

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



2015-16 Crime Statistics Supplement

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2015-16

Crime Statistics Supplement



The Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management Crime Statistics Supplement 2015-16 provides a detailed breakdown of the offences reported, or becoming known to police in the financial year ending 30 June 2016. 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

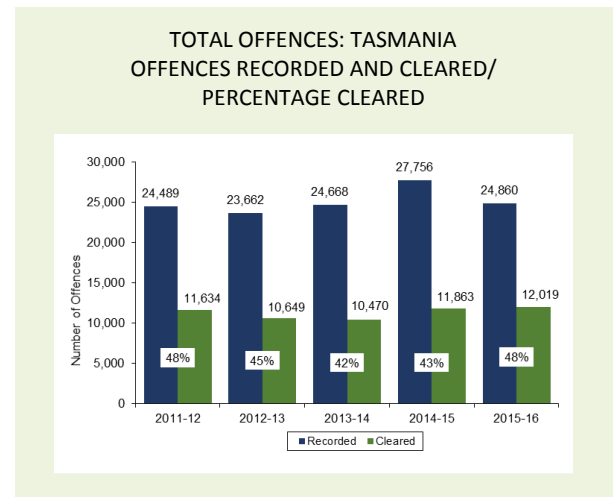
Total Offences decreased by 10% (2,896 offences) to 24,860 offences in 2015-16, following a 13% increase in 2014-15. Total Offences in 2015-16 was below the previous three year average (25,362).

Contributing most to the fall in crime was a 14% reduction in Offences Against Property. The remaining offence categories saw increases in 2015-16

The clearance rate for Total Offences increased from 43% in 2014-15 to 48% in 2015-16.

The chart provided shows that the reduction in crime in 2015-16 followed two years of crime increasing.

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	2014-15*	2015-16	% Change
A. Offences Against the Person	3,802	4,070	7.0%
B. Offences Against Property	23,014	19,741	-14.2%
C. Fraud and Similar Offences	656	738	12.5%
D. Other (Miscellaneous) Offences**	284	311	9.5%
Total Offences**	27,756	24,860	-10.4%

* Revised 4 August 2016.

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

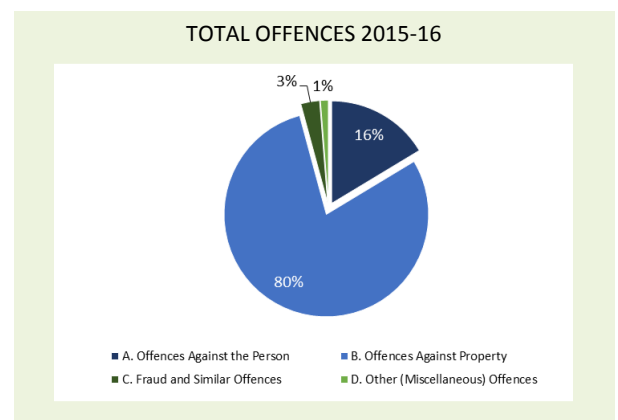
Number of Offences Recorded and Cleared

Major Offence Categories	2014-15*			2015-16		
	Recorded	Cleared	% Cleared	Recorded	Cleared	% Cleared
A. Offences Against the Person	3,802	3,485	91.7%	4,070	3,865	95.0%
B. Offences Against Property	23,014	7,723	33.6%	19,741	7,458	37.8%
C. Fraud and Similar Offences	656	419	63.9%	738	442	59.9%
D. Other (Miscellaneous) Offences	284	236	83.1%	311	254	81.7%
Total Offences	27,756	11,863	42.7%	24,860	12,019	48.3%

* Revised 4 August 2016

The Total Offences 2015-16 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.



A. Offences Against the Person

Offences Against the Person increased by 7% to 4,070 in 2015-16, following an increase of less than one per cent the previous year. The 2015-16 result was above the previous three-year average (3,756).

The clearance rate for Offences Against the Person increased from 92% in 2014-15 to 95% in 2015-16.

Assault (excluding Sexual Assault and Assault a Police Officer) accounted for the majority of Offences Against the Person (67%) 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)

There were 2,735 assaults offences recorded in 2015-16, compared with 2,615 the previous year, an increase of 5% (120 offences). The 2015-16 result was above the previous three-year average (2,495).

In 2015-16, over half the assaults (56%) were committed at a residential location. 19% were committed in the street/footpath and 9% 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 78% of assaults. Females accounted for 55% of Assault victims.

