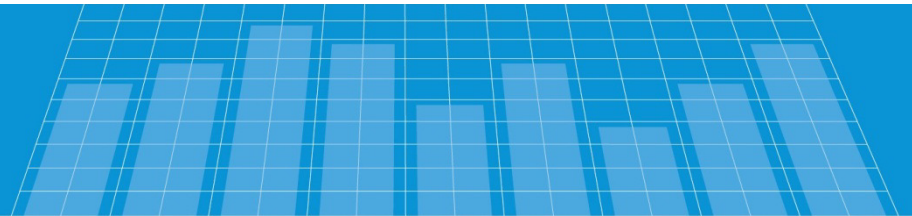




Statistical Overview



Australian Bureau of Statistics

Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2015

The South Australian Perspective

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Introduction

This Information Bulletin summarises the key South Australian findings from *Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2015* (cat. no. 4510.0) released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on July 13 2016. This annual publication provides information on the number of victims of a selected range of offences brought to the attention of police in Australia, and recorded by them in the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015. The report also provides data from previous years to allow for comparisons over time.

In interpreting the statistics contained in *Recorded Crime - Victims* it should be noted that the figures:

- do not necessarily equate with the actual incidence of offending in the community, as not all crimes are reported to or recorded by police;
- do not enumerate the total number of *unique* persons or organisations. A person who is the victim of two different offence types will be recorded against each offence type. Aggregating the number of victimisations in each category will therefore overcount the total number of unique victims; and
- only selected offence types are included in the report.

Further details regarding the counting rules and limitations of *Recorded Crime - Victims* is included in the Appendix.

South Australia: 2015 compared with 2014

Table 1 details the changes in the actual number of victimisations recorded in South Australia in 2015 compared to 2014. As shown, decreases were recorded in six of the 15 selected offence categories in 2015, including a substantial decrease in *robbery* offences (down 23.1%) and a 3.1 percent decrease in *motor vehicle theft*. An increase in the number of victimisations was recorded for *assault* (up by 7.9%), *other theft* (up 6.2%), *other unlawful entry with intent* (3.5%) and *sexual assault* (2.9%). Increases were also recorded for *total homicide and related offences*, *murder*, *kidnapping/abduction* and *blackmail/extortion*, but the number of victimisations in these categories were small.

Table 1 Number of victimisations per offence category recorded, South Australia, 2014 and 2015

Offence group	Number of victims		% change	
	2014	2015	Decrease	Increase
Homicide and related offences	34	35		*
<i>Murder</i>	13	20		*
<i>Attempted murder</i>	17	14	*	
Assault	16,005	17,270		+7.9
Sexual assault	1,545	1,590		+2.9
Kidnapping/abduction	67	81		+20.9
Robbery (total)	737	567	-23.1	
<i>Armed robbery</i>	380	296	-22.1	
<i>Unarmed robbery</i>	360	266	-26.1	
Blackmail/extortion	53	64		+20.8
Unlawful entry with intent (UEWI)	13,070	13,217		+1.1
<i>UEWI - involving the taking of property</i>	8,579	8,577	-0.02	
<i>UEWI - other</i>	4,483	4,641		+3.5
Motor vehicle theft	3,319	3,217	-3.1	
Other theft	34,962	37,128		+6.2

* Percentage change has not been calculated for homicide and related offences, due to small numbers.

South Australia compared with Australia, 2015

Table 2 compares the victimisation rate in South Australia in 2015 with that of Australia as a whole, for offence types where a rate was provided. South Australia was higher than the national rate for all offence types listed. However, excluding *sexual assault*, the rates for these offences were very low and the differences for most were very small.

Compared with other states and territories, South Australia had the highest rate per 100,000 population for *kidnapping/abduction*, the second highest rate for *murder* (equal with Queensland) and the third highest rate for *homicide and related offences*, *sexual assault* and *attempted murder*.

Table 2 Victimisation rate per 100,000 population for selected offences in 2015, South Australia compared with Australia

Offence group	Rate per 100,000 population			
	SA	Australia	SA compared to Australia	SA ranking compared with other states/territories (1st=highest)
Homicide and related offences	2.1	1.7	Higher	3rd
<i>Murder</i>	1.2	1.0	Higher	Equal 2nd
<i>Attempted murder</i>	0.8	0.6	Higher	3rd
Sexual assault	93.6	89.9	Higher	3rd
Kidnapping/abduction	4.8	2.2	Higher	1st

Notes:

- Data not available for *assault*, *robbery*, *blackmail/extortion*, *UEWI*, *motor vehicle theft* and *other theft*.
- *Murder* data not available for the ACT.
- *Attempted murder* data not available for the ACT and Tasmania.

