

Information Bulletin

Office of
Crime Statistics

No 17

June 2001

NATIONAL CRIME STATISTICS: AN UPDATE 2000 THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE

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This Information Bulletin outlines the findings of the eighth publication by the National Crime Statistics Unit (ABS, 2001: Cat No 4510.0). It reports on the number of victims per offence category recorded by police between January and December 2000. Some earlier figures from 1993 to 1999 have also been provided in the Bulletin for comparative purposes.

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 eighth publication by the National Crime Statistics Unit (ABS, 2001: Cat No 4510.0). It reports on the number of victims per offence category recorded by police between January and December 2000. Some earlier figures from 1993 to 1999 have also been provided in the Bulletin for comparative purposes.

2. A METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

What official crime statistics measure

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; 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 or from one jurisdiction to another may not reflect a change/difference in the actual level of offending, but may be due to changes/differences in people's willingness to report or changes/differences in how police record the data.

Changes in how offences are classified: from ANCO to ASOC

It should be noted that a new offence classification system was implemented in 1999 – the Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC). The ABS has worked closely with police statisticians in all jurisdictions to ensure that the mapping of offences under the new system accords as closely as possible with that under the old system (ANCO- the Australian National Classification of Offences). According to the ABS, for South Australia, the switch to ASOC has had minimal effect on the statistics, with the result that the 1999 and 2000 data are comparable with those of earlier years.

Counting rules

The counting rules applied by the ABS are victim based: that is, each victim within a distinct criminal incident is counted once per national offence subdivision. For example, within the *sexual assault* subdivision if a victim reports being subjected to multiple sexual assaults within the one incident, he/she will be counted only once in this subdivision. However, if in the one incident, the victim reports being robbed and sexually assaulted, he/she will be counted once under *robbery* and once under *sexual assault* because each constitutes a different offence subdivision.

The statistics do not refer to discrete victims because a person who has experienced multiple incidents of victimisation will be counted separately for each incident. For example, a person who reports to police that they have been robbed again will be counted twice.

Comparability across jurisdictions

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 included in the national collection

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

- homicide and related offences
 - *murder*
 - *attempted murder*
 - *manslaughter*
 - *driving causing death*
- assault
- sexual assault
- kidnapping/abduction
- robbery
 - *armed robbery*
 - *unarmed robbery*
- blackmail/extortion
- unlawful entry with intent
- motor vehicle theft
- other theft.

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.
- Percentage increases/decreases differ slightly, depending on whether the unit of analysis is absolute numbers or rates per 100,000 population.

3. PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA BETWEEN 1999 AND 2000

In Table 3.1, changes in the actual number of victimisations between 1999 and 2000 are detailed, together with changes in the rate of victimisation per 100,000 population. It should be noted that the magnitude of the percentage increase/decrease per offence differs slightly depending upon the type of measurement used. Numbers in some groups are also extremely low, making the calculation of percentage changes meaningless. For these offence categories, shifts between 1999 and 2000 are given in absolute numbers and rates only.

As shown, between 1999 and 2000 there was a decrease in both the number and rate of victimisations for *murder*. *Manslaughter* and *blackmail/extortion* victimisations remained stable, while all remaining categories rose. The largest increases were recorded for *unarmed robbery*, *total robbery* and *motor vehicle theft*.

Table 3.1

The number of victims and the rate of victimisation per offence category recorded in South Australia: 1999 compared with 2000

Offence Group	Number of victims			Rate of victimisation per 100,000		
	1999	2000	Change	1999	2000	Change
Homicide and related offences						
murder	39	23	-16*	2.6	1.5	-1.1*
attempted murder	39	44	+5*	2.6	2.9	+0.3*
manslaughter	1	1	0*	na	na	na
driving causing death	18	37	+19*	1.2	2.5	+1.3*
Assault	13,861	15,423	+11.3	928.8	1029.8	+10.9
Sexual assault	1,320	1,464	+10.9	88.4	97.8	+10.6
Kidnapping/abduction	38	43	+5*	2.5	2.9	+0.4*
Robbery (total)	1,474	1,668	+13.2	98.8	111.4	+12.8
armed robbery	528	585	+10.8	35.4	39.1	+10.5
unarmed robbery	946	1,083	+14.5	63.4	72.3	+14.0
Blackmail/extortion	24	25	+1*	1.6	1.7	+0.1*
Unlawful entry with intent	33,974	36,302	+6.9	2,276.5	2424.0	+6.5
UEWI involving the taking of property#	27,858	na	na	1,866.6	na	na
UEWI – other#	6,116	na	na	409.8	na	na
Motor vehicle theft	11,981	13,464	+12.4	802.8	899.0	+12.0
Other theft	62,115	68,767	+10.7	4,162.1	4591.7	+10.3

* The number of offences is too low to enable the effective use of percentages. In these instances, the unit variance is listed.

na indicates the data were not available.

#Disaggregated figures for *unlawful entry with intent – property* and *other* were not available for South Australia in 2000.

4. COMPARISON OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CRIME RATES IN 2000 WITH NATIONAL AVERAGE

Table 4.1 compares South Australian crime rates with those recorded for Australia as a whole.

Table 4.1
South Australian crime rates per 100,000 population compared with other states

Offence group	SA rate per 100,000 population	Australian rate per 100,000 population	Rank order of SA in 2000#	Rank order of SA in 1999#	State/Territory with highest rate in 2000	
Homicide and related offences	7.0	5.2	1	3	SA	7.0
Murder	1.5	1.6	Equal 5	2	NT	3.1
Attempted murder	2.9	2.0	2	Equal 2	QLD	3.4
Manslaughter	n/a	0.2	na	na	WA	0.7
Driving causing death	2.5	1.3	1	Equal 3	SA	2.5
Assault	1029.8	736.8	3	3	NT	1579.8
Sexual assault	97.8	81.6	3	2	NT	117.2
Kidnapping/abduction	2.9	3.6	2	6	NSW	5.9
Robbery (total)	111.4	121.7	2	4	NSW	206.2
Armed robbery	39.1	na	3	6	NSW	72.5
Unarmed robbery	72.3	na	2	4	NSW	133.6
Blackmail/extortion	1.7	1.3	2	Equal 2	QLD	1.8
Unlawful entry with intent	2424.0	2280.8	5	6	WA	3229.5
Motor vehicle theft	899.0	726.2	2	2	ACT	924.6
Other theft	4591.7	3523.1	2	2	WA	4685.5

A ranking of one indicates the highest rate of reporting offending.
na indicates the rate is not available.

As shown, in 2000 South Australia was below the national rate for three of the 11 discrete offence categories, as follows:

- Murder (6.2%** lower than the national average);
- Kidnapping/abduction (19.4%** lower); and
- Robbery (8.5% lower).

South Australia was above the national rate for eight of the 11 offences, namely:

- Attempted murder (45%** higher than the national average);
- Driving causing death (92.3%** higher);
- Assault (39.8% higher);
- Sexual assault (19.9% higher);
- Blackmail/extortion (30.8%** higher);
- Unlawful entry with intent (6.3% higher);
- Motor vehicle theft (23.8% higher); and
- Other theft (30.3% higher).

** 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 must be treated with extreme caution.

Summary

The number of offences for which the South Australian victimisation rate was higher than the national rate steadily declined between 1993 and 1997. However, this trend was reversed in 1998, with this state having six offences above the national average, compared with four in 1997. This increased again in 1999, with nine of the 14 categories above the national average, while in 2000 eight of the 11 categories were above the national average. More specifically:

- 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 categories;
- In 1997, South Australia was above the Australia rate for 4 out of 14 categories;
- In 1998, South Australia was above the Australian rate for 6 out of 14 categories;
- In 1999, South Australia was above the Australian rate in 9 out of 14 categories; and
- In 2000, South Australia was above the Australian rate for 8 out of 11* categories.

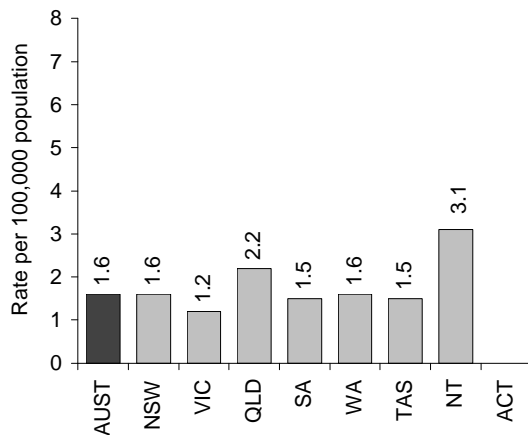
* Note in 2000 there were 11 rather than 14 categories because *manslaughter* rates were not available for South Australia, *armed* and *unarmed robbery* rates were not available for Australia, so only total robbery rates could be included, while *unlawful entry with intent* rates were not broken down into *UEWI – property taken* and *UEWI – other* for South Australia.

