

Crime 2016-17

Offences Against the Person

The broad offence group of offences against the person is comprised of a number of different offence categories. The volume of offences reported differs significantly across categories. For example, assaults account for 65% of offences against the person (Figure 1) while homicide (murder) accounts for less than 1%. Thus, assault offences tend to dominate offences against the person, while homicide (murder) will have little effect on the overall total.

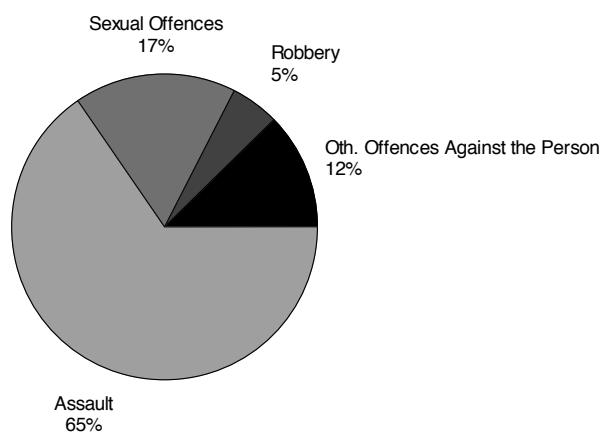


Figure 1: Offences against the person (%), Queensland, 2016-17*

A total of 34,349 offences against the person were reported to police in 2016-17, 3,159 more than the revised figure from the previous financial year. Taking into account the growth of the Queensland population, the rate of offences against the person increased by 9% from 645 to 701 offences per 100,000 persons.

Of the 34,349 offences against the person reported to police during the 2016-17 financial year, 26,348 (77%) were cleared by the end of June 2016 compared with 81% cleared the previous year. An additional 3,414 offences reported in previous time periods were also cleared during 2016-17.

As with previous years, Northern Region recorded the highest rates of offences against the person, while

* Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Therefore, although the percentages are correct, they do not add to 100%.

Brisbane Region recorded the lowest. All regions recorded increases in the period under review.

Females aged 15-19 were most likely to have been victims of offences against the person in 2016-17 followed by females aged 20-24 years. Females were more likely than males to be victims of offences against the person up to the age of 35, but from the age of 35 years, males were more likely than females to be victims. For 56% of victims of solved offences, the offenders were known to them.

More males were proceeded against for offences against the person compared with females. While only 22% of offenders were female, 35% were male aged 15-29 years. The likelihood of offending per 100,000 persons peaked in the 15-19 age group for both males and females and decreased with age except between 35 and 39 for females.

Of those who were found to have committed offences against the person, approximately 60% were proceeded against through an arrest with a further 20% proceeded against through the service of a notice to appear.

Homicide (Murder)

Homicide (murder) is a small volume offence category and, as such, is subject to sizeable fluctuations from one year to the next and from region to region.

The number of homicide (murder) offences decreased by 10 offences in Queensland for 2016-17 compared with 2015-16. Out of the 38 homicides reported to police in 2016-17, 34 offences (89%) were cleared in the same period. An additional 11 offences were cleared from previous periods.

Northern Region recorded the only increase while Southern Region recorded the largest decrease in the rate of homicide (murder) offences within Queensland. The highest rate was recorded by Northern Region and the lowest rate was recorded by Central Region.

This year, 51% of the victims of homicide (murder) were male, with the highest rate of homicide (murder) offences in the 40-44 age group which recorded a rate of three victims per 100,000 persons. In 41% of solved cases, the offender was known to the victim.

Males were significantly more likely than females to commit homicide (murder) (77%). In 2016-17, males aged 25-29 years were most likely to offend, followed by males aged 15-19. In 92% of cases, the offender was proceeded against through an arrest.

Other Homicide

As with homicide (murder), other homicide is a low-volume offence category. Therefore, it is subject to marked fluctuations from year to year and from area to area. The number of other homicide offences increased by 13 offences during 2016-17, as a result of increases in attempted murder and unlawful striking causing death. There were five reported cases of unlawful striking causing death offences in 2016-17 compared to three in the prior period.

Factoring in the increase of the Queensland estimated resident population, other homicide offences increased by 14% to a rate of two offences per 100,000 persons. Of the 96 other homicide offences reported to police in 2016-17, 93 offences (97%) were cleared in the same period. Additionally, 17 offences were cleared from previous periods.

