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NATIONAL CRIME STATISTICS

-

AN UPDATE 1998

The South Australian Perspective

This Information Bulletin describes the findings, as they pertain to South Australia, of the sixth report of the National Crime Statistics Unit within the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The Bulletin details the number of crimes reported to police between January and December 1998 for a selected range of offence categories and places South Australian crime trends within the Australian context. Comparisons with data published in previous reports are also included.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Australian Bureau of Statistics formed a National Crime Statistics Unit in 1990. The key function of this Unit is to produce uniform national statistics on crimes reported to police. To this end, it has established a set of uniform offence classifications and counting rules designed to remove the past difficulties in comparing rates of reported crime between states.

This Information Bulletin outlines the findings of the sixth publication by the National Crime Statistics Unit (ABS, 1999: Cat No 4510.0). It reports on the number of victims per offence category recorded by police between January and December 1998. Some earlier figures from 1993 to 1997 have also been provided in the Bulletin for comparative purposes.

2. A METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

It should be stressed that the statistics presented here are official crime statistics. As such they are influenced by factors other than the actual incidence of offending in the community. They are, for example, dependent on whether the victim of an offence chooses to report that offence to police. They are also dependent on whether and how that report is interpreted and entered onto the system by police. As a result, changes in official crime statistics from one year to another may not reflect a change in the actual level of offending, but may be due to changes in people's willingness to report or changes in how police record the data.

In terms of counting rules, the data presented in the ABS publication do not represent discrete victims. A person who has been the subject of multiple offences - such as kidnapping, rape and murder - will be counted three times, once in each of these offence categories.

While every effort is made to ensure that these national statistics are uniform and comparable, some inevitable differences remain. Responsibility for deciding whether a particular crime will be recorded and how it will be recorded is still vested in individual police jurisdictions. For some crimes, a high level of discretion exists in how to classify particular offences. For example, the perceived intent needs to be judged before deciding whether an incident is defined as a serious *assault* or an *attempted murder*. This discretion will inevitably result in some inconsistency from one police officer to another. By its very nature, such inconsistency is extremely difficult if not impossible to eliminate. There are also variations between jurisdictions in the legislative definitions for particular offences. And finally, the actual means by which data are recorded on the police systems also differ, from written documentation to on-line computer charging. Thus, while the data provide the most accurate basis for state-by-state comparison, some inconsistencies may still exist.

Offences covered by the report include only those for which nationally comparable definitions have been developed. These are:

- total murder and attempted murder
 - *murder*
 - *attempted murder*
- total manslaughter and driving causing death
 - *manslaughter*
 - *driving causing death*
- assault
- *sexual assault*
- kidnapping/abduction
- total robbery
 - *armed robbery*
 - *unarmed robbery*

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- blackmail/extortion
 - total unlawful entry with intent
 - *unlawful entry with intent involving the taking of property*
 - *unlawful entry with intent - other*
 - motor vehicle theft
 - other theft.
 - *armed robbery*
 - *unarmed robbery*
 - blackmail/extortion
 - total unlawful entry with intent
 - *unlawful entry with intent involving the taking of property*
 - *unlawful entry with intent - other*
 - motor vehicle theft
 - other theft.

It should be stressed that for some of these offence types - notably murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, drive causing death, kidnapping and abduction, and blackmail/extortion - numbers are extremely low, and tend to fluctuate considerably from one year to another. Any attempt to draw comparisons across time within the one jurisdiction, or to compare between jurisdictions is therefore difficult. Because of the small numbers involved, minor shifts in the actual numbers reported to police will result in large (and therefore potentially misleading) percentage changes.

The following points should also be noted.

- With the exception of murder and motor vehicle theft, in all other categories actual and attempted incidents are combined. Thus, UEWI, for example, includes both successful unlawful entries as well as attempts.
- 1997 figures included for comparative purposes in this Information Bulletin are based on figures released by the ABS last year. As a result they may differ slightly from the revised 1997 figures included in the current ABS publication.
- Percentage increases/decreases differ slightly, depending on whether the unit of analysis is absolute numbers or rates per 100,000 population.
- The 1998 report also includes information on the *outcome of police investigation* for selected offences.

3. THE STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Of the 14 offence categories detailed in the 1998 report, numbers in six of them are very small, and fluctuate considerably from year to year. Trends are therefore difficult to identify. Key findings for these six offence types are outlined below. (Note that a rank of 1 indicates the highest rate of reported offending for the eight Australian jurisdictions, while a rank of 8 equals the lowest offence rate.)

- **Murder**
 - There were 25 murders recorded in SA in 1998. This was 2 less than in 1997 (n=23). The South Australian rate of 1.68 per 100,000 population was slightly above the national average (1.51 per 100,000).
 - Compared with other jurisdictions, SA was ranked fourth (5th in 1997).
- **Attempted murder**
 - SA recorded 25 attempted murders in 1998, which was 8 fewer than the 33 recorded in 1997.
 - SA's rate of 1.68 was below the national rate of 2.04 per 100,000 population.
 - SA's ranking compared with the other jurisdictions improved from 2nd in 1997 to 4th in 1998.
- **Manslaughter**
 - There was 1 manslaughter offence reported in 1998 compared with 3 in 1997.
 - SA's rate of 0.07 was below the Australian rate of 0.26
 - SA's ranking improved from 5th in 1997 to 6th in 1998.
- **Driving causing death**
 - SA recorded 22 'drive causing death' offences in 1998, 7 more than the 15 recorded in 1997.
 - SA's rate of 1.48 was slightly higher than the Australian rate of 1.40 per 100,000 population.
 - SA was ranked 4th in 1998 (no ranking was available in 1997).
- **Kidnapping/abduction**
 - There were 32 such offences recorded in SA in 1998 - 5 fewer than in 1997 (n=37)
 - SA's rate of 2.15 per 100,000 population was lower than the Australian rate of 3.53
 - SA was ranked 4th - the same as in 1997.
- **Blackmail/extortion**
 - SA recorded 13 blackmail/extortion offences in 1998 - 9 fewer than in 1997 (n=22).
 - SA's rate of 0.87 per 100,000 population was below the Australian average of 1.59.
 - SA's ranking improved in 1998, moving from 5th in 1997 to 6th in 1998.

Of the remaining offence types, numbers were sufficiently large to identify trends and calculate percentage shifts.

- **Assault**
 - SA recorded 14,885 assault offences in 1998 - 8.4% up on the 13,728 recorded in 1997, and 10.6% higher than in 1995 when this group was first included in the ABS report.
 - Nationally, there were 132,967 assaults recorded - 7.3% more than in 1997 and 31.3% more than in 1995.

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- Assault rates in SA have been well above the national average throughout the 1995 to 1998 period. In 1998 SA's rate of 1000.81 per 100,000 was 41.1% higher than the national rate of 709.24.
 - When compared with other jurisdictions, SA was ranked 2nd – the same as in 1997, 1996 and 1995. Only the NT recorded a higher rate.
 - **Sexual assaults**
 - SA recorded 1,310 sexual assaults in 1998 – 7.6% more than 1,218 in 1997.
 - This is the first increase recorded since these statistics were first published in 1993.
 - Because of a steady decline between 1993 and 1997, the 1998 figures are still lower (by 16.7%) than in 1993.
 - At a national level there were 14,568 offences reported, which was 3.0% higher than in 1997, and 16.0% higher compared with 1993.
 - Sexual assault rates in SA have been above the national average for the past six years. SA's 1998 rate of 88.08 per 100,000 was 13.3% higher than the Australian rate of 77.71. In contrast, in 1993, SA's rate was much higher than the Australian rate – in fact, 53.4% higher.
 - Compared with the other jurisdictions, SA was ranked 4th in 1998, which is the same as in 1997. However, the relative position is now better than in 1993 when it was ranked 2nd.
 - Unlike some other jurisdictions, in South Australia the reporting of sexual offences has been mandatory throughout the period depicted. This may at least partially explain SA's higher sexual assault rates.
 - **Total Robbery**
 - In terms of absolute numbers, reported robberies in SA are still relatively low compared with offences such as unlawful entry.
 - However, total reported robberies in SA increased by 36.4% from 1,223 in 1997 to 1,668 in 1998. But the 1998 figures were still 2.1% lower than in 1993.
 - In contrast, Australian robbery numbers have increased steadily since 1993, with 1998 figures 11.8% higher than in 1997 and 85.9% higher than in 1993.
 - Because of a downward trend in total robberies recorded in SA between 1993 and 1997 and an upward trend in Australian numbers between 1993 and 1998, for the past two years (1997 and 1998), South Australian rates for total robbery have been below the Australian rates. In 1998, the SA rate of 112.15 per 100,000 was 11.6% lower than the Australian rate of 126.83.
 - In 1998, South Australia was ranked 3rd for total robbery, which was the same as in 1997.
 - **Armed robbery**
 - These offences increased by 263 offences or 70.3% (from 374 offences in 1997 to 637 in 1998).
 - Despite a steady decline between 1993 and 1996, the 1998 figures were still 30.0% higher than in 1993.
 - At a national level, the numbers have been increasing steadily, by 20.4% since 1997, and by 103.8% since 1993.
 - South Australia's 1998 rate of 42.83 per 100,000 population is still 26.0% lower than the national rate of 57.87.
 - Compared with the other jurisdictions, South Australia's ranking in 1998 worsened from 6th in 1997 to 4th. However it is still better than in 1993, when SA was ranked second, with only NSW recording a higher rate of armed robbery.
 - There is some indication from SAPOL that numbers may again be on the decline in 1999.

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- **Unarmed robbery**
 - In 1998, SA recorded 1,031 unarmed robbery offences – 182 offences (or 21.4%) more than the 849 recorded in 1997.
 - This increase is contrary to the steady decline observed between 1993 and 1997, with the result that the 1998 figure is still 15.0% lower than in 1993.
 - Nationally, reported unarmed robbery figures have increased steadily over the past 6 years, with the 1998 figure being 5.6% higher than in 1997 and 73.2% higher than in 1993.
 - The 1998 South Australian rate of 69.32 per 100,000 was 0.5% higher than the Australian rate of 68.96. However, in 1993, the gap was wider, with SA being 96.6% higher than the national average.
 - In 1998, of the 8 Australian jurisdictions, South Australia was ranked third, which is the same rank it held in 1997.

 - **Unlawful entry with intent – total**
 - This is by far the largest category of offences included in the national collection. In 1998, SA recorded 32,744 such offences.
 - The majority of these (26,781, or 81.8% of the total) involved the taking of property.
 - In 1998, the number of unlawful entry with intent offences reported to police increased by 17.5% (from 27,865 in 1997 to 32,744).
 - However, this was the first increase recorded since the figures were initially published in 1993. As a result, the 1998 figures were still 21.2% lower than the 41,579 recorded in 1993.
 - At a national level, numbers have risen steadily over the 6 year period, with the 435,670 recorded in 1998 being 4.3% higher than in 1997 and 14.0% higher than in 1993.
 - Since 1995 SA's rate has been consistently lower than the Australian average. In 1998, SA's rate of 2,201.58/100,000 population was 5.3% lower than the Australian rate of 2,323.85.
 - In 1998, SA was ranked 5th, which represents a slight worsening compared with 1997, when it ranked 6th.

 - **Unlawful entry with intent – property taken**
 - In 1998, SA recorded 26,781 such offences – 17.8% more than the 22,737 recorded in 1997.
 - However, this was the first increase recorded in SA since these figures were initially included in 1995. As a result, the 1998 figures were only 6.7% higher than in 1995.
 - At a national level, numbers have been increasing steadily since 1995, with the 1998 figure of 343,256 being 4.4% higher than in 1997 and 13.3% higher than in 1995.
 - SA's rate of 1,800.65 per 100,000 population was 1.7% lower than the Australian rate of 1,830.91. In contrast, in 1995, SA's rate was slightly higher than the Australian rate.
 - In 1998, of the 8 jurisdictions, SA was ranked 5th compared to 6th in 1997.

 - **Unlawful entry with intent - other**
 - In 1998, 5,963 such offences were recorded in SA, which was 16.3% higher than in 1997 and 7.2% higher than in 1995. In comparison, the national average of 92,414 was 3.9% higher than in 1997 and 12.9% higher than in 1995.
 - During the 4 years for which data are available, South Australia has consistently been below the national average. In 1998 SA's rate of 400.93 per 100,000 was 18.7% lower than the Australian rate of 492.93.
 - In 1998, SA was ranked 7th of the 8 jurisdictions, compared with 8th in 1997.

- **Motor vehicle theft**

- In 1998, there were 10,981 reported motor vehicle thefts in SA- 2,921 or 36.2% more than in 1997. Despite a decreasing trend between 1993 and 1997, the 1998 figures are 6.7% higher than in 1993.
- At a national level, the 1998 figures are only marginally higher (by 0.9%) than in the previous year, but 16.9% higher than in 1993.
- For the first time in 5 years, SA's rate per 100,000 population of 738.32 is higher (by 5.2%) than the national rate of 701.80.
- In 1998, South Australia was ranked 4th for reported motor vehicle thefts - the same as in 1997.

- **Other theft**

- In 1998, 54,636 'other theft' offences were reported to police in SA - an increase of 7,500 offences (15.9%) since 1997, and an increase of 7.4% since 1995, when this offence was first included in the national collection.
- This is the first increase recorded in SA during the past 4 years.
- In contrast, the Australian average has increased steadily over this period, with the 1998 figure being 6.8% higher than in 1997 and 15.3% higher than in 1995.
- South Australia's rate of reported 'other theft' has consistently been higher than the national average.
- In 1998, its rate of 3,673.52 per 100,000 was 21.8% above the national rate of 3,014.83.
- In 1998, SA was ranked second amongst the 8 jurisdictions, with only WA above it. This compares with a rank of 3rd in 1997.

4. PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA BETWEEN 1997 AND 1998

Changes in the rate of recorded offences per 100,000 population in South Australia are detailed below. Of the 14 offence categories listed, numbers in six of these were very low, rendering the calculation of percentages meaningless. Shifts in these categories are given in absolute rates only.

Compared with 1997, four major offence groups recorded decreases in 1998, as follows:

Attempted murder	*	(from 2.23 to 1.68 per 100,000 population)
Manslaughter	*	(from 0.2 to 0.07)
Kidnapping/abduction	*	(from 2.50 to 2.15)
Blackmail/extortion	*	(from 1.49 to 0.87)

Increases were observed in 10 groups, as detailed below.

Murder	*	(from 1.55 to 1.68 per 100,000 population)
Driving causing death	*	(from 1.01 to 1.48)
Assault	up 7.9%	(from 927.69 to 1,000.81)
Sexual assault	up 7.0%	(from 82.31 to 88.08)
Robbery	up 35.7%	(from 82.65 to 112.15)
Armed robbery	up 69.5%	(from 25.27 to 42.83)
Unarmed robbery	up 20.8%	(from 57.37 to 69.32)
Unlawful entry with intent	up 16.9%	(from 1883.02 to 2,201.58)
UEWI - property taken	up 17.2%	(from 1,536.49 to 1,800.65)
UEWI - other	up 15.7%	(from 346.53 to 400.93)
Motor vehicle theft	up 35.6%	(from 544.67 to 738.32)
Other theft	up 15.3%	(from 3,185.28 to 3,673.52)

5. COMPARISON OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CRIME RATES IN 1998 WITH NATIONAL AVERAGE

Table 1 compares South Australian crime rates with those recorded for Australia as a whole.

Table 1
South Australian crime rates per 100,000 population compared with other States

Offence	SA rate per 100,000 population	Australian rate per 100,000 population	Rank order of SA in 1998#	Rank order of SA in 1997#	State/Territory with highest rate in 1998	
Murder/attempted murder	3.36	3.55	4	3	NT	10.01
murder	1.68	1.51	4	5	NT	7.90
attempted murder	1.68	2.04	4	2	Qld	4.28
Manslaughter and driving causing death	1.55	1.66	4	n.a.	WA	2.68
manslaughter	0.07	0.26	6	5	Tas	0.64
driving causing death	1.48	1.40	4	n.a.	WA	2.29
Assault	1,000.81	709.24	2	2	NT	1,317.43
Sexual assault	88.08	77.71	4	4	NT	123.69
Kidnapping/abduction	2.15	3.53	4	4	NSW	5.94
Robbery (total)	112.15	126.83	3	3	NSW	210.14
armed robbery	42.83	57.87	4	6	NSW	90.21
unarmed robbery	69.32	68.96	3	3	NSW	119.92
Blackmail/extortion	0.87	1.59	6	5	WA	2.89
Unlawful entry with intent	2,201.58	2,323.85	5	6	WA	3,259.80
UEWI involving the taking of property	1,800.65	1,830.91	5	6	WA	2,324.83
UEWI - other	400.93	492.93	7	8	WA	934.97
Motor vehicle theft	738.32	701.80	4	4	WA	880.20
Other theft	3,673.52	3,014.83	2	3	WA	4,471.45

A ranking of one indicates the highest rate of reported offending.

In 1998 South Australia was below the national rate for 7 of the 14 offence categories, as follows:

- Attempted murder (** lower than the national average - 1.68 per 100,000 compared with 2.04)
- Manslaughter (** lower - 0.07 per 100,000 compared with 0.26)

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- kidnapping/abduction (** lower - 2.15 per 100,000 compared with 3.53)
 - armed robbery (26.0% lower - 42.83 per 100,000 compared with 57.87)
 - blackmail/extortion (**lower - 0.87 per 100,000 compared with 1.59)
 - unlawful entry with intent involving the taking of property (1.7% lower - 1,800.65 per 100,000 compared with 1,830.91)
 - unlawful entry with intent - other (18.7% lower - 400.93 per 100,000 compared with 492.93)

South Australia was above the national rate for 6 offences:

- murder (** higher than the national average - 1.68 per 100,000 compared with 1.51)
- Drive causing death *(1.1% higher - 1.48 per 100,000 compared with 1.40)
- assault (41.1% higher - 1,000.81 per 100,000 compared with 709.24)
- sexual assault (13.3% higher - 88.08 per 100,000 compared with 77.71)
- motor vehicle theft (5.2% higher - 738.32 per 100,000 compared with 701.80)
- other theft (21.8% higher - 3,673.52 per 100,000 compared with 3,014.83).

South Australia's rate for *unarmed robbery* was virtually the same as the national rate (69.32 per 100,000 population compared with 68.96 per 100,000 respectively - a difference of 0.5%).

** Note that numbers in these categories are very small. Hence, any slight variation in absolute numbers will produce large percentage differences. For this reason, percentages have not been calculated.

Summary

- The number of offences for which the South Australian rate was higher than the national rate steadily declined between 1993 and 1997. However, this trend was reversed in 1998, with SA having 6 offences above the national average, compared with 4 in 1997. As shown below though, SA's position is still better than in 1994 and 1995.
 - In 1994, South Australia had a higher rate than that of Australia for all offence categories with the exception of *driving causing death* and *motor vehicle theft*
 - In 1995, South Australia was above the Australian rate for 8 out of 14 discrete offence categories
 - In 1996, South Australia was above the Australian rate for 5 out of 14.
 - In 1997, South Australia was above the Australian rate for 4 out of 14.
 - In 1998, South Australia was above the Australian rate for 6 out of 14.

6. COMPARISON OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Table 1 shows South Australia's crime rate ranking compared with other states and territories for 1997 and 1998. (A ranking of one indicates the highest reported offending rate of the 8 jurisdictions, while a rank of 8 indicates the lowest.)

In 1998 South Australia's ranking vis-a-vis other states improved for the following:

- attempted murder (now 4th compared with 2nd in 1997)
- manslaughter (now 6th compared with 5th in 1997)
- blackmail/extortion (now 6th compared with 5th in 1997)

South Australia's ranking compared with other states worsened for:

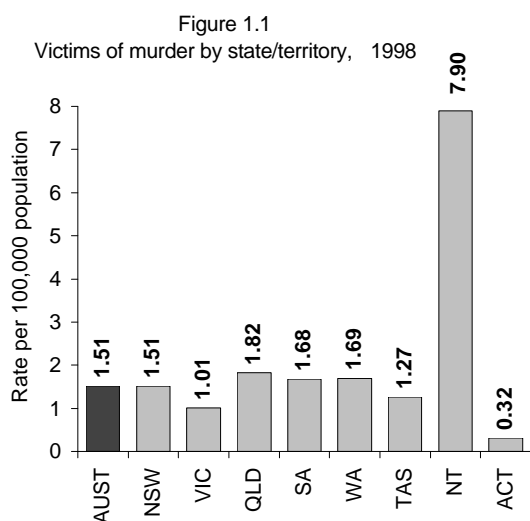
- murder (now 4th compared with 5th in 1997)
- armed robbery (ranked 4th compared with 6th in 1997)
- unlawful entry with intent involving the taking of property (ranked 5th in 1998 compared with 6th in the previous year)
- unlawful entry with intent – other (now 7th compared with 8th in 1997).
- other theft (ranked 2nd in 1998 compared with 3rd last year).

South Australia's ranking remained unchanged for:

- assault (2nd in 1998 and 1997)
- sexual assault (4th in 1998 and 1997)
- kidnapping and abduction (4th in 1998 and 1997)
- unarmed robbery (3rd in 1998 and 1997)
- motor vehicle theft (4th in 1998 and 1997)

Figures 1.1 to 1.12 provide a more graphic illustration of the level of reported crime in South Australia compared with other jurisdictions and the national average.

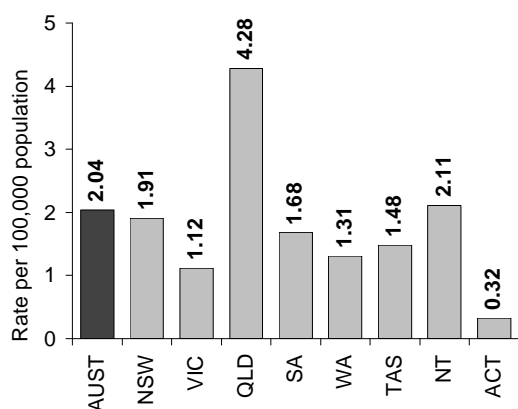
Murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, drive causing death



The number of extremely violent crimes against the person recorded in Australia in 1998 was relatively small. In total, 284 murders, 382 *attempted murders*, 49 *manslaughter* and 262 *driving causing death* incidents came to police notice during the year.

However, there were some obvious differences from one state to another. As depicted in Figure 1.1, the Northern Territory *murder* rate of 7.90 was considerably higher than that of any other jurisdiction. It was, in fact, 4.7 times higher than South Australia's *murder* rate. Figures for SA, Queensland, NSW and WA were fairly similar, while the lowest rate (of 0.32 per 100,000) was recorded

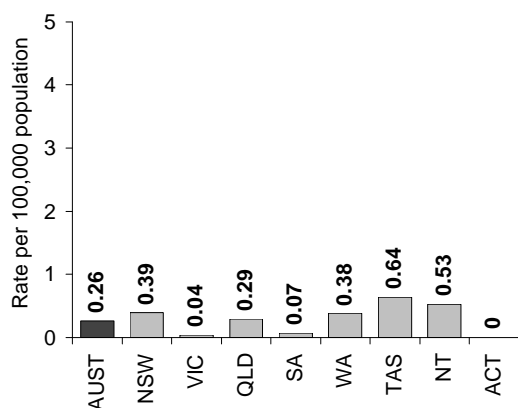
Figure 1.2
Victims of attempted murder by state/territory, 1998



in the ACT.

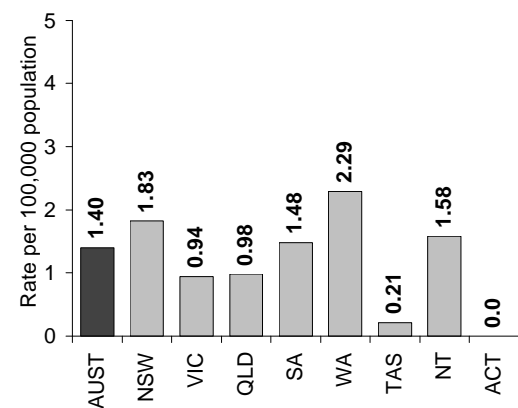
South Australia recorded the fourth highest rate for *attempted murder* (1.68 per 100,000 offences), which was well below Queensland's rate of 4.28). The lowest rate was recorded in the ACT (0.32). Again, though, rates are extremely small across all jurisdictions.

Figure 1.3
Victims of manslaughter by state/territory, 1998



Of the 49 reported victims of *manslaughter* in Australia in 1998, only 1 was from South Australia. Variations across jurisdictions were minor, ranging from 0 in the ACT to 0.64 per 100,000 population in Tasmania.

Figure 1.4
Victims of drive causing death by state/territory, 1998

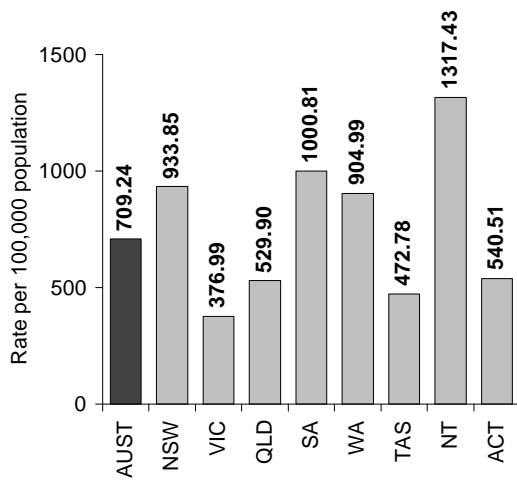


Again, reported rates for *driving causing death* were extremely low across all jurisdictions, ranging from 0 in the ACT to 2.29 per 100,000 population in WA.

South Australia, with a rate of 1.48 per 100,000, was above the Australian average, as was WA, NSW and the NT. Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania and the ACT were below the national average.

Assault

Figure 1.5
Victims of assault by state/territory, 1998

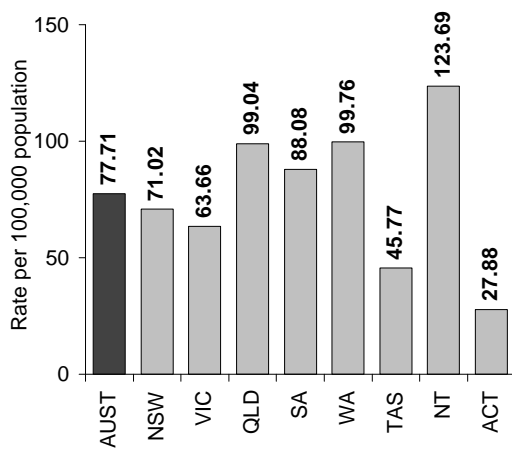


As was the case in 1997, South Australia's recorded *assault* rate in 1998 was above the Australian rate. As shown in Figure 1.5, this state recorded a rate of 1,000.81 per 100,000 population, which was second only to the Northern Territory, with a rate of 1,317.43.

South Australia's rate of *assault* was almost 2.7 times greater than the rate recorded in Victoria (376.99) which had the lowest rate of all jurisdictions.