South Australian trends over time

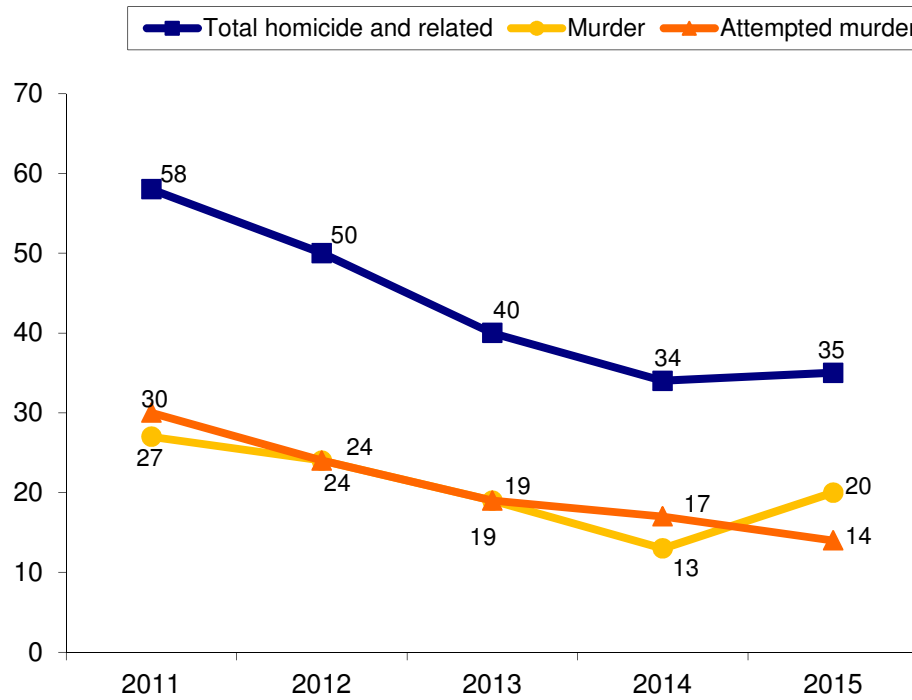
The following section considers trends over time in the number of victimisations recorded in South Australia between 2011 and 2015.

Homicide and related offences

As Figure 1 indicates, the number of victims of *homicide and related offences* has remained relatively low over the past five years, declining since 2011. The number of *murder* victimisations increased from 13 in 2014 to 20 in 2015, but was still lower than the figures recorded in 2011 and 2012.

The victimisation rate (per 100,000 population) of *homicide and related offences* was 2.1 in 2015, which was very similar to the rate in 2014 (2.0).

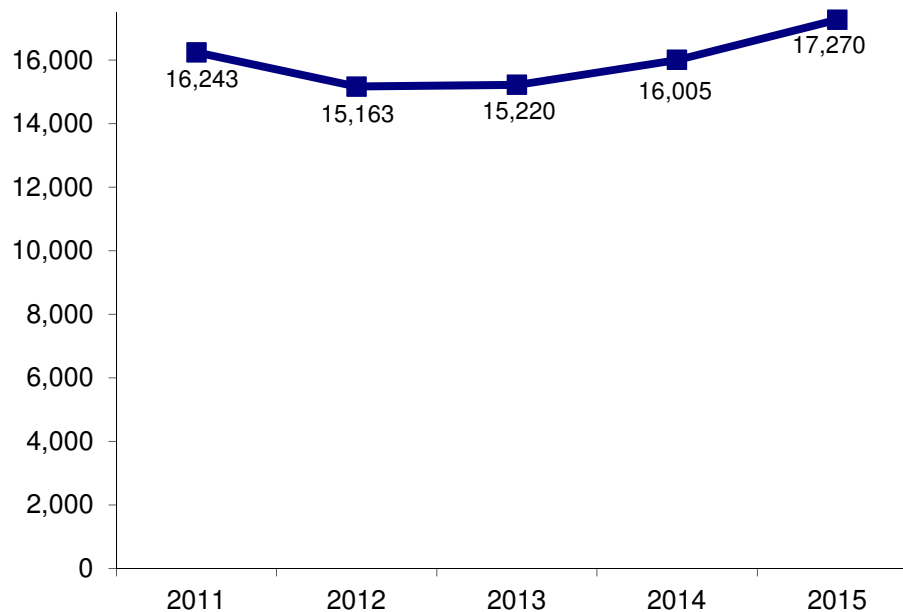
Figure 1 Number of victims of *homicide and related offences*, South Australia, 2011 to 2015



Assault

The number of recorded *assault* victimisations increased in 2015 compared with 2014 by 1,265 (7.9%), following on from an increase of 5.2 percent in 2014. The 2015 figure is now the highest recorded in the period 2011 to 2015. Between 2014 and 2015 the assault victimisation rate increased by 67.1 per 100,000 population (from 949.5 in 2014 to 1016.7 in 2015).

