

# Annual Crime Trends

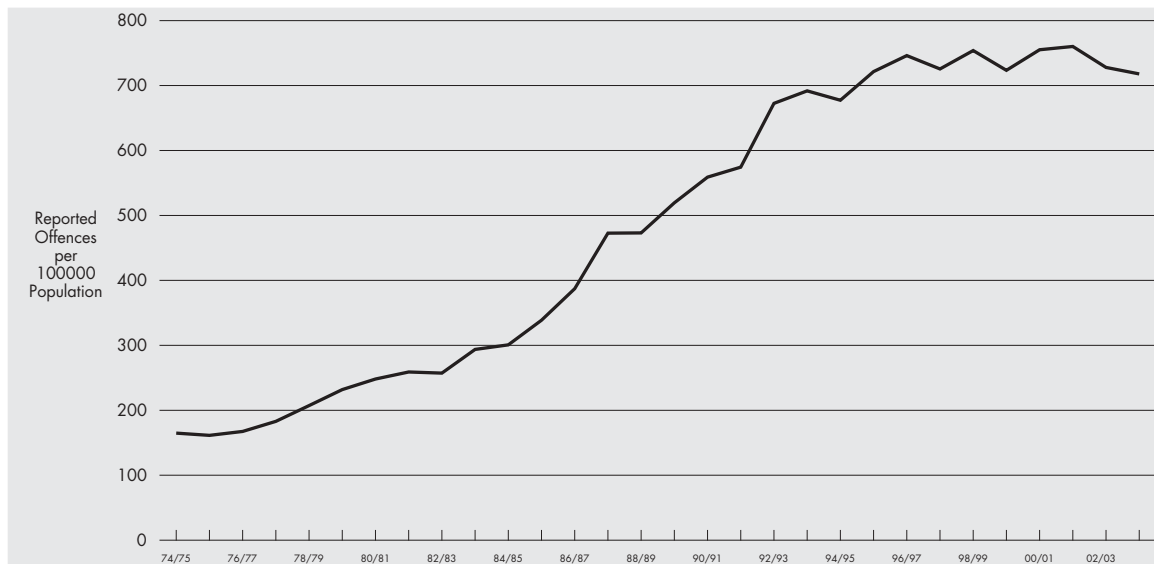
In this section, an examination of the number of selected offences per 100,000 population is provided for a thirty year period. The rates provided in this section are based on Estimated Residential Populations, or projections thereof, at 30 June each year, provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics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

Since 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 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\**



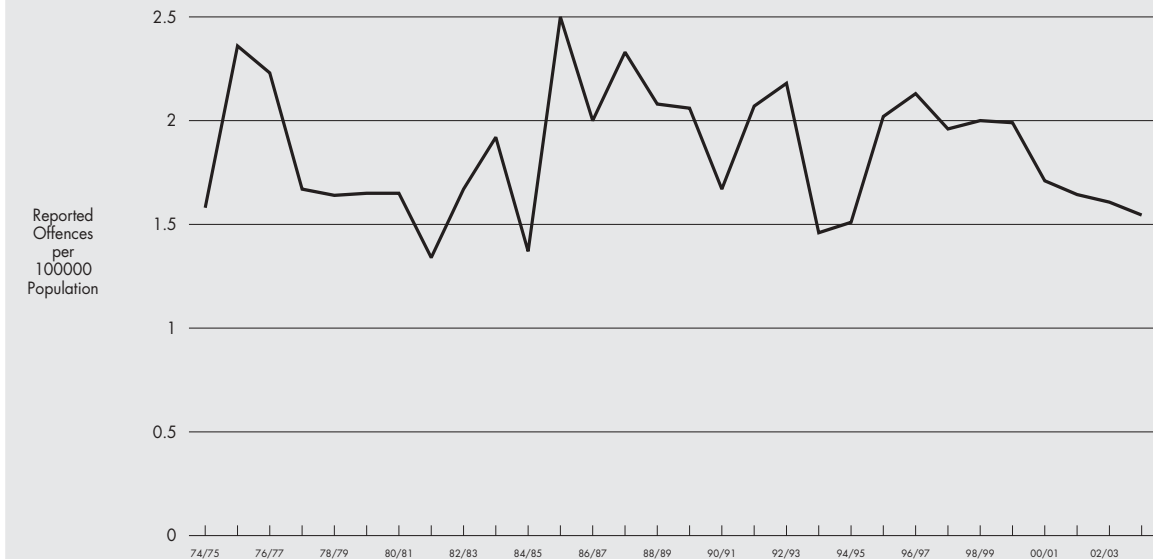
While this broad offence aggregate is comprised of a number of different offence categories, the offence sub-category of Assault tends to dominate Offences Against the Person. As such, the time series largely reflects the

