

CRIME AND JUSTICE  
IN  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
2000

-

OFFENCES REPORTED TO POLICE,  
THE VICTIMS AND ALLEGED  
PERPETRATORS

A statistical report

OFFICE OF CRIME STATISTICS  
Attorney-General's Department

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## PREFACE

*Crime and Justice in South Australia: Offences Reported to Police, the Victims and Alleged Perpetrators* is the first of a three volume report on crime and criminal justice statistics in South Australia which, in one form or another, has been published annually by the Office of Crime Statistics since 1987. While Volume 2 deals exclusively with young offenders and the juvenile justice system and Volume 3 focuses on adult courts and correctional services, Volume 1 (ie this volume) contains information on police-related activities for the period 1 January to 31 December 2000.

Five main sections are included in this report, as follows:

- the number of incident reports filed by police;
- the number of offences recorded by police;
- the number of offences cleared by police and the method of clearance;
- characteristics of victims who reported an offence to police; and
- characteristics of alleged perpetrators apprehended by police.

This report contains a much broader range of data than was included in the Police Statistics section of *Crime and Justice* reports prior to 1998. This expansion has been undertaken for several reasons: firstly, to accommodate the increased range and quality of data now available in this area from SAPOL; secondly, to provide more scope for descriptive text and analysis; and thirdly, to contribute more constructively to on-going community debate about crime and criminal justice in this State by ensuring that the media, policy makers and the general public have access to as much information as possible.

We trust that readers will find the production of three volumes of *Crime and Justice in South Australia* useful and informative.

Joy Wundersitz  
Director  
Office of Crime Statistics

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## INTRODUCTION

This report, covering the period 1 January to 31 December 2000, is the fourteenth *Crime and Justice* report to be based on a calendar year of reporting. Statistics in this report cover five main areas:

- the number of incident reports filed by police;
- the number of offences recorded by police;
- the number of offences cleared by police and the method of clearance;
- the characteristics of victims who reported an offence to police; and
- the characteristics of alleged perpetrators apprehended by police.

### Using Crime and Justice reports

As with all quantitative data, the tables in this publication can give rise to misunderstanding and confusion unless assessed carefully. The notes that follow, combined with the detailed explanations outlined in the Appendix, are designed to assist understanding and correct interpretation of the data.

#### Comprehensiveness

In using this *Crime and Justice* report it is important to understand that it does not provide a comprehensive picture of the incidence and nature of offending in the community. The officially recorded crime statistics contained in this volume are influenced by a number of factors, as described below.

#### *Incidents and offences reported to police*

Sections 2, 3 and 4 of this report detail only those incidents and offences actually reported to police or which come to police attention. They are therefore heavily dependent on whether the victim of an offence chooses to report that offence. Victim surveys have indicated that many offences are never reported and so are never counted in official police statistics. The level of under-reporting also varies from one offence category to another. The most recent victimisation survey conducted in South Australia in 2000 showed that, at one end of the spectrum, ninety percent of motor vehicle thefts in South Australia were reported to police, while at the other end of the scale, the level of reporting of non-sexual assaults was 27.3% (ABS, 2001: Cat. No. 4509.4). This means that while police statistics for *larceny or illegal use of a motor vehicle* are likely to provide an accurate insight into the actual incidence of these offences in the community, they significantly underestimate the number of assaults.

Changes in the willingness of victims to report incidents to police will inevitably have an impact on recorded crime trends. In recent years, Governments in all states have introduced a range of measures designed to encourage more victims to report offences (particularly those involving sexual assault and domestic violence). As a result, any increase in recorded crime levels may be due not to a shift in the actual incidence of illegal behaviour in the community but to a greater willingness by victims to bring those offences to police attention.

In the case of victimless crimes (such as *possess/use drugs*) the identification or detection of an offence rests predominantly with police. Here, official crime statistics may be influenced by policing practices, and in particular by the number and range of specialist operations conducted in any given year. For example, the number of *driving offences* coming to police attention over a given time period will rise significantly if the police dedicate more resources to enforcing motor traffic legislation. In South Australia, police statistics on drink driving offences increased noticeably following the introduction of random breath testing in 1981, with a particularly sharp rise occurring in 1997 when the number of drivers given a random breath test doubled. Survey data collected by the NRMA Road Accident Research Unit at the University of Adelaide indicate, however, that the proportion of individual drivers “over the limit” has actually been decreasing since 1982. Thus, while publicity about drink driving and increased levels of enforcement have served to reduce the actual incidence of this type of offending in the community, the number of officially recorded *drink driving offences* has increased due to greater enforcement activity by police. Cannabis legislation provides a further example. On 30 April 1987 South Australia introduced an expiation notice system covering the possession, cultivation or use of small amounts of cannabis by adults. This largely explains the 50% reduction between 1986 and 1988 in recorded *drug offences*.

The number of incidents and offences recorded by police during a given year are also dependent on how an event reported by a victim or observed by police is interpreted and entered onto the data collection system. While SAPOL has processes in place to provide direction to police officers, final responsibility for deciding whether a particular criminal incident will be recorded and how it will be recorded is still vested in individual officers. For some crimes, a high level of discretion exists in how to classify them. For example, the perceived intent needs to be judged before deciding whether an incident is defined as a *serious assault* or an *attempted murder*. This discretion may lead to some variation from one police officer to another in how they choose to define and record a particular incident. Police also have some discretion in terms of whether to actually file an incident report in the first place. Shifts in how police exercise this discretion will impact on the statistics. For example, it is widely acknowledged that in earlier decades, many domestic violence incidents to which police were called did not result in a formal incident report being filled out because police viewed such incidents as “internal” family matters. However, as the community’s awareness of and concern about domestic violence increased, so police willingness to formally record such incidents also increased. Thus, as with *sexual assault*, any long term upswing in domestic violence assaults over time may be due, not to a change in the actual frequency of such behaviour but to a greater willingness on the part of victims to report the matter to police and to a greater willingness by police to actually lodge an incident report, which will then be counted in the official statistics.

Changes in the efficiency of policing combined with improvements in the technologies available for actually recording data may also affect the official statistics. In some states, for example, police now have access to on-line computer charging which means that at a crime scene, they can enter details of the offence directly onto a computer rather than having to fill in forms by hand for later data entry. This may lead to improvements in both the comprehensiveness and accuracy of the data.

The influence potentially exerted by these factors on reported crime trends in this State therefore need to be borne in mind when interpreting the statistics contained in this report.

### ***Characteristics of victims and apprehended persons***

Similar interpretative issues also apply to Sections 5 and 6 of this report, which detail the characteristics of victims who contact police to report a crime and the characteristics of alleged

perpetrators apprehended by police. As demonstrated later in this report, for certain categories of crime such as *property damage*, *break and enter* and *vehicle theft*, the number of crimes reported to police which are actually ‘cleared’ by the apprehension of a suspect is relatively low. As a result, those persons who are apprehended may not be representative of all those who actually commit these offences. Similarly, given that for offences such as *sexual assault*, many victims choose not to report the matter to police, it may be that those who do report such incidents differ in some ways from those who decide not to do so.

In summary, official crime statistics should be interpreted with extreme care. To facilitate this, readers are urged to consult the detailed explanatory notes contained in the Appendix.

## Summary of 2000 Statistics

### Police Incident Reports

- In 2000, 215,302 incident reports were submitted by police. This was 9.7% higher than the preceding year.
- The majority (81.9%) of incident reports submitted in 2000 involved one offence only. The average number of offences per report was 1.27.

### Offences recorded by police

- In 2000, there were 273,384 offences recorded by police.
- *Offences against property* dominated, accounting for almost two thirds (63.4%) of offences recorded. In contrast, *sexual offences* and *robbery and extortion* each constituted less than 1%, while *drug offences* accounted for only 1.6%. This offence profile was similar to that observed in previous years.
- In 2000, the number of offences recorded by police rose by 12.3%. However, part of this increase was due to a work practice change within SAPOL in July 1999 which affected the way in which *driving offences* were recorded.
- With the exception of *drug offences*, all major offence categories recorded an increase.
- The number of *offences against the person, excluding sexual offences* recorded by police increased by 14.6% in 2000, with the most recent figure being the highest so far recorded. Within this broad category, *other* (generally minor) *assault* increased (by 12.8%), as did *assault occasioning* (up by 4.8%).
- In 2000, *sexual offences* increased by 8.5%, which was contrary to the 3.6% decrease recorded in 1999. Within this broad category, the number of recorded *rape* and *indecent assault* offences increased (by 4.8% and 18.8% respectively). However, because both categories decreased steadily between 1993 and 1997, the most recent figures are still considerably lower than those recorded in the early part of the decade.
- The number of *robbery* offences recorded by police in 2000 increased by 13.2%. However, because of a substantial decrease in this category between 1993 and 1997, the most recent figure is still slightly lower than the peak of 1993.
- The number of recorded *offences against property* increased by 8.9% in 2000. The most recent figure is now higher than at any time in the past two decades. Similar trends apply to most of the sub-categories within this broad offence grouping, as outlined below:
  - The number of recorded *break and enter dwelling*<sup>\*</sup> offences rose by 6.4% in 2000. Nevertheless, because of a substantial downward trend in this category between 1991 and 1997, numbers are still lower than those recorded during the 1987 – 1994 period.

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<sup>\*</sup> In calculating the 2000 figures, break/enter offences have been combined with the new criminal trespass offences. It should be stressed, however, that these are not directly comparable with break/enter offences applicable prior to 25 December 1999.

- *Break and enter other\** increased in 2000 (by 13.6%), while *break and enter shop* remained stable. But again, because of a steady decrease in both these categories in the mid 1990s, numbers are still lower than those recorded in the early 1990's.
- *Larceny/illegal use of a motor vehicle* went up by 12.2% in 2000 (compared with 9.4% in 1999). Numbers are now considerably higher than the low point recorded in 1997 and approaching the high point for vehicle theft recorded in 1990.
- *Interfere with a motor vehicle* increased by 20.6% in 2000, following a 25.0% increase in 1999. Nevertheless, due to a substantial drop between 1993 and 1994, the 2000 figure is still lower than when data first became available in 1992.
- *Larceny from a shop* rose by 13.1% in 2000 (compared with 2.8% in 1999). However, due to a steady downward trend from 1992 to 1998 numbers are still lower than those recorded throughout most of the 1980s and 1990s.
- After declining by 32.8% in 1999, the number of recorded *fraud and misappropriation offences* increased by 21.3% in 2000. Despite this increase, the most recent figure is still considerably lower than the 1998 peak.
- Following a slight decline between 1995 and 1997, the number of total *damage property* offences increased by 14.7% in 1998 and 15.9% in 1999. A further, albeit smaller increase (of 2.3%) was recorded in 2000. Numbers in this category are now higher than at any time previously.
- The number of recorded *driving offences* rose substantially in 2000 (by 27.9%). As noted earlier, though, a change in police recording practices in July 1999 accounts for much of the increase, including:
  - a 19.2% increase in *dangerous, reckless or negligent driving*;
  - a 22.3% increase in *driving licence offences*; and
  - a 63.4% increase in *motor vehicle registration offences*.
- The one category not affected by the changes in recording is that of *drink driving*. The number of *drink driving and related offences* decreased in 2000 by 10.6%, with the most recent figure now lower than at any time since 1982. It should be noted though, that the number of *driving offences* recorded is heavily reliant on police enforcement practices, such as the number of random breath tests conducted.
- The number of *drug offences* recorded by police in 2000 decreased by 4.5% compared with a 6.3% increase in 1999. Of the various offence types within this broad category, only *produce or manufacture drugs* recorded an increase.
- In contrast, the number of *possess and/or use drugs, possess drug implement, possess for sale/sell drugs* and *fraudulent prescription offences* all decreased. As with *driving offences*, however, the number of such offences recorded in any given year is heavily dependent on police enforcement practices.
- *Offences against good order* increased by 12.7% in 2000, with the most recent figure the highest recorded since figures became available in 1992.

### **Location of offences recorded**

- In 2000 the metropolitan area of Adelaide recorded more than double the rate of *break and enter dwelling* offences than did country areas of the state (40.9 per 1,000 dwellings compared with 17.6 per 1,000 dwellings respectively). The metropolitan area also recorded a higher rate of *offences against the person*, but here the differences were relatively small (15.5 per 1,000 population compared with 13.2 per 1,000 population in rural areas).

### **Clearance status of offences recorded by police**

- Of the 273,384 offences recorded by police during 2000, 113,553 (41.5%) were cleared by the end of that year, while conversely, 58.5% remained uncleared.
- However, the clear up level varied depending on the type of offence involved, with the lowest recorded for *property offences* (16.6% cleared by the end of 2000), followed by *robbery and extortion* (29.9% cleared). At the other end of the scale, over 99% of *driving offences* and *drug offences* were cleared – a finding which is to be expected given that police normally detect these offences at the time of their commission by the perpetrator.
- In addition to the 113,553 offences which were both reported and cleared in 2000, a further 2,979 offences reported to police in earlier years were also cleared in 2000. This gives a total of 116,532 offences cleared over the twelve month period.
- Of these 116,532 offences cleared, the majority (90.0%) were cleared by way of the apprehension or cautioning of a suspect. A very small proportion of offences (1.1%) were designated as cleared on the grounds that they were unfounded, while 8.4% were cleared by the victim requesting that no further action be taken.
- However, the method of clearance varied depending on the type of offence involved. As expected, virtually all *driving* and *drug offences* were cleared by way of the apprehension of a suspect. In contrast, only 60.7% of *offences against the person* and 66.5% of *sexual offences* were cleared in this way. For these last two categories, the proportion cleared as a result of the victim requesting that no further action be taken was relatively high (37.2% in the case of *offences against the person* and 27.6% of *sexual offences*).

### **Victims of offences recorded by police**

In this section, only offences which involved a ‘personal’ victim were counted. This included all *offences against the person*, all *sexual offences*, all *robberies* directed against an individual and all *larceny from the person* offences.

- In 2000 there were 22,158 recorded victimisations directed against a person.
- Of those 22,104 victimisations where the sex of the victim was recorded, just over one half (52.1%) involved males, while conversely, 47.9% involved females. This fairly even distribution of victims between males and females is in direct contrast to the male/female breakdown for alleged offenders, with males accounting for the majority of persons apprehended by police.

- Persons in the mid age ranges of 18 – 24 years and 25 – 34 years accounted for the highest proportion of personal victimisations recorded by police in 2000 (20.5% and 25.4% respectively), while the very young and the elderly accounted for relatively small proportions.
- However, the age profiles of victims varied depending on the type of offence involved. For *sexual offences*, for example, young people aged less than 18 years accounted for over half of all such victimisations recorded in 2000 while those aged 45 and over accounted for only 5.9%. In contrast, for *larceny from the person*, 39.1% of the victimisations recorded in 2000 involved victims aged 45 and over while only 10.4% were aged less than 18 years.
- Age profiles also varied depending on the sex of the victim. For *robbery and extortion* offences, the highest proportion of male victims fell within the 10-17 year age group (36.2%) and then diminished as age increased. In contrast, the age profile of female victims of *robbery and extortion* shows a general increase in the likelihood of victimisation as age increased, from 12.6% in the 10-17 year age category up to 19.8% in the 45-59 and 60 years and over categories. Similarly, for *larceny from a person*, the highest proportion of male victims were relatively young (with 46.1% aged 10 – 24). However, for female victims, one in three were aged 60 and over.
- The above information relates to the total number of offences involving a personal victim. However, the same victim may be subject to more than one offence and more than one incident during the course of the year. Another way of analysing the data, then, is to focus on the discrete number of victims who came to police attention in 2000. Over this twelve month period, 18,953 persons were victimised at least once. Almost nine in ten of these were victimised once only during the 12 month period, indicating that the level of repeat victimisation was low.

#### **Offences cleared by way of an apprehension**

- In 2000 102,986 offence charges were laid by police via apprehension reports. This figure was 15.3% higher than in 1999. More than eight in ten (82.7%) of these charges were laid against males.
- Of those charges laid in 2000 where the age of the alleged offender was recorded, relatively few involved older individuals, with persons aged 60 and over accounting for only 1.1% of the total. In contrast, over one half of all charges (59.5%) were laid against persons in the 18 – 34 year age bracket.
- Just under one in five charges laid in 2000 involved juveniles (aged 10 – 17 years inclusive). The level of juvenile involvement varied, however, according to the type of charge. To illustrate, this age group accounted for only 6.5% of *fraud and misappropriation* charges but 41.4% of all *larceny/illegal use of a motor vehicle* charges.
- Of the 95,931 charges laid by police in 2000 where information on the racial appearance of the person was recorded, 11.7% involved persons of Aboriginal appearance. Again, however, this varied depending on the type of charge involved, with this group accounting for only 3.7% of all *drug offences* and 8.3% of all *sexual offences* cleared via apprehension, compared with 19.1% of all *robbery and extortion* offences and 29.6% of all *disorderly/offensive behaviour* charges.

- The 102,986 charges recorded in 2000 were contained in 55,294 separate apprehension reports. On average then, each apprehension report lodged by police during this twelve month period contained 1.86 charges. Over the same time period, a total of 35,756 discrete individuals were apprehended, giving an average of 1.55 apprehensions and 2.88 charges per person in 2000.
- Males accounted for the majority of apprehension reports lodged (81.7%) and the majority of discrete individuals apprehended during 2000 (80.3%).
- Persons of Aboriginal appearance constituted 12.3% of all apprehensions and 8.9% of all persons apprehended. Given that persons of Aboriginal descent constitute only 1.3% of the State's population aged 10 years and over, this indicates that their level of contact with the criminal justice system was considerably higher than expected on a per capita basis.
- Of the 35,756 discrete individuals apprehended in 2000, three quarters (74.6%) were apprehended only once during the 12 month period. However, there was a small group (887 or 2.5%) who were apprehended on six or more occasions, with 121 of these persons recording 11 or more apprehensions. Younger individuals were more likely to experience multiple apprehensions during the 12 month period than older persons. Similarly, a higher proportion of person identified by police as Aboriginal were apprehended on more than one occasion in 2000 compared with non-Aboriginal persons (45.5% and 26.8% respectively).
- In 2000, as in previous years, a small proportion of individuals were responsible for a high proportion of all charges laid during the twelve month period. In fact, 10.9% of persons apprehended in 2000 were responsible for 39.9% of all charges laid by police.



# 1

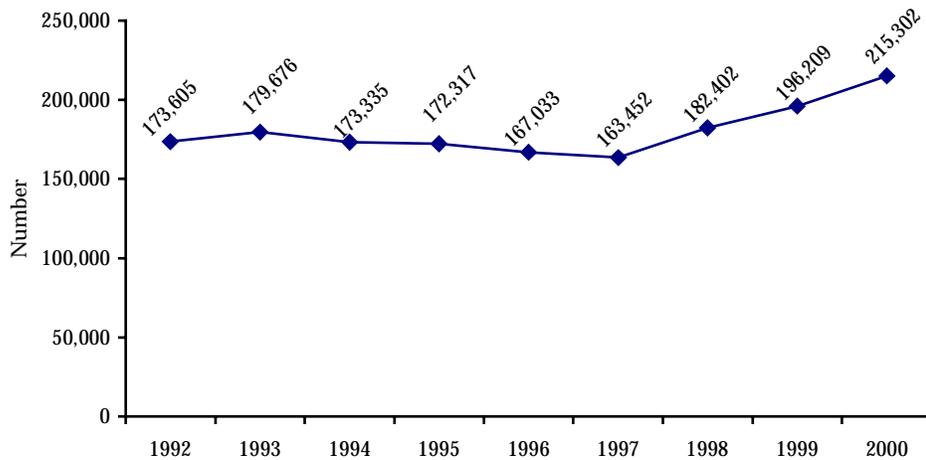
# *OVERVIEW*



## 1.1 POLICE INCIDENT REPORTS

The number of incident reports submitted by police in each of the years 1992 to 2000 is presented graphically in Figure 1.<sup>1</sup>

Figure 1 Number of incident reports submitted by police, 1992 to 2000

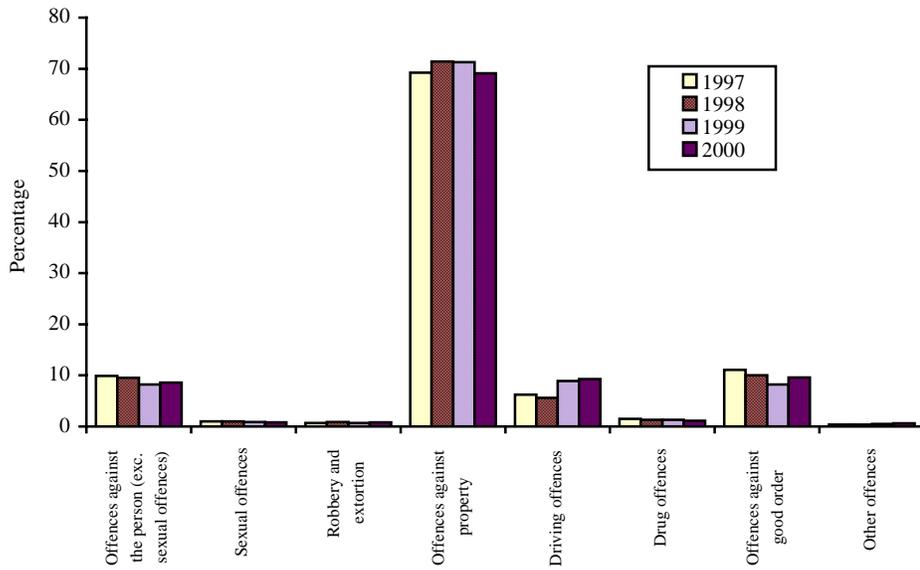


- In 2000 there were 215,302 incidents reported to police that resulted in the filing of a police incident report.
- As indicated in Figure 1, between 1993 and 1997, the number of incident reports submitted by police decreased steadily each year, with the 1997 figure of 163,452 being 9.0% lower than the 179,676 recorded in 1993. However this trend changed in 1998, with an upswing of 11.6%. A further increase occurred in 1999 (of 7.6%), followed by a 9.7% increase in 2000.
- The 215,302 incident reports submitted in 2000 contained 273,384 offences (including offence counts). This represents an average of 1.27 offences per report, which is slightly higher than the average of 1.24 recorded in 1999.
- The overwhelming majority (81.9%) of incident reports submitted in 2000 involved one offence only, while only 0.6% contained more than five offences.

