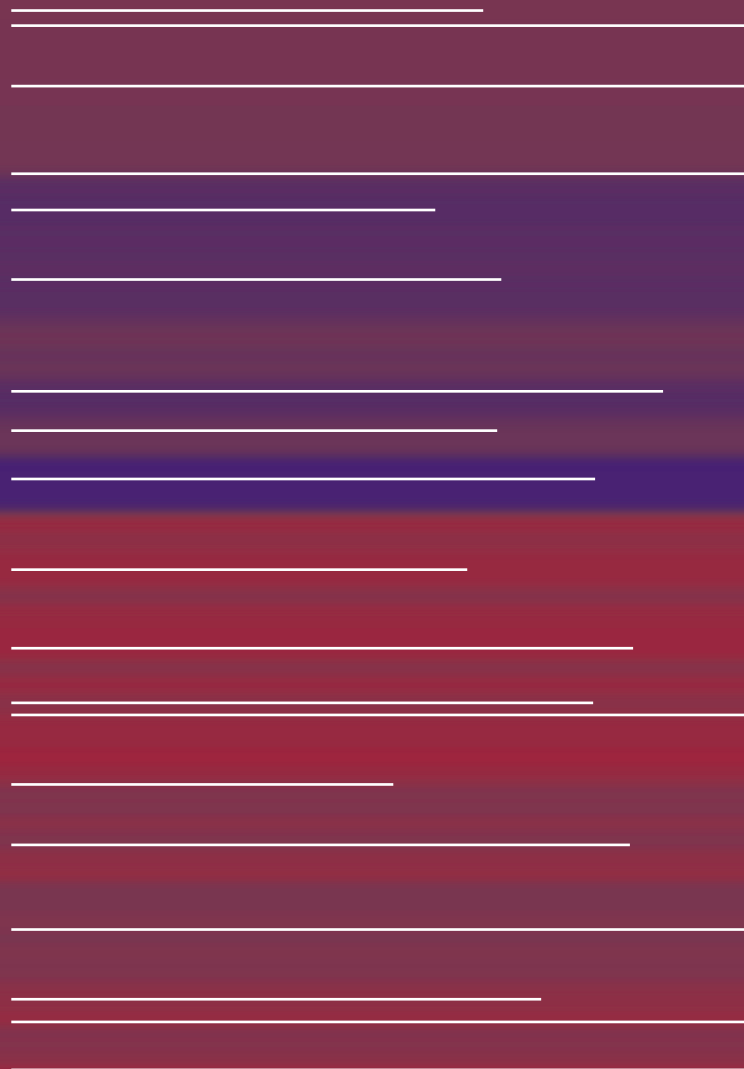




# Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee

Benchmarking  
Crime Trend Data  
1995–1996  
to 1999–2000





**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**  
**DRUGS AND CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

**BENCHMARKING CRIME TREND DATA**  
**1995–1996 to 1999–2000**

ORDERED TO BE PRINTED

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## **Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee**

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The Hon. Cameron Boardman, M.L.C – Chairman (from 22 August 2000)

Mr. Bruce Mildenhall, M.L.A. - Deputy Chairman

The Hon. Robin Cooper, M.L.A. (from 6 September 2000)

Mr. Kenneth Jasper, M.L.A.

Mr. Hurtle Lupton, M.L.A.

The Hon. Sang Minh Nguyen, M.L.C.

Mr. Richard Wynne, M.L.A.

Mr. Kim Wells, M.L.A. (Chairman 16 December 1999 to 31 August 2000 and discharged from the Committee 6 September 2000)

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Executive Officer

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Research Officer - Inquiry into the Incidence of Crime

Mr Peter Johnston  
Legal Research Officer - Inquiry into Public Drunkenness

Ms Michelle Heane  
Office Manager

## Functions of the Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee

The Victorian Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee is constituted under the *Parliamentary Committees Act 1968*, as amended.

*Parliamentary Committees Act 1968*

### Section 4 EF.

To inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on any proposal, matter or thing concerned with the illicit use of drugs (including the manufacture, supply or distribution of drugs for such use) or the level or causes of crime or violent behaviour, if the Committee is required or permitted so to do by or under this Act.

## Terms of Reference

RECEIVED FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1 MARCH 2000

That pursuant to the *Parliamentary Committees Act 1968*, the Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee be required to inquire into, consider and report on the following:

'The incidence of crime in Victoria and to report every six months to the Parliament on levels of crime, areas of emerging concern and (where suitable) options for crime reduction or control.'

## Chairman's Foreword

Safety and security are without doubt priorities for the community. Such is the importance of these issues that successive governments have developed a range of law and order and crime prevention policies.

This Report is the first of six-monthly reports to the Parliament of Victoria on emerging crime trends. The purpose of this report is to benchmark official crime data from Victoria Police and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) over the last five years. This benchmarking exercise has allowed a number of emerging crime trends to become apparent.

Although Victoria recorded a 4.7% increase in reported crime for the 1999 calendar year when compared with the other States and Territories, it returned Australia's lowest total recorded crime rate. Victoria's crime rate, as measured according to national standards and classifications, was 19.6% below the national average.

It is important to note that official crime statistics can not provide a complete picture of all crime committed in the community, rather they represent crime that is either detected by or reported to police. The matter becomes even more complex when national comparisons are undertaken. For example, Victoria Police records crime statistics with different categories to the ABS. Additionally the Victoria Police records its figures each financial year, whilst the ABS records figures per calendar year. In some cases the categories used to record crime do not necessarily reflect statute definitions.

The limitations in analysing police statistics and national crime statistics are discussed in detail in the report. The report also provides an overview of different crime measurement techniques and tabulates recorded crime on a number of dimensions including the age and sex of victims and offenders, the location of the offence, police districts in which the offences occurred and the type of weapon used.

The Committee intends to use the information in this report for the basis of subsequent investigations. Emerging trends will be identified, analysed and investigated so that explanations for the trends can be posited and where appropriate crime prevention strategies be developed.

It is important that this report is read in its entirety so that the complexities of official statistics can be fully understood. It is equally important to note that this report does not seek to provide any explanation to the trends that it identifies. As stated this will be dealt with in subsequent reports.

Cameron Boardman MP  
Chairman

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## Summary of Crime Trend Data 1995–1996 to 1999–2000

Analysis of the five years of comparable data reveals a number of trends in recorded crime.

### Trends emerging from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) statistics

- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) National Crime Statistics 1999 reported that despite recording a 4.7% increase (the third highest behind the ACT and SA) in total recorded crime, Victoria again returned the lowest total crime rate compared with all other State and Territory jurisdictions in Australia.
- Victoria's 1999 nationally comparable recorded crime rate was 19.6% below the national average. This was consistent with Victoria's rates in 1998, 1997 and 1996, being 22.6, 19.8 and 19.1 percent below the national average, respectively.

### Trends emerging from Victoria Police statistics

- The 1999–2000 Victoria Police crime figures represent a 0.08% downturn in the total number of offences being recorded by police, following four years of steady growth. This decrease follows rises of increasing magnitude from 1.65% to 3.85% per year, between the years 1995–1996 to 1998–1999.
- There has been a steady increase in the number of firearms being used/threatened or displayed in homicide and rape offences. The rise in number of handguns used, threatened or displayed is of particular concern.
  - Handguns use in homicides rose from 6.4% of all weapons in 1995–1996 to in excess of 19% of all weapons in 1997–1998 and 1998–1999.
  - The proportion of handguns used in rape offences rose from 1.54 % of all weapons in 1997–1998 to 10.14 % in 1998–1999.
- There has been a marked increase in the numbers of robberies reported over the 5-year period 1995–1996 to 1999–2000. The 1999–2000 figure of 3410 represents a 5.7% increase over the previous year's figure of 3227.
  - There have been steady increases in the number of robberies in retail outlets and also, but to a lesser extent, on public transport (including taxis) over the 5-year period. Milkbars/convenience stores were the most commonly targeted businesses with 309 such robberies being recorded in 1999–2000.
  - The use of syringes rose from 4.17% of all weapons used/threatened/displayed in robberies in 1995–1996 to 20.72% in 1998–1999.
- Aggravated burglaries increased dramatically over the five years between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000, however it must be noted that a change to the definition of aggravated burglary, which came into effect on 1 September 1997, broadened the nature of the offence. *This change means that extreme care must be taken in comparing the figures before the change to the legislation, with those following it. The figures produced for 1998–1999 and 1999–2000 are comparable, as they represent charges flowing from the same legislation.* In this period the number of recorded aggravated burglaries jumped from 1219 in 1998–1999 to 1700 in 1999–2000, representing a 39.5% increase.
  - There has been a very dramatic shift in the aggravated burglary victim profile over the four years for which data is available. Prior to the change in the legislation, males were the victims in over 70% of the cases. The 1998–1999 figures show that females are now the predominant victims of this offence category representing 51.17% of all victims. The dramatic shift in victimisation towards females and older victims is a reflection of the legislative change allowing police to charge an unarmed burglar with aggravated burglary if the victim is in the house.

- The number of deception offences has been steadily increasing over the period 1995–1996 to 1998–1999. The 1999–2000 figures of 37 270 represent a 1.3% downturn on the 1998–1999 figures.
- The years 1996–1997 to 1999–2000 have shown steady increases in the number of thefts from motor vehicles. The 1999–2000 figures represent an 8.1% increase over the 1998–1999 figure which itself was a 9.7% increase on the previous year's figure. This increase is mainly due to rise in thefts of mobile phones (up 28.1%), wallets and compact discs left in motor vehicles.
- The number of stolen motor vehicles increased by 15.2% in 1999–2000 compared with 1998–1999 figures, after years of relative stability.
- The number of recorded drug cultivation, manufacturing and trafficking offences fell 16.8% in the 1999–2000 figures compared with 1998–1999 figures, after three years of steady growth.
- There has been a steady upward trend in the number of Justice Procedure offences being recorded by police between 1995–1996 and 1998–1999 with a 2.4% downturn in the 1999–2000 figures.
- There has been a steady downward trend in Regulated Public Order offences over the 5 years of the data series. The 1999–2000 figure of 1965 offences was 8.4% lower than that of 1998–1999 and 41% lower than the 1995–1996 figure of 3331.
- The number of recorded Behaviour in Public offences has been in steady decline over the last 5 financial years, dropping 35% from a high of 5673 in 1995–1996 to 3693 in 1999–2000.

