

CRIME AND JUSTICE
IN
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
2001

-

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 2001.

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 2001, is the fifteenth *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*, *serious criminal trespass* 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 2001 Statistics

Police Incident Reports

- ***In 2001, 220,028 incident reports were submitted by police. This was 2.2% higher than the preceding year.***
- ***The majority (76.0%) of incident reports submitted in 2001 involved one offence only. The average number of offences per report was 1.34.***

Offences recorded by police

- In 2001, there were 293,877 offences recorded by police.
- *Offences against property* dominated, accounting for almost two thirds (63.0%) 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 2001, the number of offences recorded by police rose by 7.5%.
- With the exception of *other offences*, all major offence categories recorded an increase.
- The number of *offences against the person, excluding sexual offences* recorded by police increased by 5.3% in 2001, with the most recent figure being the highest so far recorded. Within this broad category, *other* (generally minor) *assault* increased (by 4.1%), as did *assault occasioning* (up by 12.5%).
- In 2001, *sexual offences* increased by 3.7%. Within this broad category, the number of recorded *rape* and *indecent assault* offences increased (by 9.3% and 3.4% 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 2001 increased slightly by 0.5%.
- The number of recorded *offences against property* increased by 6.8% in 2001. 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 *serious criminal trespass dwelling** offences declined by 12.4% in 2001 – the first decrease in this category since 1997.
- *Serious criminal trespass shop** increased in 2001 (by 18.0%), while *other serious criminal trespass* increased by 6.0%. However, because of a steady decrease in both these categories in the mid 1990s, numbers are still lower than those recorded in the early 1990s.
- *Larceny/illegal use of a motor vehicle* declined by 5.7% in 2001 (compared with a 12.2% increase in 2000). However, numbers are still considerably higher than the low point recorded in 1997.
- *Interfere with a motor vehicle* increased by 8.7% in 2001. Nevertheless, due to a substantial drop between 1993 and 1994, the 2001 figure is still lower than when data first became available in 1992.
- *Larceny from a shop* rose by 26.5% in 2001 (compared with 13.1% in 2000). However, the latest figure is still lower than the peak recorded in 1992.
- After increasing by 21.3% in 2000, the number of recorded *fraud and misappropriation offences* decreased by 20.3% in 2001.
- The number of total *damage property* offences increased by 11.5% in 2001. Numbers in this category are now higher than at any time previously.
- The number of recorded *driving offences* rose by 12.9% in 2001. This included:
 - a 5.3% increase in *dangerous, reckless or negligent driving*;
 - a 10.9% increase in *driving licence offences*;
 - a 17.4% increase in *motor vehicle registration offences*; and
 - a 9.5% increase in *drink driving and related offences*.

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.

* In calculating the 2001 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.

- The number of *drug offences* recorded by police in 2001 increased by 9.8%. While decreases were recorded for the sub categories of *possess and/or use drugs* and *possess drug implement* (down 15.3% and 26.4% respectively), substantial increases were recorded for *produce or manufacture drugs* (up 66.9%) and *possess for sale/sell drugs* (up 30.0%). As with *driving offences*, however, the number of such offences recorded in any given year is heavily dependent on police enforcement practices and legislative change. In particular, in 2001, the decrease in the number of *possess and/or use drugs* offences could be attributable to the introduction in September/October 2001 of the Police Illicit Drugs Diversion Initiative, and to the reduction, in November 2001, of the number of cannabis plants covered by the Cannabis Expiation Notice Scheme. The latter change could also account, at least in part, for the increase in the number of *possess for sale/sell drugs* offences.
- *Offences against good order* increased by 6.4% in 2001, with the most recent figure the highest recorded since figures became available in 1992.

Location of offences recorded

- In 2001, the Northern Statistical Division recorded the highest rate of *offences against the person* (26.3 per 1,000 population). This was considerably higher than any other statistical division, with the next highest rate recorded for Murray Lands (17.1) followed by Adelaide (16.4) and Eyre (15.8). The lowest rate of 8.4 offences per 1,000 population was recorded for the Outer Adelaide Division.
- The highest rate of *serious criminal trespass* in 2001 was recorded by the Adelaide Statistical Division (32.8 offences per 1,000 dwellings). This was slightly higher than the Northern Division (29.8), but considerably higher than the other Divisions (which ranged between 10.3 and 18.7 offences per 1,000 dwellings).

Clearance status of offences recorded by police

- Of the 293,877 offences recorded by police during 2001, 120,274 (40.9%) were cleared by the end of that year, while conversely, 59.1% remained uncleared.
- However, the clear up level varied depending on the type of offence involved, with the lowest recorded for *property offences* (15.3% cleared by the end of 2001), followed by *robbery and extortion* (27.7% 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 120,274 offences which were both reported and cleared in 2001, a further 3,859 offences reported to police in earlier years were also cleared in 2001. This gives a total of 124,133 offences cleared over the twelve month period.
- Of these 124,133 offences cleared, the majority (89.9%) were cleared by way of the apprehension or cautioning of a suspect. A very small proportion of offences (1.2%) were designated as cleared on the grounds that they were unfounded, while 8.1% 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 61.1% of *offences against the person* and 61.9% 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 (36.1% in the case of *offences against the person* and 32.4% 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 2001 there were 23,150 recorded victimisations directed against a person.
- Of those 22,993 victimisations where the sex of the victim was recorded, just over one half (52.6%) involved males, while conversely, 47.1% 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 2001 (21.2% and 24.8% 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 2001 while those aged 45 and over accounted for only 5.7%. In contrast, for *larceny from the person*, 39.5% of the victimisations

recorded in 2001 involved victims aged 45 and over while only 14.1% 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, while the highest proportion of female victims were aged 25 to 34 years. Similarly, for *larceny from a person*, the highest proportion of male victims were relatively young (with 42.3% aged 10 – 24). However, for female victims, just under 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 2001. Over this twelve month period, 19,842 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 2001 110,480 offence charges were laid by police via apprehension reports. This figure was 7.3% higher than in 2000. More than eight in ten of these charges were laid against males.
- Of those charges laid in 2001 where the age of the alleged offender was recorded, relatively few involved older individuals, with persons aged 60 and over accounting for only 1.2% of the total. In contrast, over one half of all charges (60.3%) were laid against persons in the 18 – 34 year age bracket.
- Just under one in seven charges laid in 2001 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 6.6% of *driving* charges but 38.3% of all *larceny/illegal use of a motor vehicle* charges.
- Of the 101,394 charges laid by police in 2001 where information on the racial appearance of the person was recorded, 11.8% involved persons of Aboriginal appearance. Again, however, this varied depending on the type of charge involved, with this group accounting for only 3.1% of all *drug offences* and 9.8% of all *sexual offences* cleared via apprehension, compared with 19.6% of all *robbery and extortion* offences and 27.7% of all *disorderly/offensive behaviour* charges.
- The 110,480 charges recorded in 2001 were contained in 57,808 separate apprehension reports. On average then, each apprehension report lodged

by police during this twelve month period contained 1.91 charges. Over the same time period, a total of 37,928 discrete individuals were apprehended, giving an average of 1.52 apprehensions and 2.91 charges per person in 2001.

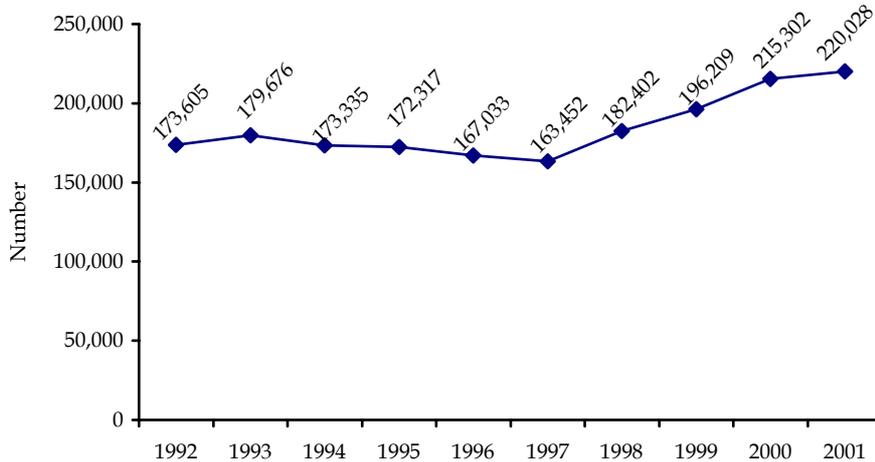
- Males accounted for the majority of apprehension reports lodged (81.4%) and the majority of discrete individuals apprehended during 2001 (79.9%).
- Persons of Aboriginal appearance constituted 11.9% of all apprehensions and 8.7% of all persons apprehended. Given that persons of Aboriginal descent constitute only 1.4% 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 37,928 discrete individuals apprehended in 2001, three quarters (74.5%) were apprehended only once during the 12 month period. However, there was a small group (834 or 2.2%) who were apprehended on six or more occasions, with 87 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 2001 compared with non-Aboriginal persons.
- In 2001, 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, 11.3% of persons apprehended in 2001 were responsible for 40.7% 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 2001 is presented graphically in Figure 1.¹

Figure 1 Number of incident reports submitted by police, 1992 to 2001



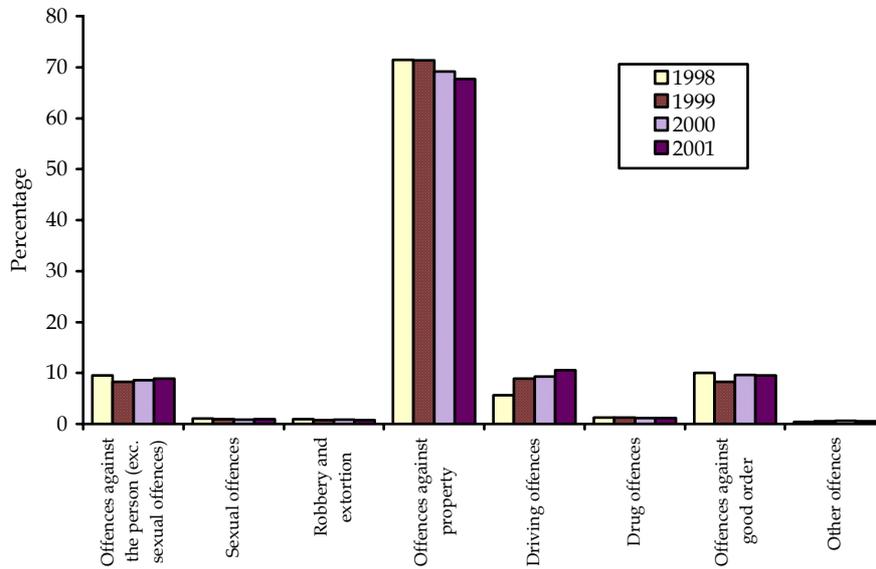
- In 2001 there were 220,028 incidents reported to police that resulted in the filing of a police incident report.
- As indicated in Figure 1, the number of incident reports submitted by police has increased each year since 1997.
- The 220,028 incident reports submitted in 2001 contained 293,877 offences representing an average of 1.34 offences per report.
- The overwhelming majority (76.0%) of incident reports submitted in 2001 involved one offence only, while only 0.2% 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

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

JANCO (see Appendix for explanation). For comparative purposes, data for 1998, 1999 and 2000 are also included in Figure 2.

Figure 2 Major offence recorded per incident report, 1998 – 2001.



- In 2001, the most serious offence listed in the majority of incident reports was an *offence against property* (67.7%).
- 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 in 10% or less of all incident reports.
- At the other end of the scale, very few incident reports involved either a *sexual offence* (0.9%) or *robbery/extortion* (0.7%).
- Figure 2 indicates that the pattern of recorded offending has remained relatively constant over time, with the major offences listed in the 2001 incident reports virtually the same as those recorded in 1998, 1999 and 2000. Across all four years, *offences against property* dominated.

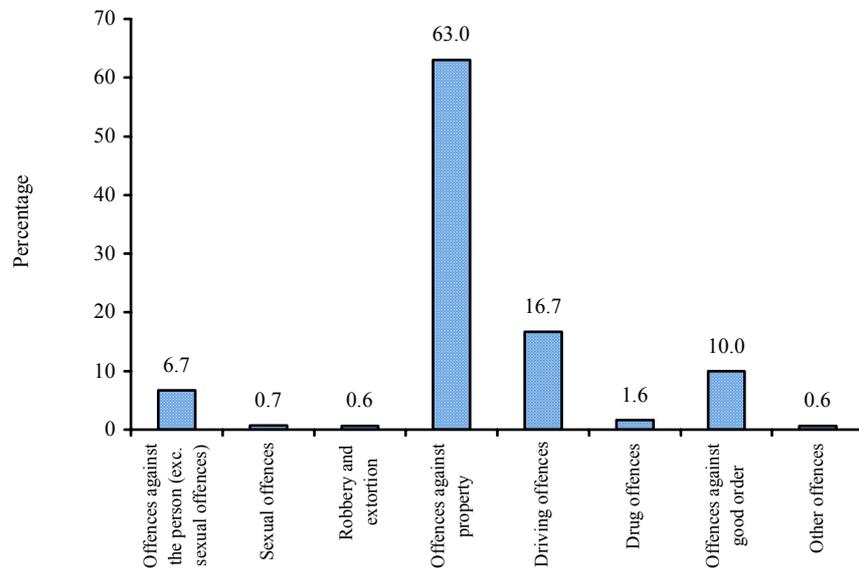
1.2 OFFENCES RECORDED BY POLICE

In the preceding section, information was presented on the number of incident reports submitted by police in 2001. The ensuing section details all offences and all offence counts recorded, irrespective of whether they arose from the same or different incidents. In 2001, a total of 293,877 offences were recorded.

Offences recorded by police in 2001: a profile

As shown in Figure 3 *Offences against property* dominated the 2001 offence profile, accounting for almost two thirds of offences recorded by police in this twelve-month period.

Figure 3 Distribution of offences recorded by police, 2001



As shown in Table 1, the 2001 offence profile was very similar to that observed in previous years.

Table 1 Offences recorded by police, 1999 to 2001

Offence group	1999		2000		2001	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Offences against the person (exc. sexual)	16,370	6.7	18,755	6.9	19,752	6.7
Sexual offences	1,786	0.7	1,938	0.7	2,010	0.7
Robbery and extortion	1,536	0.6	1,734	0.6	1,741	0.6
Offences against property	159,177	65.4	173,420	63.4	185,132	63.0
Driving offences	34,108	14.0	43,636	16.0	49,265	16.8
Drug offences	4,581	1.9	4,373	1.6	4,800	1.6
Good order offences	24,415	10.0	27,511	10.1	29,279	10.0
Other offences	1,421	0.6	2,017	0.7	1,898	0.6
Total	243,394	100.0	273,384	100.0	293,877	100.0

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 2001 the highest proportion of offences in this category involved *other assault* (72.4%). The more serious offences of *assault occasioning actual or grievous bodily harm* accounted for only 10.8% of all *against person* offences. In 2001 there were 29 *murders* and 24 *attempted murders* recorded by police.
- *Rape/attempted rape* and *indecent assault* each accounted for approximately one-third of the 2,010 *sexual offences* reported to police in 2001. The number of *unlawful sexual intercourse* offences was very small (10.2% of all *sexual offences* reported).
- *Unarmed robbery* accounted for two-thirds of the 1,682 *robbery* offences recorded by police in 2001. Of the 568 *armed robberies*, only 15.1% involved the use of firearm.
- *Larceny and receiving* accounted for just over half of the 185,132 *property offences* recorded in 2001.
- 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

2001 there were 354 *burglary/break and enter offences*² and a further 35,390 *criminal trespass offences*, giving a total of 35,744 offences in this broad category.

