

Annual Crime Trends

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

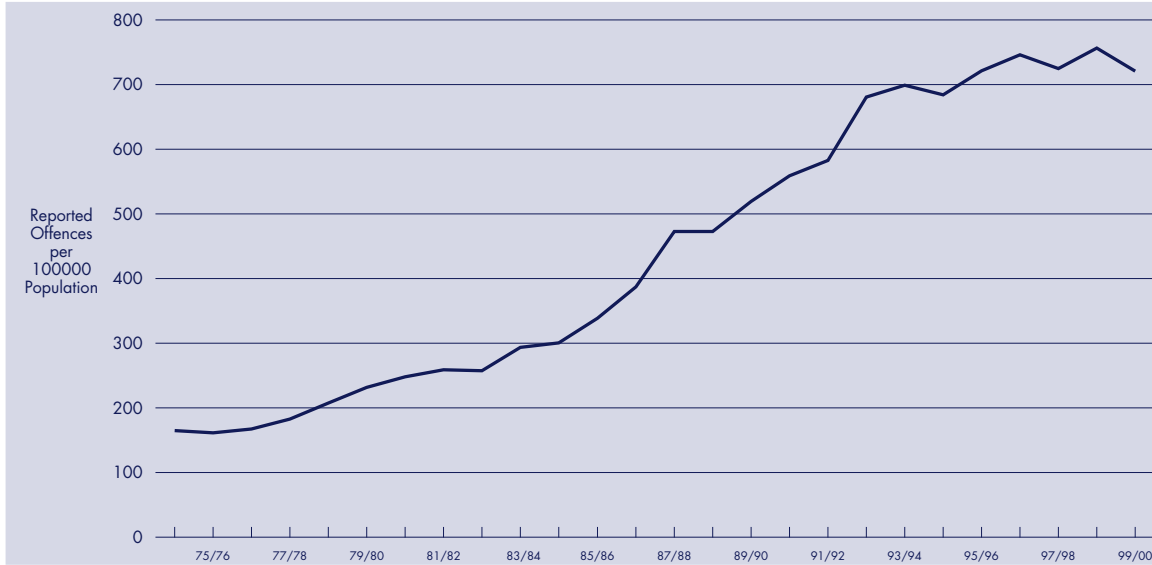
Since 1974/75, many legislative changes have occurred, and the classification, recording and reporting systems used by the Queensland Police Service have evolved. Therefore, some offence categories, for which twenty-six years of comparable statistics are not available, have not been included.

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-six 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. 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 6% each year. The steady increase over the twenty-six year period is evident in the time series presented above.

Homicide



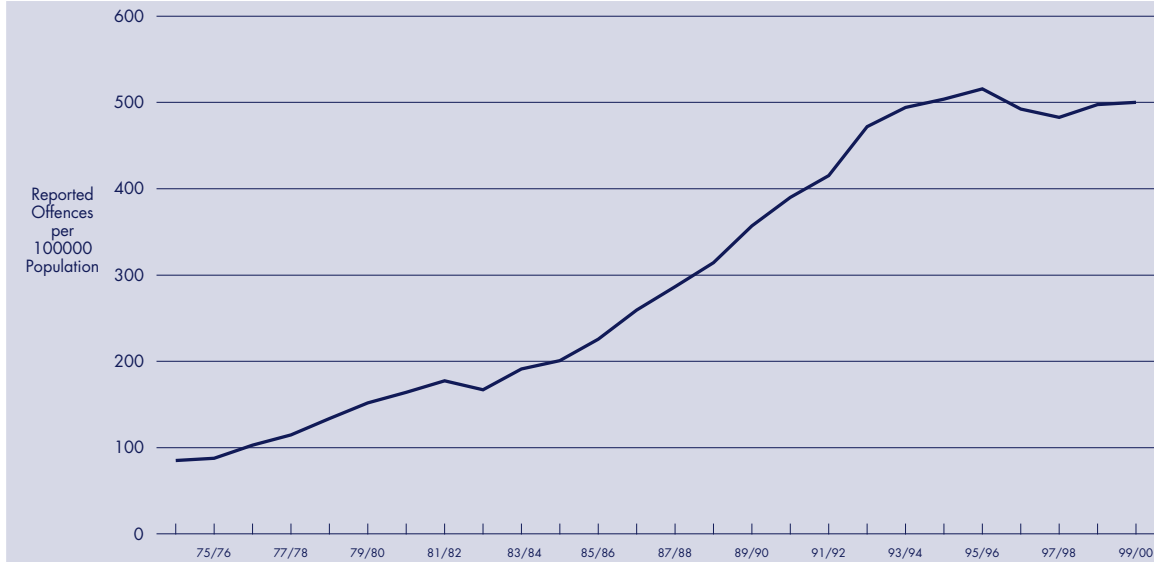
Although Homicide offences have fluctuated from year to year, the Homicide rate has changed little overall. From the 1984/85 to the 1989/90 financial years Homicide offences were reported at

