

# Annual Crime Trends

In this section, an examination of the number of selected offences per 100,000 population is provided for a twenty-five 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 Queensland Office of the Government Statistician.

Since 1974/75, 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 twenty-five 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 twenty-five 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 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. From 1991/92, the reference date was the date the offence was reported to police.

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## Offences Against the Person\*



The offence sub-category of Assault tends to dominate Offences Against the Person as is evidenced by the fact that the graph above largely reflects the trend seen for Assault. Overall, Offences Against the Person have

increased, on average, by just over 1% each year. The steady increase over the twenty-five year period is evident in the time series presented above.

## Homicide



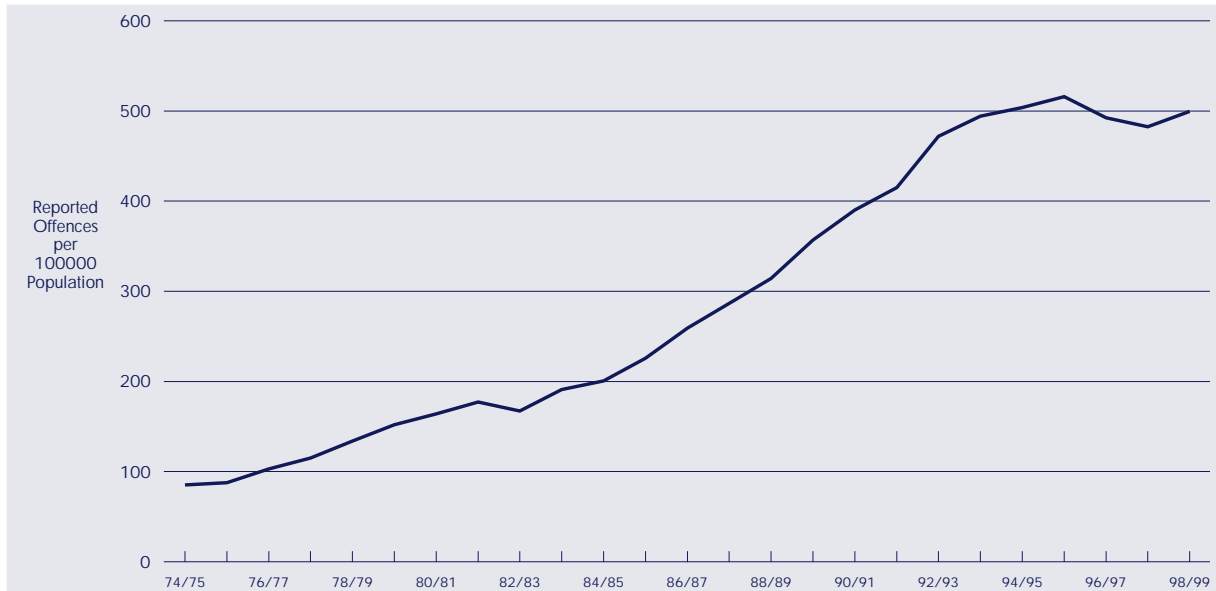
Although Homicide offences have fluctuated from year to year over the past twenty-five years, the Homicide rate has changed little overall. On average, approximately 7 offences per 100,000 persons are reported

each financial year. From the 1984/85 to the 1989/90 financial years Homicide offences were reported at a higher rate although the rate decreased during 1990/91 and has remained steady since then.

\* The offence categories of Extortion, Kidnapping and Abduction, etc and Other Offences Against the Person are not included in Offences Against the Person.

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## Assault



The rate of Assaults have experienced an average annual increase of 8% over the twenty-five year period. Looking at the overall trend, the time series has stabilised since

1993/94, although the sharp increase prior to this time is evident.

## Sexual Offences



Sexual Offences are often reported to Police many years after the offences actually occurred and this can result in the fluctuations seen in the graph above. As the stigma attached to being a victim of Sexual Offences has

decreased, much higher offence totals have been recorded although the extent to which this is the case is difficult to quantify.

