

Crime 2014/15

Offences Against the Person

The broad offence group of offences against the person is comprised of a number of different offence categories, with the volume of offences reported differing significantly across categories. For example, assaults account for 64% of offences against the person (Figure 1) while homicide (murder) accounts for less than 1%. Thus, assault offences tend to dominate offences against the person, while homicide (murder) will have little effect on the overall total.

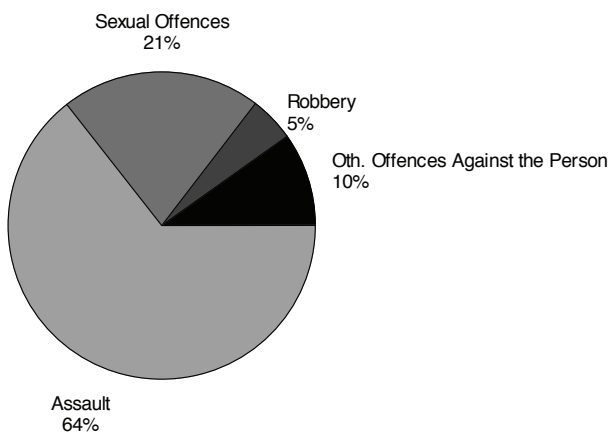


Figure 1: Offences against the person (%) – 2014/15*

Overall, the number of offences against the person decreased by 1% in Queensland between 2013/14 and 2014/15. A total of 28,144 offences were reported to police in 2014/15, 387 less than the revised figure from the previous financial year. Taking into account the growth of the Queensland population, the rate of offences against the person decreased by 3% from 604 to 587 offences per 100,000 persons.

Of the 28,144 offences against the person reported to police during the 2014/15 financial year, 22,522 (80%) were cleared by the end of June 2015 compared with 79% cleared the previous year. An additional 3,454 offences reported in previous time periods were also cleared during 2014/15.

As with previous years, Northern Region recorded the highest rates of offences against the person, while

Brisbane Region recorded the lowest. Central Region recorded the largest decrease of 10% in the period under review.

Fifteen to nineteen year old females were most likely to have been victims of offences against the person in 2014/15 followed by ten to fourteen year old females. In the younger age groups (five to nineteen years), females were more likely than males to be victims of offences against the person. From the age of twenty-five years, males were more likely than females to be victims. For 57% of victims of solved offences, the offenders were known to them.

More males were proceeded against for offences against the person compared with females. While only 21% of offenders were female, 27% were male aged fifteen to twenty-four years. The likelihood of offending peaked in the fifteen to nineteen year age group for both males and females and decreased with increasing age.

Of those who were found to have committed offences against the person, approximately 58% were proceeded against through an arrest with a further 23% proceeded against through the service of a notice to appear.

Homicide (Murder)

Homicide (murder) is a small volume offence category and, as such, is subject to sizeable fluctuations from one year to the next and from region to region.

The number of homicide (murder) offences increased by 11 offences in Queensland for 2014/15 compared with 2013/14. Of the 53 homicides reported to police in 2014/15, 49 (92%) were cleared in the same period. An additional 11 offences were cleared from previous periods.

Northern Region recorded the highest increase and South Eastern Region recorded the largest decrease of homicide (murder) offences within the State. The highest rate was recorded by Northern Region and the lowest rate was recorded by Brisbane Region.

This year, 62% of the victims of homicide (murder) were male, however the highest rate of homicide (murder) offences occurred for females in the twenty-five to twenty-nine year age group which recorded a

rate of 4 offences per 100,000 resident persons. In 54% of all solved homicide cases, the offender was known to the victim.

Males were significantly more likely than females to commit homicide (murder) (85%). In 2014/15, males aged twenty to twenty-four and thirty-five to thirty-nine years were most likely to offend. In 95% of cases, the offender was proceeded against through an arrest.

Other Homicide

As with homicide (murder), other homicide is a low-volume offence category. Therefore, it is subject to marked fluctuations from year to year and from area to area. The number of other homicide offences decreased by 16% during 2014/15, as a result of decreases in attempted murder (5 offences) and driving causing death (10 offences).