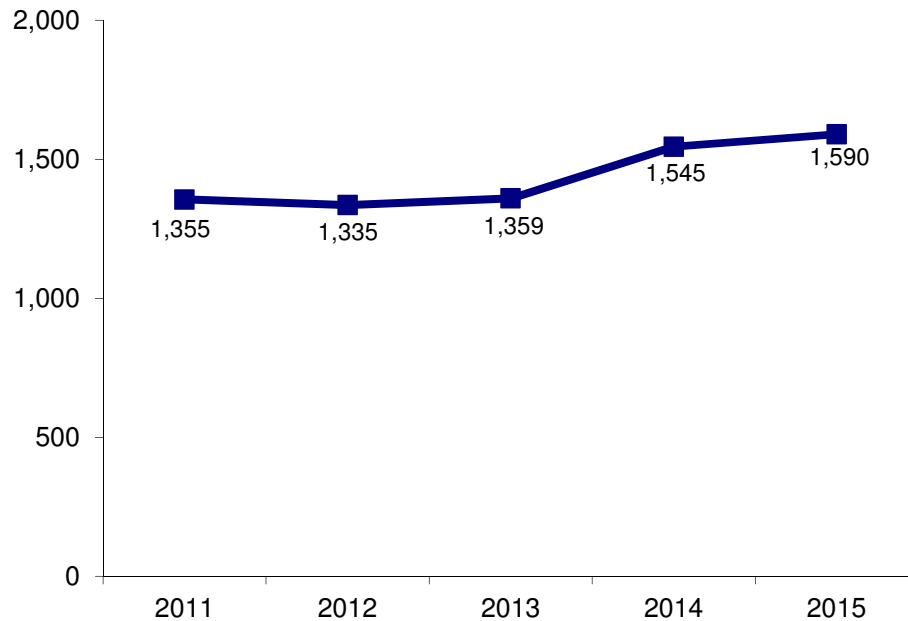
Figure 2 Number of victims of *assault*, South Australia, 2011 to 2015



Sexual assault

The number of *sexual assault* victims increased by 45 (2.9%) in 2015 (compared with an increase of 186 (13.7) in 2014). The 2015 sexual assault victimisation rate per 100,000 population was 93.6 in 2015, up from 91.7 in 2014.

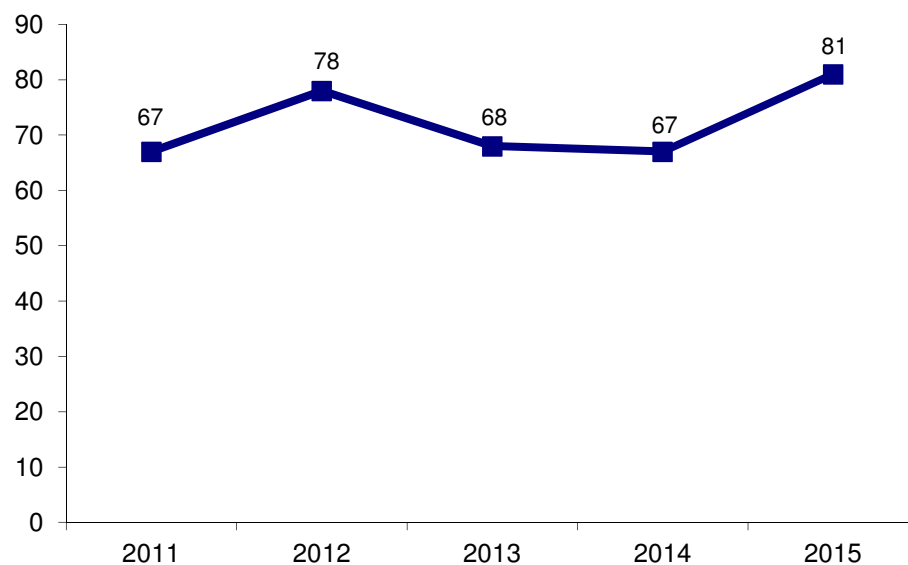
Figure 3 Number of victims of *sexual assault*, South Australia, 2011 to 2015



Kidnapping/abduction

The number of recorded victimisations for *kidnapping/abduction* increased from 67 in 2014 to 81 in 2015 (up by 20.9%). This increase was reflected in the 2015 kidnapping/abduction victimisation rate per 100,000 population (4.8, compared with 4.0 in 2014).

