

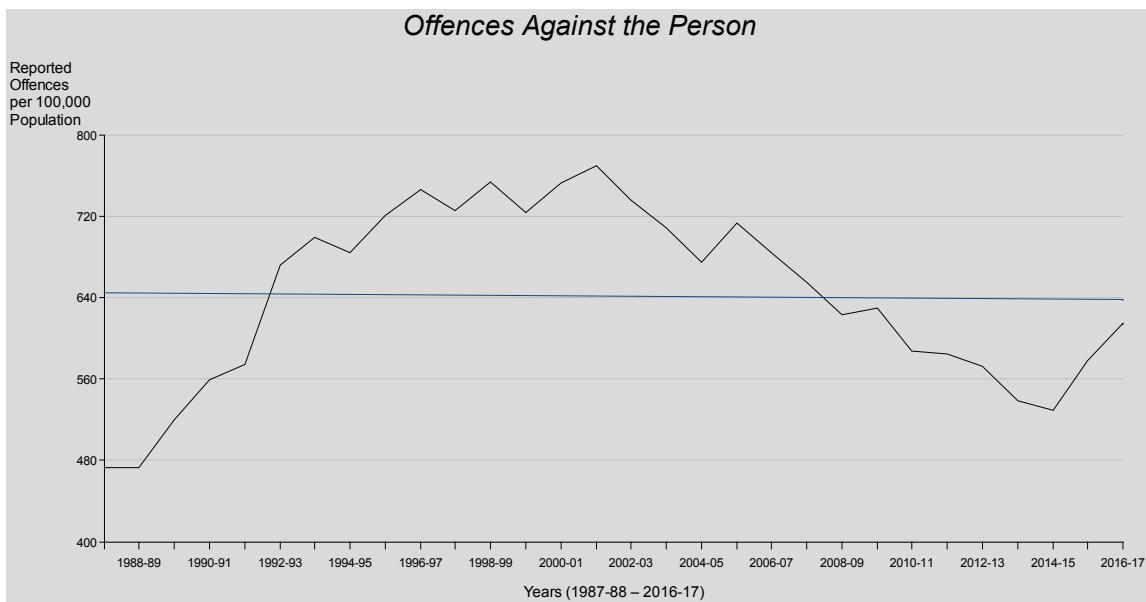
Annual Crime Trends

In this section, an examination of the number of selected offences per 100,000 persons is provided for a 30-year period. The rates are provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Queensland Government Statistician's Office and are based on Estimated Residential Populations, or projections thereof, at 30 June each year.

Since 1987-88, 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 30 years of comparable statistics are not available have been excluded.

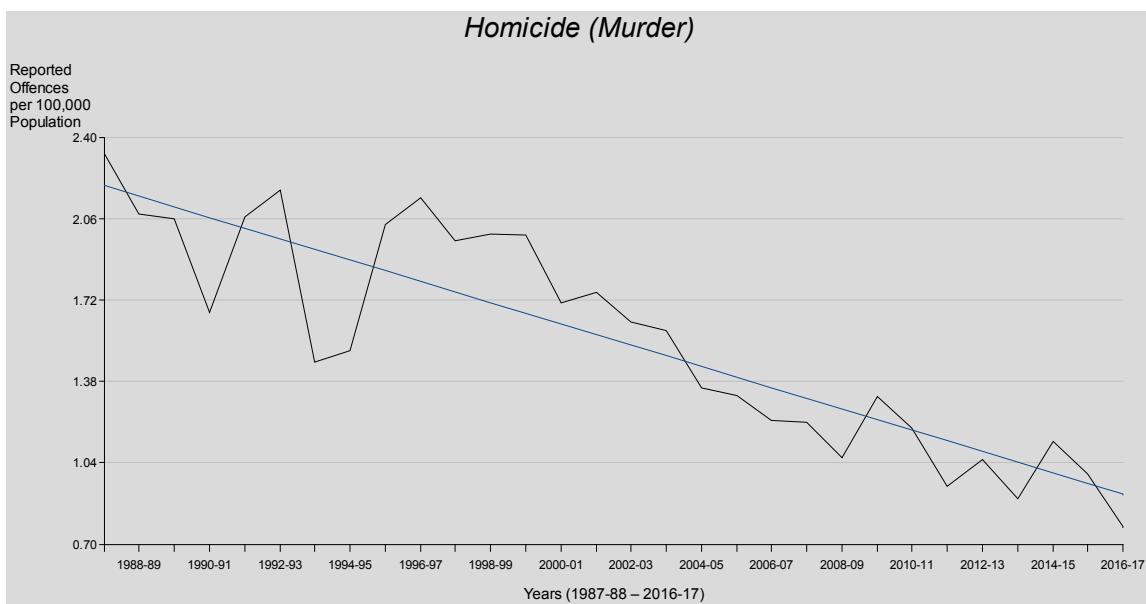
The offence categories which have been included in this section are those that have a reasonable degree of consistency and comparability for the past 30 years. Some of these categories, such as unlawful entry and drink driving, have undergone considerable change at certain times. These breaks in continuity 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.