5. COMPARISON OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Figures 5.1 to 5.13 provide a more graphic illustration of the level of recorded victimisations in South Australia compared with other jurisdictions and the national average.

Homicide and related offences

Figure 5.1
Victims of murder by state/territory, 2000

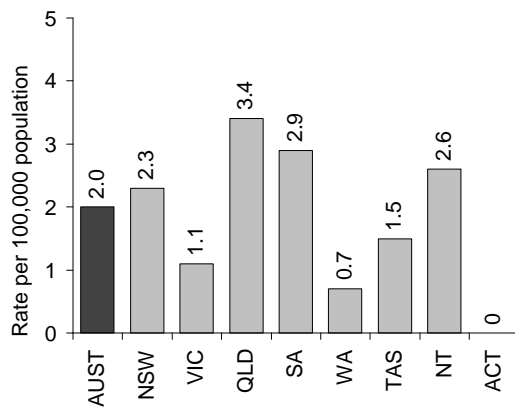


The number of extremely violent crimes against the person recorded in Australia in 2000 was relatively small. In total, 302 *murders*, 391 *attempted murders*, 44 *manslaughter* and 252 *driving causing death* incidents came to police notice during the year.

However, there were some obvious differences from one state to another. As depicted in Figure 5.1, the Northern Territory *murder* rate of 3.1 was higher than that of any other jurisdiction, followed by Queensland (2.2). Figures for South Australia, New South Wales, Western Australia and Tasmania were fairly similar, while the lowest rate (of 1.2 per 100,000) was recorded in Victoria.

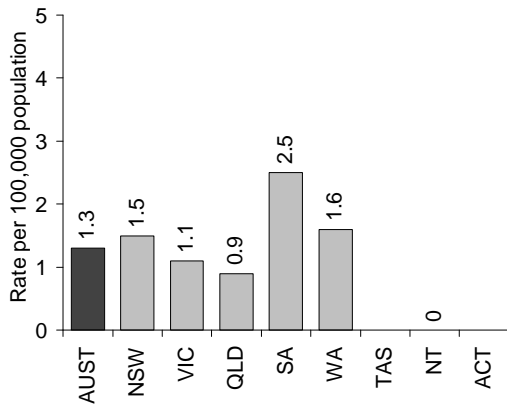
Figures were not available for the ACT.

Figure 5.2
Victims of attempted murder by state/territory, 2000



South Australia recorded the second highest rate for *attempted murder* (2.9 per 100,000 offences), which was just below Queensland's rate (of 3.4). The lowest rate was recorded in the ACT (0.0). Again, however, rates are extremely small across all jurisdictions.

Figure 5.3
Victims of drive causing death by state/territory, 2000



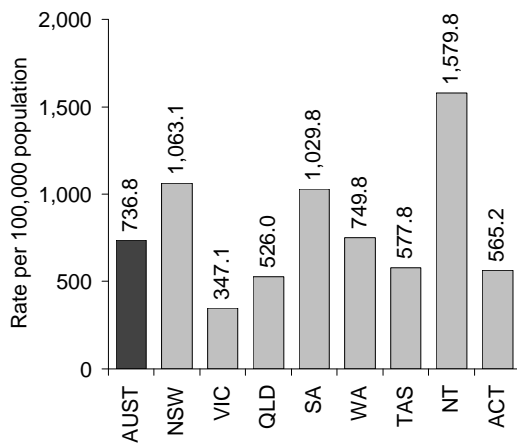
Again, reported rates for *driving causing death* were extremely low across all jurisdictions, ranging from 0 in the Northern Territory to 2.5 per 100,000 population in South Australia.

South Australia, with a rate of 2.5 per 100,000, was above the Australian rate of 1.3.

Rates were not available for Tasmania and the ACT.

Assault

Figure 5.4
Victims of assault by state/territory, 2000

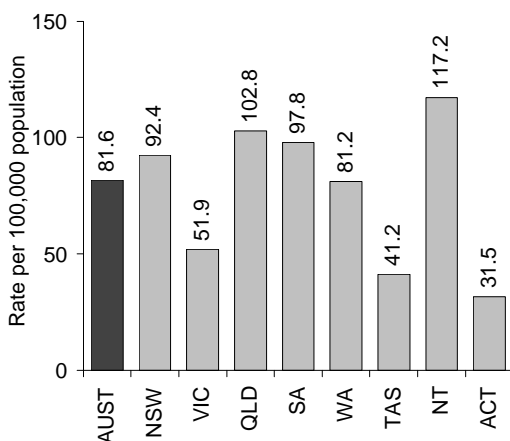


South Australia's recorded *assault* rate in 2000 was above the Australian rate. As shown in Figure 5.4, this state recorded a rate of 1,029.8 per 100,000 population, which was the third highest behind the Northern Territory, with a rate of 1,579.8 and New South Wales (1,063.1).

South Australia's rate of *assault* was three times greater than the rate recorded in Victoria (347.1), which had the lowest rate of all jurisdictions.

Sexual Assault

Figure 5.5
Victims of sexual assault by state/territory, 2000

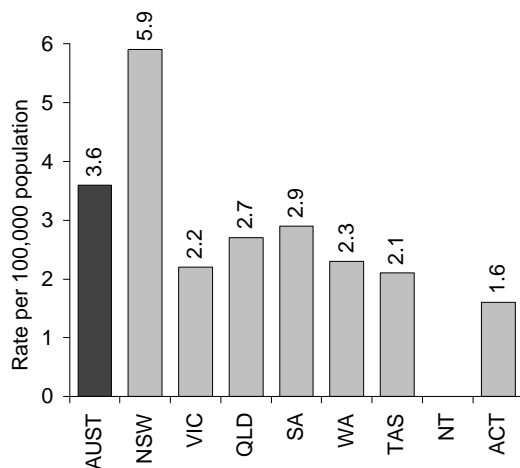


South Australia's rate of *sexual assault* (97.8 per 100,000 population) was also above the national average of 81.6.

As shown in Figure 5.5, the reported *sexual assault* rate in South Australia was third highest, behind the Northern Territory (117.2 per 100,000 population) and Queensland (102.8). The ACT (31.5) and Tasmania (41.2) recorded the lowest rates of sexual assault in 2000.

Kidnapping/abduction

Figure 5.6
Victims of kidnapping/abduction by state/territory,
2000



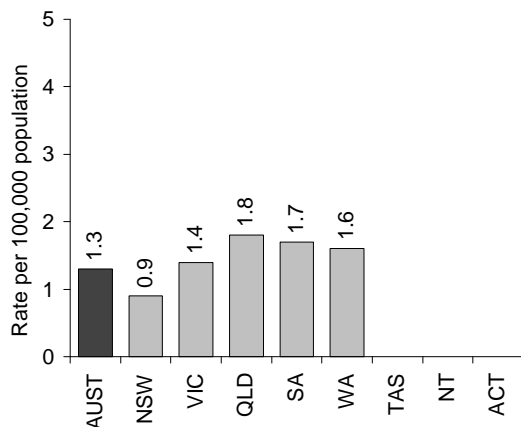
As in previous years, the reported *kidnapping/abduction* rates across all jurisdictions were comparatively low, with only 688 such offences being reported for Australia as a whole. In South Australia there were 43 such offences, which gave a rate of 2.9 per 100,000 population. This was below the national rate of 3.6.

In relation to the other Australian states and territories, South Australia had the second highest rate of *kidnapping/abduction*, with the figures for New South Wales being well above that of the other jurisdictions, at 5.9 per 100,000 population. The ACT had the lowest rate (1.6).

Figures were not available for the Northern Territory.

Blackmail/extortion

Figure 5.7
Victims of blackmail/extortion by state/territory, 2000



As with *murder, attempted murder* and *manslaughter*, the actual number of *blackmail/extortion* victims in Australia is very small, with 254 reported in 2000.

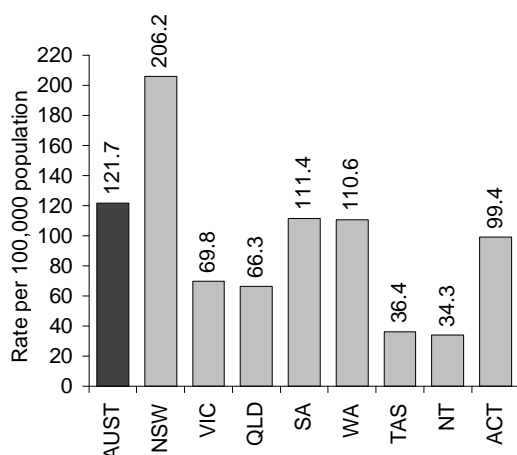
Figure 5.7 shows that South Australia recorded the second highest rate of *blackmail/extortion* in Australia (1.7 per 100,000 population). The highest rate was recorded by Queensland (1.8) while New South Wales had the lowest rate (0.9).

