

**CRIME
AND
JUSTICE
FACTS**

of Crime Statistics and Research

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ACQUISITIONS

FOREWORD

Crime and Justice Facts summarises the most recent available statistics on recorded crime and the criminal justice system in New South Wales. It is intended as a quick reference, providing the reader with an overview of such matters as types of offences recorded, cases appearing before the criminal courts and prison populations.

All statistics and comments reflect the criminal law as at the date of publication of *Crime and Justice Facts* or of the cited source material.

Further information on crime and justice matters may be obtained from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research by telephoning (02) 257 0888. Copies of Bureau publications, including those cited here, may be purchased from the Bureau:

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Dr Don Weatherburn
Director

February 1993

1. CRIME

Measuring crime

Measuring crime is not as simple as measuring the incidence of other social factors such as unemployment. Offenders usually want their crimes to go undetected and although many crimes are reported to police or discovered by them, before an incident can be recorded as a crime usually a number of things must happen (see figure 1.1).

Figure 1.1
Steps involved in recording crime



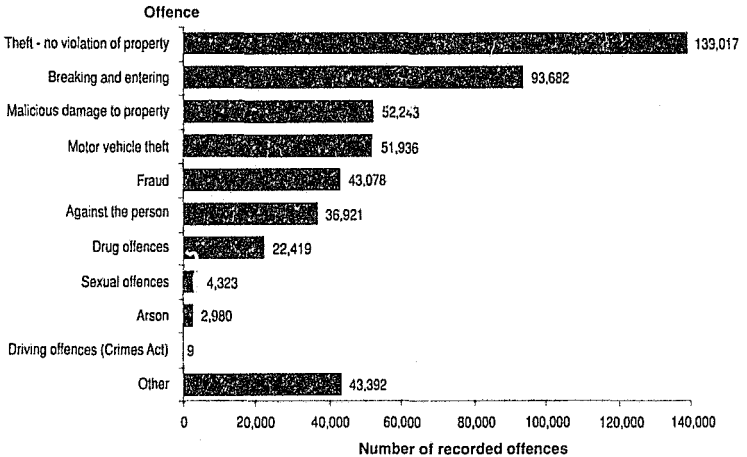
Source: Reference 1.

First a victim or witness (if there is one) must decide whether in fact a crime has occurred. This is not always straightforward because some incidents (e.g. swearing in a public place) are not always perceived as crimes by members of the community. Second, even if an incident is judged to be a crime, it must be reported to police. Lastly, the crime must be recorded by police. There is no guarantee that this occurs in every case.

Some offences are less affected than others by these factors. Motor vehicle theft is almost always reported because of the associated insurance requirements. Housebreaking is usually reported to police for similar reasons. Homicide is usually discovered by police because it is a difficult offence to conceal. Apart from these sorts of offences, though, crime statistics based on police records of crime generally tend to underestimate the actual incidence of crime.

Crimes known to police

Figure 1.2
Types of offences recorded by police
Number recorded in 1991



- Figure 1.2 shows the number of offences recorded for different types of offences.
- The category 'against the person' includes offences such as assault, robbery and homicide, but not sexual assault.
- Driving offences shown here include only offences such as culpable driving (offences under the *Crimes Act 1900*), not drink driving which is prohibited under the *Traffic Act 1909*.
- As the figure shows, theft (including shoplifting but excluding motor vehicles) and breaking and entering were the most commonly recorded offences. Together they accounted for almost half of all recorded offences (47.5%).
- Recorded motor vehicle thefts accounted for 11% of all recorded offences.
- 'Other' includes such offences as offensive behaviour, prostitution, firearm offences, trespass, and gaming and betting.

Source: Reference 2.

Location of crime

The Sydney Statistical Division contains an estimated 63% of the population of NSW, but 67% of recorded offences came from this area in 1991.

- The Inner Sydney Statistical Subdivision (including the Local Government Areas of Botany, Leichhardt, Marrickville, South Sydney and Sydney) had the highest rate of recorded offences per head of population for all property offences, murder and narcotics offences.
- The arson rate was highest in the Outer Western Sydney Statistical Subdivision (including the Local Government Areas of Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly).
- Rates of assault, offensive behaviour and dealing/trafficking in cannabis were highest in the Far West Statistical Division.
- The Murrumbidgee Statistical Division had the highest sexual assault rate.
- Richmond-Tweed and the South Eastern Statistical Division had the highest rates of possession and/or use of cannabis and cultivating cannabis.
- Table 1.1 compares the metropolitan area of Sydney and the rest of the State in terms of rates of various types of recorded offences.
- As the table shows, metropolitan Sydney outstrips the country in the rates of all kinds of theft reports. Per head of population, country areas have higher rates of recorded property damage offences, drug offences and sexual offences.

Source: References 2 and 3.

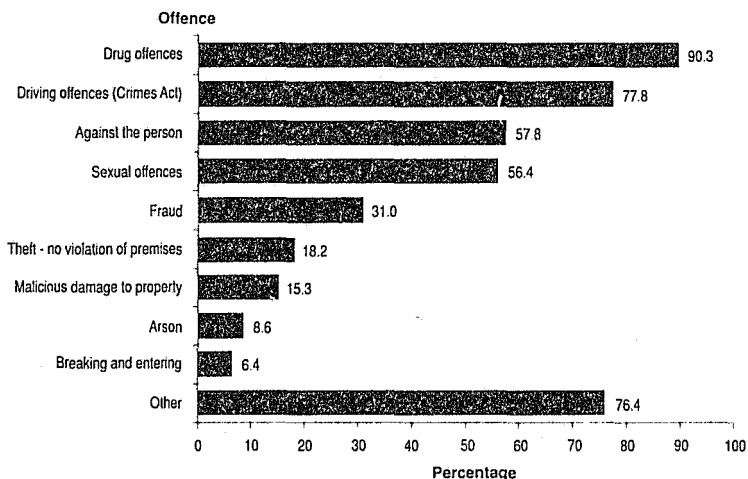
Table 1.1
Types of offences recorded by police
Rates per 1,000 residents in 1991

Offence	Metropolitan	Country
Against the person	6.30	6.19
Driving offences (Crimes Act)	0.00	0.00
Sexual offences	0.61	0.93
Breaking and entering	17.82	12.61
Motor vehicle theft	11.31	4.58
Theft - no violation of premises	24.32	22.27
Fraud	9.48	3.64
Drug offences	2.93	5.26
Arson	0.52	0.48
Malicious damage to property	8.81	8.93
Other	6.27	9.18

Cleared offences

- An offence is considered to be 'cleared' by police when a suspect has been arrested and charged or when, although the offender is known, it is impossible or inappropriate to lay charges.
- It is possible for an offence to occur (and be recorded) in one year and be cleared in a later year.
- The single year clear-up percentage is the number of offences that occurred and were cleared in 1991 as a percentage of the number of offences that occurred in 1991.
- The clear-up rate for different offences is linked with the means by which the police come to know of the offence. Thus, driving offences (e.g. culpable driving) and drug offences have extremely high clear-up rates because the offences can usually only be recorded when an offender is apprehended by police.

