

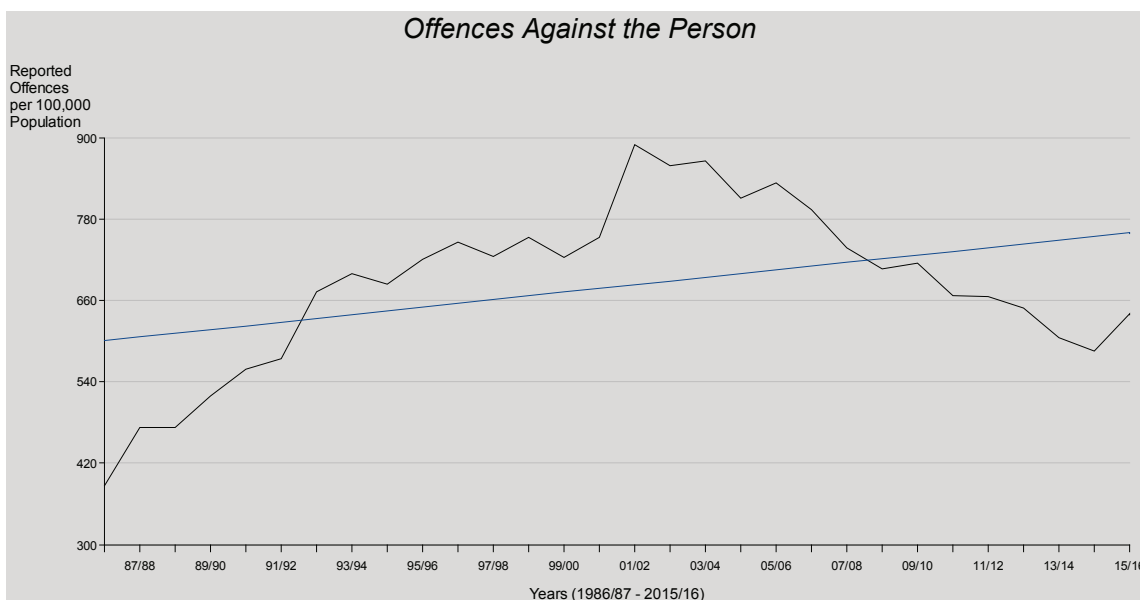
## Annual Crime Trends

In this section, an examination of the number of selected offences per 100,000 persons is provided for a thirty year period. The rates provided in this section are based on Estimated Residential Populations, or projections thereof, at 30 June each year, provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Queensland Government Statistician's Office.

Since 1986/87, many legislative changes have occurred, and the classification, recording and reporting systems used by the Queensland Police Service have evolved. Therefore, some offence categories, for which thirty years of comparable statistics are not available, have not been included.

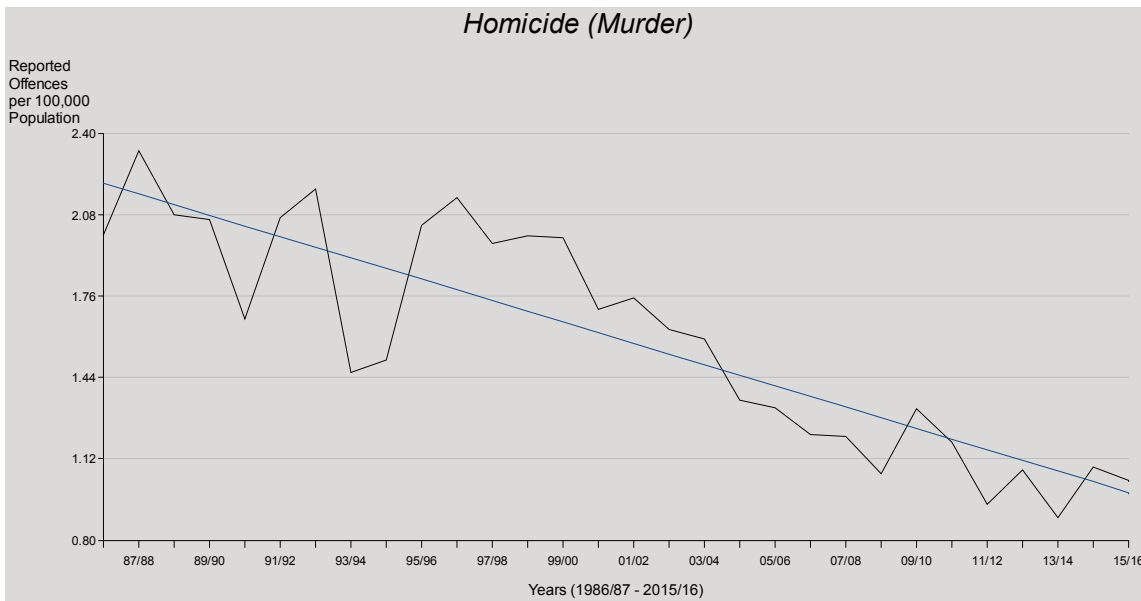
The offence categories which have been included in this section are those that have a reasonable degree of consistency and comparability for the past thirty years. Some of these categories (such as unlawful entry and drink driving) have undergone considerable change at certain times. These breaks in continuity have been noted in the accompanying text where appropriate.