Sexual Assault

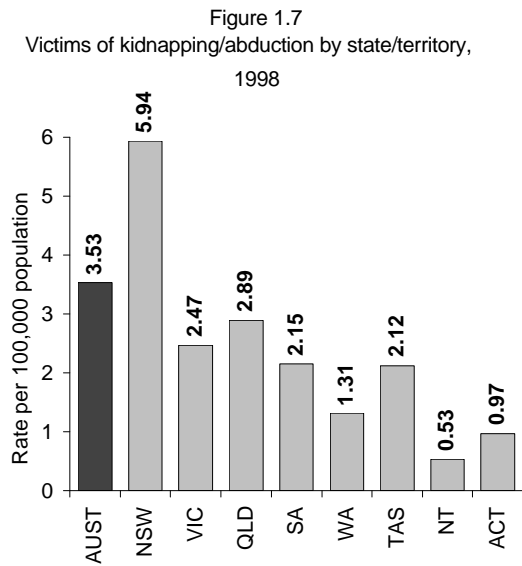
Figure 1.6
Victims of sexual assault by state/territory, 1998



South Australia's rate of *sexual assault* (88.08 per 100,000 population) was also above the national average of 77.71.

As shown in Figure 1.6, the reported *sexual assault* rate in South Australia was fourth highest, behind the Northern Territory (123.69 per 100,000 population), WA (99.76) and Queensland (99.04). The lowest rates of *sexual assault* in 1998 were recorded by the ACT (27.88) and Tasmania (45.77).

Kidnapping/abduction

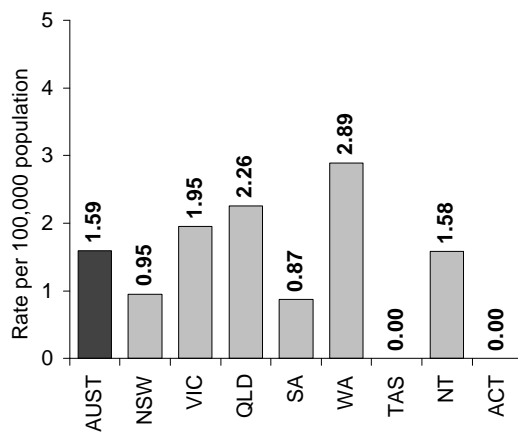


As in previous years, the reported *kidnapping/abduction* rates across all jurisdictions were comparatively low, with only 662 such offences being reported for Australia as a whole. In SA, there were 32 such offences, which gave a rate of 2.15 per 100,000 population. This was well below the national rate of 3.53.

In relation to the other Australian states and territories, South Australia had the fourth highest rate of *kidnapping/abduction*, with the figures for New South Wales being well above that of the other jurisdictions, at 5.94 per 100,000 population. The NT had the lowest rate (0.53).

Blackmail/extortion

Figure 1.8
Victims of blackmail/extortion by state/territory, 1998



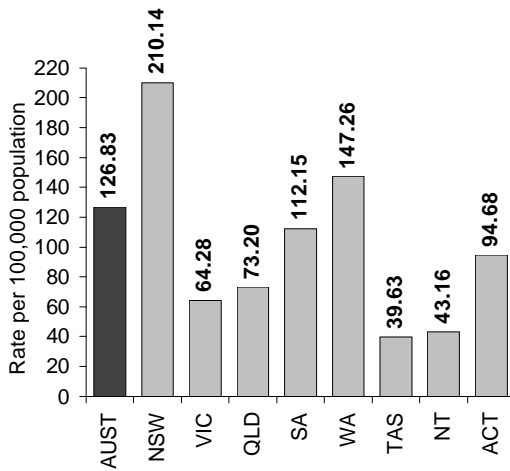
As with *murder, attempted murder* and *manslaughter*, the actual number of *blackmail/extortion* victims in Australia is very small, with 298 reported in 1998.

Figure 1.8 shows that South Australia recorded the sixth highest rate of *blackmail/extortion* in Australia (0.87 per 100,000 population). The highest rates were recorded by Western Australia (2.89), Queensland (2.26) and Victoria (1.95) while Tasmania and the ACT had the lowest rate, with no such offences being reported in 1998.

Robbery

Figure 1.9

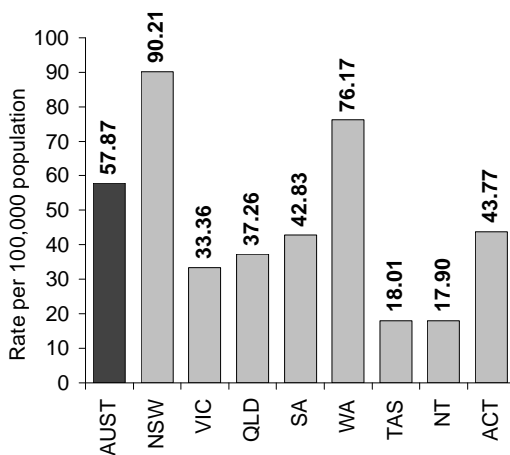
Victims of all robbery by state/territory, 1998



In 1998 South Australia recorded a *total robbery* rate of 112.15 per 100,000 population, which was the third highest rate in Australia, behind NSW (210.14) and WA (147.26). The lowest rates were recorded in Tasmania (39.63) and the NT (43.16).

Figure 1.10

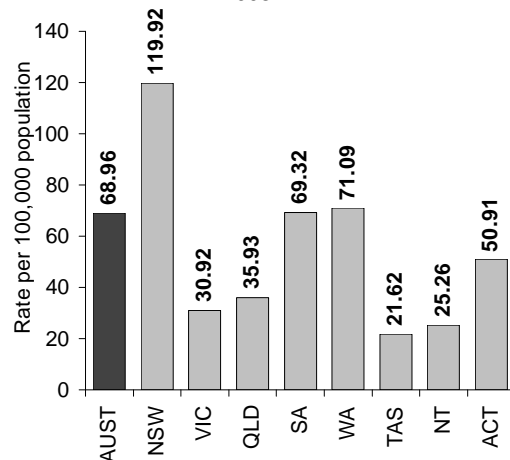
Victims of armed robbery by state/territory, 1998



In relation to *armed robbery*, South Australia had the fourth highest rate (42.83 per 100,000 population), which was almost 53% lower than that recorded in NSW (90.21) and 44% lower than Western Australia's rate. The two jurisdictions with the lowest *armed robbery* rates in 1998 were the Northern Territory (17.90) and Tasmania (18.01).

Figure 1.11

Victims of unarmed robbery by state/territory, 1998

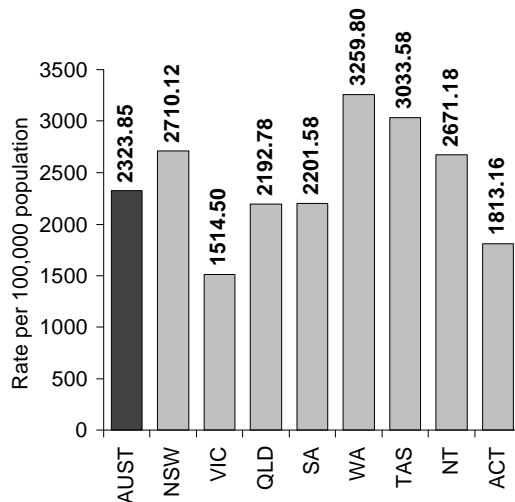


South Australia's *unarmed robbery* rate of 69.32 per 100,000 population was the third highest in Australia. The New South Wales rate for *unarmed robbery* (119.92) was well above that of all other jurisdictions and was 42% higher than South Australia's rate. The lowest rate of *unarmed robbery*, which was less than one third of the South Australian rate, was recorded by Tasmania (21.62).

Unlawful entry with intent

Unlawful entry with intent (UEWI) is the unlawful entry of a structure with the intent to commit an offence such as theft, property damage or any offence against an individual. This category therefore incorporates burglary, break and enter and some stealing offences. There are two categories of UEWI: *UEWI involving the taking of property* and *UEWI – other*. *UEWI other* is defined as the unlawful entry of a structure that does not result in the taking of property from that structure.

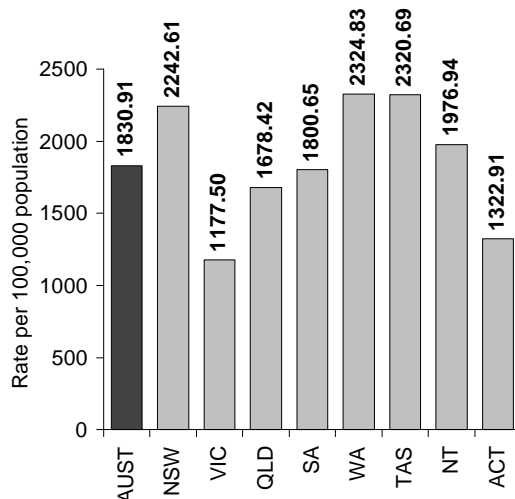
Figure 1.12
Victims of all UEWI by state/territory, 1998



As indicated in Figure 1.12, in 1998 South Australia was ranked fifth for *Unlawful entry with intent*. Its rate of 2,201.58 was below that of Western Australia (3,259.80), Tasmania (3,033.58), NSW (2,710.12) and the Northern Territory (2,671.18). It was only slightly higher than that of Queensland (2,192.78). Victoria recorded the lowest rate of UEWI.

However, South Australia's position vis-à-vis the other states changes somewhat when all UEWI offences are disaggregated according to whether or not property was taken. These results are outlined below.

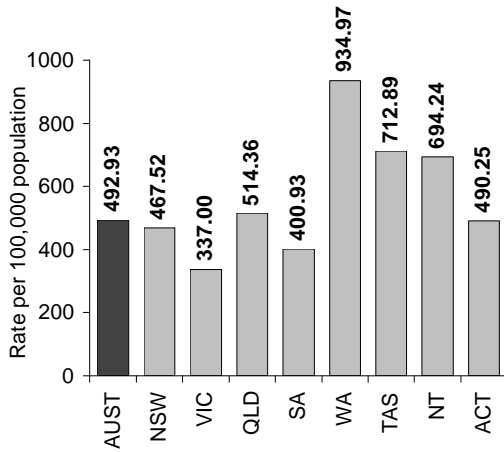
Figure 1.13
Victims of UEWI-property taken- by state/territory, 1998



South Australia's rate of *unlawful entry with intent involving the taking of property* was 1,800.65 per 100,000 population in 1998. As shown in Figure 1.13, it was ranked fifth in Australia, with only Queensland (1,678.42), ACT (1,322.91) and Victoria (1,177.50) recording lower rates than South Australia.

The highest rates of *unlawful entry with intent (property taken)* were recorded in WA (2,324.83), Tasmania (2,320.69) and NSW (2,242.61). The NT was also above the national average.

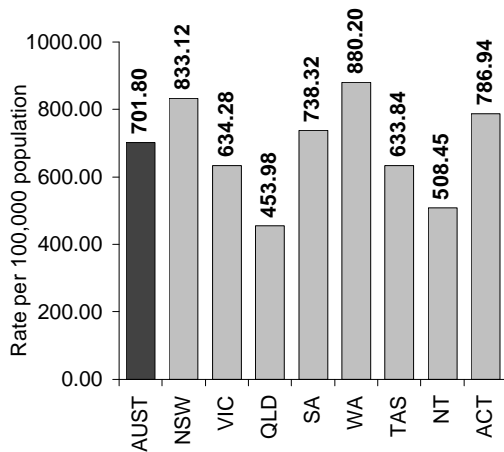
Figure 1.14
Victims of UEWI - other by state/territory, 1998



In 1998 South Australia's rate of *unlawful entry with intent - other* was 400.93 per 100,000 population. This was the second lowest rate recorded in Australia, and was less than half the rate recorded by Western Australia (934.97) and 44% lower than the Tasmanian rate (712.89). Again, the NT had the third highest reported rate of *UEWI - other*.

Motor vehicle theft

Figure 1.15
Victims of motor vehicle theft by state/territory, 1998

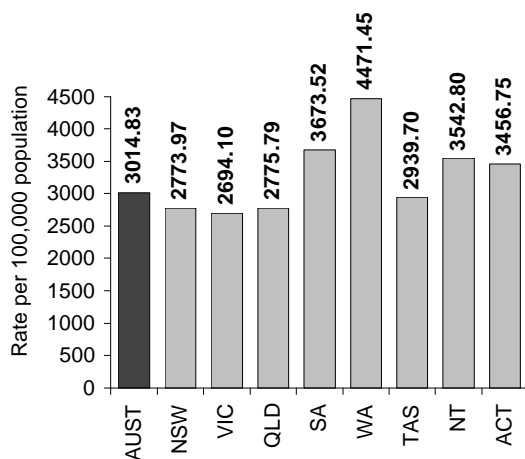


As in 1997, South Australia recorded the fourth highest rate of *motor vehicle theft* in Australia in 1998 (738.32 per 100,000 population).

The highest rate of *motor vehicle theft* was recorded in Western Australia (880.20), while Queensland had the lowest rate (453.98).

Other theft

Figure 1.16
Victims of 'other' theft by state/territory, 1998



Other theft is the taking of another person's property permanently and illegally, but without force, threat of force, use of coercive measures, deceit or having gained unlawful entry to any structure.

In 1998 the reported rate for *other theft* in South Australia was 3,673.52 per 100,000 population. This state was ranked in second position behind Western Australia (4,471.45). Victoria recorded the lowest rate of *other theft* which, at 2,694.10 per 100,000 population, was 26.7% lower than the South Australian rate.

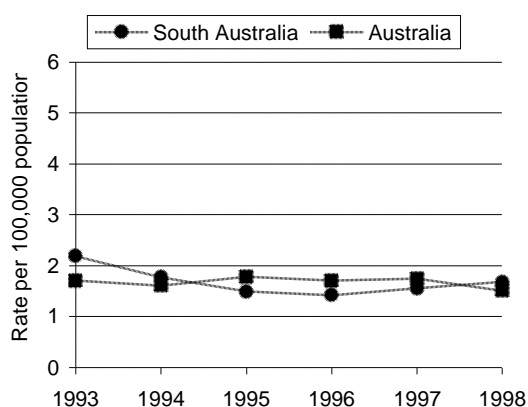
7. COMPARISON ACROSS TIME

The following section compares South Australian rates with Australian rates reported from 1993 to 1998. Two sets of information are presented. Figures 2.1 to 2.17 depict *rates* of victimisation per 100,000 population, while Tables 2.1 to 2.10 show changes in the absolute *number* of victims.