A profile of the most serious offences listed per incident report is detailed in Figure 2. Given that the majority of incident reports contained one offence only, that offence would constitute the major charge. However, for the small proportion of reports which contained more than one offence, the major or most serious charge was defined as the offence which had the highest level JANCO (see Appendix for explanation). For comparative purposes, data for 1997, 1998 and 1999 are also included in Figure 2.

<sup>1</sup> Computerised records are not available prior to 1992 and so it is not possible to make comparisons over a longer time period.

Figure 2 Major offence recorded per incident report, 1997 – 2000.



- In 2000, the most serious offence listed in just under seven in ten reports (69.1%) was an *offence against property*.
- Of the remaining offence categories, *offences against good order*, *driving offences* and *offences against the person (excluding sexual offences)* were the most prominent, but each featured as the major offence in less than 10% of all incident reports.
- At the other end of the scale, very few incident reports involved either a *sexual offence* (0.8%) or *robbery/extortion* (0.8%).
- Figure 2 indicates that the pattern of recorded offending has remained relatively constant over time, with the major offences listed in the 2000 incident reports virtually the same as those recorded in 1997, 1998 and 1999. Across all four years, *offences against property* dominated.

## 1.2 OFFENCES RECORDED BY POLICE

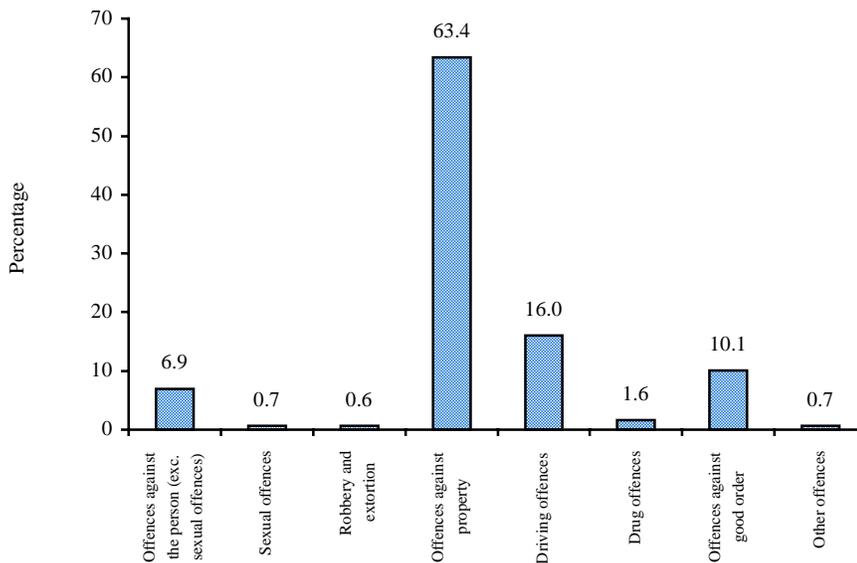
In the preceding section, information was presented on the number of incident reports submitted by police in 2000. The ensuing section details all offences and all offence counts recorded, irrespective of whether they arose from the same or different incidents. In 2000, a total of 273,384 offences were recorded.

### Offences recorded by police in 2000: a profile

As shown in Figure 3:

- *Offences against property* dominated the 2000 offence profile, accounting for almost two in three offences recorded by police in this twelve-month period (63.4%).
- In contrast, *driving offences*, *offences against good order* and *offences against the person (excluding sexual offences)* accounted for 16.0%, 10.1% and 6.9% of offences recorded respectively.
- *Sexual offences* and *robbery and extortion* each constituted less than 1% of offences reported, while *drug offences* accounted for only 1.6%.

Figure 3 Distribution of offences recorded by police, 2000



As shown in Table 1, the 2000 offence profile was very similar to that observed in previous years.

Table 1 Offences recorded by police, 1998 to 2000

Offence group	1998		1999		2000	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Offences against the person (exc. sexual)	17,590	7.9	16,370	6.7	18,755	6.9
Sexual offences	1,852	0.8	1,786	0.7	1,938	0.7
Robbery and extortion	1,752	0.8	1,536	0.6	1,734	0.6
Offences against property	147,344	66.1	159,177	65.4	173,420	63.4
Driving offences	22,490	10.1	34,108	14.0	43,636	16.0
Drug offences	4,309	1.9	4,581	1.9	4,373	1.6
<b>Good Order Offences</b>	26,642	11.9	24,415	10.0	27,511	10.1
Other offences	976	0.4	1,421	0.6	2,017	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>222,955</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>243,394</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>273,384</b>	<b>100.0</b>

To provide a more detailed insight into the type of offences recorded, in Tables 3.2 to 3.20 of this report these broad offence categories have been broken down into more detailed sub-categories. A summary of the key points from these tables is provided below.

- A breakdown of *offences against the person (excluding sexual offences)* indicates that in 2000 the highest proportion of offences in this category involved *other assault* (n=13,736 or 73.2% of the 18,755 *against person* offences recorded). The more serious offences of *assault occasioning actual or grievous bodily harm* accounted for only 1,894 (10.1%) of all *against person* offences. In 2000 there were 23 *murders* and 45 *attempted murders* recorded by police.
- Of the 1,938 *sexual offences* reported to police in 2000, 632 (or 32.6%) involved either *rape or attempted rape* and 651 (33.6%) involved *indecent assault*. The number of *unlawful sexual intercourse* offences was very small (179 or 9.2% of all *sexual offences* reported).
- In 2000, of the 624 recorded *rapes/attempted rapes*, where the sex of the victim was known, the overwhelming majority (85.6%) involved a female victim. The same finding applied to both *indecent assault* and *unlawful sexual intercourse* (where 81.0% and 81.6% respectively of the victims were female).
- Of the 1,674 *robbery* offences recorded by police in 2000, almost two thirds (1,087 or 64.9%) involved *unarmed robbery*. Of the 587 *armed robberies*, 88 involved the use of a firearm, while 499 involved another type of weapon.
- A breakdown of the key *offences against property* shows that *larceny and receiving* accounted for just over one half (52.0%) of the 173,420 *property offences*. Prominent within the *larceny and receiving* sub-category were the offences of *larceny from a motor vehicle* (n=25,140), *other larceny* (n=33,290) and *illegal use/larceny of a motor vehicle* (n=13,498).
- Legislative changes introduced on 25 December 1999 replaced *break/enter* offences with a range of *criminal trespass* offences. This legislative change impacted on how offences within this category were counted in 1999 and 2000. In 2000 there were 580 *burglary/break*

and enter offences<sup>2</sup> and a further 36,344 *criminal trespass* offences, giving a total of 36,924 offences in this broad category.

- Of the 37,850 *damage property* offences recorded in 2000, only 2,724 involved arson or the use of explosives. Of the remaining 35,126 offences, the main targets were motor vehicles (15,786 offences or 9.1% of all *property offences*) and dwellings (6,632 or 3.8% of all *property offences*). A further 3,085 *property damage* offences involved schools, which was almost double the number of school-related incidents recorded in 1999 (n=1,580).
- *Fraud and misappropriation* offences (n=8,399) accounted for only 4.8% of all *property offences* recorded in 2000. *False pretence* offences were the most dominant in this group, accounting for 4,715 or 2.7% of all *property offences*.
- Of the 43,636 *driving offences*<sup>3</sup> recorded in 2000, 4,141 (9.5%) involved *exceeding the prescribed concentration of alcohol*, while 4,278 (9.8%) related to *dangerous, reckless or negligent driving*. By far the most dominant offence within this category, however, was that of *motor vehicle registration offences*. This group accounted for 21,170 offences or 48.5% of all driving matters recorded in 2000, a substantial increase on the 12,953 such offences recorded in 1999<sup>4</sup>.
- In 2000, 4,373 *drug offences* were recorded. Of these, the largest proportion involved *possess and/or use drugs* (1,677 or 38.3% of all *drug offences*). For the 3,416 offences where the type of drug was recorded, cannabis accounted for almost two thirds (2,138 or 62.6%). In contrast, opiates (mainly heroin) were involved in only 334 (9.8%), while 'other' drugs (mainly amphetamines) accounted for 944 (27.6%).
- A breakdown of *offences against good order* reveals a fairly even spread across a number of sub-categories, including *offences against a court or court order* (4,821 or 17.5% of the 27,511 *against good order* offences), *resist/hinder police* (4,601 or 16.7%), *unlawful possession of weapons* (2,777 or 10.1%), *disorderly behaviour* (2,787 or 10.1%), and *graffiti and related offences* (3,129 or 11.4%).

### Shifts between 1999 and 2000

There were 273,384 offences recorded in 2000 compared with 243,394 in 1999. This represents an increase of 12.3%. Part of the increase in recorded offending can be attributed to a work practice change within SAPOL that came into effect in July 1999. Prior to this date, for a range of *driving offences* (including selected *traffic*, *motor vehicle* and *driving licence* matters) where an arrest was not considered necessary, a Traffic Breach Report was submitted to the Traffic Adjudication Unit within SAPOL. These offences were not entered onto the Police Incident Management System (PIMS) which provides the 'offences recorded' data contained in this *Crime and Justice* report. The only offences that were recorded on PIMS were those where the alleged perpetrator had been arrested by police and therefore required the completion of an apprehension report. However, from July 1999, the Traffic Breach Report documents were discontinued. Henceforth, each incident (whether arrest or report based) generated an Apprehension Report and so was captured on PIMS. This work practice change impacted on the number of driving offence recorded in the latter half of 1999, as well as those recorded in 2000.

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<sup>2</sup> These were offences that occurred prior to 25/12/99, but were reported during 2000.

<sup>3</sup> This figure excludes all traffic infringement notices.

<sup>4</sup> The increase in the number of these offences recorded can be largely explained by a work practice change in SAPOL that came into effect in July 1999. (See Appendix for further details).

A more detailed insight into the extent of change between 1999 and 2000 within each of the major offence types is provided in Table 2. (It should be noted, though, that the number of offences in some categories is relatively low, with the result that any slight variation in absolute numbers will produce large percentage differences).

As shown, the majority of offence types recorded an increase in 2000.

Table 2 Number of offences recorded by police, 2000 compared with 1999.

<b>Offence</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Percentage Change</b>
<i>Offences against the person – total</i>	16,370	18,755	+14.6%
Assault occasioning	1,808	1,894	+4.8%
Other assault	12,180	13,736	+12.8%
<i>Sexual offences – total</i>	1,786	1,938	+8.5%
Rape*	603	632	+4.8%
Indecent assault *	548	651	+18.8%
Unlawful sexual intercourse*	155	179	+15.5%
Other sexual offences*	480	476	-0.8%

Table 2 Number of offences recorded by police, 2000 compared with 1999 (continued).

<b>Offence</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Percentage Change</b>
<b><i>Robbery – total</i></b>	1,479	1,674	+13.2%
Armed robbery*	529	587	+11.0%
Robbery with firearm*	86	88	+2.3%
Robbery with other weapon*	443	499	+12.6%
Other (unarmed) robbery	950	1087	+14.4%
Unarmed robbery with violence*	556	583	+4.9%
Unarmed robbery without violence*	394	504	+27.9%
<b><i>Property offences – total</i></b>	159,177	173,420	+8.9%
Break/enter dwelling#	19,836	21,111	+6.4%
Break/enter shop#	4,095	4,111	+0.4%
Break/enter ‘other building’#	8,406	9,553	+13.6%
Larceny/illegal use of motor vehicle	12,033	13,498	+12.2%
Interfere with motor vehicle	3,967	4,785	+20.6%
Larceny from shop	5,836	6,602	+13.1%
Receiving/unlawful possession	2,432	2,438	+0.2%
Fraud and misappropriation	6,927	8,399	+21.3%
Damage property	37,006	37,850	+2.3%
<b><i>Selected driving offences- total</i></b>	34,108	43,636	+27.9%**
Drink driving and related offences	6,184	5,530	-10.6%
Dangerous, reckless, negligent driving	3,589	4,278	+19.2%**
Driving licence offences	6,537	7,995	+22.3%**
Motor vehicle registration offences	12,953	21,170	+63.4%**
<b><i>Drug offences- total</i></b>	4,581	4,373	-4.5%
Possess and/or use drugs	1,842	1,677	-9.0%
Possess drug implement	871	762	-12.5%
Fraudulent prescription offences*	185	114	-38.4%
Produce or manufacture drugs*	705	886	+25.7%
Possess for sale/sell drugs*	882	853	-3.3%
<b><i>Against good order</i></b>	24,415	27,511	+12.7%
Against a court or court order	4,084	4,821	+18.0%
Resist/hinder police	4,457	4,601	+3.2%
Unlawful possession of weapons	2,444	2,777	+13.6%
Trespass	1,976	1,905	-3.6%
Indecent/offensive language	1,126	1,193	+6.0%
Disorderly behaviour	2,367	2,787	+17.7%
Graffiti and related offences	2,009	3,129	+55.7%
<b><i>Other Offences</i></b>	1,421	2,017	+41.9%

*\*Numbers in these categories are relatively small. Hence, small numerical changes may produce large percentage shifts.*

*# In calculating the 1999 and 2000 figures, break/enter and criminal trespass offences have been combined. It should be stressed, however, that the two years are not directly comparable because of the introduction of the new legislation on 25 December 1999.*

*\*\* Increases can largely be explained by a work practice change within SAPOL.*

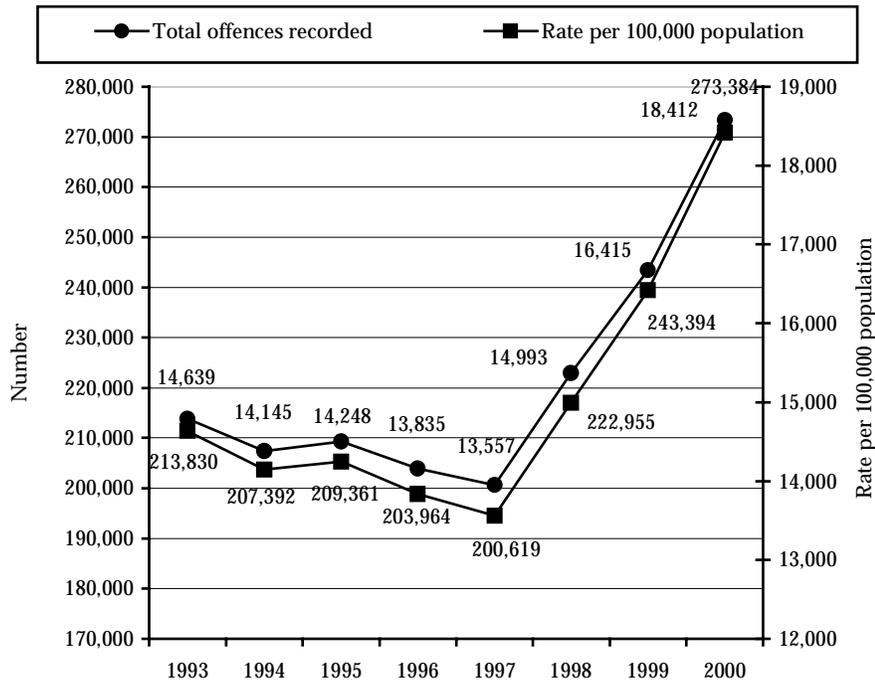
To provide a more accurate picture of longitudinal trends, the following section locates these recent shifts within a broader time frame.

## Longitudinal trends

### Total offences recorded by police, 1993 to 2000

Figure 4 depicts longitudinal trends in both the number of offences recorded and the rate of offences per 100,000 population for the period 1993<sup>5</sup> to 2000.

Figure 4 Total offences recorded, 1993 to 2000



Note: Part of the increase in 1999 is attributable to a change in police recording practices for *traffic*, *motor vehicle* and *driving licence offences* which came in half way through that year. This also impacted upon the number of *driving offences* recorded in 2000.

- As shown in Figure 4, over the eight-year period depicted, the trend for both the number of offences and rates per 100,000 population were very similar.
- The total number of offences recorded by police in South Australia decreased (by 6.2%) between 1993 and 1997, as did the rate of recorded offending (down by 7.4%). However, in 1998 there was a sharp reversal in this trend, with both numbers and rates increasing. This upswing continued over the next two years, with the result that by 2000 the number of offences recorded was 36.3% higher than in 1997, and the rate per 100,000 was 35.8% higher.

<sup>5</sup> It is not possible to provide figures prior to this because of changes to the way in which offences were counted. These changes came into effect in 1993 and were designed to bring this State's counting rules into line with national standards introduced at that time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

In this section, longitudinal trends in selected offence categories are depicted. In interpreting these graphs over the nineteen year time frame depicted<sup>6</sup>, it should be noted that since 1992 the *Crime and Justice* report has used JANCO – the South Australian justice agencies’ refinement of the Australian National Classification of Offences – to categorise offences. Prior to 1992, offences were categorised using codes developed by the South Australian Police Department. Although in most instances offence categories under the two classification systems are comparable, there have been some changes. Consequently, an offence category based on JANCO groupings might contain more or fewer laws than the same category under the old classification. Such additions (or occasionally deletions) tend to have a minimal impact on the figures. However, these changes mean that care should be taken when comparing figures before and after 1992. It should also be noted that offences dealt with by way of expiation notices, such as traffic infringement notices and cannabis expiation notices, are not included in this report. Finally, in Tables 3.2 to 3.20 of this report, the level of offence detail provided is greater than that in earlier *Crime and Justice* reports. For many of these detailed sub-categories, data relating to the period prior to 1998 are not presented and so longitudinal trends cannot be ascertained.

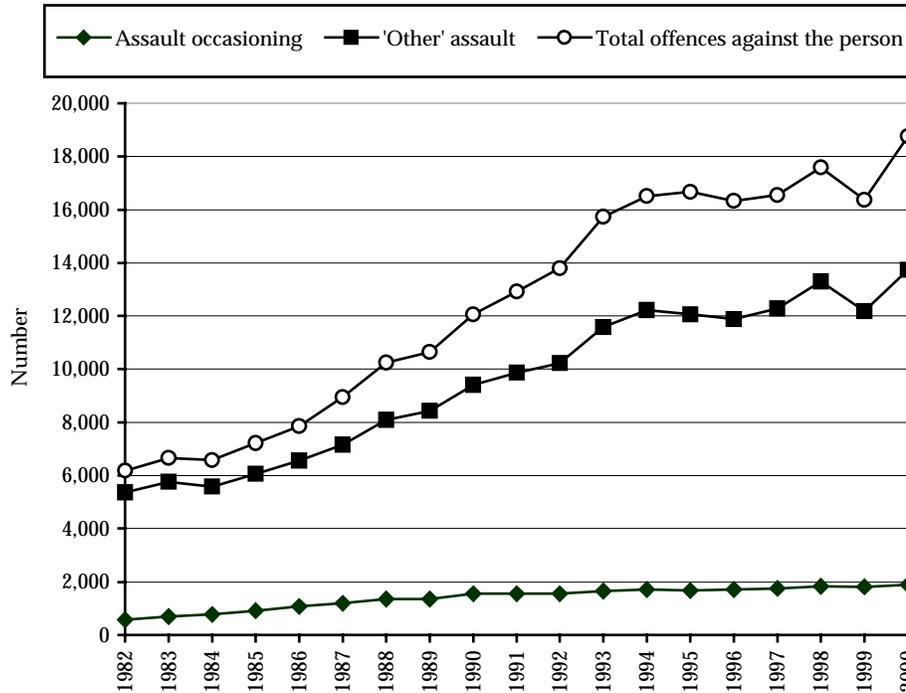
#### Offences against the person (excluding sexual offences)

- As shown in Figure 5, the total number of *offences against the person, excluding sexual offences* recorded by police has increased steadily since the early 1980s with the number of offences recorded in 2000 being the highest for the period depicted.
- In view of the fact that *other* (generally minor) *assault* annually accounts for approximately three-quarters of all *offences against the person* it is not surprising that longitudinal trends for this offence type closely mirror those for all *against person* offences. Despite a period of stabilisation between 1994 and 1997, and a pronounced dip in 1999, the overall trend has been upward.
- *Assault occasioning*, which has always accounted for only a small proportion of all *offences against the person* (10.1% in 2000) also increased during the 1980s and 1990s but the extent of this increase was more moderate than that recorded for *other assault*. Nevertheless, by 2000, numbers recorded in this category were more than three times higher than at the beginning of the period depicted.

