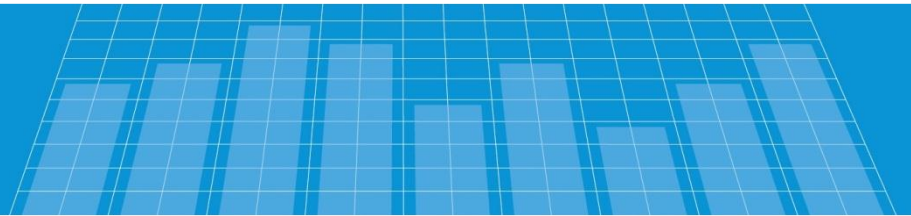




Statistical Overview



Australian Bureau of Statistics

Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2014

The South Australian Perspective

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Introduction

This Information Bulletin summarises the key South Australian findings from *Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2014* (cat. no. 4510.0) released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on July 22 2015. 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 2014 to 31 December 2014. 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 over count 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 Appendices A and B.

South Australia: 2014 compared with 2013

Table 1 details the changes in the actual number of victimisations recorded in South Australia in 2014 compared to 2013. As shown, decreases were recorded in 11 of the 16 offence categories in 2014. An increase in the number of victimisations was recorded for *assault, sexual assault, armed robbery, blackmail/extortion* and *manslaughter*.

Table 1 Number of victims per offence category recorded, South Australia, 2013 and 2014

Offence group	Number of victims		% change	
	2013	2014	Decrease	Increase
Homicide and related offences	38	37	-2.6	
Murder	21	11	-47.6	
Attempted murder	16	15	-6.3	
Manslaughter	4	7		*
Assault	15,220	16,005		5.2
Sexual assault	1,359	1,545		13.7
Kidnapping/abduction	68	67	-1.5	
Robbery (total)	778	737	-5.3	
Armed robbery	342	380		11.1
Unarmed robbery	431	360	-16.5	
Blackmail/extortion	48	53		10.4
Unlawful entry with intent (UEWI)	14,351	13,070	-8.9	
UEWI - involving the taking of property	9,520	8,579	-9.9	
UEWI - other	4,833	4,483	-7.2	
Motor vehicle theft	3,636	3,319	-8.7	
Other theft	35,937	34,962	-2.7	

* Percentage changes have not been calculated for manslaughter due to the small total numbers.

South Australia compared with Australia, 2014

Table 2 compares the victimisation rate in South Australia in 2014 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 except *murder*. 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 for *manslaughter* and the seventh highest (i.e. lowest) rate for *murder*.

Table 2 Victimisation rate per 100,000 population for selected offences in 2014, South Australia compared with Australia

Offence group	Rate per 100,000 population			SA ranking compared with other states/territories (1=highest)
	SA	Australia	SA compared to Australia	
Homicide and related offences	2.2	1.8	Higher	4
Murder	0.7	1.0	Lower	7
Attempted murder	0.9	0.6	Higher	3
Manslaughter	0.4	0.1	Higher	1
Sexual assault	91.7	88.0	Higher	3
Kidnapping/abduction	4.0	2.3	Higher	2