a higher rate although the rate decreased during 1990/91 and has remained relatively steady since. The rate for 1999/00 is the lowest since the late 1970's.

* 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



Rates of Assault have increased, on average, by 7% over the twenty-six year period. Looking at the overall trend, the time series has stabilised since

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

Sexual Offences

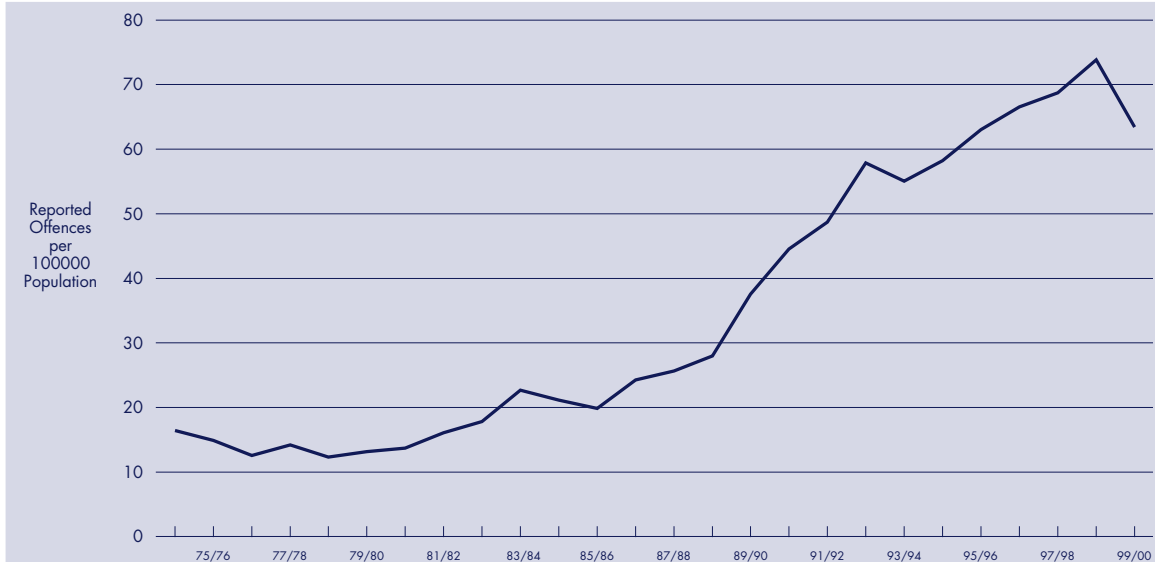


Sexual Offences are often reported to police many years after the offences actually occurred and this can result in the fluctuations seen in the graph above. As the stigma attached to being a victim of