- Of the 42,218 *damage property offences* recorded in 2001, only 7.1% involved arson or the use of explosives. Of the remaining offences, the main targets were motor vehicles and dwellings (7.6% and 4.2% of all *property offences* respectively).
- *Fraud and misappropriation offences* accounted for only 3.6% of all *property offences* recorded in 2001. *False pretence offences* were the most dominant in this group, accounting for 3,839 or 2.1% of all *property offences*.
- Of the 49,265 *driving offences*³ recorded in 2001, half involved *motor vehicle registration offences*. A further 9.4% related to *exceeding the prescribed concentration of alcohol*, while 9.1% involved *dangerous, reckless or negligent driving*.
- Just under one-third of the 4,800 *drug offences* recorded in 2001 involved *produce or manufacture drugs*. Cannabis accounted for almost three-quarters of those offences where the type of drug was recorded. In contrast, opiates (mainly heroin) were involved in only 3.3%, while 'other' drugs (mainly amphetamines) accounted for 21.6%.
- A breakdown of *offences against good order* reveals a fairly even spread across a number of sub-categories, including *resist/hinder police* (17.2% of the 29,279 *against good order offences*), *offences against a court or court order* (16.7%), *unlawful possession of weapons* (10.8%), *disorderly behaviour* (11.3%), and *graffiti and related offences* (11.9%).

Shifts between 2000 and 2001

There were 293,877 offences recorded in 2001 compared with 273,384 in 2000, representing an increase of 7.5%.

A more detailed insight into the extent of change between 2000 and 2001 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.

² These were offences that occurred prior to 25/12/99, but were reported during 2001.

³ This figure excludes all traffic infringement notices.

As shown, the majority of offence types recorded an increase in 2001.

Table 2 Number of offences recorded by police, 2000 compared with 2001.

Offence	2000	2001	Percentage Change
<i>Offences against the person – total</i>	18,755	19,752	+5.3%
Assault occasioning	1,894	2,131	+12.5%
Other assault	13,736	14,306	+4.1%
<i>Sexual offences – total</i>	1,938	2,010	+3.7%
Rape*	632	691	+9.3%
Indecent assault *	651	673	+3.4%
Unlawful sexual intercourse*	179	205	+14.5%
Other sexual offences*	476	441	-7.4%
<i>Robbery – total</i>	1,674	1,682	+0.5%
Armed robbery*	587	568	-3.2%
Robbery with firearm*	88	86	-2.3%
Robbery with other weapon*	499	482	-3.4%
Other (unarmed) robbery	1,087	1,114	+2.5%
Unarmed robbery with violence*	583	506	-13.2%
Unarmed robbery without violence*	504	608	+20.6%
<i>Property offences – total</i>	173,420	185,132	+6.8%
Serious criminal trespass dwelling#	21,111	18,486	-12.4%
Serious criminal trespass shop#	4,111	4,851	+18.0%
Serious criminal trespass 'other'	11,702	12,407	+6.0%
Larceny/illegal use of motor vehicle	13,498	12,726	-5.7%
Interfere with motor vehicle	4,785	5,202	+8.7%
Larceny from shop	6,602	8,353	+26.5%
Receiving/unlawful possession	2,438	2,381	-2.3%
Fraud and misappropriation	8,399	6,693	-20.3%
Damage property	37,850	42,218	+11.5%
<i>Selected driving offences- total</i>	43,636	49,265	+12.9%**
Drink driving and related offences	5,530	6,056	+9.5%
Dangerous, reckless, negligent driving	4,278	4,503	+5.3%**
Driving licence offences	7,995	8,865	+10.9%**
Motor vehicle registration offences	21,170	24,844	+17.4%**
<i>Drug offences- total</i>	4,373	4,800	+9.8%
Possess and/or use drugs	1,677	1,421	-15.3%
Possess drug implement*	762	561	-26.4%
Fraudulent prescription offences*	114	123	+7.9%
Produce or manufacture drugs*	886	1,479	+66.9%
Possess for sale/sell drugs*	853	1,109	+30.0%
<i>Against good order</i>	27,511	29,279	+6.4%
Against a court or court order	4,821	4,887	+1.4%
Resist/hinder police	4,601	5,025	+9.2%
Unlawful possession of weapons	2,777	3,160	+13.8%
Trespass	1,905	2,085	+9.4%
Indecent/offensive language	1,193	1,115	-6.5%
Disorderly behaviour	2,787	3,294	+18.2%
Graffiti and related offences	3,129	3,493	+11.6%
<i>Other Offences</i>	2,017	1,898	-5.9%

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

The total includes a small number of break/enter offences that occurred prior to the introduction of serious criminal trespass offences in December 1999, but were reported in 2001.

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

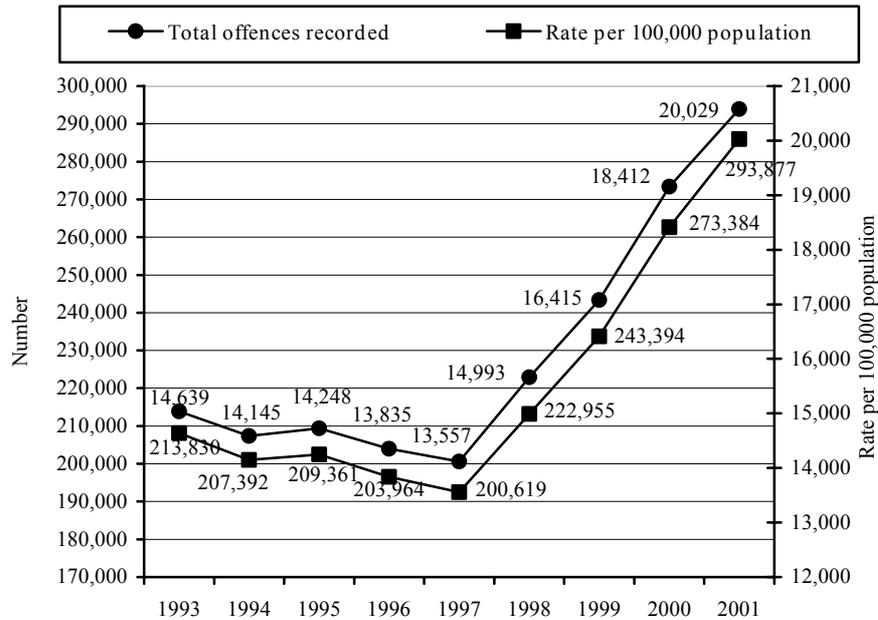
To provide a more accurate picture of longitudinal trends, the following section locates these recent shifts within a broader time frame.

Longitudinal trends

Total offences recorded by police, 1993 to 2001

Figure 4 depicts longitudinal trends in both the number of offences recorded and the rate of offences per 100,000 population for the period 1993⁴ to 2001.

Figure 4 Total offences recorded, 1993 to 2001



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 and 2001.

- As shown in Figure 4, over the nine-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 has increased sharply since 1997, with the result that by 2001 the number of

⁴ 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.

offences recorded was 46.5% higher than in 1997, and the rate per 100,000 was 47.7% higher.

In this section, longitudinal trends in selected offence categories are depicted.⁵

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 2001 being the highest for the period depicted.
- Despite a period of stabilisation between 1994 and 1997, and a pronounced dip in 1999, the overall trend for *other (generally minor) assault* has been upward.
- *Assault occasioning*, which has always accounted for only a small proportion of all *offences against the person* (10.8% in 2001) has also increased, with the result that numbers recorded in 2001 were more than three times higher than at the beginning of the period depicted.

⁵ While Figures 5 to 15 span a twenty year time frame (1982 to 2001), because of space limitations Tables 3.2 to 3.20 in this report only cover a thirteen year period (1989 to 2001). Data for the years 1982 to 1988 can be obtained from earlier *Crime and Justice* reports. In interpreting these graphs over the time frame depicted, 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. 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.

Figure 5 Selected offences against the person (excluding sexual offences), 1982 to 2001

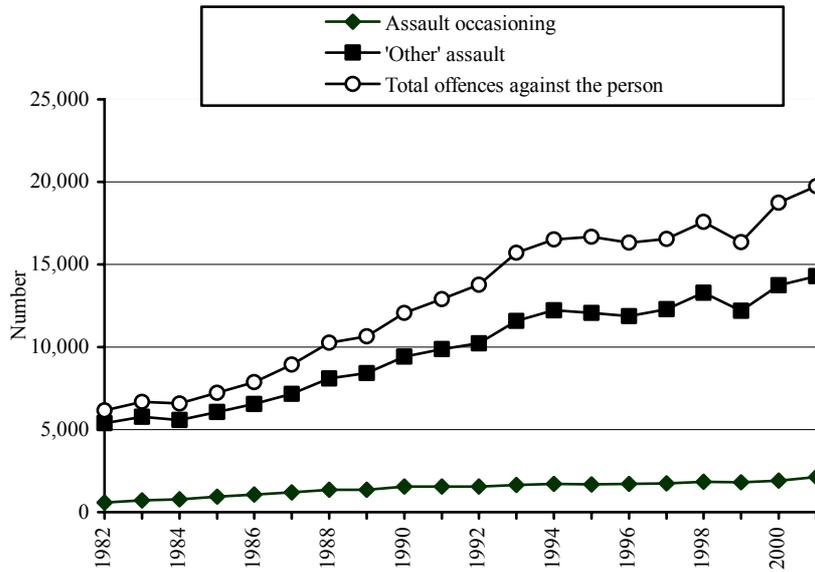
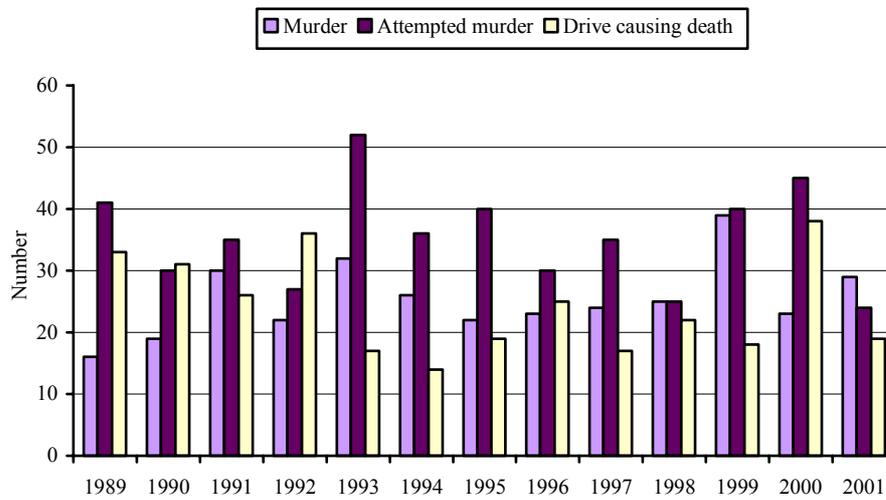


Figure 6 Number of murder, attempted murder and drive causing death offences recorded by police, 1989 to 2001.



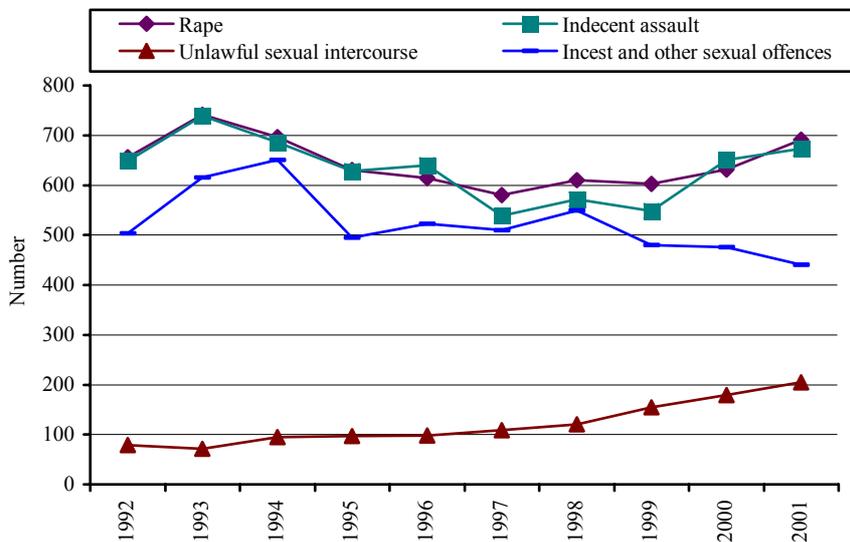
- As indicated in Figure 6, the number of recorded *murders, attempted murders* and *cause death by dangerous driving* offences have fluctuated considerably from one year to another over the period 1989 to 2001, but overall, have remained relatively low.

Sexual offences

Figure 7 shows longitudinal trends in selected *sexual offences*.⁶

- During the 1990s, the number of *sexual offences* declined (from 2,166 in 1993 to 1,786 in 1999). However, in 2000 and 2001, there was a reversal of this trend.

Figure 7 Sexual offences, 1992 to 2001



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, 2001 data can only be compared accurately with figures from 1992 onwards.

⁶ 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, 2001 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.

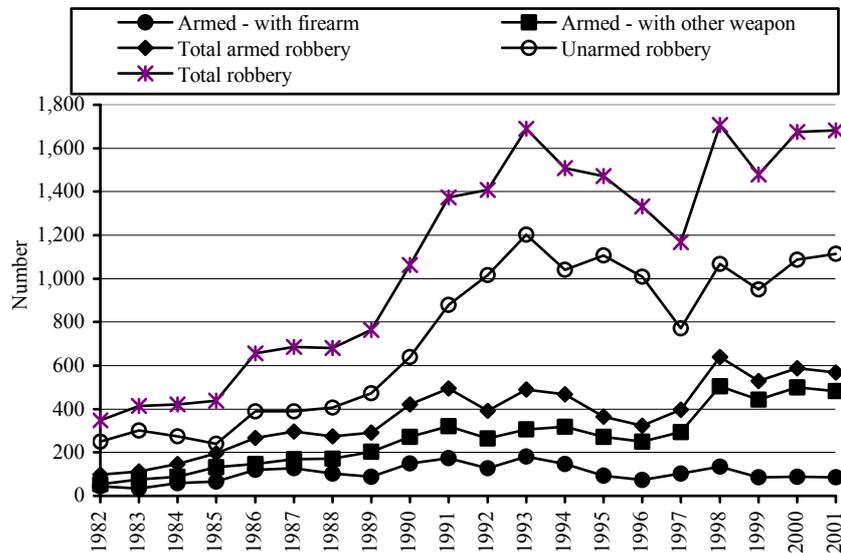
- The number of *rape* offences has shown a slight (albeit fluctuating) upward trend since 1997. However, numbers recorded in 2001 are still considerably lower than in 1993. A similar trend was evident for *indecent assault* offences.
- While the number of *incest and other sexual offences* has fluctuated considerably from one year to another, the number of offences recorded in 2001 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. Overall, however, numbers in this category are extremely low.

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 between 1982 and 1993. Despite subsequent fluctuations, the number of robberies recorded in 2001 is on a par with the two earlier peaks recorded in 1993 and 1998.