Prior to 1991/92, all crime statistics produced by the Queensland Police Service were based on the date the information related to the crime was received at the Information Bureau (and its precursors) in Police Headquarters. Since 1991/92, the reference date has been the date the offence is reported to police.

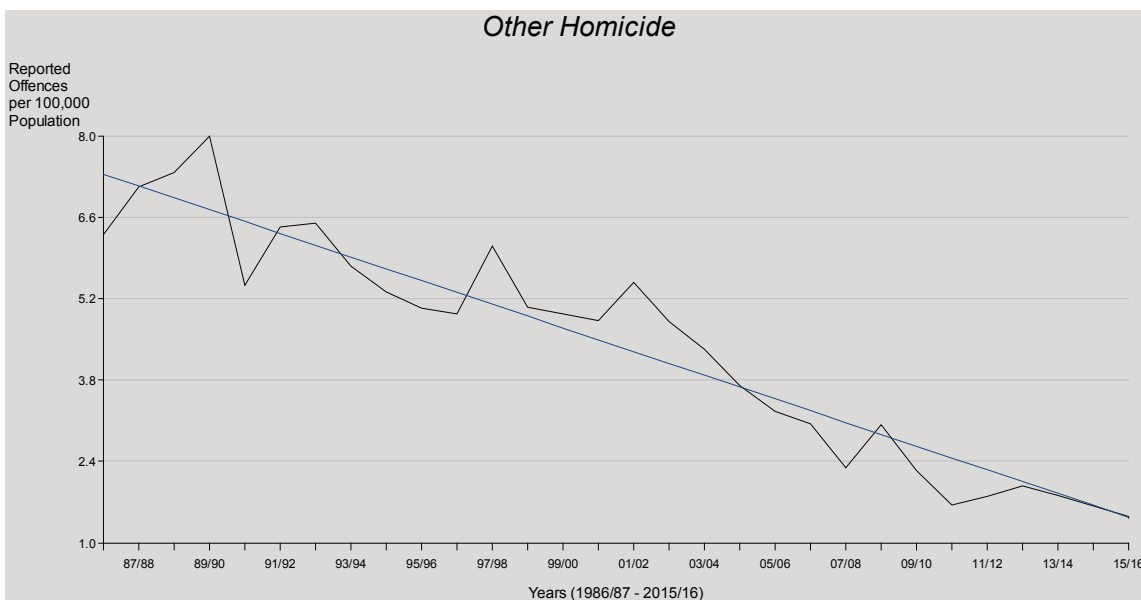


While this broad offence aggregate is comprised of a number of different offence categories, the offence category of assault tends to dominate offences against the person. As such, the offences against the person time series largely reflects the assault time series. Offences against the person has seen an increase during the late 1980's and early 1990's. The rate stabilised from the mid to late 1990's and has shown a decreasing trend from 2001 to 2014/15, but increased again in 2015/16.

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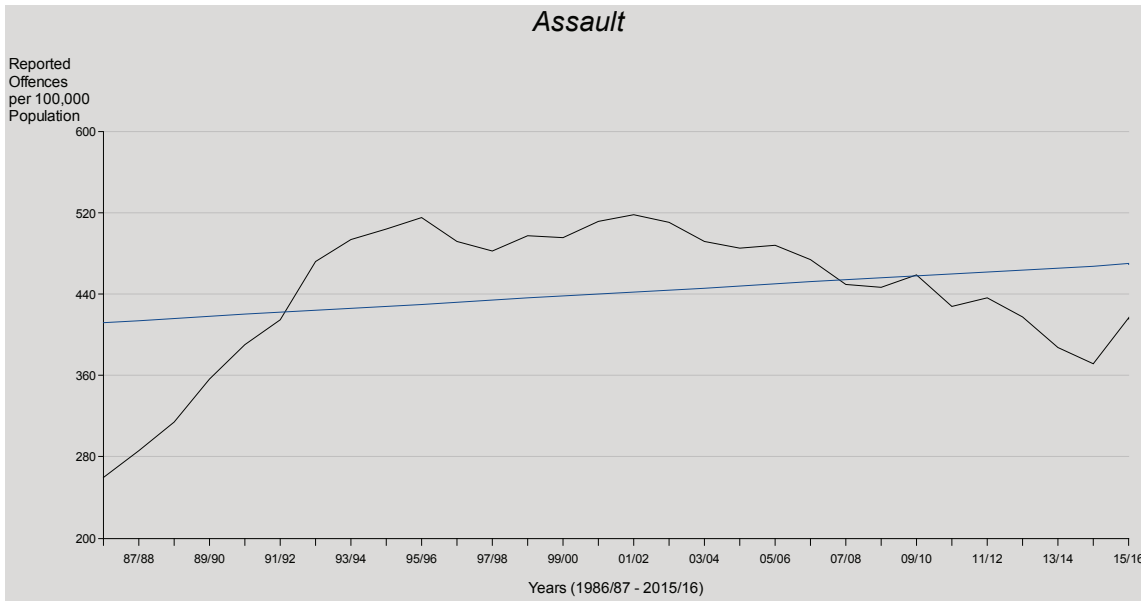


Homicide (murder) is a small volume offence and, as such, is subject to sizeable fluctuations from year to year. Overall, however, the homicide (murder) rate has changed little. Following a peak in 1996/97, the rate of homicide (murder) has been steadily decreasing until 2011/12. In 2012/13 the rate increased by 14%, followed by a decrease of 17% and an increase of 22% in 2013/14 and 2014/15 respectively. In 2015/16 the homicide (murder) rate decreased by 5% when compared with the previous year.