All regions except for Central Region recorded an increase in the rate of other homicide offences. Brisbane Region recorded the highest rate in the last financial year, while South Eastern Region recorded the largest increase.

Approximately 63% of the victims of other homicide were male with the highest rate recorded in the 25-29 age group. In 40% of the solved cases, the offender was known to the victim.

Males were significantly more likely than females to commit other homicide offences (81% of offenders were male). In 2016-17, males aged 20-29 were most likely to offend. Seventy-four percent of offenders were proceeded against through an arrest, while 22% were issued with a notice to appear.

Assault

Assaults comprise approximately 65% of total offences against the person. As such, assaults tend to dominate this broad offence group. The rate of assaults in Queensland increased by 11% from 2015-16 to 2016-17.

The increase in the rate of assaults is attributable to increases in three of the four subcategories: serious assault (15%), serious assault (other) (10%) and common assault (7%). Out of the 22,369 assaults reported to police in 2016-17, 17,615 (79%) were cleared in the same period with a further 1,602 offences cleared from previous periods.

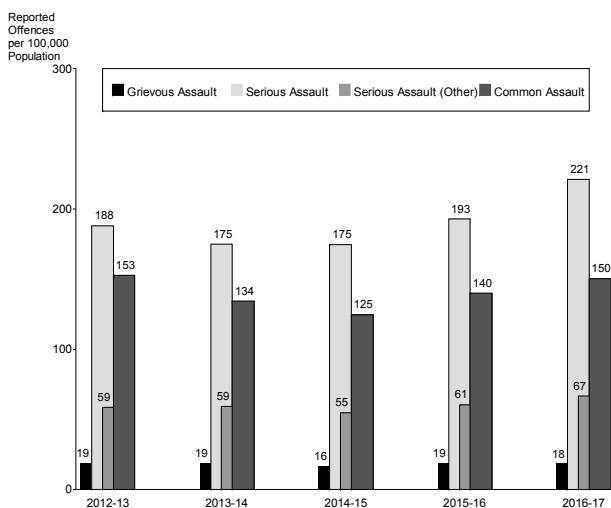


Figure 2: Reported assaults, Queensland, 2012-13 to 2016-17

Since the 2014-15 period, there were increases in all of the assault categories (Figure 2). From 2012-13 to 2014-15, there were decreases in the majority of these categories. The seasonal influence on the occurrence of assaults can be seen clearly in the section on monthly crime trends. These offences peak around December of each year and fall to a low around July.

As with previous years, Northern Region recorded the highest rate of assault in Queensland while Brisbane Region recorded the lowest. Southern Region recorded the highest increase in the rate of assaults.

For all age groups apart from 15-24 years, males were more likely than females to be victims of assault. Males aged 25-29 years were most likely to be victims. From age 25, the rate of victimisation for males decreased steadily. The age of victimisation for females peaked at the 20-24 age cohort before decreasing for each subsequent age group. For 56% of victims of solved offences, the offender was known to them.

Across all age groups, males were also more likely to commit offences of assault (74% of offenders were male). Males aged 20-24 years were most likely to offend. Of those people proceeded against, 57% were arrested and 25% were served with a notice to appear.

Sexual Offences

The reporting of historical sexual offences is not even and this leads to significant variability in the rate of reported offences. As offences are counted against the period in which they are reported rather than when they occurred, increases in crime statistics do not always equate to an increase in victimisation for a particular period.

The number of sexual offences reported to police in 2016-17 decreased by 660 offences from the number reported in the previous financial year. The number reported (5,860 offences) equates to a rate of 120 offences reported per 100,000 persons. The decrease in the rate is attributable to a decrease of 18% in other sexual offences (although there was an 8% increase for rape and attempted rape offences). Of those offences reported in 2016-17, 4,200 offences (72%) were cleared, with an additional 1,322 offences cleared from previous periods.

Northern Region recorded the highest rate in sexual offences and South Eastern Region recorded the only increase of 6%. Southern Region recorded the largest decrease of 24%. The lowest rate was recorded by Brisbane Region.

The sexual offence category is one of two offence categories for which there are more female than male victims (83% of victims were female). Females aged between 15-19 years were most likely to be victims of sexual offences, with a rate of 693 victims per 100,000 population. Females in this age group comprise 43% of total victims. For 76% of victims of solved offences, the offender was known to them. In 41% of solved cases, the offender was a family member.

