

Annual Crime Trends

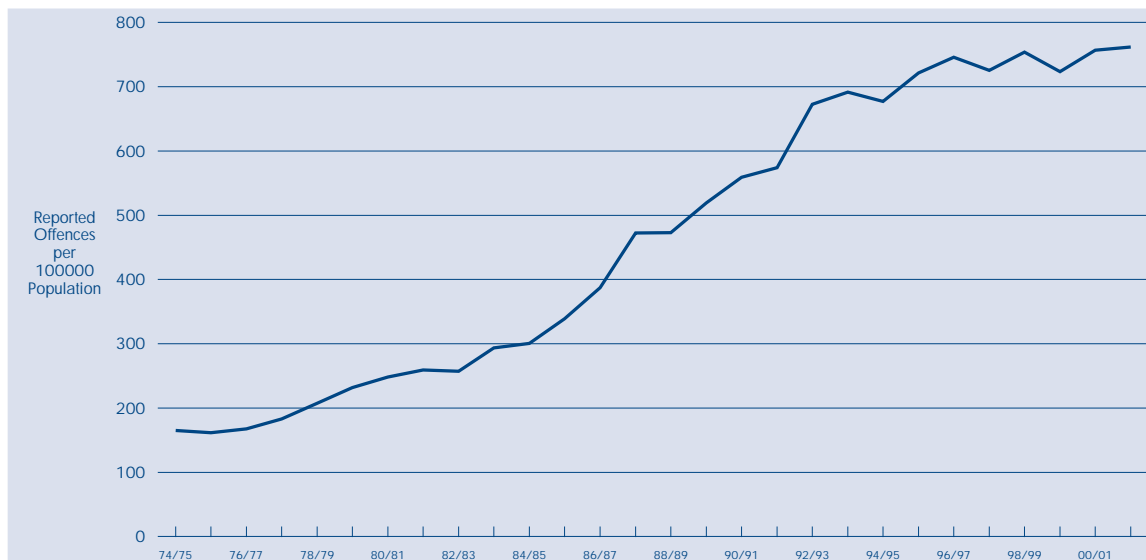
In this section, an examination of the number of selected offences per 100,000 population is provided for a twenty-eight year period. The rates provided in this section are based on Estimated Residential Populations, or projections thereof, at 30 June each year, provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Office of Economic and Statistical Research, Queensland.

Since 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-eight 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-eight 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*



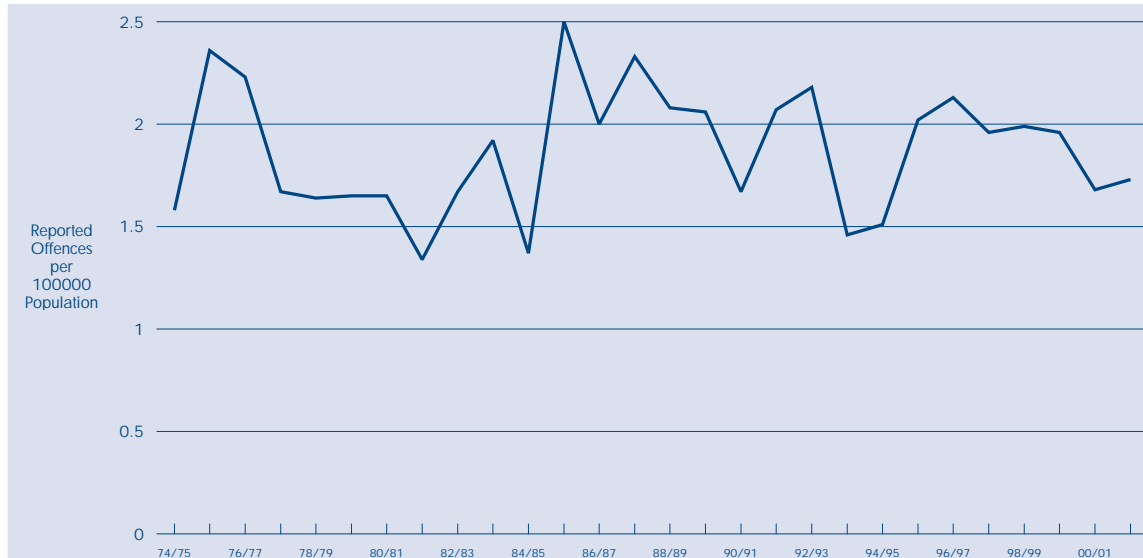
While this broad offence aggregate is comprised of a number of different offence categories, the offence sub-category of Assault tends to dominate Offences Against the Person. Assault offences account for approximately 60% of Offences Against the Person. The 1% increase

in Offences Against the Person largely reflects a similar increase in Assaults. However, the increase in Offences Against the Person has slowed in 2001/02, with an average annual growth rate of 6% in this aggregate over the 28 year period.