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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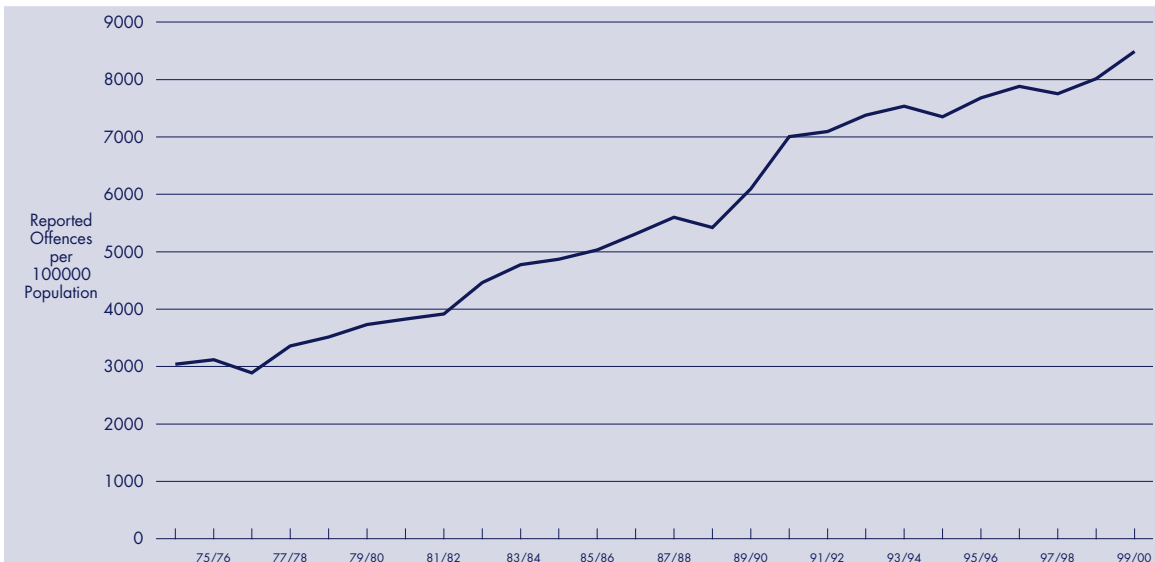
Robbery



Following a relatively stable period from 1974/75 to 1985/86, Robbery offences have increased sharply. On average, Robbery has increased by 6% each year although, for the 1999/00 financial

year, the rate of Robbery offences decreased by 13%. In fact, this decrease effectively halts an increasing trend seen in Queensland from 1993/94.

Offences Against Property

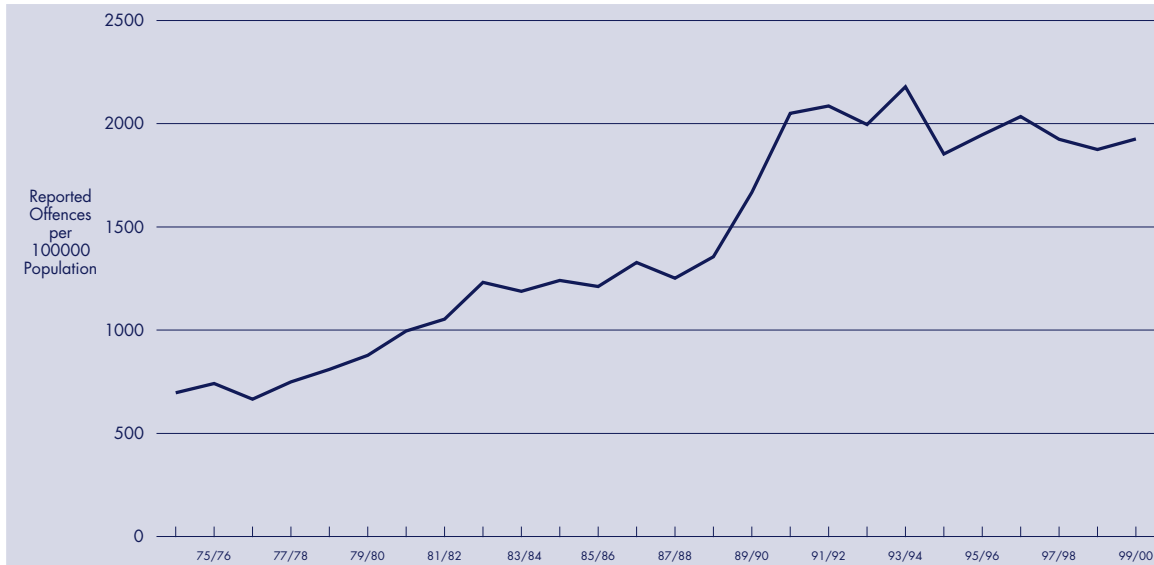


Offences Against Property increased steadily from 1974/75 to 1990/91, although a sharper increase in nearly all property offence sub-categories is reflected in the sharp increase seen in