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## Robbery



Following a relatively stable period from 1974/75 to 1985/86, Robbery offences have increased sharply and this trend has continued to the present. On average, Robbery has increased by 6% each year although, for the

1998/99 financial year, the rate of Robbery offences increased by 7%. 1993/94 was the last year to report a decrease in Robbery.

## Offences Against Property



Offence Against Property increased steadily from 1974/75 to 1990/91, although a sharper increase occurred from 1988/89 which is reflected in nearly all Property Offence sub-categories. From 1990/91 the time series

steadied and has increased at a slower rate than was seen previously. Overall, Offences Against Property have increased, on average, by 4% each year.

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## Unlawful Entry Involving Breaking



Following a steady increase in Unlawful Entry Offences Involving Breaking from 1974/75 to 1988/89, offences increased suddenly and sharply from 1989/90 to 1990/91. Since this time, the time series has stabilised, even

exhibiting a slight downward trend. Over 1998/99 Unlawful Entry Offences Involving Breaking again decreased. Data has been adjusted for comparability over the time period.

## Arson



Apart from the sharp increase in the late 1980s and the subsequent decrease in the early 1990s, Arson offences have risen steadily over the twenty-five year period. These offences have increased, on average, approxi-

mately 6% each year, although the last two financial years have experienced very similar rates resulting in a plateau in the time series.

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## Other Property Damage



Apart from a decrease in the rate of Other Property Damage offences between 1996/97 and 1997/98, this offence category has risen steadily over the twenty-five

year period. Other Property Damage offences have increased an average of 7% per year, although the increase has been more marked since 1982/83.

## Motor Vehicle Theft

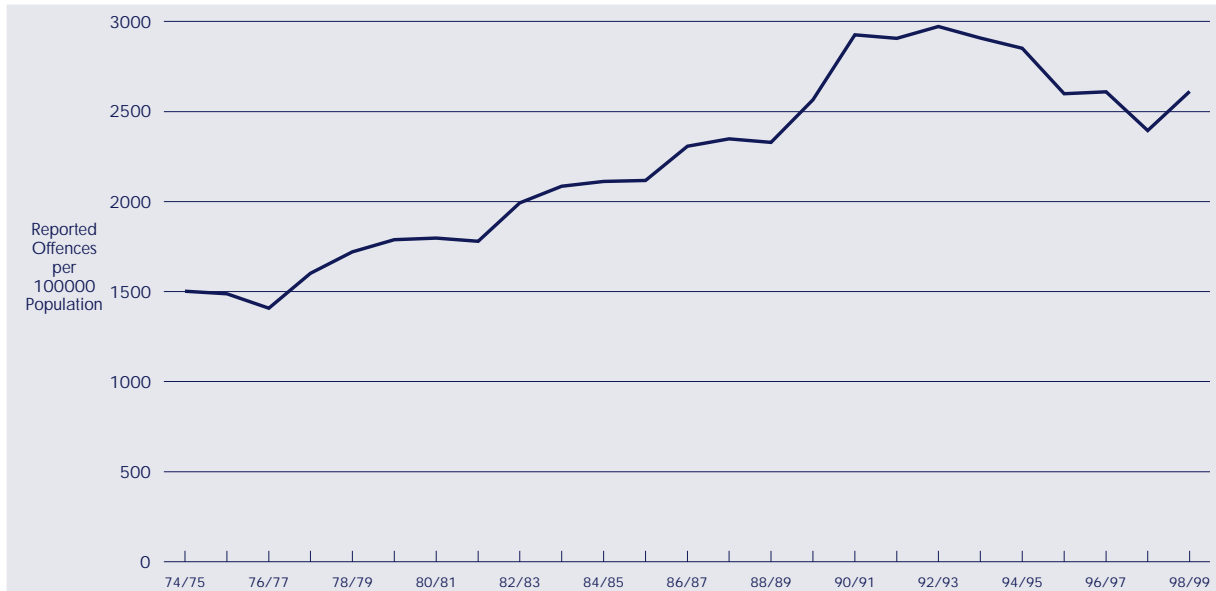


Motor Vehicle Theft offences experienced a substantial decrease over the period 1995/96 to 1997/98. Over 1998/99 the rate of offences rose by 12%. Despite this rise, the rates are still below those experienced in the

mid 1990s. As with most other Offences Against Property sub-categories, Motor Vehicle Theft increased sharply during the late 1980s.