* 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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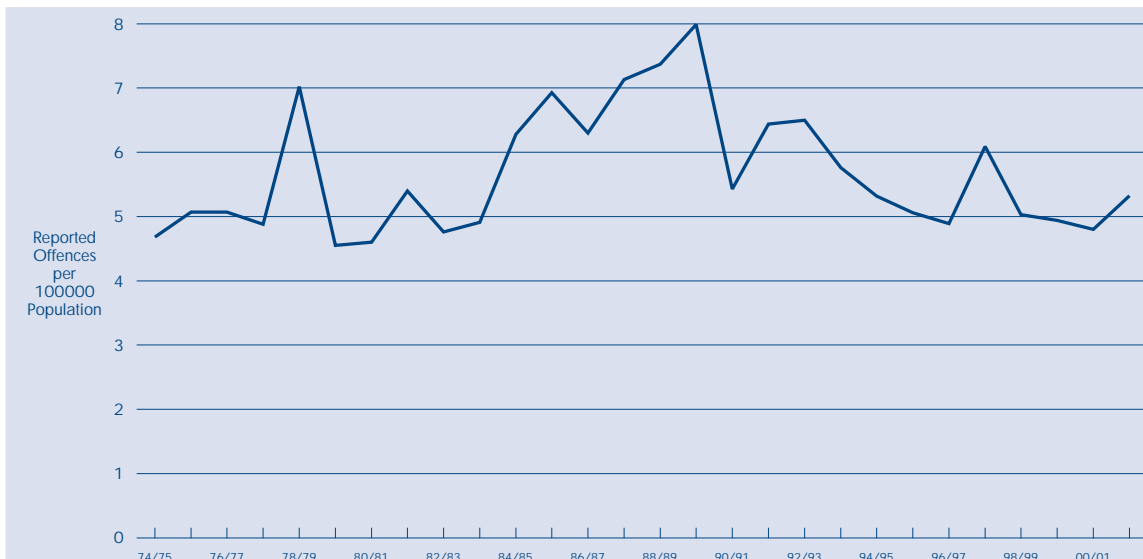
Homicide (Murder)⁺



Homicide (Murder) is a small volume offence and, as such, is subject to sizeable fluctuations from year to year. However, overall the Homicide (Murder) rate has changed little. The rate of Homicide (Murder) increased slightly between 1984/85 and 1989/90, but has

remained relatively steady since . In 2000/01 the rate of Homicide (Murder) fell to its lowest level since the 1970s, and has increased only marginally in the financial year under review.

Other Homicide⁺



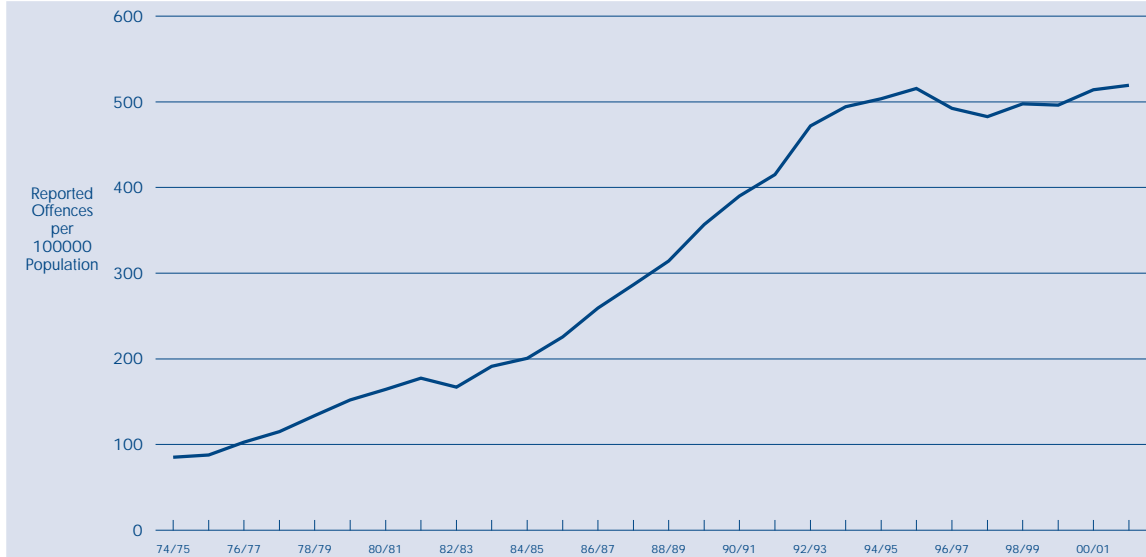
Other Homicide is a small volume offence category and, as such, is subject to sizeable fluctuations from year to year. From 1987/88 to 1989/90 Other Homicide offences were reported at a slightly higher rate,

although the rate has remained relatively steady in the following years. In 2001/02 there was a 13% increase in the number of Other Homicides, largely as a result of an increase in Driving Causing Death offences.

