

Monthly Crime Trends

The graphs in this section provide monthly data for selected offence categories from July, 1991 (91/92 financial year) to June, 2001 (00/01 financial year), expressed as a rate, thereby factoring in the size of the Queensland population for each year. All crime statistics appearing in these graphs are comparable over the ten-year period except where indicated with a break in continuity.

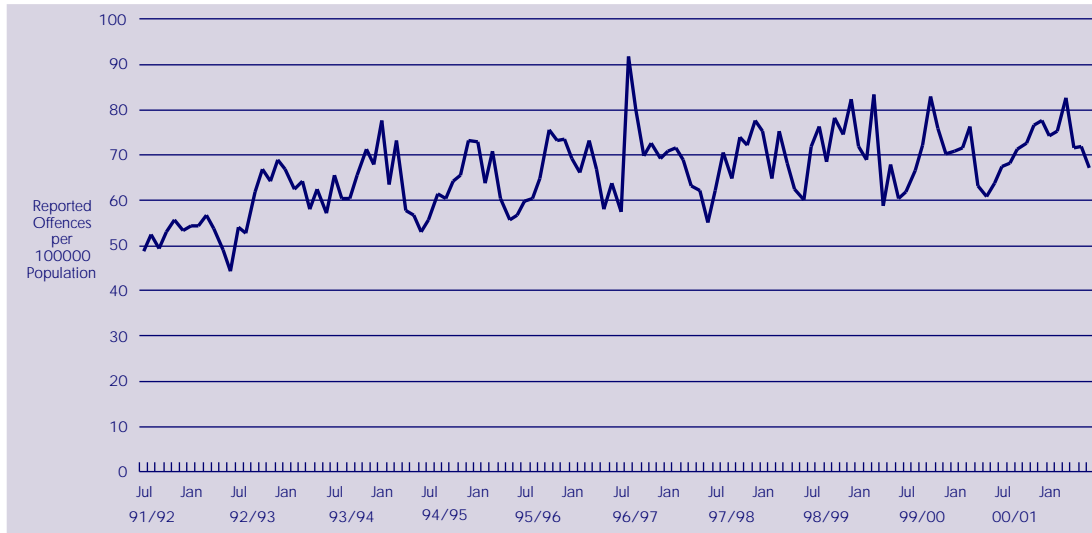
Quarterly Estimated Residential Population (ERP) statistics for Queensland provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (Catalogue 1304.3) were used to calculate the rates up to December, 2000. The rates for January to June, 2001 were calculated using a projection of the ERP, provided by the Office of the Government Statistician, Queensland.

To test for a statistically significant trend in the following graphs, Kendall's rank order correlation test (Conover, W.J. 1971 *Practical Non-Parametric Statistics*, 2nd edition, John Wiley and Sons, pp 256-260) was used. Although the 5% level of significance was used, most results were significant at the 1% level. Details are footnoted where appropriate in the text under each graph. This test is a two-tailed test which determines whether there is an increasing or decreasing trend in the recorded number of offences over the one-hundred and twenty month period covered in the report.

Some month to month variations in the numbers of recorded offences suggested seasonal factors may be operating. The test for trend is not sensitive to seasonal variations; it is sensitive only to a generally increasing or decreasing trend over the time period examined.

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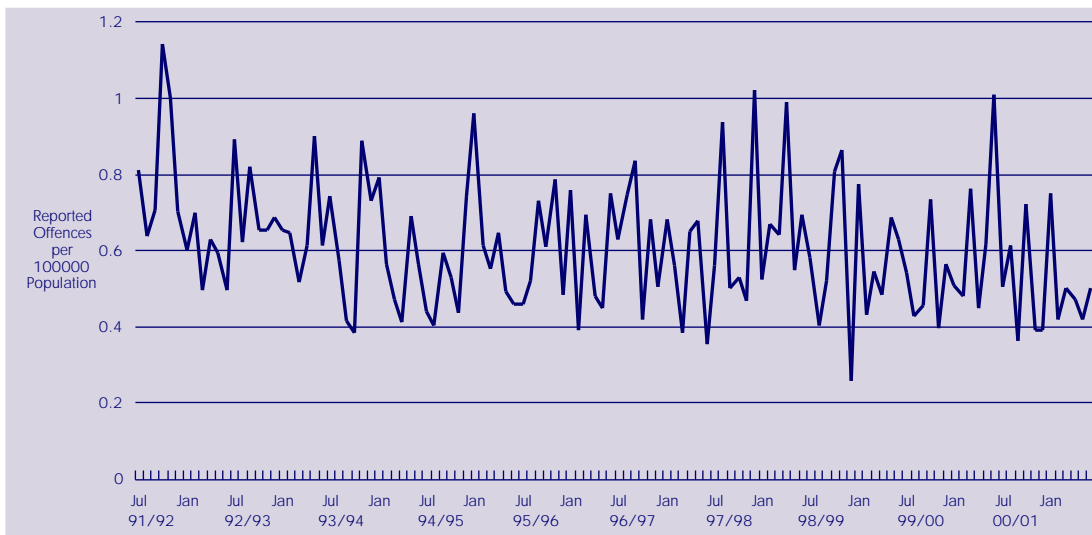
Offences Against the Person



Total Offences Against the Person have increased significantly* over the ten year period. This broad offence division tends to be dominated by Assault as is evidenced by the strong seasonal influence exhib-

ited by the time series. The peak in September 1996 is the result of a large number of Sexual Offences reported at this time.

Homicide+



Homicide, a low volume offence category, is subject to random fluctuations from month to month. In spite of these, the monthly trend for Homicide since 1991 is

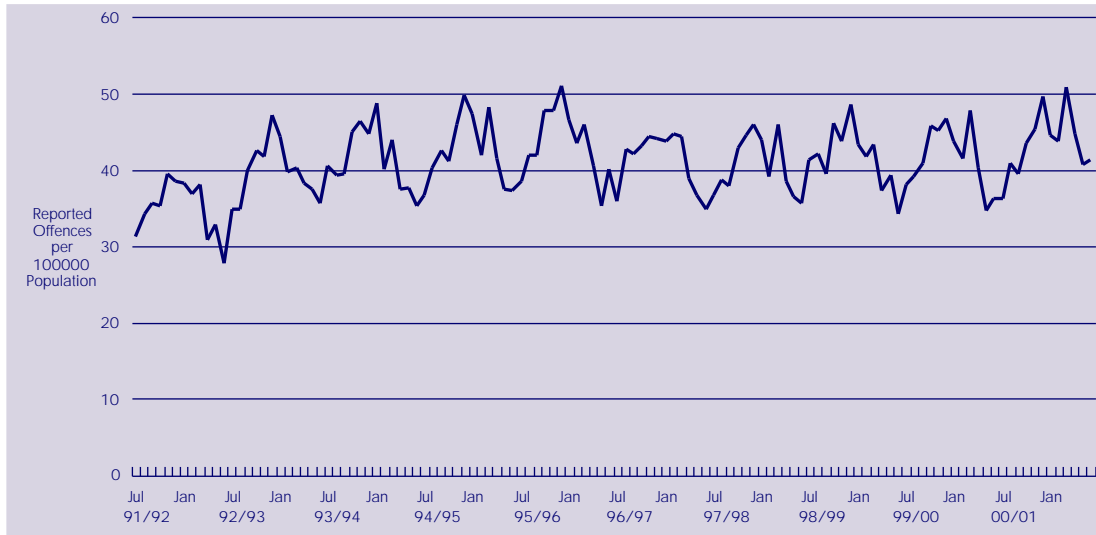
significantly decreasing*. The peak in June 2000 is the result of the Childers Backpacker fire in which there were 15 victims.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

+ The figures quoted for the 1999/00 financial year were underreported in last year's Annual Statistical Review as a result of the unique circumstances surrounding the Childers Hostel fire and the prosecution action commenced at the time.

