

# Crime 2006/07

## Offences Against the Person

The broad offence group of Offences Against the Person is comprised of a number of different offence categories with the volume of offences reported differing significantly across categories. For example, Assaults account for 58% of Offences Against the Person (Figure 1) while Homicide (Murder) accounts for less than 1%. Thus, Assault offences tend to dominate Offences Against the Person, while Homicide (Murder) will have little effect on the overall total.

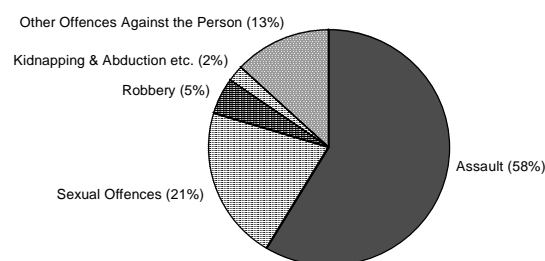


Figure 1: Offences Against the Person (%) - 2006/07\*

Overall, the number of Offences Against the Person increased by 1% in Queensland from 2005/06 to 2006/07. A total of 33517 offences were reported to police in 2006/07, 306 more than the revised figure from the previous financial year. Taking into account the growth of the Queensland population, the rate of Offences Against the Person decreased by 1% from 822 to 812 offences per 100000 persons.

Of the 33517 Offences Against the Person reported to police during the 2006/07 financial year, 24094 (72%) were cleared by the end of June 2007 compared with 74% cleared the previous year. An additional 3391 offences reported in previous time periods were also cleared during 2006/07.

As with previous years, North Queensland (Far Northern and Northern Regions) experienced the highest rates of Offences Against the Person, while Metropolitan South Region recorded the lowest. North Coast and Southern Regions were the only regions exhibiting increases of 10% and 8% respectively.

Fifteen to nineteen year old females were most likely to have been victims of Offences Against the Person in 2006/07 followed by ten to fourteen year old females. In the younger age groups (zero to twenty-four years),

females were more likely than males to be victims of Offences Against the Person. From the age of twenty-five years, males were more likely than females to be victims.

More males were proceeded against for Offences Against the Person compared with females. While only 21% of offenders were female, 17% were male aged fifteen to nineteen years. The likelihood of offending peaked in the fifteen to nineteen year age group for both males and females and decreased with increasing age.

Of those who were found to have committed Offences Against the Person, approximately 53% were proceeded against through an arrest with a further 26% proceeded against through the service of a Notice to Appear.

## Homicide (Murder)

Homicide (Murder) is a small volume offence category and, as such, is subject to sizeable fluctuations from one year to the next and from region to region.

The number of Homicide (Murder) offences decreased by three offences in Queensland for 2006/07 compared with 2005/06. Of the 51 Homicides reported to police in 2006/07, 47 (92%) were cleared in the same period. An additional 5 offences were cleared from previous periods.

Far Northern Region recorded the largest increase in the State (although this was small) and also experienced the highest rate of Homicide (Murder) offences. South Eastern was the only other region to record an increase (27%).

This year, 62% of the victims of Homicide (Murder) were male. The highest rate of Homicide (Murder) offences occurred for males in the fifty to fifty-four year age group which exhibited a rate of 5 offences per 100000 resident persons.

Males were significantly more likely than females to commit Homicide (Murder) (82%). In 2006/07, males aged fifteen to thirty-four years were most likely to offend. In 89% of cases the offender was proceeded against through an arrest.

\* Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Therefore, although the percentages are correct, they may not add to 100%.

## Other Homicide

As with Homicide (Murder), Other Homicide is a low-volume offence category. Therefore, it is subject to marked fluctuations from year to year and from area to area. The number of Other Homicide offences decreased by 8% during 2006/07 as a result of decreases in Driving Causing Death (12 offences) and Attempted Murder (1 offence).

Factoring in the increase of the Queensland resident population, Other Homicide offences decreased by 10% to a rate of 3 offences per 100,000 persons. Of the 117 offences reported to police in 2006/07, 104 (89%) were cleared in the same period. Additionally, 15 offences were cleared from previous periods.

Four of the eight regions recorded decreases in Other Homicide offences, the largest of which occurred in North Coast Region. Of the four regions that recorded increases Northern and Southern Regions recorded the largest increases of 35% and 31% respectively. As a result of the large increase recorded in Southern Region, the area also recorded the highest rate in the State.