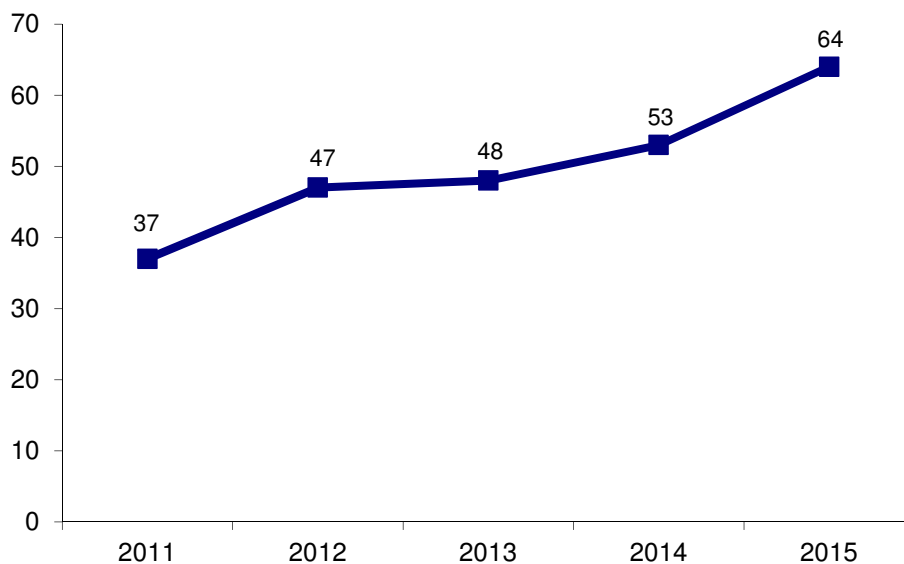
Figure 4 Number of victims of *kidnapping/abduction*, South Australia, 2011 to 2015



Blackmail/extortion

The number of *blackmail/extortion* victimisations has increased steadily in South Australia between 2011 and 2015, with 27 more victims recorded in 2015 compared with 2011.

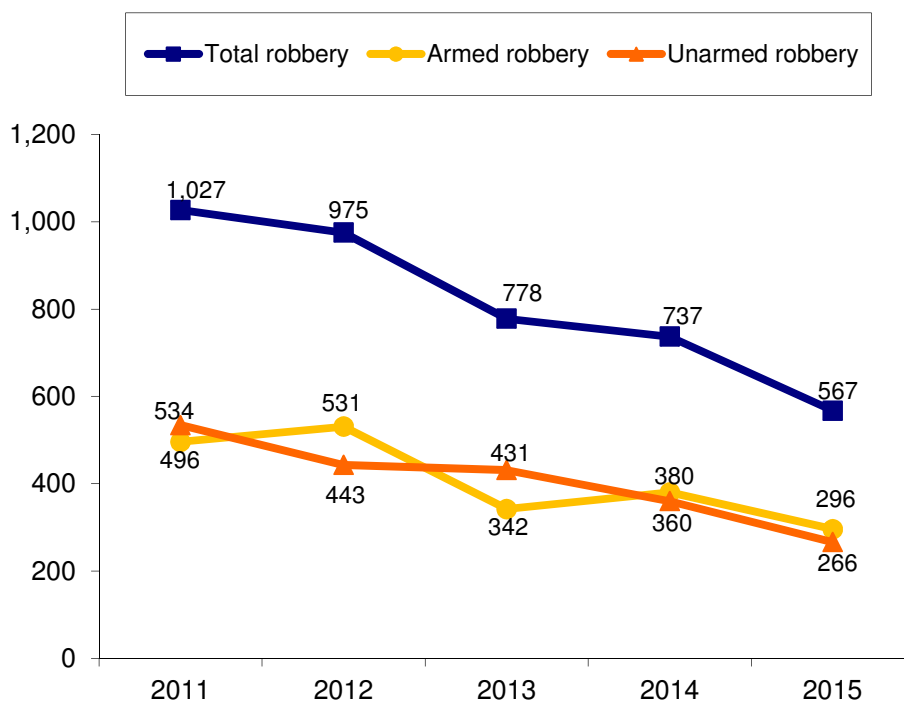
Figure 5 Number of victims of *blackmail/extortion*, South Australia, 2011 to 2015



Robbery

The number of victimisations recorded in all three robbery categories decreased substantially in 2015, with the number of *total robbery* victimisations in 2015 nearly half the figure recorded in 2011 (down by 44.8% or 460 victimisations).

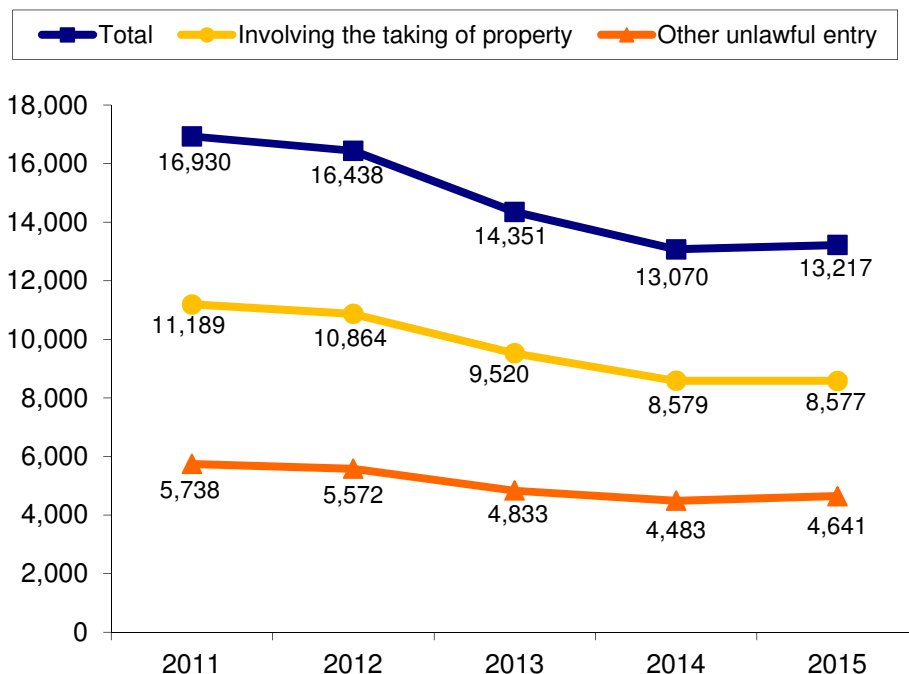
Figure 6 Number of victims of *robbery*, South Australia, 2011 to 2015



