

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



2012-13 Crime Statistics Supplement



2012-13

Crime Statistics Supplement



The Department of Police and Emergency Management Crime Statistics Supplement 2012-13 provides a detailed breakdown of the offences reported, or becoming known to police in the financial year ending 30 June 2013. Five year trend data is 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*. It is the intention of the Department to continue to publish the Crime Statistics Supplement on an annual basis.

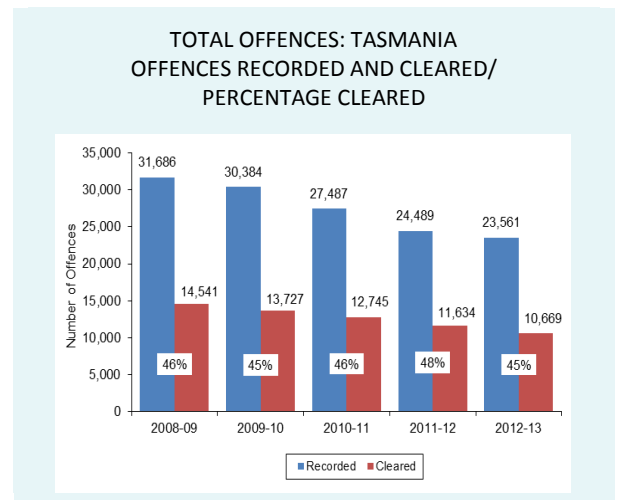
Offences Recorded and Cleared: Tasmania

Total Offences decreased by 4% (928 offences) in 2012-13 compared with an 11% decrease the previous year. Contributing to this reduction were decreases of 13% for Offences Against the Person, 3% for Offences Against Property and 12% for Other (Miscellaneous) Offences.

The clearance rate for Total Offences decreased from 48% in 2011-12 to 45% in 2012-13.

The chart provided indicates an overall downward trend for Total Offences recorded by police over the past five years.

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	2011-12*	2012-13	% Change
A. Offences Against the Person	4,208	3,660	-13.0%
B. Offences Against Property	19,596	19,096	-2.6%
C. Fraud and Similar Offences	434	584	34.6%
D. Other (Miscellaneous) Offences**	251	221	-12.0%
Total Offences**	24,489	23,561	-3.8%

* Revised 5 August 2013.

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

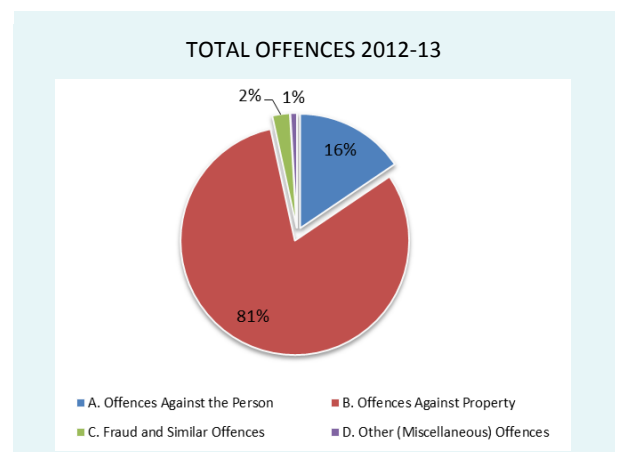
Number of Offences Recorded and Cleared

Major Offence Categories	2011-12*			2012-13		
	Recorded	Cleared	% Cleared	Recorded	Cleared	% Cleared
A. Offences Against the Person	4,208	3,939	93.6%	3,660	3,356	91.7%
B. Offences Against Property	19,596	7,190	36.7%	19,096	6,724	35.2%
C. Fraud and Similar Offences	434	305	70.3%	584	404	69.2%
D. Other (Miscellaneous) Offences	251	200	79.7%	221	185	83.7%
Total Offences	24,489	11,634	47.5%	23,561	10,669	45.3%

* Revised 5 August 2013

The detailed distribution for the four major offence categories in 2012-13 is provided.

Offences Against Property accounted for 81% of all offences with Stealing, Burglary and Injure/Destroy Property accounting for the majority of offences.



A. Offences Against the Person

The number of Offences Against the Person decreased by 13% in 2011-12, following an increase of 29 offences the previous year.

The clearance rate for Offences Against the Person decreased from 94% in 2011-12 to 92% in 2012-13.

