populations

Figure 77
Prisoners, rate per 100,000 adults, 1984–2002



- **Between 1984 and 2002, the overall imprisonment rate increased from 86 to 148 per 100,000 adult population. The prison population has grown by an average 5% a year since 1984. Rates have remained relatively stable since 1999 following steady increases between 1984 and 1999.**
- **At 30 June 2002, remanded prisoners (those awaiting trial or sentence), accounted for 20% of the total prisoner population up from 12% in 1984.**
- **The rate of prisoners who were remanded in custody tripled between 1984 and 2002, from 10 to 29 per 100,000 population.**

- **The rate of sentenced prisoners dropped from 127 in 1999 to 119 in 2002.**

Source: References 2, 23 and 24

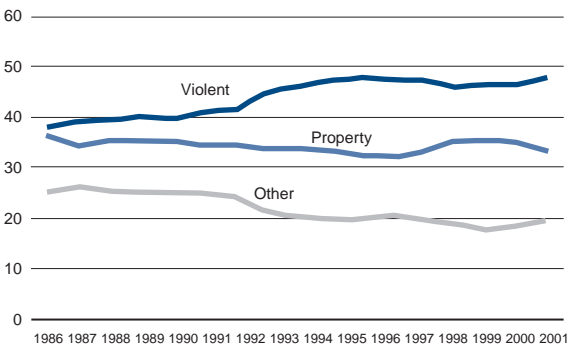
Most serious offence

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

Violent prisoners are those convicted of homicide, assault, sexual assault, 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.

Figure 78

Prisoners sentenced for violent, property and other offences, percentage of total prisoners, 1986–2002



- **The percentage of prisoners sentenced for violent offences increased from 38% in 1986 to 47% in 1995 and remained steady thereafter.**
- **Those sentenced for property offences declined from 25% in 1986 to 20% in 1994, a percentage that has since remained steady.**
- **The percentage for other offences has decreased slightly from 36% in 1986 to 33% in 2002.**

Source: References 23 and 24

Table 7
Sentenced prisoners by most serious offence, by gender, number and percent, 2002

	Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Homicide	1,767	10	122	11
Assault	2,039	12	126	11
Sex offences	2,007	12	9	1
Robbery	2,401	14	134	12
Unlawful entry with intent	2,105	12	115	10
Other theft*	1,135	7	123	11
Fraud**	442	3	109	10
GSJ***	1,277	8	115	10
Drug offences	1,674	10	166	15
Other****	2,111	12	101	9
Total	16,958	100	1,120	100

* Includes motor vehicle theft.

** Deception and related offences.

*** 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.

**** Includes other offences against the person and property, public order offences and driving offences.

- **The main offences for which male prisoners were sentenced included robbery, break and enter, assault and sex offences. For female prisoners the main offences included drug offences and robbery.**
- **Males imprisoned for the violent offences of homicide, assault, sex offences and robbery accounted for almost half of all sentenced male prisoners in 2002, compared with one third of sentenced females.**
- **These patterns have remained relatively stable between 2001 and 2002.**

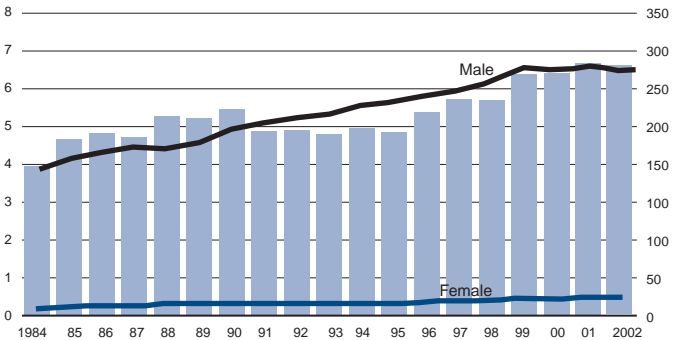
Source: Reference 23

Gender

Figure 79 depicts the imprisonment rate of male and female persons (line graph and right axis) and the percentage of prisoners who were female (bar graph and left axis), from 1984 to 2002.

Figure 79

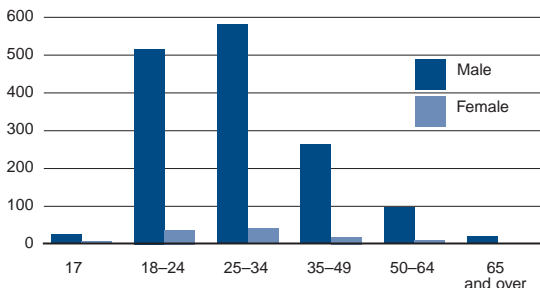
Prisoners by gender, rate per 100,000 adults and females as a percentage of total prisoners, 1984–2002



- Between 1984 and 2002, the overall imprisonment rate for males increased from 166 to 283 per 100,000 population.
- The female rate of imprisonment was 7 per 100,000 in 1984 and 19 per 100,000 in 2002.
- Almost 7% of prisoners were women in 2002, up from 4% in 1984.
- The number of male and female prisoners increased annually by an average of 5% and 8% respectively over the 18-year period.
- Fifty-nine per cent of males and 51% of females were known to have previously been in prison.