Sexual Assault

The number of sexual assaults recorded reduced by 6% (13 offences) from 232 in 2014-15 to 219 in 2015-16. The 2015-16 result was higher than the previous three-year average (208). 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. 33% of sexual assaults reported in 2015-16 were committed more than a year before they were reported, some occurring approximately 50 years ago.

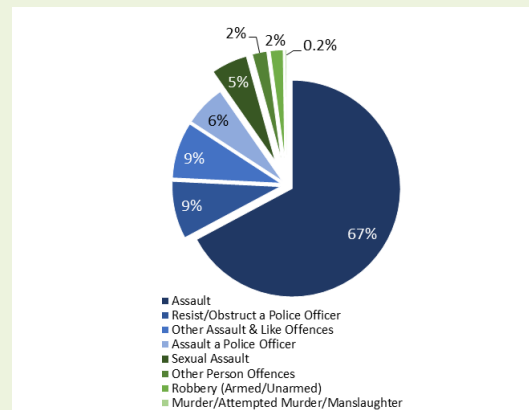
Sexual assaults reported in 2015-16 occurred most commonly at residential locations (71%). The majority (97%) of sexual assaults were committed without a weapon and females accounted for 85% of Sexual Assault victims.

A number of sexual assaults recorded in previous years were cleared during 2015-16, resulting in a clearance rate of 109%.

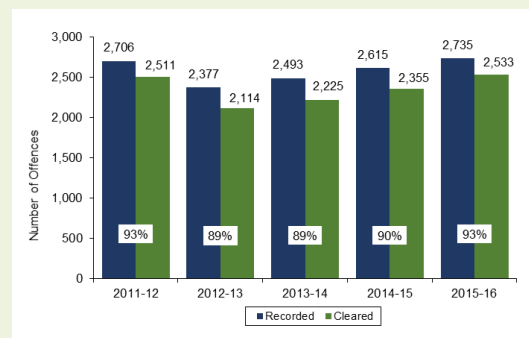
OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON 2015-16



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 6 offences (7%) from 84 in 2014-15 to 78 in 2015-16. This followed a decrease by 16 offences the previous year. The 2015-16 result was below the previous three-year average (105).

Armed and Aggravated Armed Robbery accounted for 47% of total robberies in 2015-16 and decreased from 44 recorded in 2014-15 to 37 in 2015-16 (7 offences), the lowest level for armed robberies since 1996-97. Unarmed Robbery increased by 1 offence in 2015-16.

Armed Robbery offences recorded in 2015-16 were committed at the following locations:

Locations	Offences
Retail	19
Residential	10
Street/Footpath	5
Transport	1
Other Location	1
Recreational	1

Knives were the predominant weapon type used in armed robberies (65%) with firearms used in 19% of armed robberies.

In September 2013 new legislation was proclaimed making Carjacking and Aggravated Carjacking crimes in Tasmania. There was 1 Aggravated Carjacking offence recorded in 2015-16.

Murder

There were 2 murders recorded in 2015-16, a reduction of 3 offences from the previous year. The offender was known to the victim in both murders. In 2015-16, police cleared both of the recorded murders, resulting in a 100% clearance rate.

B. Offences Against Property

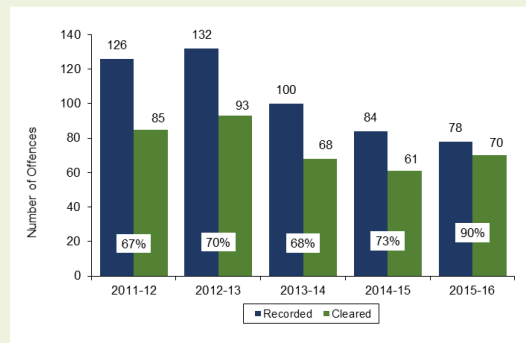
Offences Against Property decreased by 14% (3,273 offences) from 23,014 recorded in 2014-15 to 19,741 recorded in 2015-16. This followed a 15% increase the previous year. The 2015-16 result was below the previous three-year average (20,747).

Contributing to this reduction was a 23% fall in Burglary and a 13% fall in Stealing (excluding Motor Vehicles).

