

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



# 2014-15 Crime Statistics Supplement



# 2014-15

# Crime Statistics Supplement



The Department of Police and Emergency Management Crime Statistics Supplement 2014-15 provides a detailed breakdown of the offences reported, or becoming known to police in the financial year ending 30 June 2015. Five year trend data are included for many of the measures.

Prior to 2012-13 the Crime Statistics Supplement was published as a part of the *Department of Police and Emergency Management Annual Report*. In 2012-13 the Supplement was removed from the Annual Report as a cost reduction measure and is now a separate document. It is the intention of the Department to continue to publish the Crime Statistics Supplement on an annual basis.

## Offences Recorded and Cleared: Tasmania

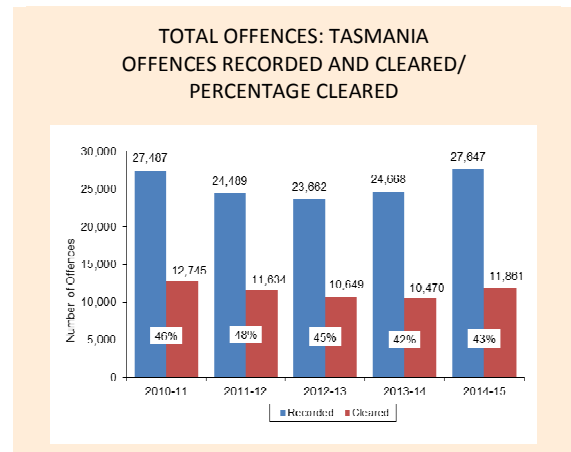
Total Offences increased by 12% (2,979 offences) to 27,647 offences in 2014-15, following a 4% increase in 2013-14. Total Offences decreased in each of the seven years preceding 2013-14. The 2014-15 figure was above the 2011-12 to 2013-14 three year average (24,273).

Contributing to the rise in crime were increases of 14% in Offences Against Property and 21% in Fraud and Similar Offences.

The clearance rate for Total Offences increased from 42% in 2013-14 to 43% in 2014-15.

The chart provided shows that increases in the last two years have returned Total Offences to approximately the level recorded in 2010-11.

Changes from the previous year are outlined below for offences recorded within the four broadly classified major offence categories.



### Number of Offences Recorded

Major Offence Categories	2013-14*	2014-15	% Change
A. Offences Against the Person	3,778	3,768	-0.3%
B. Offences Against Property	20,074	22,957	14.4%
C. Fraud and Similar Offences	533	646	21.2%
D. Other (Miscellaneous) Offences**	283	276	-2.5%
<b>Total Offences**</b>	<b>24,668</b>	<b>27,647</b>	<b>12.1%</b>

\* Revised 7 August 2015.

\*\* Excludes Breaches of Family Violence Orders and Breaches of Restraint Orders.

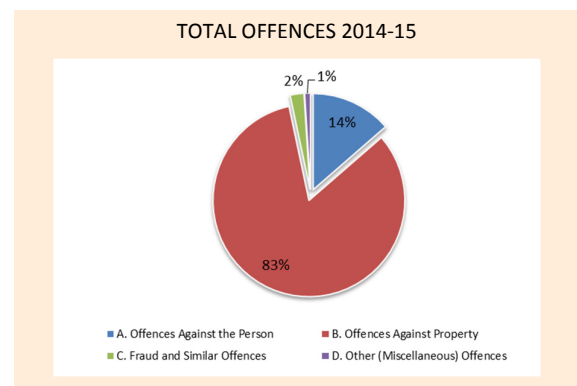
### Number of Offences Recorded and Cleared

Major Offence Categories	2013-14*			2014-15		
	Recorded	Cleared	% Cleared	Recorded	Cleared	% Cleared
A. Offences Against the Person	3,778	3,419	90.5%	3,768	3,496	92.8%
B. Offences Against Property	20,074	6,498	32.4%	22,957	7,710	33.6%
C. Fraud and Similar Offences	533	334	62.7%	646	420	65.0%
D. Other (Miscellaneous) Offences	283	219	77.4%	276	235	85.1%
<b>Total Offences</b>	<b>24,668</b>	<b>10,470</b>	<b>42.4%</b>	<b>27,647</b>	<b>11,861</b>	<b>42.9%</b>

\* Revised 7 August 2015

The Total Offences 2014-15 pie chart, enclosed, provides a detailed distribution for the four major offence categories.