Assaults (excluding Sexual Assault and Assault a Police Officer) accounted for the majority of Offences Against the Person (65%) while the combination of Murder/Attempted Murder/Manslaughter accounted for only 0.3%. This is reflected in the distribution provided.

Assault (excluding Assault a Police Officer)

A total of 2,373 Assault offences was recorded in 2012-13 compared with 2,706 the previous year, a decrease of 12% (333 offences). Assaults continue to follow an overall downward trend.

During 2012-13, over half the assaults (51%) were committed at a residential location. 22% were committed in the street/footpath and 9% at a retail location.

The majority of assaults did not involve a weapon (82%), 3% involved a knife and 1% involved a firearm.

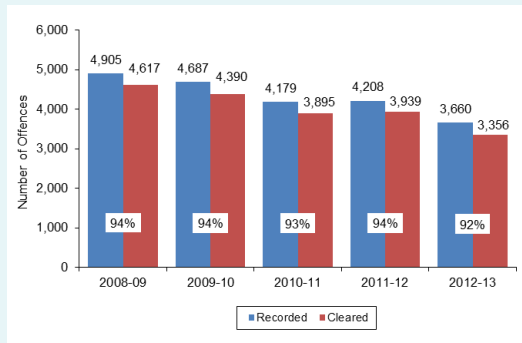
The alleged offender was known to the victim in 77% of assaults. Females accounted for 50% of Assault victims.

Sexual Assault

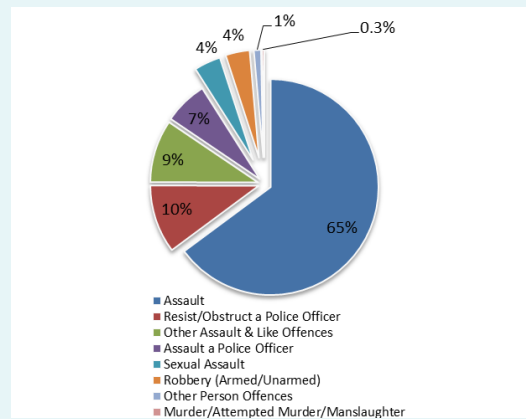
The number of sexual assaults recorded in 2012-13 increased slightly by 7% (10 offences) from 136 in 2011-12 to 146 in 2012-13. This follows a 30% decrease the previous year. The number of sexual assaults reported to police varies from year to year due to the reporting of sexual assaults committed many years and sometimes decades ago. 28% of sexual assaults reported in 2012-13 were committed more than a year before they were reported, some occurring more than 40 years ago.

Sexual assaults reported in 2012-13 occurred most commonly at residential locations (68%). The majority (99%) of sexual assaults were committed without a weapon and females accounted for 79% of Sexual Assault victims.

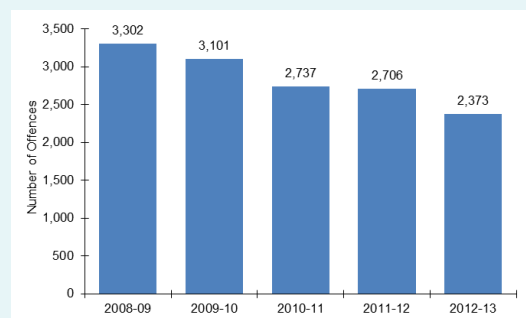
OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



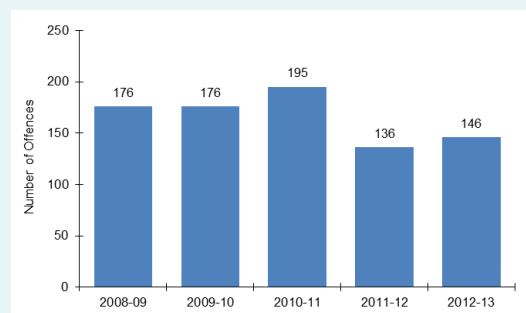
OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON 2012-13



ASSAULT (EXCLUDING ASSAULT A POLICE OFFICER):
TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED



SEXUAL ASSAULT: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED



Robbery (Armed and Unarmed)

Robbery offences, including both Armed and Unarmed Robbery, increased marginally by 6 offences from 126 in 2011-12 to 132 in 2012-13.

Armed and Aggravated Armed Robbery offences accounted for 62% of total Robberies in 2012-13 and increased by 5 offences from 77 recorded in 2011-12 to 82 in 2012-13. Armed robberies have increased over the last five years but have remained lower than the 88 armed robberies recorded in 2006-07. Unarmed Robbery increased marginally by 1 offence in 2012-13.

