



Department of Police, Fire & Emergency Management

a safe & secure
Tasmania

2017-18 Crime Statistics Supplement



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2017-18

Crime Statistics Supplement



The Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management Crime Statistics Supplement 2017-18 provides a detailed breakdown of the offences reported, or becoming known to police in the financial year ending 30 June 2018. 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.

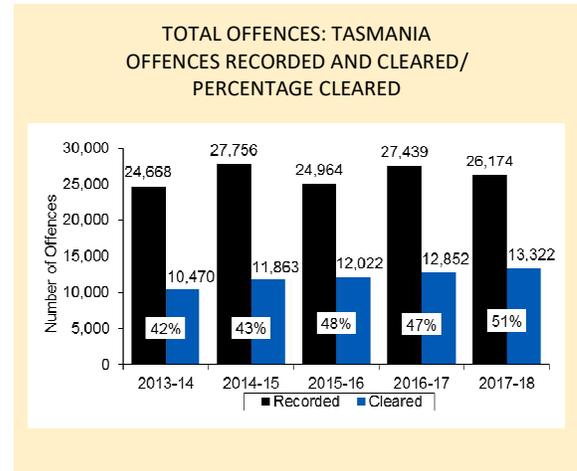
Offences Recorded and Cleared: Tasmania

Total Offences reduced by 5% (1,265 offences) to 26,174 offences in 2017-18, following a 10% increase in 2016-17. Total Offences in 2017-18 was below the previous three year average (26,720).

Contributing to the fall in crime were decreases of 7% in Offences Against Property, and 11% in Other (Miscellaneous) Offences.

The clearance rate for Total Offences rose from 47% in 2016-17 to 51% in 2017-18. This was the first time in over 45 years that the clearance rate for Total Offences exceeded 50%, that is, that offences reported to police were more likely to be cleared than not.

The chart provided shows that crime has fluctuated between 24,000 and 28,000 annual offences in the last five years, following a period of crime decreasing each year between 2005-06 and 2012-13. 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	2016-17*	2017-18	% Change
A. Offences Against the Person	4,310	4,574	6.1%
B. Offences Against Property	21,937	20,430	-6.9%
C. Fraud and Similar Offences	863	877	1.6%
D. Other (Miscellaneous) Offences**	329	293	-10.9%
Total Offences**	27,439	26,174	-4.6%

* Revised 1 August 2018.

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

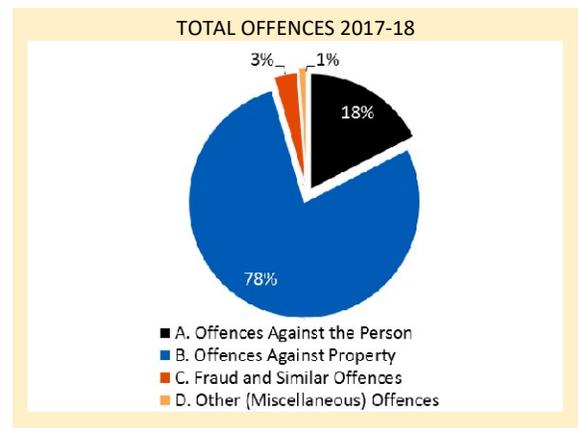
Number of Offences Recorded and Cleared

Major Offence Categories	2016-17*			2017-18		
	Recorded	Cleared	% Cleared	Recorded	Cleared	% Cleared
A. Offences Against the Person	4,310	3,978	92.3%	4,574	4,352	95.1%
B. Offences Against Property	21,937	8,095	36.9%	20,430	8,171	40.0%
C. Fraud and Similar Offences	863	508	58.9%	877	527	60.1%
D. Other (Miscellaneous) Offences	329	271	82.4%	293	272	92.8%
Total Offences	27,439	12,852	46.8%	26,174	13,322	50.9%

* Revised 1 August 2018

The Total Offences 2017-18 pie chart, enclosed, illustrates the distribution for the four major offence categories.

Offences Against Property accounted for 78% 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 6% to 4,574 in 2017-18, following an increase of 5% the previous year. The 2017-18 result was above the previous three-year average (4,071) and has experiencing an upward trend since 2012-13.

The most notable increases for this category were Assault (7%), Assault a Police Officer (15%) and Other Assault & Like Offences (8%).

The clearance rate for Offences Against the Person increased from 92% in 2016-17 to 95% in 2017-18.