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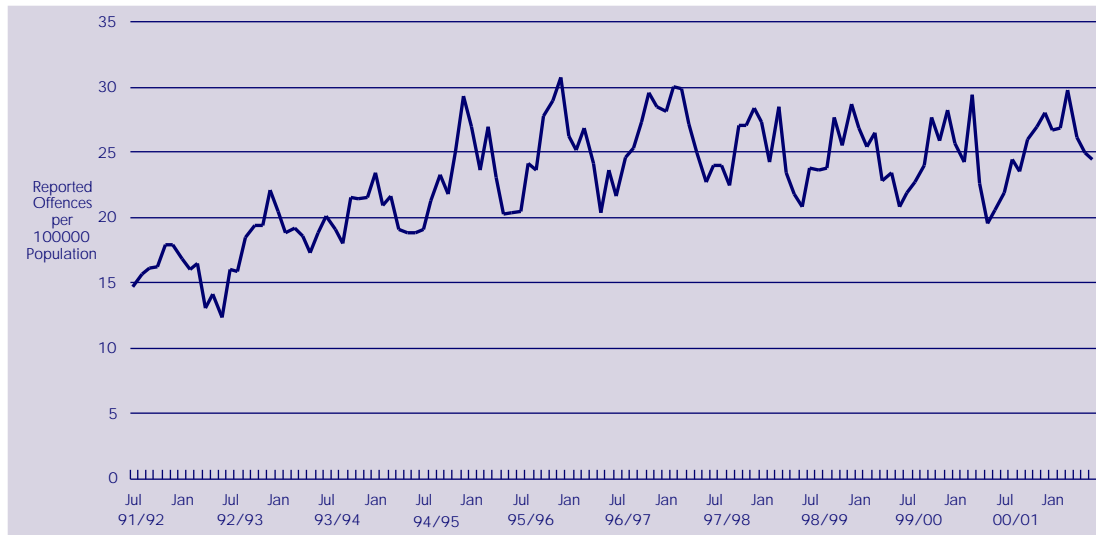
Assault



Assault is the largest in volume of the person offence sub-categories and, as such, tends to dominate. A significantly increasing trend** was detected over the one-hundred-and-twenty month period. Assault

offences are subject to strong seasonal influences, which are evident in the time series, with a higher rate of offences occurring over the summer months of each year.

Serious Assault



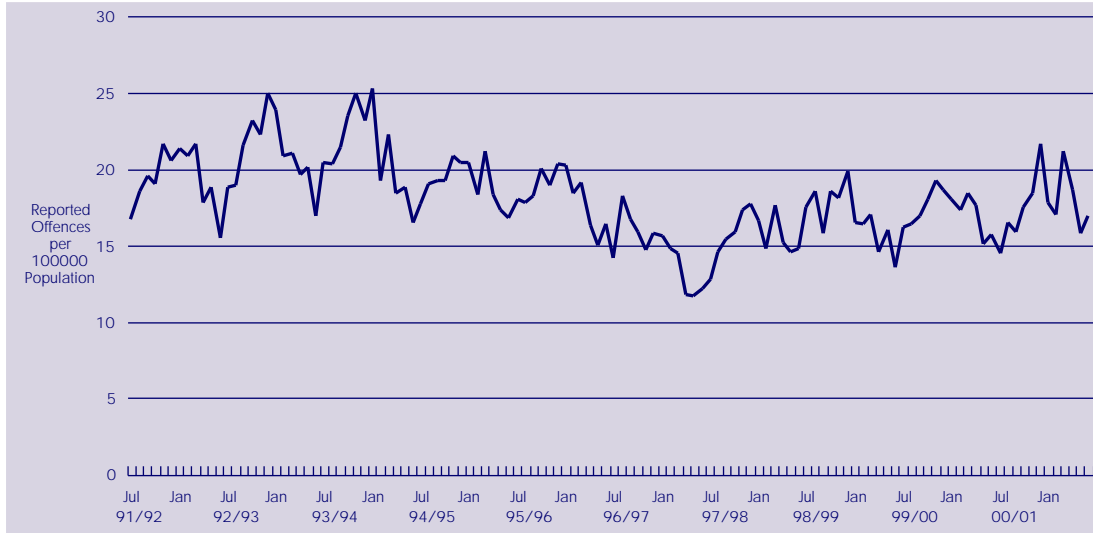
Serious Assaults experienced sharp increases from early 1993 to late 1996. In recent years, however, the time series has stabilised, even exhibiting a slight

decrease. Despite this, a significantly increasing trend* was detected over the ten year period.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.
 ** The result is significant at the 5% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

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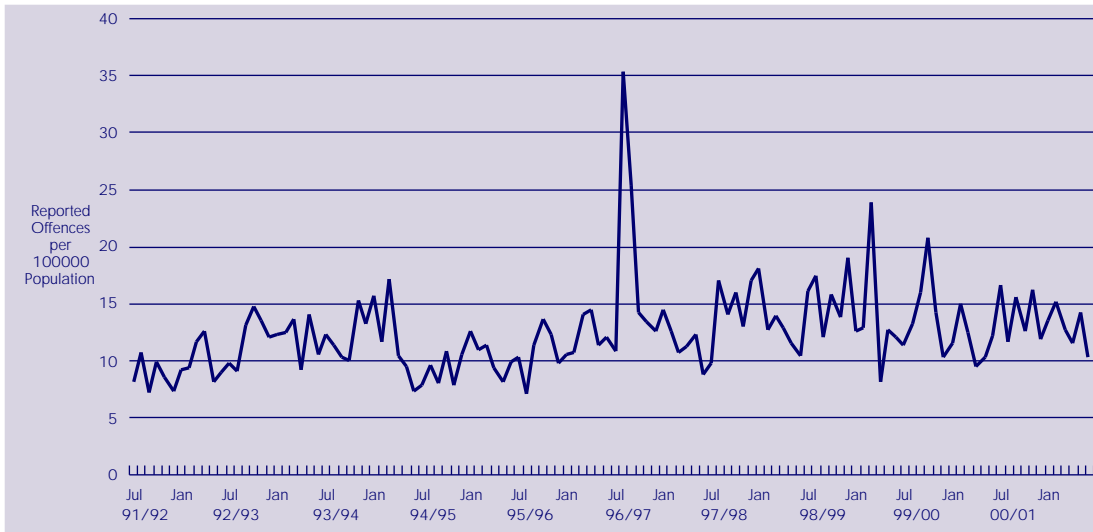
Other Assault



The Other Assault offence time series has been decreasing* since early 1991, particularly since the beginning of the 1994/95 financial year. The 1996/97

financial year saw a sharp decrease in the rate of Other Assaults. Following this, from 1997/98 to 2000/01 Other Assaults have been steadily increasing.

Sexual Offences



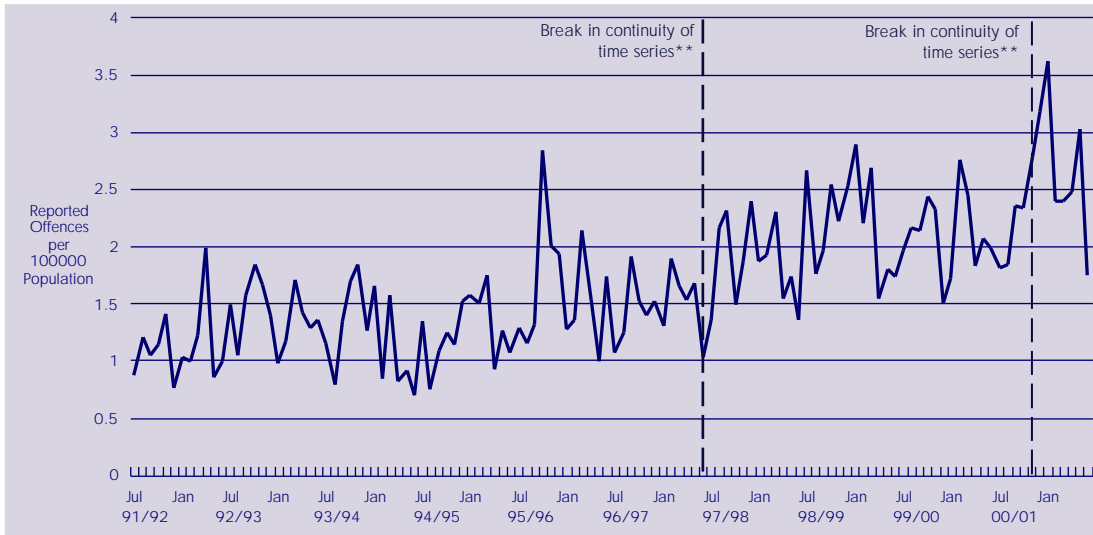
The spikes in the Sexual Offences time series are the result of large numbers of offences being reported to police in September 1996 and March 1999. Both are

due to single offenders who were charged with multiple offences for incidents occurring over a number of years. Overall, this time series exhibits a significantly increasing trend*.