Armed Robbery offences recorded in 2012-13 were committed at the following locations:

Locations	Offences
Retail location	46 (including 9 at service stations)
Street/footpath	12
Residential	9
Other Location	3
Health	3
Administrative/Professional	3
Transport	2
Open Space	2
Recreational	1
Community	1

Knives were the predominant type of weapon used in armed robberies (51%) with firearms used in 24% of armed robberies.

Murder

There were 9 murders recorded in 2012-13, an increase from the 6 murders the previous year. The offender was known to the victim in 7 of the 9 murders. Within the reporting period all 9 of these murders were cleared.

B. Offences Against Property

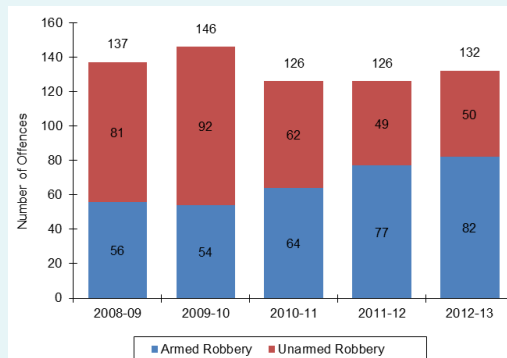
Offences Against Property decreased by 3% (500 offences) from 19,526 recorded in 2011-12 to 19,026 recorded in 2012-13. This follows a decrease of 13% the previous year.

Contributing most to this decrease was a 10% reduction in Injury/Destroy Property and a 19% reduction in Stolen Motor Vehicles.

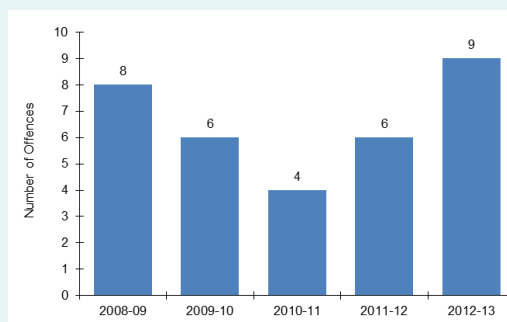
The clearance rate for Offences Against Property decreased from 37% in 2011-12 to 35% in 2012-13.

Burglary and Stealing offences accounted for the majority of Offences Against Property (69%), as can be seen in the distribution provided.

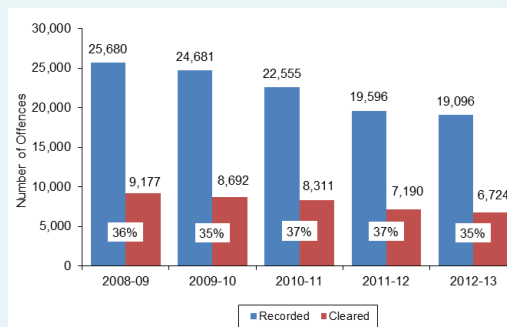
ARMED AND UNARMED ROBBERY: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED



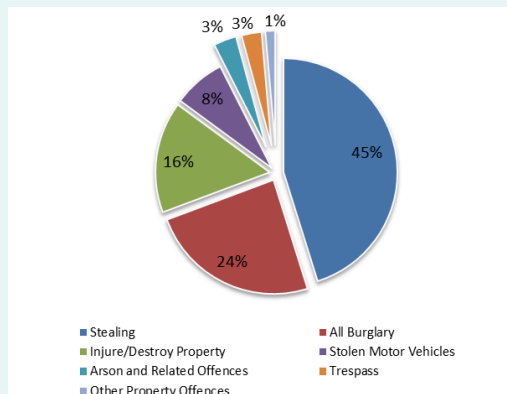
MURDER: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED



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



OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY 2012-13



Burglary

Burglary-buildings increased by 2% (74 offences) in 2012-13, following a 9% reduction the previous year.

Aggravated Burglary comprised 45% of Burglary-buildings.

The most common locations for Burglary-buildings in 2012-13 were residential locations (63%) and retail locations (14%).

Offences recorded for Burglary-motor vehicles/other conveyances decreased by 9% (110 offences) in 2012-13, following a 15% decrease the previous year.

The most common locations for Burglary-motor vehicles/other conveyances offences were residential locations (40%) and in the street (22%).

Stealing-general

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

Stealing-general offences in 2012-13 increased slightly by 2% (59 offences), following a 21% decrease the previous year.