Just over two-thirds (69%) of the victims of Other Homicide were male with a high proportion aged thirty to thirty-four years. For every age group, except the forty to forty-four age group, males were more likely to be victims than females.

Males were significantly more likely than females to commit Other Homicide offences (81% of offenders were male). In 2006/07, males aged thirty to thirty-four years were most likely to offend. Seventy-six percent of offenders were proceeded against through an arrest while 11% were issued with a Notice to Appear.

## Assault

Assaults comprise approximately 58% of total Offences Against the Person. As such, they tend to dominate this broad offence group. The number of Assaults in Queensland decreased by 1% from 2005/06 to 2006/07. This equates to a rate of 472 offences per 100,000 persons in 2006/07.

The overall decrease in the rate of Assaults is attributable to decreases in Serious Assault (Other) and Common Assault. Of the 19,505 assaults reported to police in 2006/07, 15,203 (78%) were cleared in the same period with a further 1,697 offences cleared from previous periods.

Recent years have seen higher rates of Serious Assault (Figure 2). A possible explanation for this is a

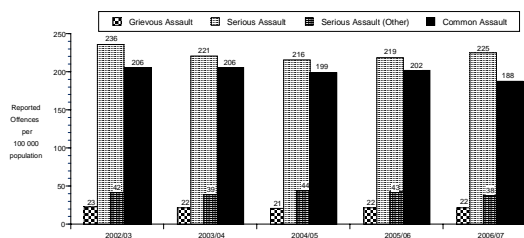


Figure 2: Reported Assaults, Queensland, 2002/03 to 2006/07

broadening of the definition of Serious Assault to include, for example, assault of a person aged sixty years or more, assault on physically impaired persons and assaulting a police officer in the execution of duty.

The seasonal influence on the occurrence of Assaults can be seen clearly in monthly crime trends (see page 19). These offences peak around December of each year and fall to a low around July.

As with previous years, Far Northern and Northern Regions experienced the highest rates of Assault in the State while Metropolitan South Region experienced the lowest. Southern Region recorded the largest increase in the rate of Assault, while Far Northern Region recorded the largest decrease.

For all age groups, males were more likely than females to be victims of Assault. Males aged fifteen to thirty-four were most likely to be victims. From age thirty-five, the rate of victimisation for both male and female decreased steadily.

Across all age groups, males were also more likely to commit offences of Assault (76% of offenders were male). Males aged fifteen to nineteen years were most likely to offend. Of those persons proceeded against, 50% were arrested and 32% were served with a Notice to Appear.

## Sexual Offences

Sexual offences are particularly affected by an unpredictable variability in the reported rates due to the fact that offences occurring decades ago are still being reported to police. As offences are counted against the period in which they are reported rather than when they occurred, increases in crime statistics do not always equate to an increase in victimisation.

The number of Sexual Offences reported to police in 2006/07 increased by 7% from the number reported in the previous financial year. The number reported equates to a rate of 170 offences reported per 100,000 persons. The increase in the rate is attributable to an increase in Rape & Attempted Rape Offences (47%). Of

those offences reported in 2006/07, 4701 (67%) were cleared with an additional 1018 offences cleared from previous periods.

Far Northern Region recorded a 1% increase in the rate of Sexual Offences resulting in the region recording the highest rate in the State. Northern Region recorded the largest decrease while North Coast Region recorded the largest increase (24%), making this region the second highest in the State.

The Sexual Offence category is the only offence category for which there are more female victims than male (82% of victims were female). Females aged between ten and nineteen years were most likely to be victims of Sexual Offences. Females in this age group comprise 47% of total victims.

In total, 125 females committed Sexual Offences in 2006/07. Thus, 96% of offenders were male. The age distribution of male offenders is unique for this offence type in that the distribution is almost uniform across all age groups with the exception of fifteen to nineteen year olds. The number of offenders is only slightly lower in the older age groups, with males aged fifty years and over responsible for 17% of all Sexual Offences. For those proceeded against, 57% were arrested and 16% were served with a Notice to Appear.

