

# Annual Crime Trends

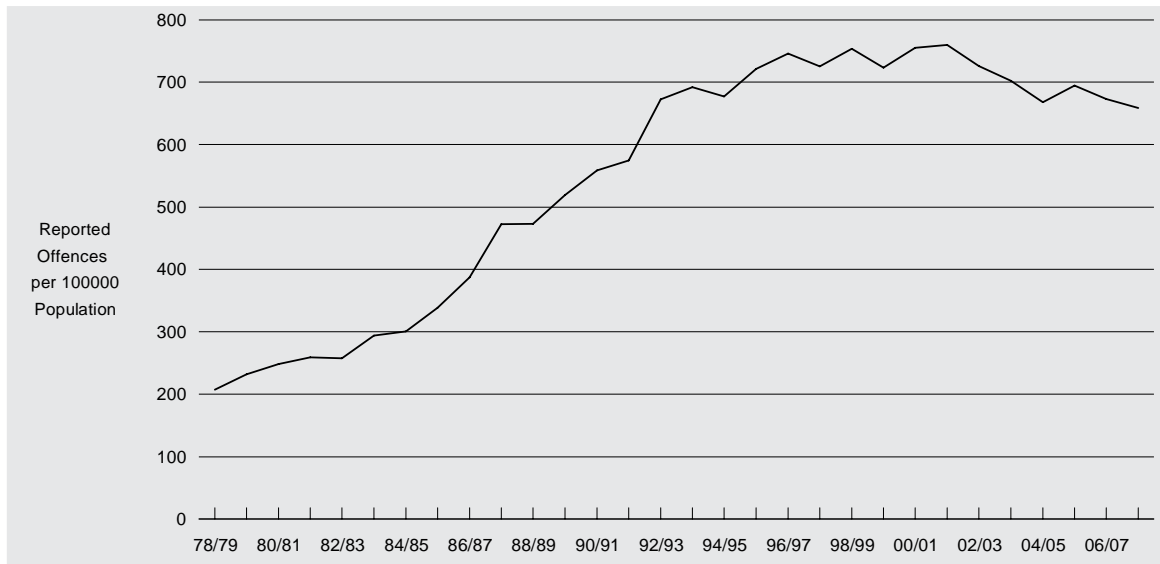
In this section, an examination of the number of selected offences per 100000 population is provided for a thirty year period. The rates provided in this section are based on Estimated Residential Populations, or projections thereof, at 30 June each year, provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Office of Economic and Statistical Research, Queensland.

Since 1978/79, many legislative changes have occurred, and the classification, recording and reporting systems used by the Queensland Police Service have evolved. Therefore, some offence categories, for which thirty years of comparable statistics are not available, have not been included.

The offence categories which have been included in this section are those that have a reasonable degree of consistency and comparability for the past thirty years. Some of these categories (such as Unlawful Entry and Drink Driving) have undergone considerable change at certain times. These breaks in continuity have been noted in the accompanying text where appropriate.

Prior to 1991/92, all crime statistics produced by the Queensland Police Service were based on the date the information related to the crime was received at the Information Bureau (and its precursors) in Police Headquarters. Since 1991/92, the reference date has been the date the offence is reported to police.

## *Offences Against the Person\**



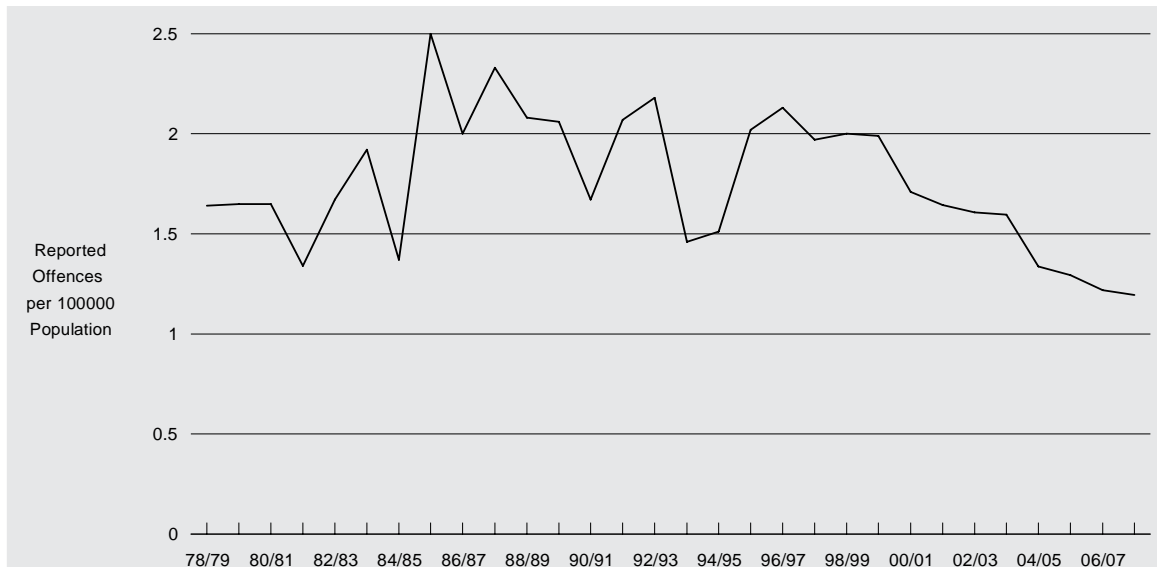
While this broad offence aggregate is comprised of a number of different offence categories, the offence category of Assault tends to dominate Offences Against the Person. As such, the time series largely reflects the

Assault time series. The increases seen in total Offences Against the Person during the late 1970's, 1980's and early 1990's have stabilised over the last fourteen years.