Unlawful entry with intent (UEWI)

The number of *unlawful entry with intent* victimisations increased slightly in 2015 (up by 147 or 1.1%), mainly due to an increase in the number of *other UEWI* victimisations (i.e. that did not involve the taking of property). The 2015 figure was still 21.9 percent lower than the figure recorded in 2011.

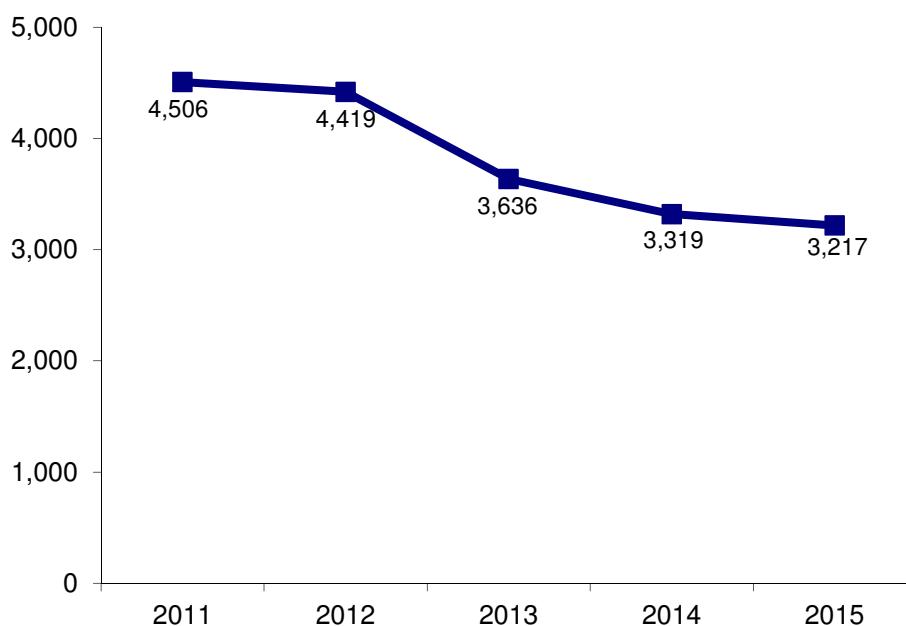
Figure 7 Number of victims of *unlawful entry with intent*, South Australia, 2011 to 2015



Motor vehicle theft

The number of South Australian *motor vehicle theft* victimisations decreased again in 2015 (by 102 or 3.1%). The 2015 figure of 3,217 is now 28.6 percent lower than the number of victimisations recorded in 2011.

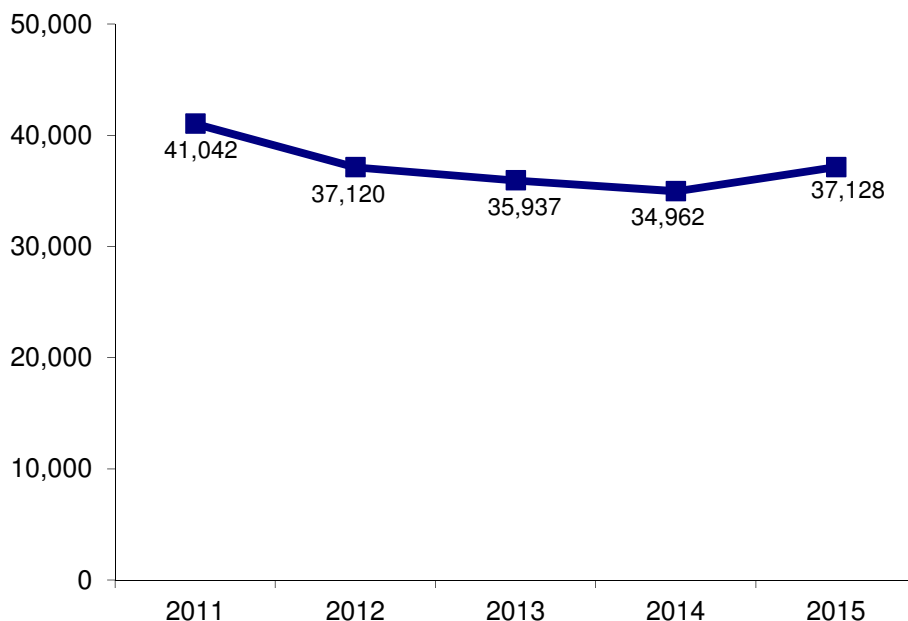
Figure 8 Number of victims of *motor vehicle theft*, South Australia, 2011 to 2015