The most frequent locations for Stealing-general were residential locations (33%), followed by retail locations (23%).

Stolen Motor Vehicles (excludes attempts)

The number of Stolen Motor Vehicles in 2012-13 decreased by 19% (271 offences), following another decrease of 16% the previous year. The recovery rate increased from 83% in 2011-12 to 85% in 2012-13.

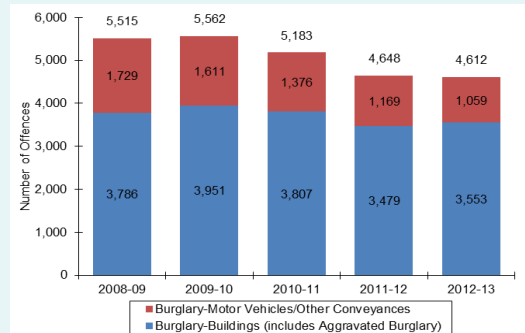
Motor vehicles were most frequently stolen from residential locations (50%) and in the street (33%).

Arson and Related Offences

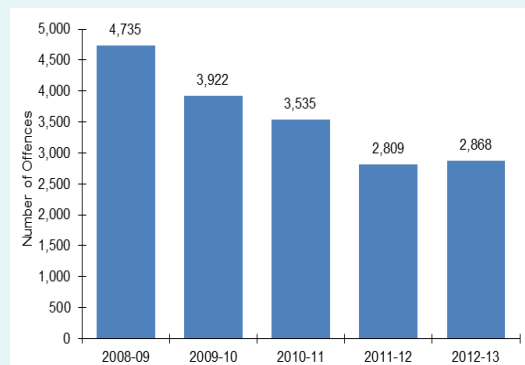
There were 619 Arson and Related Offences recorded in 2012-13 compared with 452 offences the previous year, an increase of 37% (167 offences).

The 2012-13 distribution for Arson and Related offences is provided.

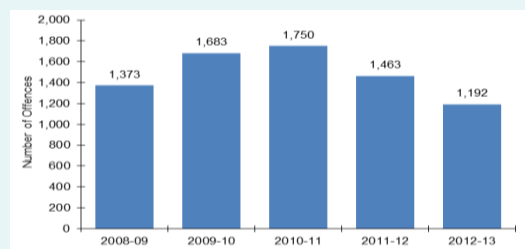
**BURGLARY: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED**



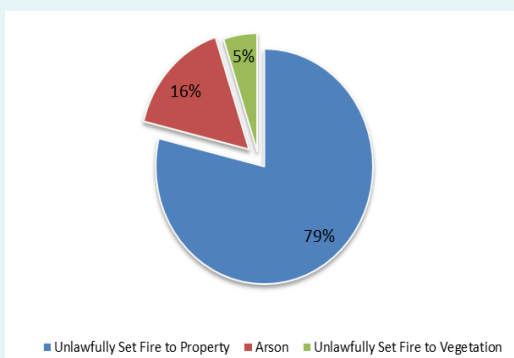
**STEALING-GENERAL: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED**



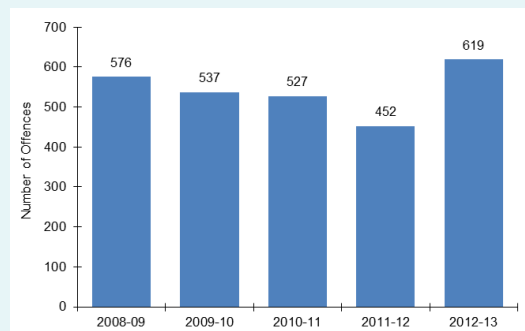
**STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLES: TASMANIA
(EXCLUDING ATTEMPTS)
OFFENCES RECORDED**



ARSON AND RELATED OFFENCES 2012-13



**ARSON AND RELATED OFFENCES: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED**



Injure/Destroy Property

The number of offences recorded for Injure/Destroy Property decreased by 10% (324 offences) in 2012-13.

Injure/Destroy Property offences recorded in 2012-13 occurred most frequently at a residential location (45%), followed by in the street/footpath (13%).

C. Fraud and Similar Offences

There were 584 offences recorded for Fraud and Similar Offences in 2012-13, a 35% (150 offences) increase from the 434 offences in 2011-12. This was the second year in which this category used victim-based counting rather than transaction-based. The Department established a Fraud and e-Crime Unit in 2011 to specifically target these types of offences.