Figure 8 Robbery offences, 1982 to 2001

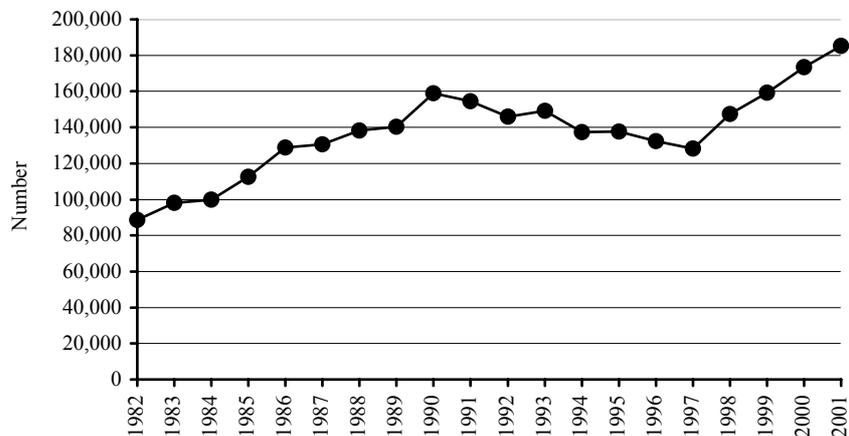


- Because the category of *other* (ie unarmed) *robbery* annually accounts for approximately two thirds of the *total robbery* offences, longitudinal trends in this category generally parallel those for *total robberies*.
- While the number of *armed robberies* declined slightly in 2001, the latest figures are still the third highest recorded in the period depicted.
- 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*.
- In contrast, the number of *robbery with firearm* offences decreased in 1999 and stabilised in 2000 and 2001. Recent figures are now considerably lower than the peak recorded in 1993.

Property offences

- In contrast to *sexual offences* and *robbery offences*, the number of *property offences* recorded by police each year is comparatively large (185,132 in 2001).
- As Figure 9 indicates, numbers in this category have increased steadily since 1997. As a result, 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 2001



Serious Criminal Trespass

Longitudinal trends for *serious criminal trespass* offences 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*.

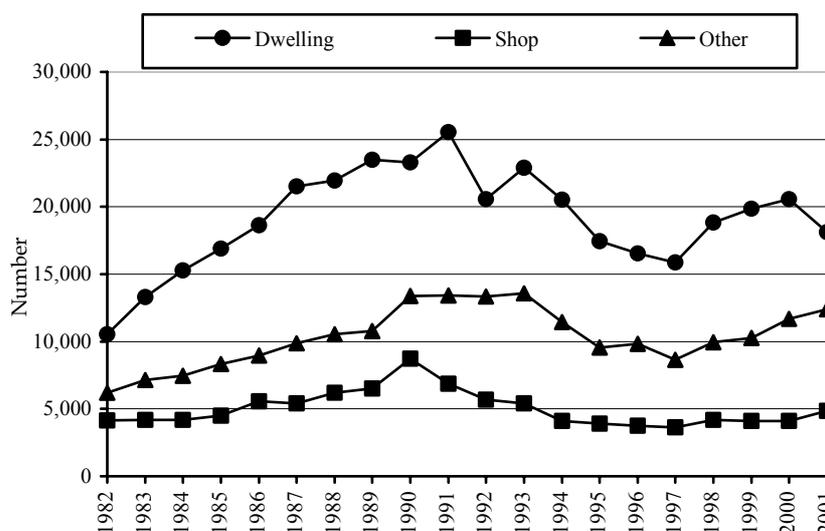
The two *serious criminal trespass* offences are further sub-divided into aggravated and non-aggravated, depending on whether an offensive weapon is used or whether there are multiple offenders. A third aggravating factor applies to *serious criminal trespass – place of residence*: namely whether another 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 2001 were classified as *criminal trespass offences*. However, there were some *break and enter offences* which, while reported in 2001, 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 Serious Criminal Trespass, 1982 to 2001

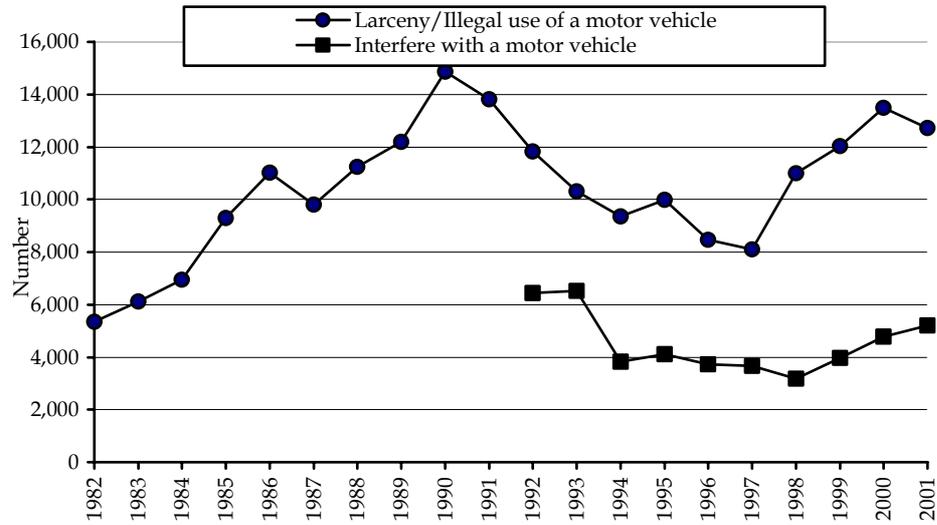


- As shown in Figure 10, there was a substantial decrease of 12.4% in the number of *serious criminal trespass dwelling* offences recorded in 2001—the first decrease since 1997. The latest figure is well below the levels recorded in the late 1980s and early 1990s.
- After a relatively stable period between 1994 and 2000, the number of *serious criminal trespass shop* offences increased by 18.0% in 2001. Despite this increase, the most recent figure is still considerably lower than those recorded during the late 1980s and early 1990s.
- *Serious criminal trespass ‘other’ offences* increased by 6.0% in 2001. The latest figure is now comparable with those recorded in the early 1990s.

Vehicle offences

- The number of *larceny/illegal use of a motor vehicle* offences decreased by 5.7% in 2001 – the first decrease recorded since 1997. Despite this decrease, due to increases between 1998 and 2000, the latest figures are still the fourth highest recorded in the period depicted.
- The number of *interfere with a motor vehicle* offences shows a clear upward trend since 1998, with numbers increasing again by 8.7% in 2001. The latest figure is 63.6% higher than the low recorded in 1997, although it is still below the peak of 1992 and 1993.

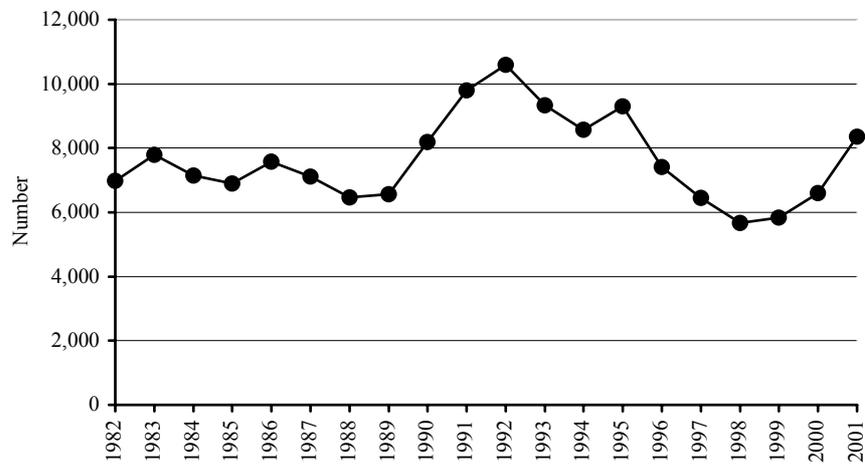
Figure 11 Larceny/illegal use of a motor vehicle and interfere with a motor vehicle, 1982 to 2001



Shop theft

- After a general downward trend between 1993 and 1998, the number of *shop theft* offences increased in 1999 and 2000, with a further increase of 26.5% recorded in 2001. However, the latest figure is still considerably lower than the peak recorded in 1992.

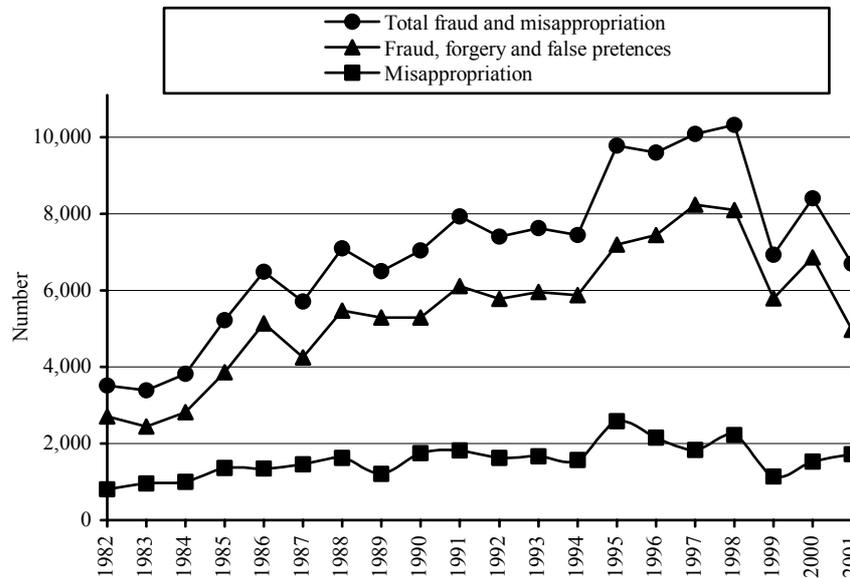
Figure 12 Shop theft, 1982 to 2001



Fraud and misappropriation

- As indicated in Figure 13, until 1998 the overall trend in the number of recorded *fraud and misappropriation* offences has been upward. However, in recent years numbers have fluctuated considerably. A 20.3% decrease was recorded in 2001, with the result that the most recent figure is the lowest since the 1980s.
- The trend for the sub-category of *fraud, forgery and false pretences* is generally similar to that of the total *fraud and misappropriation* category, with a substantial decrease of 27.6% recorded in 2001.
- *Misappropriation offences* account for only a relatively small proportion of total *fraud and misappropriation* matters (25.7% of the 2001 total). While an increase of 12.2% was recorded in 2001, the latest figure is well below the peak of 1995 and is generally comparable with numbers recorded in the early 1990's.

Figure 13 Fraud and misappropriation, 1982 to 2001



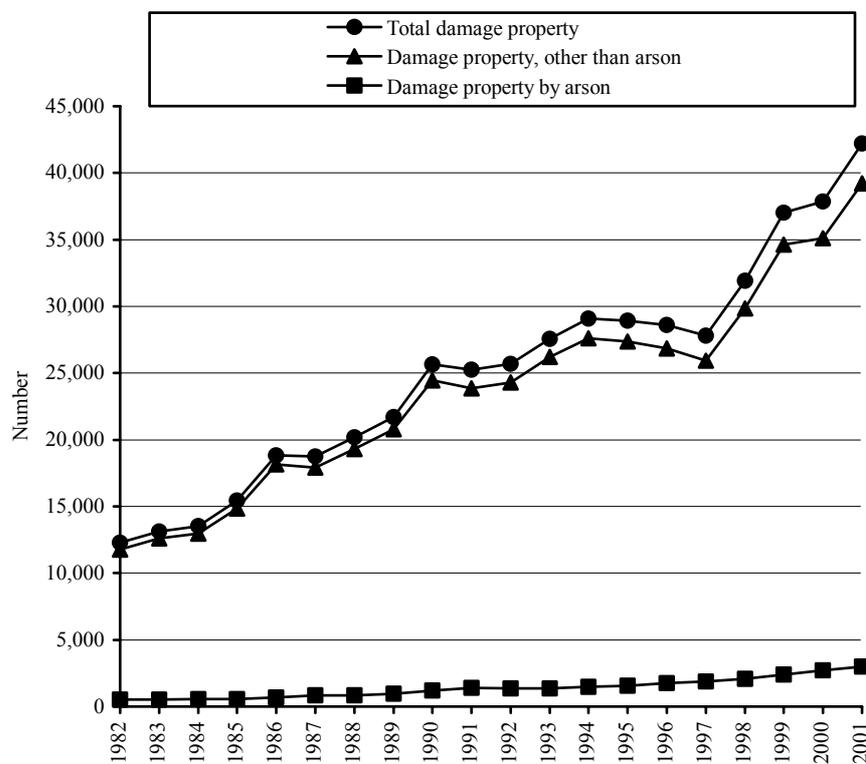
Damage property

- 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 a further increase of

11.5% recorded in 2001. As a result, the most recent figure is almost four times greater than that recorded 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.
- As was the case with other property offences, *damage property by arson* has also trended upwards over the past few decades. A further increase was recorded in 2001 although it should be noted that, compared with the other *property damage* category depicted, numbers still remain small.

Figure 14 Damage property, 1982 to 2001



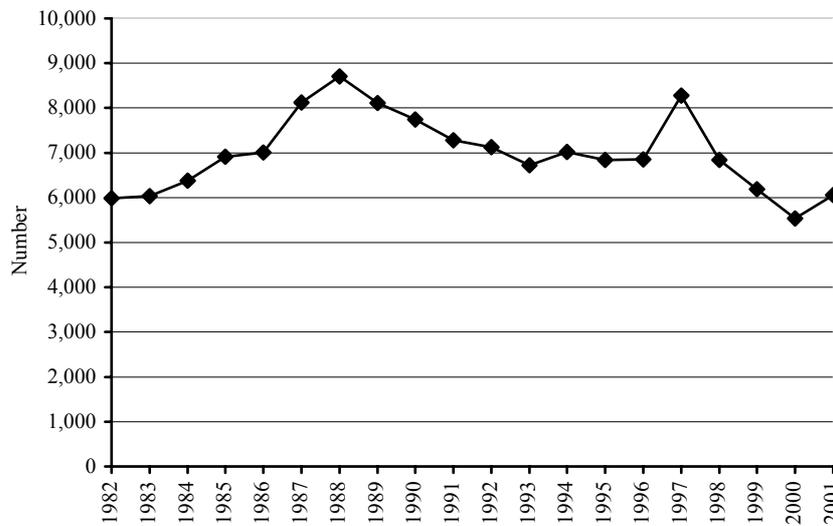
Drink driving and related offences

- Figure 15 illustrates the number of reported *drink driving and related offences* from 1982 to 2001. This category includes *driving under the*

influence, exceed the prescribed concentration of alcohol and refusing to give breath/blood sample. The figure recorded in 2001 was 9.5% higher than in 2000 – the first increase recorded since 1997. However, despite the latest increase, the number of offences recorded in 2001 was amongst the lowest for the twenty 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 2001

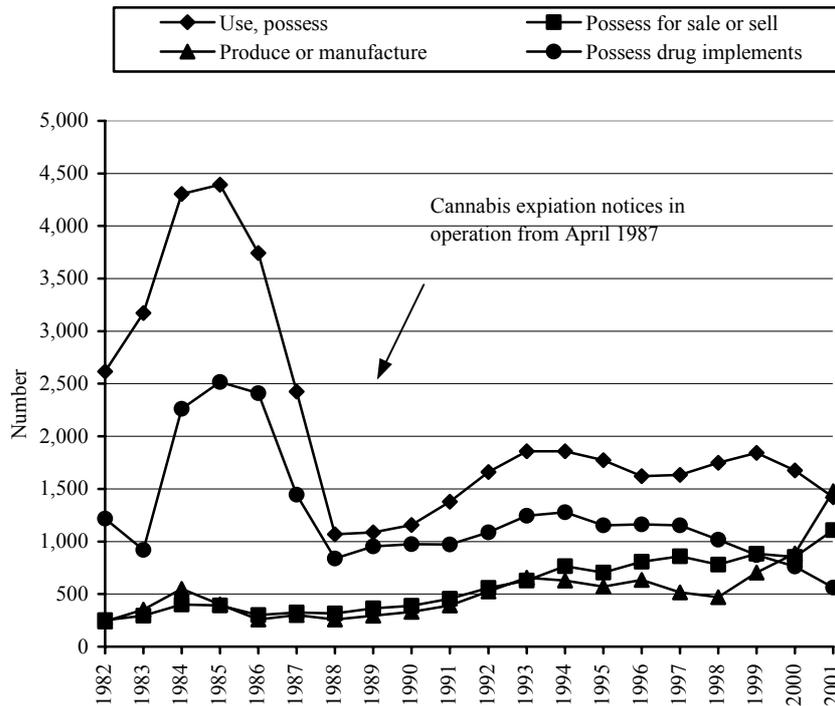


Selected drug offences

- 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.

