

a safe & secure
Tasmania

2016-17

Crime Statistics Supplement



2016-17

Crime Statistics Supplement



The Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management Crime Statistics Supplement 2016-17 provides a detailed breakdown of the offences reported, or becoming known to police in the financial year ending 30 June 2017. 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*. From 2012-13 the Supplement has been removed from the Annual Report and published as a separate document.

Offences Recorded and Cleared: Tasmania

Total Offences increased by 9% (2,354 offences) to 27,318 offences in 2016-17, following a 10% reduction in 2015-16. Total Offences in 2016-17 was above the previous three year average (25,796).

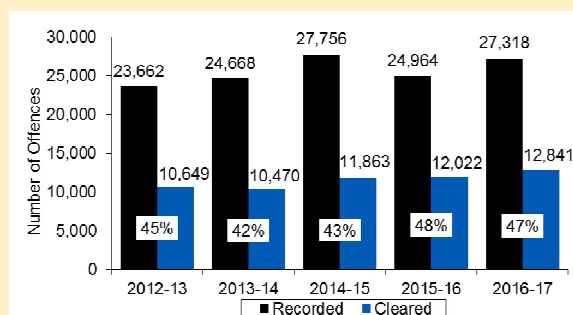
Contributing to the rise in crime was a 4% increase in Offences Against the Person, an 11% increase in Offences Against Property and a 10% increase in Fraud and Similar Offences.

The clearance rate for Total Offences decreased slightly from 48% in 2015-16 to 47% in 2016-17.

The chart provided shows that crime has fluctuated between 23,000 and 28,000 annual offences in the last five years.

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

TOTAL OFFENCES: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



Number of Offences Recorded

Major Offence Categories	2015-16*	2016-17	% Change
A. Offences Against the Person	4,100	4,270	4.1%
B. Offences Against Property	19,793	21,908	10.7%
C. Fraud and Similar Offences	750	825	10.0%
D. Other (Miscellaneous) Offences**	321	315	-1.9%
Total Offences**	24,964	27,318	9.4%

* Revised 1 August 2017.

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

Number of Offences Recorded and Cleared

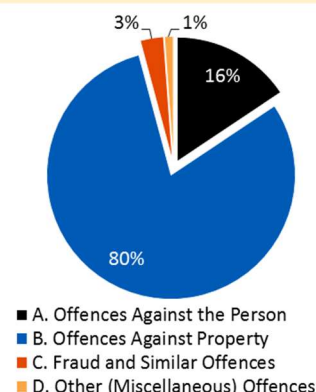
Major Offence Categories	2015-16*			2016-17		
	Recorded	Cleared	% Cleared	Recorded	Cleared	% Cleared
A. Offences Against the Person	4,100	3,859	94.1%	4,270	3,987	93.4%
B. Offences Against Property	19,793	7,466	37.7%	21,908	8,075	36.9%
C. Fraud and Similar Offences	750	441	58.8%	825	507	61.5%
D. Other (Miscellaneous) Offences	321	256	79.8%	315	272	86.3%
Total Offences	24,964	12,022	48.2%	27,318	12,841	47.0%

* Revised 1 August 2017

The Total Offences 2016-17 pie chart, enclosed, illustrates the distribution for the four major offence categories.

Offences Against Property accounted for 80% of offences with Stealing, Burglary and Injure/Destroy Property making up the majority of Total Offences recorded.

TOTAL OFFENCES 2016-17



A. Offences Against the Person

Offences Against the Person increased by 4% to 4,270 in 2016-17, following an increase of 8% the previous year. The 2016-17 result was above the previous three-year average (3,893) and is experiencing an upward trend.

The clearance rate for Offences Against the Person decreased slightly from 94% in 2015-16 to 93% in 2016-17.

Assault (excluding Sexual Assault and Assault a Police Officer) accounted for the majority of Offences Against the Person (66%) 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)

There were 2,798 assaults recorded in 2016-17, compared with 2,738 the previous year, an increase of 2% (60 offences). The 2016-17 result was above the previous three-year average (2,615).

In 2016-17, over half the assaults (57%) were committed at a residential location. 17% were committed in the street/footpath and 10% at a retail location.

The majority of assaults did not involve a weapon (81%), 5% involved a knife and 2% involved a firearm.

The alleged offender was known to the victim in 78% of assaults. Females accounted for 53% of Assault victims.