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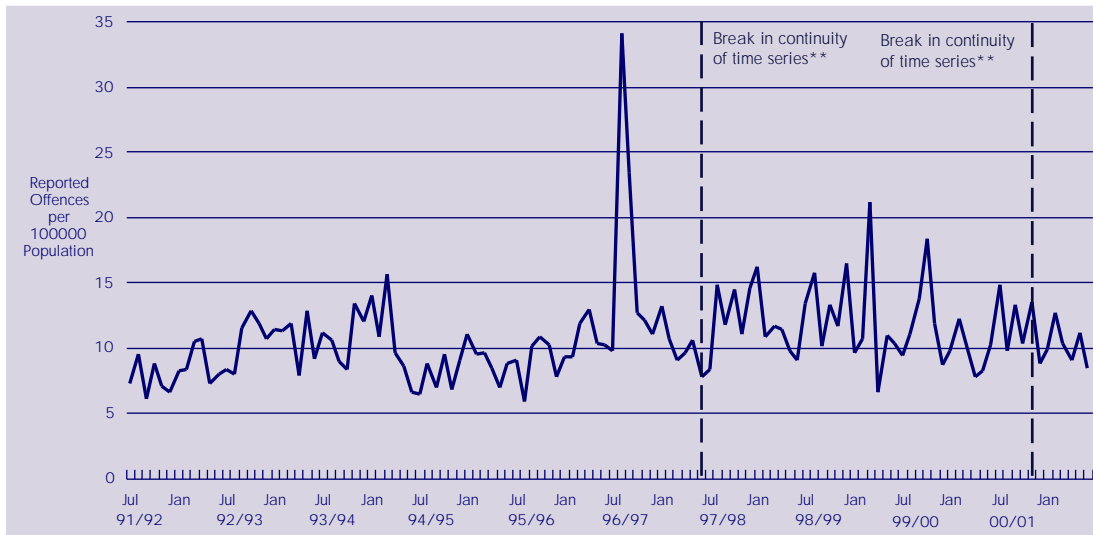
Rape and Attempted Rape



The breaks in continuity of the Rape and Attempted Rape time series involved a broadening of the definition of rape (*Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1997*; changes to the Criminal Code, 2000)**. As such, care

should be exercised when comparing data prior to and following these changes as is illustrated by the marked increase in offences following both breaks of continuity. These increases have resulted in a statistically significant upward trend* detected overall.

Other Sexual Offences



A single offender was charged with in excess of 400 offences for incidents which occurred over a period of over twenty years resulting in the second spike in the Other Sexual Offence time series. Since 1991, the time

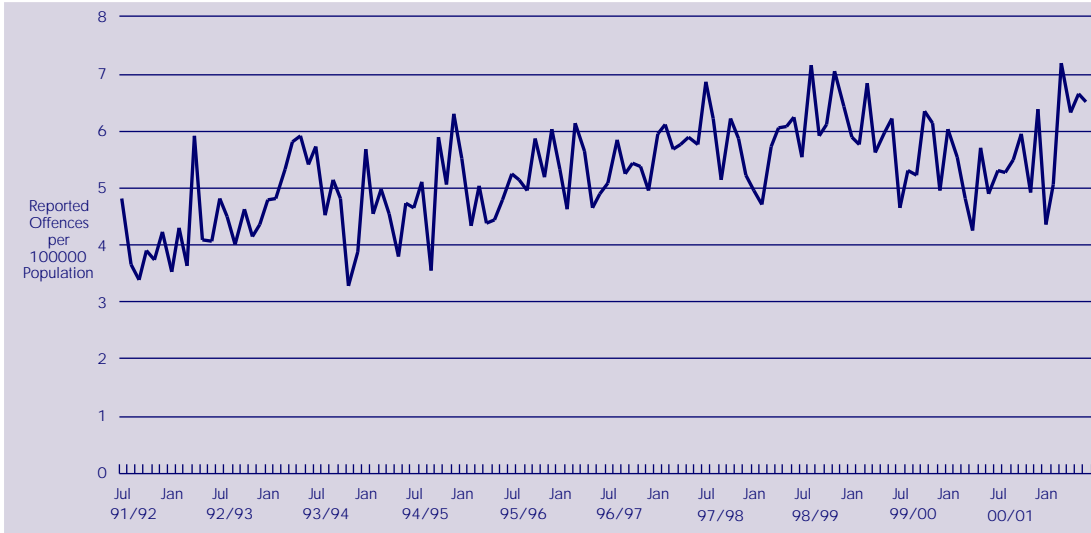
series has shown no significant trend. Once again, care should be exercised when making comparisons of data before and after the breaks in continuity**.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

** The introduction of the *Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1997* resulted in a broadening of the definition of Rape and Attempted Rape and a narrowing of Other Sexual Offences; further changes to the Criminal Code (October, 2000) resulted in an even broader definition of Rape and Attempted Rape and a subsequent narrowing of Other Sexual Offences.

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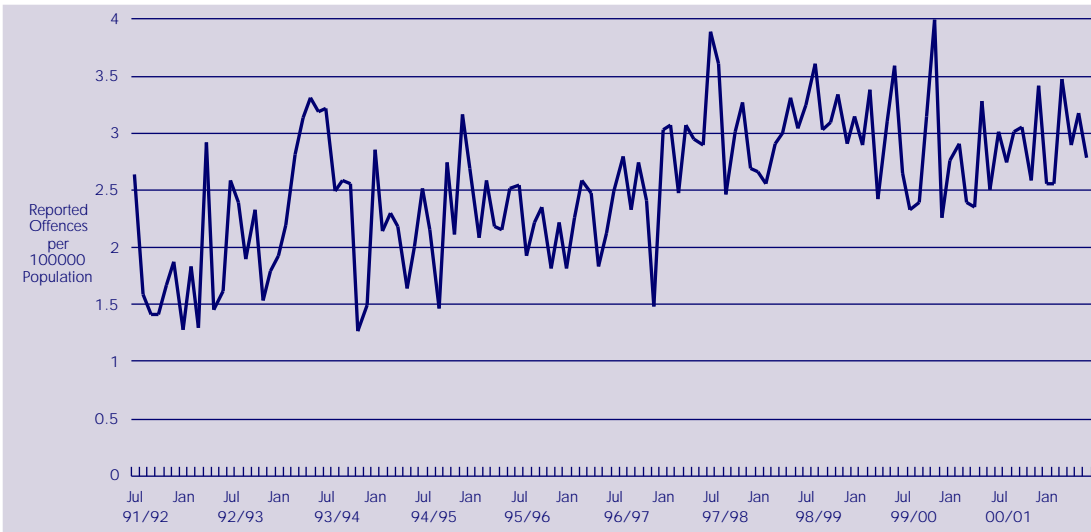
Robbery



Despite a drop in Robbery rates from 1999/00 to early in 2001, the overall rate of Robbery offences has been increasing significantly* since 1991. The year 2000/01

continued this trend with an 8% increase in the rate of reported Robbery offences.

