



# Report

## **Recorded Crime in South Australia's Metropolitan Local Government Areas**

*Crime Mapper 2008-2012*

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# Introduction

This report provides an analysis of recorded crime data published in *Crime Mapper 2008-2012*. The report is intended to provide a high level summary of recorded crime in South Australia's metropolitan Local Government Areas (LGAs).

Due to the volume of data contained within *Crime Mapper 2008-2012* it is not possible to provide detailed trend and comparison analyses for each LGA at all offence levels. For the purposes of this report, analyses have been limited to the following:

- LGA recorded crime trends for the eight major offence categories and total recorded offences; and
- LGA rate to metropolitan rate comparisons for the eight major offence categories and total recorded offences.

## Crime Mapper

*Crime Mapper* is an online application that provides the geographic distribution of recorded crime across South Australia. Two units of measurement are reported:

1. Number of offences - provides a count of all offences listed on all incident reports recorded by South Australia Police<sup>1</sup>.
2. Rate per 1,000 estimated residential population - provides the number of offences as a rate per 1,000 population residing in each given location.

Offences are categorised as follows:

- Offences against the person (homicide; major assault; other);
- Sexual offences (rape; indecent assault; unlawful sexual intercourse; other);
- Robbery and extortion offences (armed robbery; unarmed robbery; extortion);
- Offences against property (serious criminal trespass/break and enter; fraud and misappropriation; receiving/illegal possession of stolen goods; larceny/illegal use of a motor vehicle; other larceny; larceny from shops; larceny from a motor vehicle; arson/explosives; property damage and environmental offences);
- Offences against good order;
- Drug offences (possess/use drugs; sell/trade drugs; produce/manufacture drugs; possess implement for drug use; other);
- Driving offences (driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs; dangerous driving; driving licence offences; traffic offences; motor vehicle registration offences; other); or
- Other offences.

Recorded crime statistics are provided for the following geographic areas:

- South Australia;
- Metropolitan South Australia<sup>2</sup>;
- Regional South Australia<sup>3</sup>; and
- South Australian Local Government Areas.

When using *Crime Mapper* it is important to understand that the statistics it contains may not provide an accurate measure of the true prevalence or incidence of crime in a community. *Crime Mapper* statistics represent only those offences reported to police or which come to the attention of police. They can, therefore, be influenced by a number of factors, including victim reporting rates, the identification or detection of offences by police (in the case of 'victimless' crimes) and police interpretation and decision as to whether a crime has occurred. In addition, *Crime Mapper* does not include offences that are dealt with by way of expiation (e.g., speeding, littering, etc.).

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<sup>1</sup> Although *Crime Mapper* statistics are based on data sourced from South Australia Police (SAPOL), there may be slight differences between the offence counts published by SAPOL and those that appear in *Crime Mapper*. This is due to the use of different counting rules and the different classification of some offence types. Therefore, while the two sources of crime data are complementary, they are not comparable.

<sup>2</sup> The definition of Metropolitan South Australia used for *Crime Mapper* has changed for the 2008-2012 release. Previously, Metropolitan South Australia referred to the Adelaide Statistical Division as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS, 2011). Due to changes to the geographical boundaries implemented by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS, 2010), *Crime Mapper* now defines Metropolitan South Australia as the sum of all LGAs that previously fell within the Adelaide Statistical Division whether in total or in part. For further information, please refer to the *Crime Mapper* explanatory notes.

<sup>3</sup> Regional South Australia refers to all areas outside of Metropolitan South Australia.

## Metropolitan LGA recorded crime trends

By reporting the number of recorded offences each year, *Crime Mapper* enables the identification of recorded crime trends (i.e., changes in crime over time) for different geographic locations. The following analysis provides a brief description of the direction (and size) of recorded crime trends for all South Australian metropolitan LGAs between 2008, 2011 and 2012. However, the use of offence numbers (as opposed to offence rates) does have limitations. For example, increases or decreases in population size or composition may account for increases or decreases in offence numbers. Also, due to differing residential population sizes, the number of offences recorded cannot be used to compare crime in different local government areas.

