

CRIME AND JUSTICE
IN
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
2004

-

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 2004.

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.

We trust that readers will find this volume of *Crime and Justice in South Australia* useful and informative.

Joy Wundersitz
Director
Office of Crime Statistics and Research

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Systems design and programming:	Carol Castle
Data auditing and tabulation:	Carol Castle and Lynne Sampson
Commentary and explanatory notes:	Tina Conroy
Table layout and typing:	Natalie Gatis and Tina Conroy
Final preparation for publication:	Natalie Gatis, Tina Conroy, Joy Wundersitz and Paul Thomas

INTRODUCTION

This report, covering the period 1 January to 31 December 2004, is the eighteenth 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 recorded by 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, 96% of motor vehicle thefts in South Australia were reported to police, while at the other end of the scale, the level of reporting of non-sexual assaults was 30.8% (ABS, 2003: Cat. No. 4509.0). 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). 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 in that year 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.

The number of incidents and offences recorded by police during a given year are also dependent on how an event is interpreted by police and whether it is 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. Shifts in how police officers 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 filed 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 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 a greater willingness by police to actually lodge an incident report, which will then be counted in the official statistics.

Changes to legislation and criminal justice processes themselves also impact on the statistics. For example, in late 2001, the Police Drug Diversion Initiative was introduced to respond to both adults and juveniles detected in possession of drugs or drug implements. Under this scheme, such individuals are diverted to a brief assessment and intervention without the offences being formally recorded on the Police Information Management System. As a result, the numbers of *use/possess drug offences* recorded by police has dropped considerably.

Changes in the efficiency of policing combined with improvements in technology may also affect the official statistics. For example, with the recent expansion in the use of red light and speed cameras, the number of offences involving ‘drive unregistered/uninsured’ has jumped dramatically in recent years because registration and licence checks are automatically carried out as a by-product of detected speeding and red light violations.

The influence potentially exerted by these factors on recorded 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 report a crime to police and the characteristics of alleged perpetrators apprehended by police. For example, 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. Similarly, for certain categories of crime such as *property damage*, *serious criminal trespass* and *vehicle theft*, the number of crimes reported to police which are actually ‘cleared’ by the apprehension of a suspect is relatively low. As a result, those persons who are apprehended may not be representative of all those who actually commit these offences.

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 2004 Statistics

Police Incident Reports

- In 2004, 208,097 incident reports were submitted by police. This was 1.9% lower than the preceding year.
- The majority (75.1%) of incident reports submitted in 2004 involved one offence only. The average number of offences per report was 1.35.

Offences recorded by police

- In 2004, there were 280,820 offences recorded by police.
- *Offences against property* dominated, accounting for approximately six in ten offences recorded (57.2%). In contrast, *sexual offences* and *robbery and extortion* each constituted less than 1%, while *drug offences* accounted for only 1.2%. This offence profile was similar to that observed in previous years.
- In 2004, the number of offences recorded by police declined by 1.3%.
- The number of *robbery offences*, *property offences*, *offences against the person* and *other offences* all decreased in 2004, while the number of *sexual offences* remained constant. In contrast, *against good order offences*, *selected driving offences* and *drug offences* all recorded increases.
- The number of *offences against the person, excluding sexual offences* recorded by police decreased in 2004 (by 7.4%). Within this broad category, *assault occasioning* decreased (by 7.4%) as did *other* (generally minor) *assault* (down by 7.1%).
- In 2004, the number of *sexual offences* remained constant (2,357 compared with 2,344 in 2003). This followed a fairly substantial increase of 10.3% in 2003 which coincided with the establishment of a Paedophile Task Force (in May 2003) as well as new legislation (in June 2003) to abolish the time limit for the prosecution of certain sexual offences. Within this broad category, the number of recorded *indecent assault* offences increased (by 6.5%) as did *other sexual offences* (by 2.8%). However, the sub-categories of *unlawful sexual intercourse* and *rape* both recorded decreases (8.0% and 3.9% respectively).
- The total number of *robbery* offences recorded by police in 2004 decreased by 7.4% which was the lowest figure recorded since 1997. Within this category, *armed robberies* decreased by 3.5% and *unarmed robberies* decreased by 8.2%.
- The number of recorded *offences against property* decreased by 5.2% in 2004. This downward trend applied to most, but not all, subcategories. For example:
 - While the number of recorded serious criminal trespass dwelling¹ offences declined by 7.0% in 2004, *serious criminal trespass shop* actually increased (by 6.5%).
 - *Larceny/illegal use of a motor vehicle* increased in 2004 by 3.3%, whereas *larceny from a shop* declined by 2.8%.

¹ In calculating the 2004 figures, break/enter offences have been combined with the new criminal trespass offences. It should be stressed, however, that these are not directly comparable with break/enter offences applicable prior to 25 December 1999.

- The number of *receiving unlawful possession* offences declined by 27.5%, while *fraud and misappropriation offences* also decreased (by 21.8%) with the latest figure the lowest recorded for the past 15 years.
- After recording increases since 1997, the number of total *damage property* offences declined marginally in 2004 (by 1.6%).
- The total number of selected *driving offences* rose by 10.5% in 2004. This included:
 - a 32.2% increase in *driving licence offences*,
 - a 4.1% increase in *motor vehicle registration offences*,
 - a 14.2% increase in *drink driving offences*, and
 - a 7.2% increase in *traffic offences*.

In contrast, there was a 4.3% decrease in *dangerous, reckless or negligent driving*

It should be noted though, that the number of *driving offences* recorded is heavily reliant on police enforcement practices. For example, the number of random breath tests conducted impacts significantly on the number of *drink driving offences* detected by police while the increase over recent years in the number of *driving licence offences* and *motor vehicle registration offences* can largely be attributed to the increased use of red light and speed cameras.

- The number of *drug offences* recorded by police in 2004 increased by 4.1%, following an 19.3% decrease in 2003.
 - All drug offence sub-categories recorded increases with the exception of *fraudulent prescription offences* which decreased by 35.7% in 2004.
 - The number of *possess and/or use drugs* and *possess drug implement* increased by 17.4% and 14.3% respectively, while *possess for sale/sell drugs* increased by 3.3%.
 - As with *driving offences*, however, the number of such offences recorded in any given year is heavily dependent on police enforcement practices and legislative change. In particular, the comparatively low number of *possess and/or use drugs* offences now being recorded could be attributable to the introduction in late 2001 of the Police Drug Diversion Initiative, while the recent increases in *product/manufacture drugs* could be partly due to the reduction, in November 2001, of the number of cannabis plants covered by the Cannabis Expiation Notice Scheme which meant that some individuals who were previously eligible for a CEN were henceforth charged with a *produce drug offence*.
- *Offences against good order* increased by 3.3% in 2004. The latest figure is the highest recorded since 1992. Again, however, there were variations within this broad grouping, with *unlawful possession of weapons* and *indecent/offensive language* down by 4.3% and 22.2% respectively, while *graffiti and related offences* were up by 11.5%.

Location of offences recorded

- In 2004, the Northern Statistical Division recorded the highest rate of *offences against the person* (23.9 per 1,000 population). This was considerably higher than any other statistical division, with the next highest rate recorded for Murray Lands (14.6), followed by Adelaide (14.1) and then Eyre (13.2). The lowest rate of 7.9 offences per 1,000 population was recorded for the Outer Adelaide Division.

- The highest rate of *serious criminal trespass* in 2004 was recorded by the Adelaide Statistical Division (24.9 offences per 1,000 dwellings). The Northern Division was second highest (19.7), with the rates in the other Divisions ranging between 8.6 (in Yorke and Lower North) and 14.0 offences per 1,000 dwellings in Eyre.
- When these broader statistical divisions are broken down into the smaller spatial units of Local Government Areas, it was found that:
 - In 2004, the LGA of Adelaide recorded the highest rate of offending per 1,000 population (1,557.3). This was followed by Coober Pedy (631.4), Port Augusta (393.5), Unincorporated South Australia (377.7), Ceduna (370.4), Port Adelaide Enfield (284.9) and Playford (265.6).
 - The LGA of Adelaide also had the highest rate of *offences against the person* (136.3 per 1,000 population). The LGA with the second highest rate was Unincorporated South Australia (55.5), followed by Coober Pedy (45.2), Ceduna (44.2) and Port Augusta (43.1).
 - The highest rate for *serious criminal trespass* was also recorded by the LGA of Adelaide (43.8 per 1,000 dwelling). This was followed by Coober Pedy (42.7), Port Augusta (39.7), Port Adelaide Enfield (38.4), Playford (37.9), and Walkerville (34.5).

Clearance status of offences recorded by police

- Of the 280,820 offences recorded by police during 2004, 124,876 (44.5%) were cleared by the end of that year while conversely, 55.6% remained uncleared.
- However, the clear up level varied depending on the type of offence involved, with the lowest recorded for *property offences* (14.0% cleared by the end of 2004), followed by *robbery and extortion* (28.0% 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.
- Across a number of these categories, clear up levels were either similar to or marginally lower than those recorded in 2003.
- In addition to the 124,876 offences which were both reported and cleared in 2004, a further 4,835 offences reported to police in earlier years were also cleared in 2004. This gives a total of 129,711 offences cleared over the twelve month period.
- Of these 129,711 offences cleared, the majority (90.3%) were cleared by way of the apprehension or cautioning of a suspect. A very small proportion of offences (1.2%) were designated as cleared on the grounds that they were unfounded, while 7.7% were cleared by the victim requesting that no further action be taken.
- Again, however, the method of clearance varied depending on the type of offence involved. As expected, virtually all *driving* and *drug offences* were cleared by way of the apprehension of a suspect. In contrast, two thirds (66.5%) of *sexual offences* and just over one half (56.8%) of *offences against the person* 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 (40.7% in the case of *offences against the person* and 28.9% 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* and all *robberies* directed against an individual².

- In 2004 there were 20,603 recorded victimisations directed against a person.
- Of those 20,603 victimisations where the sex of the victim was recorded, just under one half (49.8%) involved males, while conversely, 50.2% 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 overwhelming majority of persons apprehended by police in 2004.
- Persons in the mid age ranges of 18 - 24 and 25 - 34 years accounted for the highest proportion of 'personal' victimisations recorded by police in 2004 (22.4% and 23.3% 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 nearly half (40.5%) of all such victimisations recorded in 2004 while those aged 60 and over accounted for less than 3.0%.
- While the age profiles of male and female victims of *against person* and *sexual offences* were generally similar, this was not the case for *robbery and extortion*. For male victims, from the age of 24 onwards as age increased so the proportion of victims decreased. In contrast, while the highest proportion of female victimisations also occurred in the 18-24 year age category, from the age of 24 onwards, there was no decline, with the proportion per age category remaining fairly constant.

The information detailed above relates to the total number of offences involving a personal victim. However, the same victim may be subject to more than one offence and more than one incident during the course of the year. Another way of analysing the data then, is to focus on the discrete number of victims who came to police attention in 2004.

The results indicate that:

- Over this twelve month period, 17,894 persons were victimised at least once.
- Almost nine in ten of these were victimised once only during the 12 month period, indicating that the level of repeat victimisation was low.

Offences cleared by way of an apprehension

- There were 117,036 separate charges listed on police apprehension reports lodged in 2004. This figure was higher (by 1.6%) than the 115,172 charges laid in 2003.

² In previous years, *larceny from the person* victimisations were also included. However following the introduction of the *Criminal Law Consolidation (Offences of Dishonesty) Amendment Act 2002* on 5 July 2003, *Larceny from the Person* under section 155 of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act was repealed and no longer exists as a separate offence.

- Overall, more than eight in ten of these charges were laid against males, although this varied from 63.8% for *fraud and misappropriation* to 98.2% for *sexual offences*.
- Of the 117,008 charges listed in those apprehension reports filed in 2004 where the age of the alleged offender was recorded, relatively few involved older individuals. In contrast, almost six in ten charges were allegedly committed by persons in the 18 - 34 year age group.
- Overall, 12.3% of charges laid in 2004 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 5.4% of all *fraud and misappropriation* charges but 38.5% of all *larceny/illegal use of a motor vehicle*
- Information on racial appearance was available for 109,795 or 93.8% of the 117,036 charges laid by police in 2004. Of these, 13,971 (12.7%) involved persons considered by police to be of Aboriginal appearance. Again, however, this varied depending on the type of charge involved, with this group accounting for only 43.6% of all charges involving an *other offence*, but only about 3.0% of all *drug* charges..
- The 117,036 charges recorded in 2004 were contained in 61,494 separate apprehension reports. On average then, each apprehension report lodged by police during this twelve month period contained 1.90 charges.
- Over the same time period, a total of 39,327 discrete individuals were apprehended, giving an average of 1.56 apprehensions and 2.98 charges per person in 2004.
- Males accounted for the majority of apprehension reports lodged (80.3%) and the majority of discrete individuals apprehended during 2004 (78.5%).
- Persons of Aboriginal appearance constituted 13.5% of all apprehensions and 9.7% of all persons apprehended, where information on a person's racial appearance was recorded. Given that persons of Aboriginal descent constitute only 1.4% of the State's population aged 10 years and over, this indicates that their level of contact with the criminal justice system was considerably higher than expected on a per capita basis.
- Of the 39,327 discrete individuals apprehended in 2004, three quarters (73.9%) were apprehended only once during the 12 month period. However, there was a small group (975 or 2.5%) who were apprehended on six or more occasions, with 146 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 2004 compared with non-Aboriginal persons (48.1% had two or more apprehensions compared with 26.9% of non-Aboriginal persons).
- In 2004, as in previous years, a small proportion of individuals were responsible for a high proportion of all charges laid during the twelve month period. In fact, 11.8% of persons apprehended in 2004 were responsible for 41.4% of all charges laid by police.

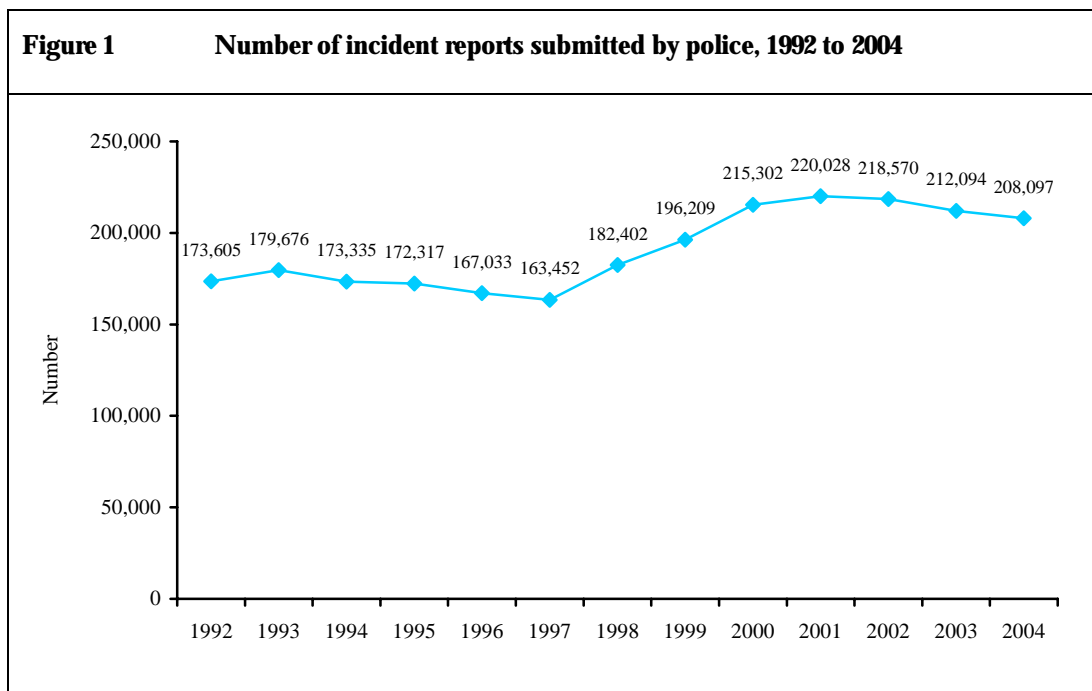
1

OVERVIEW

1.1 POLICE INCIDENT REPORTS

The number of incident reports filed by police in each of the years 1992 to 2004 is presented graphically in Figure 1¹. As shown:

- In 2004 there were 208,097 incidents reported to police that resulted in the filing of a police incident report. This was 1.9% lower than the number filed the previous year.
- The number of incident reports submitted by police increased between 1997 and 2001. However, since 2002 there has been a slight decline in the number of reports filed.

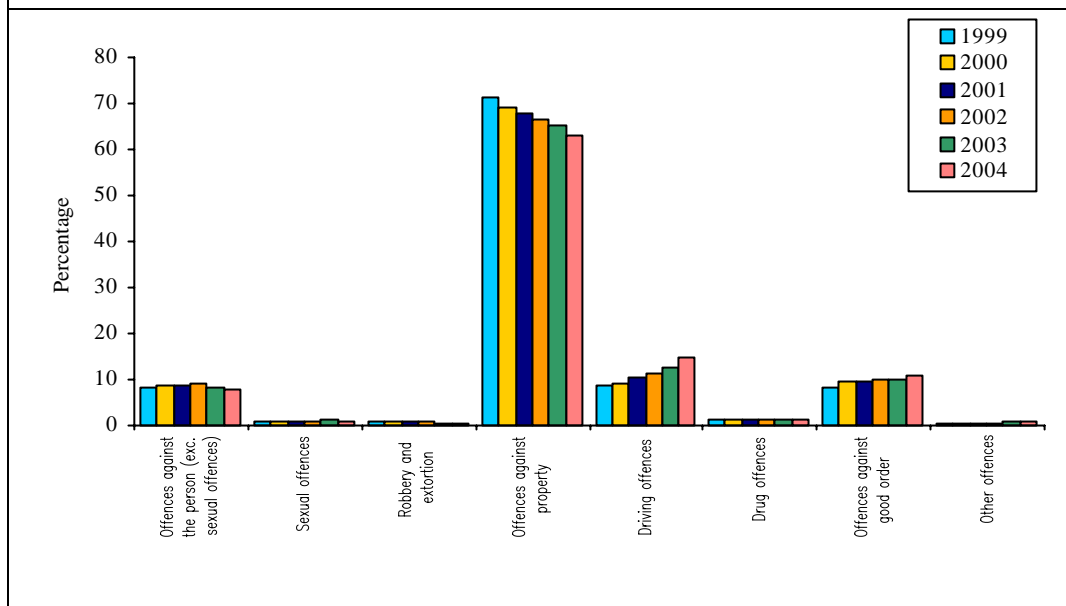


- The 208,097 incident reports submitted in 2004 contained 280,820 offences, representing an average of 1.35 offences per report.
- The overwhelming majority (75.1%) of incident reports submitted in 2004 involved one offence only, while only 0.3% contained more than five offences.

A profile of the major or most serious offence 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 serious charge was defined as the offence that had the highest level JANCO. For comparative purposes, data from 1999 to 2002 are also included in Figure 2.

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

Figure 2 Major offence recorded per incident report, 1999 - 2004

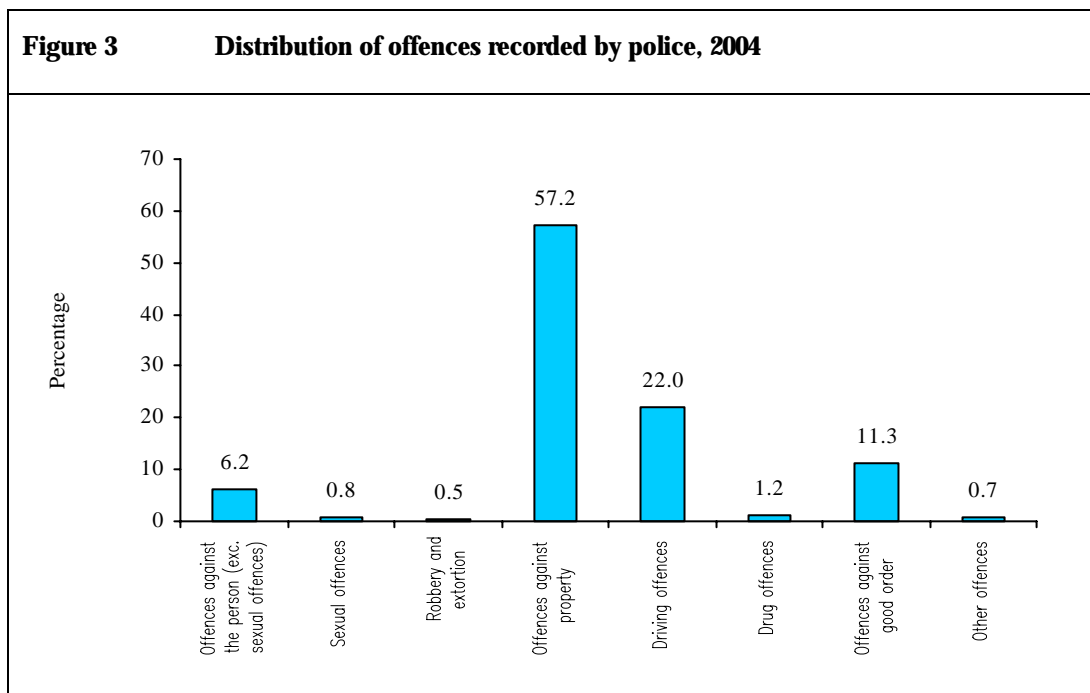


- In 2004, listed in the majority of incident reports the most serious offence was an *offence against property* (63.1%).
- Of the remaining offence categories, *driving offences*, *offences against good order* and *offences against the person (excluding sexual offences)* were the most prominent (14.6%, 10.9% and 7.9% respectively).
- At the other end of the scale, very few incident reports involved either an *other offence* (0.7%) or *robbery/extortion* (0.6%).
- Figure 2 indicates that the pattern of recorded offending has remained generally stable over time, with the major offences listed in the 2004 incident reports virtually the same as those recorded since 1999. Across all years, *offences against property* dominated, although the proportion of incident reports containing this major offence declined slightly over the period, while the proportion containing a *driving offence* increased slightly.