Factoring in the increase of the Queensland estimated resident population, other homicide offences decreased by 17% to a rate of 1 offence per 100,000 persons. Of the 70 offences reported to police in 2014/15, 65 (93%) were cleared in the same period. Additionally, 13 offences were cleared from previous periods.

Assault

Assaults comprise approximately 64% of total offences against the person. As such, they tend to dominate this broad offence group. The rate of assaults in Queensland decreased by 3% from 2013/14 to 2014/15.

The overall decrease in the rate of assaults is attributable to decreases in grievous assault, serious assault other and common assault. Of the 18,048 assaults reported to police in 2014/15, 14,667 (81%) were cleared in the same period with a further 1,885 offences cleared from previous periods.

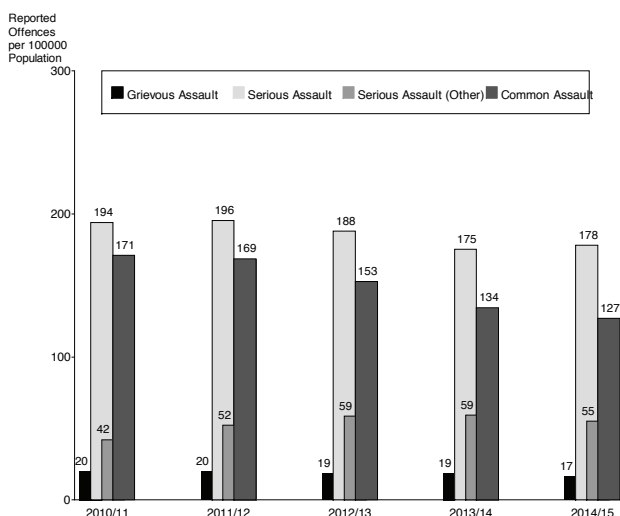


Figure 2: Reported assaults, Queensland, 2010/11 to 2014/15

Higher rates of most of the assault categories were seen in 2011/12 (Figure 2). From 2012/13 the majority of these categories have reported decreases.

The seasonal influence on the occurrence of assaults can be seen clearly in monthly crime trends (see page 19). These offences peak around December of each year and fall to a low around July.

As with previous years, Northern Region recorded the highest rate of assault in the State while Brisbane Region recorded the lowest. Northern Region recorded the only increase in the rate of assault.

For all age groups apart from fifteen to nineteen years, males were more likely than females to be victims of assault. Males aged fifteen to twenty-nine years were most likely to be victims. From age thirty, the rate of victimisation for males decreased steadily. The age of victimisation for females peaked at the fifteen to nineteen year age cohort. From this age, victimisation decreased respectively for each age group. For 55% of victims of solved offences, the offender was known to them.

Across all age groups, males were also more likely to commit offences of assault (75% of offenders were male). Males aged fifteen to twenty-four years were most likely to offend. Of those people proceeded against, 55% were arrested and 28% were served with a notice to appear.

Sexual Offences

Sexual offences are particularly affected by an unpredictable variability in the reported rates due to the fact that offences occurring decades ago are still being reported to police. As offences are counted against the period in which they are reported, rather than when they occurred, increases in crime statistics do not always equate to an increase in victimisation.

The number of sexual offences reported to police in 2014/15 increased by 10% from the number reported in the previous financial year. The number reported equates to a rate of 123 offences reported per 100,000 persons. The increase in the rate is attributable to an increase of 14% in rape and attempted rape offences and 7% in other sexual offences. Of those offences reported in 2014/15, 4,709 (80%) were cleared, with an additional 1,086 offences cleared from previous periods.

Southern Region recorded the largest decrease in sexual offences with South Eastern Region and Brisbane Region recording the largest increase of 21%. The lowest rate was recorded by Brisbane Region.

