
6 Police services

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Attachment tables

Attachment tables are identified in references throughout this chapter by an 'A' suffix (for example, table 6A.3). A full list of attachment tables is provided at the end of this chapter, and the attachment tables themselves are available on the CD-ROM enclosed with the Report or from the Review website at <www.pc.gov.au/gsp>.

This chapter reports on the performance of police services. These services comprise the operations of the police agencies of each State and Territory government. The

national policing function of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and other national non-police law enforcement bodies (such as the Australian Crime Commission) are not included in the report.

Performance is reported against four activity areas (community safety, crime, road safety and judicial services). The main efficiency indicator, expenditure on police services per person, combines all the activity areas.

It should be noted that the use of the term ‘offender’ in this chapter refers to a person who is alleged to have committed an offence and is not the same as the definition used in chapter 8 (‘Corrective services’), where the term ‘offender’ refers to a person who has been convicted of an offence and is subject to a correctional sentence.

The major improvements to reporting on police services this year include:

- the addition of data for operational, and non-operational, police staff per 100 000 people, in the profile section
- comparable and complete data for ‘Proportion of lower court cases resulting in a guilty plea or finding’ indicator, in the Judicial services outcomes section.

6.1 Profile of police services

Service overview

Police services are the principal means through which State and Territory governments pursue the achievement of a safe and secure environment for the community. This is through the investigation of criminal offences, response to life threatening situations, provision of services to the judicial process and provision of road safety and traffic management. Police services also respond to more general needs in the community — for example, assisting emergency management, mediating family and neighbourhood disputes, delivering messages regarding death or serious illness, and advising on general policing and crime issues. Additionally, police are involved in various activities which aim to improve public safety and prevent crime.

Roles and responsibilities

Policing services are predominantly the responsibility of State and Territory government agencies. They include the ACT community policing function

performed by the AFP under an arrangement between the Minister for Justice and Customs of the Commonwealth and the ACT for the provision of police services to the ACT. This occurs through a strategic partnership with the ACT Government, underpinned by a detailed purchaser/provider agreement. The Australian Government is responsible for the AFP.

While each jurisdiction's police service is autonomous, there is significant cooperation through bilateral arrangements, common national police services and the *Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management — Police* (formerly the *Australasian Police Ministers' Council*). The majority of common police services are grouped under the Australia and New Zealand Police Advisory Agency (ANZPAA), the Australian Institute of Police Management and CrimTrac.

Size and scope of sector

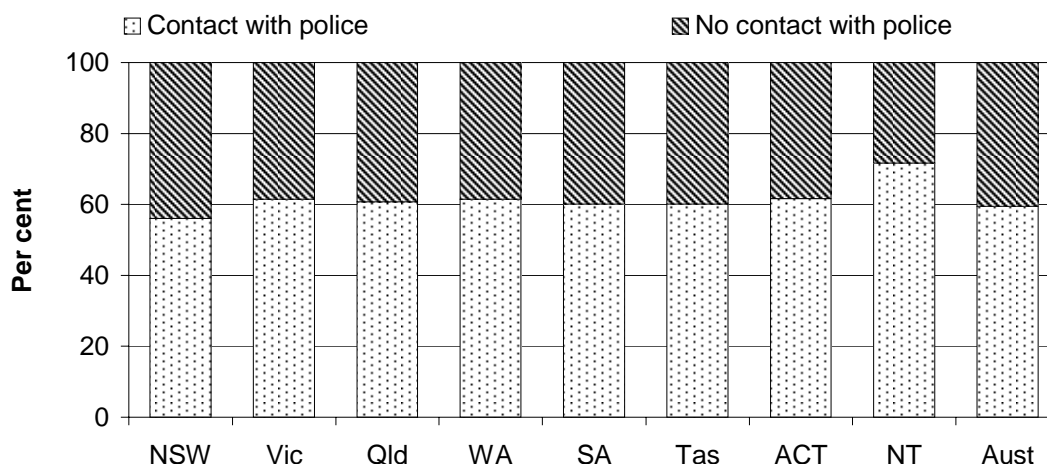
Client groups

Broadly, the whole community is a 'client' of the police. Police services aim to provide individuals with protection, help and reassurance, and everyone is required to comply with the law. Some members of the community, who have more direct dealings with the police, can be considered a specific client group, for example:

- victims of crime
- those suspected of committing offences
- those reporting criminal incidents
- those involved in traffic-related incidents
- third parties (such as witnesses to crime and people reporting accidents)
- those requiring police services for non-crime-related matters.

The *National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing* (NSCSP) indicated that, in 2007-08, 59.5 per cent of respondents nationally had experienced some form of 'business' contact with police in the previous 12 months (figure 6.1).

Figure 6.1 Police contact in the past 12 months, 2007-08^a



^a Data are based on survey results and subject to sampling error. Confidence intervals are included in section 6.8.

Source: Australia and New Zealand Police Advisory Agency (ANZPAA) (unpublished); table 6A.13.

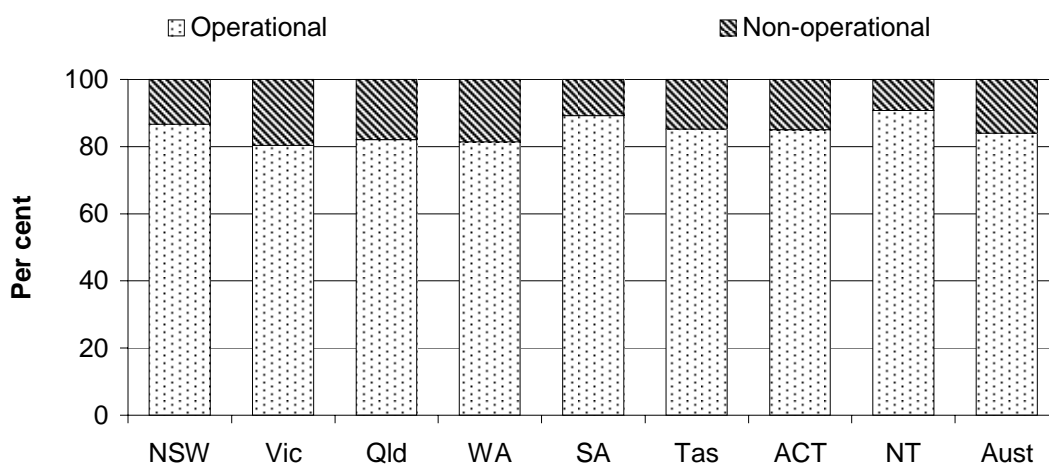
Staffing

Police officers exercise police powers, including the power to arrest, summons, caution, detain, fingerprint and search. Specialised activities may be outsourced or undertaken by administrative (unsworn) staff. This 'civilianisation' of police services has three key objectives:

- to reduce the involvement of sworn police staff in duties that do not require police powers (for example, administrative work, investigation support and intelligence analysis)
- to manage the increasing need for specialist skills more effectively
- to reduce costs.

An operational police staff member is any member of the police force whose primary duty is the delivery of police or police-related services to an external client (where an external client predominately refers to members of the public but may also include law enforcement outputs delivered to other government departments). Approximately 83.9 per cent of staff were operational in Australia in 2007-08 (figure 6.2).

Figure 6.2 Police staff, by operational status, 2007-08^{a, b}

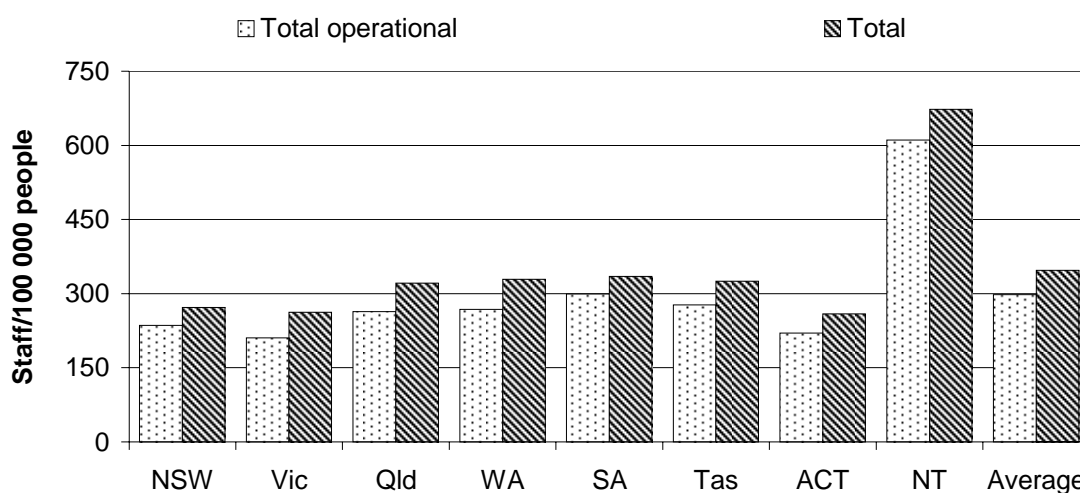


^a Data are FTE staff except for the NT where data are based on a head count at 30 June. ^b For the NT, sworn police officers include police auxiliaries and Aboriginal community police officers.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 6A.11.

Nationally, there was a total of 62 455 operational and non-operational staff in 2007-08 (table 6.1). Nationally, on average, there was 298 total operational police staff per 100 000 people (figure 6.3).

Figure 6.3 Police staff per 100 000 people, 2007-08^{a, b}



^a Police staff attributed to the national policing function of the AFP are excluded from these data. ^b Data are FTE staff except for the NT where data are based on a head count at 30 June.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 6.1 and AA.2.

Table 6.1 **Police staff per 100 000 population, 2007-08^{a, b}**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Total</i>
Police staff numbers									
Total operational	16 316	11 052	11 136	5 710	4 761	1 375	750	1 329	52 429
Total	18 822	13 755	13 570	7 016	5 333	1 613	882	1 464	62 455
Population numbers									
Estimates at 31 December 2007 (100 000s)	69.27	52.46	42.28	21.31	15.92	4.96	3.41	2.18	211.81
Police staff numbers per 100 000 population									
Total operational	236	211	263	268	299	277	220	611	248
Total	272	262	321	329	335	325	259	673	295

^a Police staff attributed to the national policing function of the AFP are excluded from these data. ^b Data are FTE staff except for the NT where data are based on a head count at 30 June.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished); tables 6A.1 to 6A.8 and AA.2.

6.2 Framework of performance indicators

Performance can be defined in terms of how well a service meets its objectives, given its operating environment. Performance indicators focus on outcomes and/or outputs aimed at meeting common, agreed objectives. The Steering Committee has identified four objectives of police services for the purposes of this Report (box 6.1).

Box 6.1 Objectives for police services

The key objectives for police services are:

- to allow people to undertake their lawful pursuits confidently and safely (reported in section 6.4, community safety)
- to bring to justice those people responsible for committing an offence (reported in section 6.5, crime)
- to promote safer behaviour on roads (reported in section 6.6, road safety)
- to support the judicial process to achieve efficient and effective court case management and judicial processing, providing safe custody for alleged offenders, and ensuring fair and equitable treatment of both victims and alleged offenders (reported in section 6.7, judicial services).

These objectives are to be met through the provision of services in an equitable and efficient manner.

The general performance framework for police services illustrates the content of the police services chapter (figure 6.4). The results reported in this chapter need to be considered in conjunction with data on demographic and geographic differences (see appendix A) and with other available information on jurisdiction-specific characteristics.

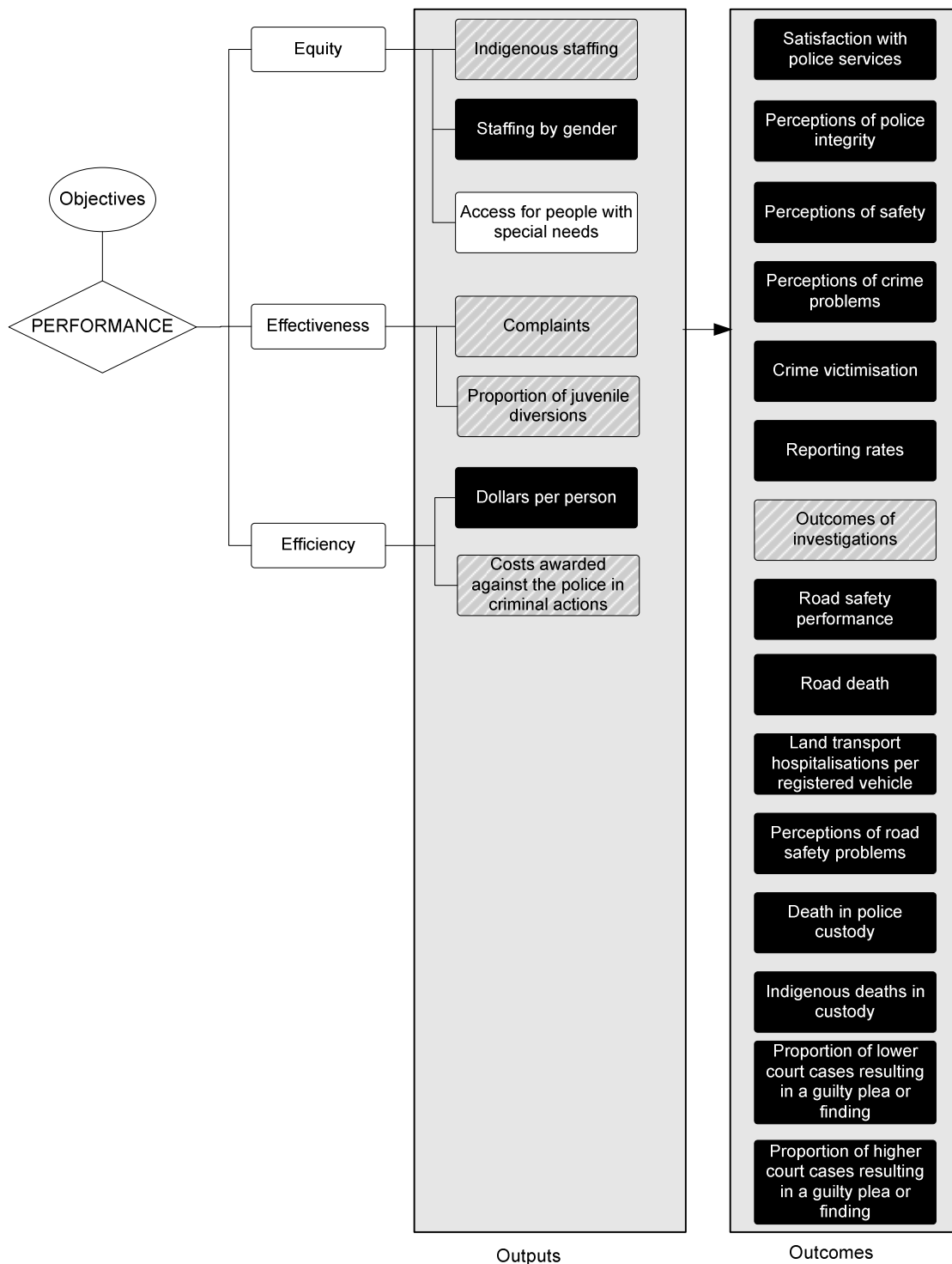
This chapter reports on indicators relevant to all police services (section 6.3) and also on principal police activity areas ('Community safety', 'Crime', 'Road safety' and 'Judicial services'). These are discussed in sections 6.4, 6.5, 6.6 and 6.7, respectively.

'Equity' is currently represented through two output indicators ('Indigenous staffing' and 'Police staff by gender'). As these two output indicators are relevant to all police services, they are discussed in section 6.3.

Under the 'effectiveness' measure, the output indicator 'Complaints' is discussed in section 6.3 as this indicator is relevant to all police services. The output indicator 'Proportion of juvenile diversions' is discussed in section 6.7.

As mentioned in the introduction of this chapter, the 'efficiency' measure ('dollars per person') is reported for all police services in section 6.3. An additional efficiency indicator for the 'Judicial services' activity 'costs awarded against the police in criminal actions' is reported in section 6.7.

Figure 6.4 General performance framework for the police services sector



Key to indicators

- Text** Data for these indicators comparable, subject to caveats to each chart or table
- Text** Data for these indicators not complete or not directly comparable
- Text** These indicators yet to be developed or data not collected for this Report: chapter contains explanatory text

6.3 Indicators relevant to all police services

The performance indicator framework identifies the core areas of police work. Within this context, certain indicators of police performance are not specific to any one particular area, but are relevant for all. These indicators include ‘dollars per person’, ‘satisfaction with police services’, ‘perceptions of police integrity’, ‘complaints’, ‘Indigenous staffing’ and ‘police staff by gender’.

Outputs

Outputs are the actual services delivered (while outcomes are the impact of these services on the status of an individual or group) (see chapter 1, section 1.5).

Efficiency

Dollars per person

‘Dollars per person’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to undertake activities associated with policing in an efficient and effective manner (box 6.2). Variations in policies, socioeconomic factors and geographic/demographic characteristics have an impact on expenditure per person for police services in each jurisdiction. The scope of activities undertaken by police services also varies across jurisdictions.

Box 6.2 Dollars per person

‘Dollars per person’ is defined as expenditure (adjusted for inflation) on policing per person.

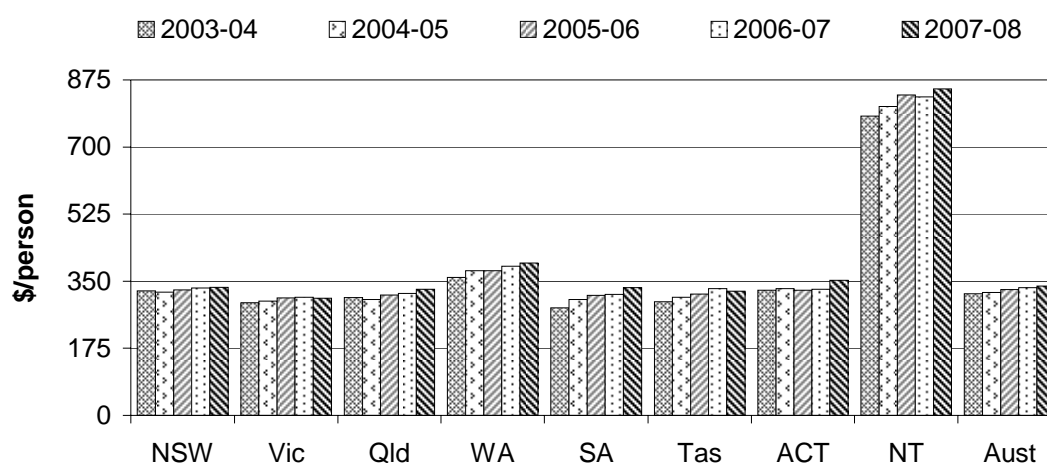
All else being equal, a decrease in expenditure per person represents an improvement in efficiency. However, care must be taken because efficiency data are difficult to interpret. Although high or increasing expenditure per person might reflect deteriorating efficiency, it might also reflect aspects of the service or characteristics of the policing environment (such as more effective policing or more challenging crime and safety situations). Similarly, low expenditure per person may reflect more desirable efficiency outcomes or lower quality (less intensive policing) or less challenging crime and safety situations.

Efficiency indicators thus need to be interpreted within the context of the effectiveness and equity indicators, to derive an holistic view of performance.

Data reported for this indicator are comparable.

Funding for police services comes almost exclusively from State and Territory government budgets, with some limited specific purpose Australian Government grants. Real recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources and payroll tax) on police services across Australia was approximately \$7.15 billion (or \$338 per person) in 2007-08 (figure 6.5).

Figure 6.5 Real recurrent expenditure per person (less revenue from own sources and payroll tax) on police services (2007-08 dollars)^{a, b, c}



^a Revenue from own sources includes user charges and other types of revenue (for example, revenue from sale of stores and plant). It excludes fine revenue, money received as a result of warrant execution, and revenue from the issuing of firearm licences. ^b Real expenditure based on the ABS gross domestic product price deflator (2007-08 = 100) (table AA.26). ^c Historical rates in this figure may differ from those in previous Reports, as historical population data have been revised using Final Rebased Estimated Resident Population (ERP) data following the 2006 Census of Population and Housing (for 31 December 2001 to 2005). Population data relate to 31 December, so that ERP at 31 December 2007 is used as the denominator for 2007-08.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished); tables 6A.10 and AA.2.

Most jurisdictions increased their real expenditure in absolute terms over the past 12 months. In that time, most jurisdictions also increased their expenditure per head of population (figure 6.5). Nationally, real recurrent expenditure on police services per person has increased by 1.5 per cent each year between 2003-04 and 2007-08 (table 6A.10).

Capital costs (including depreciation and the user cost of capital) (box 6.3) for each jurisdiction are contained in tables 6A.1–8.

Box 6.3 Capital in the costing of police services

Capital costs are costs associated with non-current physical assets (such as depreciation and the user cost of capital) are potentially important components of the total costs of many services delivered by government agencies. Differences in the techniques for measuring non-current physical assets (such as valuation methods) may reduce the comparability of cost estimates across jurisdictions. In response to concerns regarding data comparability, the Steering Committee initiated a study, *Asset Measurement in the Costing of Government Services (SCRCSSP 2001)*. The aim of the study was to examine the extent to which differences in asset measurement techniques applied by participating agencies affect the comparability of reported unit costs.

In police services, the results reported in the study indicate that different methods of asset measurement could lead to quite large variations in reported capital costs. However, considered in the context of total unit costs, the differences created by these asset measurement effects are relatively small, because capital costs represent a relatively small proportion of total cost. A key message from the study is that the adoption of nationally uniform accounting standards across all service areas would be a desirable outcome from the perspective of the Review. (The study results are discussed in more detail in chapter 2.)

Equity — access

This section focuses on the performance of mainstream police services in relation to Indigenous Australians and females.

Indigenous staffing

‘Indigenous staffing’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide police services in an equitable manner. Indigenous people may feel more comfortable in ‘accessing’ police services when they are able to deal with Indigenous police staff (box 6.4).

Box 6.4 Indigenous staffing

'Indigenous staffing' is defined as the proportion of police staff from Indigenous backgrounds compared to the proportion of the general population aged 20–64 years who are from Indigenous backgrounds. These data are used because a significantly larger proportion of the Indigenous population falls within the younger non-working age groupings compared with the non-Indigenous population. Readily available ABS population projections of people aged 20–64 years at 30 June 2006 provide a proxy for the estimated working population.