1989/90. From 1990/91 the time series has steadied and 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 1988/89 to 1990/91. Since this

time, the time series has stabilised, even exhibiting a slight downward trend. Data has been adjusted for comparability over the time period.

Arson

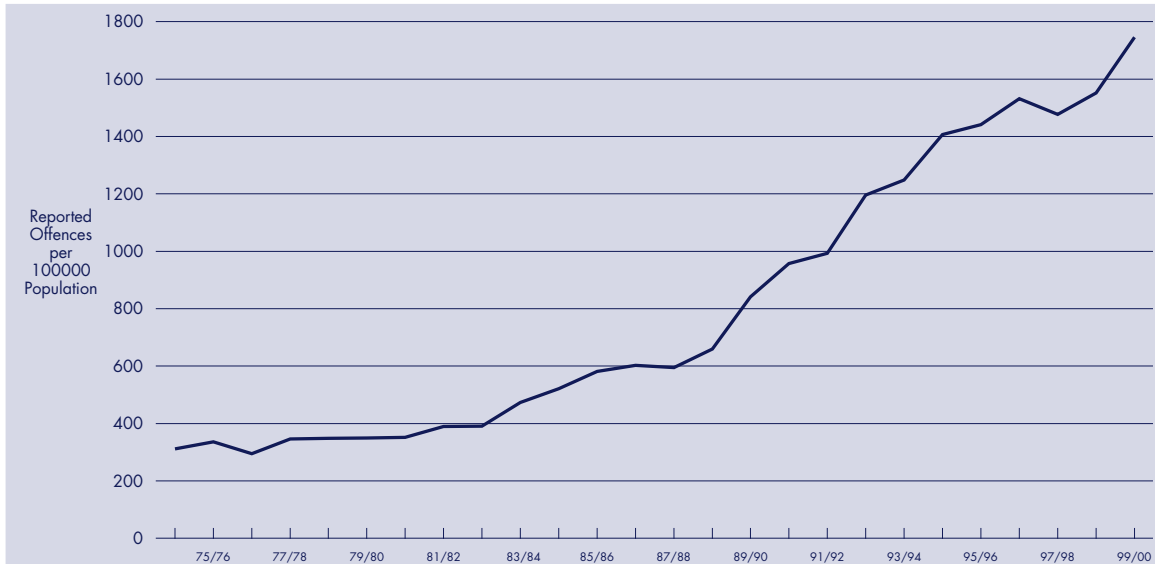


Apart from the sharp increase in the late 1980s and the subsequent decrease in the early 1990s, Arson offences have risen steadily over the twenty-six year period. These offences have increased, on