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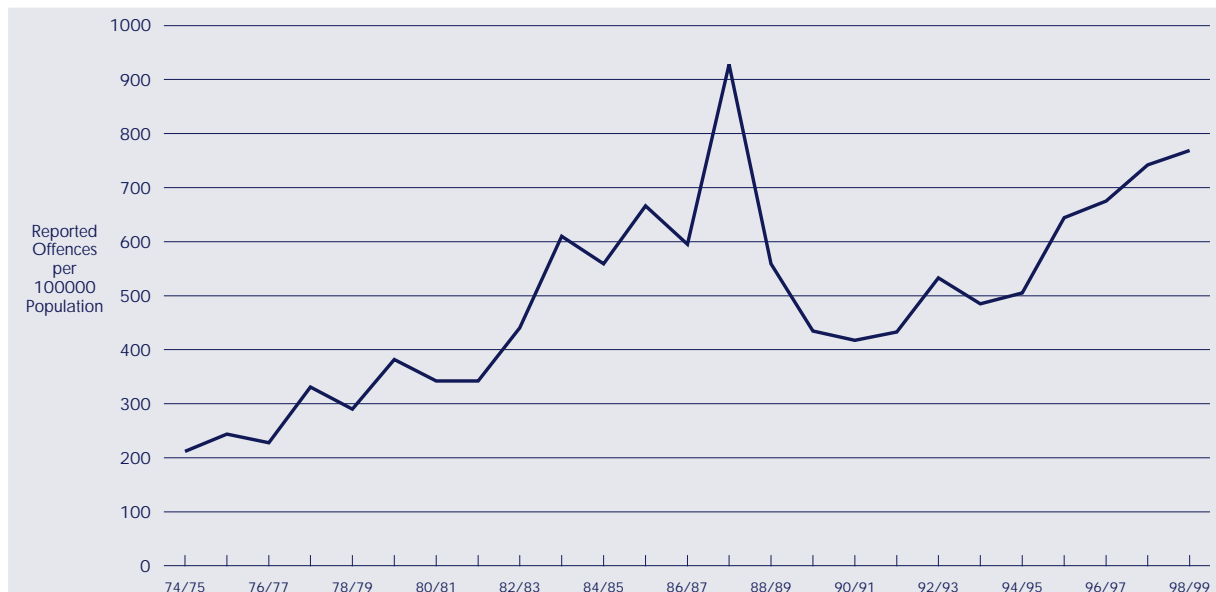
## Other Theft



Data has been adjusted for comparability over the time period. The Other Theft time series has remained relatively stable since 1990/91. As with most Offences

Against Property sub-categories, the sharp increase during the late 1980s is evident in the graph above.

## Fraud



Fraud offences increased rapidly in the early stages of the twenty-five year time series. 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. Since 1990/91, offences have again been increasing steadily with a 4% increase reported for the 1998/99 financial year.