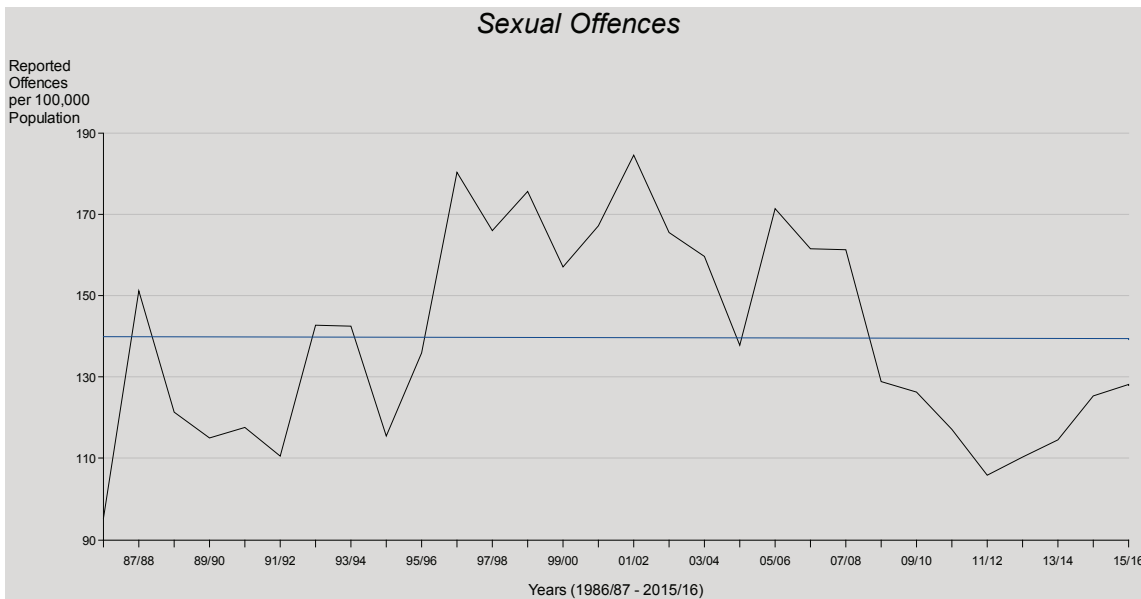


Other homicide is also a small volume offence category and, as such, is subject to sizeable fluctuations from year to year. From 1987/88 to 1989/90, other homicide offences were reported at a slightly higher rate; however the rate has steadily decreased since 1989/90. In 2015/16 there was an 11% decrease in the rate of other homicides, largely as a result of decreases in conspiracy to murder, manslaughter (excluding by driving and striking) and driving causing death offences.

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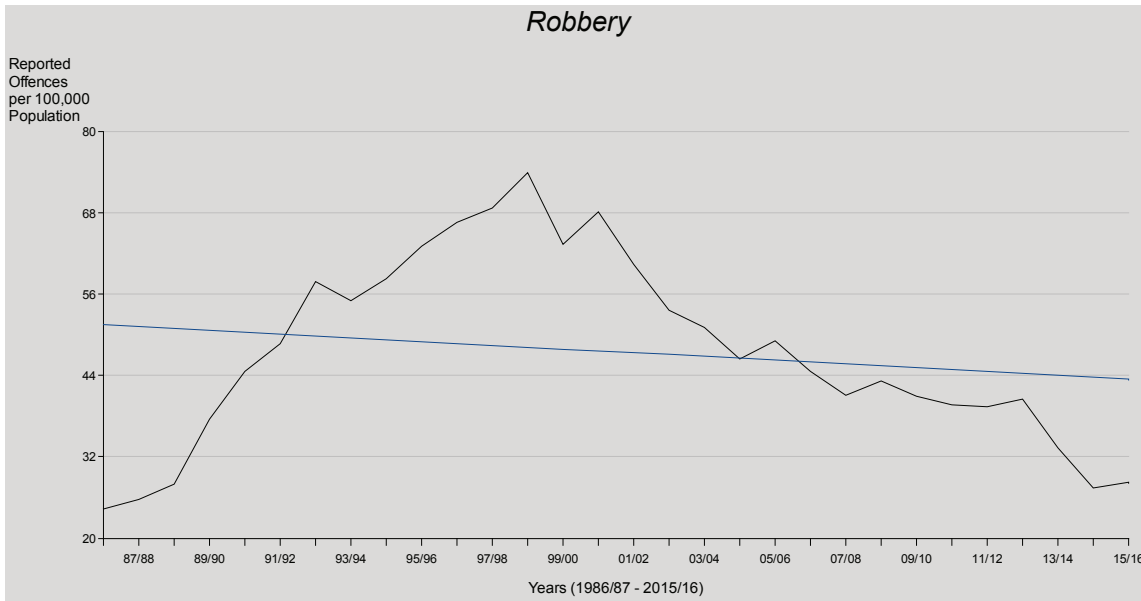


Looking at the overall trend, the rate of assaults steadily increased over the 1980's and into the early 1990's. From 2000/01 to 2014/15, the rate of assault has been steadily decreasing. During 2015/16, the rate of assaults increased by 12% from that reported in the previous year.