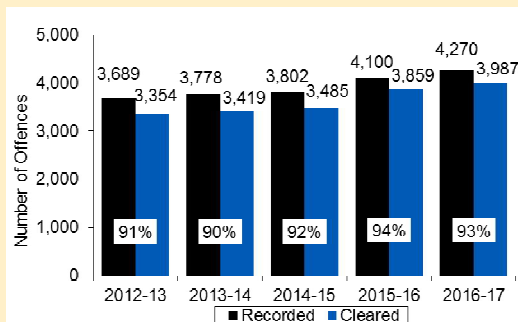
Sexual Assault

The number of sexual assaults recorded reduced by 10% (24 offences) from 240 in 2015-16 to 216 in 2016-17. The 2016-17 result was below the previous three-year average (233). 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. 28% of sexual assaults reported in 2016-17 were committed more than a year before they were reported, some occurring several decades years ago.

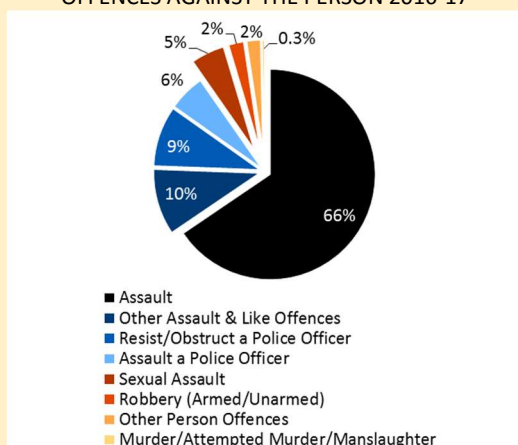
Sexual assaults reported in 2016-17 occurred most commonly at residential locations (67%). The majority (98%) of sexual assaults were committed without a weapon and females accounted for 84% of Sexual Assault victims.

A number of sexual assaults recorded in previous years were cleared during 2016-17, resulting in a clearance rate of 117%.

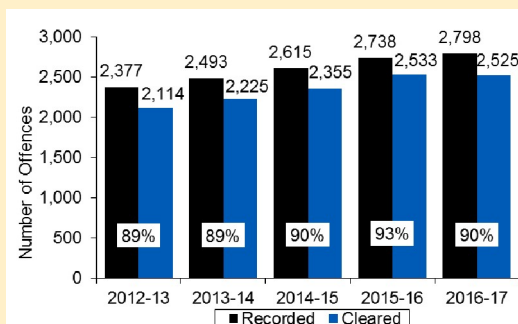
OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



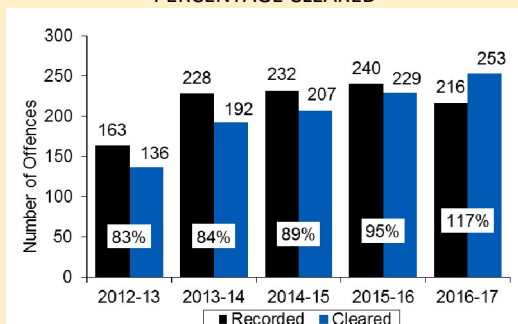
OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON 2016-17



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, increased by 18 offences (23%) from 78 in 2015-16 to 96 in 2016-17. This followed a decrease by 6 offences the previous year. The 2016-17 result was above the previous three-year average (87).

Armed and Aggravated Armed Robbery accounted for 55% of total robberies in 2016-17 and rose from 37 recorded in 2015-16 to 53 in 2016-17 (16 offences). Unarmed Robbery increased by 2 offences in 2016-17.

Armed Robbery offences recorded in 2016-17 were committed at the following locations:

Locations	Offences
Retail	19
Residential	15
Street/Footpath	11
Educational	4
Recreational	2
Banking	1
Other Location	1

Knives were the predominant weapon type used in armed robberies (45%) with firearms used in 28% of armed robberies.

There were also 4 Aggravated Carjacking offences recorded in 2016-17.

Murder

There were 9 murders recorded in 2016-17, an increase of 7 offences from the previous year. The offender was known to the victim in 71% of the murders. In 2016-17, police cleared all 9 of the murders, resulting in a 100% clearance rate.

B. Offences Against Property

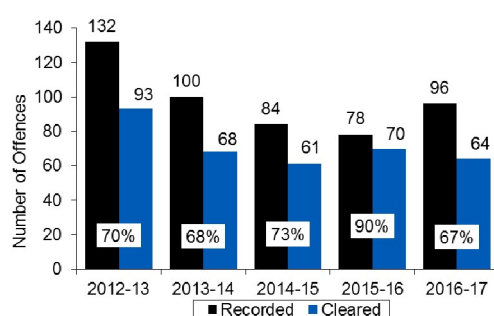
Offences Against Property increased by 11% (2,115 offences) from 19,793 recorded in 2015-16 to 21,908 recorded in 2016-17. This followed a 14% reduction the previous year. The 2016-17 result was below the previous three-year average (20,960).