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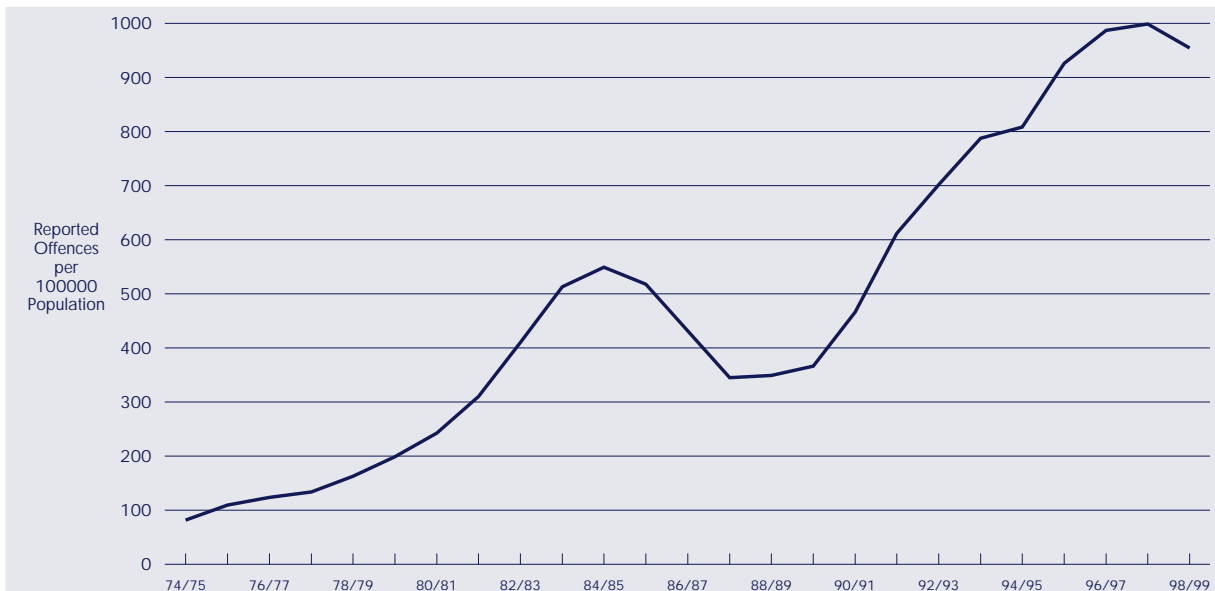
## Handling Stolen Goods



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. Overall, this offence classification has experienced a 4% increase on average per year.