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 0.1%. This is reflected in the distribution provided.

Assault (excluding Assault a Police Officer)

There were 2,998 assaults recorded in 2017-18, compared with 2,800 the previous year, an increase of 7% (198 offences). The 2017-18 result was above the previous three-year average (2,718).

In 2017-18, over half the assaults (57%) were committed at a residential location. 16% were committed in the street/footpath and 10% at a retail location.

The majority of assaults did not involve a weapon (83%), 3% involved a knife and 1% involved a firearm.

The alleged offender was known to the victim in 80% of assaults. Females accounted for 54% of Assault victims.

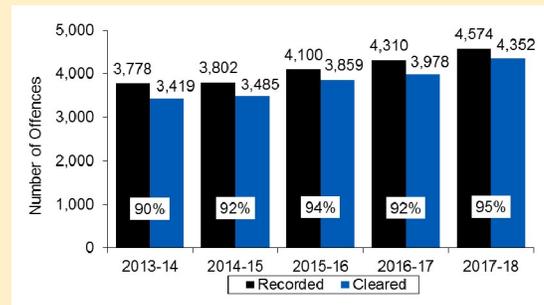
Sexual Assault

The number of sexual assaults recorded reduced by 26% (65 offences) from 249 in 2016-17 to 184 in 2017-18. The 2017-18 result was below the previous three-year average (240). 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. 27% of sexual assaults reported in 2017-18 were committed more than a year before they were reported, some occurring several decades ago.

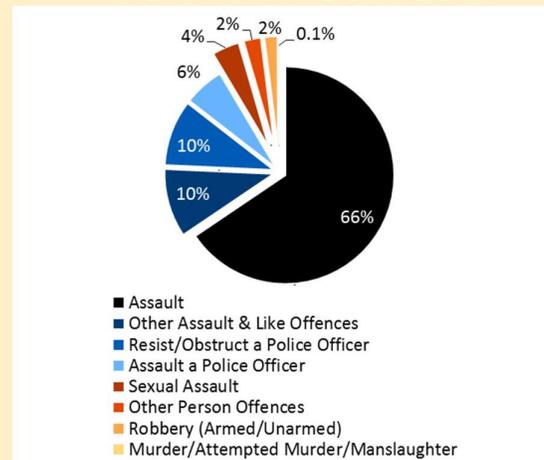
Sexual assaults reported in 2017-18 occurred most commonly at residential locations (71%). The majority (98%) of sexual assaults were committed without a weapon and females accounted for 82% of Sexual Assault victims.

A number of sexual assaults recorded in previous years were cleared during 2017-18, resulting in a clearance rate of 130%.

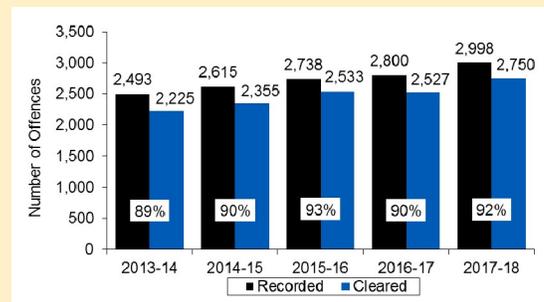
OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



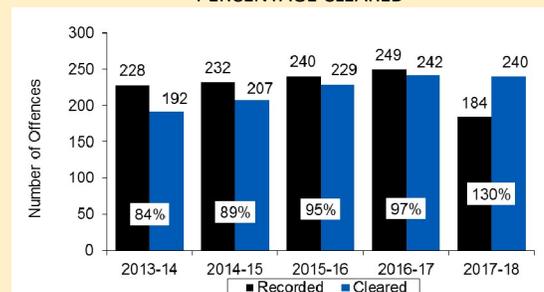
OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON 2017-18



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, reduced by 8 offences (8%) from 96 in 2016-17 to 88 in 2017-18. This followed an increase by 18 offences the previous year. The 2017-18 result was above the previous three-year average (86).

Armed and Aggravated Armed Robbery accounted for 58% of total robberies in 2017-18 and fell from 53 recorded in 2016-17 to 51 in 2017-18 (2 offences). Unarmed Robbery decreased by 6 offences in 2017-18.

Armed Robbery offences recorded in 2017-18 were committed at the following locations:

Locations	Offences
Retail	16
Street/Footpath	16
Residential	12
Recreational	4
Conveyance In Transit	2
Banking	1

Knives were the predominant weapon type used in armed robberies (31%) with firearms used in 14% of armed robberies.