Contributing to this increase was a 6% rise in Burglary and a 12% rise in Stealing (excluding Motor Vehicles).

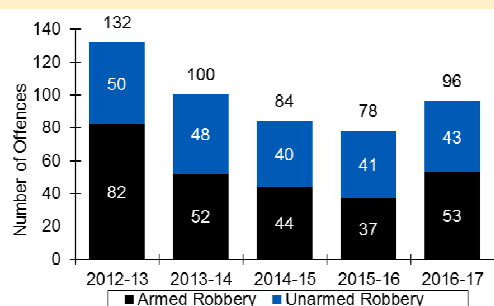
The clearance rate for Offences Against Property fell slightly from 38% in 2015-16 to 37% in 2016-17.

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

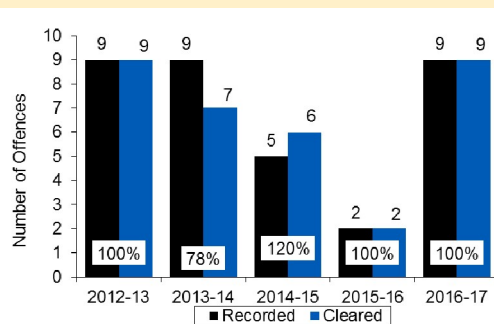
ROBBERY (ARMED AND UNARMED): TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



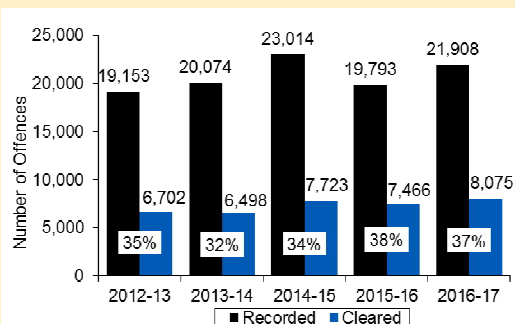
ARMED AND UNARMED ROBBERY: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED



MURDER: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



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



Burglary

Burglary-buildings offences increased by 3% (107 offences) in 2016-17, following a 26% reduction the previous year. The 2016-17 figure of 3,333 was lower than the previous three-year average (3,649). Aggravated Burglary comprised 35% of Burglary-buildings offences in 2016-17.

The most common locations for Burglary-buildings in 2016-17 were residential locations (58%) and retail locations (14%).

In the same period Burglary-motor vehicles/other conveyances offences rose by 16% (195 offences) to 1,415 offences, following a 16% reduction the previous year. The 2016-17 figure was higher than the previous three-year average (1,333).

The most common locations for Burglary-motor vehicles/other conveyances offences were residential locations (40%) 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 in 2016-17 increased by 12% (328 offences) to 3,173 offences, following a 7% decrease the previous year. The 2016-17 result was also above the previous three-year average (2,942).

The most frequent locations for Stealing-general were residential locations (32%), followed by retail locations (30%).

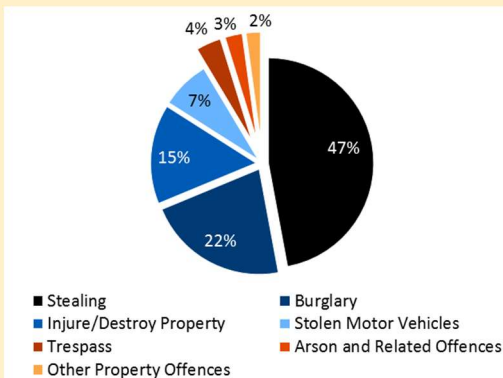
Stolen Motor Vehicles (excluding attempts)

Stolen Motor Vehicles in 2016-17 increased by 18% (205 offences) to 1,317, following an 18% reduction the previous year. The 2016-17 result was above the previous three-year average (1,226).