## Drug Offences

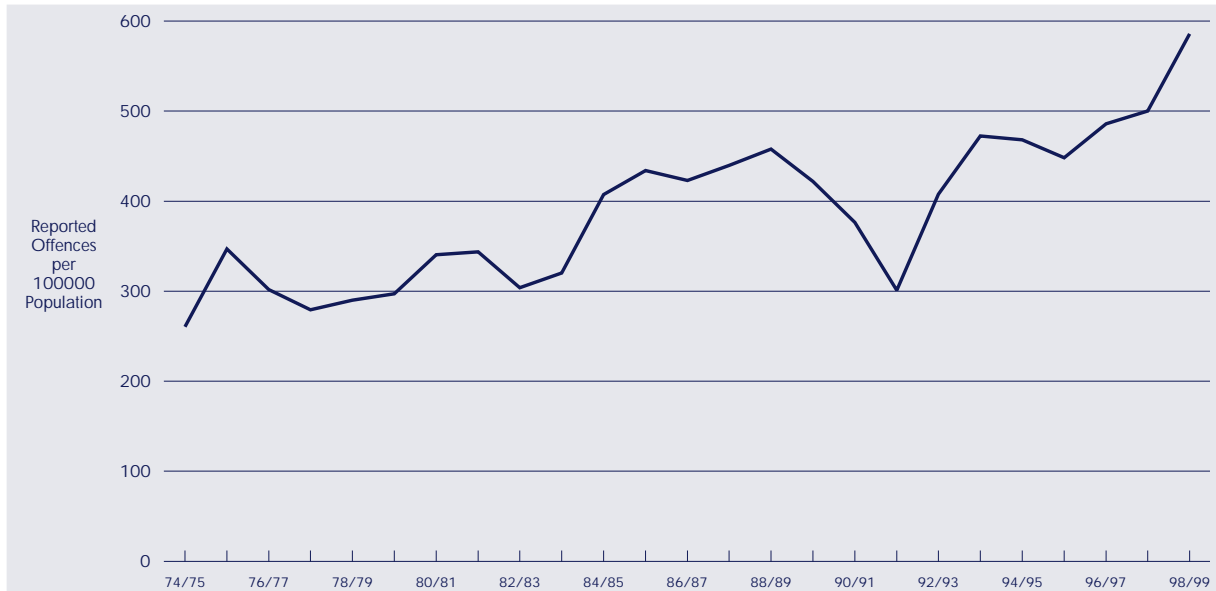


The 1998/99 financial year is the first in over ten years for which a decrease in Drug Offences was reported. Apart from a period in the mid to late 1980s, possibly due to the reallocation of police resources to the

Fitzgerald Inquiry, Drug Offences have increased steadily over the twenty-five year period experiencing an overall average annual increase of 11%.

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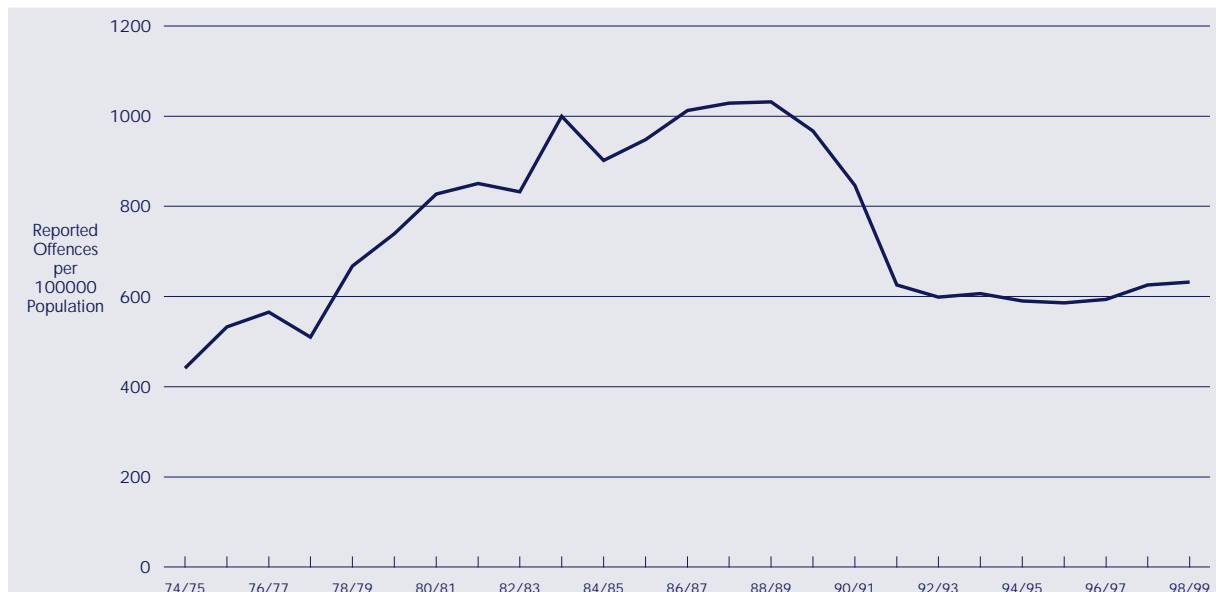
## Good Order Offences



Good Order Offences were expanded in 1984 to include Indecent Behaviour which possibly explains the increase in offences seen after this time. A dominant feature of the time series is the decrease from 1988/89 to 1991/

92 and the subsequent and equivalent increase. A substantive increase of 17% over the 1998/99 financial year has resulted in a sharp upward turn in the time series.

## 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). The graph above does highlight the effectiveness of these initia-

tives as offences have not only been reduced but have been kept stable at around 600 offences per 100,000 persons from 1991/92 to the present time.