The Sexual Offence category is one of two offence categories for which there are more female victims than male (82% of victims were female). Females aged

between ten and nineteen years were most likely to be victims of sexual offences. Females in this age group comprise 44% of total victims. For 75% of victims of solved offences, the offender was known to them. In 35% of solved cases, the offender was a family member.

In total, 125 females committed sexual offences in 2014/15. Thus, 95% of offenders were male. The age distribution of male offenders is unique for this offence type in that the distribution is almost uniform across all age groups with the exception of fifteen to nineteen year olds. The number of offenders is only slightly lower in the older age groups, with males aged fifty years and over representing 20% of all sexual offenders. For those proceeded against, 59% were arrested and 9% were served with a notice to appear.

Robbery

A decrease of 16% in the number of robberies reported to police in 2014/15 was due to a decrease in the number of armed robberies of 21% and unarmed robberies of 10%. A total of 1,319 offences were reported to police, which equates to a rate of 28 offences per 100,000 persons. Of these, 918 (70%) were cleared in the period in which they were reported, with an additional 109 offences cleared from previous periods.

The rate of robbery offences have decreased steadily since 2012/13. The number of reported armed robbery offences recorded a decrease of 21% and unarmed robbery recorded a 10% decrease in 2014/15. (Figure 3).

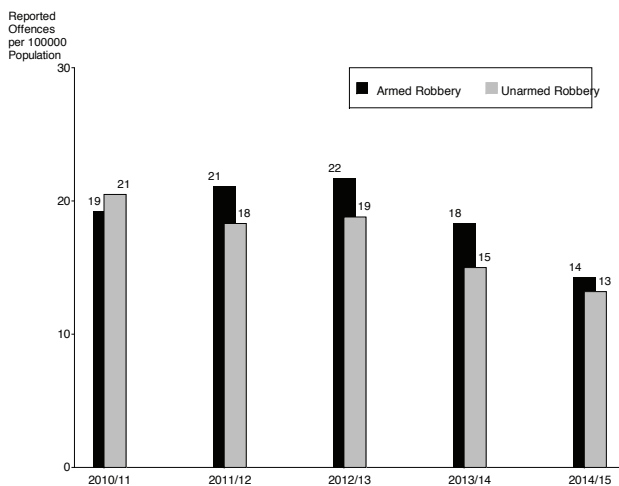


Figure 3: Reported robbery offences, Queensland, 2010/11 to 2014/15

All Regions reported decreases in Robbery offences in 2014/15. Central Region recorded the largest decrease of 25% and the lowest rate. South Eastern Region recorded the highest rate of robbery in the State.

For every age group, males were more likely than females to be victims of robbery, with males aged fifteen

to nineteen years most likely to be victims. Males were victim to robbery in 68% of all cases reported to police. For the majority of victims (70%) of solved robbery offences, the offender was unknown to them.

Males were significantly more likely than females to commit robbery offences (82% of offenders were male) and 30% of male offenders were aged between fifteen and nineteen years. Of those proceeded against for robbery offences, 81% were arrested and 8% issued with a notice to appear.

Other Offences Against the Person

The category of other offences against the person includes offences such as kidnapping and abduction, deprivation of liberty, extortion, stalking and life endangering acts.

In 2014/15, other offences against the person decreased by 13% from 3,176 to 2,759 offences. When taking into account the growth of Queensland's population, the rate decreased by 14%. Of the 2,759 reported other offences against the person, 77% were cleared in the same period. In addition, 350 offences reported in previous periods were also cleared.

Females represented 54% of victims of total other offences against the person. People most likely to be victims of other offences against the person were female and aged between fifteen and twenty-four years. For 52% of victims of solved offences, the offender was known to them.

Offences Against Property

The offence group of offences against property is comprised of a number of offence categories. As with offences against the person, the contribution of each category to the total differs significantly (Figure 4). In 2014/15, other theft (excl. unlawful entry) accounted for 49% of total offences against property and was the highest in volume of the property offence categories. Unlawful entry and other property damage each accounted for 16% of offences, with fraud accounting for 11%. As such, this broad offence group tends to be dominated by other theft (excl. unlawful entry) and unlawful entry with Intent, with offence categories such as arson having little effect.