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

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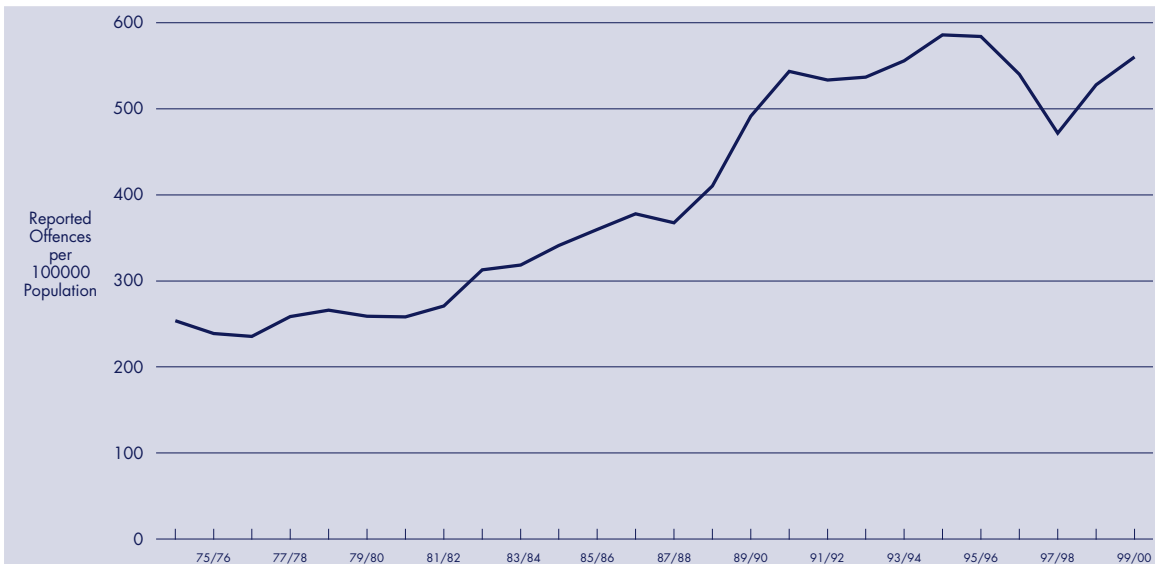
Other Property Damage



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-six 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

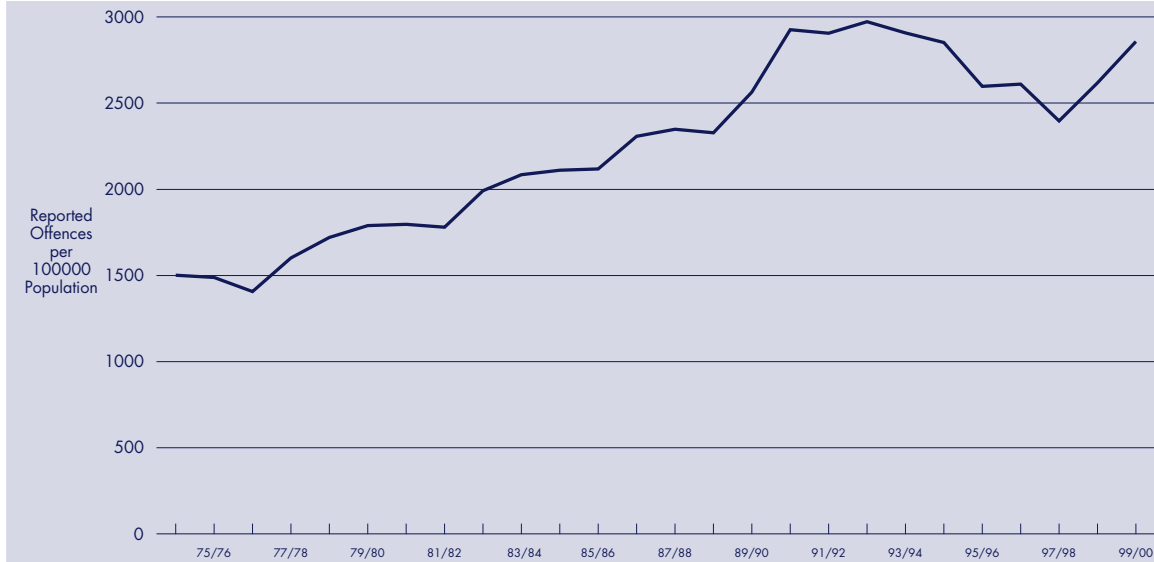


Motor Vehicle Theft offences experienced a substantial decrease over the period 1995/96 to 1997/98. Since this time, rates have risen sharply again to equal the high rates seen in the mid-

