

CRIME AND JUSTICE
IN
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
2002

-

OFFENCES REPORTED TO POLICE,
THE VICTIMS AND ALLEGED
PERPETRATORS

A statistical report

OFFICE OF CRIME STATISTICS AND RESEARCH
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 and Research 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 2002.

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 and Research

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INTRODUCTION

This report, covering the period 1 January to 31 December 2002, is the sixteenth *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 2002 showed that, at one end of the spectrum, over 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 attempted break-ins was 37.4% (ABS, 2003: Cat. No. 4509.4). The 2002 ABS survey only obtained information on the reporting of household, rather than personal crime. However, according to the previous ABS survey, 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 that 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 2002 Statistics

Police Incident Reports

- In 2002, police submitted 218,570 incident reports. This was only marginally lower (by 0.7%) than the preceding year.
- The majority (74.8%) of incident reports submitted in 2002 involved one offence only. The average number of offences per report was 1.36, compared with 1.34 in 2001.

Offences recorded by police

- In 2002, there were 296,952 offences recorded by police.
- *Offences against property* dominated, accounting for approximately six in ten offences recorded (61.2%). In contrast, *sexual offences* and *robbery and extortion* each constituted less than 1%, while *drug offences* accounted for only 1.3%. This offence profile was similar to that observed in previous years.
- In 2002, the number of offences recorded by police rose by 1.0%.
- This trend is slightly different from that observed for incident reports, which declined marginally. This difference is attributable to the slight increase in 2002, in the average number of offences per incident report.
- Of the eight major offence categories, four recorded an increase, two remained stable and two decreased.
- The number of *offences against the person, excluding sexual offences* recorded by police remained stable in 2002, although the most recent figure was still the highest so far recorded. Within this broad category, *other* (generally minor) *assault* increased (by 1.3%), as did *assault occasioning* (up by 2.8%).
- In 2002, *sexual offences* increased by 5.8%. This included a 7.7% increase in *indecent assaults* and a 23.9% increase in *unlawful sexual intercourse*. However, one sub-category - *rape* - recorded a decrease (of 9.1%).
- The number of *robbery* offences recorded by police in 2002 remained stable. However, within this broad category, trends varied considerably, with *armed robbery* decreasing by 14.3% but *unarmed robbery* increasing by 2.4%.
- *Offences against property* decreased slightly by 1.8% in 2002. However, numbers within this category were still high compared with earlier years. Similar trends applied to most but not all of the sub-categories within this broad offence grouping, as outlined below:

- The number of recorded *serious criminal trespass dwelling** offences declined by 1.0% in 2002, with the most recent figure now well below the levels recorded in the late 1980s and early 1990s.
- *Serious criminal trespass shop** decreased in 2002 (by 12.1%) but, despite annual fluctuations, has remained relatively constant through most of this decade. *Other serious criminal trespass* decreased by 26.7%.
- *Larceny/illegal use of a motor vehicle* declined by 11.6% in 2002. *Interfere with a motor vehicle* decreased by 13.0% in 2002, after increasing between 1998 and 2001.
- *Larceny from a shop* rose by 23.8% in 2002, following similar increases in 2000 and 2001. The latest figure is approaching an earlier peak recorded in 1992.
- The number of recorded *fraud and misappropriation offences* has generally decreased since 1998, with a further 2.5% reduction in 2002.
- The number of total *damage property* offences has increased steadily since the early 1980s, with a further 2.5% rise in 2002. Numbers in this category are now higher than at any time previously.
- The number of recorded *driving offences*** rose by 8.5% in 2002, this included:
 - a 3.3% increase in *dangerous, reckless or negligent driving*;
 - a 13.0% increase in *driving licence offences*;
 - a 4.9% increase in *motor vehicle registration offences*; and
 - a 2.7% 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.

- The number of *drug offences*** recorded by police in 2002 decreased by 18.8%. While an increase of 33.9% was recorded for the sub-category of *produce or manufacture drugs*, all other sub-categories recorded decreases. The number of *possess and/or use drugs* and *possess drug implement* decreased by 59.8% and 67.0% respectively. *Possess for sale/sell drugs* decreased by 15.4%. As with *driving offences*, however, the number of such offences recorded in any given

* In calculating the 2002 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.

** Note that these figures do not include *expiation notices* issued for *drink driving and cannabis offences*.

year is heavily dependent on police enforcement practices and legislative change. In particular, 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, while the increase in *produce/manufacture* could be at least partially due to a reduction, in November 2001, in the number of cannabis plants covered by the Cannabis Expiation Notice Scheme. Persons who previously would have received a CEN for growing three plants were henceforth liable to be charged with *produce/manufacture drugs*.

- *Offences against good order* increased by 7.0% in 2002, with the most recent figure the highest recorded since data were first published in 1992.

Location of offences recorded

- In 2002, the LGA of Adelaide recorded the highest rate of offending per 1,000 population (1,369.6). This was followed by Coober Pedy (505.6), Port Augusta (406.9), Ceduna (331.1), Port Adelaide/Enfield (298.7) and Playford (285.1).
- The LGA of Adelaide also had the highest rate of offences against the person (140.0 per 1,000 population). The LGA with the second highest rate was Coober Pedy (51.6), followed by Port Augusta (46.4), Ceduna (39.2), Unincorporated South Australia (32.7) and Whyalla (28.0).
- 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 Coober Pedy (74.3 per 1,000 dwelling). This was followed by Adelaide (62.6), Walkerville (60.6), Prospect (52.8), Port Adelaide/Enfield (49.0), Port Augusta (48.1) and Playford (42.4).

Clearance status of offences recorded by police

- Of the 296,952 offences recorded by police during 2002, 127,402 (42.9%) were cleared by the end of that year, while conversely, 57.1% remained uncleared.
- However, the clear up level varied depending on the type of offence involved, with the lowest recorded for *property offences* (16.1% cleared by the end of 2002), followed by *robbery and extortion* (28.2% 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 127,402 offences which were both reported and cleared in 2002, a further 4,369 offences recorded by police in earlier years were also cleared in 2002. This gives a total of 131,177 offences cleared over the twelve month period.

- Of these 131,177 offences cleared, the majority (89.9%) were cleared by way of the apprehension or cautioning of a suspect. A very small proportion (1.2%) were designated as cleared on the grounds that they were unfounded, while 8.2% were cleared by the victim requesting that no further action be taken.
- Again the method of clearance varied depending on the type of offence involved. As expected, virtually all *driving* and *drug offences* were cleared by way of the apprehension of a suspect. In contrast, only 60.4% of *offences against the person* and 60.5% of *sexual offences* were cleared in this way. For these last two categories, the proportion cleared as a result of the victim requesting that no further action be taken was relatively high (37.1% in the case of *offences against the person* and 33.0% 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 2002 there were 23,300 recorded victimisations directed against a person.
- Of those victimisations where the sex of the victim was recorded, just over one half (52.9%) 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 2002 (22.0% and 24.3% 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 2002 while those aged 45 and over accounted for only 6.3%. In contrast, for *larceny from the person*, 35.8% of the victimisations recorded in 2002 involved victims aged 45 and over while only 15.1% 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 18-24 years. Similarly, for *larceny from a person*, the highest proportion of male victims were relatively young (with 46.0% aged 10 – 24). However, for female victims, just under one in four 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 number of discrete victims who came to police attention in 2002. Over this twelve month period, 19,875 persons were victimised at least once. Almost nine in ten of these were the subject of only one reported incident during the 12 month period, indicating that the level of repeat victimisation was low.

Offences cleared by way of an apprehension

- There were 118,948 offence charges laid by police via apprehension reports in 2002. This figure was 7.7% higher than in 2001. More than eight in ten of these charges were laid against males.
- Of those charges laid in 2002 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 (59.8%) were laid against persons in the 18 – 34 year age bracket.
- Almost 15% of all charges laid in 2002 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 5.0% of *drug* charges but 39.3% of all *larceny/illegal use of a motor vehicle* charges.
- Of the 110,455 charges laid by police in 2002 where information on the racial appearance of the person was recorded, 12.3% involved persons of Aboriginal appearance. Again, however, this varied depending on the type of charge involved, with this group accounting for only 2.7% of all *drug offences* and 6.2% of all *fraud and misappropriation offences* cleared via apprehension, compared with almost 20% of all *serious criminal trespass* offences and all *damage property and environmental* charges.
- The 118,948 charges recorded in 2002 were contained in 60,284 separate apprehension reports. On average then, each apprehension report lodged by police during this twelve month period contained 1.97 charges. Over the same time period, a total of 38,650 discrete individuals were apprehended, giving an average of 1.56 apprehensions and 3.08 charges per person in 2002.
- Males accounted for the majority of apprehension reports lodged (81.1%) and the majority of discrete individuals apprehended during 2002 (79.9%).
- Persons of Aboriginal appearance constituted 12.8% of all apprehensions and 9.3% 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. It should be noted that data do not include persons who are dealt with by way of expiation notices, such as CENs and Traffic Infringement Notices. Nor do they include those who, rather than being charged with a drug offence, are re-directed to the Police Drug Diversion Initiative. It is well documented that Aboriginals are under-represented in these 'diversionary' options.

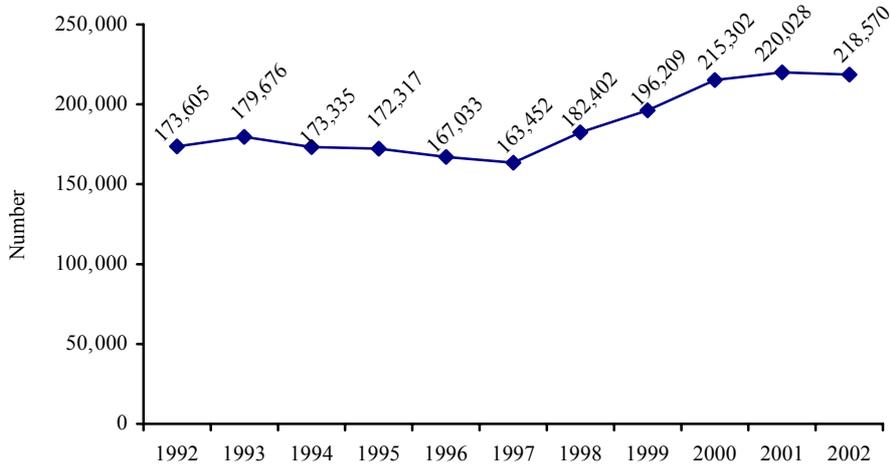
- Of the 38,650 discrete individuals apprehended in 2002, three quarters (74.1%) were apprehended only once during the 12 month period. However, there was a small group (1,002 or 2.6%) who were apprehended on six or more occasions, with 118 of these persons recording 11 or more apprehensions. Younger individuals were more likely to experience multiple apprehensions during the 12 month period than older persons. Similarly, a higher proportion of persons identified by police as Aboriginal were apprehended on more than one occasion in 2002 compared with non-Aboriginal persons.
- In 2002, 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, 12.2% of persons apprehended in 2002 were responsible for 43.5% 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 2002 is presented graphically in Figure 1.¹

Figure 1 Number of incident reports submitted by police, 1992 to 2002



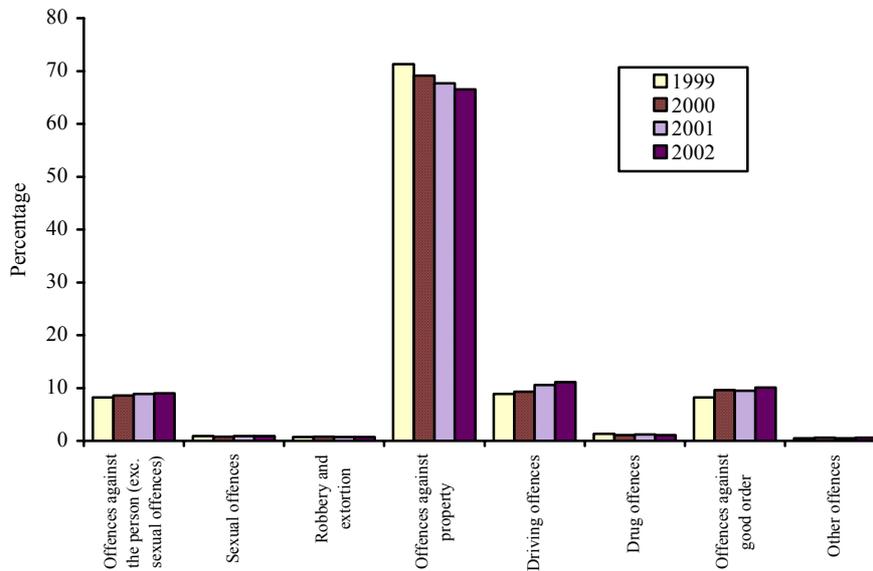
- In 2002 there were 218,570 incidents reported to police that resulted in the filing of a police incident report.
- As indicated in Figure 1, the number of incident reports submitted by police increased between 1997 and 2001. However, in 2002 there was a slight decline in the number of reports filed.
- The 218,570 incident reports submitted in 2002 contained 296,952 offences representing an average of 1.36 offences per report.
- The overwhelming majority (74.8%) of incident reports submitted in 2002 involved one offence only, while only 0.3% 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 that contained more than one offence, the major or most

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

serious charge was defined as the offence that had the highest level JANCO (see Appendix for explanation). For comparative purposes, data for 1999, 2000 and 2001 are also included in Figure 2.

Figure 2 Major offence recorded per incident report, 1999 – 2002.



- In 2002, the most serious offence listed in the majority of incident reports was an *offence against property* (66.5%).
- Of the remaining offence categories, *driving offences*, *offences against good order* and *offences against the person (excluding sexual offences)* were the most prominent (11.1%, 10.1% and 9.0% respectively).
- 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 2002 incident reports virtually the same as those recorded in 1999, 2000 and 2001. Across all four years, *offences against property* dominated, although the proportion of incident reports containing this major offence declined slightly over the period.

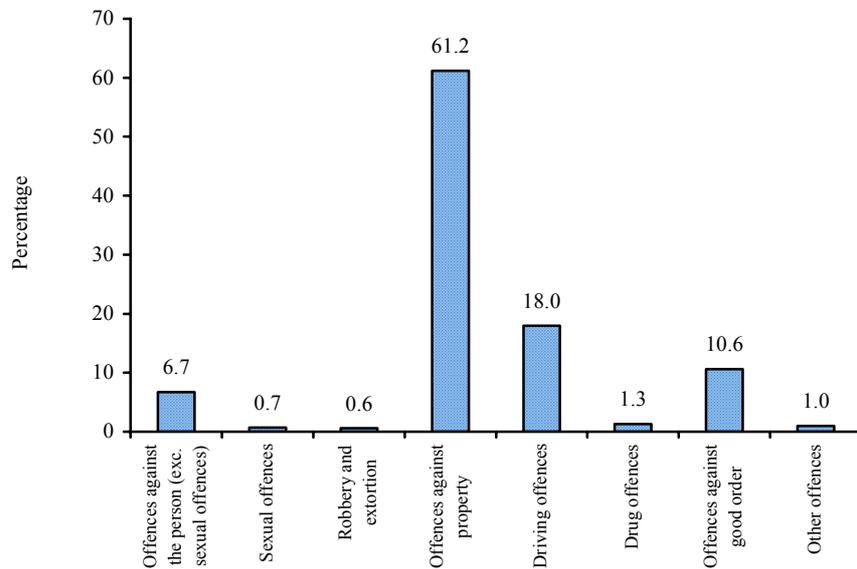
1.2 OFFENCES RECORDED BY POLICE

In the preceding section, information was presented on the number of incident reports submitted by police in 2002. The ensuing section details all offences and all offence counts recorded, irrespective of whether they arose from the same or different incidents. In 2002, a total of 296,952 offences were recorded.