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

\* 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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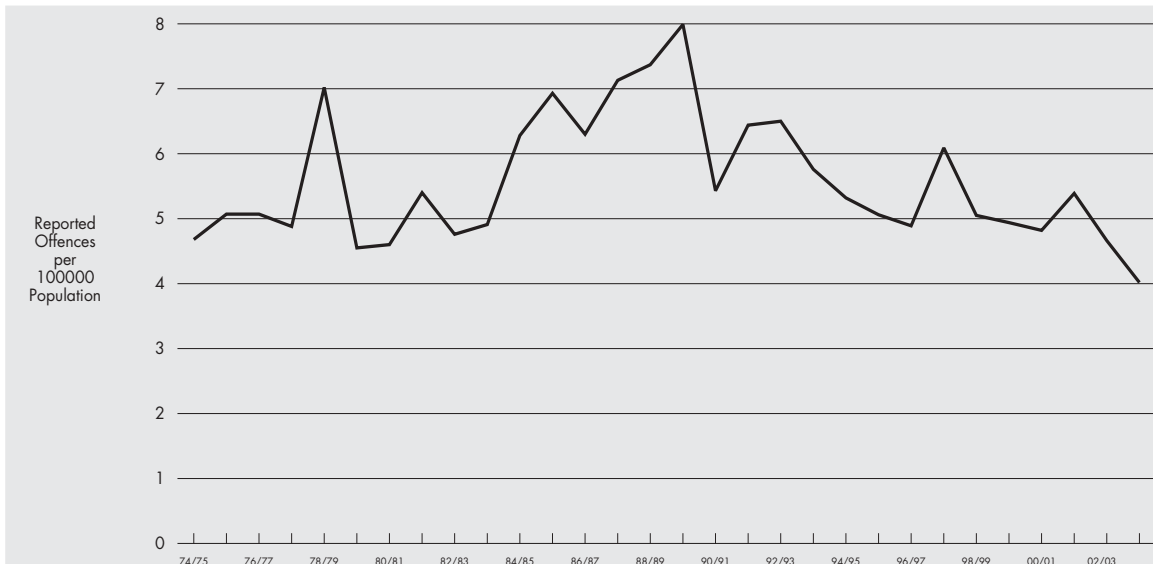
## *Homicide (Murder)*



Homicide (Murder) is a small volume offence and, as such, is subject to sizeable fluctuations from year to year. 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 2003/04, the Homicide rate decreased by 4% as one less murder was reported compared with the previous year.

## *Other Homicide*

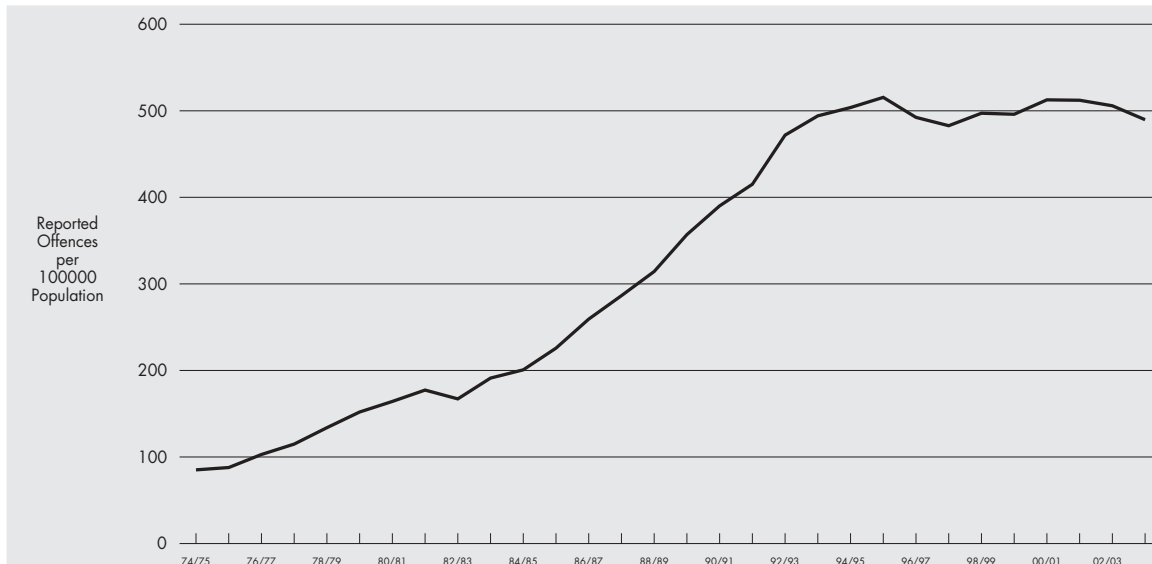


Other Homicide is also a small volume offence category and, as such, is subject to sizeable fluctuations from year to year. From 1987/88 to 1989/90 Other Homicide offences were reported at a slightly higher rate,

although the rate has steadily decreased since this time. In 2003/04 there was a 14% decrease in the rate of Other Homicides, largely as a result of decreases in Manslaughter and Driving Causing Death offences.