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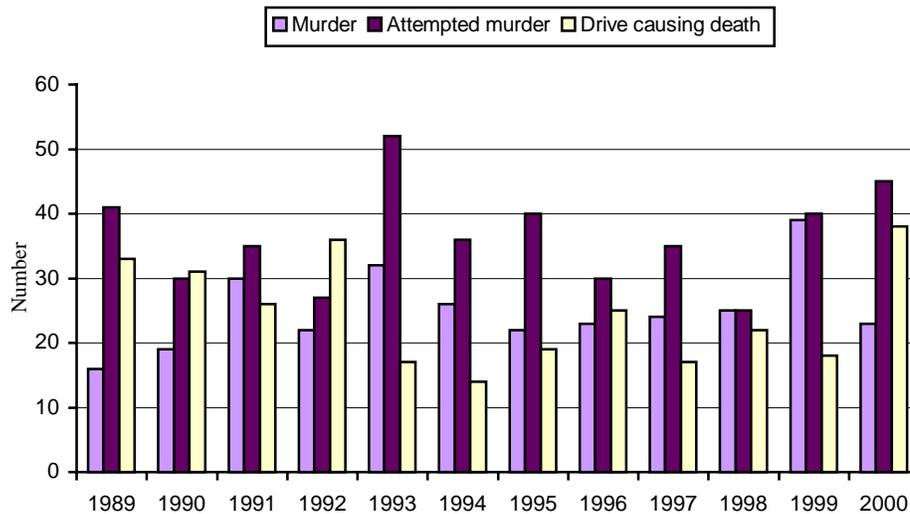
<sup>6</sup> While Figures 5 to 15 span a nineteen year time frame (1982 to 2000), because of space limitations Tables 3.2 to 3.20 in this report only cover an eleven year period (1990 to 2000). Data for the years 1982 to 1989 can be obtained from earlier *Crime and Justice* reports.

Figure 5 Selected offences against the person (excluding sexual offences), 1982 to 2000



- As indicated in Figure 6, the number of recorded *murders*, *attempted murders* and *cause death by dangerous driving* offences have fluctuated considerably from one year to another over the period 1989 to 2000, but overall, have remained relatively low.
- The number of recorded *murders* have ranged from 16 in 1989 to 39 in 1999 (largely due to the so-called "bodies in a barrel" murders which involved 10 victims). In 2000, there were 23 recorded *murders*.
- In most of the years depicted, the number of *attempted murders* recorded by police exceeded the number of *murders* recorded. During the period 1989 to 2000, the highest number of *attempted murders* was recorded in 1993 (n=52) while the lowest number (n=25) was recorded in 1998. The 2000 figure of 45 was higher than recorded in 1999 (n=40), but not as high as the peak recorded in 1993.

Figure 6 Number of murder, attempted murder and drive causing death offences recorded by police, 1989 to 2000.



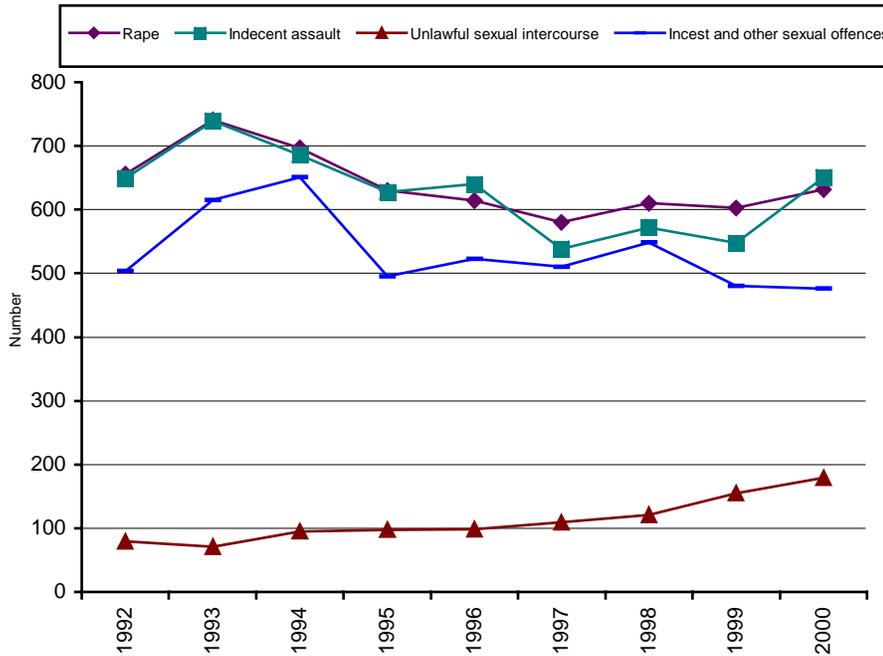
#### Sexual offences

Figure 7 shows longitudinal trends in selected *sexual offences*. The counting rules used to calculate the number of *sexual offences* reported to SAPOL changed in 1993 to bring them into line with national counting rules established by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Hence, 2000 data can only be accurately compared with figures recorded from 1993 onwards. (For the purposes of Figure 7, Office of Crime Statistics did, however, recalculate 1992 data in accordance with the new counting rules). It should also be noted that the actual number of offences within this category is comparatively small. This tends to exaggerate the yearly fluctuations, with relatively small changes in actual numbers reported to police resulting in large percentage shifts.

- Overall, since the early 1990s, the number of *sexual offences* recorded has generally declined (from 2,166 in 1993 to 1,786 in 1999). However, in 2000, there was a reversal of this trend with the number of offences recorded increasing by 8.5% to 1,938.
- The number of *rape* offences, which declined steadily between 1993 and 1997, has shown a slight (albeit fluctuating) upward trend since then. Yet despite the recent increase, numbers recorded in 2000 are still considerably lower than in 1993.
- The number of *indecent assault* offences recorded by police has also decreased since 1993, with the lowest point occurring in 1997 when numbers dropped to 539. As was the case for reported *rapes*, numbers increased slightly in 1998 with a more pronounced increase (of 18.8%) occurring in 2000. However, the most recent figure of 651 was still considerably lower than the 741 offences recorded in 1993.
- Since 1992 the category of *incest and other sexual offences* has fluctuated considerably from one year to another, particularly in the early to mid 1990s. Although there has been no discernible trend, the number of offences recorded in 2000 (n=476) was the lowest recorded since new counting rules came into effect in 1993.

- Since 1993 the number of *unlawful sexual intercourse* offences recorded by police has increased steadily. This increase continued in 2000, when 179 such offences were recorded. This figure of 179 is 15.5% higher than that recorded in 1999, and more than double that recorded in 1993 (n=71). It should be stressed, however, that numbers in this category are extremely low which means that small shifts in absolute numbers produce large percentage changes.

Figure 7 Sexual offences, 1992 to 2000



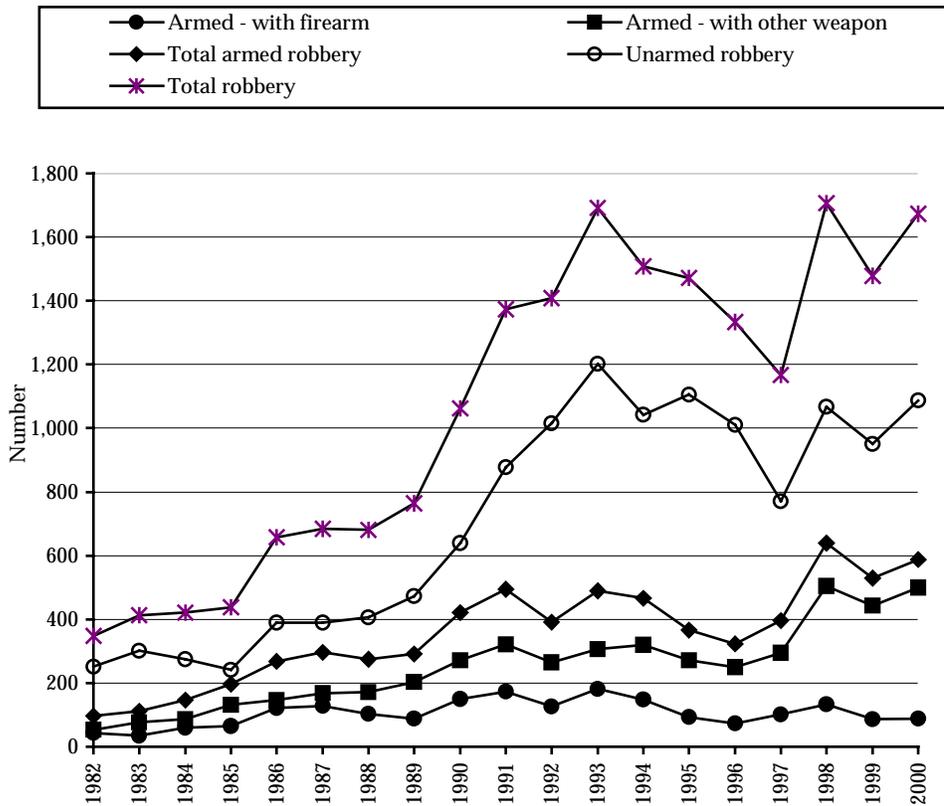
Note: Counting rules for sexual offences were changed in 1993 to conform with national standards. Figures for 1992 were recalculated in accordance with the new rules. As a result, 2000 data can only be compared accurately with figures from 1992 onwards.

## Robbery

As was the case with *sexual offences*, the relatively low number of *robberies* recorded each year means that small numerical shifts can produce large percentage changes.

- As shown in Figure 8, the total number of *robbery offences* recorded by police increased substantially throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, reaching a peak in 1993. However, over the next four years this trend was reversed, with numbers decreasing by 31.0% between 1993 and 1997. Since then, numbers have been highly volatile, with a dramatic increase (of 46.2%) in 1998 being followed by a decline in 1999 and another increase (of 13.2%) in 2000. As a result of this most recent increase, the number of robberies recorded in 2000 (n= 1,674) is on a par with the two earlier peaks recorded in 1992 and 1998.
- Because the category of *other* (ie unarmed) *robbery* annually accounts for approximately two thirds of the *total robbery* offences, longitudinal trends in this category generally parallel those for *total robberies*. As shown, *other robbery* rose sharply between 1985 and 1993, with a downward trend becoming established in the following year. Between 1993 and 1997, numbers dropped by 35.9% (from 1,202 to 771). A sharp upswing in 1998 was followed by a smaller decrease in 1999. However, a 14.4% increase in the number of offences recorded in 2000 (n=1,087) saw a return to the 1998 level.
- After a steady increase during the 1980s in the number of *armed robberies*, the 1991 to 1997 period was relatively stable, despite alternating rises and falls. In 1998, however, a substantial upswing occurred, with figures rising from 396 in 1997 to 639. Although a downward trend was observed in 1999, the extent of this decrease was not sufficient to counteract the large upswing of the previous year. This, combined with a further increase (of 11.0%) in 2000 means that the most recent figures for *armed robbery* are still higher than the pre-1998 levels.
- In Figure 8, *armed robberies* are further broken down into *robbery with a firearm* and *robbery with other weapon*. As shown, recent trends in *robbery with other weapon* offences are similar to those observed for *total armed robberies*. Numbers fluctuated throughout the 1990s, followed by a substantial increase in 1998. Although numbers have since stabilised, the most recent figures for *robbery with other weapon* are still noticeably higher than at any stage prior to 1998.
- Longitudinal trends in the number of *robbery with firearm* offences are somewhat different. Throughout the 1990s, there have been alternating periods of increase and decrease, with no discernible long-term trends. In fact the 2000 figure of 88 offences is comparable with that recorded over a decade earlier in 1989.

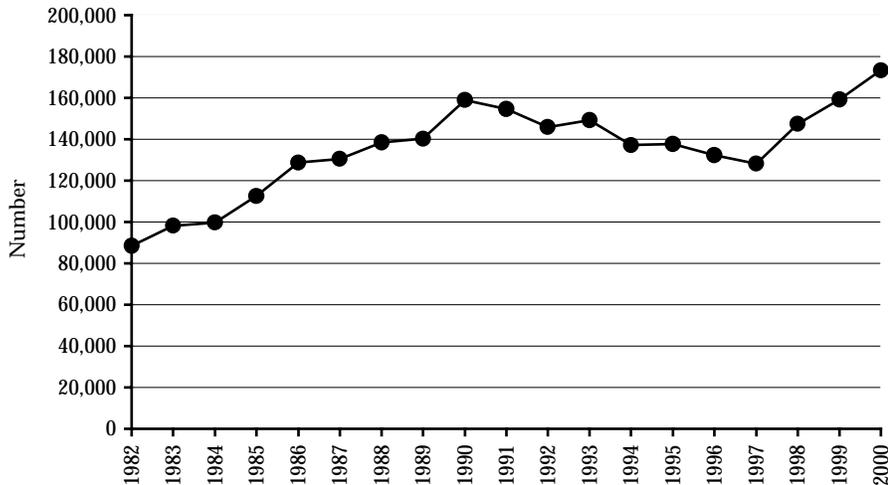
Figure 8 Robbery offences, 1982 to 2000



Property offences

- In contrast to *sexual offences* and *robbery offences*, the number of *property offences* recorded by police each year is comparatively large (173,420 in 2000).
- As Figure 9 indicates, numbers in this category increased during the 1980s, reaching a peak in 1990. This was followed by a general downward trend over the next seven years, with the 1997 figure being 19.3% lower than in 1990. Again, however, in 1998 this trend was reversed, with the total number of *property offences* increasing by 14.8%. This increase continued into 1999 and 2000, with the result that the most recent figure is the highest recorded over the period graphed. Similar trends apply to most of the sub-categories within this broad offence grouping.

Figure 9 Total property offences, 1982 to 2000



### Break and enter

Extending longitudinal trends for *break and enter* offences into 1999 and 2000 is somewhat problematic because of the passage of the *Criminal Law Consolidation (Serious Criminal Trespass) Amendment Act*. This piece of legislation, which came into effect on 25 December 1999, replaced *break and enter offences* with *criminal trespass offences*. More specifically, it introduced three new offence categories:

- *serious criminal trespass - non residential building,*
- *serious criminal trespass – places of residence, and*
- *criminal trespass – places of residence.*

The two *serious criminal trespass* offences are further sub-divided into aggravated and non-aggravated, depending on whether an offensive weapon is used or whether there are multiple offenders. A third aggravating factor applies to *serious criminal trespass – place of residence*: namely whether another person is lawfully present in the dwelling at the time of the trespass, and the offender either knows of the other's presence or is reckless about whether anyone is in the place (*Criminal Law Consolidation (Serious Criminal Trespass) Amendment Act*; s170(2)(c)). This criterion was specifically included to 'capture' incidents of home invasion. The legislation also extends the definition of "place of residence" to include not only houses and flats, but any structure in which police consider the victim to be living at the time of the incident, such as a car or caravan.

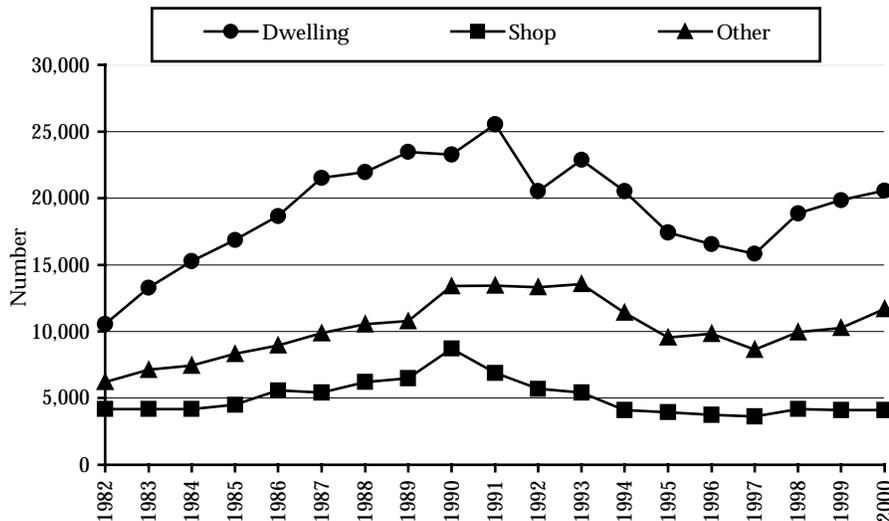
Because these legislative changes came into effect in the last week of 1999, the majority of offences recorded in 2000 were classified as *criminal trespass offences*. However, there were some *break and enter offences* which, while reported in 2000, had occurred prior to the legislative change. To allow longitudinal comparisons, the following procedure has been followed:

- all *non-aggravated* and *aggravated serious criminal trespass* offences that occurred within a place of residence have been added to the *burglary and break and enter dwelling* category together with all *criminal trespass-dwelling* offences;
- all *non-aggravated* and *aggravated serious criminal trespass* offences that occurred in a shop have been added to the *break and enter shop* category; and

- all *non-aggravated* and *aggravated serious criminal trespass* offences that occurred in other locations have been added to the *other break and enter* category.

While the new offence groupings are not entirely comparable with the old groupings, the grouping procedure detailed above allows longitudinal comparisons to be drawn in Figure 10.

Figure 10 Break and enter offences, 1982 to 2000



- As shown in Figure 10, a substantial increase occurred in the number of *break and enter dwelling* offences during the 1980s, which peaked in 1991. This was followed by a period of decrease between 1991 and 1997, with the 1997 figure being the lowest recorded since 1984. However, this trend was reversed in 1998, with numbers continuing to rise in 1999 and 2000. Yet despite this recent upswing, the 2000 figure is still well below the levels recorded in the late 1980s and early 1990s.
- After a period of increase during the mid to late 1980s, *break and enter shop* offences almost halved in the 1990-1994 period, and have remained relatively stable since then. The most recent figure is well below those recorded during the late 1980s and early 1990s, and is comparable with those recorded in the early 1980s.
- *Break and enter 'other'* offences also showed a general downward trend during the mid 1990s, decreasing by 36.3% between 1993 and 1997. Hence, despite an increase in 1998, 1999 and again in 2000, the most recent figure is still lower than those recorded in early 1990s.

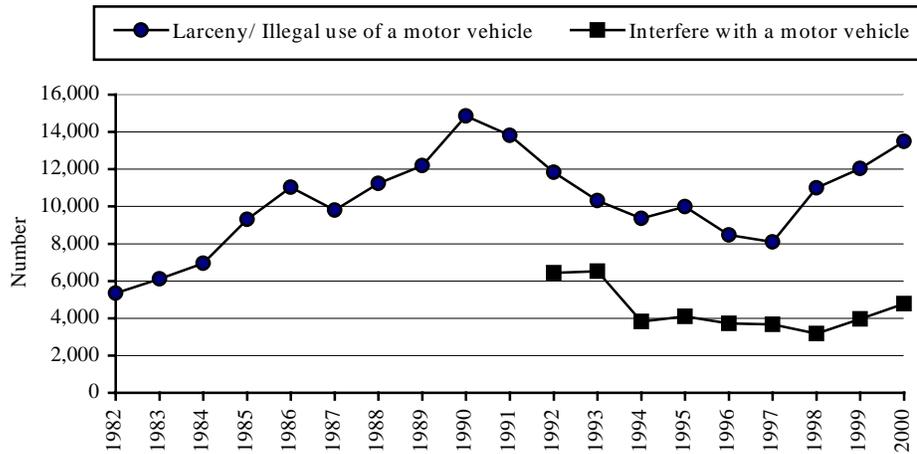
### Vehicle offences

- Longitudinal trends in *larceny/illegal use of a motor vehicle* (see Figure 11) indicate a period of rapid increase during the 1980s, followed by a sharp decline in the 1990s. The downward trend initiated in 1991 continued through to 1997, after which a sharp reversal occurred. In 1998 numbers rose substantially by 35.9% followed by further, albeit more moderate, increases in 1999 and 2000 (of 9.4% and 12.2% respectively). The most recent figure is now

considerably higher than the low point recorded in 1997, and is approaching the high point for vehicle theft recorded in 1990.

- The number of *interfere with a motor vehicle* offences declined substantially between 1993 and 1994, with a very slight downward trend persisting between 1995 and 1998. Hence, despite an increase of 25.0% in 1999 and 20.6% in 2000, the most recent figure is still lower than those recorded in the early 1990s.

Figure 11 Larceny/illegal use of a motor vehicle and interfere with a motor vehicle, 1982 to 2000

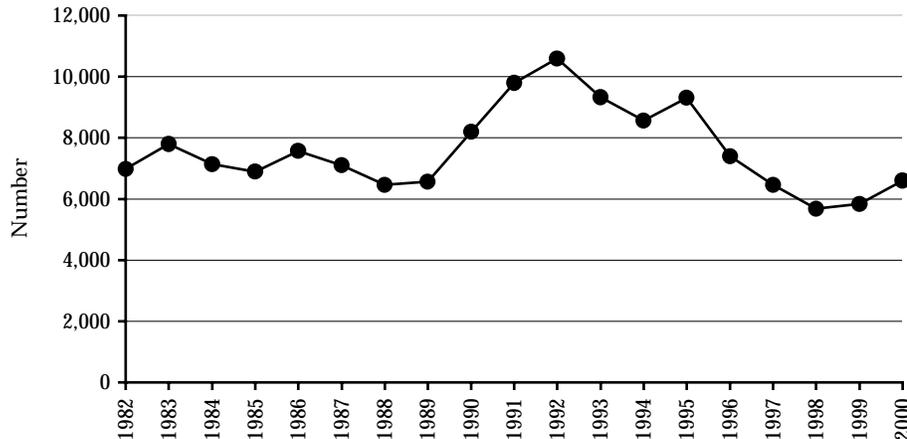


\*The offence 'interfere with a motor vehicle' was included for the first time in 1992

## Shop theft

- As indicated in Figure 12, *shop theft* remained relatively stable during the early and mid 1980s, before increasing in the later part of the decade and peaking in 1992. This was followed by a marked downward trend between 1992 and 1998. Despite a small rise (of 2.8%) in 1999, and a further increase (of 13.1%) in 2000, the most recent figure is still lower than those recorded at any stage during the 1990 – 1996 period.