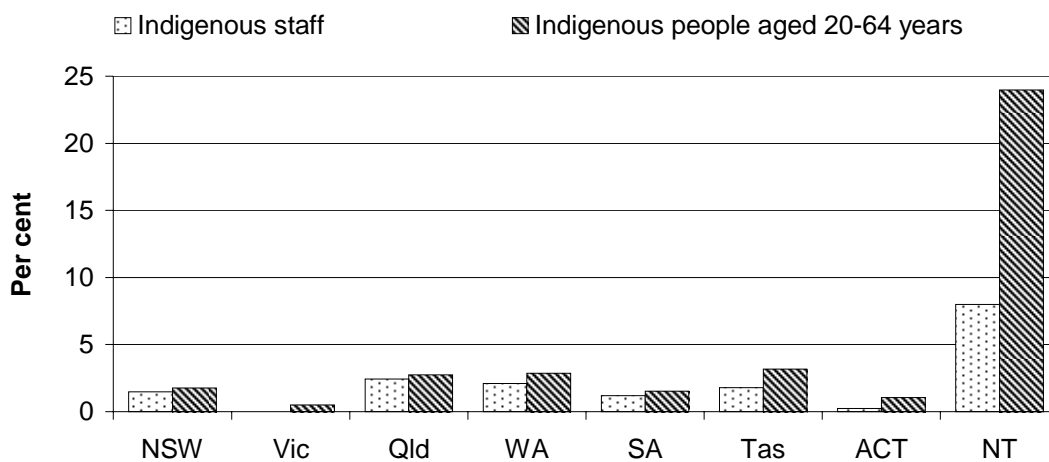
A proportion of police staff from Indigenous backgrounds closer to the proportion of the general population aged 20–64 years who are from Indigenous backgrounds represents a more equitable outcome.

The process of identifying Indigenous staff members generally relies on self-identification as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Where Indigenous people are asked to identify themselves, the accuracy of the data will partly depend on how they perceive the advantages (or disadvantages) of identification and whether these perceptions change over time. In addition, many factors will influence the willingness of Indigenous people to access police services, including familiarity with procedures for dealing with police and confidence in the effectiveness of police services.

Data reported for this indicator are not complete and not directly comparable.

The proportion of Indigenous police staff in 2007-08 was similar to the representation of Indigenous people in the population aged 20–64 years for most jurisdictions (figure 6.6).

Figure 6.6 **Proportions of Indigenous staff in 2007-08 and Indigenous population aged 20–64 years^{a, b, c}**



^a Indigenous staff numbers relate to those staff who self-identify as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent. Indigenous staff are reported as the sum of both the operational and non-operational categories. ^b Information on Indigenous status is collected only at the time of recruitment. ^c Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff data were unable to be separated in Victoria.

Source: ABS (2004) *Indigenous population projections aged 20–64 years* Cat. no. 3238.0 (Low Series); State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 6A.19.

Staffing by gender

‘Staffing by gender’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide police services in an equitable manner (box 6.5). Women may feel more comfortable in ‘accessing’ police services in certain situations when they are able to deal with female police staff.

Box 6.5 Staffing by gender

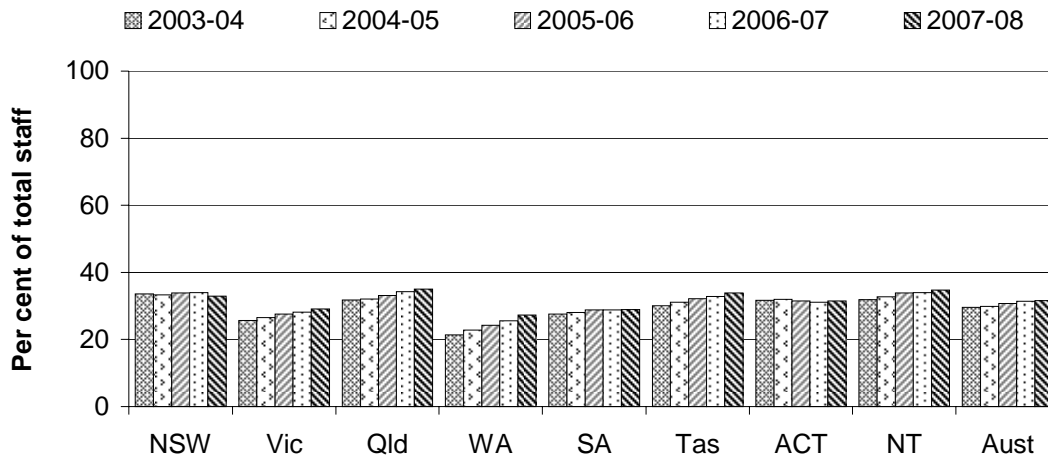
‘Police staffing by gender’ is defined as the number of (sworn and unsworn) female police staff divided by the total number of police staff.

A proportion of female police staff commensurate with the proportion of females in the general population is generally more equitable.

Data reported for this indicator are comparable.

Nationally, 31.6 per cent of police staff were female in 2007-08 (figure 6.7). The proportion of female police staff increased from 2003-04 to 2007-08 (from 29.6 per cent to 31.6 per cent of staff). The proportion of female police staff increased over this period in most jurisdictions (figure 6.7).

Figure 6.7 Female police staff^a



^a Data are FTE staff except for NSW (in 2003-04 to 2006-07) and the NT (in 2007-08) where data are based on a head count at 30 June.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 6A.20.

Effectiveness

Complaints

‘Complaints’ is an indicator of governments’ objective for police to perform their duties in a professional manner (box 6.6). Police services across Australia encourage and foster a code of customer service that provides for openness and accountability. Complaints made against police increasingly reflect a range of issues relating to service delivery. Complaints of a more serious nature are overseen by relevant external review bodies, such as the ombudsman, the director of public prosecutions or integrity boards in each jurisdiction.

Box 6.6 Complaints

'Complaints' is defined as the number of complaints per 100 000 people. It comprises complaints made by members of the public against members of the police force.

An increase in complaints does not necessarily indicate a lack of confidence in police. Rather, it may indicate greater confidence in complaints resolution. It is desirable to monitor changes in the reported rate of complaints against police to identify reasons for such changes and use this information to improve the manner in which police services are delivered. The complaints trend is presented using a base value of 100 for a three year average for the period 2003-04 to 2005-06 and displaying the variation up or down thereafter.

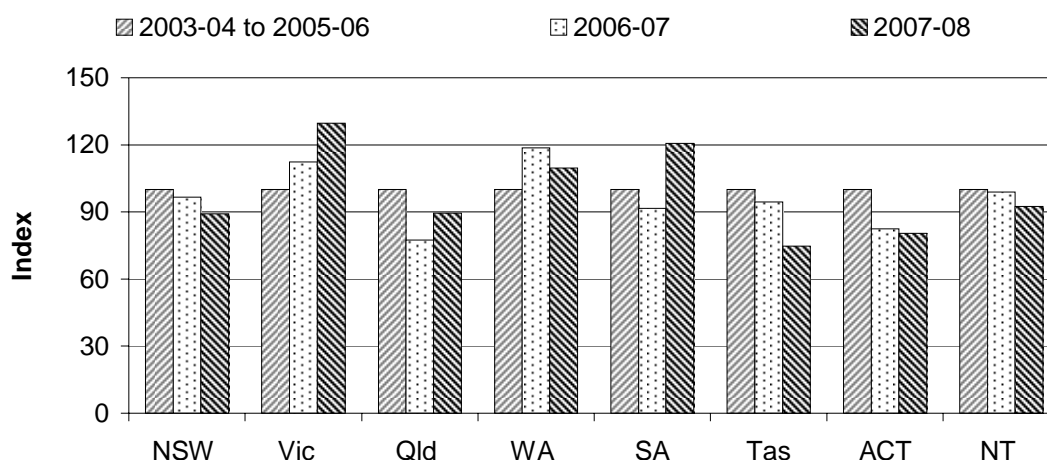
Rates of complaints against police will be influenced by factors such as familiarity with, effectiveness of and confidence in complaint handling procedures, as well as the definition of 'complaint' applicable to that jurisdiction.

Data reported for this indicator are not directly comparable.

Definitions of what constitutes a 'complaint against police' can differ between jurisdictions. Therefore, complaints data are presented as an index in figure 6.6 to provide a picture of trends over time for each jurisdiction.

Nationally, the number of complaints against the police per 100 000 people was on a downward trend from the base period (2003-04 to 2005-06) to 2007-08, but this trend varied across jurisdictions (figure 6.8).

Figure 6.8 **Complaints per 100 000 people**^{a, b, c, d}



^a Data are not comparable across jurisdictions. Data can be used only to view trends over time within jurisdictions. ^b For WA, the number of complaints recorded can vary due to the retrospective capture of previously unreported complaints of a minor nature that are resolved at the local level. ^c Data for 2007-08 are not comparable to previous years due to changes in Queensland Police Service statistical collection methods. ^d Base three-year average: 2003-04 to 2005-06 = 100.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 6A.18.

Outcomes

Outcomes are the impact of services on the status of an individual or group (while outputs are the actual services delivered) (see chapter 1, section 1.5).

This section provides information from the NSCSP (box 6.7) amongst other sources.

Box 6.7 **National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing**

The NSCSP collects information on community perceptions of police in terms of services provided and personal experiences of contact with the police. It also elicits public perceptions of crime and safety problems in the community and local area, and reviews aspects of driving behaviour.

Care needs to be taken in interpreting any survey data. The statistical reliability of survey data is highly dependent on key elements of the survey method, including the survey instrument, the collection method and the sample size and design. In addition, attitudinal data may be influenced in the short term by rare, but significantly adverse or highly publicised events (such as a mass murder or a police corruption incident). Point-in-time responses may thus vary from people's true underlying (or longer term) satisfaction with police and perceptions of safety and crime levels.

Satisfaction with police services

‘Satisfaction with police services’ is an indicator of governments’ objective for police to perform their duties in a professional manner (box 6.8).

Box 6.8 Satisfaction with police services

‘Satisfaction with police services’ is defined as the proportion of people who were ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with police services.

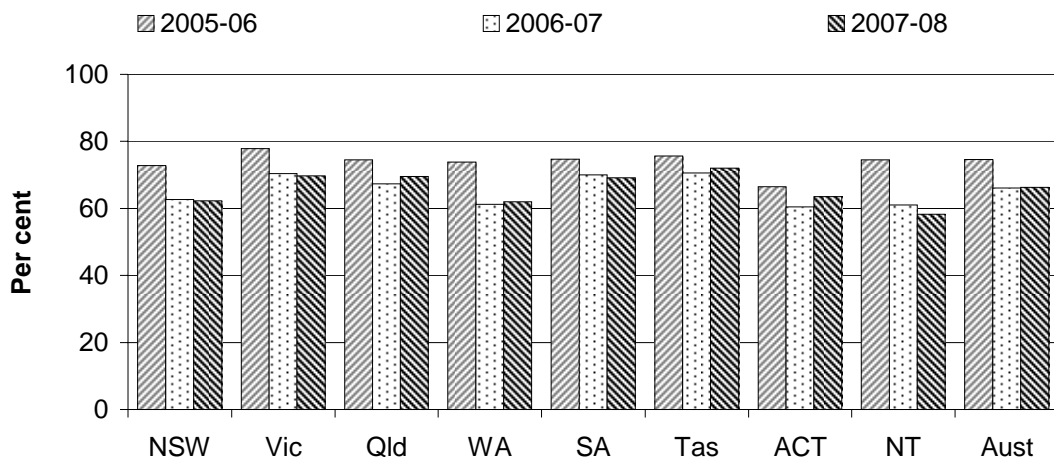
A high or increasing proportion of people who were ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ is desirable.

Client satisfaction is a widely accepted measure of service quality. Public perceptions may not reflect actual levels of police performance, because many factors — including individual experiences, hearsay and media reporting — may influence people’s satisfaction with police services.

Data reported for this indicator are comparable.

In terms of general satisfaction, nationally, the majority of people surveyed (66.3 per cent) were ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with the services provided by police in 2007-08, remaining relatively steady from 2006-07 (figure 6.9).

Figure 6.9 People who were ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with police services^{a, b}

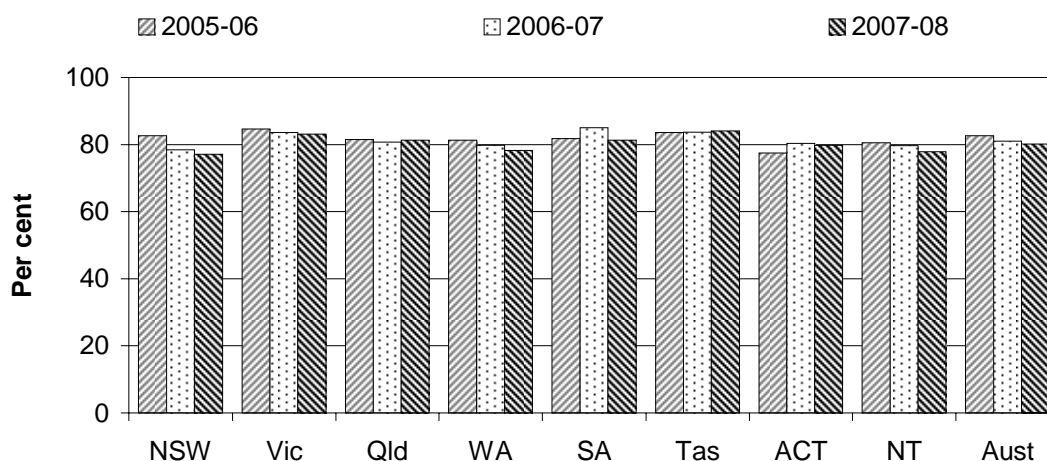


^a Data are based on responses from people aged 15 years or over. ^b Data are based on survey results and subject to sampling error. Confidence intervals are included in section 6.8.

Source: ANZPAA (unpublished); table 6A.12.

Of those respondents who had contact with police in 2007-08, 80.1 per cent nationally were ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with the service they received during their most recent contact, remaining relatively steady from 2006-07 (figure 6.10).

Figure 6.10 People who were ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with police in their most recent contact^{a, b}



^a Data are based on responses from people aged 15 years or over. ^b Data are based on survey results and subject to sampling error. Confidence intervals are included in section 6.8.

Source: ANZPAA (unpublished); table 6A.14.

Perceptions of police integrity

Public ‘perceptions of police integrity’ is an indicator of governments’ objective for police to perform their duties with integrity and professionalism (box 6.9).

Box 6.9 Perceptions of police integrity

'Perceptions of police integrity' is defined by three separate measures:

- the proportion of people who 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that police treat people fairly and equally
- the proportion of people who 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that police perform the job professionally
- the proportion of people who 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that most police are honest.

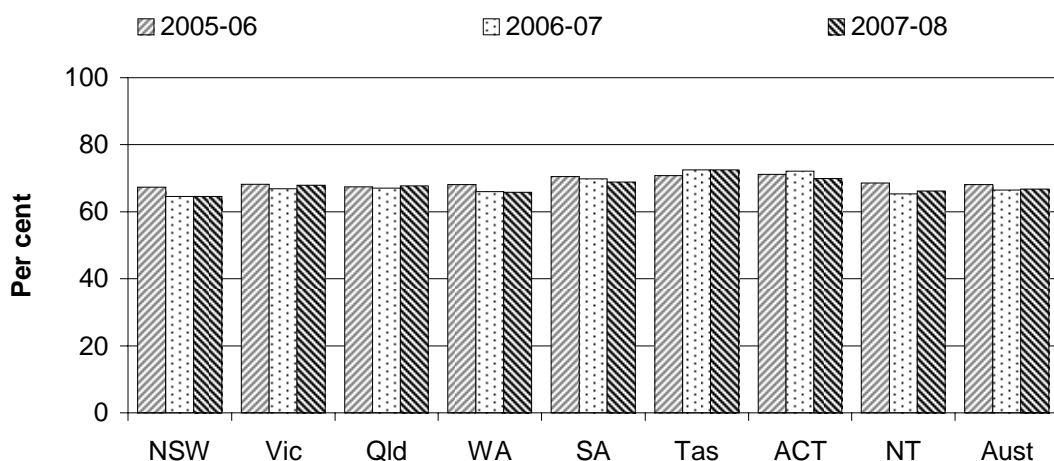
A higher proportion of people who 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that — police treat people fairly and equally, police perform the job professionally, and most police are honest — is desirable.

Public perceptions might not reflect actual levels of police integrity, because many factors, including hearsay and media reporting, might influence people's perceptions of police integrity.

Data reported for this indicator are comparable.

In 2007-08, 66.8 per cent of people nationally 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that police treat people 'fairly and equally', remaining relatively steady from 2006-07 (figure 6.11).

Figure 6.11 People who 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that police treat people fairly and equally^{a, b}

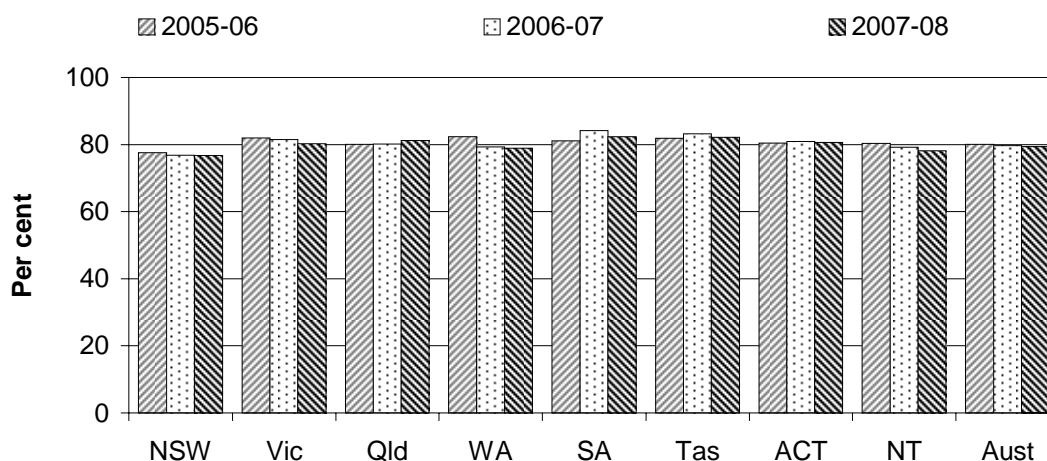


^a Data are based on responses from people aged 15 years or over. ^b Data are based on survey results and subject to sampling error. Confidence intervals are included in section 6.8.

Source: ANZPAA (unpublished); table 6A.16.

Nationally, 79.4 per cent of people ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ in 2007-08 that police perform the job ‘professionally’, remaining relatively stable from the 2006-07 result of 79.7 per cent (figure 6.12).

Figure 6.12 **People who ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that police perform the job professionally^{a, b}**



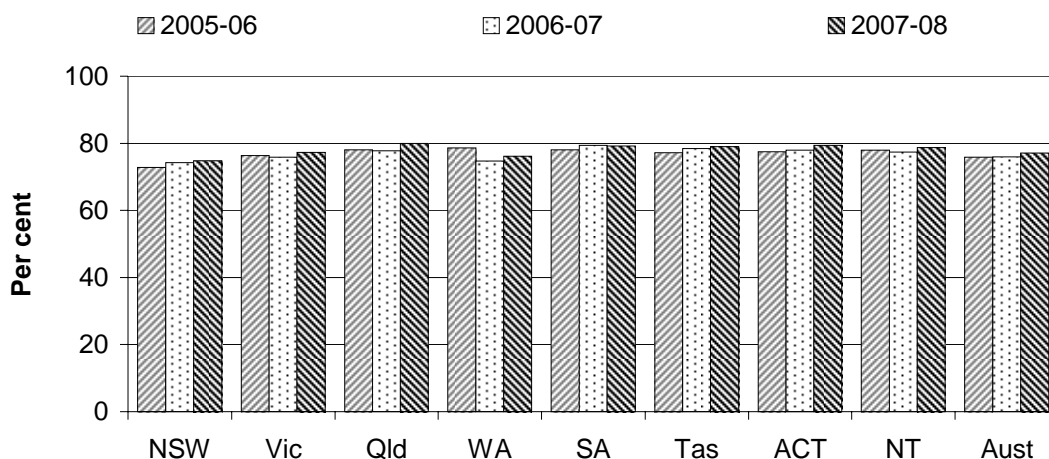
^a Data are based on responses from people aged 15 years or over. ^b Data are based on survey results and subject to sampling error. Confidence intervals are included in section 6.8.

Source: ANZPAA (unpublished); table 6A.15.

Police integrity is another important element of police services’ performance. This can be judged to some extent by the public perception of police honesty.

Nationally, 77.1 per cent of people ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ in 2007-08 that most police are ‘honest’, remaining relatively stable from the 2006-07 result of 76.0 per cent (figure 6.13).

Figure 6.13 People who 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that most police are honest^{a, b}



^a Data are based on responses from people aged 15 years or over. ^b Data are based on survey results and subject to sampling error. Confidence intervals are included in section 6.8.

Source: ANZPAA (unpublished); table 6A.17

6.4 Community safety

This section reviews the role of police in preserving public order and promoting a safer community. Activities typically include:

- undertaking crime prevention and community support programs
- responding to, managing and coordinating major incidents and emergencies
- responding to calls for assistance.

Police performance in undertaking these activities is measured using a suite of indicators that incorporates information on community perceptions data. For data that are not considered directly comparable, the text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary. Chapter 1 discusses data comparability from a Report-wide perspective (see section 1.6).

Key community safety performance indicator results

Outputs

Outputs are the actual services delivered (while outcomes are the impact of these services on the status of an individual or group) (see chapter 1, section 1.5).

Equity — access

An indicator of governments' objective to facilitate equitable access for people with special needs for community safety has yet to be developed (box 6.10).

Box 6.10 Performance indicator — access

Equity and access for community safety has been identified as an area for development in future reports.

Outcomes

Outcomes are the impact of services on the status of an individual or group (while outputs are the actual services delivered) (see chapter 1, section 1.5).