The clearance rate for Fraud and Similar Offences in 2012-13 was 69%, a slight decrease from the 70% rate in 2011-12. The distribution for Fraud and Similar Offences in 2012-13 is provided.

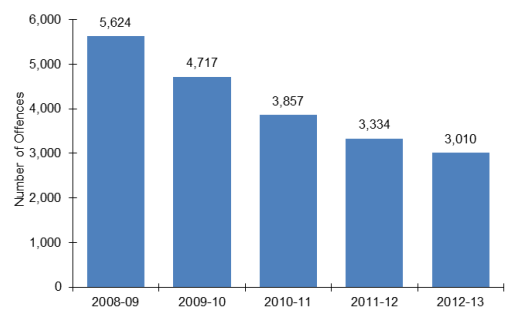
D. Other (Miscellaneous) Offences

A total of 221 Other (Miscellaneous) Offences was recorded in 2012-13 compared with 251 the previous year, a decrease of 12% (30 offences).

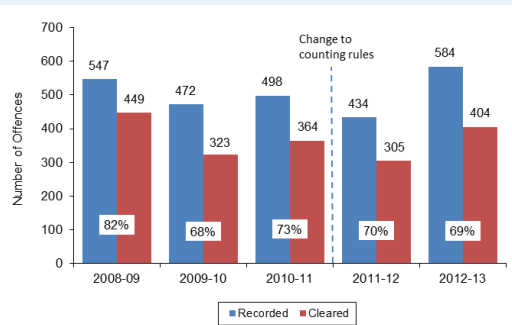
There was an 84% clearance rate for Other (Miscellaneous) Offences in 2012-13, an increase from 80% in 2011-12.

Contributing most to this decrease was a 14 offence reduction for Recklessly Throw or Discharge a Missile. The 2012-13 distribution for Other (Miscellaneous) Offences is provided.

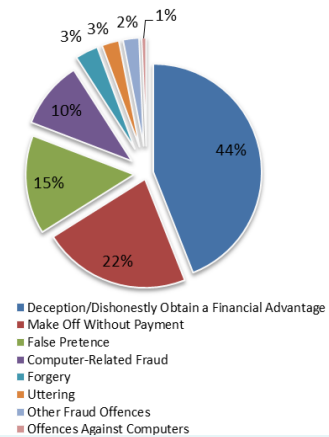
INJURE/DESTROY PROPERTY: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED



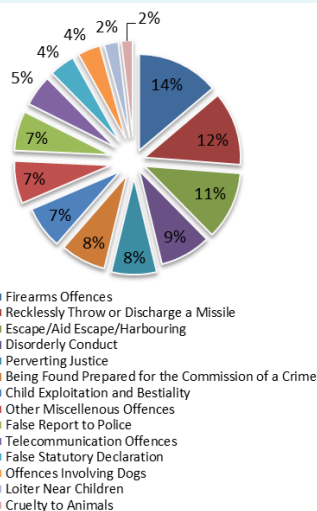
FRAUD AND SIMILAR OFFENCES: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



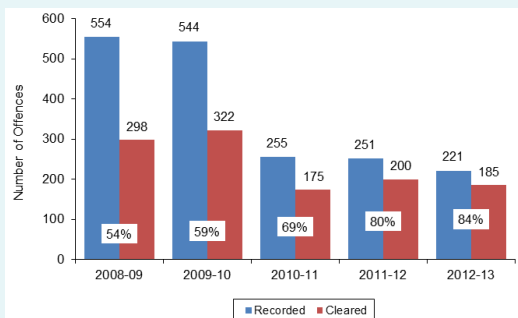
FRAUD AND SIMILAR OFFENCES 2012-13



OTHER (MISCELLANEOUS) OFFENCES 2012-13



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



Explanatory Notes

The statistics referred to in this section have been derived from offences reported to or becoming known to police during the financial year ending 30 June 2013. All 2011-12 statistics have been revised as at 5 August 2013.

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: an offender is informally warned that engaging in such conduct is against the law.
- 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 offence is withdrawn by the complainant/victim because he/she does not wish to proceed, even though an offence has occurred. The withdrawal is made before any proceedings against an identified offender commence.

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 5 August 2013. 2011-12 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. This coincided with the Department's creation of a Fraud and e-Crime Unit in 2011, and also brought the counting rules for this category into line with the other categories.

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: prior to 2011-12, one offence was counted for each offence (transaction) in an incident. 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.