Figure 1.3
Types of offences cleared by police
Single year clear-up percentages in 1991



- Figure 1.3 presents clear-up rates for different offences.
- Property crimes, including theft, malicious damage to property, arson and breaking and entering, have very low clear-up rates (usually below 20%).
- Clear-up percentages for motor vehicle theft were not available in 1991.

Source: Reference 2.

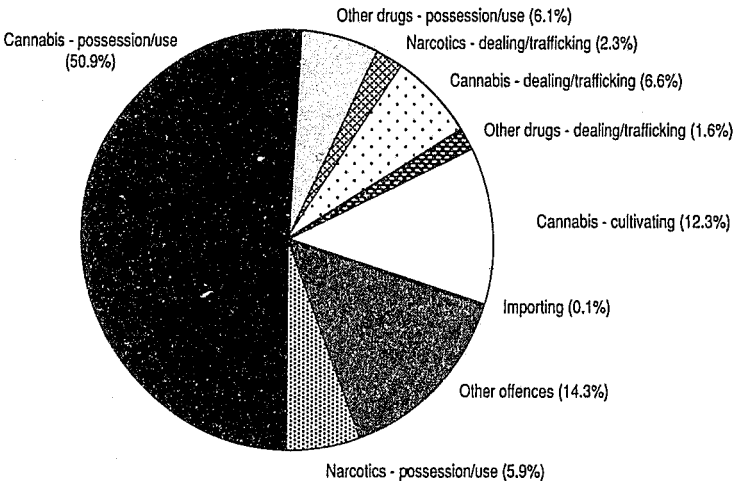
2. SELECTED OFFENCE PROFILES

Drug offences

The range of drug offences includes the possessing, using, dealing, manufacturing, cultivating and smuggling of illegal drugs.

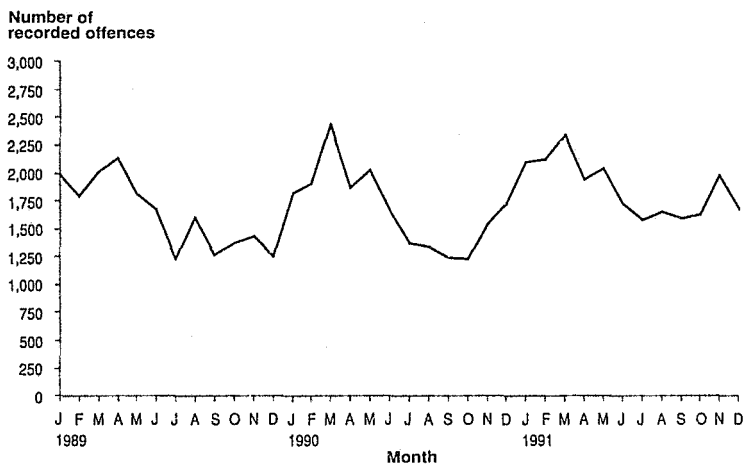
- Overall there were 22,419 recorded drug offences in 1991.

Figure 2.1
Recorded drug offences 1991
Types of offence:
percentage of total number of drug offences



- Figure 2.1 illustrates that the majority of recorded drug offences were possessing and/or using illegal drugs (63%).
- Offences involving cannabis accounted for over two-thirds of all recorded drug offences.
- The number of recorded drug offences per month since 1989 is presented in figure 2.2. At present there is no reliable method for determining the rate of illegal drug usage in the community.

Figure 2.2
Recorded drug offences
Number per month 1989 - 1991



- 90% of the recorded drug offences which occurred in 1991 were cleared by police in the same year. The generally high clear-up rate for drug offences can be attributed to the fact that, for drug offences, unlike some other offences (e.g. theft), the recording of the offence usually coincides with the apprehension of a suspect by police.

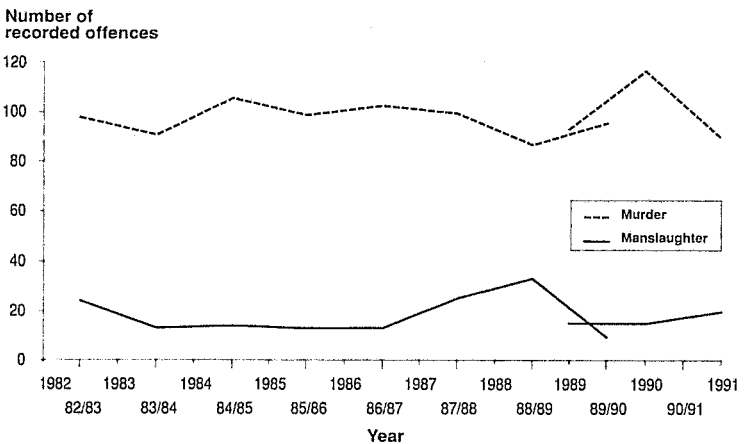
Sources: References 2 and 4.

Homicide

Homicide statistics discussed here do not include deaths resulting from driving offences.

- There were 110 homicides recorded by police in NSW in 1991. Ninety (82%) of these were murders, and the rest were manslaughter.
- Recorded homicides averaged 1 every 3 days.

Figure 2.3
Homicide offences recorded by police
Number per year 1982/83 to 1991



- Figure 2.3 presents the trend in the annual number of recorded homicides since 1982/83.
- The rate per head of population has remained at around 2 per 100,000 since 1982/83. In fact, the highest annual reported homicide rate for the century so far (around 3 per 100,000) occurred in the years before 1920 and has not been reached again since.
- 67% of the recorded homicide offences which occurred in 1991 were cleared by police in the same year.

Sources: References 2, 4 and 5.

Studies by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BCSR) have shown that for homicide cases recorded between 1968 and 1986:

- 85% of those charged with homicide were male and 64% of homicide victims were male.
- Young adults (aged from 20 to 30) made up 38% of those charged with homicide.
- Suspect and victim were related in 43% of cases. In 17% of cases suspect and victim were strangers.
- Two-thirds of female victims were killed by family members.
- 48% of female victims were killed by their spouse or de facto spouse compared with 9% of male victims.
- Guns were the most common weapon, used in 35% of cases.