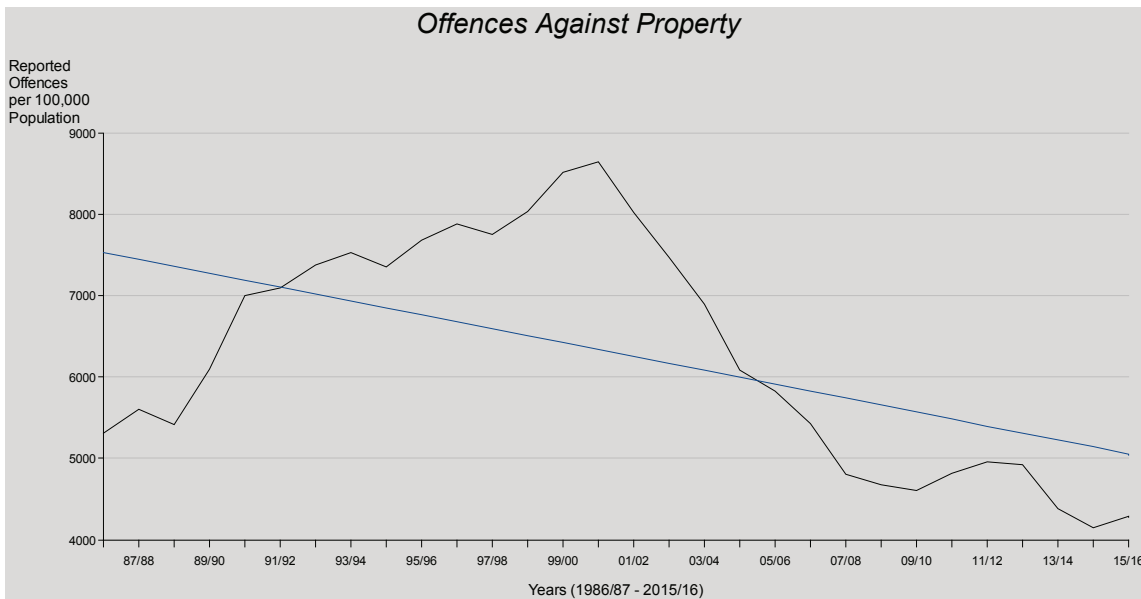


Sexual offences may be reported to police many years after the offences actually occur and there are often numerous charges preferred against one offender. These factors have resulted in the fluctuations seen in the graph above. Queensland recorded an increase of 2% in the rate of sexual offences in the year under review compared with the previous year.

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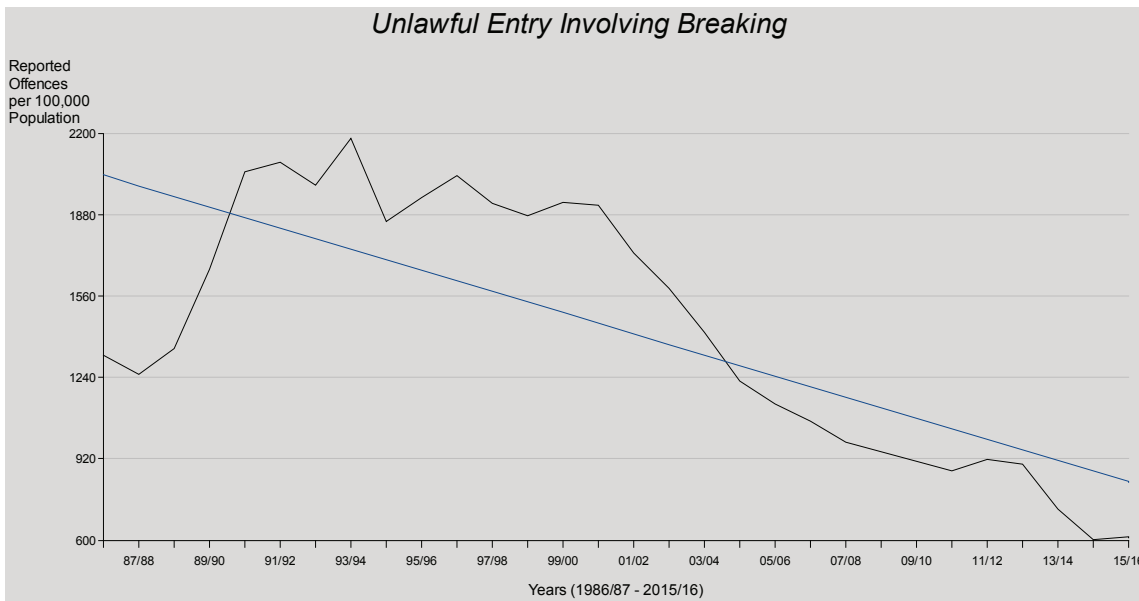


Robbery offences increased sharply between 1988/89 and 1998/99. From 2000/01 to 2014/15, the overall decreasing trend for robbery is apparent in the graph above. The rate of robbery offences increased by 3% in 2015/16. This is attributed to an increase in unarmed robbery offences.