Murder/Attempted murder

Figures 2.1 to 2.3 show *murder* and *attempted murder* rates per 100,000 population for South Australia and Australia from 1993 to 1998. It should be noted that actual rates for these offences are very small. Hence any slight shift in numbers may result in substantial percentage changes from year to year.

Figure 2.1
Murder 1993-1998



As shown in Figure 2.1, between 1993 and 1996, the *murder* rate in South Australia decreased (from 2.19 per 100,000 population in 1993 to 1.42 in 1996). There was a marginal increase in this rate to 1.55 in 1997 and a further increase to 1.68 in 1998. Nationally, the *murder* rate remained relatively stable between 1993 and 1997 (1.70 per 100,000 population in 1993 and 1.74 in 1997) but dropped slightly (to 1.51 per 100,000 population) in 1998. In 1997 the South Australian *murder* rate was slightly below that of the national rate, but in 1998 it was slightly higher.

Figure 2.2
Attempted murder 1993-1998

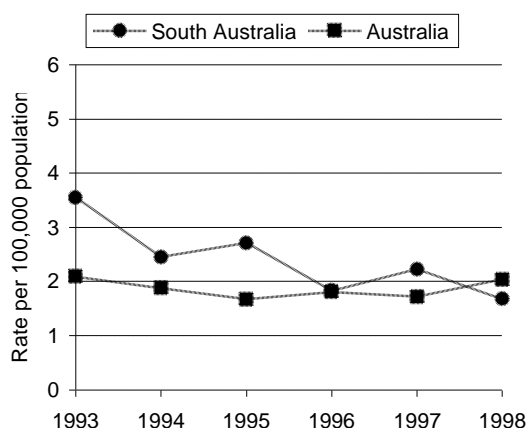
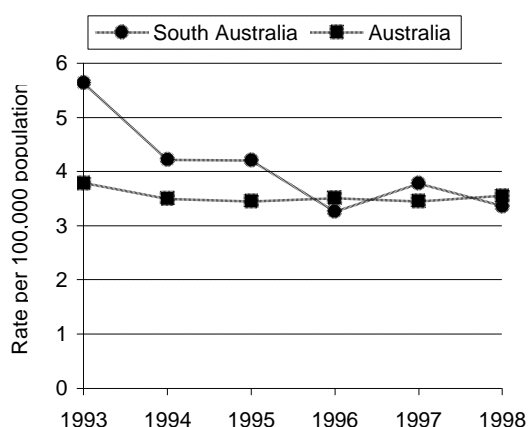


Figure 2.2 illustrates that the South Australian trend in *attempted murder* has deviated from the national trend since 1993. While South Australian *attempted murder* rates have shown a general downward trend (from 3.56 in 1993 to 1.68 in 1998) Australian rates initially declined but over the past 12 months have again increased to a level commensurate with that recorded in 1993. As a result, the South Australian *attempted murder* rate in 1998 was, for the first time in six years, lower than the Australian rate.

Figure 2.3
Total murder/attempted murder 1993 -1998



As indicated in Figure 2.3, the total *murder/attempted murder* rate in South Australia, which in 1993 was much greater than that of Australia as a whole, was slightly lower than the Australian rate in 1998. This decrease appears to be mostly the result of substantial decreases in rates of *attempted murder* in South Australia between 1993 and 1998.

Whereas Figures 2.1 – 2.3 focus on *rates* of victimisation per 100,000 population, Table 2.1 details changes in the actual *number* of victims in the 1993 -1998 period. Again, it should be stressed that because of the low numbers involved, large percentage shifts result from small absolute changes.

As shown, the total number of *murders/attempted murders* decreased by 10.7% in South Australia between 1997 and 1998, due, for the most part, to a large decrease (24.2%) in *attempted murders*. When combined with decreases in earlier years, the 1998 figure was 40.5% less than in 1993. This contrasts with the national trend, where total *murder/attempted murder* numbers in 1998 were 4.1% higher than the numbers recorded in 1997 (due to a large increase of 20.1% in the rate of *attempted murder*) and only 0.4% less than those recorded in 1993.

The number of *murders* in South Australia increased from 23 in 1997 to 25 in 1998 (up 8.7%). However, due to decreases in South Australian *murder* figures in 1994, 1995 and 1996, the 1998 figures are still 21.9% lower than in 1993. In contrast, there was an 11.8% decrease in the number of *murders* for Australia as a whole in 1998. National figures are now 5.3% lower than those recorded in 1993.

The number of *attempted murders* in South Australia decreased by 24.2% between 1997 and 1998. In contrast, *attempted murders* Australia-wide increased by 20.1%. Since 1993, the number of *attempted murders* in South Australia has decreased by over one-half, compared with a more moderate decrease of 3.5% at the national level.

Table 2.1
Murder/attempted murder - number of victims and percentage change, 1993 – 1998

		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Murder							
Aust	Number	300	288	325	311	322	284
	1998 % change	-5.3	-1.4	-12.6	-8.7	-11.8	-
SA	Number	32	26	22	21	23	25
	1998 % change	-21.9	-3.8	13.6	19.0	8.7	-
Attempted							
Aust	Number	369	336	299	331	318	382

	1998 % change	3.5	13.7	27.8	15.4	20.1	-
SA	Number	52	36	40	27	33	25
	1998 % change	-51.9	-30.6	-37.5	-7.4	-24.2	-
Total							
Aust	Number	669	624	624	642	640	666
	1998 % change	-0.4	+6.7	+6.7	+3.7	+4.1	-
SA	Number	84	62	62	48	56	50
	1998 % change	-40.5	-19.4	-19.4	+4.2	-10.7	-

Note: '1998 % change' is derived by comparing 1998 figures with the figures depicted for each year.

Manslaughter and driving causing death

Figures 2.4 and 2.5 show rates of *manslaughter* and *driving causing death* for South Australia and Australia from 1993 to 1998. As with *murder*, caution should be used when interpreting these figures since actual numbers are very small.

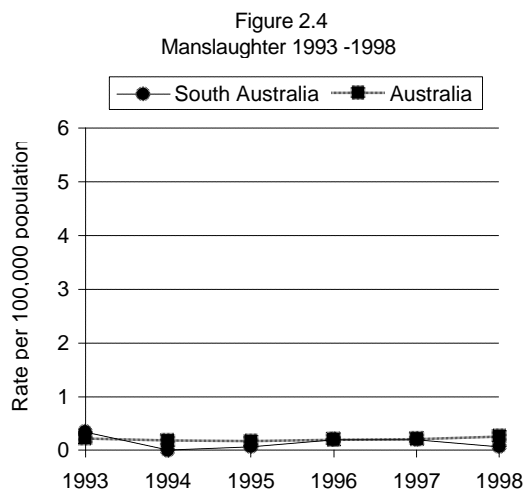
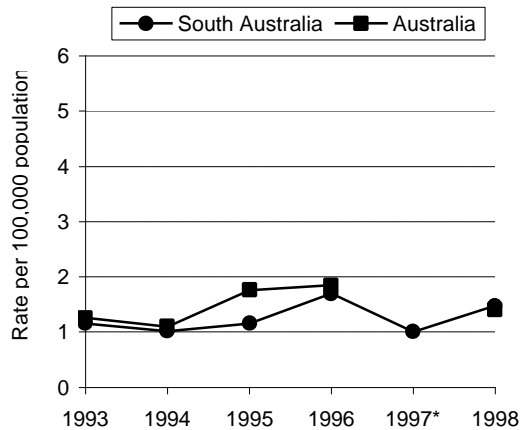


Figure 2.4 indicates that the rate of *manslaughter* is very low in South Australia, with numbers fluctuating between 0.34 in 1993 to 0 in 1994. At a national level, the rate of *manslaughter* has shown a marginal increase since 1994 from 0.18 to 0.26 in 1998. The 1998 figure is slightly above that of 0.22 recorded in 1993.

Figure 2.5
Driving causing death 1993 -1998



*National rate not available for 1997

As illustrated in Figure 2.5, for both South Australia and Australia, the rate of *driving causing death* has generally fluctuated between 1 and 2 during the 1993 to 1998 period. South Australian rates increased slightly in 1998 from 1.01 per 100,000 population to 1.48. National rates were not available for 1997, but the 1998 rate of 1.40 is comparable with the South Australian rate.

Table 2.2 shows the number of *manslaughter* and *driving causing death* victims from 1993 to 1998. One *manslaughter* victim was recorded in South Australia in 1998, compared with three in 1997 and 1996, one in 1995, zero in 1994 and five in 1993. Nationally, *manslaughter* figures increased by one between 1996 and 1997, and by 11 in 1998 to 49 persons.

For South Australia the number of *driving causing death* victims has fluctuated markedly from year to year, with a low of 15 being recorded in 1994 and 1997, and a high of 25 in 1996. The 1998 figure of 22 is 46.7% higher than in 1997, but 12% lower than in 1996. Clearly, because of the very small numbers involved, high percentage shifts result from relatively minor changes in absolute numbers. The same applies to the national figures. The Australian rate for *driving causing death* has ranged between a low of 197 in 1994 and a high of 339 in 1996. The 1998 national figure was 22.7% lower than the rate recorded in 1996, but 33.0% higher than that recorded in 1994.

Table 2.2
Manslaughter and driving causing death
number of victims and percentage change 1993 - 1997

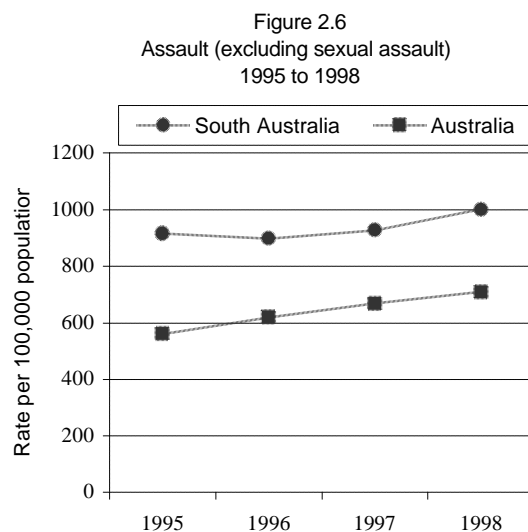
		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Manslaughter							
Aust	Number	37	32	31	37	38	49
	1998 % change	+32.4	+53.1	+58.1	+32.4	+28.9	-
SA	Number	5	0	1	3	3	1
	1998 % change	*	*	*	*	*	-
Driving causing death							
Aust	Number	222	197	318	339	na	262
	1998 % change	18.0	33.0	-17.6	-22.7	-	-
SA	Number	17	15	17	25	15	22
	1998 % change	+29.4	+46.7	+29.4	-12.0	+46.7	-

<i>Total</i>							
Aust	Number	259	229	349	376	na	311
	1998 % change	+20.1	+35.8	-10.9	-17.3	-	-
SA	Number	22	15	18	28	18	23
	1998 % change	+4.5	+53.3	+27.8	-17.9	+27.8	-

*Numbers are too small to provide meaningful percentage shifts

Assault (excluding sexual assault)

National *assault* (excluding *sexual assault*) data are only available from 1995 onwards.



As shown in Figure 2.6, despite an initial decrease in South Australia's *assault* rate in 1996 it increased in 1997 and again in 1998. During this same period, the national rate has also shown a steady increase, but despite this, the rate of *assault* in South Australia is still much higher than the national average (1,000.81 per 100,000 population compared to 709.24).

As shown in Table 2.3, the number of *assault* victims recorded Australia-wide increased by 7.3% between 1997 and 1998 while South Australia recorded an increase of 8.4%. Since 1995 the number of *assaults* in Australia has risen by 31.3%, compared with 10.6% in South Australia.

Table 2.3
Assault (excluding sexual assault) number of victims and percentage change 1995 - 1998

		1995	1996	1997	1998
Aust	Number	101,267	113,535	123,940	132,967
	1998 % change	+31.3	+17.1	+7.3	-
SA	Number	13,457	13,253	13,728	14,885
	1998 % change	+10.6	+12.3	+8.4	-

Sexual assault

As shown in Figure 2.7, the longitudinal trend in the *sexual assault* rate in South Australia is different from the national trend. Between 1993 and 1997 the *sexual assault* rate decreased in South Australia (from 107.5 per 100,000 population to 82.3). Although rates increased to 88.08 in 1998, the most recent figure is still lower than in 1993. In contrast, the rate of *sexual assault* at the national level increased between 1993 and 1996 (from 71.1 to 78.6 per 100,000 population) before declining slightly in 1997 and again in 1998. As a result of the divergence in 1998, the difference between the South Australian and the Australian rates, which was diminishing, has now widened again, with the South Australian rate 13.3% higher than the national rate.

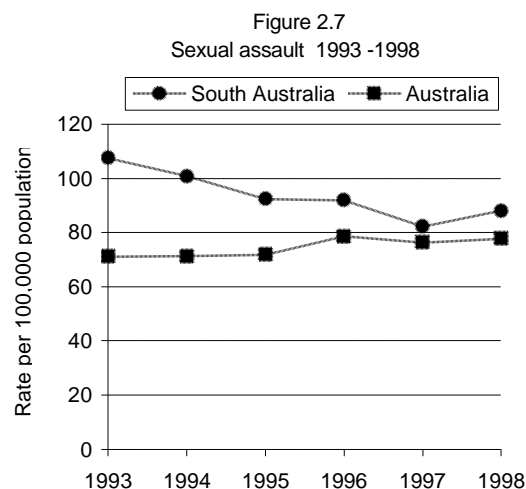


Table 2.4 indicates that the number of reported *sexual assaults* in South Australia increased by 7.6% in 1998. However, as a result of previous decreases, 1998 figures were still 16.7% lower than in 1993. National *sexual assault* figures increased in 1998 by 3.0%. In contrast to South Australia, Australian figures were 16.0% higher than in 1993.