## Robbery

A decrease of 18% in the number of Armed Robberies reported to police in 2006/07 coupled with a 1% decrease in Unarmed Robbery lead to an overall 9% decrease in the number of Robbery offences reported in the year under review. A total of 1793 offences were reported to police which equates to a rate of 43 offences per 100000 persons. Of these, 933 (52%) were cleared in the period in which they were reported with an additional 128 offences cleared from previous periods.

Rates of Robbery have been increasing steadily since the late 1980's. From 1997/98 to 2000/01, Armed Robbery was more prevalent than Unarmed Robbery. The last five years, however, have seen a reversal of this trend with Unarmed Robbery rates higher than Armed Robbery rates (Figure 3). Over the last three years the rate of Unarmed Robbery has remained steady at a rate of 25 offences per 100000 population.

Robbery offences tend to occur more frequently in the south-east corner of the State and 2006/07 was no exception. South Eastern Region recorded the highest rate of Robbery in the State. A 28% decrease in North Coast Region attributed to this area experiencing the lowest rate in the State.

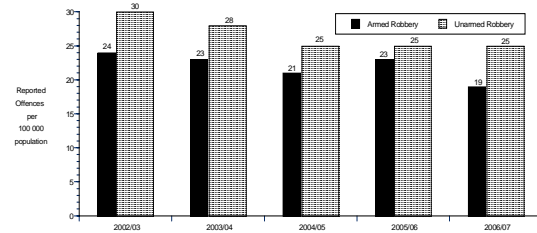


Figure 3: Reported Robbery Offences, Queensland, 2002/03 to 2006/07

For every age group, males were more likely than females to be victims of Robbery with males aged fifteen to nineteen years most likely to be victims. Males were victim to Robbery in 70% of all cases reported to police.

Males were significantly more likely than females to commit Robbery offences (85% of offenders were male) and 75% of total offenders were aged between fifteen and twenty-nine years. Of those proceeded against for Robbery offences, 81% were arrested and 9% issued with a Notice to Appear.

## Extortion, Kidnapping/Abduction and Other Offences Against the Person

Extortion, the lowest in volume of the Offences Against the Person categories, decreased by 17% from 2005/06 to 2006/07 (from 84 to 70 offences). Of these, 60% were cleared in the same period.

Kidnapping, Abduction, Deprivation of Liberty etc. offences increased by 122% from 283 offences reported in 2005/06 to 627 offences reported in 2006/07. Approximately 37% of these were cleared in the 2006/07 financial year with a further 28 offences cleared from previous years. The increase of 122% was the result of reporting of historical offences to police during the period under review.

Other Offences Against the Person include offences such as Driving Causing Grievous Bodily Harm, Stalking, Illtreatment of Children, Defamation/Libel, Armed to Cause Fear, Endangering Lives on transport and Other Offences Endangering Life (not elsewhere classified).

In 2006/07, Other Offences Against the Person decreased by 4% from 4482 to 4321 offences. Of these, 66% were cleared in the same period. In addition, 480 offences reported in previous periods were also cleared.

## Offences Against Property

The offence group of Offences Against Property is comprised of a number of offence categories. As with Offences Against the Person, the contribution of each category to the total differs significantly (Figure 4). In 2006/07, Other Theft (excl. Unlawful Entry) accounted for 39% of total Offences Against Property and was the highest in volume of the property offence categories. Unlawful Entry accounted for 22% of offences with Other Property Damage and Fraud accounting for 21% and 10% respectively. As such, this broad offence group tends to be dominated by Other Theft (excl. Unlawful Entry) and Unlawful Entry, with offence categories such as Arson having little effect.

The number of reported Offences Against Property decreased by 5% from 233482 offences reported in 2005/06 to 221999 offences reported in 2006/07. Factoring in the growth of the Queensland population, Offences Against Property were reported at a rate of 5375 offences per 100000 persons in 2006/07, a decrease of 7% from the previous year. Of all Offences Against Property reported in 2006/07, 32% were cleared in the same period with a further 13647 offences cleared from previous periods.