Offences recorded by police in 2002: a profile

As shown in Figure 3, *offences against property* dominated the 2002 offence profile, accounting for over six in ten offences recorded by police in this twelve-month period.

Figure 3 Distribution of offences recorded by police, 2002



As shown in Table 1, the 2002 offence profile was very similar to that observed in previous years.

Table 1 Offences recorded by police, 2000 to 2002

Offence group	2000		2001		2002	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Offences against the person (exc. sexual)	18,755	6.9	19,752	6.7	19,766	6.7
Sexual offences	1,938	0.7	2,010	0.7	2,126	0.7
Robbery and extortion	1,734	0.6	1,741	0.6	1,689	0.6
Offences against property	173,420	63.4	185,132	63.0	181,845	61.2
Driving offences	43,636	16.0	49,265	16.8	53,449	18.0
Drug offences	4,373	1.6	4,800	1.6	3,896	1.3
Good order offences	27,511	10.1	29,279	10.0	31,339	10.6
Other offences	2,017	0.7	1,898	0.6	2,842	1.0
Total	273,384	100.0	293,877	100.0	296,952	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 2002 the highest proportion of offences in this category involved *other assault* (73.3%). The more serious offences of *assault occasioning actual or grievous bodily harm* accounted for only 11.1% of all *against person* offences. In 2002 there were 29 *murders* and 38 *attempted murders* recorded by police.
- *Rape* and *indecent assault* each accounted for approximately one-third of the 2,126 *sexual offences* reported to police in 2002 (29.5% and 34.1% respectively). There were fewer *unlawful sexual intercourse* offences recorded (11.9% of all *sexual offences* reported).
- *Unarmed robbery* accounted for over two-thirds of the 1,628 *robbery* offences recorded by police in 2002. Of the 487 *armed robberies*, only 16.2% involved the use of firearm.
- *Larceny and receiving* accounted for 54.0% of the 181,845 *property offences* recorded in 2002.
- 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

2002 there were 404 *burglary/break and enter offences*² and a further 33,361 *criminal trespass* offences, giving a total of 33,765 offences in this broad category, or 18.6% of all *property offences* recorded.

- Of the 43,254 *damage property* offences recorded in 2002, only 7.2% involved arson or the use of explosives. Of the remaining offences, the main targets were motor vehicles and dwellings (31.8% and 18.0% of all *property damage offences* respectively).
- *Fraud and misappropriation* offences accounted for only 3.6% of all *property offences* recorded in 2002. *False pretence* offences were the most dominant in this group, accounting for 3,932 or 2.2% of all *property offences*.
- Of the 53,449 *driving offences*³ recorded in 2002, just under half involved *motor vehicle registration offences*. A further 18.7% involved *driving licence offences*, while 8.8% related to *exceeding the prescribed concentration of alcohol* and 8.7% involved *dangerous, reckless or negligent driving*.
- Half of the 3,896 *drug offences* recorded in 2002 involved *produce or manufacture drugs*. Cannabis accounted for over 80% of those offences where the type of drug was recorded. In contrast, opiates (mainly heroin) were involved in only 1.6%, while 'other' drugs (mainly amphetamines) accounted for 15.5%.
- A breakdown of *offences against good order* reveals a fairly even spread across a number of sub-categories, including *resist/hinder police* (17.5% of the 31,339 *against good order* offences), *offences against a court or court order* (19.3%), *unlawful possession of weapons* (9.5%), *disorderly behaviour* (12.9%), and *graffiti and related offences* (10.4%).

Shifts between 2001 and 2002

There were 296,952 offences recorded in 2002 compared with 293,877 in 2001, representing an increase of 1.0%.

A more detailed insight into the extent of change between 2001 and 2002 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 2002.

³ This figure excludes all traffic infringement notices.

Table 2 Number of offences recorded by police, 2001 compared with 2002.

Offence	2001	2002	Percentage Change
<i>Offences against the person – total</i>	19,752	19,766	+0.1%
Assault occasioning	2,131	2,191	+2.8%
Other assault	14,306	14,493	+1.3%
<i>Sexual offences – total</i>	2,010	2,126	+5.8%
Rape*	691	628	-9.1%
Indecent assault *	673	725	+7.7%
Unlawful sexual intercourse*	205	254	+23.9%
Other sexual offences*	441	519	+17.7%
<i>Robbery – total</i>	1,682	1,689	+0.4%
Armed robbery*	568	487	-14.3%
Robbery with firearm*	86	79	-8.1%
Robbery with other weapon*	482	408	-15.4%
Other (unarmed) robbery	1,114	1,141	+2.4%
Unarmed robbery with violence*	506	484	-4.3%
Unarmed robbery without violence*	608	657	+8.1%
<i>Property offences – total</i>	185,132	181,845	-1.8%
Serious criminal trespass dwelling#	18,486	18,306	-1.0%
Serious criminal trespass shop#	4,851	4,266	-12.1%
Serious criminal trespass 'other'	12,407	9,093	-26.7%
Larceny/illegal use of motor vehicle	12,726	11,255	-11.6%
Interfere with motor vehicle	5,202	4,524	-13.0%
Larceny from shop	8,353	10,339	+23.8%
Receiving/unlawful possession	2,381	2,561	+7.6%
Fraud and misappropriation	6,693	6,523	-2.5%
Damage property	42,218	43,291	+2.5%
<i>Selected driving offences- total</i>	49,265	53,449	+8.5%
Drink driving and related offences	6,056	6,217	+2.7%
Dangerous, reckless, negligent driving	4,503	4,651	+3.3%
Driving licence offences	8,865	10,014	+13.0%
Motor vehicle registration offences**	24,844	26,053	+4.9%
<i>Drug offences- total</i>	4,800	3,896	-18.8%
Possess and/or use drugs	1,421	571	-59.8%
Possess drug implement*	561	185	-67.0%
Fraudulent prescription offences*	123	93	-24.4%
Produce or manufacture drugs*	1,479	1,981	+33.9%
Possess for sale/sell drugs*	1,109	938	-15.4%
<i>Against good order</i>	29,279	31,339	+7.0%
Against a court or court order	4,887	6,035	+23.5%
Resist/hinder police	5,025	5,499	+9.4%
Unlawful possession of weapons	3,160	2,984	-5.6%
Trespass	2,085	2,481	+19.0%
Indecent/offensive language	1,115	1,039	-6.8%
Disorderly behaviour	3,294	4,031	+22.4%
Graffiti and related offences	3,493	3,253	-6.9%
<i>Other Offences</i>	1,898	2,842	+49.7%

*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 2002.

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

As shown, four offence types - *sexual offences*, *selected driving offences*, *good order offences* and *'other' offences* - recorded clear increases in 2002, with *other offences* recording the greatest increase (almost 50%). *Against the person* and *robbery* offences remained constant, while the number of *drug offences* recorded in 2002 was 18.8% lower than the 2001 figure. *Property offences* recorded a slight decrease.

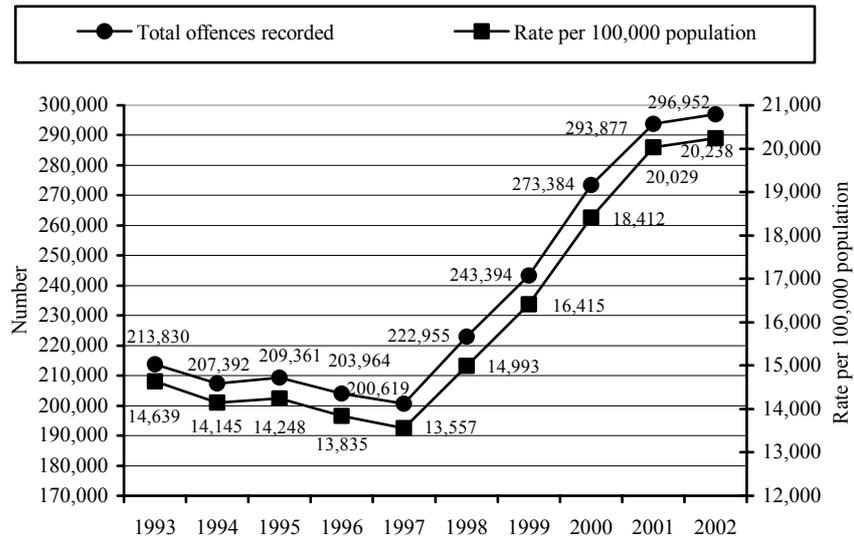
To provide a more accurate picture of longitudinal trends, the following section locates these recent shifts within a broader time frame.

Longitudinal trends

Total offences recorded by police, 1993 to 2002

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 2002.

Figure 4 Total offences recorded, 1993 to 2002



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

- Over the 10-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 2002 the number of offences recorded was 48.0% higher than in 1997, and the rate per 100,000 was 49.3% higher.

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.

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 2002 being the highest for the period depicted.
- The overall trend for *other* (generally minor) *assault* has been upward, with the number recorded in 2002 the highest over the period depicted. This trend mirrors that observed at the national level.
- *Assault occasioning*, which has always accounted for only a relatively small proportion of all *offences against the person* (11.1% in 2002), has also increased over the past two decades, with the number recorded in 2002 more than three times higher than in the early 1980s.
- As indicated in Figure 6, the numbers 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 2002, but overall, have remained relatively low.

⁵ While Figures 5 to 15 span a twenty year time frame (1982 to 2002), because of space limitations Tables 3.2 to 3.20 in this report only cover a thirteen year period (1990 to 2002). Data for the years 1982 to 1989 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 2002

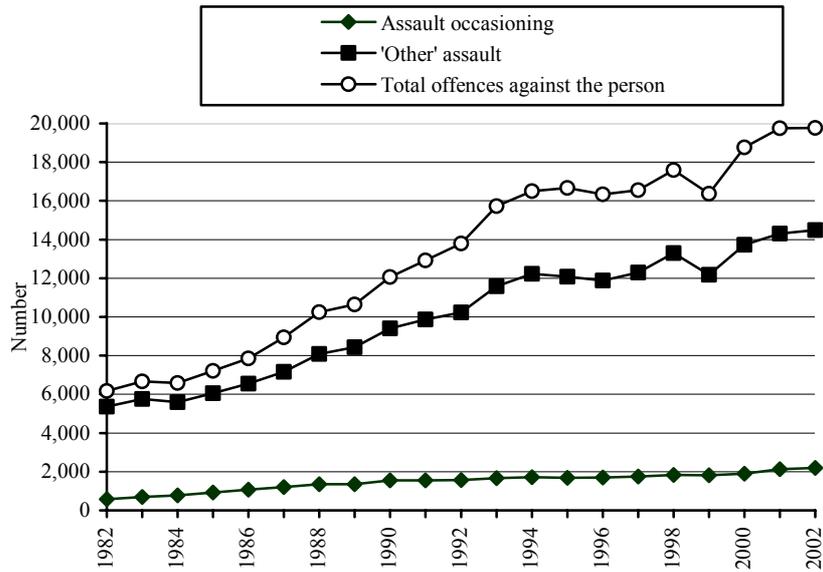
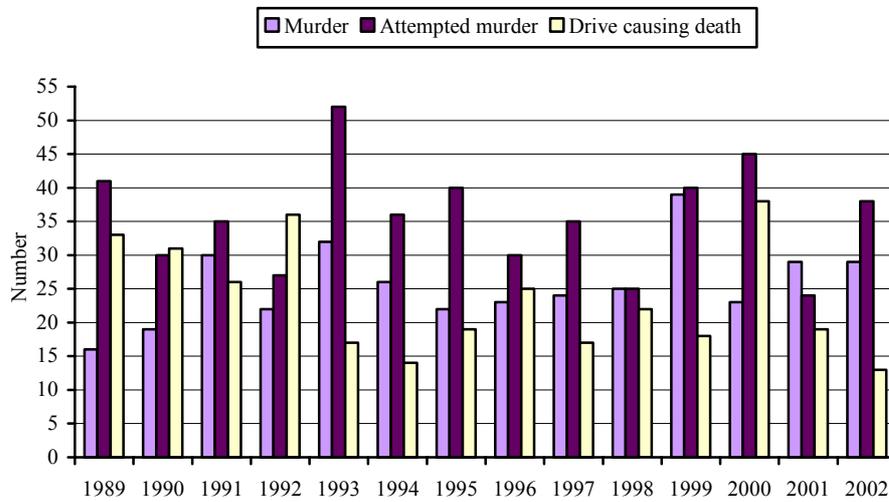


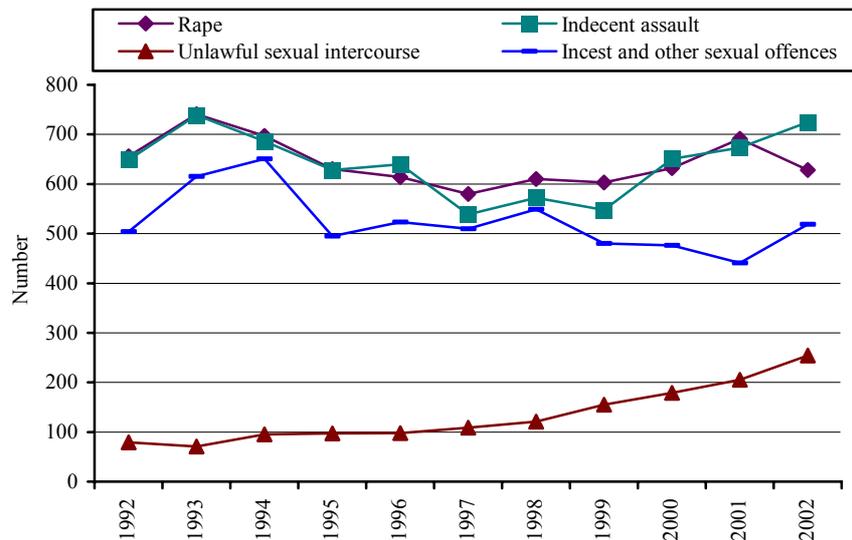
Figure 6 Number of murder, attempted murder and drive causing death offences recorded by police, 1989 to 2002.



Sexual offences

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

Figure 7 Sexual offences, 1992 to 2002



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, 2002 data can only be compared accurately with figures from 1992 onwards.

- As shown in Figure 7, after a slight (albeit fluctuating) upward trend between 1997 and 2001, the number of *rape* offences declined slightly in 2002.
- *Indecent assault* offences also increased between 1997 and 2001, with a further rise in 2002.
- The number of *incest and other sexual offences* has fluctuated considerably from one year to another. While the number recorded in 2001 was the lowest since new counting rules came into effect in 1993, an increase in 2002 brought the level back to those observed in the mid 1990s.

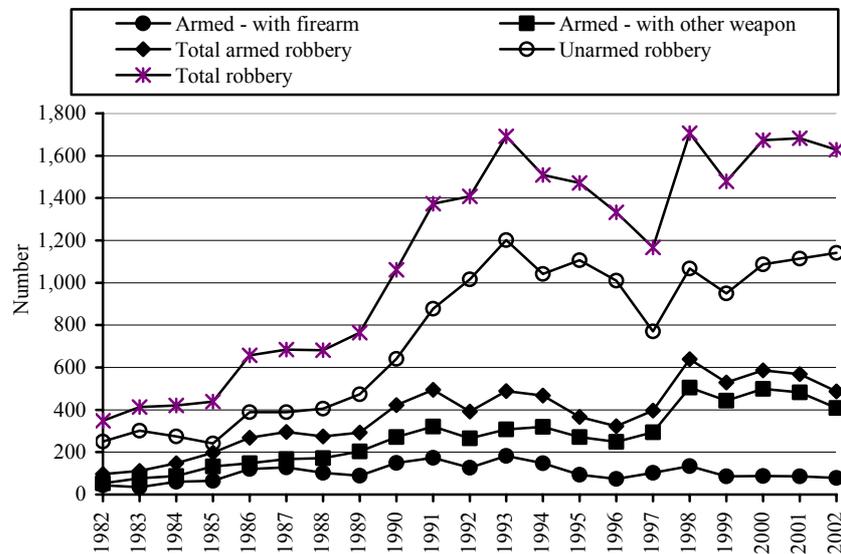
- Since 1993 the number of *unlawful sexual intercourse* offences recorded by police has increased, especially from 1998 onwards. Overall, however, numbers in this category are still relatively low.