Table 2.4
Sexual assault - number of victims and percentage change 1993 - 1998

		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Aust	Number	12,555	12,722	12,962	14,394	14,138	14,568
	1998 % change	+16.0	+14.5	+12.4	+1.2	+3.0	-
SA	Number	1,573	1,481	1,358	1,355	1,218	1,310
	1998 % change	-16.7	-11.5	-3.5	-3.3	+7.6	-

Kidnapping/Abduction

Figure 2.8
Kidnapping/abduction 1993-1998

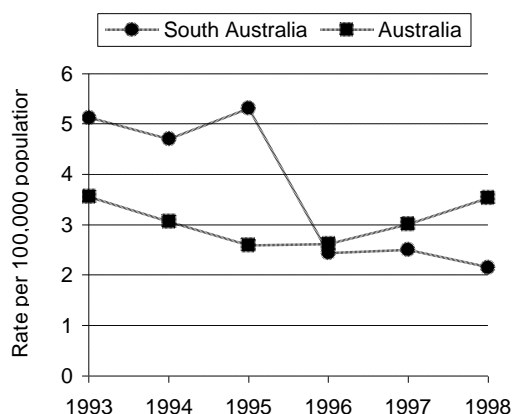


Figure 2.8 shows that South Australian *kidnapping/abduction* rates were higher than the Australian rate between 1993 and 1995. After a sharp decrease in 1996 (from 5.31 per 100,000 to 2.41) the South Australian rate then stabilised in 1997 before decreasing again in 1998 to 2.15. In contrast, the Australian *kidnapping/abduction* rate increased in 1997 and again in 1998 to 3.53. As a result, the South Australian rate is now lower than the Australian rate.

As indicated in Table 2.5, the number of *kidnapping/abduction* victims in South Australia decreased in 1998 compared with an increase of 18.9% nationally. The South Australian figures in 1998 were well below those recorded in 1993 (down by 57.3%)while the national figures were 5.4% higher than in 1993.

Table 2.5
Kidnapping/abduction - number of victims and percentage change 1993 - 1998

		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Aust	Number	628	546	467	479	557	662
	1998 % change	+5.4	+21.2	+41.8	+38.2	+18.9	-
SA	Number	75	69	78	36	37	32
	1998 % change	-57.3	-53.6	-59.0	-11.1	-13.5	-

Robbery

Figure 2.9
Armed robbery 1993 -1998

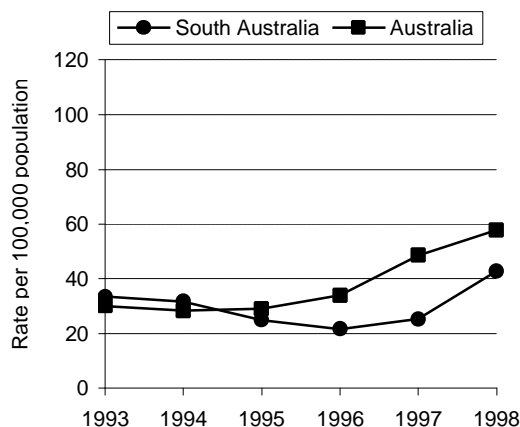
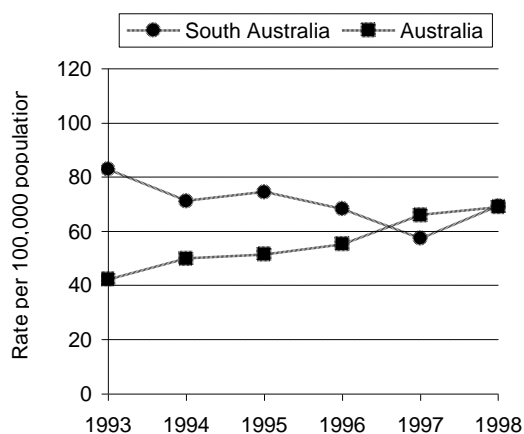


Figure 2.9 shows that between 1993 and 1996 the *armed robbery* rate in South Australia steadily decreased from 33.50 per 100,000 population to 21.64. In contrast, the national rate increased from 30.15 to 33.96. In 1997 and again in 1998, both the South Australian and Australian rates of *armed robbery* increased. Despite an increase of 69.5% in 1998, the South Australian rate of 42.83 per 100,000 population is still 26.0% lower than the Australian rate of 57.87.

Figure 2.10
Unarmed robbery 1993 -1998



As shown in Figure 2.10, the *unarmed robbery* rate in South Australia was higher than the national rate between 1993 and 1996. However, in 1997, because of a steady decrease in the South Australian rate and a steady increase in the Australian rate for the first time since these figures were published, the South Australian rate was lower than the Australian rate (by 13.2%). In 1998 the situation again reversed, with the South Australian rate now marginally higher than the Australian rate (69.32 compared with 68.96).

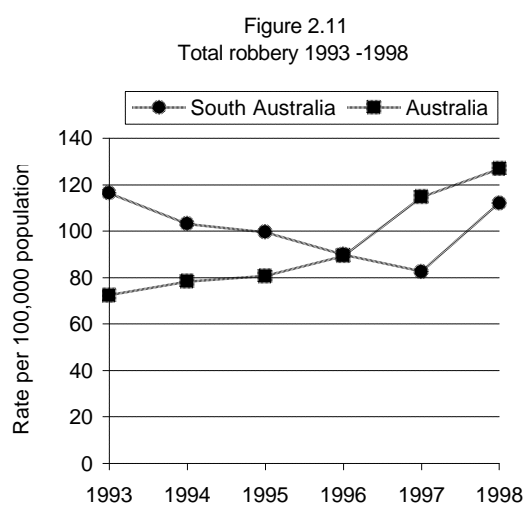


Figure 2.11 shows the *total robbery* rate per 100,000 population between 1993 and 1998. Decreases in *unarmed* and *armed robbery* rates in South Australia between 1993 and 1997, coupled with increases in the national rates over the same period, meant that in 1997 the South Australian *total robbery* rate was 28.0% lower than the Australian rate. In 1998, both South Australia and Australia recorded strong increases, but the South Australian rate is still 11.6% below the national average. This is in sharp contrast to 1993, when the South Australian rate was 61.2% higher than the rate for Australia as a whole.

As shown in Table 2.6, in 1998 the number of *armed robbery* victims in South Australia increased substantially by 70.3% from 374 to 637. Thus, despite steady decreases between 1993 and 1996, the 1998 figure is now 30.0% higher than in 1993. In contrast, national figures have increased each year since 1994, with 1998 figures more than double those recorded in 1994.

In 1998, reported *unarmed robberies* in South Australia, which had been steadily decreasing since 1993, recorded an increase of 21.4%. The national figure also increased in 1998 (by 5.6%). The number of reported victims of *unarmed robbery* in South Australia in 1998 was still 15.0% lower than in 1993 while the Australian figure for 1998 was 73.2% higher than in 1993.

Table 2.6
Robbery - number of victims and percentage change 1993 - 1998

		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Armed robbery							
Aust	Number	5,324	5,046	5,255	6,217	9,015	10,850
	1998 % change	+103.8	+115.0	+106.5	+74.5	+20.4	-
SA	Number	490	467	366	319	374	637
	1998 % change	+30.0	+36.4	+74.0	+99.7	+70.3	-
Unarmed robbery							
Aust	Number	7,465	8,922	9,303	10,129	12,246	12,928
	1998 % change	+73.2	+44.9	+39.0	+27.6	+5.6	-
SA	Number	1,213	1,048	1,096	1,007	849	1,031
	1998 % change	-15.0	-1.6	-5.9	+2.4	+21.4	-
Total robbery							
Aust	Number	12,789	13,968	14,558	16,346	21,261	23,778
	1998 % change	+85.9	+70.2	+63.3	+45.5	+11.8	-
SA	Number	1,703	1,515	1,462	1,326	1,223	1,668

1998 % change	-2.1	+10.1	+14.1	+25.8	+36.4	-
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Blackmail/extortion

Figure 2.12
Blackmail/extortion 1993 -1998

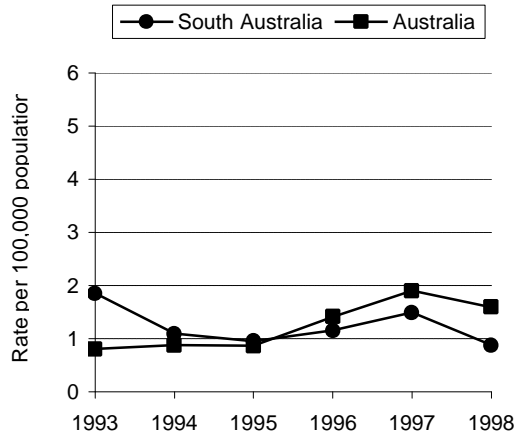


Figure 2.12 shows that the South Australian rate of *blackmail/extortion* has fluctuated over the six year period, with decreases in 1994 and 1995, increases in 1996 and 1997, and a decrease in 1998. For Australia as a whole, the rate of *blackmail/extortion* increased in 1996 and 1997 but decreased in 1998. South Australia is still below the Australian average (0.87 compared with 1.59 per 100,000 population).

The number and rate of *blackmail/extortion* victims in South Australia is very small and caution should be used when interpreting percentage changes over time. Overall the number of reported *blackmail/extortion* victims dropped from 27 in 1993 to 14 in 1995 then rose by to 22 in 1997 before dropping back to 13 in 1998. The 1998 figure is the lowest recorded in the six years depicted. For Australia as a whole there were sharp increases in reported *blackmail/extortion* in 1996 and 1997 before numbers declined again in 1998. However, Australia-wide *blackmail/extortion* figures in 1998 are still greater than in 1993.

Table 2.7
Blackmail/extortion - number of victims and percentage change 1993 - 1998

		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Aust	Number	142	156	155	258	353	298
	1998 % change	+109.9	+91.0	+92.3	+15.5	-15.6	-
SA	Number	27	16	14	17	22	13
	1998 % change	-51.9	-18.8	-7.1	-23.5	-40.9	-

Unlawful entry with intent

While data on all UEWI offences has been available since 1993, disaggregated figures for the two UEWI sub-categories have only been published since 1995.

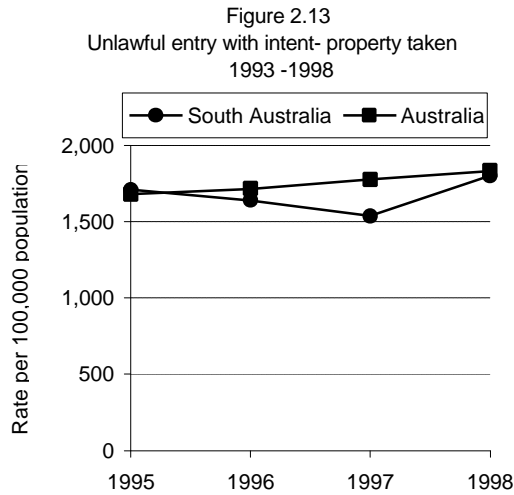


Figure 2.13 shows that in 1995, the South Australian rate for *UEWI -property taken* was slightly above the Australian rate (1,708.10 compared with 1,678.03 offences per 100,000 population respectively). In 1996 and 1997 the South Australian rate declined while the Australian rate increased slightly. As a result, in 1997 the South Australian rate was lower than the Australian rate. In 1998, South Australia's downward trend was reversed, with rates climbing by 17.2%. Nevertheless, due to a further increase in national figures, the South Australian rate is still marginally below the national rate.

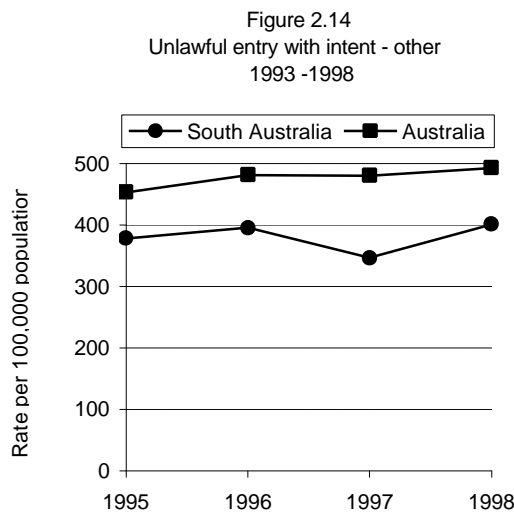
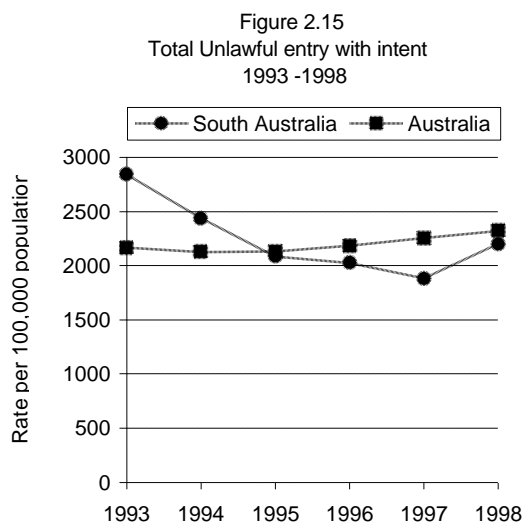


Figure 2.14 shows that the South Australian rate for *UEWI-other* increased noticeably in 1998, following an equally substantial decrease in 1997. The 1998 rate of 400.93 is therefore marginally higher than in 1996. At a national level, rates have increased steadily (albeit slowly) over the past four years, with the 1998 figure being 8.8% higher than in 1995. Throughout this period, the South Australian rate has remained well below the national average.