Armed Robbery



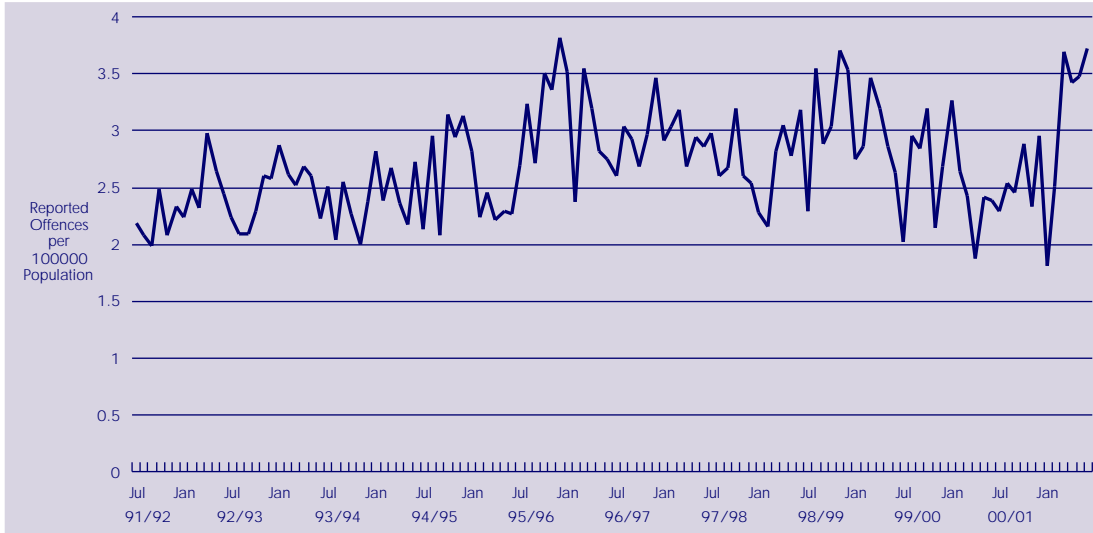
Although the overall trend in the rate of Armed Robbery offences has been increasing significantly* since 1991, the time series did experience a decrease

from 1997/98 to 1999/00. Following an 11% decrease reported last year, Armed Robbery increased by 7% between 1999/00 and 2000/01.

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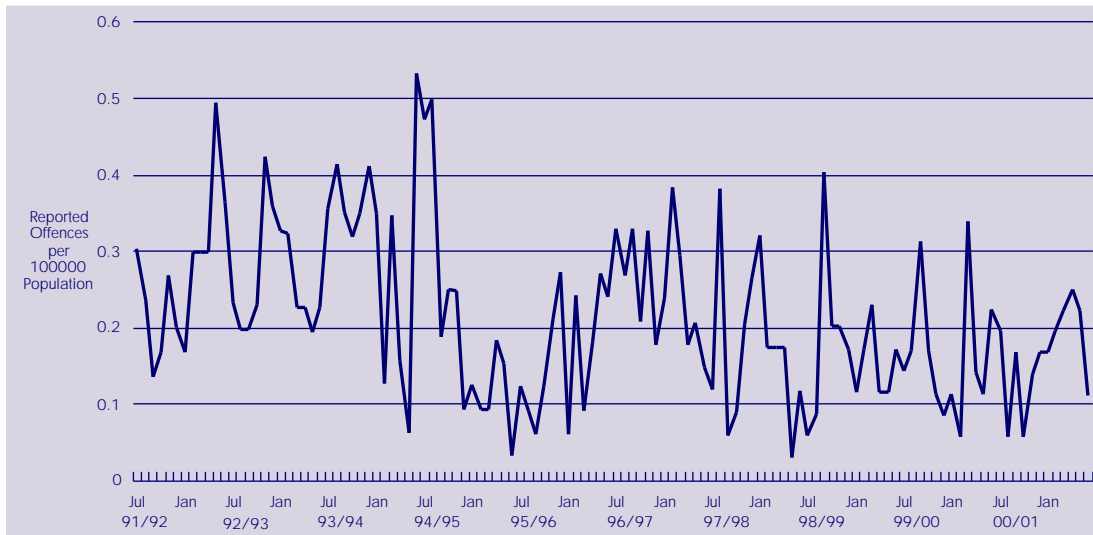
Unarmed Robbery



Rates of Unarmed Robbery have experienced fluctuations over time. A slight decrease from 1998/99 to early 2001 was followed by substantial increases in

March to June of 2001. Overall, the upward trend evident in the graph above is statistically significant*.

Extortion



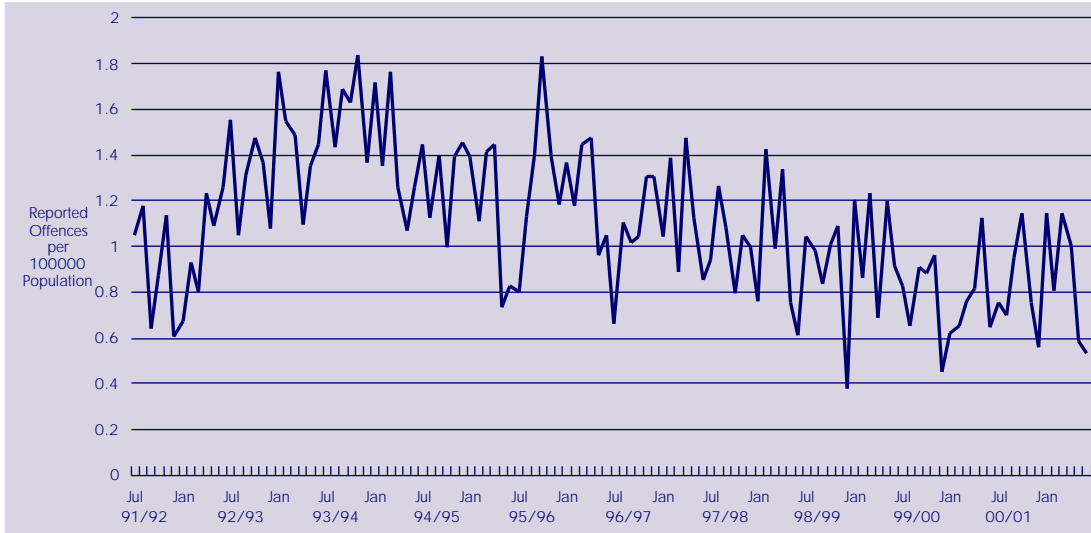
Extortion is the lowest in volume of the Offences Against the Person sub-categories and, as such, is prone to random variations from month to month. The marked fluctuations occurring in the time series

are evident in the graph above. Despite these, a statistically significant downward trend* was detected over the ten year period.

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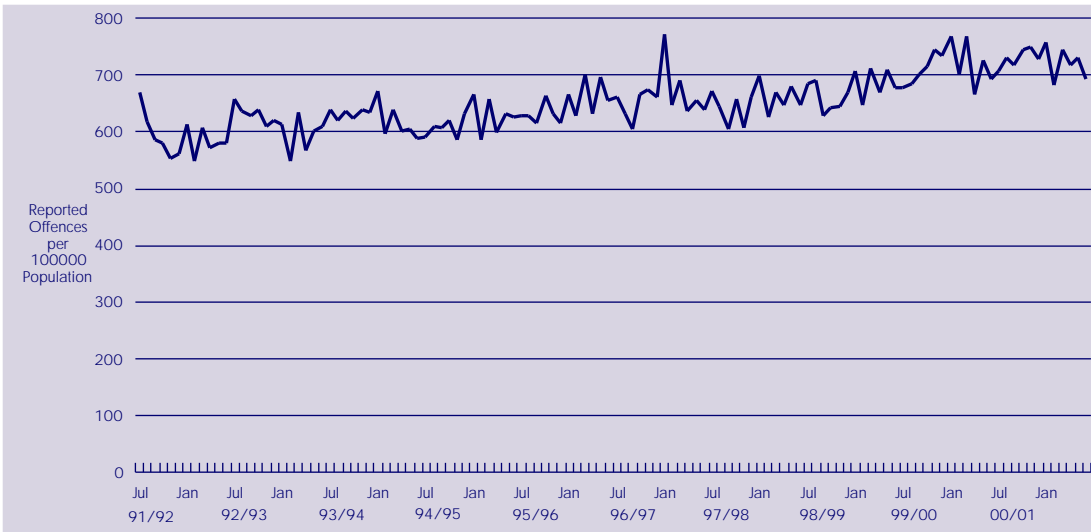
Kidnapping, Abduction, etc.



The rate of Kidnapping and Abduction offences rose sharply over the first three years of the time series. Since then, the time series has been steadily decreasing

and now exhibits a statistically significant trend*. This time series is subject to the fluctuations that occur in small volume offence categories.