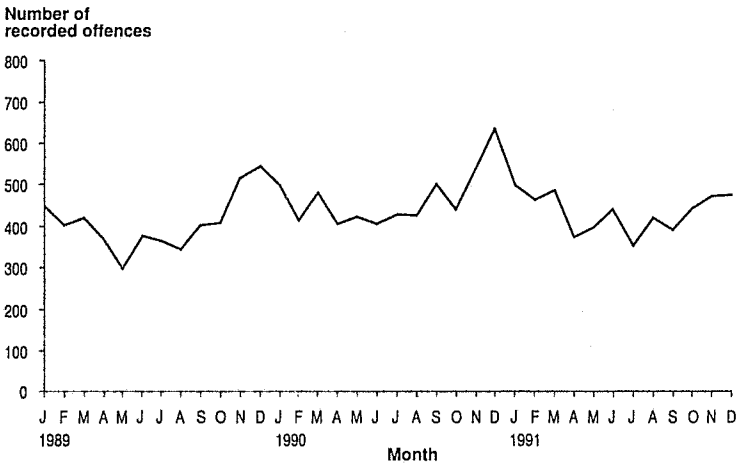
Sources: References 5 and 6.

Aggravated assault

Aggravated assaults are defined here as those of a more serious nature, involving the infliction of bodily harm.

- In 1991 there were 5,214 aggravated assaults recorded by the police. They represented 17% of all recorded assaults.
- Recorded aggravated assaults averaged about 1 every 2 hours.

Figure 2.4
Recorded aggravated assaults
Number per month 1989 - 1991



- Figure 2.4 shows numbers of aggravated assault offences recorded per month between January 1989 and December 1991.
- 61% of the recorded aggravated assault offences which occurred in 1991 were cleared by police in the same year.

Source: References 2 and 4.

AN SW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research study on a sample of aggravated assault reports from 1982 and 1986/87 showed that:

- At least 90% of suspects and 75% of victims were males.
- Most attacks (63%) did not involve weapons. Where weapons were used, they were usually objects close to hand (for example, sticks) rather than knives or guns.
- Victims were most often attacked in their own homes, in the street (often around hotels) or in hotels. A total of 74% of all incidents occurred in these locations.

Source: Reference 7.

Sexual assault

Prior to the *Crimes (Amendment) Act 1989*, in NSW sexual assaults were classified into 4 categories, according to the level of physical harm threatened or inflicted. In broad terms, from most to least serious, these were:

Sexual assault category 1 - inflicting grievous bodily harm with intent to have sexual intercourse.

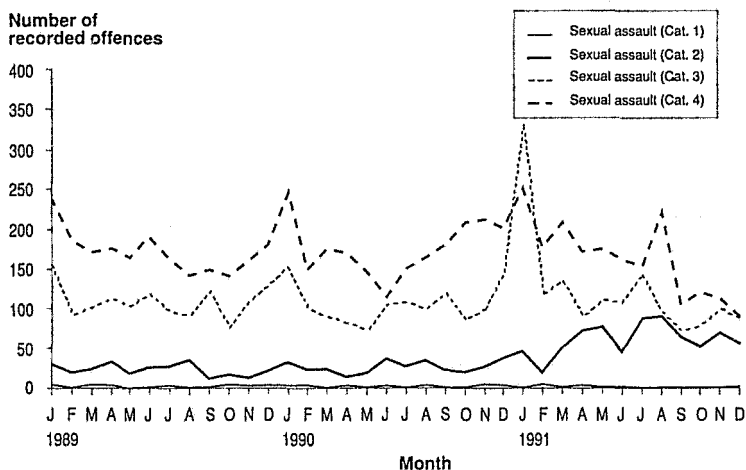
Sexual assault category 2 - inflicting actual bodily harm, etc., with intent to have sexual intercourse.

Sexual assault category 3 - sexual intercourse without consent.

Sexual assault category 4 - indecent assault and act of indecency (e.g. unwanted sexual fondling of the victim).

- There were 4,077 recorded sexual assaults in 1991. Of these 1,906 (47%) were indecent assaults (category 4).
- The average number of recorded sexual assaults was about 11 per day.
- Recorded sexual assaults involving intercourse or attempted intercourse (categories 1 to 3) averaged 6 per day.
- Sexual assault as defined above is not the only sexual offence. In 1991 there were 246 carnal knowledge and homosexual offences recorded. Both these types of offence involve sexual practices with juveniles. Consenting homosexual activity between males over 18 ceased to be an offence in 1981.
- Recent changes to the *Crimes Act 1900 No. 40* have altered the categorisation of sexual assault. Data are reported here using the old categories. See reference 2 pp. xi - xii for details.

Figure 2.5
Recorded sexual assaults
Number per month 1989 - 1991



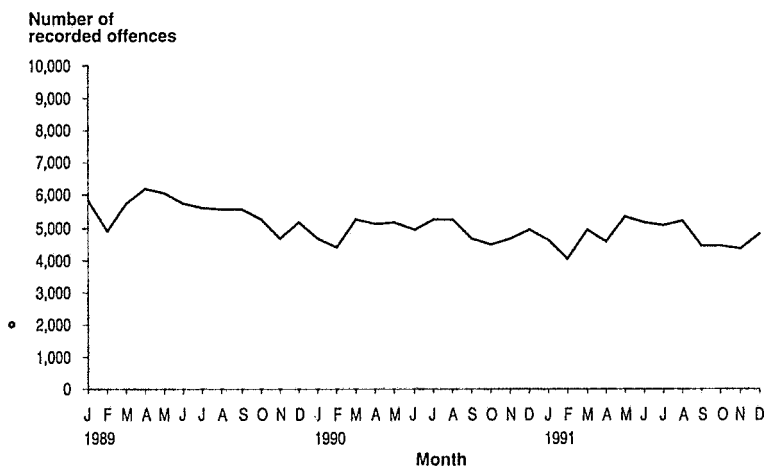
- Figure 2.5 shows the number of recorded sexual assaults per month since 1989 by category. It can be seen from figure 2.5 that numbers of recorded sexual assault offences appear to be somewhat higher in the summer months than in the winter months.
- 55% of the recorded sexual assaults which occurred in 1991 were cleared by police in the same year.

Sources: References 2 and 4.

Household burglary

- In 1991 there were 56,940 household burglaries.
- This represents roughly 1 every 9.2 minutes.

Figure 2.6
Recorded household burglaries
Number per month 1989 - 1991



- Figure 2.6 presents the trend in recorded household burglaries from January 1989 to December 1991.
- There is a significant downward trend in recorded numbers of breaking and entering offences over the last three years.
- 5% of the recorded household burglary offences which occurred in 1991 were cleared by police in the same year.
- Breaking and entering is one of the most common serious offences affecting about 7% of NSW households per annum.

Sources: References 2, 4 and 8.

The NRMA report of household burglaries in 1991/92 showed that:

- The most common means of entry was by forcing a window (26%) or a door (20%), but nearly 5% of the burglaries involved entry through an *unlocked door* or window. In 70% of cases the point of entry did not have NRMA recommended security installed.
- The most commonly stolen items were jewellery, garden/handyman tools, cash, stereos, compact disk players, photographic equipment and watches.