\* The offence category of Other Offences Against the Person is not included in Offences Against the Person.

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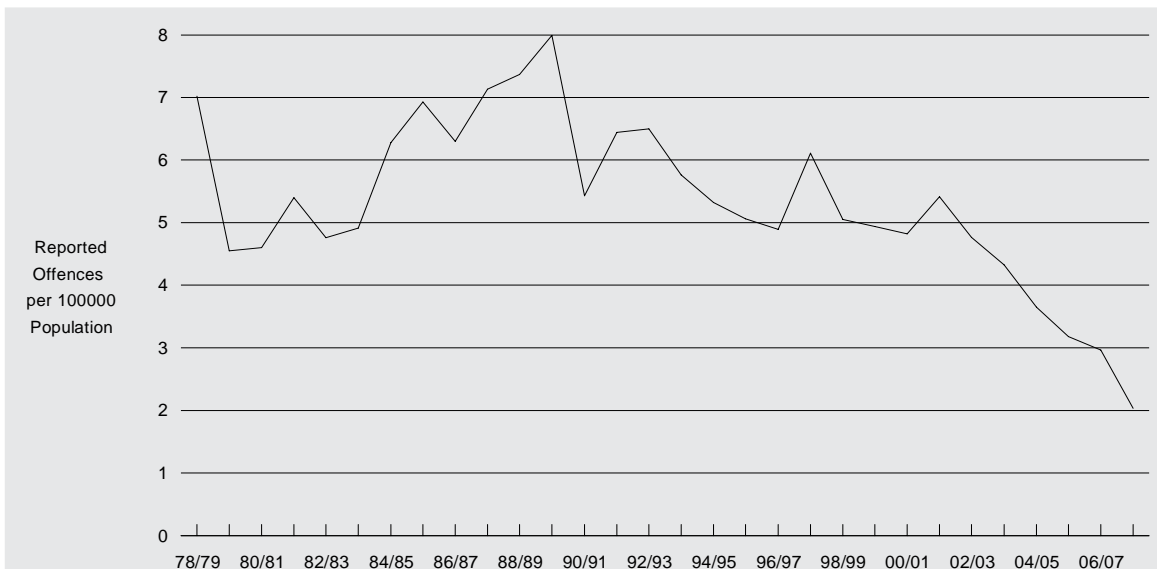
## *Homicide (Murder)*



Homicide (Murder) is a small volume offence and, as such, is subject to sizeable fluctuations from year to year. Overall, however, the Homicide (Murder) rate has changed little. Following a peak in 1996/97, the rate of

Homicide (Murder) has been steadily decreasing. In 2007/08, the Homicide (Murder) rate decreased by 2% although the same number of murders were reported compared with the previous year.

## *Other Homicide*

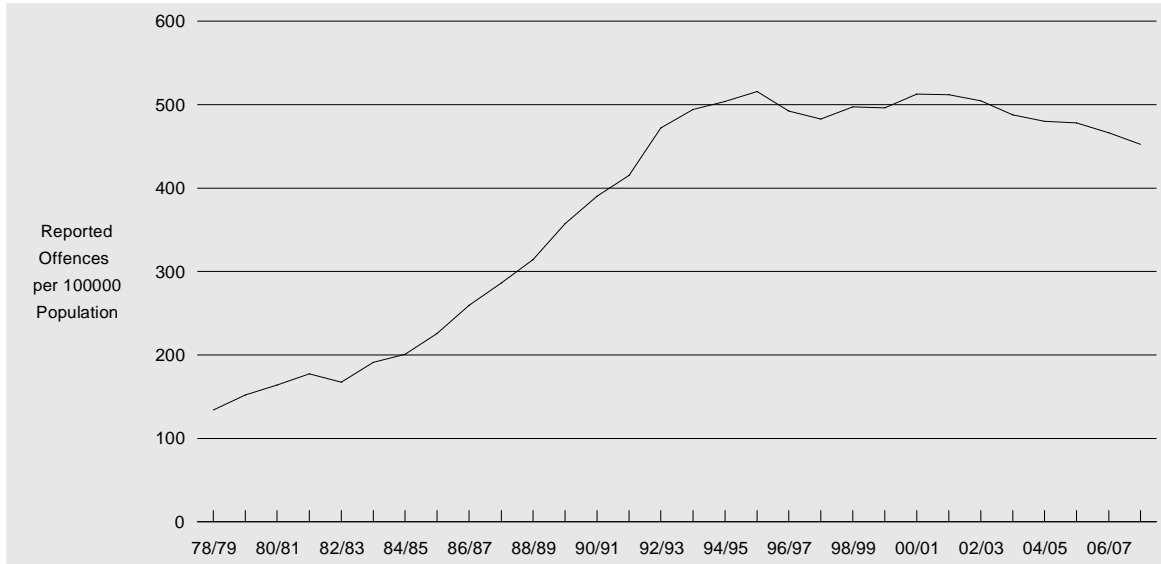


Other Homicide is also a small volume offence category and, as such, is subject to sizeable fluctuations from year to year. From 1987/88 to 1989/90, Other Homicide offences were reported at a slightly higher rate,

although the rate has steadily decreased since this time. In 2007/08 there was a 31% decrease in the rate of Other Homicides, largely as a result of a significant decrease in Driving Causing Death offences.