As shown in Figure 2.15, there was a substantial drop in the rate of *unlawful entry with intent* in South Australia between 1993 and 1995, with smaller decreases recorded in 1996 and 1997. This downward trend was reversed in 1998, with rates increasing from 1,883.02 per 100,000 population to 2,201.58. Over the same time period the national rate has shown a steady increase, with the result that since 1995 the South Australian rate has been lower than the Australian rate.

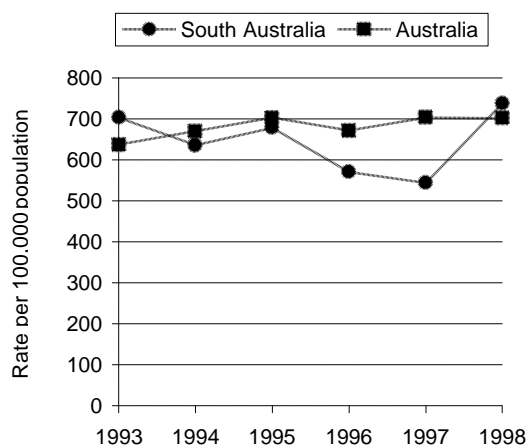
As indicated in Table 2.8, in 1998 South Australia recorded a 17.5% increase in the total number of *unlawful entry with intent* victims compared with an increase of 4.3% nationally. South Australian figures are still 21.2% lower than those recorded in 1993, while the national numbers are up 14.0%. For the two subcategories of UEWI – property taken and UEWI – other, comparisons are only possible for 1995 onwards. For *unlawful entry with intent involving the taking of property*, a 17.8% increase was recorded in South Australia in 1998, compared with a 4.4% increase nationally. For *other UEWI* offences there was a 16.3% increase in South Australia in 1998, compared with an increase of 3.9% for Australia as a whole.

Table 2.8
Unlawful entry with intent - number of victims and percentage change 1993 – 1998

		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Total							
Aust	Number	382,245	379,505	384,908	399,735	417,845	435,670
	1998 % change	+14.0	+14.8	+13.2	+9.0	+4.3	-
SA	Number	41,579	35,822	30,660	29,886	27,865	32,744
	1998 % change	-21.2	-8.6	+6.8	+9.6	+17.5	-
Taking of property							
Aust	Number	n/a	n/a	303,058	311,776	328,869	343,256
	1998 % change			+13.3	+10.1	+4.4	-
SA	Number	n/a	n/a	25,099	24,093	22,737	26,781
	1998 % change			+6.7	+11.2	+17.8	-
Other							
Aust	Number	n/a	n/a	81,850	87,959	88,976	92,414
	1998 % change			+12.9	+5.1	+3.9	-
SA	Number	n/a	n/a	5,561	5,793	5,128	5,963
	1998 % change			+7.2	+2.9	+16.3	-

Motor Vehicle Theft

Figure 2.16
Motor vehicle theft 1993 -1998



As indicated in Figure 2.16, after an increase in the *motor vehicle theft* rate between 1994 and 1995, the rate dropped sharply in South Australia between 1995 and 1997 (from 678.78 per 100,000 population to 544.7). In contrast, between 1993 and 1997, the national *motor vehicle theft* rate increased. As a result, between 1994 and 1997, the South Australian rate was below the national rate. However, in 1998 this situation changed. A substantial increase in South Australia (from 544.67 per 100,000 to 738.32) combined with stabilisation at the national level (from 703.67 to 701.80) means that the South Australian rate is now higher than the Australian average for the first time in five years.

Following a steady decrease between 1993 and 1997, the number of reported *motor vehicle thefts* in South Australia increased (by 36.2%) between 1997 and 1998, as shown in Table 2.9 below. The 1998 figures are now 6.7% higher than those recorded in 1993. In contrast, national *motor vehicle theft* figures increased marginally by 0.9% in 1998 and are now 16.9% higher than in 1993.

Table 2.9
Motor vehicle theft - number of victims and percentage change 1993 - 1998

		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Aust	Number	112,578	119,469	126,939	122,931	130,406	131,572
	1998 % change	+16.9	+10.1	+3.6	+7.0	+0.9	-
SA	Number	10,292	9,350	9,974	8,428	8,060	10,981
	1998 % change	+6.7	+17.4	+10.1	+30.3	+36.2	-

Other theft

Other theft figures are only available since 1995.

Figure 2.17
Other theft 1995 -1998

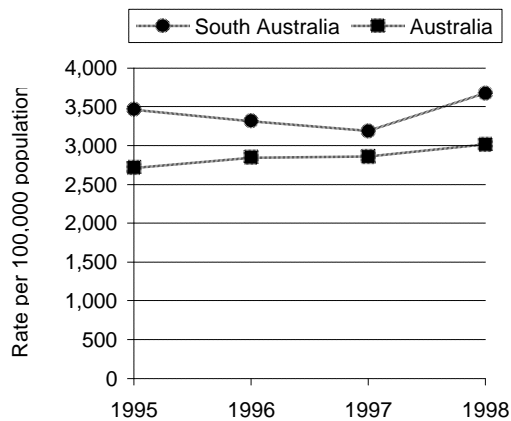


Figure 2.17 shows that between 1995 and 1997 the rate of *other theft* in South Australia declined, from 3,462.5 per 100,000 population to 3,185.28 in 1997, while the national rate increased. However, in 1998 this downward trend in South Australia was reversed with the rate of *other theft* increasing to 3,673.52. Although the national rate also increased, South Australia's rate of *other theft* is still 21.8% higher than the national average.

Table 2.10 shows that the number of victims of *other theft* increased by 15.9% in South Australia in 1998 compared with an increase of 6.8% nationally. South Australian *other theft* figures are 7.4% higher than those recorded in 1995, while Australian *other theft* has increased by 15.3%.

Table 2.10

		'Other theft' - number of victims and percentage change 1995 - 1998			
		1995	1996	1997	1998
Aust	Number	490,084	520,795	529,345	565,214
	1998 % change	+15.3	+8.5	+6.8	-
SA	Number	50,878	48,853	47,136	54,636
	1998 % change	+7.4	+11.8	+15.9	-

8. PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN REPORTED CRIME RATES ACROSS JURISDICTIONS.

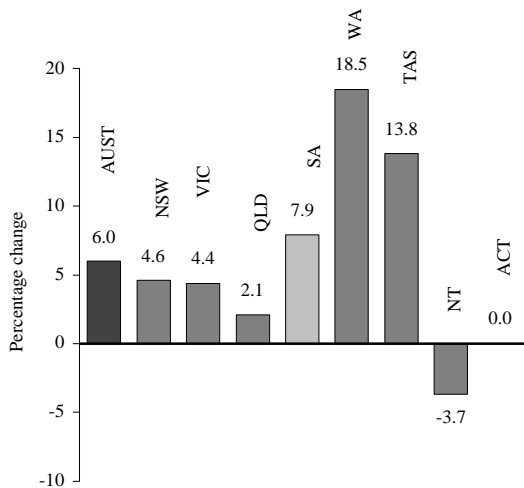
While the previous section compared changes in South Australia's reported crime rates with that of Australia as a whole, the following section details changes in each of the eight states and Territories. Two comparisons are presented:

- Percentage changes per jurisdiction over one year (ie between 1997 and 1998) and
- Percentage changes per jurisdiction since national statistics were first published. For most offence categories, this involves a comparison across six years (ie between 1993 and 1998 figures). However, for *assault, UEWI - property taken, UEWI -other* and *other theft*, because these categories were not included until 1995, only a four year comparison is possible.)

Given the inevitable fluctuations in recorded crime rates from one year to another, comparing data across a number of years is often more appropriate than comparing from one year to the next.

Those offence categories where reported rates are extremely low (notably *murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, drive causing death, kidnapping and abduction, and blackmail and extortion*) have not been included in the following discussion.

Figure 3.1a
Percentage changes for assault
1998 compared with 1997

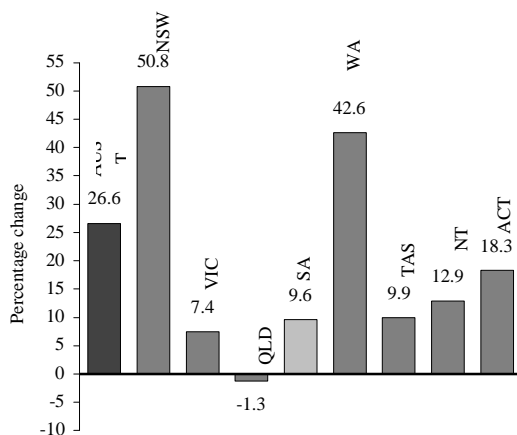


Assault

1998 compared with 1997

As shown in Figure 3.1a, recorded assault rates in South Australia increased by 7.9% between 1997 and 1998. All other states, with the exception of the Northern Territory, also increased, with two states - Western Australia and Tasmania - recording increases larger than that of South Australia.

Figure 3.1b
Percentage change for assault
1998 compared with 1995

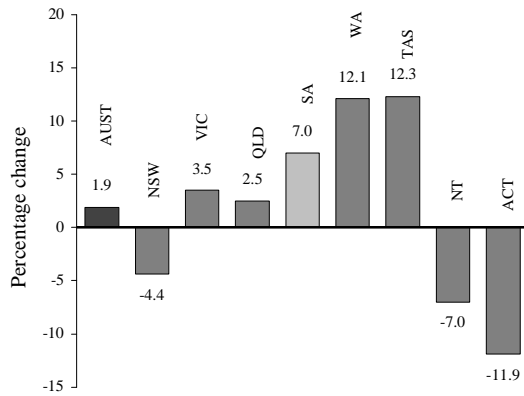


Assault

1998 compared with 1995*

Over this six year time period, South Australia's reported assault rate increased by 9.6%. Again, all states (this time with the exception of Queensland) recorded increases. In the case of NSW and WA these increases were quite substantial - 50.8% and 42.6% respectively. Of the 7 states/territories which recorded an increase over the past six years, the percentage increase recorded in SA was lower than that recorded in five.

Figure 3.2a
 Percentage change in sexual assault
 1998 compared with 1997

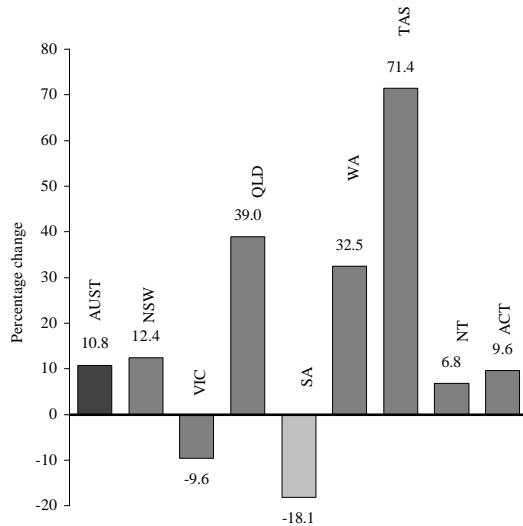


Sexual assault

1998 compared with 1997

Between 1997 and 1998, South Australia recorded a 7.0% increase in the rate of reported sexual assault. As shown in Figure 3.2a, four other jurisdictions also recorded increases, with Western Australia and Tasmania recording rises of over 12%. In three states – NSW, the NT and the ACT – reported rates of sexual offences decreased over the past twelve months., with the largest decrease in the ACT (down 11.9%).

Figure 3.2b
 Percentage change in sexual assault
 1998 compared with 1993

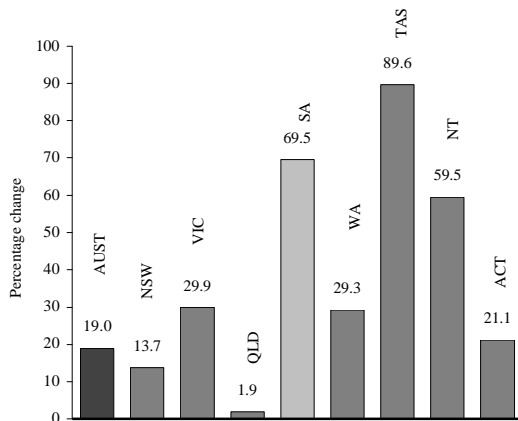


Sexual assault

1998 compared with 1993

Over a six year time frame, South Australia's reported sexual assault rate actually declined by 18.1%, due largely to a steady decrease between 1993 and 1997. Only one other state - Victoria - recorded a decrease during the same time period, but this was smaller in magnitude than the South Australian decrease. The other six jurisdictions all recorded increases between 1993 and 1998, with the largest occurring in Tasmania (up 71.4%).

Figure 3.3a
Percentage change in armed robbery
1998 compared with 1997

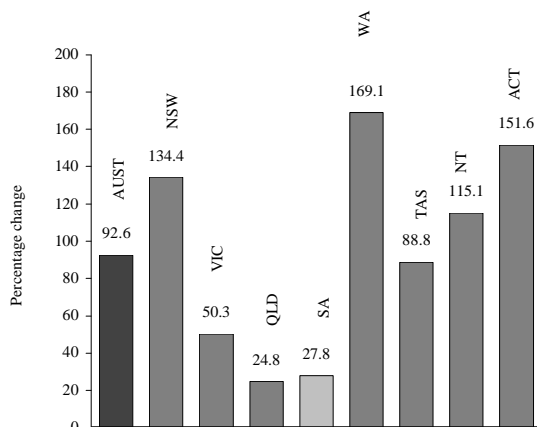


Armed robbery

1998 compared with 1997

As shown in Figure 3.3a, between 1997 and 1998, recorded armed robbery rates in South Australia increased by a substantial 69.5%. Increases were also observed in all other jurisdictions, with the smallest increase (of 1.9%) being recorded in Queensland, and the largest (89.6%) in Western Australia.