Other theft

The number of *other theft* victimisations in South Australia increased in 2015 (by 2,166 or 6.2%). However, the latest recorded figure is still lower than that recorded in 2011 (representing a drop of 3,914 victimisations).

Figure 9 Number of victims of *other theft*, South Australia, 2011 to 2015



Age and sex of victims - selected offences, 2015

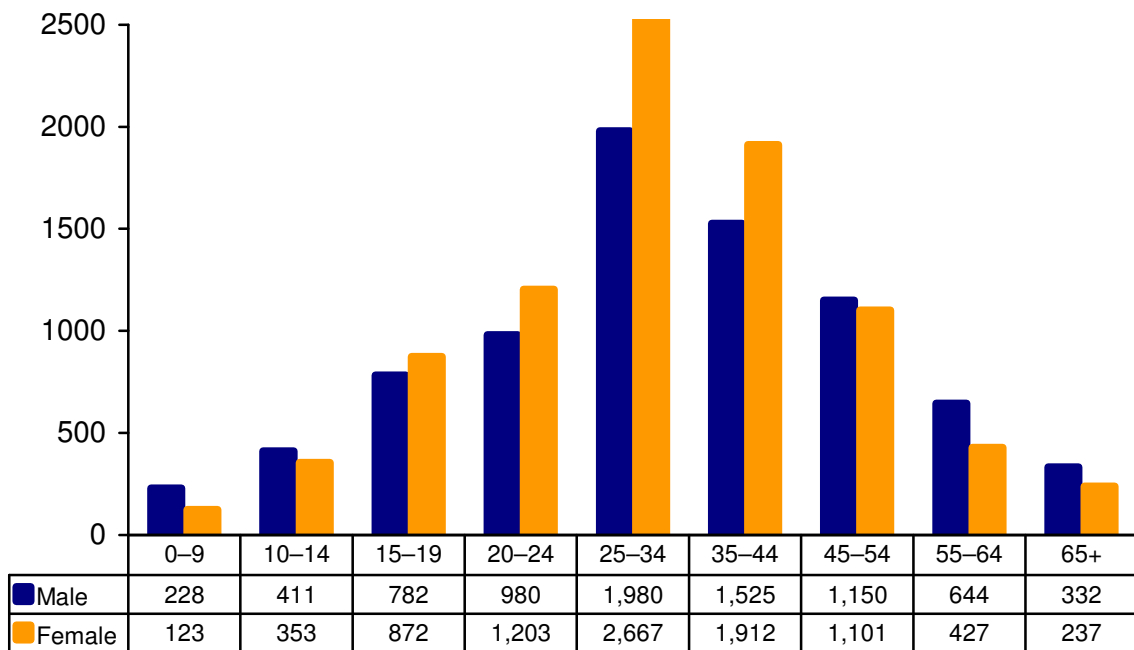
The following section looks at the age and sex of recorded victimisations in 2015 by selected offence category.

Recorded Crime - Victims provides information on the number of victims by age and sex for *assault, sexual assault, robbery, homicide and related offences, kidnapping/abduction* and *blackmail/extortion*. However, only the offence categories with sufficiently large numbers (e.g., *assault, sexual assault* and *robbery*) are considered here.

Assault by sex and age

As shown in Figure 10, the number of *assault* victimisations in 2015 peaked in the 25-34 age range for both male and female victims. The number of male *assault* victimisations was higher than female victimisations for the age groups 0 to 14 years and 45 years or older. Conversely, there was a greater number of female *assault* victimisations in the 15 to 44 years age range.