Offences against property increased steadily from 1986/87 to 2000/01. From 2000/01 to 2009/10, the rate of total offences against property has decreased. In 2010/11, the rate increased by 4%, followed by a 3% increase in 2011/12. Decreases of 1%, 11% and 5% followed in 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 respectively. An increase of 3% was recorded for 2015/16.

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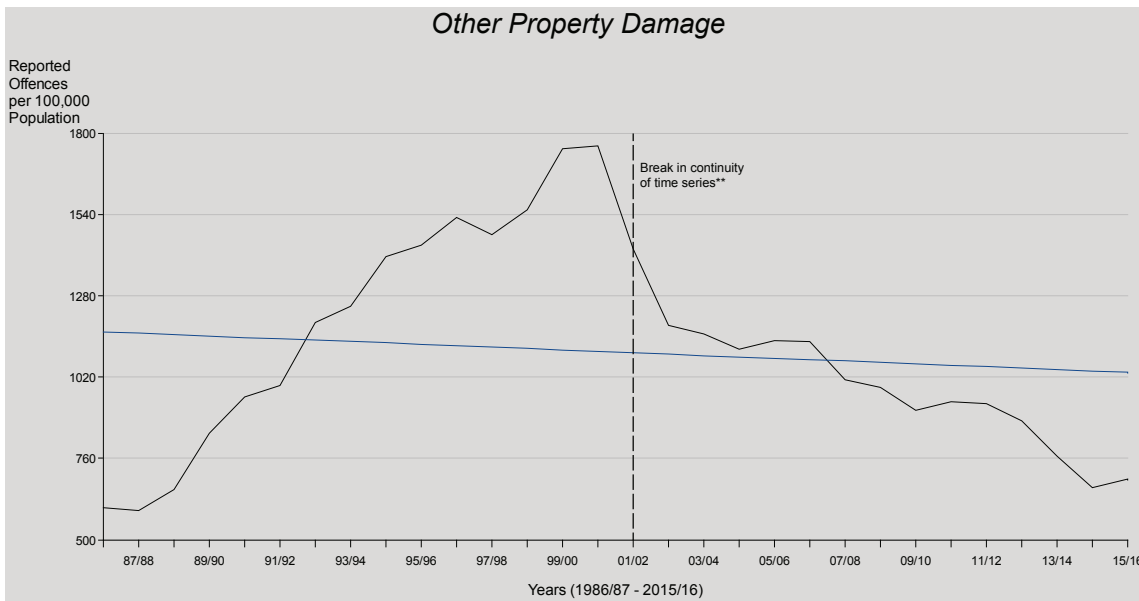
Unlawful entry involving breaking offences reported a steady increase in from 1987/88 to 1992/93. Throughout the 1990's the rate stabilised and has recorded a decreasing trend since 2000/01. The rate of unlawful entry involving breaking offences decreased by 19% in 2013/14, with a further decrease of 16% in 2014/15. In the current period under review, there was an increase of 1% for unlawful entry involving breaking offences.

Note: The category of unlawful entry involving breaking is a subset of unlawful entry as used in this publication. Unlawful entry involving breaking consists of four offences: burglary with breaking, burglary with violence or threats with breaking, enter with intent – shop with breaking and enter with intent – other premises with breaking.