Figure 3.3b
Percentage change in armed robbery
1998 compared with 1993

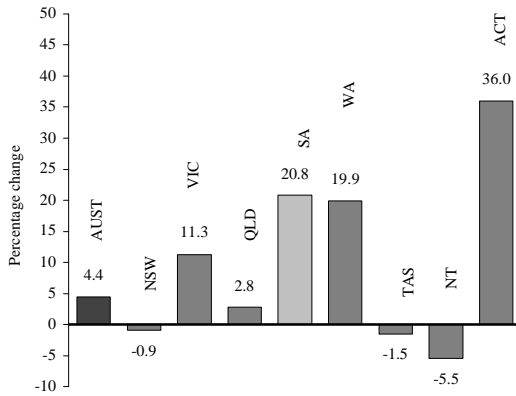


Armed robbery

1998 compared with 1993

If comparisons are made over a six year time period, South Australia's position vis-à-vis the other states improves. As noted earlier, between 1993 and 1996, reported armed robbery rates in SA declined. As a result, although 1998 figures were still 27.8% higher than in 1993, the magnitude of this increase was not as pronounced as that recorded between 1997 and 1998. Over the same six year period, all other jurisdictions recorded increases in recorded armed robbery rates. With the exception of Queensland, the magnitude of these increases were considerably higher than in SA, with WA, the ACT, NSW and the NT all recording rises of over 100%.

Figure 3.4a
Percentage change in unarmed robbery
1998 compared with 1997

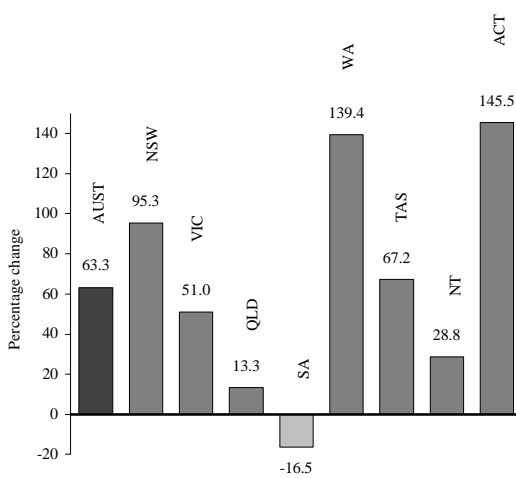


Unarmed robbery

1998 compared with 1997

As shown in Figure 3.4a, the percentage increase in reported unarmed robbery rates in South Australia was 20.8%. Four other jurisdictions also recorded increases, although only the ACT recorded a larger percentage increase (36.0%) than SA. Three states - NSW, Tasmania and the NT - all recorded small decreases.

Figure 3.4b
Percentage change in unarmed robbery
1998 compared with 1993

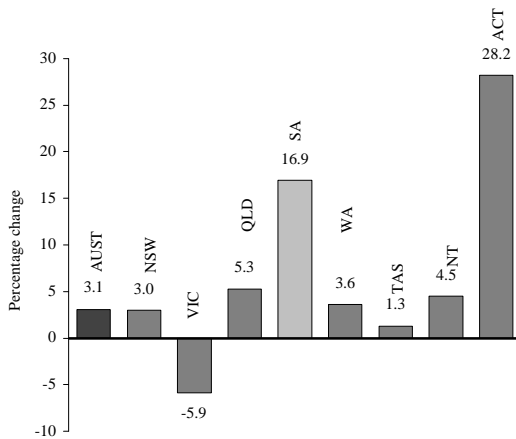


Unarmed robbery:

1998 compared with 1993

When comparisons are made over a longer time period, however, South Australia's position vis-à-vis the other states changes markedly. Because of a steady decline in unarmed robberies in SA between 1993 and 1997, the 1998 figures are still 16.5% lower than those recorded in 1993. SA is the only state over this 6 year period to record a decrease in reported unarmed robbery rates. All other states recorded increases, with the magnitude of those increases being particularly large in the ACT (up 145.5%), WA (up 139.4%) and NSW (up 95.3%).

Figure 3.5a
Percentage change in UEWI - total
1998 compared with 1997

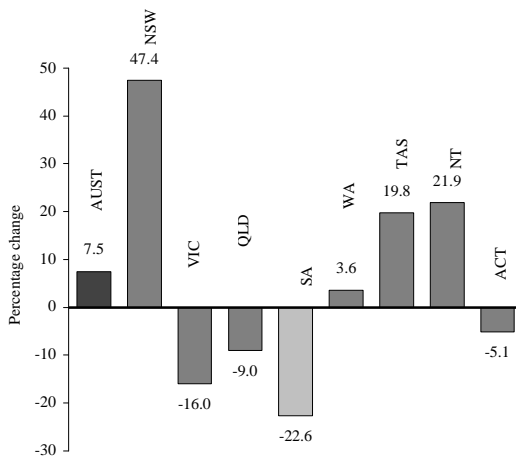


UEWI - total

1998 compared with 1997

Over this twelve month period, reported rates of unlawful entry with intent (total) increased by 16.9% in SA. While five of the remaining six jurisdictions also recorded increases, only one - the ACT - recorded a higher percentage increase. Most jurisdictions recorded lower increases of between 1.3% and 5.3%. Victoria was the only state to record a decrease over the past twelve months in the rate of reported UEWI.

Figure 3.5b
Percentage change in UEWI - total
1998 compared with 1993

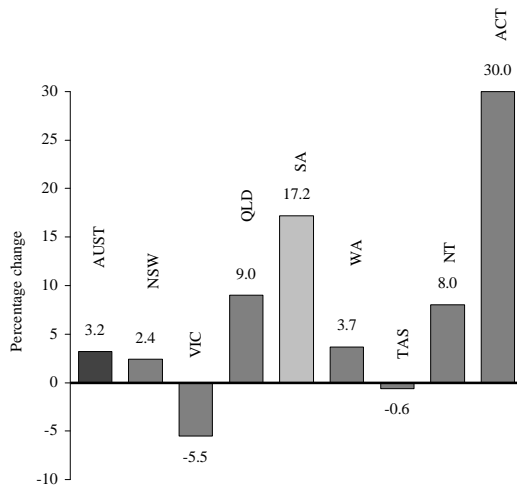


UEWI - total

1998 compared with 1993

When comparisons are made over a six year period, South Australia's position vis-à-vis the other states is quite different from that observed for the twelve month comparison. As shown, in 1998 South Australia's recorded rate of UEWI was actually 22.6% lower than in 1993, due largely to a steady decline in this offence category between 1993 and 1997. Over this same six year period, three other states - Victoria, Queensland and the ACT - also recorded decreases, but none of these were as large as that observed in SA. Four jurisdictions recorded increases, including NSW (up 47.4%), Tasmania (up 19.8%) and the NT (up 21.9%).

Figure 3.6a
 Percentage change in UEWI - property taken
 1998 compared with 1997

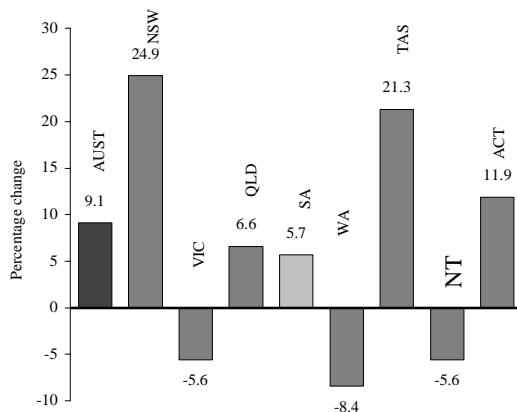


UEWI - property taken

1998 compared with 1997

As shown in Figure 3.6a, in 1998 South Australia's reported rate for UEWI - property taken was 17.2% higher than the 1997 figure. Five other states also recorded increases over this twelve month period, although only one state - the ACT - recorded a larger increase than did SA. Two states - Victoria and Tasmania - recorded small decreases.

Figure 3.6b
 Percentage change in UEWI - property taken
 1998 compared with 1995

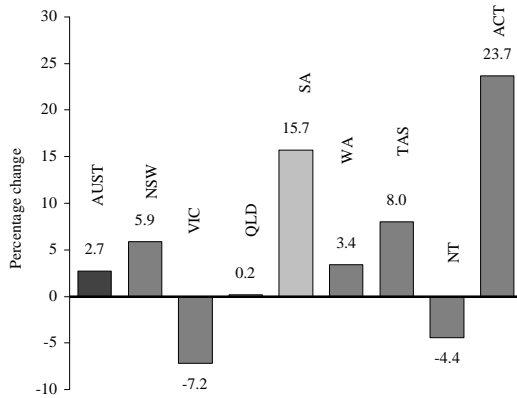


UEWI - property taken

1998 compared with 1995*

When compared with 1995 figures, South Australia's increase was 5.7% - considerably lower than the 17.2% increase recorded over the last twelve months. Over the same four year period, four other jurisdictions also recorded increases, with NSW, Tasmania and the ACT all recording larger percentage rises than that observed in SA. Three jurisdictions - Victoria, WA and the NT - all recorded decreases.

Figure 3.7a
 Percentage change in UEWI - other
 1998 compared with 1997

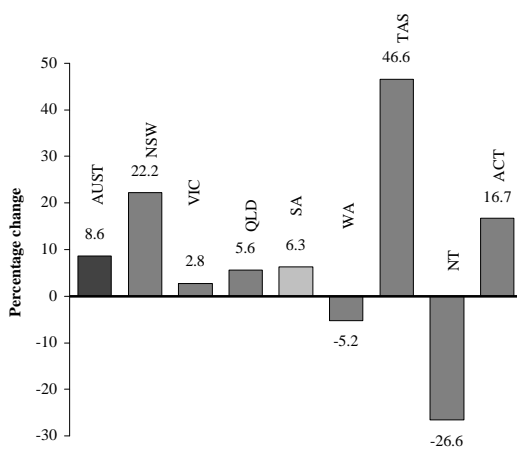


UEWI - other

1998 compared with 1997

SA again recorded an increase in the recorded rate of UEWI - other offences in 1998 (of 15.7%). While five other jurisdictions also recorded increases, only one state - the ACT - had an larger increase than SA (23.7%). Both Victoria and the NT both recorded decreases.

Figure 3.7b
 Percentage change in UEWI - other
 1998 compared with 1995

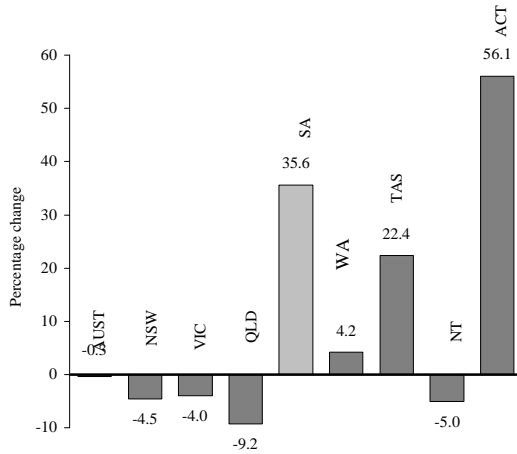


UEWI - other

1998 compared with 1995*

The percentage increase observed in SA over a four year time period (6.3%) was lower than the increase recorded during the past twelve months (15.7%). Five other jurisdictions also recorded a rise in UEWI - other from 1995 to 1998, with the largest increases recorded in NSW (up 22.2%), Tasmania (up 46.6%) and the ACT (up 16.7%). Two jurisdictions - WA and the NT - recorded decreases (of 5.2% and 26.6% respectively).

Figure 3.8a
Percentage change in vehicle theft
1998 compared with 1997

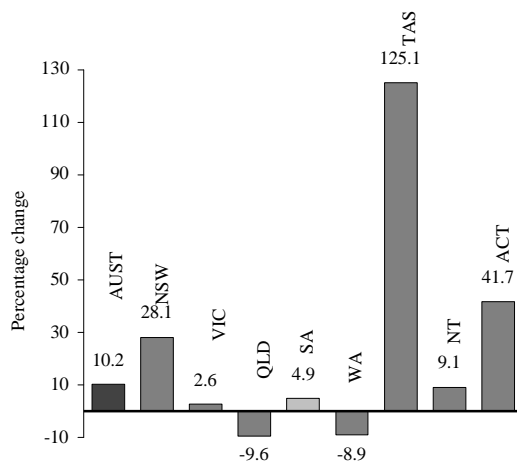


Vehicle theft

1998 compared with 1997

As shown in Figure 3.8a, in 1998, SA recorded a substantial rise in the recorded rate of vehicle theft (up 35.6%). Only three other states recorded increases over this twelve month period, with the ACT the only one to record a larger percentage rise than SA (up 56.1%). Four of the 8 jurisdictions recorded decreases, with the largest (9.2%) occurring in Queensland.

Figure 3.8b
Percentage change in vehicle theft
1998 compared with 1993

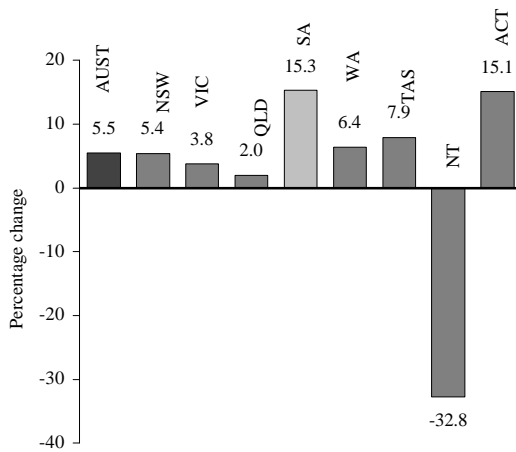


Vehicle theft

1998 compared with 1993

South Australia's position vis-à-vis the other states changes dramatically, however, when a longer time frame is considered. As outlined earlier, reported vehicle thefts in SA declined steadily between 1993 and 1997, with the result that the 1998 rate was only 4.9% higher than that recorded 5 years earlier. While SA's reported vehicle theft rates were coming down during the mid 1990s, most other jurisdictions were recording increases. As a result, when 1998 figures are compared with 1993 data, five other jurisdictions also recorded increases, with the largest occurring in Tasmania (up 125.1%), the ACT (up 41.7%) and NSW (up 28.1%). Both Queensland and WA recorded decreases over the same time period.