### 1. Background

Crime and criminal activity have always been at the forefront of public concern. The Parliament of Victoria acknowledges this public concern and has initiated measures to better understand and address the problems associated with crime in the community.

On 1 March 2000 the Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee received from the Legislative Council a reference to inquire into

The incidence of crime in Victoria and to report every six months to the Parliament on levels of crime, areas of emerging concern and (where suitable) options for crime reduction or control.

This Report, which is the first of a series of reports to be presented to the Parliament of Victoria benchmarks statistical data on crime in Victoria over a 5-year period. This provides a robust point of comparison for analysis of future official crime statistics. The report also reveals significant trends emerging from the data. Victoria Police recorded crime statistics in 27 offence categories for the period 1 July 1995–30 June 2000 and Australian Bureau of Statistics National Crime Statistics 1995–1999 are the basis for this analysis. It must be noted that 1999–2000 data are provisional only and are subject to change.

### 2. Crime Measurement Techniques and Problems

There are three recognised means of measuring criminal statistical information, each of which has its limitations.

1. Official statistics from the police and other criminal justice agencies, such as the courts and correction agencies.
2. The use of crime victim surveys.
3. Self-reporting survey.

It must be acknowledged that crime statistics, whether official or unofficial, are not and can not be a complete and accurate enumeration of an area's criminal offending behaviour. At best, they are an approximation of the nature and extent of crime. Crime statistics represent merely the 'known' aspect of crime as opposed to what criminologists refer to as 'the dark figure of crime' or the proportion of crime that remains unknown (Indermaur 1996, p. 2). The challenge facing criminologists is to devise methods and techniques to increase the known proportion of crime, as far as possible.

*Official crime statistics:* There are a number of important issues that need to be understood in interpreting recorded crime statistics.

- The most commonly reported measure of crime is the count of crime that has been officially *recorded* by police and other criminal justice agencies. It must also be understood that not all crime that comes to the attention of police will be officially recorded (Mukherjee 1986, p.23.). There is a rather complex process involving a number of discrete decisions that must be made for a crime to be included in official crime statistics.
  - A crime has to actually take place.
  - It must be recognised that a crime had taken place.
  - The crime must come to the attention of the police either through a victim or other member of the public making a conscious decision to report the matter to police or by the offence being detected by police themselves.



- The crime must meet certain police criteria and satisfy counting rules to be officially recorded.
- Not all crime that has come to the attention of victims or other members of the public is reported to police. Crime victim surveys tell us that people cite a number of reasons for choosing not to report their victimisation to police. The 1994 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) *Crime and Safety Australia April 1993* crime victim survey reports that reasons for non-reporting include:
  - a) belief that the offence is too trivial;
  - b) fear of revenge/reprisal;
  - c) belief that police would not do anything about the crime;
  - d) belief that police could not do anything;
  - e) belief that the matter is private;
  - f) the victim not wanting the offender to be punished; and
  - g) belief that someone else had reported offence (ABS 1994, p. 12).
- Not all crime detected by police will necessarily be recorded. Police have a great deal of discretion in deciding whether offences they detect will be officially proceeded with (Mukherjee 1986, p.23.). In some cases police may decide to overlook the offence or to issue a warning to the offender.

With these issues in mind, recorded crime statistics offer a tool in mapping crime trends over time. Careful analysis of time series data can reveal useful information regarding the nature of crime and victimisation in the community and can be extremely useful to policy makers and criminal justice practitioners.

*Crime victim surveys:* Crime victim surveys were first used in Australia in the 1970s as a means of overcoming many of the problems inherent in official crime statistics' inability to reflect the 'dark figure of crime'. Australia's first nationwide crime victim survey was conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1975, using a stratified sample of 18 694 respondents from across Australia (Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) 1990, p. 7).

The findings confirmed that there are marked differences in the rates at which different offences are reported to police. This survey found that approximately 60% of all criminal incidents reported in the survey were not reported to police. The survey found a great deal of variability in reporting rates depending upon the offence type. Over 90% of motor vehicle thefts were reported to police while less than one-third of all rapes were reported (AIC 1990, pp. 7–8). Similarly, in the 1995 ABS Crime Victim Survey it was found that only 227 000 of 606 800 (37.4%) victims of robbery, assault or sexual assault between May 1994 and April 1995 reported their victimisation to police (Carcach 1997, p. 1). The similar results were found by the Victorian Department of Justice, Crime Victimisation Survey 1999, which reported that:

- 88.8% of break and enter offences;
- 43.1% of attempted break and enter offences;
- 96.6% of motor vehicle thefts;
- 47.4% of robberies;
- 29.9% of assaults and
- 17.3% of sexual assaults

were reported to police (Department of Justice 2000, p. 14).

Crime victim surveys are useful in identifying reasons for not reporting crimes to police. The 1999 Victorian Department of Justice Crime Victimization Survey reports the three most common reasons given for non-reporting to police were:

- 36.6% offence not important enough;
- 13.9% police could not do anything about it;
- 12.0% police wouldn't do anything (Department of Justice 2000, p. 17).

Other reasons cited were:

- it was a private matter;
- told somebody else instead;
- afraid of what offender might do to them;
- inconvenient to report;
- other reasons (Department of Justice 2000, p. 17).

Crime victim surveys suffer from a number of shortcomings, which must be acknowledged. Victims often have difficulties with accurate recall of when or how often offences occurred (Skogan 1983, Mukherjee 1986, p. 36). Many crime victim surveys ask for victimisation over the previous 12 months. Crime victim surveys are not able to cover all offence types. Homicides and 'victimless' crimes such as prostitution and drug offences will not be measured in crime victim surveys (Department of Justice 2000, p. 1). There are issues of sensitivity around certain offence types, particularly those relating to sexual offences (Walker 1994, p. 5), domestic abuse and child abuse, which may be compounded by the psychological processes of repression and denial (AIC 1990, p. 8). There are issues around accurate definitions of different offences, in which the definitions offered in surveys do not match the legal definition of offences (Department of Justice 2000, p. 1, Mukherjee 1996, p.78). Respondents may exaggerate the extent of their victimisation due to inaccurate definitions being offered or being misunderstood by respondents.

*Self-report surveys:* Self report surveys provide the third source of crime information. These surveys require respondents to report on their offending behaviours and whether or not they were caught. The advantages of self-report studies are that they potentially provide a more complete picture of criminal behaviour, as respondents are not limited in the types of offences that they can report against. They provide information on crime that has not necessarily been detected by either a victim or the police, which offers potentially the best means of reducing the 'dark figure of crime'.

The main problems with self-report studies concern the willingness or ability of the respondent to accurately and faithfully report their offending behaviours. There are a number of reasons for respondents to under-report their criminal behaviour. These include fear of prosecution, denial or repression, forgetfulness, lack of belief in the criminal nature of their acts, embarrassment and eagerness to make a good impression. Researchers have also argued that self-report studies only measure the more trivial offences and do not include high-frequency offenders (Akers 1993, p. 151).

On the other hand, there are concerns that in self report studies respondents may over-represent their level of criminal behaviour due to inaccurate memory recall, lack of clear definitions given, eagerness to enhance their reputation by bragging or to please researchers.



## PART B

### Information Used in this Report

#### 3. Data Sources and Process

This Report draws on crime statistics recorded by both Victoria Police and ABS, for the period 1995–1996 to 1999–2000.

Victoria Police statistics are principally used in this report as they provide the primary source data from which ABS national crime statistics are drawn and they provide a more complete picture of the incidence of crime than Victorian court and correction statistics.

Data comparability is an important issue that needs to be understood. In a number of instances the data sets do not contain complete 5-year data series. This is due either to the data not being available at the time this report was written (in the case of some 1999–2000 data) or to data from previous years not being comparable with later years data due to changes in Victoria Police counting or reporting practices.

ABS crime statistics are limited to the offence categories of homicide and related offences, assault, sexual assault, kidnapping/abduction, robbery, blackmail/extortion, Unlawful Entry With Intent (UEWI), motor vehicle theft and other theft (ABS 1999, p. 5). ABS statistics are only included in this report where they relate directly to Victoria Police offence categories. For example, the ABS category of sexual assault is not included in this Report as it accounts for the Victoria Police categories of rape and sex (non-rape).

The data were entered into a number of Microsoft Excel spreadsheets according to the 27 offence categories used by Victoria Police. Data was entered under the variables: number of recorded offences per year, type of location, type of weapon, police district offence occurred, and age and sex of victims and alleged offenders.

Percentage distributions were obtained for the variables type of weapon, type of location, age and sex of victim and age and sex of alleged offenders by dividing the individual cell frequency by the yearly total and multiplying the result by 100. For example, it was found that 29 of the 87 weapons recorded for homicide offences in 1997–1998 were knives. The formula  $29/87 \times 100$  produces a rate of knife use for homicides in 1997–1998 of 33.3%.

Similarly, rates per 100 000 population were obtained for the variable 'police district offence occurred' by dividing the recorded number of offences for each district by the estimated resident population of the police district that year, and multiplying the result by 100 000. For a list of all police stations in the metropolitan police districts and all the 24-hour police stations in the country districts, see Appendix 1.

A series of frequency charts arranged by year and the other variable, such as type of location rates, type of weapon rates, was produced for each of the 27 offence categories. These charts contain 3, 4 or 5 years of comparable data arranged in ascending years.

Unless otherwise stated, charts represent Victorian data for the financial years 1995–1996 to 1999–2000.

The charts were then scrutinised for any apparent trends. These were then commented upon where appropriate.

## 4. Counting Methods Used

### Victoria Police counting rules

Before proceeding it is important to have an understanding of the different counting rules used in collating the data cited in this report.

Victoria Police uses different counting rules for different offences.