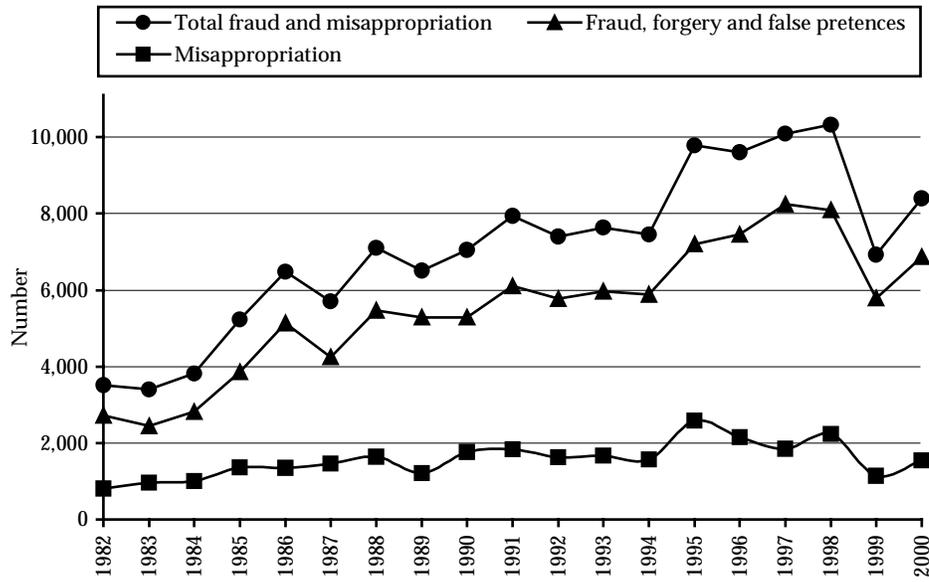
Figure 12 Shop theft, 1982 to 2000



## Fraud and misappropriation

- As indicated in Figure 13, *fraud and misappropriation* is one of the few property offences that did not record a decrease during the 1990s. The overall trend throughout most of the 1980s and 1990s has been upward. However, this situation changed in 1999 when, again contrary to the pattern observed for most other property offences, numbers declined substantially by 32.8%. While there was a 21.3% increase in the number of offences recorded in 2000, the most recent figure (n=8,399) was still considerably lower than the 1998 peak.
- The sub-category of *fraud, forgery and false pretences* exhibited generally similar trends to that of the total *fraud and misappropriation* category, with an upward trend during most of the 1980s and 1990s followed by a substantial decline in 1999, which brought numbers down to the levels recorded in the early 1990s. Thus, despite an 18.5% increase in 2000, the most recent figures are still considerably lower than the peak recorded in 1997.
- Annually, *misappropriation offences* account for only a relatively small proportion of total *fraud and misappropriation* matters (18.3% of the 2000 total). After a period of relative stability between 1990 and 1994, two periods of increase (one in 1995 and another in 1998) were both followed by periods of decrease (in 1996/97 and again in 1999). The downward shift in 1999 was relatively substantial, with numbers almost halving from 2,227 in 1998 to 1,136. As a result, the figure of 1,535 recorded in 2000, although higher than the number recorded in the previous year, is still comparable with or below those recorded during the previous 15 years.

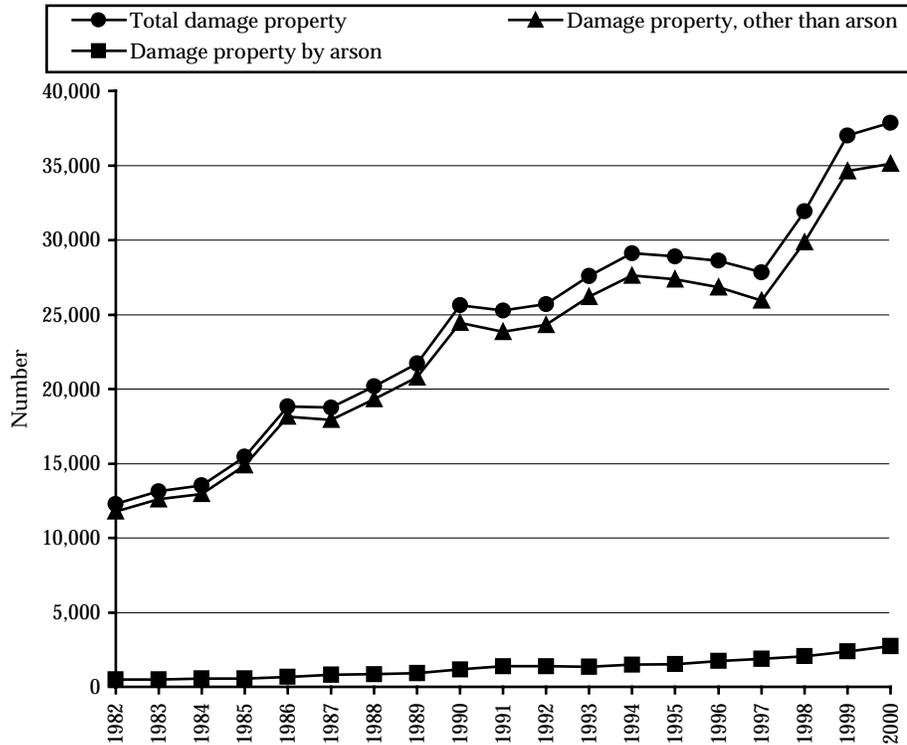
Figure 13 Fraud and misappropriation, 1982 to 2000



#### Damage property

- Figure 14 depicts longitudinal trends in the number of *damage property* offences recorded by police. Overall, there has been a steady increase in this category throughout the period depicted, with that increase being particularly pronounced in 1998 and 1999, when numbers rose by 14.7% and 15.9% respectively. A further albeit smaller increase (of 2.3%) occurred in 2000. As a result of these increases, the most recent figure of 37,850 is three times greater than the 12,279 offences recorded eighteen years earlier in 1982.
- An almost identical pattern was observed for *damage property, other than arson* – a finding that is inevitable given that this sub-group accounts for the overwhelming majority of all *damage property* matters. While numbers trended steadily upward during the nineteen years depicted, the largest increases were recorded in 1998 and 1999. Hence, despite a very modest rise (of 1.4%) in 2000, the 35,126 *property damage (not arson) offences* recorded in 2000 were more than three times greater than the 11,274 such offences recorded in 1982.
- The other offence depicted in Figure 14 – *damage property by arson* – annually accounts for only a very small proportion of all *property damage* offences. However, as was the case with other *property offences*, it has also trended upwards over the past few decades. A further increase (of 14.6%) was recorded in 2000 although it should be noted that, compared with the other *property damage* category depicted, numbers still remain small (n=2,724 in 2000).

Figure 14 Damage property, 1982 to 2000

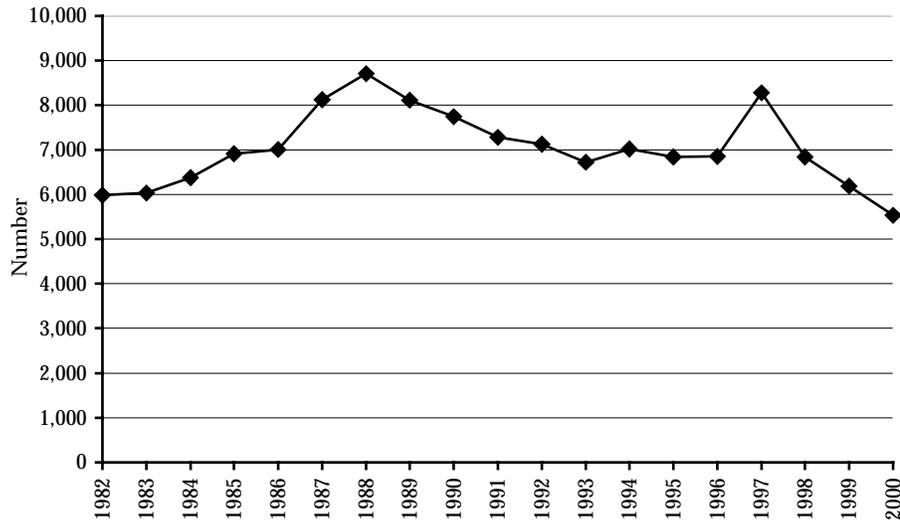


- Of the other property offences not included in these graphs, *unlawful possession of property* (excluding *receiving*) increased steadily between 1989 and 2000, with the most recent figure of 1,949 being more than double the 828 recorded in 1989.
- The number of *receiving* offences increased substantially in the latter part of the 1980s, peaking in 1990. Since then, despite some fluctuations, an overall downward trend has persisted, with the 2000 figure of 489 being 57.6% lower than 1,153 recorded in 1990.

#### Drink driving and related offences

- Figure 15 illustrates the number of reported *drink driving and related offences* from 1982 to 2000. This category includes *driving under the influence*, *exceed the prescribed concentration of alcohol* and *refusing to give breath/blood sample*. After increasing between 1982 and 1988 the number of reported *drink driving and related offences* trended steadily downward until 1993, possibly due to a greater awareness of the likelihood of detection by random breath testing and of the dangers of drink driving conveyed in high profile television advertising campaigns. While figures stabilised between 1993 and 1996, there was a 20.8% increase in 1997 followed by an equally sharp decrease of 17.3% in 1998. A further decline occurred in 1999 and 2000, with numbers dropping by 9.6% and 10.6% respectively. The figure recorded in 2000 (n=5,530) was the lowest for the nineteen year period depicted.
- It should be noted though, that the number of *drink driving offences* recorded is heavily reliant on police enforcement practices, such as the number of random breath tests conducted.

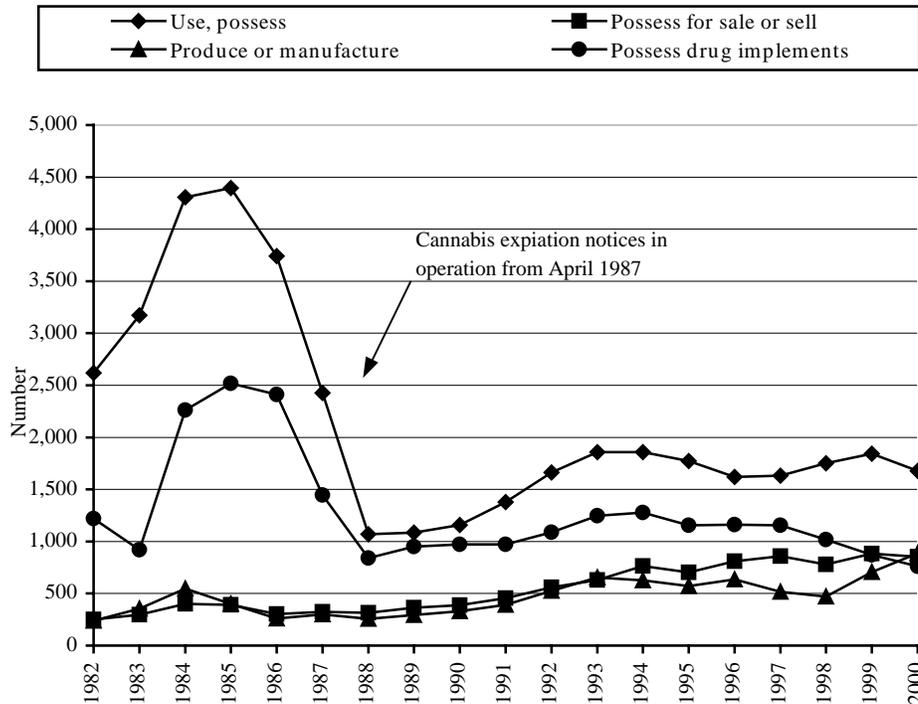
Figure 15 Drink driving and related offences, 1982 to 2000



#### Selected drug offences

- Longitudinal trends in the number of selected *drug offences* coming to police attention are quite different from those of other offences largely because of the impact, in 1987, of the introduction of Cannabis Expiation Notices. Moreover, because *drug offences* are essentially victimless crimes, their detection rests predominantly with police. Hence, as with *driving offences*, the number of *drug offences* recorded in any given year is heavily reliant on police enforcement practices and in particular, on whether and how many special operations are launched which target drug offenders.

Figure 16 Selected drug offences, 1982 to 2000



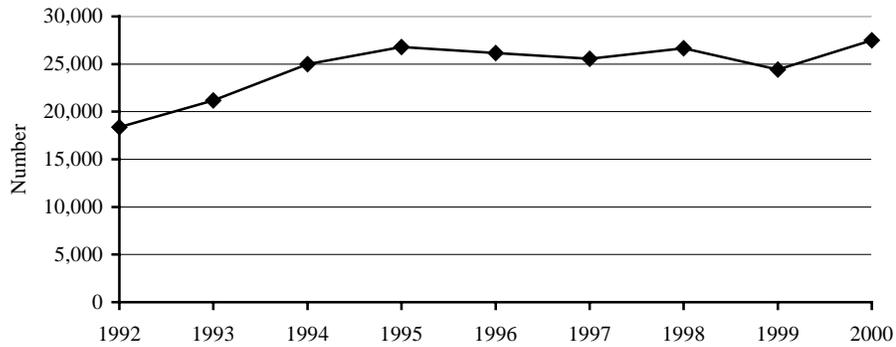
- The impact of Cannabis Expiation Notices was largely responsible for the dramatic decline in the number of *use/possess drug offences* and *possess drug implements* in 1987 and 1988. However, as shown in Figure 16, by 1989 the impact of the introduction of CENs had stabilised. Thereafter, *use/possess drug offences* experienced a period of slight to moderate increase between 1989 and 1994 after which numbers have remained relatively stable, despite the inevitable fluctuations. *Possess drug implements offences* followed a similar pattern between 1988 and 1997, initially increasing and then stabilising. However, since then, a downward trend has become established, with the 762 offences recorded in 2000 being the lowest observed during the 19 years depicted.
- Of those *drug offences* that were not affected by the introduction of CENs, the number of recorded *produce or manufacture drug matters* increased during the late 1980s and early 1990s before peaking at 655 in 1993. Over the next five years, despite annual fluctuations, numbers showed a very slight downward trend with the 1998 figure of 470 being 28.2% lower than the 655 recorded in 1993. However, in 1999, this changed, when an upswing of 50.0% occurred. Numbers continued to rise in 2000 (by 25.7%), with the result that numbers are now higher than at any time over the 19 years depicted. Again, however, it should be stressed that numbers in this offence category are still comparatively low, with the result that small changes in absolute numbers produce large percentage shifts.
- Despite annual fluctuations, the number of *possess for sale or sell drug offences* recorded by police has been increasing steadily since the late 1980s, with the 1999 figure being higher than at any time during the period depicted. In 2000, despite a small drop (of 3.3%), the number of offences recorded was still above the levels observed in earlier years. However, as

was the case with *produce or manufacture drugs*, numbers are relatively small, and so any percentage shift should be interpreted with caution.

### Offences against good order

- Data for total *offences against good order* (depicted in Figure 17) were not available for the years prior to 1992. Since then, a period of increase between 1992 and 1995 was followed by a period of relative stability. However, as a result of a 12.7% increase in 2000 the latest figure is the highest recorded in the years depicted.

Figure 17 Offences against good order, 1992 to 2000



## Location of recorded offences

The number and rate of recorded crime occurring in South Australian Local Government Areas (LGAs) is provided in Tables 3.21a and 3.21b of this report. While rates provide a crude basis for comparison between LGAs that have different numbers of people, dwellings and businesses, it is important to recognise the limitations of such a listing.

In these tables, rates for *offences against the person* (which here includes the three categories of *offences against the person (excluding sexual offences)*, *sexual offences* and *robbery and extortion*) are calculated by dividing the number of such offences recorded in each LGA by the Estimated Mean Resident Population of that LGA as at 30 June 2000 (Australian Bureau of Statistics – residents only). Because the personal offence rate is based on the location of the offence rather than the address of the victim, it therefore includes offences involving residents and non-residents of the LGA. As a result, the rate does not indicate the average risk for persons actually living within each LGA. For example, the Adelaide LGA exhibits high rates of both personal and property crime. The city attracts thousands of non-residents who come there for work, shopping and entertainment. Hence, many of the crimes that occur in the Adelaide LGA involve victims who reside in other areas. Because of this, one should be wary of interpreting the crime rate in Adelaide as an indicator of victimisation for those actually living in the city. It is also possible that one's personal risk of victimisation within the city (like most other areas) varies depending on the nature of the activity one engages in while there.

For *break and enter dwelling*, the rate is calculated by dividing the number of offences by the number of dwellings in each LGA as at the 1996 census. Unlike population numbers for which the Australian Bureau of Statistics publishes new estimates each year, the number of dwellings per LGA are not updated. Hence, it is necessary to rely on 1996 figures, which become increasingly inaccurate as the time between the reporting period and the census increases.

The total crime rate is presented as a rate per 1,000 population. However, readers should be aware that both personal and property offences are included. In these situations there is no obviously suitable denominator to generate a total crime rate. Some crimes are directed at dwellings, others at shops, others at individuals and still others at specific types of property (eg *larceny of a motor vehicle*).

Two final points should be noted: first, that particular care should be taken when examining country rates, as some LGAs have small populations and few offences; and second, that, although the Australian Bureau of Statistics changed the boundaries of some LGAs in 1998, the pre-1998 boundaries have been retained for this report.

While acknowledging these limitations, a summary of the key points from Tables 3.21a and 3.21b of this report are provided below.

- In 2000, the metropolitan area of Adelaide recorded more than double the rate of *break and enter dwelling* offences than did country areas of the State (40.9 per 1,000 dwellings compared with 17.6 per 1,000 dwellings respectively).
- The metropolitan area also recorded a higher rate of *offences against the person*, but here the differences were relatively small (15.5 per 1,000 population compared with 13.2 per 1,000 population in rural areas).
- Within the metropolitan area itself, by far the highest rate of *offences against the person* occurred in the LGA of Adelaide (173.7 per 1,000 population), followed by Elizabeth (38.5 per 1,000 population), Enfield Parts B and A (31.1 and 24.2 respectively), Thebarton (22.1)

and Port Adelaide (20.7). The LGA with the lowest rate of *offences against the person* was Stirling (3.4 per 1,000 population), followed by East Torrens (3.8 per 1,000 population), Mitcham (4.7), Happy Valley (5.0) and Burnside (5.1).

- The metropolitan LGA with the highest rate of *break and enter dwelling* offences was Thebarton (102.6 per 1,000 dwellings), followed by Adelaide (100.7), Enfield Part B (82.7), Walkerville (62.6), St. Peters (62.4), and Hindmarsh and Woodville (61.8). The lowest rates of *break and enter dwelling* offences were recorded in Stirling (15.6 per 1,000 dwellings), Happy Valley (16.4), Tea Tree Gully (19.0) and Willunga (20.4).
- Outside of the metropolitan area, the highest rate of *offences against the person* occurred in the Local Government Areas of Coober Pedy (65.6 per 1,000 population), Ceduna (47.5) and Port Augusta (42.2). Ceduna (39.6 per 1,000 population), Coober Pedy (75.4) and Port Augusta (67.4) also had relatively high rates of recorded *break and enter dwelling* offences.

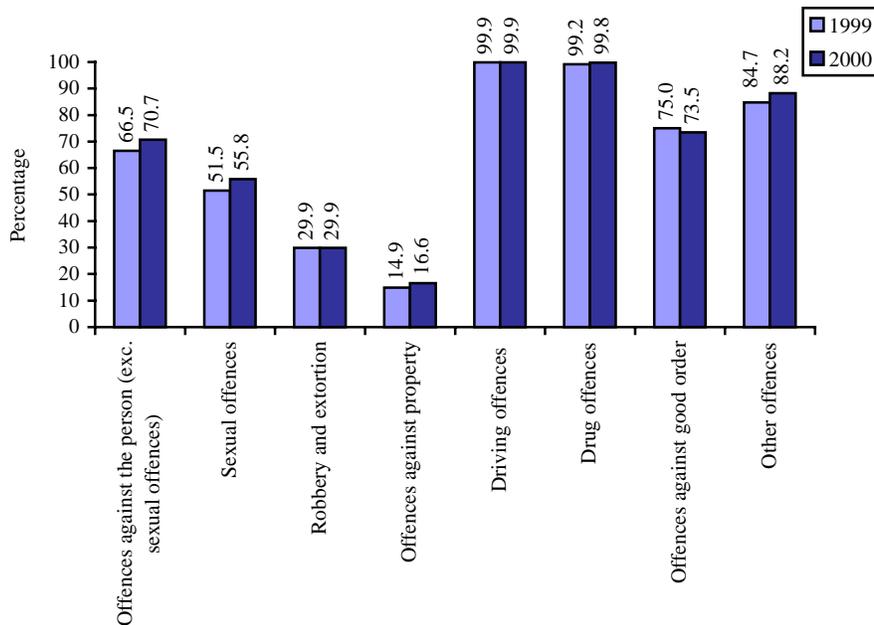
Table 3.22 in this report shows the locations with the highest number of motor vehicle thefts in 2000. Of the top twenty 'hot spots', eight were within the square mile of the city of Adelaide while one adjoined the city. Outside the city, shopping areas featured prominently in the list, including Marion Shopping Centre, Tea Tree Plaza Shopping Centre, Noarlunga City Centre/Colonnades, Elizabeth City Centre, Arndale Shopping Centre and West Lakes Mall/Football Park and the Hollywood Plaza Shopping Centre at Salisbury Downs. The area recording the greatest number of vehicle thefts was the Adelaide Parklands, with 284 recorded thefts in 2000. This was followed by Rundle Mall/North Terrace (228 thefts) and the Elizabeth Shopping Centre (203).

### 1.3 CLEARANCE STATUS OF OFFENCES

#### Clearance status of offences recorded by police in 2000

- During 2000, of the 273,384 offences recorded by police, 113,553 (41.5%) were cleared by the end of the same year while conversely 58.5% remained uncleared.
- The proportion of offences cleared in 2000 was slightly higher than in 1999, when 38.7% of the 243,394 offences reported that year were also cleared that year.
- As in 1999, the clear up level for those offences reported in 2000 varied considerably depending on the type of offence involved.
- As shown in Figure 18, the lowest clear up level was recorded for *property offences* (16.6% cleared by the end of that year), followed by *robbery and extortion* (29.9%). Just over one half of the *sexual offences* recorded by police in 2000 were cleared, as were seven in ten *offences against the person, excluding sexual offences*. However, the highest clear up levels (over 99%) were recorded for *driving* and *drug offences* – a finding which is to be expected given that police normally detect these offences at the time of their commission by the perpetrator.