Perceptions of safety

'Perceptions of safety' is an indicator of governments' objective to reassure the public by ensuring the community feels safe (within themselves and regarding their property) in public and private (box 6.11).

Box 6.11 Perceptions of safety

'Perceptions of safety' is defined by two separate measures:

- the proportion of people who felt 'safe or very safe' at home
- the proportion of people who felt 'safe or very safe' in public places.

A higher proportion of people who felt 'safe' or 'very safe' for either measure is a desirable outcome.

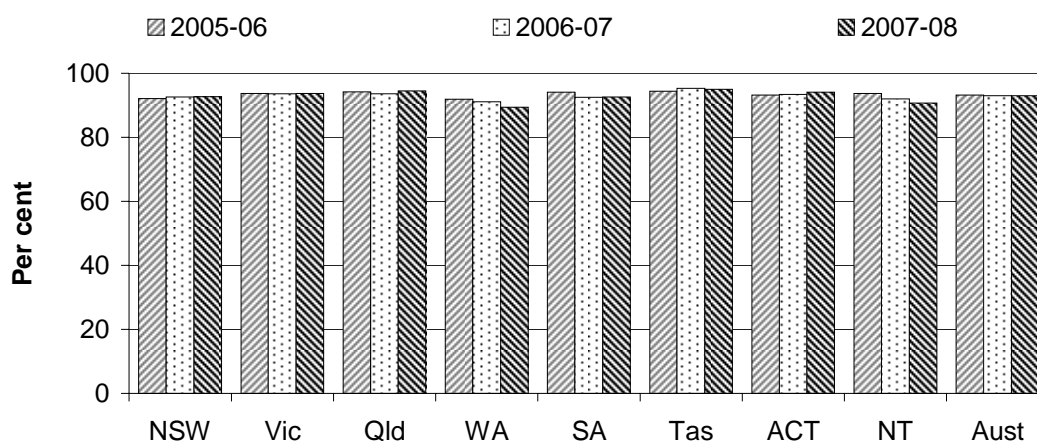
Perceptions of safety might not reflect reported crime, as reported crime might understate actual crime, and many factors (including media reporting and hearsay) might affect public perceptions of crime levels and safety.

Data reported for this indicator are comparable.

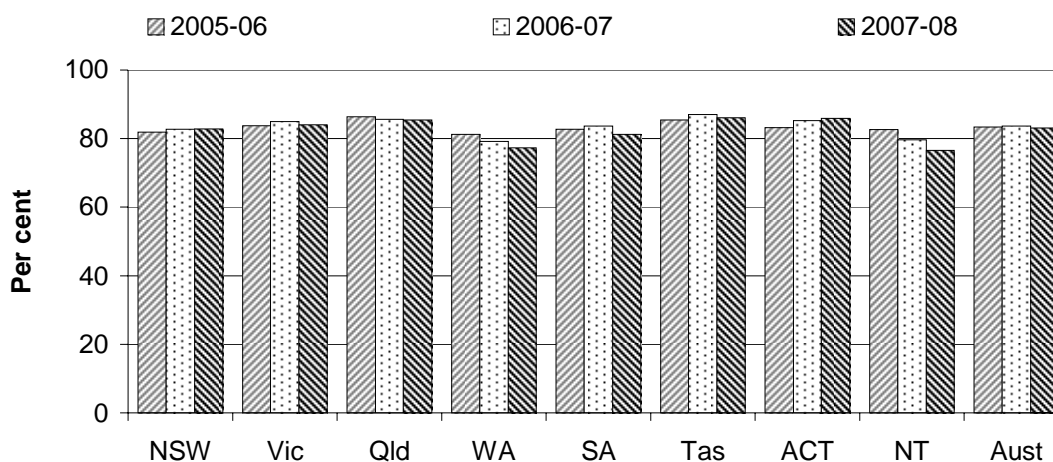
Nationally, 93.0 per cent of people surveyed felt 'safe' or 'very safe' at home alone during the day in 2007-08. Nationally, 83.1 per cent of people felt 'safe' or 'very safe' at home alone after dark in 2007-08 (figure 6.14).

Figure 6.14 Perceptions of safety at home alone^a

(a) Proportion who felt 'safe' or 'very safe' at home alone during the day



(b) Proportion who felt 'safe' or 'very safe' at home alone after dark



^a Data are based on responses from people aged 15 years or over. ^b Data are based on survey results and subject to sampling error. Confidence intervals are included in section 6.8.

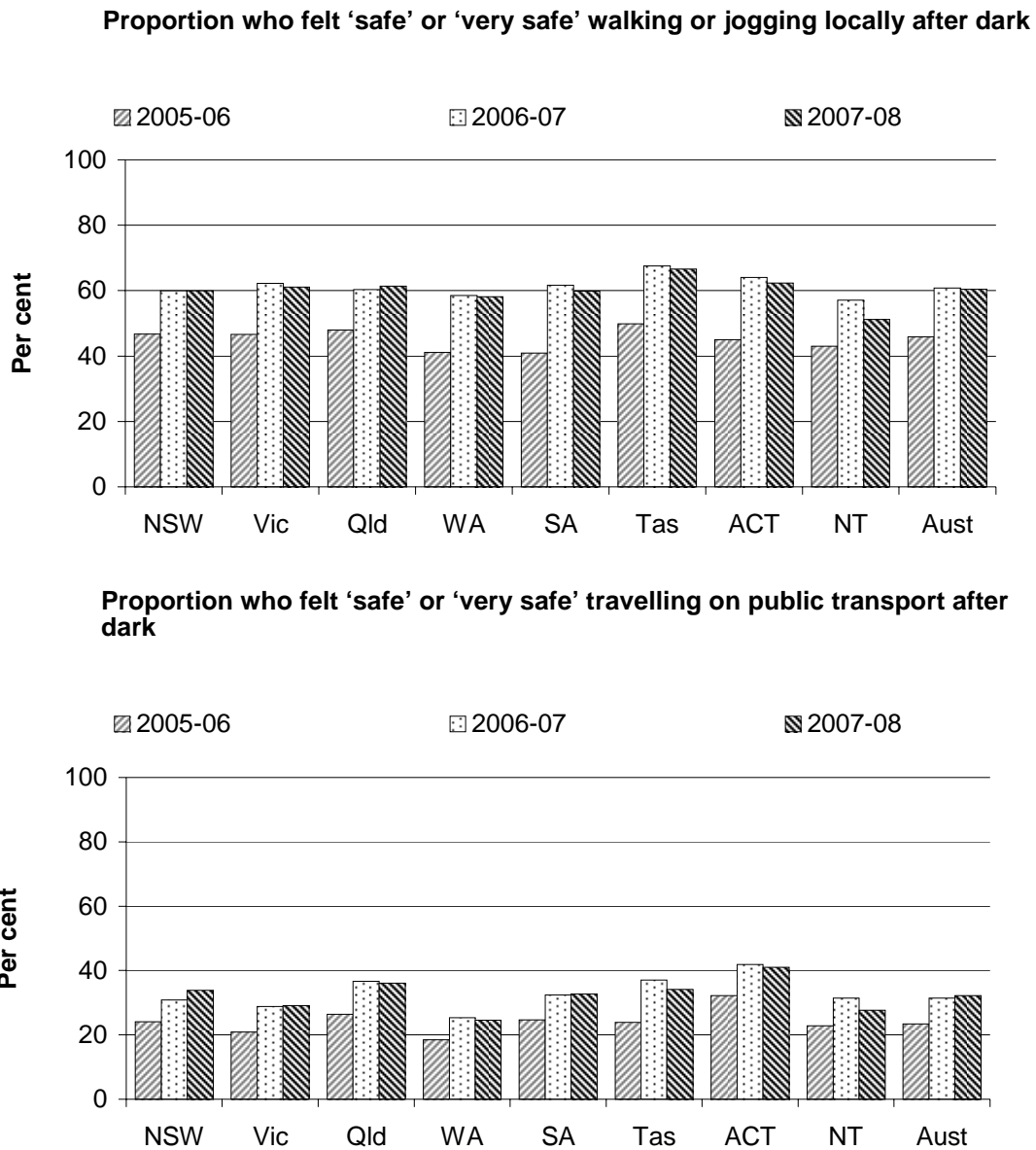
Source: ANZPAA (unpublished); table 6A.21.

Nationally, 89.3 per cent of respondents felt 'safe' or 'very safe' when walking or jogging locally during the day in 2007-08 (table 6A.22) and 60.4 per cent of people felt 'safe' or 'very safe' when walking or jogging locally after dark in 2007-08. These results are relatively stable from 2006-07 (figure 6.15).

Nationally, 64.8 per cent of respondents felt 'safe' or 'very safe' when travelling on public transport during the day (remaining relatively stable from 2007-08) (table 6A.23) and 32.2 per cent of people surveyed felt 'safe' or 'very safe' when

travelling on public transport after dark in 2007-08 (remaining relatively stable from 2007-08) (figure 6.15).

Figure 6.15 Perceptions of safety in public places^{a, b, c, d}



^a Data are based on responses from people aged 15 years or over. ^b Data are based on survey results and subject to sampling error. Confidence intervals are included in section 6.8. ^c For this survey question, the response 'not applicable' was very large and varied significantly across jurisdictions in line with the availability of public transport. ^d Unlike other jurisdictions, Tasmania, the NT and the ACT do not operate a suburban train network and rely on buses as the primary means of public transportation.

Source: ANZPAA (unpublished); tables 6A.22 and 6A.23.

These results might be influenced by the mix (that is, trains, buses, ferries and trams) of public transport in each jurisdiction.

Perceptions of crime problems

'Perceptions of crime problems' is an indicator of governments' objective to reassure the public by ensuring the community feels safe (within themselves and regarding their property) in public and private (box 6.12).

Box 6.12 Perceptions of crime problems

'Perceptions of crime problems' is defined by two separate measures:

- the proportion of people who considered that various types of crime were a 'major problem' or 'somewhat of a problem' in their State or Territory
- the proportion of people who considered that various types of crime were a 'major problem' or 'somewhat of a problem' in their neighbourhood.

A lower proportion of people who felt the selected types of crime were a 'major problem' or 'somewhat of a problem' in their State or Territory and/or neighbourhood, is a desirable outcome.

Care needs to be taken in interpreting data on perceptions of crime, because reducing people's concerns about crime and reducing the actual level of crime are two separate, but related challenges for police. Comparisons between perceptions of crime problems and the level of crime raise questions about the factors that affect perceptions. More generally, such comparisons highlight the importance of considering the full suite of performance indicators rather than assessing performance on the basis of specific measures in isolation.

Data reported for this indicator are comparable.

Nationally, when people were asked in 2007-08 about crime problems in their State or Territory, the proportion of people who perceived a particular crime as a 'major problem' or 'somewhat of a problem' was: 91.3 per cent for illegal drugs; 90.5 per cent for poor driver behaviour (speeding cars, dangerous or noisy driving); 87.8 per cent for housebreaking; 84.0 per cent for vehicle theft; 85.0 per cent for graffiti or other vandalism; 83.9 per cent for physical assault in a public place; 82.6 per cent for sexual assault; 85.8 per cent for drunken and disorderly behaviour; 81.3 per cent for louts and gangs and 78.3 per cent for family violence (tables 6A.27–6A.29).

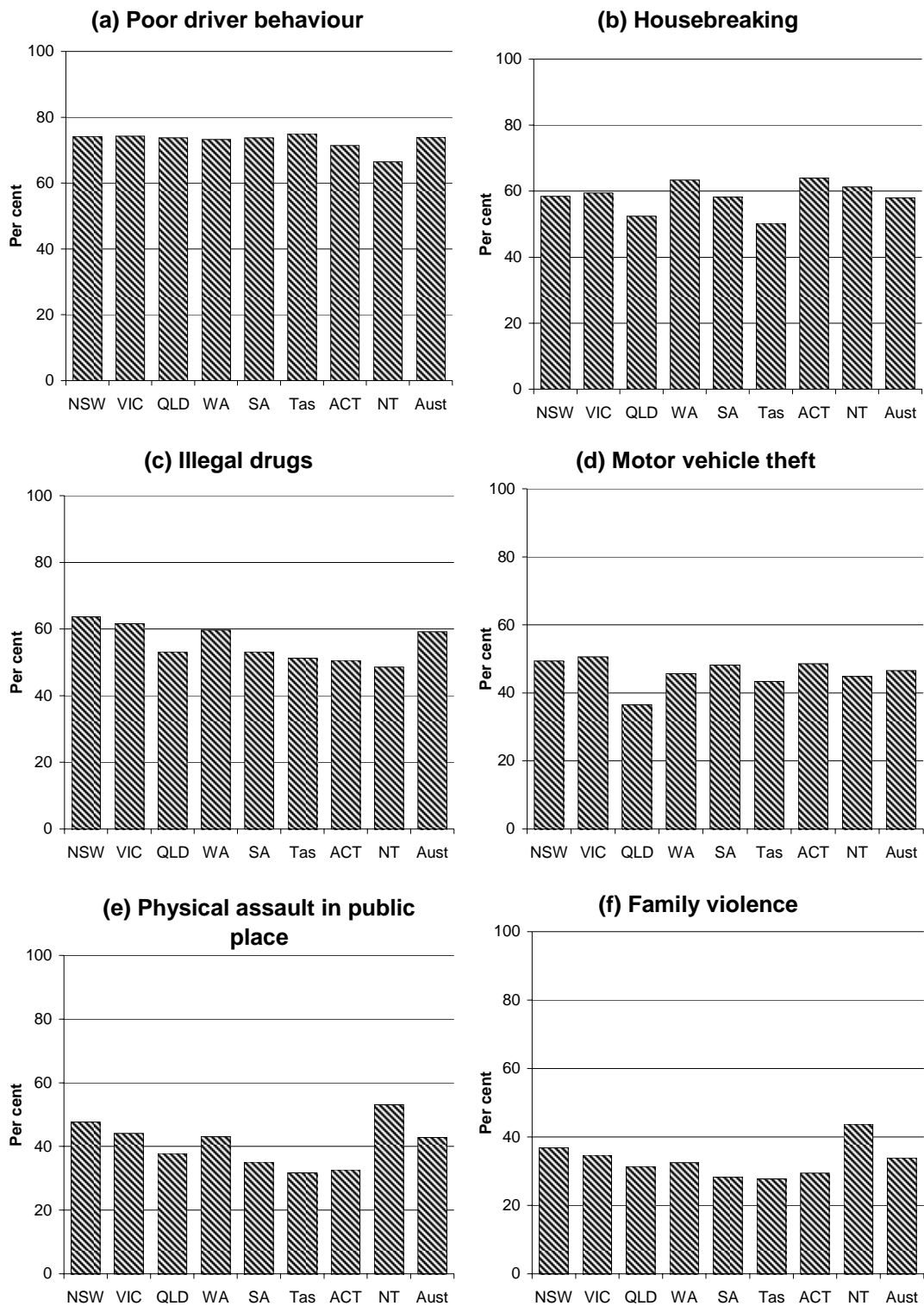
The following major areas of concern were identified by people in relation to crime problems in their neighbourhood:

- Poor driver behaviour — nationally, 73.9 per cent of people believed poor driver behaviour to be a 'major problem' or 'somewhat a problem' in 2007-08 (little changed from 72.4 in 2006-07) (figure 6.16a, table 6A.26).

-
- Housebreaking — nationally, 57.9 per cent of people believed housebreaking to be a ‘major problem’ or ‘somewhat a problem’ in 2007-08 (little changed from 58.9 per cent in 2006-07) (figure 6.16b, table 6A.25).
 - Illegal drugs — nationally, 59.2 per cent of people believed illegal drugs to be a ‘major problem’ or ‘somewhat a problem’ in 2007-08 (up from 57.4 per cent in 2006-07) (figure 6.16c, table 6A.25).
 - Motor vehicle theft — nationally, 46.5 per cent of people believed motor vehicle theft to be a ‘major problem’ or ‘somewhat a problem’ in 2007-08 (little changed from 46.6 per cent in 2006-07) (figure 6.16d, table 6A.25).
 - Physical assault in a public place — nationally, 42.8 per cent of people believed physical assault to be a ‘major problem’ or ‘somewhat a problem’ in 2007-08 (up from 38.5 per cent in 2006-07) (figure 6.16e, table 6A.24).
 - Family violence — nationally, 33.9 per cent of people believed family violence to be a ‘major problem’ or ‘somewhat a problem’ in their neighbourhood in 2007-08 (little changed from 32.2 per cent in 2006-07) (figure 6.16f, table 6A.24).

Comparisons between perceptions of crime problems and the level of crime raise questions about the factors that affect perceptions. The preceding NSCSP results indicate that perceptions of crime fall significantly as respondents focus on their local neighbourhood rather than the State or Territory in which they live.

Figure 6.16 Proportion of people who consider the identified issues to be either a 'major problem' or 'somewhat of a problem' in their neighbourhood, 2007-08^a



^a Data are based on survey results and subject to sampling error. Confidence intervals are in section 6.8.
 Source: ANZPAA (unpublished); tables 6A.24–6A.26.

6.5 Crime

This section reviews the role of police in investigating crime and identifying and apprehending offenders. It also measures the extent of crime in the community and assesses the number of crimes reported to the police.

Framework of performance indicators

Police performance in undertaking these activities is measured using a suite of indicators that incorporates information on recorded crime levels. For data that are not considered directly comparable, the text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary. Chapter 1 discusses data comparability from a Report-wide perspective (see section 1.6).

Key crime performance indicator results

Outcomes

Outcomes are the impact of services on the status of an individual or group (while outputs are the actual services delivered) (see chapter 1, section 1.5).

‘Crime victimisation’, ‘Reporting rates’ and ‘Outcomes of investigations’ are outcome indicators of governments’ objective to bring to justice those people responsible for committing an offence.

Victims of crime data in Australia

Information on the level of selected crimes against the person and crimes against property is obtained from three sources for this chapter. The first source, the Crime and Safety Survey, was most recently conducted in 2005. The second source, the ABS Recorded Crime Victims series, was most recently published in 2008 (for the 2007 calendar year). The third source of data is provided on an annual basis by the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC), with the most recent data for 2006-07 (unpublished).

Crime and Safety Survey

The Crime and Safety Survey is a national survey, conducted periodically by the ABS. Previous surveys were conducted in 1983, 1993, 1998 and 2002. Information is collected from individuals and households, and focuses on those categories of

more serious crime, occurring in the 12 months prior to the survey, generally that affect the largest number of people.

The survey provides information on crime victimisation for selected personal and household crimes, including the number of crimes reported to police. Personal crimes include robbery, assault and sexual assault. Household crimes include break-in, attempted break-in and motor vehicle theft.

Trends in Recorded Crime in Australia

The Recorded Crime Victims collection provides details of selected offences reported to, or detected by, police, the details of which are subsequently recorded on police administrative systems. Victims in this collection can be people, premises or motor vehicles. Selected offences include homicide and related offences; kidnapping and abduction; robbery; blackmail and extortion; unlawful entry with intent; motor vehicle theft and other theft.

Crime and Safety Survey data are considered to be more comparable across jurisdictions than the Recorded Crime collection, given differences in the way in which recorded crime data are compiled (box 6.13). Neither of these sources will provide a definitive measure of crime victimisation but, together, they provide a more comprehensive picture of victimisation than either measure alone.

This chapter reports the level of crime using the more comparable Crime and Safety Survey data, and the annual trends using the Recorded Crime Victims data.

Box 6.13 ABS crime victimisation statistics

When an incident of crime victimisation occurs, it can be measured in a number of ways and at different stages; from the time a person perceives that they have been a victim, through to the reporting to police and the laying of charges. From among a range of possible ways of measuring crime, the ABS produces two major sources of data that can inform the user about crime victimisation. The first of these is a measure of crimes reported to and recorded by police, sourced from administrative records obtained from State and Territory police agencies. The second is direct reports from members of the public about their experiences of crime as collected in ABS household surveys. In some instances, the results may provide different pictures of crime in the community, with administrative data indicating a trend in one direction and personal experience indicating the opposite.

The full extent of crime is unlikely ever to be captured — Recorded Crime Victims data understate the true level of crime in Australia as a result of the behaviour of victims and the limitations of the data. Data relate to recorded crimes, but not all offences are reported to, or become known by, police. The victim's confidence in the judicial process, the nature of the offence and the relationship between the victim and perpetrator are among the key factors that influence the propensity to report an offence. Similarly, with survey data, it may be difficult to obtain information about some crimes such as sexual assault and assaults that have been committed by members of the same household.

Comparing recorded crime statistics across jurisdictions

A number of standards, classifications and counting rules are applied to Recorded Crime statistics, but care needs to be taken when comparing these statistics across states and territories, given the different business rules, procedures, systems, policies, legislation and recording of police agencies.

Findings from the Differences in Recorded Crime Statistics (DiRCS) project, released in 2005, indicated that data for assault and sexual assault were not comparable across all jurisdictions, but that information for other offence types were satisfactory for the level of comparison presented in the ABS National Recorded Crime — Victims publication. The ABS has worked with police agencies to develop a National Crime Recording Standard, to improve further the national comparability of the recorded crime victims' collection. The standard contains a uniform set of guidelines and scenarios, to enable consistency in recording to complement the already established national counting rules and classifications. All jurisdictions have implemented, or are in the process of implementing, the Standard.