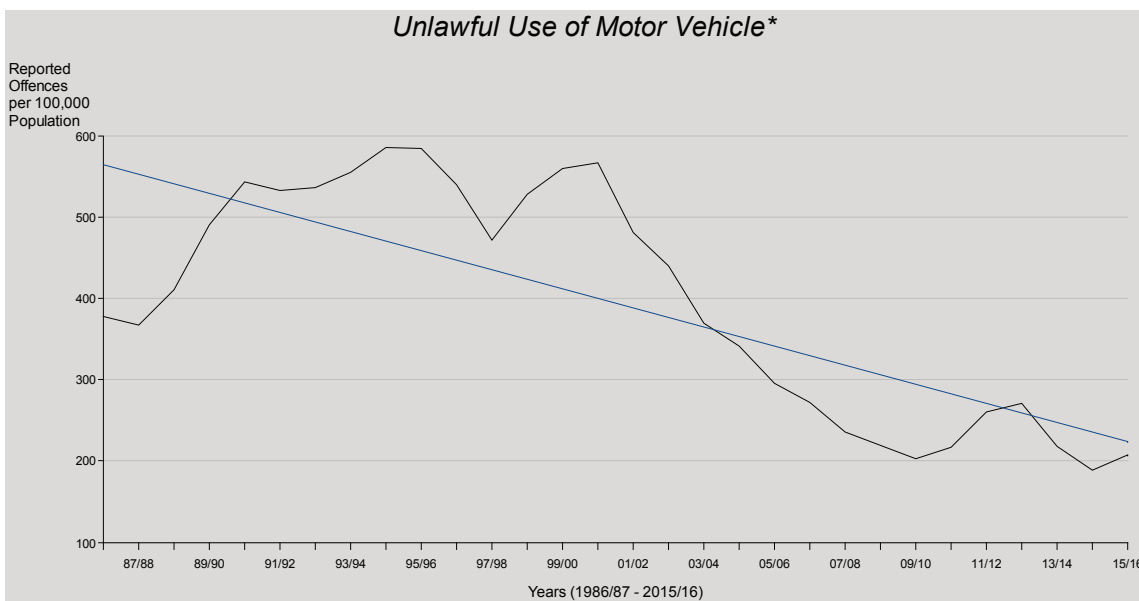


Arson offences increased steadily up to 1996/97. Since then, the rate of arson offences has decreased until 2008/09 where there is an increase of 12% followed by another increase in 2011/12 of 24%. The past four financial years from 2012/13 have seen decreases of 7%, 19%, 8% and 1% respectively.

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This offence category has increased steadily up to 2000/01. Since then, other property damage offences have decreased at a steady rate. A change in recording practices for this offence contributed to a 19% decrease in the rate for 2001/02. The rate of other property damage offences have seen a decrease from 2011/12 to 2014/15, but recorded an increase of 4% in the 2015/16 period.

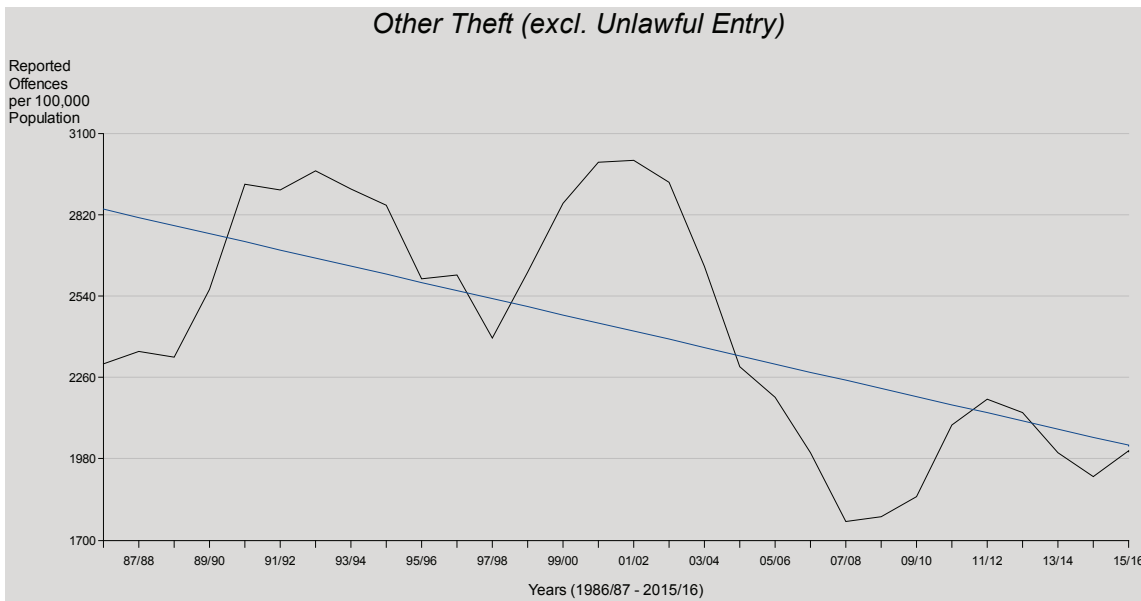


Unlawful use of motor vehicle offences recorded a substantial decrease over the period 1995/96 to 1997/98. Rates then rose sharply to again equal the high rates seen in the mid 1990's. From 2000/01, rates declined until 2010/11 where increases were reported until 2013/14. For the past two financial years, the rate of unlawful use of motor vehicle offences has reported a decrease of 13% and an increase of 10% for 2015/16.

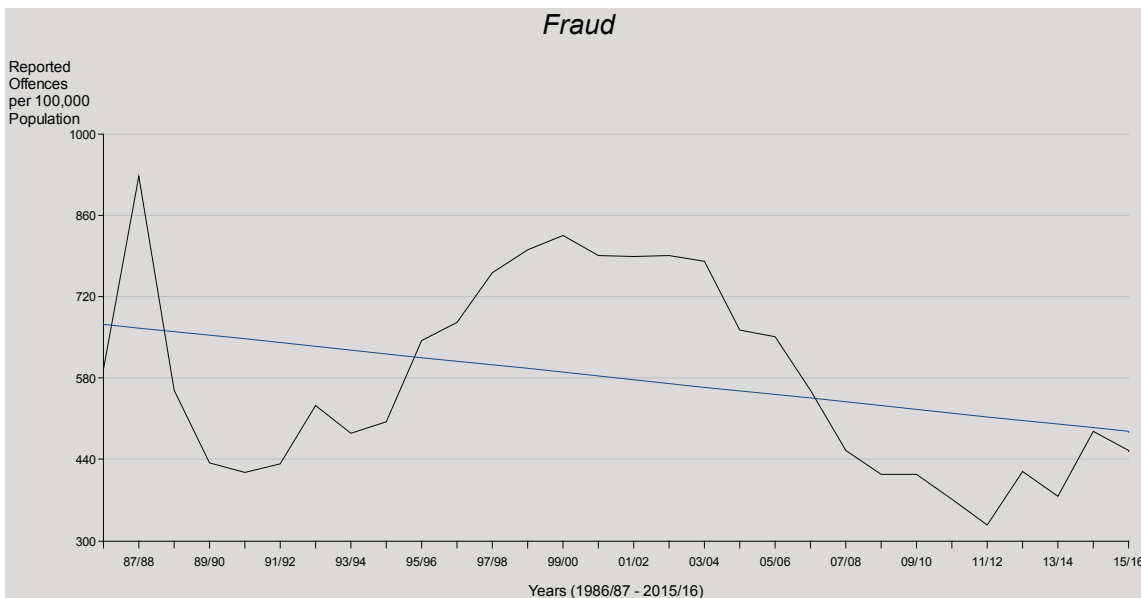
\*\* The break in continuity is the result of a policy change implemented in December 2001 (see Explanatory Notes section on page 179).