- The number of *use/possess for use* offences decreased by 15.3% in 2001, with the result that the latest figure is the lowest recorded since 1992. This decrease may be attributed to two factors.
 - First, in September/October 2001, the Police Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative commenced operation. Under this scheme, adults and juveniles detected in possession of small amounts of illicit drugs, are not apprehended by police but instead are given educational material or diverted to assessment and treatment programs. While this Initiative impacts directly on the number of persons apprehended for a drug offence, it also affects the number of offences recorded because under SAPOL recording practices for victimless crimes such as drug offences, the lodgement of an Apprehension Report automatically generates a corresponding Incident Report.
 - Second, on 29th November 2001, the number of cannabis plants which a person could possess and still be eligible for a Cannabis Expiation Notice was reduced from three to one. This change meant that persons detected with two or three plants who would previously have been charged with simple possession was henceforth charged with *possess for sale*.
- The downward trend in the number of *possess drug implement* offences continued in 2001, with a further decrease of 26.4%. The latest figure is the lowest observed during the 20 years depicted.

Figure 16 Selected drug offences, 1982 to 2001

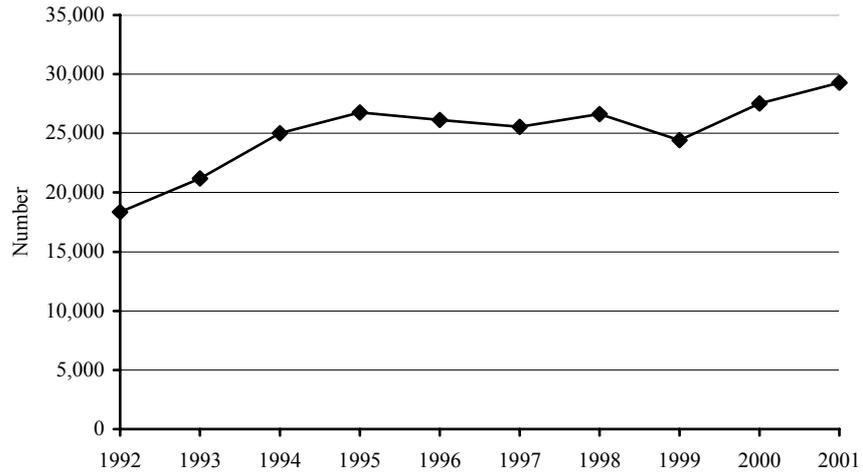


- The number of recorded *produce or manufacture drug* offences increased substantially in 2001 (by 66.9%) with the result that numbers are now higher than at any time over the 20 years depicted. Again, however, it should be stressed that numbers in this offence category are still comparatively low.
- Despite annual fluctuations, the number of *possess for sale or sell drug* offences recorded by police has been increasing steadily since the early 1980s, with a particularly strong increase in 2001. As noted above, this is partly due to the reduction in the number of cannabis plants covered by the Cannabis Expiation Notice Scheme. The 2001 figure is higher than at any time during the period depicted. However, as with *produce or manufacture drug* offences, it should be noted that overall numbers in this category are relatively small.

Offences against good order

- Data for total *offences against good order* (depicted in Figure 17) were not available for the years prior to 1992. The number of offences increased by 6.4% in 2001, the second successive annual increase after a relatively stable period between 1995 and 1998. As a result, the latest figure is the highest recorded in the years depicted.

Figure 17 Offences against good order, 1992 to 2001



Location of recorded offences

The number and rate of recorded crime occurring in South Australian Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Statistical Divisions is provided in Tables 3.21a and 3.21b of this report. It should be noted that these have been updated for the 2001 report to reflect changes to LGA boundaries in 1998. They are therefore not directly comparable with the tables published in previous reports. As a result of the changes to LGA boundaries, it is not possible to categorise some LGAs as 'metro' or 'country'. Accordingly, Table 3.21a includes all LGAs. However, to provide some indication of regional differences, a new table based on Statistical Divisions has been provided (refer Table 3.21b).

While rates provide a crude basis for comparison between areas 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/Statistical Division by the population of that LGA/Statistical Division as recorded by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing 2001. 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 region. As a result, the rate does not indicate the average risk for persons actually living within each LGA/Statistical Division. 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 *serious criminal trespass*, the rate is calculated by dividing the number of offences by the number of dwellings in each LGA/Statistical Division as at the 2001 Census. For some LGAs, particularly those that have experienced marked residential development in recent years, it is likely that offending rates for serious criminal trespass will be very different in 2001 to that included in the previous report. This is because the 2000 report calculated the rate based on the number of dwellings as at the 1996 Census.

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*).

Particular care should be taken when examining country rates, as some LGAs have small populations and few offences.

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

- In 2001, the LGA of Adelaide recorded the highest rate of offending per 1,000 population (1,387.0). This was followed by Pt Augusta (422.2), Ceduna (389.0), Pt Adelaide Enfield (290.0), Coober Pedy (283.5) and Playford (272.9).
- The LGA of Adelaide also had the highest rate of *offences against the person* (133.7 per 1,000 population). The LGA with the second highest rate was Pt Augusta (48.5), followed by Ceduna (46.0), Coober Pedy (45.7), Unincorporated (32.5) and Murray Bridge and Playford (both 26.7).
- In contrast to rates for *all offences* and *offences against the person*, the highest rate for *serious criminal trespass* was recorded by the LGA of Pt Augusta (81.3 per 1,000 dwelling). This was followed by Adelaide (74.2), Prospect (48.8), Pt Adelaide Enfield (48.3), Playford (45.7) and Charles Sturt (45.3).
- In 2001, the Adelaide Statistical Division (which approximately equates to the Adelaide Metropolitan Area) recorded an offending rate of 214.9 per 1,000 population. This was slightly lower than the 219.3 recorded for the Northern Division (which incorporates the subdivisions of Whyalla, Pirie, Flinders Ranges and Far North) but more than double that recorded for the Yorke and Lower North Statistical Division (109.7).
- The Northern Statistical Division also recorded the highest rate of *offences against the person* (26.3 per 1,000 population). This was considerably higher than any other statistical division, with the next highest rate recorded for Murray Lands (17.1) followed by Adelaide (16.4) and Eyre (15.8). The lowest rate of 8.4 offences per 1,000 population was recorded for the Outer Adelaide Division, which includes the subdivisions of Barossa, Kangaroo Island, Mt Lofty Ranges and Fleurieu.
- The highest rate of *serious criminal trespass* in 2001 was recorded by the Adelaide Statistical Division (32.8 offences per 1,000 dwellings). This was slightly higher than the Northern Division (29.8), but considerably higher than the other Divisions (which ranged between 10.3 and 18.7 offences per 1,000 dwellings).

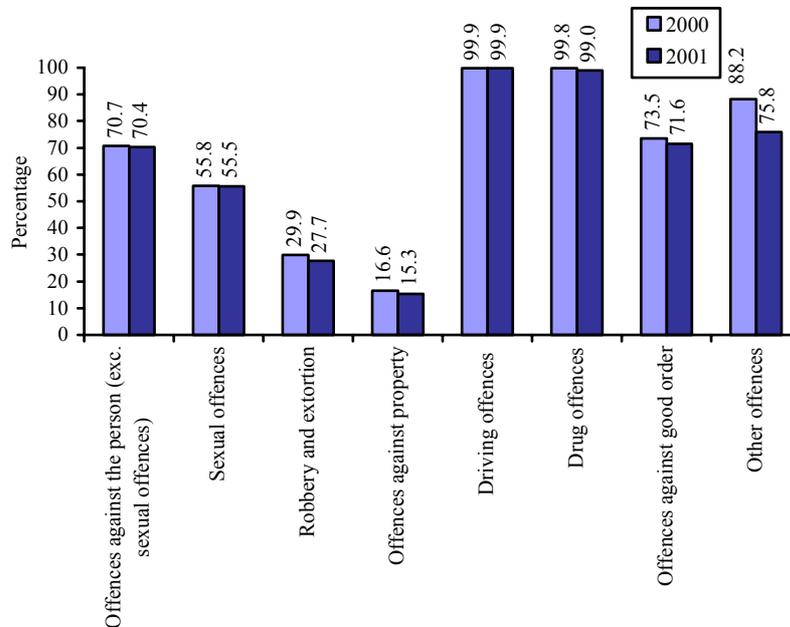
Table 3.22 in this report shows the locations with the highest number of motor vehicle thefts in 2001. Of the top twenty 'hot spots', seven were within the square mile of the city of Adelaide while one adjoined the city. Outside the city, shopping areas featured prominently in the list, including Marion Shopping Centre, Tea Tree Plaza Shopping Centre, Noarlunga City Centre/Colonnades, Elizabeth City Centre, Arndale Shopping Centre and West Lakes Mall/Football Park. The area recording the greatest number of vehicle thefts was Rundle Mall/North Terrace, with 214 recorded thefts in 2001. This was followed by Adelaide Parklands (192 thefts), the Arndale Shopping Centre (150) and the Tea Tree Plaza Shopping Centre (134).

1.3 CLEARANCE STATUS OF OFFENCES

Clearance status of offences recorded by police in 2001

- During 2001, of the 293,877 offences recorded by police, 120,274 (40.9%) were cleared by the end of the same year while conversely 59.1% remained uncleared.
- The proportion of offences cleared in 2001 was slightly less than in 2000, when 41.5% of the 273,384 offences reported that year were also cleared that year.
- As in 2000, the clear up level for those offences reported in 2001 varied considerably depending on the type of offence involved.

Figure 18 Percentage of offences per offence group recorded and cleared in the same year: 2000 and 2001



- As shown in Figure 18, the lowest clear up level was recorded for *property offences* (15.3% cleared by the end of that year), followed by *robbery and extortion* (27.7%). Just over one half of the *sexual offences* recorded by police in 2001 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

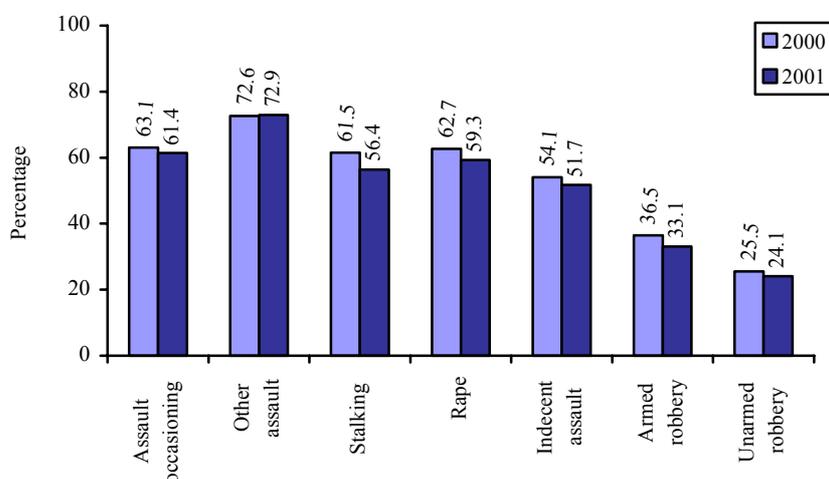
is to be expected given that police normally detect these offences at the time of their commission by the perpetrator.

- With the exception of *other offences* clear up levels remained relatively stable between 2000 and 2001. The level of clear-up for *other offences* was 12.4% lower in 2001 than in 2000.

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*, 2000 and 2001.



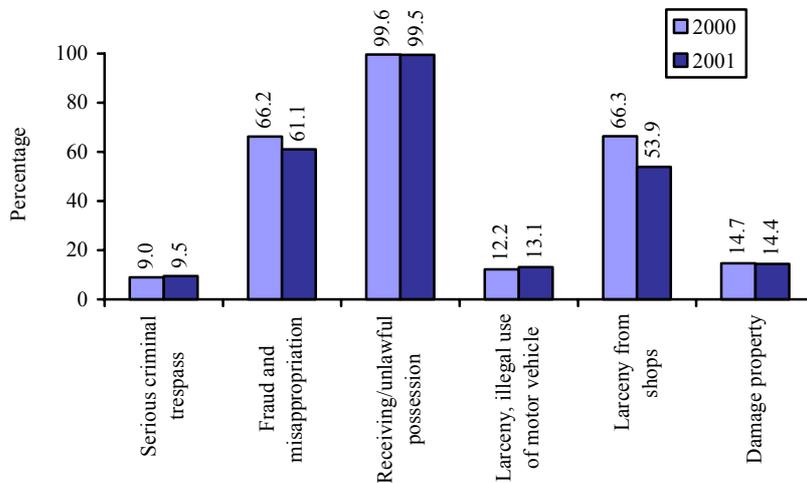
- As was the case in 2000, the clear up rate for *other assault* in 2001 was slightly higher than that for *assault occasioning actual or grievous bodily harm*. Similarly the clear up level for *rape* was higher than that for *indecent assault*. Overall, these rates were considerably higher than those recorded for either *armed* or *unarmed robbery*.
- There was little or no difference in the clear up levels between 2000 and 2001 for the offences of *other assault, assault occasioning* and *unarmed robbery*. For the other offences depicted, clear up levels were lower in 2001 than in 2000.

- While the numbers are too small to graph, of the 29 *murders* reported to police in 2001, 27 were cleared while two remained unclear at the end of the year. Of the 24 *attempted murders*, 15 were cleared by the end of the year. Of the 19 *drive causing death* offences reported in 2001, 17 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 2001.

Figure 20 Percentage of offences recorded and cleared in the same year: clear up levels for selected *property offences*, 2000 and 2001.



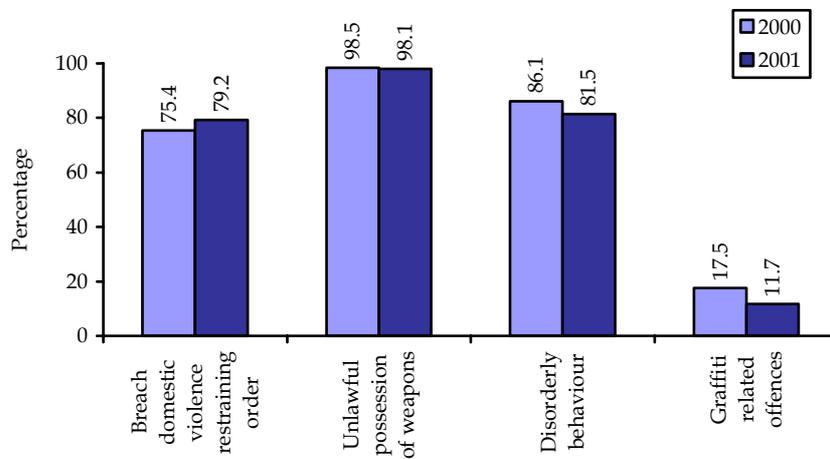
- Clear up levels varied considerably depending on the type of *property offence* involved. *Serious criminal trespass* offences had the lowest clear up level, followed closely by *larceny, illegal use of a motor vehicle* and *damage property*.
- At the other end of the scale, virtually all *receiving/unlawful possession* offences were cleared while just over half of *shop larcenies* and two-thirds of *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 were lower in 2001 than in 2000 for *fraud and misappropriation* and *larceny from shop* offences, but similar for the other offences depicted.