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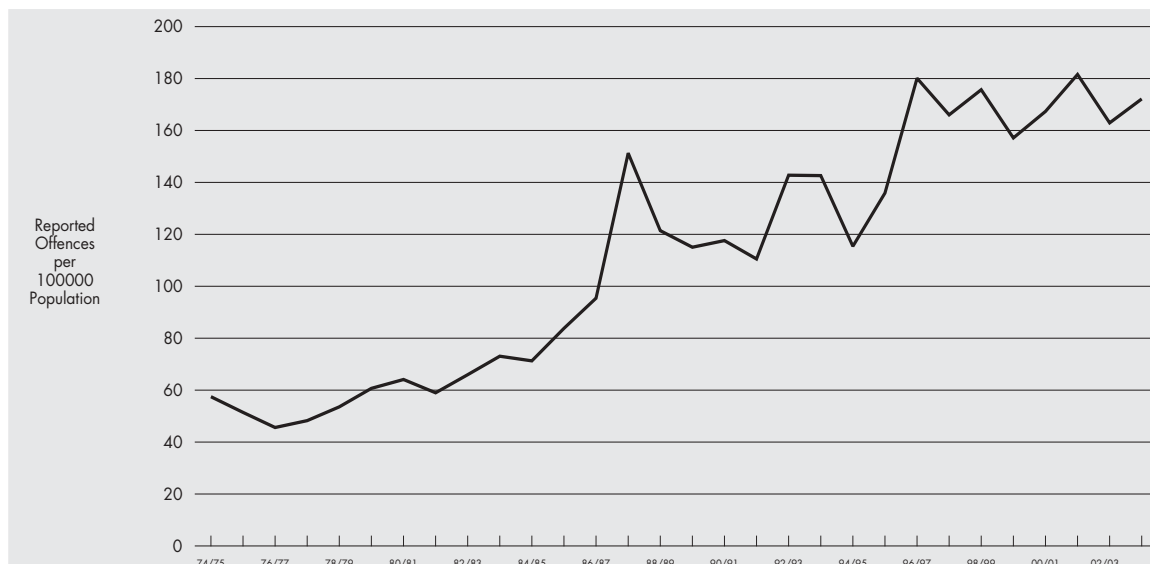
## Assault



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

has stabilised. 2003/04 was no exception with the rate decreasing by 3% from that reported in the previous year.

## Sexual Offences

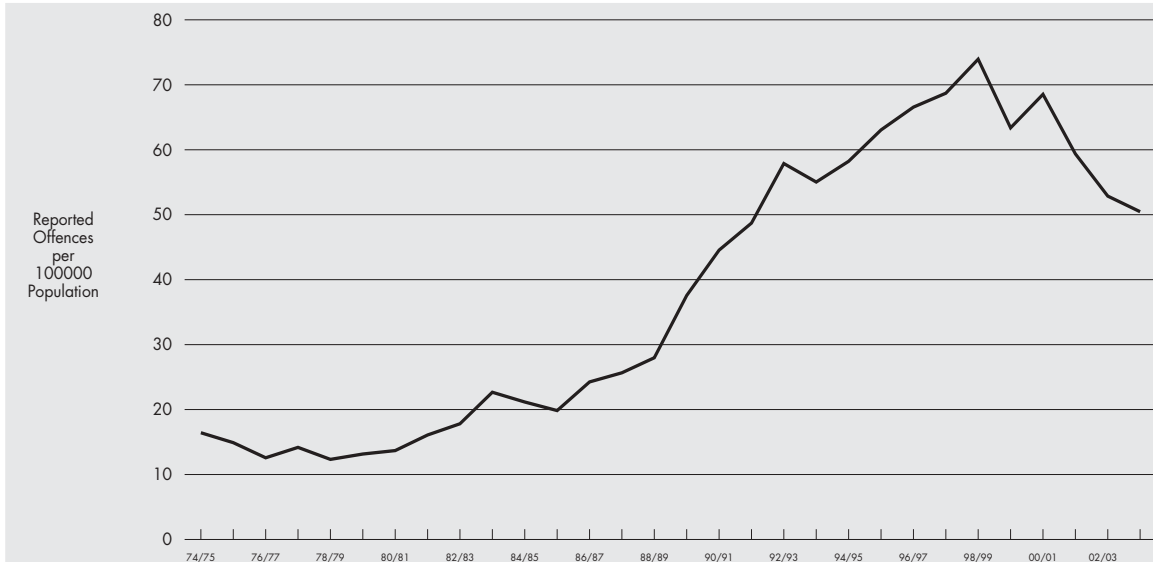


Sexual Offences may be reported to police many years after the offences actually occur and there are often numerous charges preferred against one offender. These factors have resulted in the fluctuations seen in

the graph above. In 2003/04, one offender was charged with 224 offences which contributed to the 5% increase in the rate of Sexual Offences in the year under review compared with the previous year.

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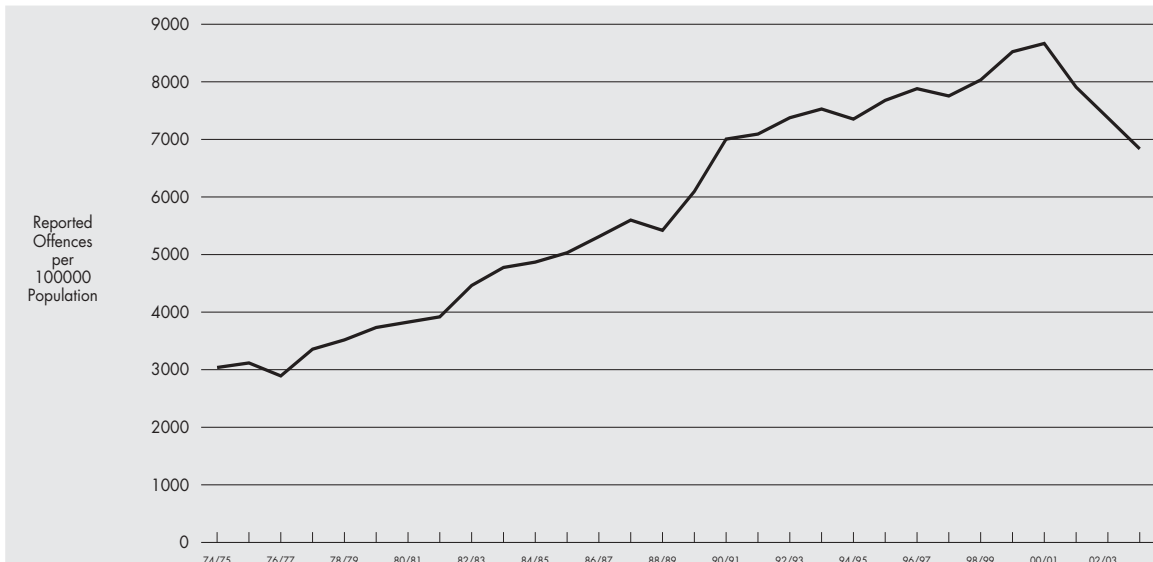
## Robbery