- For all crime against the person and most property crime, the counting unit is the number of principal victims for each separate occurrence of the offence. For example, if three offenders assault two persons – two offences are recorded.
- For offences against statutes, the number of alleged offenders is the counting unit. For example, if three persons are found in possession of heroin – three offences of possess heroin are counted.
- For a small number of infrequent offences such as piracy – the incident becomes the counting unit (Victoria Police 2000, p. 5).

Counting of offences can also vary according to time and location over the course of the criminal conduct. For example, if an offender presents three valueless cheques to a teller then only one offence will be recorded. If, however, the cheques were presented at different times or at different branches, then three offences would be recorded (Victoria Police 2000, p.5)

### ABS counting rules

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publication *Recorded Crime* (4510.0) provides indicators of the level and nature of selected crime recorded by police in Australia as well as a means for measuring change over time. The national crime statistics have been compiled according to national standards and classifications developed by the ABS. In January 1999, the ABS changed its classification from the Australian National Classification of Offences (ANCO) to the Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC). ASOC was developed to update and address recognised deficiencies in ANCO and has led to significant improvements in the comparability of crime statistics on both a State and national level (ABS 1999, p. 2).

There is considerable variation in the criminal laws of Australian States and Territories. The ABS figures include only those offences for which nationally comparable definitions and counting rules have been developed (ABS 1999, p. 112).

The national crime statistics are counted and reported on a calendar year basis.

The ABS use a victim based counting rule. They only count the most serious offence per national offence category for each victim, within a distinct criminal incident (ABS 1999, p. 116). The definition of 'victim' varies according to the type of offence:

- Homicide offence category, one offence is counted per person per incident (ABS 1999, p. 116).
- Assault offence category, one offence is counted per person per incident (ABS 1999, p. 116).
- Kidnapping/abduction offence category, one offence is counted per person per incident (ABS 1999, p. 117).
- Robbery offence category, one offence is counted per person/organisation per incident. For example, if a bank with several customers present is robbed, this is counted as one robbery with the victim being the bank. If personal property is also taken from two customers, there are three victims, the bank and two customers, hence the number of robberies counted is three (ABS 1999, p. 117).

- Motor vehicle offence category, one offence is counted per motor vehicle per incident. If three cars are stolen from a house, then three motor vehicle thefts are counted (ABS 1999, p. 117).
- For multiple offence incidents where the same victim is subjected to multiple offences belonging to different offence categories, one offence, the most serious, is counted within each offence category. For example, if a person is kidnapped and raped by two offenders, one kidnapping/abduction and one sexual assault would be counted (ABS 1999, p. 118).

### Offence rates

Offence rates are produced by dividing the number of recorded offences by the estimated resident population and multiplying the result by 100 000. For example in the period 1998–1999 there were 10 homicides recorded in Victoria Police's 'B' District (Prahran) which had an estimated residential population of 130 683. This gives a homicide rate of  $10/130683=0.000076521$ . This figure is then multiplied by 100 000 to give a rate per 100 000 of 7.6521, which is rounded up to 8.

The population figures are derived from Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates of *resident* population as at 31 December, which is the mid-point of the period under review. This figure is taken as a convenient representative sample estimate of the population.

This formula must be kept in mind when interpreting, particularly the 'A' District (Melbourne) rates. 'A' District includes the City of Melbourne, Richmond, Carlton, Fitzroy and Collingwood. The City of Melbourne has a relatively small resident population, that is people who live there, but a very large non-resident population during working and leisure hours. To establish the rates for offences recorded in 'A' District, the relatively large number of offences that are recorded within 'A' District are divided by the relatively small resident population estimates which produces a higher rate for this area than would be the case for a more closed population. We can assume that residents from other districts are committing a certain number of offences, which are recorded in 'A' District. This has the possible effect of artificially raising the crime rates in the city while lowering the crime rates of the offenders' home districts.



## PART C

### Issues to be Aware of in Interpreting Victoria Police and ABS Statistics

There are a number of specific issues, in addition to the general issues of official crime statistics that need to be understood in the interpretation of Victoria Police and ABS statistics.

- There are over 4000 individual statutory and common law offences recorded on the Victoria Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) database. These have been grouped into 27 broad offence categories. These categories have been further subdivided into four general classes: Crime Against the Person, Crime Against Property, Drug Offences and Other Crime (Victoria Police 2000, p. 6).
- Victoria Police and ABS offence statistical recording and reporting categories do not necessarily conform to legal offence definitions.
- An extremely important point to recognise is that *only the most serious offence* in a distinct course of criminal conduct is recorded in official statistics, even though multiple charges may be laid for the one incident. For example, if an offender carrying a firearm commits an armed robbery and assaults a staff member, only the armed robbery is recorded although the offender would be charged with armed robbery, assault and possession of a firearm. An offender who is in possession and admits using an illicit drug will have only the possession, the more serious offence, counted in official statistics although he or she would be charged with both offences (Victoria Police 2000, p. 5).
- The LEAP figures include all crimes, family incidents and missing persons, brought to police attention in the financial year, *regardless of when the offence actually occurred*. Offences are only included in the statistics when a crime report has been completed (Victoria Police 2000, p. 5).
- The 1999–2000 Victoria Police crime figures are merely provisional and are subject to change (Victoria Police 2000a, p. 1). Victoria Police statistics are produced from the LEAP database, which is a 'live' database and is continuously being updated. It is often the case that crime figures published in previous years are adjusted either upwards or downwards to reflect late additions or refinements to the data in later years. Care must be taken in interpreting changes in recorded crime before yearly figures are finalised, which in some cases may be two or three years later. The 1999–2000 Provisional Crime Statistics included adjustments to the previously published 1997–1998 and 1998–1999 crime figures.
- Recorded crime can also reflect changes in community or business procedures.
  - For example, reporting rates for a number of theft, burglary and other offences are clearly influenced by insurance company regulations requiring a police report of the offence, before a claim is paid (Walker 1994, p. 10, Mukherjee 1996, p. 77).
  - Many companies are reluctant to report fraud offences committed against them to police, preferring to either handle the investigation in-house, or to engage another private company with specialist skills to investigate. The AIC reports that the 1999 KPMG *Fraud Survey*, found that 33.3% of organisations surveyed failed to report frauds committed against them to police, preferring to deal with the matter internally or by dismissing the internal offender (Smith 1999, p. 3).
- Victoria Police reports crime statistics over a financial year, while ABS statistics are reported by calendar year. This means that Victoria Police and ABS data are not directly comparable.
- Operational decisions made by police have a direct effect on recorded crime statistics (New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research 2000, p.1). Police periodically conduct blitz operations against certain offences such as jay walking, drug possession, street begging and prostitution offences, which can drive the figures up for those particular offences.



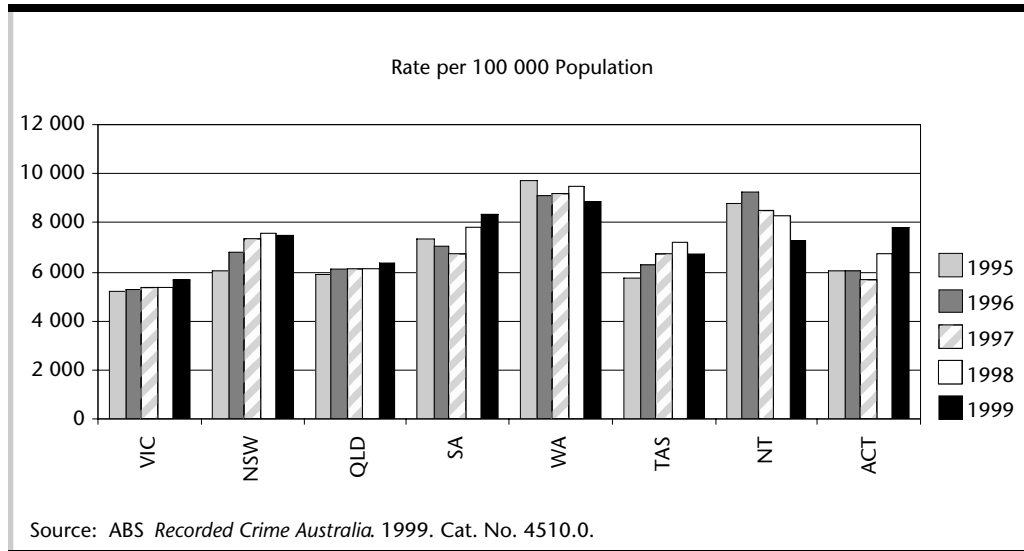
- There are periodical changes to offence and counting categories, legal definitions of offences and changes to regional boundaries, which effect the comparability of crime statistics (Mukherjee 1996, p. 77). Extreme care must be taken to ensure comparisons of crime statistics over time or between jurisdictions are made using like statistics.
- Extreme care must be taken particularly in relation to interpreting National Crime Statistics. While a great deal of work has been done to ensure maximum statistical comparability across State and Territory jurisdictions, there are differences in legislation, police practice, interpretation and processing that will effect the direct comparability of National Crime Statistics.
- Rises in the crime rate do not necessarily reflect an increase in actual crime. They could be a reflection of increased public confidence in police which means that the public are less fearful of making a report to police or more confident that police will be able to solve their case. It could also reflect increased public awareness of the importance of reporting offences to police and/or less community tolerance towards crime (Carcach 1997). Indermaur also suggests that rises in the crime rate could be the result of a range of factors that he labels 'police productivity'. These factors include increased police numbers, improvements in technology, record keeping and data base management (Indermaur 1996, p. 4).