Offences against good order

Figure 21 shows the clear up level for selected *offences against good order* in 2000 and 2001.

Figure 21 Percentage of offences recorded and cleared in the same year: clear up levels for selected *offences against good order*, 2000 and 2001.



- As indicated, within the broad *offences against good order* category, clear up levels varied from a low of 11.7% for *graffiti and related offences* to 98.1% for *unlawful possession of weapons*.
- While there was an increase in the clear up rate for *breach domestic violence restraining order* offences in 2001, the rate was lower for *disorderly behaviour* and *graffiti and related offences*.

Total offences cleared in 2001

- As noted earlier, of those 293,877 offences recorded by police in 2001, 120,274 had been cleared by the end of the year. In addition, a further 3,859 offences were cleared which had been recorded by police prior to 2001. This gives a total of 124,133 offences cleared during the 12 month period.
- For each of the key offence categories, the majority of offences cleared in 2001 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 14,501 *offences against the person* cleared in 2001, only 4.2% were recorded prior to 2001, while for *sexual offences*, *robbery offences* and *property offences*, the proportion was 8.1%, 6.2% and 8.1% respectively. Of the 49,238 *driving offences* cleared in 2001, only seven involved a pre-2001 offence.

Method of clearance

- Of the 124,133 offences actually cleared in 2001, the majority (111,639 or 89.9%) were cleared by way of the apprehension or cautioning of a suspect.
- Also included, for the first time in 2001, were *larceny from shop* allegations that were cleared by the issuance of a Shop Infringement Notice. These Notices were introduced by the *Shop Theft (Alternative Enforcement) Act 2000*, which came into force on 11th November, 2001. Under the legislation, in certain circumstances, a police officer may issue a Shop Theft Infringement Notice instead of charging an alleged offender with larceny.
- A very small proportion of offences (1.2%) 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 10,106 (8.1% of all offences cleared), the victim requested that the police take no further action. Finally, 0.7% 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 61.1% of *against person* offences were cleared by this method, as were 61.9% of *sexual offences*. In addition, 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 (36.1% of *offences against the person* and 32.4% of *sexual offences* compared with only 10.7% 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 2001 by offence group

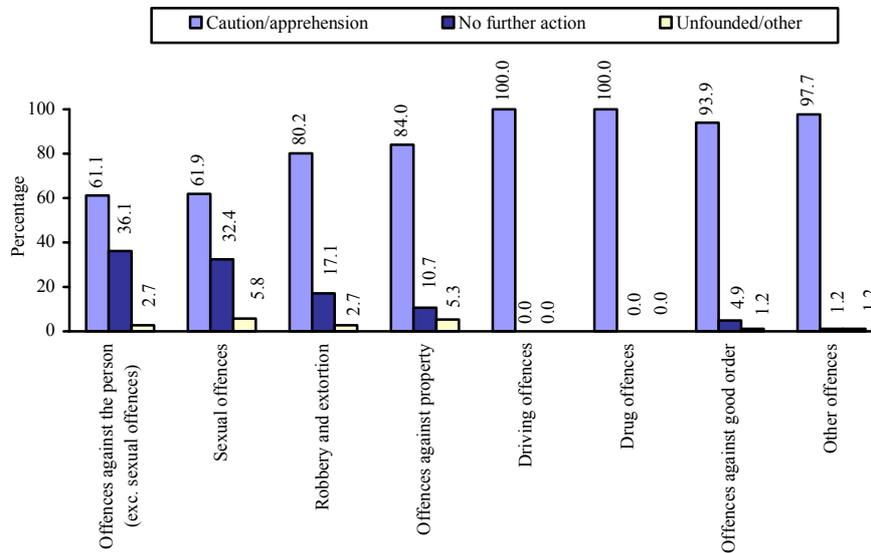
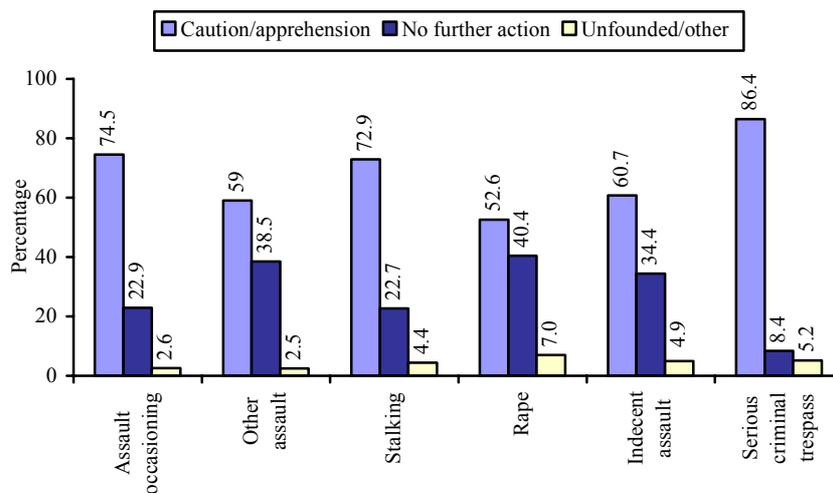


Figure 23 Method of clearance for selected against person and sexual offences cleared in 2001

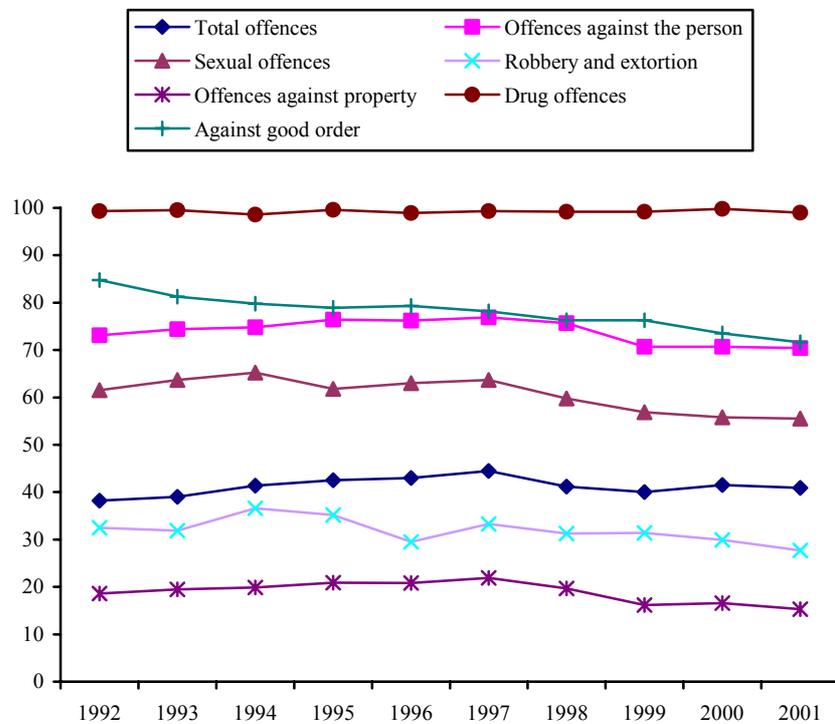


- Figure 23 gives a further breakdown of clearance methods for selected *against person* and *sexual offences*. A comparatively high proportion of reported *rapes*, *other assaults* and *indecent assaults* cleared in 2001 involved the victim withdrawing the allegation (40.4%, 38.5% and 34.4% respectively, compared with 22.7% of *stalking* offences and 22.9% of *assault occasioning grievous or actual bodily harm*).
- For comparative purposes, the method of clearance for one property offence - *serious criminal trespass* – has also been included. As shown, the proportion cleared by way of apprehension in 2001 was extremely high while the proportion where the victim withdrew the allegation was low.

Longitudinal trends in level of clearance

The clearance data discussed in the previous section relate primarily to offences recorded in the 2001 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 2001. 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 2001, of all offences recorded in the years 1992 to 2001. 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 2001.

Figure 24 Percentage of offences cleared as at 31 December 2001 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%.

- 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, 2001 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 2001 compared with 70.4% of those reported in 2001.
- A similar finding applied to *robbery and extortion*, with 32.5% of such offences reported in 1992 being cleared by the end of December 2001 compared with only a slightly lower figure of 27.7% of those reported in 2001.
- Of the seven offence groups depicted, the ‘drop off’ in the clearance level for matters reported in 2001 compared with earlier years was most pronounced for *against good order* where clearance levels dropped from 84.8% in 1992 to 71.6% in 2001.
- Overall though, allowing for the shorter time available to clear offences reported in 2001 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 2001. 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 use 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.
- **Discrete 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 12,626 victims of *other assault*. This means that during 2001, 12,626 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.
- **Discrete 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 449 victims aged 0–9 years who, during 2001, 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.

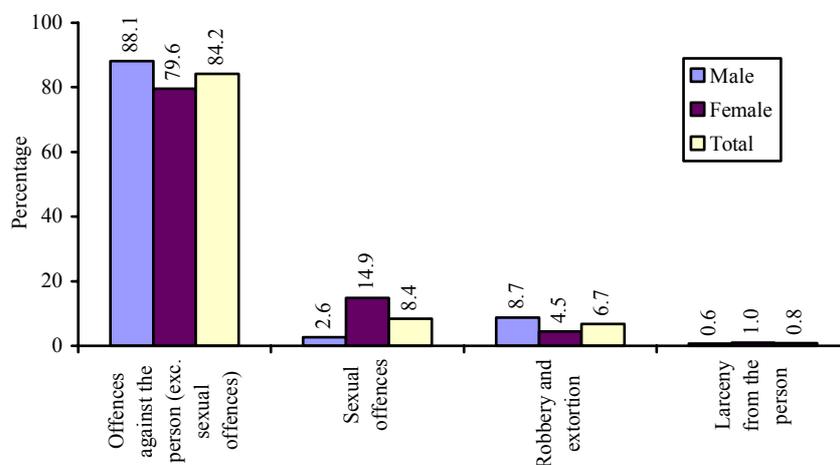
- **Discrete individuals.** Finally, in the bottom right hand corner of each table is a single figure which details the total number of discrete individuals who, during the course of the year, were victimised at least once, irrespective of their age or the category of offence involved. In Table 5.1a for example, there were 16,813 discrete individuals who, during 2001, 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 2001 there were 23,150 recorded victimisations directed against a person (ie property offences, or incidents directed against a corporation or other body are excluded).

Figure 25 Offences involving a ‘personal’ victim: offence type by sex, 2001

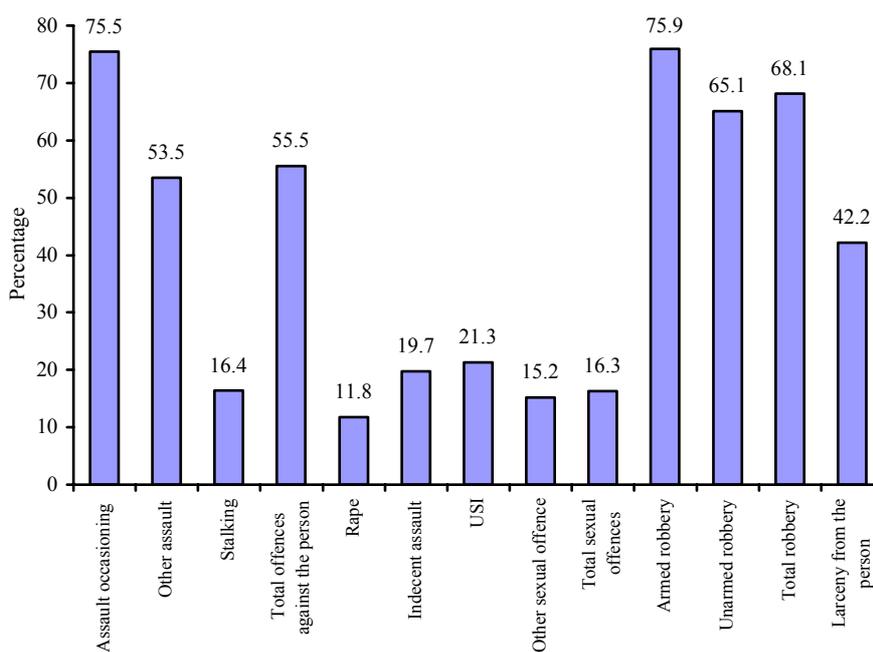


- Of those 22,993 victimisations where the sex of the victim was recorded, 52.9% involved males while conversely, 47.1% involved females. The fact that there was a fairly even distribution of males and females amongst

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 2001 for allegedly committing offences.

- As indicated in Figure 25, of the 23,150 victimisations perpetrated against an individual, over eight in 10 involved an *offence against the person*. In contrast, *sexual offences* accounted for only 8.4% of personal victimisations, while *robbery and extortion* constituted 6.7% and *larceny from the person* made up 0.8%.
- 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* or *robbery*. In contrast, proportionately more female than male victimisations involved a *sexual offence*. Very few males or females were subjected to a *larceny from the person*.
- As shown in Figure 26, males were markedly over-represented in the categories of *assault occasioning grievous or actual bodily harm* and all forms of *robbery*.

Figure 26 Offences involving 'personal' victims recorded by police: males as a proportion of all recorded victimisations by selected offence type*, 2001.



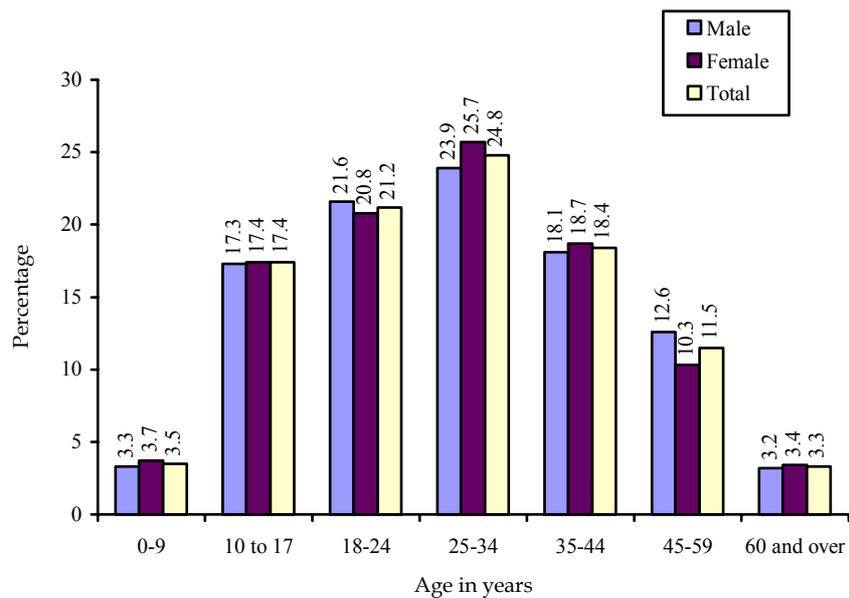
*Offence types with relatively small numbers have been excluded.

- In contrast, males were under-represented as victims of *stalking*, all forms of *sexual assault* and *larceny from the person*.
- Of the 29 *murders* recorded by police in 2001, just under half of the victims were male (n=13). Males were also the victims of 19 of the 24 *attempted murders* recorded that year and 13 of the 18 victims of *drive causing death*.

Age profiles

The following section reports on the age profiles of victims involved in ‘personal’ victimisations recorded by police in 2001. 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 2001 would be counted three times within the 25-34 age group.