Figure 18 Percentage of offences per offence group recorded and cleared in the same year: 1999 and 2000

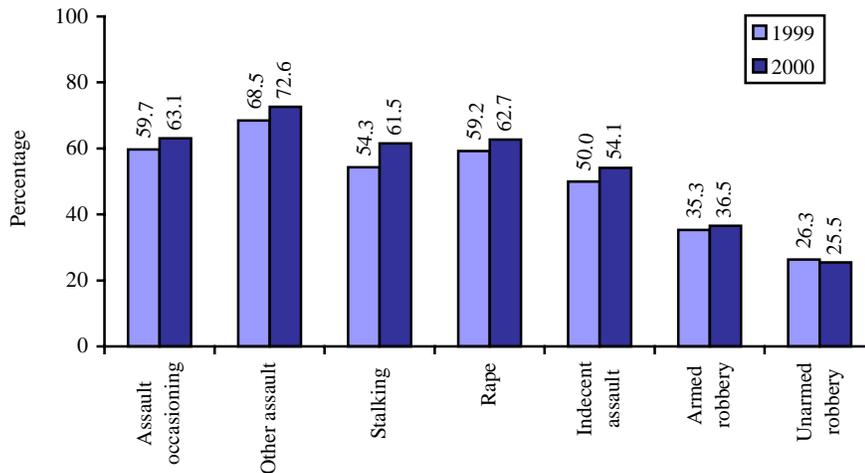


- In general, clear up levels remained relatively stable between 1999 and 2000. For *offences against the person, sexual offences, offences against property* and *other offences* the level of clear-up was slightly higher in 2000 than in 1999 while for *offences against good order* clear up levels were marginally lower.

## Offences against the person, sexual offences and robbery

Figure 19 details the clear up levels for a selected range of *against person, sexual and robbery offences*.

Figure 19 Percentage of offences recorded and cleared in the same year: clear up levels for selected *offences against the person, sexual offences and robbery offences*, 1999 and 2000.

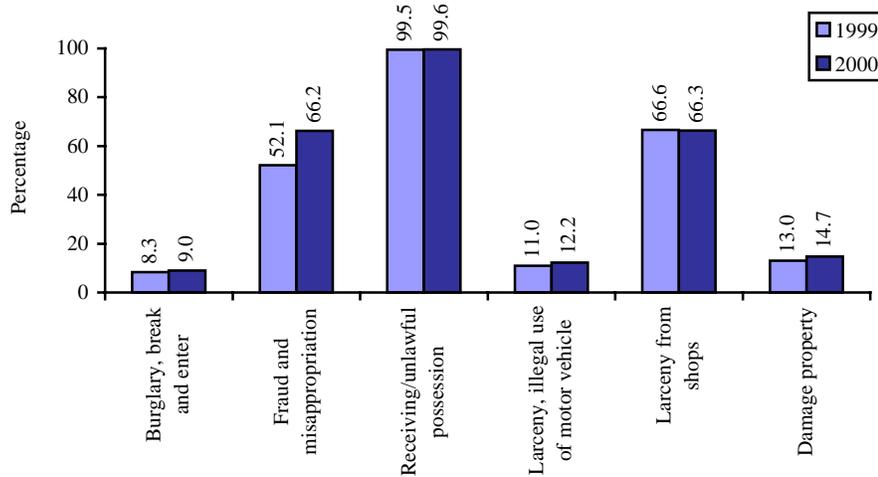


- As was the case in 1999, the clear up rate for *other assault* in 2000 was higher than that for *assault occasioning actual or grievous bodily harm* (72.6% compared with 63.1% respectively). Similarly the clear up level for *rape* was higher than that for *indecent assault* (62.7% compared with 54.1% respectively). And overall, these rates were considerably higher than those recorded for either *armed* or *unarmed robbery* (36.5% and 25.5% respectively).
- For seven of the eight offences depicted, clear up levels were slightly higher in 2000 than in 1999. The one exception was *unarmed robbery*, where 25.5% were cleared in 2000 compared with 26.3% in the previous year.
- While the numbers are too small to graph, of the 23 *murders* reported to police in 2000, 19 were cleared while four remained unclear at the end of the year. Of the 45 *attempted murders*, three quarters (n=34) were cleared by the end of the year. Of the 38 *drive causing death* offences reported in 2000 24 were cleared at the end of the 12 month period.

## Property offences

Figure 20 shows the clear up levels for a range of selected *property offences* in 2000.

Figure 20 Percentage of offences recorded and cleared in the same year: clear up levels for selected *property offences*, 1999 and 2000.

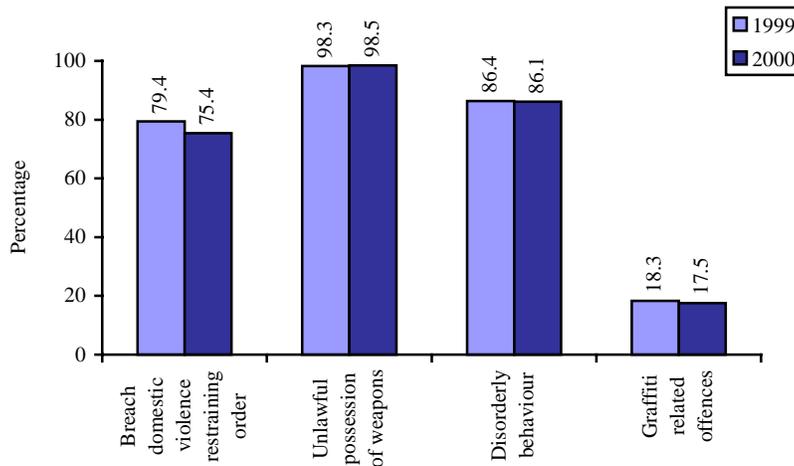


- Clear up levels varied considerably depending on the type of *property offence* involved. *Burglary, break and enter* offences had the lowest clear up level (9.0% of all such offences), followed closely by *larceny, illegal use of a motor vehicle* (12.2%) and *damage property* (14.7%).
- At the other end of the scale, virtually all *receiving/unlawful possession* offences were cleared (99.6%) while two thirds of *shop larcenies* and *fraud and misappropriation* matters were cleared. Again, the high clear up rate for *receiving/unlawful possession* is to be expected, given that these offences are often only detected when the alleged offender is caught by police.
- Clear up levels for *property offences* in 2000 were generally slightly higher than in 1999, with the differences most pronounced in relation to *fraud and misappropriation*, where only 52.1% were cleared in 1999 compared with 66.2% in 2000.

## Offences against good order

Figure 21 shows the clear up level for selected *offences against good order* in 1999 and 2000.

Figure 21 Percentage of offences recorded and cleared in the same year: clear up levels for selected *offences against good order*, 1999 and 2000.



- As indicated, within the broad *offences against good order* category, clear up levels varied from a low of 17.5% for *graffiti and related offences* to 98.5% for *unlawful possession of weapons*. These findings were similar to those observed in 1999.

## Total offences cleared in 2000

- As noted earlier, of those 273,384 offences recorded by police in 2000, 113,553 had been cleared by the end of the year. In addition, a further 2,979 offences were cleared which had been recorded by police prior to 2000. This gives a total of 116,532 offences cleared during the 12 month period.
- For each of the key offence categories, the majority of offences cleared in 2000 were actually reported in the same year. Overall, only a very small proportion of clearances involved offences reported in previous years, although the proportion did vary slightly depending on the type of offence involved. For example, of the 13,762 *offences against the person* cleared in 2000, only 3.6% were recorded prior to 2000, while for *sexual offences*, *robbery offences* and *property offences*, the proportion was 7.1%, 5.0% and 6.7% respectively. Of the 43,613 *driving offences* cleared in 2000, only seven involved a pre-2000 offence.

## Method of clearance

- Of the 116,532 offences actually cleared in 2000, the majority (104,870 or 90.0%) were cleared by way of the apprehension or cautioning of a suspect. A very small proportion of offences (1.1%) were designated as cleared on the grounds that they were unfounded: ie following exhaustive inquiries, the police found no evidence that an offence had been committed. For 9,767 (8.4% of all offences cleared), the victim requested that the police take

no further action. Finally, 0.5% were cleared by some ‘other’ method. ‘Other’ included the following categories:

- The accused or the complainant had died;
  - The suspect had diplomatic immunity; or
  - The charge had lapsed due to the limitation of time set out in legislation.
- As shown in Figure 22, for *driving* and *drug* offences, virtually all were cleared by way of the apprehension or cautioning of a suspect. In contrast, only 60.7% of *against person* offences were cleared by this method, as were 66.5% of *sexual offences*. For these two categories, the proportion which were cleared as a result of the victim requesting that no further action be taken was relatively high (37.2% of *offences against the person* and 27.6% of *sexual offences*.) In comparison, the victim withdrew the report in only 10.4% of *property offences*. These findings accord with anecdotal evidence that in a higher proportion of personal and sexual offences the offender is known (and is often related) to the victim, thereby increasing the likelihood that the victim will not pursue the matter.

Figure 22 Method of clearance for all offences cleared in 2000 by offence group

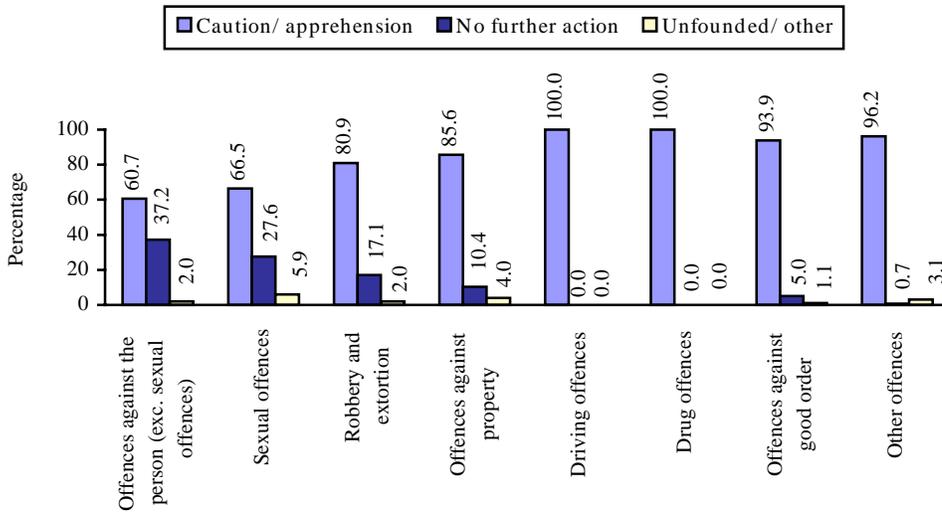
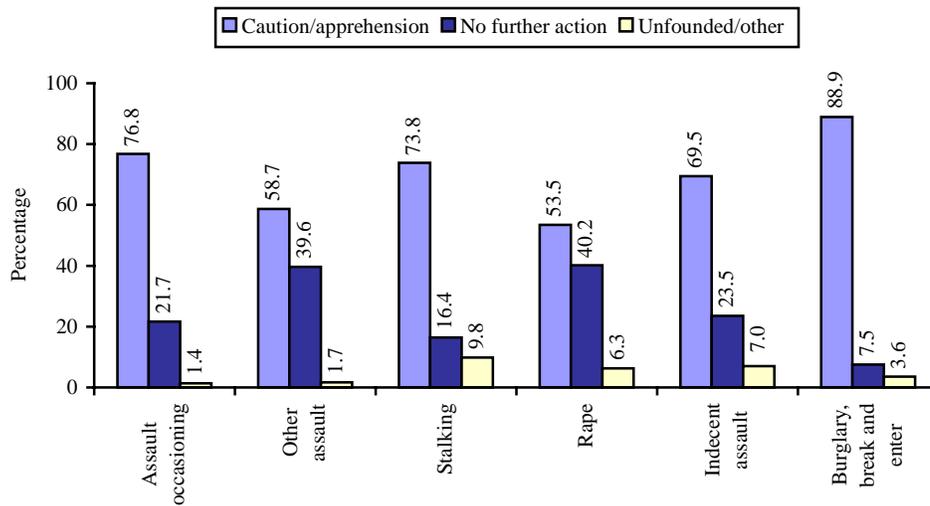


Figure 23 Method of clearance for selected *against person* and *sexual offences* cleared in 2000

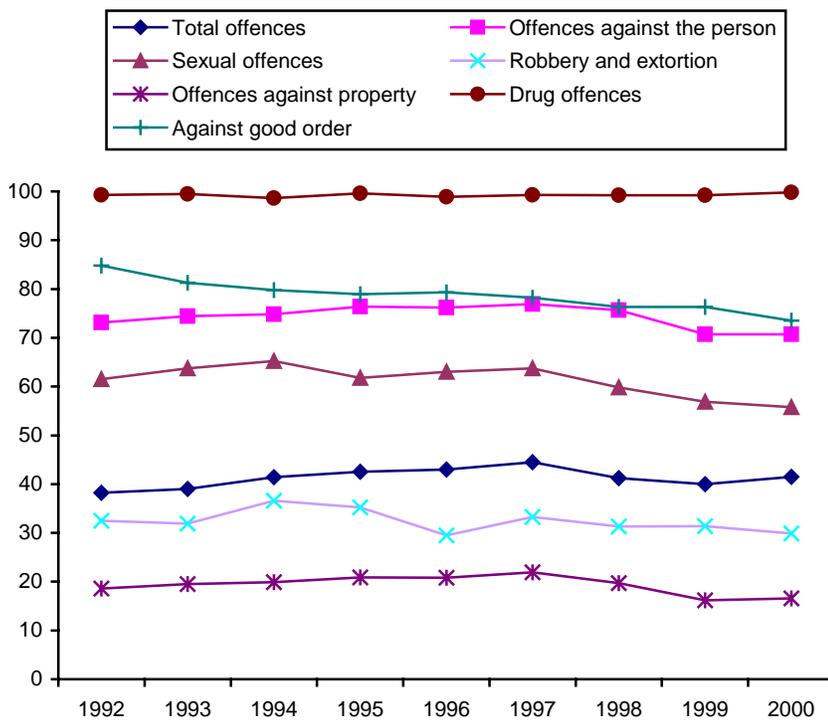


- Figure 23 gives a further breakdown of clearance methods for selected *against person* and *sexual offences*. A comparatively high proportion of reported *rapes*, *indecent assaults* and *other assaults* cleared in 2000 involved the victim withdrawing the allegation (40.2%, 23.5% and 39.6% respectively, compared with 16.4% of *stalking* offences and 21.7% of *assault occasioning grievous or actual bodily harm*).
- For comparative purposes, the method of clearance for one property offence – *burglary, break and enter/serious criminal trespass* – has also been included. As shown, the proportion cleared by way of apprehension in 2000 was extremely high (88.9%) while the proportion where the victim withdrew the allegation was low (7.5%).

## Longitudinal trends in level of clearance

The clearance data discussed in the previous section relate primarily to offences recorded in the 2000 calendar year. Given that police would have had relatively little time to clear these offences, particularly those recorded late in the year, it is likely that this would impact slightly on the percentage of offences cleared in 2000. To place the most recent data into a broader context, and to identify whether the level of clearance for the eight major offence categories has changed over time, the ensuing discussion provides details on the clearance status, as at 31 December 2000, of all offences recorded in the years 1992 to 2000. This means that for those offences reported in 1992, police have had at least eight years to clear them compared with less than one year for those offences reported in 2000.

Figure 24 Percentage of offences cleared as at 31 December 2000 by year of report



*Note: driving offences have not been included because in each of the years depicted, the level of clearance equalled or exceeded 99.9%.*

- As shown in Figure 24, the percentage of offences cleared as at 31 December 2000 was higher than at the beginning of the period depicted (41.5% compared with 38.2% in 1992). This result is not consistent with the assumption that clearance levels would be lower in 2000, given the fact that there has been less time to clear the offences. However, these figures may be explained in terms of the impact of the recent increase in the number of *driving offences*,

which traditionally have a very high clearance rate of 99.9%. In 2000, *driving offences* made up 16.0% of all offences recorded, compared with 9.3% in 1992. When *driving offences* were excluded, the clearance levels in 1992 and 2000 were 31.9% and 30.4% respectively.

- Differences in the percentage of offences cleared per year varied considerably depending on the type of offence involved. *Drug offences* recorded the highest clearance levels while *offences against property* had the lowest proportion cleared. These differences remained consistent over time.
- In terms of longitudinal trends, by and large, 2000 clearance levels were not markedly different from those recorded in previous years – a finding which suggests that the majority of matters are cleared within a relatively short space of time. For example, for *offences against the person*, 73.1% of those reported to police in 1992 had been cleared by 31 December 2000 compared with 70.7% of those reported in 2000.
- A similar finding applied to *robbery and extortion*, with 32.5% of such offences reported in 1992 being cleared by the end of December 2000 compared with only a slightly lower figure of 29.9% of those reported in 2000.
- Of the seven offence groups depicted, the ‘drop off’ in the clearance level for matters reported in 2000 compared with earlier years was most pronounced for *against good order* and *sexual offences*. For *offences against good order*, clearance levels dropped from 84.8% in 1992 to 73.5% in 2000. For *sexual offences*, clearance levels in the early and mid years of the decade remained relatively stable, generally hovering around the 62% to 63% mark. However, this fell to 56.9% for offences reported in 1999 and to 55.8% for those offences recorded in 2000.
- Overall though, allowing for the shorter time available to clear offences reported in 2000 the level of clearance per offence category has not changed substantially over time.

## 1.4 VICTIMS OF OFFENCES RECORDED BY POLICE

Section 5 of this report provides information on those victims who reported an offence to police during 2000. The offence categories selected for inclusion cover all *offences against the person*, all *sexual offences*, all *larcenies from the person* and all *robbery and extortion* offences directed against an individual. Those *robbery and extortion offences* perpetrated against a corporation have been excluded, as have all *drug* and *driving offences* because these do not generally involve a victim. *Offences against property* have also been omitted because of potential biases arising from how the information is reported to police. In the case of a house break, for example, if the property is jointly owned by a husband and wife, then both are victims. However, police only record the details of one of these individuals – usually the one who actually reports the offence. If house breaks are usually reported by the male, then the data will show a potentially misleading preponderance of males as victims of this particular type of offence.

It should also be stressed that Tables 5.1 to 5.3 in Section 5 contain several sets of figures, each based on different counting rules. The reader is advised to consult the Appendix for a full explanation of these rules. However, a brief description is provided below.

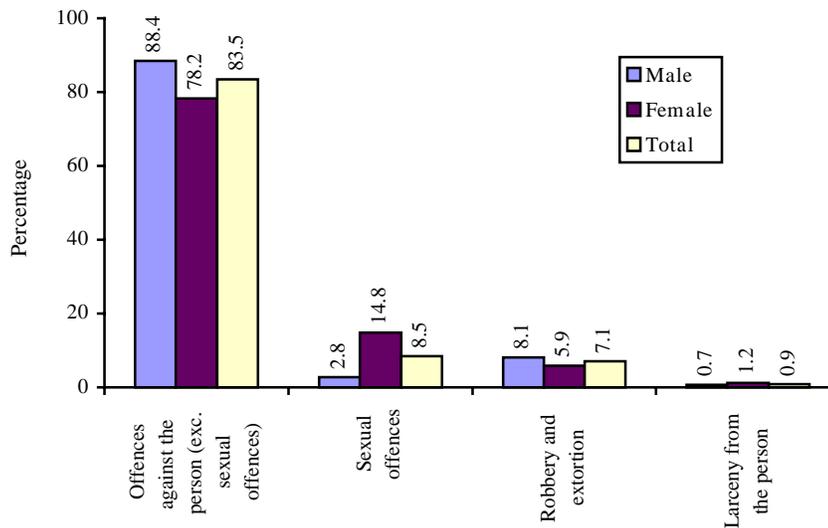
- **Total victimisations.** In the body of each table, victim details are counted once for each different offence group recorded per incident report. To illustrate: if, in the one incident report filed by police, the victim claimed that they had been assaulted twice and stalked once, that victim would be counted once under assault and once under stalking. However, if they filed an assault report in January and another in April, they would be counted twice under the assault category because these related to two separate incidents.
- **Total victims per offence group.** In the far right hand column of each table, victims are counted once per offence group, irrespective of how many incident reports each person filed during the course of the year. For example, in Table 5.1a of Section 5 there were 12,086 victims of *other assault*. This means that during 2000, 12,086 individuals reported being the victims of at least one *other assault*. If, over the course of the year, the same individual was subjected to multiple assaults on different occasions, they were still only counted once. However, if they were subjected on the first occasion to an *assault* and on the second occasion to *stalking*, they would be counted under each of these offence types.
- **Total victims per age group.** The bottom row of each table details the total number of victims per age group. To illustrate, in Table 5.1a of Section 5, there were 445 victims aged 0–9 years who, during 2000, were subject to at least one *offence against the person*. If the victim experienced more than one such offence during the course of the year and fell within the 0 – 9 year age bracket on each of those occasions, that person was counted only once. However, if, over the course of these incidents, the person moved into the next age grouping of 10 – 13 years, they would be counted again in that next age bracket.
- **Discrete individuals.** Finally, in the bottom right hand corner of each table is a single figure which details the total number of discrete individuals who, during the course of the year, were victimised at least once, irrespective of their age or the category of offence involved. In Table 5.1a for example, there were 15,998 discrete individuals who, during 2000, experienced at least one *offence against the person*. This applied irrespective of how many different types of *against person* offences they experienced or whether their age changed from one incident to another.