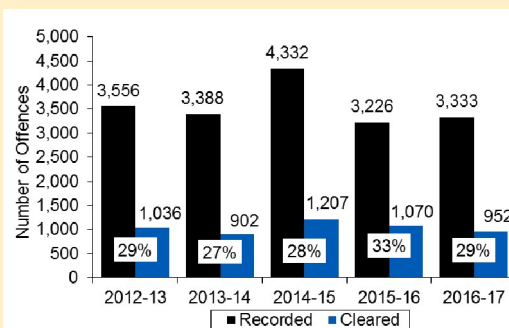
The recovery rate for Stolen Motor Vehicles decreased from 83% in 2015-16 to 80% in 2016-17.

Motor vehicles were most frequently stolen from residential locations (50%) and in the street (31%).

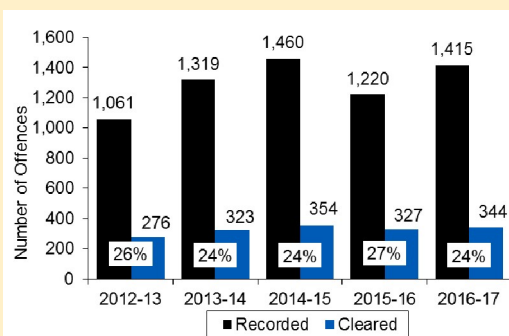
OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY 2016-17



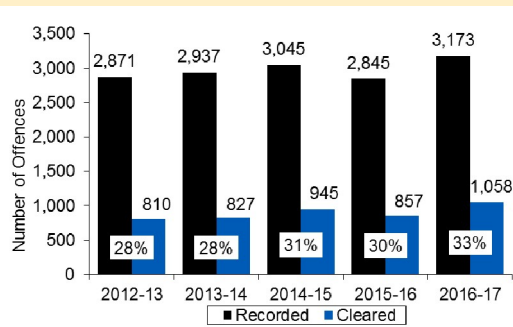
BURGLARY-BUILDINGS: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



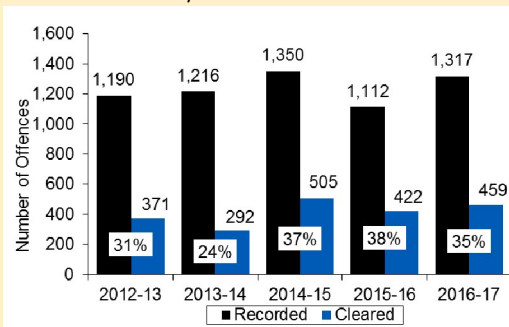
BURGLARY-MOTOR VEHICLES/OTHER CONVEYANCES
TASMANIA - OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



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 574 Arson and Related Offences recorded in 2016-17, an increase of 22% (105 offences) from 2015-16. The 2016-17 result was higher than the previous three-year average (544).

The 2016-17 distribution for Arson and Related offences is detailed in the pie chart provided.

Injure/Destroy Property

The number of Injure/Destroy Property offences recorded rose by 5% (151 offences) in 2016-17, following a 3% fall the previous year. The 2016-17 figure was above the previous three-year average (3,310).

Injure/Destroy Property offences recorded in 2016-17 occurred most frequently at a residential location (45%), followed by in the street/footpath (13%).

C. Fraud and Similar Offences

There were 825 Fraud and Similar Offences recorded in 2016-17, a 10% (75 offences) increase from the 750 offences in 2015-16. The 2016-17 figure was higher than the previous three-year average (646). Fraud has been experiencing a clear upward trend since 2011-12.

The clearance rate for Fraud and Similar Offences increased from 59% in 2015-16 to 61% in 2016-17. The distribution for Fraud and Similar Offences in 2016-17 is detailed in the pie chart provided.

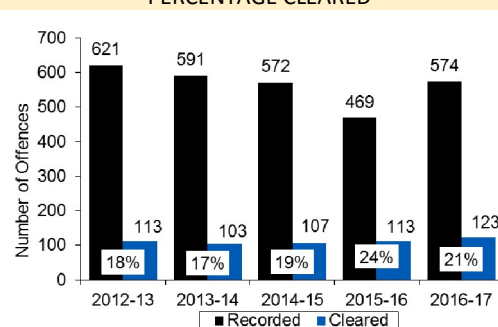
D. Other (Miscellaneous) Offences

There were 315 Other (Miscellaneous) Offences recorded in 2016-17, compared with 321 the previous year, a decrease of 2% (6 offences). The 2016-17 figure was higher than the previous three-year average (296).

