



**Crime Mapper 2008-2012
Fact Sheet**

Background

Crime Mapper is an online application that shows the geographic distribution of recorded crime across South Australia. Based on data sourced from SA Police, the tool provides location-based recorded crime statistics according to offence type for five calendar years.

The product allows users to see statistics for individual local government areas along with South Australia as a whole, metropolitan SA and regional SA. For further information, see <http://www.ocsar.sa.gov.au/maps.html>

Trends

Between 2008 and 2012, there was a steady and continuing drop in the number of offences recorded by police. Overall, there were 50,386 fewer offences recorded in 2012 than in 2008 equating to a 20.8 percent reduction over the five-year period.

This decline can largely be attributed to *driving offences* and *offences against property* (down 29,557 and 19,399 respectively).

There was, however, a comparatively small increase of 1,903 in the number of *drug offences* recorded by police.

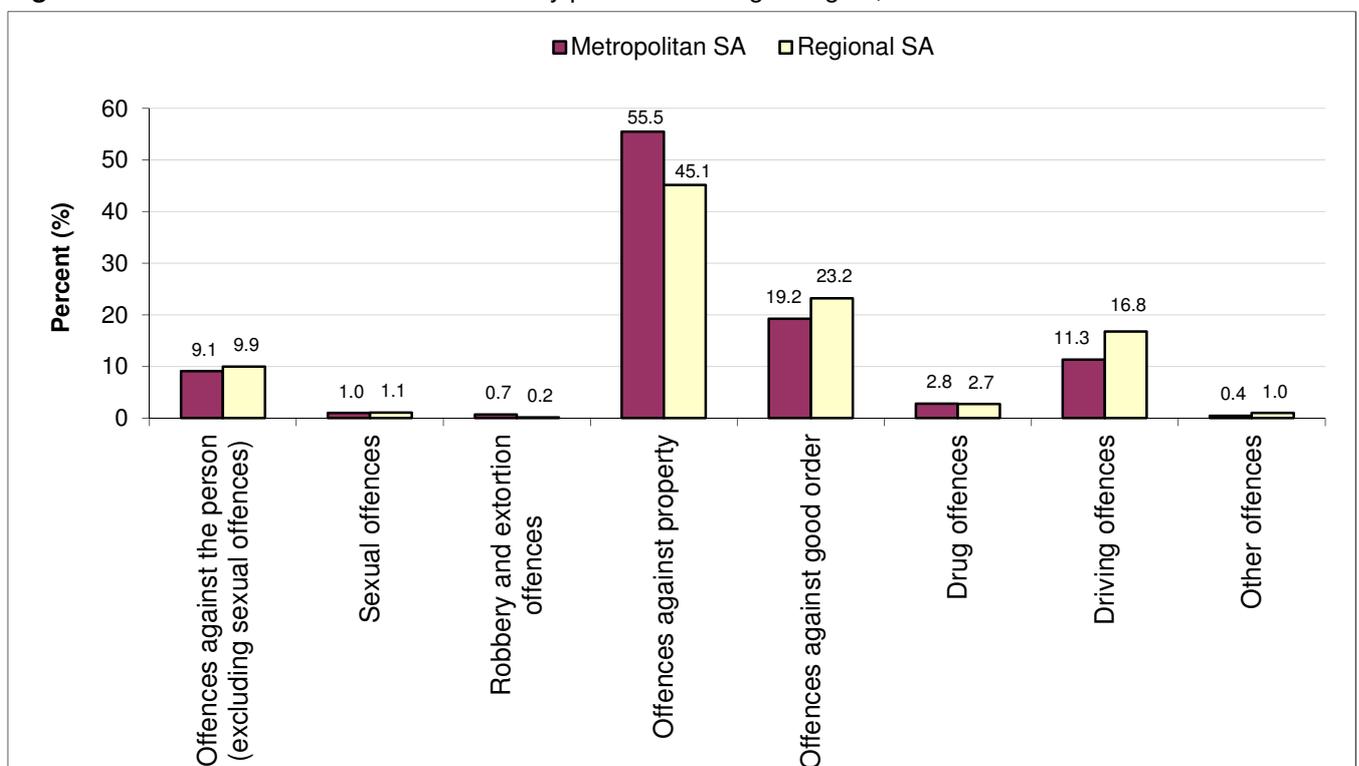
Key Findings

Recorded crime in South Australia, Metropolitan SA and Regional SA

- A total of 191,505 offences were recorded by police across SA in 2012, a rate of 115.62 offences per 1,000 residents. Three quarters of all offences occurred in metropolitan South Australia (118.3 per 1,000 population) and 23.6 percent occurred in regional South Australia (107.5 per 1,000 residents).

Figure 1 compares the 2012 offence profiles of metropolitan South Australia to regional South Australia. In both locations, *offences against property* accounted for the greatest proportion of offences, followed by *offences against good order* and *driving offences*.

Figure 1. Distribution of offences recorded by police according to region, 2012.



Source: Calculated from statistics reported in *Crime Mapper 2008-2012*.

- Between 2008 and 2012, the total number of offences recorded by police decreased by an average of 5.6 percent each year, resulting in a 20.8 percent reduction over the five-year period, or 50,386 fewer offences in 2012 than in 2008 (see Figure 2).

- The observed reduction in recorded crime across South Australia has mostly been due to significant and stable reductions in *driving offences* (down 29,557 offences, or 55.1%) and *offences against property* (down 19,399 offences, or 16.0%). These decreases were offset by comparatively small increases in *drug offences* (up 1,903 offences, or 56.4%).
- The decrease in recorded *driving offences* can largely be attributed to legislative change. The decrease in recorded *property offences* is more difficult to explain.
- The increase in *drug offences* can be explained, at least in part, by a combination of legislative change and increased police activity.

Figure 2. Total offences recorded by police for South Australia, Metropolitan SA and Regional SA, 2008 to 2012.



Source: Crime Mapper 2008-2012.

Recorded crime in South Australia's Local Government Areas (LGAs)

- All metropolitan LGAs recorded a decline in total offence numbers between 2008 and 2012, with reductions ranging from 35.5 percent to 1.3 percent. The number of total recorded offences decreased in the majority of regional LGAs over the same time period with only ten of the 51 regional LGAs recording an increase in total offences.
- In 2012, Adelaide was the only metropolitan LGA to have a rate more than double the metro rate for all major offence categories. Two metropolitan LGAs recorded a high 'ratio to metropolitan SA rate' for at least one major offence category: Playford for *offences against the person* and *robbery and extortion* offences and Gawler for *other offences*.
- Anangu Pitjantjatjara, Coober Pedy and Port Augusta were found to be 'hot spots' for many offences categories, including *offences against the person*, *property offences* and *offences against good order*. Small resident populations coupled with a high transient population may account for some of these findings.

Prepared by Natasha Rose based on the reports *Recorded Crime in South Australia*, *Metropolitan South Australia and Regional South Australia - Crime Mapper 2008-2012* (Steele, H. & Rose, N. (2014)), *Recorded Crime in South Australia's Metropolitan Local Government Areas - Crime Mapper 2008-2012* (Ziersch, E. & Rose, N. (2014)) and *Recorded Crime in South Australia's Regional Local Government Areas - Crime Mapper 2008-2012* (Rose, N. & Steele, H. (2014)).

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