## Total victimisations recorded

As noted above, this section details the number of victimisations per offence type recorded in 2000. It does not relate to individuals.

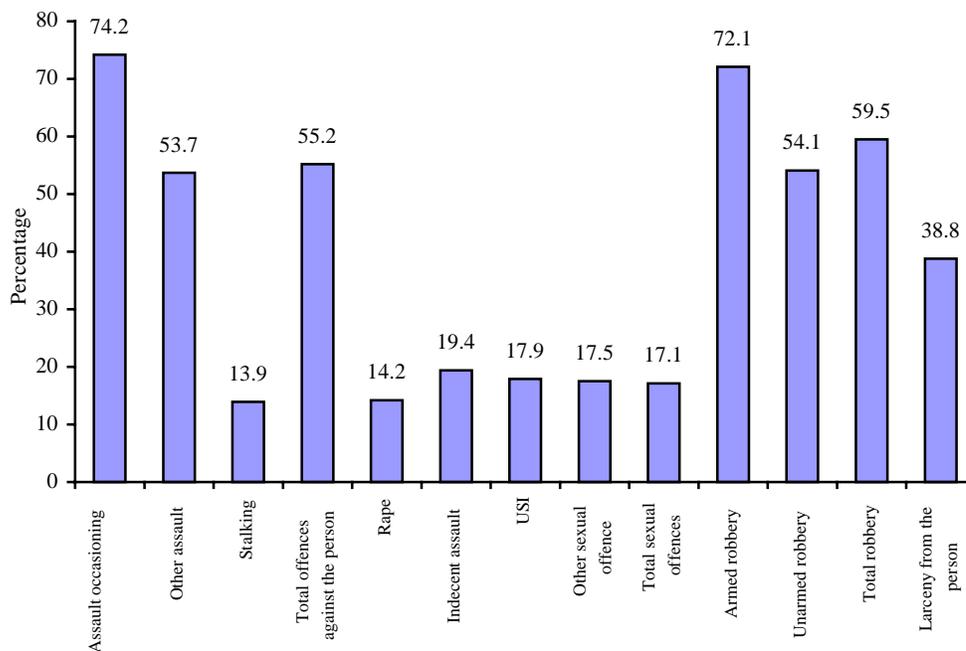
- In 2000 there were 22,158 recorded victimisations directed against a person (ie property offences, or incidents directed against a corporation or other body are excluded).
- Of those 22,104 victimisations where the sex of the victim was recorded, 52.1% involved males while conversely, 47.9% involved females. The fact that there was a fairly even distribution of males and females amongst the victims is in direct contrast to the finding (as described in the next section) that males accounted for the overwhelming majority of persons apprehended in 2000 for allegedly committing offences.
- As indicated in Figure 25, of the 22,158 victimisations perpetrated against an individual, over eight in 10 (83.5%) involved an *offence against the person*. In contrast, *sexual offences* accounted for only 8.5% of personal victimisations, while *robbery and extortion* constituted 7.1% and *larceny from the person* made up 0.9%.
- There were some minor differences between males and females in the type of offences perpetrated against them. A higher proportion of victimisations involving males entailed an *offence against the person* (88.4% compared with 78.2% of victimisations directed against females). A slightly higher proportion of male than female victimisations also involved *robbery* (8.1% compared with 5.9% respectively). In contrast, proportionately more female than male victimisations involved a *sexual offence* (14.8% compared with 2.8% respectively). Very few males or females were subjected to a *larceny from the person* (0.7% and 1.2% respectively).

Figure 25 Offences involving a 'personal' victim: offence type by sex, 2000



- As shown in Figure 26, males were over-represented in the categories of *assault occasioning grievous or actual bodily harm* (where they constituted 74.2% of the 1,884 such victimisations where information on the sex of the victim was recorded) and *armed robbery* (72.1% of the 451 such victimisations).
- In contrast, males were under-represented as victims of *stalking* (accounting for only 13.9% of the 332 recorded victimisations in this category where information on the sex of the victim was available), all forms of *sexual assault* (where they accounted for only 14.2% of all rapes, 19.4% of all indecent assaults and 17.9% of all unlawful sexual intercourse offences) and *larceny from the person* (38.8%).
- Of the 23 murders recorded by police in 2000, over half of the victims were male (n=14). Males were also the victims of 31 of the 45 attempted murders recorded that year and 27 of the 37 victims of *drive causing death*.

Figure 26 Offences involving ‘personal’ victims recorded by police: males as a proportion of all recorded victimisations by selected offence type\*, 2000.

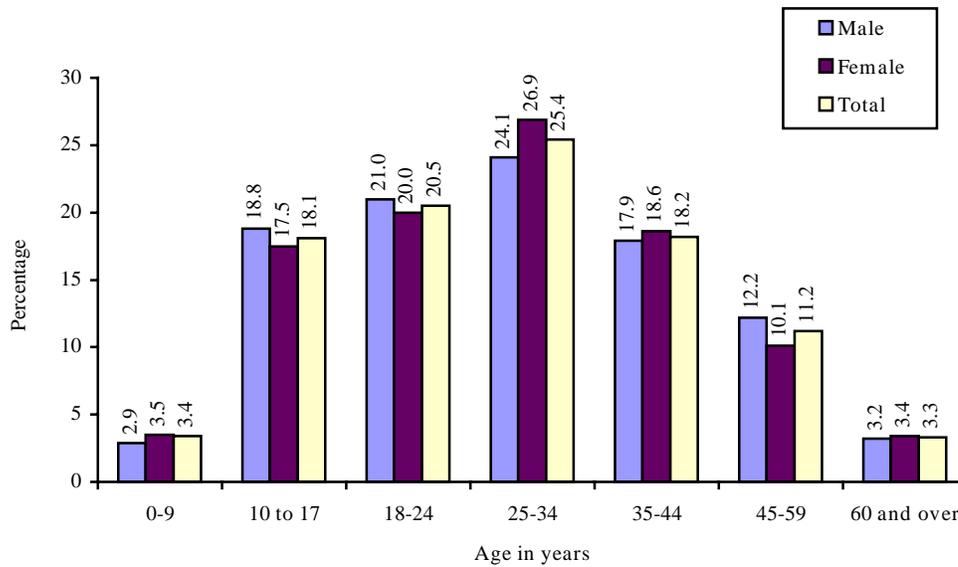


\*Offence types with relatively small numbers have been excluded.

## Age profiles

The following section reports on the age profiles of victims involved in ‘personal’ victimisations recorded by police in 2000. As above, this section relates to victimisations, not discrete individuals. For example, a 30 year old victim who experienced an *assault*, a *rape* and a *robbery* during 2000 would be counted three times within the 25-34 age group.

Figure 27 Personal victimisations recorded by police in 2000: age by sex of victims

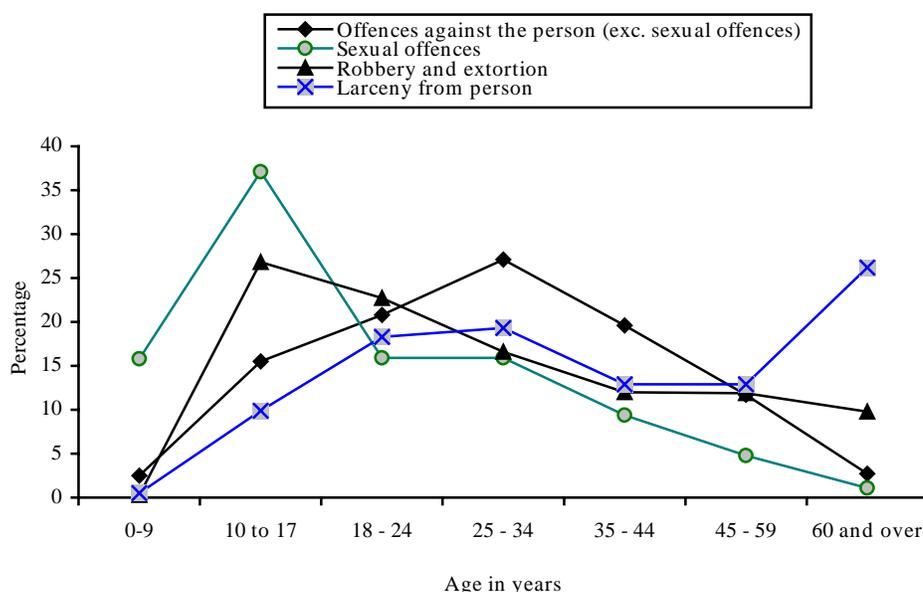


- As shown in Figure 27, persons in the mid age ranges of 18 – 24 years and 25 – 34 years accounted for the highest proportion of ‘personal’ victimisations reported to police in 2000 (20.5% and 25.4% of all such offences respectively), while the very young and the elderly accounted for relatively small proportions (3.4% for individuals aged less than ten and 3.3% for those aged 60 years and over). These findings run counter to a common perception within the community that the elderly are more likely to be the victims of crime than other age groups. Figure 27 also indicates a similar age profile for both male and female victims.
- The age profiles of victims varied considerably depending on the type of offence involved. As indicated in Figure 28, the age profile for victims of *offences against the person, excluding sexual offences* closely mirrors the pattern for total offences described above. For the *against person* offence category, the highest proportion of victims were in the mid-age ranges of 18 – 24 years (20.8%) and 25 - 34 years (27.1%), with only a very small proportion aged 0 – 9 (2.5%) or 60 years and over (2.7%).
- For *sexual offences*, the peak age was 10 – 17 years, with persons in this category accounting for just over one third (37.1%) of the 1,880 *sexual offence* victimisations recorded by police in 2000 where age was recorded. A further 15.8% were aged 0 – 9 years. In total then, one half of all recorded *sexual offence* victims were young people aged less than 18 years. In contrast, the older age groups of 45 years and over accounted for only 5.9% of all *sexual offence* victims.
- The age profile of persons subjected to a *robbery and extortion* was somewhat similar to that of *sexual offences*, in that the highest proportion (26.8%) of victims fell within the 10 – 17 year age group in 2000. After the age of 17, as age increased so the likelihood of being the

victim of a *robbery and extortion* generally decreased. However, the extent of decrease for the 45 - 59 and 60 and over age groups was not as pronounced as it was for *against person* and *sexual offences*.

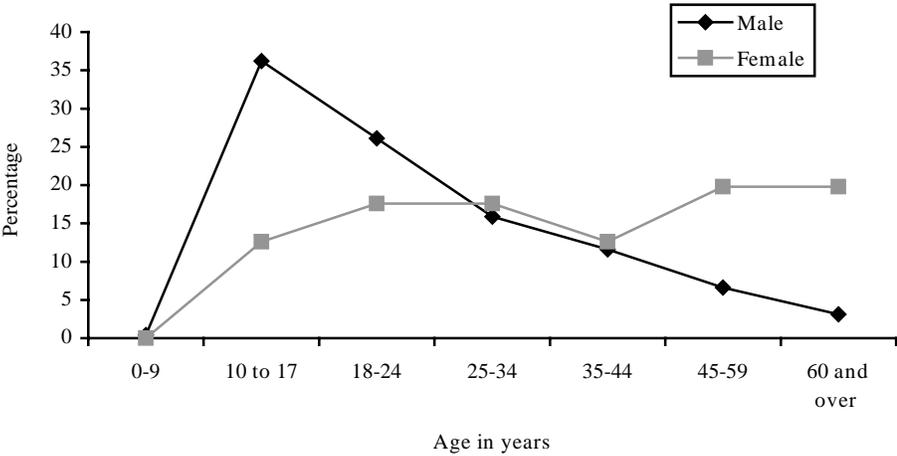
- The age profile of persons subject to a reported *larceny from the person* was different again. Up to the age of 35 years, as age increased so did the likelihood of victimisation, with 19.3% of victims in the 25 - 34 age bracket, compared with 10.4% who were under the age of 18 years. While the 35 - 44 and 45 - 59 age groups each recorded 12.9% of victims, just over one quarter of victims (26.2%) were in the 60 years and over age bracket. For this type of offence then, it is the elderly who are more likely to be targeted than younger persons, probably because of their vulnerability.

Figure 28 Personal victimisations recorded by police in 2000: age profile of victims by offence type



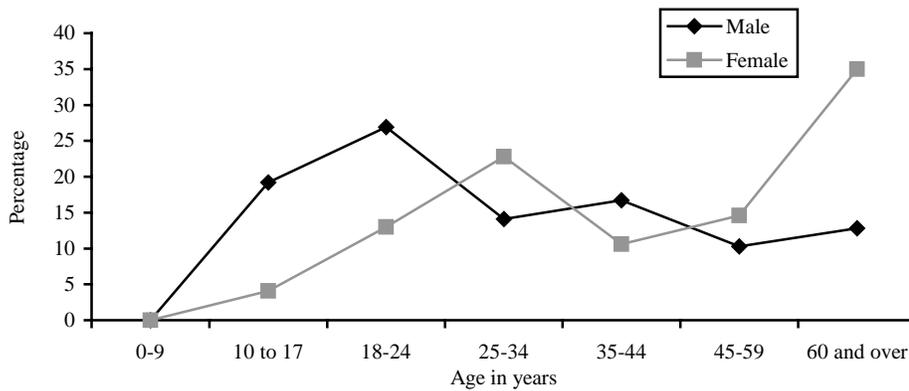
- When age profiles were disaggregated according to the specific type of offence involved, some differences were found in male/female profiles for both *robbery and extortion* and *larceny from the person* offences.
- As shown in Figure 29, the highest proportion of male *robbery and extortion* victims fell within the 10 - 17 age category (36.2%). For male victims, from the age of 17 onwards as age increased so the proportion of victims decreased, with only 3.1% of male *robbery and extortion* victims being aged 60 years and over. In contrast, with the exception of the 35 - 44 age bracket, the age profile of female *robbery and extortion* victims shows a general increase in the likelihood of victimisation as age increased, ranging from 12.6% in the 10 - 17 year age category up to 19.8% in the 45 - 59 and 60 year and over categories.

Figure 29 *Robbery and extortion* victimisations recorded by police in 2000: age profile of victims by sex



- As indicated in Figure 30, for *larceny from the person*, the highest proportion of male victims fell within the younger age categories, with the 10 – 17 year and 18 – 24 year groupings accounting for 19.2% and 26.9% respectively. In contrast, the highest proportion of female victims (35.0% of the total) were in the oldest category of 60 years and over. This tends to confirm the anecdotal evidence that older women are the most vulnerable to *larceny from the person* offences (notably bag snatches).

Figure 30 *Larceny from the person* victimisations recorded by police in 2000: age profiles of victims by sex



- As depicted in Figure 31, the age profile for male victims of an *offence against the person* was very similar to that of female victims. The same could be said for *sexual offences* (Figure 32) with one exception: a much higher proportion of male victims fell within the youngest age group of 0 – 9 years (28.7% compared with only 13.1% of female victims). This raises the possibility that, at least in relation to those offences reported to police, males are more vulnerable to child sexual abuse than females.

Figure 31 *Offences against the person* victimisations recorded by police in 2000: age profile of victims by sex

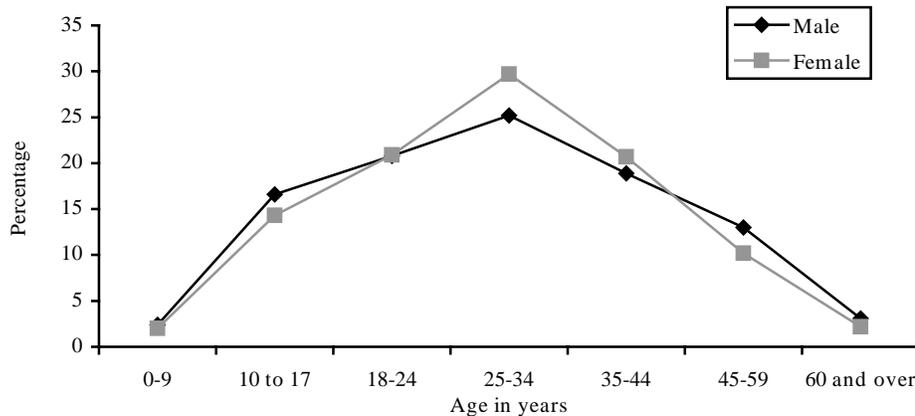
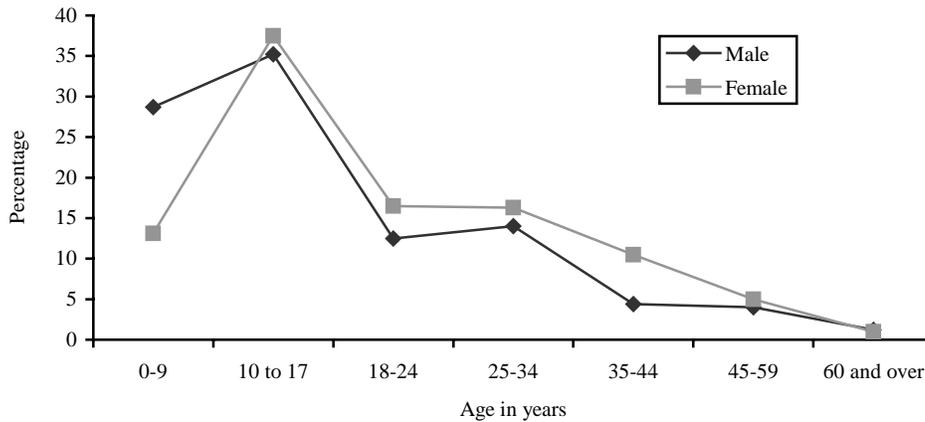


Figure 32 *Sexual offence* victimisations recorded by police in 2000: age profile of victims by sex

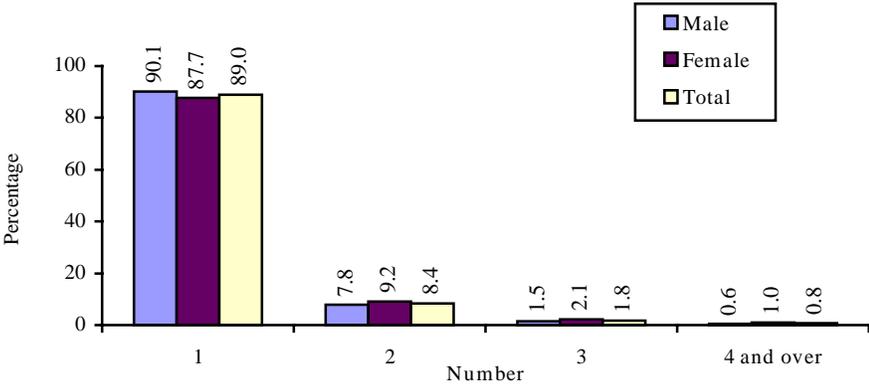


### Discrete individuals and the extent of revictimisation

The information provided in the preceding sections do not relate to the number of discrete individuals victimised during 2000. In determining the age profiles outlined above, for example, a victim who was subjected to more than one *sexual offence* during the year and who changed age brackets from one victimisation to another was counted separately in each age group. In the ensuing section, details are provided on both discrete individuals as well as the level of revictimisation during the twelve month period.

- In 2000 there were 18,953 individuals who, during the course of the year, were subject to at least one ‘personal’ offence. This figure was 11.4% higher than the 17,019 victims recorded in 1999.
- Of the 18,905 individuals for whom sex was recorded, 10,092 (53.4%) were male while 8,813 (46.6%) were female.
- As indicated in Figure 33, almost nine in ten victims were the subject of only one incident report during the course of the 12 months. Conversely, only a small proportion (11.0%) were listed as the victims in two or more incident reports.
- Overall then, the level of repeat victimisation was extremely low. However, there were 34 individuals who were the subject of six or more incident reports during 2000.
- There were only minor differences between males and females in terms of the number of incident reports lodged, with a slightly higher proportion of female than male victims being the subject of more than one report (12.3% of females compared with 9.9% of males.)

Figure 33 Number of incident reports per victim by sex, 2000



## 1.5 OFFENCES CLEARED BY WAY OF AN APPREHENSION

Offences cleared via the lodgement of an apprehension report may involve the alleged perpetrator either being cautioned, arrested or reported by police.

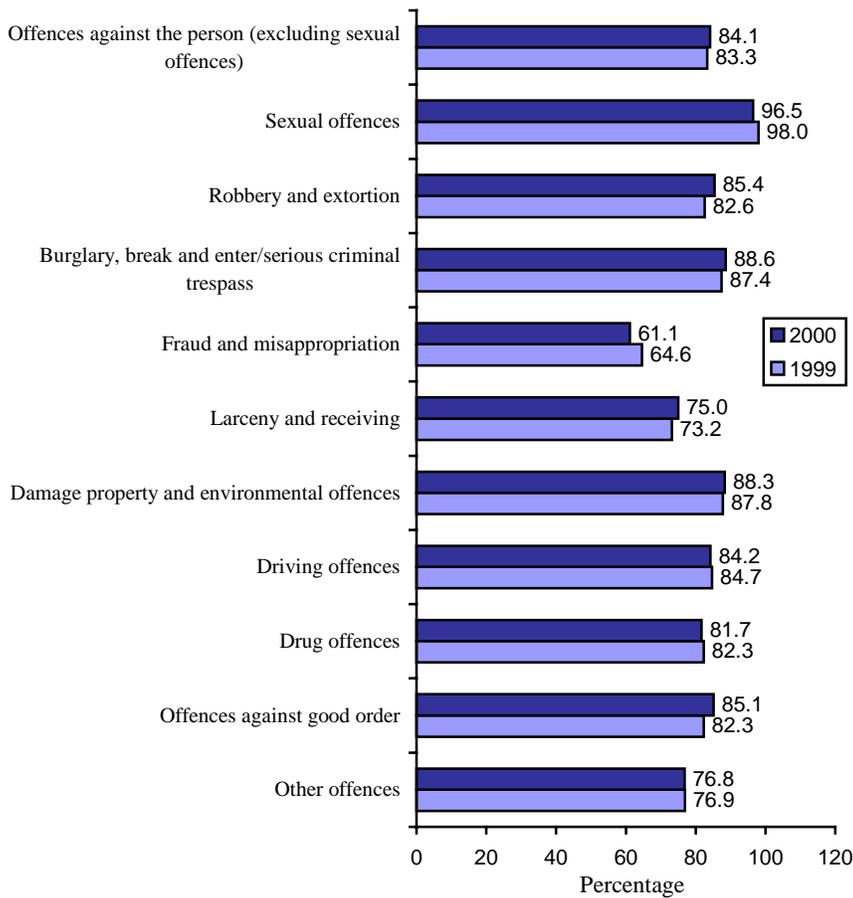
In the following analysis of apprehension data, several different units of analysis are used. In the first section below, information is presented on all charges laid. However, unlike the counting rules used in the tables contained in Section 3 and 4 of the report, this does not include multiple counts of the same offence. For example, if an alleged offender has been charged on the apprehension report with three counts of *assault* - which generally indicates the one victim and the one incident - only one *assault* is recorded. However, if the offender has been charged with three separate *assault* offences, all are counted because this usually indicates three different victims and three different incidents.