Source: References 2, 23 and 24

Figure 80
Age and gender of prisoners, rate per 100,000 adults, 2002



- **93 per cent of all prisoners in 2002 were male.**
- **64 per cent 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 2002.**
- **The overall imprisonment rate for males was 282 per 100,000 adult male population and for females it was 19 per 100,000 adult female population.**

Source: References 3 and 23

Indigenous status

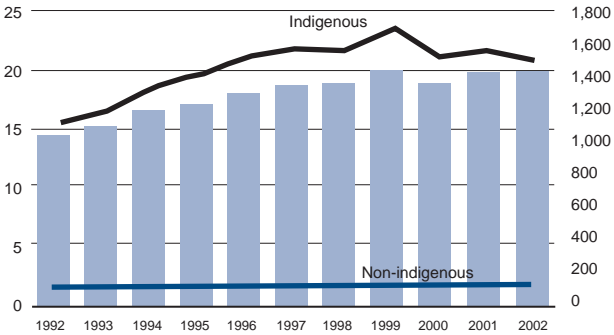
Figure 81 depicts the imprisonment rate of Indigenous (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) and non-Indigenous persons (line graph and right axis) and the percentage of prisoners who are Indigenous (bar graph and left axis). These data include both sentenced prisoners and remandees.

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.

Figure 81 presents rates based on ‘high series’ population data (Source: Reference 26).

Figure 81

Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoners, rate per 100,000 adults, and Indigenous prisoners as a percentage of total prisoners, 1992–2002



- **On June 30 2002 the Indigenous imprisonment rate was twelve times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous prisoners, 1,488 per 100,000 Indigenous adult population compared to 121 for non-Indigenous adult population.**
- **Indigenous prisoners comprised 20% of the total prisoner population in 2002, an increase over 1992 when Indigenous people made up 14% of the prison population.**
- **Seventy-eight per cent of Indigenous prisoners were known to have previously been in prison.**

Source: References 2, 3 and 23

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 re-integrating prisoners into the community under continued supervision.

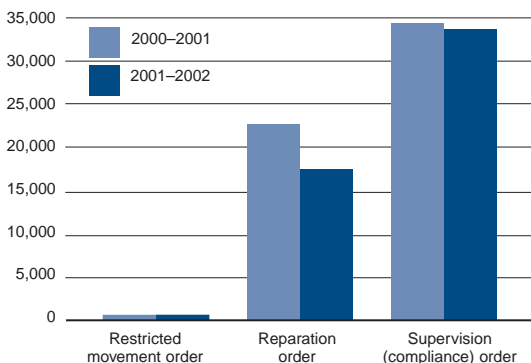
- **In Australia during 2001–2002, there were 52,305 offenders per day, on average, serving community correction orders, a decrease of 12% on the number recorded in 2000–2001.**

- This corresponds to a rate of 351 per 100,000 adults in the population, 583 per 100,000 males and 125 per 100,000 females.
- Males accounted for 81% of the community corrections population in 2001–2002.

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).

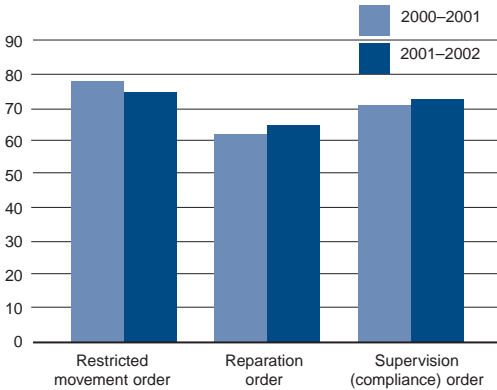
Figure 82
Average daily community corrections populations, 2000–2001 and 2001–2002*



* Excludes Victoria.

- Supervision orders are the most commonly used option, with 33,827 offenders under supervision orders in 2001–2002 (excluding Victoria). This represents a 1% decrease on the number recorded in 2000–2001.
- Reparation orders are also common, with 17,175 offenders serving this option in 2001–2002 (excluding Victoria), a 25% decline from 22,967 reparation orders in 2000–2001.

Figure 83

Successful completion of community corrections orders percentages, 2000–2001 and 2001–2002

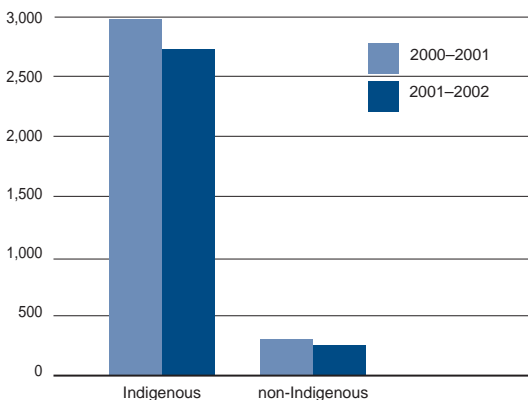
- **On average, 70% of all community corrective orders were successfully completed in 2001–2002, a slight increase from 67% in 2000–2001.**
- **In 2001–2002, supervision and restricted movement orders had the highest percentage of successful completion at 74% and 75%, respectively, while reparation orders had the lowest at 66%.**

Source: Reference 21

Indigenous status

On average, 40,348 non-Indigenous offenders and 6,807 Indigenous offenders were serving community corrections orders in 2001–2002 (excluding Victoria).