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. Since then, although numbers have fluctuated considerably they are now slightly below the 1993 peak.

Figure 8 Robbery offences, 1982 to 2002



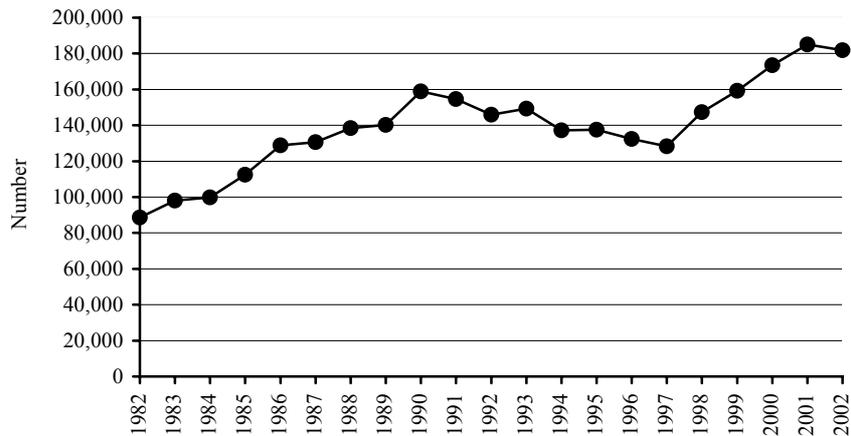
- Because the category of *other* (ie unarmed) *robbery* annually accounts for approximately two thirds of the *total robbery* offences, longitudinal trends in this category generally parallel those for *total robberies*, with the number recorded in 2002 being slightly below the peak of 1993.
- Despite marked annual fluctuations, the number of *armed robberies* showed an overall increase from 1982 to 1998 but have dropped slightly since then.

- In Figure 8, *armed robberies* are further broken down into *robbery with a firearm* and *robbery with other weapon*. As shown, trends in *robbery with other weapon* offences are generally similar to those observed for *total armed robberies*, with the number recorded in 2002 being slightly below the peak recorded in 1998.
- In contrast, the number of *robbery with firearm* offences reached their high point in the early 1990s, and have generally declined since. The 2002 figure is, in fact, comparable to that recorded almost two decades earlier.

Property offences

- In contrast to *sexual offences* and *robbery offences*, the number of *property offences* recorded by police each year is comparatively large (181,845 in 2002).
- As Figure 9 indicates, there have been two periods of increase, from 1982 to 1990, and again from 1997 and 2001. As a result, the 2001 figure was the highest recorded over the period graphed. However, in 2002 there was a slight drop in the number of these offences recorded – the first decrease recorded since 1997.

Figure 9 Total property offences, 1982 to 2002



- Part of the increase observed in 2000 and 2001 could be attributed to the introduction of new legislation relating to *serious criminal trespass* offences (see below). Until that time, if, for example, a person broke into a house, stole some property and also caused damage, generally police recorded this as one offence only – namely break/enter dwelling. As a result of the new legislation, police now enter all associated offences, as

well as the criminal trespass. This means that, while the number of actual incidents remains the same, the number offences recorded for those incidents are inflated. The offences most likely to increase because of this change in recording practices are larceny and property damage, which are often associated with, or attendant upon, a break in.

Serious Criminal Trespass

Determining 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 – place of residence;* and
- *criminal trespass – place of residence.*

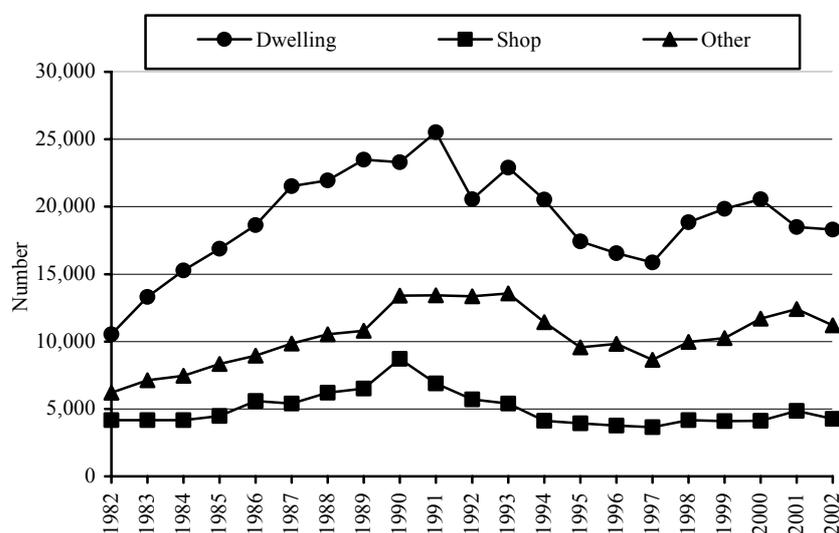
The two *serious criminal trespass* offences are further sub-divided into aggravated and non-aggravated, depending on whether an offensive weapon is used or whether there are multiple offenders. A third aggravating factor applies to *serious criminal trespass – place of residence*: namely whether another 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 several years ago, the majority of offences recorded in 2002 were classified as *criminal trespass offences*. However, there were some *break and enter offences* which, while reported to police in 2002, 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 procedure detailed above allows longitudinal comparisons to be drawn in Figure 10.

Figure 10 Serious Criminal Trespass, 1982 to 2002



- As shown in Figure 10, *serious criminal trespass dwelling* offences increased sharply between 1982 and 1990, but since then have, despite annual fluctuations, shown a general downward trend. As a result, the latest figure is well below the levels recorded in the late 1980s and early 1990s.
- After peaking in 1990, the number of *serious criminal trespass shop* offences first declined and then, since the mid 1990s, remained fairly stable. Numbers in 2002 are comparable with those recorded in the early 1980s.
- *Serious criminal trespass 'other' offences* have also fluctuated over the two decades depicted, with numbers in 2002 being lower than in the early 1990s but higher than in the mid 1990s.

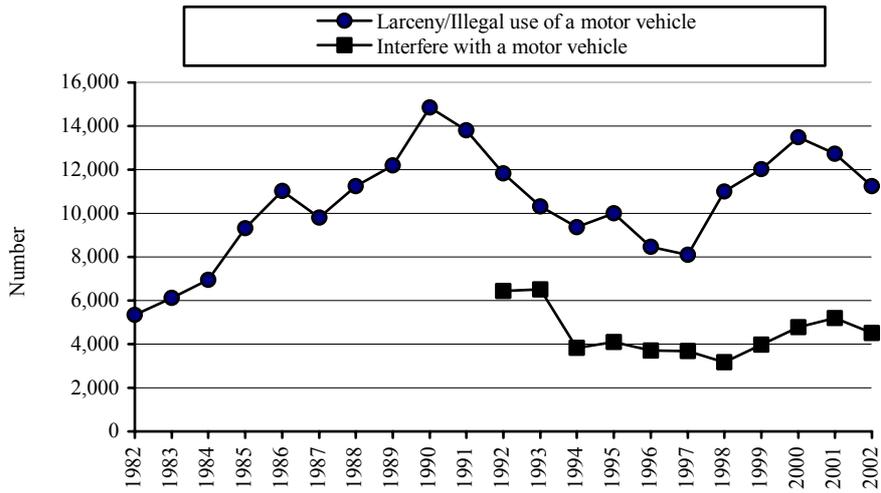
Vehicle offences

- As shown in Figure 11, the number of *larceny/illegal use of a motor vehicle* offences increased steeply between 1982 and 1991, followed by a period of decrease. A second, albeit less pronounced, upswing occurred

between 1998 and 2000, but again, this seems to have peaked, with numbers declining in 2001 and 2002.

- The number of *interfere with a motor vehicle* offences, after a substantial drop between 1993 and 1994, has shown no clear upward or downward trend since then.

Figure 11 Larceny/illegal use of a motor vehicle and interfere with a motor vehicle, 1982 to 2002

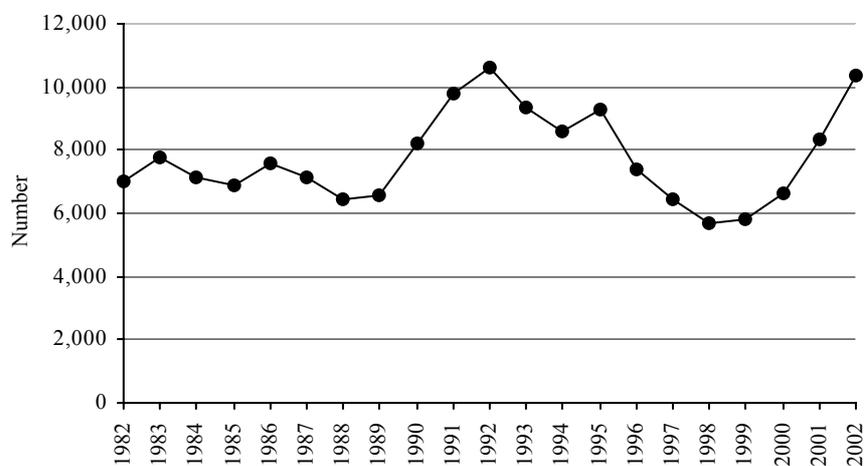


* The offence 'interfere with a motor vehicle' was included for the first time in 1992

Shop theft

- After peaking in 1992, the number of *shop theft* offences declined until 1998, before trending upwards again. Particularly strong increases occurred in 2001 and 2002. In part, these could be attributed to changes in SAPOL recording practices associated with the introduction, in late 1999, of the legislation relating to *serious criminal trespass*, which meant that if a shop was broken into and goods stolen, not only was the offence of *serious criminal trespass* recorded, but so was the associated offence of *shop theft*. A second coding change also occurred as a result of that legislation. *Offences against service stations*, which had previously been classified within the ‘other theft’ category, were now re-coded to the ‘shop theft’ category.

Figure 12 Shop theft, 1982 to 2002

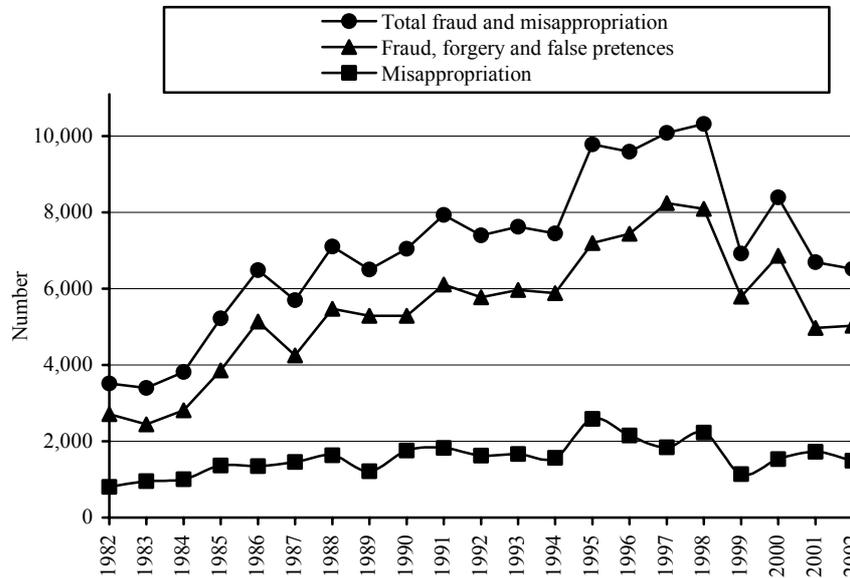


Fraud and misappropriation

- 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 generally declined. The most recent figure is the lowest since the late 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.
- *Misappropriation offences* account for only a relatively small proportion of total *fraud and misappropriation* matters (22.8% of the 2002 total).

While an overall increase was recorded between 1982 and 1995, numbers have generally decreased since then.

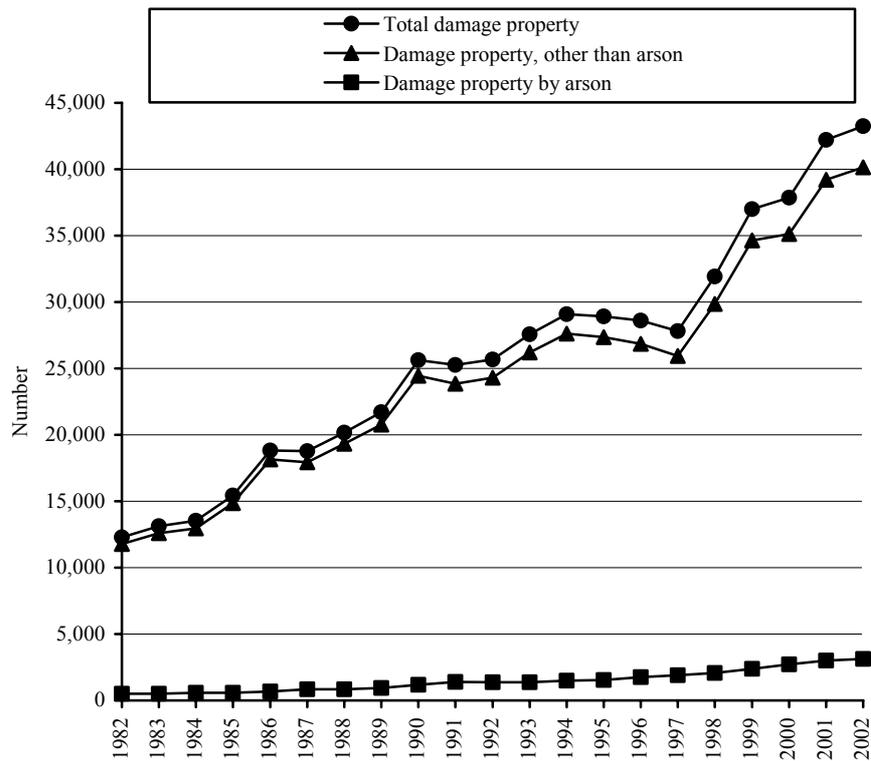
Figure 13 Fraud and misappropriation, 1982 to 2002



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 recorded in 2002. Again, part of the increase could be attributed to the fact that, since late 1999, any criminal damage attendant upon a ‘break in’ is now recorded, whereas previously only the primary offence of break and enter had been entered on the incident report.
- 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 2002 although it should be noted that, compared with the other *property damage* category depicted, numbers still remain small.