## PART D

### Total Recorded Crime 1995–1996 to 1999–2000

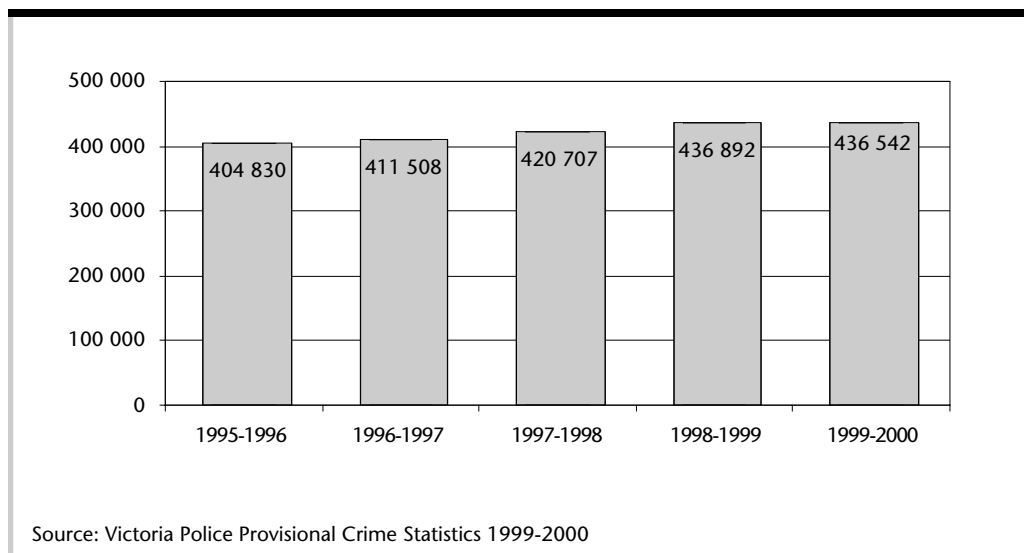
#### 5. All Offences

**Figure 5.1 National comparisons of recorded crime by State 1995–1999**



Victoria for the fifth year in a row had the lowest total national crime rate compared with all other State and Territory jurisdictions in Australia in 1999. Victoria's crime rate as measured by national crime statistics, however, is increasing. The 1999 rate was 4.7% higher than the rate in 1998. Victoria's 1999 nationally comparable recorded crime rate was 19.6% below the national average. This was consistent with Victoria's rates in 1998, 1997 and 1996, being 22.6, 19.8 and 19.1 percent below the national average, respectively.

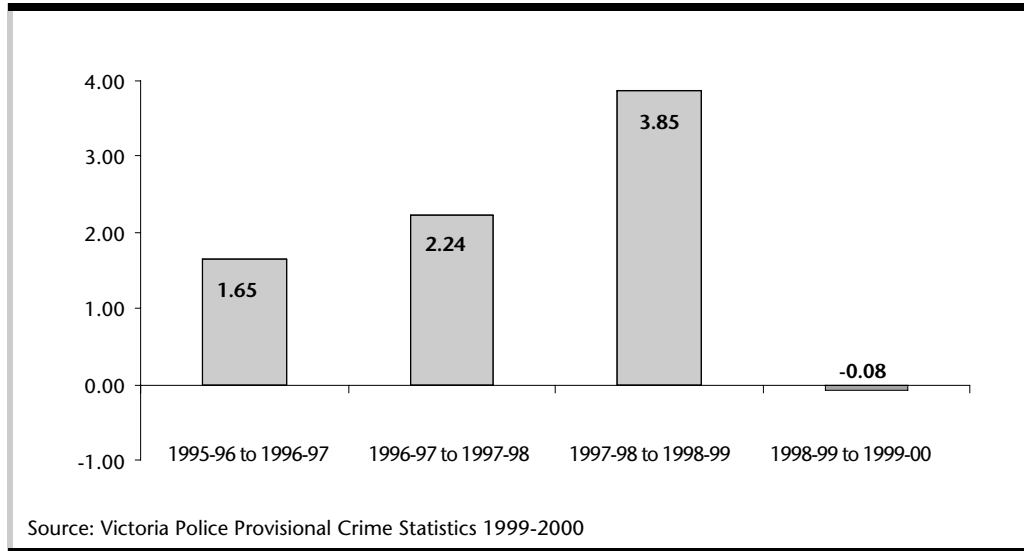
**Figure 5.2 Offences recorded by year**



The 1999–2000 crime figures represent a plateauing in the total number of offences being recorded by police, after steady increases over the previous 4 years. The 1999–2000 figure of 436 542 recorded offences is 350 fewer than the 1998–1999 total of 436 892. Given the dynamic nature of the LEAP database, it is highly likely that the 1999–2000 figures, which are

*provisional, will be adjusted upward, as has been the experience in the last few years. If this is the case, it is likely that the final figure for 1999–2000 will be greater than that for 1998–1999.*

**Figure 5.3 Percentage change in recorded crime**



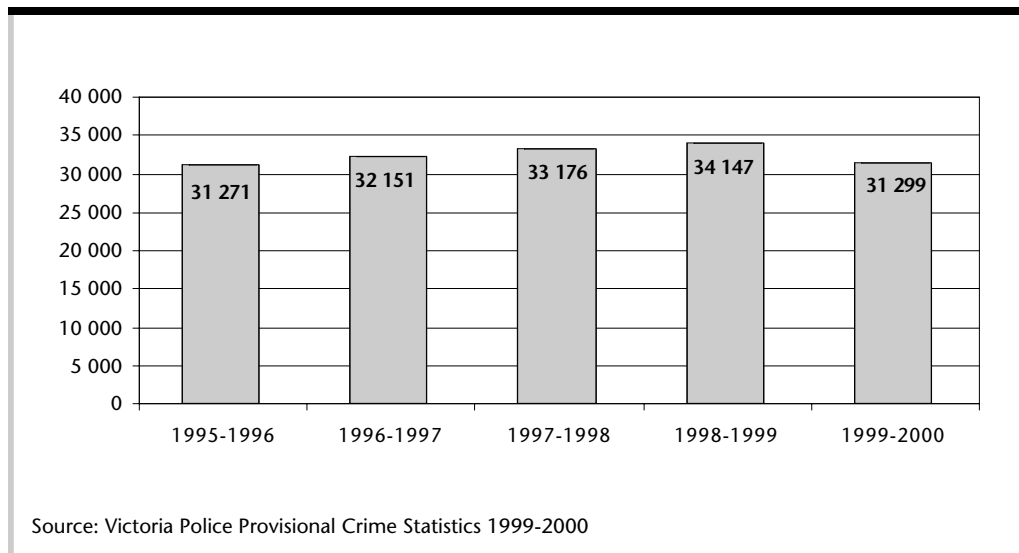
The 1999–2000 figures, as they stand, represent a 0.08% decrease in the number of recorded offences relative to the previous year. This decrease follows rises of increasing magnitude from 1.65% to 3.85% per year, between the years 1995–1996 to 1998–1999.

## PART E

### Analysis of 5-Year Trend Data for Total Recorded Crime

#### 6. Recorded Crime Against The Person

**Figure 6.1 Recorded crime against the person by year**



The class of Crime Against the Person is made up of the of the following offence categories:

- Homicide;
- Rape;
- Sex (non-rape);
- Robbery;
- Assault;
- Kidnap/abduction.

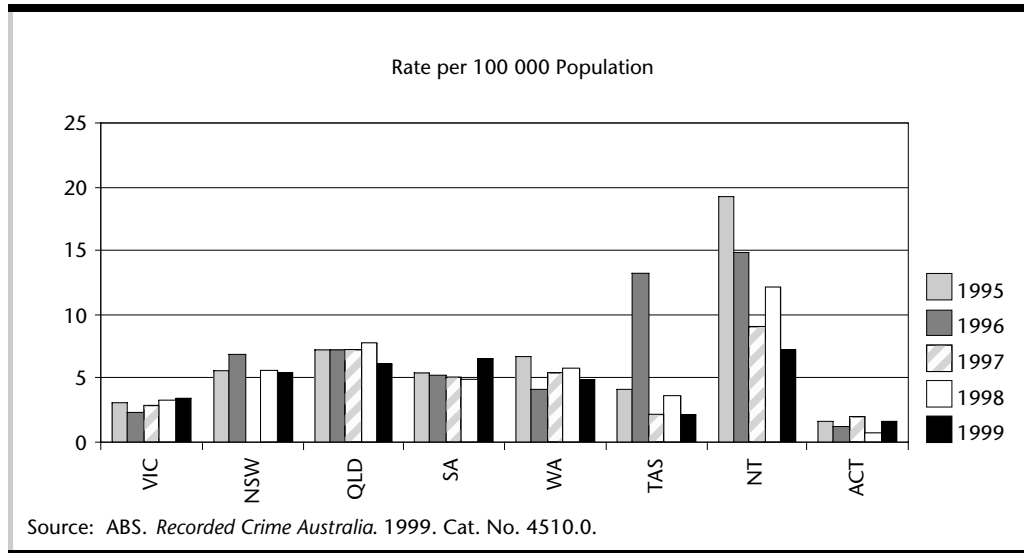
In the 5 years under review, crimes against the person represented an average 7.68% of all offences recorded by police. In the 1997–1998 figures 7.89% of all recorded crime were crimes against the person, while in the 1999–2000 figures the proportion dropped to 7.2%

The years 1995–1996 to 1998–1999 have seen an overall average increase of 2.6% in the numbers of crimes against the person reported to police, however, provisional figures for 1999–2000 have reported an 8.3% decrease over the previous year.

## HOMICIDE

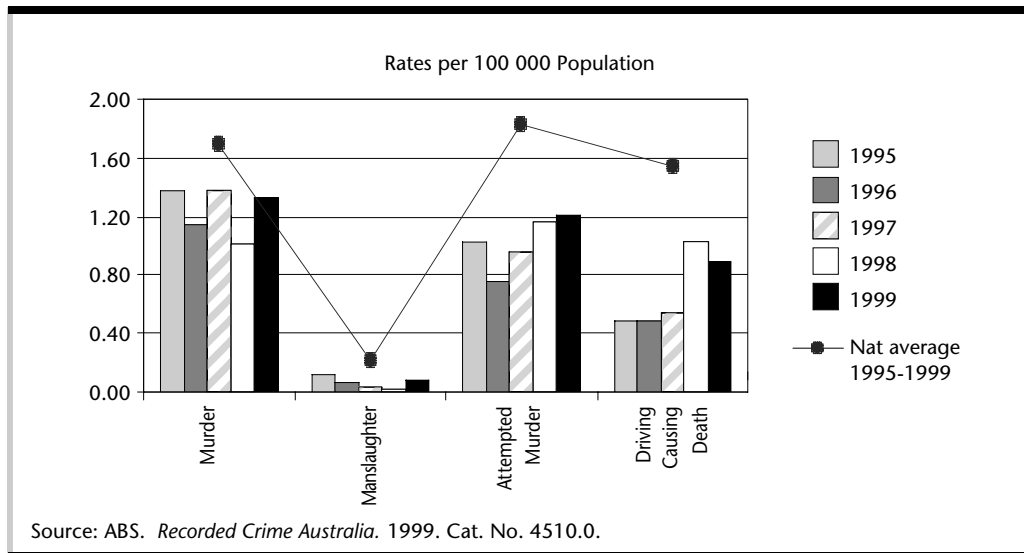
The homicide category includes the offences of murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, culpable driving, failure to stop/assist at an accident resulting in death and abortion.