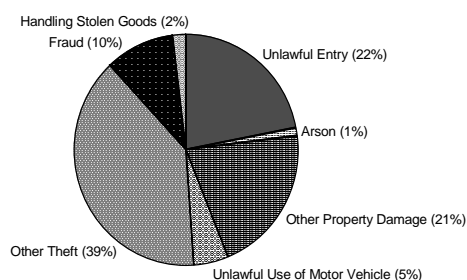


Figure 4: Offences Against Property (%) - 2006/07\*

Most regions recorded decreases in property crime during 2006/07, except Southern Region which recorded a 3% increase. South Eastern Region recorded the highest rate of Offences Against Property in the State, while Metropolitan South recorded the largest decrease (13%). Central Region again recorded the lowest rate (4245 offences per 100000 persons).

Overall, Offences Against Property were more likely to be committed by males (76% of offenders were male). Over one quarter (26%) of offenders proceeded against for Offences Against Property were male aged between fifteen and nineteen years. Of the total persons proceeded against for Offences Against Property, 38% were arrested, 45% were served with a Notice to Appear and 12% were cautioned.

## Unlawful Entry with Intent

The number of Unlawful Entry offences decreased by 4%. This equates to a 6% reduction in the rate once the growth of the Queensland population is taken into account. Of the 48161 offences reported to police in 2006/07, 20% were cleared in the same period with a further 3425 offences cleared from previous periods.

The number of Unlawful Entry of Dwellings decreased by 5%, the number of Unlawful Entry of Shops decreased by 13%, while Unlawful Entry of Other Premises increased by 3%.

Most regions recorded a decrease in Unlawful Entry offences with the exception of Central and Southern Regions. The largest decrease (12%) occurred in Metropolitan North Region. Metropolitan South Region also recorded a substantive decrease of 10%. North Coast Region recorded the lowest rate. Despite Northern Region again exhibiting an 8% decrease, it also recorded the highest rate of Unlawful Entry with Intent offences in the State.

Most Unlawful Entry offences were committed by young males. In fact, 90% of offenders were male and approximately 58% were male aged under twenty-five years. Of all offenders proceeded against for Unlawful Entry offences, 54% were arrested, 9% cautioned and 31% served with a Notice to Appear.

## Arson

Arson is the lowest in volume of the Offences Against Property categories and, as such, exerts very little influence on the Offences Against Property total. Arson offences decreased by 8% from 2005/06 to 2006/07. The rate of offences decreased by 10%, from 37 to 34 offences per 100000 persons. Of the 1385 offences reported in 2006/07, 228 (16%) were cleared in the same period. An additional 41 offences were cleared from previous periods.

Southern Region was the only area to record an increase in Arson offences. All other regions experienced decreases, the largest which was recorded in Northern Region (34%), attributing to this region recording the lowest rate. Similar to previous years, South Eastern Region recorded the highest rate.

This year, 85% of offenders were male compared to 88% recorded in the previous year. Fifteen to nineteen year old males were most likely to be proceeded against for Arson. Approximately 62% of offenders were arrested, 16% cautioned and 13% served with a Notice to Appear.

\* Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Therefore, although the percentages are correct, they do not add to 100%.

## Other Property Damage

Other Property Damage offences increased by 2% from 45578 to 46583 offences. This equates to a rate of 1128 offences for every 100000 persons. Of those offences reported to police in 2006/07, 13607 (29%) were cleared during this period, with an additional 1627 offences cleared from previous time periods.

Northern Region exhibited the largest increase attributing to the region recording the highest rate of 1576 offences per 100000 persons. The largest decrease was recorded by North Coast Region (7%). This region also recorded the lowest rate of Other Property Damage offences.

As with most offence types, fifteen to nineteen year old males were most likely to be proceeded against for Other Property Damage offences. Only 12% of offenders were female and only 15% of offenders were aged thirty years or more. In total, 36% of offenders were arrested for this offence type, 16% were cautioned and 41% were served with a Notice to Appear.

## Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle

Following a significant decrease reported in the 2005/06 Annual Statistical Review, the current publication again documents a sizeable decrease (5%) in the number of Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle offences. This reduction is equivalent to 647 fewer offences reported during 2006/07.

In 2006/07, 11239 Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle offences were reported to police. Of these, 3156 (28%) were cleared during this period, with an additional 728 offences cleared from previous periods (note: for recovery rates see Glossary, page 141). In 2006/07, Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle offences were reported at a rate of 272 offences for every 100000 persons.