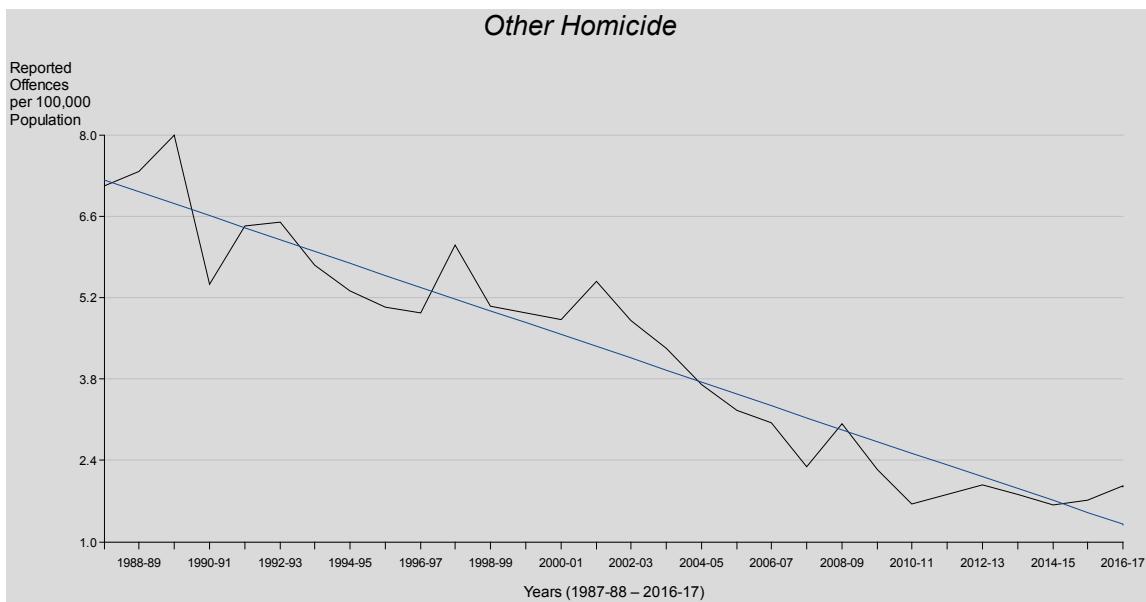


While this broad offence aggregate is comprised of a number of different offence categories, the offence category of assault tends to dominate offences against the person. As such, the offences against the person time series largely reflects the assault time series. Offences against the person has seen an increase during the late 1980s and early 1990s. The rate stabilised from the mid to late 1990s and has shown a decreasing trend from 2001-02 to 2014-15, but increased again in 2015-16 and 2016-17.

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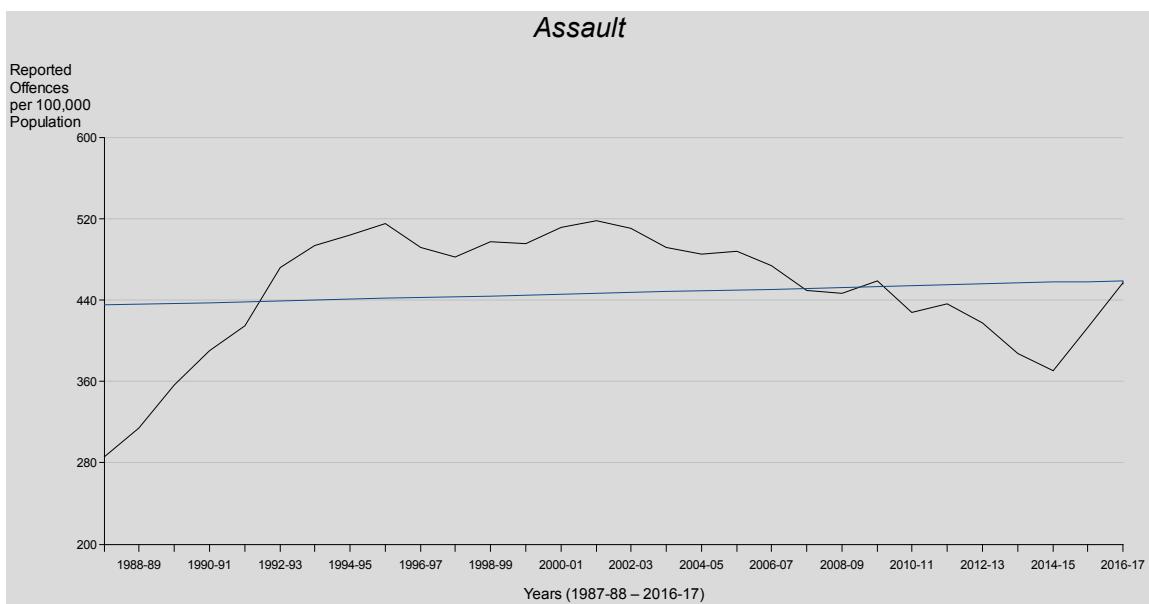


Homicide (murder) is a small volume offence and as such, is subject to sizeable fluctuations from year to year. Overall, however, the homicide (murder) rate has changed little. Following a peak in 1996-97, the rate of homicide (murder) has been steadily decreasing. In 2013-14, the rate decreased by 16%, followed by an increase of 27% in 2014-15 and another decrease of 12% in 2015-16. In 2016-17, the homicide (murder) rate decreased by 22% when compared with the previous year.