Figures were not available for Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the ACT.

Robbery

Figure 5.8

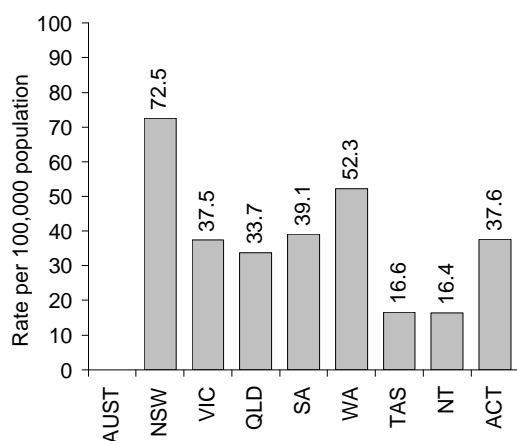
Victims of all robbery by state/territory, 2000



In 2000 South Australia recorded a *total robbery* rate of 111.4 per 100,000 population. This was the second highest rate in Australia, with the figure for New South Wales being well above that of the other jurisdictions (206.2). The lowest rates were recorded in the Northern Territory (34.3) and Tasmania (36.4).

Figure 5.9

Victims of armed robbery by state/territory, 2000

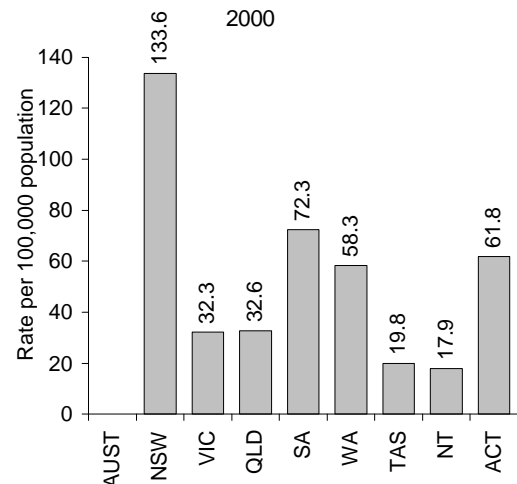


In relation to *armed robbery*, South Australia had the third highest rate (39.1 per 100,000 population), which was well below that recorded in NSW (72.5) and Western Australia (52.3). The two jurisdictions with the lowest *armed robbery* rates in 2000 were the Northern Territory (16.4) and Tasmania (16.6).

Armed robbery rates were not available for Australia as a whole.

Figure 5.10

Victims of unarmed robbery by state/territory, 2000

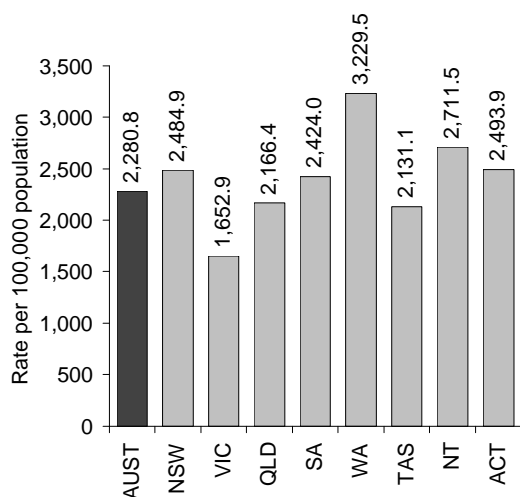


South Australia's *unarmed robbery* rate of 72.3 per 100,000 population was the second highest in Australia. The New South Wales rate for *unarmed robbery* (133.6) was well above that of all other jurisdictions and was 85% higher than South Australia's rate. The lowest rate of *unarmed robbery*, which was less than one quarter of the South Australian rate, was recorded by the Northern Territory (17.9).

Unarmed robbery rates were not available for Australia as a whole.

Unlawful entry with intent

Figure 5.11
Victims of all UEWI by state/territory, 2000



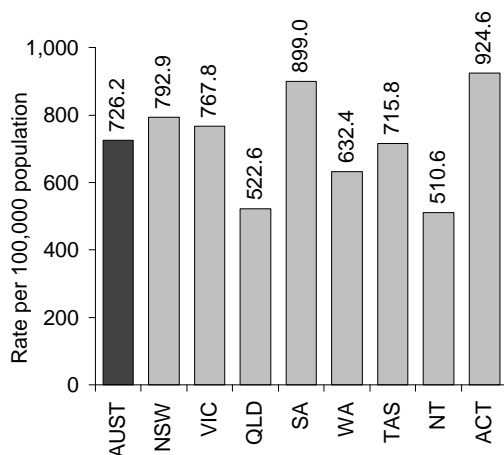
Unlawful entry with intent (UEWI) is the unlawful entry of a structure with the intent to commit an offence such as theft, property damage or any offence against an individual. This category therefore incorporates burglary, break and enter and some stealing offences.

As indicated in Figure 5.11, in 2000 South Australia was ranked fifth for *Unlawful entry with intent*. Its rate of 2,424.0 was below that of Western Australia (3,229.5), the Northern Territory (2,711.5), the ACT (2,493.9) and New South Wales (2,484.9). Victoria recorded the lowest rate of UEWI (1,652.9)

A change in the legislation related to these offences in South Australia has resulted in an inability to provide UEWI disaggregated into *property theft* and *other* for 2000.

Motor vehicle theft

Figure 5.12
Victims of motor vehicle theft by state/territory, 2000

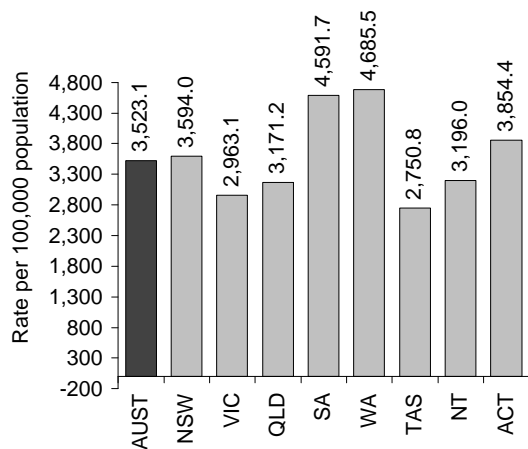


South Australia recorded the second highest rate of *motor vehicle theft* in Australia in 2000 (899.0 per 100,000 population).

The highest rate of *motor vehicle theft* was recorded in the ACT (924.6), while the Northern had the lowest rate (510.6).

Other theft

Figure 5.13
Victims of 'other' theft by state/territory, 2000



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 2000 the reported rate for *other theft* in South Australia was 4,591.7 per 100,000 population. This state was ranked in second position behind Western Australia (4,685.5). Tasmania recorded the lowest rate of *other theft* (2,750.8).

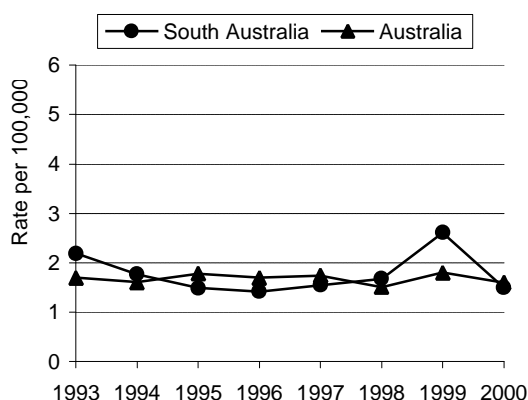
6. COMPARISONS ACROSS TIME

The following section compares South Australian victimisation rates per 100,000 persons with Australian rates from 1993 to 2000. It should be noted that *manslaughter* has been excluded because of the negligible numbers involved. While figures on *unlawful entry with intent* are included, no breakdown of offences into *UEWI involving the taking of property* and *UEWI other* are included as South Australian data was not available for these crimes in 2000.

1999 figures included for comparative purposes in this section are based on figures released by the ABS last year. As a result they may differ slightly from the revised 1999 figures included in the current ABS publication.