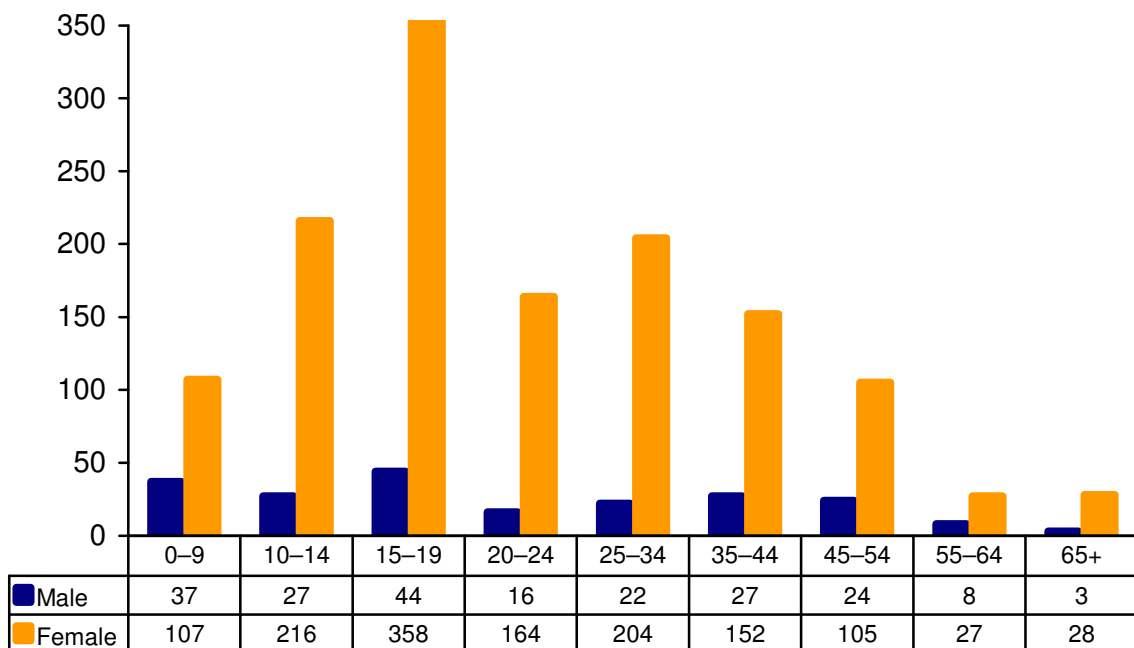
Figure 10 Number of victims of *assault* by age and sex, South Australia, 2015



Sexual Assault by sex and age

Figure 11 shows that in South Australia during 2015, there were substantially higher numbers of female victims of *sexual assault* across all age ranges.

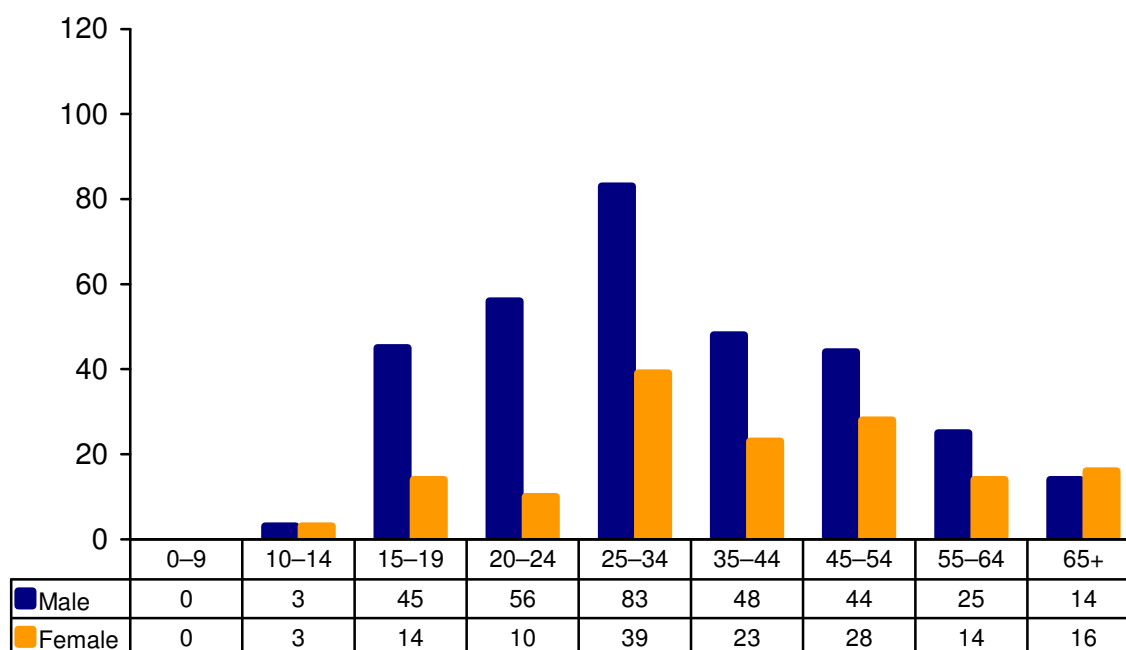
Figure 11 Number of victims of *sexual assault* by age and sex, South Australia, 2015



Robbery by sex and age

In contrast to *sexual assault*, 2015 figures show a higher number of male victims of *robbery* across all age groups except 65+. The 25-34 years age category had the highest number of victimisations for both males and females.