Figure 84
Average daily community corrections population by Indigenous status, rate per 100,000 adults, 2000–2001 and 2001–2002*



* Excludes Victoria.

- **In 2001–2002, the Indigenous community corrections rate was ten times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous offenders, at 2,733 per 100,000 population compared with 267.**
- **The community corrections rate for Indigenous people decreased slightly between 2000–2001 and 2001–2002, from 2,996 per 100,000 population to 2,733.**

Source: References 3 and 21

Juvenile corrective institutions

The Australian Institute of Criminology has maintained a collection on the number of persons detained in juvenile corrective institutions since 1981. The census consists of a count of the number of persons detained in institutions on the last day of each quarter each year. Similar information is not available for the non-custodial sanctions, such as community service.

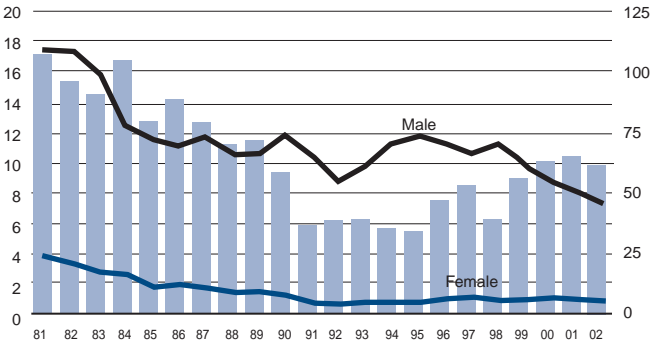
Note that the long-term trend data shown in Figure 85 is based on the census conducted on 30 June of each year.

Trend in juvenile corrective institution population

Given the differences among jurisdictions regarding the definition of a juvenile, statistics are shown for people aged between 10 and 17 years. Figure 85 depicts the imprisonment rate of male and female juveniles (line graph and right axis) and the percentage of juvenile prisoners who were female (bar graph and left axis), from 1981 to 2001.

Figure 85

Persons in juvenile corrective institutions by gender, rate per 100,000 juveniles and females as a percentage of total juvenile prisoners, 1981–2002



- Between 1981 and 2002, the overall incarceration rate for juveniles declined from 65 to 25 per 100,000.
- The rate of males and females detained in juvenile corrective institutions declined by an average of 4% and 5% per year respectively, between 1981 and 2002.
- In 2002, the rate for males declined to 44 per 100,000 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 significantly since 1981, at which point females made up 17% of the total. This figure remained at about 6% between 1991 and 1995 before rising to 10% in 2000.

- **In 2002, the male incarceration rate was almost nine times higher than the rate for female juveniles.**

Source: Reference 25

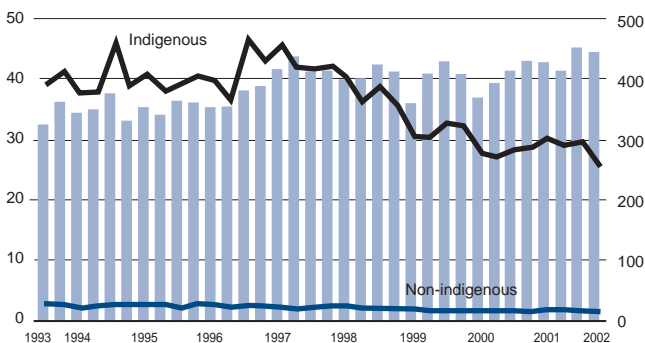
Indigenous status

Data on incarcerated persons by Indigenous status has been made available since 1994. Figure 86 depicts the incarceration rate of Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons (line graph and right axis) in juvenile corrective institutions, and the percentage of juvenile prisoners who were Indigenous (bar graph and left axis), from 31 March 1994 to 30 June 2002 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.

Figure 86

Persons in juvenile corrective institutions by Indigenous status, rate per 100,000 juveniles, and Indigenous juvenile prisoners as a percentage of total juvenile prisoners, 31 March 1994–30 June 2002



- **The total number of Indigenous persons in juvenile corrective institutions on 30 June 2002 was 243. This represents 47% of the total number of persons detained in juvenile corrective institutions.**

- **The incarceration rate for Indigenous juveniles was 256.7 per 100,000, 19 times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous juveniles (13.6 per 100,000).**
- **There has been a 45% decline in the rate of Indigenous juvenile imprisonment rate since the high of 468 per 100,000 recorded in March 1997.**
- **The over representation of Indigenous juveniles exceeded that of Indigenous adults: 19 times the rate of non-Indigenous juveniles compared with 12 times the rate of non-Indigenous adults.**

Source: References 25 and 26

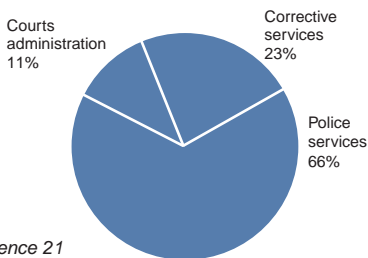
6 CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESOURCES

Justice expenditure

According to the *Report on Government Services 2003* (Reference 21), the total real recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources) on justice in 2001–2002 was nearly \$7 billion. Since 1997–98, expenditure on justice has increased by 18% overall and by an average of 4% each year.