The number of reported offences against property for the 2014/15 period decreased by 4% when compared with the 2013/14 period. Factoring in the growth of the Queensland population, offences against property were reported at a rate of 4,140 offences per 100,000 persons in 2014/15, a decrease of 5% from the previous year. Of all offences against property reported in 2014/15, 40% were cleared in the same period with a further 12,988 offences cleared from previous periods.

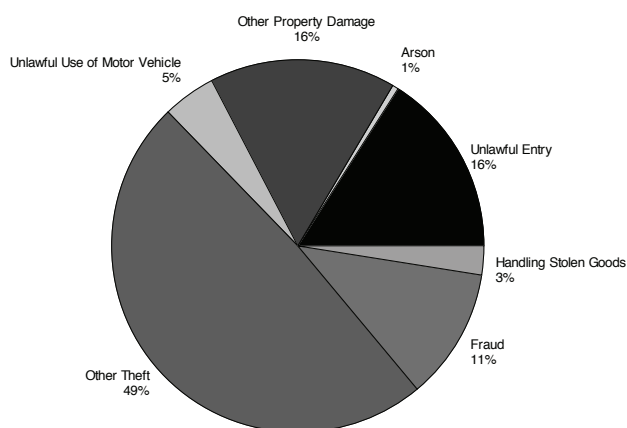


Figure 4: Offences against property (%) – 2014/15*

Footnote: * Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Therefore, although the percentages are correct, they do not add to 100%.

Northern Region recorded the highest rate of offences against property (5,272 offences per 100,000 persons) in the State, while South Eastern Region recorded the largest decrease (8%). Central Region recorded the lowest rate (3,342 offences per 100,000 persons).

Overall, offences against property were more likely to be committed by males (74% of offenders were male). Over one quarter (30%) of offenders proceeded against for offences against property were male aged between ten and nineteen years. Of the total people proceeded against for offences against property, 43% were arrested, 42% were served with a notice to appear and 8% were cautioned.

Unlawful Entry

The number of unlawful entry offences decreased by 15%. This equates to a 16% reduction in the rate once the growth of the Queensland population is taken into account. Of the 31,642 offences reported to police in 2014/15, 7,969 or 25% were cleared in the same period with a further 1,766 offences cleared from previous periods.

The number of unlawful entry of dwellings decreased by 18%, the number of unlawful entry of shops decreased by 25% and unlawful entry of other premises decreased by 5%.

All five of the Regions recorded decreases, the largest of which was South Eastern Region and Southern Region (20%). Northern Region recorded the highest rate (999 offences per 100,000 persons) while Central Region recorded the lowest rate (521 offences per 100,000 persons).

Most unlawful entry offences were committed by males (87%), of those, 64% were male aged under twenty-five years. Of all offenders proceeded against for unlawful entry offences, 61% were arrested, 8% cautioned and 22% served with a notice to appear.

Arson

Arson is the lowest in volume of the offences against property categories and, as such, exerts very little influence on the offences against property total. Arson offences decreased by 5% from 2013/14 to 2014/15. The rate of offences decreased by 6%, from 25 to 24 offences per 100,000 persons. Of the 1,139 offences reported in 2014/15, 287 (25%) were cleared in the same period. An additional 38 offences were cleared from previous periods.

Brisbane and South Eastern Regions recorded decreases of 23% and 24% respectively. Northern Region recorded the largest increase (23%), and Brisbane Region recorded the lowest rate. The highest rate was recorded by South Eastern Region.

This year, 85% of offenders were male with fifteen to nineteen year old males being the most likely to be proceeded against for arson. Approximately 55% of offenders were arrested, 15% cautioned and 14% served with a notice to appear.

Other Property Damage

The number of other property damage offences reported in 2014/15 decreased (12%) when compared to the previous financial year. The rate of offences decreased by 13%, from 768 to 667 offences per 100,000 persons. Of those offences reported to police in 2014/15, 10,932 (34%) were cleared during this

period, with an additional 1,527 offences cleared from previous time periods.