### 2012 versus 2011

As shown in Table 1, the total number of total recorded offences decreased in nearly three-quarters of the metropolitan LGAs (14 out of 19, or 74% of metropolitan LGAs) between 2011 and 2012. Reductions ranged from 21.7 percent in Walkerville to 1.1 percent in Port Adelaide Enfield. Five metropolitan LGAs experienced an increase in the number of total offences recorded between 2011 and 2012:

- Onkaparinga (up 3.5%, or 612 offences);
- Prospect (up 2.1%, or 50 offences);
- Campbelltown (up 1.8%, or 56 offences);
- Gawler (up 1.0%, or 26 offences); and
- Playford (up 0.7%, or 121 offences).

As mentioned previously, an increase in offences recorded does not necessarily indicate an increase in offences occurring in the community. The number of offences recorded can be influenced by an increase in victims' willingness to report offences to police or greater police pro-activity.

**Table 1.** Difference and percentage change in total recorded offences for metropolitan LGAs, 2012 versus 2011.

	Number of total recorded offences		Difference	% change
	2011	2012		
Adelaide	13,154	12,931	- 223	- 1.7
Adelaide Hills	1,841	1,554	- 287	- 15.6
Burnside	2,282	2,180	-102	- 4.5
Campbelltown	3,069	3,125	56	+ 1.8
Charles Sturt	14,636	13,721	- 915	- 6.3
Gawler	2,526	2,552	+ 26	+ 1.0
Holdfast Bay	3,909	3,659	- 250	- 6.4
Marion	9,438	9,064	- 374	- 4.0
Mitcham	4,452	3,833	- 619	- 13.9
Norwood Payneham St Peters	3,662	3,605	- 57	- 1.6
Onkaparinga	17,692	18,304	+ 612	+ 3.5
Playford	16,720	16,841	+ 121	+ 0.7
Port Adelaide Enfield	19,428	19,209	- 219	- 1.1
Prospect	2,330	2,380	+ 50	+ 2.1
Salisbury	17,850	16,798	- 1,052	- 5.9
Tea Tree Gully	8,077	7,315	- 762	- 9.4
Unley	3,089	2,584	- 505	- 16.3
Walkerville	718	562	- 156	- 21.7
West Torrens	6,738	6,030	- 708	- 10.5

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

According to offence category, *property offences* were shown to have decreased in more than 80 percent of metropolitan LGAs (16 of the 19, or 84%) between 2011 and 2012. Reductions ranged from 1,246 offences (down 13.9%) in Charles Sturt to 29 offences (down 0.5%) in Marion. The remaining three LGAs (16% of metropolitan LGAs) experienced increases in *property offences* ranging from an additional 141 offences (up 1.5%) in Onkaparinga to 325 offences (up 3.6%) in Playford.

Similarly, 14 out of 19, or 74 percent of metropolitan LGAs, experienced decreases in *robbery and extortion offences* between 2011 and 2012 - ranging from 20 less offences (down 12.4%) in Adelaide to one offence (down 9.1%) in Burnside. Five metropolitan LGAs showed increases, varying between one extra offence (up 100%) in the Adelaide Hills to 27 offences (up 19.9%) in Salisbury.

In contrast, 12 of the 19 metropolitan LGAs (63%) experienced increases in both *offences against good order* and *sexual offences* in 2012 when compared to 2011.

Increases in *offences against good order* ranged from five offences (up 1.8%) in the Adelaide Hills to 539 offences (up 15.1%) in Adelaide. The remaining seven metropolitan LGAs showed a decline, from 376 offences (down 12.2%) in Salisbury to 18 less offences (down 5.7%) in Prospect.

For the 12 metropolitan LGAs that recorded increases in *sexual offences*, these ranged from 30 offences (up 22.2%) in Playford to two offences each for the metropolitan LGAs of Campbelltown (up 4.9%), Prospect (up 10.0%), Walkerville (up 50.0%) and West Torrens (up 4.3%). Six<sup>4</sup>, or 32 percent of metropolitan LGAs recorded decreases - from seven offences (down 28.0%) in the Adelaide Hills to one less offence (down 5.0%) in Burnside.

## Five-year recorded crime trends

Recorded crime decreased in all metropolitan LGAs over the five-year period, 2008 to 2012. As shown in Table 2, reductions ranged from 35.5 percent (309 offences) in Walkerville to 1.3 percent (225 offences) in Playford. Although Walkerville had the highest percentage decline, Port Adelaide Enfield had the greatest decline in the number of offences at 5,038 (20.8%).