Following a relatively stable period from 1974/75 to 1985/86, Robbery offences have increased sharply between 1988/89 and 1998/99. Since then, Robbery has been decreasing. Following a 13% decrease

reported for 2001/02, and a 10% decrease in 2002/03, the rate of Robbery offences again decreased in 2003/04 by 5%. This is comprised of decreases in both Armed and Unarmed Robbery sub-categories.

## Offences Against Property

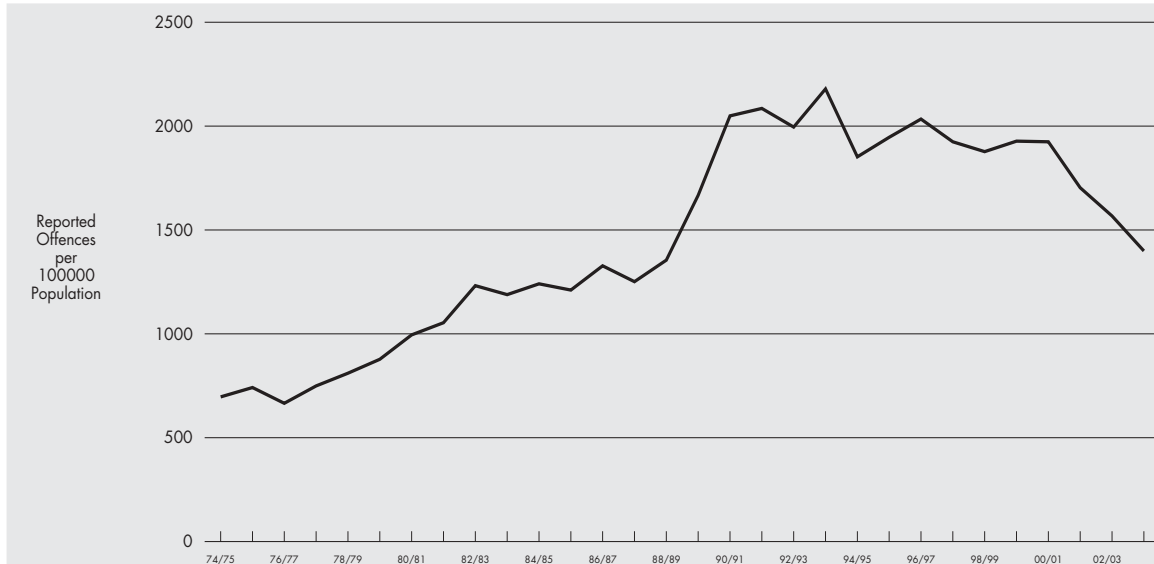


Offences Against Property increased steadily from 1974/75 to 1990/91, although a sharper increase in nearly all property offence sub-categories is reflected in the sharp increase seen from 1988/89 to 1990/91. From 1990/91 the rate has stabilised and increased

slower than was seen previously. Over the last three years total Offences Against Property have decreased. In 2001/02, the rate fell by 9%. This has been followed in 2002/03 by a decrease of 7% and a further 8% decrease in the current period.