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

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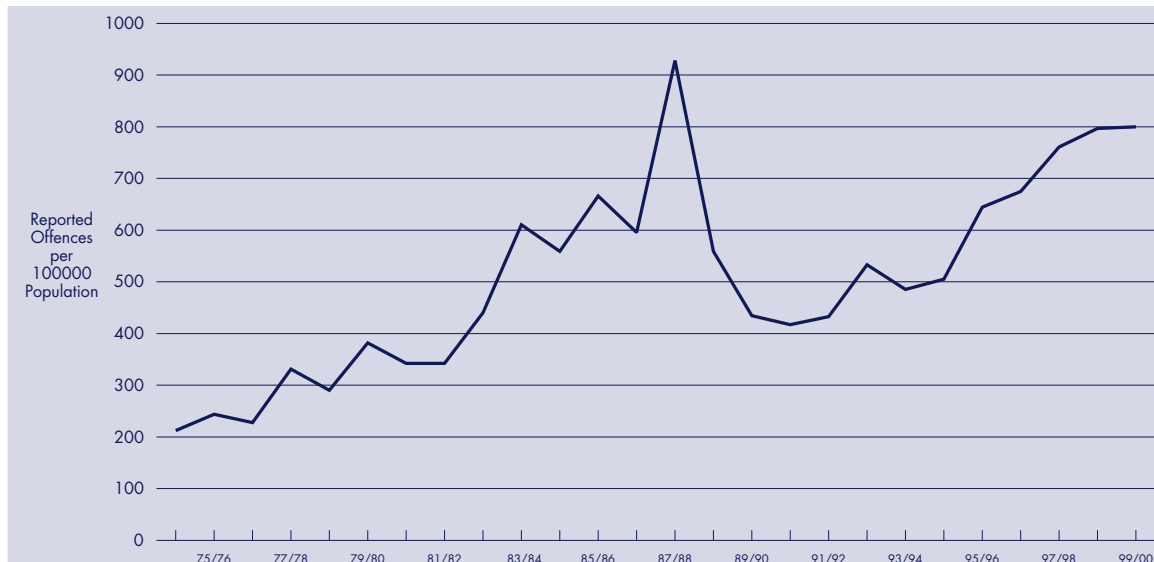
Other Theft



As with most Offences Against Property sub-categories, the sharp increase during the late 1980s is evident in the graph above. The late 1990s has again experienced sharply increasing

rates similar to those experienced in the late 1980s. Data has been adjusted for comparability over the time period.