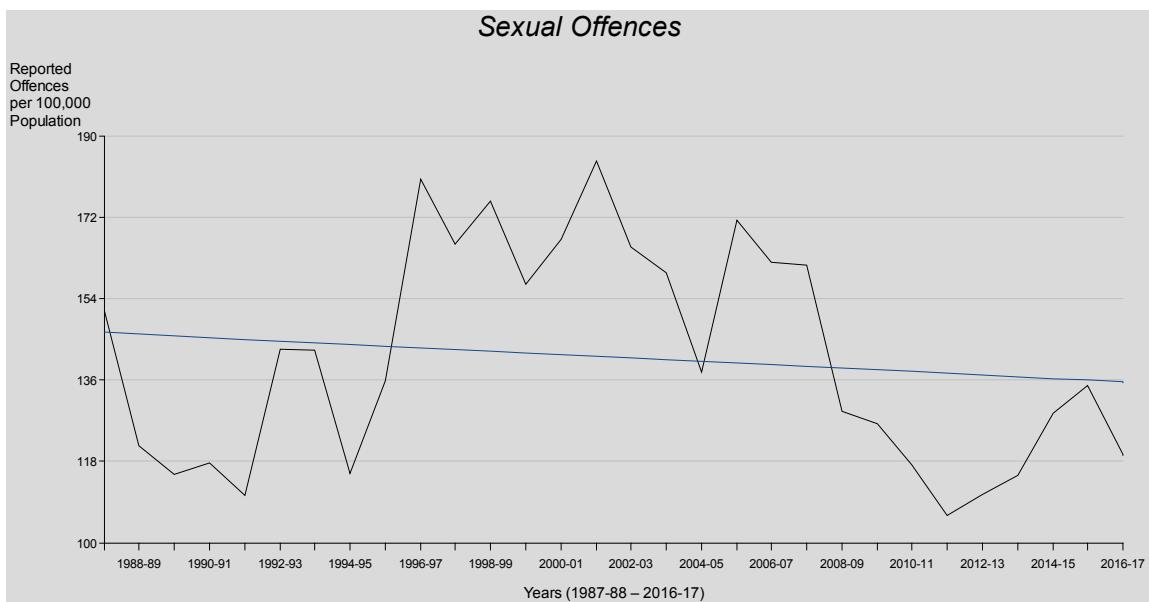


Other homicide is also a small volume offence category and as such, is subject to sizeable fluctuations from year to year. From 1987-88 to 1989-90, other homicide offences were reported at a slightly higher rate; however, the rate has steadily decreased since 1989-90. In 2016-17, there was a 14% increase in the rate of other homicide, largely as a result of increases in attempted murder offences.

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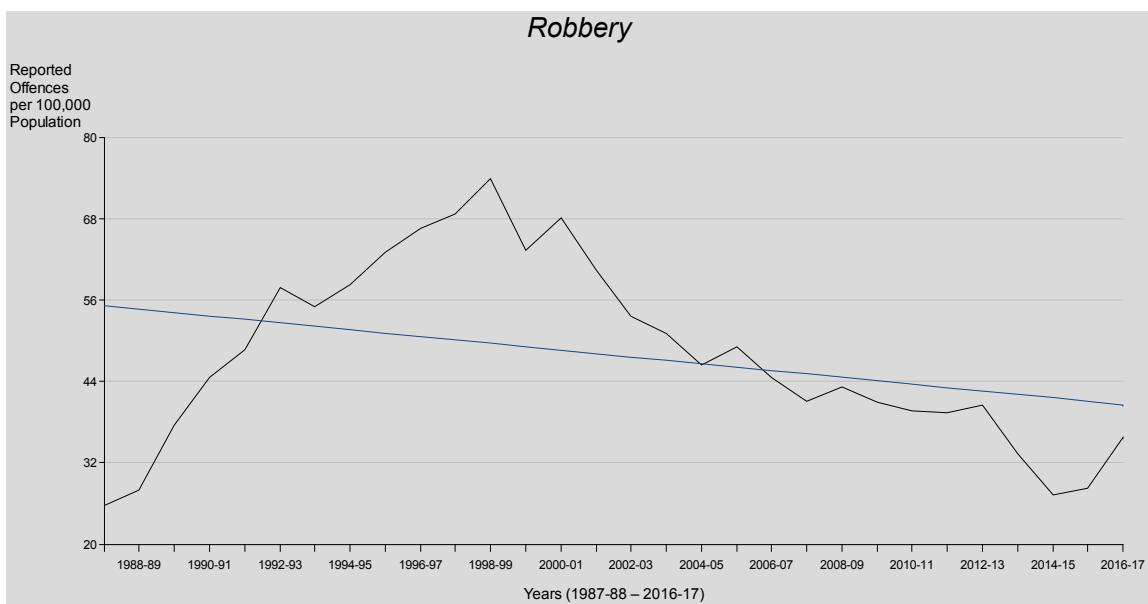


Looking at the overall trend, the rate of assaults steadily increased from the late 1980s and into the early 1990s. From 2000-01 to 2014-15, the rate of assault has been steadily decreasing. The rate of assaults had increases of 11% for each of 2015-16 and 2016-17.