Murder and attempted murder and drive causing death

Figure 6.1
Murder 1993-2000



As shown in Figure 6.1, 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 1999 both the South Australian and Australian rates increased. The South Australian increase to 2.61 persons was strongly influenced by the Snowtown murders, while the Australian rate was influenced by both the Snowtown murders and the two family murder/suicide events in Western Australia, which involved nine victims. In 2000, the rates for South Australia and Australia were comparable (1.5 and 1.6 respectively), the South Australian rate having dropped considerably from 1999.

Figure 6.2
Attempted murder 1993-2000

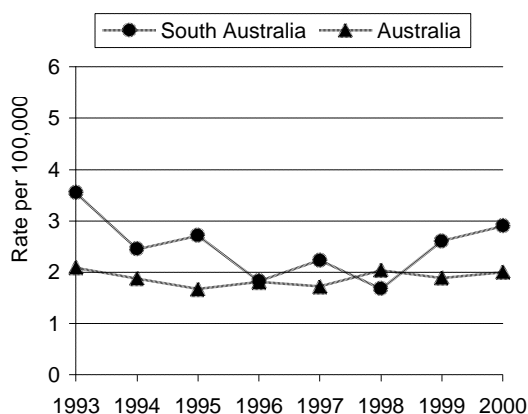
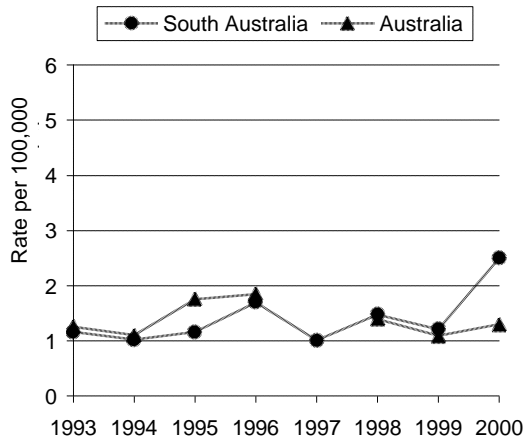


Figure 6.2 illustrates that the South Australian trend in *attempted murder* has deviated from the national trend since 1993. South Australian *attempted murder* rates show a general downward trend (from 3.56 in 1993 to 1.68 in 1998) and then a sharp increase to 2.61 persons in 1999 and a further increase to 2.9 persons in 2000. In contrast, Australian rates were generally stable between 1993 and 1997, increasing in 1998 and then stabilising in 1999 and 2000. The South Australian *attempted murder* rate was higher than the Australian rate throughout most of this period, dipping below the national level in 1998 only.

Figure 6.3
Driving causing death 1993 -2000*



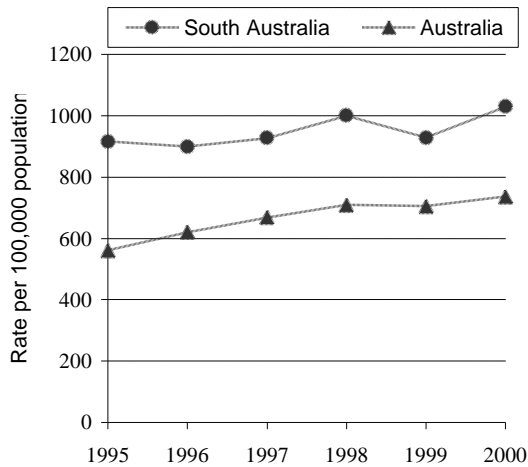
*National rate not available for 1997

As illustrated in Figure 6.3, for both South Australia and Australia, the rate of *driving causing death* generally fluctuated between 1 and 2 during the 1993 to 1999 period. However, the South Australian rate increased from 1.21 per 100,000 population in 1999 to 2.5 in 2000. The national rates also increased, although to a lesser extent, from 1.09 in 1999 to 1.3 in 2000.

Until 2000, South Australia was either below or only marginally above the Australian rate throughout the eight years depicted, however, in 2000 the rate for South Australia was considerably higher than that recorded for Australia.

Assault (excluding sexual assault)

Figure 6.4
Assault (excluding sexual assault)
1995 to 2000



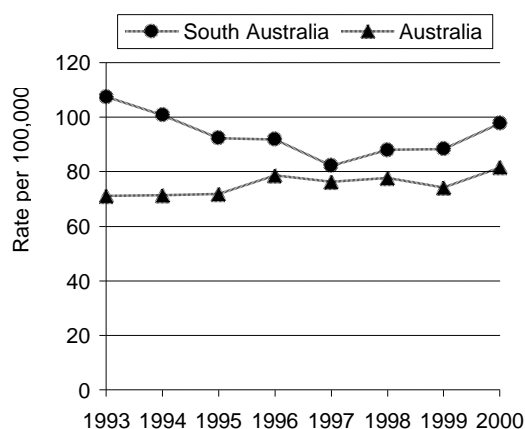
Data on *assault* victimisations (excluding *sexual assault*) have only been available at the national level from 1995 onwards.

As shown in Figure 6.4, after several years of increase between 1996 and 1998 (up to 1,000.81 per 100,000 population) South Australia's rate of *assault* decreased in 1999 (to 928.35 persons), before increasing again in 2000 (to 1029.8 persons). In contrast, the national rate which had also increased between 1995 and 1998, levelled off at just over 700 per 100,000 population in 1999, before increasing slightly to 736.8 in 2000.

Throughout the six years depicted, the South Australian rate of *assault* has been considerably higher than the national rate.

Sexual assault

Figure 6.5
Sexual assault 1993-2000



As shown in Figure 6.5, the longitudinal trend in the *sexual assault* rate in South Australia is different from the national trend up until the last few years. Between 1993 and 1997 the *sexual assault* rate decreased in South Australia (from 107.5 per 100,000 population to 82.3), before increasing between 1998 and 2000 (to 97.8). 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 stabilising in 1997 and 1998. The national rate declined in 1999 (to 74.22), but then increased in 2000 (to 81.6), paralleling the rise observed for South Australia in 2000. The gap between the South Australian and the Australian rates remained constant in 2000, after diminishing up to 1997 and then widening in 1998 and 1999.

Kidnapping/Abduction

Figure 6.6
Kidnapping/abduction 1993-2000

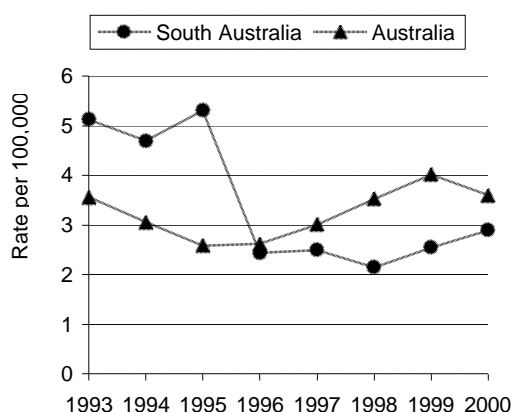


Figure 6.6 shows that South Australian *kidnapping/abduction* rates were higher than the Australian rates between 1993 and 1995 and lower than the Australian rates after this time. After a sharp decrease in 1996 (from 5.31 per 100,000 in 1995 to 2.41), in 1998 the rate again increased, although not to the same extent as observed prior to 1996. In contrast, the Australian *kidnapping/abduction* rate increased steadily from 1995 until 1999, before declining in 2000. Since 1996 the South Australian rate has been lower than the Australian rate, although this gap lessened in 2000.

Robbery

Figure 6.7
Armed robbery 1993 -2000

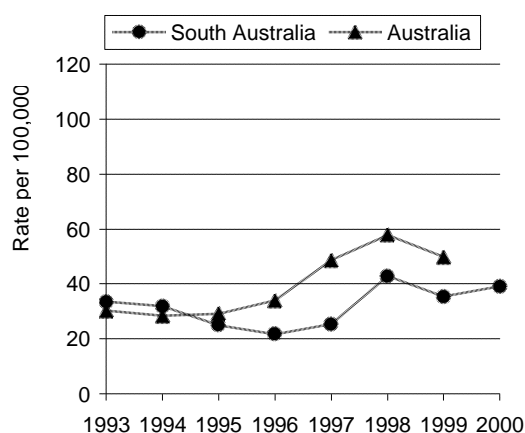
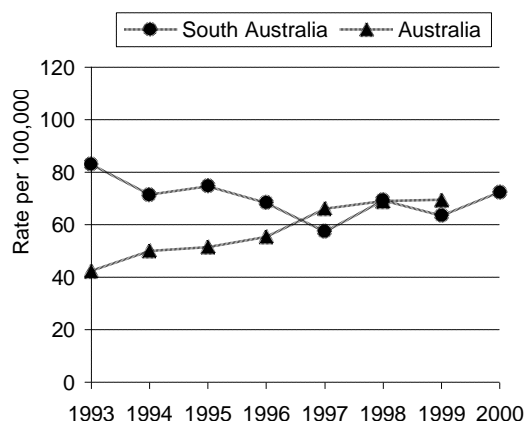


Figure 6.7 shows that between 1993 and 1996 the *armed robbery* rate in South Australia steadily decreased from 33.50 per 100,000 population to 21.64. In contrast, over the same period the national rate increased from 30.15 to 33.96. Both the South Australian and Australian rates of *armed robbery* increased in 1997 and 1998 and then decreased in 1999. The 1999 rate in South Australia was well below the national average (35.36 compared with 49.77), a position it has held since 1995. In 2000, no national rate was available while the rate for South Australia had increased slightly to 39.1.