Police services represent the largest component of the justice system, accounting for approximately 66% of the total justice-related expenditure. Corrective services account for a further 23%, and court administration accounts for the remaining 11% (Figure 77).

Figure 87
Composition of government expenditure on justice, 2001–2002



Source: Reference 21

Police

Policing activities are predominantly the responsibility of the police agencies of state and territory governments, with the Australian Federal Police providing a community policing service in the ACT on behalf of the ACT Government.

Funding for these services comes almost exclusively from state and territory government budgets, with some specific-purpose grants being provided by the Commonwealth.

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

Expenditure

The total recurrent expenditure on police services across Australia was \$4.8 billion. This amounts to \$244 for every person in Australia, and \$317 per adult. Recurrent expenditure on salaries accounted for 77% of this expenditure.

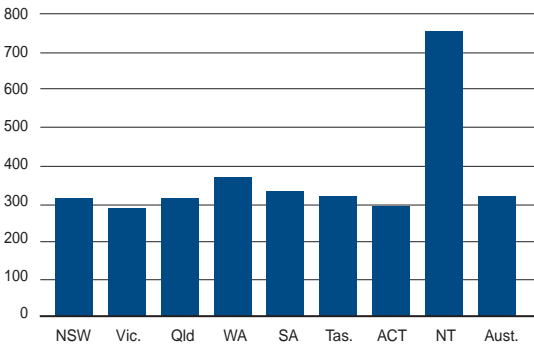
Total recurrent expenditure, less revenue from own sources in 2001-2002 was \$4.6 billion, or \$240 for every person and \$305 per adult.

Table 8
Expenditure on Australian police services, 2001-2002

Expenditure	(\$'000)
Total recurrent expenditure	4,805,015
Total capital expenditure	326,098
Total expenditure	5,131,113
Staff salaries	(\$)
Average police staff salaries	71,995
Average non-police staff salaries	58,845

Source: Reference 21

Figure 88
Recurrent expenditure on police services per head of adult population, 2001-2002



- Recurrent expenditure on police services per head of adult population in 2001-2002 ranged from \$290 in Victoria to \$757 in the Northern Territory.

Source: Reference 21

Staffing

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

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

- **The total police services staffing in Australia on 30 June 2002 was 57,830, an increase of 1% on the number recorded in 2001. This averages 294 per 100,000 persons (231 sworn police officers and 63 civilian employees).**
- **There were 45,395 sworn police officers and 12,435 civilian employees making up Australian police services in 2002.**
- **Twenty per cent of sworn police officers in 2002 were female.**

Table 9

Composition of police services by jurisdiction, 30 June 2002

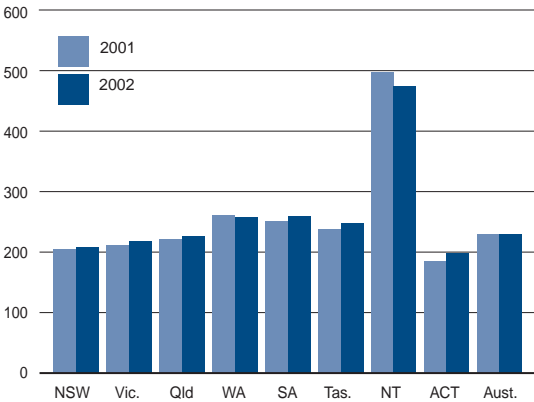
Jurisdiction	Sworn police officers	Civilian	Total	Sworn officers per 1,000 sq km
NSW	13,716	4,019	17,735	22
VIC	10,658	1,912	12,570	55
QLD	8,368	3,142	11,510	7
WA	4,955	1,254	6,209	2
SA	3,908	905	4,813	5
TAS	1,154	436	1,590	23
NT	938	222	1,160	1
ACT	629	135	764	325
Australia*	45,395	12,435	57,830	8

* Includes Australian Federal Police for non-ACT policing (1,069 sworn officers and 301 civilians).