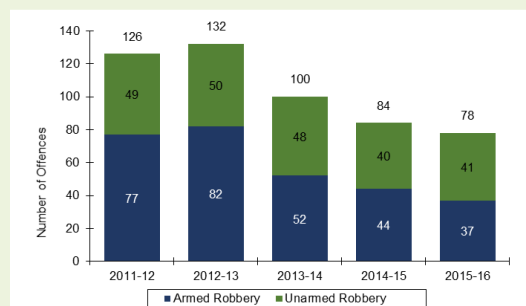
The clearance rate for Offences Against Property rose from 34% in 2014-15 to 38% in 2015-16.

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

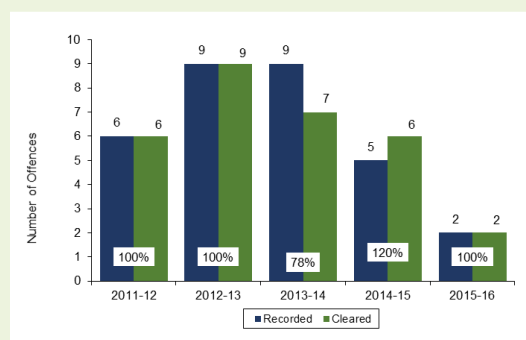
ROBBERY (ARMED AND UNARMED): TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



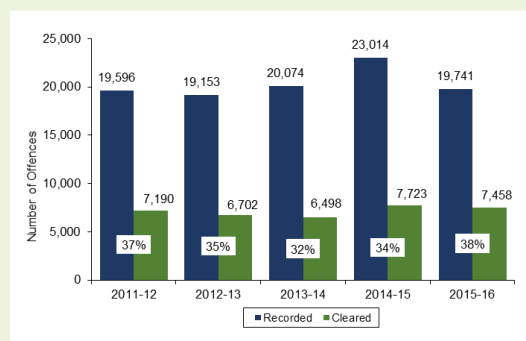
ARMED AND UNARMED ROBBERY: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED



MURDER: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



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



Burglary

Burglary-buildings offences decreased by 26% (1,110 offences) in 2015-16, following a 28% increase the previous year. The 2015-16 figure of 3,222 was lower than the previous three-year average (3,759). Aggravated Burglary comprised 44% of Burglary-buildings offences in 2015-16.

The most common locations for Burglary-buildings in 2015-16 were residential locations (65%) and retail locations (12%).

In the same period Burglary-motor vehicles/other conveyances offences decreased by 16% (237 offences) to 1,223 offences, following an 11% increase the previous year. The 2015-16 figure was lower than the previous three-year average (1,280).

The most common locations for Burglary-motor vehicles/other conveyances offences were residential locations (44%) and in the street (23%).

Stealing-general

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

Stealing-general in 2015-16 reduced by 6% (191 offences) to 2,854 offences, following a 4% increase the previous year. The 2015-16 result was also below the previous three-year average (2,951).

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

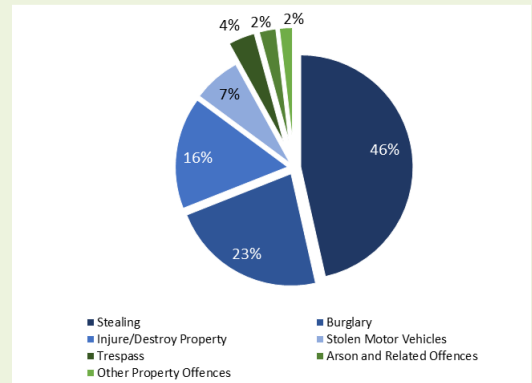
Stolen Motor Vehicles (excluding attempts)

Stolen Motor Vehicles in 2015-16 decreased by 17% (236 offences) to 1,114, following an 11% increase the previous year. The 2015-16 result was below the previous three-year average (1,252).

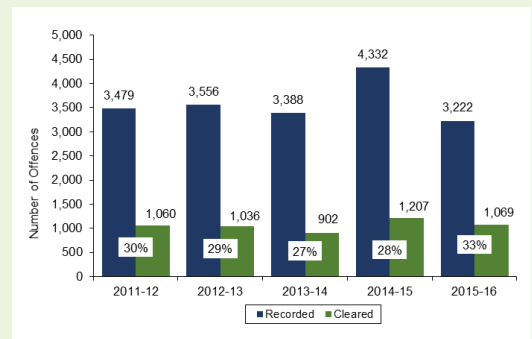
The recovery rate for Stolen Motor Vehicles decreased from 85% in 2014-15 to 82% 2015-16.