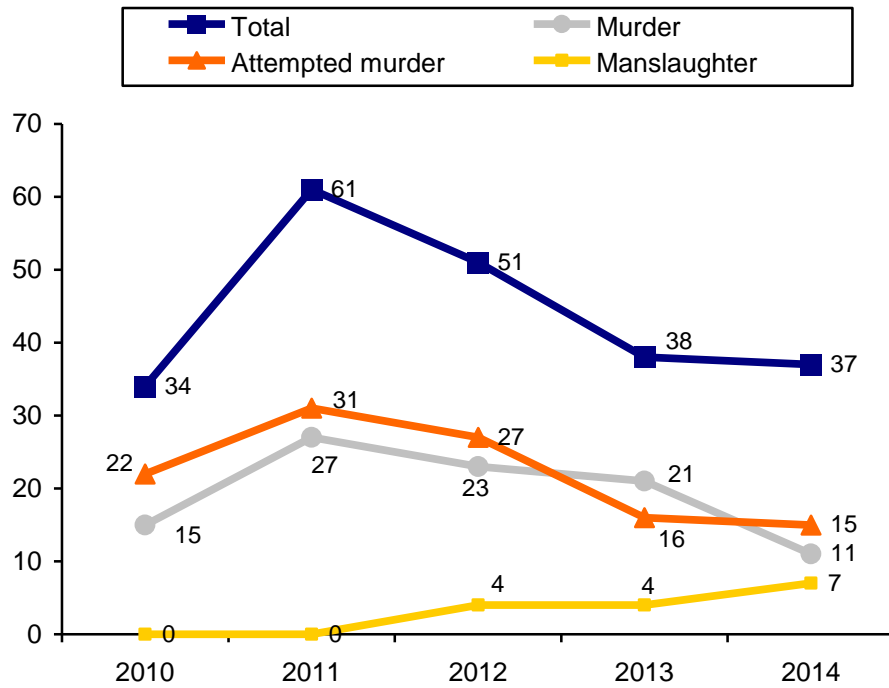
South Australian trends over time

The following section considers trends over time in the number of victimisations recorded in South Australia between 2010 and 2014.

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 victimisation rate (per 100,000 population) of *homicide and related offences* was 2.2 in 2014, which was very similar to the rate in 2010 (not shown).

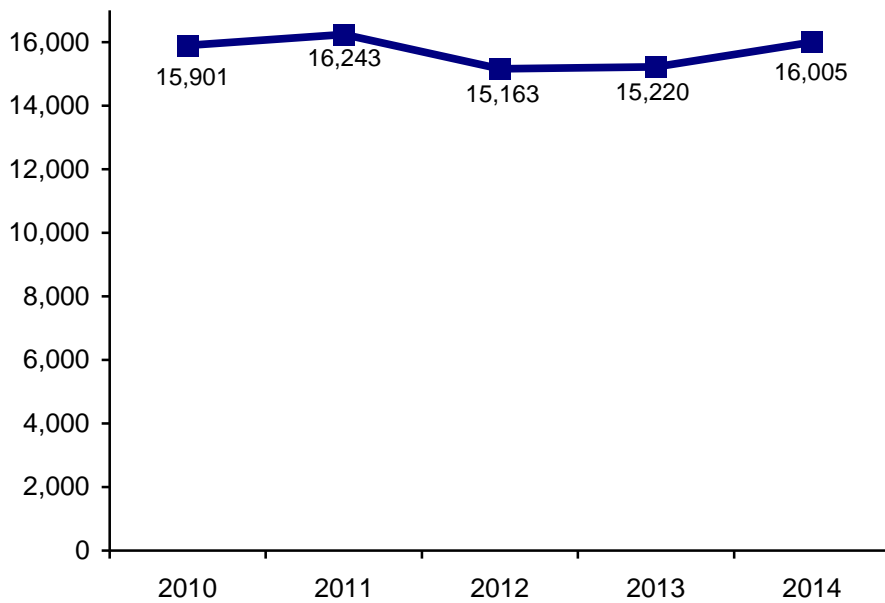
Figure 1 Number of victims of *homicide and related offences*, South Australia, 2010 to 2014



Assault

Following a slight increase in 2013, the number of recorded victims of *assault* increased again in 2014, and more substantially. The 2014 figure is now very similar to that recorded in 2010, but is still less than the peak recorded in 2011. (Note: Recorded Crime-Victims does not include the rate of victimisation per 100,000 population for *assault*).

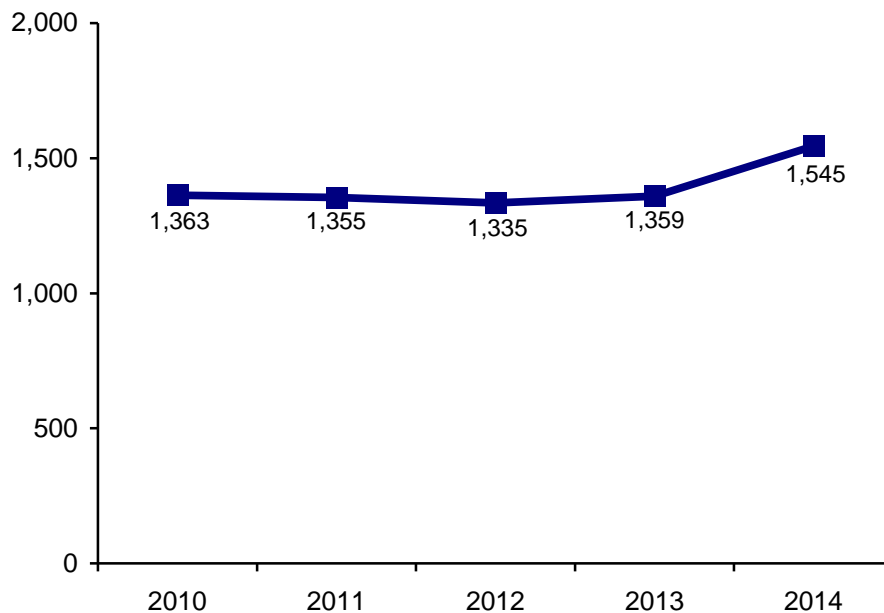
Figure 2 Number of victims of *assault*, South Australia, 2010 to 2014