Figure 6.8
Unarmed robbery 1993 -2000



As shown in Figure 6.8, the *unarmed robbery* rate in South Australia was higher than the national rate between 1993 and 1996. However, because of a steady decrease in the South Australian rate and a corresponding increase in the Australian rate, in 1997 for the first time since these figures were published, the South Australian rate dropped below the Australian rate (by 13.2%). In 1998 the situation again reversed, with the South Australian rate marginally higher than the Australian rate (69.32 compared with 68.96). In 1999, due to slight increases in the national rate (to 69.35) and a decrease in the South Australian rate (to 63.36), this state was again below the Australian rate. In 2000 the South Australian rate increased to 72.3 and no data were available on the national rate.

Figure 6.9
Total robbery 1993 -2000

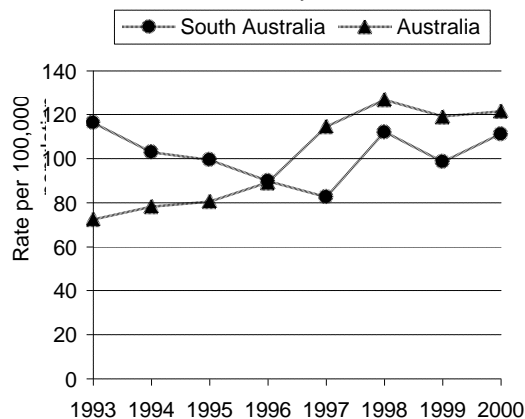


Figure 6.9 shows the *total robbery* rate per 100,000 population between 1993 and 2000. Decreases in *unarmed* and *armed robbery* rates in South Australia between 1993 and 1997, coupled with increases in the national rates over the same period, meant that in 1997 the South Australian *total robbery* rate was 28.0% lower than the Australian rate. After recording strong increases in 1998, both the Australian and the South Australian rates decreased in 1999 (to 119.12 and 98.72 respectively). In 2000, while the Australian rate remained stable (at 121.7), the South Australia rate increased (to 111.4).

Blackmail/extortion

Figure 6.10
Blackmail/extortion 1993 -2000

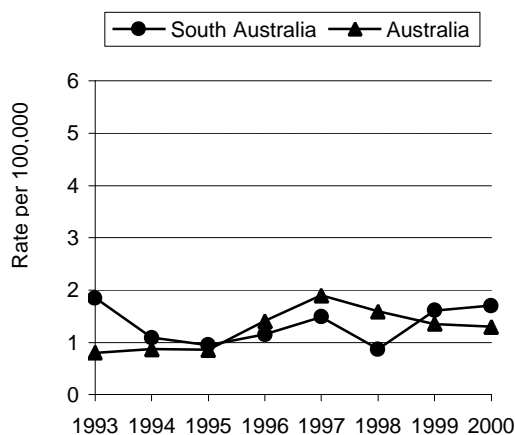
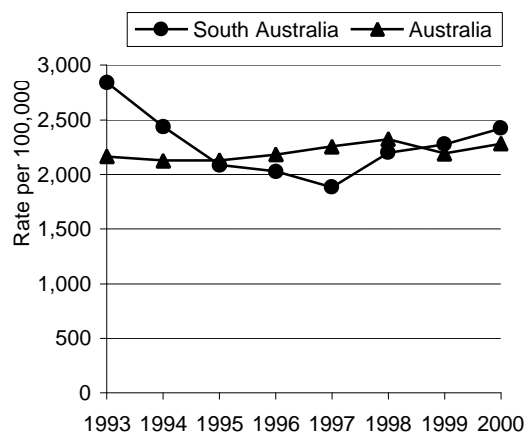


Figure 6.10 shows that the South Australian rate of *blackmail/extortion* has fluctuated over the eight year period, with decreases in 1994 and 1995, increases in 1996 and 1997, a decrease in 1998 and then increases in 1999 and 2000. Such fluctuations are to be expected given the small number of victimisations recorded. For Australia as a whole, the rate of *blackmail/extortion* increased in 1996 and 1997 but decreased after this time. Given the decreases in the national rate in 1999 and 2000 and the increases in the South Australian rate over the same period, the South Australian rate is now higher than the Australian rate (1.7 compared with 1.3 per 100,000 population).

Unlawful entry with intent

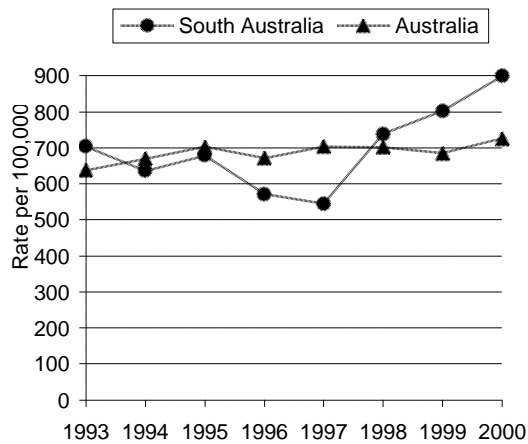
Figure 6.11
Total unlawful entry with intent
1993 -2000



As shown in Figure 6.11, there was a substantial drop in the rate of total *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. There was a further, albeit more moderate increase in 1999 to 2,275.44 and another increase in 2000 to 2,424.0. In contrast, between 1993 and 1998 the national rate increased steadily, then dropped in 1999 (to 2,191.57) before increasing again in 2000 (to 2,280.8). The South Australian rate is now slightly higher than the Australian rate.

Motor Vehicle Theft

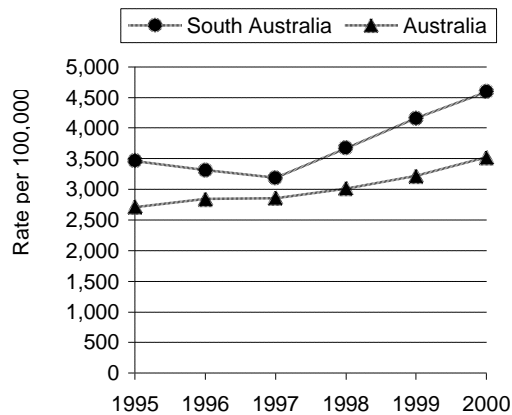
Figure 6.12
Motor vehicle theft 1993 -2000



As indicated in Figure 6.12, 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 there was a substantial increase in South Australia compared with minimal change at the national level. In 1999 increases continued in South Australia (to 802.44) while the Australian rate declined slightly (684.81). In 2000 the South Australian rate increased further (to 899.0) while the national rate also increased, albeit to a lesser extent (to 726.2). As a result, since 1998 the South Australian rate has been higher than the national rate.

Other theft

Figure 6.13
Other theft 1995 -2000



Other theft figures are only available since 1995.

Figure 6.13 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 in 1999 and again in 2000 to 4,591.7. Although the national rate also increased between 1998 and 2000, South Australia's rate of *other theft* is still higher (by 30.3%) than the national average, as has been the case throughout the period depicted.

7. PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN REPORTED VICTIMISATION RATES ACROSS JURISDICTIONS

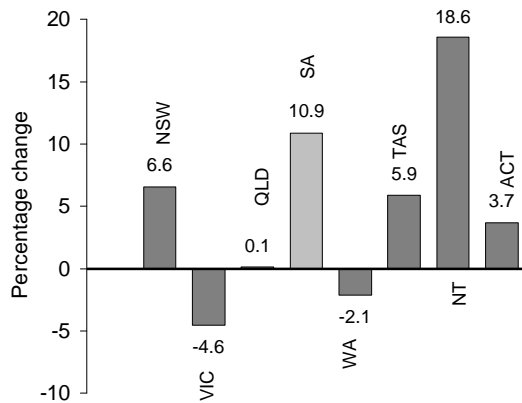
In the following section, South Australia's reported victimisation rates are compared with those for each of the eight Australian states and Territories. Two comparisons are presented:

- Percentage changes per jurisdiction over one year (ie between 1999 and 2000) and;
- Percentage changes per jurisdiction since national statistics were first published. For most offence categories, this involves a comparison across eight years (ie between 1993 and 2000 figures). However, for *assault*, *UEWI – property taken*, *UEWI – other* and *other theft*, because these categories were not included until 1995, only a six year comparison is possible.