Offences Against Property



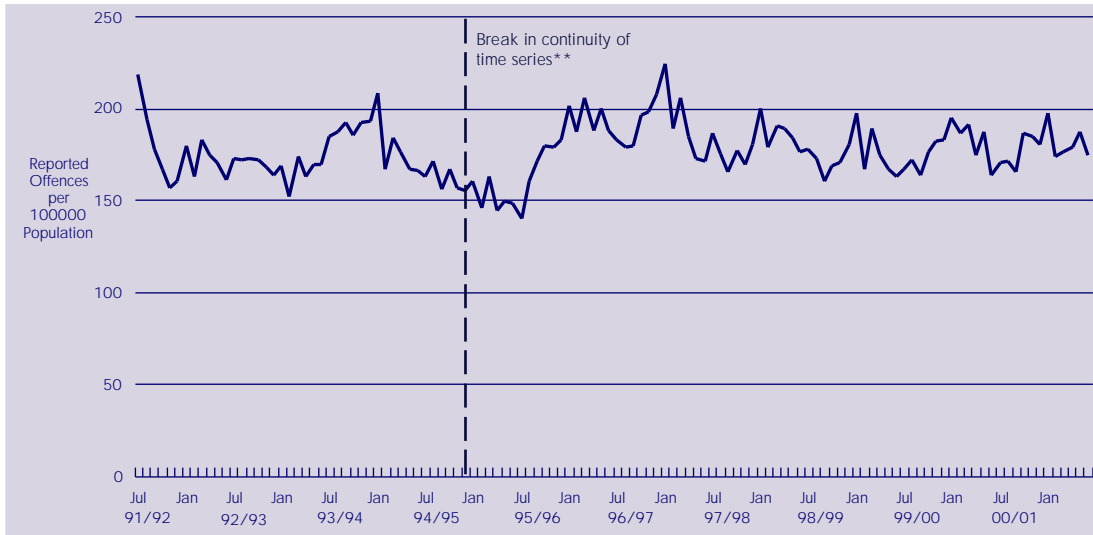
Although the Offences Against Property time series looks fairly stable, a statistically significant upward trend* was detected. This is a large volume offence category and, as such, increases or decreases are

usually small in the overall context. The rate of Property Offences reported in 2000/01 were only 1% higher than that reported in 1999/00.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

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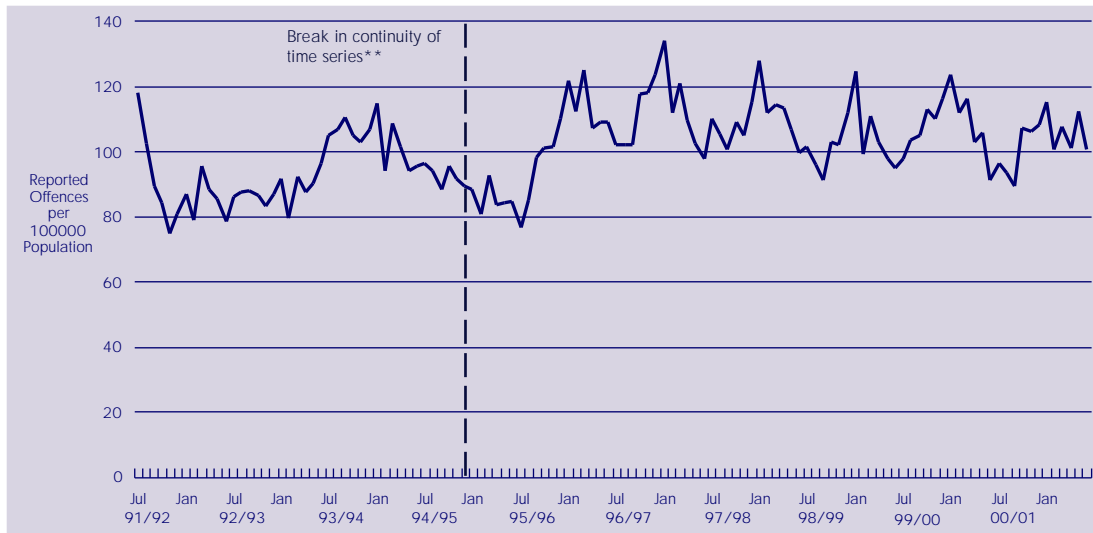
Unlawful Entry With Intent



The break in continuity** of the Unlawful Entry with Intent time series makes it difficult to analyse. Overall, no significant trend was detected and the time series appears to be approximately stable despite a substan-

tial decrease in reported offences over the 1994/95 financial year. There was no change in the rate of Unlawful Entry offences reported from 1999/00 to 2000/01.

Unlawful Entry - Dwellings



The time series for Unlawful Entry of Dwellings has stabilised in recent years, namely, since late 1995. Despite this, an overall significant upward trend* was

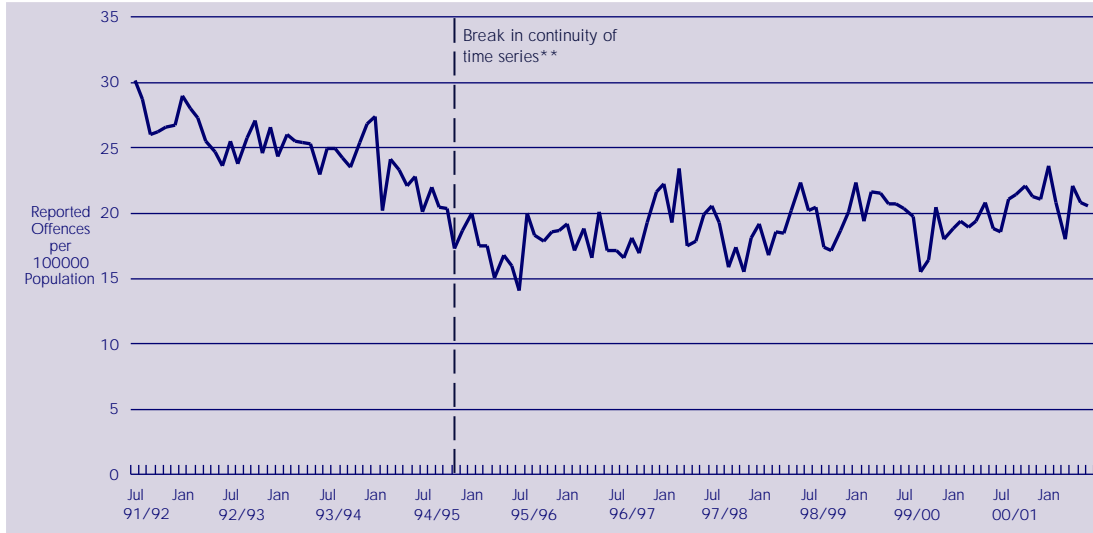
detected for the ten year period due to the increase in trend over the early years of the time series. Unlawful Entry of Dwellings decreased by 5% over the 2000/01 financial year.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

** The Unlawful Entry offence categories replace the former Breaking and Entering categories, due to the introduction of the *Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1997*. Statistics for these new categories have been regenerated back to 1 July, 1995, before which Breaking and Entering statistics are displayed.