⁺ Figures are presented separately for Homicide (Murder) and a new category, Other Homicide is used for the first time in this publication.

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Assault



On average, rates of Assault have increased by 7% per annum over the twenty-eight year period reviewed. Looking at the overall trend, the time series has stabilised since 1993/94, although a sharp increase

prior to this time is evident. However, the rate of Assaults increased by less than 1% in the year under review.

Sexual Offences

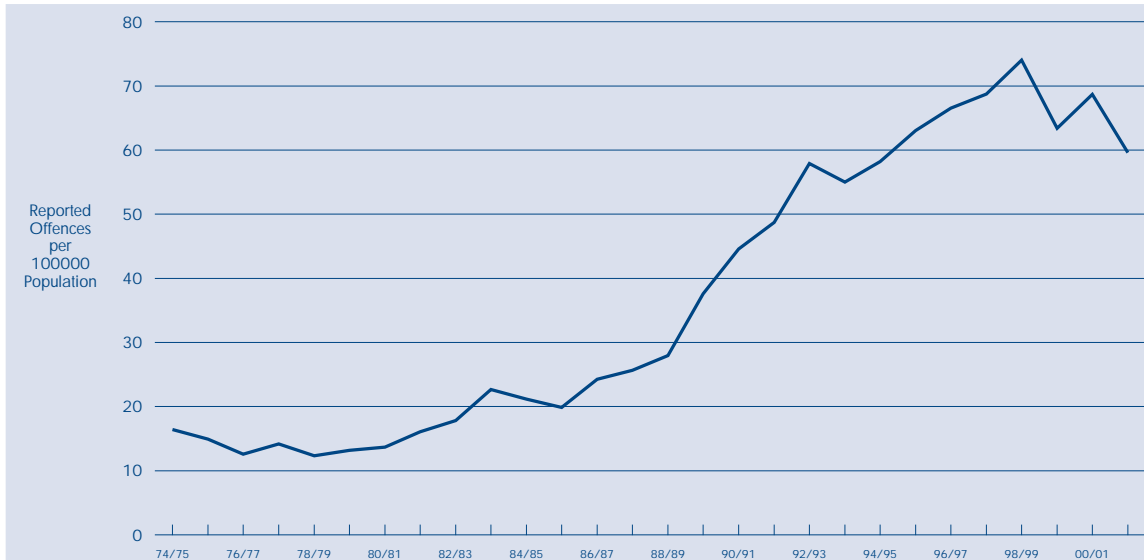


Sexual Offences are often reported to police many years after the offences actually occurred and there are often numerous charges preferred against one offender. These factors can result in the fluctuations seen in the graph above. As the stigma attached to being a victim

of Sexual Offences has decreased, much higher offence totals have been recorded. There was a 5% increase in the rate of Sexual Offences reported in the year under review compared with the previous year.

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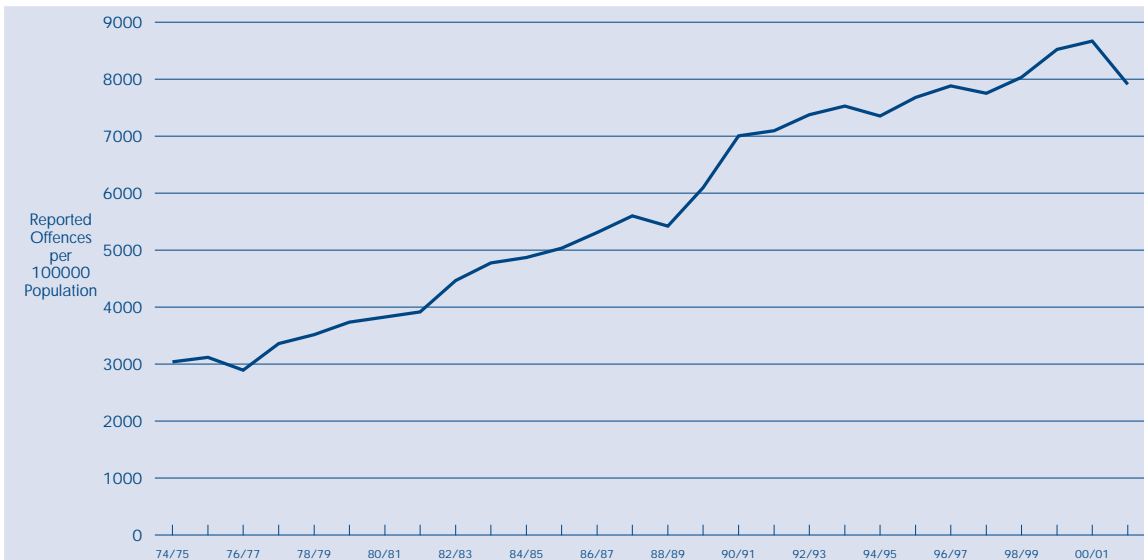
Robbery