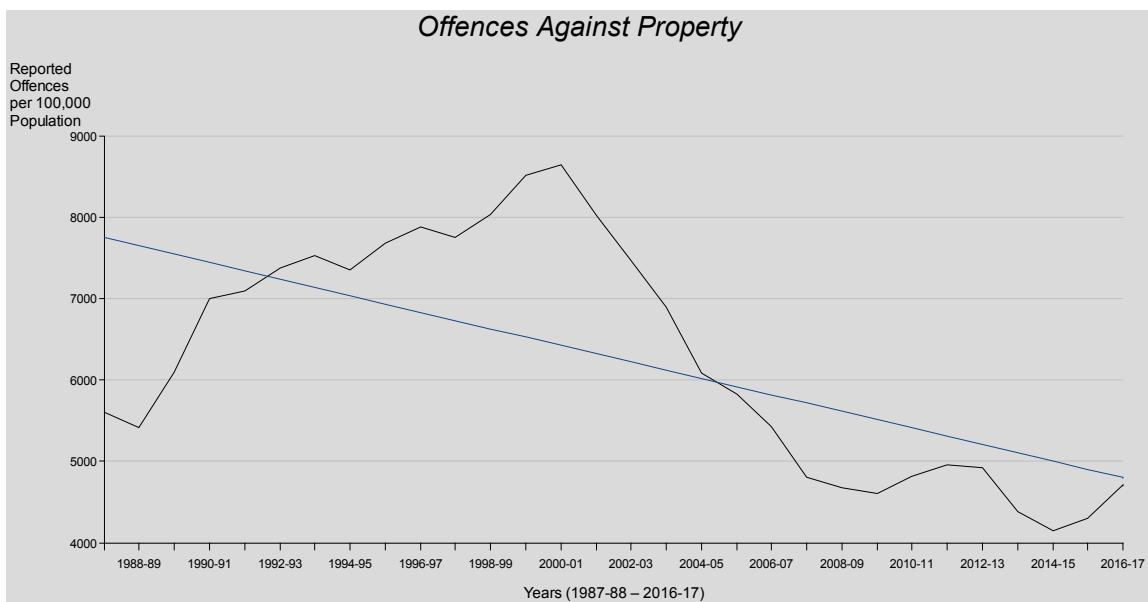


Sexual offences may be reported to police many years after the offences actually occur and there are often numerous charges preferred against one offender. These factors have resulted in the fluctuations seen in the graph above. Queensland recorded a decrease of 11% in the rate of sexual offences in the year under review compared to the previous year.

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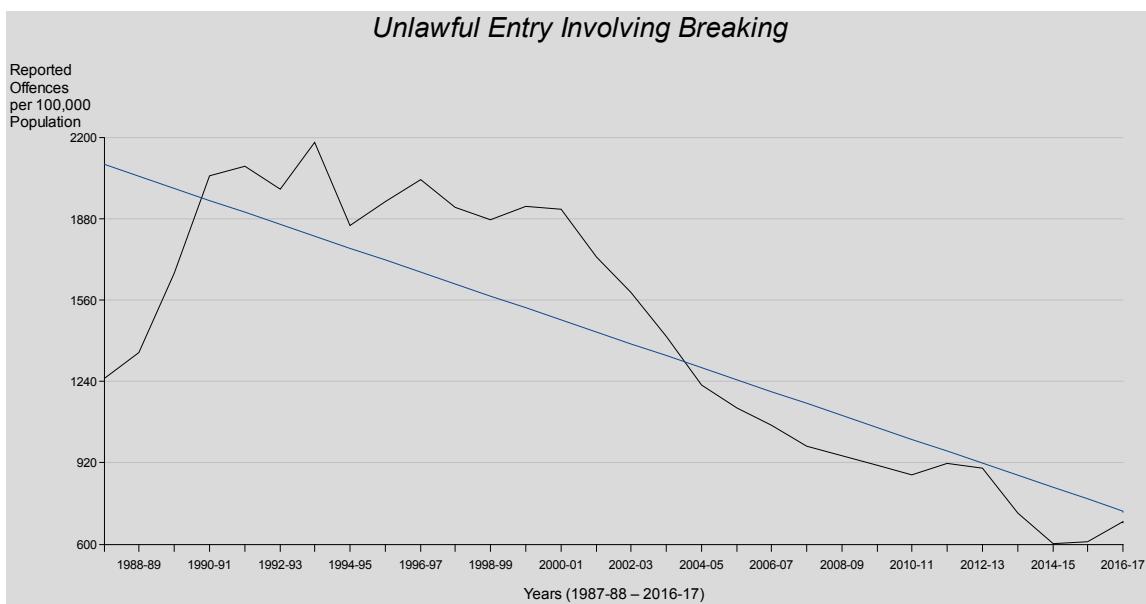


Robbery offences increased sharply between 1988-89 and 1998-99. From 2000-01 to 2014-15, the overall decreasing trend for robbery is apparent in the graph above. The rate of robbery offences increased by 26% in 2016-17 with increases to both armed robbery (24%) and unarmed robbery (29%).