# Annual Crime Trends

## *Unlawful Entry Involving Breaking*

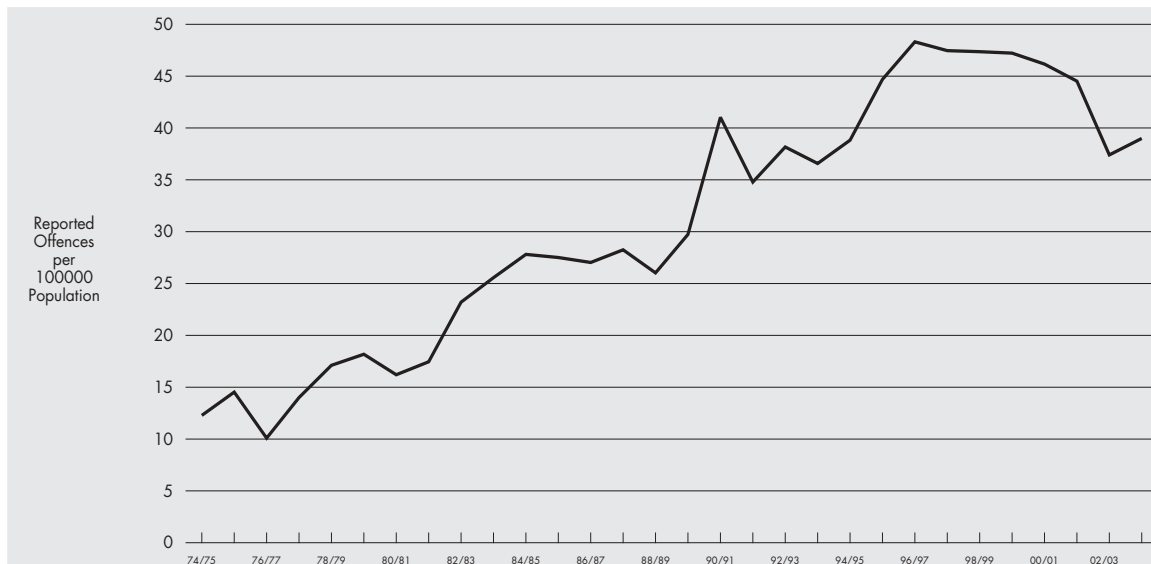


Following a steady increase in Unlawful Entry Involving Breaking offences from 1974/75 to 1988/89, offences increased suddenly and sharply from 1988/89 to 1990/91. Since this time, the rate has stabilised, even

exhibiting a slight downward trend.

In particular, the rate of Unlawful Entry involving Breaking offences fell by 8% and 11% for 2002/03 and 2003/04 respectively.

## *Arson*

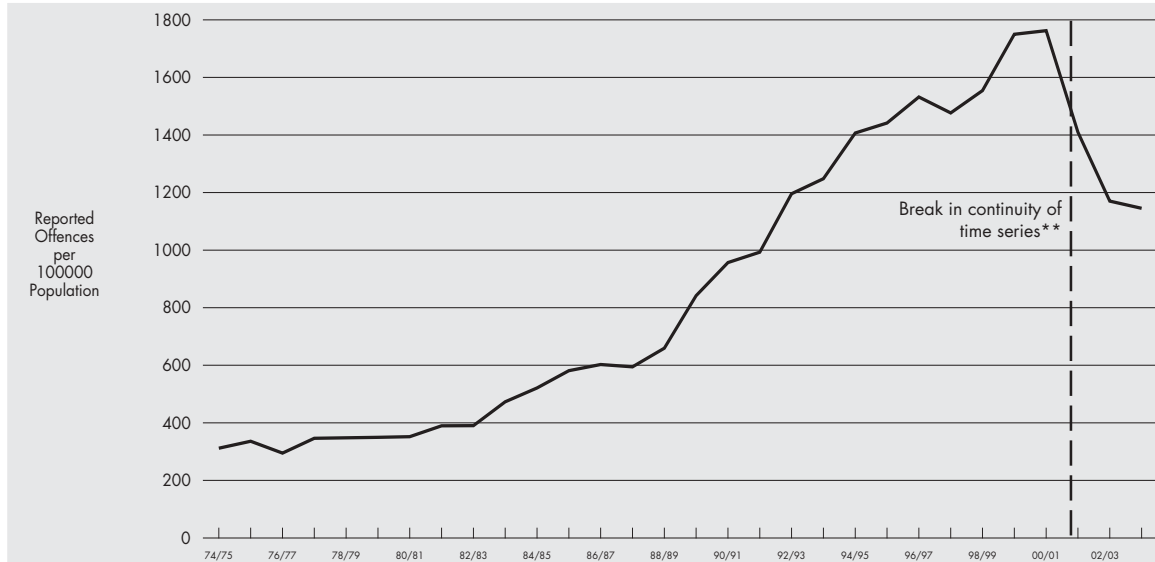


Apart from the sharp increase in the late 1980s and the subsequent decrease in the early 1990s, Arson offences have risen steadily up to 1996/97. Since then,

the rate of offences has declined. Following a decrease of 15% reported for 2002/03, the rate in the current period increased by 4%.

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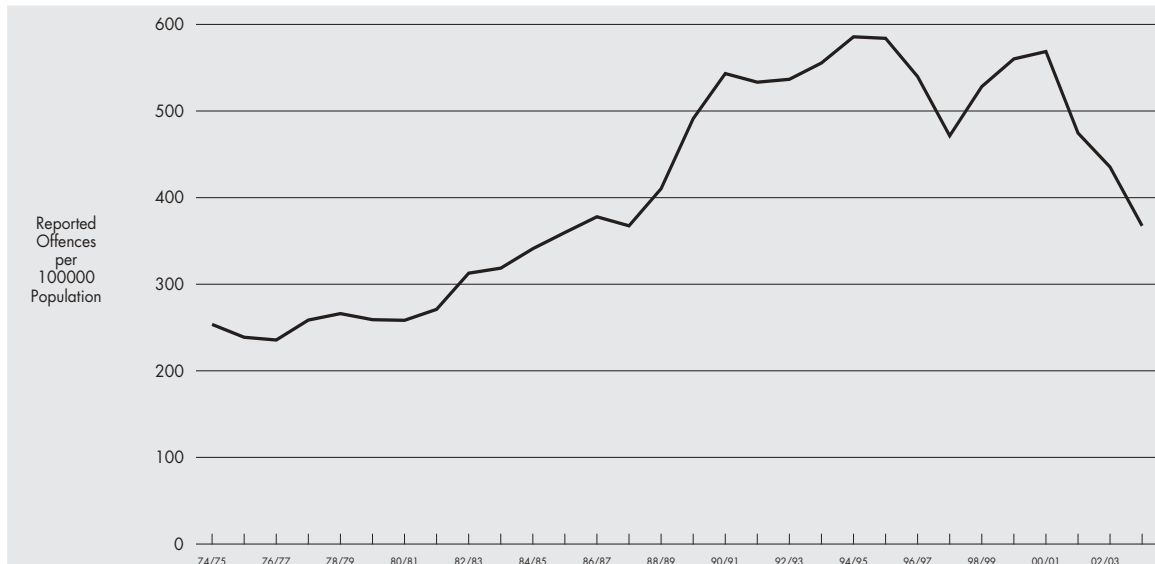
## *Other Property Damage*



Apart from a decrease in the rate of Other Property Damage offences between 1996/97 and 1997/98, this offence category 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 2002/03 by 17% and 2003/04 by 2%.