(Continued on next page)

Box 6.13 (Continued)

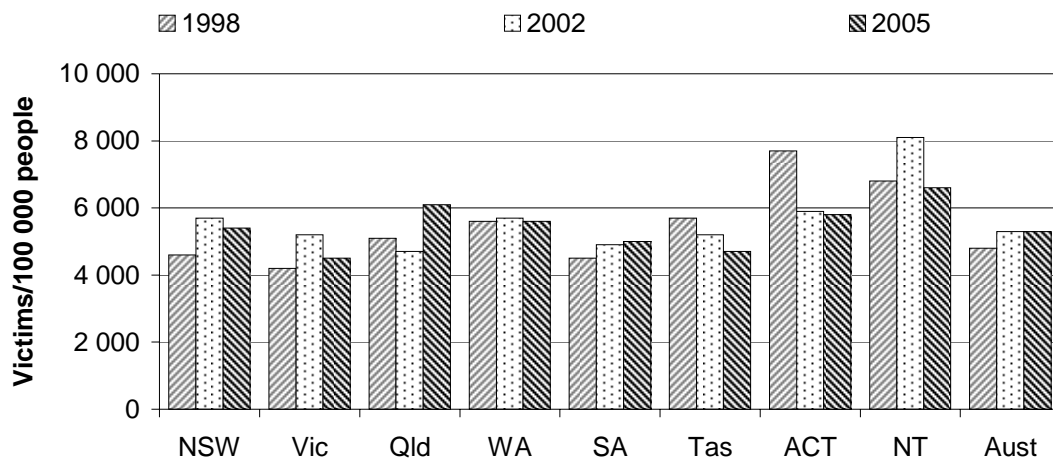
Comparing recorded crime statistics with jurisdiction-specific data

Care needs to be taken if attempting to compare ABS Recorded Crime Statistics with data reported by police agencies. The former are victim based (that is, based on the number of victims for each individual Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC) division offence category), whereas some State and Territory data are commonly offence or incident based (that is, based on the total number of offences or incidents recorded). To illustrate the difference, if multiple offences per victim of the same incident fall within the same ASOC division the victim is only counted once according to the most serious offence within that division, whereas police agencies may count separately each offence committed against the same victim.

Rate of crime victimisation in Australia (from ABS Crime and Safety survey)

There were 5300 victims of personal crime per 100 000 people in Australia in 2005, which is consistent with the findings of the previous survey conducted in 2002. The rate in 2005 varied across jurisdictions (figure 6.17).

Figure 6.17 Estimated victims of selected personal crimes^a



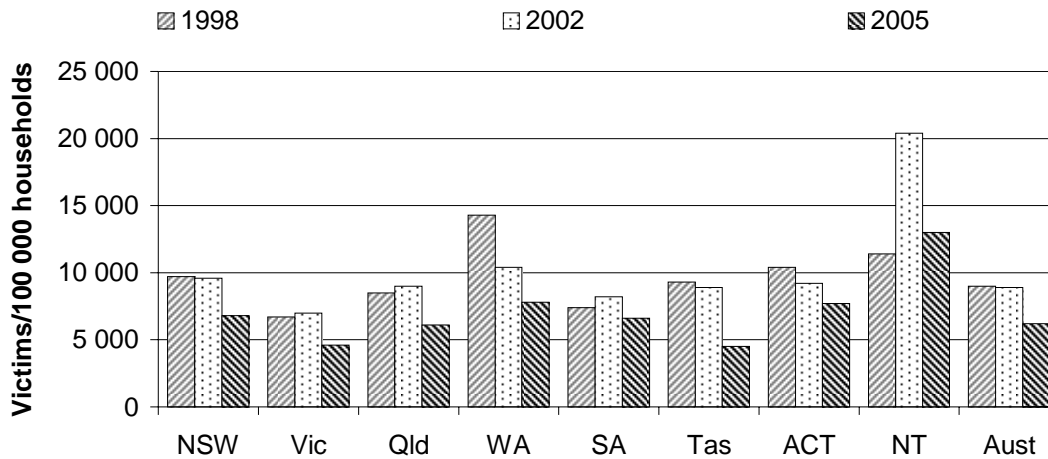
^a Data report only the prevalence of crime, not the incidence. A victim is defined as a person reporting at least one of the offences surveyed. Victims were counted once only for each type of offence, regardless of the number of incidents of that type.

Source: ABS Crime and Safety, Australia (various years), Cat. no. 4509.0; table 6A.34.

There were 6200 household victims of property crime per 100 000 households in Australia in 2005, a fall from 8900 in 2002, when the previous survey was held.

There was a fall in the rate of household victims of property crime in all jurisdictions between 2002 and 2005 (figure 6.18).

Figure 6.18 **Estimated household victims of selected property crimes^a**



^a Data report only the prevalence of crime, not the incidence. A victim is defined as a person reporting at least one of the offences surveyed. Victims were counted once only for each type of offence, regardless of the number of incidents of that type.

Data source: ABS Crime and Safety, Australia (various years), Cat. no. 4509.0; table 6A.35.

Trends in crime victimisation

As noted previously, two ABS collections are the sources of the majority of crime victimisation data in this report: the Crime and Safety Survey and the Recorded Crime Victims Collection. Trend data are also drawn from a third data source, the AIC (box 6.14).

Box 6.14 Australian Institute of Criminology homicide data

The AIC undertakes research in the field of criminal justice ranging from high-tech crime, transnational and organised crime issues to the monitoring and analysis of patterns in major crimes including homicide, sexual assault, armed robbery and firearms traffic.

The AIC provides data on homicide through its National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP), which has been operating within the AIC since 1989. The NHMP was established by the National Committee on Violence and has continued since, with support from all State and Territory police services. The program uses two main data sources:

- police reports (supplemented by information from investigating officers)
- coronial files (namely toxicology reports).

Crime victimisation — crimes against the person

‘Crime victimisation’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to enforce the law and improve community safety (box 6.15).

Box 6.15 Crime victimisation — crimes against the person

‘Crime victimisation’ is defined (in part) by three separate measures of the level of crime against the person:

- victims of homicide per 100 000 people
- estimated victims of assault per 100 000 people
- estimated victims of robbery per 100 000 people.

A lower rate of crime victimisation is a desirable outcome.

‘Crime victimisation’ is also defined by a measure of trends in crime against the person, presented in index form:

- victims of armed robbery (index 2003 = 100).

A fall in the index number is a more desirable outcome.

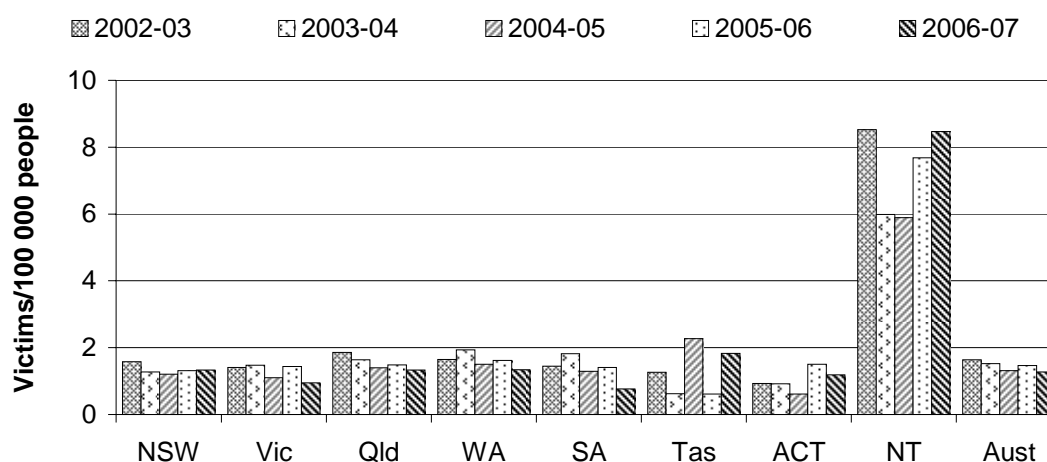
The recorded number of victims might vary from the actual incidence of crimes against the person for a number of reasons, including confidence in the judicial system as a whole.

Data reported for this indicator are comparable.

Differences in the way in which crimes are recorded on jurisdictions' police administrative systems (due to legislation, recording systems and recording practices) mean that comparing the level of recorded crime across jurisdictions is problematic.

Nationally, there were 1.3 recorded victims of homicide per 100 000 people in 2006-07 (down from 1.5 in 2005-06) (figure 6.19).

Figure 6.19 Victims of homicide^{a, b, c}

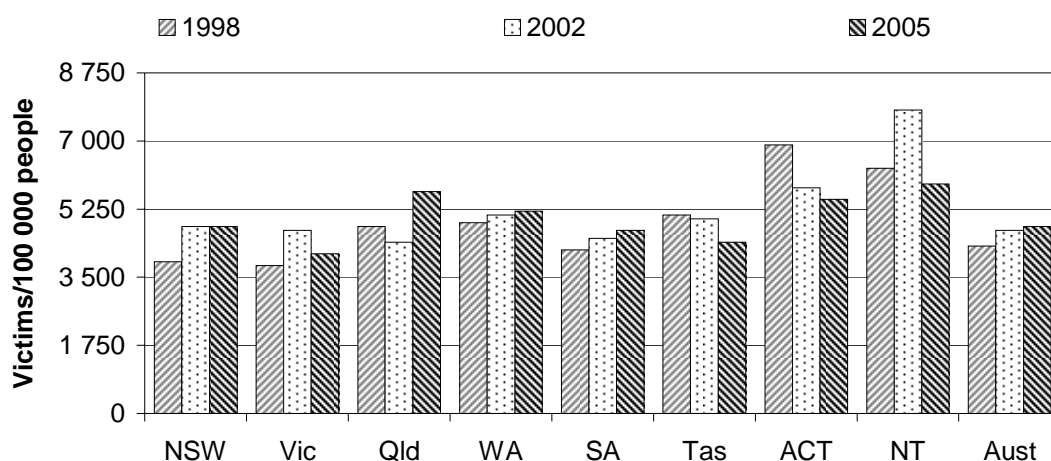


^a Homicide is defined by the criminal law of each State and Territory. The specific wording of the definition varies between states and territories in terms of degree and culpability. ^b The AIC victims of homicide data for 2006-07 are preliminary (unpublished) and final data in other publications might differ. ^c Historical rates in this figure may differ from those in previous Reports, as historical population data have been revised using Final Rebased ERP data following the 2006 Census of Population and Housing (for 31 December 2001 to 2005).

Source: AIC Homicide in Australia: National Homicide Monitoring Program (various years, unpublished); tables 6A.30 and AA.2.

Based on ABS Crime and Safety Survey data, there were 4800 victims of assault per 100 000 people in Australia in 2005 (up from 4700 per 100 000 people in 2002 and 4300 per 100 000 people in 1998) (figure 6.20).

Figure 6.20 **Estimated victims of assault^a**

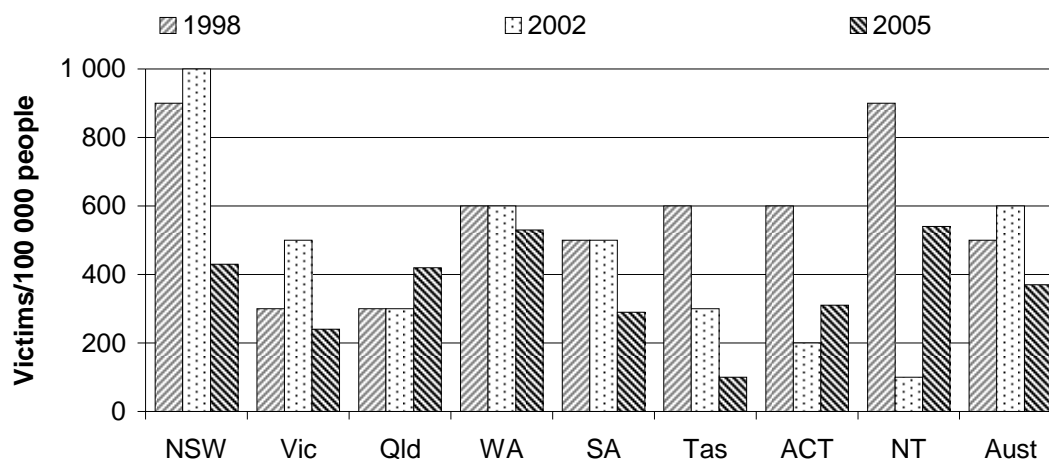


^a A victim is defined as a person reporting at least one assault. Victims were counted once only, regardless of the number of incidents of assault. Assault is defined as an incident, other than a robbery, where the respondent was threatened with force or violence or physically attacked.

Source: ABS Crime and Safety, Australia (various years), Cat. no. 4509.0; table 6A.34.

Based on ABS Crime and Safety Survey data, there were 370 victims of robbery per 100 000 people in Australia in 2005 (down from 600 victims per 100 000 people in 2002 and 500 in 1998) (figure 6.21).

Figure 6.21 **Estimated victims of robbery^a**

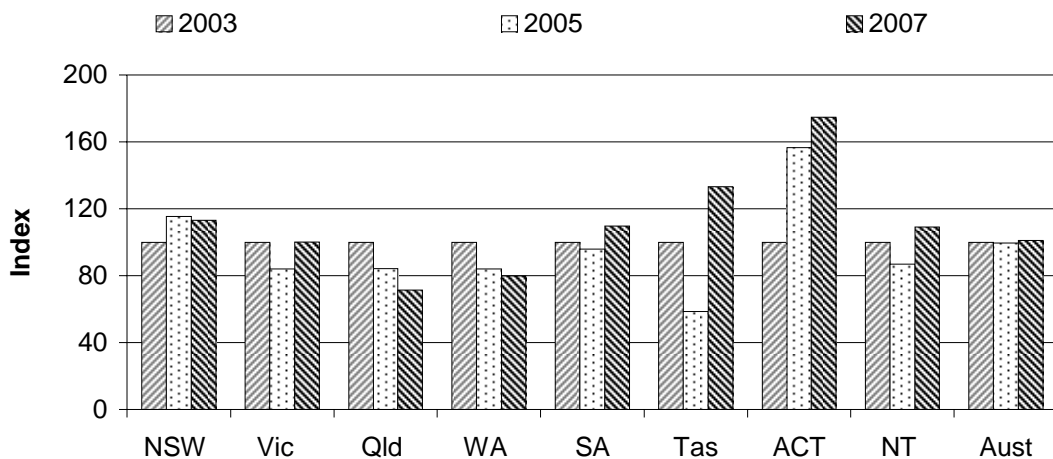


^a A victim is defined as a person reporting at least one robbery. Victims were counted once only, regardless of the number of incidents of robbery. Robbery is defined as an incident, where someone has stolen (or tried to steal) property from a respondent by physically attacking them or threatening them with violence.

Source: ABS Crime and Safety, Australia (various years), Cat. no. 4509.0; table 6A.34.

Based on the ABS Recorded Crime Victims collection, the rate of victims of armed robbery remained relatively stable at a national level between 2003 and 2007 (figure 6.22).

Figure 6.22 Trends in recorded crime — victims of armed robbery^{a, b, c, d, e}



^a Data are based on crimes recorded by police. ^b Index 2003 = 100. Data are reported in index form because the variations in the rate of recorded victims across jurisdictions are influenced by different legislation, reporting systems, practices and reporting rates in jurisdictions. Index calculations are based on ABS unrounded data and may differ from those published by the ABS and others. ^c Historical rates in this figure may differ from those in previous Reports, as historical population data have been revised using Final Rebased ERP data following the 2006 Census of Population and Housing (for 30 June 2003 and 2005). Population data relate to 30 June, so that ERP at 30 June 2007 is used as the denominator for 2007. ^d NSW robbery counts prior to 2005 are understated and therefore not comparable to later years. Improved quality assurance procedures have identified further victims of offences that are now included as part of the offence of robbery. Given the magnitude of the contribution of NSW to the Australian estimate, national data are also understated prior to 2005. ^e ACT data for 2007 are not comparable to previous years for the categories of armed robbery and unarmed robbery due to information technology and quality assurance changes to improve the capture of victim data.

Source: ABS Recorded Crime — Victims, Australia (various years), Cat. no. 4510.0; tables 6A.31 and AA.2.

Crime victimisation — crimes against property

‘Crime victimisation’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to enforce the law (and improve community safety) (box 6.16). The prevalence and trends in crimes against property in the community are important measures of the effectiveness of police services.

Box 6.16 Crime victimisation — crimes against property

‘Crime victimisation’ is defined (in part) by two separate measures of the level of crime against property:

- estimated household victims of break-in/attempted break-in per 100 000 households
- estimated household victims of motor vehicle theft per 100 000 households.

A lower rate of crime victimisation is a more desirable outcome.

‘Crime victimisation’ is also defined by two separate measures of the trend in property crime in the community, presented in index form:

- victims of unlawful entry with intent (index 2003 = 100)
- victims of motor vehicle theft (index 2003 = 100).

A fall in the index number is a more desirable outcome.

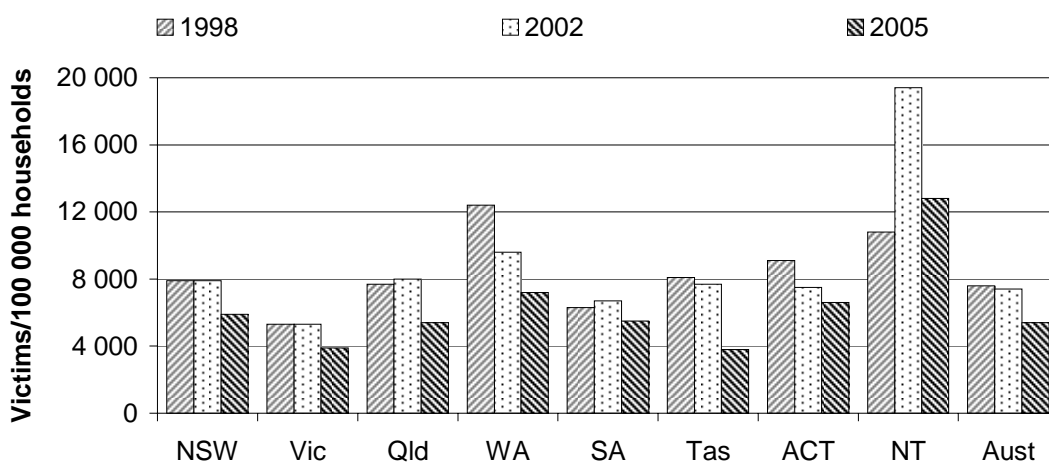
The recorded number of crimes might vary from the actual incidence of crimes against property for a number of reasons, including confidence in the judicial system as a whole.

Data reported for this indicator are comparable.

Differences in the way in which crimes are recorded on jurisdictions’ police administrative systems (due to legislation, recording systems and recording practices) mean that comparing the level of recorded crime across jurisdictions is problematic.

Based on ABS Crime and Safety Survey data, there were 5400 break-ins or attempted break-ins per 100 000 households in Australia in 2005 (down from 7400 victims per 100 000 households in 2002 and 7600 in 1998) (figure 6.23).

Figure 6.23 Estimated victims of break-in/attempted break-in^{a, b}

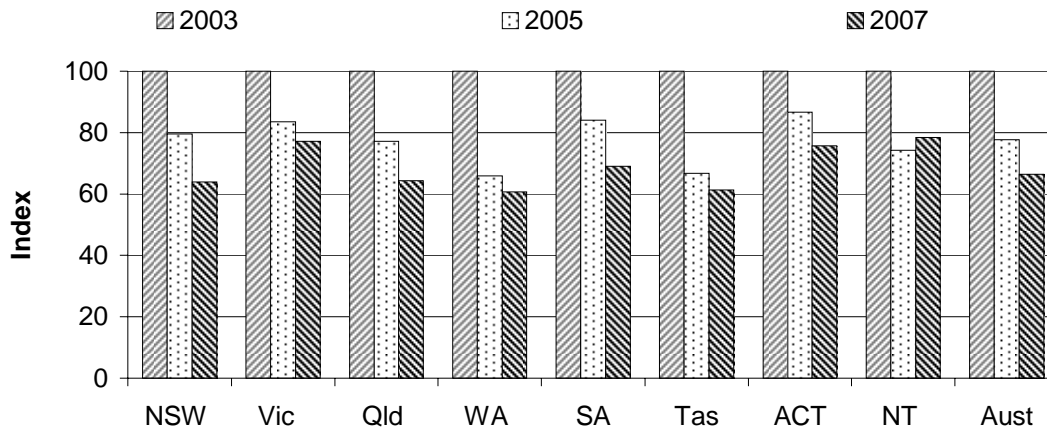


^a A victim is defined as a household reporting at least one break-in/attempted break-in. Victims were counted once only, regardless of the number of incidents of break-in/attempted break-in. Therefore, the addition of the 'break and enter' and, the 'attempted break and enter', data in table 6A.35 is greater than the category 'break and enter or attempted break and enter'. ^b Break-in is defined as an incident where the respondent's home had been broken into. Break-in offences relating to respondents' cars or gardens are excluded.

Source: ABS Crime and Safety, Australia (various years), Cat. no. 4509.0; table 6A.35.

Based on the ABS Recorded Crime collection, the number of victims of unlawful entry with intent per 100 000 people fell, nationally, between 2003 and 2007. There has been a general downward trend in the victimisation rate in all jurisdictions since the base period of 2003 (figure 6.24). Table 6A.32 reports numbers per 100 000 people.

Figure 6.24 Trends in recorded crime — victims of unlawful entry with intent index^{a, b, c, d}

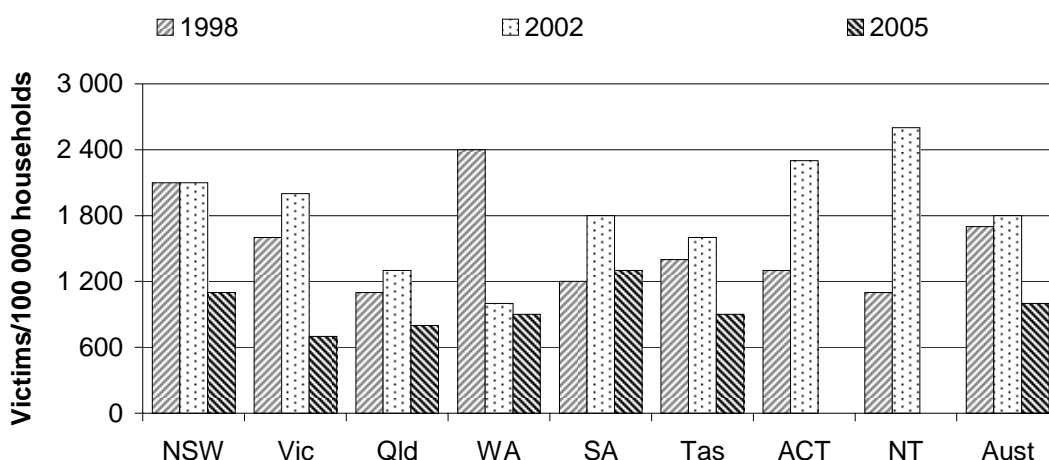


^a Data are based on crimes recorded by police. ^b Index 2003 = 100. Data are reported in index form because the variations in the rate of recorded victims across jurisdictions are influenced by different legislation, reporting systems and practices and reporting rates in jurisdictions. Index calculations are based on ABS unrounded data and may differ from those published by the ABS and others. ^c Historical rates in this figure may differ from those in previous Reports, as historical population data have been revised using Final Rebased ERP data following the 2006 Census of Population and Housing (for 30 June 2003 and 2005). Population data relate to 30 June, so that ERP at 30 June 2007 is used as the denominator for 2007. ^d NSW unlawful entry with intent counts prior to 2006 are overstated and therefore not comparable to later years. Given the magnitude of the contribution of NSW to the Australian estimate, national data are also overstated prior to 2006.