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

Source: Reference 27

Figure 89
Sworn police officers rate per 100,000 persons by jurisdiction, 30 June 2001 and 30 June 2002



- **Generally there is little difference across jurisdictions in the number of sworn police officers per 100,000 population, with the exception of the Northern Territory which is well above the national average.**
- **The Northern Territory had the largest number of police officers per 100,000 population (474), while the ACT had the smallest (196). However, the ACT had 325 police officers per 1,000 square km, while the Northern Territory had only one.**
- **The number of police officers increased slightly in 2002 relative to 2001 in all jurisdictions except for Western Australia and the Northern Territory.**

Source: References 3 and 27

Court administration

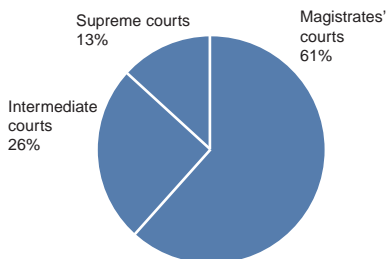
The total recurrent expenditure on court administration services across Australia was \$1.01 billion in 2001–2002, an increase from \$969 million in 2000–2001. Expenditure for criminal court administration was about \$431 million for 2001–2002.

Total expenditure less income (including fines) was \$420 million. This amounts to \$21 for every person in

Australia, and \$28 per adult. All criminal court costs are attributed to state and territory governments.

Source: Reference 21

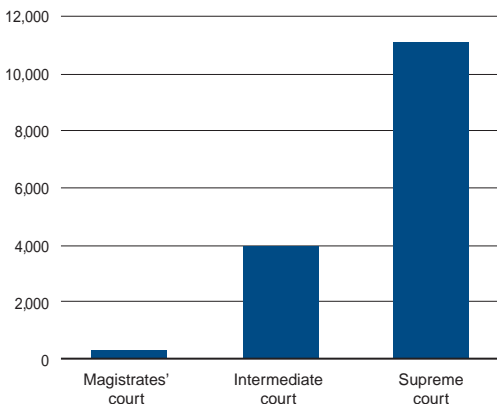
Figure 90
Total expenditure (less income) for criminal courts, 2001–2002



■ **Magistrates' courts incurred 61% of total criminal court expenditure in 2001–2002, compared with 63% in 2000–2001.**

Figure 91 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 tried in the higher courts.

Figure 91
Average expenditure per criminal case lodgment, 2001–2002



- In 2001–2002, average expenditure per criminal case lodgment was \$320 in magistrates' courts, \$4,059 in intermediate courts and \$11,196 in supreme courts.

Source: Reference 21

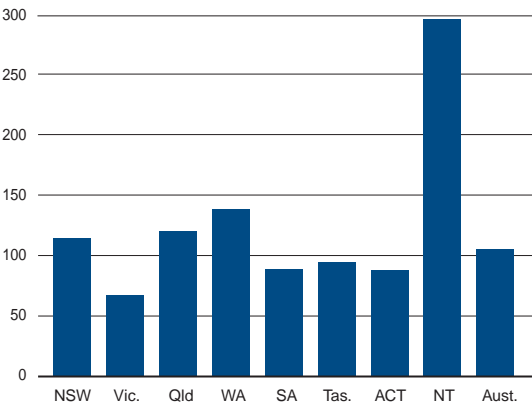
Adult corrective services

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 \$1.59 billion in 2001–2002; \$1.4 billion (87%) for prisons, \$161.9 million (10%) for community corrections and \$46.1 million (3%) for transport and escort services. This corresponds to \$81 for every person in Australia and \$105 for every adult.

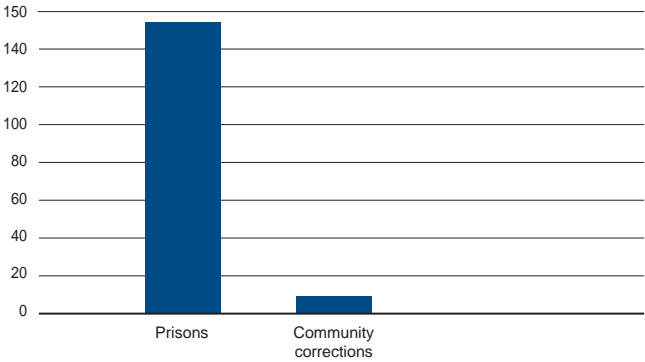
Figure 92

Recurrent expenditure on corrective services per head of adult population, 2001–2002



- Recurrent expenditure on corrective services per head of adult population in 2001–2002 ranged from \$67 in Victoria to \$295 in the Northern Territory.

Figure 93
**Corrective services expenditure per offender per day,
 2001–2002**



- **Expenditure per prisoner per day was about \$155 in 2001–2002, ranging from \$141 in Queensland to \$206 in the Northern Territory.**
- **Expenditure per offender sentenced to community correction programs per day was \$8 in 2001–2002. The cost for offenders sentenced to prison was almost 20 times as high.**
- **Overall, in 2001–2002 approximately \$56,539 was spent on each prisoner and \$3,066 on each offender sentenced to community corrections programs.**

Source: References 3 and 21

This section is in two parts. The first is based on arrests of consumers (those who are caught in possession of drugs for personal consumption) and providers (including those arrested for drug dealing and trafficking) for illicit drugs in Australia, taken from the Australian Crime Commission's Illicit Drug Report 2001–2002. The second section details trends in illicit drug use based on the 2001 National Drug Strategy Household Survey and the Australian Institute of Criminology's Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) Project 2002 Annual Report.