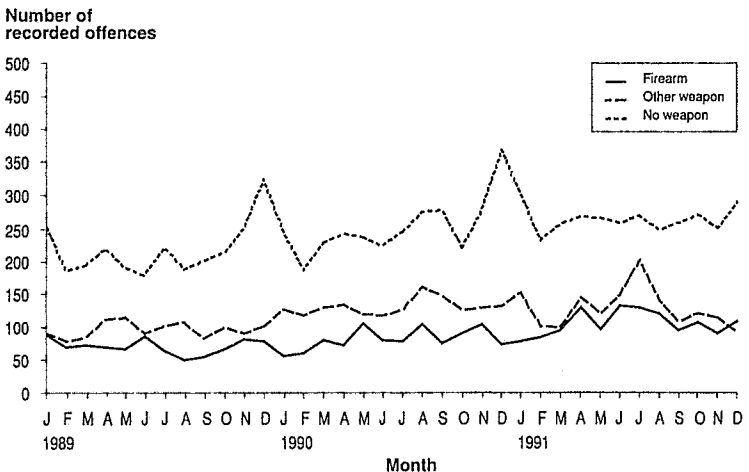
Source: Reference 9.

Robbery

'Robbery' is used to mean the taking of money or property by force or by threat of force. This distinguishes it from other theft, making it an 'offence against the person'.

- The number of recorded robberies in 1991 was 5,973. Of these 47% involved the use of weapons (both firearms and others).
- The average rate of recorded robberies was around 1 every 1.5 hours.

Figure 2.7
Recorded robberies
Number per month 1989 - 1991



- Figure 2.7 shows the number of robberies recorded from January 1989 to December 1991.
- There is a statistically significant upward trend over the three year period for each type of robbery offence. Overall, recorded robbery offences increased by 29% between 1989 and 1991.

Sources: References 2 and 4.

In a NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research study of robberies recorded by the police in 1983 it was found that:

- Around half of the robberies involved the holding up of commercial premises and half were personal robberies.
- For commercial robberies the most common targets were banks (19%) followed by petrol stations (12%) and shops (11%).
- The most common location for personal robbery was the street (70%), and most (72%) occurred between 5 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- Bag snatchings accounted for about one-fifth of all personal robberies.
- Many attacks did not result in injury.
 - 60% of offences involved no or negligible injuries.
 - 32% of offences involved injuries not requiring immediate medical attention.
 - 6% of offences involved serious physical injuries requiring medical attention.
 - 1% of offences involved injuries requiring hospitalisation.
- More serious injuries were inflicted more often in the case of personal robberies than in robberies of commercial premises. Even so, in personal robberies, the overwhelming majority of offences (88%) involved no injuries, negligible or minor ones.

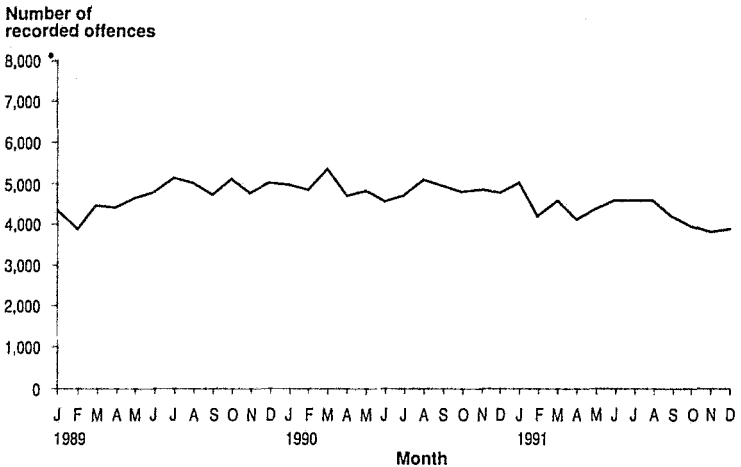
Source: Reference 10.

Motor vehicle theft

(Note: In the following statistics motor vehicles include cars, vans, trucks, buses and motor cycles/scooters.)

- In 1991 there were 51,936 motor vehicles recorded stolen.
- Recorded motor vehicle thefts averaged 1 every 10 minutes. The number of vehicles stolen represents 1.4% of all registered vehicles.

Figure 2.8
Recorded motor vehicle thefts
Number per month 1989 - 1991



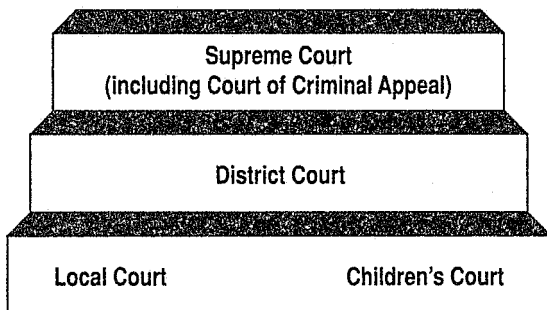
- There were decreases in recorded motor vehicle theft between 1989 and 1991 in most areas of the Sydney Statistical Division. However, there were increases in the number of recorded offences in 6 of the 11 other Statistical Divisions.

Sources: References 2, 4 and 11.

3. CRIMINAL COURTS

The structure of the criminal justice system in NSW

Figure 3.1
Criminal Jurisdictions in NSW

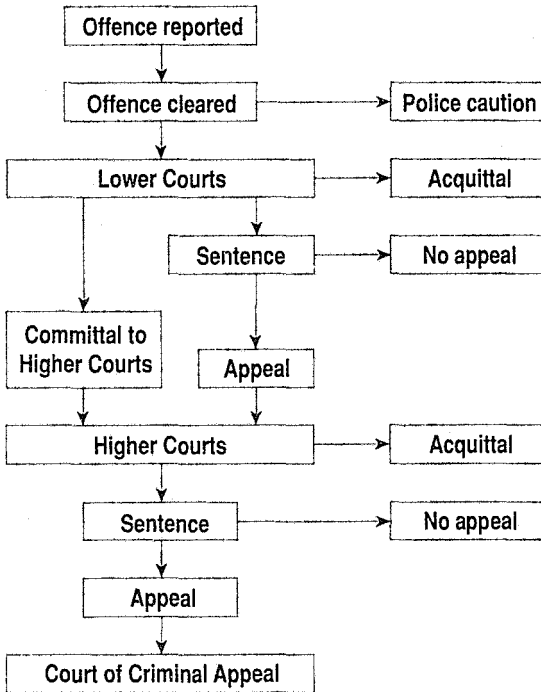


As shown in figure 3.1, the NSW criminal justice system consists of:

- **Lower Courts**
 - the Local Court
 - the Children's Court
- **Higher Courts**
 - the District Court
 - the Supreme Court
- The *Children's Court* deals mainly with juvenile offenders (aged 10 - 17 years). In some circumstances, charges against offenders aged over 17 years may also be heard before the Children's Court. The *Local Court* deals with less serious criminal charges against adult offenders. Lower Court proceedings are conducted by a magistrate. The majority of all criminal matters are finalised at this level.