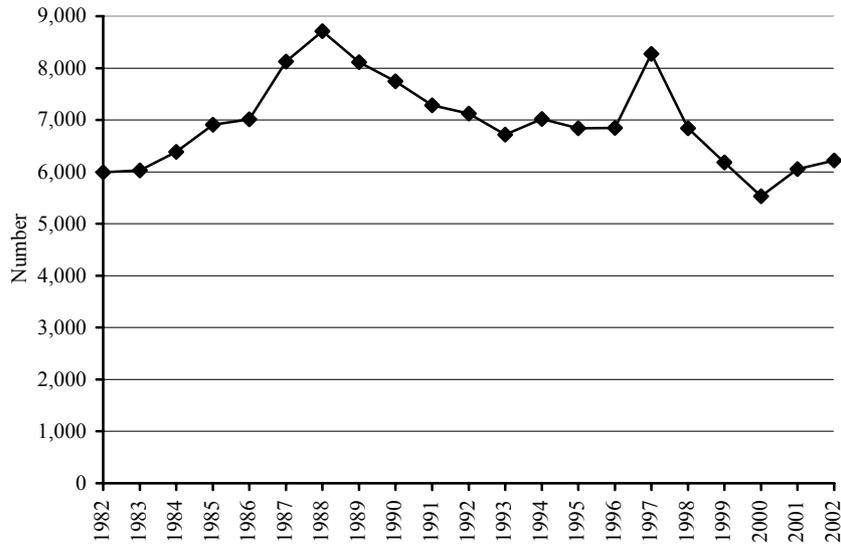
Figure 14 Damage property, 1982 to 2002



Drink driving and related offences

- Figure 15 illustrates the number of recorded *drink driving and related offences* from 1982 to 2002. This category includes *driving under the influence, exceed the prescribed concentration of alcohol and refusing to give breath/blood sample*. Although numbers have fluctuated considerably over the period depicted, the figure recorded in 2002 was amongst the lowest for the twenty year period.
- 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 2002

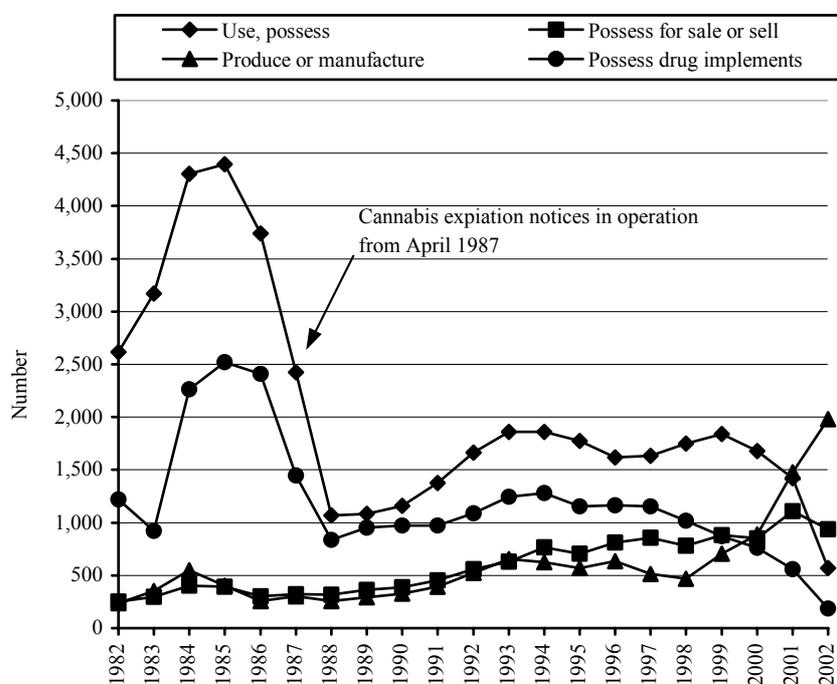


Selected drug offences

- 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.
- As shown in Figure 16, the number of *use/possess for use* offences, which had remained relatively stable throughout the 1990s, decreased substantially in 2002 (by 59.8%), with the result that the latest figure is by far the lowest recorded since 1982. This decrease may be attributed to the introduction of the Police Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative, which commenced operation in September/October 2001. Under this scheme, adults and juveniles detected in possession of small amounts of illicit drugs are no longer 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.

Figure 16 Selected drug offences, 1982 to 2002

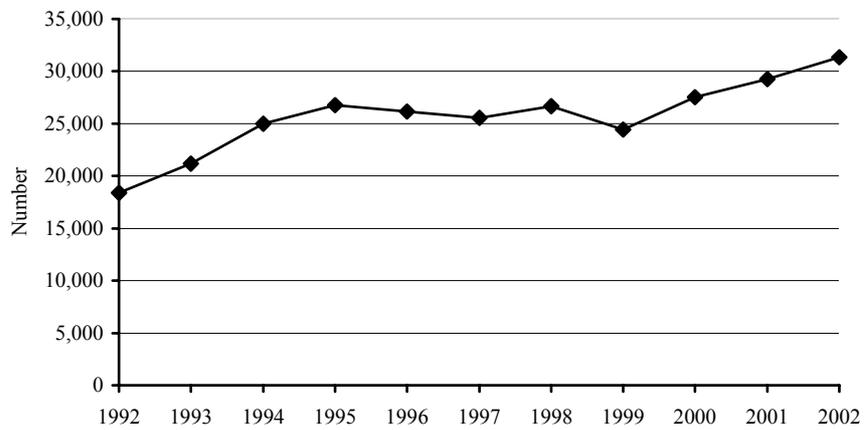


- After a period of relative stability in the mid to late 1990s, the number of recorded *produce or manufacture drug* offences increased substantially in 2001 (by 66.9%) and then again in 2002 (by 33.9%) with the result that numbers are now higher than at any time over the 21 years depicted. One contributor to this is the fact that, on 29th November 2001, the number of cannabis plants that 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 received a CEN were henceforth charged with *produce or manufacture*.
- 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. In 2002 there was a slight decrease in the number recorded, but despite this, the latest figures are the second highest recorded at any time during the period depicted.

Offences against good order

- Data for total *offences against good order* (depicted in Figure 17) were not available for the years prior to 1992. As shown, since 1992, there has been an overall increase in these offences. As a result, the latest figure is the highest recorded in the years depicted.
- In part, these increases could be attributed to pro-active policing practices, rather than to an actual rise in this type of crime in the community. While SAPOL has set, as one of its targets, a 5% reduction in the number of offences against the person and against property, no reduction target is applied to public order offences. In fact, an increase in the number of these offences detected by SAPOL is regarded as positive.

Figure 17 Offences against good order, 1992 to 2002



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 were updated in 2001 to reflect changes to LGA boundaries in 1998. The 2001 and 2002 reports are therefore not directly comparable with the tables published in earlier 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 was introduced in 2001 which is based on Statistical Divisions (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.

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 2002, the LGA of Adelaide recorded the highest rate of offending per 1,000 population (1,369.6). This was followed by Coober Pedy (505.6), Port Augusta (406.9), Ceduna (331.1), Port Adelaide/Enfield (298.7) and Playford (285.1).
- The LGA of Adelaide also had the highest rate of *offences against the person* (140.0 per 1,000 population). The LGA with the second highest rate was Coober Pedy (51.6), followed by Port Augusta (46.4), Ceduna (39.2), Unincorporated South Australia (32.7) and Whyalla (28.0).
- 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 Coober Pedy (74.3 per 1,000 dwelling). This was followed by Adelaide (62.6), Walkerville (60.6), Prospect (52.8), Port Adelaide/Enfield (49.0), Port Augusta (48.1) and Playford (42.4).
- In 2002, the Adelaide Statistical Division (which approximately equates to the Adelaide Metropolitan Area) recorded an offending rate of 215.7 per 1,000 population. This was lower than the 239.6 recorded for the Northern Division (which incorporates the subdivisions of Whyalla, Pirie, Flinders Ranges and Far North). The statistical division that recorded the lowest rate was Outer Adelaide (124.9 per 1,000 population).
- The Northern Statistical Division recorded the highest rate of *offences against the person* (25.9 per 1,000 population). This was considerably higher than any other statistical division, with the next highest rate recorded by Adelaide (16.7), followed by Murray Lands (15.5) and then Eyre (14.9). The lowest rate of 8.1 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 2002 was recorded by the Adelaide Statistical Division (33.4 offences per 1,000 dwellings). The Northern Division was second highest (24.1), with the rates in the other Divisions ranging between 8.5 and 16.7 offences per 1,000 dwellings.

Table 3.22 in this report shows the locations with the highest number of motor vehicle thefts in 2002. The area recording the greatest number of vehicle thefts was Rundle Mall/North Terrace, with 151 recorded thefts. This was followed by Adelaide/Parklands (134 thefts), Currie/Waymouth/Franklin Streets (120) and Elizabeth City Centre (118). Also featured on the list were a number of

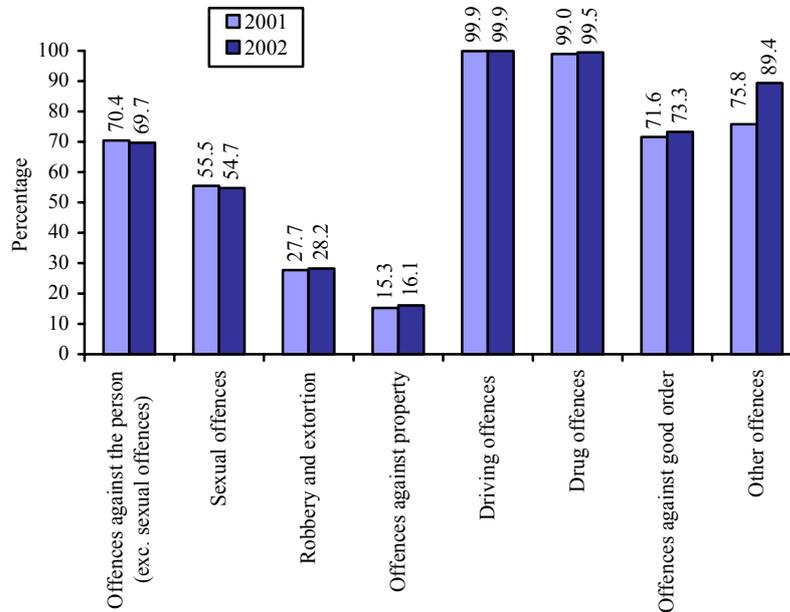
districts within the square mile of the city of Adelaide (such as Hindley Street/Casino and the Central Market) as well as shopping centres outside the city (such as Tea Tree Plaza, Arndale and Marion).

1.3 CLEARANCE STATUS OF OFFENCES

Clearance status of offences recorded by police in 2002

- Of the 296,952 offences recorded by police in 2002, 127,402 (42.9%) were cleared by the end of the same year while conversely 57.1% remained uncleared.
- The proportion of offences cleared in 2002 was slightly higher than in 2001, when 40.9% of the 293,877 offences reported that year were also cleared that year.
- As in 2001, the clear up level for those offences recorded in 2002 varied considerably depending on the type of offence involved.

Figure 18 Percentage of offences per offence group recorded and cleared in the same year: 2001 and 2002



- As shown in Figure 18, the lowest clear up level was recorded for *property offences* (16.1% cleared by the end of that year), followed by *robbery and extortion* (28.2%). Just over one half of the *sexual offences* recorded by police in 2002 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

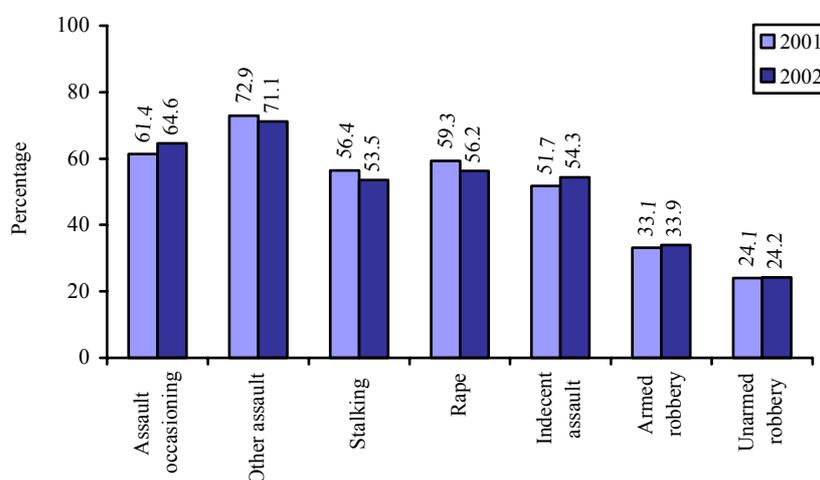
is to be expected given that police normally detect these offences at the time of their commission by the perpetrator.

- With the exception of *other offences* clear up levels remained relatively stable between 2001 and 2002. The level of clear-up for *other offences* was 13.6% higher in 2002 than in 2001. While not depicted in the above graph, the 2002 figure was more comparable with the 2000 figure (88.2%).

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*, 2001 and 2002.



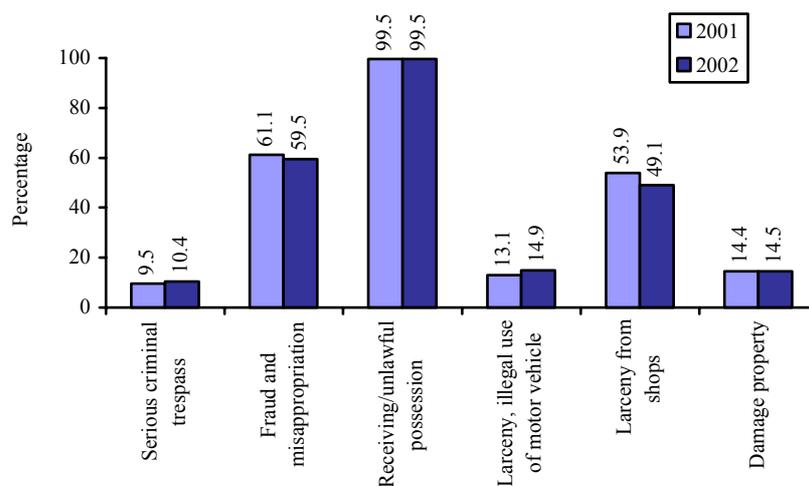
- As was the case in 2001, the clear up rate for *other assault* in 2002 was slightly higher than that for *assault occasioning actual or grievous bodily harm*. Similarly the clear up level for *rape* was slightly higher than that for *indecent assault*. Overall, these rates were considerably higher than those recorded for either *armed* or *unarmed robbery*.
- For all offences depicted, there was little difference in the clear up levels between 2001 and 2002.
- While the numbers are too small to graph, of the 29 *murders* reported to police in 2002, 20 were cleared while nine remained uncleared at the end

of the year. Of the 38 *attempted murders*, 33 were cleared by the end of the year. Of the 13 *drive causing death* offences reported in 2002, 12 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 2002.

Figure 20 Percentage of offences recorded and cleared in the same year: clear up levels for selected *property offences*, 2001 and 2002.

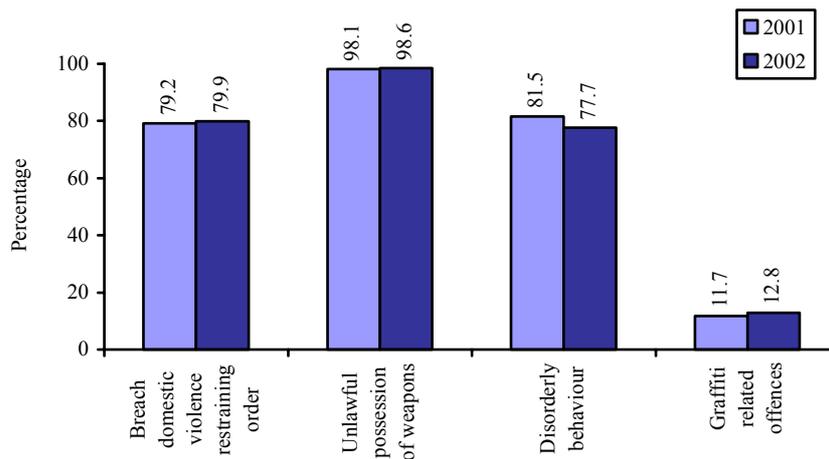


- Clear up levels varied considerably depending on the type of *property offence* involved. *Serious criminal trespass* offences had the lowest clear up level, followed closely by *damage property* and *larceny, illegal use of a motor vehicle*.
- At the other end of the scale, virtually all *receiving/unlawful possession* offences were cleared while just under half of *shop larcenies* and six in ten *fraud and misappropriation* offences 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 police catch the alleged offender.
- Clear up levels were slightly lower in 2002 than in 2001 for *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 2001 and 2002.