Following a relatively stable period from 1974/75 to 1985/86, Robbery offences increased sharply between 1988/89 and 1998/99. On average, Robbery has increased by 5% per annum. Following an 8%

increase in the rate of Robbery offences from 1999/00 to 2000/01, the rate of Robbery has fallen by 13% in the year under review.

Offences Against Property

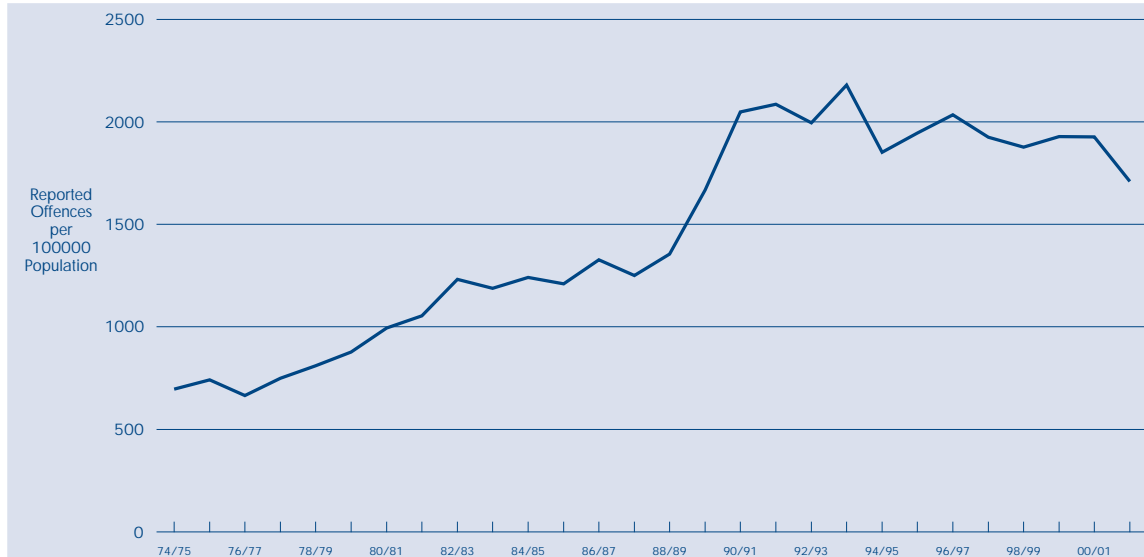


Offences Against Property increased steadily from 1974/75 to 1990/91, although a sharper increase in nearly all property offence sub-categories is reflected in the sharp increase seen in 1989/90. From 1990/91 the time series has steadied and increased at a slower rate than was seen previously. Overall, Offences Against

Property have increased, on average, by 3% each year. However, in the year under review the overall rate of Offences Against Property has fallen by 9% compared with 2000/01. This is the result of reductions in the rate of all property offence sub-categories.

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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.

In particular, in the year under review the rate of Unlawful Entry Offences Involving Breaking has fallen by 11%. This has resulted in over 7,000 fewer offences reported in 2001/02 compared with 2000/01.