Figure 27 Personal victimisations recorded by police in 2001: age by sex of victims

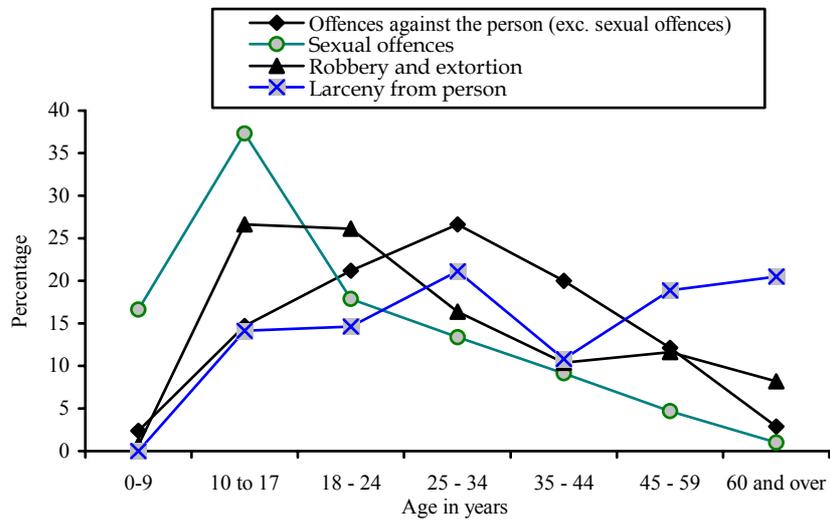


- As shown in Figure 27, persons in the mid age ranges of 18 – 24 years and 25 – 34 years accounted for the highest proportion of ‘personal’ victimisations reported to police in 2001 where age was known, while the very young and the elderly accounted for relatively small proportions.

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 range of 25 - 34 years, with only a very small proportion aged 0 – 9 or 60 years and over.

Figure 28 Personal victimisations recorded by police in 2001: age profile of victims by offence type

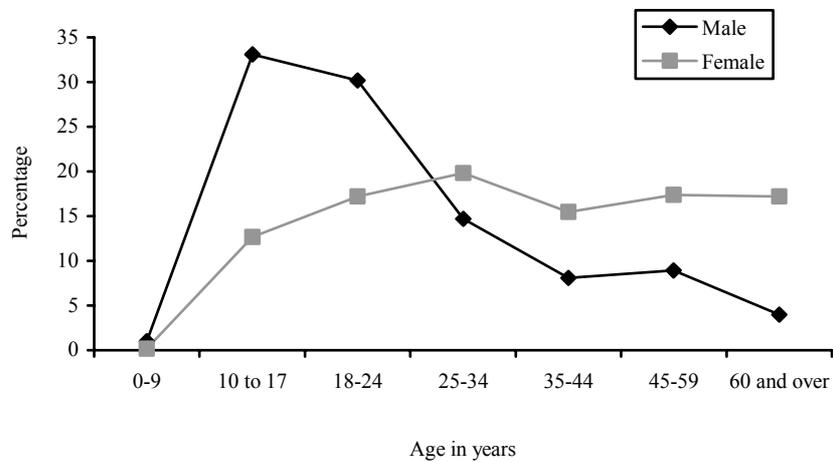


- For *sexual offences*, the peak age was 10 – 17 years, with persons in this category accounting for just over one third of *sexual offence* victimisations recorded by police in 2001 where age was recorded. A further 16.6% were aged 0 – 9 years. In total then, over one half of all recorded *sexual offence* victims were young people aged less than 18 years. In contrast, the older age groups of 45 years and over accounted for only 5.7% 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 of victims fell within the 10 – 17 year age group in 2001. 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*.

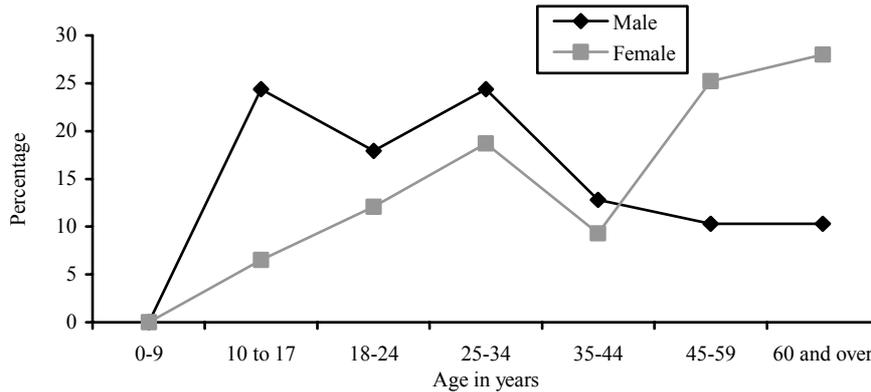
- The age profile of persons subject to a reported *larceny from the person* was different again. Compared with the other offence types shown, the proportion of victims aged 45 years was much higher. For this type of offence then, it is the elderly who are more likely to be targeted than younger persons, probably because of their vulnerability.
- 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 category. For male victims, from the age of 17 onwards as age increased so the proportion of victims decreased. In contrast, the highest proportion of female victimisations fell within the 25 to 34 year age group. While the proportion of female victimisations in the age ranges over 35 years was lower than that for the 25 to 34 age group, the decrease was minimal compared with that shown for male victimisations.

Figure 29 *Robbery and extortion* victimisations recorded by police in 2001: age profile of victims by sex



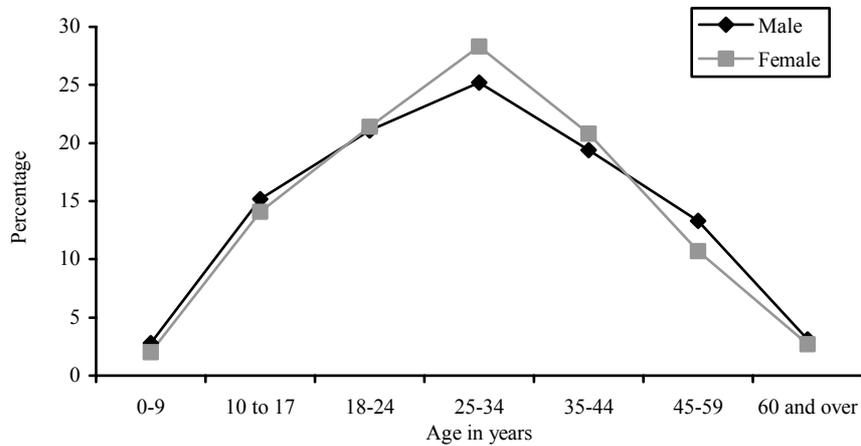
- As indicated in Figure 30, for *larceny from the person*, the highest proportion of male victims fell within the younger age categories. In contrast, the highest proportion of female victims was in the oldest category 60 years and over. This tends to confirm the anecdotal evidence that older women are the most vulnerable to *larceny from the person* offences (notably bag snatches).

Figure 30 *Larceny from the person* victimisations recorded by police in 2001: age profiles of victims by sex



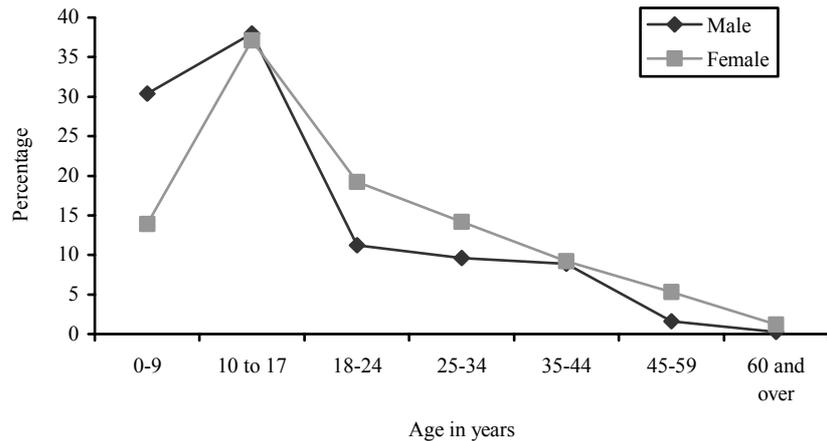
As depicted in Figure 31, the age profile for male victims of an *offence against the person* was very similar to that of female victims.

Figure 31 *Offences against the person* victimisations recorded by police in 2001: age profile of victims by sex



- As shown in Figure 32, the age profile of male victims of a sexual offence was generally similar to female victims, although a much higher proportion of male victims fell within the youngest age group of 0 – 9 years and there was a lower proportion in the age categories between 18 and 34 years.

Figure 32 *Sexual offence* victimisations recorded by police in 2001: age profile of victims by sex



Discrete individuals and the extent of revictimisation

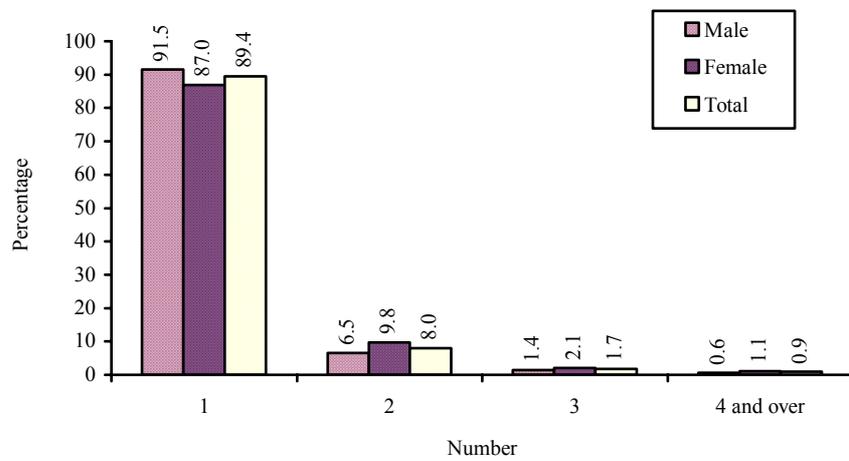
The information provided in the preceding sections do not relate to the number of discrete individuals victimised during 2001. In determining the age profiles outlined above, for example, a victim who was subjected to more than one *sexual offence* during the year and who changed age brackets from one 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 2001 there were 19,842 individuals who, during the course of the year, were subject to at least one ‘personal’ offence. This figure was 4.7% higher than the 18,953 victims recorded in 2000.
- Of the 19,769 individuals for whom sex was recorded, 10,768 (54.5%) were male while 9,001 (45.5%) 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 (10.6%) were listed as the victims in two or more incident reports.

- Overall then, the level of repeat victimisation was extremely low. However, there were 27 individuals who were the subject of six or more incident reports during 2001.
- 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.

Figure 33 Number of incident reports per victim by sex, 2001



1.5 APPREHENSIONS

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

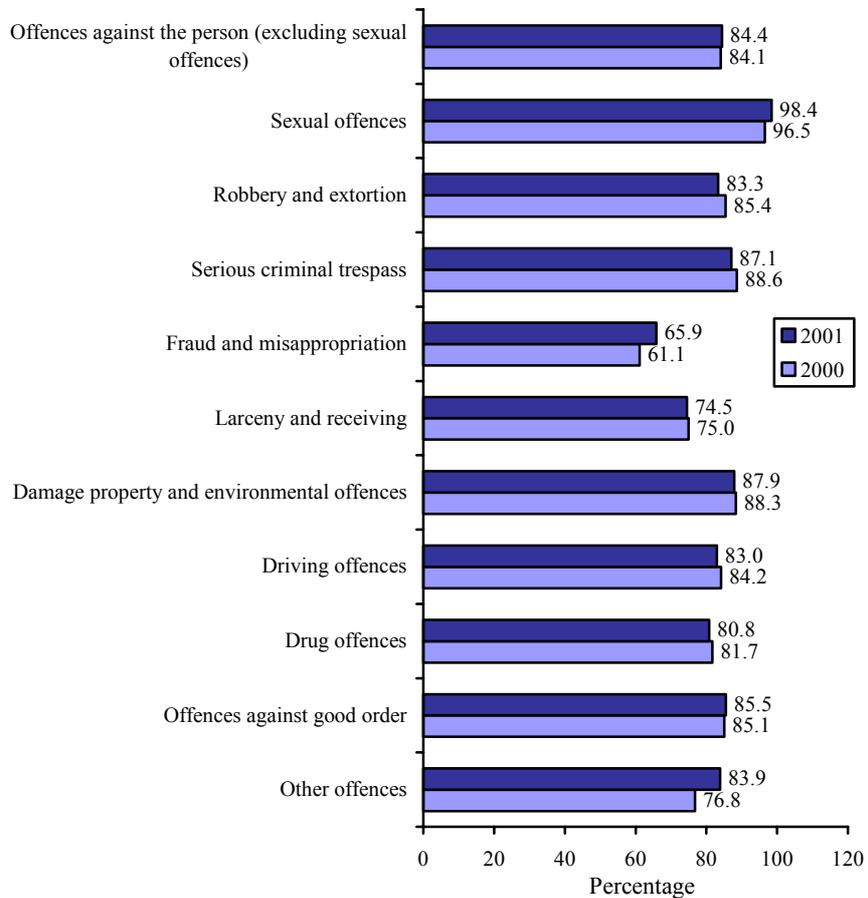
In the following analysis of apprehension data, several different units of analysis are used. In the first section below, information is presented on all charges laid. However, unlike the counting rules used in the tables contained in Section 3 and 4 of the report, this does not include multiple counts 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

- In 2001 110,480 offences were cleared by way of an apprehension report. This figure was higher (by 7.3%) than the 102,986 offences cleared via apprehension in 2000.
- As was the case in previous years, more than eight in 10 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 98.4% for *sexual offences*.
- While only a minority of charges were laid against females, this group accounted for 25.5% of all *larceny and receiving* offences charged (including 44.3% of all *larcenies from shops*) and 34.1% of all *fraud and misappropriation* charges.
- The proportion of males involved in offences cleared via apprehension remained relatively stable between 2000 and 2001 for all offence groups.

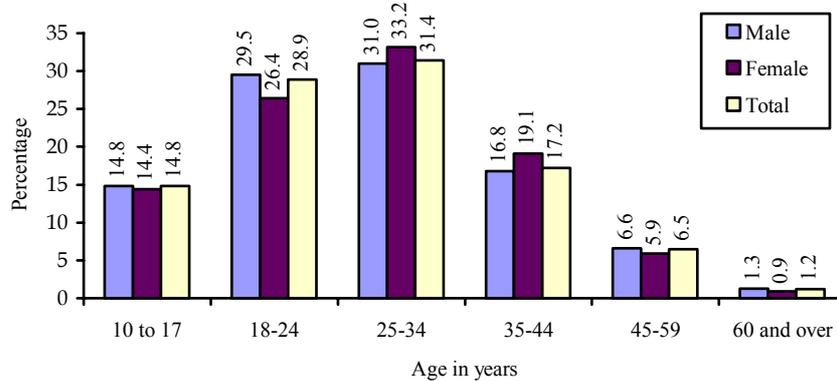
Figure 34 Charges laid by police in 2000 and 2001: proportion per offence type involving males



- Of the 110,421 charges listed in the apprehension reports filed in 2001 where the age of the alleged offender was recorded, relatively few involved older individuals. In contrast, over one half of all charges were allegedly committed by persons in the 18 - 34 year age group.

- Figure 35 shows that overall, there were very few age differences between males and females involved in those offences cleared in 2001 by way of an apprehension. For both groups, those aged 18 - 24 and 25 - 34 years dominated. Similarly, relatively few males or females were aged 45 years and over.