Drugs arrests

The Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence reported drug arrest and seizure statistics from 1992–2001. The 2001–2002 Illicit Drug Report was released this year by the Australian Crime Commission (a merger of the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence, National Crime Authority and the Office of Strategic Crime Assessments). This section provides an overview of arrest patterns for offenders between 1995–1996 and 2001–2002.

There is information on arrests for the following types of drugs:

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

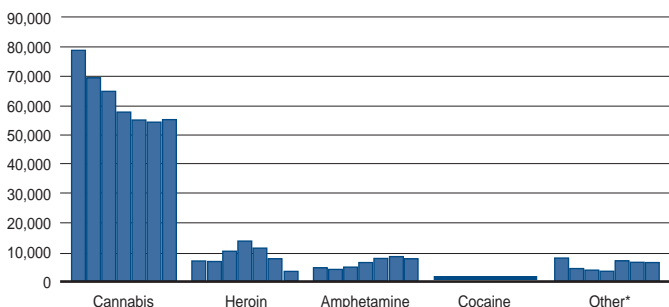
Cannabis arrests include expiation notices, drug infringement notices, and simple cannabis offence notices.

Offenders involved in drug arrests are divided into two categories:

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

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

Figure 94
Number of drug arrests by type of drug, 1995–1996 to 2001–2002

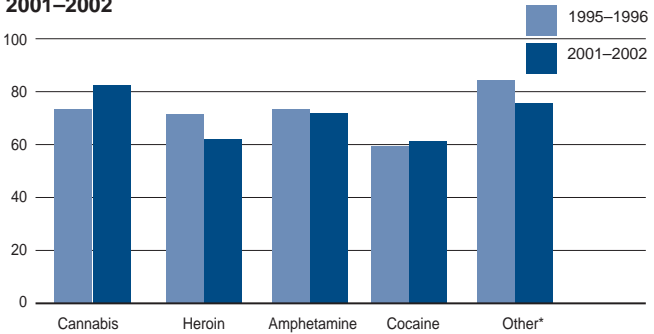


* Other includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere).

- **Since 1995–1996, there has been an overall decline of 25% in the number of arrests for drug offences.**
- **Arrests for cannabis offences declined by 30%.**
- **Between 1998–1999 and 2001–2002, a declining trend is evident in the number of arrests related to heroin offences.**
- **Arrests for amphetamines and cocaine, however, have almost doubled between 1995–1996 and 2001–2002, from 4,214 to 8,063 in the case of amphetamines and from 330 to 612 in the case of cocaine.**
- **In 1995–1996, 80% of drug arrests involved cannabis, compared with 75% in 2001–2002.**

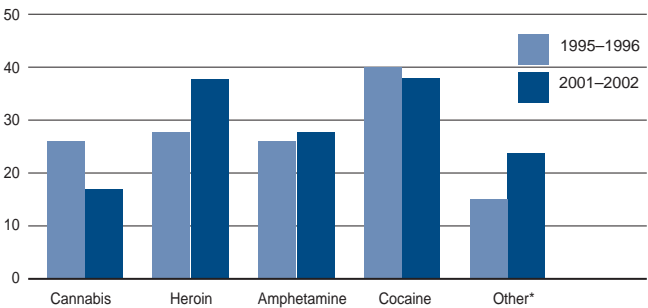
Source: References 28 and 29

Figure 95
Number of consumers arrested as percentage of all drug arrests specific to each type of drug, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



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

Figure 96
Number of providers arrested as percentage of all drug arrests specific to each type of drug, 1995–1996 and 2001–2002



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

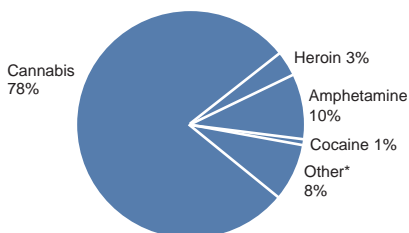
■ **The majority of people arrested for drug offences are consumers rather than providers, irrespective of drug type. Eighty per cent of all arrests for drug offences in 2001-2002 involved consumers, up from 75% in 1995-1996.**

- **Patterns vary by drug type. The percentage of arrests involving heroin and other drug consumers declined while the percentage involving providers increased.**
- **In 2001–2002, 17% of persons arrested for cannabis offences were providers, compared with 38% of arrests for heroin and cocaine offences.**

Source: References 28 and 29

Figure 97

Drug consumers, number of arrests as a percentage of total drug arrests, by type of drug, 2001–2002

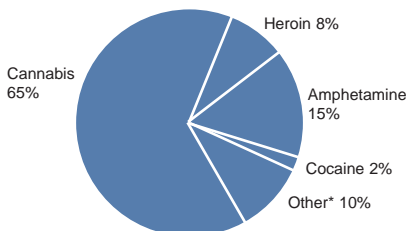


* Other includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere).