1.2 OFFENCES RECORDED BY POLICE

In the previous section, information was presented on the number of incident reports submitted by police in 2004. The following section details all offences and all offence counts recorded, irrespective of whether they arose from the same or different incidents². In 2004, a total of 280,820 offences were recorded.

As shown in Figure 3, *offences against property* dominated the 2004 offence profile, accounting for approximately six in ten offences recorded by police in this twelve-month period.



As shown in Table 1, the 2004 offence profile was very similar to that observed in previous years.

Table 1 **Offences recorded by police, 2002 - 2004**

Offence group	2002		2003		2004	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Offences against the person	19,766	6.7	18,903	6.6	17,500	6.2
Sexual offences	2,126	0.7	2,344	0.8	2,357	0.8
Robbery and extortion	1,689	0.6	1,390	0.5	1,287	0.5
Offences against property	181,845	61.2	169,604	59.6	160,718	57.2
Driving offences	53,449	18.0	55,928	19.7	61,817	22.0
Drug offences	3,896	1.3	3,144	1.1	3,272	1.2
Offences against good order	31,339	10.6	30,814	10.8	31,842	11.3
Other offences	2,842	1.0	2,481	0.9	2,027	0.7
Total	296,952	100.0	284,608	100.0	280,820	100.0

² The exception to this rule is sexual offences. From 1993 the way in which sexual offences were calculated was changed to bring South Australia into line with other jurisdictions. From 1993 one offence was recorded for each victim regardless of the number of counts listed in the incident report.

Breaking down these broad offence categories into more detailed sub-categories indicates that:

- Of the *offences against the person (excluding sexual offences)* recorded in 2004 the highest proportion of offences in this category involved *other assault* (75.1%). The more serious offences of *assault occasioning actual or grievous bodily harm* accounted for only 10.5% of all *against person* offences. In 2004 there were 28 *murders* and 49 *attempted murders* recorded by police.
- *Indecent assault* and *rape* each accounted for approximately one third of the 2,357 *sexual offences* reported to police in 2004 (35.6% and 32.0% respectively). There were fewer *unlawful sexual intercourse* offences recorded (10.2% of all *sexual offences* reported).
- *Unarmed robbery* accounted for 59.6% of the 1,242 *robbery* offences recorded by police in 2004. Of the 502 *armed robberies*, only 15.9% involved the use of firearm.
- *Larceny and receiving* accounted for 54.2% of the 160,718 *property offences* recorded in 2004. Within this category, *theft of or illegal interference to a motor vehicle* accounted for 16.7% while *larceny from a motor vehicle* constituted 21.5%.
- 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 2004 there were 129 offences related to *break and enter offences* and a further 27,018 *criminal trespass* offences, giving a total of 27,147 offences in this broad category, or 16.9% of all *property offences* recorded.
- Of the 42,340 *damage property and environmental* offences recorded in 2004, only 7.1% involved arson or the use of explosives. Of the 39,314 *property damage (not arson)* offences, 17.9% involved damage to dwellings, while 35.7% involved damage to motor vehicles.
- *Fraud and misappropriation* offences accounted for only 2.6% of all *property offences* recorded in 2004. *False pretence* offences were the most dominant in this group, accounting for 2,800 or 1.7% of all *property offences*.
- Of the 61,817 *driving offences*³ recorded in 2004, almost half (46.9%) involved *motor vehicle registration offences*. A further 22.9% involved *driving licence offences*, while 9.1% related to *exceeding the prescribed concentration* of alcohol and 6.9% involved *dangerous, reckless or negligent driving*.
- Just under half of the 3,272 *drug offences* recorded in 2004 involved *produce or manufacture drugs* (49.6%). Cannabis accounted for 78.9% of those *drug offences* where the type of drug was recorded. In contrast, opiates were involved in only 2.5% of these offences, while 'other' drugs (mainly amphetamines) accounted for 18.3%.
- A breakdown of *offences against good order* reveals a fairly even spread across a number of sub-categories, including *resist/hinder police* (14.8% of the 31,842 *against good order offences*), *offences against a court or court order* (23.6%), *unlawful possession of weapons* (8.7%), *disorderly behaviour* (12.8%), and *graffiti and related offences* (13.3%).

³ This figure excludes all traffic infringement notices.

Shifts between 2003 and 2004

Offence	2003	2004	Percentage change
Offences against the person - total	18,903	17,500	-7.4
Assault occasioning	1,978	1,831	-7.4
Other assault	14,151	13,145	-7.1
Sexual offences - total⁺	2,344	2,357	+0.6
Rape*	786	755	-3.9
Indecent assault*	788	839	+6.5
Unlawful sexual intercourse*	262	241	-8.0
Other sexual offences*	508	522	+2.8
Robbery - total	1,390	1,287	-7.4
Armed Robbery*	520	502	-3.5
- with firearm*	75	80	+6.7
- with other weapon*	445	422	-5.2
Unarmed robbery*	806	740	-8.2
- robbery with violence*	347	326	-6.1
- robbery without violence*	459	414	-9.8
Property offences - Total	169,604	160,718	-5.2
Serious criminal trespass dwellings#	14,928	13,886	-7.0
Serious criminal trespass shop#	4,164	4,433	+6.5
Serious criminal trespass 'other'	9,971	8,791	-11.8
Larceny/Illegal use of motor vehicle	10,236	10,573	+3.3
Interfere with motor vehicle	3,868	3,939	+1.8
Larceny from shop	8,297	8,066	-2.8
Receiving/unlawful possession	2,463	1,786	-27.5
Fraud and misappropriation	5,260	4,111	-21.8
Damage property	42,991	42,308	-1.6
Selected driving offences - total	55,928	61,817	+10.5
Drink driving and related offences	6,200	7,079	+14.2
Dangerous, reckless, negligent driving	4,438	4,245	-4.3
Driving licence offences	10,730	14,182	+32.2
Motor vehicle registration offences	27,875	29,018	+4.1
Traffic offences	5,953	6,384	+7.2
Drug offences - total	3,144	3,272	+4.1
Possess and/or use drugs*	484	568	+17.4
Possess drug implement*	119	136	+14.3
Produce or manufacture drugs*	1,604	1,624	+1.2
Possess for sale/sell drugs*	761	786	+3.3
Against good order - total	30,814	31,842	+3.3
Against a court or court order	6,545	7,516	+14.8
Resist/hinder police	4,747	4,706	-0.9
Unlawful possession of weapons	2,897	2,773	-4.3
Trespassing	2,208	2,236	+1.3
Indecent/offensive language*	886	689	-22.2
Disorderly behaviour	4,042	4,091	+1.2
Graffiti and related offences	3,806	4,245	+11.5
Other offences	2,481	2,027	-18.3
Total	284,608	280,820	-1.3

*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 2004.

+ In June 2003 the Criminal Law Consolidation Act was amended to abolish the time limit for the prosecution of certain sexual offences.

There were 280,820 offences recorded in 2004 compared with 284,608 in 2003, representing an decrease of 1.3%.

A more detailed insight into the extent of change between 2003 and 2004 within each of the major offence types is provided in Table 2. It should be noted, though, that the number of offences in some categories is relatively low, with the result that any slight variation in absolute numbers will produce large percentage differences. As only some offences within each category have been included, the numbers will not necessarily sum to the total.

As shown, three broad offence categories - *against good order*, *selected driving offences* and *drug offences* - recorded increases in 2004, with *selected driving offences* recording the greatest increase (10.5%). *Sexual offences* remained constant, while the number of *robbery offences*, *property offences*, *offences against the person* and *other offences* all decreased, with the largest drop (of 18.3%) recorded for *other offences*.

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

Longitudinal trends

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 2004.

- Over the 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 increased sharply from 1997 to 2002, before decreasing slightly in 2003 and again in 2004. Yet despite these recent declines, the 2004 figure is still markedly higher than that recorded seven years earlier. In fact, the number of offences recorded in 2004 was 40.0% higher than in 1997, and the rate per 100,000 was 35.6% higher.

⁴ It is not possible to provide figures prior to this because of changes to the way in which *sexual offences* were counted. These changes came into effect in 1993 and were designed to bring this State's counting rules for *sexual offences* into line with national standards introduced at that time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Figure 4 Total offences recorded by police, 1993 to 2004



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.

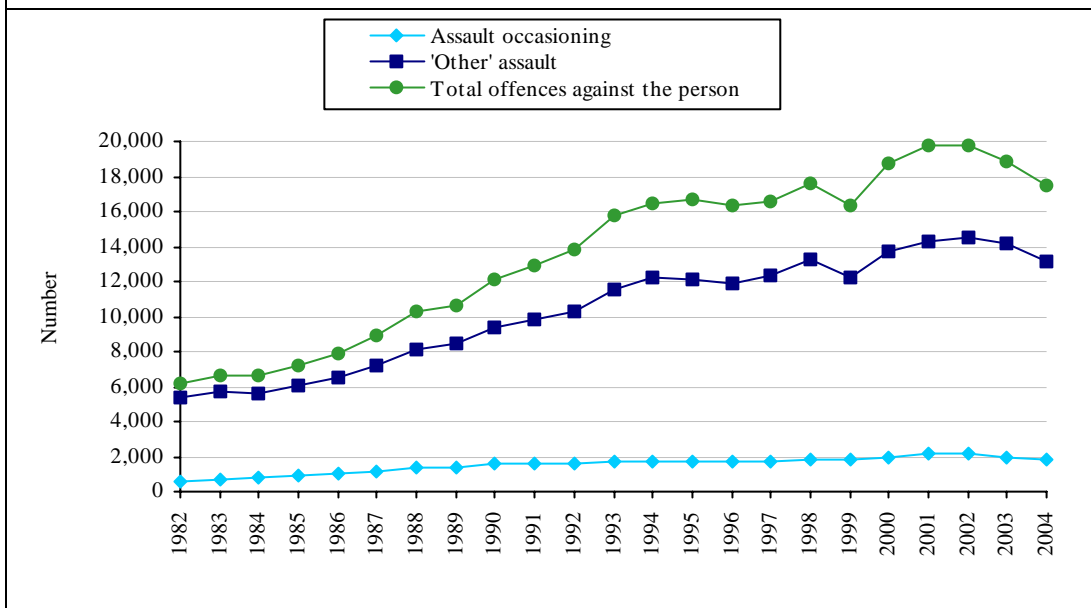
In the following section, longitudinal trends in selected offence categories are depicted.⁵

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 increased steadily from the early 1980s until 2002. However, there was a slight downward turn in 2003, which was continued in 2004.
- The overall trend for *other* (generally minor) *assault* followed a similar pattern, with an upward trend observed until 2002, after which numbers trended slightly downwards.
- *Assault occasioning* which has always accounted for a relatively small proportion of all *offences against the person* (10.5% in 2004), also increased steadily until the last two years. As a result, despite a decrease in 2004, the latest figures are still more than three times higher than in the early 1980s.

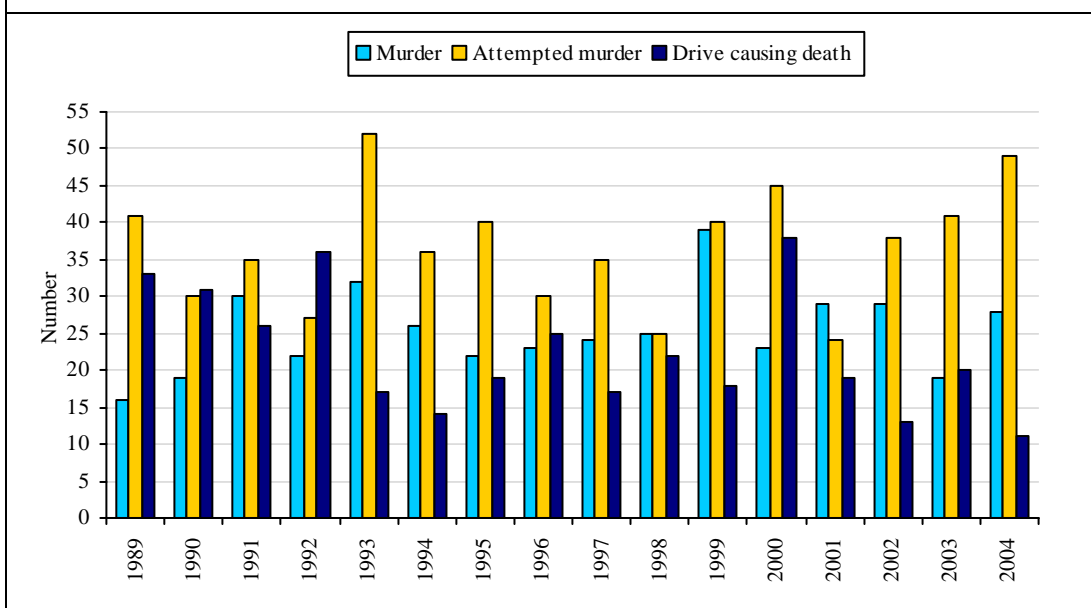
⁵ In interpreting these graphs over the time frame depicted, it should be noted that since 1992 the *Crime and Justice* report has used JANCO – the South Australian justice agencies’ refinement of the Australian National Classification of Offences – to categorise offences. These changes mean that care 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.

Figure 5 Selected offences against the person (excluding sexual offences), 1982 to 2004



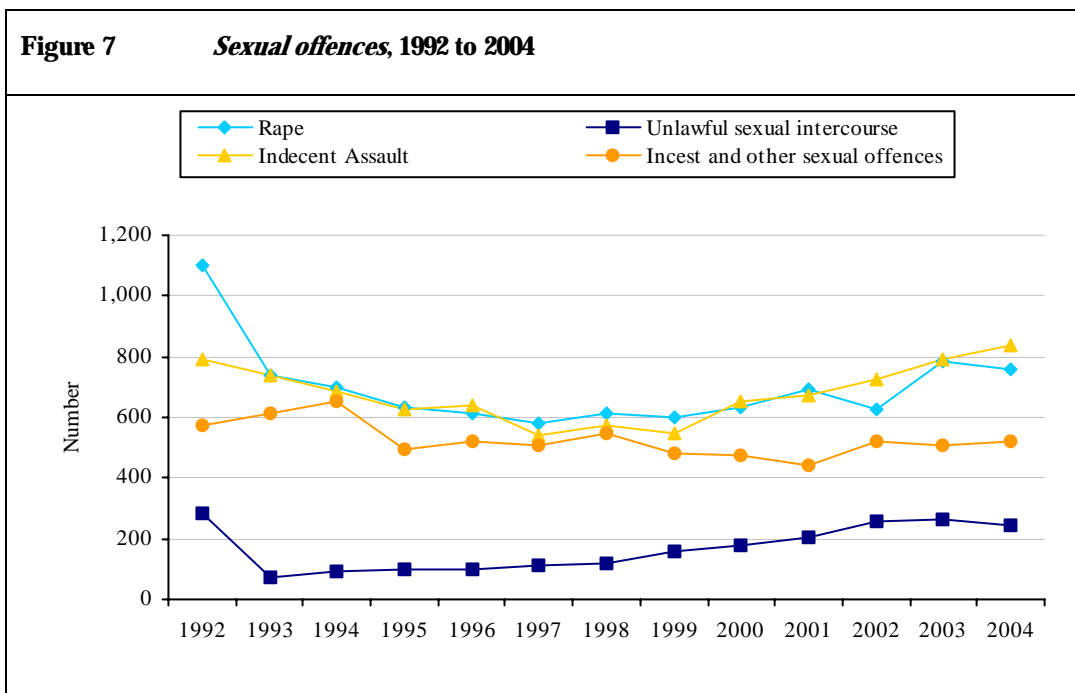
- As indicated in Figure 6, the numbers of recorded *murders*, *attempted murders* and *cause death by dangerous driving* offences have fluctuated considerably from one year to another over the period 1989 to 2004 but overall, have remained relatively low. Because of the small numbers, no longitudinal trends can be identified.

Figure 6 Number of murder, attempted murder and drive causing death offences recorded by police, 1989 to 2004



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, with numbers reaching 2,357 in 2004, which is the highest recorded over the last 13 years.
- As shown in Figure 7, after a slight (albeit fluctuating) upward trend between 1997 and 2001, the number of *rape* offences declined in 2002 before increasing again in 2003. Hence, although numbers dropped again slightly in 2004, the most recent figures are higher than those recorded during most of the 1990s.
- *Indecent assault* offences also increased between 1997 and 2002, with further rises recorded in 2003 and 2004. The most recent figure is therefore higher than at any stage in the period depicted.
- Despite some fluctuations, the number of *incest and other sexual offences* have remained relatively stable since 1995.
- The number of *unlawful sexual intercourse* offences recorded by police increased steadily from 1993 until 2003. As a result, despite a very slight decrease in 2004, numbers are still higher than a decade ago. Overall, however, numbers in this category are relatively low.

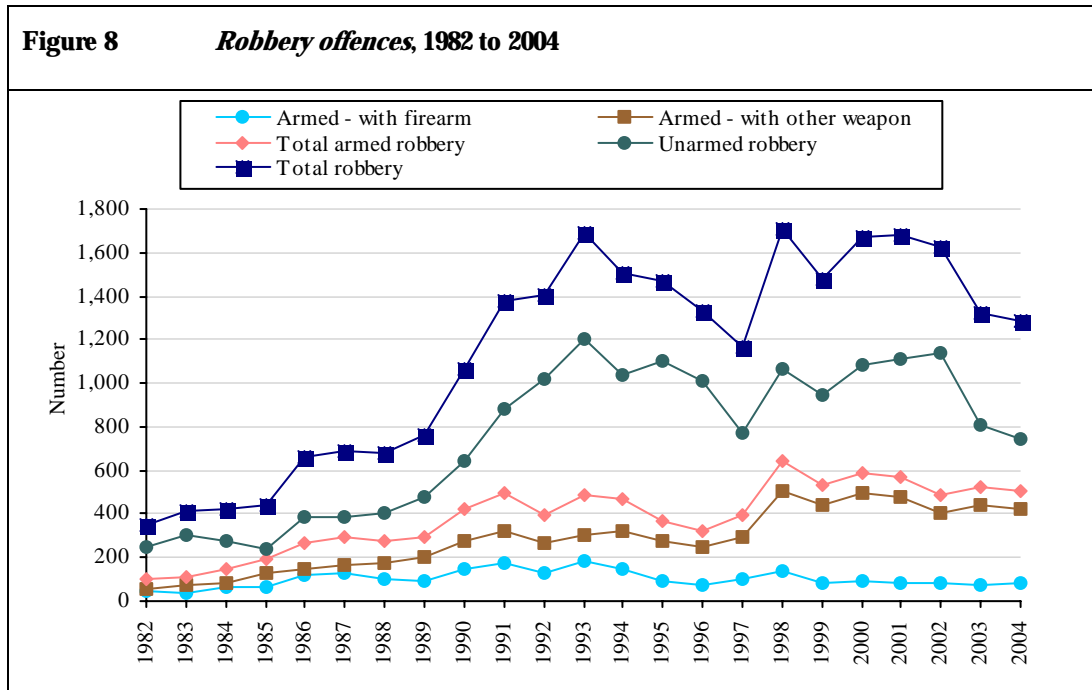


Note: Counting rules for sexual offences were changed in 1993 to conform with national standards. Figures for 1992 were recalculated in accordance with the new rules. As a result, 2003 data can only be compared accurately with figures from 1992 onwards.