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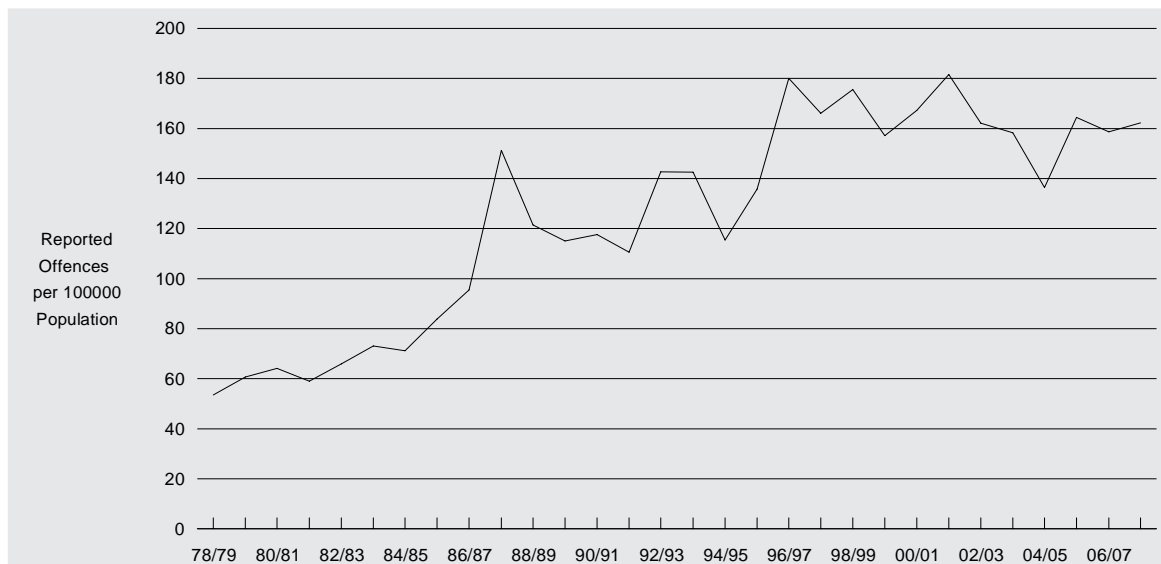
## Assault



Looking at the overall trend, the rate of Assaults steadily increased over the late 1970's, 1980's and even into the early 1990's. Since the mid 1990's, the rate of Assault

stabilised. During 2007/08 the rate of Assaults decreased by 3% from that reported in the previous year.

## Sexual Offences

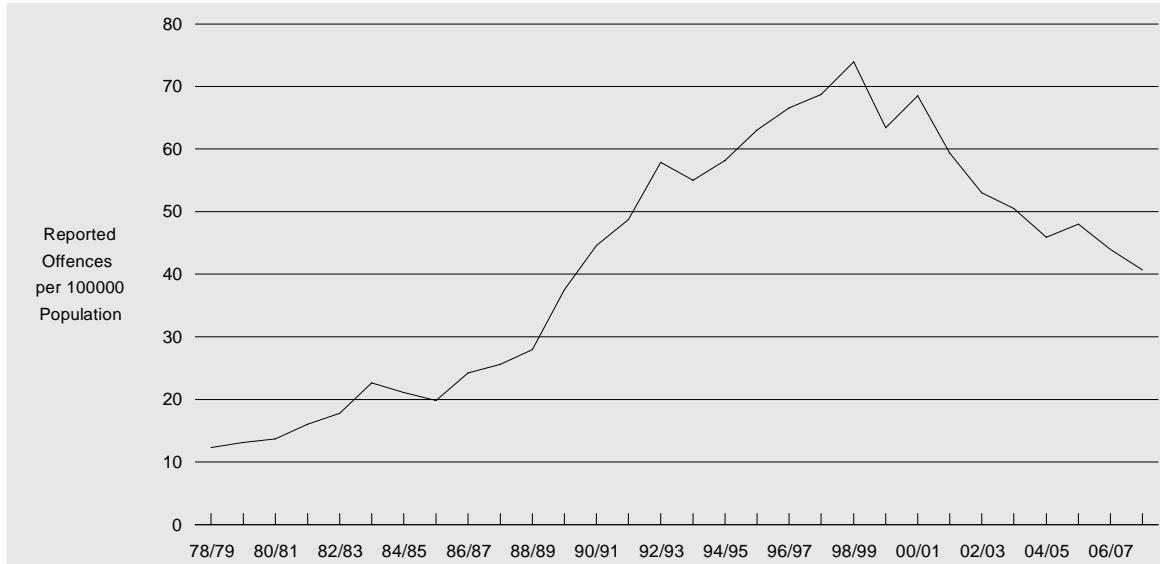


Sexual Offences may be reported to police many years after the offences actually occur and there are often numerous charges preferred against one offender. These factors have resulted in the fluctuations seen in

the graph above. Queensland recorded an increase of 2% in the rate of Sexual Offences in the year under review compared with the previous year.