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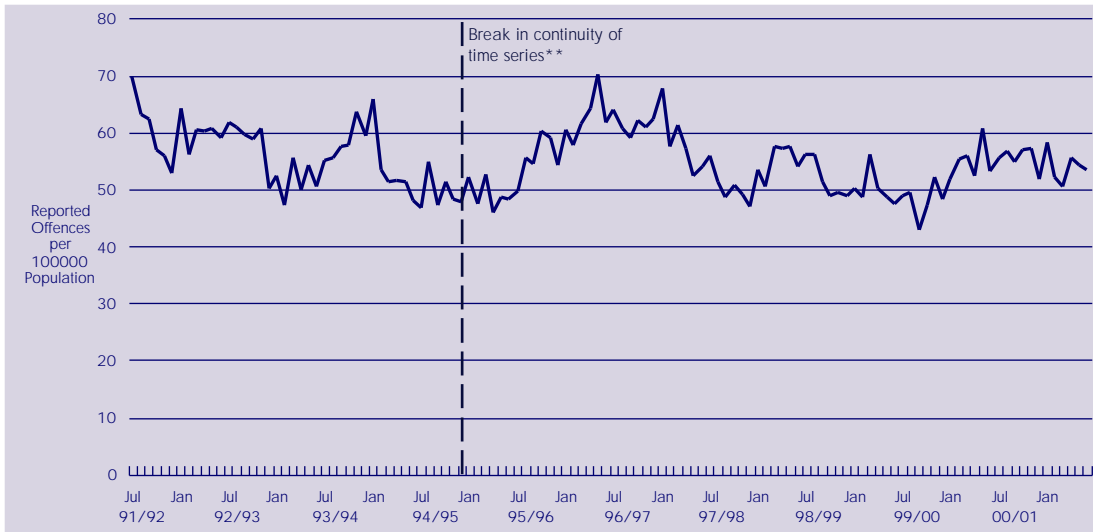
Unlawful Entry - Shops



After a dramatic decrease from 1991 to 1995, Unlawful Entry of Shops has steadied. The break in continuity** appears to have had a stabilising effect on the

time series. Despite a sizeable increase in this offence type in 2000/01, an overall significantly decreasing trend* was detected for the entire period.

Unlawful Entry - Other Premises



The break in continuity** in the Unlawful Entry - Other Premises category appears to have resulted in a change in trend although this is difficult to quantify. Prior to the change in definition, the time series was

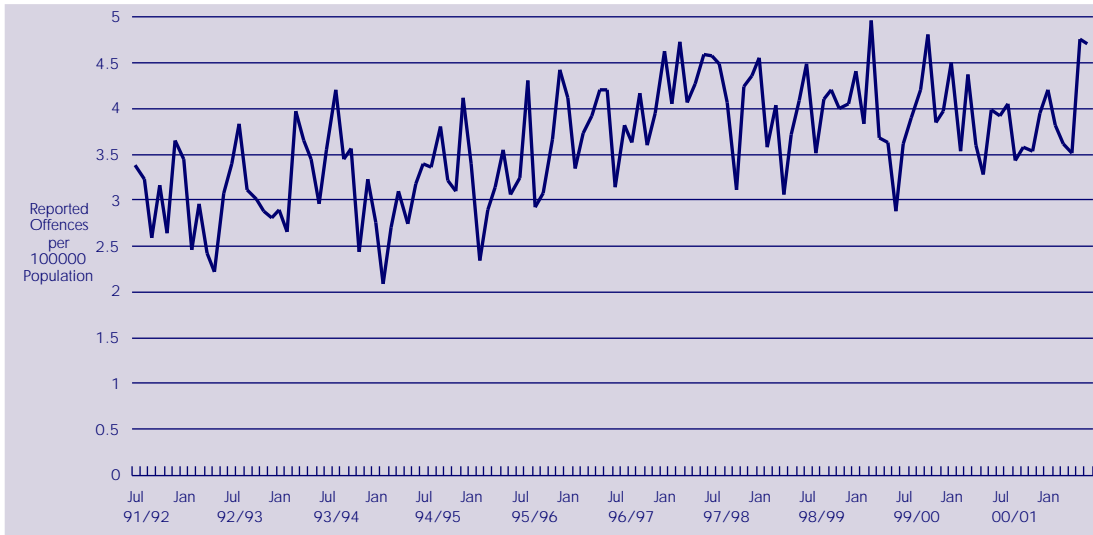
decreasing. Following an upward shift, the time series is again decreasing resulting in an overall statistically significant downward trend* for the ten year period.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

** The Unlawful Entry offence categories replace the former Breaking and Entering categories, due to the introduction of the *Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1997*. Statistics for these new categories have been regenerated back to 1 July, 1995, before which Breaking and Entering statistics are displayed.

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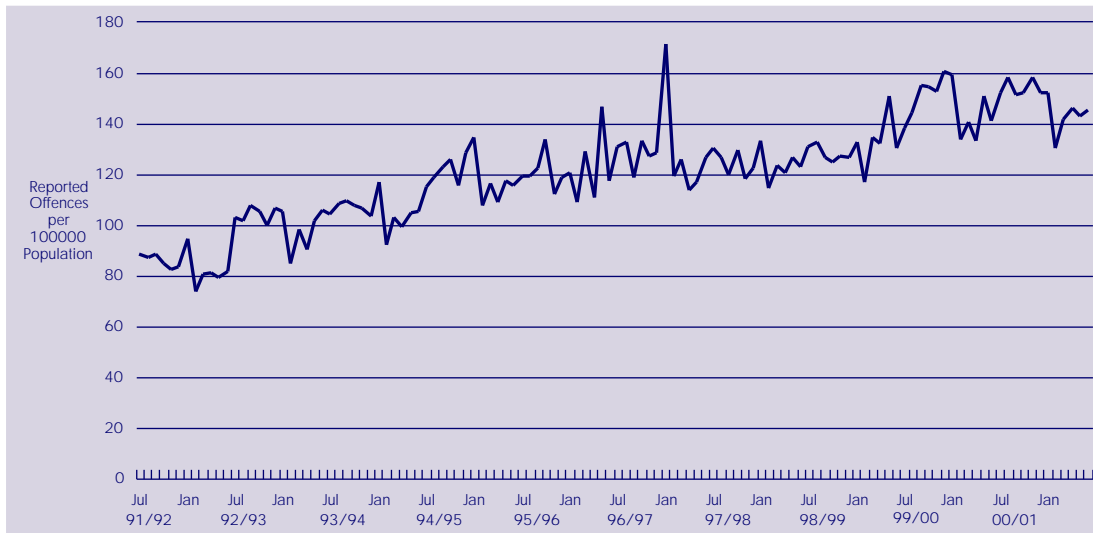
Arson



Arson offences exhibit an overall statistically significant upward trend* for the one-hundred-and-twenty month period. Apart from a high rate in May 2001,

the time series has experienced a slight downward trend over 1999/00 and 2000/01.

Other Property Damage



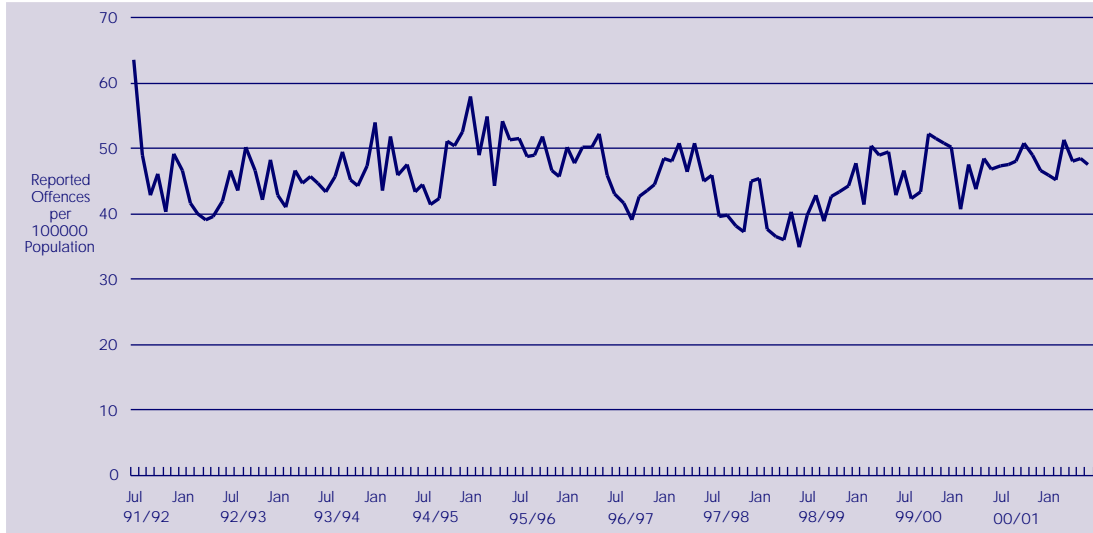
The sharply increasing trend* of Other Property Damage offences is evident in the graph above. Following a relatively stable period from early 1997 to

early 1999, the time series was steadily increasing. Rates experienced over 2000/01, however, have reversed this recent trend.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