Robbery

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

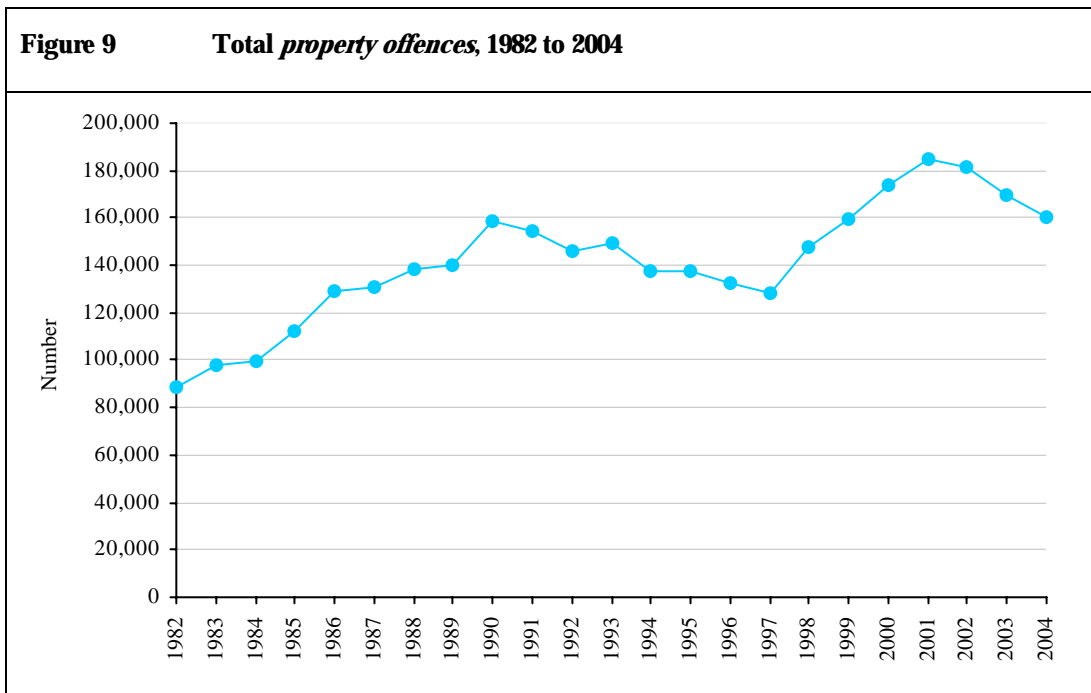
- As shown in Figure 8, the total number of *robbery offences* recorded by police in 2004 is substantially lower than those observed during the period of 1998 to 2002 and are now on a par with the low point observed in 1997.



- 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 2004 being considerably below the figures recorded from 1998 to 2002.
- Despite marked fluctuations, the number of *armed robberies* peaked in 1998 and have declined slowly 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 2004 being slightly below the peak recorded in 1998.
- The number of *robbery with firearm* offences have remained relatively small over the period depicted, with very little change recorded over the past six years.

Property offences

- In contrast to *sexual offences* and *robbery offences*, the number of *property offences* recorded by police each year is comparatively large (160,718 in 2004).
- 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, since then, there has been a decrease in the number of these offences recorded, which continued in 2004.



- One of the factors contributing to the higher number of *property offences* recorded since 1999 is a change in police recording practices upon the introduction of new legislation relating to *serious criminal trespass* offences (see below). To illustrate, prior to December 1999, if a person broke into a house, stole some property and also caused damage, police generally recorded this as one offence only – namely *break/enter dwelling*. However, after the passage 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 may remain the same, the number of 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.

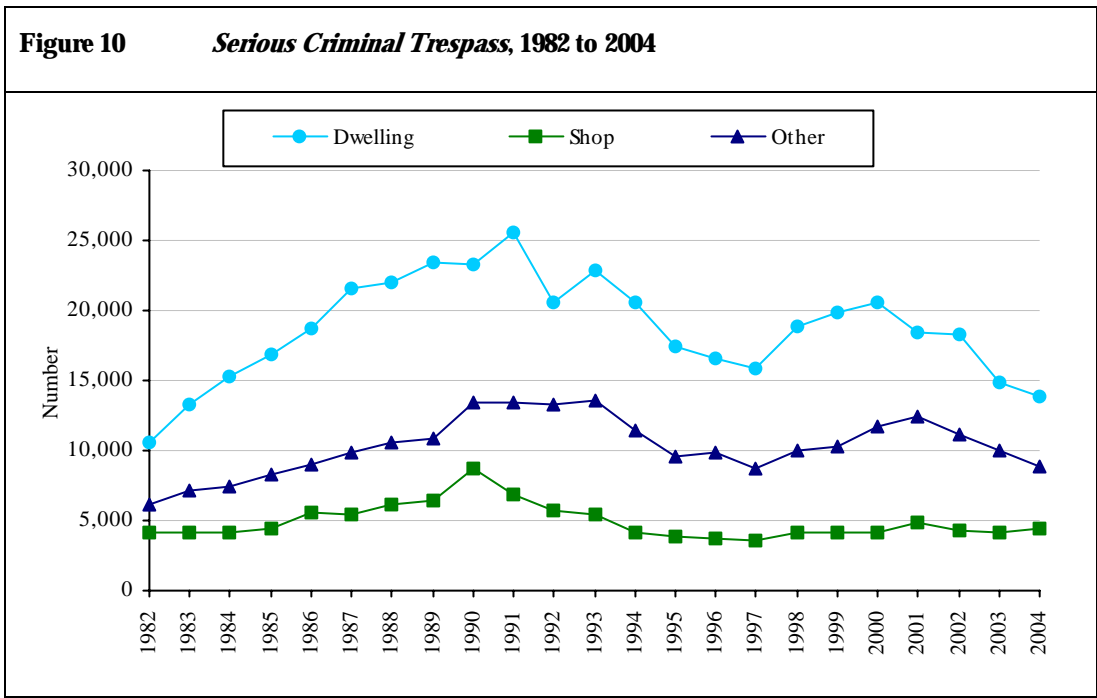
The two *serious criminal trespass* offences have been further sub-divided into *aggravated* and *non-aggravated*, depending on whether an offensive weapon is used or whether there are multiple offenders. A third aggravating factor applies to *serious criminal trespass – place of residence* namely, whether 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 identify 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 2004 were classified as *criminal trespass offences*. However, there were some *break and enter offences* which, while reported to police in 2004, 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 combined with 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 combined with the *break and enter shop* category; and
- all *non-aggravated* and *aggravated serious criminal trespass* offences that occurred in other locations have been combined with the *other break and enter* category.

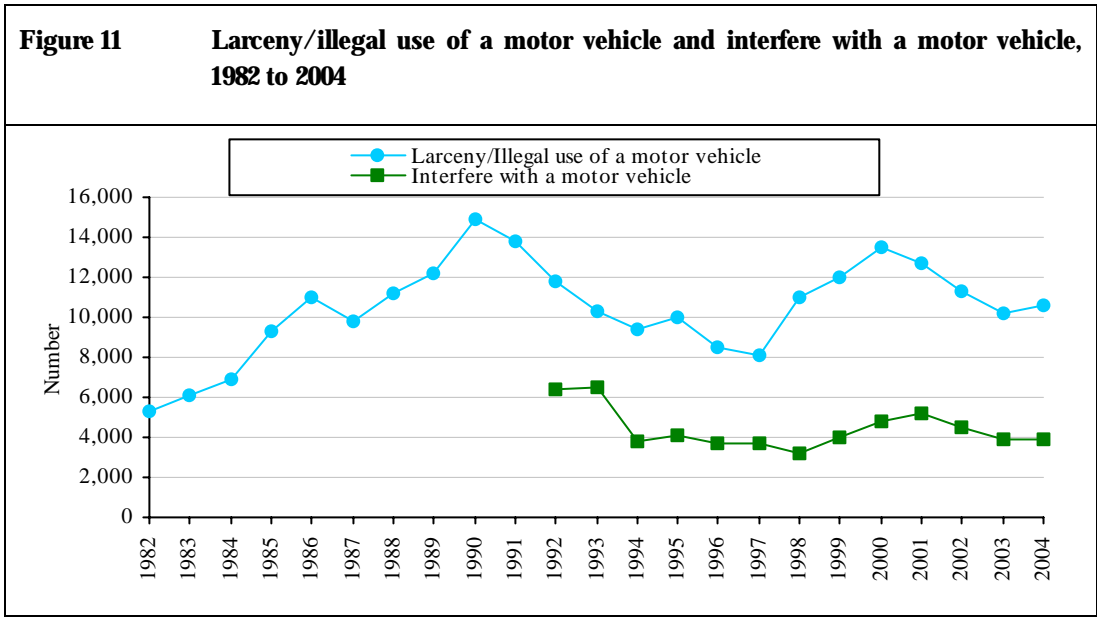
While the new offence groupings are not entirely comparable with the old groupings, the procedure detailed above allows longitudinal comparisons to be drawn in Figure 10.

- 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 2004 figure is comparable with numbers recorded during the early 1980s.
- *Serious criminal trespass - 'other' offences* have also fluctuated over the two decades depicted, with a general downward trend occurring since 2001. The 2004 numbers are now generally comparable with those recorded in the late 1980s.
- After peaking in 1990, the number of *serious criminal trespass shop* offences initially declined before levelling off in the mid 1990s. They have remained relatively stable since then, with the 2004 figure comparable with those recorded in the early 1980s.



Vehicle offences

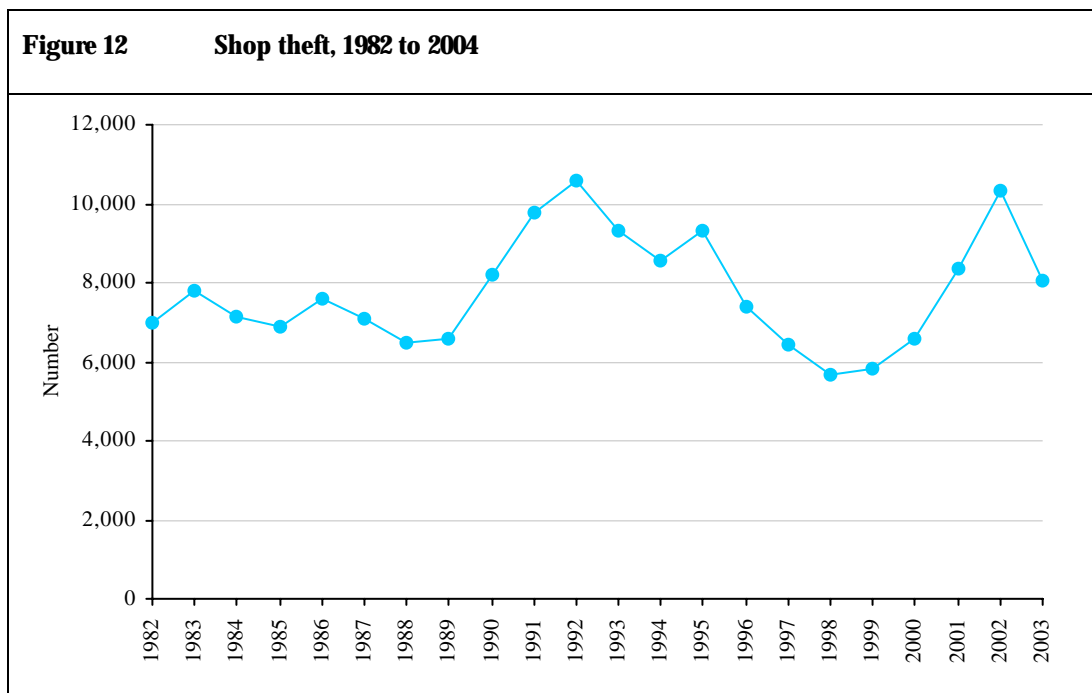
- As shown in Figure 11, the number of *larceny/illegal use of a motor vehicle* offences increased steeply between 1982 and 1991, followed by a period of decrease. A second, albeit less pronounced, upswing occurred between 1998 and 2000. Since then, numbers have again declined, despite a slight upward turn in 2004.



- 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.

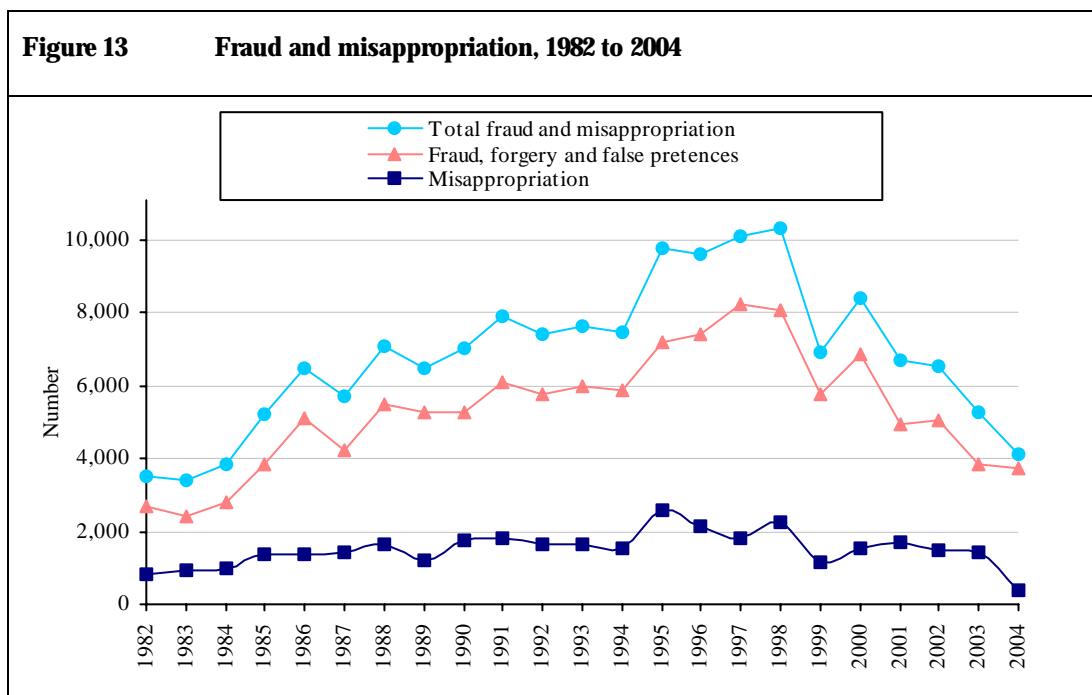
Shop theft

- 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 before a decrease in 2003 and 2004 (see Figure 12). In interpreting these trends, several changes in recording practices are relevant. The first of these involved 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.
- A third change occurred in November 2001, when Shop Theft Infringement Notices (STINs) were introduced as an alternative to prosecution for theft of goods up to the value of \$150. One of the aims of introducing STINs was to streamline the way in which *shop theft* could be dealt with, and so increase the willingness of shop retailers to report these offences to police.



Fraud and misappropriation

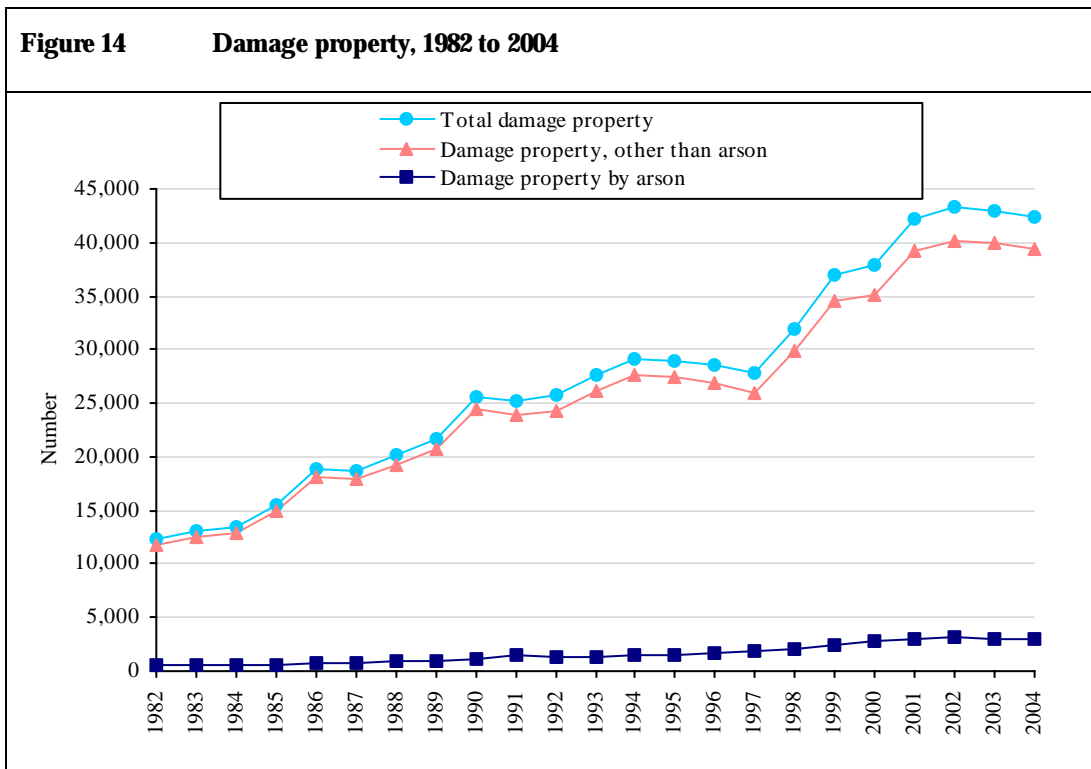
- As indicated in Figure 13, until 1998 the overall trend in the number of recorded *fraud and misappropriation* offences has been upward. However, in recent years numbers have generally declined substantially. As a result, the most recent figure is the lowest recorded since the late 1980s.
- The trend 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 (8.8% of the 2004 total). While an overall increase was recorded between 1982 and 1995, numbers have generally trended downward since then, with a particularly strong decrease recorded in 2004. As a result, the most recent figure is the lowest recorded over the two decades depicted.



Damage property

- Figure 14 depicts longitudinal trends in the number of *damage property* offences recorded by police. Overall, there was a steady increase in this category until 2002, after which numbers declined marginally. The fairly strong increase observed between 1999 and 2000 could be partly attributed to the fact that, beginning in late 1999, any criminal damage attendant upon a 'break in' started to be recorded, whereas previously only the primary offence of *break and enter* had been entered on the incident report.

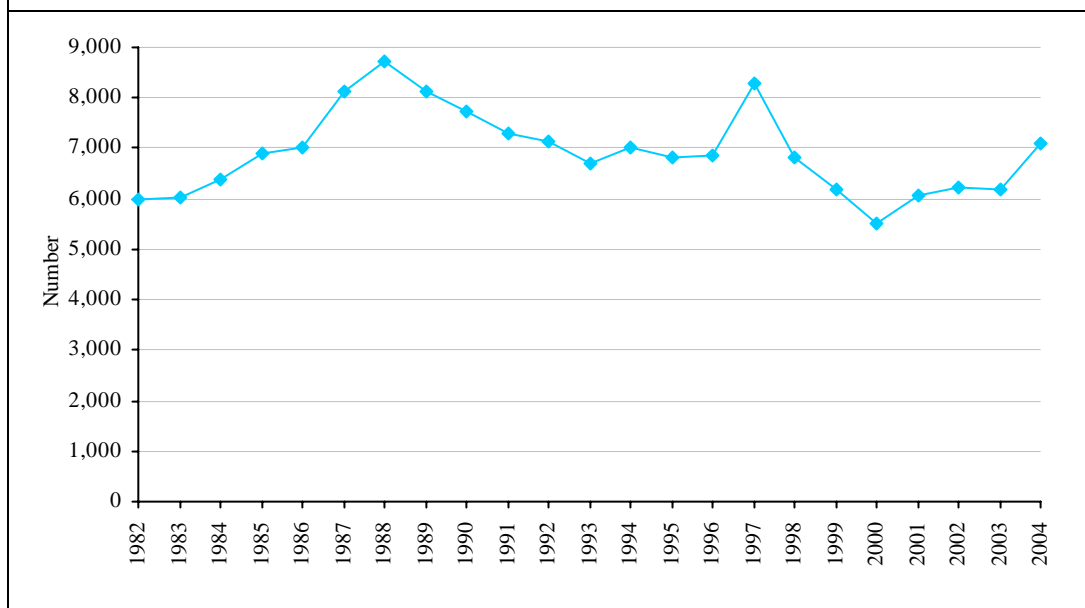
- An almost identical pattern was observed for *damage property, other than arson* – a finding that is inevitable given that this sub-group accounts for the overwhelming majority of all *damage property* matters.
- As was the case with other property offences, *damage property by arson* has also trended upwards over the past few decades although it should be noted that, compared with the other *property damage* category depicted, numbers still remain small.