Fraud

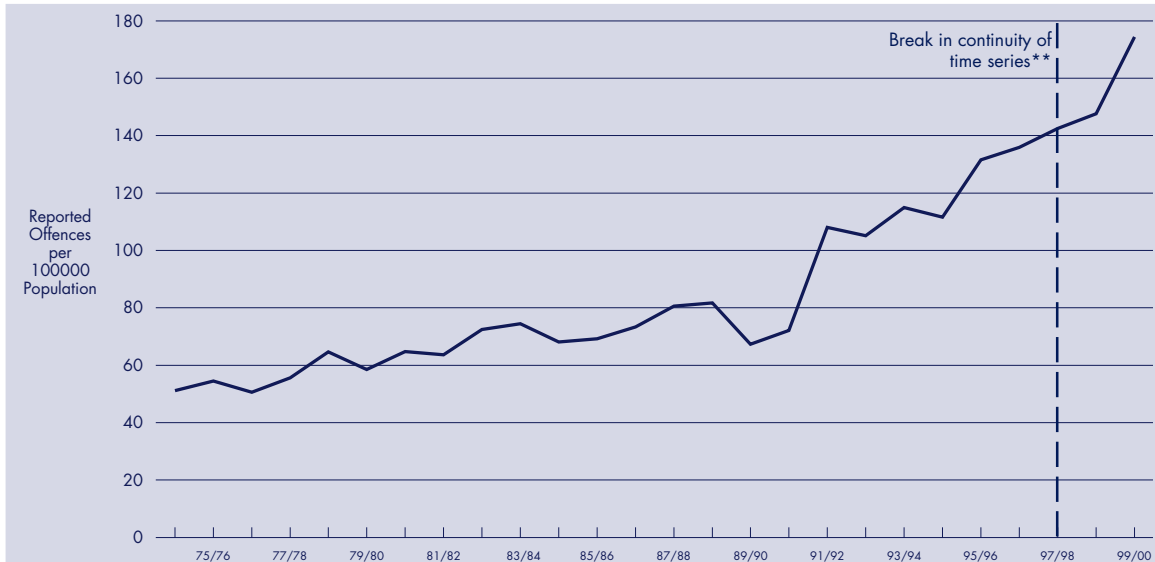


Fraud offences increased rapidly in the early stages of the twenty-six year time series. The sudden decrease from 1987/88 to 1990/91 is due to a change in policy by banking institutions regarding

the reporting of offences rather than an actual reduction in offences. Since 1990/91, offences have again been increasing steadily. Overall, Fraud has increased an average of 5%.

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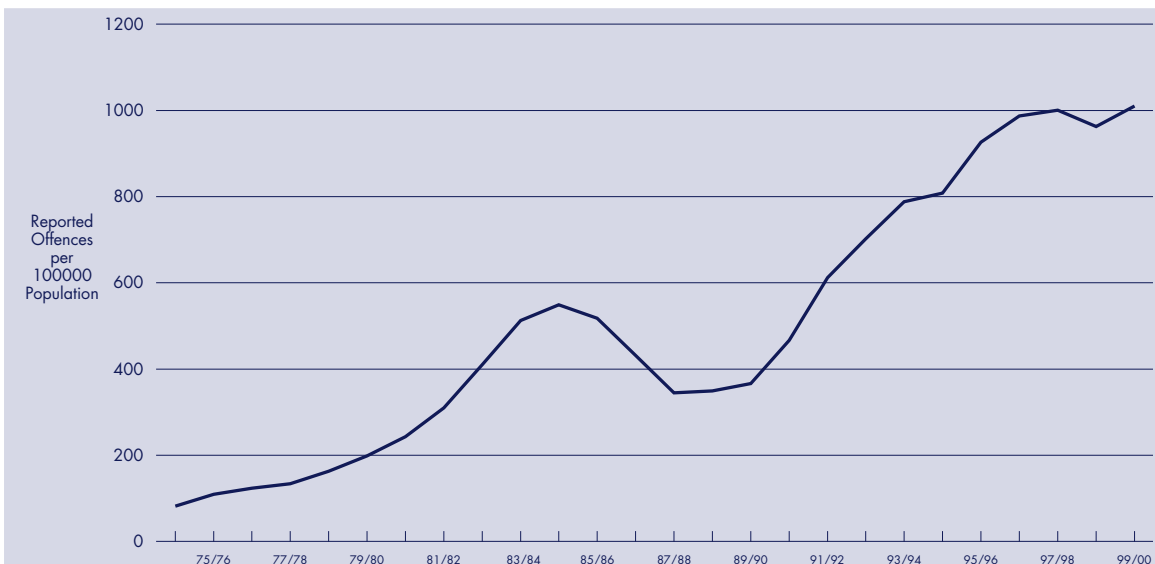
Handling Stolen Goods



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 5% increase on average per year.