Figure 21 Percentage of offences recorded and cleared in the same year: clear up levels for selected *offences against good order*, 2001 and 2002.



- As indicated, within the broad *offences against good order* category, clear up levels varied from a low of 12.8% for *graffiti and related offences* to 98.6% for *unlawful possession of weapons*.
- There was a slight decrease in the clear up rate for *disorderly behaviour* offences in 2002.

Total offences cleared in 2002

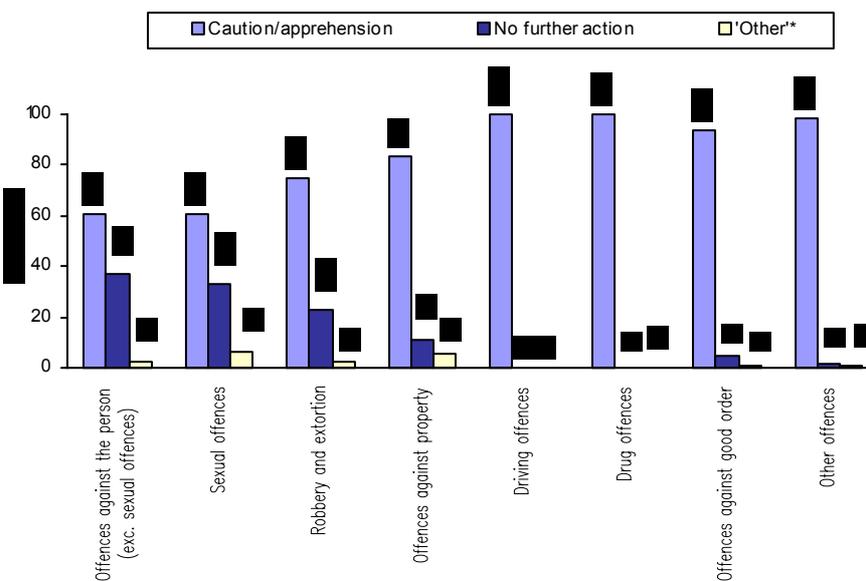
- As noted earlier, of those 296,952 offences recorded by police in 2002, 127,402 had been cleared by the end of the year. In addition, a further 4,369 offences were cleared which had been recorded by police prior to 2002. This gives a total of 131,771 offences cleared during the 12 month period.
- In 2002, there were also 211 Shop Infringement Notices issued for *larceny from a shop*. 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 to an alleged offender caught shop lifting.
- For each of the key offence categories, the majority of offences cleared in 2002 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 14,694 *offences against the person* cleared in 2002, only 6.2% were recorded prior to 2002, while for *sexual offences*, *robbery offences* and *property offences*, the proportion was 13.4%, 8.1% and 8.9% respectively. Of the 53,411 *driving offences* cleared in 2002, only one involved a pre-2002 offence.

Method of clearance

- Of the 131,771 offences actually cleared in 2002, the majority (118,410 or 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: ie following exhaustive inquiries, the police found no evidence that an offence had been committed. For 10,835 (8.2% of all offences cleared), the victim requested that the police take no further action. Finally, 0.5% were cleared by some 'other' method. 'Other' included the following categories:
 - The accused or the complainant had died;
 - The suspect had diplomatic immunity; or
 - The charge had lapsed due to the limitation of time set out in legislation.
- In 2002 there were also 211 Shop Infringement Notices issued for *larceny from a shop*. 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 Infringement Notice to an alleged offender caught shop lifting.

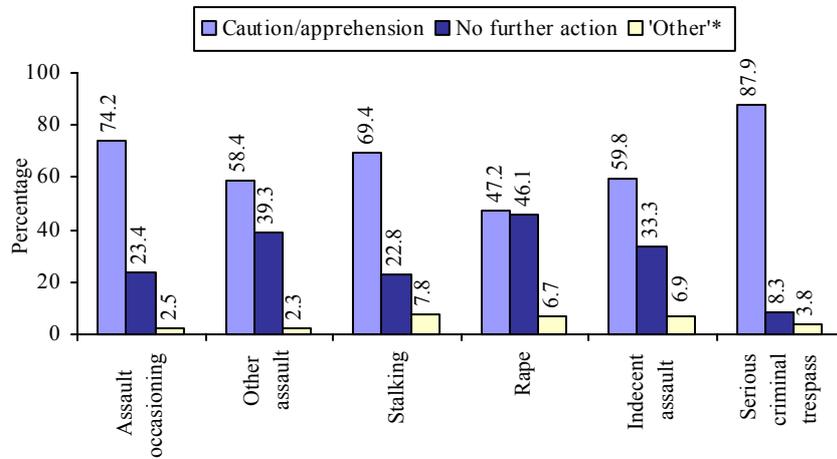
- As shown in Figure 22, the method of clearance varied depending on the type of offence involved.
- For *driving* and *drug* offences, virtually all were cleared by way of the apprehension or cautioning of a suspect.
- In contrast, only 60.4% of *against person* offences were cleared by this method, as were 60.5% of *sexual offences*. In addition, for these two categories, the proportion that were cleared as a result of the victim requesting that no further action be taken was relatively high (37.1% of *offences against the person* and 33.0% of *sexual offences* compared with only 11.2% 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 2002 by offence group



* 'Other' includes application, unfounded, other and Shop Theft Infringement Notice.

Figure 23 Method of clearance for selected against person and sexual offences cleared in 2002



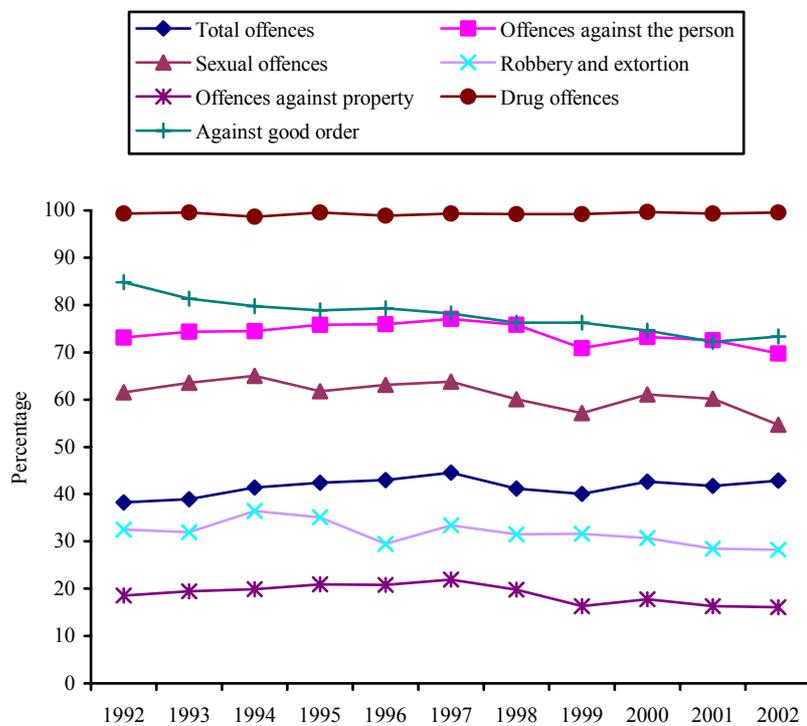
* 'Other' includes application, unfounded, other and Shop Theft Infringement Notice.

- 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 2002 involved the victim withdrawing the allegation (46.1%, 39.3% and 33.3% respectively, compared with 22.8% of *stalking* offences and 23.4% 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 2002 was extremely high while the proportion where the victim withdrew the allegation was low (8.3%).

Longitudinal trends in level of clearance

The clearance data discussed in the previous section relate primarily to offences recorded in the 2002 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 2002. 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 2002, of all offences recorded in the years 1992 to 2002. This means that for those offences reported in 1992, police have had at least ten years to clear them compared with less than one year for those offences reported in 2002.

Figure 24 Percentage of offences cleared as at 31 December 2002 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, 2002 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 2002 compared with 69.7% of those reported in 2002.
- A similar finding applied to *robbery and extortion*, with 32.5% of such offences reported in 1992 being cleared by the end of December 2002 compared with only a slightly lower figure of 28.2% of those reported in 2002.
- Of the seven offence groups depicted, the ‘drop off’ in the clearance level for matters reported in 2002 compared with earlier years was most pronounced for *against good order* where clearance levels dropped from 84.8% in 1992 to 73.3% in 2002. Due largely to a ‘drop off’ in 2002, the clearance level for *sexual offences* decreased from 61.5% of matters reported in 1992 to 54.7% of those reported in 2002.
- Overall though, allowing for the shorter time available to clear offences reported in 2002 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 2002. The offence categories selected for inclusion cover all *offences against the person*, all *sexual offences*, all *larcenies from the person* and all *robbery and extortion* offences directed against an individual. Those *robbery and extortion offences* perpetrated against a corporation have been excluded, as have all *drug* and *driving offences* because these do not generally involve a victim. *Offences against property* have also been omitted because of potential biases arising from how the information is reported to police. In the case of a house break, for example, if the property is jointly owned by a husband and wife, then both are victims. However, police only record the details of one of these individuals – usually the one who actually reports the offence. If house breaks are usually reported by the male, then the data will show a potentially misleading preponderance of males as victims of this particular type of offence.

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

- **Total victimisations.** In the body of each table, victim details are counted once for each different offence group recorded per incident report. To illustrate: if, in the one incident report filed by police, the victim claimed that they had been assaulted twice and stalked once, that victim would be counted once under assault and once under stalking. However, if they filed an assault report in January and another in April, they would be counted twice under the assault category because these related to two separate incidents.
- **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 12,625 victims of *other assault*. This means that during 2002, 12,625 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 396 victims aged 0–9 years who, during 2002, 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.

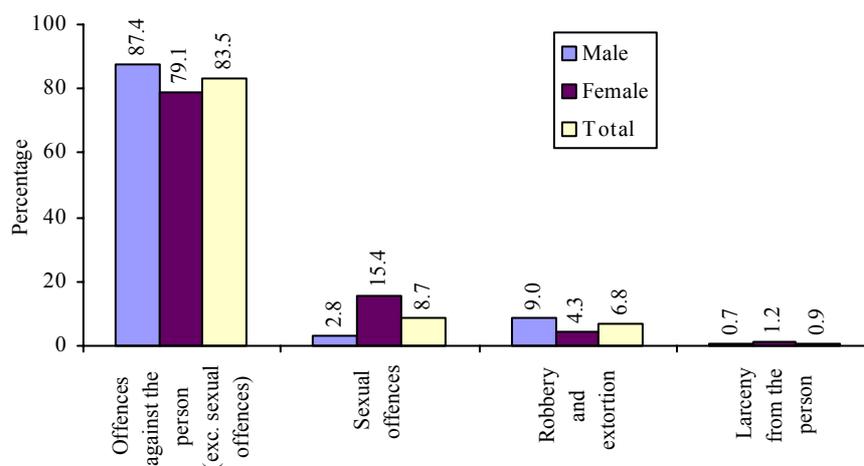
- **Discrete individuals.** Finally, in the bottom right hand corner of each table is a single figure, which details the total number of discrete individuals who, during the course of the year, were victimised at least once, irrespective of their age or the category of offence involved. In Table 5.1a for example, there were 16,770 discrete individuals who, during 2002, 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

This section details the number of victimisations per offence type recorded in 2002. It does not relate to individuals.

- In 2002 there were 23,300 recorded victimisations directed against a person.

Figure 25 Offences involving a ‘personal’ victim: offence type by sex, 2002

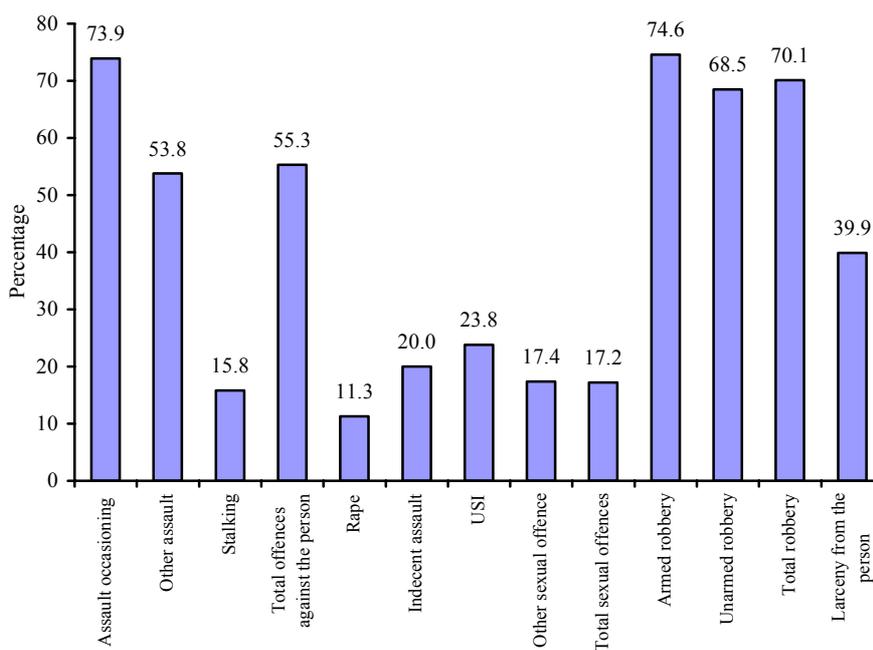


- Of those victimisations where the sex of the victim was recorded, 52.9% involved males while conversely, 47.1% involved females. The fact that there was a fairly even distribution of males and females amongst the victims is in direct contrast to the finding (as described in the next section)

that males accounted for the overwhelming majority of persons apprehended in 2002 for allegedly committing offences.

- As indicated in Figure 25, of the 23,305 victimisations perpetrated against an individual, over eight in 10 involved an *offence against the person*. In contrast, *sexual offences* accounted for only 8.7% of personal victimisations, while *robbery and extortion* constituted 6.8% and *larceny from the person* made up 0.9%.
- There were some minor differences between males and females in the type of offences perpetrated against them. A higher proportion of victimisations involving males entailed an *offence against the person* 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*, 2002.



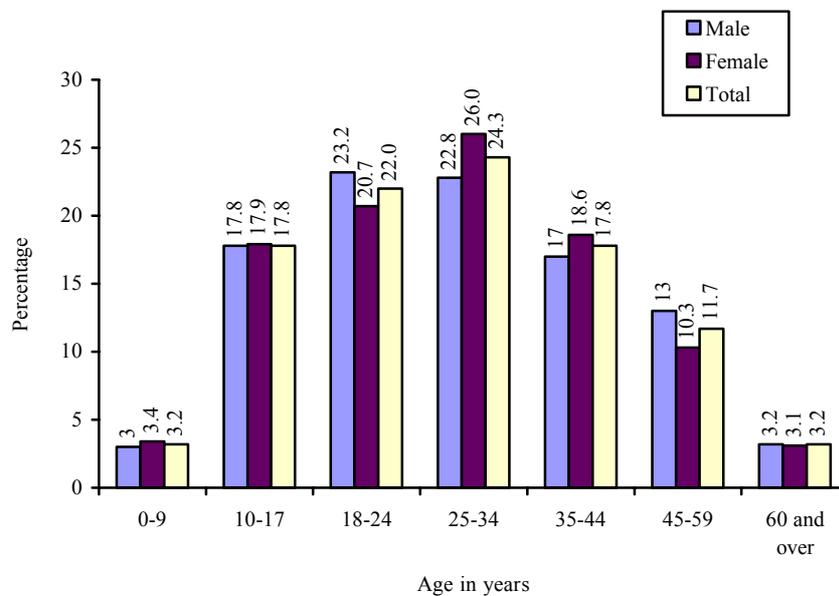
*Offence types with relatively small numbers have been excluded.