Sexual assault

Following four years of relative stability, the number of *sexual assault* victims increased substantially in 2014. The 2014 sexual assault victimisation rate per 100,000 population was 91.7 in 2014, up from 81.4 in 2013

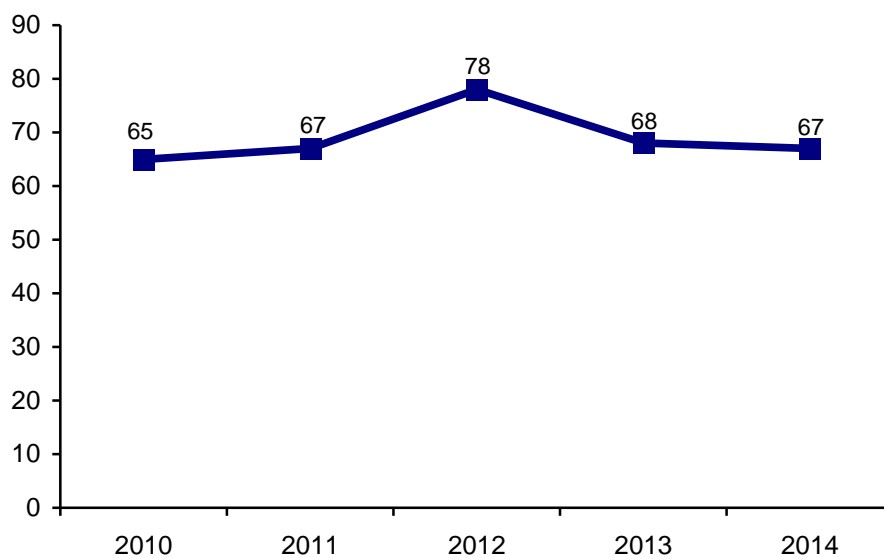
Figure 3 Number of victims of *sexual assault*, South Australia, 2010 to 2014



Kidnapping/abduction

With the exception of a slight peak in 2012, recorded victimisations for *kidnapping/abduction* remained relatively low and stable over the period 2010 to 2014.

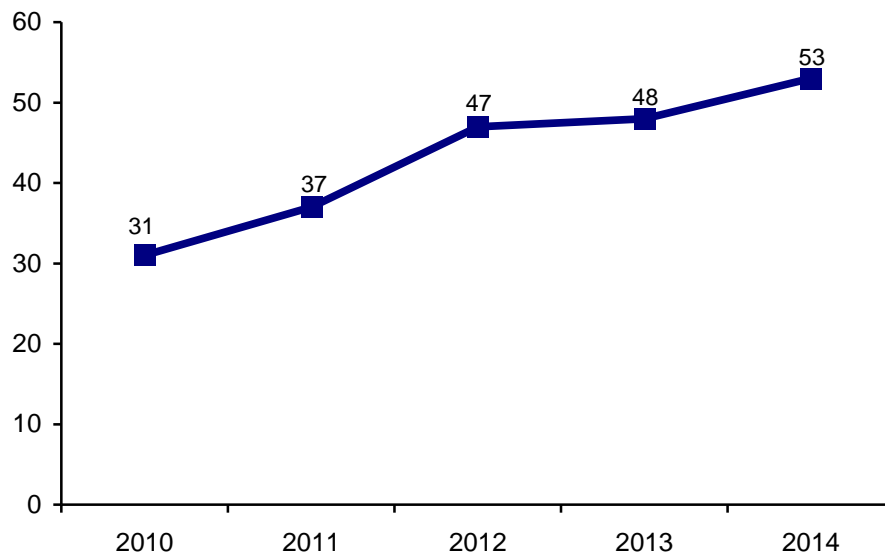
Figure 4 Number of victims of *kidnapping/abduction*, South Australia, 2010 to 2014



Blackmail/extortion

The number of *blackmail/extortion* victimisations has increased steadily in South Australia between 2010 and 2014 with 22 more victims recorded in 2014 compared with 2010.