Offences Against Property accounted for 83% of all offences with Stealing, Burglary and Injure/Destroy making up the majority of Total Offences.



## A. Offences Against the Person

Offences Against the Person decreased by less than one percent to 3,768 in 2014-15, following a 2% increase the previous year. The 2014-15 result was below the 2011-12 to 2013-14 three-year average (3,892).

The clearance rate for Offences Against the Person increased from 90% in 2013-14 to 93% in 2014-15.

Assaults (excluding Sexual Assault and Assault a Police Officer) accounted for the majority of Offences Against the Person (69%) while the combination of Murder/Attempted Murder/Manslaughter accounted for only 0.2%. This is reflected in the distribution provided.

### Assault (excluding Assault a Police Officer)

A total of 2,608 Assault offences was recorded in 2014-15 compared with 2,493 the previous year, an increase of 5% (115 offences). The 2014-15 figure was above the 2011-12 to 2012-13 three-year average (2,525).

In 2014-15, over half the assaults (52%) were committed at a residential location. 20% were committed in the street/footpath and 10% at a retail location.

The majority of assaults did not involve a weapon (83%), 4% involved a knife and 1% involved a firearm.

The alleged offender was known to the victim in 76% of assaults. Females accounted for 52% of Assault victims.

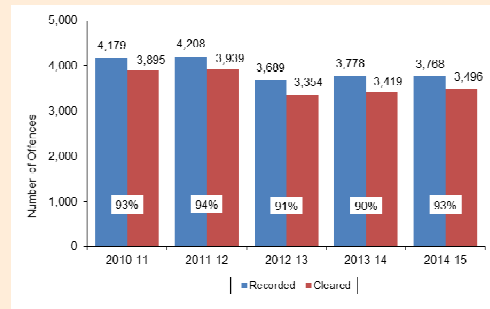
### Sexual Assault

The number of sexual assaults recorded reduced by 8% (18 offences) from 228 in 2013-14 to 210 in 2014-15. The 2014-15 result was higher than the 2011-12 to 2013-14 three-year average (176). The number of sexual assaults reported to police can vary significantly from year to year due to the reporting of sexual assaults committed many years and sometimes decades ago. 29% of sexual assaults reported in 2014-15 were committed more than a year before they were reported, some occurring nearly 50 years ago.

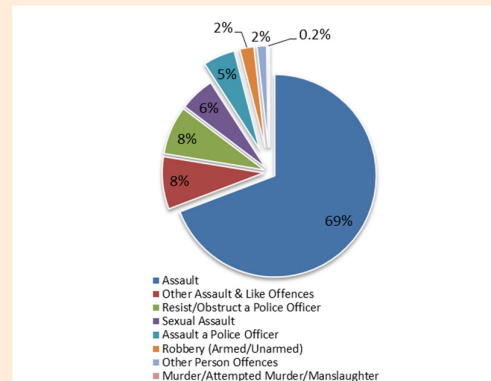
Sexual assaults reported in 2014-15 occurred most commonly at residential locations (70%). The majority (97%) of sexual assaults were committed without a weapon and females accounted for 80% of Sexual Assault victims.

A number of sexual assaults recorded in previous years were cleared during 2014-15, resulting in a clearance rate of 102%.

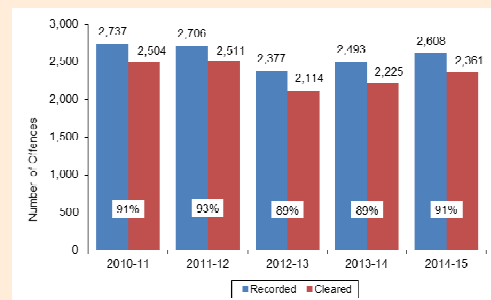
OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON: TASMANIA  
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/  
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