## *Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle*



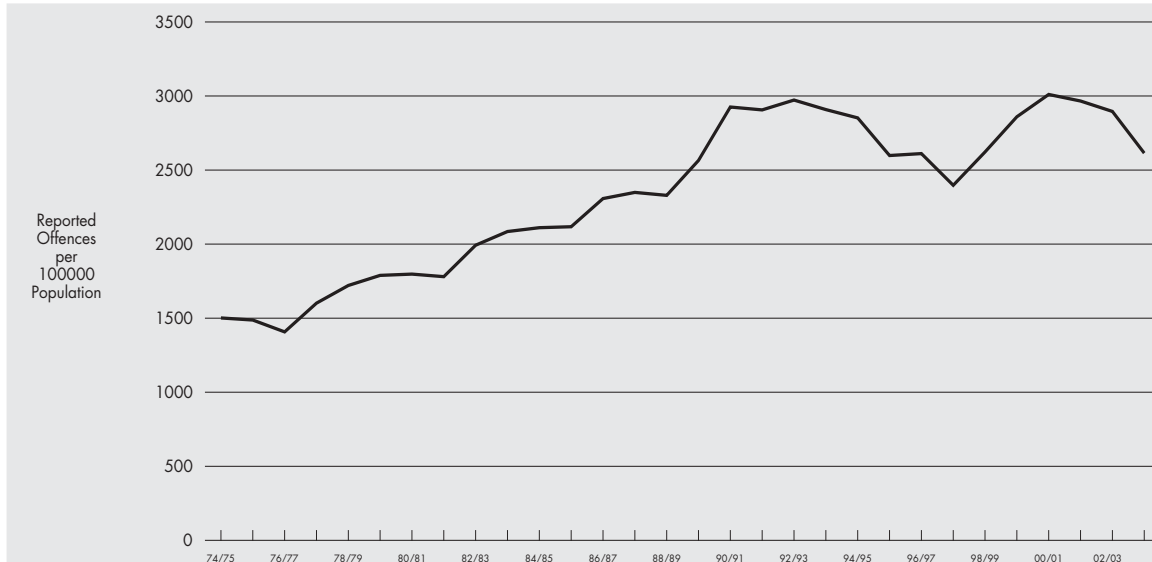
Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle offences experienced a substantial decrease over the period 1995/96 to 1997/98. Rates then rose sharply to again equal the high rates seen in the mid-1990s. From 2000/01, however, rates again declined. In 2001/02, there was a

16% reduction in the rate of Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle offences. This was the largest decrease ever reported in the Service's Annual Statistical Review. In 2002/03, Queensland experienced a decrease of 8% followed by another 16% decrease in 2003/04.

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

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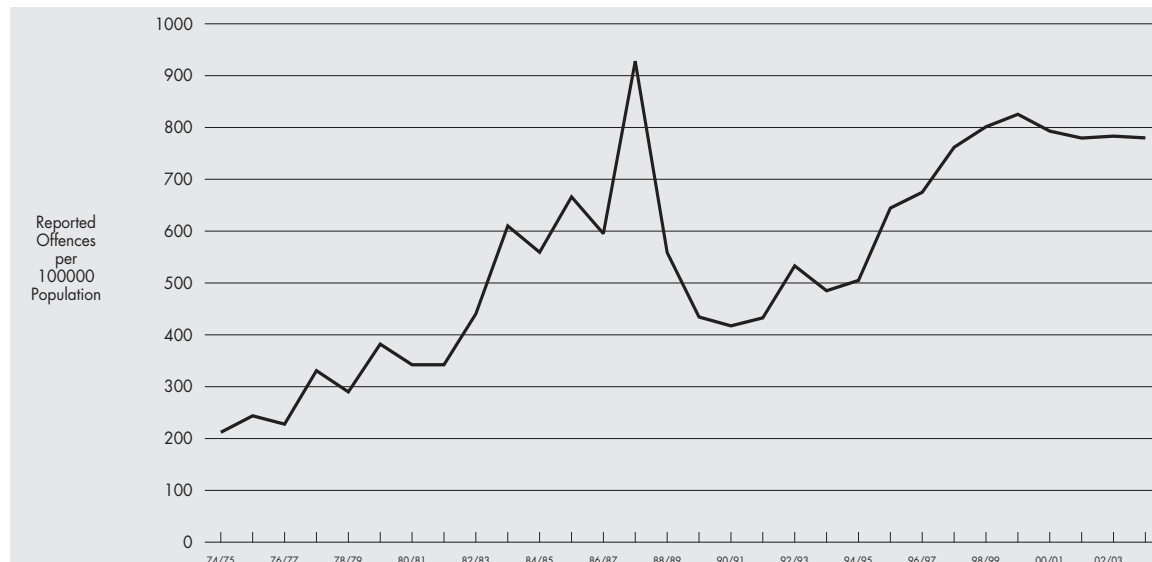
## *Other Theft*



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

however, the trend has reversed. In 2001/02, the rate of Other Theft offences decreased by 1%. This was followed in 2002/03 by a reduction of 3%. The rate decreased by a further 10% in the current period.