Figure 3.9a
Percentage change in other theft
1998 compared with 1997

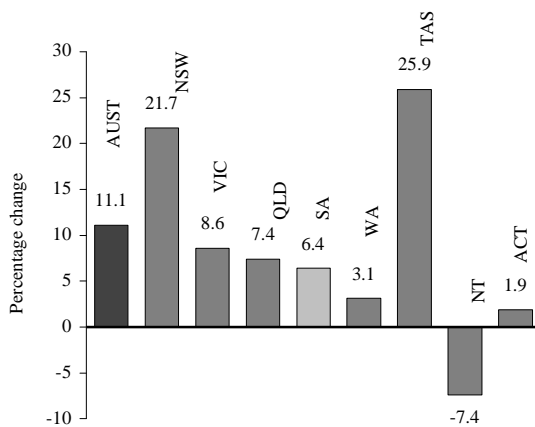


Other theft

1998 compared with 1997

All jurisdictions, with the exception of the NT, recorded increases over the past twelve months in recorded rates of other theft. In SA, a 15.3% rise was observed, which was similar to that of the ACT. The other five jurisdictions all recorded smaller increases than did SA.

Figure 3.9b
Percentage change in other theft
1998 compared with 1995



Other theft

1998 compared with 1995

Over this four year period, SA recorded a 6.4% increase in recorded 'other theft' rates. This was smaller than the 15.3% increase observed during the past twelve months. Over this longer time period, all jurisdictions (with the exception of the NT) exhibited increases in this offence category, with the largest rises occurring in Tasmania (up 25.9%) and NSW (up 21.7%).



9. OUTCOME OF INVESTIGATIONS

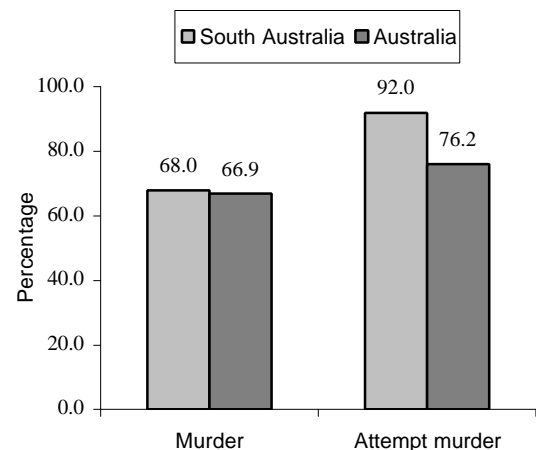
The National Crime Statistics collection was expanded in 1997 to include information on the outcome of police investigations. This indicates the stage that an investigation has reached after a period of 30 days has elapsed since the incident was recorded by police.

South Australia compared with National Average

Figures 4.1 to 4.5 show the percentage of offences finalised in South Australia 30 days after the incident was reported and compares this with the finalisation figure for Australia as a whole. It should be noted that some offences are finalised without any proceedings being initiated against an offender. For example, after investigation it may be considered that a reported crime has no foundation, or the original complaint is withdrawn by a victim. Alternatively, an offence may be confirmed but due to the circumstances of the alleged offender, such as incompetence, diplomatic immunity or age, the case is finalised without proceeding against him/her.

As shown in Figure 4.1, over two thirds of *murder* and almost all *attempted murder* investigations were finalised in South Australia within 30 days from the time the incident was recorded by police (68.0% and 92.0% respectively). The South Australian figure was slightly higher than the national average for *murder* (66.9%) and noticeably higher than the national average for *attempted murder* (76.2%).

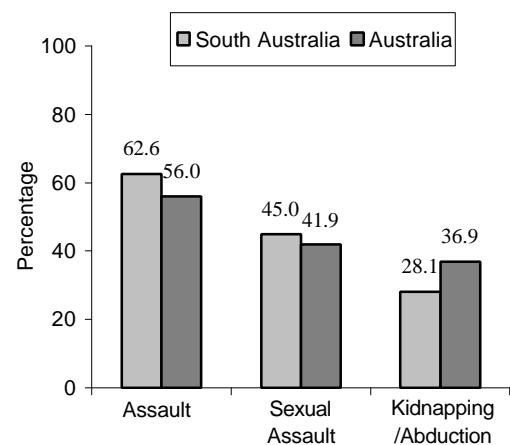
Figure 4.1
Outcome of investigations - percentage of murder and attempt murder offences finalised 30 days after incident recorded



As indicated in Figure 4.2, almost two thirds (62.6%) of *assault* offences were finalised in South Australia within 30 days of reporting the incident. However, less than half of the *sexual assaults* were finalised. In both instances, the percentage finalised in South Australia was slightly higher than that for Australia (by 6.6% for *assault* and by 3.1% for *sexual assault*).

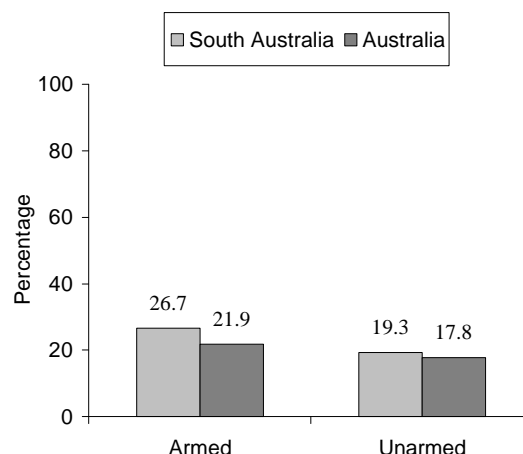
Just under two in three (28.1%) *kidnapping/abduction* offences reported in South Australia in 1998 were finalised within 30 days, compared with a higher national figure of 36.9%.

Figure 4.2
Outcome of investigations - percentage of assault, sexual assault and kidnapping/abduction offences finalised 30 days after incident recorded



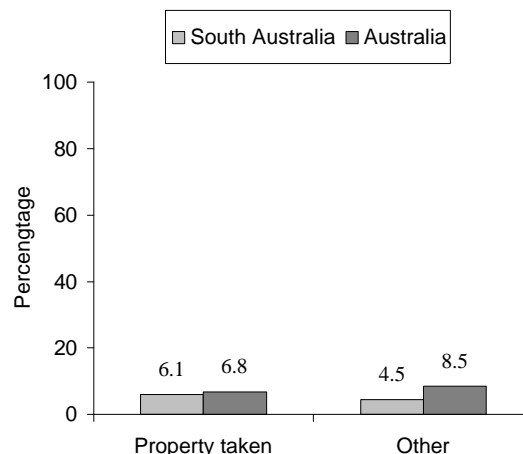
For both *armed* and *unarmed robbery*, the percentage of offences finalised within 30 days in South Australia was higher than the national average. Just over one quarter (26.7%) of *armed robbery* offences in South Australia were finalised within 30 days, compared with 21.9% for Australia as whole. For *unarmed robbery*, 19.3% of offences in South Australia were finalised within 30 days, compared with 17.8% nationally.

Figure 4.3
Outcome of investigations - percentage of robbery offences finalised 30 days after incident recorded



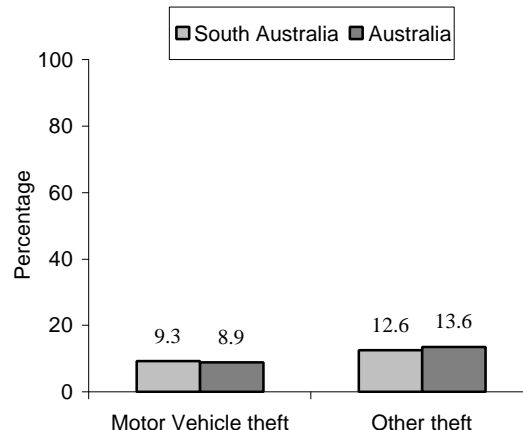
In contrast to *offences against the person*, a relatively small percentage of UEWI offences were finalised 30 days after the incident was reported. For *UEWI - property taken* offences, the percentage of cases finalised in South Australia was marginally lower than that for Australia as a whole (6.1% compared with 6.8%). The same applied to *UEWI - other* offences, with 4.5% finalised in South Australia compared with 8.5% nationally.

Figure 4.4
Outcome of investigations - percentage of UEWI offences finalised 30 days after incident recorded



As was the case with UEWI offences, the proportion of motor vehicle theft offences finalised both in South Australia and nationally was relatively low. As indicated in Figure 4.5, the percentage of *motor vehicle theft* offences finalised in South Australia was 9.3%, which was marginally higher than the national figure (8.9%). The reverse situation was true for *other theft*, with South Australia's finalisation levels slightly lower than those recorded for Australia as a whole (12.6% compared with 13.6% respectively.)

Figure 4.5
Outcome of investigations - percentage of motor vehicle theft and 'other' theft offences finalised 30 days after incident recorded

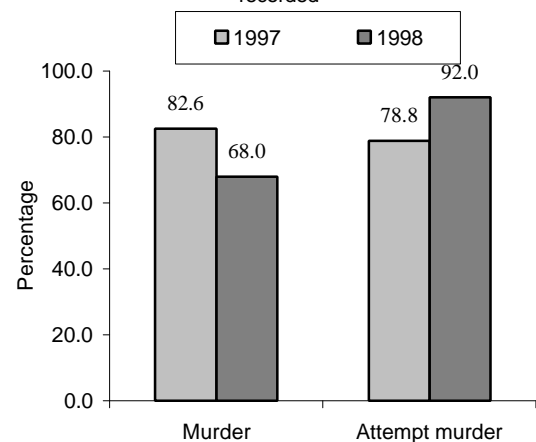


South Australian clear up rates over time

Figures 5.1 to 5.5 compares the percentage of offences finalised in South Australia 30 days after the incident was reported for the years 1997 and 1998.

Given the small numbers involved, the proportion of offences finalised will fluctuate quite considerably from one year to another. As indicated, while the percentage of murder offences finalised in South Australia decreased from 82.6% in 1997 to 68.0% in 1998, the percentage of attempted murders finalised increased from 78.8% to 92.0%.

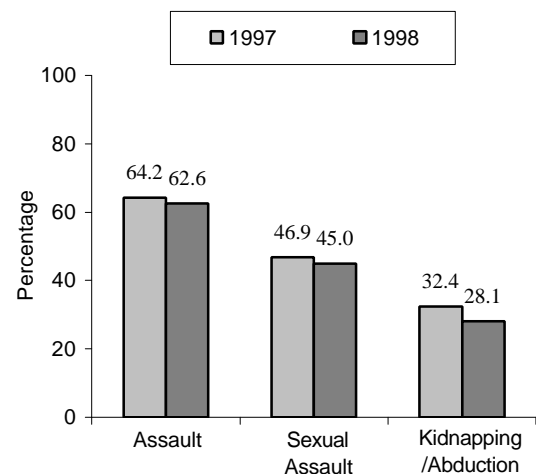
Figure 5.1
Outcome of investigations - percentage of murder and attempt murder offences finalised 30 days after incident recorded



As shown in Figure 5.2, levels of finalisation for both *assault* and *sexual assault* remained relatively constant over the past two years. For assault, the figures were 64.2% in 1997 and 62.6% in 1998. The figures for *sexual assault* were 46.9% in 1997 compared with 45.0% in 1998.

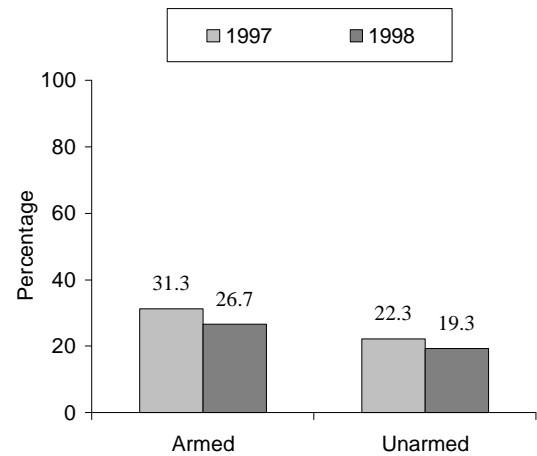
The percentage of *kidnapping/abduction* offences finalised in 1998 was slightly lower than in 1997 (28.1% compared with 32.4%).

Figure 5.2
Outcome of investigations - percentage of assault, sexual assault and kidnapping/abduction offences finalised 30 days after incident recorded



In both 1997 and 1998, the level of finalisation was higher for *armed* than for *unarmed robbery*. Moreover, for both offence types, the percentage finalised in 1997 was higher than in 1998. As indicated in Figure 5.3, 31.3% of *armed robberies* were finalised in 1997 compared with 26.7% in 1998. For *unarmed robbery*, the figures were 22.3% and 19.3% respectively.

Figure 5.3
Outcome of investigations - percentage of robbery offences finalised 30 days after incident recorded



The proportion of *UEWI* offences finalised in both 1997 and 1998 was extremely low. Of those offences involving the taking of property, only 6.9% were finalised after 30 days in 1997, which was slightly higher than the 6.1% finalised in 1998. For *UEWI - other*, only 5.3% were finalised in 1997 compared with a slightly lower figure of 4.5% in 1998.

Figure 5.4
Outcome of investigations - percentage of UEWI offences finalised 30 days after incident recorded



As with *UEWI* offences, the proportion of finalisations for motor vehicle theft was relatively low in both years, with the 1998 figures being slightly lower than in 1997. As shown in Figure 5.5, only 10.3% of vehicle thefts were finalised in 1997 compared with 9.3% in 1998. For other theft, the pattern was similar, with 14.3% finalised in 1997 compared with a slightly lower figure of 12.6% in 1998.

Figure 5.5
Outcome of investigations - percentage of motor vehicle theft and 'other' theft offences finalised 30 days after incident recorded