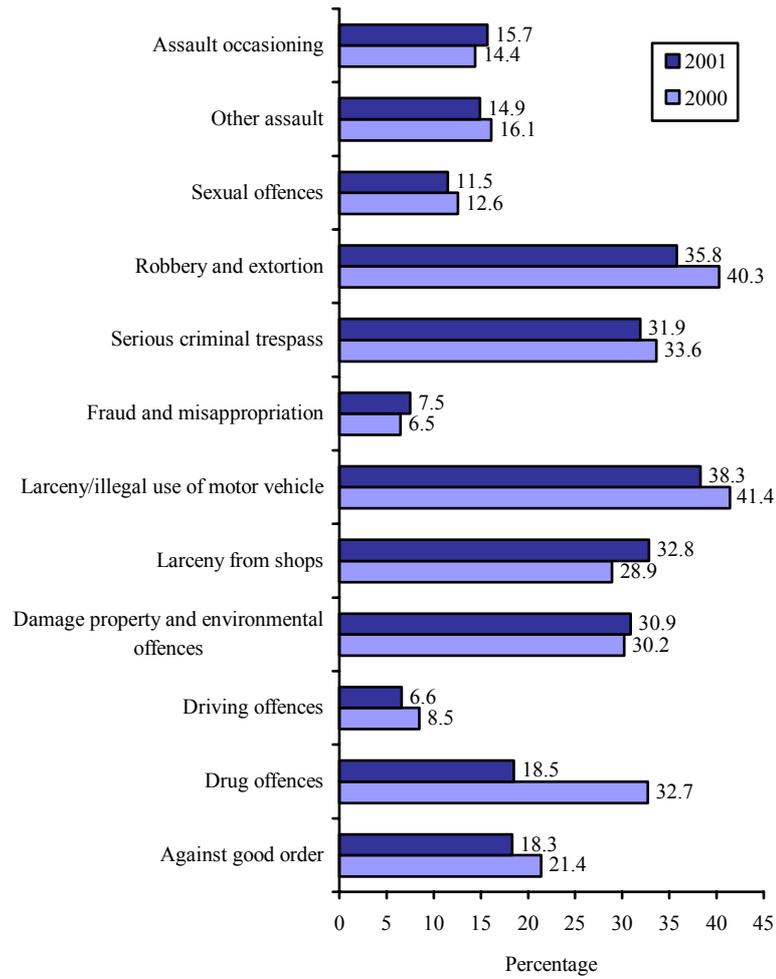
Figure 35 Charges laid by police in 2001: age of alleged offenders by sex



- 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 6.6% of all *driving offences* cleared by way of apprehension and 7.5% of all *fraud and misappropriation* charges. At the other end of the scale, they were involved in 35.8% of all *robbery and extortion* charges. This age group also accounted for 31.9% of all *serious criminal trespass* charges, 33.6% of all *larceny* charges (including 38.3% of all *larceny/illegal use of motor vehicle* offences) and 30.9% of all *property damage and environmental* charges.
- Juveniles also accounted for 18.5% of apprehensions for *drug offence*. 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 51.9% of all *use/possess cannabis* charges and 61.9% of all charges involving the *possession of a drug implement*, they were involved in only 4.7% of *use/possess opiate or other drug*, 5.3% of *possess for sale or sell drugs* and only 1.6% of *produce/manufacture drugs* charges.
- 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: 2000 compared with 2001

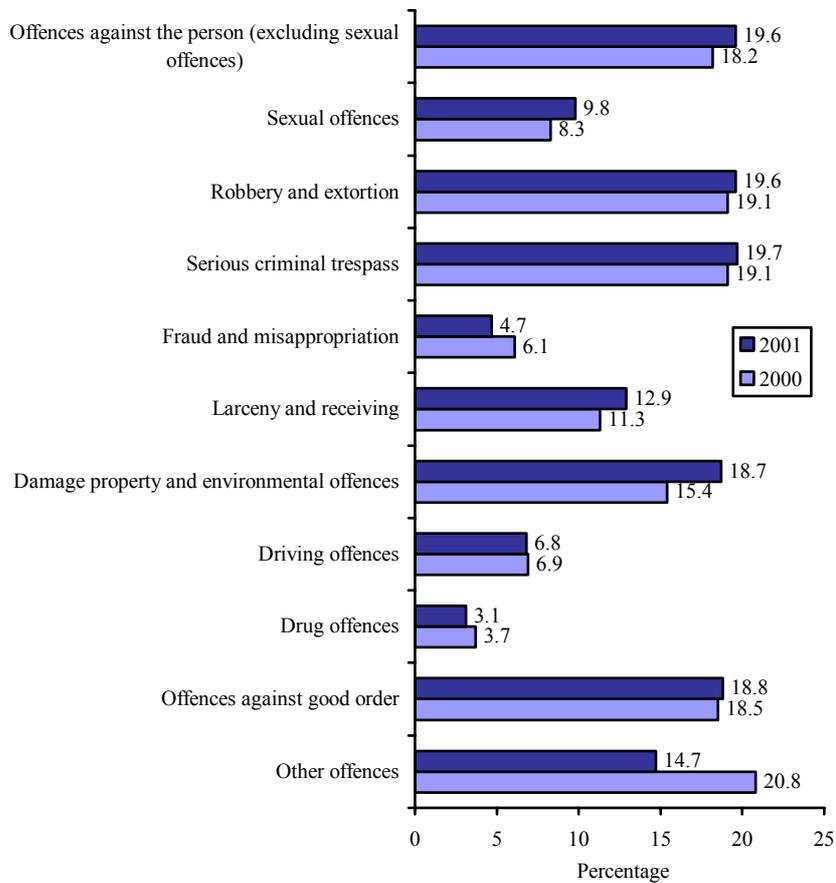


- The proportion within each offence category cleared by way of a juvenile apprehension in 2001 was generally similar to that recorded in 2000 for most offences (see Figure 36), although some differences were evident. In 2001, there was an increase in the proportion of *larceny from shop* offences attributed to juveniles, while a slightly lower proportion of *larceny/illegal use of a motor vehicle* offences and *against good order* offences involved juveniles compared with 2000. There was also a more substantial drop in the proportion of *robbery and extortion offences* and *drug offences* cleared by way of a juvenile apprehension.

Offences cleared in 2001 by way of an apprehension: racial appearance of persons charged.

- Information on racial appearance was available for 101,394 or 91.8% of the 110,480 charges laid by police in 2001.
- Of these 101,394 charges, 12,018 (11.9%) involved persons considered by police to be of Aboriginal appearance. This points to a significant over-representation of Aboriginal persons within the South Australian criminal justice system, given that this group constitutes only 1.4% of all persons aged 10 years and over resident in this State in 2001.
- 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 2000 and 2001: proportion per offence category involving persons of Aboriginal appearance

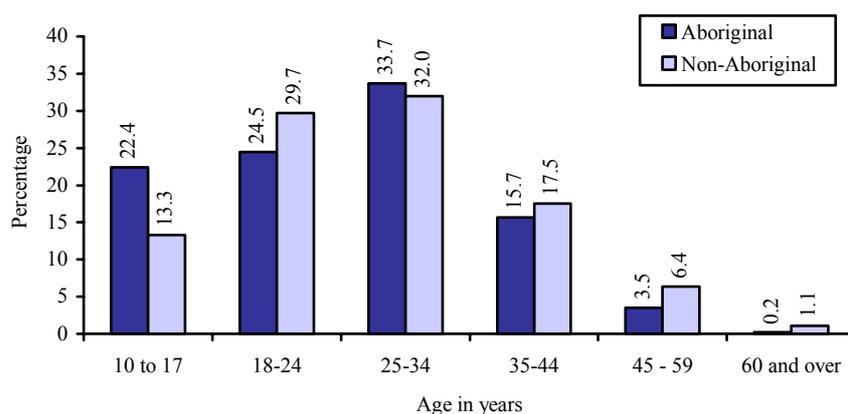


- Overall, the proportion of offences involving Aboriginal persons was relatively similar to those recorded for most offence types in the previous year. The only differences of note were the lower proportion of Aboriginal persons charged with *other* offences in 2001 compared with 2000 and the higher proportion of Aboriginal persons charged with *damage property and environmental* offences.
- One offence category where Aboriginal persons have always been over-represented is that of *offences against good order*. In 2001 persons of Aboriginal appearance accounted for 18.8% 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 9.0% of *unlawful possession of weapons* charges laid

and 10.7% of *graffiti and related* charges. At the other end of the scale, this group accounted for 25.7% of all *indecent/offensive language* charges, 27.7% of all *disorderly/offensive behaviour* charges and 19.5% 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 2001 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. In contrast, a lower proportion of offences alleged against Aboriginals in 2001 involved persons aged 18 to 24 years and 45 years and over.

Figure 38 Charges laid by police in 2001; age by racial appearance

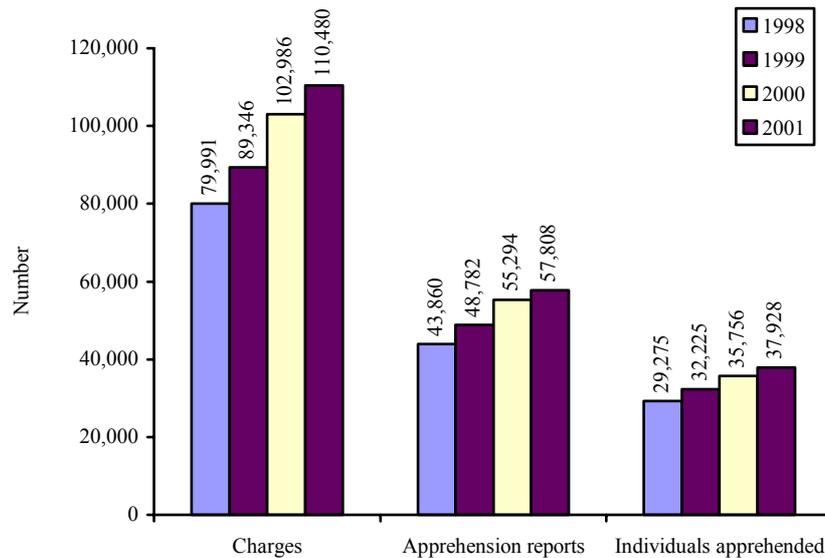


Relationship between charges laid, apprehension reports filed and discrete persons apprehended

- As noted earlier, there were 110,480 charges recorded in 2001. These were contained within 57,808 apprehension reports. This means that, on average, each apprehension report lodged by police during this twelve month period contained 1.91 charges.

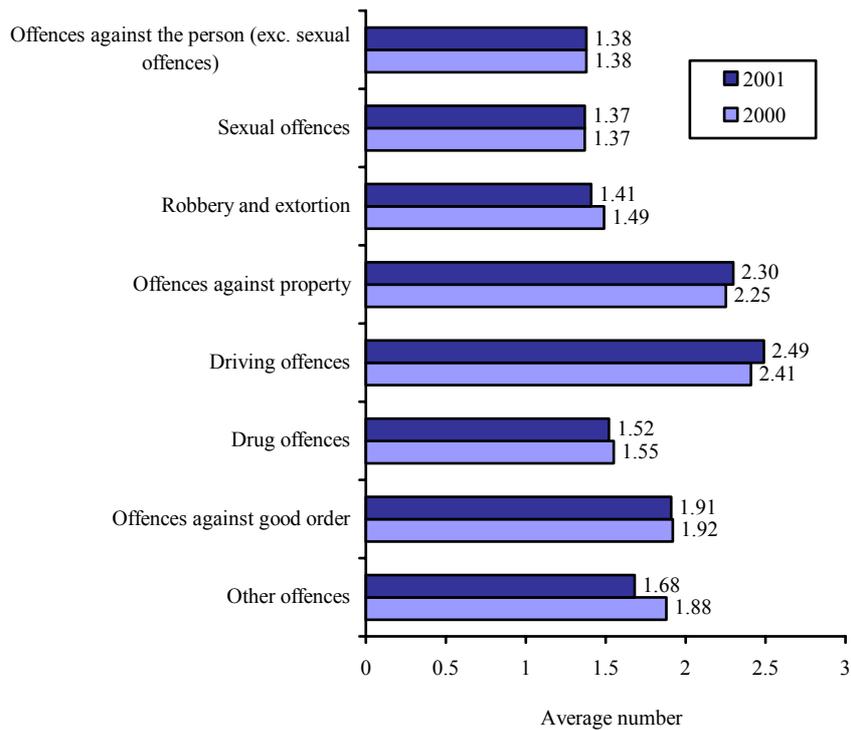
- Over the same time period, a total of 37,928 discrete individuals were apprehended. On average then, each person was apprehended 1.52 times, with an average of 2.91 charges laid per individual over the twelve month period.
- As indicated in Figure 39, the number of charges laid in 2001 was higher than in 2000, 1999 and 1998 (by 7.3%, 23.7% and 38.1% respectively). Similarly, the number of apprehension reports submitted and the number of individuals apprehended by police in 2001 were also higher than in the previous three years.
- Overall, the average number of charges per apprehension report and per individual recorded in 2001 were slightly higher than those recorded in the previous year(s), namely:
 - 1.91 charges per apprehension report in 2001 compared with 1.86 in 2000, 1.83 in 1999 and 1.82 in 1998;
 - 2.91 charges per individual in 2001 compared with 2.88 in 2000, 2.77 in 1999 and 2.73 in 1998.
- In contrast, the average number of apprehension reports per individual was marginally lower in 2001 (1.52 compared with 1.55 in 2000, 1.51 in 1999 and 1.50 in 1998).

Figure 39 Number of apprehension reports and discrete individuals apprehended: 2001 compared with 1998, 1999 and 2000.



- 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.)

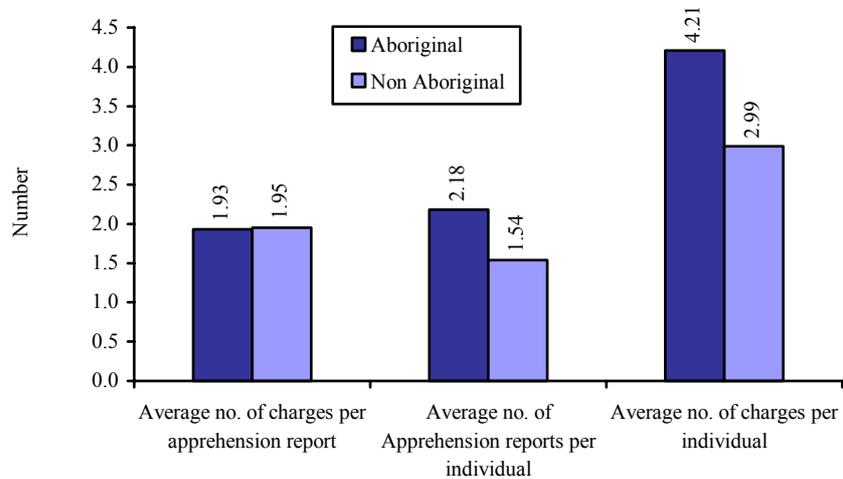
Figure 40 Average number of charges per individual per offence group, 2001 compared with 2000



- For each person apprehended in 2001, there was an average of 2.91 charges laid. This varied slightly depending on the type of offence involved. Those persons apprehended in 2001 for a *property offence* faced an average of 2.30 such charges during the year. For individuals charged with a *driving offence*, the average was 2.49. 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 most offence categories the average number of charges laid per individual was similar to that recorded in 2000.

- Males accounted for the majority of apprehension reports lodged (81.4% of the 57,772 reports where information on the sex of the offender was recorded). Males also accounted for 79.9% of those 37,902 discrete individuals apprehended where relevant data were available.
- On average, the number of charges per apprehension report was slightly higher for males than females (1.94 compared with 1.80 respectively). The same applied in relation to the average number of apprehension reports per individual (1.55 for males compared with 1.41 for females) and the average number of charges per individual (3.01 for males compared with 2.54 for females.)
- As noted earlier, persons of Aboriginal appearance accounted for 11.9% of the 101,394 charges laid by police in 2001 where relevant information was available. They also accounted for 11.9% of all apprehensions and 8.7% of all persons apprehended where information on racial appearance was recorded.
- As shown in Figure 41, in 2001, 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.