\* The total for unlawful use of motor vehicle includes attempted offences.

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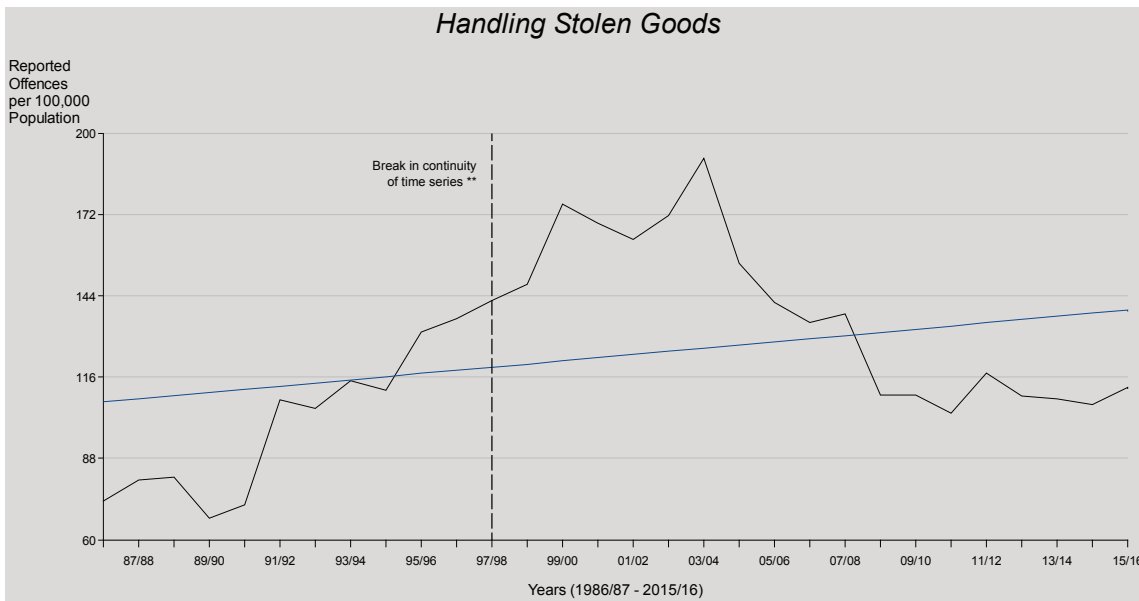


As with most offences against property sub-categories, the sharp increase recorded during the late 1980s is evident in the graph above and this sharp increase was repeated in the late 1990s. A decreasing trend in other theft (excl. unlawful entry) offences was recorded from 2000/01 to 2007/08. From 2008/09 a reverse in this trend can be seen by increases of 1% in 2008/09, 4% in 2009/10, 13% in 2010/11 and 4% in 2011/12. In the current year under review, the rate of offences has increased by 5% following a decrease of 4% in 2014/15.