- 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 2002, over half of the victims were male (n=17). Males were also the victims of 25 of the 38 *attempted murders* recorded that year and four of the eight 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 2002. 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 2002 would be counted three times within the 25-34 age group.

Figure 27 Personal victimisations recorded by police in 2002: age by sex of victims

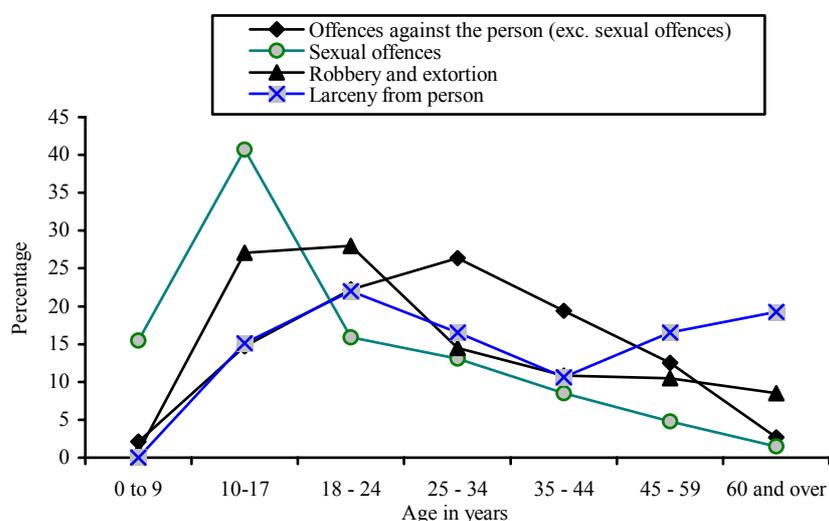


- As shown in Figure 27, persons in the mid age ranges of 18 – 24 years and 25 – 34 years accounted for the highest proportion of ‘personal’ victimisations reported to police in 2002 where age was known, while the very young and the elderly accounted for relatively small proportions. These findings run 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 2002: age profile of victims by offence type

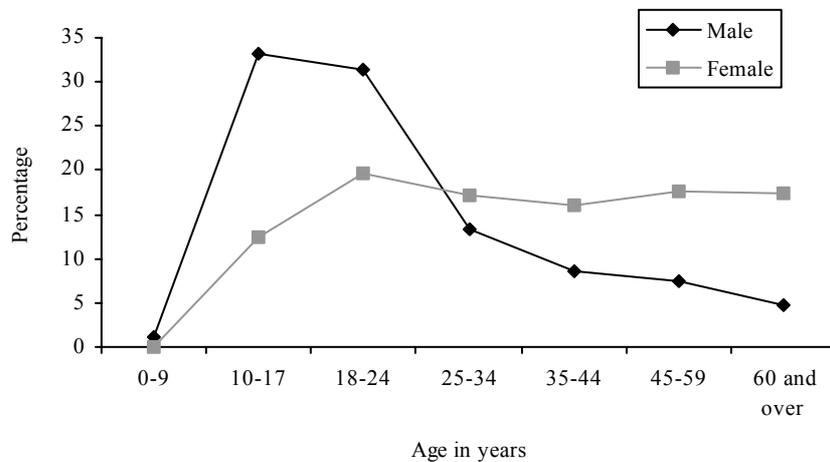


- For *sexual offences*, the peak age was 10 – 17 years, with persons in this category accounting for just over 40% of *sexual offence* victimisations recorded by police in 2002 where age was recorded. A further 15.5% were aged 0 – 9 years. In total then, over one half of all recorded *sexual offence* victims were young people aged less than 18 years. In contrast, the older age groups of 45 years and over accounted for only 6.3% of all *sexual offence* victims.
- Of those persons subjected to a *robbery and extortion* a relatively high proportion of victims fell within the 10 – 17 year and 18-24 year age groups in 2002. After the age of 24, 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*.

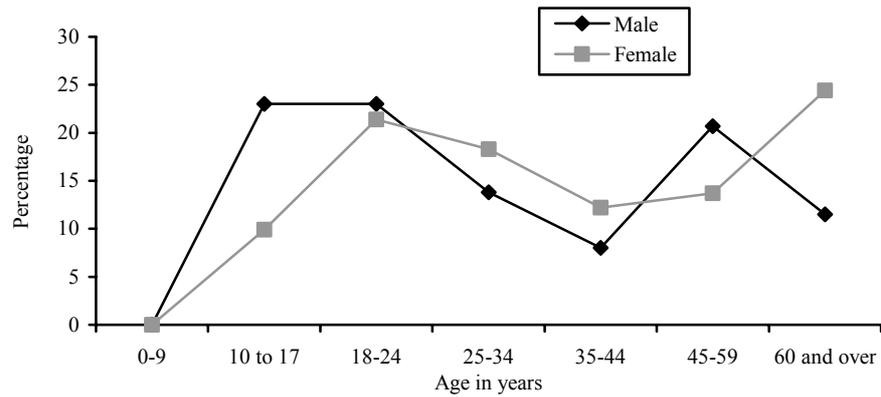
- The age profile of persons subject to a reported *larceny from the person* was different again. Compared with the other offence types shown, the proportion of victims aged 45 years was much higher. For this type of offence then, it is the elderly who are more likely to be targeted than younger persons, 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. However, they were very similar for *against person* and *sexual offences*.
- As shown in Figure 29, the highest proportion of male *robbery and extortion* victims fell within the 10 to 17 age 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 18 to 24 year age group. While the proportion of female victimisations in the age ranges over 25 years was lower than that for the 18 to 24 age group, the decrease was minimal compared with that shown for male victimisations.

Figure 29 *Robbery and extortion* victimisations recorded by police in 2002: age profile of victims by sex



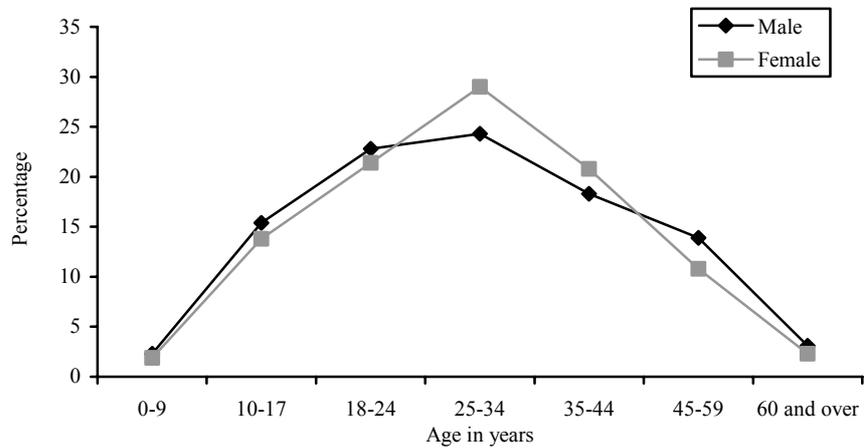
- As indicated in Figure 30, for *larceny from the person*, the highest proportion of male victims fell within the younger age categories. In contrast, the highest proportion of female victims was in the oldest category 60 years and over. This tends to confirm the anecdotal evidence that older women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

Figure 30 *Larceny from the person* victimisations recorded by police in 2002: age profiles of victims by sex



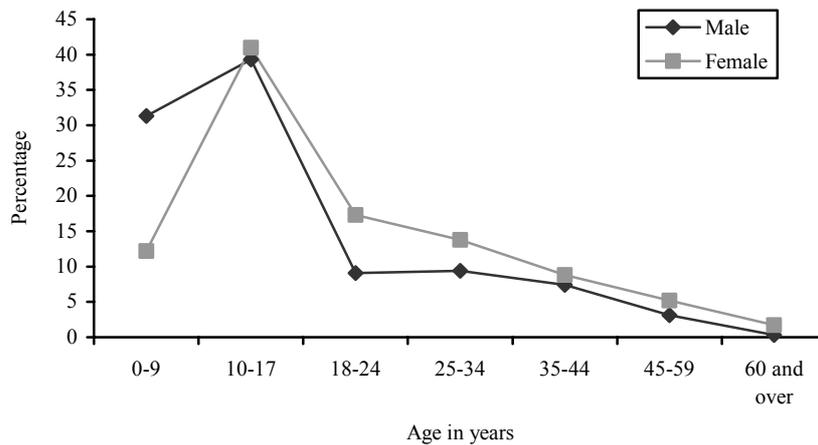
- As depicted in Figure 31, the age profile for male victims of an *offence against the person* was very similar to that of female victims.

Figure 31 *Offences against the person* victimisations recorded by police in 2002: 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.

Figure 32 *Sexual offence* victimisations recorded by police in 2002: age profile of victims by sex



Discrete individuals and the extent of revictimisation

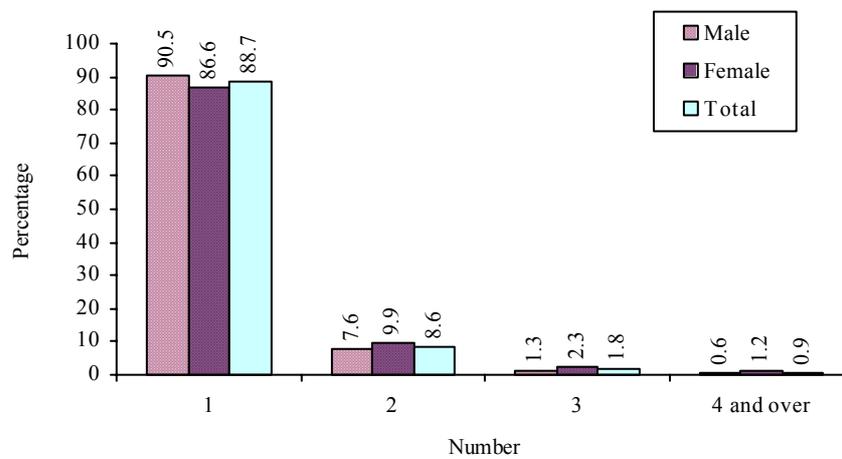
The information provided in the preceding sections does not relate to the number of discrete individuals victimised during 2002. In determining the age profiles outlined above, for example, a victim who was subjected to more than one *sexual offence* during the year and who changed age brackets from 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 2002 there were 19,875 individuals who, during the course of the year, were subject to at least one ‘personal’ offence. This figure was only slightly higher than the 19,842 victims recorded in 2001.
- Of the 19,872 individuals for whom sex was recorded, 10,813 (54.4%) were male while 9,059 (45.6%) were female.
- As indicated in Figure 33, almost nine in ten victims were the subject of only one incident report during the course of the 12 months. Conversely,

only a small proportion (11.3%) were listed as the victims in two or more incident reports.

- Overall then, the level of repeat victimisation was extremely low. However, there were 28 individuals who were the subject of six or more incident reports during 2002.
- 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, 2002



1.5 APPREHENSIONS

An apprehension report may be lodged by police when an alleged perpetrator is cautioned, arrested or reported.

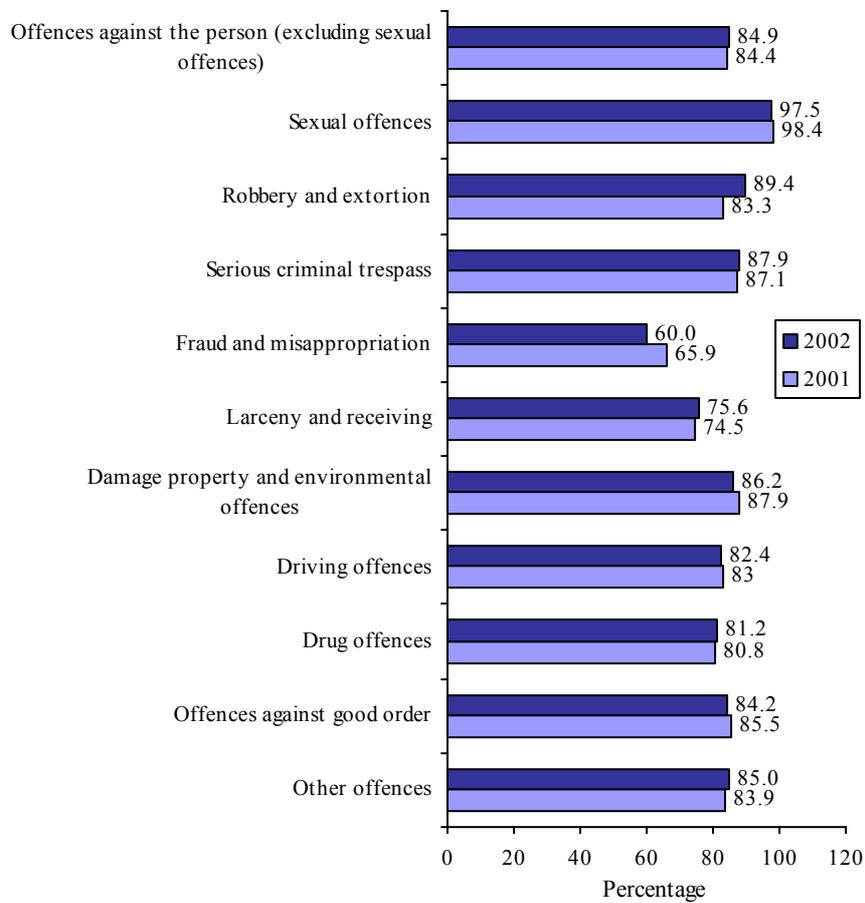
In the following analysis of apprehension data, several different units of analysis are used. In the first section below, information is presented on all charges laid. However, unlike the counting rules used in the tables contained in Section 3 and 4 of the report, this does not include multiple counts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

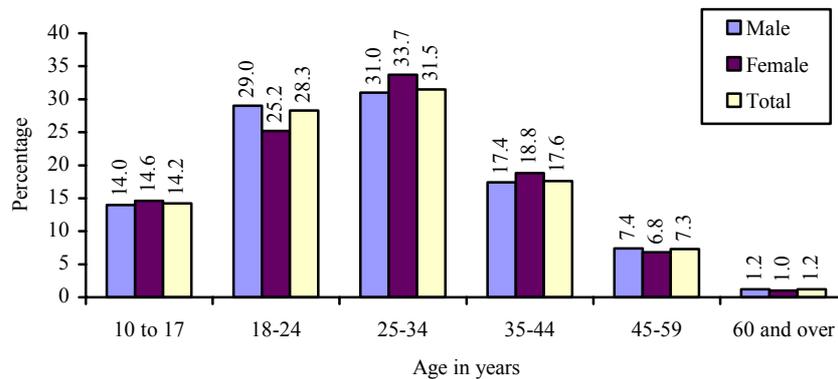
- There were 118,948 separate charges listed on police apprehension reports lodged in 2002. This figure was higher (by 7.7%) than the 110,480 charges laid in 2001.
- As was the case in previous years, more than eight in 10 of those charges for which information on the sex of the alleged offender was recorded involved males, although this percentage varied depending on the type of offence involved (see Figure 34), reaching a high of 97.5% for *sexual offences*.
- While only a minority of charges were laid against females, this group accounted for 24.4% of all *larceny and receiving* offences charged (including 39.6% of all *larcenies from shops*) and 40% of all *fraud and misappropriation* charges.
- The proportion of males involved in charges laid by police remained relatively stable between 2001 and 2002 for all offence groups.

Figure 34 Charges laid by police in 2001 and 2002: proportion per offence type involving males



- Of the 118,948 charges listed in those apprehension reports filed in 2002 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 male and female charges laid in 2002. For both groups, those aged 18 - 24 and 25 - 34 years dominated. Similarly, relatively few males or females were aged 45 years and over.