Source: ABS *Recorded Crime — Victims* (various years), Cat. no. 4510.0; tables 6A.32 and AA.2.

Based on ABS Crime and Safety Survey data, 1000 motor vehicles were stolen per 100 000 households in 2005 in Australia (down from 1800 per 100 000 households in 2002 and 1700 in 1998) (figure 6.25).

Figure 6.25 Estimated victims of motor vehicle theft^{a, b}

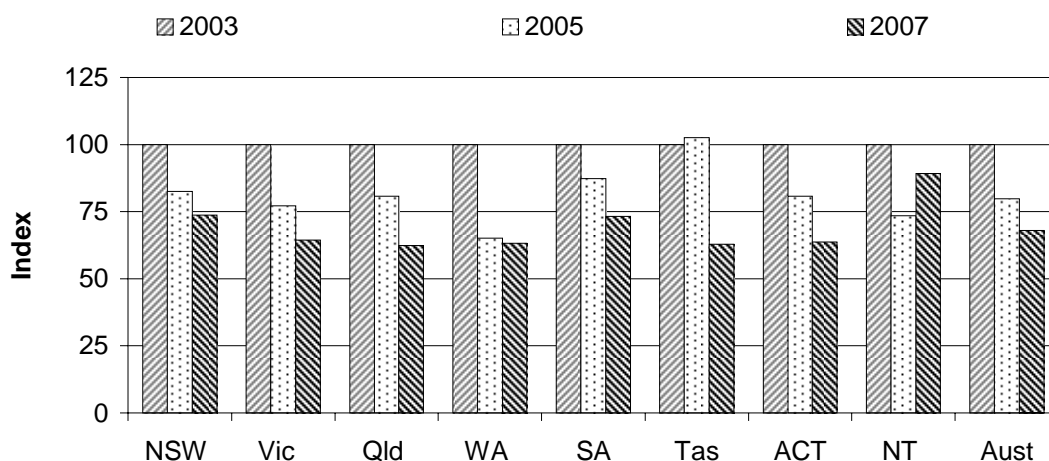


^a A victim is defined as a household reporting at least one motor vehicle theft. Victims were counted once only, regardless of the number of incidents of motor vehicle theft. Motor vehicle theft is defined as an incident where a motor vehicle was stolen from any member of the respondent's household. It includes privately owned vehicles, as well as business/company vehicles used exclusively by members of the household. ^b Data not available for some jurisdictions for all years.

Source: ABS Crime and Safety, Australia (various years), Cat. no. 4509.0; table 6A.35.

Based on the ABS Recorded Crime collection, the number of victims of motor vehicle theft per 100 000 people fell 32.0 per cent in Australia between 2003 and 2007 (figure 6.26). Table 6A.32 reports numbers per 100 000 people.

Figure 6.26 Trends in recorded crime — victims of motor vehicle theft^{a, b}



^a Data are based on crimes recorded by police. ^b Index 2003 = 100. Data are reported in index form because the variations in the rate of recorded victims across jurisdictions are influenced by different legislation, reporting systems and practices and reporting rates in jurisdictions. Index calculations are based on ABS unrounded data and may differ from those published by the ABS and others.

Source: ABS Recorded Crime – Victims (various years), Cat. no. 4510.0; table 6A.32.

Reporting rates

'Reporting rates' is an indicator of governments' objective to enforce the law (and improve community safety by engendering public confidence in the police and judicial system) (box 6.17).

Box 6.17 Reporting rates

'Reporting rates' is defined as the total number of the most recent incidents of a particular offence that were reported to police, as a percentage of the total victims of that offence. It is reported separately for:

- break and enter
- attempted break and enter
- motor vehicle theft
- robbery
- assault
- sexual assault
- total victims of crimes against the person
- total victims of crimes against property.

A higher reporting rate is desirable.

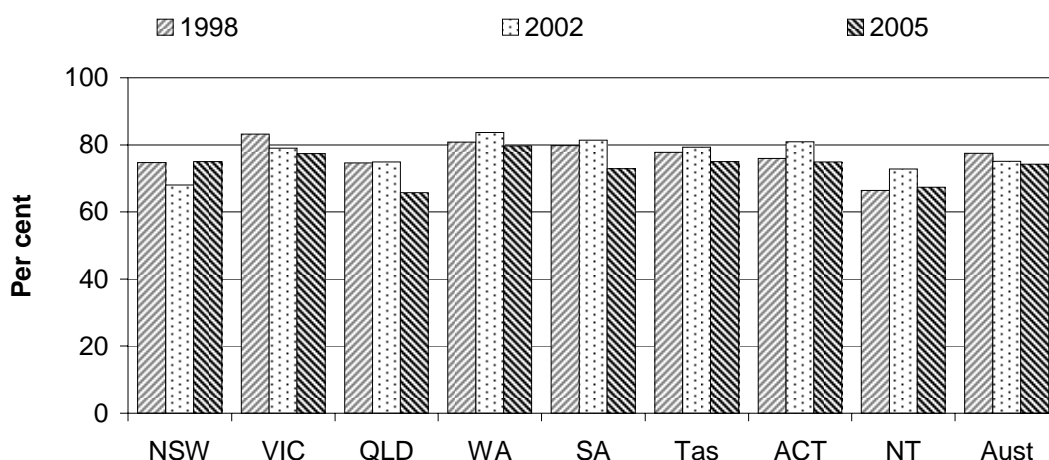
Reporting rates vary across different crime types (evident in table 6A.33). This indicator does not provide information on why some people choose not to report particular offences to the police.

Data reported for this indicator are comparable.

Nationally, the reporting rates in 2005 (for selected offences) were as follows:

- for break and enter offences, 74.2 per cent (compared with 75.1 per cent in 2002 and 77.5 per cent in 1998) (figure 6.27)
- for attempted break and enter offences, 30.7 per cent in 2005 (similar to that in 2002 and 1998, with 31.1 and 31.7 per cent respectively)
- for motor vehicle theft, 90.3 per cent in 2005 (compared with 95.0 per cent in 2002 and 95.1 per cent in 1998)
- for robbery offences, 38.5 per cent (compared with 50.2 per cent in 2002 and 49.8 per cent in 1998) (table 6A.33).

Figure 6.27 Reporting rate for break and enter^a



^a The 2005 break and enter estimate for the NT has a relative standard error between 25 and 50 per cent and should be used with caution.

Source: ABS Crime and Safety, Australia (various years), Cat. no. 4509.0; table 6A.33.

Outcomes of investigations — personal crimes

‘Outcomes of investigations — personal crimes’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to bring to justice those people responsible for committing an offence (box 6.18).

Box 6.18 Outcomes of investigations — personal crimes

‘Outcomes of investigations’ is defined by two separate measures:

- the proportion of investigations finalised within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police
- the proportion of the investigations finalised within 30 days (as above) where proceedings were instituted against the offender.

Measures are reported for a range of offences against the person including murder and armed robbery. Data on assault and sexual assault are no longer available nationally in recorded crime statistics.

A higher proportion of investigations finalised within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police is a desirable outcome. Similarly, a higher proportion of finalised investigations where proceedings had started against the alleged offender within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police, is a desirable outcome.

Data reported for this indicator are not directly comparable.

Activities associated with outcomes of investigations — personal crimes include gathering intelligence on suspects and locations to assist with investigations and collecting and securing evidence in relation to both the offence and the suspect.

The ABS collects data on the 30 days status of investigations — that is, the stage that a police investigation has reached 30 days after the recording of the incident by the police.

Outcomes of investigations — personal crimes are not directly comparable across jurisdictions because of differences in the way data are compiled.

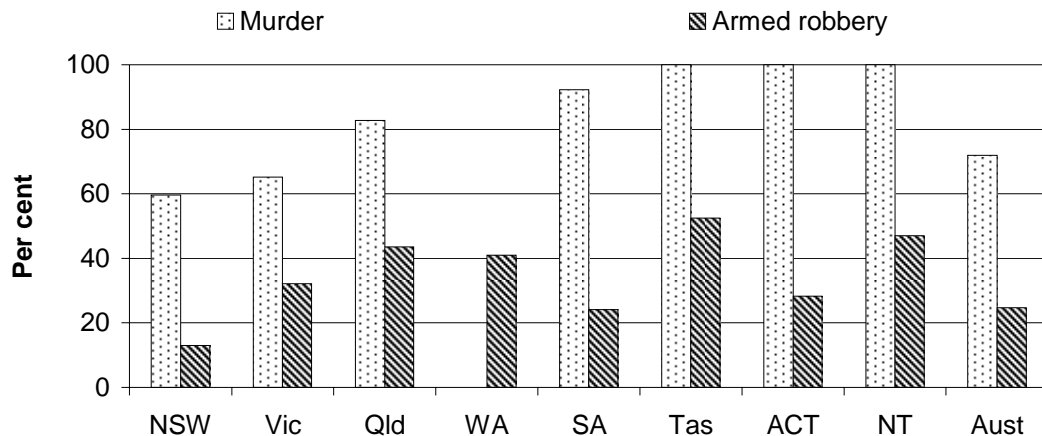
Nationally, 71.9 per cent of murder investigations and 24.7 per cent of armed robbery investigations were finalised within 30 days, in 2007 (figure 6.28). Of those finalised investigations, proceedings commenced against an alleged offender within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police for 94.5 per cent of murder investigations and 85.5 per cent of armed robbery investigations (figure 6.28).

Figure 6.29 presents, for each jurisdiction in 2007, the proportion of recorded unarmed robbery investigations, kidnapping/abduction investigations and blackmail/extortion investigations that were finalised within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police.

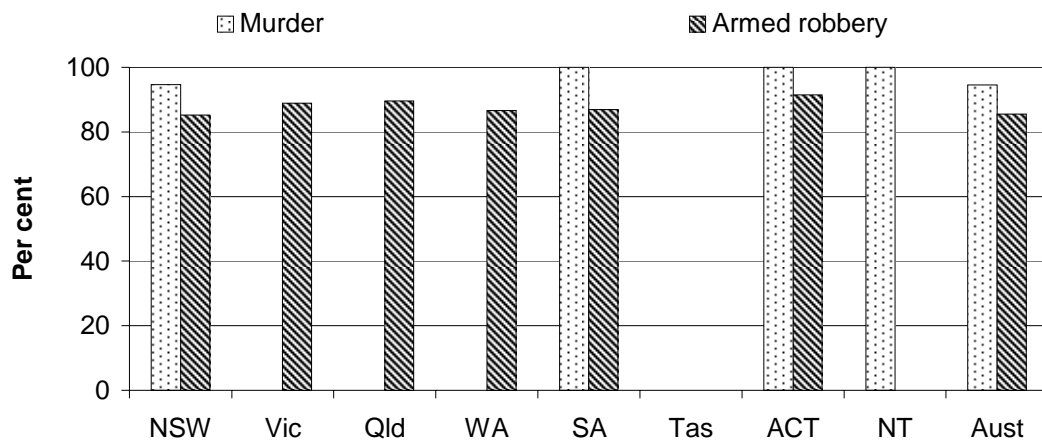
For these finalised investigations, figure 6.29 also presents the proportion of proceedings that had started against an alleged offender within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police.

Figure 6.28 Crimes against the person: outcomes of investigations, 30 day status, 2007^{a, b, c}

Proportion of investigations finalised within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police



Proportion of finalised investigations for which proceedings had begun within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police

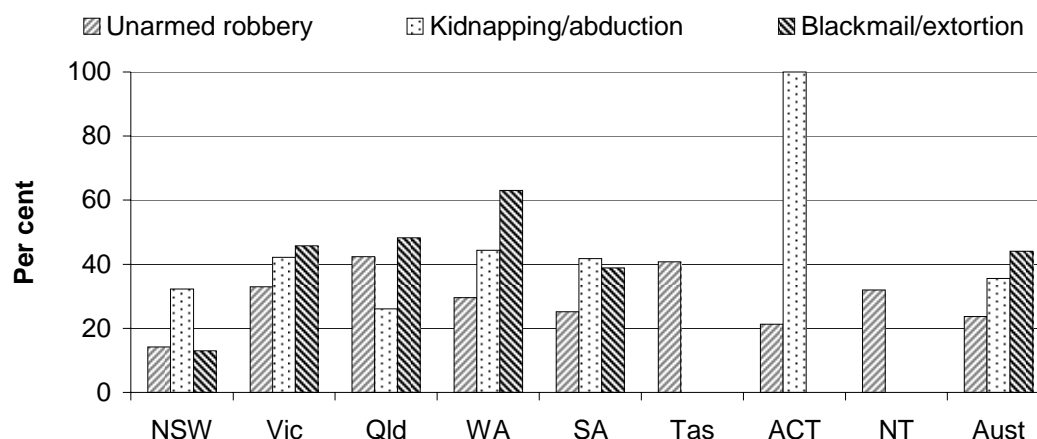


^a Data on murder investigations finalised within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police are not published for WA and Tasmania. Data on finalised investigations for which proceedings had begun within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police are not published for Victoria, Queensland, WA, SA and Tasmania for murder nor, for Tasmania and the NT for armed robbery. ^b Caution should be used in making comparisons across states and territories. There are significant differences in business rules, procedures, systems, policies and recording practices of police agencies across Australia. ^c In SA, SAPOL formally adopted the national crime reporting standard from September 2007. Offence outcome and clearance codes changed, and accordingly the ABS incorporated those changes into its mapping of offence outcome and clearance codes within the 'Investigation finalised — offender proceeded against/no offender proceeded against' categories significantly altering the calculations reported in Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia 2007. SAPOL has therefore provided replacement data based on SAPOL analysis of the same data set provided to the ABS, that is consistent with the previous approach.

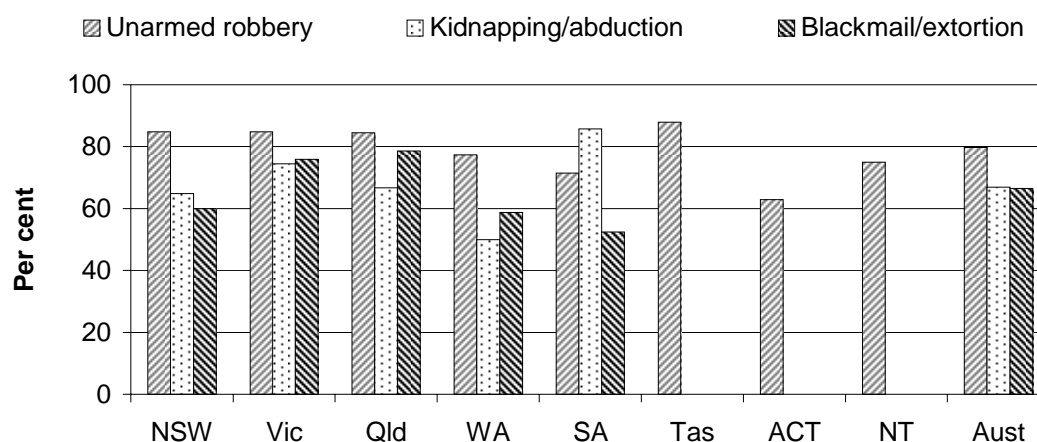
Source: ABS Recorded Crime – Victims, Cat. no. 4510.0 (2008 and unpublished); SA Government (unpublished); table 6A.36.

Figure 6.29 Crimes against the person: outcomes of investigations, 30 day status, 2007^{a, b, c}

Proportion of investigations finalised within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police



Proportion of finalised investigations for which proceedings had begun within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police



^a Data on blackmail/extortion investigations finalised within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police are zero for Tasmania and the NT and not published for the ACT. Data on finalised investigations for which proceedings had begun within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police are zero for Tasmania and not published for the ACT and the NT for kidnapping/abduction and for Tasmania, ACT and the NT for blackmail/extortion. ^b Caution should be used in making comparisons across states and territories. There are significant differences in business rules, procedures, systems, policies and recording practices of police agencies across Australia. ^c In SA, SAPOL formally adopted the national crime reporting standard from September 2007. Offence outcome and clearance codes changed, and accordingly the ABS incorporated those changes into its mapping of offence outcome and clearance codes within the 'Investigation finalised — offender proceeded against/no offender proceeded against' categories significantly altering the calculations reported in Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia 2007. SAPOL has therefore provided replacement data based on SAPOL analysis of the same data set provided to the ABS, that is consistent with the previous approach.

Source: ABS (2008 and unpublished), *Recorded Crime – Victims*, Cat. no. 4510.0; SA Government (unpublished); table 6A.36.

Outcomes of investigations — property crimes

‘Outcomes of investigations — property crimes’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to bring to justice those people responsible for committing an offence (box 6.19).

Box 6.19 Outcomes of investigations — property crimes

‘Outcomes of investigations — property crimes’ is defined by two separate measures:

- the proportion of investigations finalised within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police
- the proportion of the investigations finalised within 30 days (as above) where proceedings were instituted against the offender.

Outcomes of investigations measures are reported for three property offences: unlawful entry with intent, motor vehicle theft and other theft.

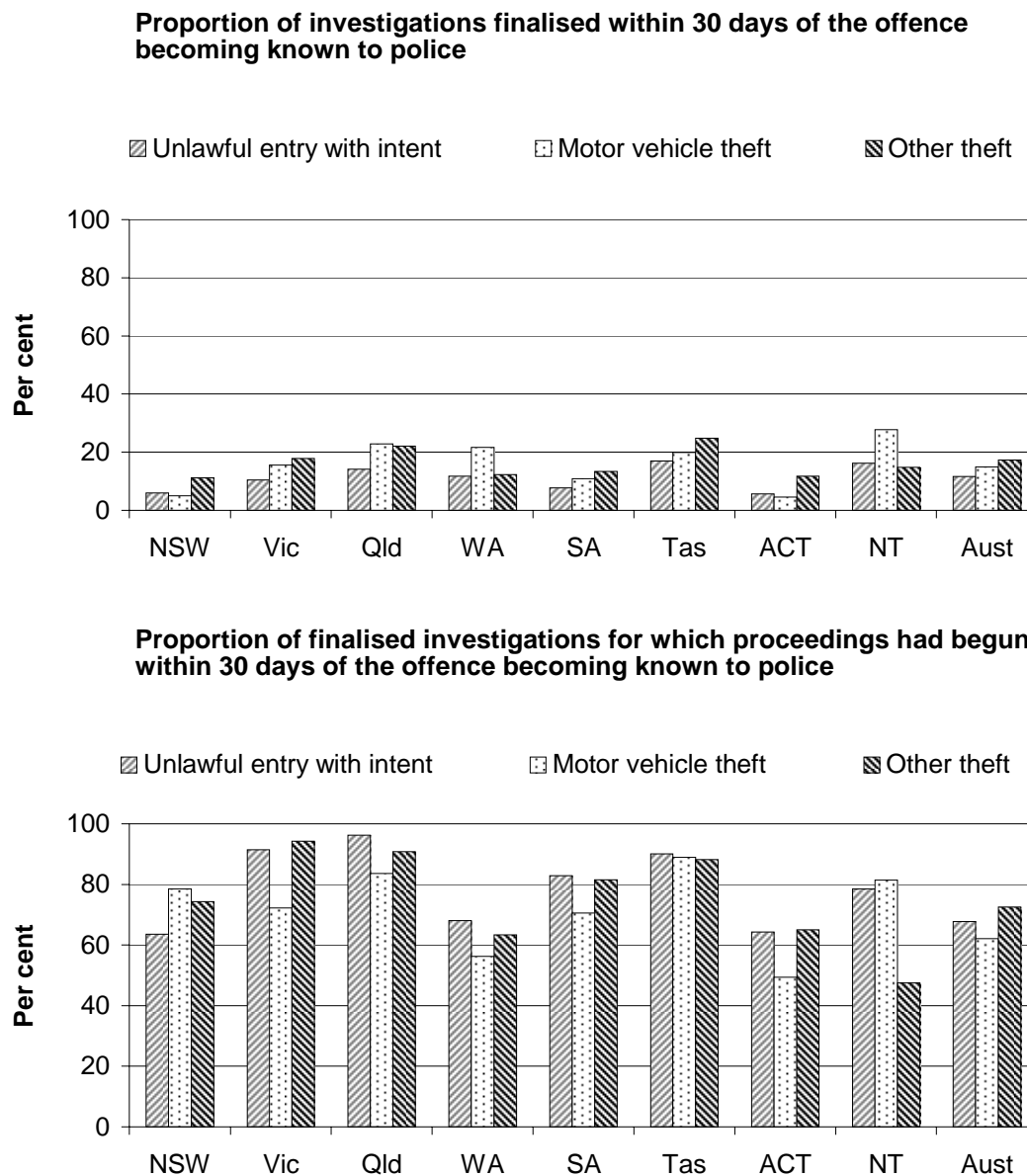
A higher proportion of investigations finalised within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police is a desirable outcome. Similarly, a higher proportion of finalised investigations where proceedings had started against the alleged offender within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police, is a desirable outcome.

Data reported for this indicator are not directly comparable.

Figure 6.30 reports for each jurisdiction in 2007, the proportion of recorded unlawful entry with intent investigations, motor vehicle theft investigations and other theft investigations that were finalised within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police.

For these finalised investigations, figure 6.30 also presents the proportion of proceedings that had started against an alleged offender within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police.

Figure 6.30 **Property crime: outcomes of investigations, 30 day status, 2007^{a, b}**



^a Caution should be used in making comparisons across states and territories. There are significant differences in business rules, procedures, systems, policies and recording practices of police agencies across Australia. ^b SAPOL formally adopted the national crime reporting standard from September 2007. Offence outcome and clearance codes changed, and accordingly the ABS incorporated those changes into its mapping of offence outcome and clearance codes within the 'Investigation finalised — offender proceeded against/no offender proceeded against' categories significantly altering the calculations reported in Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia 2007. SAPOL has therefore provided replacement data based on SAPOL analysis of the same data set provided to the ABS, that is consistent with the previous approach.