There were also 3 Carjacking and 3 Aggravated Carjacking offences recorded in 2017-18.

Murder

There was 1 murder recorded in 2017-18, a reduction of 8 offences from the previous year. This is the lowest number of murders recorded since 1988-89 (also 1 murder). In the 2017-18 murder, the offender was not known to the victim and court proceedings were brought against the offender.

B. Offences Against Property

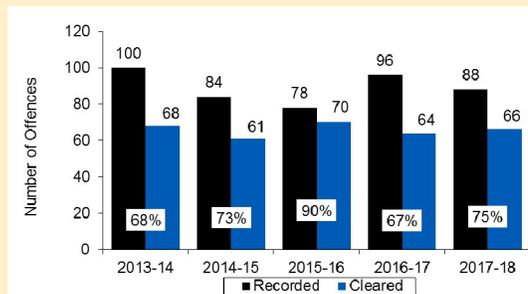
Offences Against Property decreased by 7% (1,507 offences) from 21,937 recorded in 2016-17 to 20,430 recorded in 2017-18. This followed an 11% increase the previous year. The 2017-18 result was below the previous three-year average (21,581).

Reductions occurred for most property crime types including Stealing (8%), Stolen Motor Vehicles (20%) and Burglary (5%).

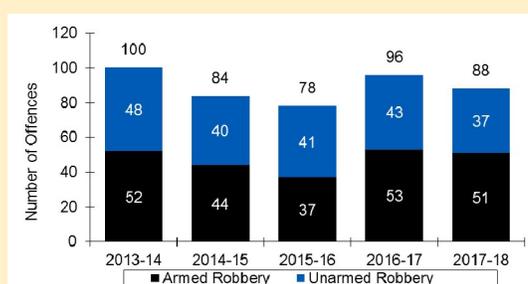
The clearance rate for Offences Against Property rose from 37% in 2016-17 to 40% in 2017-18.

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

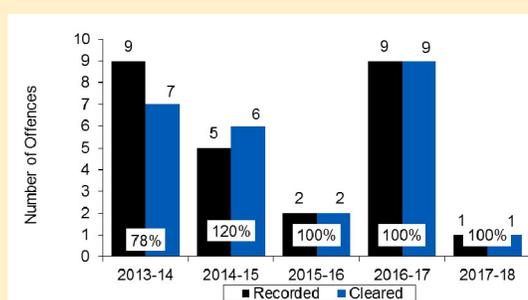
ROBBERY (ARMED AND UNARMED): TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



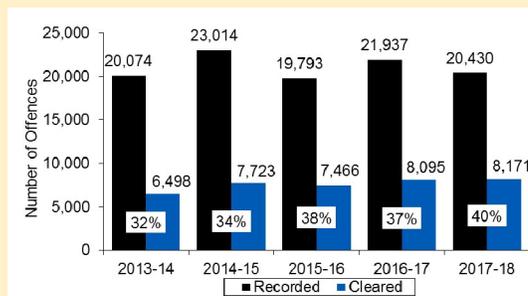
ARMED AND UNARMED ROBBERY: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED



MURDER: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



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



Burglary

Burglary-buildings offences reduced by 5% (166 offences) in 2017-18, following a 3% increase the previous year. The 2017-18 figure of 3,164 was lower than the previous three-year average (3,629). Aggravated Burglary comprised 41% of Burglary-buildings offences in 2017-18.

The most common locations for Burglary-buildings in 2017-18 were residential locations (64%) and retail locations (13%).

In the same period Burglary-motor vehicles/other conveyances offences fell by 6% (79 offences) to 1,335 offences, following a 16% rise the previous year. The 2017-18 figure was lower than the previous three-year average (1,365).

The most common locations for Burglary-motor vehicles/other conveyances offences were residential locations (39%) and in the street (26%).

Stealing-general

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

Stealing-general in 2017-18 decreased by 10% (328 offences) to 2,845 offences, following a 12% increase the previous year. The 2017-18 result was below the previous three-year average (3,021).

The most frequent locations for Stealing-general were residential locations (36%), followed by retail locations (24%).