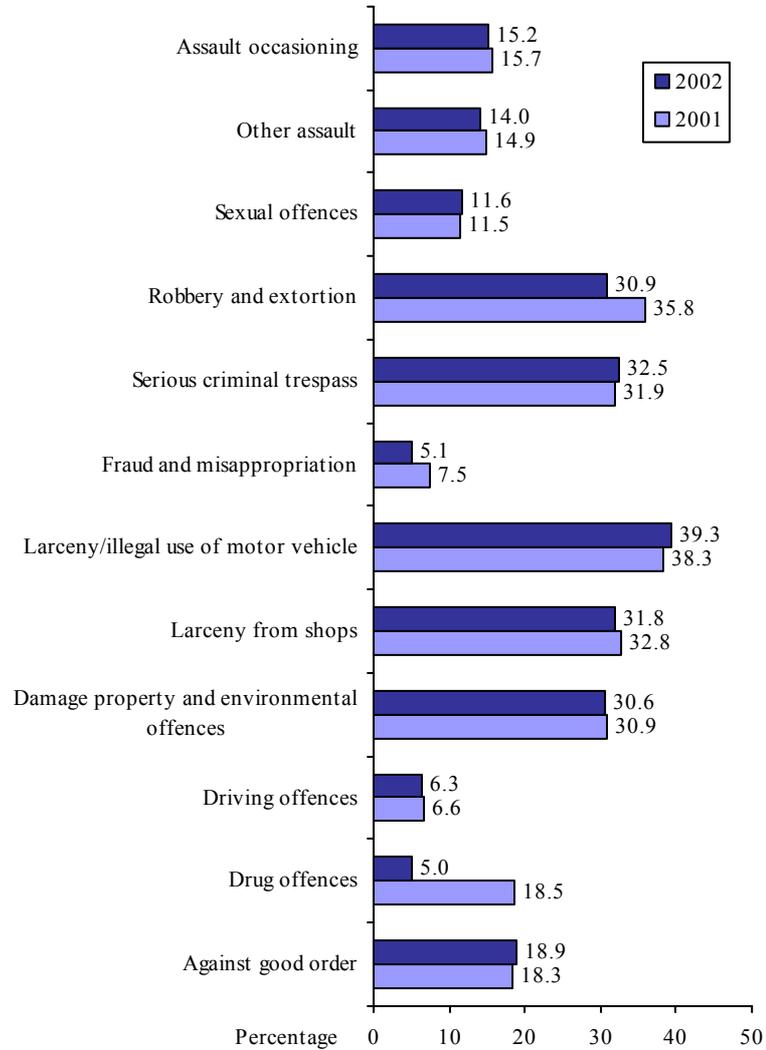
Figure 35 Charges laid by police in 2002: age of alleged offenders by sex



- 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 5.0% of all *drug* charges laid in 2002, 5.1% of all *fraud and misappropriation* charges and 6.3% of all *driving offences*. At the other end of the scale, they were involved in 39.3% of all *larceny/illegal use of a motor vehicle* charges. This age group also accounted for 32.5% of all *serious criminal trespass* charges and 31.8% of all *larceny from shop* 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.
- The proportion within each offence category cleared by way of a juvenile apprehension in 2002 was generally similar to that recorded in 2001 for most offences (see Figure 36), although some differences were evident. While in 2001 juveniles accounted for 18.5% of apprehensions for *drug offence*, in 2002 this dropped to 5.0%. This decrease is likely to, in part, be the result of the introduction of the Police Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative, which commenced operation in September/October 2001. 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. Hence, this Initiative impacts on the number of persons apprehended for a drug offence. The number of juveniles apprehended for *possess and/or use drugs offences* decreased from 438 in 2001 to 57 in 2002. Similarly, the number apprehended for *possessing an implement for drug use* decreased from 347 to 56. In contrast, the number (and

proportion) of juveniles apprehended for *possessing for sale/selling drugs* and *producing or manufacturing drugs* remained relatively stable between 2001 and 2002.

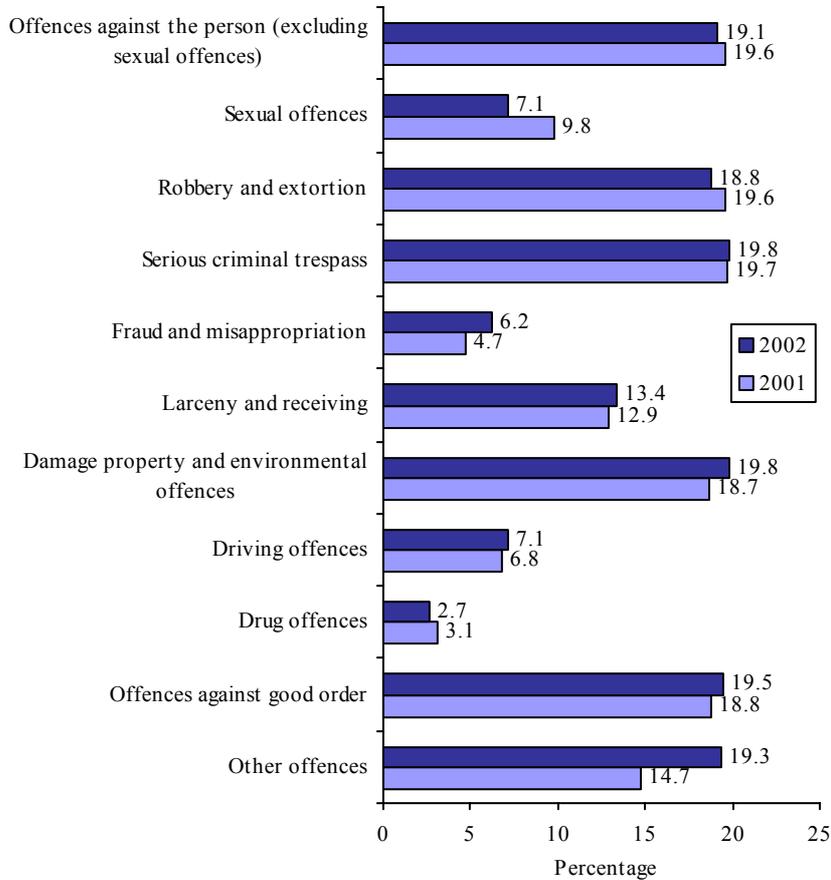
Figure 36 Juveniles as a proportion of all charges laid by police: 2001 compared with 2002



Offences cleared in 2002 by way of an apprehension: racial appearance of persons charged.

- Information on racial appearance was available for 110,455 or 92.9% of the 118,948 charges laid by police in 2002.
- Of these 110,455 charges, 13,596 (12.3%) 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, as according to the most recent census, Indigenous persons constituted only 1.4% of all persons aged 10 years and over resident in this State in 2001.
- It should be noted that these data do not include persons dealt with by way of expiation notices, such as CENs and Traffic Infringement Notices. Nor do they include those who, rather than being charged with a drug offence, are diverted to the Police Drug Diversion Initiative. It is well documented that Aboriginal persons are under-represented in these 'diversionary' options.
- The extent of Aboriginal involvement also varied considerably depending on the type of charge. As indicated in Figure 37, persons identified by police as Aboriginal accounted for almost 20% of all charges involving an *offence against a person, robbery and extortion*, and *serious criminal trespass*, but only about 3% of all *drug* charges.

Figure 37 Charges laid by police in 2001 and 2002: proportion per offence category involving persons of Aboriginal appearance

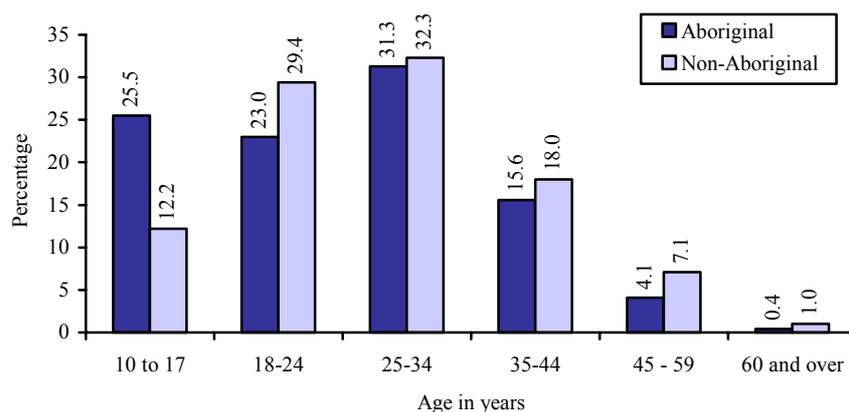


- Overall, the proportion of offences involving Aboriginal persons was relatively similar to those recorded for most offence types in the previous year. The only differences of note were the higher proportion of Aboriginal persons charged with *other* and *fraud and misappropriation* offences in 2002 compared with 2001 and the lower proportion of Aboriginal persons charged with *sexual* offences.
- One offence category where Aboriginal persons have always been over-represented is that of *offences against good order*. In 2002 persons of Aboriginal appearance accounted for 19.5% of all such charges laid where relevant information was recorded. However, this varied depending on the type of *good order* offence involved. At one end of the scale, Aboriginals accounted for only 10.3% of *unlawful possession of weapons* charges laid and 9.2% of *graffiti and related* charges. At the other end of the scale, this

group accounted for 23.2% of all *indecent/offensive language* charges, 27.8% of all *disorderly/offensive behaviour* charges and 18.9% of all *resist/hinder police* charges where information on racial appearance was available.

- In interpreting these figures though, it should be stressed that they do not reflect 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 2002 indicates some minor Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal differences (see Figure 38). As indicated, for those charges where information on racial appearance was recorded, a much 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 2002 involved persons aged 18 to 24 years and 45 years and over.

Figure 38 Charges laid by police in 2002; age by racial appearance

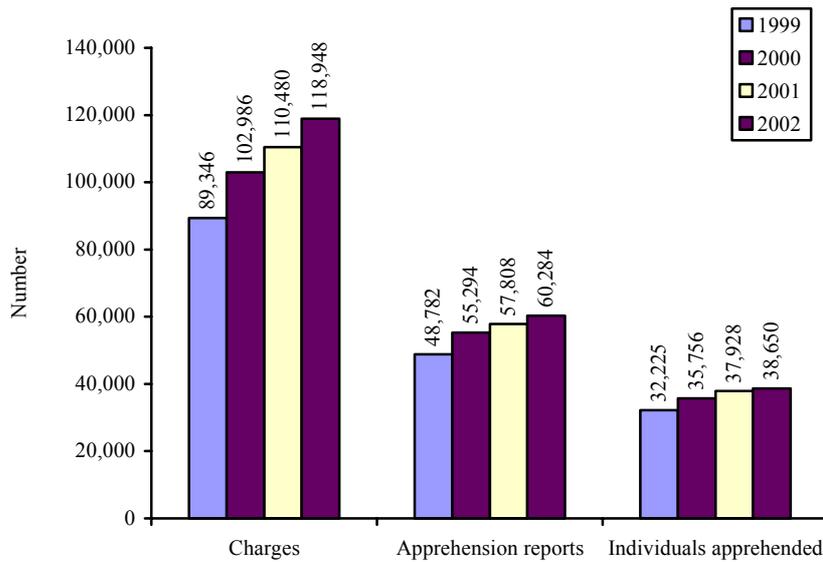


Relationship between charges laid, apprehension reports filed and discrete persons apprehended

- As noted earlier, there were 118,948 charges recorded in 2002. These were contained within 60,284 apprehension reports. This means that, on average, each apprehension report lodged by police during this twelve month period contained 1.97 charges.

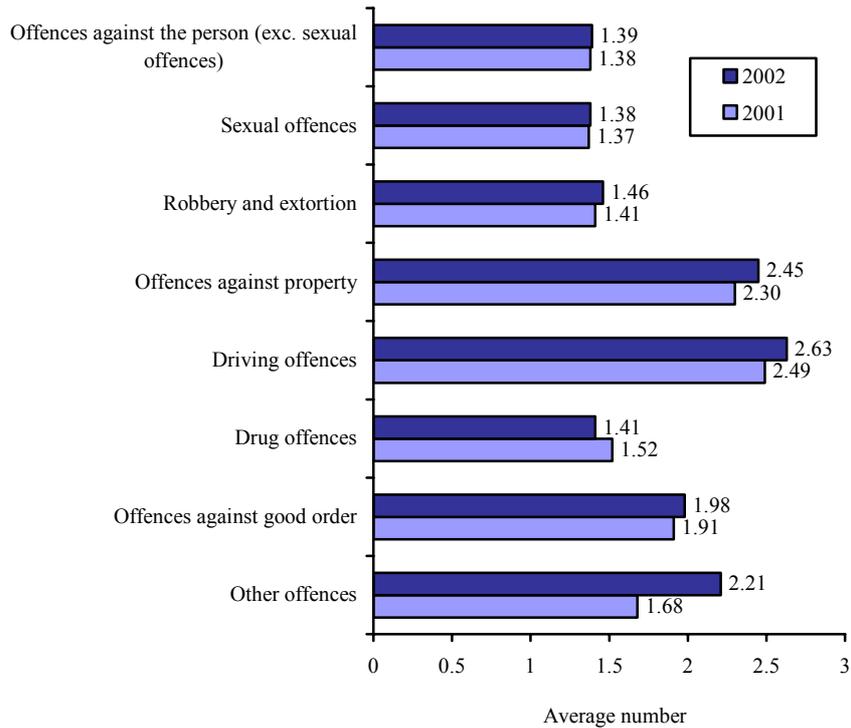
- Over the same time period, a total of 38,650 discrete individuals were apprehended. On average then, each person was apprehended 1.56 times, with an average of 3.08 charges laid per individual over the twelve month period.
- As indicated in Figure 39, the number of charges laid increased steadily over the four years depicted. Similarly, the number of apprehension reports submitted and the number of individuals apprehended by police in 2002 also increased.
- The same upward trend was observed for the average number of charges per apprehension report and per individual and the average number of apprehension reports per individual: namely:
 - 1.97 charges per apprehension report in 2002 compared with 1.91 in 2001, 1.86 in 2000 and 1.83 in 1999;
 - 3.08 charges per individual in 2002 compared with 2.91 in 2001, 2.88 in 2000 and 2.77 in 1999.
 - 1.56 apprehension reports per individual in 2002 compared with 1.52 in 2001, 1.55 in 2000 and 1.51 in 1999.

Figure 39 Number of apprehension reports and discrete individuals apprehended: 2002 compared with 1999, 2000 and 2001.



- 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.)

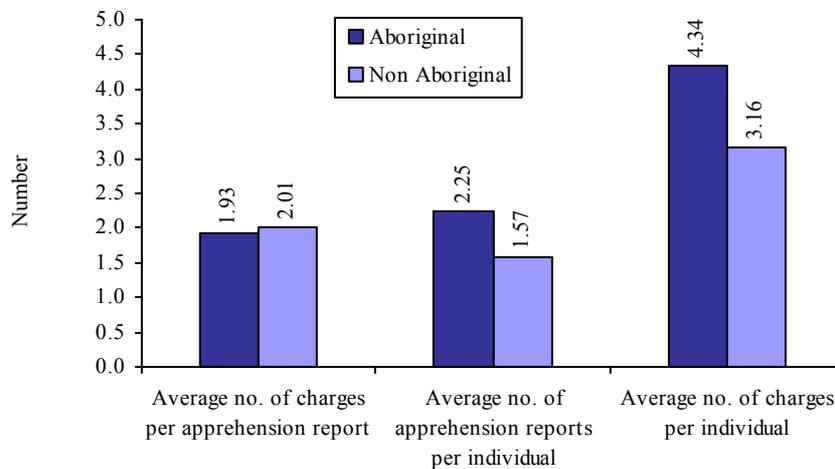
Figure 40 Average number of charges per individual per offence group, 2002 compared with 2001



- As shown, the average number of charges laid varied slightly depending on the type of offence involved. Those persons apprehended in 2002 for a *property offence* faced an average of 2.45 such charges during the year. For individuals charged with a *driving offence*, the average was 2.63. At the other end of the scale, persons charged with an *offence against the person* faced an average of 1.39 such charges, while for those charged with a *sexual offence*, the average number was 1.38.
- For most offence categories the average number of charges laid per individual was similar to that recorded in 2001.