Northern Region recorded the highest rate of 1,135 offences per 100,000 persons. The largest decrease was recorded by Brisbane Region (20%) where the lowest rate was also reported (494 offences per 100,000 persons).

As with most offence types, fifteen to nineteen year old males were most likely to be proceeded against for other property damage offences. Only 18% of offenders were female and only 10% of all offenders were aged forty years or more. In total, 44% of offenders were arrested for this offence type, 12% were cautioned and 36% were served with a notice to appear.

Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle

The rate of unlawful use of motor vehicle offences decreased by 12% in 2014/15. This reduction is equivalent to 1,147 fewer offences reported during 2014/15.

In 2014/15, 9,145 unlawful use of motor vehicle offences were reported to police. Of these, 4,022 (44%) were cleared during this period, with an additional 657 offences cleared from previous periods (note: for recovery rates see page 13). In 2014/15, unlawful use of motor vehicle offences were reported at a rate of 191 offences for every 100,000 persons.

The largest decrease in unlawful use of motor vehicle offences was recorded in Southern Region. The highest rate was reported in South Eastern Region and Central Region reported the lowest rate of 113 offences per 100,000 persons.

Males aged fifteen to nineteen years were most likely to commit unlawful use of motor vehicle offences (33% of male offenders were in this group). Thirty six percent of female offenders were aged fifteen to nineteen years. Approximately 64% of offenders were arrested and 23% were served with a notice to appear.

Other Theft (excluding Unlawful Entry)

The rate of other theft (excluding unlawful entry) offences decreased by 4% from 2013/14 to 2014/15. This category is the highest in volume of the offences against property categories and thus exerts a significant influence on property crime as a total. In 2014/15, 96,854 other theft offences were reported to police, of which 37% were cleared during this period. A further 5,218 were cleared from previous periods.

Three of the four sub-categories of other theft offences recorded decreases in the number of offences reported: stealing from dwellings (6%), steal from vehicles (7%), and other stealing (3%).

The highest rate of other theft (excluding unlawful entry) occurred in South Eastern Region while the lowest rate was recorded in Central Region in the year under review. Southern Region recorded the largest decrease (7%) of other theft (excluding unlawful entry) offences during 2014/15.

The proportion of female offenders for other theft was higher than for most other offence types at 34%, or just under one third. For both males and females, those in the fifteen to nineteen year age group were most likely to commit other theft offences. Arrest rates are low for this offence type at 34%, while 51% were served with a notice to appear. Ninety-four percent of offenders cautioned were juvenile (i.e. aged between ten and sixteen years).

Fraud

Queensland recorded an increase in the number of offences per 100,000 persons in most sub-categories of fraud offences during the current period; fraud by credit card offences (20%), Identity fraud offences (52%) and other fraud offences (36%). This resulted in an overall increase of 26% in total fraud offences. Fraud by computer and fraud by cheque offences reported decreases of 11% and 33% respectively in 2014/15.

Of the 22,644 offences reported in 2014/15, 14,904 (66%) were cleared in the same period with a further 3,468 offences cleared from previous periods.

Southern Region recorded the highest rate of fraud offences as well as the largest increase in these offences. Central Region recorded the lowest rate in the State.

A relatively higher proportion of females commit fraud offences compared with other offence types. Approximately 35% of offenders were female. Males aged fifteen to nineteen years and females aged twenty-five to twenty-nine years were most likely to commit fraud offences. Forty percent of offenders were arrested, while 47% were issued with a notice to appear.

Handling Stolen Goods

Handling stolen goods offences recorded a decrease in the number of offences reported. The rate of offences decreased by 3%, from 108 to 105 offences per 100,000 persons. Of the total 5,012 offences reported to police in 2014/15, 4,586 (92%) were cleared in the same period, with a further 314 offences cleared from previous periods.