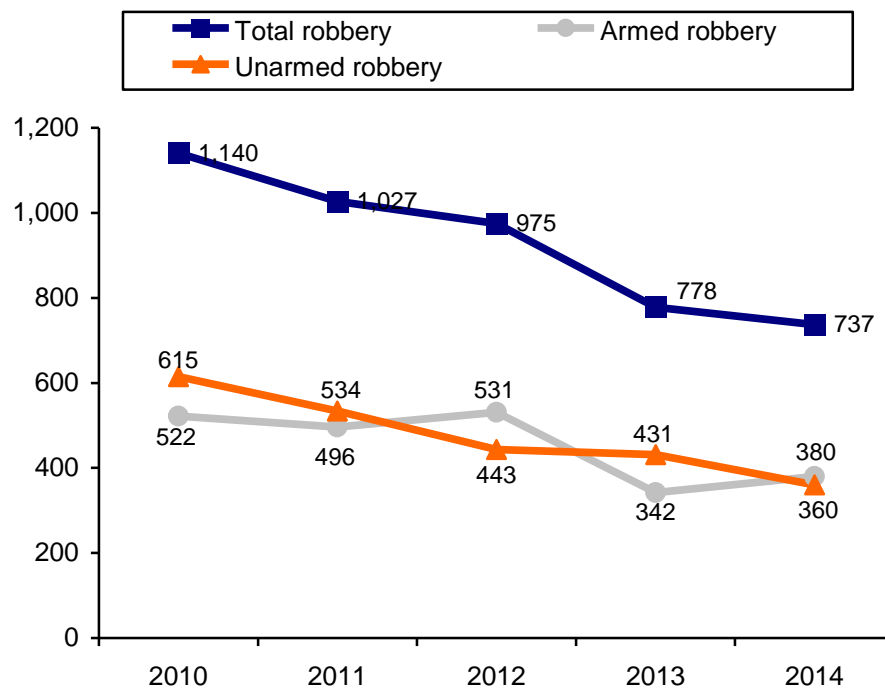
Figure 5 Number of victims of *blackmail/extortion*, South Australia, 2010 to 2014



Robbery

The number of victims of *robbery* has declined by over one third (35.4% or 403 victims) compared 2010. Despite an increase in the number of *armed robbery* victims in 2014 (up 11.1% or 38 victimisations), both *armed robbery* and *unarmed robbery* figures have contributed to the overall decline, with a drop of 27.2% and 41.5% respectively over the same time period.

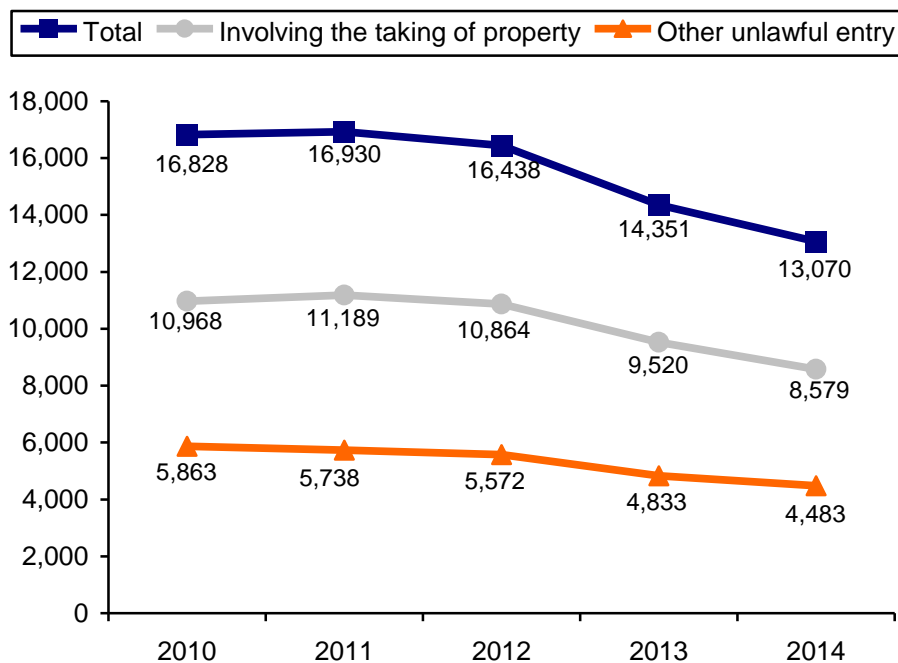
Figure 6 Number of victims of *robbery*, South Australia, 2010 to 2014



Unlawful entry with intent

The number of *unlawful entry with intent* victimisations recorded has declined since 2011. The 2014 figure of 13,070 is now 22.8% lower than the peak of 16,930 in 2011.