- The *District Court* deals with more serious offences committed by both juveniles and adults. District Court proceedings are presided over by a District Court Judge. The District Court hears trials, sentencing matters and appeals against decisions made in the Lower Courts. In most cases where the accused person pleads not guilty, trials are held before a judge and jury. In certain circumstances the accused person may elect to be tried by a judge alone. If the jury delivers a verdict of guilt, the judge determines an appropriate penalty. When a person admits guilt there is no jury trial and the matter proceeds to sentencing.
- The *Supreme Court* conducts trials before a judge and jury for a few offences which are more serious than those heard in the District Court, such as murder. As in the District Court, in certain circumstances the accused may elect to be tried by a judge alone. The Supreme Court may also deal (without a jury) with certain offences which carry very heavy fines (e.g. water or air pollution). The proceedings are presided over by a Supreme Court Judge.
- The *Court of Criminal Appeal*, which is a special division of the Supreme Court, hears appeals against conviction and/or sentence from the District Court and from the Supreme Court. An appeal is conducted in the presence of three Supreme Court Judges. The Court of Criminal Appeal is the ultimate court of appeal for criminal matters in NSW.
- Figure 3.2 shows the possible routes of cases through the criminal justice system in NSW.

Figure 3.2
Schematic representation
of the flow of cases through
the criminal justice system in NSW

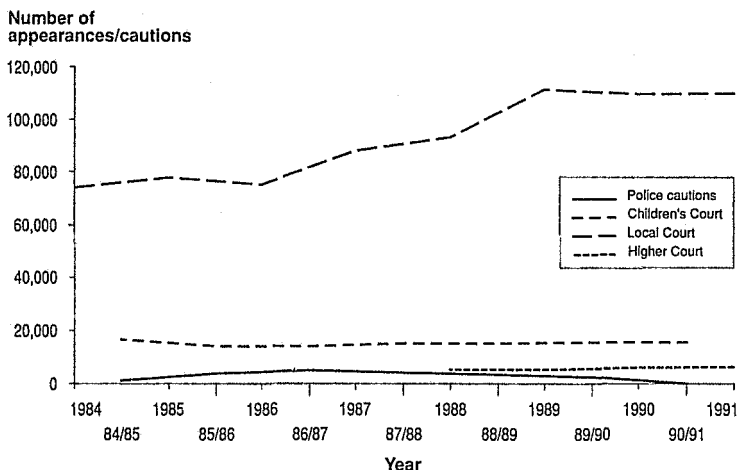


- As an alternative to entering the court system, juveniles charged with relatively minor offences may be dealt with by a system of formal police cautions. A caution is issued by a senior police officer in the presence of the offender and his/her parent or guardian.
- 2,229 juveniles were cautioned during the 1990/91 financial year, over half of them in relation to theft offences (shoplifting, stealing from the person).

Sources: References 12 and 13.

Trends in criminal court appearances

Figure 3.3
Trends in criminal court
appearances and police cautions
Number per year 1984 to 1991

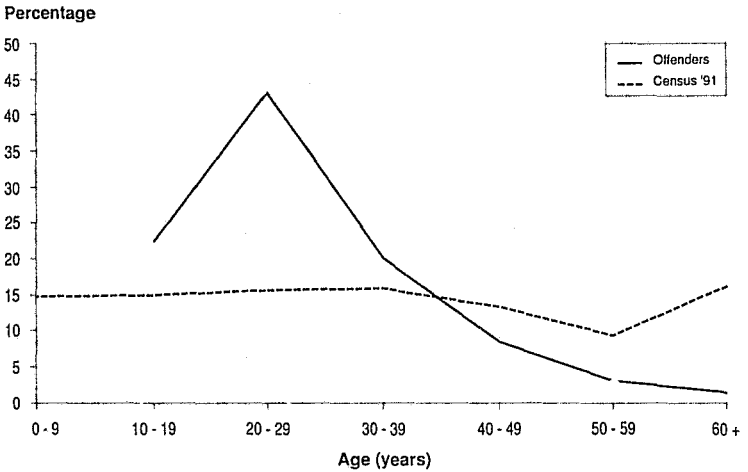


- Figure 3.3 shows trends in Higher Court, Local Court and Children's Court appearances along with trends in police caution data. The decrease in Children's Court appearances and the increase in the number of police cautions in 1985 were due to a review of the police cautioning system. The total number of juveniles dealt with (either charged or cautioned) remained constant.
- Higher Court statistics prior to 1988 are not available. In 1991 there were 6,402 appearances before the Higher Courts.

Sources: References 12, 14 and 15.

Age of offenders

Figure 3.4
Age distribution of offenders
and of the general population
Percentage in each age group



- From figure 3.4 it can be seen that two-thirds (66%) of the offenders were under 30 years of age. Less than one-third of the general population are in this age group.
- 15 of every 100 people convicted (including police cautions) were less than 18 years old.
- 85 of every 100 people convicted were males.

Sources: References 3, 12 and 14.

Court workload

- Most criminal charges are finalised at the Local Court level. Of the 132,232 people charged with criminal offences in 1991, 83% appeared before the Local Court, 12% before the Children's Court and only 5% before the Higher Courts.

Source: References 12 and 14.

Court delay

- Processing of cases in the District and Supreme Courts takes longer than in the Local Court. In the Higher Courts in 1991, half of the defended cases (i.e. cases where the accused pleaded not guilty) took 18 months or less from committal to finalisation. In the Local Court, half of the defended cases took 3 months or less from first to final appearance.
- The period from committal to finalisation in the Higher Criminal Courts varies according to the type of offence involved. Cases involving fraud or drug offences generally take much longer than cases involving offences such as break, enter and steal, murder or robbery.

Source: Reference 14.

Bail

- 7,074 (5%) of all accused were refused bail (i.e. were remanded in custody) prior to the finalisation of their cases (Higher Courts 23%, Local Court 4% and Children's Court 6%).
- Bail was granted in 51% of cases. The remaining 42% of cases were either summons matters, bail was dispensed with or bail status was unknown.

Source: References 12 and 14.

Plea

- Almost 68% of persons appearing in the Local and Higher Courts pleaded guilty to all the charges (69% in the Local Court and 57% in the Higher Courts).

Source: Reference 14.