**Table 2.** Difference and percentage change in total recorded offences for metropolitan LGAs, 2012 versus 2008.

	Number of total recorded offences		Difference	% change
	2008	2012		
Adelaide	17,600	12,931	- 4,669	- 26.5
Adelaide Hills	2,140	1,554	- 586	- 27.4
Burnside	3,142	2,180	- 962	- 30.6
Campbelltown	4,280	3,125	- 1,155	- 27.0
Charles Sturt	17,596	13,721	- 3,875	- 22.0
Gawler	3,446	2,552	- 894	- 25.9
Holdfast Bay	4,962	3,659	- 1,303	- 26.3
Marion	11,457	9,064	- 2,393	- 20.9
Mitcham	5,590	3,833	- 1,757	- 31.4
Norwood Payneham St Peters	5,493	3,605	- 1,888	- 34.4
Onkaparinga	21,417	18,304	- 3,113	- 14.5
Playford	17,066	16,841	- 225	- 1.3
Port Adelaide Enfield	24,247	19,209	- 5,038	- 20.8
Prospect	3,018	2,380	- 638	- 21.1
Salisbury	20,626	16,798	- 3,828	- 18.6
Tea Tree Gully	10,518	7,315	- 3,203	- 30.5
Unley	3,578	2,584	- 994	- 27.8
Walkerville	871	562	- 309	- 35.5
West Torrens	8,817	6,030	- 2,787	- 31.6

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

Tables 3 and 4 compare number of offences for 2008 and 2012, by LGA, for *property, driving and drug offences*. These were the three offence types to show the greatest change over the period. All metropolitan LGAs recorded decreases in *driving offences* over the five-year period while the vast majority of LGAs recorded a reduction in *property offences* with the exception of Onkaparinga (up 31 offences, or 0.3%) and Playford (up 687 offences, or 8.0%) (see Table 3).

The decrease in recorded *driving offences* can largely be attributed to legislative change. Changes to the *Motor Vehicles Regulations 1996*, which made offences relating to driving unregistered and uninsured expiable, came into operation on 1 June 2009 (expiable offences are not counted in *Crime Mapper*). Consequently, recorded motor vehicle registration offences decreased from 25,521 in 2008 to 3,438 in

<sup>4</sup> One metropolitan LGA experienced no change in the number of recorded *sexual offences*.

2012 state-wide (a reduction of 22,083 recorded offences) accounting for three quarters of the observed decrease in *driving offences* across South Australia.

The decrease in recorded *property offences* is more difficult to explain. According to research undertaken in New South Wales, property crime rates are influenced by a range of factors including drug use, the criminal justice response to property crime, and economic factors (Moffatt, Weatherburn & Donnelly, 2005). It is not known for certain what factors account for this continuing decline in property crime in South Australia, but it is noted that this trend is consistent with those observed nationally (AIC, 2013) and overseas (UK Office for National Statistics, 2014; US Department of Justice, 2013).

Although increases in *drug offences* were experienced in the majority of metropolitan LGAs, the number of offences recorded in this offence category is likely to be due to a combination of legislative change and pro-active policing over the period. Legislative changes creating new offences relating to the selling of equipment for the use or consumption of drugs<sup>5</sup>, the manufacture and cultivation of drugs<sup>6</sup> and instructions for the manufacture or cultivation of drugs<sup>7</sup> came into effect over the five-year period. During the same period, SAPOL regularly undertook specialised policing operations targeting drug-related crimes, particularly the sale and trafficking of controlled drugs (SAPOL Annual Reports, 2008; 2013).

**Table 3.** Difference and percentage change in recorded *property* and *driving offences* for metropolitan LGAs, 2012 versus 2008.