Offences against property increased steadily from 1988-89 to 2000-01. From 2000-01 to 2009-10, the rate of total offences against property has decreased. Decreases of 11% and 5% were also recorded for 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively. However, increases of 4% and 9% was recorded for 2015-16 and 2016-17.

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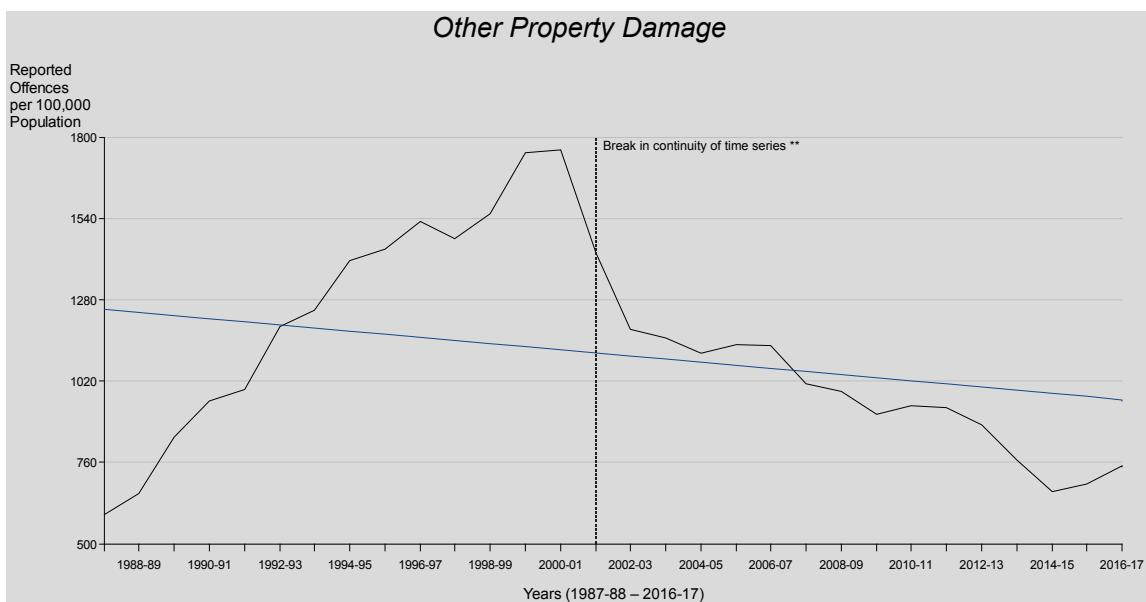
Unlawful entry involving breaking offences reported a steady increase from 1987-88 to 1992-93. Throughout the 1990s, the rate stabilised and then began falling in 2000-01. The rate of unlawful entry involving breaking offences decreased by 19% in 2013-14, with a further decrease of 16% in 2014-15. In the current period under review, there was an increase of 12% for unlawful entry involving breaking offences, following a slight increase of 1% during 2015-16.

Note: The category of unlawful entry involving breaking is a subset of unlawful entry as used in this publication. Unlawful entry involving breaking consists of four offences: burglary with breaking, burglary with violence or threats with breaking, enter with intent – shop with breaking and enter with intent – other premises with breaking.