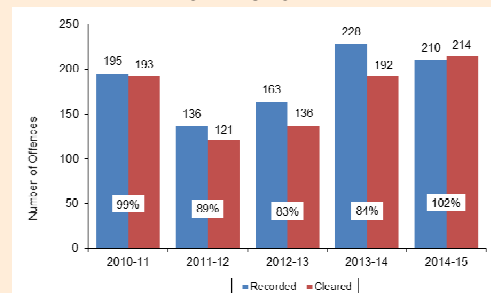
OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON 2014-15



ASSAULT (EXCLUDING ASSAULT A POLICE OFFICER):  
TASMANIA - OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/  
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



SEXUAL ASSAULT: TASMANIA  
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/  
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



## Robbery (Armed and Unarmed)

Robbery offences, including both Armed and Unarmed Robbery, decreased by 15 offences (15%) from 100 in 2013-14 to 85 in 2014-15. This followed a decrease by 32 offences the previous year. The 2014-15 result was below the 2011-13 to 2013-14 three-year average (119).

Armed and Aggravated Armed Robbery offences accounted for 52% of total Robberies in 2014-15 and decreased from 52 recorded in 2013-14 to 44 in 2014-15 (8 offences), the lowest level for armed robberies since 2005-06. Unarmed Robbery also decreased by 7 offences in 2014-15.

Armed Robbery offences recorded in 2014-15 were committed at the following locations:

Locations	Offences
Residential	19
Retail location	9
Street/Footpath	9
Transport	3
Other Location	1
Open Space	1
Recreational	1
Health	1

Knives were the predominant type of weapon used in armed robberies (39%) with firearms used in 20% of armed robberies.

In September 2013 new legislation was proclaimed making Carjacking and Aggravated Carjacking crimes in Tasmania. There were 2 Aggravated Carjacking offences recorded in 2014-15.

## Murder

There were 5 murders recorded in 2014-15, a reduction of four offences from the previous year. The offender was known to the victim in all 5 murders. In 2014-15 police cleared all 5 of these murders, as well as one from the previous year, resulting in a 120% clearance rate.

## B. Offences Against Property

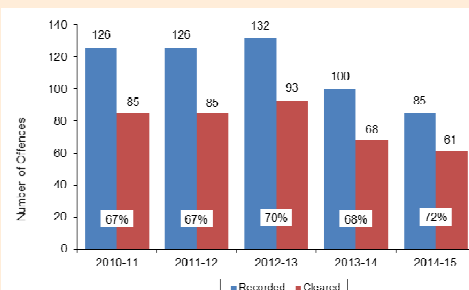
Offences Against Property increased by 14% (2,883 offences) from 20,074 recorded in 2013-14 to 22,957 recorded in 2014-15. This followed a 5% increase the previous year. The 2014-15 result was higher than the 2011-12 to 2013-14 three-year average (19,608) and has returned to approximately the 2010-11 level.

Contributing most to this increase was a 23% rise in Burglary and a 17% rise in Stealing (excluding Stolen Motor Vehicles).

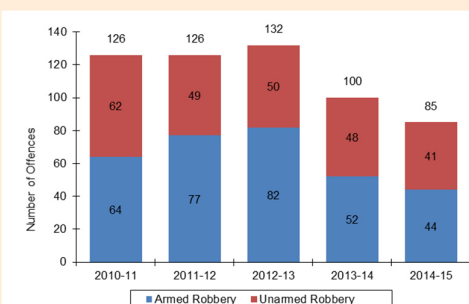
The clearance rate for Offences Against Property rose from 32% in 2013-14 to 34% in 2014-15.

Burglary and Stealing offences accounted for the majority of Offences Against Property (71%), as can be seen in the pie chart provided.