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.

Assault

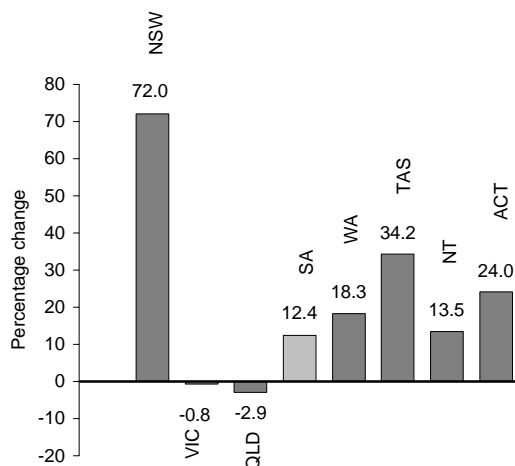
Figure 7.1a
Percentage changes for recorded *assault* victimisation rates
2000 compared with 1999



2000 compared with 1999

As shown in Figure 7.1a, recorded *assault* victimisation rates in South Australia increased by 10.9% between 1999 and 2000. Four other states also recorded increases, with South Australia's increase being the second largest. Only two states – Victoria and Western Australia – recorded decreases.

Figure 7.1b
Percentage change for recorded *assault* victimisation rates
2000 compared with 1995*

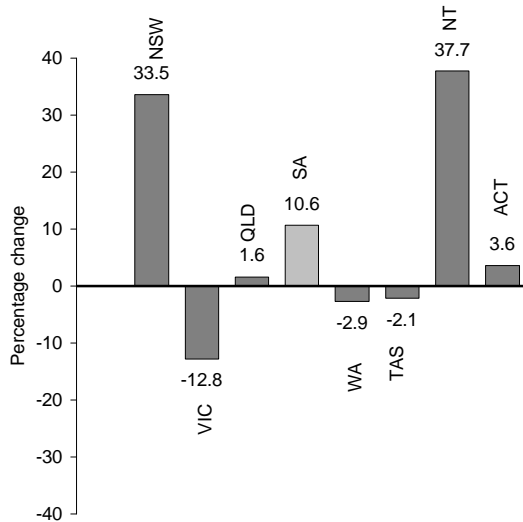


2000 compared with 1995*

Over this six year time period, South Australia's reported *assault* victimisation rate increased by 12.4% - which is marginally higher than the increase recorded between 1999 and 2000. All other states (with the exception of Victoria and Queensland) also recorded increases. In the case of NSW this increase was quite substantial (72.0%). Of the six states/territories that recorded an increase over the past six years the percentage increase recorded in South Australia was the lowest.

Sexual Assault

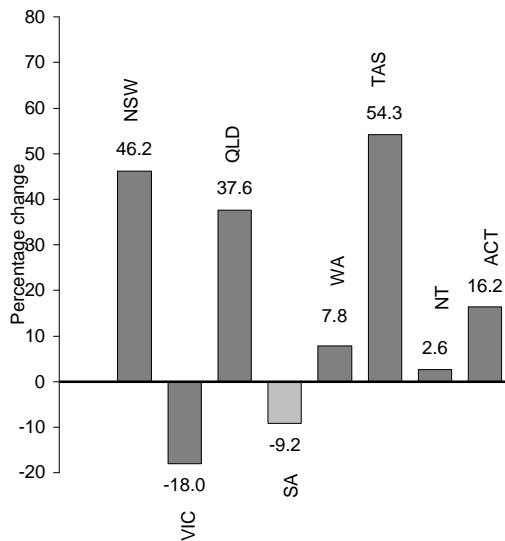
Figure 7.2a
Percentage change in recorded *sexual assault* victimisation rates
2000 compared with 1999



2000 compared with 1999

Between 1999 and 2000, South Australian victimisation rates for recorded *sexual assault* increased by 10.6%. As shown in Figure 7.2a, four other jurisdictions also recorded increases over the twelve months, with two (NSW and the NT) being significantly greater than SA. Three jurisdictions recorded decreases with the largest (of 12.8%) occurring in Victoria.

Figure 7.2b
Percentage change in recorded *sexual assault* victimisation rates
2000 compared with 1993

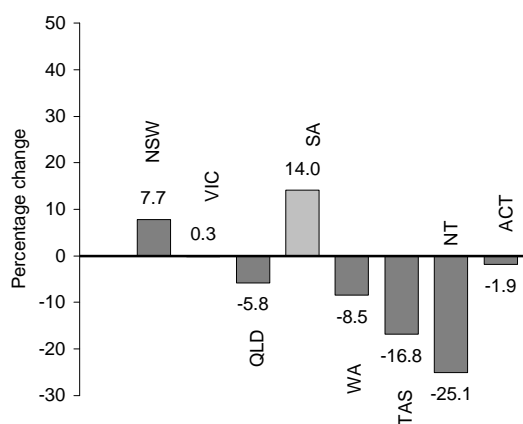


2000 compared with 1993

Over an eight year time frame, South Australia's reported *sexual assault* victimisation rate declined by 9.2%. Only one other state – Victoria – recorded a decrease during the same time period. The other six jurisdictions all recorded increases between 1993 and 2000, with the largest occurring in Tasmania (up 54.3%).

Unarmed robbery

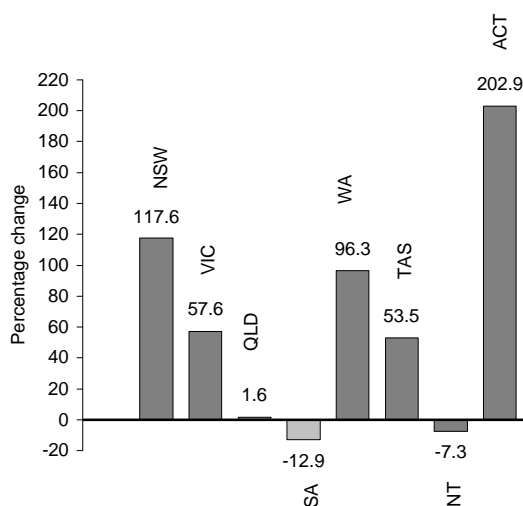
Figure 7.3a
Percentage change in recorded *unarmed robbery* victimisation rates
2000 compared with 1999



2000 compared with 1999

As shown in Figure 7.3a, South Australia recorded an increase of 14.0% in the recorded victimisation rate for *unarmed robbery*. Only one other jurisdiction – NSW - recorded an increase, and this was smaller than in SA. In contrast, five states recorded decreases.

Figure 7.3b
Percentage change in recorded *unarmed robbery* victimisation rates
2000 compared with 1993

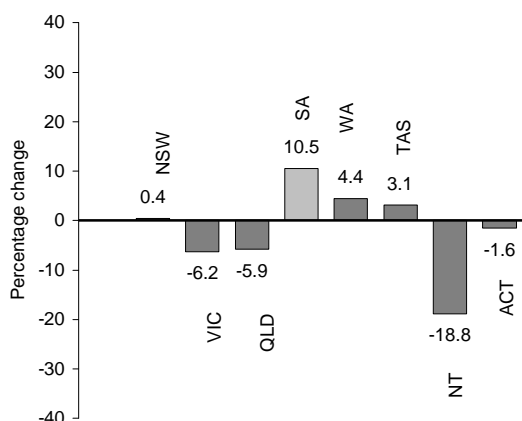


2000 compared with 1993

When comparisons are made over a longer time period, South Australia's position vis-à-vis the other states changes markedly from that observed above. Because of a steady decline in recorded unarmed robberies in SA between 1993 and 1997, the 2000 figure was 12.9% lower than those recorded in 1993. South Australia is one of only two states over this eight year period to record a decrease in reported *unarmed robbery* victimisation rates. All other states recorded increases, with the magnitude of those increases being particularly large in the ACT (up 202.9%) and NSW (up 117.6%).