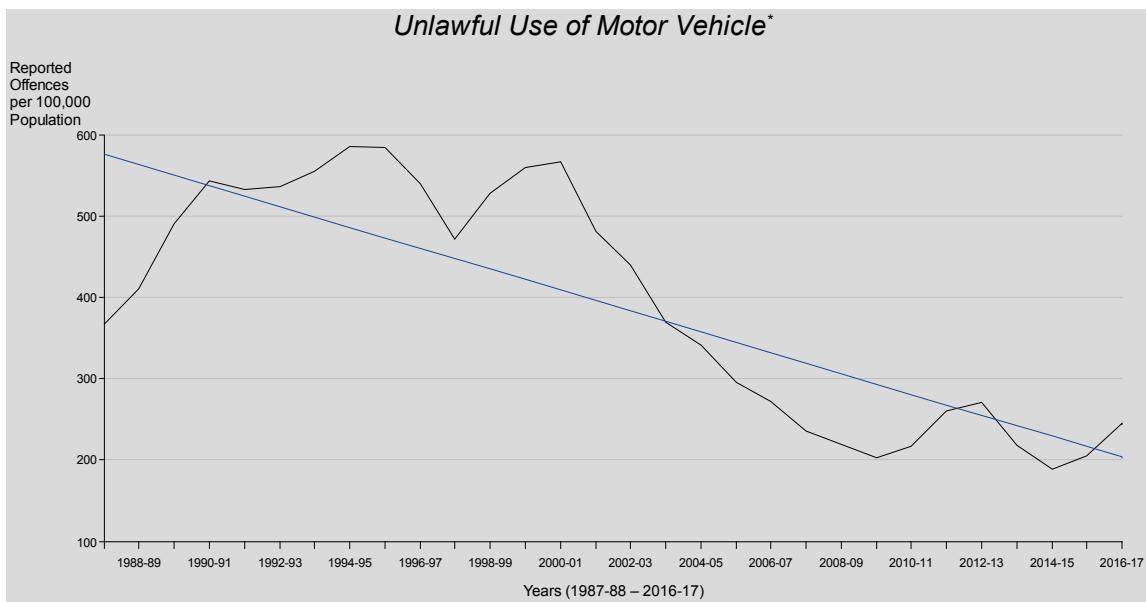


Arson offences increased steadily up to 1996-97. Since then, the rate of arson offences has decreased until 2008-09 where there was an increase of 12% followed by another increase in 2011-12 of 24%. Subsequent increases also occurred in 2015-16 and 2016-17 with 1% and 4% respectively.

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This offence category has increased steadily until 2000-01. Since then, other property damage offences have decreased at a steady rate. A change in recording practices for this offence contributed to a 19% decrease in the rate for 2001-02. The rate of other property damage offences has seen a decrease from 2011-12 to 2014-15 but recorded an increase of 4% and 8% in the 2015-16 and 2016-17 periods.

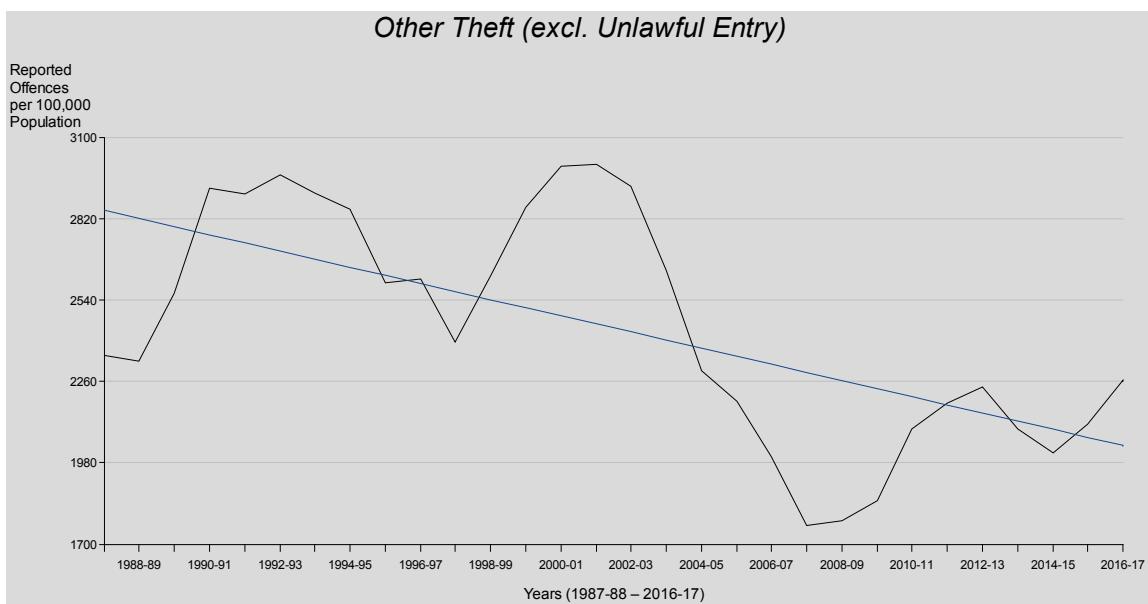


Unlawful use of motor vehicle offences recorded a substantial decrease over the period 1995-96 to 1997-98. Rates then rose sharply to again equal the high rates seen in the mid-1990s. From 2000-01, rates declined until 2010-11 where increases were reported until 2013-14. There were two increases in the past two financial years with the rate of unlawful use of motor vehicle offences increasing by 9% and 19% in 2015-16 and 2016-17 respectively.

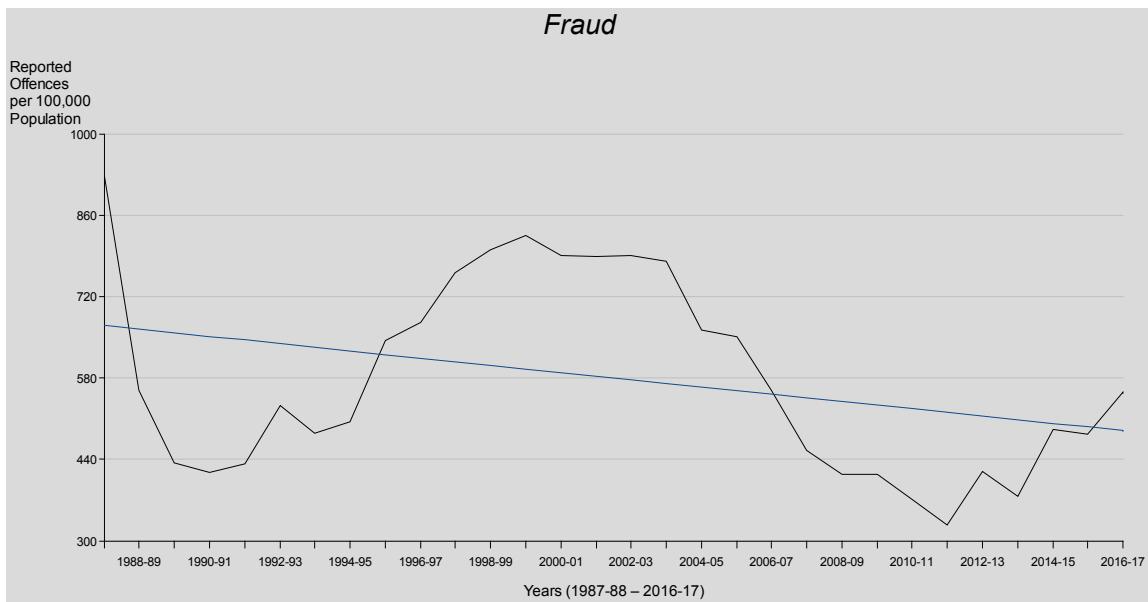
* The total for unlawful use of motor vehicle includes attempted offences.