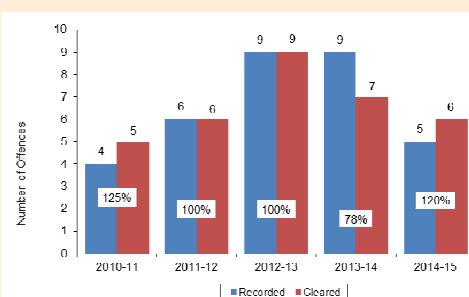
ROBBERY (ARMED AND UNARMED): TASMANIA  
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/  
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



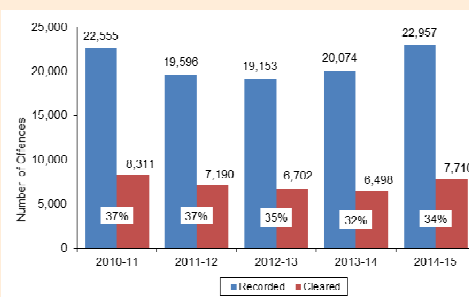
ARMED AND UNARMED ROBBERY: TASMANIA  
OFFENCES RECORDED



MURDER: TASMANIA  
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/  
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY: TASMANIA  
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/  
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



## Burglary

Burglary-buildings increased by 28% (940 offences) in 2014-15, following a 5% reduction the previous year. The 2014-15 figure of 4,328 was higher than the previous three-year average (3,474). Aggravated Burglary comprised 46% of Burglary-buildings offences in 2014-15.

The most common locations for Burglary-buildings in 2014-15 were residential locations (65%) and retail locations (14%).

In the same period Burglary-motor vehicles/other conveyances increased by 11% (143 offences) to 1,462 offences, following a 24% increase the previous year. The 2014-15 figure was higher than the previous three-year average (1,183).

The most common locations for Burglary-motor vehicles/other conveyances offences were residential locations (43%) and in the street (24%).

## Stealing-general

Stealing-general comprises stealing offences not connected with Burglary and excludes Shoplifting and Stolen Motor Vehicles.

Stealing-general offences in 2014-15 increased by 4% (105 offences) to 3,042 offences, following a 2% increase the previous year. The 2014-15 result was also above the previous three-year average (2,872).

The most frequent locations for Stealing-general were residential locations (36%), followed by retail locations (25%).

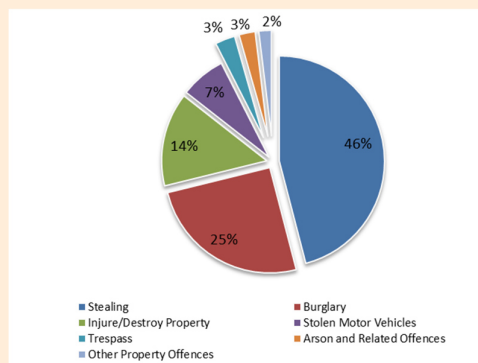
## Stolen Motor Vehicles (excluding attempts)

The number of Stolen Motor Vehicles in 2014-15 increased by 11% (133 offences) to 1,349, following a 2% increase the previous year. The 2014-15 result was above the previous three-year average (1,290) but below the numbers recorded in 2010-11 and 2011-12.

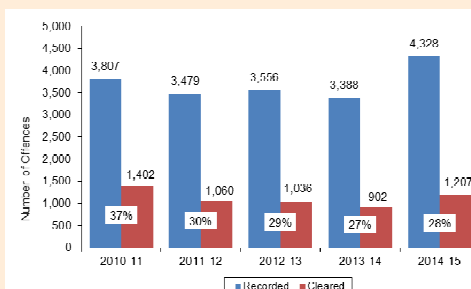
The recovery rate for Stolen Motor Vehicles in 2014-15 was the same as for 2013-14 at 85%.

Motor vehicles were most frequently stolen from residential locations (50%) and in the street (33%).

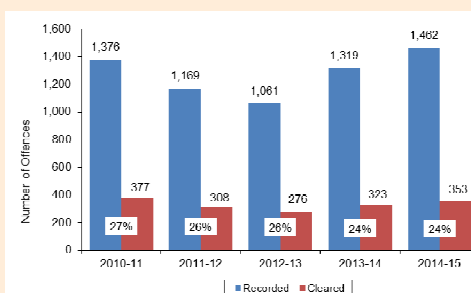
OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY 2014-15



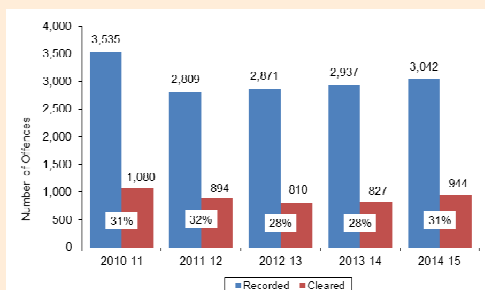
BURGLARY-BUILDINGS: TASMANIA  
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/  
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