In total, 119 females committed sexual offences in 2016-17. Thus, 95% of offenders were male. The age distribution of male offenders is unique for this offence type in that the distribution is almost uniform across all age groups with the exception of 15-19 year olds, where there are two to three times as many offenders compared to other age groups. The number of male offenders over 55 years is only slightly lower than other age groups, with 17% of all sexual offenders in this category. For those proceeded against, 62% were arrested and 8% were served with a notice to appear.

Robbery

An increase of 383 robbery offences reported to police in 2016-17 was due to a 31% increase in the number of unarmed robberies and a 26% increase in armed robberies. A total of 1,750 offences were reported to police, which equates to a rate of 36 offences per 100,000 persons. Of these, 1,244 (71%) were cleared in the period in which they were reported, with an additional 102 offences cleared from previous periods.

The rate of robbery offences has decreased steadily since 2012-13, until the latest period. The rate of reported armed robbery offences recorded an increase of 24% and unarmed robbery recorded a 29% increase in 2016-17 (Figure 3).

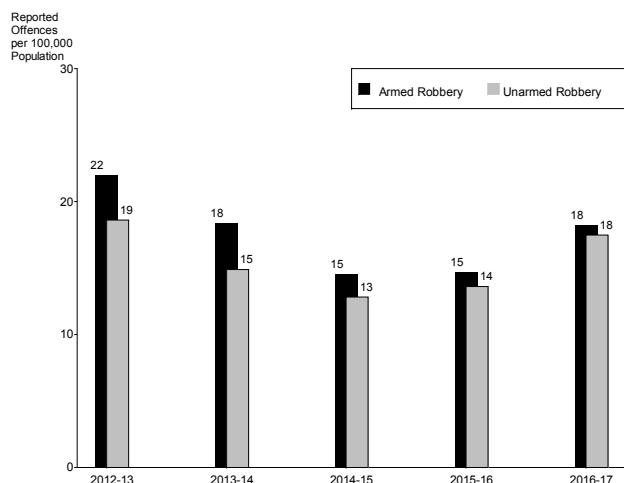


Figure 3: Reported robbery offences, Queensland, 2012-13 to 2016-17

All regions reported increases in robbery offences in 2016-17, with the largest increase of 33% recorded in Southern Region. South Eastern Region recorded the highest rate of robbery in Queensland, with Central Region having the lowest rate of robbery.

For every age group, males were more likely than females to be victims of robbery, with males aged 15-19 years most likely to be victims. Males were victim to robbery in 69% of all cases reported to police. For the majority of victims (71%) of solved robbery offences, the offender was unknown to them.

Males were significantly more likely than females to commit robbery offences (83% of offenders were male) and 35% of male offenders were aged between 15-19 years. Of those proceeded against for robbery offences, 78% were arrested and 7% issued with a notice to appear.

Other Offences Against the Person

The category of other offences against the person includes offences such as kidnapping and abduction etc., extortion, stalking and life endangering acts.

In 2016-17, the number of other offences against the person increased from 3,216 to 4,236 offences. When taking into account the growth of Queensland's population, the rate increased by 30%. Of the 4,236 reported other offences against the person, 75% (3,162 offences) were cleared in the same period. In addition, 360 offences reported in previous periods were also cleared.

Females represented 59% of victims of total other offences against the person, with those aged 20-24 years most likely to be victims. For 51% of victims of solved offences, the offender was known to them.

Offences Against Property

Offences against property is comprised of a number of categories. As with offences against the person, the contribution of each category to the total differs significantly (Figure 4). In 2016-17, other theft (excluding unlawful entry) accounted for 48% of total offences against property and was the highest in volume of the property offence categories. Unlawful entry and other property damage accounted for 16% of offences each, while fraud accounted for 12%. As such, this broad offence group tends to be dominated by other theft (excl. unlawful entry), unlawful entry and other property damage, with offence categories such as arson and handling stolen goods having little effect.