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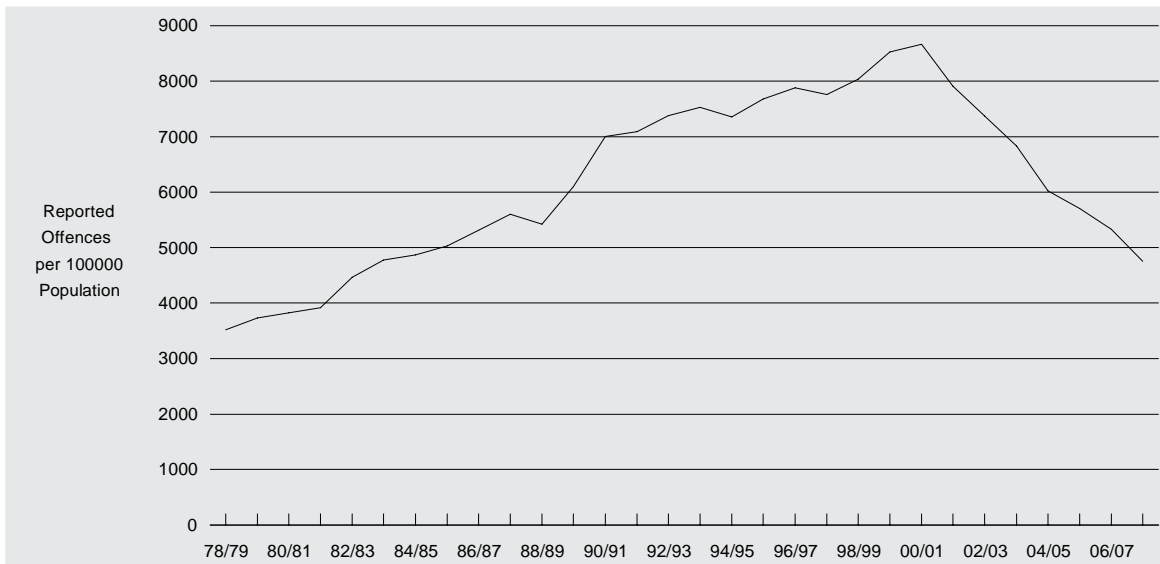
## Robbery



Robbery offences increased sharply between 1988/89 and 1998/99. Since then, the overall decreasing trend for Robbery is apparent in the graph above. The rate of

Robbery offences decreased in 2007/08 by 7%. This is attributed to decreases in both sub-categories of Robbery.

## Offences Against Property

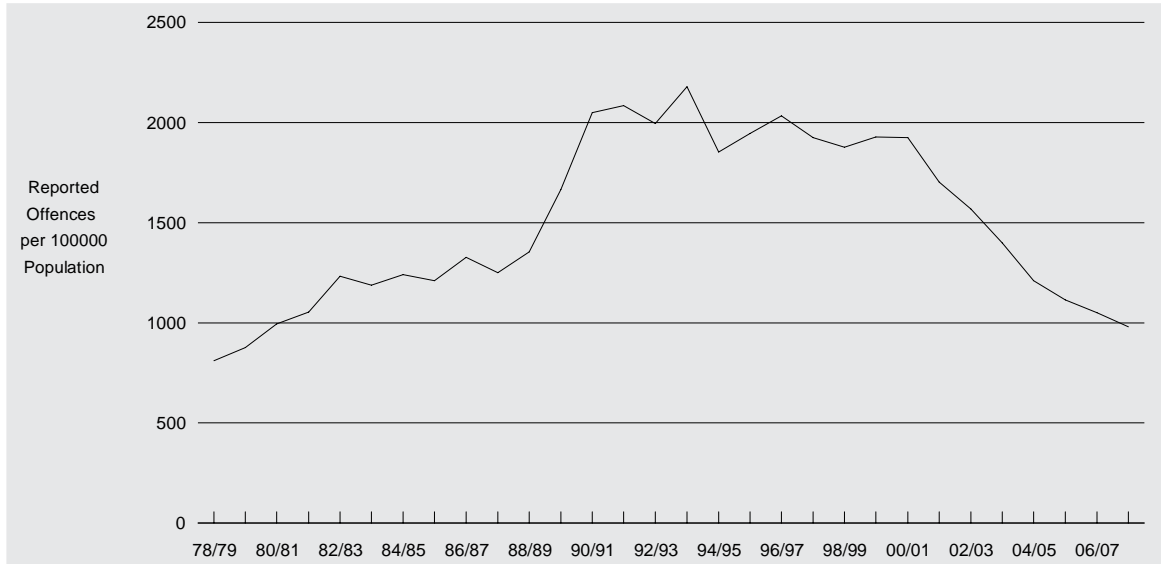


Offences Against Property increased steadily from 1978/79 to 1990/91, although a sharper increase in nearly all property offence sub-categories is reflected in the sharp increase seen from 1988/89 to 1990/91. From 1990/91 the rate increased slower than was seen

previously. Over the last seven years total Offences Against Property has decreased. In 2007/08 total property crime decreased by 11% as a result of decreases in most categories of this offence aggregate.

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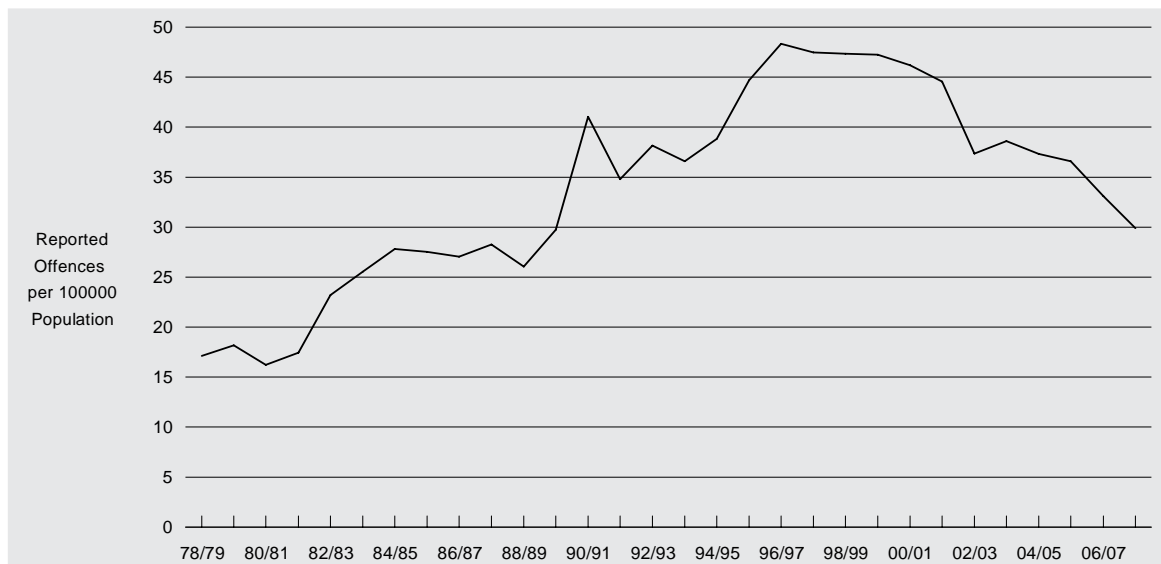
## *Unlawful Entry Involving Breaking*