## *Fraud*

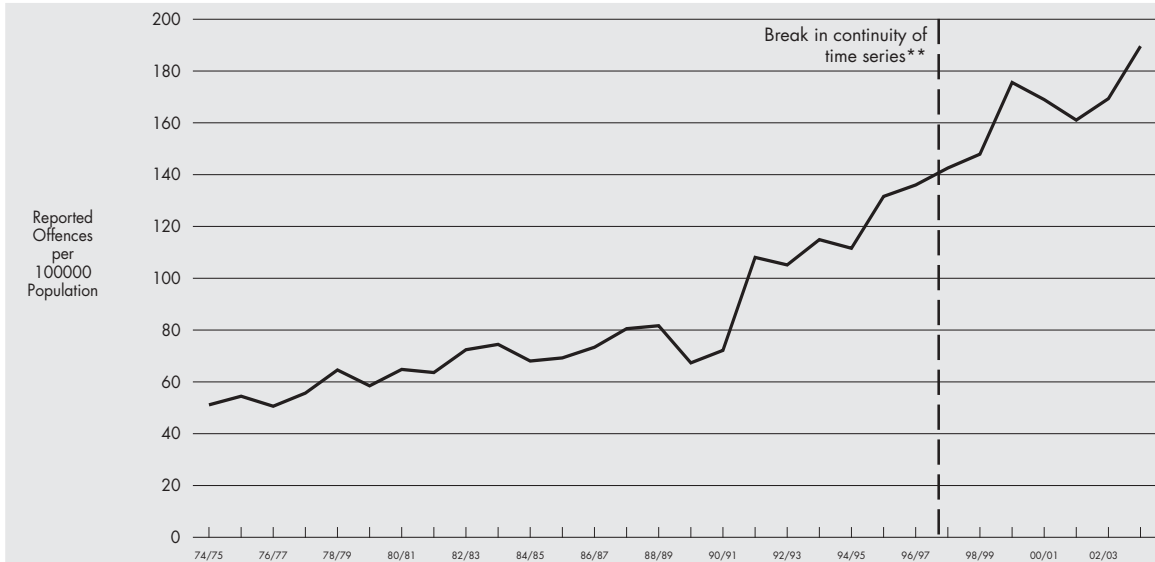


Fraud offences increased sharply from 1974/75 to 1987/88. The sudden decrease from 1987/88 to 1990/91 is due to a change in policy by banking institutions regarding the reporting of offences, rather than an actual reduction in offences. The figures

reported for 2000/01 and 2001/02 effectively halted a steadily increasing trend evident over the last decade. Rates experienced in 2002/03 and 2003/04 have continued this reversal with a 1% reduction reported for the year under review.

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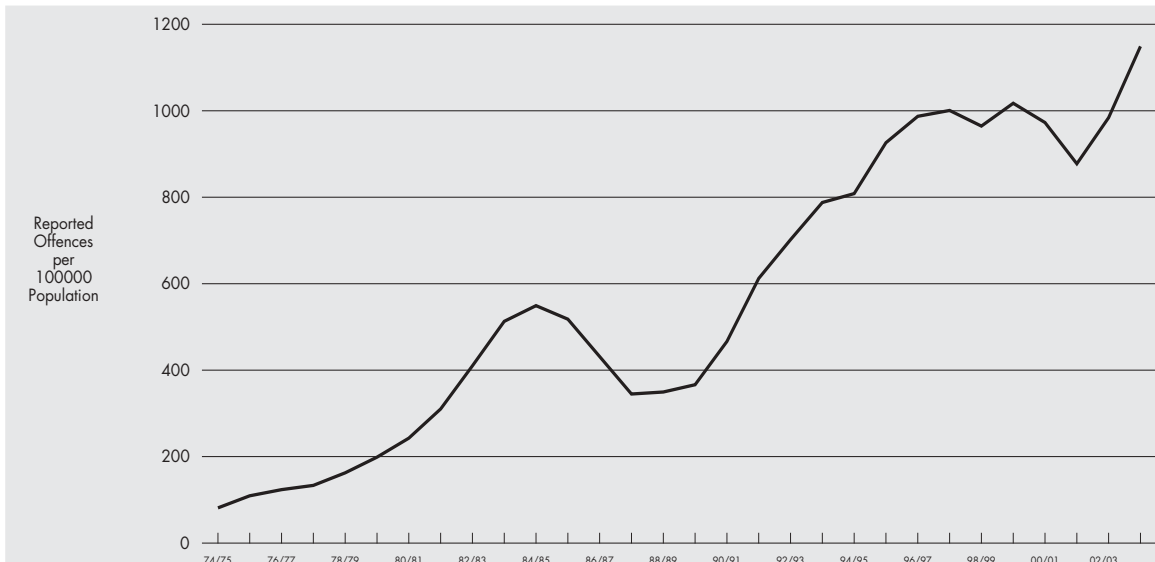
## Handling Stolen Goods



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 12%.