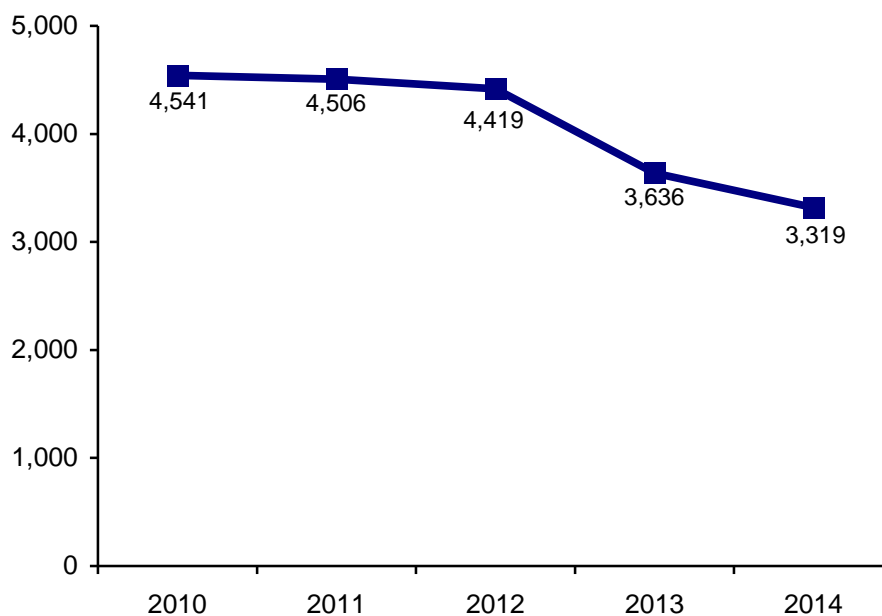
Figure 7 Number of victims of unlawful entry with intent, South Australia, 2010 to 2014



Motor vehicle theft

The number of South Australian victims of *motor vehicle theft* decreased again in 2014, after a substantial decrease in 2013. The 2014 figure of 3,319 is now 26.9% lower than the number of victimisations recorded in 2010.

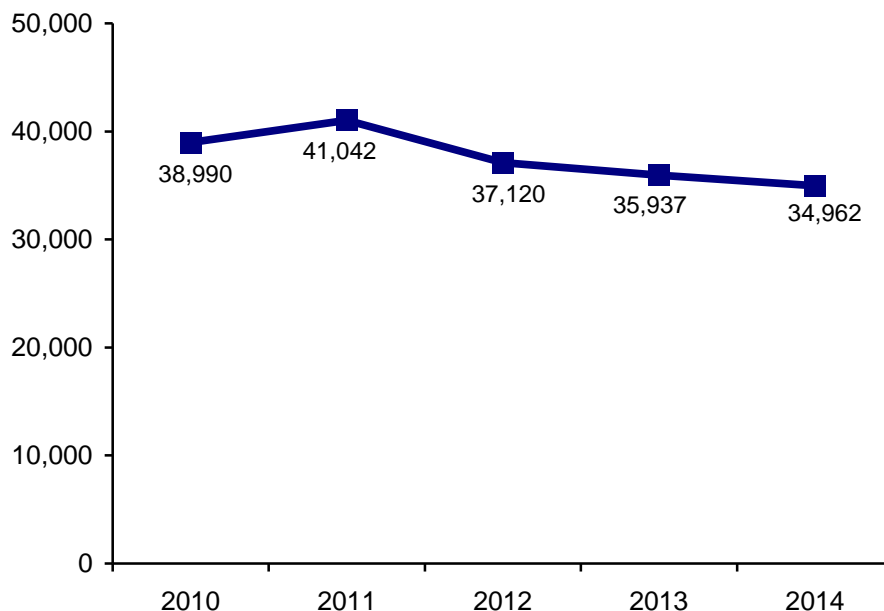
Figure 8 Number of victims of *motor vehicle theft*, South Australia, 2010 to 2014



Other theft

The number of *other theft* victimisations in South Australia continued to decline in 2014. The latest recorded figure is now 10.3% lower than that recorded in 2010 (representing a difference of 4,028 victimisations).