Source: ABS (2008) *Recorded Crime – Victims*, Cat. no. 4510.0; SA Government (unpublished); table 6A.37.

6.6 Road safety

This section reviews the role of police in maximising road safety through targeted operations to reduce the incidence of traffic offences and through attendance at, and investigation of, road traffic collisions and incidents.

Activities typically include:

- monitoring road user behaviour, including speed- and alcohol-related traffic operations
- undertaking general traffic management functions
- attending and investigating road traffic collisions and incidents
- improving public education and awareness of traffic and road safety issues.

Police performance in undertaking road safety activities is measured using a suite of indicators that includes people's behaviour on the roads and the number of land transport hospitalisations and road fatalities. For data that are not considered directly comparable, the text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary. Chapter 1 discusses data comparability from a Report-wide perspective (see section 1.6).

Key road safety performance indicator results

Outputs

Outputs are the actual services delivered (while outcomes are the impact of these services on the status of an individual or group) (see chapter 1, section 1.5).

Equity — access

The Steering Committee has identified equity and access for road safety as an area for development in future reports (box 6.20).

Box 6.20 Performance indicator — access

An indicator of governments' objective to facilitate equitable access for people with special needs for road safety services has yet to be developed.

Outcomes

Outcomes are the impact of services on the status of an individual or group (while outputs are the actual services delivered) (see chapter 1, section 1.5).

The objective of police road safety programs is to promote safer behaviour on roads and influence road user behaviour so as to reduce the incidence of road collisions and the severity of road trauma. Many of these programs target the non-wearing of seat belts, excessive speed and drink driving.

This section reports data from the NSCSP about respondents' road use habits. For contextual purposes, 86.5 per cent of NSCSP respondents in 2007-08 stated that they had driven a motor vehicle in the past 6 months.

Road safety performance

'Road safety performance' is an indicator of governments' objective to promote safer behaviour on the road through police programs that aim to influence road user behaviour (box 6.21).

Box 6.21 Road safety performance

'Road safety performance' is defined by three separate measures:

- use of seatbelts, defined as the proportion of people who had driven in the past 6 months and, in that time, had driven a car without wearing a seatbelt
- driving under the influence, defined as the proportion of people who had driven in the previous 6 months who indicated that they had driven when possibly over the alcohol limit in the previous 6 months
- degree of speeding, defined as the proportion of people who had driven in the last 6 months who indicated that they driven more than 10 kilometres per hour or more above the speed limit in the previous 6 months.

A lower proportion of people who stated that they had driven a car without wearing a seatbelt, driven when possibly over the alcohol limit and/or driven 10 kilometres per hour or more above the speed limit is desirable.

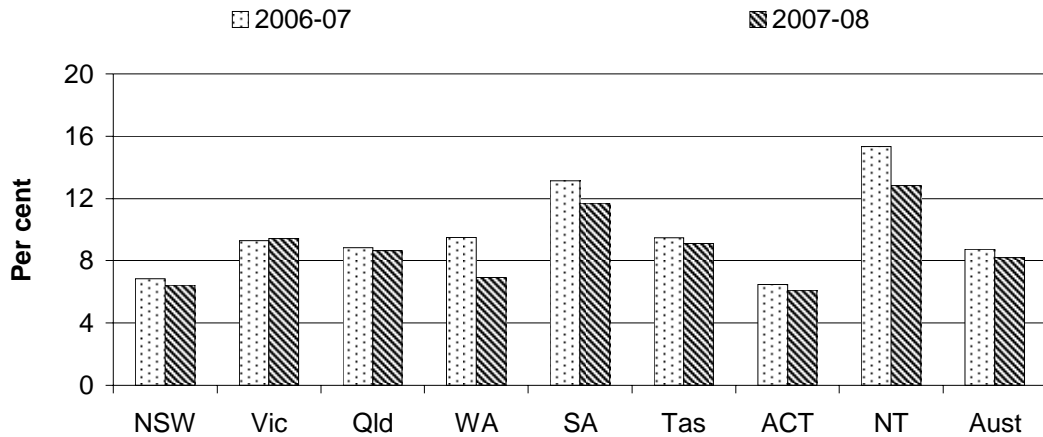
The use of seatbelts, the prevalence of driving under the influence of alcohol and speeding in the population is affected by a number of factors in addition to activities undertaken by police services, such as driver education and media campaigns.

Data reported for this indicator are comparable.

Nationally, 8.2 per cent of people surveyed in 2007-08, who had driven in the previous 6 months, said they had 'rarely' or more often ('sometimes', 'most of the

time' or 'always') driven a car without wearing a seat belt (little changed from 8.7 per cent in 2006-07) (figure 6.31).

Figure 6.31 People who had driven in the previous 6 months without wearing a seat belt^{a, b}

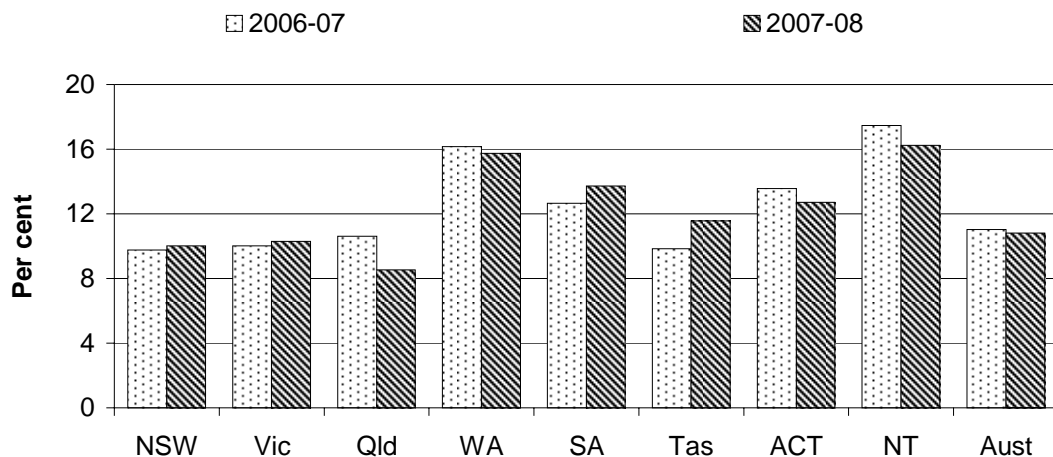


^a Data are based on responses from people aged 15 years or over. ^b Data are based on survey results and subject to sampling error. Confidence intervals are included in section 6.8.

Source: ANZPAA (unpublished); table 6A.38.

Nationally in 2007-08, 10.8 per cent of people surveyed, who had driven in the previous 6 months, indicated that they had 'rarely' or more often ('sometimes', 'most of the time' or 'always') driven when possibly over the blood alcohol limit (little changed from 11.0 per cent in 2006-07) (figure 6.32).

Figure 6.32 People who had driven in the previous 6 months when possibly over the alcohol limit 'rarely' or more often^{a, b}

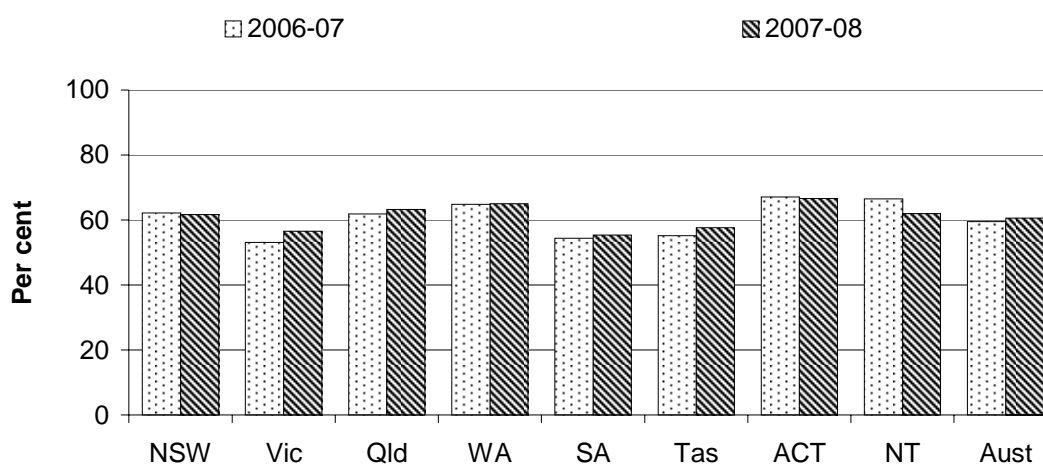


^a Data are based on responses from people aged 15 years or over. ^b Data are based on survey results and subject to sampling error. Confidence intervals are included in section 6.8.

Source: ANZPAA (unpublished); table 6A.39.

Nationally in 2007-08, 60.6 per cent of people surveyed who had driven in the previous 6 months reported travelling more than 10 kilometres per hour or more above the speed limit ‘rarely’ or more often (‘sometimes’, ‘most of the time’ or ‘always’) (little changed from 59.5 per cent in 2006-07) (figure 6.33).

Figure 6.33 People who had driven more than 10 kilometres per hour or more above the speed limit ‘rarely’ or more often in the previous 6 months^{a, b}



^a Data years are based on responses from people aged 15 years or over. ^b Data are based on survey results and subject to sampling error. Confidence intervals are included in section 6.8.

Source: ANZPAA (unpublished); table 6A.40.

Road death

‘Road death’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to promote safer behaviour on the road (box 6.22). One aim of policing is to contribute to a reduction in road crashes and related road deaths and hospitalisations.

Box 6.22 Road death

‘Road death’ is defined as the number of road deaths per 100 000 registered vehicles.

A lower rate of road deaths per 100 000 registered vehicles is a desirable outcome.

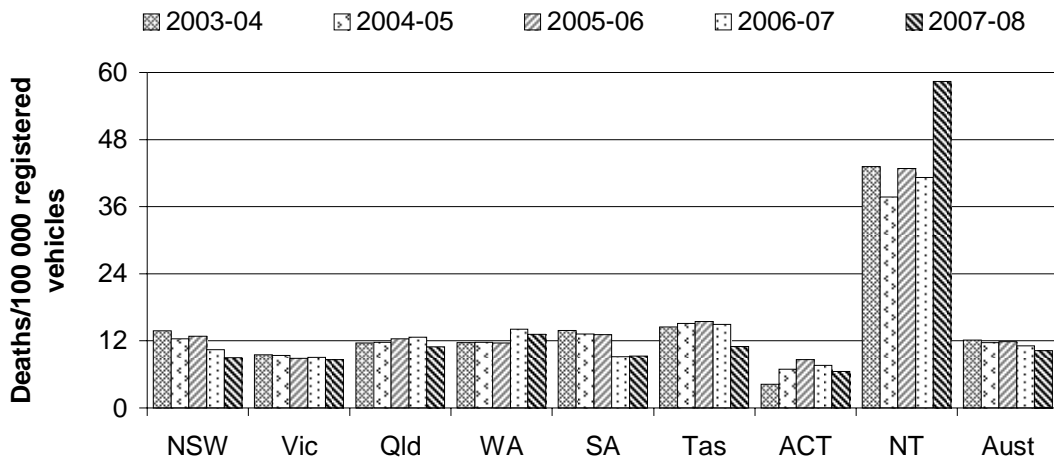
The rate of road deaths per 100 000 registered vehicles is affected by a number of factors in addition to activities undertaken by police services, such as the condition of roads, driver education and media campaigns.

Data reported for this indicator are comparable.

Nationally, there were 1510 road deaths in 2007-08 (down from 1597 in 2006-07). Road fatalities for all jurisdictions from 2003-04 to 2007-08 are reported in table 6A.41.

There were 10 road deaths per 100 000 registered vehicles in Australia in 2007-08, (down from 11 in 2006-07) (figure 6.34).

Figure 6.34 Road deaths per 100 000 registered vehicles



Source: ATSB, Fatal Road Crash Database (accessed 26 September 2008); ABS Motor Vehicle Census (various years), Australia Cat. no. 9309.0; table 6A.41.

Land transport hospitalisations per registered vehicle

‘Land transport hospitalisations per registered vehicle’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to promote safer behaviour on the road (box 6.23).

Box 6.23 Land transport hospitalisations per registered vehicle

‘Land transport hospitalisations per registered vehicle’ is defined as the number of hospitalisations from traffic accidents per 100 000 registered vehicles.

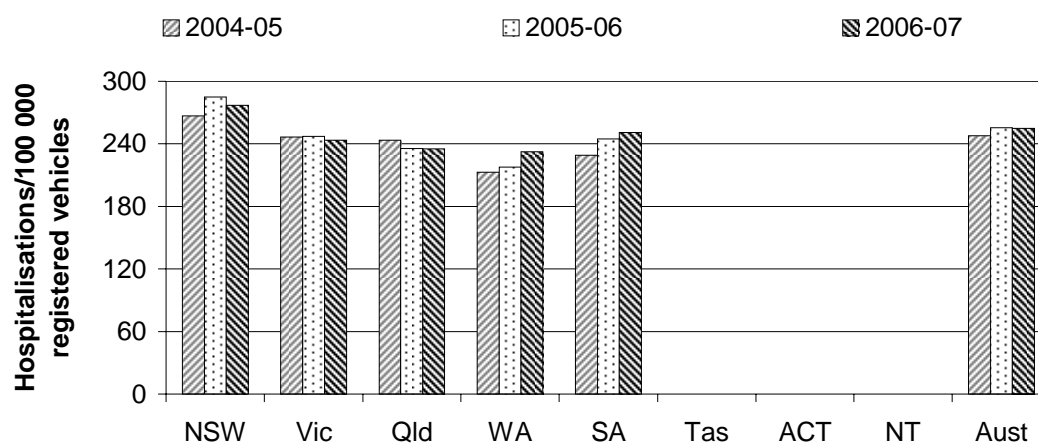
A lower number of hospitalisations from traffic accidents per 100 000 registered vehicles is a desirable outcome.

Hospitalisations from traffic accidents per 100 000 registered vehicles is affected by a number of factors in addition to activities undertaken by police services, such as the condition of roads, driver education and media campaigns.

Data reported for this indicator are comparable.

There were 255 land transport hospitalisations per 100 000 registered vehicles in 2006-07, based on the five jurisdictions where data were available (figure 6.35).

Figure 6.35 Land transport hospitalisations per 100 000 registered vehicles^a



^a Data are not published for Tasmania, the ACT and the NT.

Source: ABS Motor Vehicle Census (various years), Australia Cat. no. 9309.0; AIHW (unpublished); table 6A.42.

Perceptions of road safety problems

'Perceptions of road safety problems' is an indicator of governments' objective to promote safer behaviour on the road, along with improving the neighbourhood quality of life, to reassure the public by ensuring the community feels safe in driving and using the roads (box 6.24).

Box 6.24 Perceptions of road safety problems

'Perceptions of road safety problems' is defined by two separate measures:

- the proportion of people who believed speeding cars or dangerous, noisy driving to be a 'major problem' or 'somewhat of a problem' in their State or Territory
- the proportion of people who believed speeding cars or dangerous, noisy driving to be 'major problem' or 'somewhat of a problem' in their neighbourhood.

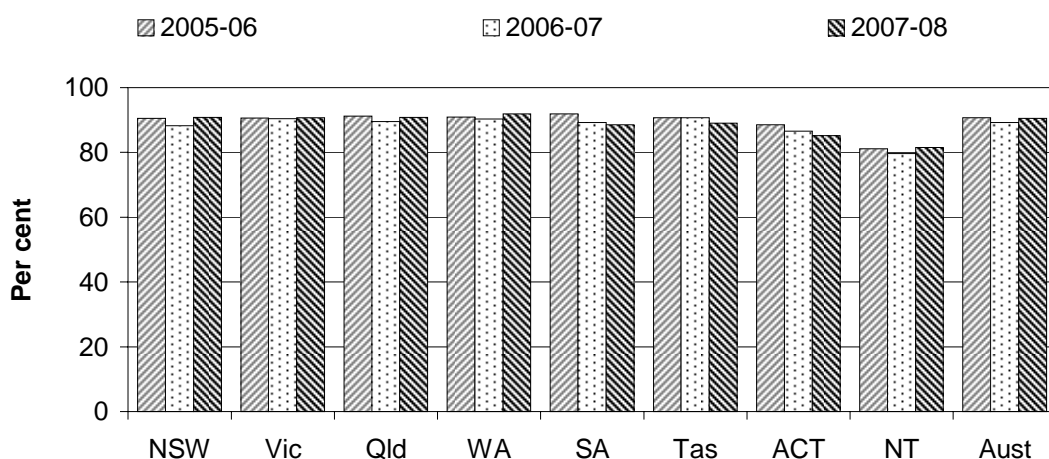
A smaller proportion of people who felt that speeding cars or dangerous, noisy driving was a 'major problem' or 'somewhat of a problem', is a desirable outcome.

Perceptions of road safety might not reflect actual levels of road safety, and many factors (including individual experiences and media reporting) might influence people's perceptions of road safety.

Data reported for this indicator are comparable.

Nationally in 2007-08, 90.5 per cent of people surveyed believed speeding cars or dangerous, noisy driving to be a 'major problem' or 'somewhat of a problem' in their State or Territory (little changed from 89.3 per cent in 2006-07) (figure 6.36).

Figure 6.36 Proportion of people who felt that speeding cars or dangerous, noisy driving was a 'major problem' or 'somewhat of a problem' in their State or Territory^{a, b}

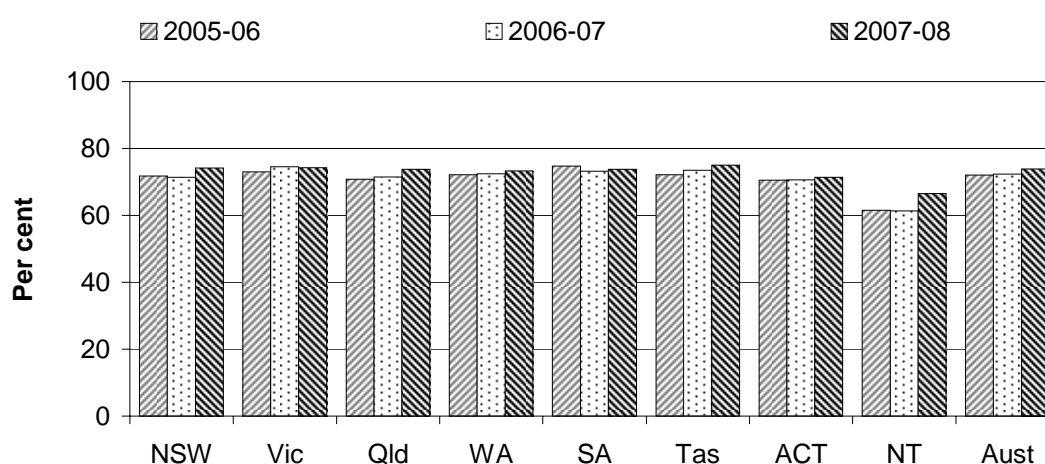


^a Data are based on responses from people aged 15 years or over. ^b Data are based on survey results and subject to sampling error. Confidence intervals are included in section 6.8.

Source: ANZPAA (unpublished); table 6A.29.

Nationally in 2007-08, 73.9 per cent of people surveyed believed speeding cars or dangerous, noisy driving to be a ‘major problem’ or ‘somewhat of a problem’ in their neighbourhood (little changed from 72.4 per cent in 2006-07) (figure 6.37).

Figure 6.37 Proportion of people who felt that speeding cars or dangerous, noisy driving was a ‘major problem’ or ‘somewhat of a problem’ in their neighbourhood^{a, b}



^a Data are based on responses from people aged 15 years or over. ^b Data are based on survey results and subject to sampling error. Confidence intervals are included in section 6.8.

Source: ANZPAA (unpublished); table 6A.26.

6.7 Judicial services

This section reviews the role of police in providing effective and efficient support to the judicial process, including the provision of safe custody for alleged offenders and fair and equitable treatment of both victims and alleged offenders.

Activities typically include:

- preparing briefs
- presenting evidence at court
- conducting court and prisoner security.

The role of police services in conducting court and prisoner security differs across jurisdictions.

Police performance in undertaking these activities is measured using a suite of indicators that include the proportion of court cases resulting in guilty pleas or

guilty findings, and the effectiveness of police in diverting offenders from the criminal justice system. For data that are not considered directly comparable, the text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary. Chapter 1 discusses data comparability from a Report-wide perspective (see section 1.6).

Key judicial services performance indicator results

Outputs

Outputs are the actual services delivered (while outcomes are the impact of these services on the status of an individual or group) (see chapter 1, section 1.5).

Equity — access

An access indicator to measure governments' objective to facilitate equitable access for people with special needs for services to the judicial process has yet to be developed (box 6.25).

Box 6.25 Performance indicator — access

Equity and access for services to the judicial process has been identified as a key area for development in future reports.

Efficiency

Costs awarded against police in criminal actions

'Costs awarded against police in criminal actions' is an indicator of governments' objective to undertake activities associated with police services to the judicial process in an efficient manner (box 6.26).

Box 6.26 Costs awarded against police in criminal actions

'Costs awarded against police in criminal actions' is defined as the costs awarded against police in criminal actions, reported both as total dollars and per person in the jurisdiction.

Lower costs awarded against police in criminal actions are desirable.

Court costs are generally awarded when a criminal action against an offender has failed; in this respect, it represents at least some of the resources expended when a prosecution fails.

Data reported for this indicator are not directly comparable.

The process by which costs are awarded differs between jurisdictions.

Real costs awarded against police, for those jurisdictions providing data in 2007-08, are presented in table 6.2 and provide a picture of trends over time for each jurisdiction. Data are presented for total dollar amounts and costs per person.