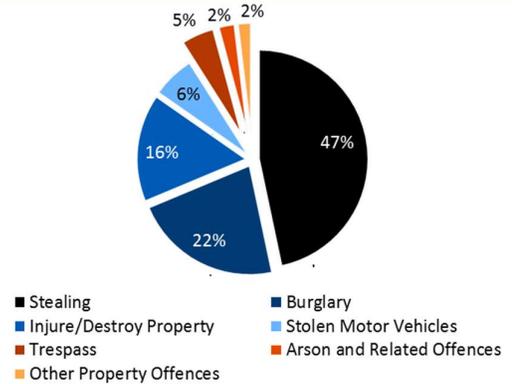
Stolen Motor Vehicles (excluding attempts)

Stolen Motor Vehicles in 2017-18 decreased by 21% (278 offences) to 1,038, following an 18% increase the previous year. The 2017-18 result was below the previous three-year average (1,259).

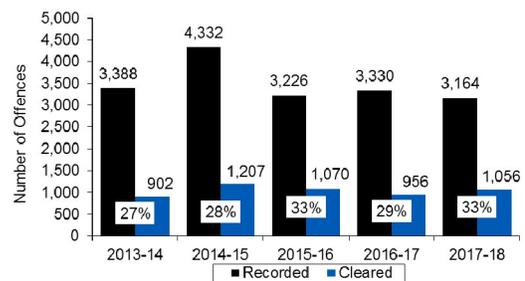
The recovery rate for Stolen Motor Vehicles increased from 80% in 2016-17 to 82% in 2017-18.

Motor vehicles were most frequently stolen from residential locations (52%) and in the street (27%).

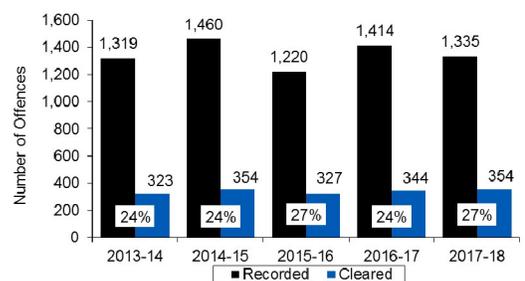
OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY 2017-18



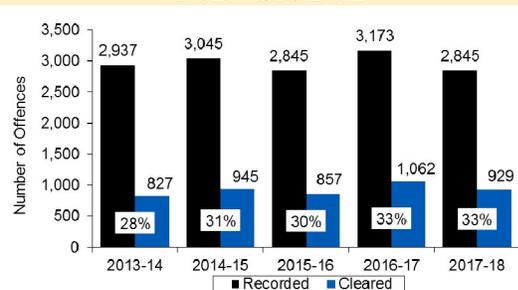
BURGLARY-BUILDINGS: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



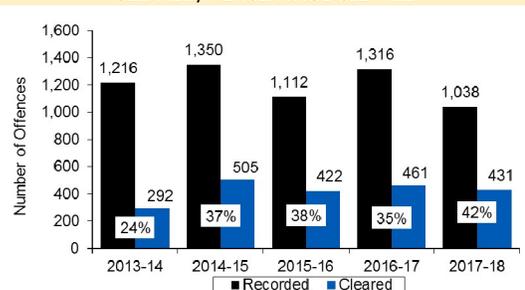
BURGLARY-MOTOR VEHICLES/OTHER CONVEYANCES
TASMANIA - OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



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 470 Arson and Related Offences recorded in 2017-18, a reduction of 18% (103 offences) from 2016-17. The 2017-18 result was lower than the previous three-year average (538).

The 2017-18 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 3% (84 offences) in 2017-18, following a 5% rise the previous year. The 2017-18 figure was below the previous three-year average (3,281).

Injure/Destroy Property offences recorded in 2017-18 occurred most frequently at a residential location (50%), followed by in the street/footpath (13%).

C. Fraud and Similar Offences

There were 877 Fraud and Similar Offences recorded in 2017-18, a 2% (14 offences) increase from the 863 offences in 2016-17. The 2017-18 figure was higher than the previous three-year average (756). Fraud has been experiencing a clear upward trend since 2011-12.

The clearance rate for Fraud and Similar Offences increased slightly from 59% in 2016-17 to 60% in 2017-18. The distribution for Fraud and Similar Offences in 2017-18 is detailed in the pie chart provided.