Armed Robbery

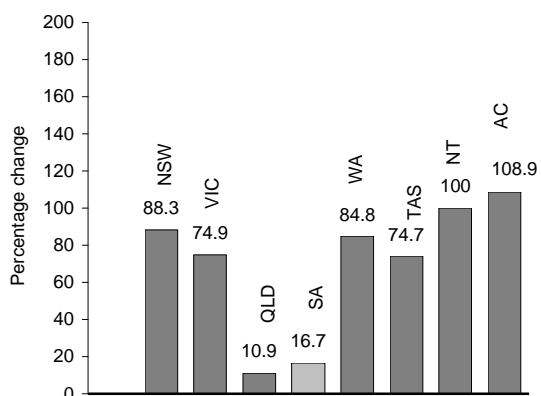
Figure 7.4a
Percentage change in recorded *armed robbery* victimisation rates
2000 compared with 1999



2000 compared with 1999

As shown in Figure 7.4a, between 1999 and 2000, recorded *armed robbery* victimisation rates in South Australia increased by 10.5% (following a 17.7% decrease in the preceding year). Two other jurisdictions also recorded increases, although the magnitude of these was relatively small. In contrast, Victoria, Queensland, the NT and the ACT all recorded decreases, with the largest downward trend (of 18.8%) being observed in the NT.

Figure 7.4b
Percentage change in recorded *armed robbery* victimisation rates
2000 compared with 1993

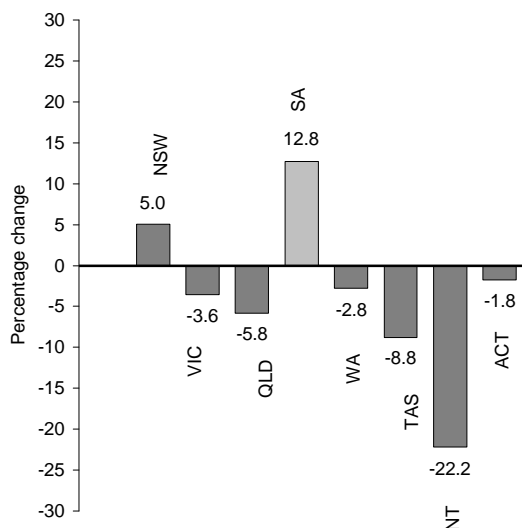


2000 compared with 1993

If comparisons are made over an eight year time period, all states recorded an increase in the victimisation rates for reported *armed robberies*. However, the magnitude of increase in South Australia (16.7%) was the second lowest of all jurisdictions, with the ACT recording a 108.9% increase and the NT a 100.0% increase.

Total robbery

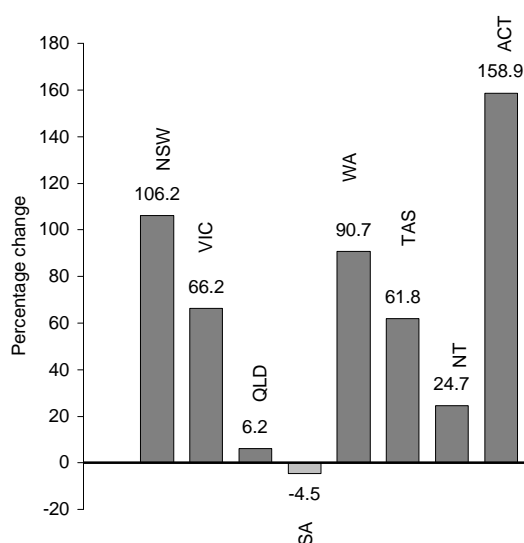
Figure 7.5a
Percentage change in recorded *robbery (total)* victimisation rates
2000 compared with 1999



2000 compared with 1999

As shown in Figure 7.5a, between 1999 and 2000 South Australia recorded an increase of 12.8% for recorded victimisation rates for *robbery (total)*. This was in contrast to the 12.0% decrease observed in the preceding year. Only one other jurisdiction – NSW – also recorded an increase, with the magnitude of this increase being smaller than South Australia's. Of the six jurisdictions that recorded decreases, the largest occurred in the NT (down by 22.2%).

Figure 7.5b
Percentage change in recorded *robbery (total)* victimisation rates
2000 compared with 1993

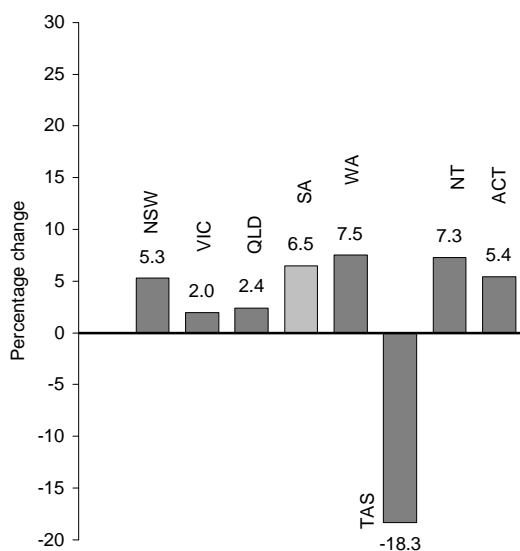


2000 compared with 1993

When comparisons are made over an eight year period, South Australia is the only state to have recorded a decrease in the victimisation rate for all types of robbery reported to police. All other states recorded increases, with the magnitude of those increases being particularly large in the ACT (up 158.9%), NSW (up 106.2%) and WA (up 90.7%).

Unlawful Entry with intent - Total

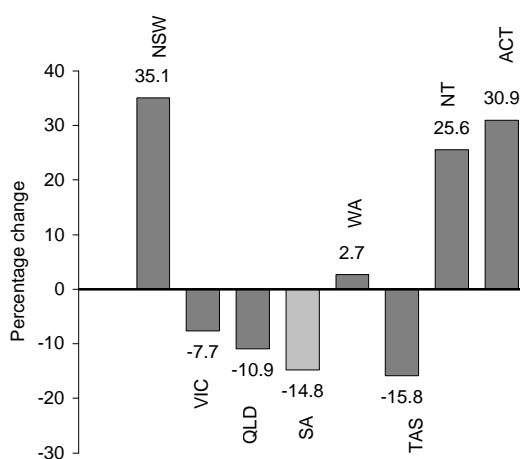
Figure 7.6a
Percentage change in recorded *UEWI (total)*
victimisation rates
2000 compared with 1999



2000 compared with 1999

Over the twelve month period from 1999 to 2000, reported victimisation rates for *unlawful entry with intent* (total) increased by 6.5% in South Australia. Six other states also recorded increases. The only state where reported UEWI victimisations declined was Tasmania, with an 18.3 % decrease.

Figure 7.6b
Percentage change in recorded *UEWI (total)*
victimisation rates
2000 compared with 1993

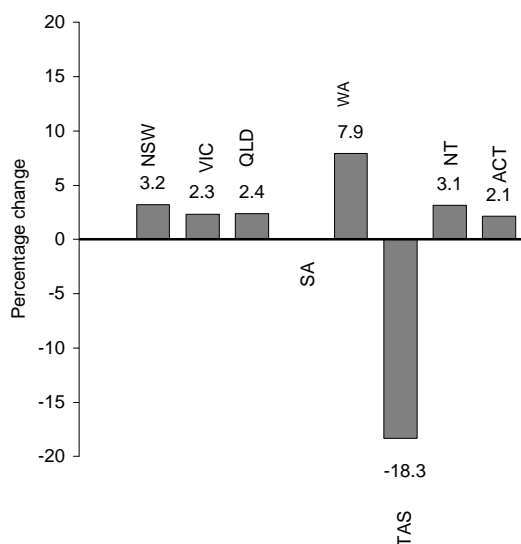


2000 compared with 1993

When comparisons are made over an eight year period, the pattern is quite different. Four jurisdictions, including South Australia, recorded a decrease in total victimisation rates for UEWI offences. Of these four, South Australia recorded the largest decrease (14.8%) due to a steady decline in this offence category between 1993 and 1997. Over this same eight year period, four states recorded increases, including NSW (up 35.1%), the NT (up 25.6%) and the ACT (up 30.9%).

Unlawful entry – property taken

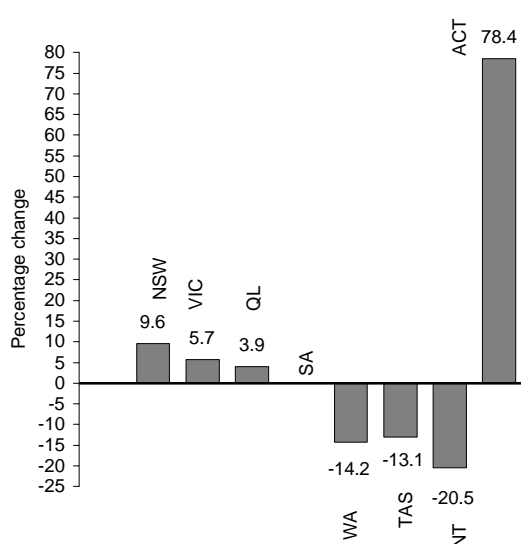
Figure 7.7a
Percentage change in recorded *UEWI – property taken* victimisation rates
2000 compared with 1999



2000 compared with 1999

In 2000, separate statistics for this offence category was not available in South Australia and so comparisons between 1999 and 2000 could not be undertaken. The figures for the other six jurisdictions are detailed in Figure 7.7a. As shown, Tasmania was the only state to record a decrease in this victimisation category.