Table 6.2 Real costs awarded against the police in criminal actions (2007-08 dollars)^{a, b}

	<i>Unit</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>
Total costs									
2003-04	\$'000	693	1 926	124	1 250	566	na	254	na
2004-05	\$'000	761	2 236	186	1 603	787	na	256	na
2005-06	\$'000	1 035	2 413	158	2 256	778	23	149	na
2006-07	\$'000	900	1 932	131	3 047	862	34	149	na
2007-08	\$'000	1 060	1 601	245	3 100	1 209	16	71	22
Total costs per person ^c									
2003-04	\$	0.10	0.39	0.03	0.64	0.37	na	0.78	na
2004-05	\$	0.11	0.45	0.05	0.80	0.51	na	0.78	na
2005-06	\$	0.15	0.47	0.04	1.11	0.50	0.05	0.45	na
2006-07	\$	0.13	0.37	0.03	1.46	0.55	0.07	0.44	na
2007-08	\$	0.15	0.31	0.06	1.45	0.76	0.03	0.21	0.10

^a Total costs awarded against the police resulting from summary offences and indictable offences tried summarily before a court of law, including ex gratia payments in some jurisdictions. ^b The process by which costs are awarded differs between jurisdictions. Therefore, 'costs awarded against police in criminal actions' data are not comparable across jurisdictions. ^c Historical rates in this table may differ from those in previous Reports, as historical population data have been revised using Final Rebased ERP data following the 2006 Census of Population and Housing (for 31 December 2001 to 2005). Population data relate to 31 December, so that ERP at 31 December 2007 is used as the denominator for 2007-08. **na** Not available.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished); tables 6A.46 and AA.2.

Effectiveness

Proportion of juvenile diversions

‘Proportion of juvenile diversions’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to support the judicial process to achieve efficient and effective court case management for judicial processing (box 6.27).

Box 6.27 Proportion of juvenile diversions

‘Proportion of juvenile diversions’ is defined as the number of juveniles who would otherwise be proceeded against (that is, taken to court) but who are diverted by police, as a proportion of all juvenile offenders formally dealt with by police.

A high or increasing proportion of juvenile diversions represents a desirable outcome.

This indicator does not provide information on the relative success or failure of diversionary mechanisms.

When police apprehend offenders, they have a variety of options available. They can charge the offender, in which case criminal proceedings occur through the traditional court processes, or they can use their discretion to divert the offender away from this potentially costly, time consuming and stressful situation (for both the offender and victim). Diversionary mechanisms include cautions and attendances at community and family conferences. These options can be beneficial because they allow the offender to be admonished, without the necessity of traditional court processes. They are particularly useful mechanisms for dealing with juvenile offenders. Not all options are available or subject to police discretion in all jurisdictions.

The term ‘diverted’ includes diversions of offenders away from the courts by way of community conference, diversionary conference, formal cautioning by police, family conferences, and other programs (for example, drug assessment/treatment). Excluded are offenders who would not normally be sent to court for the offence detected and who are treated by police in a less formal manner (for example, those issued with warnings or infringement notices).

Data reported for this indicator are not directly comparable.

The proportion of juvenile offenders undergoing diversionary programs varied across jurisdictions in 2007-08. Within most jurisdictions, proportions of juvenile offenders undergoing diversionary programs were relatively consistent over time (table 6.3).

Table 6.3 Juvenile diversions as a proportion of juvenile offenders (per cent)

	NSW	Vic ^a	Qld	WA ^b	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
2003-04	58	30	45	67	55	56	42	na
2004-05	57	41	45	62	55	66	41	47
2005-06	55	35	47	61	55	64	36	38
2006-07	56	40	48	57	52	71	43	39
2007-08	55	41	49	56	49	67	49	42

^a Victoria's results reflect only those instances where a juvenile is taken into police custody and subsequently issued with a formal caution. Instances where a juvenile is released into non-police care or involving a safe-custody application are not included. ^b WA data for 2003–07 have been revised to reflect financial years. Juvenile diversions include juvenile cautions and referrals to 'Juvenile Justice Teams'. The proportion of juvenile diversions has been calculated on total recorded police contacts with juvenile offenders comprising juvenile cautions, referrals to 'Juvenile Justice Teams' and arrests involving juveniles.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 6A.45.

Outcomes

Outcomes are the impact of services on the status of an individual or group (while outputs are the actual services delivered) (see chapter 1, section 1.5).

Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, and Indigenous deaths in custody and custody-related operations

'Deaths in custody and custody-related operations', and 'Indigenous deaths in custody and custody-related operations' are indicators of governments' objective to provide safe custody for alleged offenders, and ensure fair and equitable treatment for both victims and alleged offenders (box 6.28).

Box 6.28 Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, and Indigenous deaths in custody and custody related operations

'Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations' and 'Indigenous deaths in custody and custody-related operations' are defined as the number of non-Indigenous and Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations.

A lower number of deaths in custody and custody-related operations is a better outcome.

Data reported for these indicators are comparable.

Nationally, there were 30 deaths in police custody and custody-related operations in 2007 (up from 22 in 2006). This total comprised 26 non-Indigenous deaths and 4 Indigenous deaths (table 6.4).

Table 6.4 **Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations^{a, b}**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Non-Indigenous deaths									
2003	11	4	7	3	2	–	1	–	28
2004	9	4	5	2	2	–	1	–	23
2005	3	5	6	–	1	–	–	–	15
2006	8	3	1	2	1	–	1	–	16
2007	5	7	3	4	4	–	–	2	26
Indigenous deaths									
2003	1	–	2	4	–	–	–	1	8
2004	2	1	2	1	1	–	–	1	8
2005	1	–	1	6	–	–	–	–	8
2006	–	1	1	2	1	–	–	1	6
2007	–	–	2	–	2	–	–	–	4
Total Indigenous deaths 2003–07^c	4	2	8	13	4	–	–	3	34
Total deaths									
2003	12	4	9	7	2	–	1	1	36
2004	11	5	7	3	3	–	1	1	31
2005	4	5	7	6	1	–	–	–	23
2006	8	4	2	4	2	–	1	1	22
2007	5	7	5	4	6	–	–	2	30
Total 2003–07	40	25	30	24	14	–	3	5	142

^a Deaths in police custody include: deaths in institutional settings (for example, police stations/lockups and police vehicles, or during transfer to or from such an institution, or in hospitals following transfer from an institution); and other deaths in police operations where officers were in close contact with the deceased (for example, most raids and shootings by police). Deaths in custody-related operations cover situations where officers did not have such close contact with the person as to be able to significantly influence or control the person's behaviour (for example, most sieges and most cases where officers were attempting to detain a person, such as pursuits). ^b The AIC Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations for 2006-07 are preliminary (unpublished) and final data in other publications might differ. ^c In 2006, two deaths occurred in NSW for which Indigenous status has not been determined. – Nil or rounded to zero.

Source: AIC (various years, unpublished), *Deaths in Custody, Australia*; table 6A.43.

Outcomes of court cases

The police assist the judicial process in a variety of ways, including collecting evidence and providing testimony in court. Police work in this area can be measured to some extent by the success of court cases in achieving a guilty plea or finding.

Proportion of lower court cases resulting in a guilty plea or finding

'Proportion of lower court cases resulting in a guilty plea or finding' is an indicator of governments' objective for police to support the judicial process to achieve efficient and effective court case management for judicial processing (box 6.29).

Box 6.29 Proportion of lower court cases resulting in a guilty plea or finding

‘Proportion of lower court cases resulting in a guilty plea or finding’ is defined as the number of lower courts finalised defendants who either submitted a guilty plea or were found guilty, as a proportion of the total number of lower courts adjudicated defendants.

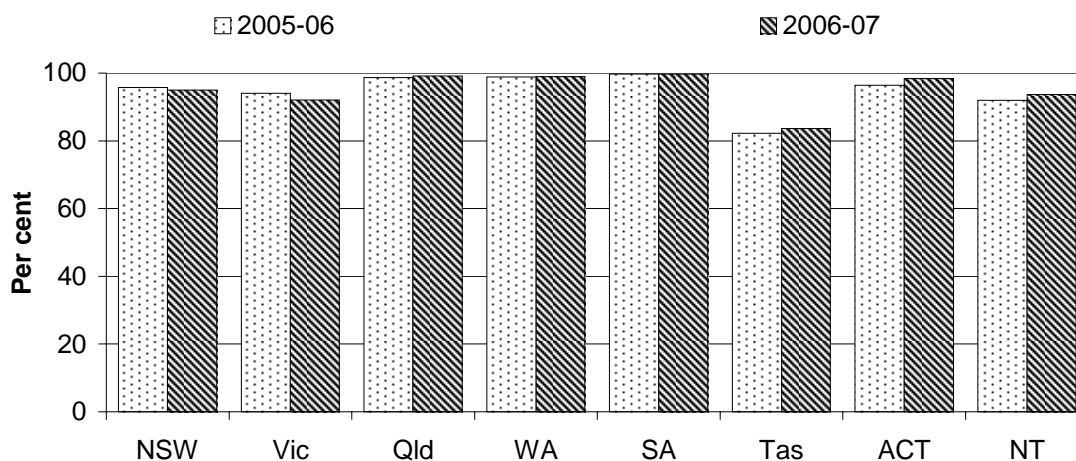
A higher proportion of lower courts adjudicated defendants submitting a guilty plea or being the subject of a guilty finding represents a better outcome.

This indicator does not provide information on the number of cases where police have identified a likely offender but choose not to bring the case to trial due to a number of factors.

Data reported for this indicator are comparable.

The proportion of lower courts adjudicated defendants who either submitted a guilty plea or were found guilty was stable between 2005-06 and 2006-07 (figure 6.38).

Figure 6.38 Proportion of lower courts adjudicated defendants who submitted a guilty plea or were found guilty^a



^a A defendant can be either a person or organisation against whom one or more criminal charges have been laid.

Source: ABS Criminal Courts, Australia (various years) Cat. no. 4513.0; table 6A.44.

Proportion of higher court cases resulting in a guilty plea or finding

‘Proportion of higher court cases resulting in a guilty plea or finding’ is another indicator of governments’ objective for police to support the judicial process to

achieve efficient and effective court case management for judicial processing (box 6.30).

Box 6.30 Proportion of higher court cases resulting in a guilty plea or finding

‘Proportion of higher court cases resulting in a guilty plea or finding’ is defined as the number of higher courts finalised defendants who either submitted a guilty plea or were found guilty, as a proportion of the total number of higher courts adjudicated defendants.

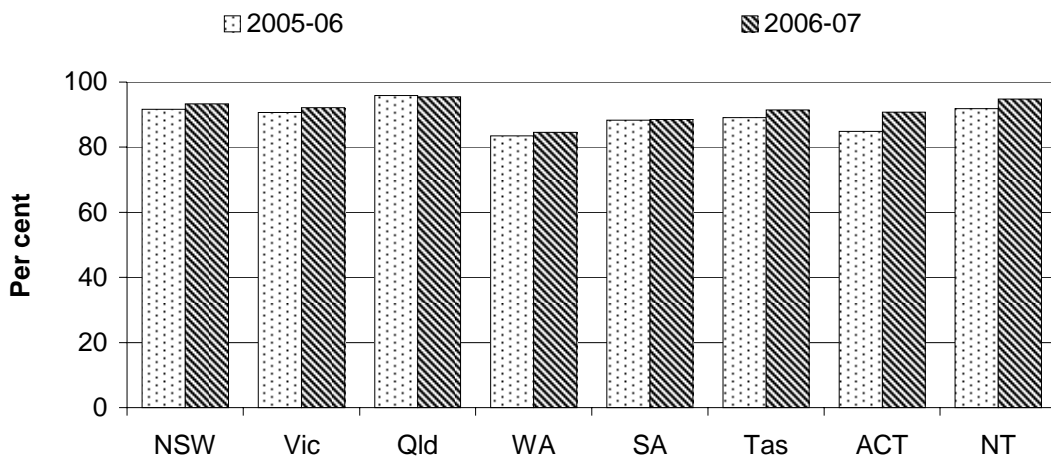
A higher proportion of higher courts adjudicated defendants submitting a guilty plea or being the subject of a guilty finding represents a better outcome.

This indicator does not provide information on the number of cases where police have identified a likely offender, but choose not bring the case to trial due to a variety of factors nor to cases that have been finalised by a non-adjudicated method.

Data reported for this indicator are comparable.

The proportion of higher courts adjudicated defendants who either submitted a guilty plea or were found guilty was stable between 2005-06 and 2006-07 (figure 6.39).

Figure 6.39 Proportion of higher courts adjudicated defendants who submitted a guilty plea or were found guilty^a



^a A defendant can be either a person or organisation against whom one or more criminal charges have been laid.

Source: ABS Criminal Courts, Australia (various years) Cat. no. 4513.0; table 6A.44.

6.8 Information on sample data

Some of the results reported are estimates obtained by conducting surveys with samples of the group or population in question. Results, therefore, are subject to sampling error. The data obtained from a sample may be different from the 'value' that would have been obtained from the entire group or population. Consequently, care needs to be taken when using survey results (see appendix A).

Table 6.5 indicates the confidence intervals for sample estimates reported in this chapter. For example, a point estimate of 50 per cent for NSW has a 95 per cent confidence interval of ± 2.5 percentage points (that is, there is 95 per cent confidence that the estimate lies between 47.5 per cent to 52.5 per cent). When comparing jurisdictions, estimates are statistically different only when confidence intervals do not overlap. A similar situation applies when comparing estimates between years.

Table 6.5 95% Confidence bound to be applied to estimates from National Community Satisfaction with Policing Survey^a

<i>Estimate %</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
1 to 3	+/- 0.5	+/- 0.5	+/- 0.5	+/- 1.0	+/- 1.0	+/- 1.0	+/- 0.5	+/- 1.0	+/- 0.2
4 to 5	+/- 1.0	+/- 1.0	+/- 0.5	+/- 1.0	+/- 1.0	+/- 1.0	+/- 1.0	+/- 1.5	+/- 0.4
6 to 8	+/- 1.0	+/- 1.0	+/- 1.0	+/- 1.5	+/- 1.5	+/- 1.5	+/- 1.5	+/- 2.0	+/- 0.4
9 to 14	+/- 1.5	+/- 1.0	+/- 1.0	+/- 2.0	+/- 2.0	+/- 2.0	+/- 2.0	+/- 2.5	+/- 0.5
15 to 25	+/- 2.0	+/- 1.5	+/- 1.5	+/- 2.5	+/- 2.5	+/- 2.5	+/- 2.5	+/- 3.0	+/- 0.7
26 to 30	+/- 2.0	+/- 1.5	+/- 1.5	+/- 2.5	+/- 2.5	+/- 2.5	+/- 2.5	+/- 3.5	+/- 0.7
31 to 46	+/- 2.0	+/- 2.0	+/- 1.5	+/- 3.0	+/- 3.0	+/- 3.0	+/- 2.5	+/- 4.0	+/- 0.8
47 to 53	+/- 2.5	+/- 2.0	+/- 1.5	+/- 3.0	+/- 3.0	+/- 3.0	+/- 2.5	+/- 4.0	+/- 0.8
54 to 69	+/- 2.0	+/- 2.0	+/- 1.5	+/- 3.0	+/- 3.0	+/- 3.0	+/- 2.5	+/- 4.0	+/- 0.8
70 to 74	+/- 2.0	+/- 1.5	+/- 1.5	+/- 2.5	+/- 2.5	+/- 2.5	+/- 2.5	+/- 3.5	+/- 0.7
75 to 85	+/- 2.0	+/- 1.5	+/- 1.5	+/- 2.5	+/- 2.5	+/- 2.5	+/- 2.0	+/- 3.0	+/- 0.7
86 to 91	+/- 1.5	+/- 1.0	+/- 1.0	+/- 2.0	+/- 2.0	+/- 2.0	+/- 2.0	+/- 2.5	+/- 0.5
92 to 94	+/- 1.0	+/- 1.0	+/- 1.0	+/- 1.5	+/- 1.5	+/- 1.5	+/- 1.5	+/- 2.0	+/- 0.4
95 to 96	+/- 1.0	+/- 1.0	+/- 0.5	+/- 1.0	+/- 1.0	+/- 1.0	+/- 1.0	+/- 1.5	+/- 0.4
97 to 99	+/- 0.5	+/- 0.5	+/- 0.5	+/- 1.0	+/- 1.0	+/- 1.0	+/- 0.5	+/- 1.0	+/- 0.2
Comparing years	+/- 2.5	+/- 2.0	+/- 1.5	+/- 3.0	+/- 3.0	+/- 3.0	+/- 2.5	+/- 4.0	+/- 0.8

^a The ABS considers that only estimates with relative standard errors of 25 per cent or less are sufficiently reliable for most purposes. Estimates greater than 25 per cent are subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes and need to be treated with caution and viewed as merely indicative of the magnitude involved.

Source: ANZPAA (unpublished).

6.9 Future directions in performance reporting

The Review continues to examine alternative indicators of performance, consistent with the ongoing development of performance evaluation and reporting frameworks in individual jurisdictions.

The development of additional efficiency indicators for police services is a challenging and complex process. There are significantly different costing methodologies in each jurisdiction that affect the availability of comparative data. Research is ongoing into efficiency indicators used by police services overseas and other areas of government service delivery.

Two particular directions currently present challenges to performance evaluation and reporting.

Police are increasingly required to work in close partnership with other sectors of government, including health and community services, corrections, courts, other emergency service providers and transport. These partnerships address the need to deliver agreed whole-of-government outcomes at the State and Territory and national level. Police services are also working more frequently with Australian government agencies on crime data issues, to combat the threat and impact of terrorism, and to manage environmental issues such as the policing response to emergencies and natural disasters. Measuring the efficiency and effectiveness of police contributions to these outcomes is particularly challenging.

Additionally, a number of police jurisdictions are moving towards using more locally focused service delivery models, recognising that communities and the people who live in them demand more direct participation in service delivery priorities and approaches. This accords with the now well established policing emphasis on performance planning, measurement and accountability for internal and external performance reporting purposes. However, the indicators used in this report, which generally represent state and territory and national results, are difficult to disaggregate for reflection on performance at the local community level.

6.10 Jurisdictions' comments

This section provides comments from each jurisdiction on the services covered in this chapter. Appendix A contains data that may assist in interpreting the performance indicators presented in this chapter. These data cover a range of demographic and geographic characteristics, including age profile, geographic distribution of the population, income levels, education levels, tenure of dwellings and cultural heritage (such as Indigenous and ethnic status).

New South Wales Government comments

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The NSW Police Force is committed to assisting, in partnership with emergency services and other government agencies and members of the general public, in driving down crime and keeping the people of NSW safe and secure. It is worth noting that despite increases in traffic numbers 2007 saw the lowest road toll since 1945, a success due not only to the efforts of the NSW Police Force but a range of agencies and most of all NSW drivers.

The last 12 months has been a busy time for our organisation. There is little that can surpass the work of the APEC Security Command and the individuals, commands and organisations who contributed to Operation Contego. Two years of planning were involved to protect 21 heads of State and more than 6000 delegates over 100 days of meetings around Australia, culminating in the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Sydney from 2–9 September 2007. We played a central role in ensuring the safety and security of Sydney with minimal disruption to city life and all whilst maintaining regular policing services across the State.

The NSW Government State Plan has set specific crime reduction targets for the NSW Police Force, being a 10 per cent reduction in violent crime and a 15 per cent reduction in property crime against households and individuals by 2016. These are tough targets that we are progressing well through a range of measures including proactive intelligence based policing, including high-visibility policing operations, strategic resource allocation and an enhanced focus on customer service.

NSW, in keeping with other states, has experienced a decrease in crime in 2007-08 to its lowest level in a decade. Community survey results point to a growing appreciation of police and a reduced fear of crime. It would therefore appear that NSW Police Force is achieving the right balance between curbing opportunities for criminality and upholding the rights of individuals.

Interstate comparison of the indicators used in this Report shows little difference between states. Information on recorded crime is shown as trend over years (indexed against base year) rather than the actual number or rate per head of population. This is due to differences in legislation, processes or recording practices, which render direct comparison invalid. All police jurisdictions are collaborating with the ABS to implement a National Crime Recording Standard, which is expected to give more comparable information in future years. The ABS has also undertaken a review of its household survey program and commenced a continuous household survey in 2008-09 relating to victimisation, perceptions of safety and problems in neighbourhoods. This survey is expected to provide interstate comparable information for national headline indicators.

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Victorian Government comments

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In 2007-08, Victoria's overall crime rate decreased by 1.9 per cent from the rate reported at the end of 2006-07, marking the fifth consecutive year that the crime rate has dropped. However, it must be acknowledged that this year police have faced well publicised challenges in relation to public safety and order, particularly around licensed premises. Victoria Police, working with government, responded to these challenges by targeting anti-social behaviour in and around licensed premises through operational activities and legislative measures. Victoria Police has also responded to challenges in major crime areas and has enhanced its focus and capacity for dealing with illicit drugs, fraud and e-crime. We also continued to see achievements resulting from our ongoing operations targeting organised crime.

Safety on Victoria's roads continues to be a significant area of focus for Victoria Police and we have continued to invest significant resources in road policing operations that tackle the identified causes of road deaths and road trauma, such as excessive speed and alcohol and drug impaired driving. The success of the Vehicle Impoundment Enforcement Program, which enables police to take direct action against certain road safety offences and 'hoon' type driving, also contributed to our ongoing commitment to road safety.

How safe Victorians feel in their community is also essential to our overall success. In 2007-08, 91.8 per cent of Victorian respondents to the independently conducted National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing (NSCSP) felt 'safe' or 'very safe' out and about in their own neighbourhood. It is also important to know if the community thinks we are doing our job well, and importantly, where we might not be meeting service standards. The NSCSP results tell us that 83 per cent of Victorians who had direct, professional contact with police were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the service they received and that confidence in police remained very high.

In 2008 we launched our new five year strategic plan, The Way Ahead 2008–2013. Over the next five years Victoria Police will focus on three key priorities: a safer Victoria, connecting the community and valuing our people. To contribute to a safer Victoria, we will focus on further reducing crime and improving public safety and road safety. To connect with the community, Victoria Police will focus on engaging with and enhancing organisational capacity for policing diverse communities, including youth, multicultural and Indigenous groups, as well as other marginalised groups, including those with mental health issues. A commitment to valuing our people is fundamental to meeting our operational objectives. In the next twelve months we will continue to work on improving the health, safety and wellbeing of our people.

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Queensland Government comments

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The resident population of Queensland currently exceeds four million people and continues to grow faster than any other state. Queensland also attracts around 18 million visitors a year across its 1.7 million square kilometre area.

