

CRIME STATISTICS



A speed camera at work: Promoting safer driving behaviour on Queensland roads.

Crime statistics are collated and reported under a number of nationally agreed categories. For the purpose of this report, crime statistics will be discussed in terms of three aggregated categories:

- Offences against the person;
- Offence against property; and
- Other Offences.

The type of offences included in the category 'Offences Against the Person' generally relate to acts of violence directed toward another person. These offences often result in the injury of the victim and, in the more serious offences, may result in the permanent injury or death of the victim. These offences include murder, rape and assault.

The type of offences included in the category 'Offences Against Property' generally relate to the damage or theft of property. These offences include arson, unlawful entry, wilful damage and unlawful use of motor vehicles.

The type of offences included in the category 'Other Offences' generally relate to matters that constitute a breach of the peace, commonly referred to as 'street offences'. Drug offences are also included in this category.

Assessing Crime Statistics

The statistics contained in this Annual Report relate to reported crime, or those offences that have been entered onto the Service's Crime Reporting Information System for Police (CRISP).

In assessing the Service's performance with respect to crime statistics it is important to consider the range of factors that can influence increases and decreases in reported crime. It is also important to consider whether an increase or decrease is an indicator of good performance by the Service.

Generally good performance is associated with a decrease, or minimal increase, in the number of reported offences. However, this rule does not apply to the 'Other Offences' category where the Service often associates good performance with an increase in the number of reported offences. This is because offences included in this category, such as unlawful possession of drugs, are detected and reported by police. Therefore, an increase in the number of reported drug offences indicates that police are actively identifying and charging offenders.

There are also exceptions to the general rule in relation to a number of specific offences such as domestic violence. For many years, domestic violence was a hidden crime that was characterised by low levels of reporting. As a consequence, the Service seeks to encourage the reporting of domestic violence, as this provides the starting point for the delivery of effective policing responses to the victims of domestic violence.

While the aggregated crime statistics presented in this report provide an initial picture of crime levels in Queensland, more detailed information on crime statistics is available in the Service's *Statistical Review* which can be accessed at www.police.qld.gov.au/statsnet.htm.

Queensland

- In 1999-2000, total Offences Against the Person decreased by 2%. Over the same period, total Offences Against Property and total Other Offences increased by 8% and 5% respectively.
- The 2% decrease in total Offences Against the Person reflects decreases in all person offence categories except Assault and Other Offences Against the Person. The significant decreases were 14% in Sexual Assaults and 13% in Robbery, indicating the positive impact of Service programs targeting these areas.
- The overall increase of 8% in total Offences Against Property reflects an increase in all offences recorded under this category. However, the greatest increases were recorded in respect of Unlawful Entry, Other Property Damage, Motor Vehicle Theft and Other Theft. Property offences have been identified as a priority for the Service and a range of proactive and reactive strategies have been implemented to reduce the total percentage growth in this category over the next 12 months.
- Total Other Offences increased by 5% with a mix of increases and decreases in the major categories under this aggregate. Drug and Good Order offences increased by 7% and 3% respectively indicating the positive impact of police operations in these areas. At the same time, the impact of the Service's Random Breath Testing program, and a number of marketing campaigns reinforcing responsible drinking practices, contributed to reductions in the number of reported Drink Driving and Liquor offences.

Regions

- Increases in Assaults, Sexual Offences, Robbery and Other Offences Against the Person resulted in a 6% increase in total Offences Against the Person in Far Northern Region. Conversely, falls in Unlawful Entry, Other Property Damage, Motor Vehicle Theft and Fraud contributed to a 7% decrease in total Offences Against Property
- Northern Region experienced a near 10% reduction in Offences Against the Person as a result of falls in all categories except Extortion and Other Offences Against the Person. In particular, Assault fell by 7% and Robbery fell by 14%. Total Offences Against Property increased by 6% due to rises in all categories except Motor Vehicle Theft.
- Central Region recorded increases in Offences Against the Person (2%), Offences Against Property (12%) and Other Offences (8%). Rises in Assaults and Other Offences Against the Person were offset by decreases in all other person offence categories. Increases were recorded in all property offence categories, the most significant being increases in Other Property Damage, Motor Vehicle Theft and Other Theft.
- In North Coast Region, Offences Against the Person fell by 4% with decreases in all groups of offences under this category. Offences Against Property and Other Offences rose by 3% and 12% respectively. The overall rise in property offences was offset by falls in Unlawful Entry and Motor Vehicle Theft.
- For Southern Region, decreases in Sexual Offences and Robbery were slightly offset by a rise in Assaults, resulting in an 8% fall in total Offences Against the Person. Similarly, decreases in Unlawful Entry and Motor Vehicle Theft were offset by an increase in Other Property Damage and Fraud resulting in an overall 5% rise in Offences Against Property.