**Figure 6.2 National comparisons of homicide by State per year 1995-1999**

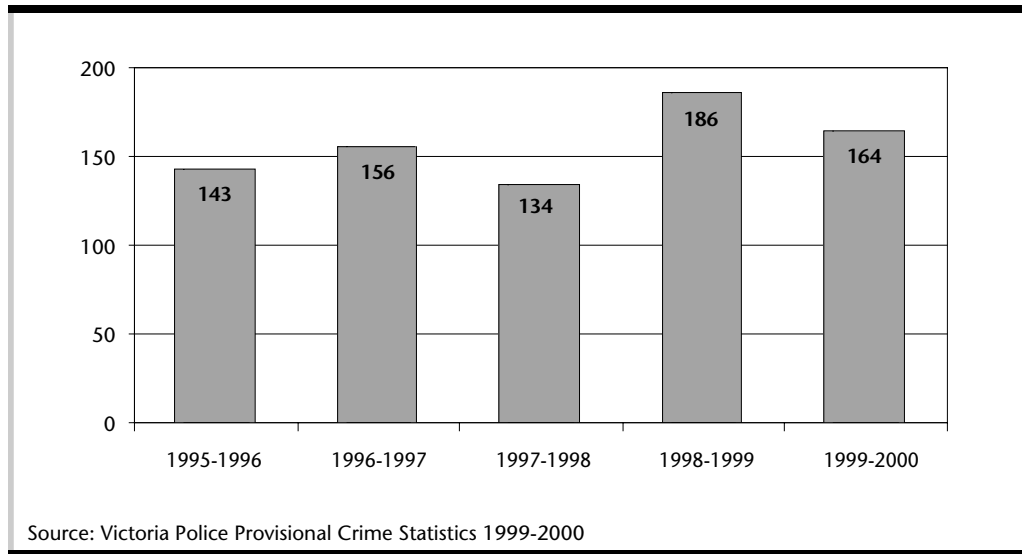


National Crime Statistics data indicate that while Victoria's homicide rate is increasing it has been consistently below the national average for each of the last 5 Years. Victoria has consistently been in the lower third of States for its rates of homicide offences.

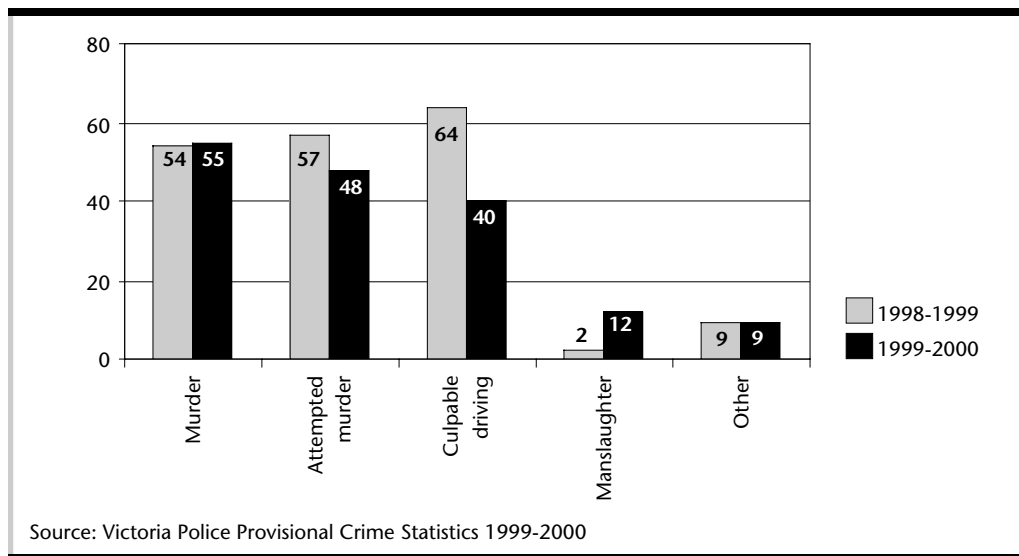
**Figure 6.3 Victoria's national homicide offences per year 1995-1999**



There has been a steady increase in the 'Attempted murder' rate over the years 1996-1999. The 'Driving causing death' rates have similarly been increasing over the 5 years of the data series, with a large jump occurring between 1997 and 1998.

**Figure 6.4** Number of recorded homicide offences per year

The 5-year trend data indicate that homicide offences are rare and the rate is reasonably stable. On average there were 157 homicide offences recorded per year in Victoria between July 1995 and June 2000. The 164 homicide offences constituted 0.03% of all crime recorded by Victoria Police in 1999–2000.

**Figure 6.5** Recorded homicide offences 1998–1999 to 1999–2000

Despite an increase in the number of manslaughter offences, the 164 homicide offences in 1999–2000 represented an 11.8% decrease on the 186 recorded in 1998–1999. This is due to significant decreases in the number of culpable driving (37.5%) and attempted murder offences (15.8%).

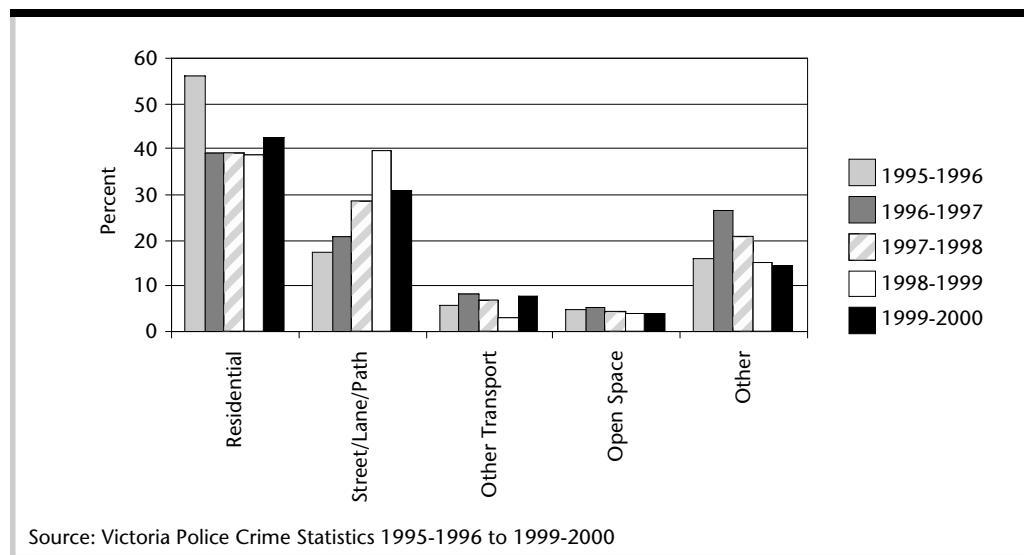
**Table 6.1 Homicide victims by age and sex 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**

Male					Age	Female				
1995-1996 %	1996-1997 %	1997-1998 %	1998-1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %		1995-1996 %	1996-1997 %	1997-1998 %	1998-1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %
2.84	4.86	4.00	4.40	6.9	<10	0.71	1.39	0.80	2.75	6.5
0.00	0.69	1.60	0.55	3.3	10-14	0.71	0.69	0.80	0.55	3.4
4.96	9.03	5.60	7.14	3.4	15-19	2.13	6.25	4.00	3.85	3.5
9.93	13.19	10.40	8.79	3.6	20-24	6.38	1.39	4.00	4.40	3.7
12.77	4.86	13.60	12.09	4.0	25-29	3.55	4.17	4.80	4.95	4.0
12.06	10.42	5.60	14.84	7.7	30-39	5.67	8.33	3.20	3.85	7.8
12.06	10.42	8.80	8.79	7.1	40-49	4.96	6.25	4.80	6.04	7.2
2.13	5.56	8.00	4.95	5.6	50-59	2.13	2.78	4.00	3.30	5.5
4.96	1.39	1.60	1.65	3.8	60-69	1.42	1.39	3.20	1.10	4.0
1.42	0.69	2.40	0.00	2.7	70-79	2.13	1.39	1.60	2.20	3.4
0.00	0.69	0.00	0.00	1.0	80+	0.71	0.00	1.60	1.65	1.9
4.26	2.78	4.80	1.10		Unspecified	2.13	1.39	0.80	1.10	
<b>67.38</b>	<b>64.58</b>	<b>66.40</b>	<b>64.29</b>		<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>32.62</b>	<b>35.42</b>	<b>33.60</b>	<b>35.71</b>	

Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995-1996 to 1998-1999

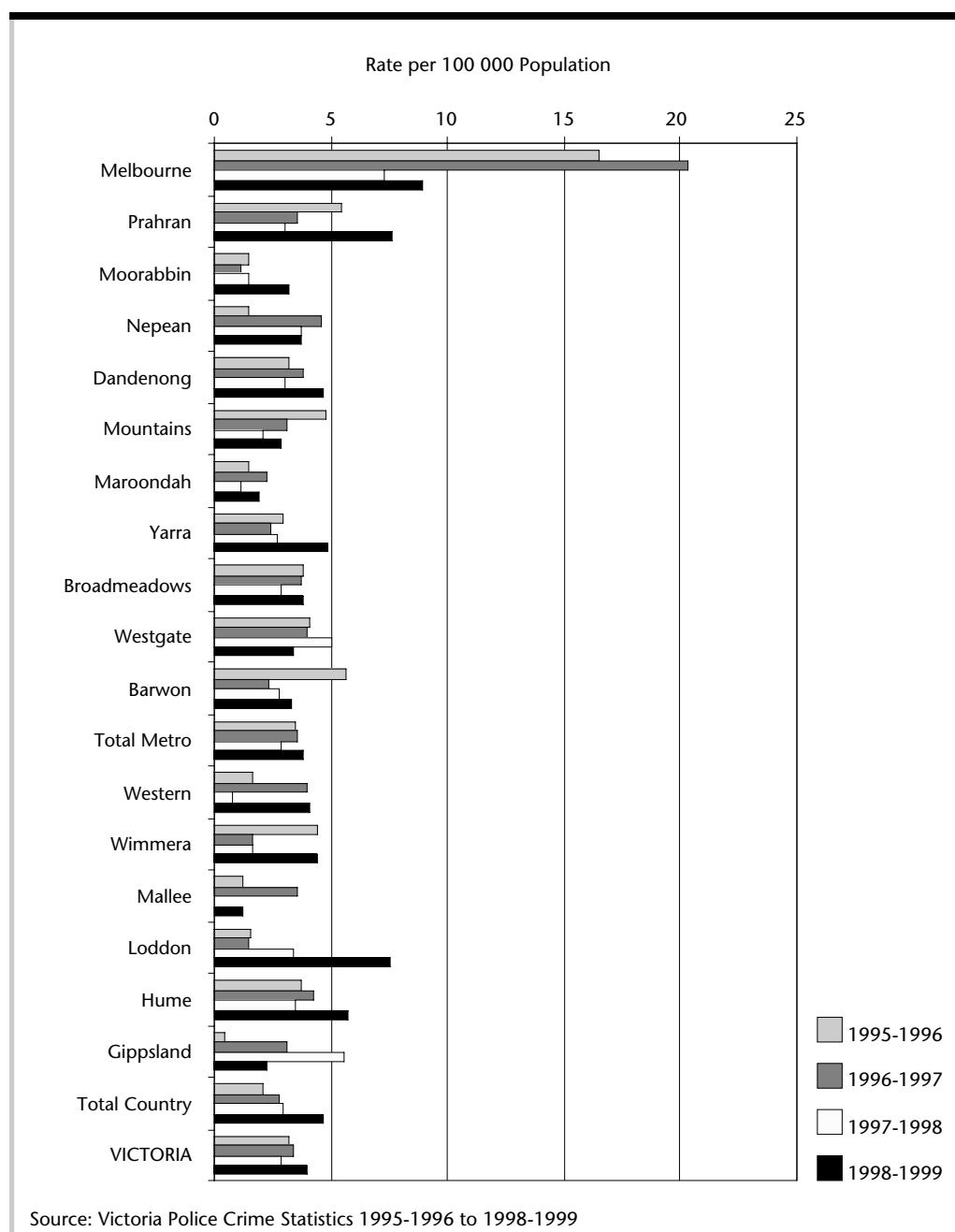
Males aged between 20-29 have consistently been the group most at risk of being a victim of homicide. In the year 1997-1998, this group constituted 24% of all homicide victims, while in 1998-1999 the proportion had fallen to 20.88%. Over 64% of all homicide victims in the period under investigation were males.

**Figure 6.6 Location of homicide offences per year**



The residence remains the most common location for murder and manslaughter offences. The steady increase in the proportion of homicides occurring on a street, lane or path reflects the pattern for culpable driving offences over the 5-year period. There has been a steady decline in the proportion of homicide offences occurring in open spaces and in 'other' settings which include justice, financial, retail, wholesale, religious, agricultural, educational and other community settings.

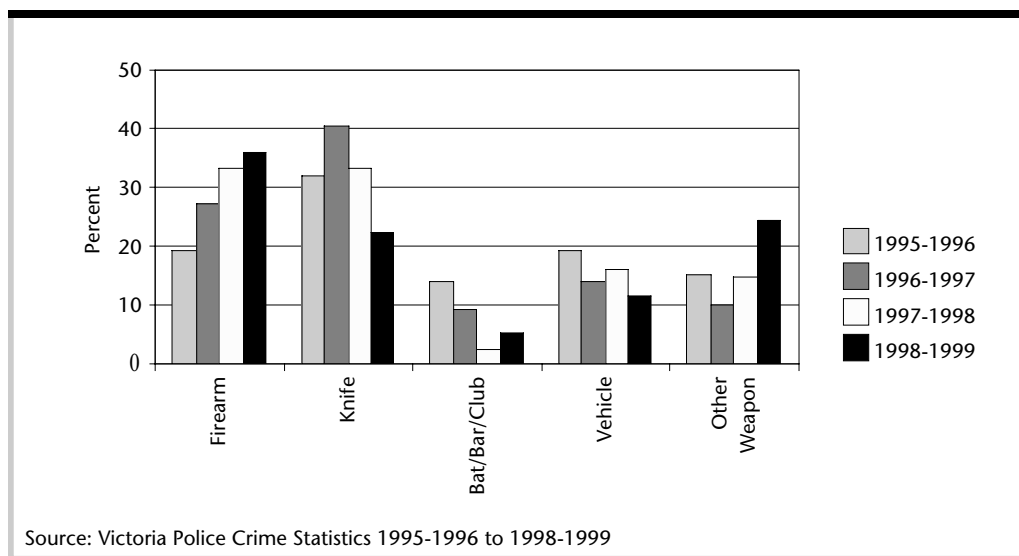
**Figure 6.7 Police District in which homicide offence occurred per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**



The Melbourne Police District, which takes in the CBD, Richmond, Carlton, Collingwood and Fitzroy areas, has seen a significant downward trend in the numbers of homicide offences since 1996–1997. In that year 20 homicide offences were recorded in that district compared with 9 and 11 in 1997–1998 and 1998–1999 respectively. Prahran, Moorabbin and Yarra Districts each experienced a doubling in the number of homicide offences recorded between 1997–1998 and 1998–1999.

Country Victoria overall has seen a steady rise in their homicide rate with the number of recorded homicides more than doubling: 22 in 1995–1996 and 49 in 1998–1999. The number of homicides in Loddon District rose five-fold, from 4 in both 1995–1996 and 1996–1997 to 20 in 1998–1999. This accounts for a large proportion of the rise in the figures for the country.



**Figure 6.8 Type of weapon involved in homicide offences 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**


There has been a steady increase in the proportion of firearms being used/threatened or displayed in homicide offences with a subsequent decline in the proportion of knives, blunt instruments and vehicles. The proportion of knives used, threatened or displayed in homicides, in particular, has been steadily decreasing since 1996–1997.

The rise in proportion of handguns used, threatened or displayed in homicides is of particular concern. In 1995–1996 these accounted for 6.4% of all weapons used. In 1997–1998 and 1998–1999 they accounted for more than 19% of all weapons used, threatened or displayed in homicides.

**Table 6.2 Homicide offenders by age and sex per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**

		Male			VIC POP 6/99 %	Age	Female			VIC POP 6/99 %
1995– 1996 %	1996– 1997 %	1997– 1998 %	1998– 1999 %	1995– 1996 %			1996– 1997 %	1997– 1998 %	1998– 1999 %	
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.9	<10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.5
2.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.3	10-14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.4
11.90	13.69	9.86	16.67	3.4	15-19	3.17	1.79	2.11	1.11	3.5
19.84	17.86	21.13	21.67	3.6	20-24	1.59	3.57	4.23	1.67	3.7
19.05	16.07	19.01	20.56	4.0	25-29	1.59	1.19	2.11	2.78	4.0
19.05	11.31	17.61	16.11	7.7	30-39	3.17	5.36	4.23	2.22	7.8
11.11	16.07	4.23	8.33	7.1	40-49	1.59	2.38	2.82	0.56	7.2
2.38	2.38	8.45	5.00	5.6	50-59	0.00	1.79	0.00	0.00	5.5
1.59	5.95	3.52	0.00	3.8	60-69	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.67	4.0
0.79	0.00	0.00	1.11	2.7	70-79	0.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.4
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.0	80+	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.56	1.9
0.00	0.00	0.70	0.00		Unspecified	0.00	0.60	0.00	0.00	
<b>88.10</b>	<b>83.33</b>	<b>84.51</b>	<b>89.44</b>		Total Persons	<b>11.90</b>	<b>16.67</b>	<b>15.49</b>	<b>10.56</b>	

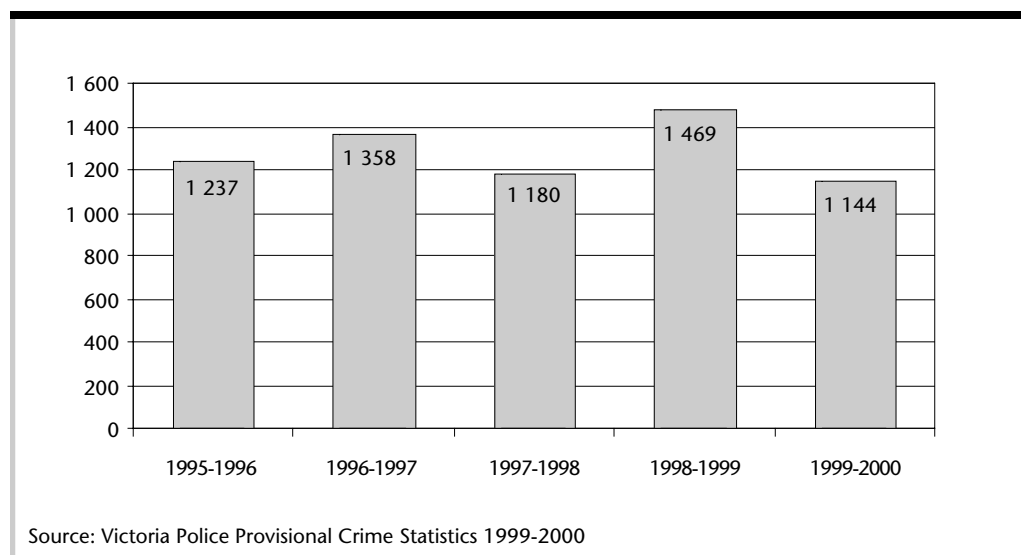
Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995–1996 to 1998–1999

Homicide offenders are overwhelmingly 20–29 year-old males. This group accounts for nearly 40% of all homicide offenders. On average males made up 86% of all homicide offenders over the 4 years 1995–1996 to 1998–1999.