Figure 9 Number of victims of *other theft*, South Australia, 2010 to 2014



Age and sex of victims - selected offences, 2014

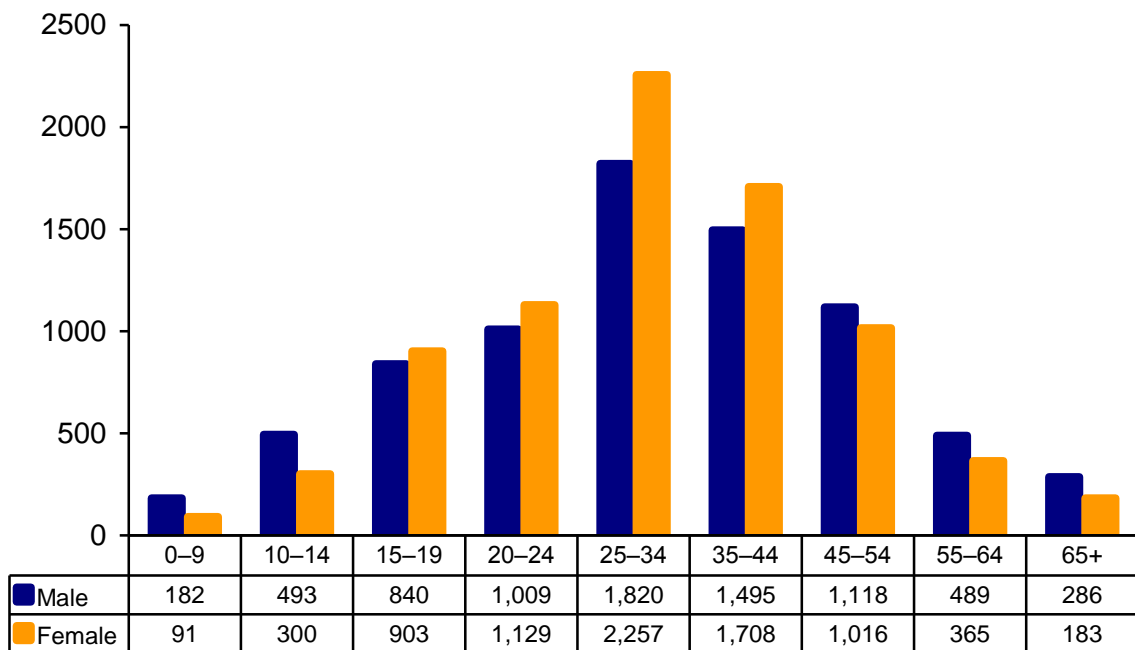
The following section looks at the age and sex of recorded victimisations in 2014 by selected offence category.

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 2014 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 55 years or older. Conversely, there was a greater number of female *assault* victimisations in the 15 to 44 years age category.

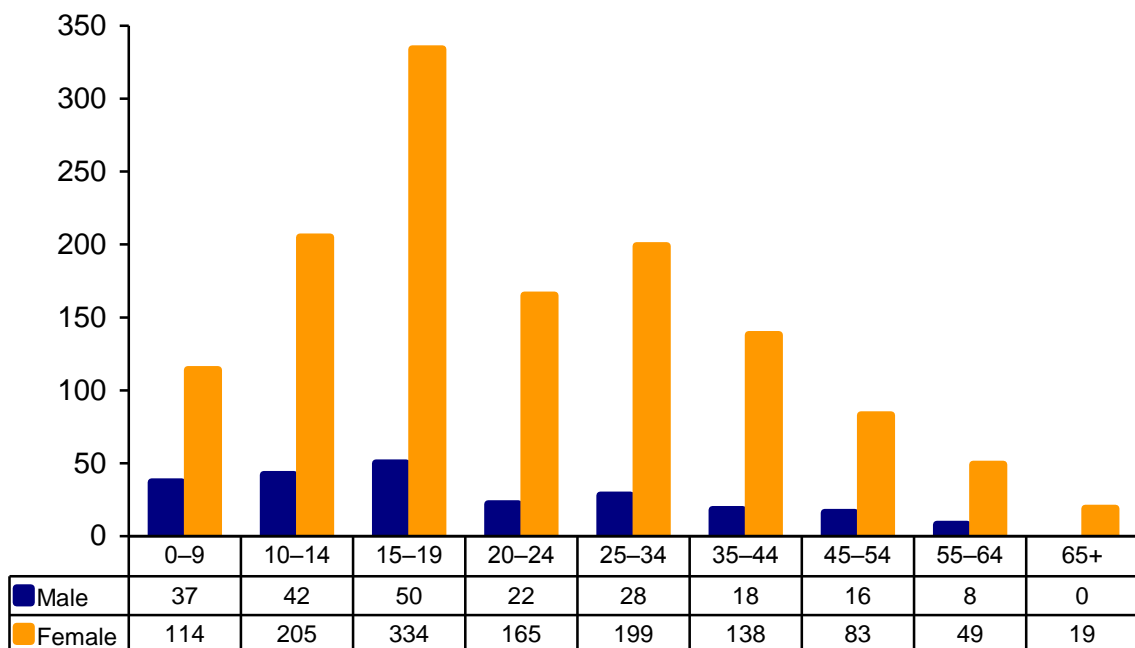
Figure 10 Number of victims of assault by age and sex, South Australia, 2014