Drink driving and related offences

- Figure 15 illustrates the number of recorded *drink driving and related offences* from 1982 to 2004. This category includes *driving under the influence*, *exceed the prescribed concentration of alcohol* and *refusing to give breath/blood sample*. With the exception of 1996, numbers have generally declined over the past 15 years or so, although the fairly strong increase in 2004 may indicate a reversal of this trend.
- It should be noted 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 2004

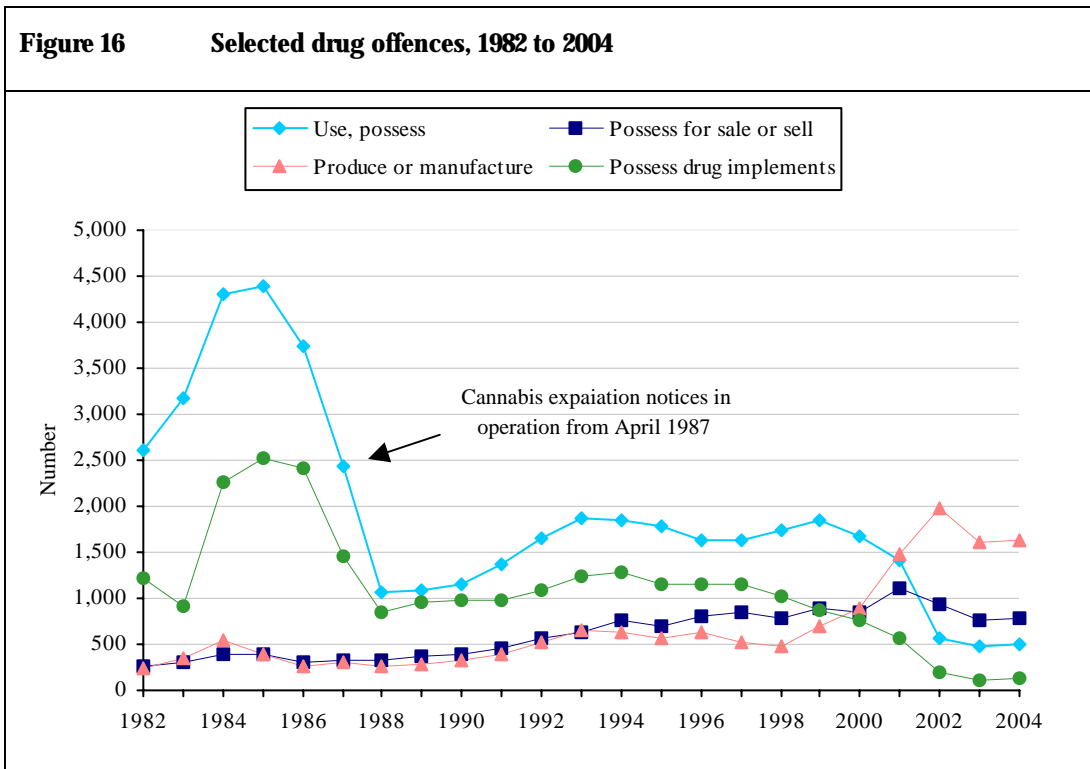


Selected drug offences

- 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 and more recently, by the introduction of the Police Illicit Drug Initiative. 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 and have remained low since then. 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 diverted to assessment and treatment programs. While this Initiative impacts directly on the number of persons apprehended for a *possess 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.
- 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 and then again in 2002. Hence, despite a small decline in 2003 numbers are now higher than at any time over the two decades 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 drugs*.

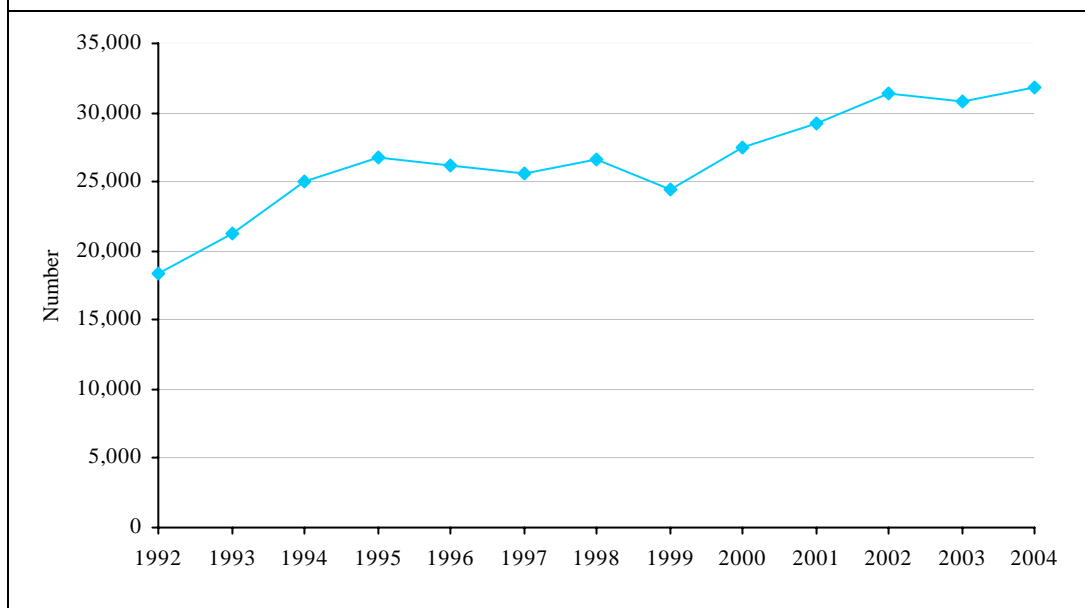
- Despite annual fluctuations, the number of *possess for sale or sell drug* offences increased steadily from the early 1980s until 2001, after which a slight downward trend was observed. Numbers have now returned to the levels recorded in the mid to late 1990s.



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. The 2004 figure is the highest recorded in the period 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 a positive outcome under a problem solving policing model.

Figure 17 **Offences against good order, 1992 to 2004**



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.

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*, *sexual offences* and *robbery and extortion*) are calculated by dividing the number of such offences recorded in each LGA/Statistical Division by the estimated resident population of that LGA/Statistical Division as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (Cat. 3218, March 2004). 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 according to the number of dwellings in each LGA/Statistical Division as at the 2001 Census. Because these figures are not updated by the ABS between censuses, as the time elapsed since the last census increases, so the accuracy of the rates derived from them decreases.

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*).

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

While acknowledging these limitations, the key points to emerge from this analysis are:

- In 2004, the Northern Statistical Division recorded the highest rate of *offences against the person* (23.9 per 1,000 population). This was considerably higher than any other statistical division, with the next highest rate recorded for Murray Lands (14.6), followed by Adelaide (14.1) and then Eyre (13.2). The lowest rate of 7.9 offences per 1,000 population was recorded for the Outer Adelaide Division.
- The highest rate of *serious criminal trespass* in 2004 was recorded by the Adelaide Statistical Division (24.9 offences per 1,000 dwellings). The Northern Division was second highest (19.7), with the rates in other Divisions ranging between 8.6 (in Yorke and Lower North) and 14.0 offences per 1,000 dwellings in Eyre.

When these broad statistical divisions are broken down into the smaller spatial units of Local Government Areas it was found that:

- The LGA of Adelaide had by far the highest rate of *offences against the person* (136.3 per 1,000 population). The LGA with the second highest rate was Unincorporated South Australia (55.5), followed by Coober Pedy (45.2), Ceduna (44.2) and Port Augusta (43.1).
- The highest rate for *serious criminal trespass* was also recorded in the LGA of Adelaide (43.8 per 1,000 dwelling). This was followed by Coober Pedy (42.7), Port August (39.7), Port Adelaide Enfield (38.4), Playford (37.9) and Walkerville (34.5).

One final locational analysis presented in this report relates to the key locations for vehicle theft within Metropolitan Adelaide. This showed that:

- The area recording the greatest number of vehicle thefts in 2004 was Adelaide Parklands, with 143 recorded thefts. This was followed by the area bounded by Currie Street/King William Street, Grote Street/West Terrace (117 thefts), then Tea Tree Plaza Shopping Centre (113 thefts), and Noarlunga City Centre/Colonnades (87 thefts).

1.3 CLEARANCE STATUS OF OFFENCES

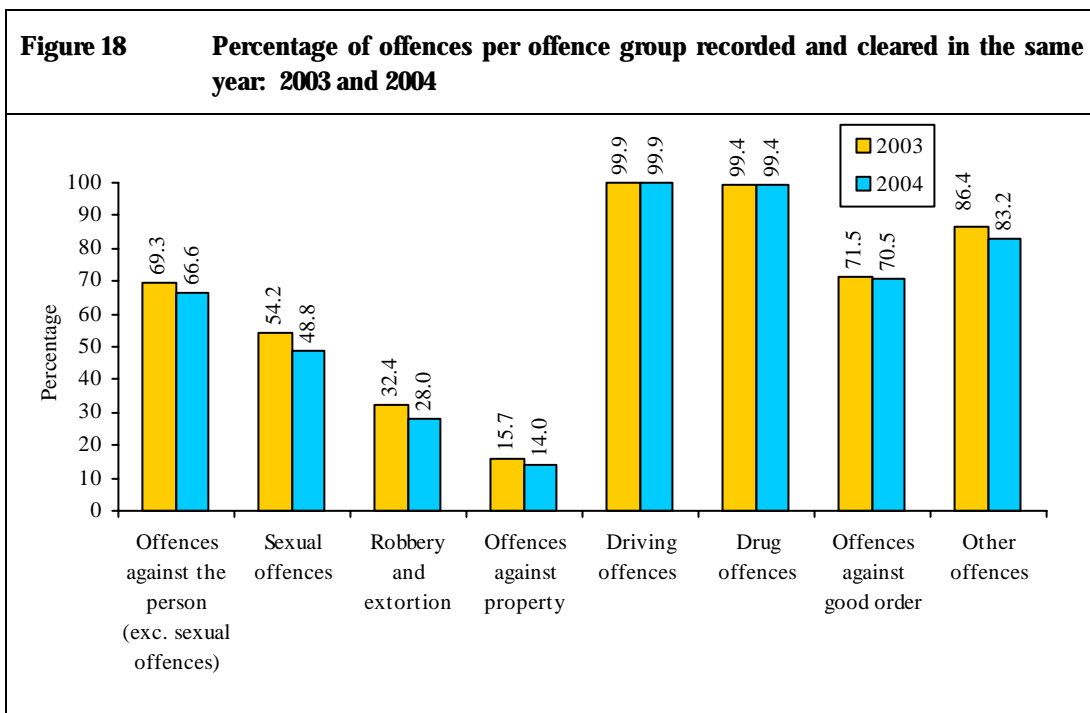
Clearance status of offences recorded by police in 2004

During 2004, of the 280,820 offences recorded by police, 124,876 (44.5%) were cleared by the end of the same year while conversely, 55.5% remained uncleared.

The proportion of offences cleared in 2004 was marginally higher than in 2003, when 43.8% of the 284,608 offences reported that year were also cleared that year.

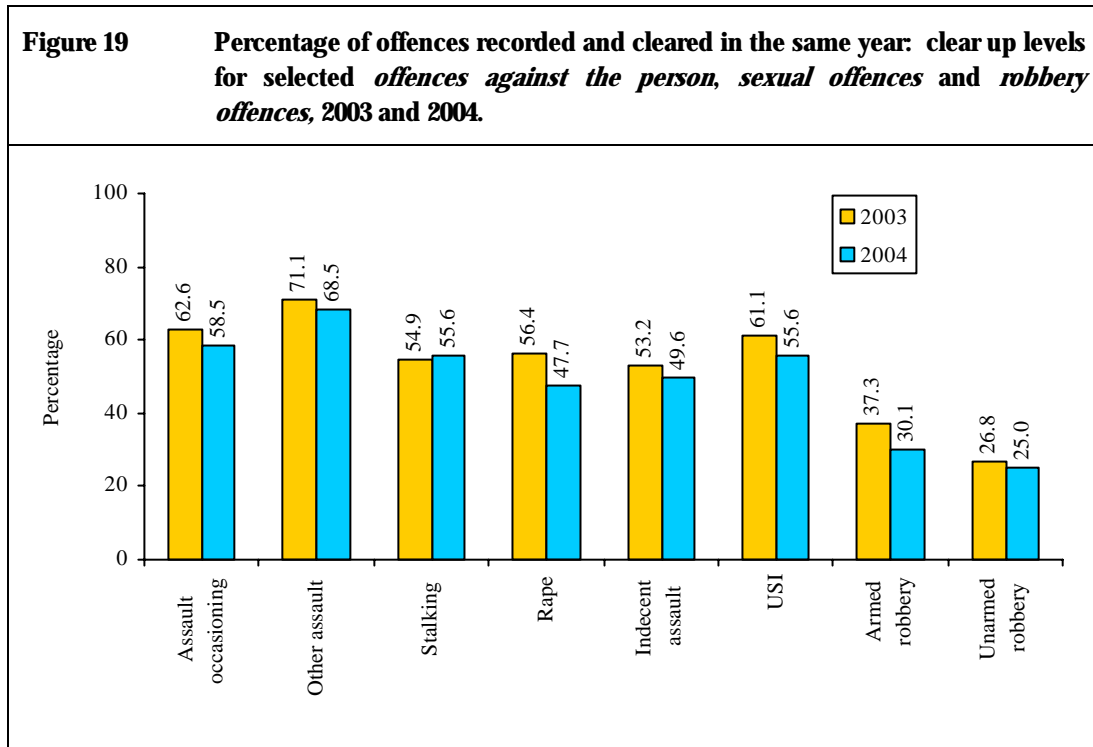
As in 2003, the clear up level for offences reported in 2004 varied considerably depending on the type of offence involved.

As shown in Figure 18, the lowest clear up level was recorded for *property offences* (14.0% cleared by the end of that year), followed by *robbery and extortion* (28.0%). Just under one half (48.8%) of the *sexual offences* recorded by police in 2004 were cleared, as were two thirds of *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.



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*.

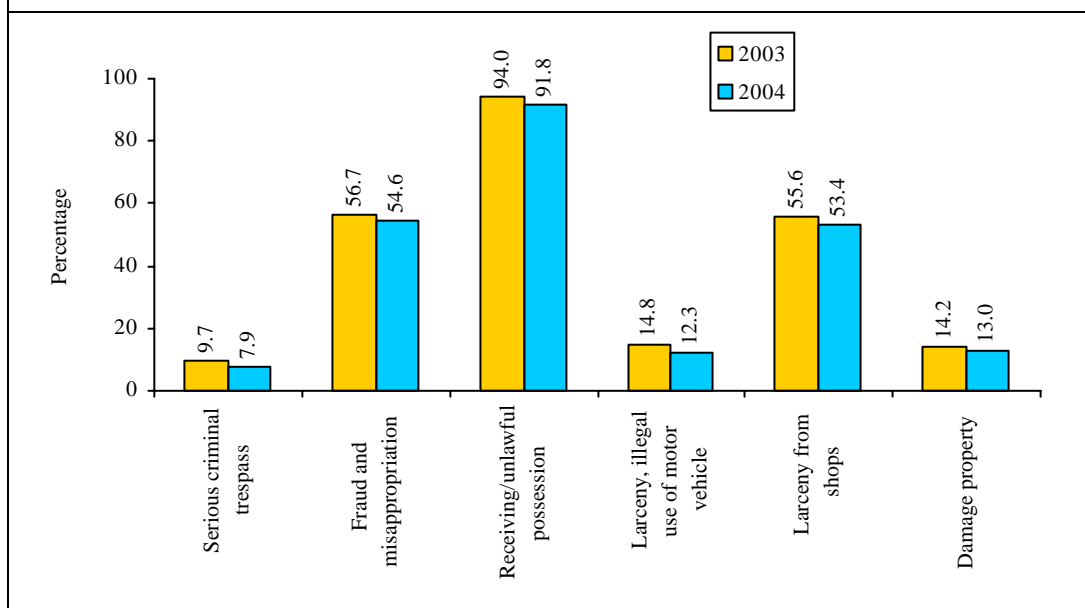


- The clear up rate for *other assault* in 2004 was slightly higher than that for *assault occasioning actual or grievous bodily harm*. Similarly, the clear up level for *indecent assault* was higher than that for *rape*. Overall, these rates were considerably higher than those recorded for either *armed* or *unarmed robbery*.
- There was little or no difference in the clear up levels between 2003 and 2004 for the offences of *stalking* or *unarmed robbery*. For all the other offences depicted, clear up levels were lower in 2004 than in 2003, although not markedly so.
- While the numbers are too small to graph, of the 28 *murders* reported to police in 2004, 21 were cleared while seven remained uncleared at the end of the year. Of the 49 *attempted murders*, 30 were cleared by the end of the year. Of the 11 *drive causing death* offences reported in 2004, 10 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 2003 and 2004.

Figure 20 Percentage of offences recorded and cleared in the same year: clear up levels for selected *property offences*, 2003 and 2004.



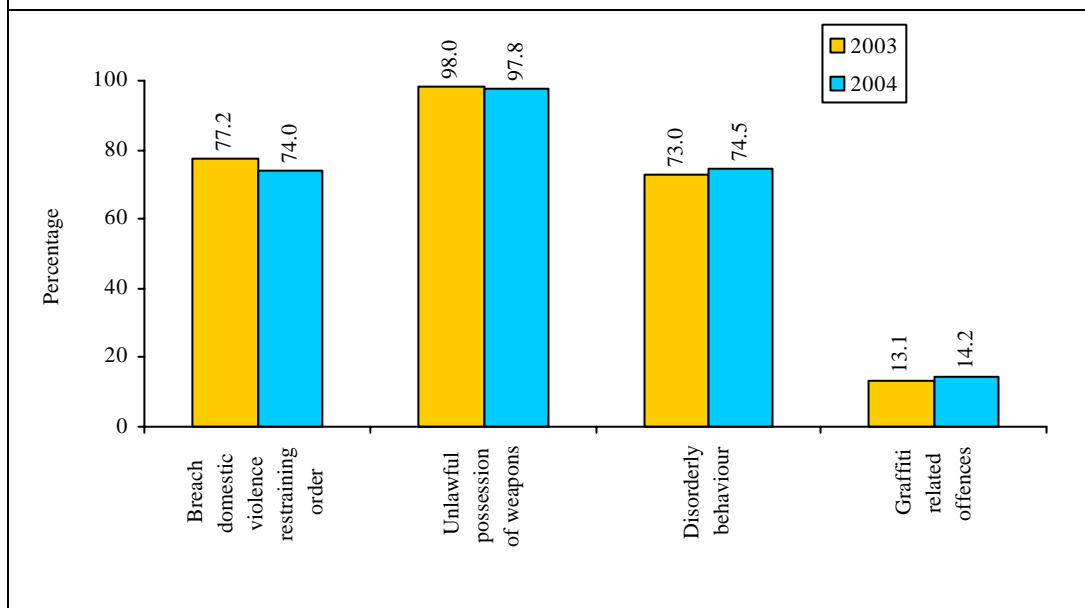
- Clear up levels varied considerably depending on the type of *property offence* involved. *Serious criminal trespass* offences had the lowest clear up level, followed closely by *larceny, illegal use of a motor vehicle* and *damage property*.
- At the other end of the scale, virtually all *receiving/unlawful possession* offences were cleared while just over half of *shop larcenies* and *fraud and misappropriation* matters were cleared. Again, the high clear up rate for *receiving/unlawful possession* is to be expected, given that these offences are often only detected when the alleged offender is caught by police.
- Clear up levels were slightly lower in 2004 than in 2003 for all offences depicted.

Offences against good order

Figure 21 shows the clear up level for selected *offences against good order* in 2003 and 2004.

- In 2004, within the broad *offences against good order* category, clear up levels varied from a low of 14.2% for *graffiti and related offences* to 97.8% for *unlawful possession of weapons*.
- The clear up rate for all four categories depicted remained stable between 2003 and 2004.

Figure 21 Percentage of offences recorded and cleared in the same year: clear up levels for selected *offences against good order*, 2003 and 2004.