In the second section below, information is presented on the number of actual apprehensions and the number of discrete individuals involved in those apprehensions. This is relevant given that there can be more than one offence per apprehension report, and the same person may be apprehended on more than one occasion during the course of a single year.

### **Characteristics of alleged offenders involved in offences cleared by way of an apprehension**

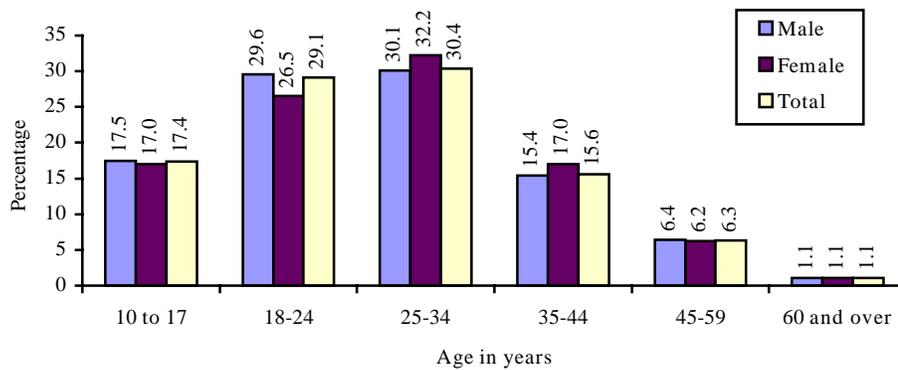
- In 2000 102,986 offences were cleared by way of an apprehension report. This figure was higher (by 15.3%) than the 89,346 offences cleared via apprehension in 1999.
- As was the case in previous years, more than eight in 10 (82.7%) of those charges for which information on the sex of the alleged offender was recorded involved males, although this percentage varied depending on the type of offence involved (see Figure 34), reaching a high of 96.5% for *sexual offences*.
- While only a minority of charges were laid against females, this group accounted for 25.0% of all *larceny and receiving* offences charged (including 44.7% of all *larcenies from shops*) and 38.9% of all *fraud and misappropriation* charges.
- Overall, the proportion of males involved in offences cleared via apprehension remained relatively stable between 1999 and 2000.

Figure 34 Charges laid by police in 1999 and 2000: proportion per offence type involving males



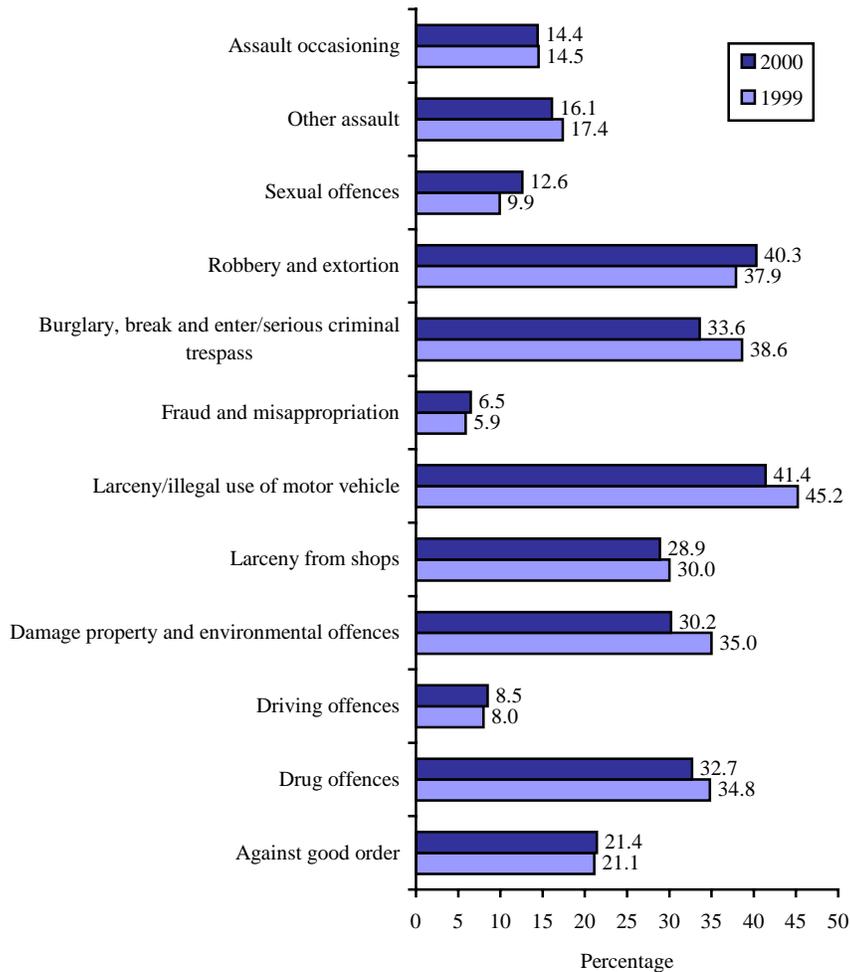
- Of the 102,962 charges listed in the apprehension reports filed in 2000 where the age of the alleged offender was recorded, relatively few involved older individuals. Persons aged 45 - 59 years accounted for only 6.3% of all charges, while those aged 60 years and over constituted only 1.1%. In contrast, over one half of all charges (59.5%) were allegedly committed by persons in the 18 - 34 year age group while a further 17.4% involved juveniles (aged 10 - 17 inclusive).
- Figure 35 shows that overall, there were very few age differences between males and females involved in those offences cleared in 2000 by way of an apprehension. For both groups, those aged 18 - 24 and 25 - 34 years dominated, accounting for 59.7% of all charges involving males and 58.7% of all charges involving females. Similarly, relatively few males or females were aged 45 years and over.

Figure 35 Charges laid by police in 2000: age of alleged offenders by sex



- The proportion of charges involving juveniles aged 10 to 17 years varied depending on the type of offence involved. At one end of the scale, juveniles constituted only 8.5% of all *driving offences* cleared by way of apprehension and 6.5% of all *fraud and misappropriation* charges. At the other end of the scale, they were involved in 40.3% of all *robbery and extortion* charges. This age group also accounted for 33.6% of all *burglary, break and enter/serious criminal trespass* charges, 34.3% of all *larceny* charges (including 41.4% of all *larceny/illegal use of motor vehicle* offences) and 30.2% of all *property damage and environmental* charges.
- Another offence category with a high proportion of juveniles was that involving the use of illicit drugs. Overall, 32.7% of *drug charges* laid by police in 2000 involved young people. However, this figure is misleading because adults who are detected in possession of cannabis for personal use are given a Cannabis Expiation Notice and so are not included in these data. The fact that juveniles cannot receive CENs artificially inflates the extent of juvenile involvement in total illicit drug charges. A more detailed analysis indicates that, while juveniles accounted for 70.7% of all *use/possess cannabis* charges and 80.0% of all charges involving the *possession of a drug implement*, they were involved in only 5.4% of *use/possess opiate or other drug*, 10.2% of *possess for sale or sell drugs* and only 4.4% of *produce/manufacture drugs* charges.
- The proportion within each offence category cleared by way of a juvenile apprehension in 2000 was generally similar to that recorded in 1999 (see Figure 36). Only three small differences warrant comment. In 2000, a slightly lower proportion of *property damage* charges laid involved juveniles (30.2% compared with 35.0% in 1999). The same applied to *larceny/illegal use of a motor vehicle* (with juveniles accounting for 41.4% of all such charges laid in 2000 compared with 45.2% in 1999) and *burglary, break and enter/serious criminal trespass* (33.6% in 2000, compared with 38.6% in 1999).
- It should be stressed, however, that these data do not necessarily indicate that juveniles actually committed more or fewer offences within these categories than other age groups. It simply means that they were apprehended more or less often by police for such offences. Because of their comparative immaturity, they may simply have been more visible to police and so more vulnerable to apprehension.

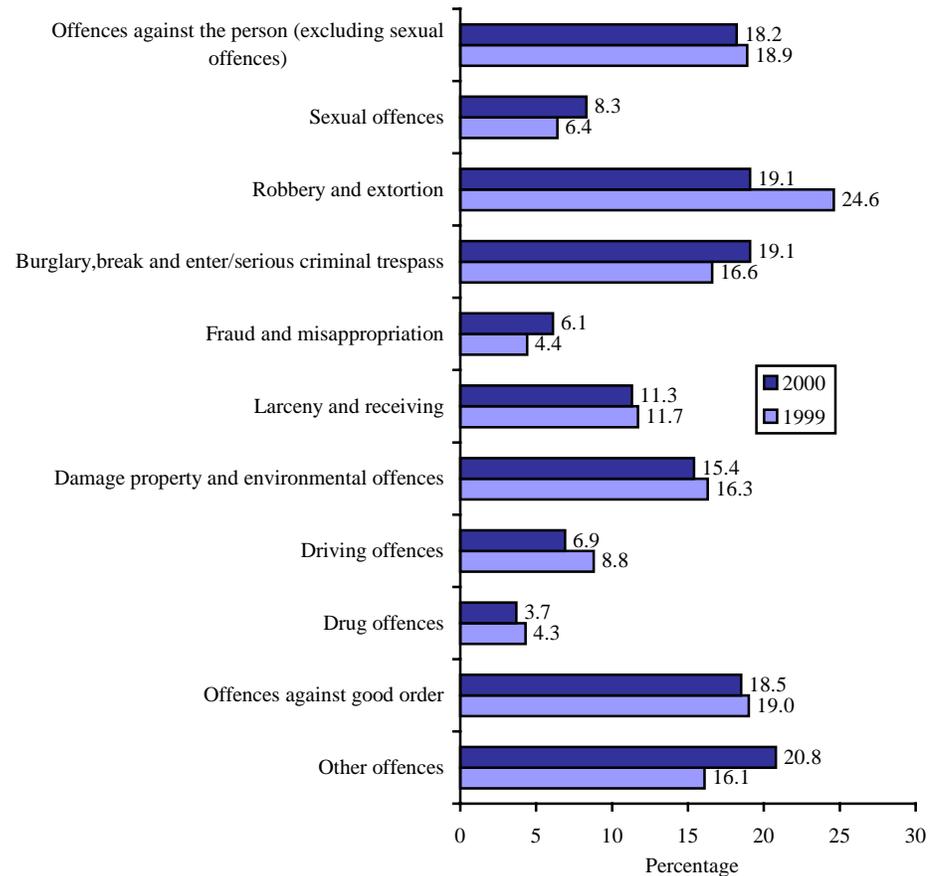
Figure 36 Juveniles as a proportion of all charges laid by police: 1999 compared with 2000



**Offences cleared in 2000 by way of an apprehension: racial appearance of persons charged.**

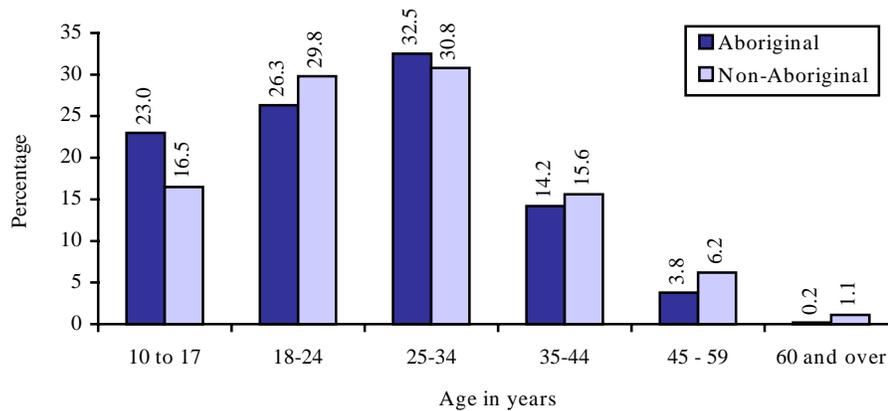
- Of the 102,986 charges laid by police in 2000, information on racial appearance was available for 95,931 or 93.1%.
- Of these 95,931 charges, 11,188 (11.7%) involved persons considered by police to be of Aboriginal appearance. Although this was slightly lower than in 1999 (when persons identified as Aboriginal accounted for 12.7% of all charges laid) it still points to a significant over-representation of Aboriginal persons within the South Australian criminal justice system, given that this group constitutes only 1.3% of all persons aged 10 years and over resident in this State in 2000.
- However, the extent of Aboriginal involvement varied considerably depending on the type of charge, as indicated in Figure 37.

Figure 37 Charges laid by police in 1999 and 2000: proportion per offence category involving persons of Aboriginal appearance



- As shown, persons of Aboriginal appearance accounted for 19.1% of all *robbery and extortion* charges where racial appearance was recorded, 19.1% of all *burglary, break and enter/serious criminal trespass* charges, 18.2% of all *against person* offences laid, and 18.5% of all *against good order* charges. At the other end of the scale, of all *drug offence* charges listed on the 2000 police apprehension reports where relevant information was available, only 3.7% involved persons of Aboriginal appearance, as did 6.1% of all *fraud and misappropriation* charges and 6.9% of all *driving* offences.
- Overall, these figures were relatively similar to those recorded in the previous year. The only differences of note were the lower proportion of Aboriginal persons charged with *robbery and extortion* offences in 2000 compared with 1999 (19.1% compared with 24.6%) and the higher proportion of Aboriginal persons charged with *other* offences (20.8% in 2000, compared with 16.1% in 1999).
- One offence category where Aboriginal persons have always been over-represented is that of *offences against good order*. As noted above, in 2000 persons of Aboriginal appearance accounted for 18.5% of all such charges laid where relevant information was recorded. However, this varied depending on the type of *good order* offence involved. At one end of the scale, Aboriginals accounted for only 6.5% of the *graffiti and related* charges laid and 7.8% of the 2,581 *unlawful possession of weapons* charges. At the other end of the scale, this group accounted for 26.8% of all *indecent/offensive language* charges, 29.6% of all *disorderly/offensive behaviour* charges and 20.0% of all *resist/hinder police* charges where information on racial identity was available.
- In interpreting these figures though, it should be stressed that they do not indicate the proportion of offences within each category that were actually committed by Aboriginal persons. They simply indicate the proportion who were apprehended. Given the low clear up rate for many offences (see earlier discussion) it may be that, because of their greater visibility, persons of Aboriginal appearance are simply more vulnerable to detection than other Australians.
- A comparison of the age profiles of persons charged with offences in 2000 indicates some minor Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal differences (see Figure 38). As indicated, for those charges where information on racial appearance was recorded, a higher proportion of those laid against Aboriginal persons involved individuals aged 10 - 17 years (23.0% compared with 16.5% of all offences alleged against non-Aboriginals). At the other end of the scale, a slightly lower proportion of offences alleged against Aboriginals in 2000 involved persons aged 45 and over (4.0% compared with 7.3% of offences attributed to non-Aboriginals).

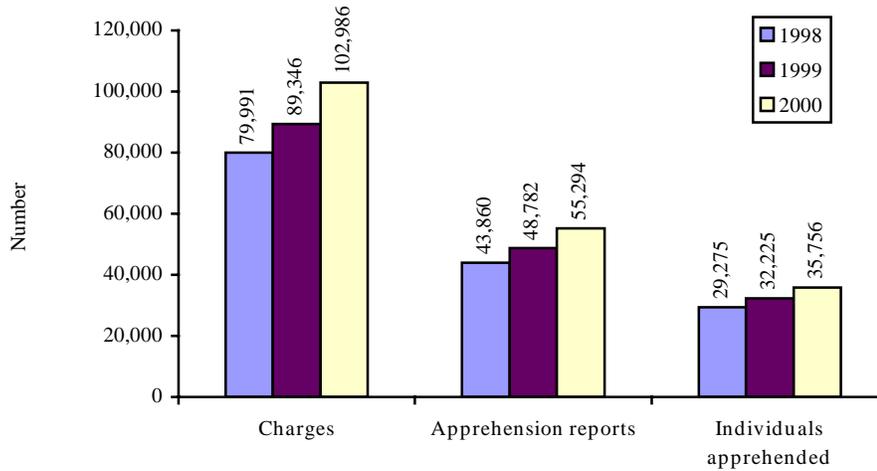
Figure 38 Charges laid by police in 2000; age by racial appearance



### Relationship between charges laid, apprehension reports filed and discrete persons apprehended

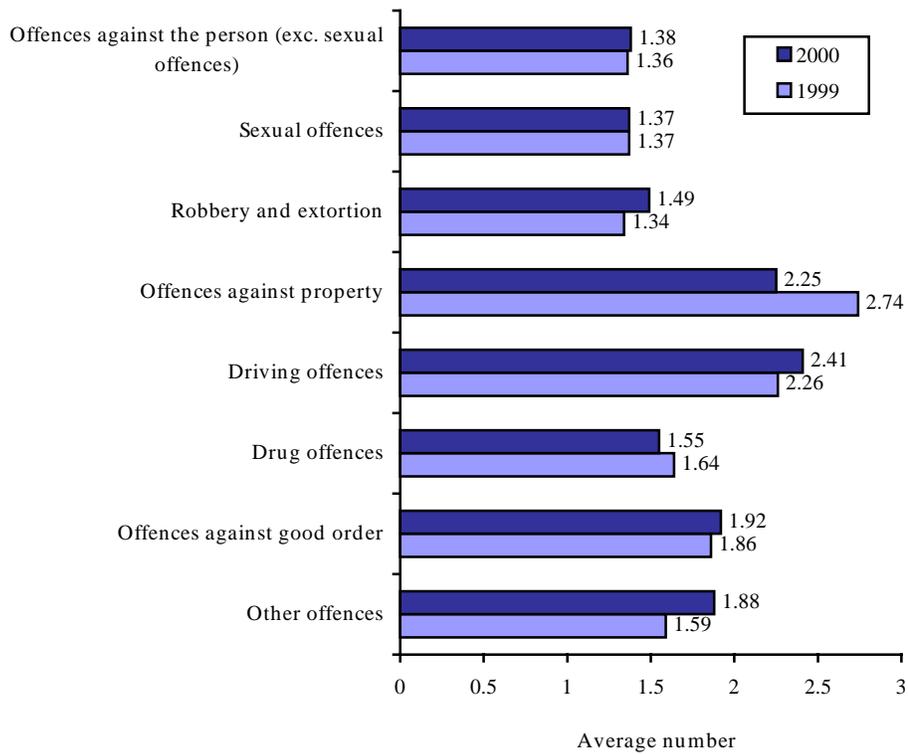
- As noted earlier, there were 102,986 charges recorded in 2000. These were contained within 55,294 apprehension reports. This means that, on average, each apprehension report lodged by police during this twelve month period contained 1.86 charges.
- Over the same time period, a total of 35,756 discrete individuals were apprehended. On average then, each person was apprehended 1.55 times, with an average of 2.88 charges laid per individual over the twelve month period.
- As indicated in Figure 39, the number of charges laid in 2000 was higher than in 1999 and 1998 (by 15.3% and 28.7% respectively). Similarly, the number of apprehension reports submitted and the number of individuals apprehended by police in 2000 were also higher than in the previous two years.
- Overall, the averages recorded in 2000 were slightly higher than those recorded in the previous year(s): namely,
  - 1.86 charges per apprehension report in 2000 compared with 1.83 in 1999 and 1.82 in 1998;
  - 1.55 apprehension reports per individual in 2000 compared with 1.51 in 1999 and 1.50 in 1998 and
  - 2.88 charges per individual in 2000 compared with 2.77 in 1999 and 2.73 in 1998.

Figure 39 Number of apprehension reports and discrete individuals apprehended: 2000 compared with 1998 and 1999.