Figure 12 Number of victims of robbery by age and sex, South Australia, 2015



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims compared with non-Aboriginal victims, 2015

Rates per 100,000 population

As shown in Table 3, victimisation rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons were much higher than non-Aboriginal persons, for the majority of offence types where rates were reported. In particular, the *assault* victimisation rate was six times higher, *sexual assault* three times higher and *robbery* 1.4 times than the rate for non-Aboriginal persons.

Table 3 Victimisation rates for selected offences by Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander status, South Australia 2015

Offence group	Rate per 100,000 population	
	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Non- Aboriginal
Homicide and related offences	17.2	1.3
Assault	5410.1	877.6
Sexual assault	297.7	85.2
Kidnapping/abduction	22.1	4.2
Robbery (total)	36.9	26.0
<i>Armed robbery</i>	24.6	13.0
<i>Unarmed robbery</i>	17.2	13.0
Blackmail/extortion	0.0	3.2

Relationship of offender to victim - assault and sexual assault

Assault

Over two-thirds of South Australian *assault* victims in 2015 knew their offender (69.2%), with one-third (33.3%) of offenders being family members (including 19.7% partners and 4.3% parents). Ex-partners accounted for 11.1% of *assault* victimisations.

The relationship of the offender to the victim varied according to the sex of the victim. A much higher percentage of female *assault* victimisations involved an offender known to the victim (84.1% compared with 53.1% for male *assault* victimisations). Just under half (47.6%) of female *assault* victimisations involved a family member compared with only 17.7% of male *assault* victimisations.

Sexual assault

The majority of South Australian *sexual assault* victims in 2015 knew their offender (80.3%) with just under one-third of offenders (32.2%) being family members (including 10.6% parents and 10.0% partners). Ex-partners accounted for 7.0% of *sexual assault* victimisations.

Female victims were more likely than male victims to be sexually assaulted by a partner or ex-partner (partners: 10.9% of female victimisations compared with 2.4% of male victimisations; ex-partners: 7.6% for females compared with 1.4% for males).

Use of weapon

Weapons used in the commission of offences were recorded for *murder*, *attempted murder*, *assault*, *sexual assault*, *kidnapping/abduction* and *robbery*.

In 2015, no weapon was used in the commission of the majority of offences of *sexual assault* (96.6%) and *kidnapping/abduction* (80.3%). In contrast, 19 of the 20 *murders* and 12 of the 14 *attempted murders* involved a weapon.

Assault

For the 17,270 *assault* victimisations reported during 2015, a considerable majority had no weapon recorded as being used (78.2%). Where a weapon was used, the most frequently recorded weapon was 'knife' (5.4%), and 'bat/bar/club' (3.4%). Firearms were recorded as being used for *assault* in only 0.4 percent of victimisations.

Robbery

Of the 567 *robbery* victimisations recorded in 2015, 52.2 percent involved a weapon. The most frequently recorded weapon was 'knife' (24.7% of all robbery offences), followed by 'bat/bar/club' (8.1%). A firearm was recorded in 5.1 percent of *robbery* victimisations.

Appendix

Methodology

- The statistics presented in the ABS report are official crime statistics as recorded by police in their administrative data sets and do not necessarily equate with the actual incidence of offending in the community, as not all crimes are reported to or recorded by police.
- A victim can be a person, a premises, an organisation, or a motor vehicle depending on the type of offence.
- Only selected offences are included in the report. These are:
 - Homicide and related offences;
 - Assault;
 - Sexual assault;
 - Kidnapping/abduction;
 - Robbery;
 - Blackmail/extortion;
 - Unlawful entry with intent;
 - Motor vehicle theft; and
 - Other theft.
- These statistics are not designed to provide counts of either the total number of victims, nor the total number of individual offences that come to the attention of police as:
 - The same victim may be counted more than once in incidents involving multiple offences where these offences are of different types (i.e. belong to different Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC) divisions), or, if the same person is a victim on more than one occasion in the same reference year and reports these incidents to police on separate occasions.
 - Conversely, for an incident involving multiple offences that belong to the same ANZSOC division offence category, only the most serious offence within that ANZSOC division is counted.
- Victimization rates are expressed as victims per 100,000 of the ABS *Estimated Resident Population* (ERP). These rates generally accord with international and state and territory practice, and are calculated using the midpoint of the reference period (i.e. 30 June).
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victimisation rates are expressed per 100,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.
- For some offence types – notably *homicide and related offences, kidnapping and abduction and blackmail/extortion* – numbers are extremely low and tend to fluctuate considerably from one year to another. Because of the small numbers involved, minor shifts in the actual numbers recorded by police will result in large (and therefore potentially misleading) percentage changes.
- With the exception of *murder and motor vehicle theft*, in all other categories actual and attempted incidents are combined. *Unlawful entry with intent*, for example, includes both successful unlawful entries as well as attempts.
- The relationship of offender to victim information is initially recorded as the relationship as perceived by the victim at the time of the offence, with some jurisdictions updating this data item as the investigation progresses.