Drug Offences

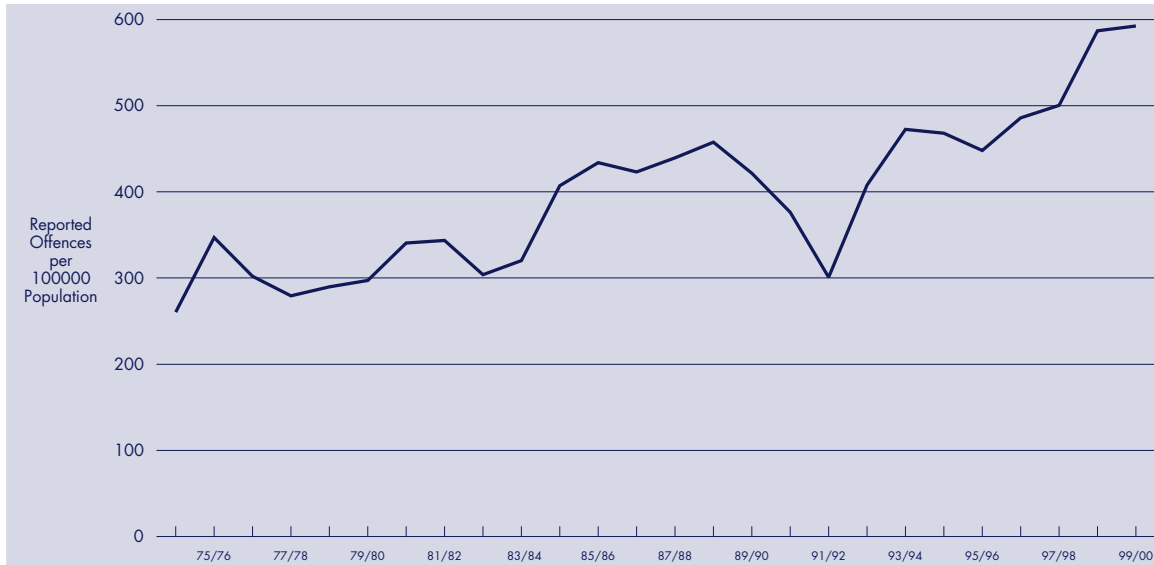


Apart from a period in the mid to late 1980s, possibly due to the reallocation of police resources to the Fitzgerald Inquiry, Drug Offences have

increased steadily over the twenty-six year period, experiencing an overall average annual increase of 11%.

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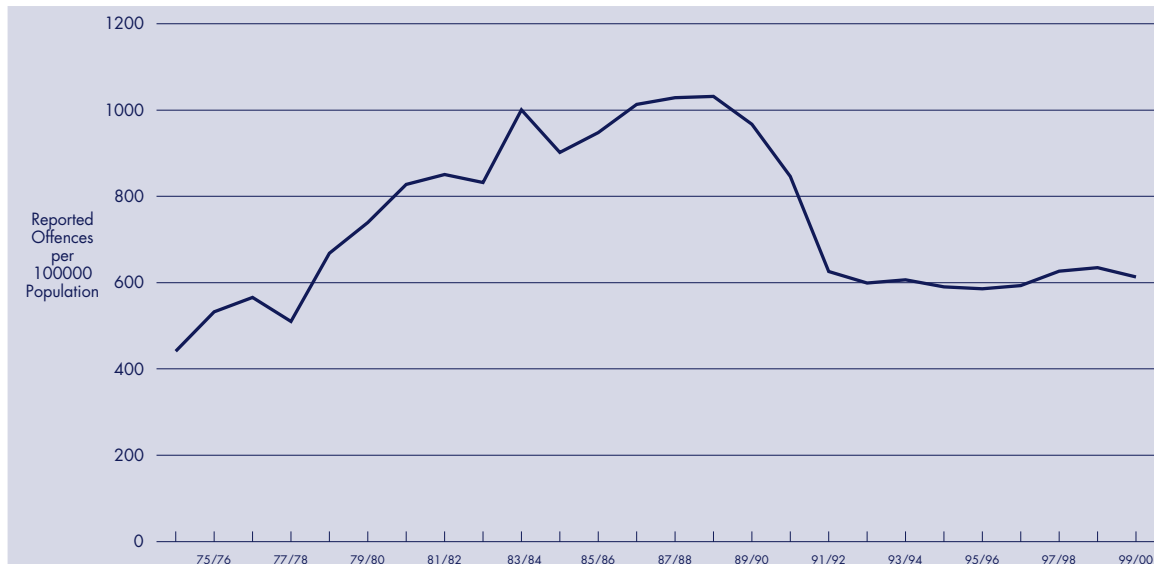
Good Order Offences



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% in 1998/99 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, page 146). The graph above does highlight the

effectiveness of these initiatives 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.