Arson

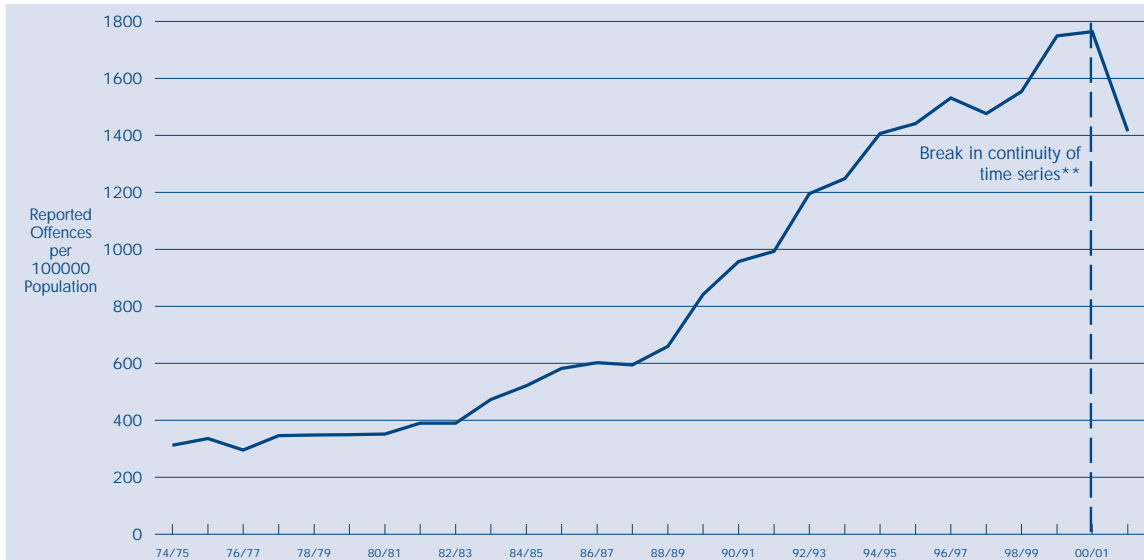


Apart from the sharp increase in the late 1980s and the subsequent decrease in the early 1990s, Arson offences have risen steadily over the twenty-eight year period. These offences have increased, on average, by

approximately 5% each year, although there was a plateau in the time series between 1996/97 and 2000/01. This has been broken by a 3% fall in the rate of Arson offences in the year under review.

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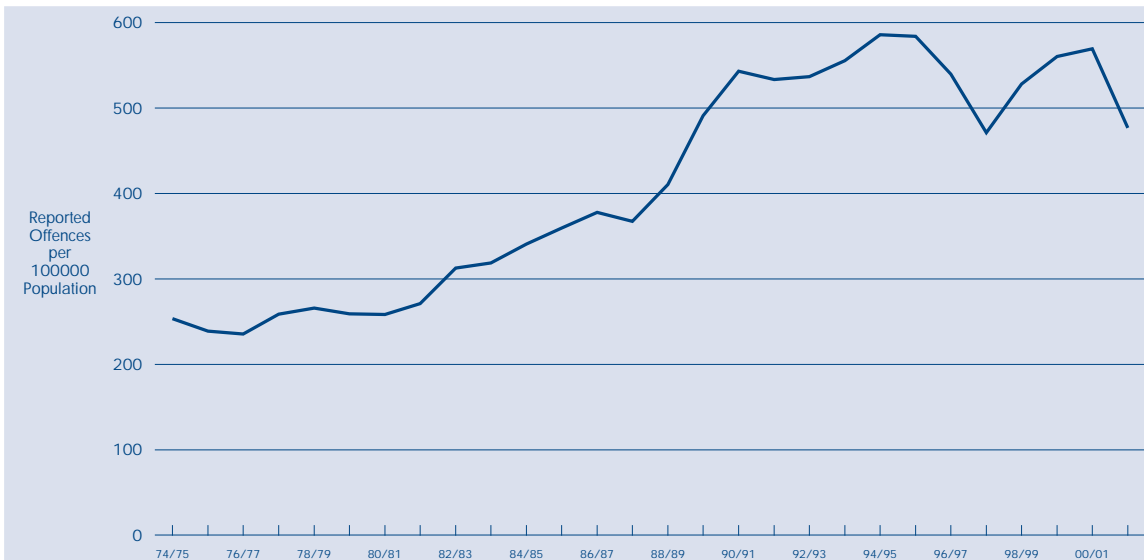
Other Property Damage



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-eight year period. Other Property Damage offences

have increased an average of 6% per year, although the increase has been more marked since 1982/83. There was a 20% fall in Other Property Damage offences in 2001/02.

Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle



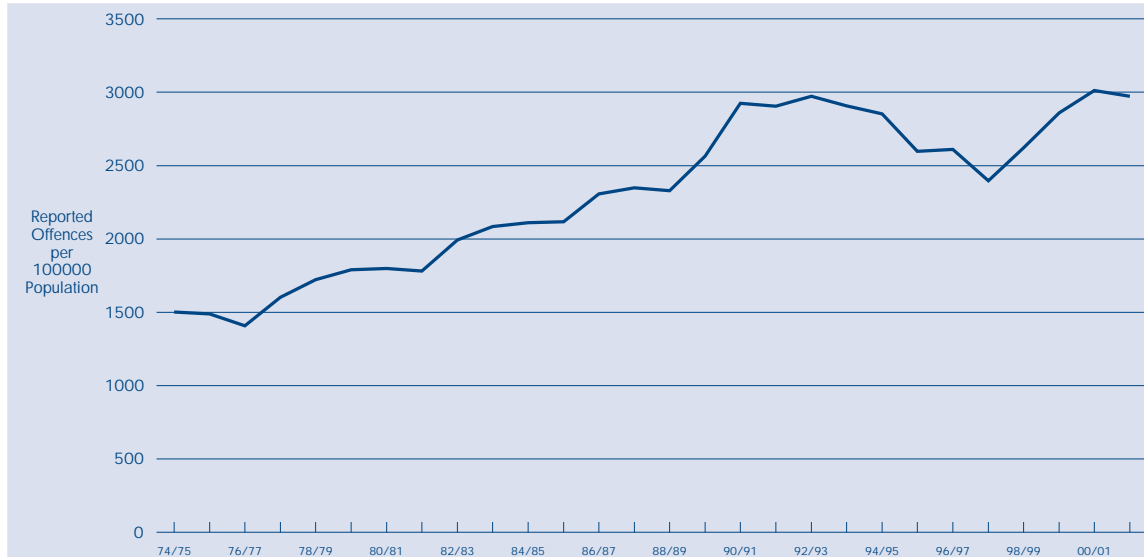
Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle offences experienced a substantial decrease over the period 1995/96 to 1997/98. Until the year under review, rates of Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicles rose sharply again to equal the high rates seen in the mid-1990s. However, in

2001/02 there was a 16% reduction in the rate of Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle offences. This is the largest decrease ever reported in the Service's Annual Statistical Review. The decrease equates to 3,000 fewer reported Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle offences.

** The break in continuity is the result of a policy change implemented in December 2001 (see Explanatory Notes section).

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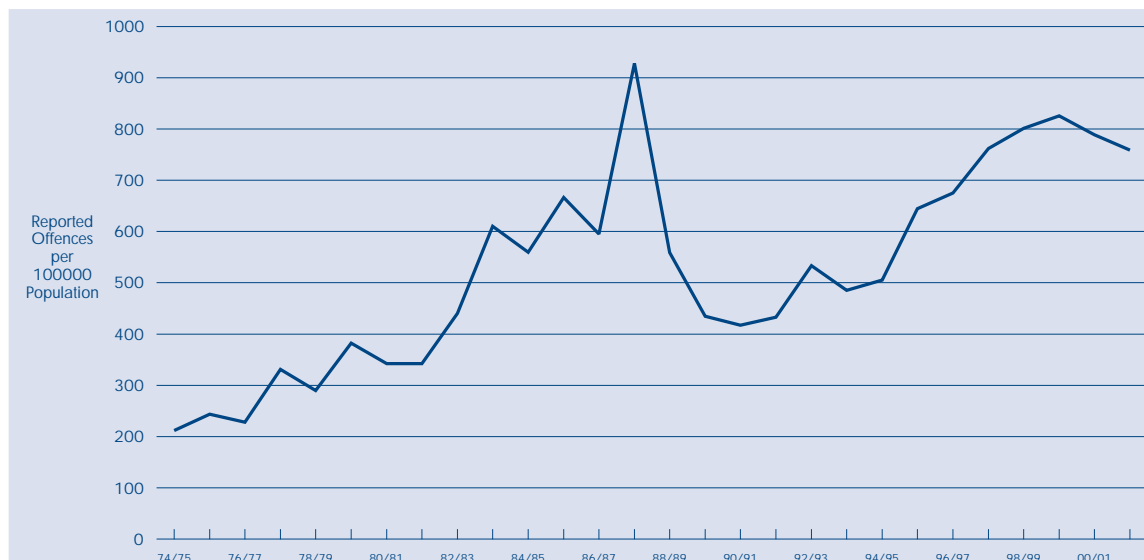
Other Theft



As with most Offences Against Property sub-categories, the sharp increase experienced during the late 1980s is evident in the graph above. This trend was repeated in

the late 1990s. However, in the year under review there was a 1% reduction in the rate of Other Theft offences.