Following a steady increase in Unlawful Entry Involving Breaking offences from 1978/79 to 1988/89, offences increased suddenly and sharply from 1988/89 to 1990/91. Since this time, the rate has stabilised, even

exhibiting a downward trend. In particular, the rate of Unlawful Entry Involving Breaking offences fell by 6% in 2006/07, with a further fall of 7% in the current period under review.

## *Arson*

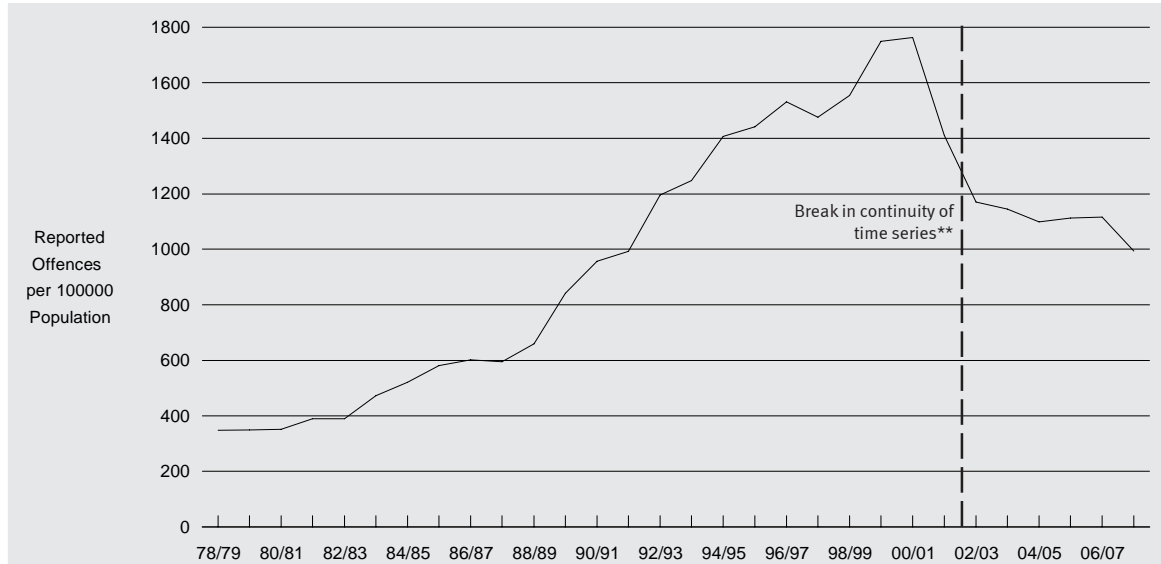


Apart from the sharp increase in the late 1980's and the subsequent decrease in the early 1990's, Arson offences have risen steadily up to 1996/97. Since then,

the rate of Arson offences has declined. Following a decrease in Arson offences of 10% in 2006/07, the current financial year has seen a further decrease of 10%.

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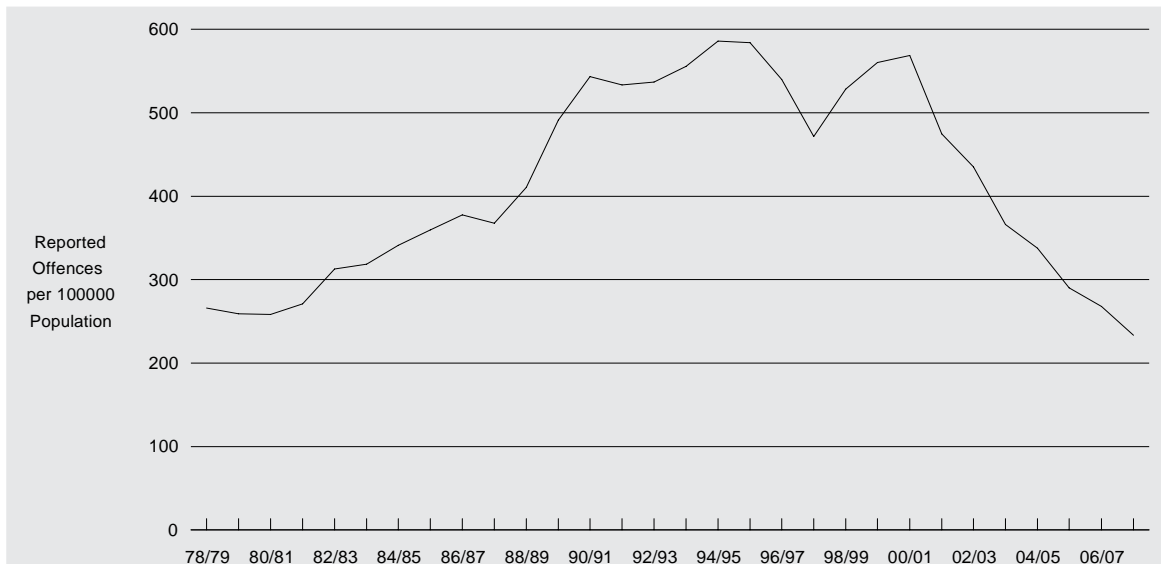
## *Other Property Damage*