## RAPE

The Rape category comprises the offences of rape (which in 1998–1999 represented 98% of rape category offences), buggery with a person under 14, and buggery.

**Figure 6.9** Number of recorded rape offences per year



No clear trends are apparent in these figures, rather the number of recorded rapes has fluctuated around the 1300 per year mark over the last 5 years, with the 1144 recorded for 1999–2000 being the lowest of the period under review. This represents a 22.1% decrease over the previous year's figure of 1469. Rape offences constituted 0.26% of all crime recorded in the 1999–2000 statistics.

It must be remembered that the recorded crime figures relate to the year in which the police recorded the offence and not necessarily the year in which they occurred.

This is particularly pertinent with rape and other sexual offences because these offences traditionally have low reporting rates. Reporting rates of sexual assault, from Department of Justice Crime Victimization Surveys 1996 and 1999, were 36.5% and 17% respectively (Department of Justice 2000). It is not uncommon for rapes to be reported years after the offence occurred.

Victoria Police reports that 321 (28.1%) of the 1144 rape offences recorded in 1999–2000 occurred in previous years but were not reported until 1999–2000. Similarly, 463 (31.5%) of the 1469 rapes reported in 1998–1999 occurred in previous years (Victoria Police 2000a, p. 8).

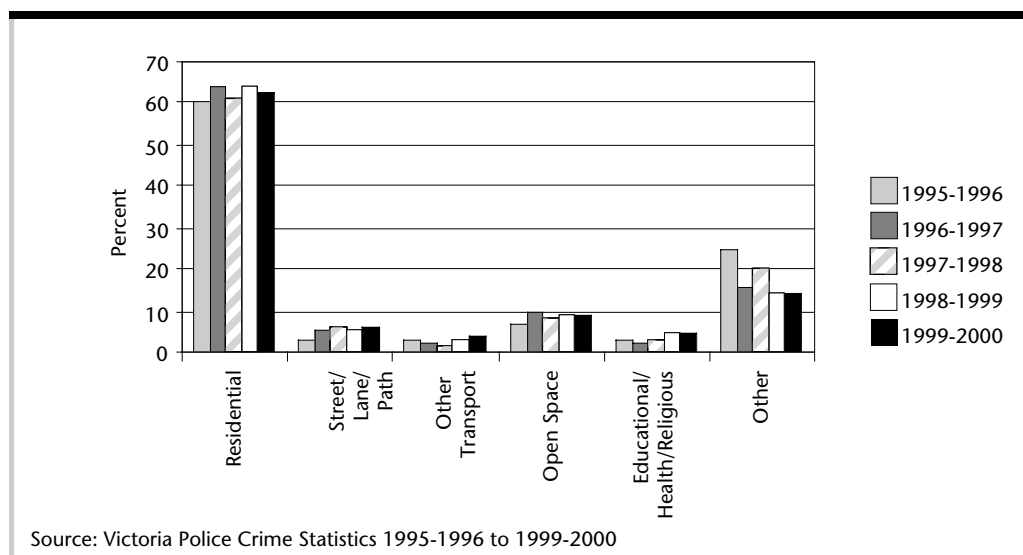
**Table 6.3 Rape victims by age and sex per year 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**

Male					Age	Female				
1995-1996 %	1996-1997 %	1997-1998 %	1998-1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %		1995-1996 %	1996-1997 %	1997-1998 %	1998-1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %
1.87	0.85	0.88	0.99	6.9	<10	4.92	2.75	2.63	3.61	6.5
3.16	2.85	3.17	1.35	3.3	10-14	10.19	8.77	10.72	10.19	3.4
1.99	3.81	3.39	3.07	3.4	15-19	23.07	28.65	24.07	26.06	3.5
1.87	1.27	1.42	0.45	3.6	20-24	14.52	14.48	17.18	13.89	3.7
0.59	0.74	1.31	0.72	4.0	25-29	9.95	10.04	11.27	12.08	4.0
0.59	0.95	0.77	0.63	7.7	30-39	14.75	13.85	13.79	13.17	7.8
0.12	0.21	0.33	0.27	7.1	40-49	6.79	6.55	5.36	7.21	7.2
0.00	0.11	0.11	0.09	5.6	50-59	1.76	1.27	1.31	1.98	5.5
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.8	60-69	0.70	0.85	0.22	0.72	4.0
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.7	70-79	0.23	0.11	0.44	0.27	3.4
0.00	0.00	0.11	0.09	1.0	80+	0.00	0.11	0.11	0.27	1.9
0.59	0.42	0.00	0.18		Unspecified	2.34	1.37	1.42	2.71	
10.77	11.21	11.49	7.84		Total Persons	89.23	88.79	88.51	92.16	

Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995-1996 to 1998-1999

There is a strong and consistent pattern of predominant female rape victimisation over the period under review. The modal (most common) victim across each of these years has been a 15-19 year old female, followed closely by females aged between 20 and 24 and 25-29. Together these three groups, which constitute 11.2% of the population, accounted for in excess of 42.8% of all rape victims for each year under review. In 1997-1998 these groups represented over 52.3% of all rape victims. In 1998-1999 25.6% of all rape victims were females under 17 years of age.

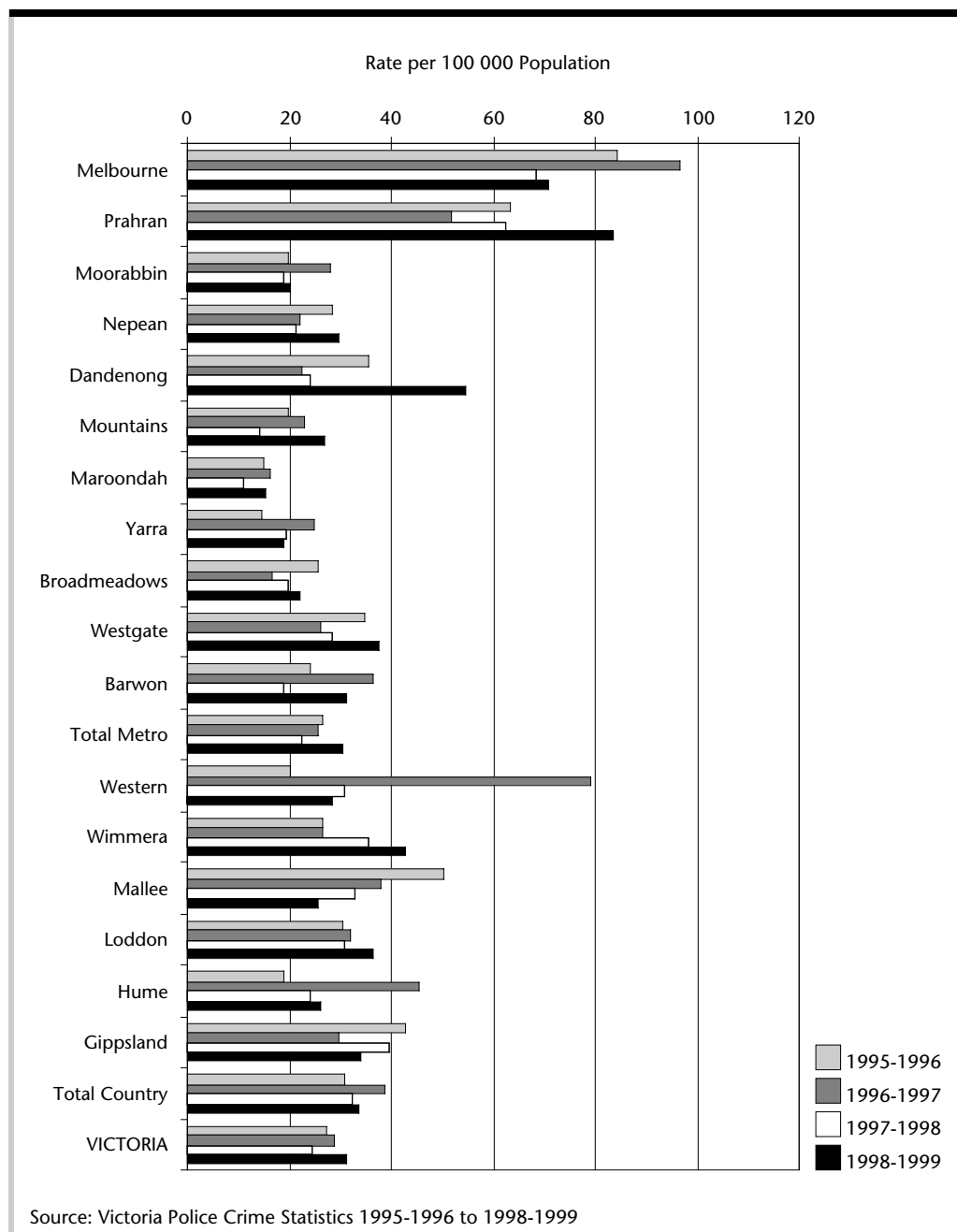
**Figure 6.10 Location of rape offences per year**



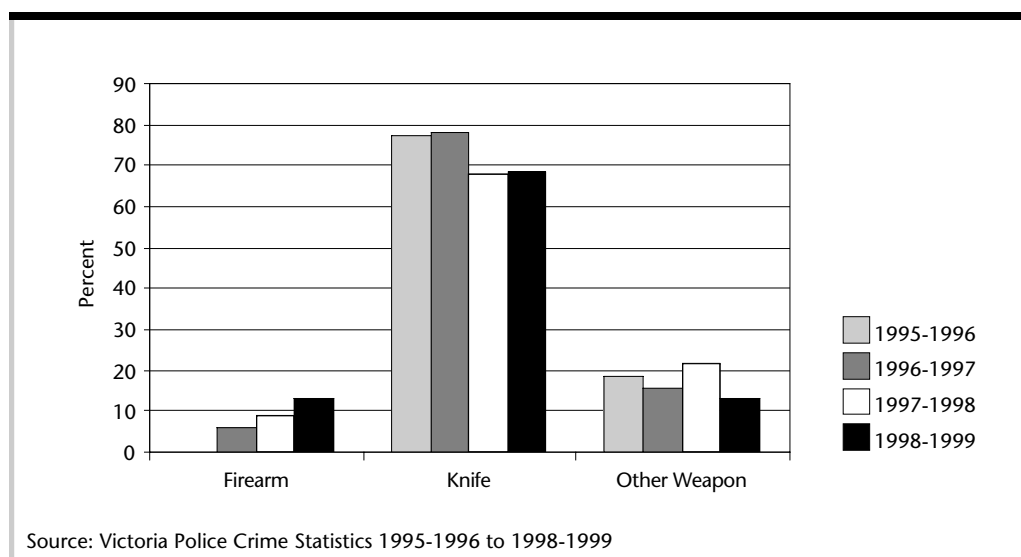
The residence was the predominant location for rape offences, accounting for more than 60% of locations in the years under review. There has been a small yet steady rise in the proportion of rape offences occurring in an open space with a decline in the proportion occurring in

'other' settings, including justice, financial, retail, wholesale, agricultural and other community settings.