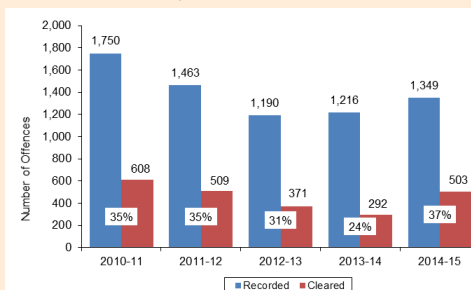
BURGLARY-MOTOR VEHICLES/OTHER CONVEYANCES  
TASMANIA - OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/  
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



STEALING-GENERAL: TASMANIA  
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/  
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLES: TASMANIA  
(EXCLUDING ATTEMPTS) OFFENCES RECORDED AND  
CLEARED/ PERCENTAGE CLEARED



## Arson and Related Offences

There were 571 Arson and Related Offences recorded in 2014-15, a decrease of 3% (20 offences) from 2013-14. The 2014-15 result was higher than the previous three-year average (555).

The 2014-15 distribution for Arson and Related offences is detailed in the pie chart provided.

## Injure/Destroy Property

The number of Injure/Destroy Property offences recorded fell by 4% (132 offences) in 2014-15, following a 14% increase the previous year. The 2014-15 figure was above the previous three-year average (3,262).

Injure/Destroy Property offences recorded in 2013-14 occurred most frequently at a residential location (47%), followed by in the street/footpath (13%).

## C. Fraud and Similar Offences

There were 646 Fraud and Similar Offences recorded in 2014-15, a 21% (113 offences) increase from the 533 offences in 2013-14. The 2014-15 figure was higher than the previous three-year average (516). The counting rules for Fraud were changed from transaction-based to victim-based in 2011-12.

The clearance rate for Fraud and Similar Offences increased from 63% in 2013-14 to 65% in 2014-15. The distribution for Fraud and Similar Offences in 2014-15 is detailed in the pie chart provided.

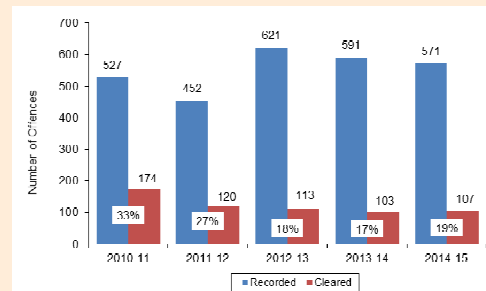
## D. Other (Miscellaneous) Offences

A total of 276 Other (Miscellaneous) Offences was recorded in 2014-15 compared with 283 the previous year, a reduction of 2% (7 offences). The 2014-15 figure was higher than the previous three-year average (258).

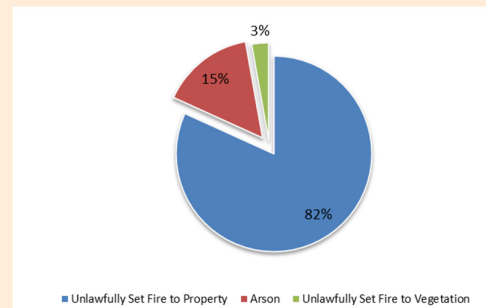
Contributing most to this decrease was a 7 offences reduction in Recklessly Throw or Discharge a Missile. The 2013-14 distribution for Other (Miscellaneous) Offences is detailed in the pie chart provided.

In 2014-15, the clearance rate for Other (Miscellaneous) Offences was 85%, up from 77% in 2013-14.