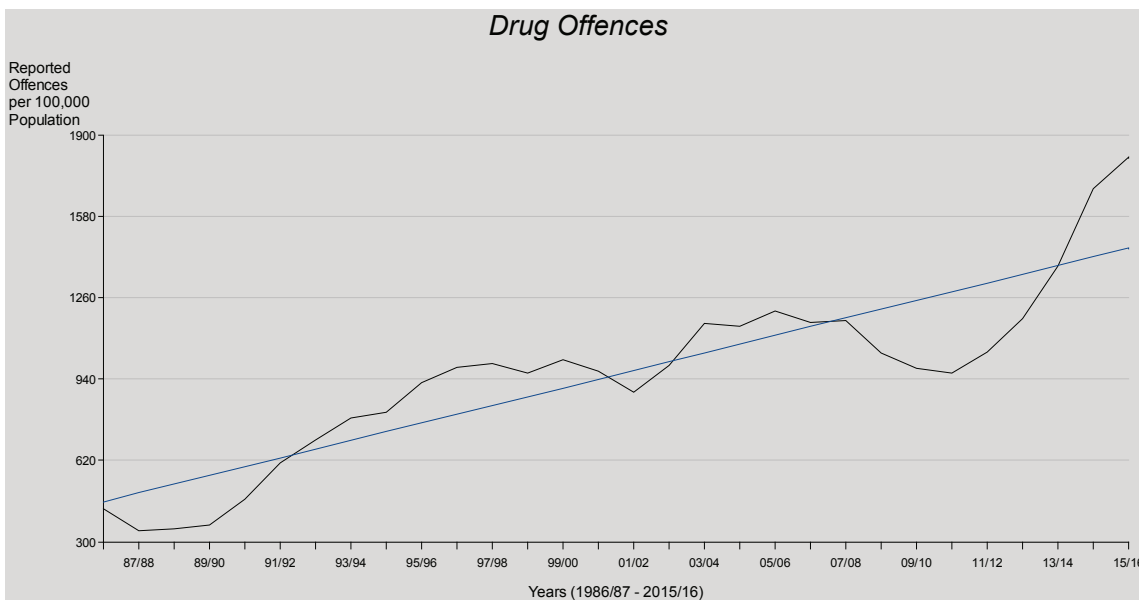


Fraud offences increased sharply from 1986/87 to 1987/88. The sudden decrease from 1987/88 to 1990/91 is due to a change in policy by banking institutions regarding the reporting of offences, rather than an actual reduction in offences. The figures reported for 2000/01 and 2001/02 effectively halted a steadily increasing trend evident over the last decade. From 2002/03, the rate has steadily decreased until 2011/12. In 2015/16, these offences have reported a decrease of 7% which is attributed to increases in fraud by computer, cheque and other fraud, compared to the 30% increase in 2014/15.

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Handling stolen goods was expanded in 1997/98 to include the sub-categories possess, receive, etc. tainted property and other handling stolen goods\*\*. Possess, etc. tainted property is now the largest in volume of the offence sub-categories resulting in the necessity for caution when making comparisons prior to and following this change. In the year under review, the rate of handling stolen goods offences increased by 5%.



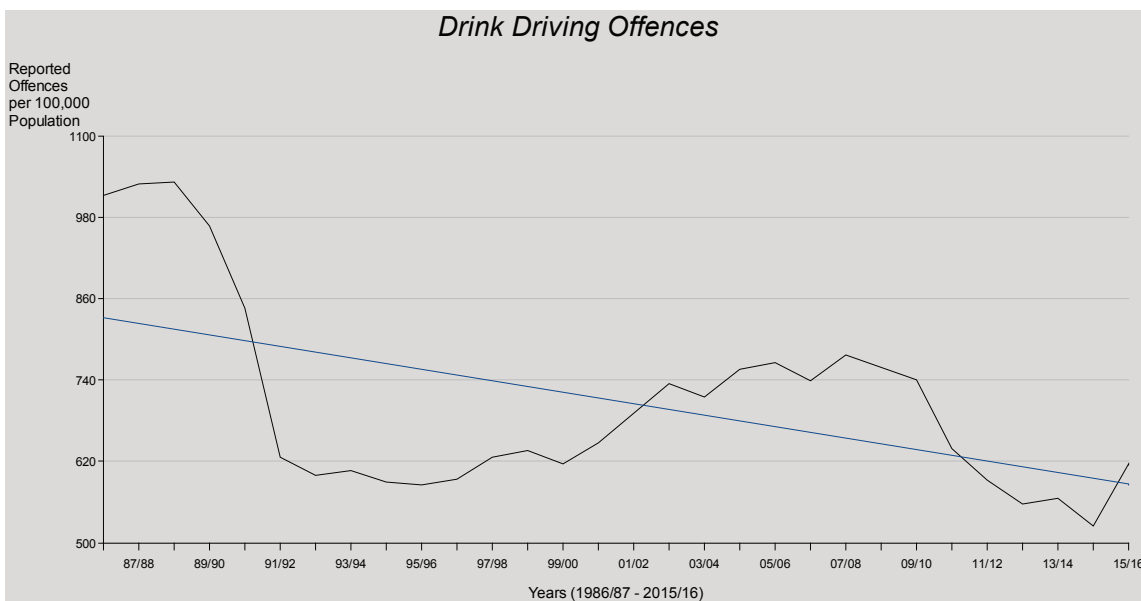
Apart from a period in the mid to late 1980s, drug offences have increased up to the current period under review. Between 2005/06 to 2010/11 there is a decrease of offences followed once again by an increasing trend. The current period under review has recorded an increase of 7% in the rate of drug offences.



# Annual Crime Trends



A dominant feature of the time series is the decrease in reported good order offences from 1988/89 to 1991/92 and the subsequent increase following that period. Since 1995/96, good order offences have been steadily increasing until 2010/11 which reported a 10% decrease. The last two financial years have reported increases of 3% and 1% respectively.



Analysis of the drink driving offence time series is difficult due to the many changes that have affected the overall trend (see Explanatory Notes, page 179). The graph remained stable at around 600 offences per 100,000 persons from 1991/92 to 2000/01. From 2000/01 to 2007/08 an increase in these offences has been reported. From 2008/09 to 2014/15, offences have steadily decreased. In the current period, there was an increase of 17% in drink driving offences.