Conviction rates

- Overall, only 12% of criminal charges were disposed of without conviction. The Children's Court has the highest conviction rate (94%) and the Higher Courts have the lowest (70%).
- 66% of the persons who pleaded not guilty were found guilty and convicted (67% in the Local Courts and 48% in the Higher Courts).

Source: References 12 and 14.

Appeals

- In 1991 the District Court registered 6,167 appeals against Local Court decisions and the Court of Criminal Appeal registered an additional 885 appeals against District and Supreme Court decisions. A study of appeals lodged in 1987 showed that 75% of appeals from the Local Court were successful either in quashing conviction or reducing the sentence. Of appeals heard by the Court of Criminal Appeal, about 25% were successful in reducing sentence severity. The current rate at which convictions are quashed by the Court of Criminal Appeal is unknown.

Sources: References 16, 17, 18 and 19.

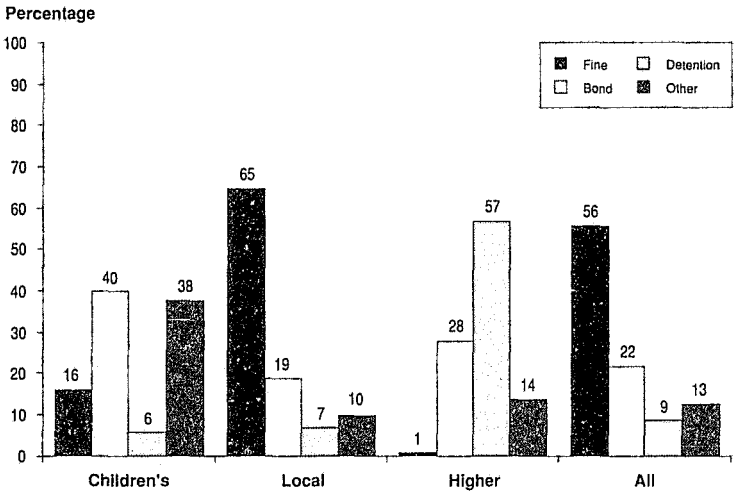
Sentencing

There are a variety of sentencing options available at each court level. The least severe is a good behaviour bond without the recording of a conviction - the offender is given a 'second chance'. The most severe sentencing option is imprisonment. The maximum length of imprisonment in the Local Court is 2 years. The maximum length of imprisonment in the Higher Courts is life.

In the following section sentencing options are classified as:

- *fine*
 - *good behaviour bond* (recognizances with or without supervision)
 - *detention* (imprisonment, detention in a juvenile institution or periodic detention)
 - *other* (e.g. Community Service Orders, Rising of the Court, no conviction recorded).
- In 1991, 87 of every 100 convicted persons received either a fine, a good behaviour bond or detention.

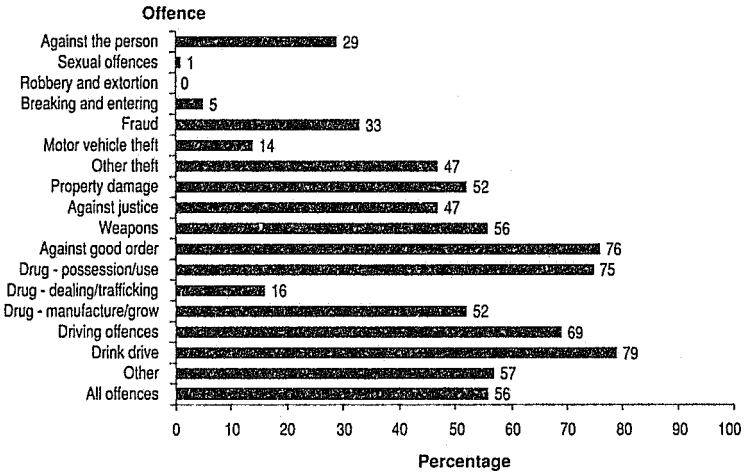
Figure 3.5
Sentencing outcomes for each criminal court in NSW
Percentage of convictions, 1991



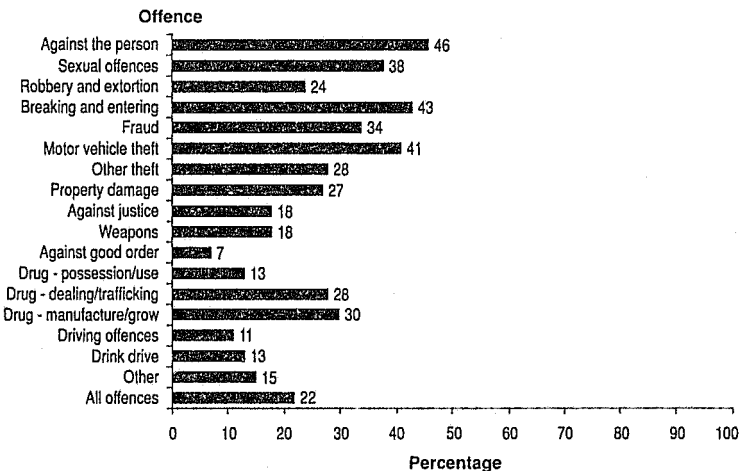
- Figure 3.5 shows the sentences received by people convicted in Children's, Local and Higher Courts in NSW in 1991.
- Overall, in 1991, for each 100 persons convicted, 9 were given detention sentences (including imprisonment, detention in a juvenile institution or periodic detention). For persons sentenced by Higher Courts alone this figure was 57 in every 100.
- 56 in every 100 offenders were fined (63,996 persons).
- Juveniles were most likely to be put on a good behaviour bond. Adults sentenced by the Local Court were most likely to be fined. People sentenced by the Higher Courts were most likely to be given a detention sentence.

Figure 3.6
Sentencing outcomes
by offence type, all courts
Percentage of convictions, 1991

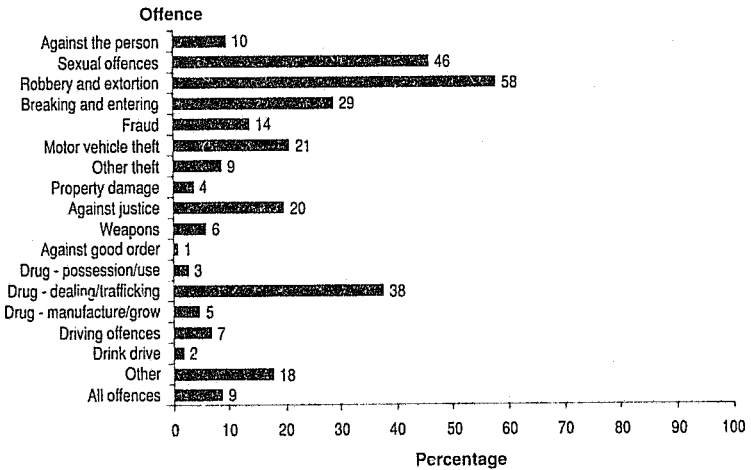
A - Fine



B - Bond



C - Detention



- Figure 3.6 shows the percentage of people who received fines, bonds or detention sentences following conviction for various types of offence.
- All people convicted of murder in the Higher Criminal Courts were imprisoned; 22% of them were sentenced to life imprisonment.
- 95% of people convicted of importing drugs in the Higher Criminal Courts received prison sentences.
- Over 79% of people convicted of drink driving were fined.