Figure 41 Average number of charges laid, apprehension reports lodged and individuals apprehended; comparison between Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals, 2001.

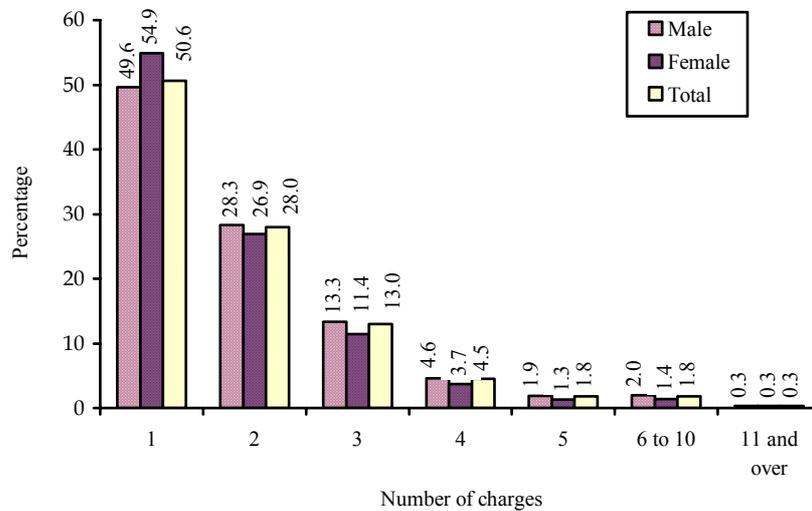


Apprehension reports: some further details

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.

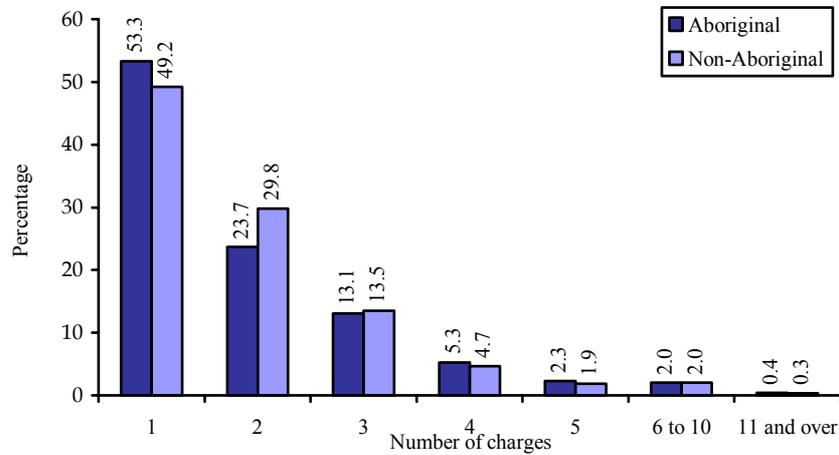
- As indicated in Figure 42, one half of all apprehension reports submitted by police in 2001 involved one charge only. At the other end of the scale, very few of these reports listed six or more charges. This pattern held true for both males and females, although the proportion of reports involving one charge only was higher for females than males.

Figure 42 Apprehension reports filed by police in 2001: number of charges per report by sex



- As shown in Figure 43, the proportion of apprehension reports involving one offence only was higher for Aboriginals than non-Aboriginals. Conversely, the proportion of reports involving two offences was slightly lower for Aboriginals. For reports with three or more charges there were marginal or no Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal differences.

Figure 43 Apprehension reports filed by police in 2001: 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.

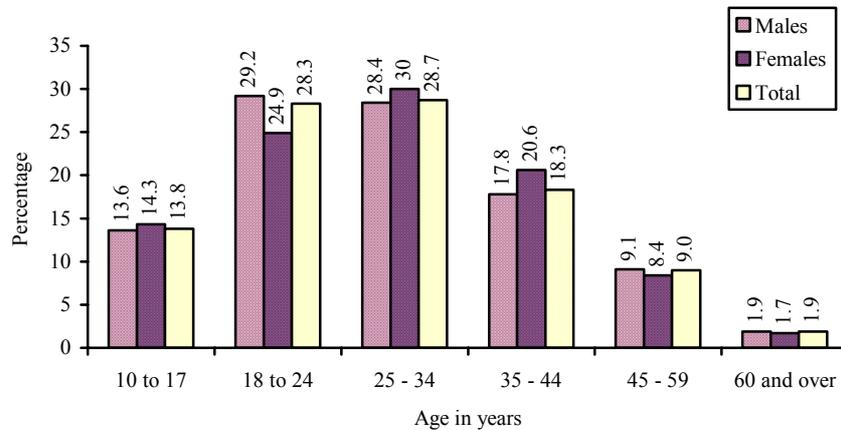
Individuals apprehended by police: some further details

Tables 6.33 to 6.41 in Section 6 of this report focus on the number of discrete individuals apprehended by police in 2001. 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

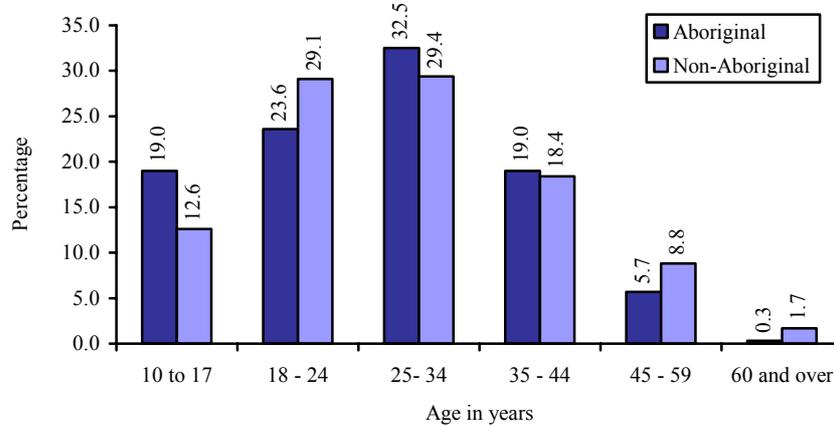
- As noted earlier, 37,928 individuals were apprehended at least once by police during 2001. Information on the sex of 26 of these persons was not available. Of the remaining 37,902 the majority (79.9%) were male.

Figure 44 Discrete individuals apprehended by police in 2001: age by sex



- As indicated in Figure 44, the majority of individuals apprehended were either aged 18 - 24 years or 25 - 34 years. Very few were aged 60 and over.
- Figure 44 also indicates close similarities in the age profile of males and females apprehended in 2001. For both groups, the 18 – 24 and 25 - 34 year age categories dominated.
- Of the 37,928 individuals apprehended in 2001, information on racial appearance was not recorded for 5,182 (or 13.7%). As noted earlier, persons of Aboriginal appearance accounted for 8.7% of the remainder. Given that persons of Aboriginal descent constitute only 1.4% of South Australia’s population aged 10 years and over, this indicates that their level of contact with the criminal justice system was 6.2 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 2001 tended to be slightly younger than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. As shown in Figure 45, a higher proportion of Aboriginal persons apprehended in 2001 were aged 10 - 17 years compared with non-Aboriginals, while the reverse was true for apprehended individuals aged 45 and over.

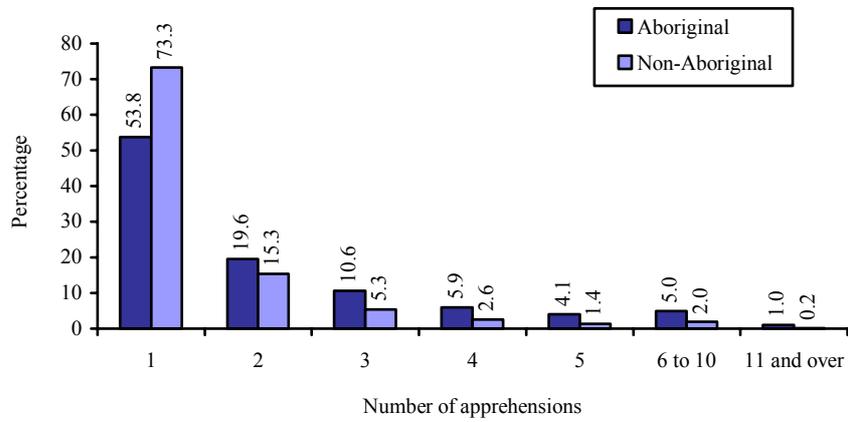
Figure 45 Discrete individuals apprehended by police in 2001: age by racial appearance



Number of apprehensions per individual

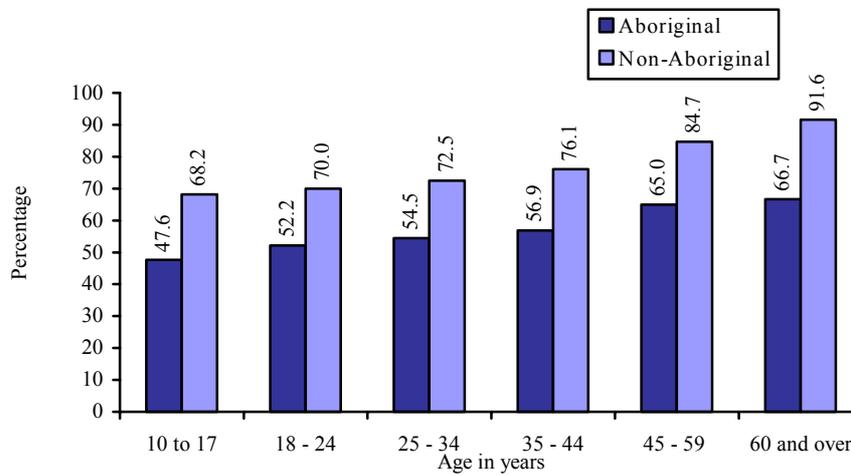
- Of the 37,928 persons apprehended in 2001, three quarters (74.5%) were apprehended on one occasion only during the twelve month period while a further 14.3% were apprehended on two occasions.
- A small group of individuals (834 or 2.2% of the total) were apprehended on six or more occasions, with 87 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 2001 (73.4% and 79.0% 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, while a higher proportion recorded five or more apprehensions in the 12 month period.
- 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. This pattern held true for both males and females.

Figure 46 Discrete individuals apprehended by police in 2001: number of apprehensions per individual by racial appearance



- 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 shown in Figure 47.

Figure 47 Discrete individuals apprehended by police in 2001: proportion per age group experiencing one apprehension only by racial appearance



Number of charges per individual

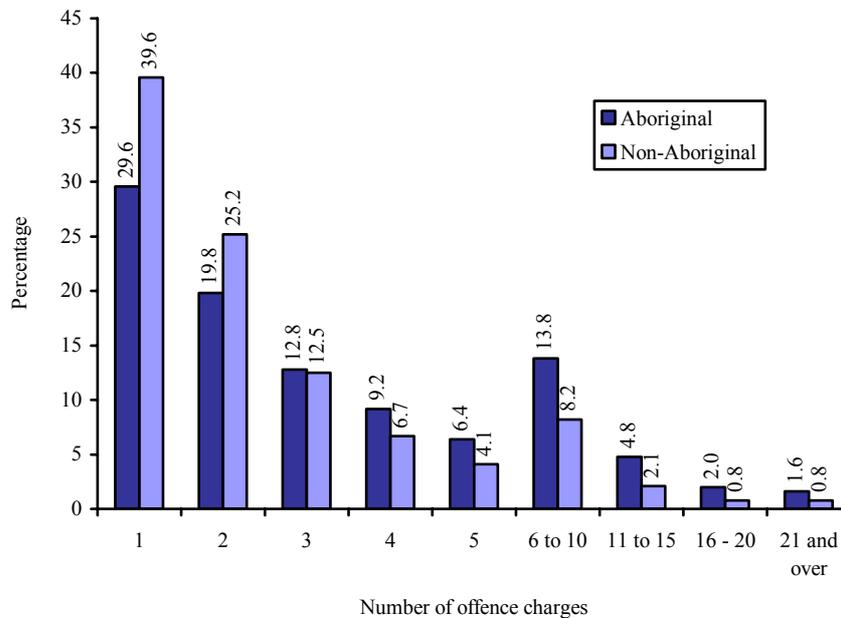
- Of the 37,928 distinct individuals apprehended by police in 2001, 15,573 or 41.1% were charged with one offence only, while a further 25.4% had two allegations laid against them. Only a small proportion (11.3%) were charged with six or more offences.
- There were some minor sex differences, with a slightly higher proportion of females facing one offence allegation only (46.7% compared with 39.6% 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 15,573 individuals who, during the course of the year, were charged with one offence only. This means that in total, they accounted for 15,573 offences. In other words, 41.1% of all individuals apprehended in 2001 accounted for 14.1% of all offences recorded. However, at the other end of the scale, the 4,275 individuals who were charged with six or more offences accounted for 44,937 of the allegations laid. In other words, 11.3% of persons apprehended in 2001 were responsible for 40.7% of all charges laid by police. These results clearly indicate that in 2001, a comparatively small group of individuals accounted for a disproportionately large proportion of all allegations laid by police during this twelve month period.

Table 3 Proportion of individuals compared with proportion of offence charges accounted for by those individuals, 2001

15,573 persons @ 1 offence each = 15,573 offences	41.1% of all individuals apprehended accounted for 14.1% of all allegations
9,619 persons @ 2 offences each = 19,238 offences	25.4% of individuals apprehended accounted for 17.4% of all allegations
4,578 persons @ 3 offences each = 13,734 offences	12.1% of individuals apprehended accounted for 12.4% of all allegations
2,417 persons @ 4 offences each = 9,668 offences	6.4% of individuals apprehended accounted for 8.8% of all allegations
1,466 persons @ 5 offences each = 7,330 offences	3.9% of individuals apprehended accounted for 6.6% of all allegations
4,275 persons @ 6 + offences each = 44,937 offences	11.3% of individuals apprehended accounted for 40.7% of all allegations

- At the most extreme end of the scale, there were 590 persons charged with more than 15 offences. As would be expected, only a very small number of these (26 or 4.4% of the 590) were apprehended on only one occasion. In contrast, 397 persons, or 67.3% of the total, accumulated these offences during the course of six or more apprehensions.
- The number of offences alleged per individual also varied according to racial appearance. As shown in Figure 48, a lower proportion of apprehended Aboriginal persons had only one or two offences alleged against them during the course of the year than was the case for apprehended non-Aboriginals. At the other end of the scale a higher proportion of apprehended Aboriginals faced four or more charges compared with non-Aboriginals.

Figure 48 Discrete individual apprehended by police in 2001: 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, 22.2% of all Aboriginal persons apprehended in 2001 accounted for 58.1% of all charges laid against this group by police, while 22.7% of all non-

Aboriginals apprehended accounted for 57.2% 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 2001: an Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal comparison

Number of offences per individual	Aboriginal persons apprehended	Non-Aboriginal persons apprehended
1	29.6% of individuals apprehended accounted for 7.0% of all allegations	39.6% of individuals apprehended accounted for 13.2% of all allegations
2	19.8% of individuals apprehended accounted for 9.4% of all allegations	25.2% of individuals apprehended accounted for 16.9% of all allegations
3	12.8% of individuals apprehended accounted for 9.1% of all allegations	12.5% of individuals apprehended accounted for 12.6% of all allegations
4	9.2% of individuals apprehended accounted for 8.7% of all allegations	6.7% of individuals apprehended accounted for 8.9% of all allegations
5	6.4% of individuals apprehended accounted for 7.6% of all allegations	4.1% of individuals apprehended accounted for 6.8% of all allegations
6+	22.2% of individuals apprehended accounted for 58.1% of all allegations	11.9% of individuals apprehended accounted for 41.5% of all allegations