Figure 7.7b
Percentage change in recorded *UEWI – property taken* victimisation rates
2000 compared with 1995

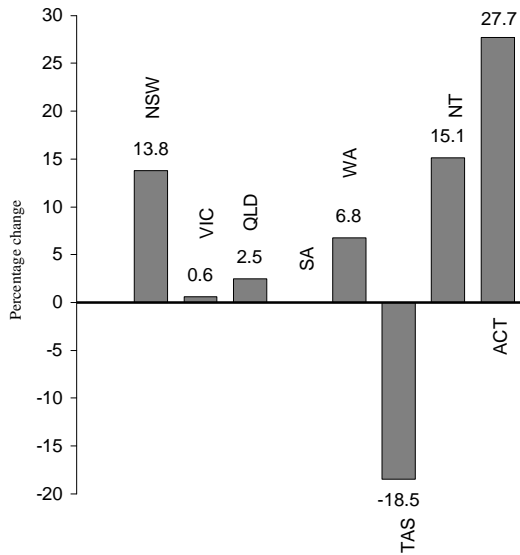


2000 compared with 1995*

Again, South Australian data were not available for this category. Of the other seven jurisdictions, three recorded a decrease over the six year period depicted, while four recorded increases. The largest increase was recorded in the ACT (up 78.4%).

Unlawful entry with intent –other

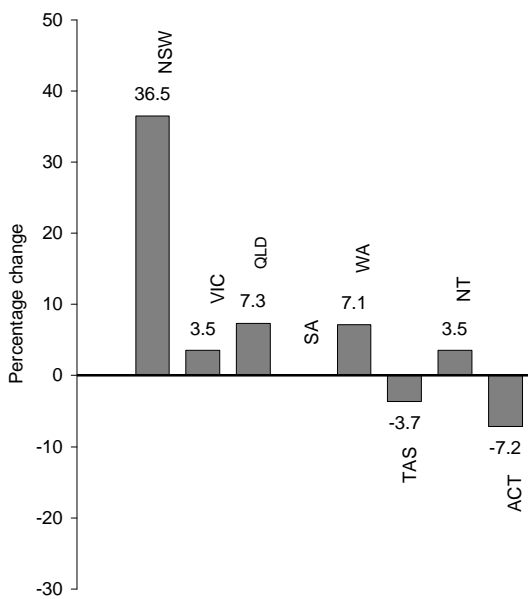
Figure 7.8a
Percentage change in recorded *UEWI – other* victimisation rates
2000 compared with 1999



2000 compared with 1999

Again, separate data for SA were not available in 2000. Of the remaining jurisdictions, only one (Tasmania) recorded a decrease over the past twelve months.

Figure 7.8b
Percentage change in recorded *UEWI – other* victimisation rates
2000 compared with 1995

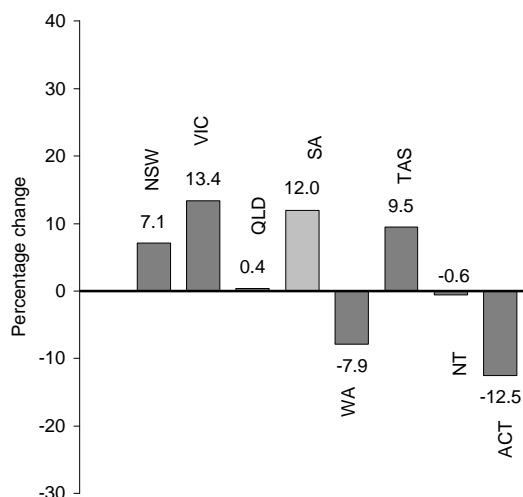


2000 compared with 1995*

South Australian data were not available for *UEWI – other*. For the remaining jurisdictions, all but two recorded increases, with the largest occurring in NSW (up 36.5%).

Vehicle Theft

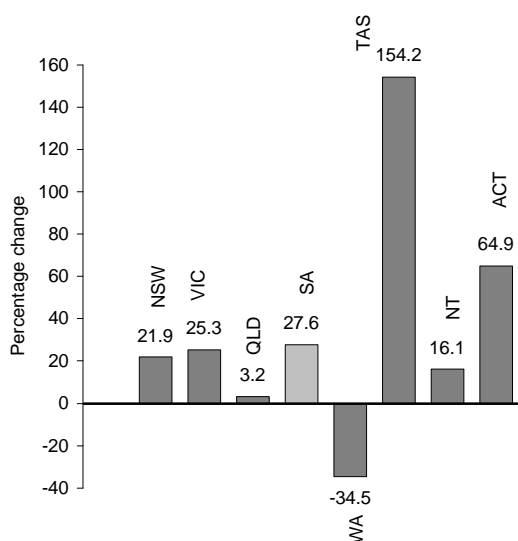
Figure 7.9a
Percentage change in recorded *vehicle theft*
victimisation rates
2000 compared with 1999



2000 compared with 1999

As shown in Figure 7.9a, in 2000, South Australia recorded a rise of 12.0% in the victimisation rate of *vehicle theft*. Three other states also recorded increases over this twelve month period, with one – Queensland - remaining relatively stable. Both the ACT and WA recorded decreases, with the ACT dropping by 12.5%.

Figure 7.9b
Percentage change in recorded *vehicle theft*
victimisation rates
2000 compared with 1993

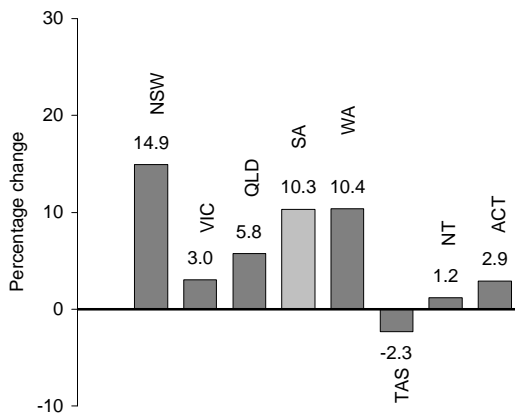


2000 compared with 1993

Over the eight years from 1993 to 2000, the recorded victimisation rate for *vehicle thefts* in South Australia increased by 27.6%. Over the same period, all other states (with the exception of WA) also recorded increases, with the largest being in Tasmania and the ACT. Western Australia was the only state to record a decrease over this eight year period (of 34.5%). The level of increase in SA was fairly comparable with that of Victoria, but noticeably lower than that in the ACT and Tasmania.

Other theft

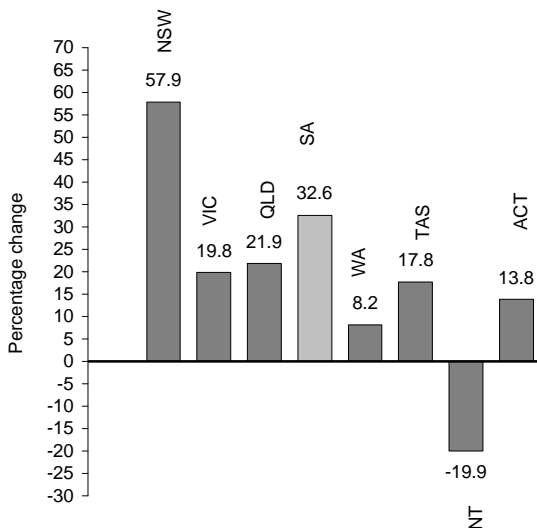
Figure 7.10a
Percentage change in recorded *other theft* victimisation rates
2000 compared with 1999



2000 compared with 1999

Of the eight jurisdictions, all but one recorded increases in *other theft* victimisations, with South Australia recording a 10.3% increase. This is lower than the 14.9% increase recorded in NSW. Only one state – Tasmania – recorded a decrease (of 2.3%).

Figure 7.10b
Percentage change in recorded *other theft* victimisation rates
2000 compared with 1995



2000 compared with 1995

Over this six year period, SA recorded a 32.6% increase in recorded '*other theft*' rates. This was larger than the 10.3% increase observed above for 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 NSW (up 57.9%). The Northern Territory recorded a decrease of 19.9% over this six year period.