Total offences cleared in 2004

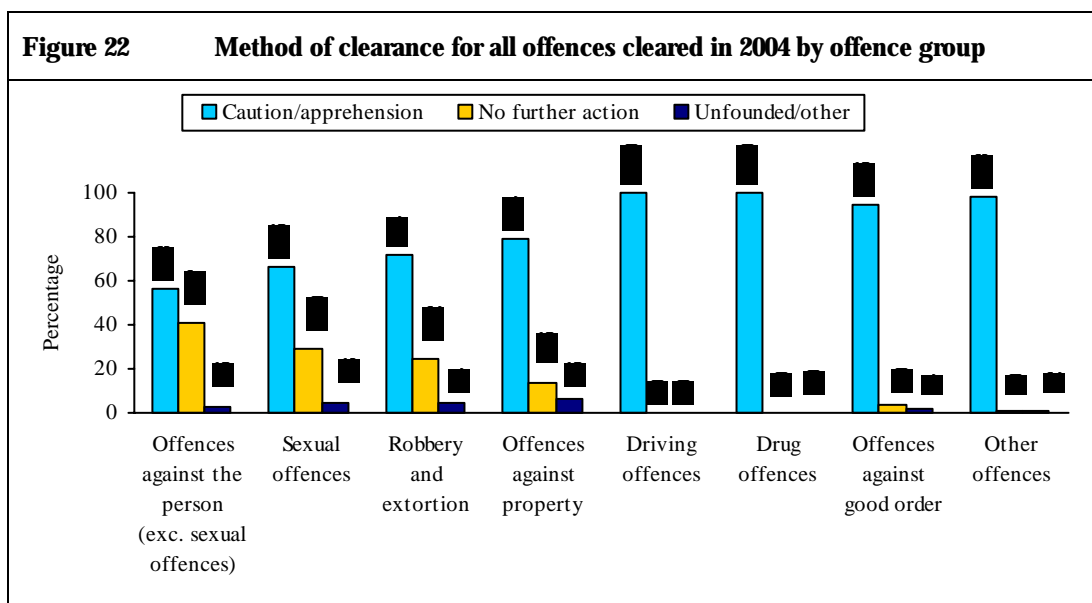
- As noted earlier, of those 280,820 offences recorded by police in 2004, 124,876 had been cleared by the end of the year. In addition, a further 4,835 offences were cleared which had been recorded by police prior to 2004. This gives a total of 129,711 offences cleared during the 12 month period.
- For each of the key offence categories, the majority of offences cleared in 2004 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 12,505 *offences against the person* cleared in 2004, only 6.7% were recorded prior to 2004, while for *sexual offences*, *robbery offences* and *property offences*, the proportion was 18.8%, 11.7% and 12.7% respectively. Of the 61,783 *driving offences* cleared in 2004, only five involved an offence reported in a previous year.

Method of clearance

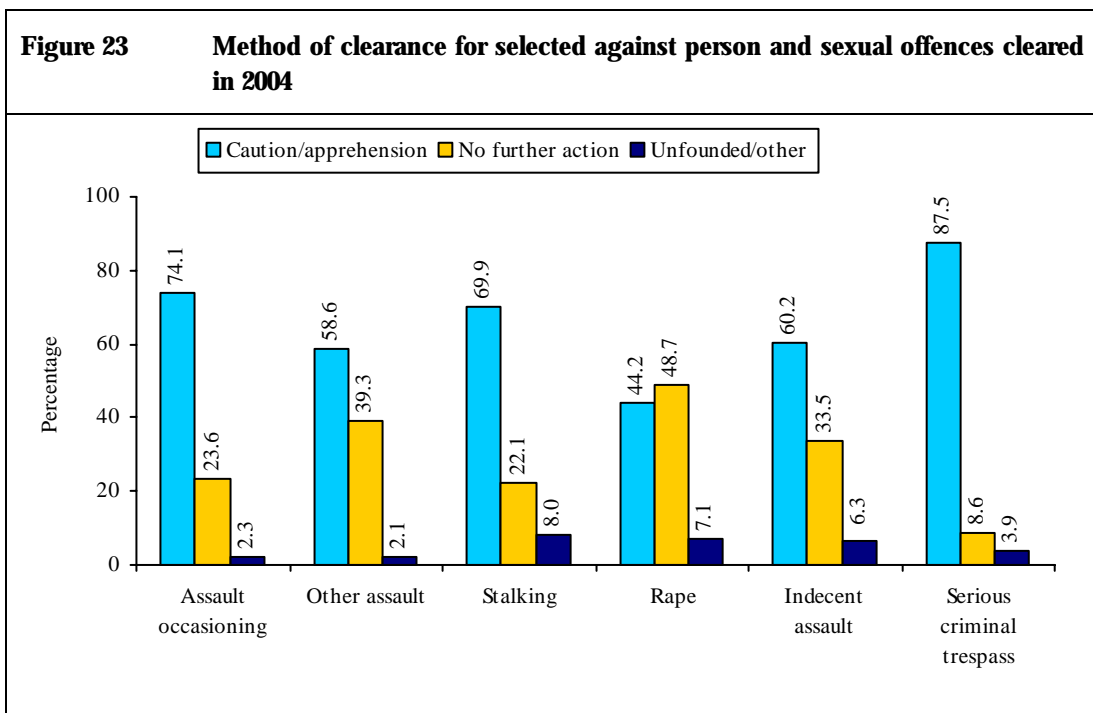
- Of the 129,711 offences cleared in 2004, the majority (117,104 or 90.3%) were cleared by way of the apprehension or cautioning of a suspect.
- A further 156 (0.1%) of the *larceny from shop* reports were cleared by the issuance of a Shop Infringement Notice. These Notices were introduced by the *Shop Theft (Alternative Enforcement) Act, 2000*, which came into force on 11th November, 2001. Under the

legislation, in certain circumstances, a police officer may issue a Shop Theft Infringement Notice instead of charging an alleged offender with larceny.

- A very small proportion of offences (1.2%) were designated as cleared on the grounds that they were unfounded: ie following exhaustive inquiries, the police found no evidence that an offence had been committed.
- For 10,023 (7.7% of all offences cleared), the victim requested that the police take no further action.
- Finally, 0.7% were cleared by some 'other' method. 'Other' included the following categories:
 - The accused or the complainant had died;
 - The suspect had diplomatic immunity; or
 - The charge had lapsed due to the limitation of time set out in legislation.
- As shown in Figure 22, for *driving* and *drug* offences, all were cleared by way of the apprehension or cautioning of a suspect.
- In contrast, only 56.8% of *against person* offences were cleared by this method, as were 66.5% of *sexual offences*. In addition, for these two categories, the proportion which were cleared as a result of the victim requesting that no further action be taken was relatively high (40.7% of *offences against the person* and 28.9% of *sexual offences* compared with only 13.5% 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.



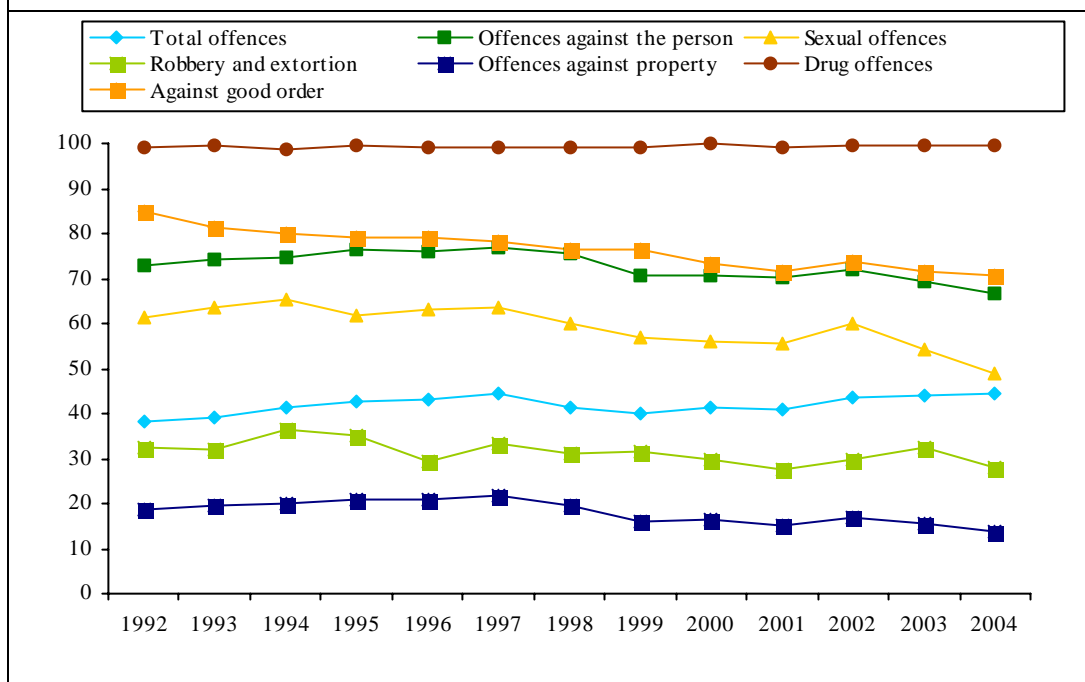
- Figure 23 provides a further breakdown of clearance methods for selected *against person and sexual offences*. A comparatively high proportion of reported *other assaults, rapes and indecent assaults* cleared in 2004 involved the victim withdrawing the allegation (42.9%, 38.6% and 27.7% respectively, compared with 19.0% of *stalking* offences and 26.9% of *assault occasioning grievous or actual bodily harm*).
- For comparative purposes, the method of clearance for one property offence - *serious criminal trespass* – has also been included. As shown, the proportion cleared by way of apprehension in 2004 was extremely high (85.1%) while the proportion where the victim withdrew the allegation was low (10.0%).



Longitudinal trends in level of clearance

The clearance data discussed in the previous section relate primarily to offences recorded in the 2004 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 2004. To place the most recent data into a broader context, and to identify whether the level of clearance for the major offence categories has changed over time, the ensuing discussion provides details on the clearance status, as at 31 December 2004, of all offences recorded in the years 1992 to 2004. This means that for those offences reported in 1992, police have had at least twelve years in which to clear them compared with less than one year for those offences reported in 2004.

Figure 24 Percentage of offences cleared as at 31 December 2004 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 generally consistent over time.
- In terms of longitudinal trends, by and large, 2004 clearance levels were only slightly lower than 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*, 72.7% of those reported to police in 1992 had been cleared by 31 December 2004 compared with 66.7% of those reported in 2001.
- A similar finding applied to *robbery and extortion*, with 32.4% of such offences reported in 1992 being cleared by the end of December 2004 compared with only a slightly lower figure of 28.0% of those actually reported in 2004.
- Of the seven offence groups depicted, the ‘drop off’ in the clearance level for matters reported in 2004 compared with earlier years was most pronounced for *against good order* offences where clearance levels dropped from 84.9% in 1992 to 70.5% in 2004 and *sexual offences* (where clearance levels dropped from 61.7% in 1992 to 48.8% in 2004).

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 2004. The offence categories selected for inclusion cover all *offences against the person*, all *sexual offences* and all *robbery and extortion* offences directed against an individual⁵. 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 11,671 victims of *other assault*. This means that during 2004, 11,671 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 292 victims aged 0–9 years who, during 2004, were subject to at least one *offence against the person*. If the victim experienced more than one such offence during the course of the year and fell within the 0–9 year age bracket on each of those occasions, that person was counted only once. However, if, over the course of these incidents, the person moved into the next age grouping of 10–13 years, they would be counted again in that next age bracket.
- **Discrete individuals.** Finally, in the bottom right hand corner of each table is a single figure which details the total number of discrete individuals who, during the course of the year, were victimised at least once, irrespective of their age or the category of offence involved. In Table 5.1a for example, there were 15,207 discrete individuals who, during 2004, experienced at least one *offence against the person*. This applied irrespective of how

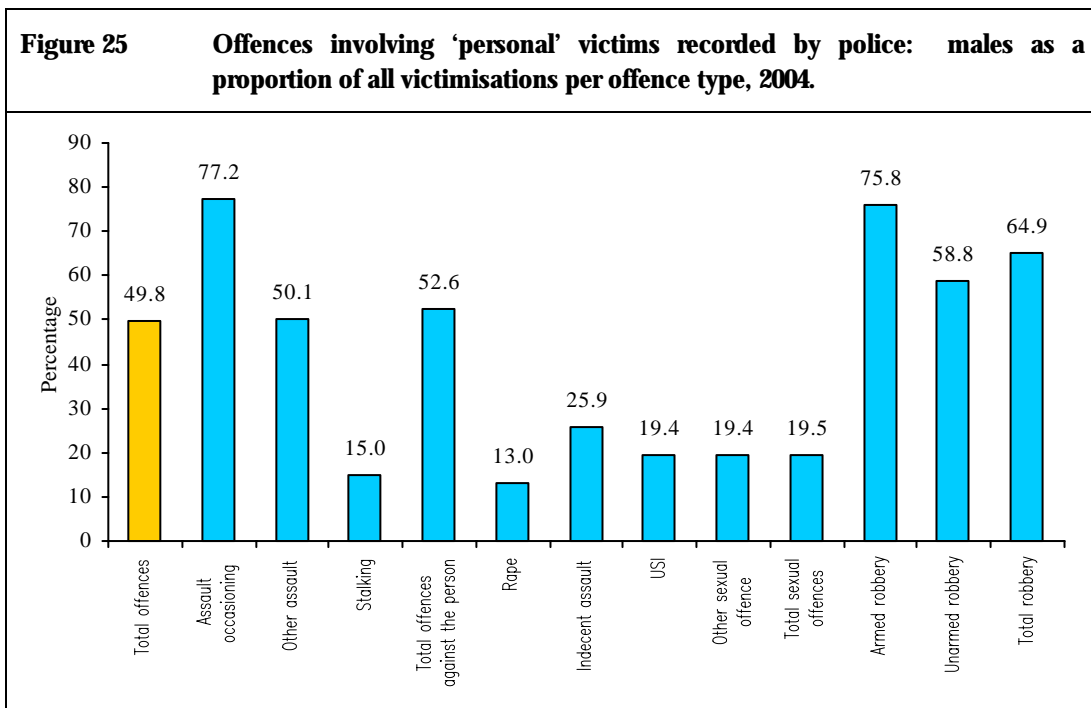
⁵ In previous years, *larceny from the person* victimisations were also included. However following the introduction of the *Criminal Law Consolidation (Offences of Dishonesty) Amendment Act 2002* on 5 July 2003, *Larceny from the Person* under section 155 of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act was repealed and no longer exists as a separate offence.

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 2004. It does not relate to individuals.

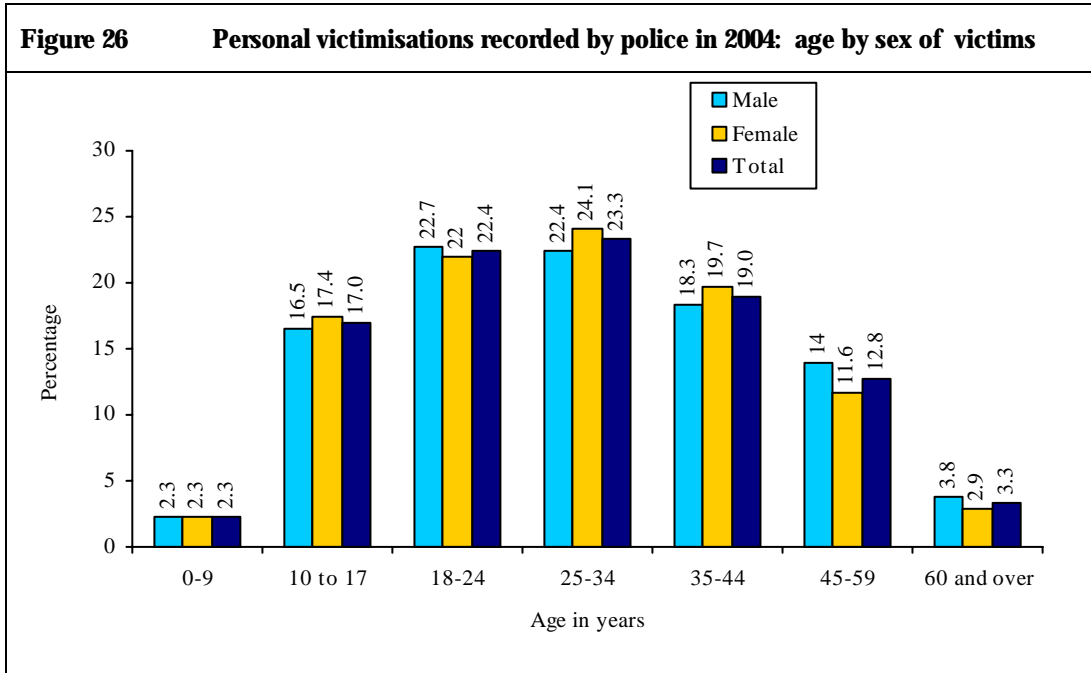
- In 2004 there 20,603 recorded victimisations directed against a person.
- Of those 20,603 victimisations where the sex of the victim was recorded, 49.8% involved males while conversely, 50.2% involved females. The fact that there was a fairly even distribution of males and females amongst the victims is in direct contrast to the finding (as described in the next section) that males accounted for the overwhelming majority of persons apprehended in 2004 for allegedly committing offences.
- As shown in Figure 25, males were markedly over-represented in the categories of *assault occasioning grievous or actual bodily harm* and all forms of *robbery*.
- In contrast, males were under-represented as victims of *stalking* and all forms of *sexual assault*.
- Of the 28 *murders* recorded by police in 2004, three quarters of the victims were male (n=21). Males were also the victims of 37 of the 48 *attempted murders* recorded and all victims of *drive causing death*.



Offence types with relatively small numbers have been excluded.

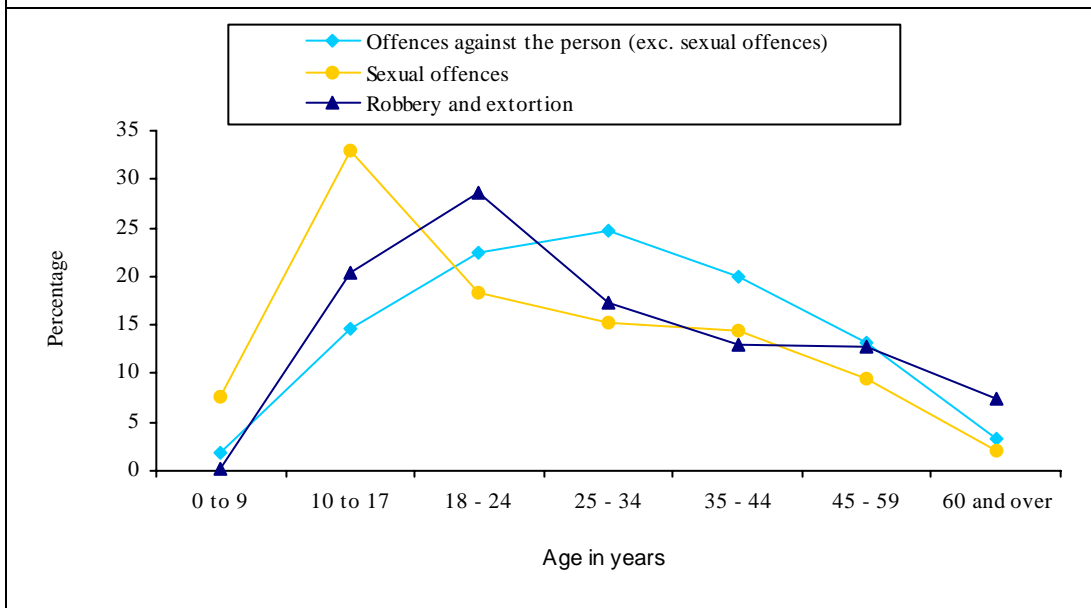
Age profiles

The following section reports on the age profiles of victims involved in ‘personal’ victimisations recorded by police in 2004. 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 2004 would be counted three times within the 25-34 age group.