The south east corner of the state is Australia's fastest growing region yet Queensland remains Australia's most decentralised state. Policing across the spectrum from rapid urban growth to remote and rural areas presents many unique challenges and requires a range of service delivery models and strategies.

In 2008, the Priority Policing Policy was developed to enhance first response policing. Under this initiative, existing police resources are directed into frontline duties to address peaks in calls for service and maximise police response capacity. The Service remains committed to working in partnership with the community, business and other government agencies to build and deliver policing programs that target crime and enhance community safety.

Road safety remains a key priority for the Service. A Random Roadside Drug Testing Unit was established to address the harm caused by people driving under the influence of illicit drugs. Road safety initiatives developed by the Queensland Road Safety Summit 2007, together with the National Road Safety Strategy 2001–2010, are also supported by the Service.

During 2007-08 Queensland recorded a 5 per cent reduction in the rate of reported crime. The National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing found 90 per cent of Queenslanders felt safe in situations where they were alone and 82.9 per cent of Queenslanders had confidence in police. Eighty one point three per cent of people who had contact with Queensland police in the last 12 months were satisfied with the service they received. While these results are encouraging, the Service remains committed to continuous improvement in delivering its four outputs of Community Safety and Engagement, Crime Management, Traffic Management and Professional Standards and Ethical Practice.

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Western Australian Government comments

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Through the continued integration of the Frontline First strategy as our primary policing platform many notable results were achieved during 2007-08. In essence, Frontline First provides a focus for the efforts of our police officers and police staff in providing policing services to the community.

In conjunction with our project partner, a world-class technological solution for police communications was successfully implemented across the metropolitan area. Through the use of the Tasking and Dispatch Information System (TADIS) in-vehicle data system, officers on patrol are now performing in excess of 16 000 person, location and vehicle enquiries per day (compared to 800 per day on the old analogue network). Since its initial implementation in 2007, TADIS has been continually enhanced to further improve operational capacity and effectiveness. The adoption of TADIS has been one contributor to a reduction in police response times across the metropolitan area, and resulted in a ten per cent improvement in patrol time per vehicle.

The quality of intelligence has been improved through standardisation and enhancement of Tasking and Coordination Group processes to coordinate policing effort; implementing a defined training, development and succession plan for Intelligence Analysts; and improving the quality and quantity of surveillance capacity.

The role, structure and function of activities to combat alcohol- and drug-related offences were reviewed. This resulted in the centralisation of licensing and control responsibility for policing and enforcement activities associated with licensed premises, commercial agents, firearms licensing and drug education and prevention.

In a climate of strong economic growth with a very competitive job market and higher than usual attrition rates, the WA Police Strategic People Plan 2008–2012 was developed as part of building and retaining the right number and mix of skills to meet future policing needs. The agency has implemented innovative recruitment strategies which included school traineeships, the re-introduction of the cadet scheme and international recruitment. These efforts resulted in the induction and training of 720 new police officers in 2007-08.

The agency is committed to enhancing our professionalism. Service Delivery Standards were implemented as a guide to how police officers and police staff are expected to carry out their day-to-day business when responding to incidents and interacting with the community. The Standards support the WA Police Frontline First commitment to deliver quality policing services to the community of Western Australia through call-taking, and responding to and attending incidents.

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South Australian Government comments

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The key indicators of police service delivery — victim reported crime reduction and improved road safety, showed good outcomes in 2007-08. These outcomes address important targets to be achieved over time in South Australia's Strategic Plan 2007.

South Australia Police (SAPOL) continued to strive to reduce victim reported crimes, those that directly affect victims, through a planned approach. By setting clear priorities, problem solving strategies and benchmarking results at local and corporate levels, this focus was maintained and results achieved. Overall, victim reported crime fell by 6.2 per cent. Some categories, such as property crime breakings (into residences and other premises) fell by 37.1 per cent on last year's figures.

In 2007-08 police continued to coordinate resources and operations in a lower tolerance approach to driver behaviour under the SAPOL Road Safety Strategy introduced in 2006. The number of road fatalities is reducing and serious injuries on the roads fell by 12.2 per cent in the first part of the 2008 calendar year. As well as a significant policing commitment, close working partnerships between police and key community groups, other government agencies, and the media, were an important part in achieving these results.

To continue to ensure a safe community at the broader and local level where people can go about their daily lives and the community can function, grow and prosper, police must provide effective services. SAPOL has made significant changes over the last decade to strategy and operations to provide better service with the available resources.

The high community rating for confidence in police (84.5 per cent) and professionalism of policing service delivery (82.4 per cent) reflects the success of the planned and structured approach and aspirations for excellence that underpin the delivery of police services.

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Tasmanian Government comments

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Crime in Tasmania is at its lowest for 11 years with total offences having reduced by a further seven per cent during 2007-08. Contributing to this figure was a reduction in property offences of 8 per cent with substantial reductions in burglary of motor vehicles, motor vehicle stealing and burglary of buildings. The number of assaults and robberies, including armed robberies also declined. The national crime statistics also indicate that Tasmania's rate in 2007 was below the national rate for the majority of offence categories. Tasmania Police officers continue to focus on solving crime with a corresponding improvement in the clearance rate.

These results are also reflected in the *National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing*: Tasmanians continue to feel safe at home alone, and when walking or jogging in their neighbourhood. Tasmania Police and its services continue to rate higher than the national average with results from the National Survey showing that 72 per cent of Tasmanians were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with services provided by police. Eighty three point five per cent of Tasmanians surveyed have confidence in police and 82.2 per cent believe that Tasmania Police perform their job professionally. This satisfaction is also reflected in the lowest number of complaints against police since 1994, when recording commenced.

Tasmania Police continues to implement innovative whole-of-government strategies to prevent and reduce crime including:

- the *Safe at Home* Program, a pro-intervention, pro-arrest and pro-prosecution approach applied by Police to the handling and resolution of family violence matters. The *Safe at Home* Program predicted a medium to long-term reduction in the level of family violence, and this pattern is starting to be realised
- the Inter-Agency Support Team Program in which Police provide leadership in working collaboratively with State and local government service providers to develop practical multi-agency responses to support children, young people and their families with multiple and complex problems. In 2007-08, 24 Inter-Agency Support Teams supported nearly 300 children and young people throughout Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Government remains committed to providing contemporary resources for the Department of Police and Emergency Management to be at the forefront of modern policing and emergency management. Extra funding of \$18.888 million was secured to modernise a number of police buildings. Other funding has been provided for the upgrading of the Tasmanian Government Radio Network for improved radio services for Tasmania Police and other Government users.

To improve its service delivery, Tasmania Police continues to review its planning processes, service delivery and management of its human resources.

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Australian Capital Territory Government comments

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ACT Policing continued to enhance its performance against the requirements of the Purchase Agreement and the Ministerial Direction. The primary outcome of the Purchase Agreement is, in partnership with the community, to create a safer and more secure ACT in the areas of crime and safety management; traffic law enforcement and road safety; prosecution and judicial support; and crime prevention.

Throughout 2007-08, ACT Policing recorded decreases in a number of offence types. In particular, reductions were seen for homicide offences, robbery offences, burglary offences and drug offences. There was also significant improvement in police response times and levels of public confidence in police. The majority of people in the ACT continued to feel safe in their homes and in public places.

ACT Policing was a key contributor to the ACT Property Crime Reduction Strategy 2004–2007. The strategy concluded in December 2007 with reduction targets (10 per cent reduction in burglaries and 25 per cent reduction in motor vehicle thefts) being met. Actual results saw a 26 per cent reduction in burglaries and a 38 per cent reduction in motor vehicle theft. The lower levels of these types of offences have continued to be maintained for the first half of 2008.

In 2008, the ACT Policing Strategic Plan 2008–2011 was released, outlining strategies to enable ACT Policing to provide quality and effective policing services to the community. The Strategic Plan aims to promote closer ties to the community; to proactively prevent crime and address perceptions of crime in the community; and to maintain the highest ethical standards while striving for excellence in customer service. Among the challenges ahead for ACT Policing are changes in technology and science, shifting demographics within the ACT and heightened community expectations.

During 2007-08, ACT Policing undertook an evaluation of the first twelve months of the Suburban Policing Strategy (SPS), an initiative designed to improve community satisfaction with police and reduce the fear of crime. Overall, the evaluation concluded that the SPS has been well implemented, is operating successfully and is making progress towards achieving its broad aims. ACT Policing continues to focus on increasing visibility and accessibility of police and enhancing engagement with community members.

ACT Policing continues to improve road safety in the ACT. In 2008, ACT Policing trialled an improved Recognition and Analysis of Plates Identified (RAPID) number plate recognition system, designed to increase efficiencies for traffic patrols and maximise police visibility on ACT roads. ACT Policing also undertakes joint jurisdictional operations such as Operation RAID (Remove All Impaired Drivers), driver awareness and high visibility targeted and random breath testing.

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Northern Territory Government comments

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The Commonwealth announced the *Northern Territory Emergency Response* (NTER) into Remote Communities in June 2007. The Northern Territory (NT) Police took a leading role training Australian Federal Police for deployment and assisting with the survey of 75 remote Indigenous communities. Taskforce Themis was established and by February 2008, NT Police had established 18 new police stations across the NT with 51 additional police on the ground in these stations. Members in these stations have worked tirelessly to build relationships with residents, and the ongoing community engagement evidences our commitment to deliver policing services to all Territorians. These police stations alone account for 4.4 per cent of all offences against the person and 2 per cent of all offences against property.

The Child Abuse Taskforce, established 12 months prior to the announcement of the NTER, continues to have a positive impact. Along with additional Australian Federal Police and the Department of Health and Families personnel, more than 207 investigations resulting in 16 apprehensions have been pursued.

The NT Police continues to rigorously investigate domestic violence reports and proactively monitor recidivist offenders. Almost half of all assaults reported to NT Police are domestic violence related, with the majority involving Indigenous victims and perpetrators. Since the implementation of the Violent Crime Reduction Strategy (VCRS) in 2004, police initiated Domestic Violence Orders to protect victims from violence has increased by 150 per cent. The VCRS has led to increased reports of offences against the person.

The Drug Enforcement Section and Special Operations Section have coordinated successful operations including an operation focussing on Alice Springs and the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands of Central Australia.

NT Police established a Mounted Police Unit in Alice Springs. The Unit comprises five riders and their horses and they provide a high profile police presence in Alice Springs.

This year marked the inaugural graduation of 13 Constables from the Transitional Aboriginal Community Police Officer Program aimed at developing and transitioning current Aboriginal Community Police Officers to fully sworn members of the NT Police at the rank of Constable.

This is a significant milestone in the history of the NT, the NT Police and for Indigenous people in Australia. It is the first time an Indigenous squad has graduated as Constables.

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6.11 Definitions of key terms and indicators

Adjudicated defendant	A defendant is a person or organisation against whom one or more criminal charges have been laid and which are heard by a court level. An adjudicated finalisation is a method of finalisation based on a judgement or decision by the court as to whether or not the defendant is guilty of the charge(s) laid against them.
Armed robbery	Robbery conducted with the use (actual or implied) of a weapon, where a weapon can include, but is not restricted to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• firearms — pistol, revolver, rifle, automatic/semi-automatic rifle, shotgun, military firearm, airgun, nail gun, cannon, imitation firearm and implied firearm• other weapons — knife, sharp instrument, blunt instrument, hammer, axe, club, iron bar, piece of wood, syringe/hypodermic needle, bow and arrow, crossbow, spear gun, blowgun, rope, wire, chemical, acid, explosive, vehicle, bottle/glass, other dangerous article and imitation weapons.
Assault	The direct (and immediate/confrontational) infliction of force, injury or violence on a person(s) or the direct (and immediate/confrontational) threat of force, injury or violence where there is an apprehension that the threat could be enacted.
Available full time equivalent staff	Any full time equivalent category where the individual is on duty performing a function. To be measured using average staffing level for the whole reporting period.
Average non-police staff salaries	Salaries and payments in the nature of salary paid to civilian and other employees, divided by the total number of such employees.
Average police salaries	Salaries and payments in the nature of salary paid to sworn police officers, divided by the number of sworn officers.
Blackmail and extortion	Unlawful demanding with intent to gain money, property or any other benefit from, or with intent to cause detriment to, another person, accompanied by the use of coercive measures, to be carried out at some point in the future if the demand is not met. This may also include the use and/or threatened use of face-to-face force or violence, provided there is a threat of continued violence if the demand is not met.
Cautioning	A formal method of dealing with young offenders without taking court proceedings. Police officers may caution young offenders instead of charging them if the offence or the circumstance of the offence is not serious.
Civilian staff	Unsworn staff, including specialists (civilian training and teaching medical and other specialists) and civilian administrative and management staff.
Complaints	Number of statements of complaint by members of the public regarding police conduct.
Death in police custody and custody-related incident	Death of a person who was in police custody; death caused or contributed to by traumatic injuries while in custody; death of a person who was fatally injured when police officers attempted to detain that person; or death of a person who was fatally injured when escaping or attempting to escape from police custody.
Depreciation	Where possible, based on current asset valuation.
Executive staff	Number of sworn and unsworn staff at the rank of chief superintendent or equivalent grade to assistant commissioner grade.

Full time equivalent (FTE)	The equivalent number of full time staff required to provide the same hours of work as performed by staff actually employed. A full time staff member is equivalent to a full time equivalent of one, while a part time staff member is greater than zero but less than one.
Indigenous staff	Number of staff who are identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.
Land transport hospitalisations	Hospitalisations due to traffic accidents that are likely to have required police attendance; these may include accidents involving trains, bicycles and so on.
Management full time equivalent staff	Number of management full time equivalent staff, including civilian (managers) and sworn (inspector to superintendent) staff.
Motor vehicle theft	The taking of another person's motor vehicle illegally and without permission.
Murder	The wilful killing of a person either intentionally or with reckless indifference to life.
Non-Indigenous full time equivalent staff	Number of full time equivalent staff who do not satisfy the Indigenous staff criteria.
Non-operational full time equivalent staff	Any person who does not satisfy the operational staff criteria, including functional support staff only. Functional support full time equivalent staff include any person (sworn or unsworn) not satisfying the operational or operational support staff criteria (for example, finance, policy, research, personnel services, building and property services, transport services, and management above the level of station and shift supervisors).
Offender	In the Police Services chapter, the term 'offender' refers to a person who is alleged to have committed an offence. This definition is not the same as the definition used in chapter 8 ('Corrective services').
Operational staff	An operational police staff member (sworn or unsworn) is any member of the police force whose primary duty is the delivery of police or police related services to an external customer (where an external customer predominately refers to members of the public but may also include law enforcement outputs delivered to other government departments). Operational staff include: general duties officers, investigators, traffic operatives, tactical officers, station counter staff, communication officers, crime scene staff, disaster victim identification, and prosecution and judicial support officers.
Other recurrent expenditure	Maintenance and working expenses; expenditure incurred by other departments on behalf of police; expenditure on contracted police services; and other recurrent costs not elsewhere classified. Expenditure is disaggregated by service delivery area.
Other theft	The taking of another person's property with the intention of depriving the owner of the property illegally and without permission, but without force, threat of force, use of coercive measures, deceit or having gained unlawful entry to any structure, even if the intent was to commit theft.
Outcome of investigations	The stage reached by a police investigation after a period of 30 days has elapsed since the recording of the incident.
Practitioner staff	Number of practitioner staff, including civilian (administration) and sworn (constable to senior constable) staff.
Property crimes	Total recorded crimes against property, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unlawful entry with intent • motor vehicle theft • other theft.

Proportion of higher court cases resulting in a guilty plea or finding	<p>Total number of higher courts finalised defendants resulting in a guilty plea or finding, as a proportion of the total number of higher courts finalised defendants. A defendant can be either a person or organisation against whom one or more criminal charges have been laid.</p> <p>A higher court is either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an intermediate court (known either as the district court or county court) that has legal powers between those of a court of summary jurisdiction (lower level courts) and a supreme court, and that deals with the majority of cases involving serious criminal charges • a supreme court (a higher court level which deals with the most serious criminal charges and has the greatest legal powers of all the State and Territory court levels). <p>Guilty finding is an outcome of a trial in which a court determines that the criminal charge against a defendant has been proven.</p>
Proportion of juvenile diversions	<p>Total number of juvenile offenders who are diverted by police (for example, through the use of cautions, official warnings or other diversionary programs) away from the criminal justice system, as a proportion of the total number of juvenile offenders either diverted from or dealt with by the criminal justice system (that is, those who are either diverted or prosecuted).</p>
Proportion of lower court cases resulting in guilty plea or finding	<p>Total number of cases (excluding committal hearings) heard before lower courts of law only, for which there was a plea of guilty, as a proportion of the total number of cases (excluding committal hearings) heard before lower courts of law only.</p> <p>A lower court is a court of summary jurisdiction (commonly referred to as magistrates' court, local court or court of petty sessions) that deals with relatively less serious charges and has the most limited legal powers of all State and Territory court levels. Such courts are presided over by a magistrate and have jurisdiction to hear trial and sentence matters relating to summary offences. Under some circumstances, this court level may also deal with the less serious indictable offences known as 'minor indictable' or 'triable either way' offences.</p> <p>A guilty plea is the formal statement by a defendant admitting culpability in relation to a criminal charge. A not guilty plea is the formal statement by a defendant denying culpability in relation to a charge. For this data collection, a plea of 'not guilty' should also include 'no plea', 'plea reserved' and 'other defended plea'.</p> <p>Further, these definitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exclude preliminary (committal) hearings for indictable offences dealt with by a lower court • count cases that involve multiple charges as a 'lower court case resulting in a plea of guilty' if a plea of guilty has resulted for at least one of those charges.
Real expenditure	<p>Actual expenditure adjusted for changes in prices, using the GDP price deflator, and expressed in terms of final year prices.</p>
Recorded crime	<p>Crimes reported to (or detected) and recorded by police.</p>
Registered vehicles	<p>Total registered motor vehicles, including motorcycles.</p>
Reporting rate	<p>The proportion of crime victims who told police about the last crime incident of which they were the victim, as measured by a crime victimisation survey.</p>
Revenue from own sources	<p>Revenue from activities undertaken by police, including revenue from the sale of stores, plant and vehicles; donations and industry contributions; user charges; and other revenue (excluding fine revenue</p>

	and revenue from the issuing of firearm licenses).
Road deaths	Fatal road injury accidents as defined by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau.
Robbery	The unlawful taking of property from the immediate possession, control, custody or care of a person, with the intent to permanently deprive the owner of the property accompanied by the use, and/or threatened use of immediate force or violence.
Salaries and payments in the nature of salary	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • base salary package • motor vehicle expenses that are part of employer fringe benefits • superannuation, early retirement schemes and payments to pension schemes (employer contributions) • workers compensation (full cost) including premiums, levies, bills, legal fees • higher duty allowances (actual amounts paid) • overtime (actual amounts paid) • actual termination and long service leave • actual annual leave • actual sick leave • actual maternity/paternity leave • fringe benefits tax paid • fringe benefits provided (for example, school fee salary sacrifice at cost to the government, car parking, duress alarms, telephone account reimbursements, 'gold passes', other salary sacrifice benefits, frequent flyer benefits, overtime meals provided and any other components that are not part of a salary package) • payroll tax.
Senior executive staff	Number of senior executive staff, including civilian (top senior executive service) and sworn (commissioner, deputy commissioner and equivalent civilian executives) staff.
Sexual assault	Physical contact of a sexual nature directed towards another person where that person does not give consent, that person gives consent as a result of intimidation or fraud, or consent is proscribed (that is, the person is legally deemed incapable of giving consent as a result of youth, temporary/permanent (mental) incapacity or a familial relationship). Includes rape, attempted rape, indecent assault and assault with intent to commit sexual assault. Excludes sexual harassment not leading to assault.
Supervisory full time equivalent staff	Number of supervisory full time equivalent staff, including civilian (team leaders) and sworn (sergeant to senior sergeant) staff.
Sworn staff	Sworn police staff recognised under each jurisdiction's Police Act.
Total capital expenditure	Total expenditure on the purchase of new or second hand capital assets, and expenditure on significant repairs or additions to assets that add to the assets' service potential or service life.

Total expenditure	Total capital expenditure plus total recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources).
Total FTE staff	Operational staff and non-operational staff, including full time equivalent staff on paid leave or absence from duty (including secondment and training), as measured using absolute numbers for the whole reporting period.
Total number of staff	Full time equivalent staff directly employed on an annual basis (excluding labour contracted out).
Total recurrent expenditure	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • salaries and payments in the nature of salary • other recurrent expenditure • depreciation • less revenue from own sources.
Unarmed robbery	Robbery conducted without the use (actual or implied) of a weapon
Unavailable full time equivalent staff	Any full time equivalent category where the individual is on paid leave or absent from duty (including secondment and training), as measured using the average staffing level for the whole reporting period.
Unlawful entry with intent — involving the taking of property	The unlawful entry of a structure (whether forced or unforced) with intent to commit an offence, resulting in the taking of property from the structure. Includes burglary and break and enter offences. Excludes trespass or lawful entry with intent.
Unlawful entry with intent — other	The unlawful entry of a structure (whether forced or unforced) with intent to commit an offence, but which does not result in the taking of property from the structure. Excludes trespass or lawful entry with intent.
User cost of capital	The opportunity cost of funds tied up in the capital used to deliver services. Calculated as 8 per cent of the current value of non-current physical assets (excluding land).
Value of physical assets — buildings and fittings	The value of buildings and fittings under the direct control of police.
Value of physical assets — land	The value of land under the direct control of police.
Value of physical assets — other	The value of motor vehicles, computer equipment, and general plant and equipment under the direct control of police.

6.12 Attachment tables

Attachment tables are identified in references throughout this chapter by an '6A' suffix (for example, table 6A.3 is table 3). Attachment tables are provided on the CD-ROM enclosed with the Report and on the Review website (www.pc.gov.au/gsp). Users without access to the CD-ROM or the website can contact the Secretariat to obtain the attachment tables (see contact details on the inside front cover of the Report).

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Table 6A.27	Opinion on whether family violence, sexual assault and other physical assault are problems in your State or Territory
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6.13 References

SCRCSSP 2001, *Asset Measurement in the Costing of Government Services*, Canberra.