- **Arrests for cannabis accounted for 78% of all consumer arrests in 2001–2002.**
- **Between 1995–1996 and 2001–2002, there was a decline in the percentage of consumers arrested for heroin offences, from 7% to 3%, and an increase in those arrested for amphetamine offences, from 4% to 10%.**

Figure 98

Drug providers, number of arrests as a percentage of total drug arrests, by type of drug, 2001–2002

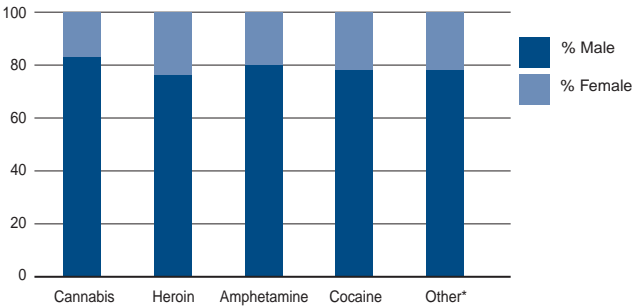


* Other includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not further defined).

- **As with consumers, most providers are arrested for cannabis offences. Cannabis providers declined from 82% of the total in 1995-1996 to 65% in 2001-2002.**
- **Amphetamines providers increased as a percentage of all provider arrests from 4% in 1995-1996 to 15% in 2001-2002.**

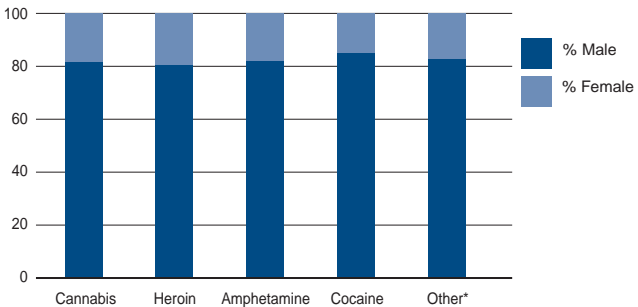
Source: References 28 and 29

Figure 99
Drug consumers, number of arrests as a percentage of total drug arrests, by gender and type of drug, 2001–2002



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

Figure 100
Drug providers, number of arrests as a percentage of total drug arrests, by gender and type of drug, 2001–2002



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

- Irrespective of drug type, males accounted for four in every five arrests of both consumer and provider offenders.

Source: References 28 and 29

Illicit drug use

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

This section details:

- Recent use of illicit drugs (in the past 12 months);
- Proportion of the population who recently used cannabis, heroin, cocaine, designer drugs, hallucinogens, or other illicit drugs, as well as pain-killers, tranquillisers, barbiturates, other opiates and amphetamines for non-medical purposes; and
- Proportion who reported injecting drugs.

Figure 101

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

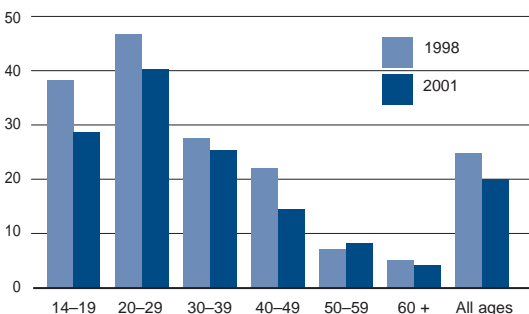
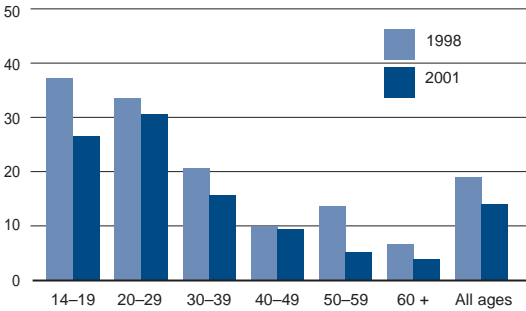


Figure 102

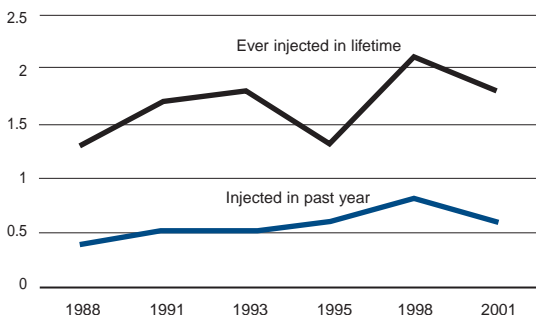
Recent use of any illicit drug, proportion of the female population aged 14 years and over, 1998 and 2001



- Overall, 17% of the population aged 14 years and over had recently used drugs in 2001.
- Thirteen per cent used cannabis, 3.4% amphetamines, 3.1% pain-killers, 2.9% ecstasy and other designer drugs, 1.1% hallucinogens, 1.1% tranquillisers, 1.3% cocaine and 0.2% heroin.
- For both males and females, recent illicit drug use declined in 2001 compared with 1998, with the exception of males in the 50 to 59 age group.
- Males reported higher rates of illicit drug use than females in every age group.
- Recent drug use is most common in the 20 to 29 age group followed by the 14 to 19 age group for both males and females.