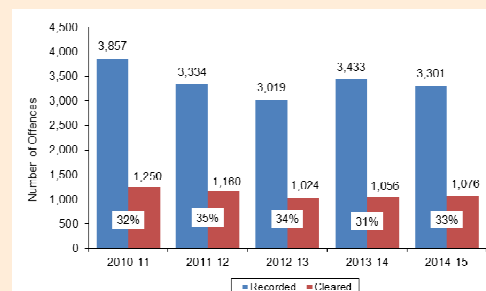
ARSON AND RELATED OFFENCES: TASMANIA  
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/  
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



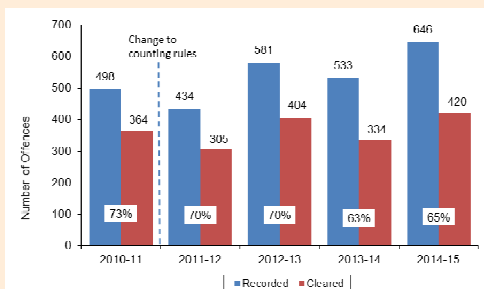
ARSON AND RELATED OFFENCES 2014-15



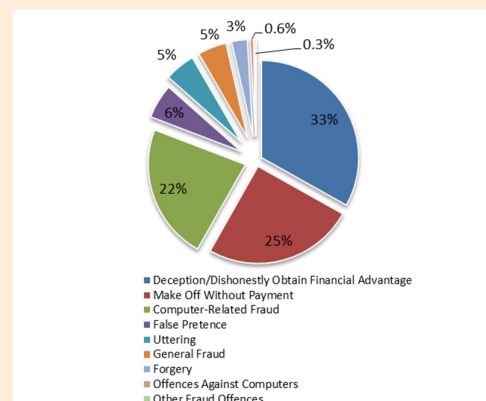
INJURE/DESTROY PROPERTY: TASMANIA  
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/  
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



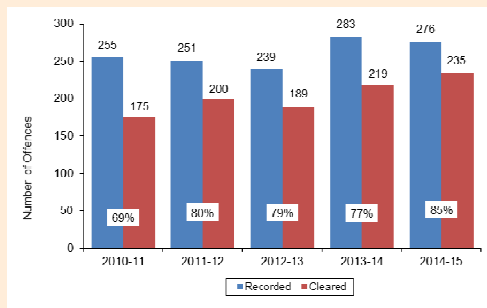
FRAUD AND SIMILAR OFFENCES: TASMANIA  
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/  
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



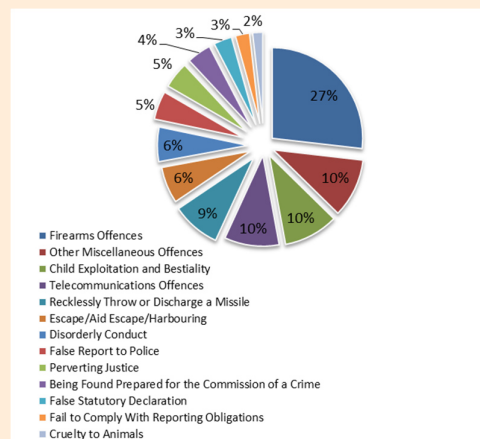
FRAUD AND SIMILAR OFFENCES 2014-15



### OTHER (MISCELLANEOUS) OFFENCES: TASMANIA OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/ PERCENTAGE CLEARED



### OTHER (MISCELLANEOUS) OFFENCES 2014-15



## Explanatory Notes

The statistics referred to in this supplement have been derived from offences reported to or becoming known to police during the financial year ending 30 June 2015. All 2013-14 statistics have been revised as at 7 August 2015.

Offences are broadly classified into the following four major offence categories:

- Offences Against the Person
- Offences Against Property
- Fraud and Similar Offences
- Other (Miscellaneous) Offences

### Offences Recorded

Offences 'recorded' refers to both offences which have been reported by the public and offences which have been detected by police in the course of their duties and/or criminal investigations.

### Offences Cleared

The term 'cleared' used by police, refers to the solution of a crime, and not to the trial by court and final disposition.