- South Eastern Region recorded a 7% increase in Offences Against the Person as a result of increases in Assaults and Sexual Offences. A 3% rise in Offences Against Property was attributable to increases in Unlawful Entry, Other Property Damage, Motor Vehicle Theft and Other Theft.
- The increase in Assaults experienced by Metropolitan North Region was offset by a decrease in Sexual Offences with Robbery remaining virtually unchanged from the previous year. The result was an overall 2% decrease in total Offences Against the Person. Substantive rises in Unlawful Entry, Other Property Damage, Motor Vehicle Theft and Other Theft caused a 17% increase in Offences Against Property.
- Metropolitan South Region recorded a 7% fall in Offences Against the Person as a result of decreases in Sexual Offences and Robbery. A 14% increase in Offences Against Property was the result of substantive increases in Unlawful Entry, Other Property Damage, Fraud and Motor Vehicle Theft.

Personal & Property Offences 1999-2000 - Queensland

	Reported in 1999-2000	Reported per 100,000 Population	Reported & Cleared in 1999-2000	Cleared in 1999-2000 Reported Previously	Percentage Cleared 1999-2000	Percentage Change 1998-99 to 1999-2000 (Reported)
Personal Safety						
Homicide	211	6	183	38	87	- 13
Assault	17,861	500	12,056	1,506	67	2
Sexual Assault	5,414	152	3868	567	71	- 14
Robbery	2,264	63	786	132	35	- 13
Other Offences Against the Person*	3,830	107	1,799	302	47	7
Total Offences Against the Person	29,580	828	18,692	2,545	63	- 2
Property Security						
Unlawful Entry	75,988	2,128	9,431	3,053	12	4
Arson	1,688	47	192	29	11	2
Other Property Damage	62,346	1,746	11,720	1,529	19	14
Motor Vehicle Theft	20,008	560	3,937	670	20	8
Stealing (excl. Motor Vehicles)	108,284	3,032	23,008	2,697	21	7
Fraud	28,565	800	20,572	3,681	72	2
Handling Stolen Goods	6,226	174	5,971	141	96	20
Total Offences Against Property	303,105	8,487	74,831	11,800	25	8
Selected Other Offences						
Drug Offences	36,075	1,010	-	-	-	7
Liquor Offences	1,429	40	-	-	-	- 9
Total Prostitution Offences	567	16	-	-	-	- 7
Total Stock Offences	57	2	-	-	-	- 39
Drink Driving Offences	21,899	613	-	-	-	- 2
Other Traffic Offences	4,822	135	-	-	-	5
Gaming Racing & Betting	9	0	-	-	-	- 82
Vagrancy Offences	2,426	68	-	-	-	19
Good Order Offences	21,167	593	-	-	-	3

	Reported in 1999-2000	Reported per 100,000 Population	Reported & Cleared in 1999-2000	Cleared in 1999-2000 Reported Previously	Percentage Cleared 1999-2000	Percentage Change 1998-99 to 1999-2000 (Reported)
Far Northern						
Homicide	27	12	25	9	93	- 4
Assault	2,422	1,066	2,058	160	85	2
Sexual Assault	435	191	350	36	80	23
Robbery	113	50	58	8	51	11
Other Offences Against the Person*	295	130	220	17	75	20
Total Offences Against the Person	3,292	1,449	2,711	230	82	6
Unlawful Entry	3,792	1,669	1,000	158	26	- 10
Arson	59	26	20	.	34	2
Other Property Damage	2,704	1,190	1,148	110	42	- 4
Motor Vehicle Theft	561	247	248	33	44	- 18
Stealing (excl. Motor Vehicles)	6,304	2,774	1,992	180	32	0
Fraud	947	417	631	145	67	- 32
Handling Stolen Goods	395	174	379	9	96	5
Total Offences Against Property	14,762	6,497	5,418	635	37	- 7
Northern						
Homicide	21	9	19	5	90	- 32
Assault	1,912	814	1,485	186	78	- 7
Sexual Assault	386	164	246	28	64	- 25
Robbery	112	48	51	11	46	- 14
Other Offences Against the Person*	305	130	169	28	55	6
Total Offences Against the Person	2,736	1,165	1,970	258	72	- 9
Unlawful Entry	5,816	2,476	816	248	14	1
Arson	84	36	9	2	11	56
Other Property Damage	5,106	2,174	1,320	144	26	11
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,215	517	322	48	27	- 8
Stealing (excl. Motor Vehicles)	7,414	3,156	1,460	208	20	9
Fraud	1,239	527	698	170	56	6
Handling Stolen Goods	349	149	331	7	95	31
Total Offences Against Property	21,223	9,035	4,956	827	23	6
Central						
Homicide	15	5	14	2	93	- 32
Assault	1,678	516	1,258	142	75	6
Sexual Assault	513	158	426	60	83	- 16
Robbery	114	35	53	4	46	13
Other Offences Against the Person*	350	108	196	27	56	23
Total Offences Against the Person	2,670	821	1,947	235	73	2
Unlawful Entry	4,725	1,452	1,076	127	23	8
Arson	79	24	20	3	25	16
Other Property Damage	4,245	1,305	1,103	120	26	16
Motor Vehicle Theft	719	221	311	34	43	29
Stealing (excl. Motor Vehicles)	7,782	2,392	2,005	232	26	7
Fraud	2,005	616	1,307	289	65	8
Handling Stolen Goods	659	203	647	5	98	82
Total Offences Against Property	20,214	6,214	6,469	810	32	12