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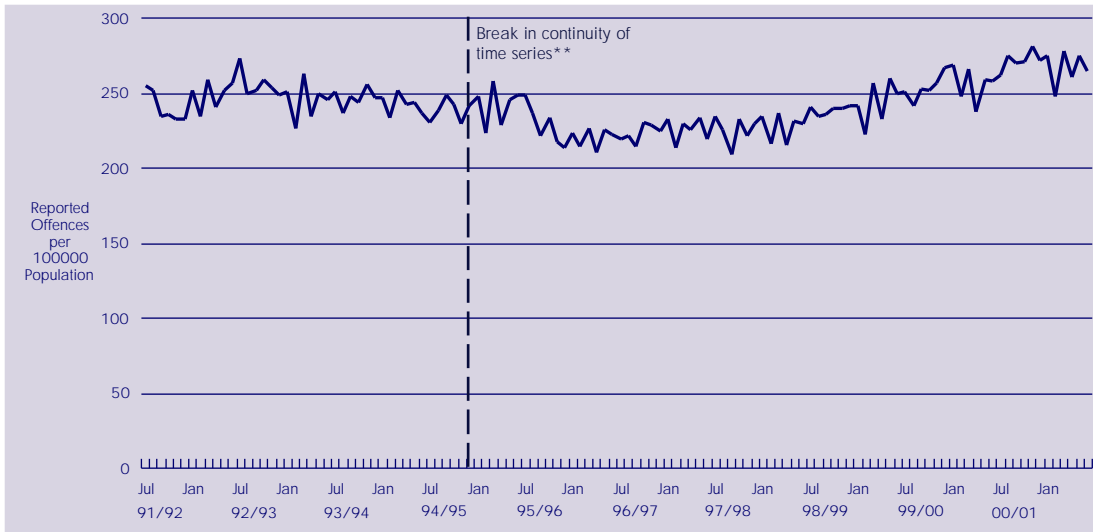
Motor Vehicle Theft



Overall, no significant trend was detected for the Motor Vehicle Theft time series. From the beginning of 1996 until early in the 1998/99 financial year, rates

of theft decreased. From mid-1998 however, rates have been rising sharply to equal those reported prior to the downward trend of 1996/97.

Other Theft (excluding Unlawful Entry)



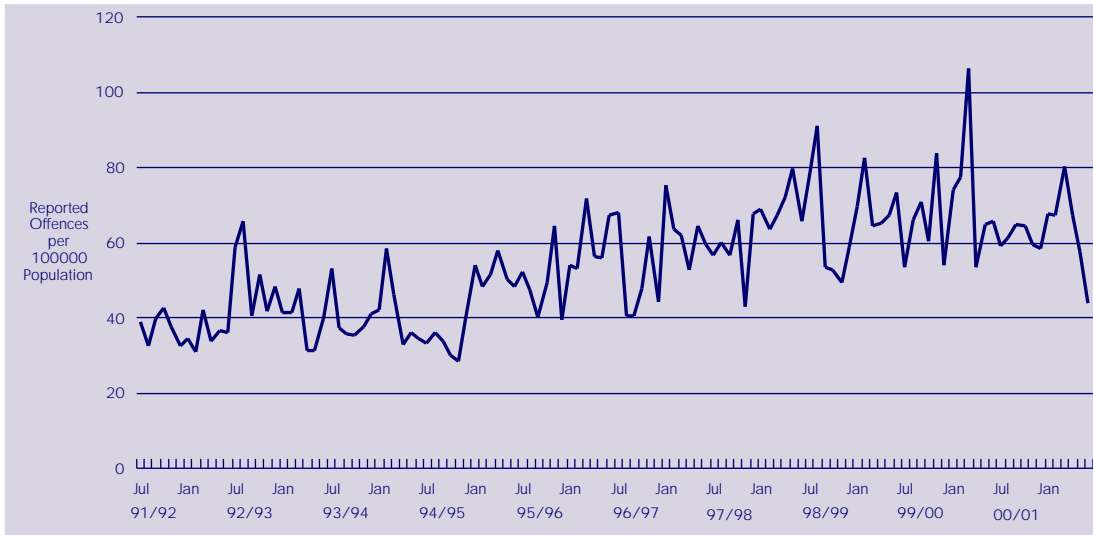
Prior to the break in continuity**, reported Other Theft offences were relatively stable. Subsequent to this change in classification, the rate of Other Theft

offences decreased. Rates reported during the 1999/00 financial year reversed this downward trend. Overall, however, no significant trend was detected.

** The Other Theft offence category replaces the former Stealing category, due to the introduction of the *Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1997*. Statistics for this new category have been regenerated back to 1 July, 1995, before which Stealing statistics are displayed.

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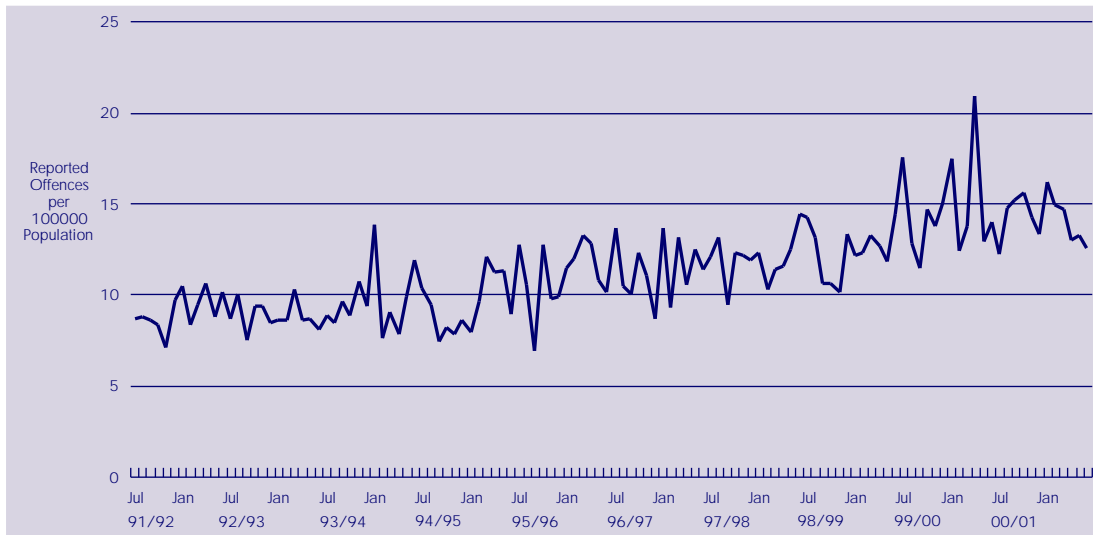
Fraud



The sharply increasing trend* in Fraud offences is evident in the graph above. This offence type has experienced noticeable fluctuations in the latter part of the time series although a marked decrease is evident

over 2000/01. The spike towards the latter part of the time series is the result of over 1,500 charges laid against one offender in March, 2000.