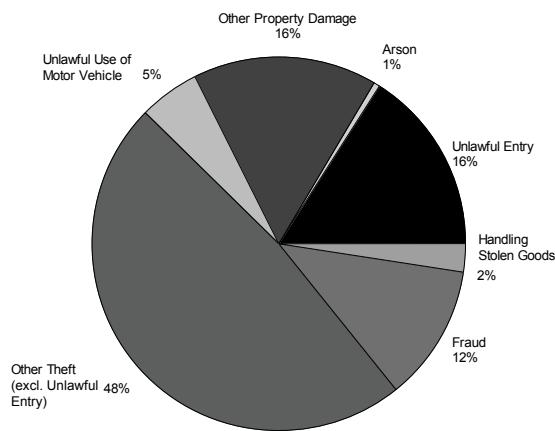


Figure 4: Offences against property (%), Queensland, 2016-17

The number of reported offences against property for the 2016-17 period increased by 22,175 offences when compared with the 2015-16 period. Factoring in the growth of the Queensland population, offences against property were reported at a rate of 4,706 offences per 100,000 persons in 2016-17, an increase of 9% from the previous year. Of all offences against property reported in 2016-17, 40% were cleared in the same period with a further 12,310 offences cleared from previous periods.

Northern Region recorded the highest rate of offences against property (6,150 offences per 100,000 persons) in Queensland. Southern Region recorded the largest increase (13%) while South Eastern recorded the smallest increase (4%). Central Region recorded the lowest rate (3,888 offences per 100,000 persons).

Overall, offences against property were more likely to be committed by males (74% of offenders were male). Over one quarter (29%) of all offenders proceeded against for offences against property were male aged between 10-19 years. Of the total people proceeded against for offences against property, 47% were arrested, 38% were served with a notice to appear and 7% were cautioned.

Unlawful Entry

The rate of unlawful entry offences increased by 12% once the growth of the Queensland population is taken into account. Of the 36,821 offences reported to police in 2016-17, 9,777 or 27% were cleared in the same period with a further 1,236 offences cleared from previous periods.

For the 2016-17 financial year, the number of unlawful entry of dwellings offences increased by 18%, the number of unlawful entry of shops offences increased by 18% and unlawful entry of other premises offences increased by 4%.

All five regions recorded increases, the largest of which was in Northern Region (18%), followed by Brisbane Region (15%). Northern Region recorded the highest rate (1,318 offences per 100,000 persons) while Central Region recorded the lowest rate (589 offences per 100,000 persons).

Most unlawful entry offences were committed by males (86%), with 58% of all offenders were male aged under 25 years. Of all offenders proceeded against for unlawful entry offences, 64% were arrested, 9% cautioned and 17% served with a notice to appear.

Arson

Arson is the lowest in volume of the offences against property categories and, as such, exerts very little influence on the offences against property total. From 2015-16 to 2016-17, the rate of offences increased by 4% from 24 to 25 offences per 100,000 persons. Of the 1,206 offences reported in 2016-17, 293 offences (24%) were cleared in the same period. An additional 37 offences were cleared from previous periods.

Decreases in the rate of arson offences were recorded in three of the five regions: Northern Region (11%), South Eastern Region (9%) and Brisbane Region (3%). Southern Region recorded the largest increase (28%) in the rate of arson offences. While Brisbane Region recorded the lowest rate, the highest rate was recorded by Southern Region.

This year, 84% of offenders were male, with male offenders aged 15-19 being the most likely to be proceeded against for arson. Approximately 60% of offenders were arrested, 17% cautioned and 11% served with a notice to appear.

Other Property Damage

When compared to the previous financial year, the rate of other property damage offences increased by 8% from 692 to 750 offences per 100,000 persons. Of those offences reported to police in 2016-17, 13,198 (36%) were cleared during this period, with an additional 1,356 offences cleared from previous time periods.

Northern Region recorded the highest rate of 1,181 offences per 100,000 persons. The largest increase was recorded by Central Region (11%) and the lowest rate was reported in Brisbane Region (547 offences per 100,000 persons).

As with most offence types, males 15-19 years of age were most likely to be proceeded against for other property damage offences. Only 17% of offenders were female and 12% of all offenders were aged 40 years or more. In total, 48% of offenders were arrested for this offence type, 11% were cautioned and 33% were served with a notice to appear.

Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle

The rate of unlawful use of motor vehicle offences increased by 19% in 2016-17. This increase is equivalent to 2,065 additional offences reported during 2016-17.