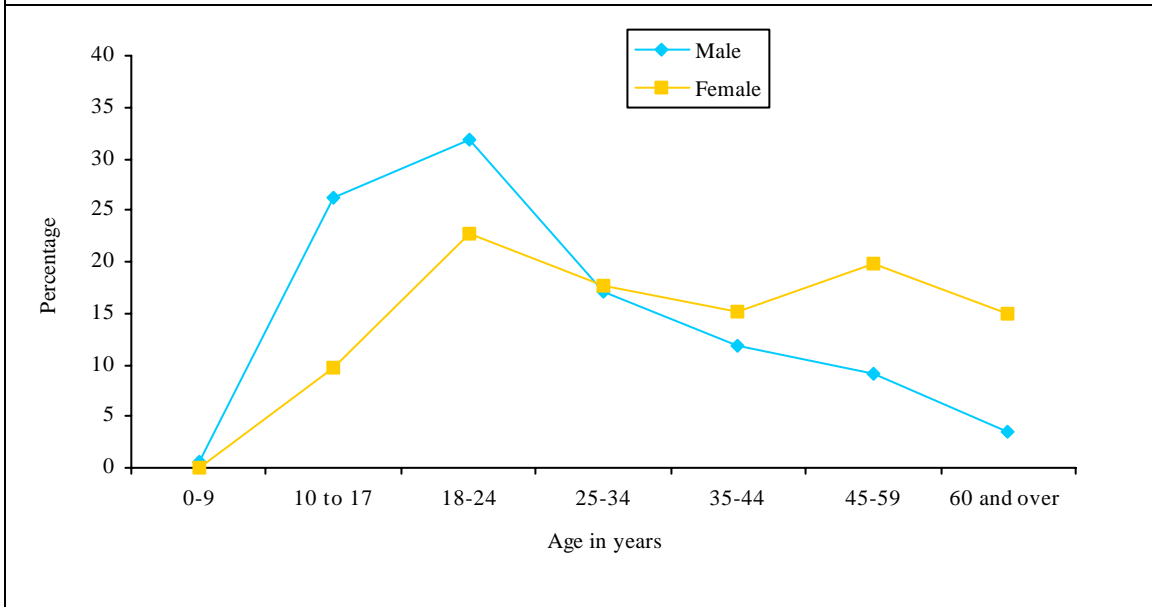
- As shown in Figure 26, persons in the mid age ranges of 18 – 24 years and 25 – 34 years accounted for the highest proportion of ‘personal’ victimisations reported to police in 2004 where age was known, while the very young and the elderly accounted for relatively small proportions. These findings run 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 27, 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 27 Personal victimisations recorded by police in 2004: age profile of victims by offence type



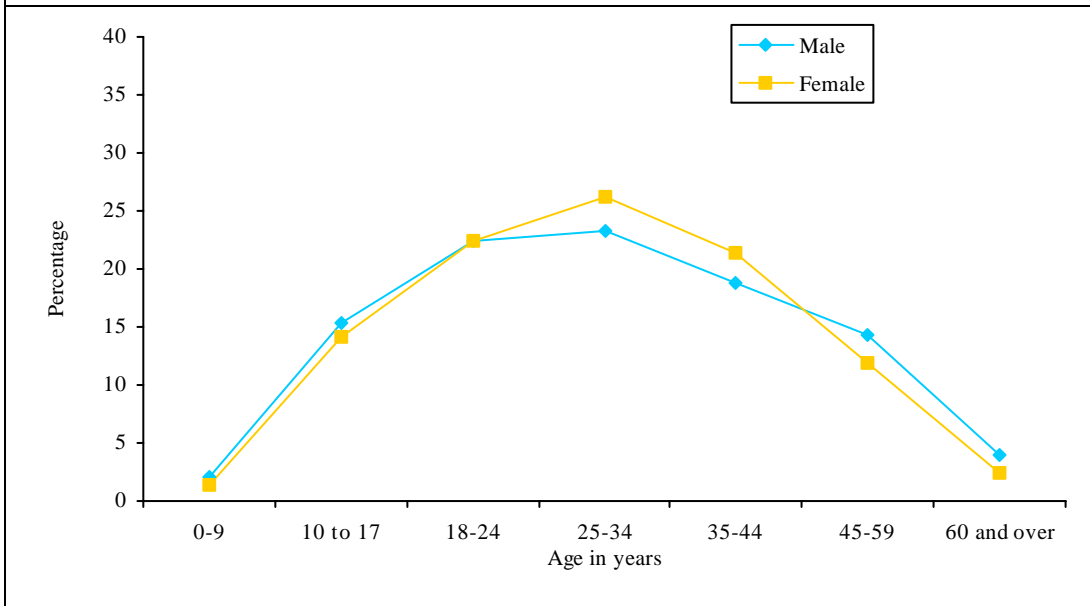
- For *sexual offences*, the peak age was 10 – 17 years, with persons in this category accounting for almost one third of *sexual offence* victimisations recorded by police in 2004 where age was recorded. A further 18.3% were aged 18-24 years. In total then, almost six in ten of all recorded *sexual offence* victims were people aged less than 24 years. In contrast, the older age groups of 60 years and over accounted about 2% of all *sexual offence* victims.
- The age profile of persons subjected to a *robbery and extortion* was highest for the 18-24 age group followed by the 10 – 17 year age group. After the age of 24, as age increased so the likelihood of being the victim of a *robbery and extortion* generally decreased.
- When male and female age profiles were compared within specific offence categories, some differences were found for *robbery and extortion*, but not for *offences against the person* or *sexual offences*.
- As shown in Figure 28, male *robbery and extortion* victims were generally younger than female victims. For male victims, from the age of 24 onwards as age increased so the proportion of victims decreased. In contrast, while the highest proportion of female victimisations also occurred in the 18-24 year age category, from the age of 24 onwards, there was no decline with the proportion per age category remaining fairly constant.

Figure 28 *Robbery and extortion* victimisations recorded by police in 2004: age profile of victims by sex

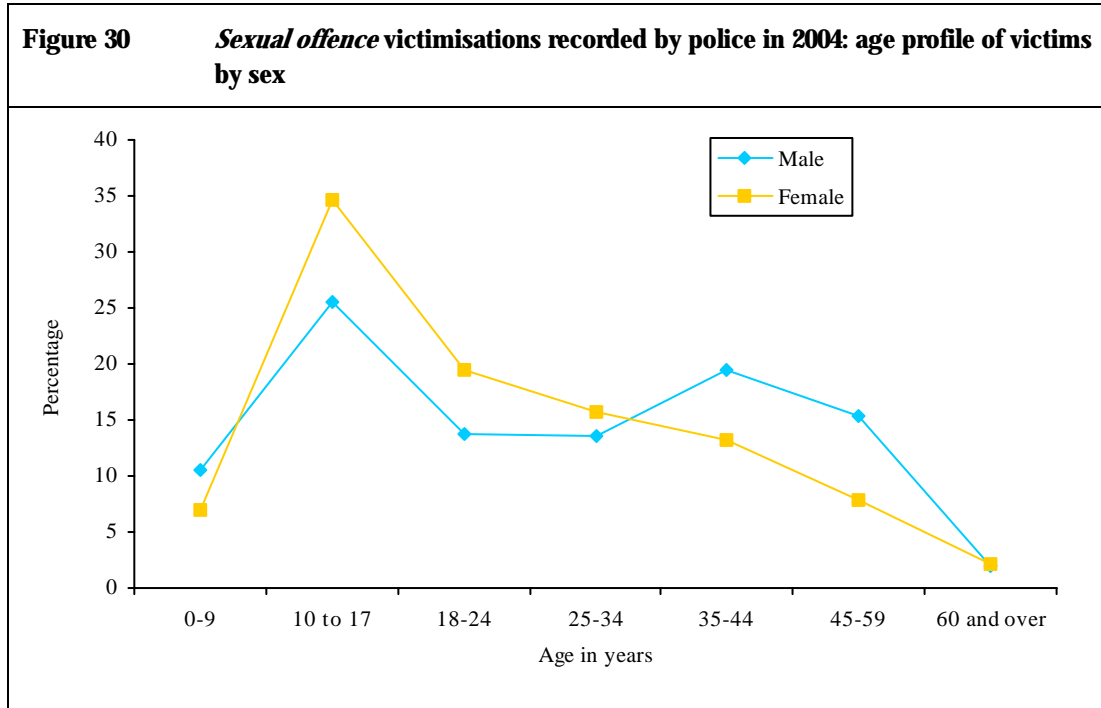


- As depicted in Figure 29, the age profile for male victims of an *offence against the person* was very similar to that of female victims, with the peak victimisation age for both being the 25-34 year age category.

Figure 29 *Offences against the person* victimisations recorded by police in 2004: age profile of victims by sex



- As shown in Figure 30, the age profile of male victims of a *sexual offence* was somewhat similar to female victims, although a higher proportion of male victims fell within the youngest age group of 0 – 9 years and the older age groups of 35-39. Conversely, there was a lower proportion of males in the age categories between 10 and 24 years.

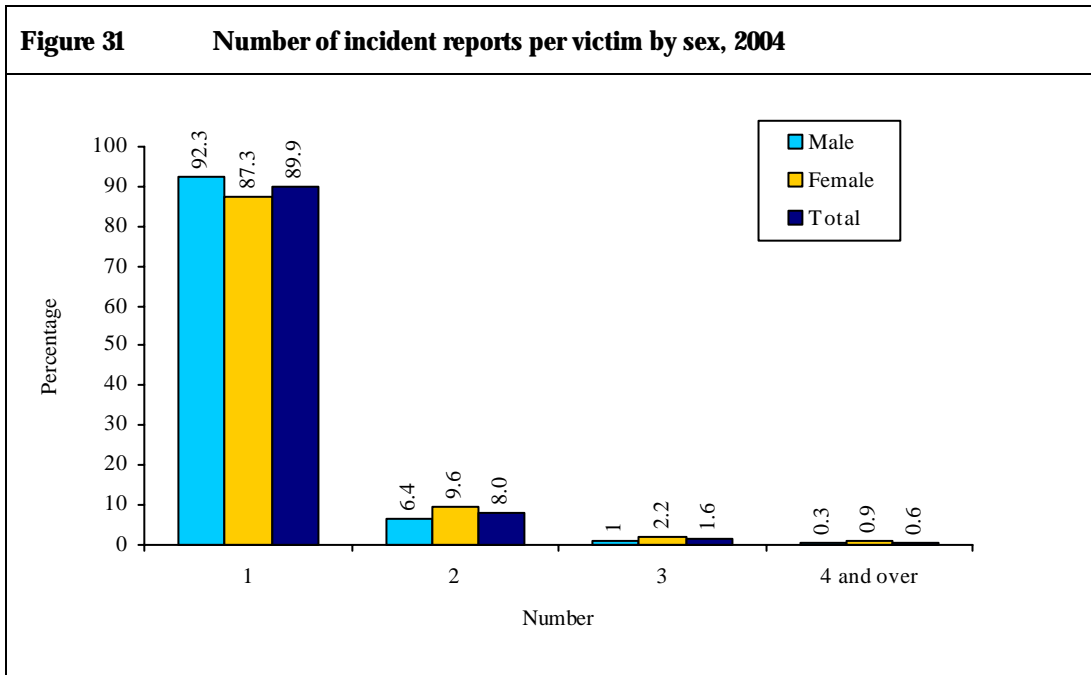


Discrete individuals and the extent of revictimisation

The information provided in the preceding sections do not relate to the number of discrete individuals victimised during 2004. 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 2004 there were 17,894 individuals who, during the course of the year, were subject to at least one 'personal' offence. This figure was 6.9% lower than the 19,230 victims recorded in 2003.
- Of the 17,891 individuals for whom sex was recorded, 9,255 (51.7%) were male while 8,636 (48.3%) were female.
- As indicated in Figure 31, almost nine in ten victims (89.9%) were the subject of only one incident report during the course of the 12 months. Conversely, only a small proportion (10.1%) were listed as the victims in two or more incident reports.

- Overall then, the level of repeat victimisation was extremely low. However, there were 15 individuals who were the subject of six or more incident reports during 2004.
- There were only minor differences between males and females in terms of the number of incident reports lodged, with a slightly higher proportion of female than male victims being the subject of more than one report (12.7% compared with 7.7% respectively)



1.5 APPREHENSIONS

An apprehension report is usually 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 this 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 as part of the one apprehension report, then all are counted because this usually indicates three different victims and three different incidents.

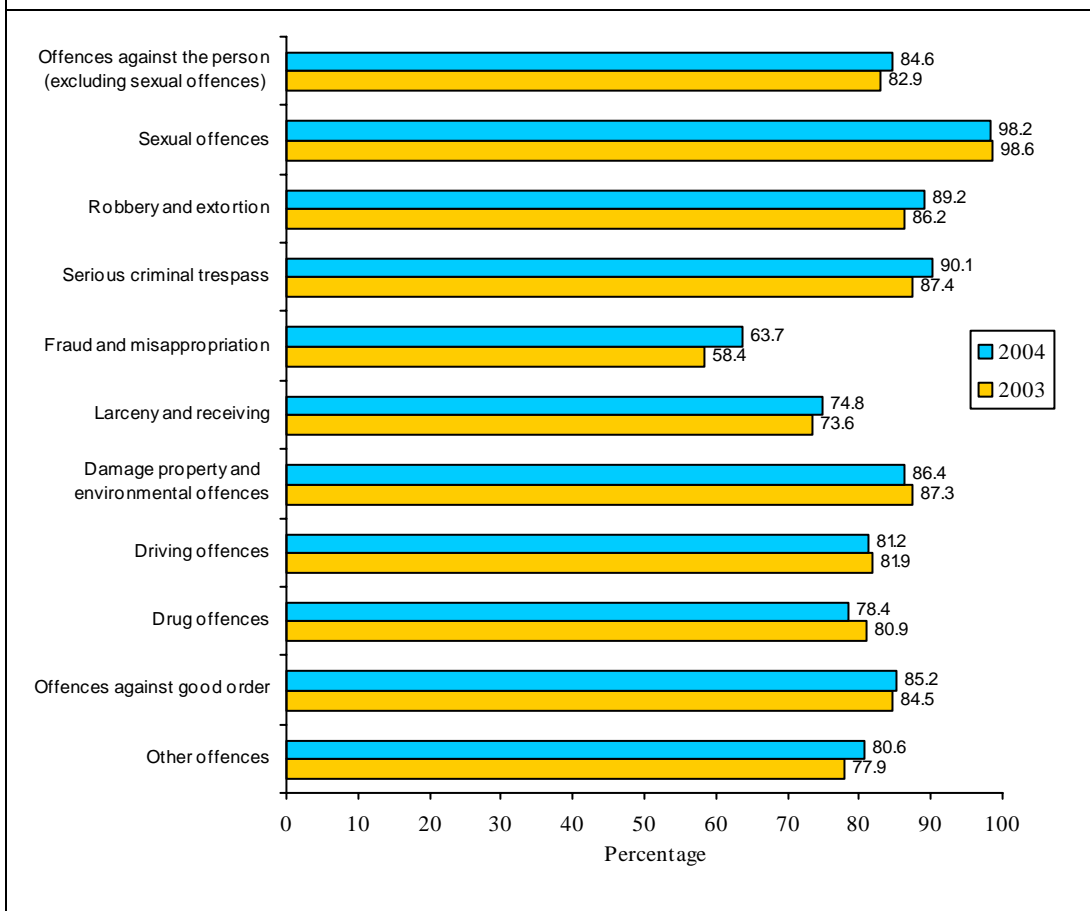
In the second section below, information is presented on the number of actual apprehensions and the number of discrete individuals involved in those apprehensions. This is relevant given that there can be more than one charge per apprehension report, and the same person may be apprehended on more than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

Offences cleared in 2004 by way of an apprehension: characteristics of persons charged

Age and Gender

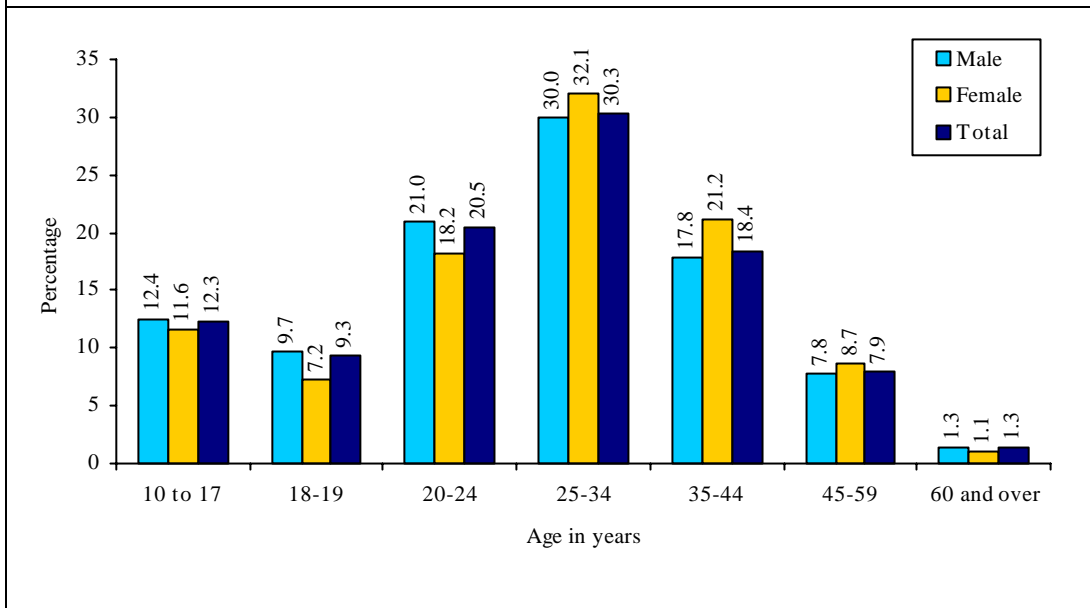
- There were 117,036 separate charges listed on police apprehension reports lodged in 2004. This figure was higher (by 1.6%) than the 115,172 charges laid in 2003.
- As was the case in previous years, with the exception of *fraud and misappropriation*, more than seven in 10 of those charges for which 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 32), reaching a high of 98.2% for *sexual offences*.
- While only a minority of charges were laid against females, this group accounted for 25.1% of all *larceny and receiving* offences charged in 2004 (including 41.4% of all *larcenies from shops*) and 36.2% of all *fraud and misappropriation* charges.
- The proportion of males involved in charges laid by police remained relatively stable between 2003 and 2004 for all offence groups.

Figure 32 Charges laid by police in 2003 and 2004: proportion per offence type involving males



- Of the 117,008 charges listed in those apprehension reports filed in 2004 where the age of the alleged offender was recorded, relatively few involved older individuals. In contrast, almost six in ten of all charges were allegedly committed by persons in the 18 - 34 year age group.
- Figure 33 shows that overall, there were very few age differences between male and female charges laid in 2004. For both groups, those aged 25 - 34 years dominated. Similarly, relatively few males or females charged by police were aged 45 years and over.

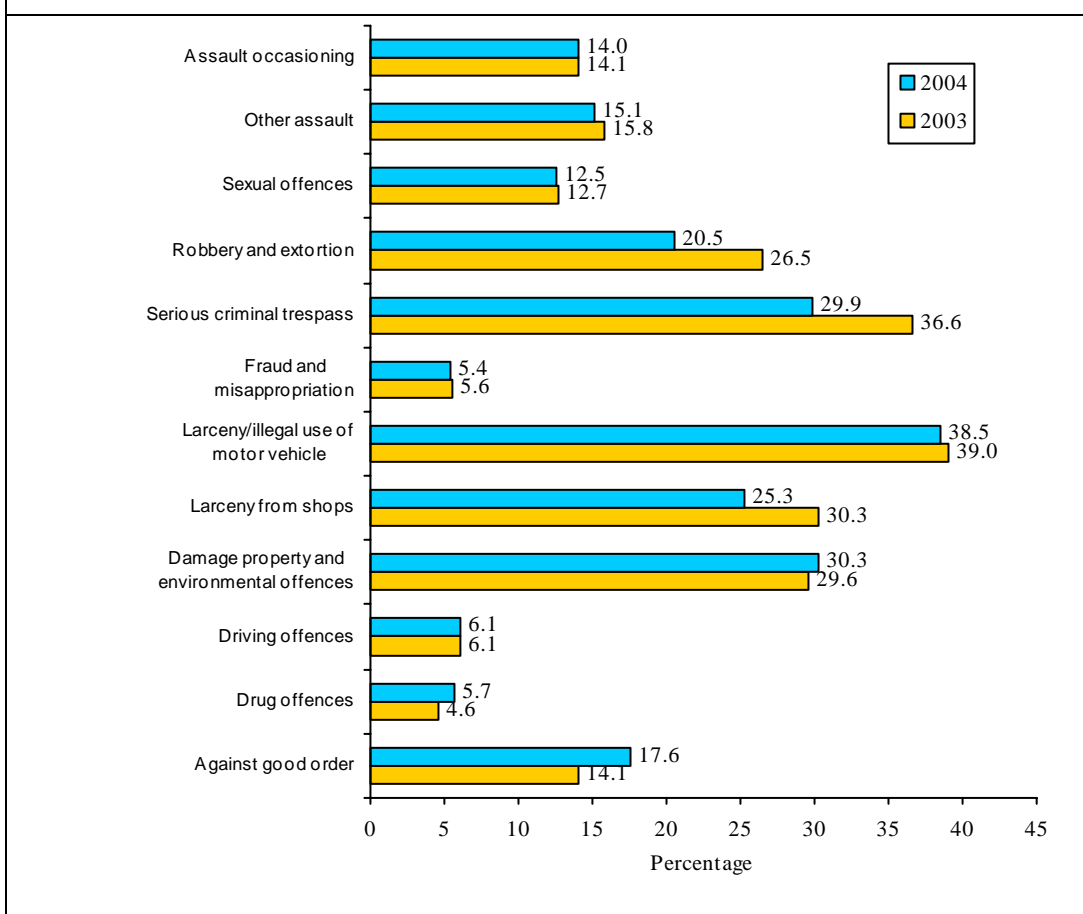
Figure 33 Charges laid by police in 2004: age of alleged offenders by sex



- 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 5.4% of all *fraud and misappropriation* charges laid in 2004, 5.7% of all *drug* charges⁶ and 6.1% of all *driving offences*. At the other end of the scale, they were involved in 38.5% of all *larceny/illegal use of a motor vehicle* charges. This age group also accounted for 30.3% of all *damage property and environmental* charges and 29.9% of all *serious criminal trespass* charges (see Figure 34).
- 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.