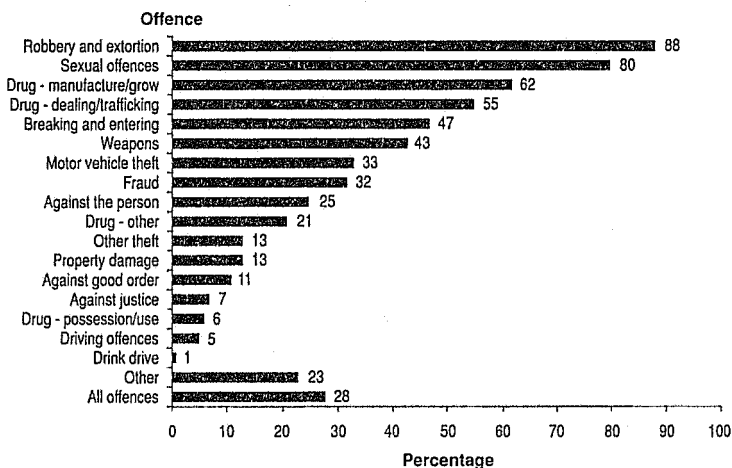
Source: References 12 and 14.

Imprisonment

In 1991

- 9,758 people received a detention sentence in NSW.
- 8,829 were sentenced to a prison term by the Lower and Higher Criminal Courts.
- The Children's Courts handed down 929 detention sentences in 1990/91 and the Higher Criminal Courts sentenced 28 people to juvenile detention.
- 1,187 received periodic detention (i.e. a prison sentence served on the weekends) in the Lower and Higher Criminal Courts.
- 56 in every 100 prison terms imposed by the Local Courts were of 6 months duration or less.
- The majority (5,427) of persons sent to prison were given sentences of less than 1 year duration.

Figure 3.7
Sentences of 1 year or more by offence type
Percentage of persons imprisoned, 1991



- Figure 3.7 shows the percentage of people convicted of various types of offence who were sentenced to 1 year or more in prison.

Life sentences

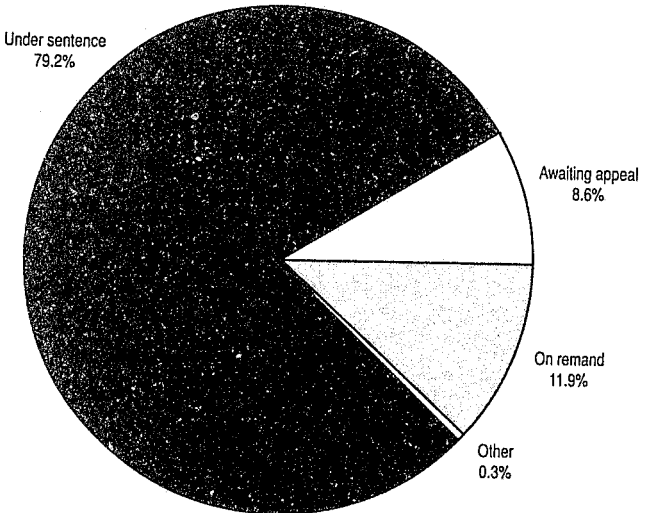
- 7 persons were sentenced to life imprisonment, all on murder charges, in 1991.
- In 1991 there were 255 prisoners serving life sentences in NSW prisons.
- The average time served on life sentences in NSW was 11 years and 7 months (based on 1984 -1987 data). Legislative changes in early 1990 mean that a life sentence will now be imprisonment for life.

Sources: References 12, 14, 20 and 21.

4. PRISONS

The following information is obtained from the Australian Prison Census conducted in June 1991. When considering these data it should be remembered that the range of sentences being served by the people in prison does not accurately reflect the range of sentences imposed by the courts. The reason for this is simply that people with long sentences tend to accumulate in prison. For example, 5,427 people were sent to prison for less than one year in 1991, but on census day there were only 1,265 short sentence prisoners actually in prison. In addition to sentenced prisoners (6,260) NSW prisons contain a large number of people on remand awaiting a court hearing (843).

Figure 4.1
Legal status of prisoners
Percentage of prison population

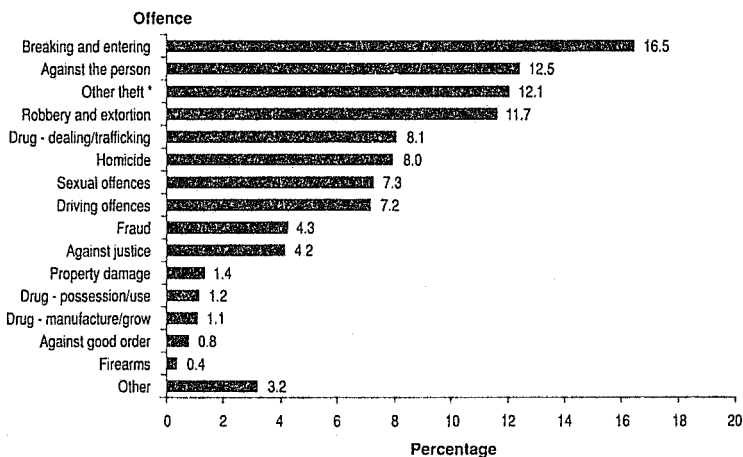


- Figure 4.1 shows the legal status of people held in prison on census day: 79.2% were serving a sentence, 11.9% were on remand.

Source: Reference 20.

Prison population

Figure 4.2
Most serious offence / charge
Percentage of prison population



* Includes motor vehicle theft

- Figure 4.2 shows the most serious offence (for sentenced prisoners) or charge (for unconvicted prisoners).
- Contrary to popular belief, prisons are not full of murderers and rapists. Nearly one-third of prisoners were incarcerated for stealing offences (breaking and entering, fraud, and other theft).

Gender

- 94 in every 100 prisoners were male.
- There were 306 male prisoners for each 100,000 males living in NSW. There were 17 female prisoners for each 100,000 females living in NSW.

Age

- Almost half of the prisoners were in the 20-29 years age group.