In 2016-17, 12,013 unlawful use of motor vehicle offences were reported to police. Of these, 5,870 offences (49%) were cleared during this period, with an additional 626 offences cleared from previous periods. In 2016-17, unlawful use of motor vehicle offences was reported at a rate of 245 offences for every 100,000 persons. For recovery rates see Queensland Crime – Offences Against Property – Cleared Offences on page 13.

All regions recorded increases in unlawful use of motor vehicle offences, with the smallest increase recorded in South Eastern Region (3%) whilst Southern Region recorded the largest increase (32%). The highest rate was reported in Northern Region (380 offences per 100,000 persons) and Central Region reported the lowest rate (149 offences per 100,000 persons).

Males aged 15-19 years were most likely to commit unlawful use of motor vehicle offences (29% of all offenders were in this group). Thirty-five percent of female offenders were aged 15-19 years. Approximately 69% of offenders were arrested and 19% were served with a notice to appear.

Other Theft (excluding Unlawful Entry)

The rate of other theft (excluding unlawful entry) offences increased by 7% between 2015-16 and 2016-17. This category is the highest in volume of the offences against property categories and thus exerts a significant influence on total property crime. In 2016-17, 110,888 other theft offences were reported to police, of which 38% were cleared during this period. A further 5,002 were cleared from previous periods.

There were increases in the rate of offences reported for all four subcategories of other theft (excluding unlawful entry) offences: other stealing (9%), vehicles (steal from/enter with intent) (7%), shop stealing (5%) and stealing from dwellings (1%).

The highest rate of other theft (excluding unlawful entry) offences occurred in South Eastern Region while the lowest rate was recorded in Central Region in the year under review. All regions recorded increases of other theft (excluding unlawful entry) offences during 2016-17, with the smallest increase reported by South Eastern Region (1%) and the largest increase reported by Southern Region (16%).

The proportion of female offenders for other theft was higher than for most other offence types at 34%. For both males and females, those in the 15-19 age group were most likely to commit other theft (excluding unlawful entry) offences. Arrest rates are low for this offence type at 36%, while 49% were served with a notice to appear. Ninety-five percent of offenders cautioned were juvenile (offenders aged 10-16 years).

Fraud

Queensland recorded an increase in the number of offences per 100,000 persons in all subcategories of fraud offences during the current period: computer fraud offences (46%), credit card fraud offences (17%), identity fraud offences (16%), other fraud offences (12%) and cheque fraud offences (7%). This resulted in an overall increase of 15% in the rate of fraud offences.

Of the 27,258 fraud offences reported in 2016-17, 17,278 offences (63%) were cleared in the same period with a further 3,789 offences cleared from previous periods.

South Eastern Region recorded the highest rate of fraud offences, while Central Region had the largest increase (47%) but also the smallest rate. The smallest increase was recorded by Southern Region (5%).

A relatively higher proportion of females commit fraud offences compared with subcategories of offences against property. Approximately 32% of offenders were female. Males aged 15-19 years and females aged 35-39 years were most likely to commit fraud offences.

Forty-three percent of offenders were arrested, while 42% were issued with a notice to appear.

Handling Stolen Goods

There was a small increase in the number of handling stolen goods offences reported (33 offences). As a result, even though there was an increase in the number, the rate of offences decreased by 1% from 114 to 113 offences per 100,000 persons. Of the total 5,556 offences reported to police in 2016-17, 4,987 offences (90%) were cleared in the same period, with a further 264 offences cleared from previous periods.

South Eastern Region recorded the highest rate of handling stolen goods offences. Central Region recorded the lowest rate and both Northern Region and South Eastern Region recorded decreases of 11% in 2016-17. The largest increase was recorded by Southern Region (17%).

As with most offence categories, males were most likely to commit handling stolen goods offences (74% were male offenders) and males in the 15-19 age group were most likely to offend. Offenders were most likely to be served with a notice to appear (47%) or arrested (45%).

Other Offences

Other offences comprise a range of disparate offence categories. These categories are distinct from offences against the person and property in that they are generally offences detected by police rather than being reported by the public. Drug offences, traffic offences and good order offences are examples of this. Trends and patterns in the levels of other offences are therefore often indicative of specific and proactive initiatives of the Queensland Police Service rather than being indicative of the level of crime actually occurring.

The rate of other offences decreased by 5%, from 242,795 offences recorded in 2015-16 to 233,510 offences recorded in 2016-17. This equates to 4,768 offences per 100,000 persons in 2016-17.