Sexual Assault by sex and age

Figure 11 shows that in South Australia during 2014, there were substantially higher numbers of female victims of sexual assault across all age ranges.

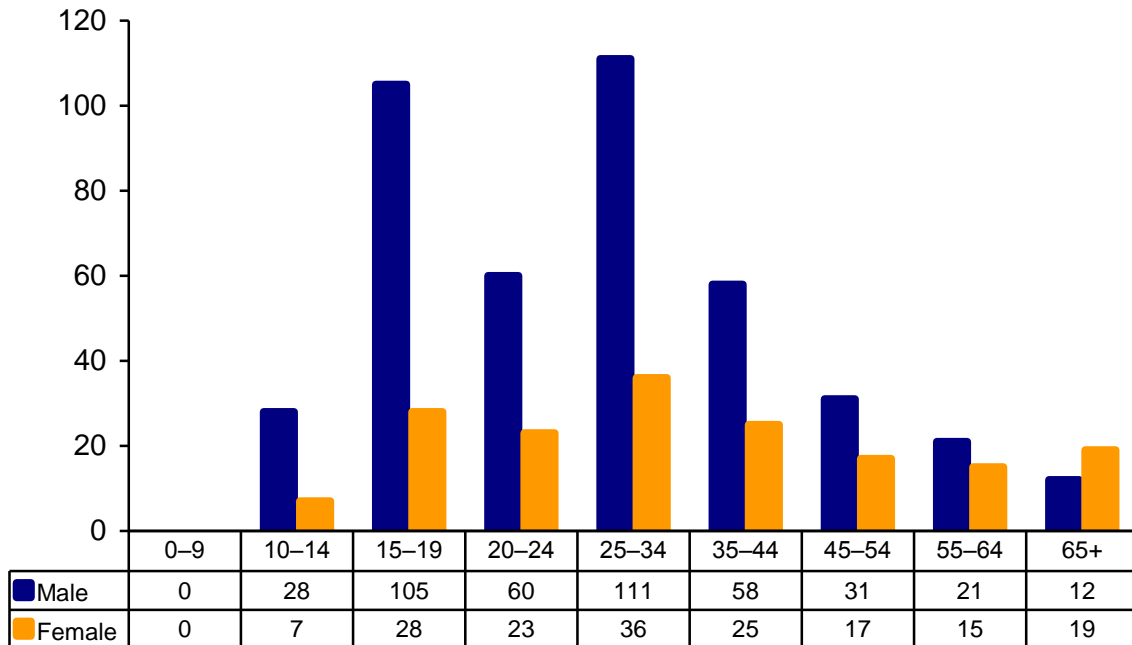
Figure 11 Number of victims of sexual assault by age and sex, South Australia, 2014



Robbery by sex and age

In contrast to *sexual assault*, 2014 figures show a higher number of male victims of *robbery* across all age groups except 65+.

Figure 12 Number of victims of *robbery* by age and sex, South Australia, 2014



Aboriginal victims compared with non-Aboriginal victims, 2014

Rates per 100,000 population

As shown in Table 3, victimisation rates for Aboriginal persons were much higher than non-Aboriginal persons, for the majority of offence types. In particular, the *assault* victimisation rate was six times higher, *sexual assault* four times higher and *robbery* almost twice that recorded for non-Aboriginal persons.