	Property offences				Driving offences			
	2008	2012	Difference	% change	2008	2012	Difference	% change
Adelaide	7,655	5,357	- 2,298	- 30.0	3,394	1,336	- 2,058	- 60.6
Adelaide Hills	1,081	825	- 256	- 23.7	562	250	- 312	- 55.5
Burnside	2,021	1,497	- 524	- 25.9	584	234	- 350	- 59.9
Campbelltown	2,458	1,755	- 703	- 28.6	840	361	- 479	- 57.0
Charles Sturt	9,861	7,723	- 2,138	- 21.7	3,815	1,631	- 2,184	- 57.2
Gawler	1,525	1,262	- 263	- 17.2	829	405	- 424	- 51.1
Holdfast Bay	2,778	2,122	- 656	- 23.6	900	472	- 428	- 47.6
Marion	6,577	5,608	- 969	- 14.7	1,886	777	- 1,109	- 58.8
Mitcham	3,543	2,462	- 1,081	- 30.5	919	385	- 534	- 58.1
Norwood Payneham St Peters	2,966	1,995	- 971	- 32.7	1,524	661	- 863	- 56.6
Onkaparinga	9,771	9,802	+ 31	+ 0.3	4,991	2,031	- 2,960	- 59.3
Playford	8,623	9,310	+ 687	+ 8.0	3,649	1,825	- 1,824	- 50.0
Port Adelaide Enfield	11,894	10,200	- 1,694	- 14.2	5,753	2,296	- 3,457	- 60.1
Prospect	1,873	1,571	- 302	- 16.1	636	227	- 409	- 64.3
Salisbury	10,831	9,722	- 1,109	- 10.2	4,120	1,792	- 2,328	- 56.5
Tea Tree Gully	5,910	4,388	- 1,522	- 25.8	1,827	661	- 1,166	- 63.8
Unley	2,427	1,693	- 734	- 30.2	476	285	- 191	- 40.1
Walkerville	533	372	- 161	- 30.2	196	63	- 133	- 67.9
West Torrens	4,720	3,489	- 1,231	- 26.1	2,148	845	- 1,303	- 60.7

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

<sup>5</sup> Summary Offences (Drug Paraphernalia) Amendment Act 2008

<sup>6</sup> Controlled Substances (Possession of Prescribed Equipment) Act 2007

<sup>7</sup> Controlled Substances (Offences Relating to Instructions) Amendment Act 2011

**Table 4.** Difference and percentage change in recorded *drug offences* for metropolitan LGAs, 2012 versus 2008.

	Drug offences			
	2007	2011	Difference	% change
Adelaide	253	231	- 22	- 8.7
Adelaide Hills	20	26	+ 6	+ 30.0
Burnside	39	36	- 3	- 7.7
Campbelltown	52	141	+ 89	+ 171.2
Charles Sturt	265	462	+ 197	+ 74.3
Gawler	45	46	+ 1	+ 2.2
Holdfast Bay	24	57	+ 33	+ 137.5
Marion	128	164	+ 36	+ 28.1
Mitcham	31	93	+62	+ 200.0
Norwood Payneham St Peters	55	106	+ 51	+ 92.7
Onkaparinga	328	522	+ 194	+ 59.1
Playford	243	430	+ 187	+ 77.0
Port Adelaide Enfield	382	573	+ 191	+ 50.0
Prospect	31	67	+ 36	+ 116.1
Salisbury	396	576	+ 180	+ 45.5
Tea Tree Gully	188	264	+ 76	+ 40.4
Unley	37	41	+ 4	+ 10.8
Walkerville	2	8	+ 6	+ 300.0
West Torrens	143	209	+ 66	+ 46.2

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

## LGA to metropolitan ratio comparisons

Using rates per 1,000 residents, it is possible to identify LGA 'hot spots' for particular offence types. This is done by calculating each LGA's 'ratio to metropolitan rate' for each offence type. The 'ratio to metropolitan rate' compares the LGA offence rate per 1,000 residents for a particular offence type to the corresponding metropolitan South Australia rate per 1,000 residents. A ratio of one indicates parity with the metropolitan rate. Ratios of more than double the metropolitan rate are considered to be high whilst ratios of half or less of the metropolitan rate are considered to be low<sup>8</sup>.

In 2012, Adelaide was the only LGA to have a rate more than double the metropolitan rate for all major offence categories. However, this is not necessarily a true reflection of the actual rate of crime in Adelaide since the residential population used to calculate the rate is much lower than the population using the area for work and entertainment.

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*.

In total, seven metropolitan LGAs were found to have a low 'ratio to metropolitan rate' (i.e., half or less the metropolitan rate) for at least one major offence category. These are shown in Table 5.

**Table 5.** Metropolitan LGAs with a low ratio to metropolitan SA rate by major offence category, 2012.

	Against person (excl. sexual)	Sexual	Robbery & Extortion	Property	Good order	Drug	Driving	Other
Adelaide Hills	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Burnside	●	●	●		●	●	●	●
Campbelltown			●		●			●
Holdfast Bay						●		●
Mitcham	●	●	●		●	●	●	●
Unley	●		●		●	●		●
Walkerville	●		●		●	●		●

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

<sup>8</sup> In accordance with BOCSAR, 2012.



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