Handling Stolen Goods



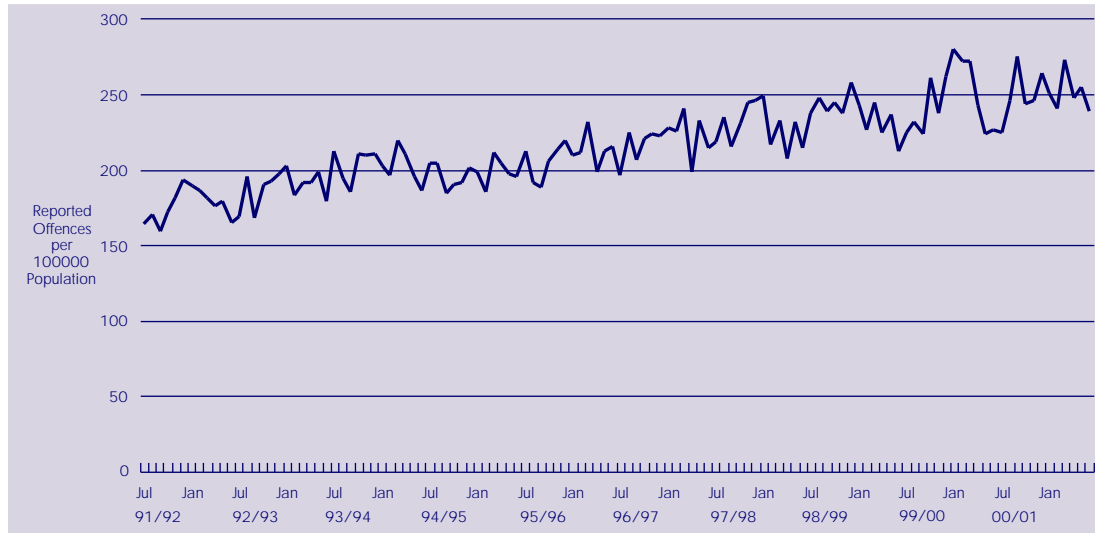
A significantly increasing trend* is evident in the Handling Stolen Goods time series, despite an obvious decrease over the 2000/01 financial year. The large

spikes at the end of the time series are the result of approximately 270 offences laid against two offenders in April, 2000.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

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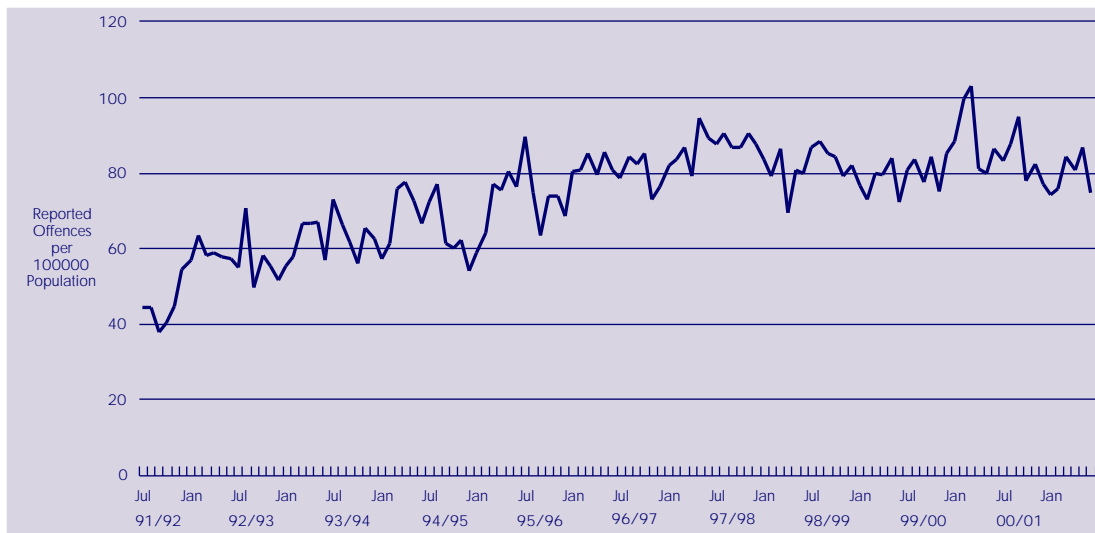
Other Offences



Other Offences are generally detected by police rather than reported to police. As such, any rise in Other Offences is usually regarded as a positive result. As is

evidenced in the graph above, a statistically significant upward trend* was detected with rates for 2000/01 continuing this trend.

Drug Offences



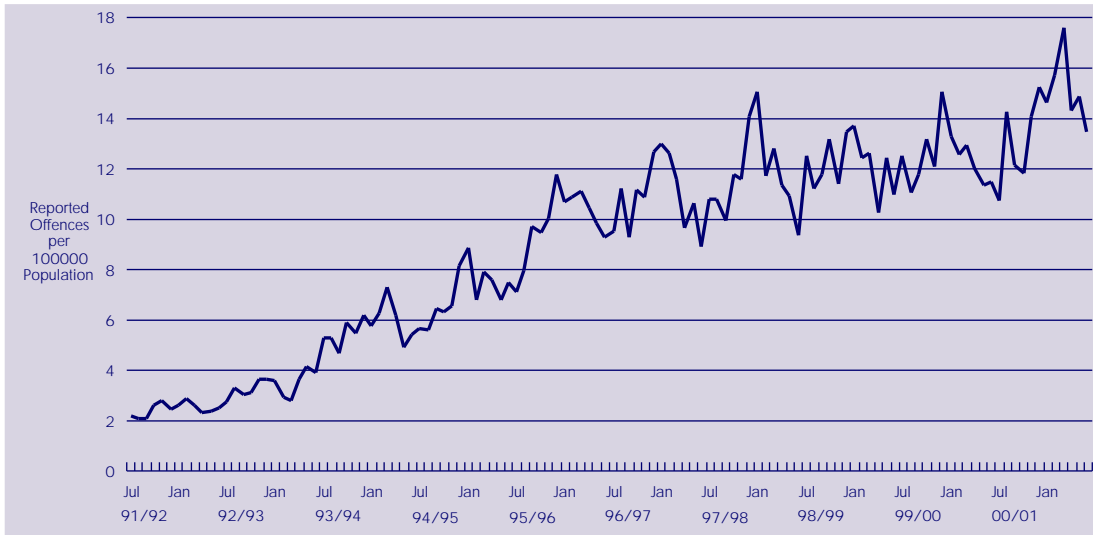
A significantly increasing trend* was detected for this time series. Rates of Drug Offences have been relatively stable since early in 1997. The spike in the

latter part of the time series was the result of multiple offences laid against a single offender in March and April, 2000.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

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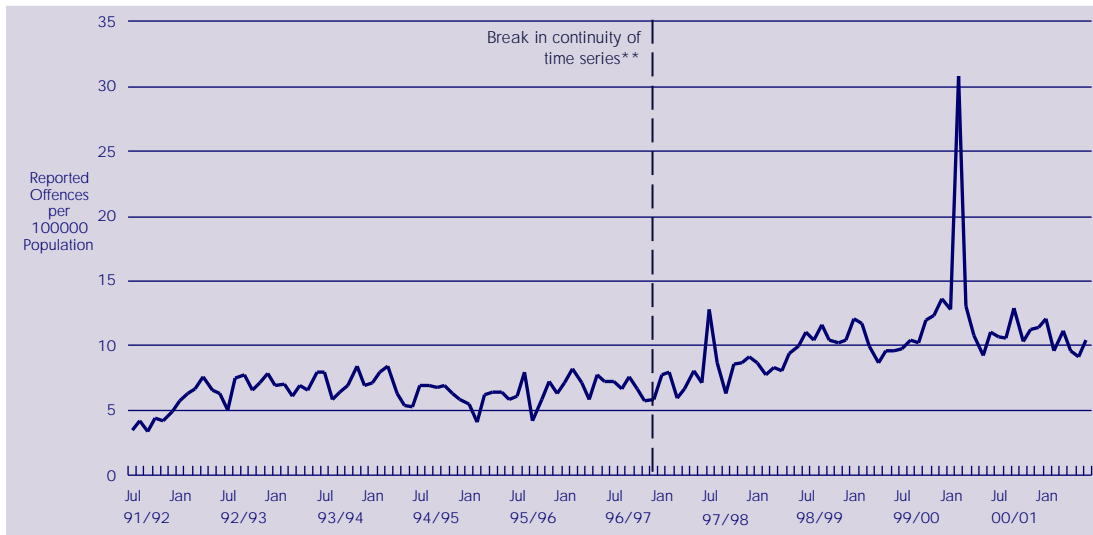
Breach of Domestic Violence Protection Orders



Breach of Domestic Violence Protection Orders have increased sharply* over the ten-year period. The latter part of the time series exhibits a seasonal effect on

this offence type peaking in the summer months and falling in the winter months. The increase in rates of offences over 2000/01 is also evident.

Weapons Act Offences



One offender was charged with 650 offences in February, 2000 resulting in a significant spike in the time series. This, too, exhibits a significantly increasing trend* although the break in the continuity

resulting from the Weapons Amendment Act 1996** should be taken into account. Following the cessation of the Buy Back campaign (September 1997), the time series increases sharply.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