Northern Region recorded the highest rate of other offences in Queensland while Brisbane Region recorded the lowest rate. While all regions except for Southern Region recorded a decrease during 2016-17, the greatest decrease of 8% was recorded by Brisbane Region and South Eastern Region.

Drug Offences

Decreases in four of the five subcategories of drug offences contributed to an overall rate decrease of 6%, when taking into account the growth of Queensland's population, with drug trafficking offences and produce drugs offences each decreasing by 16% respectively.

The only increase was in the subcategory of sell supply drugs, which increased by 16% in 2016-17.

Southern Region recorded the highest rate of drug offences in Queensland. All regions reported decreases with South Eastern Region recording the largest decrease and no change in the rate recorded by Southern Region. The lowest rate was recorded by Brisbane Region (1,317 offences per 100,000 persons).

Drug offences were almost three times more likely to be committed by males (73%) than females (27%). Offenders aged 20-24 years accounted for approximately 19% of all drug offenders.

Breach of Domestic Violence Protection Orders

Breach of domestic violence protection orders are a breach of a court order and have been included under other offences and not offences against the person.

The 2016-17 financial year saw a 9% increase in the rate of breach of domestic violence protection orders offences. A total of 25,678 offences were reported to police, equating to a rate of 524 offences per 100,000 persons.

All regions except for Northern Region reported increases during 2016-17 (Northern Region recorded a 3% decrease). Brisbane Region recorded the smallest increase (10%) and Central Region recorded the largest increase (17%). Brisbane Region recorded the lowest rate of breach of domestic violence protection order offences in Queensland, while Northern Region recorded the highest.

Males were more likely to breach of domestic violence protection orders (85% were male) compared to females, with 18% of male offenders in the 35-39 age group. In the period under review, 52% of all offenders were arrested and 22% were served with a notice to appear.

Weapons Act Offences

The number of *Weapons Act* offences increased by one offence from 6,721 offences reported in 2015-16 to 6,722 offences reported in 2016-17. When taking the growth of the population into account, this is a decrease of 1%. This is attributable to increases in the rate in three weapons subcategories: bomb possession and/or use (83%), *Weapons Act offences* - other (2%) and unlawful possession of firearm - other (1%). Decreases were recorded in the subcategories of possess and/or use of other weapons or restricted items (8%) and unlawful possession of concealable firearm (6%).

Northern Region and Southern Region recorded increases in *Weapons Act* offences during 2016-17.

Northern Region recorded the largest increase of 9% and also the highest rate of 203 offences per 100,000 persons. Brisbane Region recorded the lowest rate of 94 offences per 100,000 persons.

The majority of *Weapons Act* offences were committed by males (86%), with 33% of male offenders aged 25-34. For females in the same age bracket, the proportion is 38%. Most offenders were actioned with a notice to appear (57%) while 36% were arrested.

Good Order Offences

The rate of good order offences decreased by 5% from 2015-16 to 2016-17. A total of 59,490 offences were detected by police which equates to a rate of 1,215 offences for every 100,000 persons. Decreases in the rate of disobey move-on directions (15%), public nuisance (8%) and resist, incite, hinder obstruct offences (4%) contributed to the overall decrease. However, increases were recorded for fare evasion offences (7%).

Southern Region recorded the only increase of 8% and South Eastern Region had the largest decrease (12%) in the rate of good order offences. The rate for Central Region was unchanged. The lowest rate was recorded by Brisbane Region while the highest rate was reported by Northern Region.

Traffic and Related Offences

Traffic and related offences decreased at a rate of 7% from 44,663 to 42,043 offences. Three of the four subcategories recorded decreases per 100,000 persons, with decreases in disqualified driving (11%), drink driving (6%) and interfere with mechanism of motor vehicle (33%). Drink driving is the largest in volume of the subcategories and as such, exerts the greatest influence on the traffic and related offences total. However, offences relating to dangerous operation of a vehicle increased by 6% to 42 offences per 100,000 persons.

All regions recorded a decrease in traffic and related offences, with the largest decrease recorded in Central Region. Brisbane Region recorded the lowest rate and Northern Region recorded the highest rate of 1,247 offences per 100,000 persons.

Please note that the traffic and related offences category does not include traffic crashes, speed and red light camera notices, random breath tests and vehicle impoundments. Additional information is contained in the Traffic section on pages 167-175.