- Males accounted for the majority of apprehension reports lodged (81.1% of the 60,265 reports where information on the sex of the offender was recorded). Males also accounted for 79.9% of those 38,632 discrete individuals apprehended where relevant data were available.
- On average, the number of charges per apprehension report was higher for males than females (1.99 and 1.88 respectively). The same applied in relation to the average number of apprehension reports per individual (1.58 compared with 1.47 for females) and the average number of charges per individual (3.16 for males compared with 2.75 for females.)
- As noted earlier, persons of Aboriginal appearance accounted for 12.3% of the 110,455 charges laid by police in 2002 where relevant information was available. They also accounted for 12.8% of all apprehensions and 9.3% of all persons apprehended where information on racial appearance was recorded.
- As shown in Figure 41, in 2002, 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. However, the average number of charges per apprehension report was slightly lower.

Figure 41 Average number of charges laid, apprehension reports lodged and individuals apprehended; comparison between Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals, 2002.

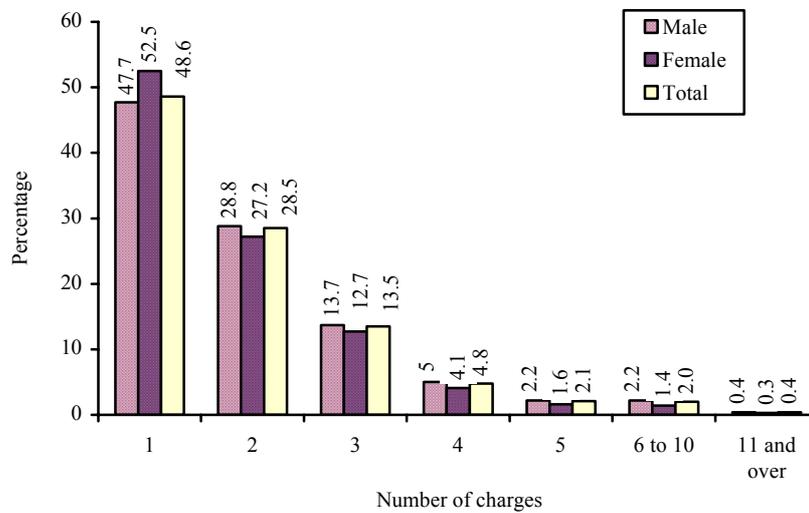


Apprehension reports: some further details

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.

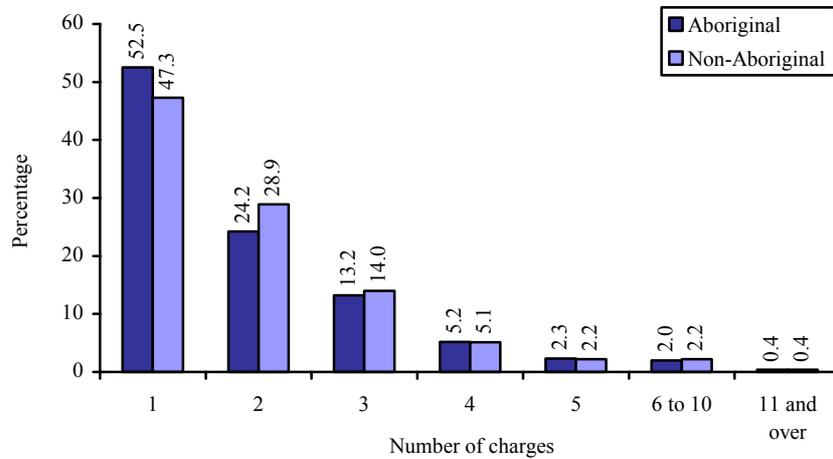
- As indicated in Figure 42, one half of all apprehension reports submitted by police in 2002 involved one charge only. At the other end of the scale, very few of these reports listed six or more charges. This pattern held true for both males and females, although the proportion of reports involving one charge only was higher for females than males.

Figure 42 Apprehension reports filed by police in 2002: 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 2002: 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.

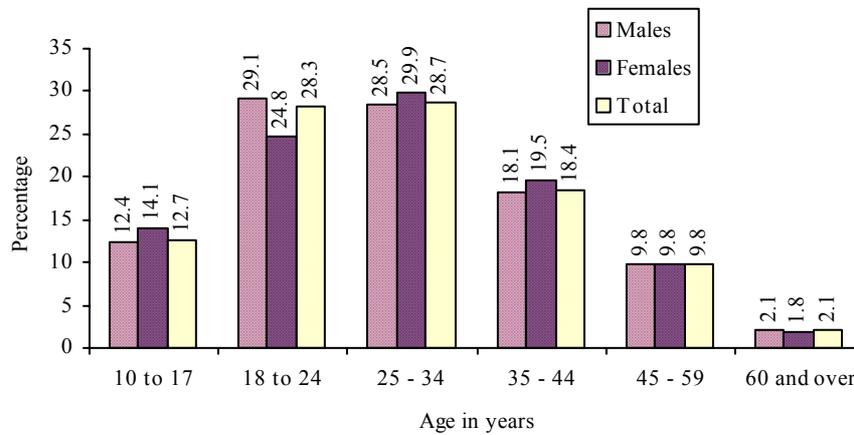
Individuals apprehended by police: some further details

Tables 6.33 to 6.41 in Section 6 of this report focus on the number of discrete individuals apprehended by police in 2002. 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

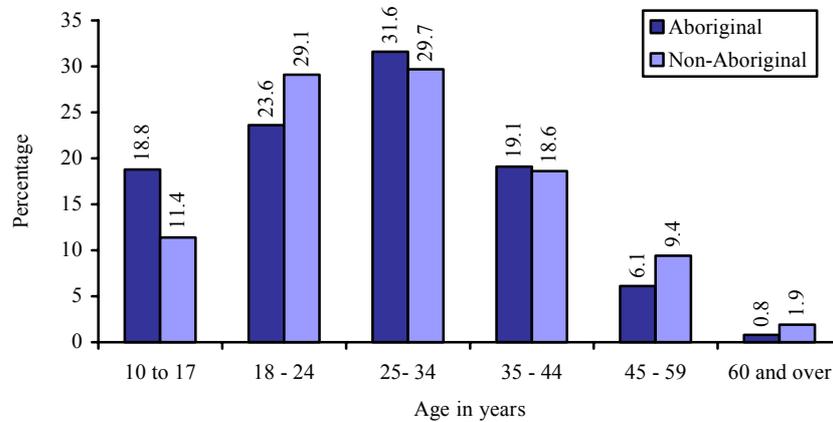
- As noted earlier, 38,650 individuals were apprehended at least once by police during 2002. Information on the sex of 18 of these persons was not available. Of the remaining 38,632, the majority (79.9%) were male.

Figure 44 Discrete individuals apprehended by police in 2002: age by sex



- As indicated in Figure 44, where age was known, 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 2002. For both groups, the 18 - 24 and 25 - 34 year age categories dominated, although a slightly lower proportion of females were aged 18 - 24 years and a slightly higher proportion aged 25 - 34 years.
- Of the 38,650 individuals apprehended in 2002, information on racial appearance was not recorded for 4,827 (or 12.5%). As noted earlier, persons of Aboriginal appearance accounted for 9.3% 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 6.6 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 2002 tended to be slightly younger than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. As shown in Figure 45, a higher proportion of Aboriginal persons apprehended in 2002 were aged 10 - 17 years compared with non-Aboriginals, while the reverse was true for apprehended individuals aged 45 and over.

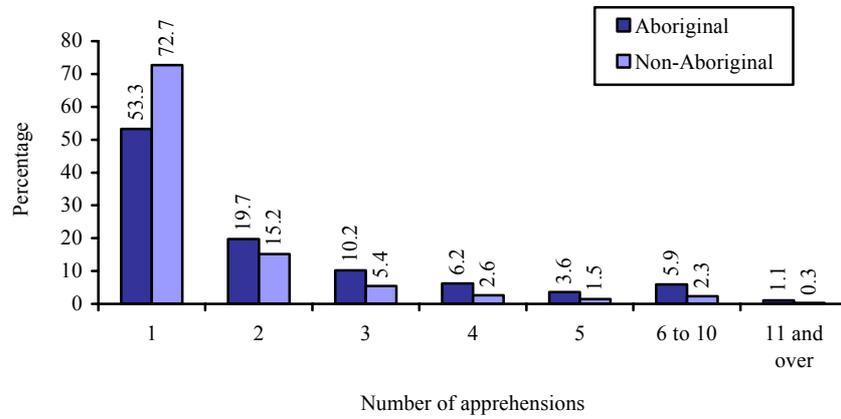
Figure 45 Discrete individuals apprehended by police in 2002: age by racial appearance



Number of apprehensions per individual

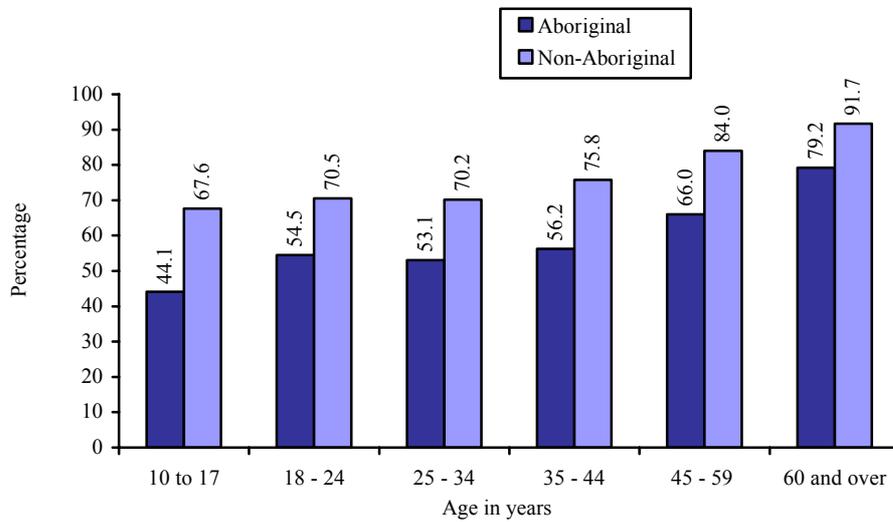
- Of the 38,650 persons apprehended in 2002, three quarters (74.1%) were apprehended on one occasion only during the twelve month period while a further 14.1% were apprehended on two occasions.
- A small group of individuals (1,002 or 2.6% of the total) were apprehended on six or more occasions, with 118 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 2002 (72.9% and 78.6% 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 2002: 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 2002: proportion per age group experiencing one apprehension only by racial appearance



Number of charges per individual

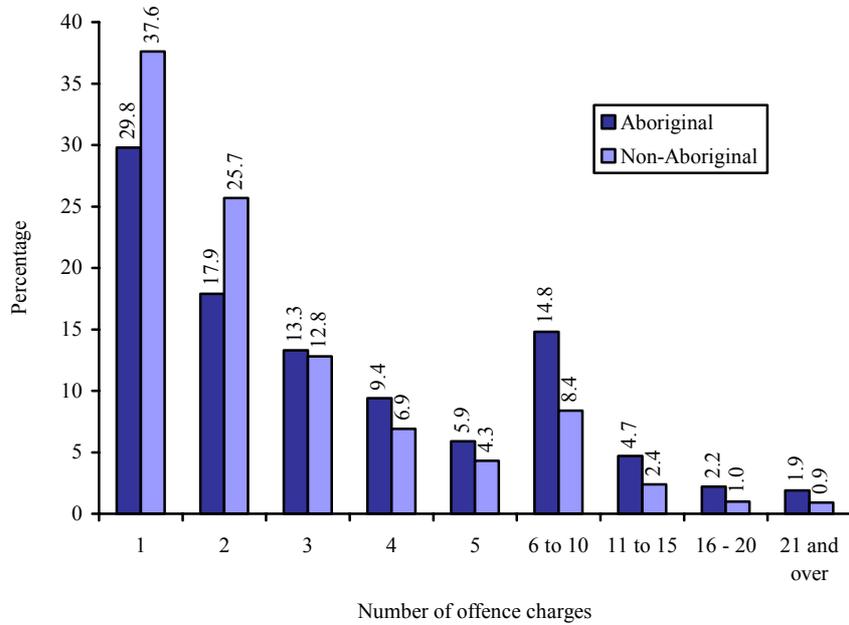
- Of the 38,650 distinct individuals apprehended by police in 2002, 15,129 or 39.1% were charged with one offence only, while a further 25.7% had two allegations laid against them. Only a small proportion (12.2%) were charged with six or more offences.
- There were some minor sex differences, with a slightly higher proportion of females facing one offence allegation only (44.6% compared with 37.8% 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 15,129 individuals who, during the course of the year, were charged with one offence only; i.e. in total, they accounted for 15,129 offences. This means that 39.1% of all individuals apprehended in 2002 accounted for 12.7% of all offences recorded. However, at the other end of the scale, the 4,734 individuals who were charged with six or more offences accounted for 51,734 of the allegations laid. In other words, 12.2% of persons apprehended in 2002 were responsible for 43.5% of all charges laid by police. These results clearly indicate that in 2002, as in previous years, 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, 2002

15,129 persons @ 1 offence each = 15,129 offences	39.1% of all individuals apprehended accounted for 12.7% of all charges
9,916 persons @ 2 offences each = 19,832 offences	25.7% of individuals apprehended accounted for 16.7% of all charges
4,776 persons @ 3 offences each = 14,328 offences	12.4% of individuals apprehended accounted for 12.0% of all charges
2,550 persons @ 4 offences each = 10,200 offences	6.6% of individuals apprehended accounted for 8.6% of all charges
1,545 persons @ 5 offences each = 7,725 offences	4.0% of individuals apprehended accounted for 6.5% of all charges
4,734 persons @ 6 + offences each = 51,734 offences	12.2% of individuals apprehended accounted for 43.5% of all charges

- At the most extreme end of the scale, there were 737 persons charged with more than 15 offences. As would be expected, only a very small number of these individuals (24 or 3.3% of the 737) were apprehended on only one occasion. In contrast, 511 persons, or 69.3%, 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 2002: number of offence charges by racial appearance



- Nevertheless, a similarly small proportion of individuals within each group accounted for a similarly high proportion of all charges. More specifically, 23.7% of all Aboriginal persons apprehended in 2002 accounted for 60.2% of all charges laid against this group by police, while

23.9% of all non-Aboriginals apprehended accounted for 59.7% 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 2002: an Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal comparison

Number of offences per individual	Aboriginal persons apprehended	Non-Aboriginal persons apprehended
1	29.8% of individuals apprehended accounted for 6.9% of all allegations	37.6% of individuals apprehended accounted for 11.9% of all allegations
2	17.9% of individuals apprehended accounted for 8.2% of all allegations	25.7% of individuals apprehended accounted for 16.3% of all allegations
3	13.3% of individuals apprehended accounted for 9.2% of all allegations	12.8% of individuals apprehended accounted for 12.1% of all allegations
4	9.4% of individuals apprehended accounted for 8.6% of all allegations	6.9% of individuals apprehended accounted for 8.7% of all allegations
5	5.9% of individuals apprehended accounted for 6.8% of all allegations	4.3% of individuals apprehended accounted for 6.8% of all allegations
6+	23.7% of individuals apprehended accounted for 60.2% of all allegations	12.8% of individuals apprehended accounted for 44.2% of all allegations