Northern Region recorded the highest rate of handling stolen goods offences while Southern Region recorded the only increase (6%). Central Region recorded the lowest rate and Brisbane Region recorded the greatest decrease (8%) in the year under review.

As with most offence categories, males were most likely to commit handling stolen goods offences (73% of offenders were male) and males in the fifteen to nineteen year age group were most likely to offend. Offenders were more likely to be served with a notice to appear (52%) although 41% were arrested.

Other Offences

Other offences comprises a range of disparate offence categories. These categories are distinct from offences against the person and property in that they are generally offences detected by police rather than being reported by the public. Drug offences, traffic offences and prostitution offences are examples of this. Trends and patterns in the levels of other offences are therefore often indicative of specific and proactive initiatives of the Police Service rather than being indicative of the level of crime actually occurring. As such, increases are often seen as a positive improvement of police detection rates.

As a total, the number of other offences increased by 8% state-wide from 202,079 offences recorded in 2013/14 to 218,871 offences recorded in 2014/15. This equates to a rate of 4,566 offences per 100,000 persons in 2014/15.

Northern Region recorded the highest rate of other offences in the state while Brisbane Region recorded the lowest rate. The greatest increase was recorded by Southern Region.

Drug Offences

Increases in four of the five sub-categories of drug offences contributed to an overall increase of 22%. When taking into account the growth of Queensland's population, drug offences recorded an increase of 20%.

Southern Region recorded the highest rate of drug offences in the State. All five Regions reported increases with South Eastern Region recording the largest increase. The lowest rate was recorded by Brisbane Region (1,318 offences per 100,000 persons).

Breach of Domestic Violence Protection Orders

Breach of domestic violence protection orders are a breach of a court order and, as such, are classed as "Regina" offences; hence, the inclusion under other offences and not offences against the person.

The 2014/15 financial year saw a 14% increase in the number of breach of domestic violence protection orders. A total of 16,654 offences were reported to police, equating to a rate of 347 offences per 100,000 persons.

Brisbane Region recorded the lowest rate of Breach of Domestic Violence Protection Order offences in the State, while Northern Region recorded the highest. South Eastern Region recorded the largest increase (22%).

Weapons Act Offences

The number of Weapons Act offences increased by 22% from 4,940 offences reported in 2013/14 to 6,032 offences reported in 2014/15. The overall increase is attributable to increases in two of the five weapons sub-categories. Increases were recorded in possession and/or use other weapons; restricted items (15%) and Weapons Act offences – other (38%).

All five regions recorded increases in Weapons Act offences during the 2014/15 financial year. Northern Region recorded the largest increase of 33%. During 2014/15, Southern Region recorded the highest rate of 167 offences per 100,000 persons while Brisbane Region recorded the lowest rate of 82 offences per 100,000 persons.

Good Order Offences

The number of good order offences increased by 4% from 2013/14 to 2014/15. A total of 60,346 offences were detected by police which equates to a rate of 1,259 offences for every 100,000 persons. An increase in resist incite hinder obstruct, fare evasion and public nuisance offences contributed to the overall increase.

Northern Region recorded the largest increase of 5% and the highest rate of good order offences. The lowest rate was recorded by Brisbane Region and the only decrease was reported by South Eastern Region.

Traffic and Related Offences

Traffic and related offences decreased by 8% from 42,529 to 39,093 offences. Three of the four sub-categories recorded decreases of which the largest was a 12% decrease in disqualified driving. Drink driving is the largest in volume of the sub-categories and, as such, exerts the greatest influence on the traffic and related offences total. The rates for this sub-category recorded an 8% decrease per 100,000 persons.

South Eastern Region recorded the largest decrease while Brisbane Region recorded the lowest rate. Northern Region recorded the highest rate of 1,229 offences per 100,000 persons.

Please note that the traffic and related offences category referred to above includes dangerous operation of a vehicle, drink driving, disqualified driving and interfere with the mechanism of a motor vehicle only. For information on Speed and Red Light Camera Notices or Random Breath Tests please refer to the traffic section on pages 135-142.