Motor vehicles were most frequently stolen from residential locations (50%) and in the street (28%).

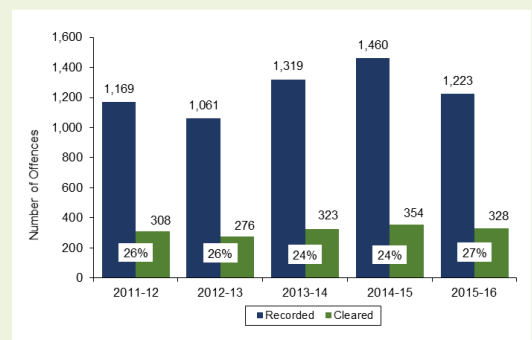
OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY 2015-16



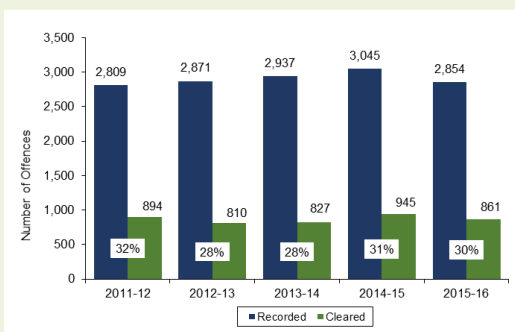
BURGLARY-BUILDINGS: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



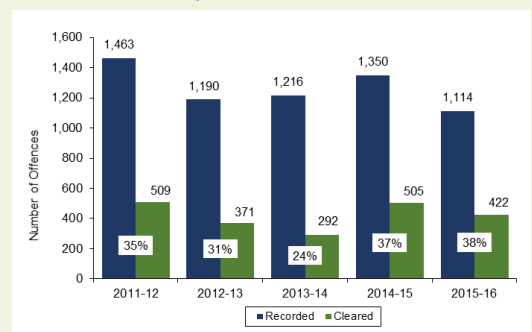
BURGLARY-MOTOR VEHICLES/OTHER CONVEYANCES
TASMANIA - OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



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 468 Arson and Related Offences recorded in 2015-16, a decrease of 18% (104 offences) from 2014-15. The 2015-16 result was lower than the previous three-year average (595).

The 2015-16 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% (119 offences) in 2015-16, following another 4% fall the previous year. The 2015-16 figure was below the previous three-year average (3,252).

Injure/Destroy Property offences recorded in 2015-16 occurred most frequently at a residential location (50%), followed by in the street/footpath (13%).

C. Fraud and Similar Offences

There were 738 Fraud and Similar Offences recorded in 2015-16, a 13% (82 offences) increase from the 656 offences in 2014-15. The 2015-16 figure was higher than the previous three-year average (590). Fraud has been experiencing a clear upward trend since 2011-12.

The clearance rate for Fraud and Similar Offences increased from 64% in 2014-15 to 60% in 2015-16. The distribution for Fraud and Similar Offences in 2015-16 is detailed in the pie chart provided.

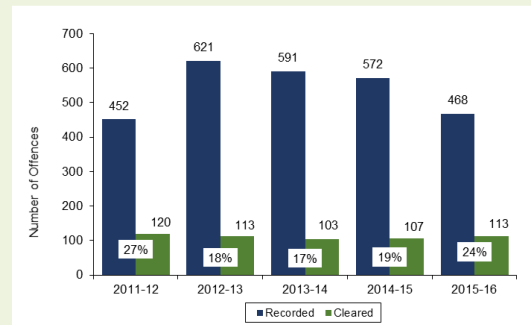
D. Other (Miscellaneous) Offences

There were 311 Other (Miscellaneous) Offences recorded in 2015-16, compared with 284 the previous year, an increase of 10% (27 offences). The 2015-16 figure was higher than the previous three-year average (269).

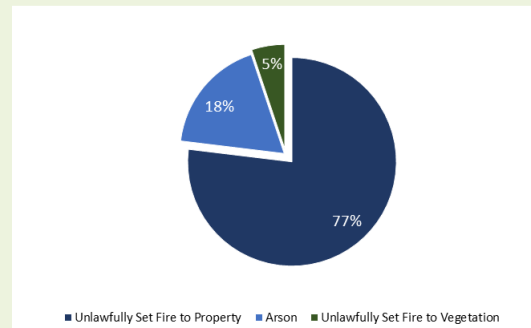
Contributing most to this increase was a 13 offence rise in Firearms Offences. The 2015-16 distribution for Other (Miscellaneous) Offences is detailed in the pie chart provided.