This offence category rose steadily up to 2000/01. Since then, Other Property Damage offences have decreased at a sharp rate. A change in recording practices for this offence contributed to a 20% decrease in the rate for 2001/02. However, the rate again

decreased in the following four years by 17%, 2%, 4% and 3% respectively. While a slight increase of 0.2% was recorded last year, the current period again exhibits a decrease (11%).

## *Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle\**



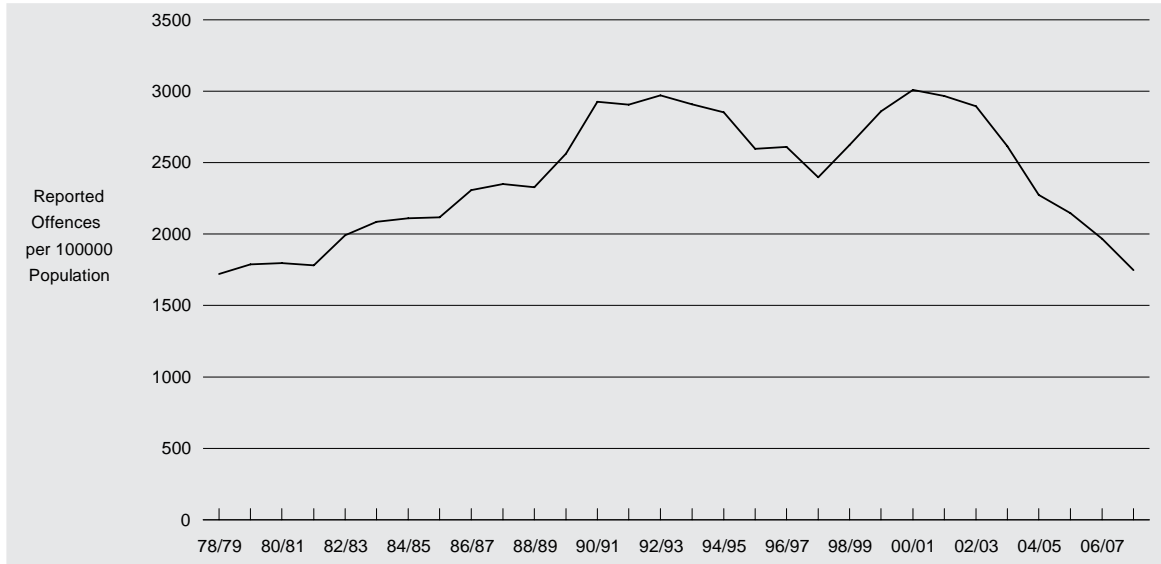
Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle offences recorded a substantial decrease over the period 1995/96 to 1997/98. Rates then rose sharply to again equal the high rates seen in the mid 1990's. From 2000/01,

however, rates again declined. Since 2001/02, there has been a significant reduction in the rate of Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle offences. In the current period, the State recorded a decrease of 13%.

\*\* The break in continuity is the result of a policy change implemented in December 2001 (see Explanatory Notes section).  
\* The total for Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle includes attempted offences.

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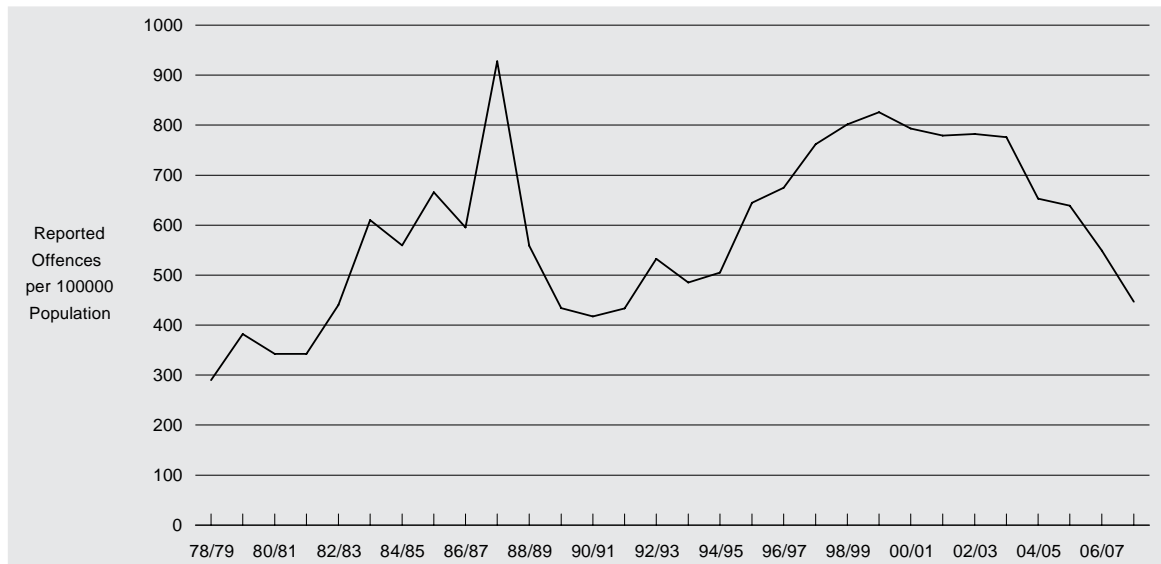
## *Other Theft*



As with most Offences Against Property sub-categories, the sharp increase experienced during the late 1980's is evident in the graph above. This sharp increase was repeated in the late 1990's. Over the last few years,

however, the trend has reversed. In the last financial year a decrease of 11% in Other Theft offences has been recorded following on from an 8% decrease the previous year.