## Drug Offences

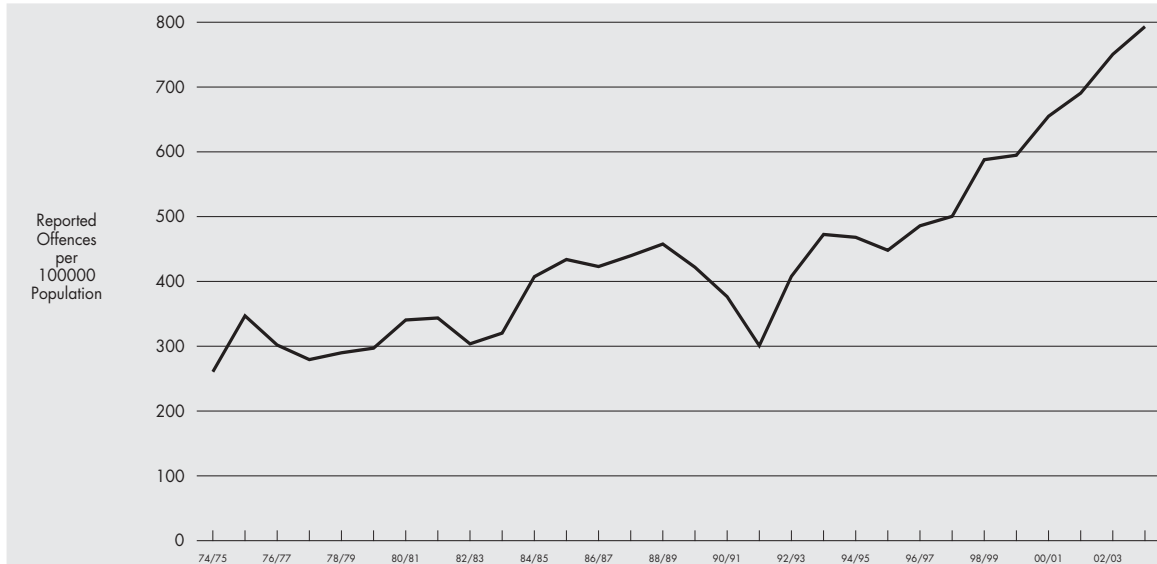


Apart from a period in the mid to late 1980s, possibly due to the reallocation of police resources to the Fitzgerald Inquiry, Drug Offences increased steadily up to 1999/00. Following decreases recorded for the previous two financial years, the year under review saw

a 16% increase in the rate of Drug Offences. It should be noted that these offences differ from Person and Property offences in that they are often detected by police rather than reported by members of the community.

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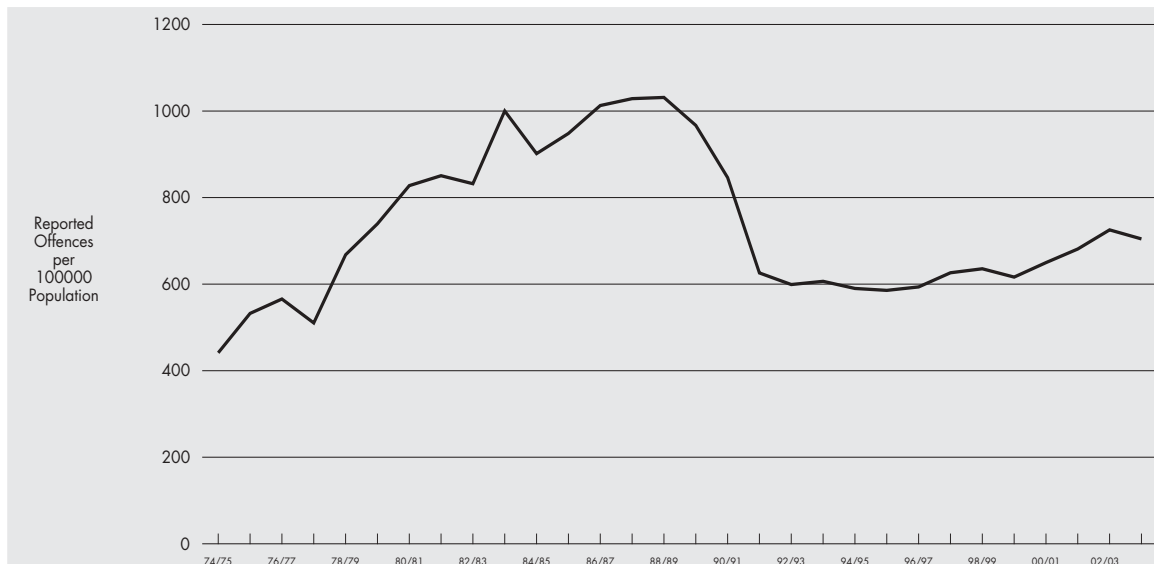
## *Good Order Offences*



Good Order Offences were expanded in 1984 to include Indecent Behaviour which possibly provides an explanation for the increase in offences recorded 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 and equivalent increase following that period. Since 1995/96 offences have been steadily increasing and 2003/04 was no exception (increasing 5%).

## *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 does highlight the effectiveness of these initiatives as offences have not only reduced but

remained stable at around 600 offences per 100,000 persons from 1991/92 to 2000/01. 2003/04 exhibited a 3% decrease after experiencing increases during the previous two years .