Fraud

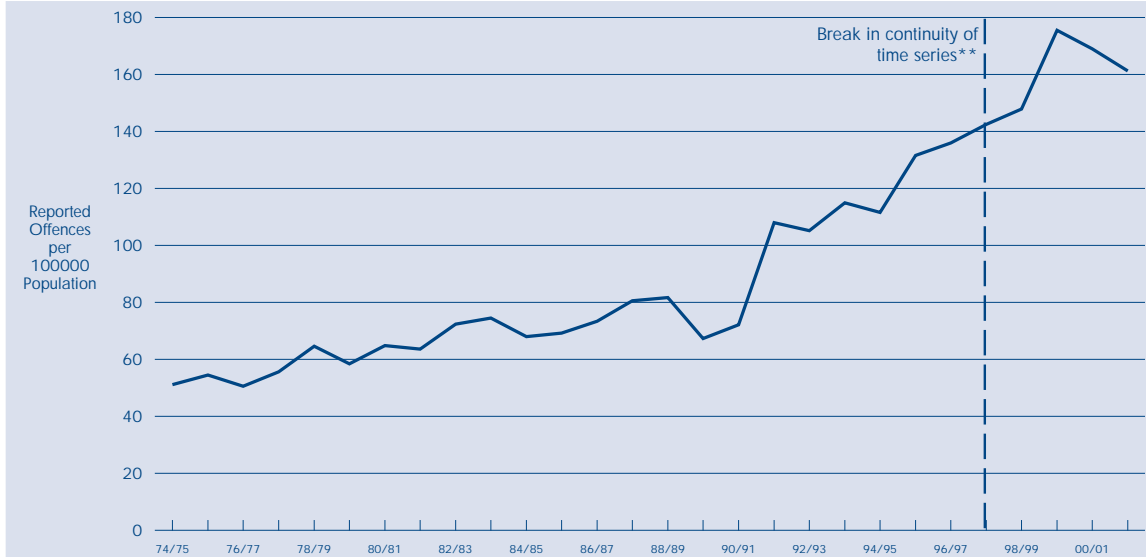


Fraud offences increased rapidly in the early stages of the twenty-eight year time series. The sudden decrease from 1987/88 to 1990/91 is due to a change in policy by banking institutions regarding the reporting of offences, rather than an actual reduction in offences.

The figures reported for 2000/01 and 2001/02 effectively halt a steadily increasing trend evident over the last decade. Overall, Fraud has increased an average of 5%. However, there was a 4% reduction in the rate of reported Fraud offences in the year under review.

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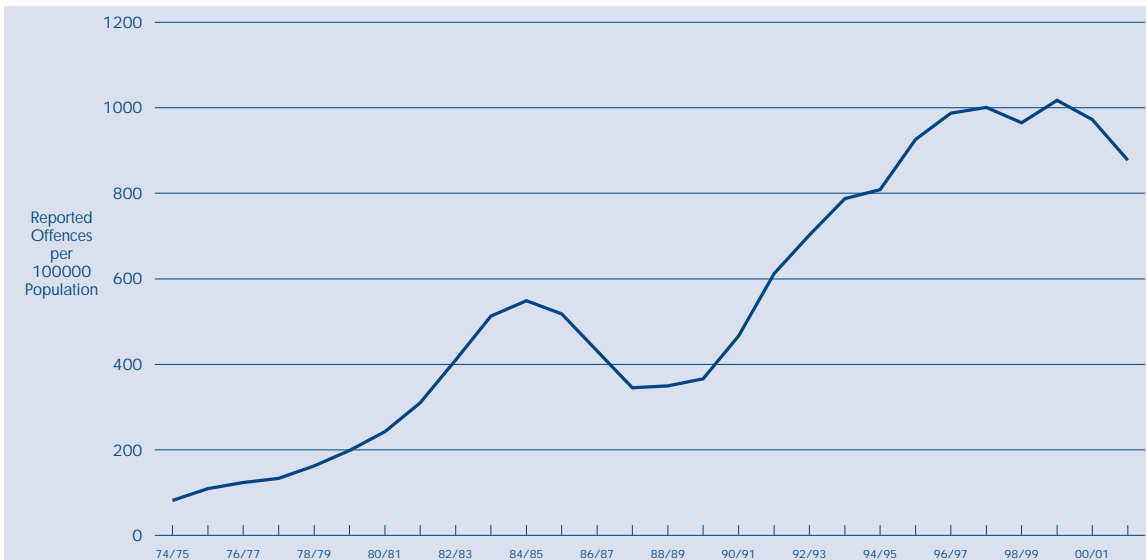
Handling Stolen Goods



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. Overall, this offence classification has experienced a 4% increase on average per year, although there was a 5% reduction in the rate of offences in the year under review.