## *Fraud*

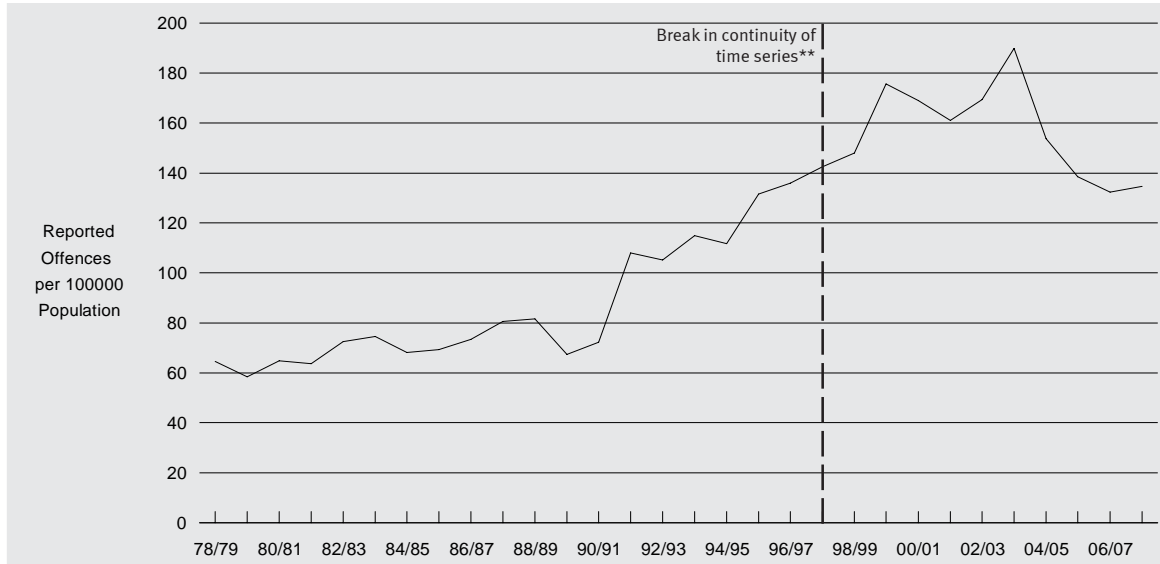


Fraud offences increased sharply from 1978/79 to 1987/88. The sudden decrease from 1987/88 to 1990/91 is due to a change in policy by banking institutions regarding the reporting of offences, rather than an actual reduction in offences. The figures

reported for 2000/01 and 2001/02 effectively halted a steadily increasing trend evident over the last decade. Rates experienced in each year from 2002/03 to 2007/08 have continued this reversal with a 19% reduction reported for the year under review.

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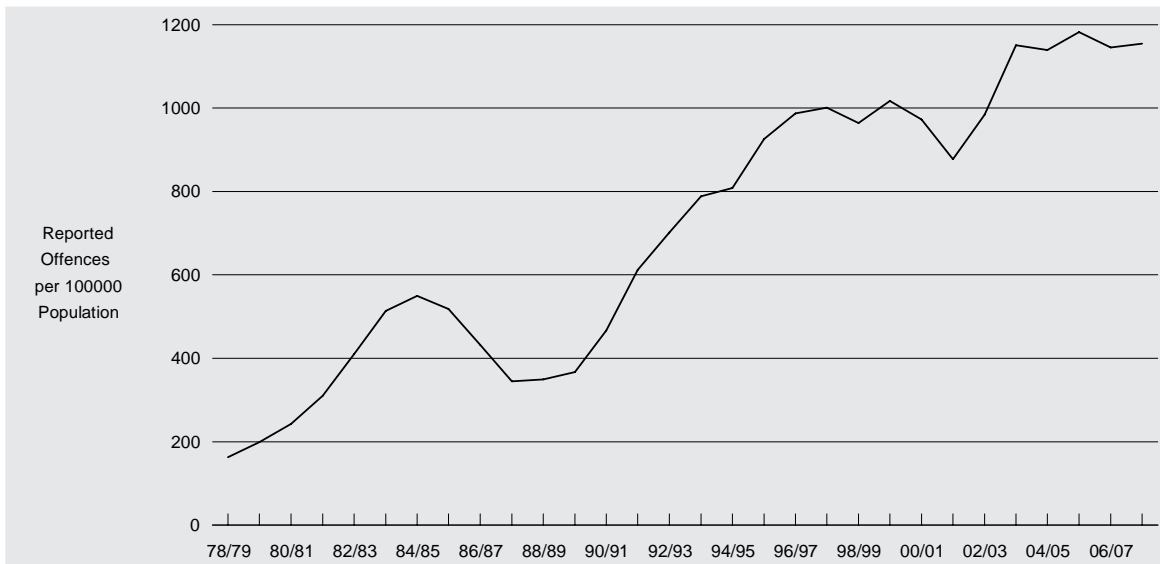
## Handling Stolen Goods



Handling Stolen Goods was expanded in 1997/98 to include the sub-categories Possess, Receive, etc. Tainted Property and Other Handling Stolen Goods\*\*. Possess, Receive, etc. Tainted Property is now the

largest in volume of the offence sub-categories resulting in the necessity for caution when making comparisons prior to and following this change. In the year under review, the rate of offences increased by 2%.