Rates of Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicles are traditionally higher in the south-eastern corner of the State and 2006/07 was no exception despite significant decreases in all of the regions in this area. Northern and Central Regions were the only regions to record increases of 11% and 3% respectively. North Coast Region experienced the largest decrease while South Eastern Region recorded the highest rate in the State. Central Region recorded the lowest rate of 140 offences per 100000 persons.

Males aged fifteen to nineteen years were most likely to commit Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle offences (39% of male offenders were in this group). Forty percent of all

offenders were aged fifteen to nineteen years. Approximately 57% of offenders were arrested and 31% were served with a Notice to Appear.

## Other Theft (excluding Unlawful Entry)

Other Theft (excluding Unlawful Entry) offences decreased by 6% from 2005/06 to 2006/07. This category is the highest in volume of the Offences Against Property categories and thus exerts a significant influence on property crime as a total. In 2006/07, 87296 Other Theft offences were reported to police, of which 27% were cleared during this period. A further 3079 were cleared from previous periods.

All sub-categories of Other Theft offences exhibited decreases: Steal from Vehicles (12%), Steal from Shops (2%), Other Stealing (4%) and Stealing from Dwellings (2%). Approximately 76% of Shop Stealing offences were cleared, making this the highest clearance rate within the Other Theft sub-categories.

The highest rates of Other Theft occurred in South Eastern and Northern Regions despite the fact that these regions recorded decreases of 9% and 4% respectively. Metropolitan South and North Coast Regions exhibited the largest decreases of 12% each. Despite Central being the only region recording an increase it recorded the lowest rate (1733 offences per 100000 persons).

The proportion of female offenders for Other Theft was higher than males for most offence types at 35%, or just over one third. For both males and females, those in the fifteen to nineteen year age group were most likely to commit Other Theft offences. Arrest rates are low for this offence type at 28%, while 50% were served with a Notice to Appear and 17% (mostly juvenile) were cautioned.

## Fraud

Queensland recorded an increase in Fraud by Credit Card offences (16%), decreases in Fraud by Computer (27%), Fraud by Cheque (29%) and Other Fraud (20%). This resulted in an overall decrease of 16% in total Fraud offences.

Of the 21857 offences reported in 2006/07, 15469 (71%) were cleared in the same period with a further 4645 offences cleared from previous periods.

A substantive decrease (43%) in Central Region resulted in this region recording the lowest rate in the State.

Metropolitan North Region recorded the highest rate of Fraud offences despite recording a 10% decrease. Southern Region was the only region to record an increase in Fraud offences (24%), whilst Metropolitan South recorded the largest decrease (46%).

Historically, fraud was unique in that the age of those proceeded against tended to be older when compared with other offence types, though this trend appears to have shifted over recent years. A relatively higher proportion of females commit Fraud offences compared with other offence types. Approximately 40% of offenders were female. Males aged twenty-five to twenty-nine years and females aged thirty to thirty-four years were most likely to commit Fraud offences. Thirty percent of offenders were arrested, while 62% were issued with a Notice to Appear.

## Handling Stolen Goods

Decreases in the largest sub-categories of Handling Stolen Goods offences resulted in an overall decrease of 3%. Of the total 5478 offences reported to police in 2006/07, 5202 (95%) were cleared in the same period, with a further 102 offences cleared from previous periods.

Similar to previous years, Metropolitan North Region recorded the highest rate of Handling Stolen Goods offences while Central Region recorded the lowest rate. Most regions recorded decreases of Handling Stolen Goods offences with Metropolitan South Region exhibiting the largest. Far Northern, Central and Southern Regions recorded increases (20%, 1% and 14% respectively).

As with most offence categories, males were most likely to commit Handling Stolen Goods offences (76% of offenders were male) and males in the fifteen to nineteen year age group were most likely to offend. Offenders were more likely to be served with a Notice to Appear (58%) although 34% were arrested.

## Other Offences

Other Offences is a broad collection of disparate offence categories. These categories are distinct from Offences Against the Person and Property in that they are generally offences detected by police rather than being reported by the public. Drug Offences, Traffic Offences and Prostitution Offences are examples of this. Trends and patterns in the levels of Other Offences are therefore often indicative of specific initiatives of the Police Service rather than being indicative of the level of crime actually occurring. As such, increases are often

seen as a positive improvement of police detection rates.

As a total, Other Offences increased by 3% statewide from 158819 offences recorded in 2005/06 to 163047 offences recorded in 2006/07. This equates to a rate of 3948 offences per 100000 persons in 2006/07.