Offences 'cleared' refers to all offences which have resulted in one of the following outcomes:

- Court proceedings: a police action against a person to facilitate a court appearance to answer charges.
- Community conference: a person is directed to attend a meeting with the victim and other persons affected, where their behaviour and its consequences are discussed. A conference may impose one or more undertakings.
- Formal caution: a person is formally warned that engaging in the specified conduct is against the law and that there are various sanctions that can be applied by the police to prevent and punish such conduct.
- Informal caution: a person is informally warned that engaging in such conduct is against the law.
- Infringement notice: a person is issued an infringement notice (excluding cautions) with a statutory penalty, which may incur a fine (from 2015).
- Infringement notice caution: a person is issued an infringement notice as a caution, in which case the statutory penalty is not applied or enforced (from 2015).
- Instruction of the prosecuting authority: the prosecuting authority deems that there is no likelihood of conviction, for example death or other absence of the victim.
- Lapsed: time limitations or a statute bar have meant that an identified offender could not be proceeded against.
- Unable to proceed: one or more offenders have been identified but no action is able to be taken due to: diplomatic immunity, incompetence of the alleged offender(s), death of the alleged offender, imprisonment or age of the offender.
- Unfounded: upon attendance or investigation, police are unable to establish whether or not the reported offence occurred.

- Withdrawn: the complainant/victim does not wish for the matter to proceed, and will not cooperate further with police, even though an offence has occurred. The victim's decision not to proceed is made before any proceedings against an identified offender commence (revised at the state and national level in 2014).

Tasmania Police employs the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in the recording of offences. The NCRS was developed by police statisticians from each Australian jurisdiction in conjunction with the National Crime Statistics Unit of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and was implemented in 2008. Under the NCRS Tasmania Police utilises the following four offence statuses that identify recorded offences that will not be counted in police statistics:

- No crime: it is clear that an incident did not constitute an offence, either because the offence is found to have no foundation or the victim/complainant admits to, or is suspected of, having made a false report.
- Transferred to another State or Territory: an offence has occurred but is outside the responsibility of the police jurisdiction to which the report has been made.
- Additional offence: the offence unnecessarily duplicates a different offence recorded on the same report.
- Duplicate offence: the offence is found to be a duplicate of another offence.

### Data Sources

Statistics have been extracted from the Offence Reporting System 2 of the Department of Police and Emergency Management on 7 August 2015. 2013-14 data were revised.

### Reference Period

Statistics are compiled according to the date an offence becomes known to police, which is not necessarily the date an offence was committed, nor the date a crime report was processed


The total number of offences cleared during a reference period is included, regardless of whether the offence was recorded in the current or a previous reference period. It is therefore possible that the number of offences cleared for a particular offence may be greater than the number recorded for that period.

The number of motor vehicles recovered during the reference period includes motor vehicles reported stolen within, and prior to, the reference period.

### Counting Methodology

The basic counting unit for police statistics is the victim. One unique offence is counted for each victim per incident (Offence Report); the number of offenders is irrelevant. The victim-based rule is applied regardless of the number of criminal acts in cases where a series of related criminal acts are committed against the same victim. The counting rules for the category Fraud and Similar Offences were amended in 2011-12, from offence (transaction) based counting to victim-based counting.





A victim is defined according to the type of offence and can be a person, organisation, premise or motor vehicle.

- Offences Against the Person: one offence of each unique statistical offence type is counted for each victim per incident (Offence Report) where a victim can be an individual person or an organisation.
- Offences Against Property: one offence of each unique statistical offence type is counted for each victim per incident (Offence Report) where a victim can be a person, organisation or place/premise, depending on the offence type. Premises victims can vary according to occupancy arrangements. For Stolen Motor Vehicles the victim is the motor vehicle.
- Fraud and Similar Offences: From 1 July 2011 one offence of each unique statistical offence type is counted for each victim per incident (Offence Report) where a victim can be a person or an organisation.
- Other (Miscellaneous) Offences: one of each unique statistical offence is counted for each victim per incident (Offence Report) where a victim can be a person or an organisation.

Attempted murder is counted separately to murder; all other offence attempts are included in their respective offence types for counting purposes.

Counting rules for Tasmania Police statistics differ slightly from those used for the national Recorded Crime Victims Statistics (RCVS) publications. Tasmania Police counts one offence per offence type per victim per incident (Offence Report). In the RCVS, the most serious offence per national offence category per victim per incident (Offence Report) is counted. National offence categories are broader than Tasmania Police offence types. Tasmania Police counts cleared offences as offences cleared in the reporting period, regardless of when the offence was reported. In the RCVS, cleared offences are counted as offences reported in the reporting period that have been cleared at a set time after the recording of the offence.