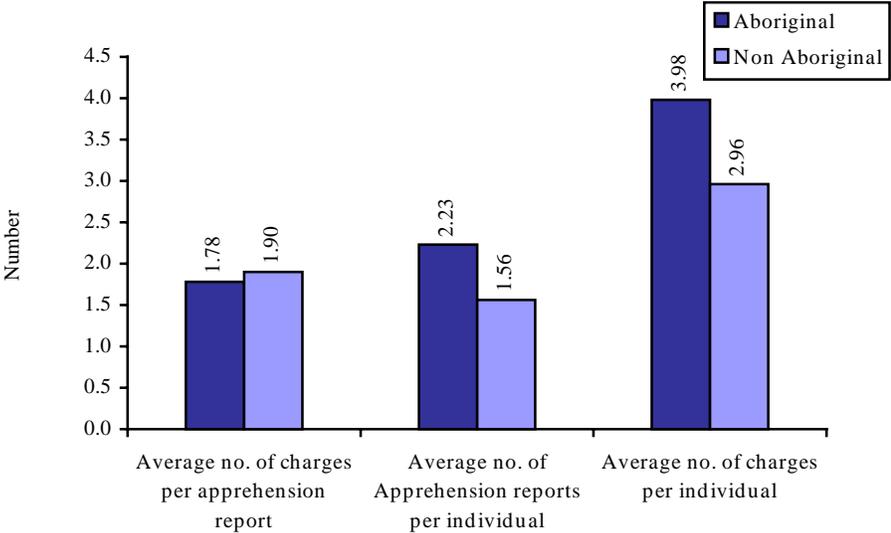
- Figure 40 shows the average number of charges per alleged offender per offence group. (In preparing this graph, it should be noted that if, over a twelve month period, the one person is apprehended for different types of offences - for example, for an *offence against property* and for a *drug offence* - he/she will be counted once in each discrete offence grouping.)
- For each person apprehended in 2000, there was an average of 2.88 charges laid. This varied slightly depending on the type of offence involved. Those persons apprehended in 2000 for a *property offence* faced an average of 2.25 such charges during the year. For individuals charged with a *driving offence*, the average was 2.41. At the other end of the scale, persons charged with an *offence against the person* faced an average of 1.38 such charges, while for those charged with a *sexual offence*, the average number was 1.37.
- For all offence categories except those of *offences against property* and *drug offences*, the average number of charges laid per individual was similar to or slightly higher in 2000 than in 1999.

Figure 40 Average number of charges per individual per offence group, 2000 compared with 1999



- Males accounted for the majority of apprehension reports lodged (81.7% of the 55,274 reports where information on the sex of the offender was recorded). Males also accounted for 80.3% of those 35,739 discrete individuals apprehended where relevant data were available.
- On average, the number of charges per apprehension report was slightly higher for males than females (1.88 compared with 1.76 respectively). The same applied in relation to the average number of apprehension reports per individual (1.57 for males compared with 1.43 for females) and the average number of charges per individual (2.97 for males compared with 2.53 for females.)
- As noted earlier, persons of Aboriginal appearance accounted for 11.7% of the 95,931 charges laid by police in 2000 where relevant information was available. They also accounted for 12.3% of all apprehensions and 8.9% of all persons apprehended where information on racial appearance was recorded.
- As shown in Figure 41, in 2000, when compared with non-Aboriginals, the average number of apprehension reports and the average number of charges laid per individual was higher for persons of Aboriginal appearance. In contrast, the average number of charges per apprehension report was slightly lower for Aboriginals than non-Aboriginals.

Figure 41 Average number of charges laid, apprehension reports lodged and individuals apprehended; comparison between Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals, 2000.

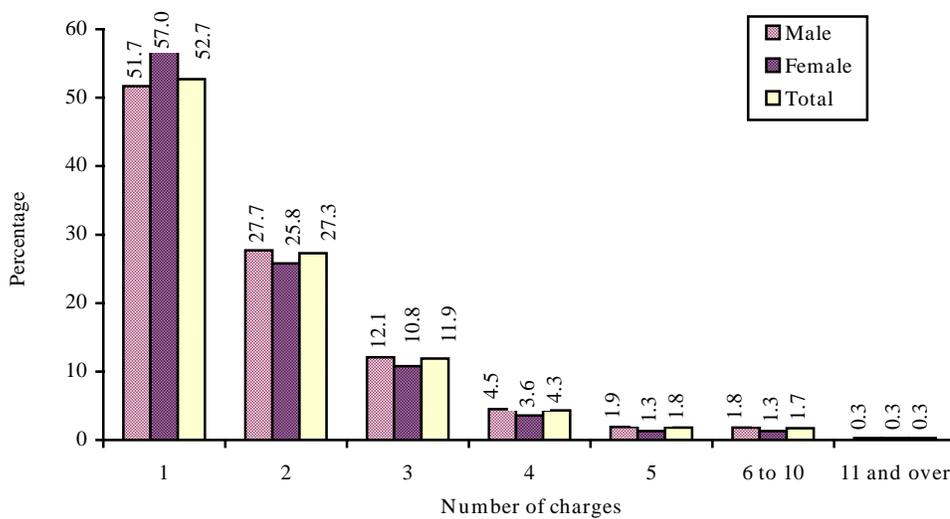


## Apprehension reports: some further details

An alternative way of considering the relationship between charges laid and apprehension reports is by looking at the actual number of charges per report rather than the average number of charges.

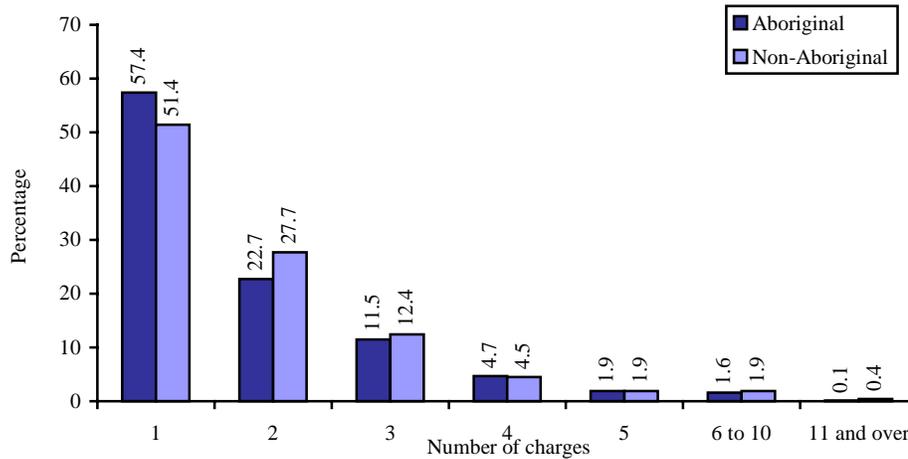
- As indicated in Figure 42, over one half (52.7%) of all apprehension reports submitted by police in 2000 involved one charge only, while a further 27.3% involved two charges. At the other end of the scale, only 2.0% of these reports listed six or more charges, including 174 reports (0.3%) which had 11 or more charges. This pattern held true for both males and females, although the proportion of reports involving one charge only was slightly higher for females than males (57.0% compared with 51.7% respectively).

Figure 42 Apprehension reports filed by police in 2000: number of charges per report by sex



- As shown in Figure 43, the proportion of apprehension reports involving one offence only was slightly higher for Aboriginals (57.4% compared with 51.4% for non-Aboriginals). Conversely, the proportion of reports involving two offences was slightly lower for Aboriginals (22.7% compared with 27.7% for non-Aboriginals). For reports with three or more charges there were no Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal differences.

Figure 43 Apprehension reports filed by police in 2000: number of charges per report by racial appearance



Tables 6.29 and 6.30 in Section 6 of this report also provide details on the age, sex and racial appearance of those persons listed on all apprehension reports. However, because these profiles are similar to those provided for offences cleared via an apprehension, no further analysis is presented here.

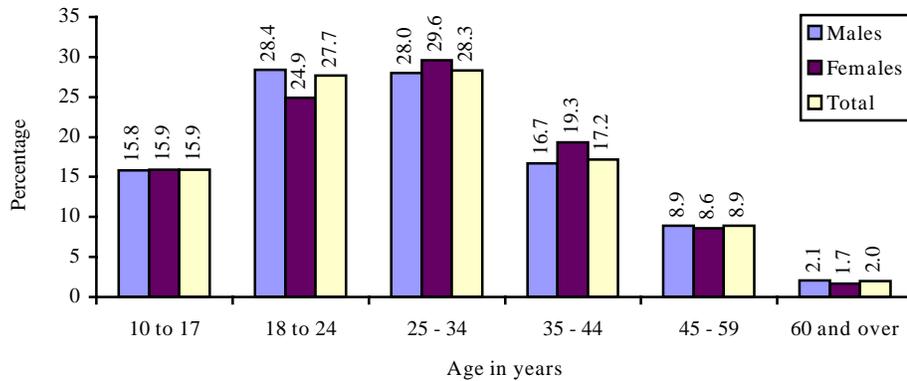
### Individuals apprehended by police: some further details

Tables 6.33 to 6.41 in Section 6 of this report focus on the number of discrete individuals apprehended by police in 2000. In these tables, each individual is counted once only, irrespective of the number of times they were apprehended during the course of the year or how many offences they were charged with. The tables detail their age, sex and racial appearance, as well as providing more information on the number of times each individual was apprehended and the total number of offences each person was charged with over the twelve month period.

#### Age, sex and racial appearance of persons apprehended

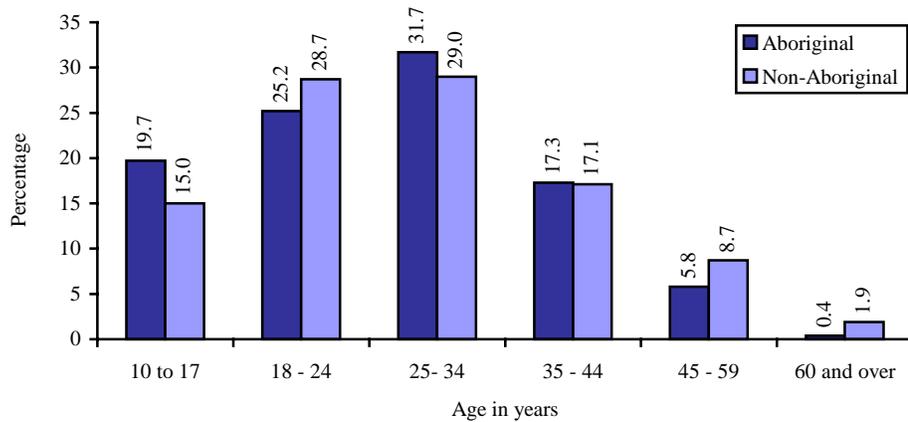
- As noted earlier, 35,756 individuals were apprehended at least once by police during 2000. Information on the sex of 17 of these persons was not available. Of the remaining 35,739 the majority (80.3%) were male.

Figure 44 Discrete individuals apprehended by police in 2000: age by sex



- As indicated in Figure 44, the majority of individuals apprehended were either aged 18 - 24 years (27.7% of the total) or 25 - 34 years (28.3%). Very few (2.0%) were aged 60 and over.
- Figure 44 also indicates close similarities in the age profile of males and females apprehended in 2000. For both groups, the 18 – 24 and 25 - 34 year age categories dominated, together accounting for 54.5% of females and 56.4% of males.
- Of the 35,756 individuals apprehended in 2000, information on racial appearance was not recorded for 4,313 (or 12.1%). As noted earlier, persons of Aboriginal appearance accounted for 8.9% of the remainder. Given that persons of Aboriginal descent constitute only 1.3% of South Australia’s population aged 10 years and over, this indicates that their level of contact with the criminal justice system was 6.8 times higher than would be expected on a per capita basis.
- While the age profiles of the two groups were generally similar, Aboriginal persons apprehended by police in 2000 tended to be slightly younger than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. As shown in Figure 45, 19.7% of Aboriginal persons apprehended in 2000 were aged 10 - 17 years (compared with 15.0% of non-Aboriginals) while at the other end of the scale, only 6.2% of Aboriginal individuals were aged 45 and over compared with 10.6% of non-Aboriginals.

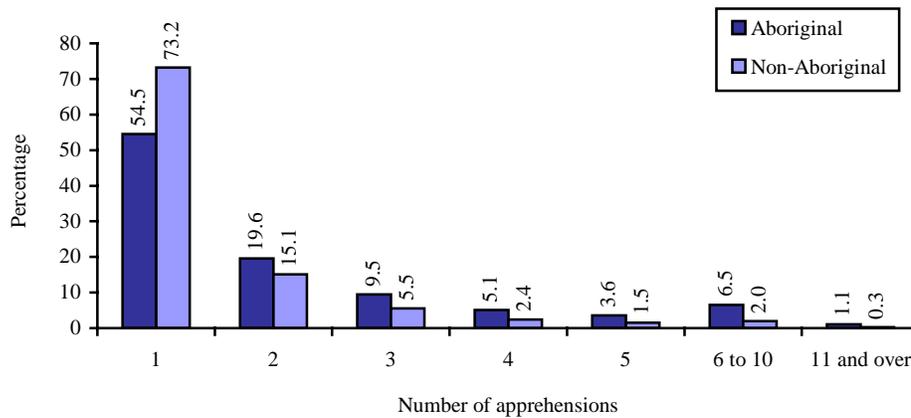
Figure 45 Discrete individuals apprehended by police in 2000: age by racial appearance



#### Number of apprehensions per individual

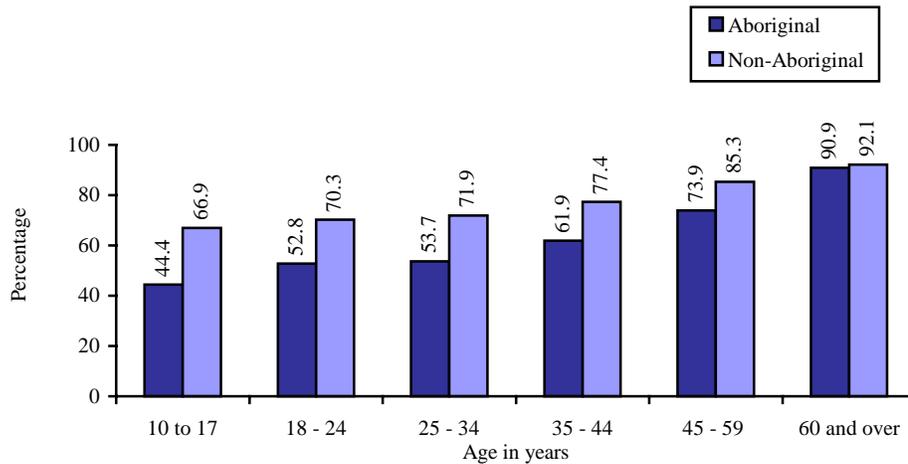
- Of the 35,756 persons apprehended in 2000, three quarters (74.6%) were apprehended on one occasion only during the twelve month period while a further 14.0% were apprehended on two occasions.
- A small group of individuals (887 or 2.5% of the total) were apprehended on six or more occasions, with 121 of these persons recording 11 or more apprehensions.
- There were no significant sex differences in the frequency of apprehension, with the overwhelming majority of both males and females being apprehended only once in 2000 (73.4% and 79.3% respectively).
- There were, however, some clear Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal differences in the number of apprehensions per individual. As indicated in Figure 46, a much lower proportion of Aboriginals were apprehended only once (54.5% compared with 73.2% of non-Aboriginals) while a higher proportion recorded five or more apprehensions in the 12 month period (11.2% of Aboriginals compared with 3.8% of non-Aboriginals respectively.)

Figure 46 Discrete individuals apprehended by police in 2000: number of apprehensions per individual by racial appearance



- While the majority of individuals were apprehended only once irrespective of age, it was found that younger individuals were more likely to experience multiple apprehensions than were older persons. Of those apprehended individuals aged 10 - 17, 68.9% experienced one apprehension only in 2000. At the other end of the scale, of those persons aged 60 and over, almost all (93.7%) were apprehended only once. This pattern held true for both males and females.
- While this finding also applied to persons of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal appearance, the proportion per age group who experienced one apprehension only was noticeably lower for Aboriginal than non-Aboriginal persons. As Figure 47 shows, less than one half (44.4%) of Aboriginal persons aged 10 - 17 years who came into contact with police in 2000 experienced one apprehension only compared with almost two thirds (66.9%) of 10 - 17 year old non-Aboriginals. At the other end of the scale, 73.9% of apprehended Aboriginals aged 45 - 59 experienced one apprehension only compared with 85.3% of non-Aboriginals in this age category.

Figure 47 Discrete individuals apprehended by police in 2000: proportion per age group experiencing one apprehension only by racial appearance



#### Number of charges per individual

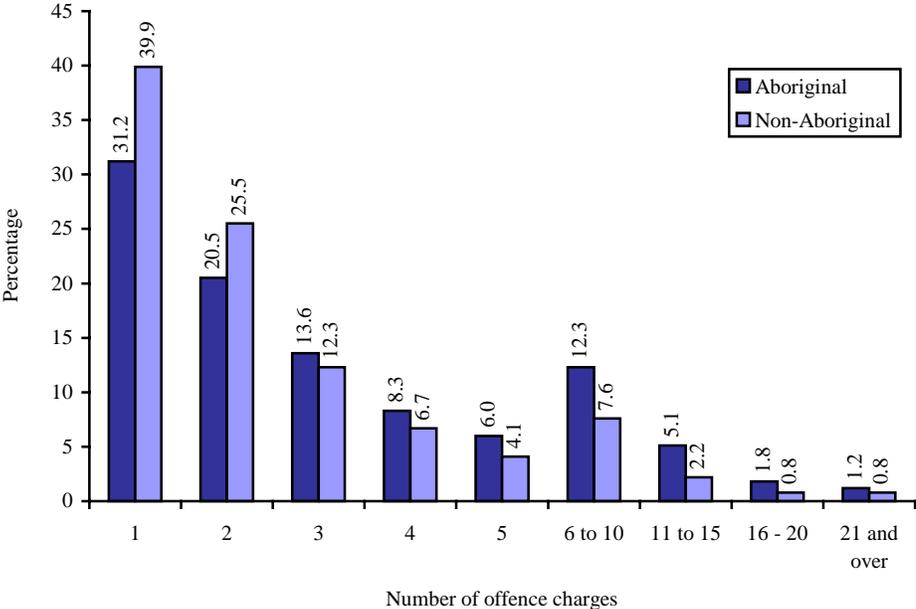
- Of the 35,756 distinct individuals apprehended by police in 2000, 14,795 or 41.4% were charged with one offence only, while a further 25.6% had two allegations laid against them. Only a small proportion (10.9%) were charged with six or more offences.
- There were some minor sex differences, with a slightly higher proportion of females facing one offence allegation only (47.4% compared with 39.9% of males).
- While very few individuals were charged with more than five offences, a significant finding emerges when the data are analysed in a different way. As indicated in Table 3, there were 14,795 individuals who, during the course of the year, were charged with one offence only. This means that in total, they accounted for 14,795 offences. In other words, 41.4% of all individuals apprehended in 2000 accounted for 14.4% of all offences recorded. However, at the other end of the scale, the 3,891 individuals who were charged with six or more offences accounted for 41,107 of the allegations laid. In other words, 10.9% of persons apprehended in 2000 were responsible for 39.9% of all charges laid by police. These results clearly indicate that in 2000, a comparatively small group of individuals accounted for a disproportionately large proportion of all allegations laid by police during this twelve month period.
- This pattern was very similar to that identified in 1999 when, at one end of the spectrum, 43.7% of individuals accounted for 15.8% of all allegations, while at the other end, 10.0% accounted for 37.9% of all charges.

Table 3 Proportion of individuals compared with proportion of offence charges accounted for by those individuals, 2000

14,795 persons @ 1 offence each = 14,795 offences	41.4% of all individuals apprehended accounted for 14.4% of all allegations
9,150 persons @ 2 offences each = 18,300 offences	25.6% of individuals apprehended accounted for 17.8% of all allegations
4,265 persons @ 3 offences each = 12,795 offences	11.9% of individuals apprehended accounted for 12.4% of all allegations
2,286 persons @ 4 offences each = 9,144 offences	6.4% of individuals apprehended accounted for 8.9% of all allegations
1,369 persons @ 5 offences each = 6,845 offences	3.8% of individuals apprehended accounted for 6.6% of all allegations
3,891 persons @ 6 + offences each = 41,107 offences	10.9% of individuals apprehended accounted for 39.9% of all allegations

- At the most extreme end of the scale, there were 538 persons charged with more than 15 offences. As would be expected, only a very small number of these (17 or 3.2% of the 538) were apprehended on only one occasion. In contrast, 401 persons or 74.5% of the total accumulated these offences during the course of six or more apprehensions.
- The number of offences alleged per individual varied according to racial appearance. As shown in Figure 48, a lower proportion of apprehended Aboriginal persons had only one offence alleged against them during the course of the year than was the case for apprehended non-Aboriginals (31.2% compared with 39.9% respectively). At the other end of the scale, 20.4% of apprehended Aboriginals faced six or more charges compared with only 11.4% of non-Aboriginals.

Figure 48 Discrete individual apprehended by police in 2000: number of offence charges by racial appearance



- Nevertheless, a similarly small proportion within each group accounted for a similarly high proportion of all offences. More specifically, 20.4% of all Aboriginal persons apprehended in 2000 accounted for 55.8% of all charges laid against this group by police, while 22.3% of all non-Aboriginals apprehended accounted for 56.8% of all non-Aboriginal charges (see Table 4).

Table 4 Proportion of individuals compared with proportion of offence charges accounted for by those individuals in 2000: an Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal comparison

<b>Number of offences per individual</b>	<b>Aboriginal persons apprehended</b>	<b>Non-Aboriginal persons apprehended</b>
1	31.2% of individuals apprehended accounted for 7.8% of all allegations	39.9% of individuals apprehended accounted for 13.5% of all allegations
2	20.5% of individuals apprehended accounted for 10.3% of all allegations	25.5% of individuals apprehended accounted for 17.2% of all allegations
3	13.6% of individuals apprehended accounted for 10.2% of all allegations	12.3% of individuals apprehended accounted for 12.5% of all allegations
4	8.3% of individuals apprehended accounted for 8.3% of all allegations	6.7% of individuals apprehended accounted for 9.1% of all allegations
5	6.0% of individuals apprehended accounted for 7.6% of all allegations	4.1% of individuals apprehended accounted for 6.9% of all allegations
6	20.4% of individuals apprehended accounted for 55.8% of all allegations	11.5% of individuals apprehended accounted for 40.8% of all allegations