Table 3 2014 Victimization rates for selected offences by Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander status

Offence group	Rate per 100,000 population	
	Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal
Homicide and related offences	7.5	1.8
Murder	10.1	0.5
Attempted murder	7.5	1.0
Manslaughter	0.0	0.4
Assault	4,866.8	828.9
Sexual assault	329.1	83.7
Kidnapping/abduction	12.6	3.9
Robbery (total)	62.8	34.0
Armed robbery	20.1	14.9
Unarmed robbery	55.3	18.9
Blackmail/extortion	0.0	3.0

Relationship of offender to victim - assault and sexual assault

Assault

Two-thirds of South Australian *assault* victims in 2014 knew their offender (66.7%), with approximately one-third (31.8%) of offenders being family members (including 18.8% partner and 4.4% parents). Ex-partners accounted for 9.9% 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 (82.4% compared with 50.6% for male *assault* victimisations). Just under half (46.8%) of female *assault* victimisations involved a family member compared with only 16.5% of male *assault* victimisations.

Sexual assault

The majority of South Australian *sexual assault* victims in 2014 knew their offender (80.0%) with just under one-third of offenders (31.3%) being family members (including 10.0% parents and 10.0% partners). Ex-partners accounted for 6.2% 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% compared with 6.0% of male victimisations, ex-partners: 6.5% compared with 1.3%).

Use of weapon

Use of a weapon in the commission of an offence was recorded for *murder*, *attempted murder*, *assault*, *sexual assault*, *kidnapping/abduction* and *robbery*. Due to very low numbers recorded where a weapon was used for the offences of *murder*, *attempted murder*, *sexual assault* and *kidnapping/abduction*, these offences are not reported here.

No weapon was used in the commission of the majority of offences of *sexual assault* (87.5%) and *kidnapping/abduction* (73.1%).

Assault

For the 16,005 *assault* victimisations reported during 2014 a considerable majority had no weapon recorded as being used (77.6%). Where a weapon was used, the most frequently recorded weapon was 'other weapon'

(8.5%), followed by 'knife' (5.3%), and 'bat/bar/club' (3.5%). Firearms were recorded as being used for *assault* in only 0.4 percent of victimisations.

Robbery

There were 737 *robbery* victimisations recorded in 2014, including 52 percent that involved a weapon. The most frequently recorded weapon was 'knife' (26.6% of all robbery offences), followed by 'other weapon' (8.1%) and 'bat/bar/club' (6.5%). A firearm was recorded in 5.3 percent of *robbery* victimisations.

Appendix A

Limitations of the *Recorded Crime, Victims* report

- Since 2004, the ABS National Crime Statistics Unit (NCSU) has been committed to ensure data comparability regarding how jurisdictions record *assaults*. In the current edition it has been determined that assault data is available for the following jurisdictions that comply with the National Crime Reporting Standards (NCRS) guidelines: New South Wales, South Australia, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory and Western Australia. Only statistics reported in these jurisdictions are comparable and thus comparisons to all states and territories is not possible.
- The following offences are not included in the scope of the *Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia* publication:
 - conspiracy offences
 - threats to commit an offence (excluding offences where there has been a direct threat of force against the victim and an apprehension has been made)
 - aid, abet and accessory offences.
 - deprivation of liberty offences.
 - Attempted motor vehicle thefts are excluded due to difficulties in distinguishing these offences from criminal damage
- Due to a break in the series, data collected prior to 2010 are not strictly comparable with data published from 2011 onwards.
- The relationship of offender to victim is defined as the relationship of the alleged offender to the victim as perceived by the victim at the time of the offence. The ABS has advised there are inconsistencies in coding of current and former boyfriends and girlfriends across the jurisdictions, which should be taken into account when making comparisons. For example in some jurisdictions current boyfriend/girlfriend is classified as 'Other non-family member n.e.c.' or in 'Partner'. In NSW, ex-boyfriend/girlfriend is classified as 'partner', while in all other jurisdictions these relationships are classified as 'ex-boyfriend/girlfriend'. Should comparisons be made between jurisdictions, they should be interpreted with caution.

Appendix B

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
 - 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.
- The 2010 to 2014 data has been collected on a comparable basis. Data published prior to 2010 are not strictly comparable with data collected since 2010, and therefore comparisons have not been made with earlier data.
- 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.