⁶ With the introduction of the Police Illicit Drug Initiative in late 2001, juveniles detected for *possess/use drugs* are now dealt with by way of a diversion to a brief assessment/intervention without a formal apprehension report being lodged. Youths dealt with under PDDI are therefore not counted in these figures.

Figure 34 Juveniles as a proportion of all charges laid by police: 2004 compared with 2003

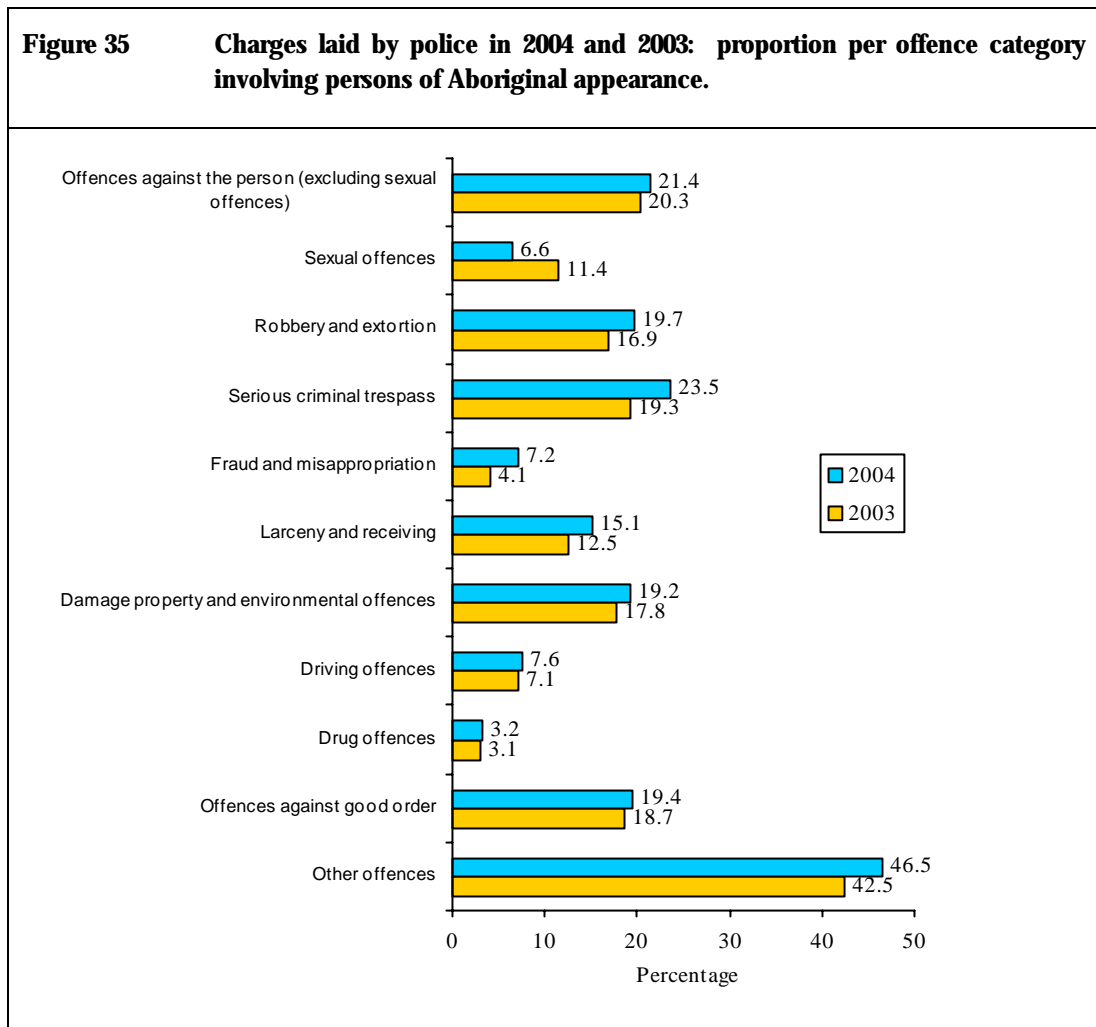


Racial appearance.

- Information on racial appearance was available for 109,795 or 93.8% of the 117,036 charges laid by police in 2004⁷.
- Of these 109,795 charges, 13,971 (12.7%) 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.
- The extent of Aboriginal involvement also varied considerably depending on the type of charge. As indicated in Figure 35, for those charges where information on the racial identity of the alleged offender was reported, persons identified by police as Aboriginal accounted for 46.5% of all charges involving an *other offence*, but only about 3.2% of all *drug* charges.

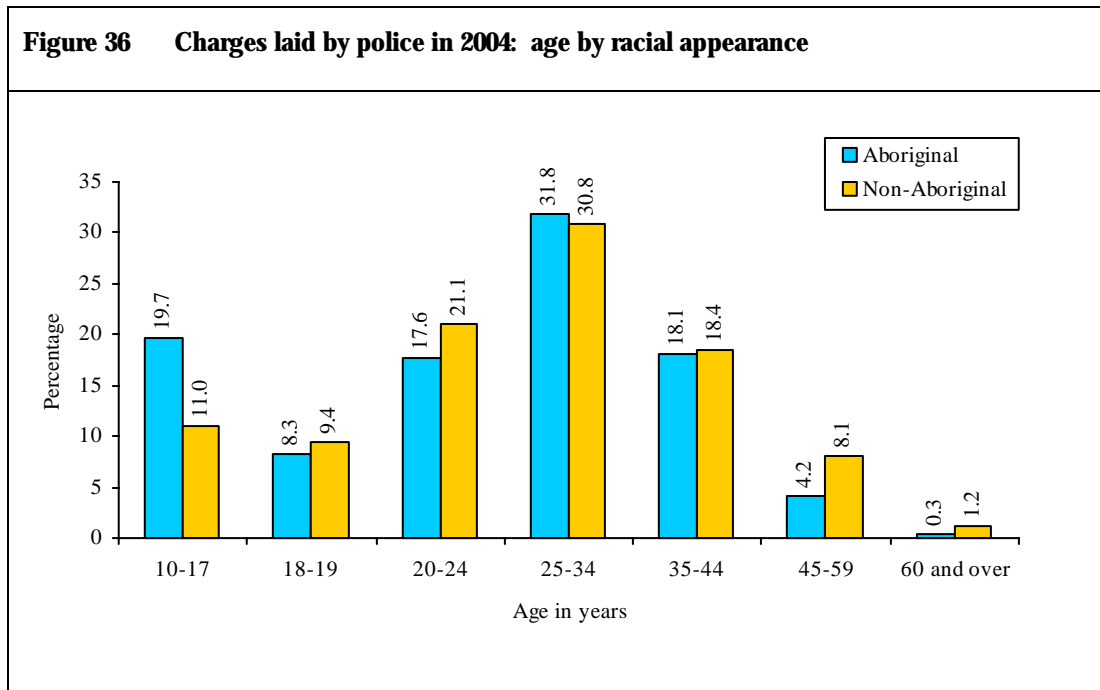
⁷ It should be noted that these data do not include persons dealt with by way of expiation notices, such as CENs and Traffic Infringement Notices. Nor do they include those who, rather than being charged with a drug offence, are diverted to the Police Drug Diversion Initiative. It is well documented that Aboriginal persons are under-represented in these 'diversionary' options.

- Overall, the proportion of charges involving persons identified by police as Aboriginal was relatively similar to those recorded for most offence types in the previous year.



- One offence category where Aboriginal persons have always been over-represented is that of *offences against good order*. In 2004 persons of Aboriginal appearance accounted for 19.4% of all such charges laid where relevant information was recorded. However, this varied depending on the type of *good order* offence involved. At one end of the scale, Aboriginals accounted for only 6.4% of *graffiti* charges laid. At the other end of the scale, this group accounted for 28.4% of all *disorderly/offensive behaviour* charges laid and 28.8% of all *loitering* 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 and charged by police. 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.

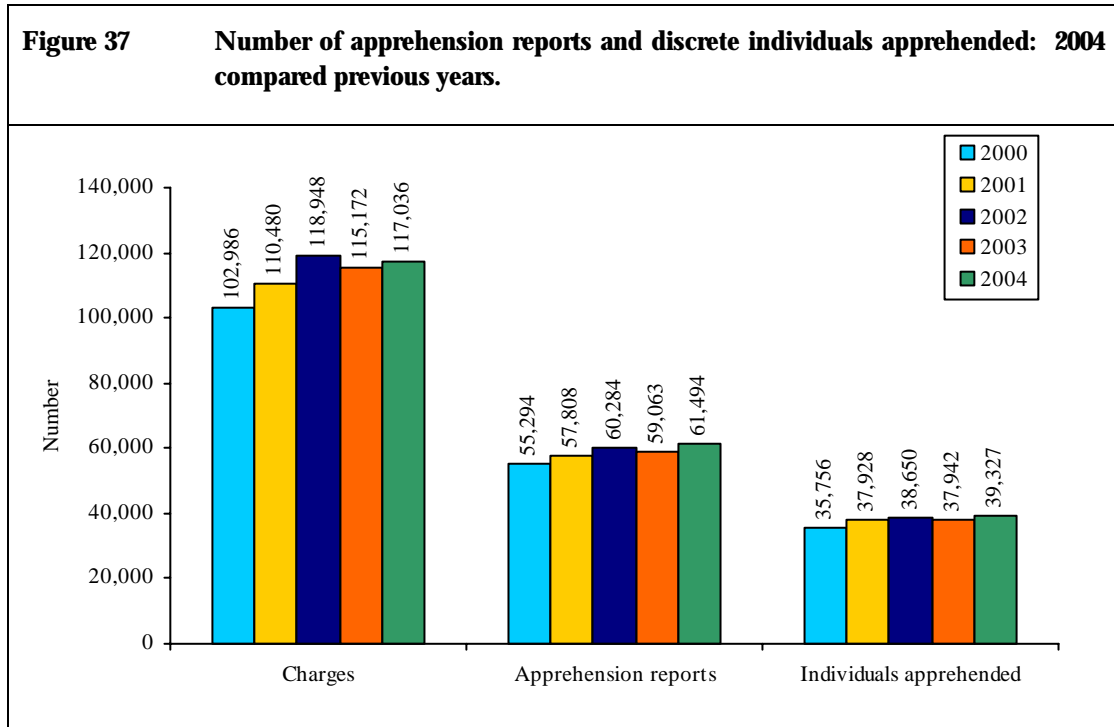
- A comparison of the age profiles of persons charged with offences in 2004 indicates only minor Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal differences (see Figure 36). As indicated, for those charges where information on racial appearance was recorded, a much higher proportion of those laid against Aboriginal persons involved individuals aged 10 - 17 years. In contrast, a slightly lower proportion of offences alleged against Aboriginals in 2004 involved persons aged 18 to 24 years and 45 years and over when compared with non-Aboriginals.



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

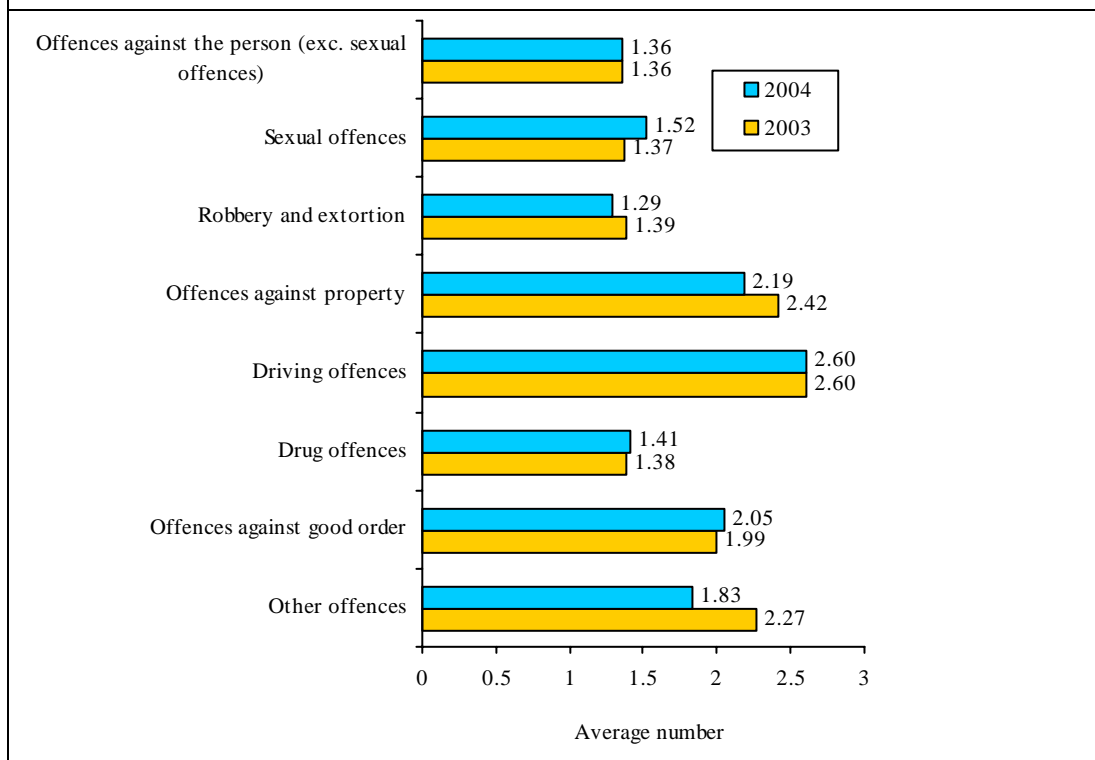
- As noted earlier, there were 117,036 charges recorded in 2004. These were contained within 61,494 apprehension reports. This means that, on average, each apprehension report lodged by police during this twelve month period contained 1.90 charges.
- Over the same time period, a total of 39,327 discrete individuals were apprehended. On average then, each person was apprehended 1.56 times, with an average of 2.98 charges laid per individual over the twelve month period.
- As indicated in Figure 37, the number of charges laid by police increased over the five years depicted (by 13.6%), as did the number of apprehension reports submitted (up 11.2% from 2000 to 2004) and the number of individuals apprehended by police (up 10.0%).
- The same trend was observed for the average number of charges per apprehension report and per individual, namely:
 - 1.90 charges per apprehension report in 2004 compared with 1.86 in 2000; and

- 2.98 charges per individual in 2004 compared with 2.88 in 2000;
- In contrast, the average number of apprehension reports per individual remained constant, at 1.56 apprehension reports per individual in 2004 and 1.55 in 2000.



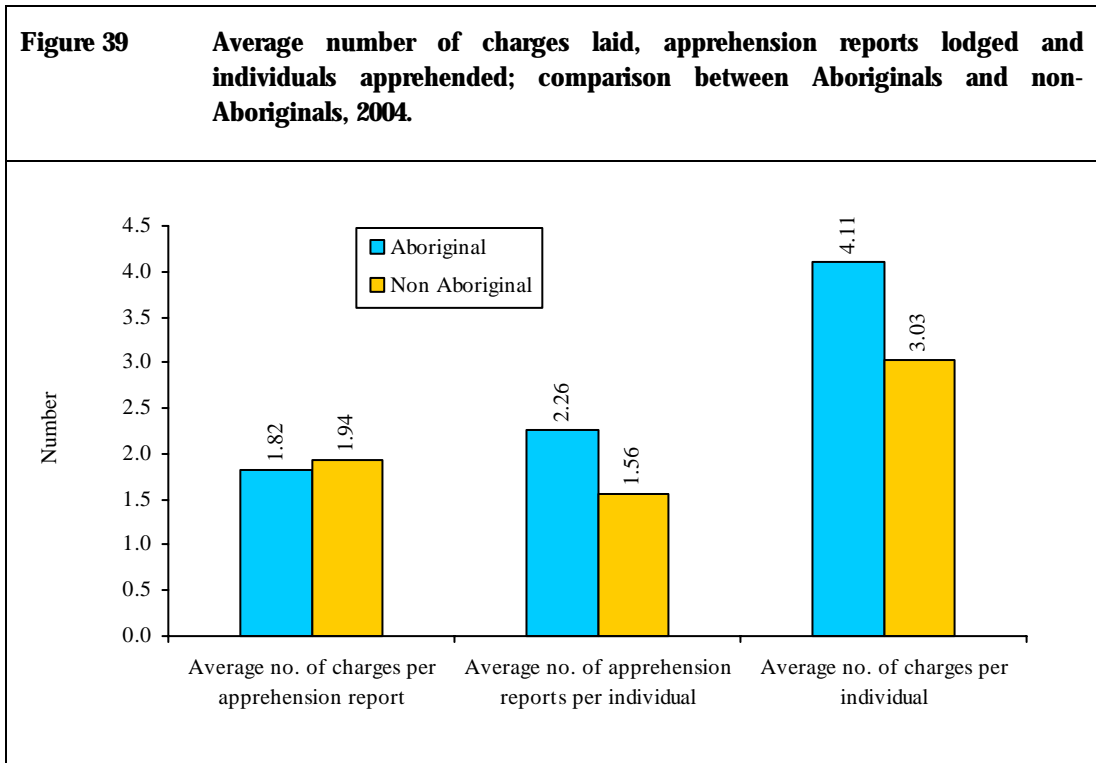
- Figure 38 shows the average number of charges per alleged offender for selected offence group. (In preparing this graph, it should be noted that if, over a twelve month period, the one person is apprehended for different types of offences - for example, for an *offence against property* and for a *drug offence* - he/she will be counted once in each discrete offence grouping.)

Figure 38 Average number of charges per individual per offence group: 2004 compared with 2003.



- As shown, the average number of charges laid varied slightly depending on the type of offence involved. Those persons apprehended in 2004 for a *property offence* faced an average of 2.19 such charges during the year. For individuals charged with a *driving offence*, the average was 2.60. At the other end of the scale, persons charged with an *offence against the person* faced an average of 1.36 such charges, while for those charged with a *sexual offence*, the average number was 1.52.
- For most offence categories the average number of charges laid per individual was similar to that recorded in 2003.
- Males accounted for the majority of apprehension reports lodged (80.3% of the 61,482 reports where information on the sex of the offender was recorded). Males also accounted for 78.5% of those 39,315 discrete individuals apprehended where relevant data were available.
- On average, the number of charges per apprehension report was higher for males than females (1.94 and 1.77 respectively). The same applied in relation to the average number of apprehension reports per individual (1.60 compared with 1.43 for females) and the average number of charges per individual (3.10 for males compared with 2.53 for females.)
- As noted earlier, persons of Aboriginal appearance accounted for 12.7% of the 109,785 charges laid by police in 2004 where relevant information was available. They also accounted for 13.5% of the 56,981 apprehensions and 9.7% of the 34,976 persons apprehended where information on racial appearance was recorded.

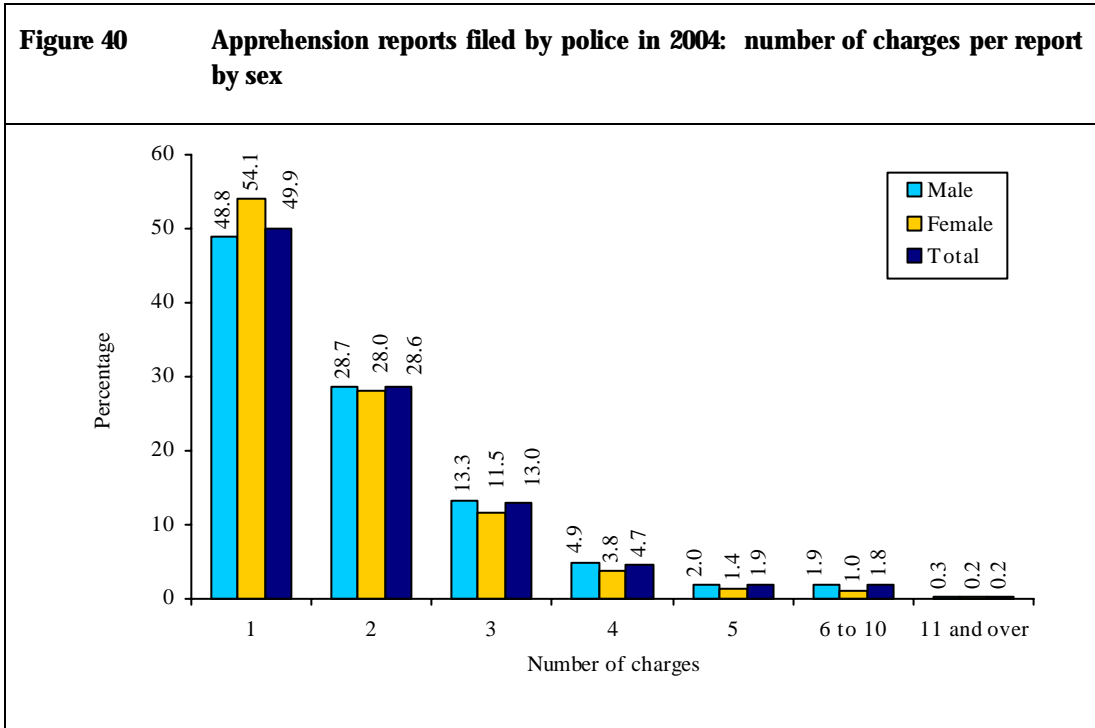
- As shown in Figure 39, in 2004, when compared with non-Aboriginals, the average number of apprehension reports per individual was higher for persons of Aboriginal appearance, as was the average number of charges per individual. In contrast, the average number of charges per apprehension report was lower.