Source: Reference 30

Figure 103
Percentage who reported injecting drugs, 1988-2001



- **The number of people who reported injecting drugs in the last year has fluctuated between 1988 and 2001.**
- **The percentage of people who reported injecting drugs ever in their lifetime increased from 1.3% in 1995 to 2.1% in 1998. In 2001 there was a slight decrease to 1.8%.**
- **The percentage of people who had reported injecting drugs in the last year has remained relatively stable at about 0.5% of the population.**

Source: Reference 30

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 specific areas. Two methods are used to obtain this information: a questionnaire and a urine sample. As an ongoing monitoring system, it enables law enforcement to track long-term changes in drugs and crime. 2002 was the fourth year of data collection in the DUMA project, and the first year of the second phase of data collection. Funding was provided by the Australian Government Attorney General's Department and South Australian Attorney General's Department.

By 2002 seven sites were being monitored: East Perth in Western Australia, Southport and Brisbane City in Queensland, Bankstown and Parramatta in New South Wales, and Adelaide and Elizabeth in South Australia.

Brisbane City, Adelaide City and Elizabeth began participating in 2001.

Data are collected quarterly and presented in the following figures as annual averages.

Figure 104
Percentage of adult male police detainees testing positive to amphetamines, 1999–2002

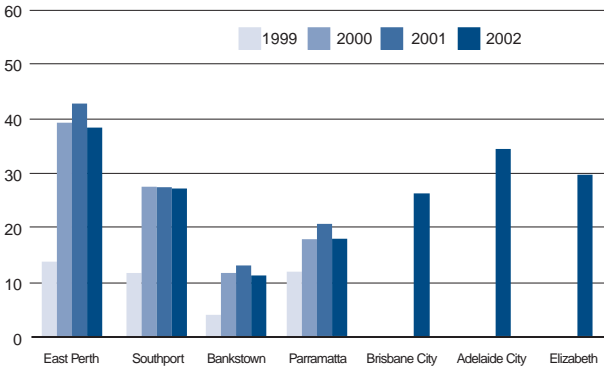


Figure 105
Percentage of adult male police detainees testing positive to cocaine, 1999–2002

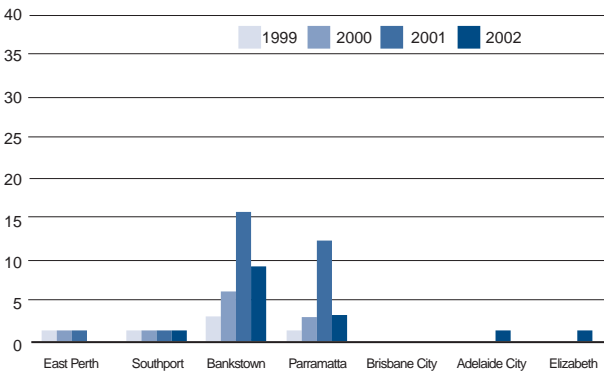
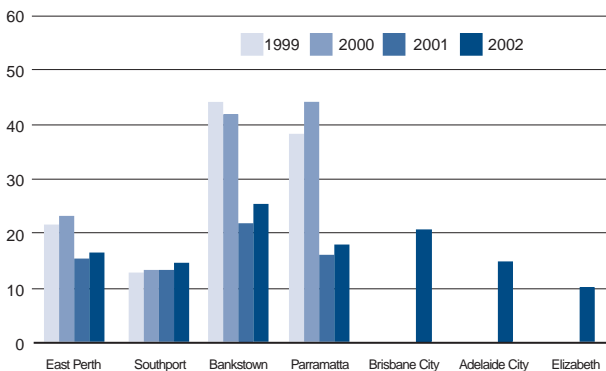


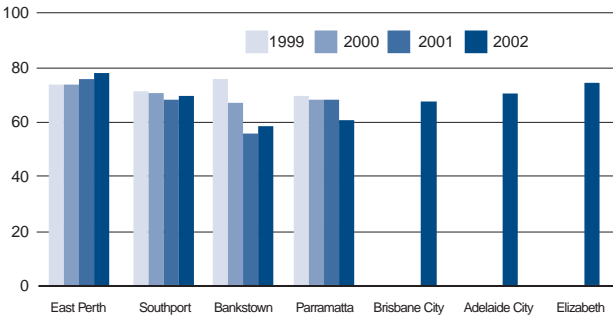
Figure 106
Percentage of adult male police detainees testing positive to opiates, 1999–2002



- **The percentage of police detainees testing positive to amphetamines, cocaine and opiates varied across the seven sites.**
- **Amphetamine use has generally increased over this period.**
- **The proportions testing positive to cocaine were extremely low in all sites during 1999 and 2000. In 2001 there was an increase observed in the two Sydney sites, which declined again in 2002.**
- **The percentage of detainees testing positive to opiates declined significantly in the Sydney and East Perth sites in 2001, and increased slightly in 2002.**

Source: Reference 31

Figure 107
Percentage of adult male police detainees testing positive to any drug, 1999–2002



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

Source: Reference 31

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