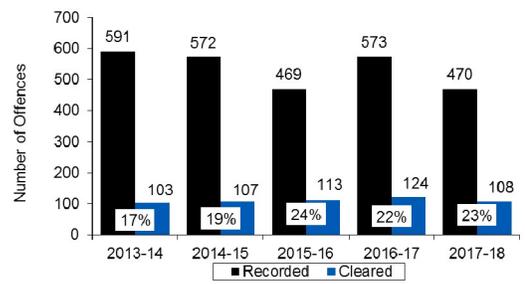
D. Other (Miscellaneous) Offences

There were 293 Other (Miscellaneous) Offences recorded in 2017-18, compared with 329 the previous year, a decrease of 11% (36 offences). The 2017-18 figure was lower than the previous three-year average (311).

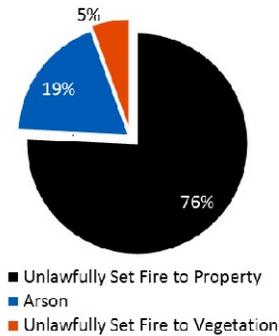
The 2017-18 distribution for Other (Miscellaneous) Offences is detailed in the pie chart provided.

In 2017-18, the clearance rate for Other (Miscellaneous) Offences was 93%, an increase from 82% in 2016-17.

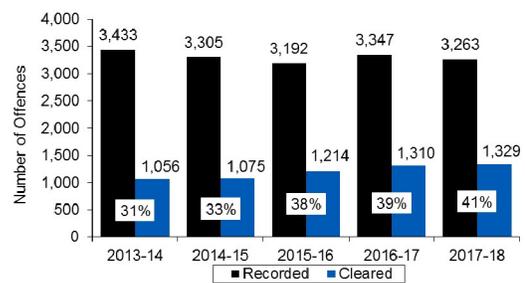
ARSON AND RELATED OFFENCES: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



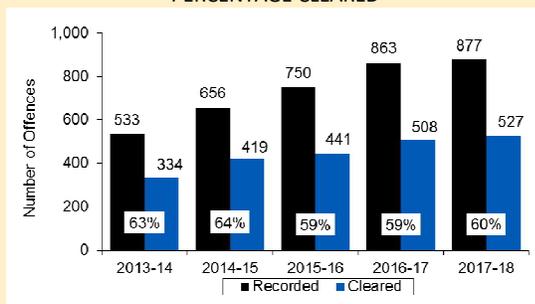
ARSON AND RELATED OFFENCES 2017-18



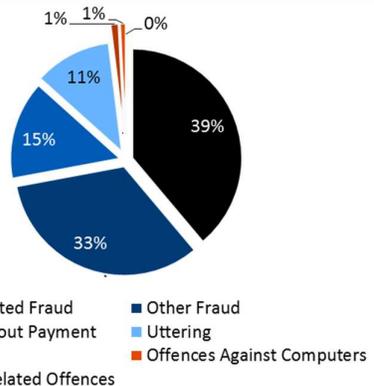
INJURE/DESTROY PROPERTY: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



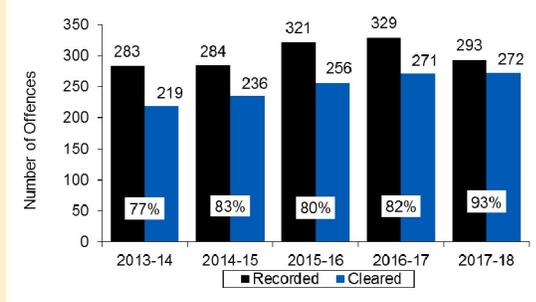
FRAUD AND SIMILAR OFFENCES: TASMANIA
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



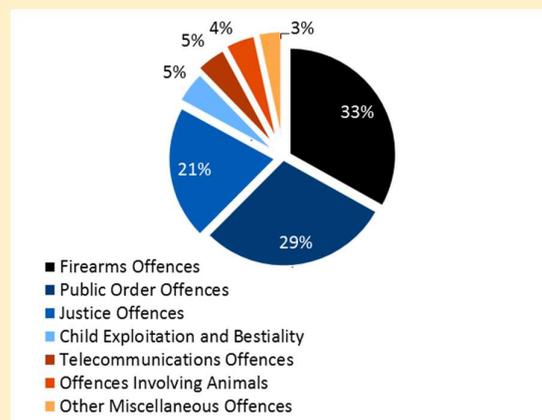
FRAUD AND SIMILAR OFFENCES 2017-18



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



OTHER (MISCELLANEOUS) OFFENCES 2017-18



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 2018. All 2016-17 statistics have been revised as at 1 August 2018.

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 2018. 2016-17 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.