Apprehension reports: some further details

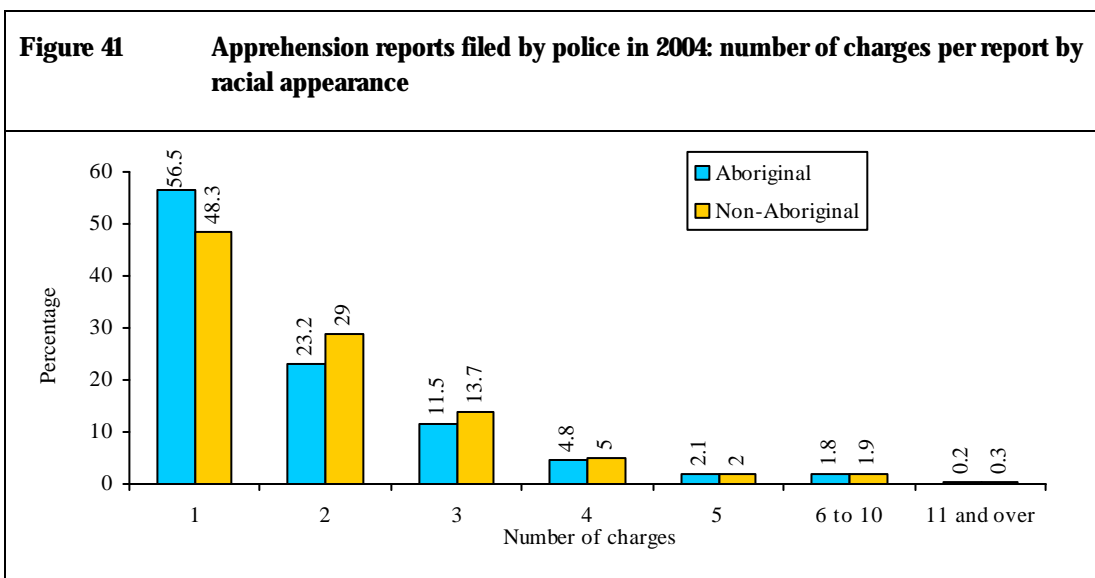
An alternative way of considering the relationship between charges laid and apprehension reports is by looking at the actual number of charges per report rather than the average number of charges.

- As indicated in Figure 40, almost one half of all apprehension reports submitted by police in 2004 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.



- As shown in Figure 41, the proportion of apprehension reports involving one offence only was higher for Aboriginals than non-Aboriginals. Conversely, the proportion of reports involving two or three offences was slightly lower for Aboriginals. For reports with four or more charges there were marginal or no Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal differences.

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.

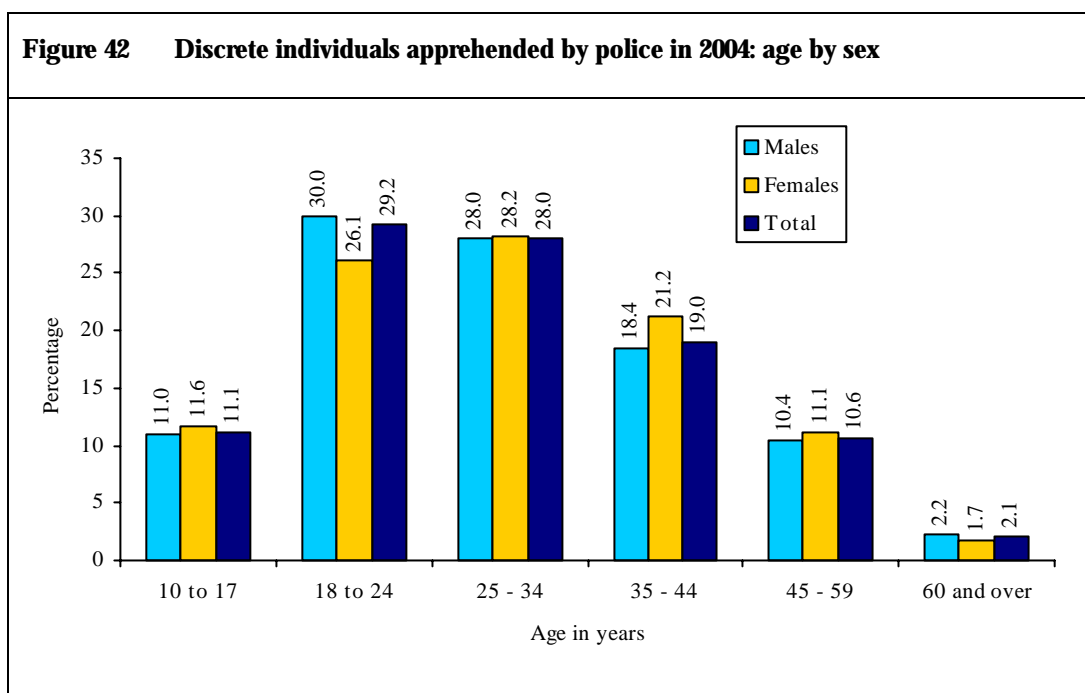


Individuals apprehended by police: some further details

Tables 6.33 to 6.41 in Section 6 of this report focus on the number of discrete individuals apprehended by police in 2004. 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

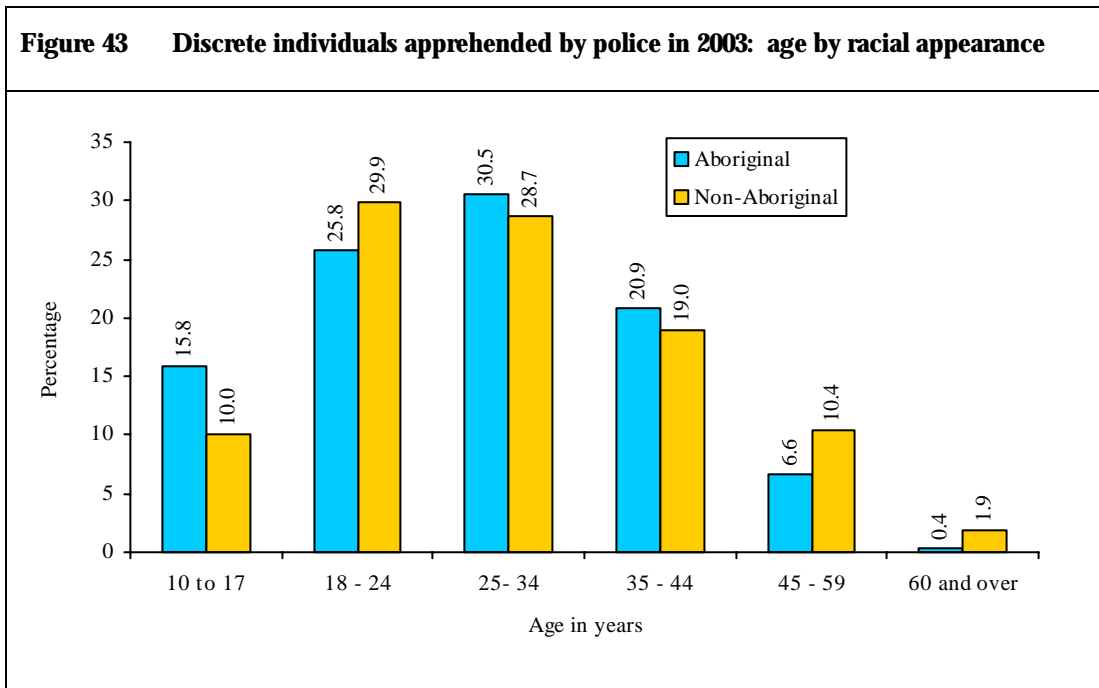
- As noted earlier, 39,327 individuals were apprehended at least once by police during 2004. Information on the sex of 12 of these persons was not available. Of the remaining 39,315, the majority (78.5%) were male.
- As indicated in Figure 42, where age was known, the majority of individuals apprehended were either aged 18 - 24 years or 25 - 34 years. Very few were aged 60 and over.
- Figure 42 also indicates close similarities in the age profile of males and females apprehended in 2004. 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 35 - 44 years.



- Of the 39,327 individuals apprehended in 2004, information on racial appearance was not recorded for 4,351 (or 11.1%). As noted earlier, persons of Aboriginal appearance accounted for 9.7% of the remainder. Given that persons of Aboriginal descent constitute only 1.4% of South Australia's population aged 10 years and over, this indicates that their

level of contact with the criminal justice system was 6.9 times higher than would be expected on a per capita basis.

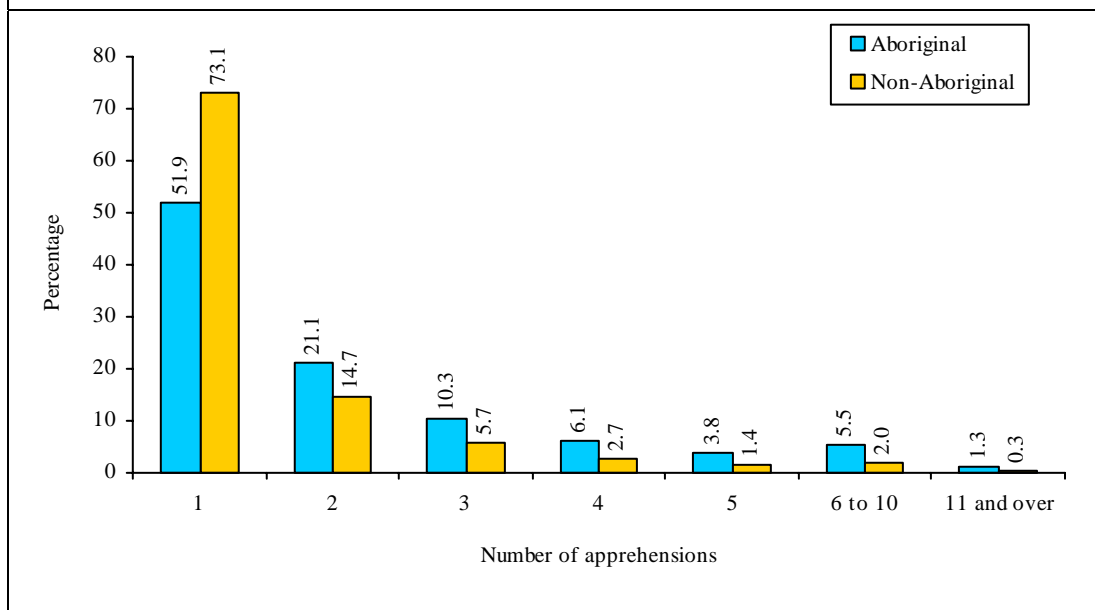
- While the age profiles of the two groups were broadly similar, Aboriginal persons apprehended by police in 2004 tended to be slightly younger than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. As shown in Figure 43, a higher proportion of Aboriginal persons apprehended in 2004 were aged 10 - 17 years compared with non-Aboriginals, while the reverse was true for apprehended individuals aged 45 and over.



Number of apprehensions per individual

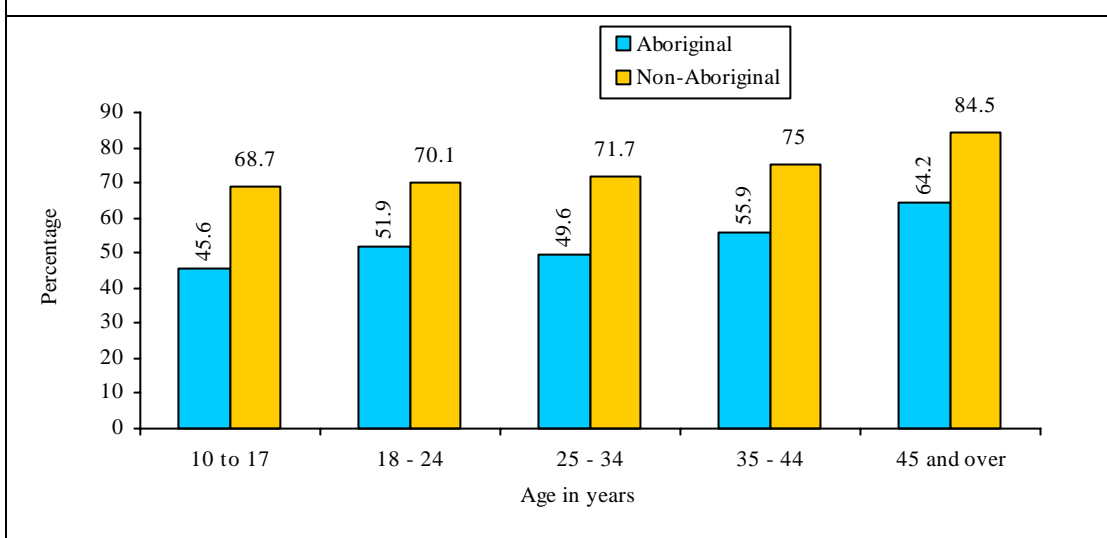
- Of the 39,327 persons apprehended in 2004, almost three quarters (73.9%) were apprehended on one occasion only during the twelve month period while a further 14.0% were apprehended on only two occasions.
- A small group of individuals (975 or 2.5% of the total) were apprehended on six or more occasions, with 146 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 2004 (72.6% and 78.6% respectively).
- There were, however, some clear Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal differences in the number of apprehensions per individual. As indicated in Figure 44, almost half of the Aboriginal (48.1%) had multiple apprehensions during 2004 compared to only a quarter of non-Aboriginals (26.9%).

Figure 44 Discrete individuals apprehended by police in 2004: number of apprehensions per individual by racial appearance



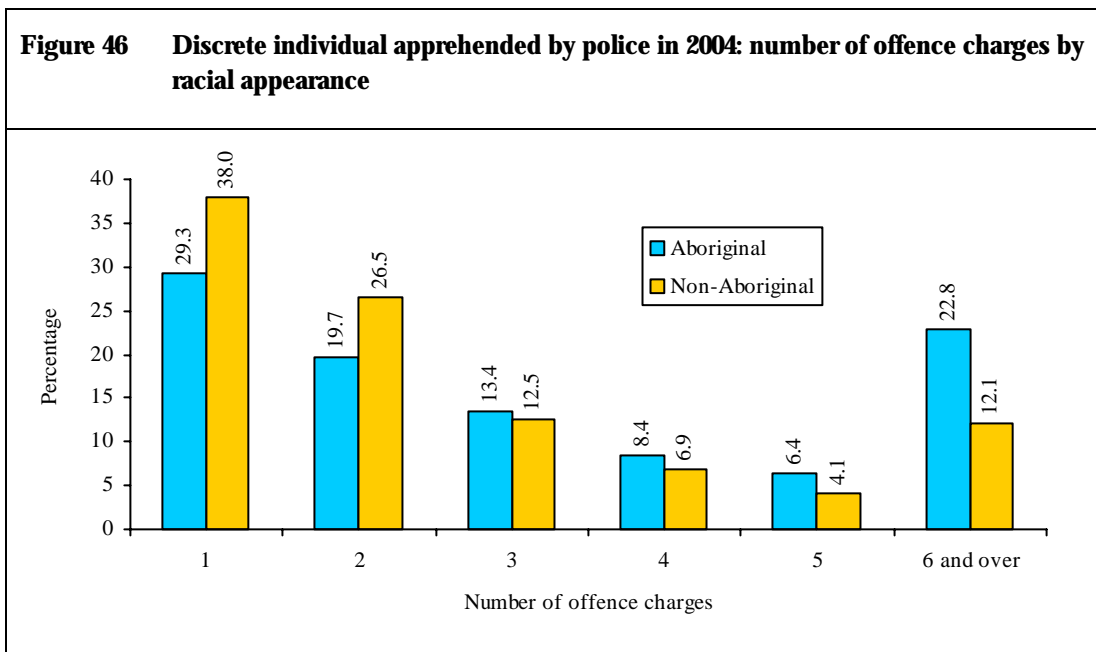
- While the majority of individuals were apprehended only once irrespective of age, younger individuals were more likely to experience multiple apprehensions than were older persons. This pattern held true for both males and females.
- While this finding also applied to persons of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal appearance, the proportion per age group who experienced one apprehension only was noticeably lower for Aboriginal than non-Aboriginal persons, as shown in Figure 45.

Figure 45 Discrete individuals apprehended by police in 2004: proportion per age group experiencing one apprehension only by racial appearance



Number of charges per individual

- Of the 39,327 distinct individuals apprehended by police in 2004, 15,341 or 39.0% were charged with one offence only, while a further 26.7% had two allegations laid against them. Only a small proportion (11.8%) were charged with six or more offences.
- At the most extreme end of the scale, there were 632 persons charged with more than 15 offences. As would be expected, only a very small number of these individuals (14 or 2.2% of the 632) were apprehended on only one occasion. In contrast, 468 persons, or 74.1%, accumulated these offences during the course of six or more apprehensions.
- There were some minor sex differences in the number of charges laid per individual, with a slightly higher proportion of females facing one offence allegation only (44.4% compared with 37.5% of males).
- The number of offences alleged per individual also varied according to racial appearance. As shown in Figure 46, 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.



- 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 2, there were 15,341 individuals who, during the course of the year, were charged with one offence only; i.e. in total, they accounted for 15,341 offences. This means that 39.0% of all individuals apprehended in 2004 accounted for 13.1% of all offences recorded. However, at the other end of the scale, the 4,624 individuals who were charged with six or more offences accounted for 48,472 of the allegations laid

- In other words, 11.8% of persons apprehended in 2004 were responsible for 41.4% of all charges laid by police. These results clearly indicate that in 2004, 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 2 Proportion of individuals compared with proportion of offence charges accounted for by those individuals, 2004	
15,341 persons @ 1 offence each = 15,341 offences	39.0% of all individuals apprehended accounted for 13.1% of all charges
10,497 persons @ 2 offences each = 20,994 offences	26.7% of individuals apprehended accounted for 17.9% of all charges
4,767 persons @ 3 offences each = 14,301 offences	12.1% of individuals apprehended accounted for 12.2% of all charges
2,562 persons @ 4 offences each = 10,248 offences	6.5% of individuals apprehended accounted for 8.8% of all charges
1,536 persons @ 5 offences each = 7,680 offences	3.9% of individuals apprehended accounted for 6.6% of all charges
4,624 persons @ 6 + offences each = 48,472 offences	11.8% of individuals apprehended accounted for 41.4% of all charges

- A similarly small proportion of individuals within both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal group accounted for a similarly high proportion of all charges. More specifically, 22.8% of all Aboriginal persons apprehended in 2004 accounted for 57.5% of all charges laid against this group by police, while 23.1% of all non-Aboriginals apprehended accounted for 57.6% of all non-Aboriginal charges (see Table 3).

Table 3 Proportion of individuals compared with proportion of offence charges accounted for by those individuals in 2004: an Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal comparison		
Number of offences per individual	Aboriginal persons apprehended	Non-Aboriginal persons apprehended
1	29.3% of individuals apprehended accounted for 7.1% of all allegations	38.0% of individuals apprehended accounted for 12.5% of all allegations
2	19.7% of individuals apprehended accounted for 9.6% of all allegations	26.5% of individuals apprehended accounted for 17.5% of all allegations
3	13.4% of individuals apprehended accounted for 9.8% of all allegations	12.5% of individuals apprehended accounted for 12.3% of all allegations
4	8.4% of individuals apprehended accounted for 8.2% of all allegations	6.9% of individuals apprehended accounted for 9.0% of all allegations
5	6.4% of individuals apprehended accounted for 7.8% of all allegations	4.1% of individuals apprehended accounted for 6.7% of all allegations
6+	22.8% of individuals apprehended accounted for 57.5% of all allegations	12.1% of individuals apprehended accounted for 41.9% of all allegations