Five of the eight regions recorded increases in total Other Offences, the largest of which occurred in Metropolitan South Region (8%). Rates are traditionally higher in the northern part of the State and 2006/07 was no exception. Metropolitan South Region again experienced the lowest rate while Far Northern Region exhibited the highest. Central, North Coast and Metropolitan North Regions experienced decreases in Other Offences (6%, 2% and 7% respectively).

## Drug Offences

Despite the two larger sub-categories, Possession of Dangerous Drugs and Other Drug Offences exhibiting increases of less than 1% and 2% respectively, the total number of Drug Offences recorded a decrease of 1%.

Far Northern Region recorded one of the highest rates of Drug Offences in the State. The largest increase was exhibited by Metropolitan South (7%). The largest decreases (13%) were recorded by both Central and Metropolitan North Regions.

## Breach of Domestic Violence Protection Orders

Breach of Domestic Violence Protection Orders are a breach of a court order and, as such, are classed as "Regina" offences; hence, the inclusion under Other Offences and not Offences Against the Person.

The 2006/07 financial year saw a 5% decrease in Breach of Domestic Violence Protection Orders. A total of 8978 offences were reported to police, equating to a rate of 217 offences per 100000 persons.

While Metropolitan North Region recorded the lowest rate of Breach of Domestic Violence Protection Order offences in the State, the northern regions again recorded the highest. Far Northern Region recorded the largest decrease (23%). Northern Region recorded the highest rate at 500 offences per 100000 persons.

## Weapons Act Offences

The number of Weapons Act Offences decreased by 3% from 4167 offences reported in 2005/06 to 4041 offences reported in 2006/07. The overall decrease is attributable to decreases in three of the five weapons sub-categories. The largest decrease was a 14% fall in both Weapons Act Offences - Other and Unlawful Possession of Concealable Firearm sub-categories.

Six of the eight regions recorded decreases in Weapons Act Offences during the 2006/07 financial year. Despite Metropolitan South Region experiencing the largest increase (10%) it again exhibited the lowest rate in the State. The higher rates of Weapon Act Offences are generally recorded in the northern regions and 2006/07 was no exception.

## Good Order Offences

Good Order Offences increased by 16% from 2005/06 to 2006/07. A total of 41853 offences were detected by police which equates to a rate of 1013 offences for every 100000 persons. An increase in Resist, Hinder etc., Disobey Move-on Directions and Public Nuisance offences contributed to the overall increase. Public Nuisance offences, being the largest sub-category, had the most impact on the outcome.

All regions recorded increases in Good Order Offences in the current period under review. The largest increases occurred in North Coast, Southern and Metropolitan South Regions (22%, 26% and 20% respectively). Higher rates are generally seen in the northern regions and this occurred again in 2006/07. Similarly, the lowest rate traditionally occurred in Metropolitan South and the current year was consistent.

On 1 April 2004, amendments were made to the *Vagrants, Gaming and Other Offences Act, 1931*, section 7AA. The offence of "Public Nuisance" was created to replace the offences of Indecent Behaviour, Language Offences and Disorderly Conduct. This Act was repealed on 20 March, 2005 and was replaced by the *Summary Offences Act, 2005*.

The sub-category of "Disobey Move-on Direction" is relatively new to the publication. Previously, this figure was included in the total for "Resist, Hinder, etc."

## Traffic and Related Offences

Traffic and Related Offences decreased by 4% from 44824 to 42971 offences. All sub-categories exhibited decreases of which the largest was a 16% decrease in Intefere with Mechanism of a Motor Vehicle. Drink Driving is the largest in volume of the sub-categories and, as such, exerts the greatest influence on the Traffic and Related Offences total. This sub-category decreased by 1%.

Metropolitan North Region recorded the largest decrease attributing to the region recording the lowest rate. Although Far Northern Region recorded a 4% decrease it experienced the highest rate of 1586 offences per 100000 persons.

Please note that the Traffic and Related Offences category referred to above includes Dangerous Operation of a Vehicle, Drink Driving, Disqualified Driving and Interfere with the Mechanism of a Motor Vehicle only. For information on Speed and Red Light Camera Notices or Random Breath Tests please refer to the Traffic section on pages 125-127.