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

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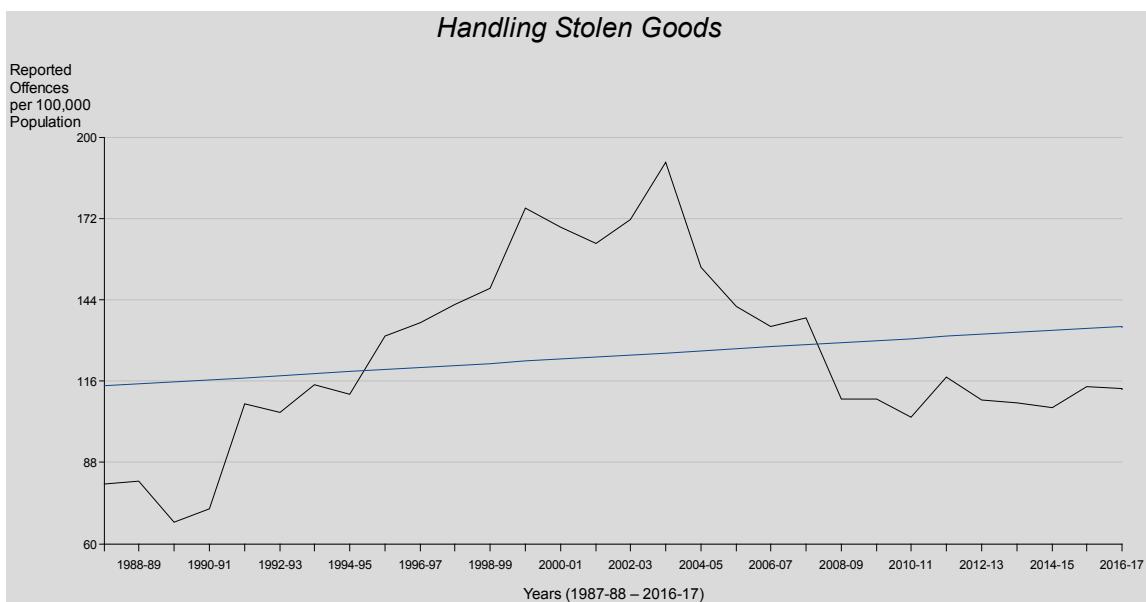


As with most offences against property subcategories, a sharp increase was recorded during the late 1980s and again in the late 1990s as evidenced in the graph above. A decreasing trend in other theft (excluding unlawful entry) offences was recorded from 2000-01 to 2007-08. From 2008-09 to 2011-12, a reverse in this trend can be seen by increases of 1% in 2008-09, 4% in 2009-10, 13% in 2010-11 and 4% in 2011-12. In the current year under review, the rate of offences increased by 7%, following another increase of 5% in 2015-16.