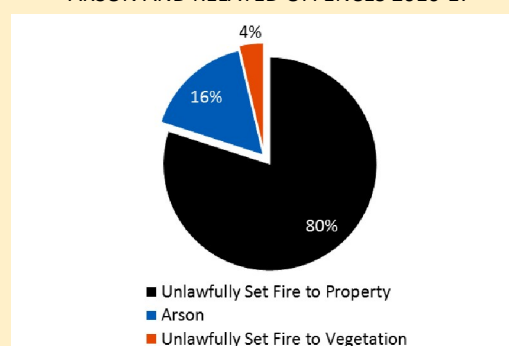
The most significant movement in this category was a 16 offence fall in Telecommunications Offences. The 2016-17 distribution for Other (Miscellaneous) Offences is detailed in the pie chart provided.

In 2016-17, the clearance rate for Other (Miscellaneous) Offences was 86%, an increase from 80% in 2015-16.

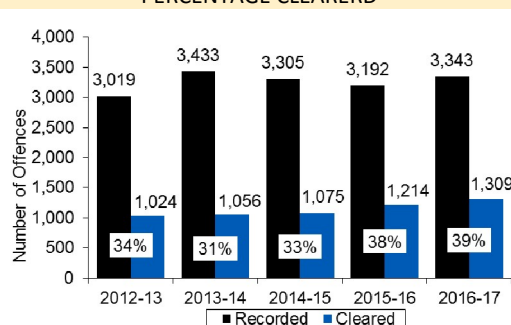
ARSON AND RELATED OFFENCES: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



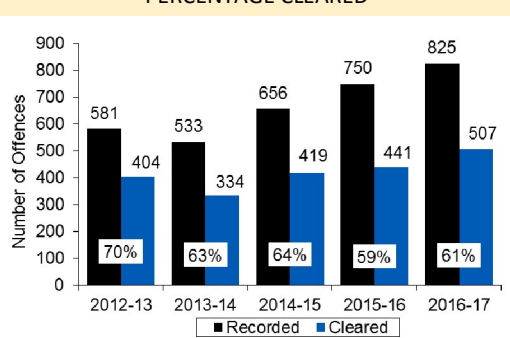
ARSON AND RELATED OFFENCES 2016-17



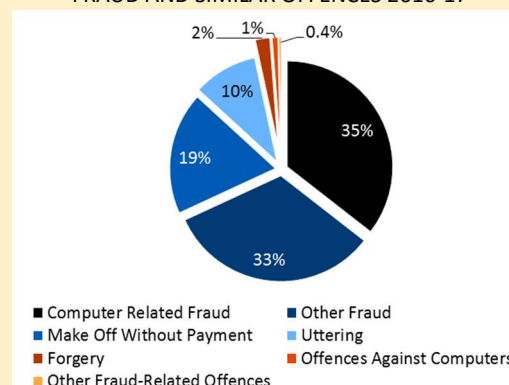
INJURE/DESTROY PROPERTY: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



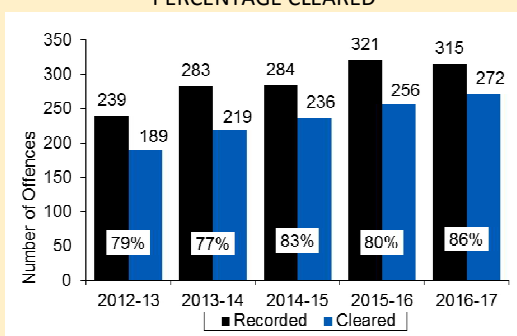
FRAUD AND SIMILAR OFFENCES: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



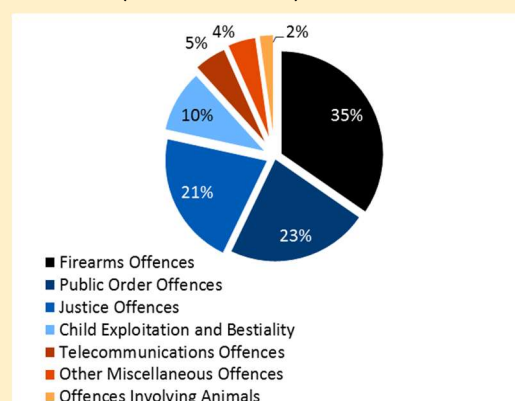
FRAUD AND SIMILAR OFFENCES 2016-17



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



OTHER (MISCELLANEOUS) OFFENCES 2016-17



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 2017. All 2015-16 statistics have been revised as at 1 August 2017.

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, Fire and Emergency Management on 1 August 2017. 2015-16 data have been 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.



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: 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 date after the recording of the offence.