In 2015-16, the clearance rate for Other (Miscellaneous) Offences was 82%, down from 83% in 2014-15.

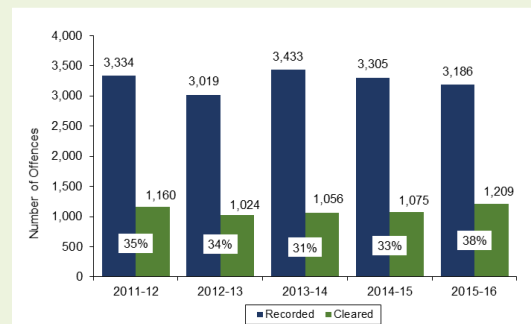
ARSON AND RELATED OFFENCES: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



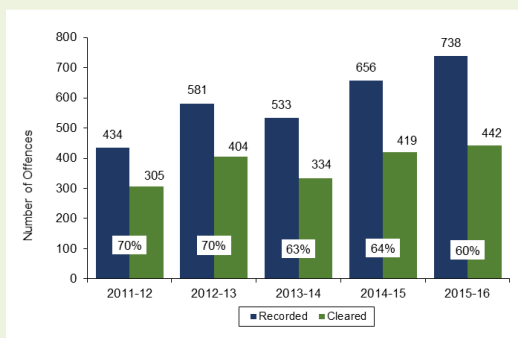
ARSON AND RELATED OFFENCES 2015-16



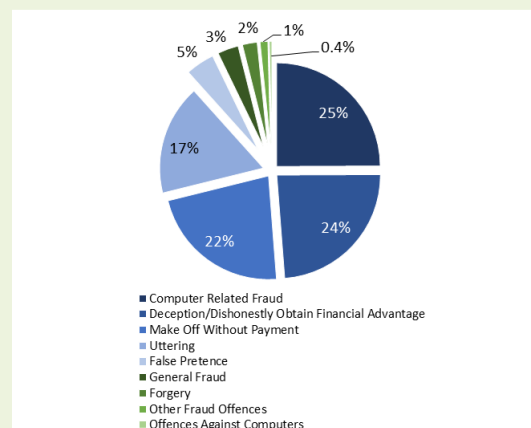
INJURE/DESTROY PROPERTY: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



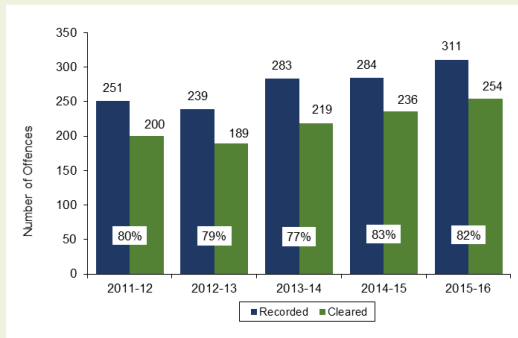
FRAUD AND SIMILAR OFFENCES: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



FRAUD AND SIMILAR OFFENCES 2015-16



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



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 2016. All 2014-15 statistics have been revised as at 4 August 2016.

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.

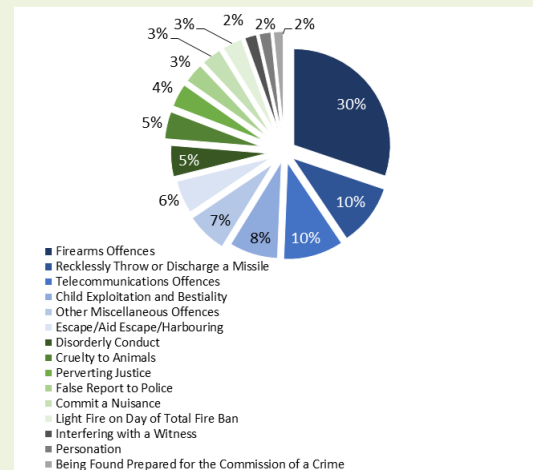
Offences Cleared

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.

OTHER (MISCELLANEOUS) OFFENCES 2015-16



- 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 4 August 2016. 2014-15 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.