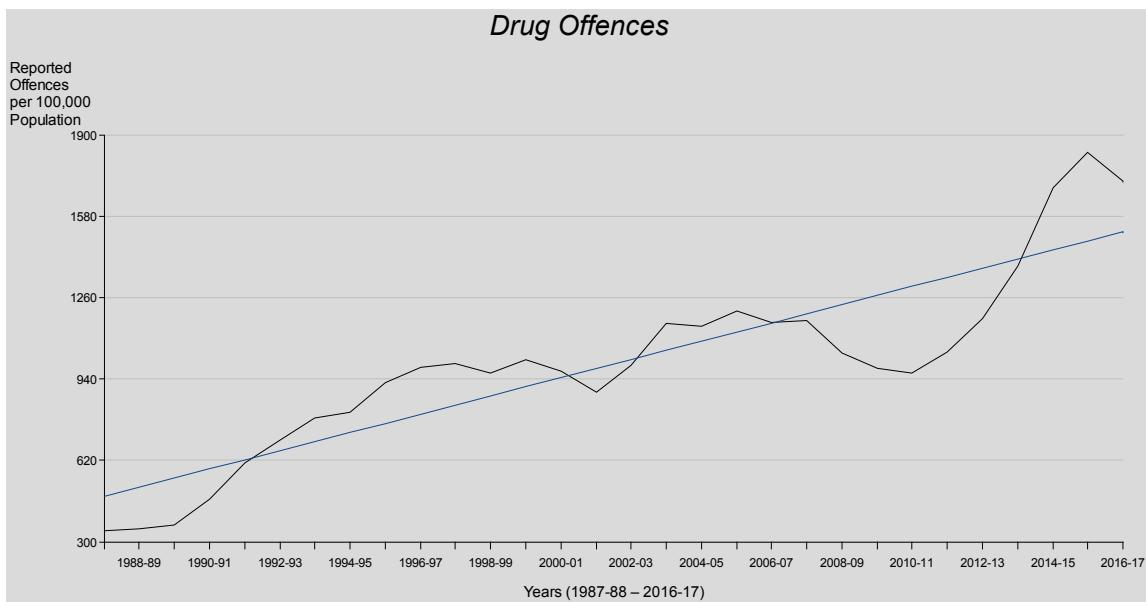


The sudden decrease from 1987-88 to 1990-91 is due to a change in policy by banking institutions regarding the reporting of offences, rather than an actual reduction in offences. The figures reported for 2000-01 and 2001-02 effectively halted a steadily increasing trend evident over the last decade. From 2002-03 the rate has steadily decreased until 2011-12. In 2016-17, these offences have reported an increase of 15% as a result of increases to all fraud subcategories. This is in contrast to a 1% decrease for 2015-16.

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Handling stolen goods was expanded in 1997-98 to include the subcategories of receive, possess, etc. tainted property and other handling goods. Possess, etc. tainted property is now the largest in volume of the handling stolen goods subcategory, resulting in the necessity for caution when making comparisons prior to and following this change. In the year under review, the rate of handling stolen goods offences decreased by 1%.

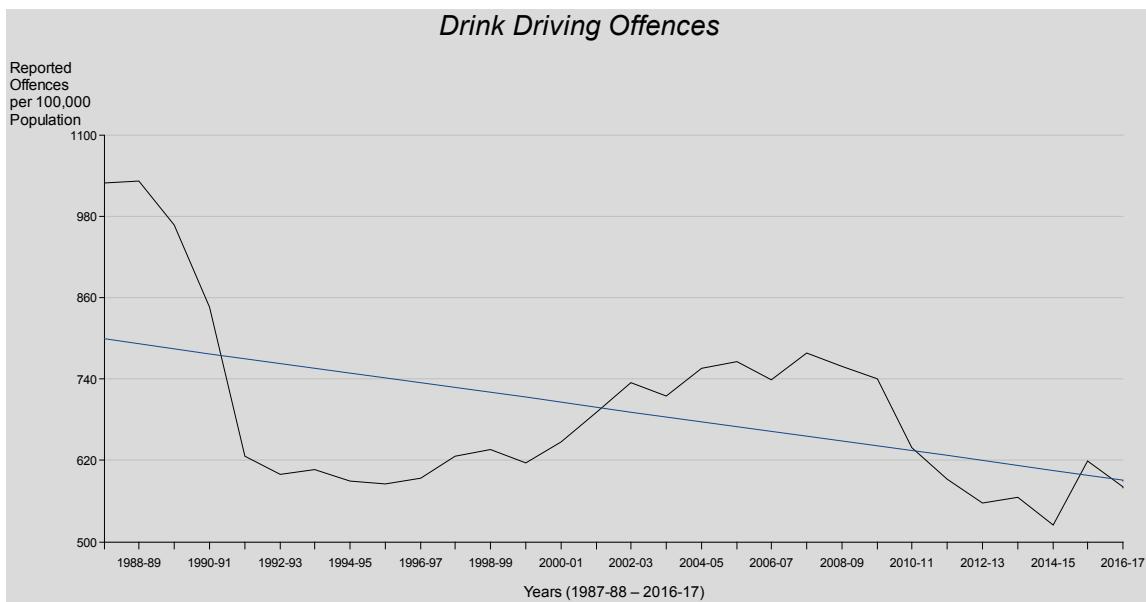


Apart from the period in the late 1980s, drug offences have increased up to the current period under review. Between 2005-06 and 2010-11, there was a decrease of offences followed once again by an increasing trend. The current period under review has recorded a decrease of 6%.

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A dominant feature of the time series is the decrease in reported good order offences from 1988-89 to 1991-92 and the subsequent increase following that period. Since 1995-96, good order offences have been steadily increasing until 2010-11 which reported a 10% decrease. While the 2016-17 period recorded a decrease of 5%, the three previous periods from 2013-14 recorded increases of 9%, 3% and 1% respectively.



Analysis of drink driving offences time series is difficult due to the many changes that have affected the overall trend (refer to Explanatory Notes, page 188). The graph remained stable at around 600 offences per 100,000 persons from 1991-92 to 2000-01. From 2000-01 to 2007-08, an increase in these offences have been reported. From 2008-09 to 2016-17, offences have steadily decreased with the exception of 2013-14 and 2015-16 which recorded increases for drink driving offences. In the latest period, a decrease of 6% in the rate of drink driving offences was recorded.