	Reported in 1999-2000	Reported per 100,000 Population	Reported & Cleared in 1999-2000	Cleared in 1999-2000 Reported Previously	Percentage Cleared 1999-2000	Percentage Change 1998-99 to 1999-2000 (Reported)
North Coast						
Homicide	27	4	26	3	96	- 18
Assault	2,702	425	1,734	258	64	- 1
Sexual Assault	928	146	649	96	70	- 4
Robbery	253	40	102	23	40	- 18
Other Offences Against the Person*	542	85	238	42	44	- 8
Total Offences Against the Person	4,452	700	2,749	422	62	- 4
Unlawful Entry	11,352	1,786	1,721	417	15	- 2
Arson	347	55	45	4	13	11
Other Property Damage	9,856	1,550	2,120	263	22	1
Motor Vehicle Theft	2,617	412	667	104	25	- 1
Stealing (excl. Motor Vehicles)	18,073	2,843	4,218	535	23	2
Fraud	4,628	728	3,450	633	75	21
Handling Stolen Goods	875	138	841	14	96	19
Total Offences Against Property	47,748	7,511	13,062	1,970	27	3
Southern						
Homicide	22	5	21	2	95	- 35
Assault	2,116	512	1,440	166	68	2
Sexual Assault	690	167	500	114	72	- 33
Robbery	182	44	81	9	45	- 33
Other Offences Against the Person*	511	124	246	34	48	17
Total Offences Against the Person	3,521	852	2,288	325	65	- 8
Unlawful Entry	7,243	1,753	1,116	234	15	- 3
Arson	260	63	27	7	10	4
Other Property Damage	6,276	1,519	1,424	149	23	9
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,567	379	365	48	23	- 9
Stealing (excl. Motor Vehicles)	9,709	2,350	2,344	200	24	5
Fraud	2,566	621	1,819	569	71	31
Handling Stolen Goods	581	141	550	8	95	15
Total Offences Against Property	28,202	6,827	7,645	1,215	27	5
South Eastern						
Homicide	36	6	27	6	75	- 8
Assault	2,773	444	1,603	247	58	11
Sexual Assault	1,053	169	798	92	76	11
Robbery	470	75	151	34	32	- 12
Other Offences Against the Person*	617	99	246	44	40	2
Total Offences Against the Person	4,949	792	2,825	423	57	7
Unlawful Entry	14,412	2,307	1,303	1,004	9	4
Arson	421	67	24	8	6	- 16
Other Property Damage	10,844	1,736	1,455	271	13	4
Motor Vehicle Theft	5,201	833	763	156	15	5
Stealing (excl. Motor Vehicles)	22,352	3,578	3,787	533	17	6
Fraud	4,738	759	3,153	551	67	- 13
Handling Stolen Goods	867	139	808	23	93	- 17
Total Offences Against Property	58,835	9,419	11,293	2,546	19	3

	Reported in 1999-2000	Reported per 100,000 Population	Reported & Cleared in 1999-2000	Cleared in 1999-2000 Reported Previously	Percentage Cleared 1999-2000	Percentage Change 1998-99 to 1999-2000 (Reported)
Metropolitan North						
Homicide	33	6	25	5	76	38
Assault	2,311	440	1,406	195	61	2
Sexual Assault	746	142	441	59	59	- 19
Robbery	593	113	163	21	27	1
Other Offences Against the Person*	624	119	241	72	39	3
Total Offences Against the Person	4,307	820	2,276	352	53	- 2
Unlawful Entry	13,724	2,611	1,149	336	8	15
Arson	152	29	19	5	13	- 14
Other Property Damage	11,754	2,237	1,537	214	13	39
Motor Vehicle Theft	3,921	746	605	110	15	35
Stealing (excl. Motor Vehicles)	20,376	3,877	4,161	440	20	20
Fraud	6,012	1,144	4,151	796	69	- 21
Handling Stolen Goods	1,494	284	1,451	60	97	44
Total Offences Against Property	57,433	10,929	13,073	1,961	23	17
Metropolitan South						
Homicide	30	5	26	6	87	-3
Assault	1,947	333	1,072	152	55	3
Sexual Assault	663	113	458	82	69	- 28
Robbery	427	73	127	22	30	- 23
Other Offences Against the Person*	586	100	243	38	41	10
Total Offences Against the Person	3,653	625	1,926	300	53	- 7
Unlawful Entry	14,924	2,552	1,250	529	8	10
Arson	286	49	28	.	10	18
Other Property Damage	11,561	1,977	1,613	258	14	27
Motor Vehicle Theft	4,207	719	656	137	16	12
Stealing (excl. Motor Vehicles)	16,273	2,783	3,041	369	19	5
Fraud	6,430	1,099	5,363	528	83	36
Handling Stolen Goods	1,000	171	964	15	96	18
Total Offences Against Property	54,681	9,350	12,915	1,836	24	14
* Other Offences Against the Person includes the offences categories of Extortion, Kidnapping & Abduction etc. and Other Offences Against the Person.						