## Drug Offences

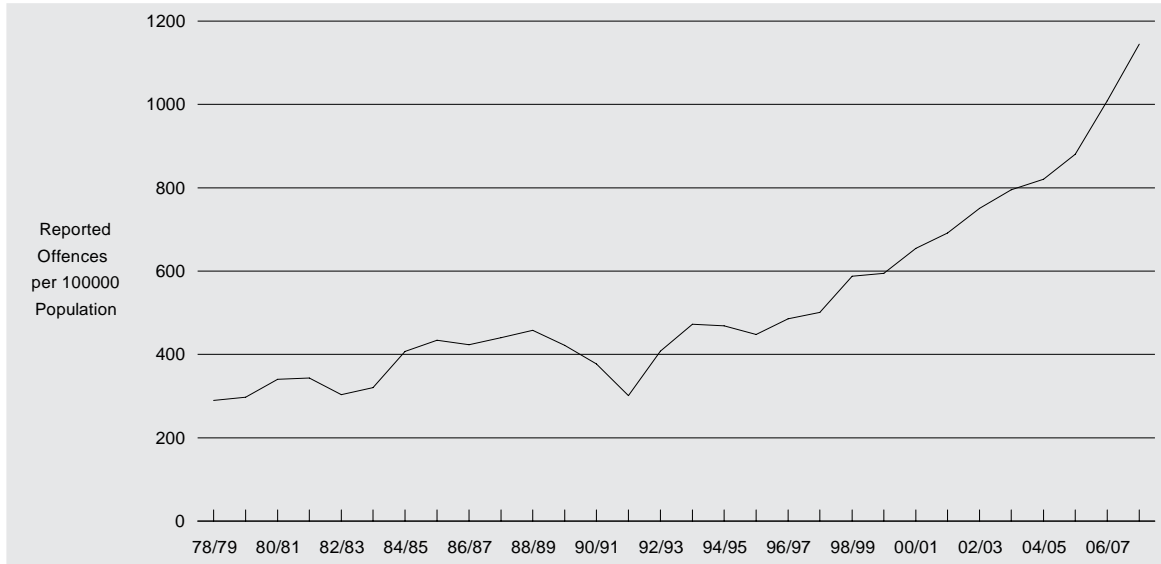


Apart from a period in the mid to late 1980s, possibly due to the reallocation of police resources resulting from the Fitzgerald Inquiry, Drug Offences increased steadily up to 1999/00. Following an increase of 5%

recorded in 2005/06, 2006/07 recorded a decrease of 3%. The current period under review has recorded an increase of 1% in the rate of Drug Offences.

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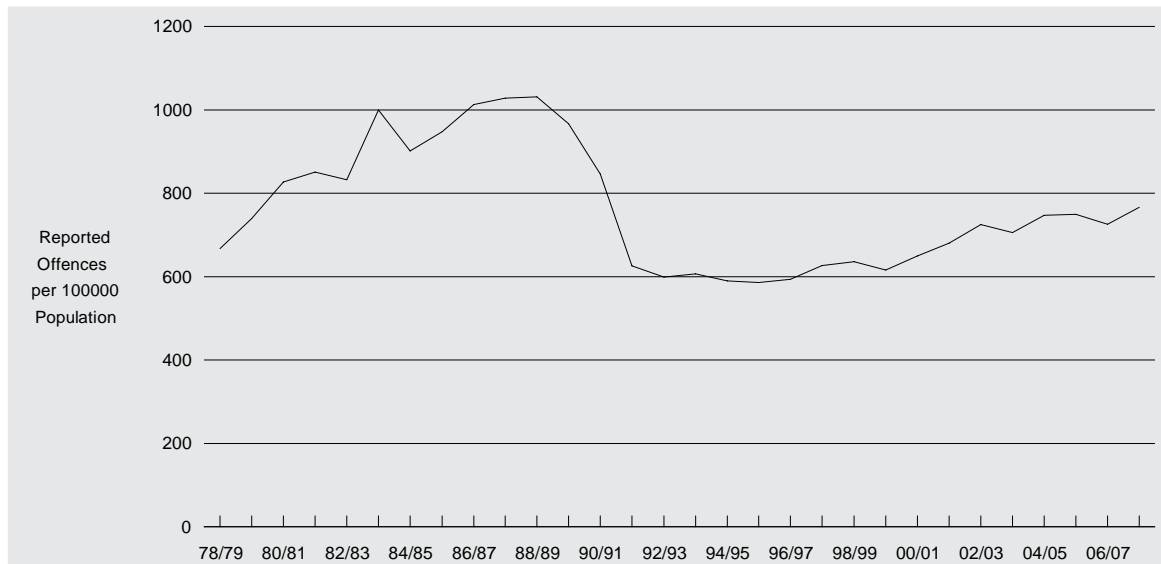
## *Good Order Offences*



A dominant feature of the time series is the decrease in reported Good Order Offences from 1988/89 to 1991/92 and the subsequent increase following that period.

Since 1995/96, Good Order Offences have been steadily increasing and 2007/08 was consistent (increasing 13%).

## *Drink Driving Offences*



Analysis of the Drink Driving offence time series is difficult due to the many changes that have affected the overall trend (see Explanatory Notes, page 150). The graph above highlights the effectiveness of these

initiatives as offences have reduced and remained stable at around 600 offences per 100,000 persons from 1991/92 to 2000/01. In the current period Drink Driving Offences recorded a 6% increase.