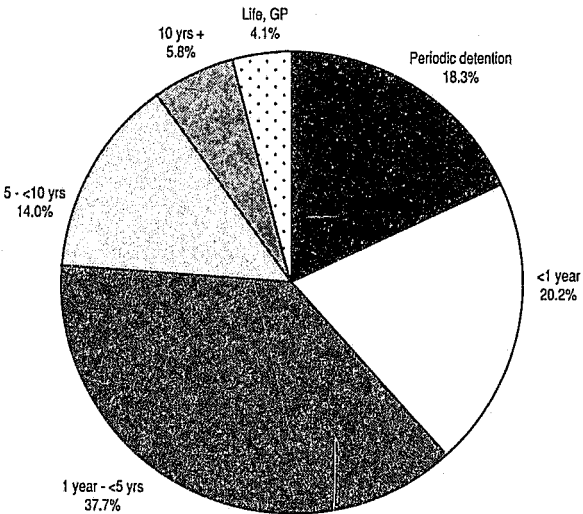
Aboriginality

- The imprisonment rate of Aborigines is about 15 times higher than that for the non-Aboriginal population. For every 100,000 Aborigines, 2,081 were in prison on census day. For every 100,000 people in the non-Aboriginal population, 137 were in prison on census day.

Prior imprisonment

- 48 in every 100 prisoners had been imprisoned before.

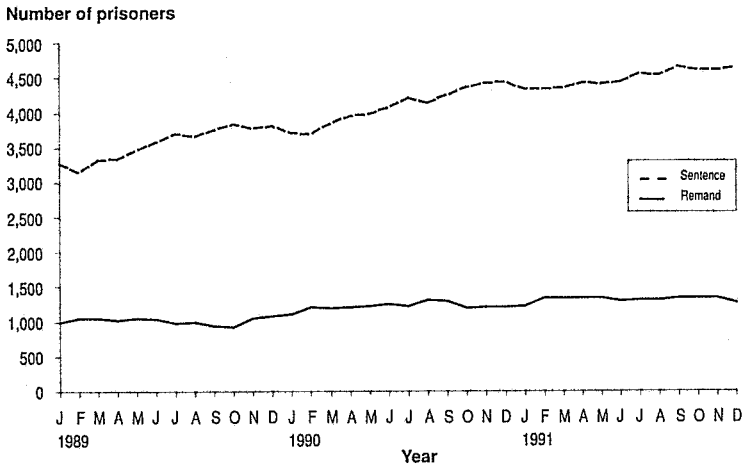
Figure 4.3
Sentence length
Percentage of total sentenced prisoners



- Figure 4.3 shows the imprisonment length of people under sentence on census day. Four in every 100 sentenced prisoners were sentenced to life or Governor's Pleasure (GP).

Source: Reference 20.

Figure 4.4
Trends in prison population
Prisoners in custody first day of month
January 1989 - December 1991



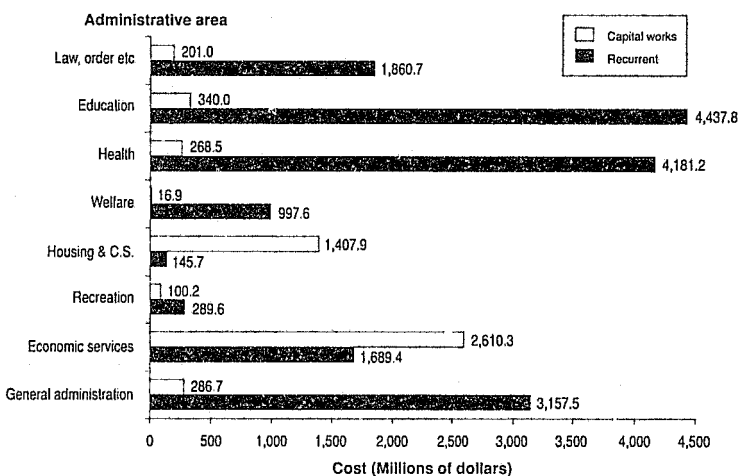
- From figure 4.4 it can be seen that the number of prisoners held in NSW prisons has been increasing steadily over the last three years.

Source: Reference 22.

5. THE COST OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- In 1991/92 the NSW Government spent \$1,860.7 million on recurrent expenses in the area of law, order and public safety. In addition, \$201.1 million was spent on capital works - that is, building (e.g. of police stations, court houses and prisons).
- Recurrent expenditure for law, order and public safety increased by 7.5% between 1990/91 and 1991/92.
- In the same period capital works expenditure decreased by 25.1%.

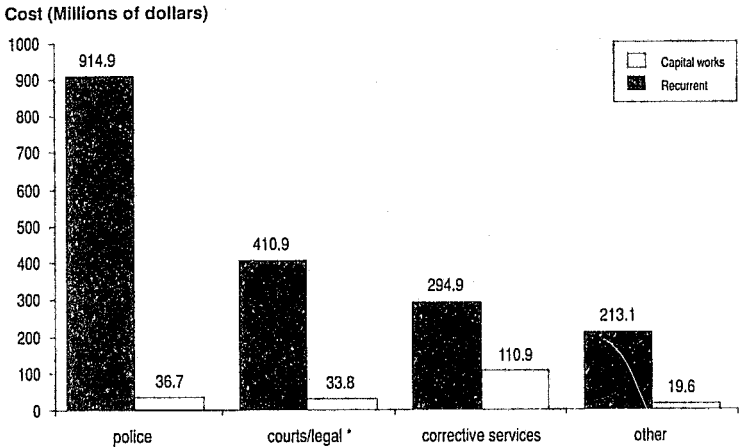
Figure 5.1
Recurrent and capital works expenditure 1991/92



- Figure 5.1 offers a comparison of recurrent and capital works Government spending by administrative area for the 1991/92 financial year. The figure does not include \$41.0 million for natural disaster relief. The category 'law, order etc.' includes public safety services like fire protection.
- Total spending was \$21,990.9 million.

- As can be seen, in most areas recurrent spending far outweighed that for capital works. The law and order category accounted for 11.1% of recurrent budget, but only 3.8% of capital works. The largest recurrent budget expenses were education and health, while in capital works the largest category was 'economic services'. This category includes, amongst other things, transport, communication and mining, manufacturing and construction.

Figure 5.2
Cost of criminal justice in 1991/92
Recurrent and capital works expenditure



* Includes Legal Aid services, Court services (civil and criminal), Judicial Commission, administration and other services.

- Figure 5.2 presents law and order spending in 1991/92, comparing recurrent and capital works spending. Most money spent on law and order went in recurrent spending rather than capital works.

- Note that, while the police and corrective services are largely concerned with criminal justice, the court system is also responsible for the administration of civil law. The Department of Courts Administration estimates that, in 1990/91, 28% of its recurrent budget was spent on the administration of criminal justice.

Source: Reference 23.

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