Drug Offences

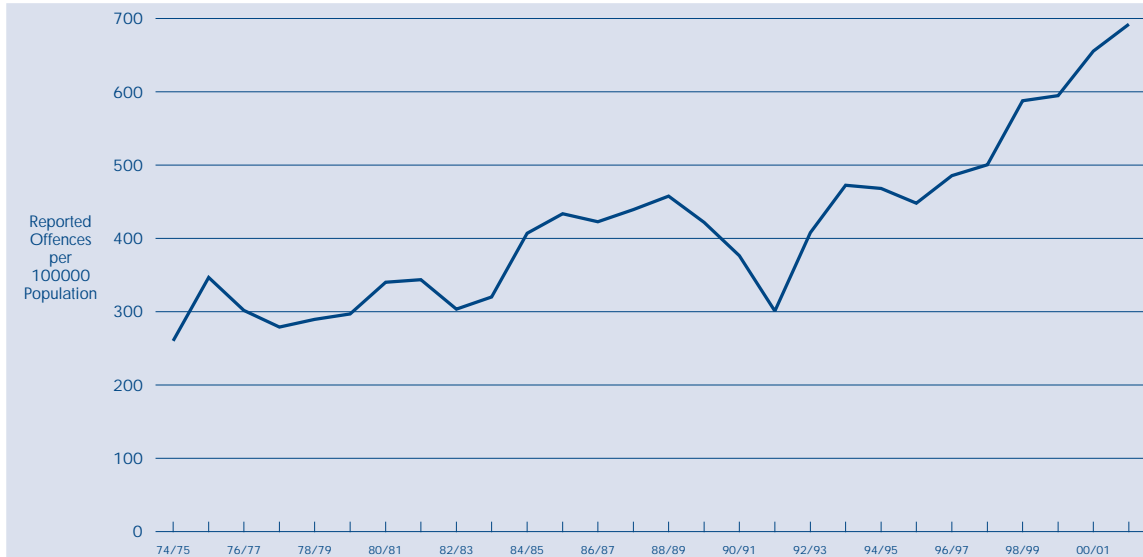


Apart from a period in the mid to late 1980s, possibly due to the reallocation of police resources to the Fitzgerald Inquiry, Drug Offences have increased steadily over the twenty-eight year period, resulting in an overall average annual increase of 9%.

Since 1996/97, this trend has stabilised with reductions in the rate of reported offences in the past two financial years. There was a 10% reduction in the rate of reported Drug Offences.

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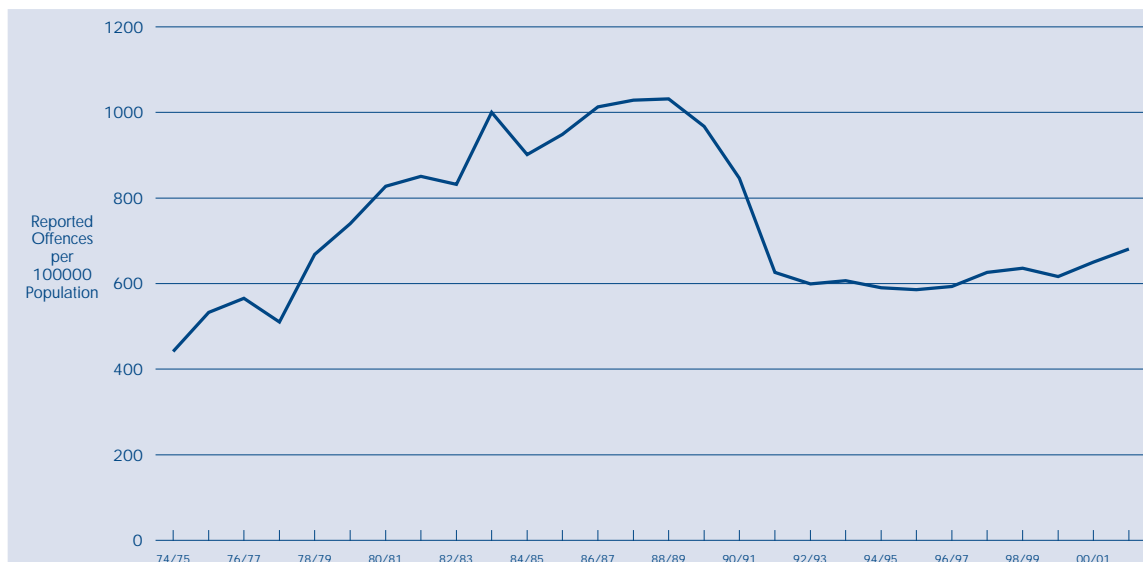
Good Order Offences



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 in reported offences from 1988/89 to 1991/92 and the subsequent

Drink Driving Offences

and equivalent increase following that period. A substantive increase of 17% in 1998/99 resulted in a sharp upward turn in the time series. On average there has been a 4% increase in the rate of reported Good Order offences, although there was a 6% increase in the rate of reported offences in 2001/02.



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 reduced but have

remained stable at around 600 offences per 100,000 persons from 1991/92 to 2000/01. However, there was a 5% increase in the rate of drink Driving offences in the period under review.