**Figure 6.11 Police District in which rape offence occurred per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**



Prahran, Broadmeadows, Westgate and Wimmera Districts have each seen a steady rise in the rate of rape offences being reported over the 3 years 1996–1997 to 1998–1999. Prahran, in particular, has seen the number of rapes jump from 59 in 1996–1997 to 82 in 1998–1999 and 109 in 1998–1999. Dandenong District saw the number of rapes reported jump from 72 in 1997–1998 to 162 in 1998–1999. Western District’s rape reports quadrupled, rising from 25 in 1995–1996 to 100 in 1996–1997. The number has now fallen to more average levels. Steady declines in rape reports are apparent in Melbourne, Mallee and Gippsland Districts.

**Figure 6.12 Type of weapon involved in rape offences per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**


The trend data show clearly that knives were the most common of all weapons used in rapes. The data also show, however, a decline in the proportion of knives and 'other weapons' being used in rapes, while at the same time there has been a strong and steady rise in the proportion of firearms being used. Disturbingly, handguns are becoming increasingly more prominent in rape offences, rising from 1.54% of all weapons in 1997–1998 to 10.14% in 1998–1999.

**Table 6.4 Rape offenders by age and sex per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**

		Male			Age	Female				
1995-1996 %	1996-1997 %	1997-1998 %	1998-1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %		1995-1996 %	1996-1997 %	1997-1998 %	1998-1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.9	<10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.5
5.10	3.88	1.58	3.52	3.3	10-14	0.00	0.20	0.35	0.00	3.4
10.78	15.92	13.71	11.68	3.4	15-19	0.38	0.20	0.00	0.48	3.5
13.80	12.24	16.52	13.28	3.6	20-24	0.38	0.20	1.05	0.64	3.7
13.61	11.84	13.53	14.08	4.0	25-29	0.00	0.41	0.35	0.32	4.0
25.90	27.35	26.19	23.84	7.7	30-39	0.19	1.43	0.53	1.28	7.8
17.77	15.71	18.10	17.92	7.1	40-49	0.19	0.00	0.35	0.32	7.2
8.88	6.53	4.22	8.64	5.6	50-59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.5
2.08	2.24	3.34	1.92	3.8	60-69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.0
0.38	0.82	0.00	0.64	2.7	70-79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.4
0.00	0.20	0.00	0.16	1.0	80+	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.9
0.57	0.82	0.18	1.28		Unspecified	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
98.87	97.55	97.36	96.96		Total Persons	1.13	2.45	2.64	3.04	

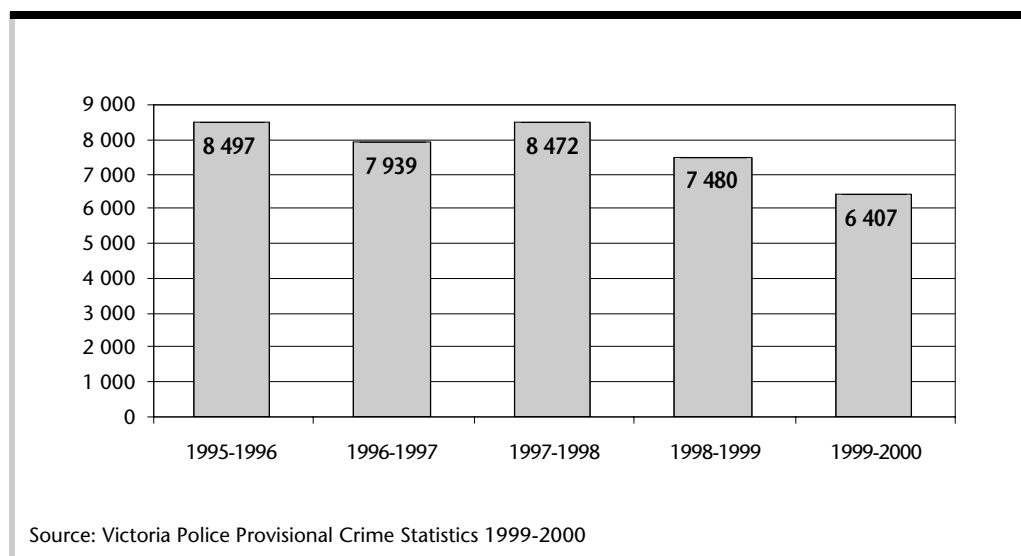
Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995–1996 to 1998–1999

In each of the 4 years for which data is available, more than 97% of offenders were male. The age and sex profiles for rape offenders in the 4 years were also very stable. Typically, rape does not appear to be an age specific offence; male offenders are represented across the age scale in an almost normal distribution.

## SEX (NON-RAPE)

The most frequently reported of the 77 offences under this category include: Indecent assault (41.6% of 1998–1999 sex (non-rape) offences), Wilful and obscene exposure in public, Indecent act with child under 16, Sexual penetration person 10-16, Incest and Gross indecency.

**Figure 6.13 Number of recorded sex (non-rape) offences per year**



Apart from an increase in 1997–1998 there has been a steady decrease in the number of Sex (non-rape) offences over the period under review. The provisionally reported figures for 1999–2000 are the lowest of the last 5 years and represent a decrease of 14.3% compared with the figures for 1998–1999.

As with the rape offences, we must bear in mind that these offences have low reporting rates and may not be reported to police until years after the events occurred.

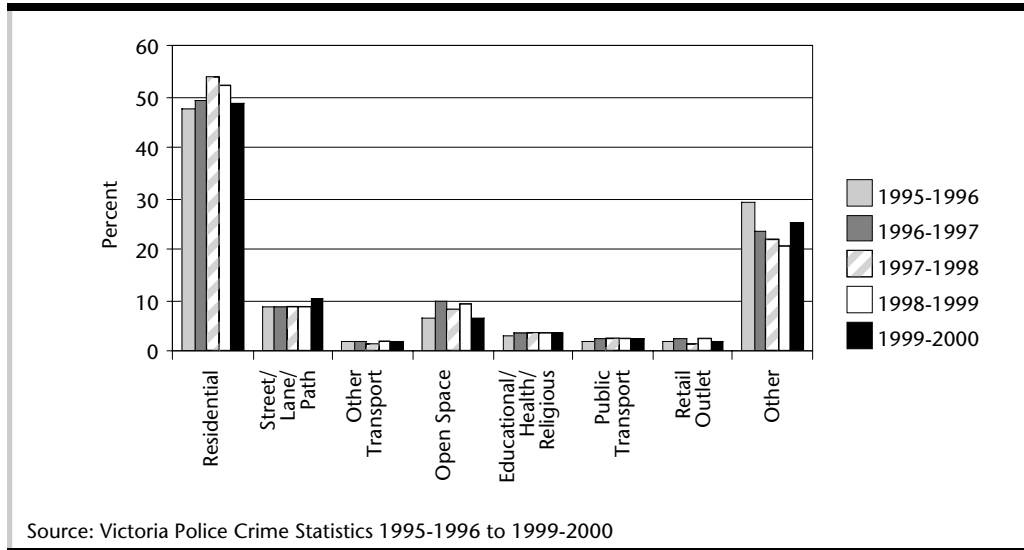
**Table 6.5 Sex (non rape) victims by age and sex per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**

		Male			Age	Female				
1995–1996 %	1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %		1995–1996 %	1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %
6.34	6.61	8.27	7.82	6.9	<10	15.91	17.37	17.96	18.44	6.5
9.03	10.36	10.13	8.70	3.3	10-14	26.55	22.81	25.24	27.47	3.4
4.21	4.82	4.72	4.05	3.4	15-19	13.86	14.93	13.63	14.64	3.5
0.17	0.20	0.19	0.17	3.6	20-24	6.38	5.87	5.39	4.96	3.7
0.12	0.14	0.14	0.12	4.0	25-29	2.82	3.23	3.22	2.72	4.0
0.20	0.45	0.19	0.45	7.7	30-39	4.53	4.28	3.89	3.58	7.8
0.22	0.20	0.22	0.31	7.1	40-49	2.70	2.04	1.50	1.72	7.2
0.05	0.03	0.03	0.10	5.6	50-59	0.59	0.62	0.64	0.69	5.5
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.8	60-69	0.22	0.17	0.08	0.19	4.0
0.00	0.03	0.03	0.05	2.7	70-79	0.12	0.03	0.11	0.14	3.4
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.0	80+	0.07	0.06	0.14	0.12	1.9
2.33	0.77	0.50	0.79		Unspecified	3.56	3.92	1.69	3.27	
<b>22.67</b>	<b>23.61</b>	<b>26.51</b>	<b>22.56</b>		<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>77.33</b>	<b>75.34</b>	<b>73.49</b>	<b>77.94</b>	

Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995–1996 to 1998–1999

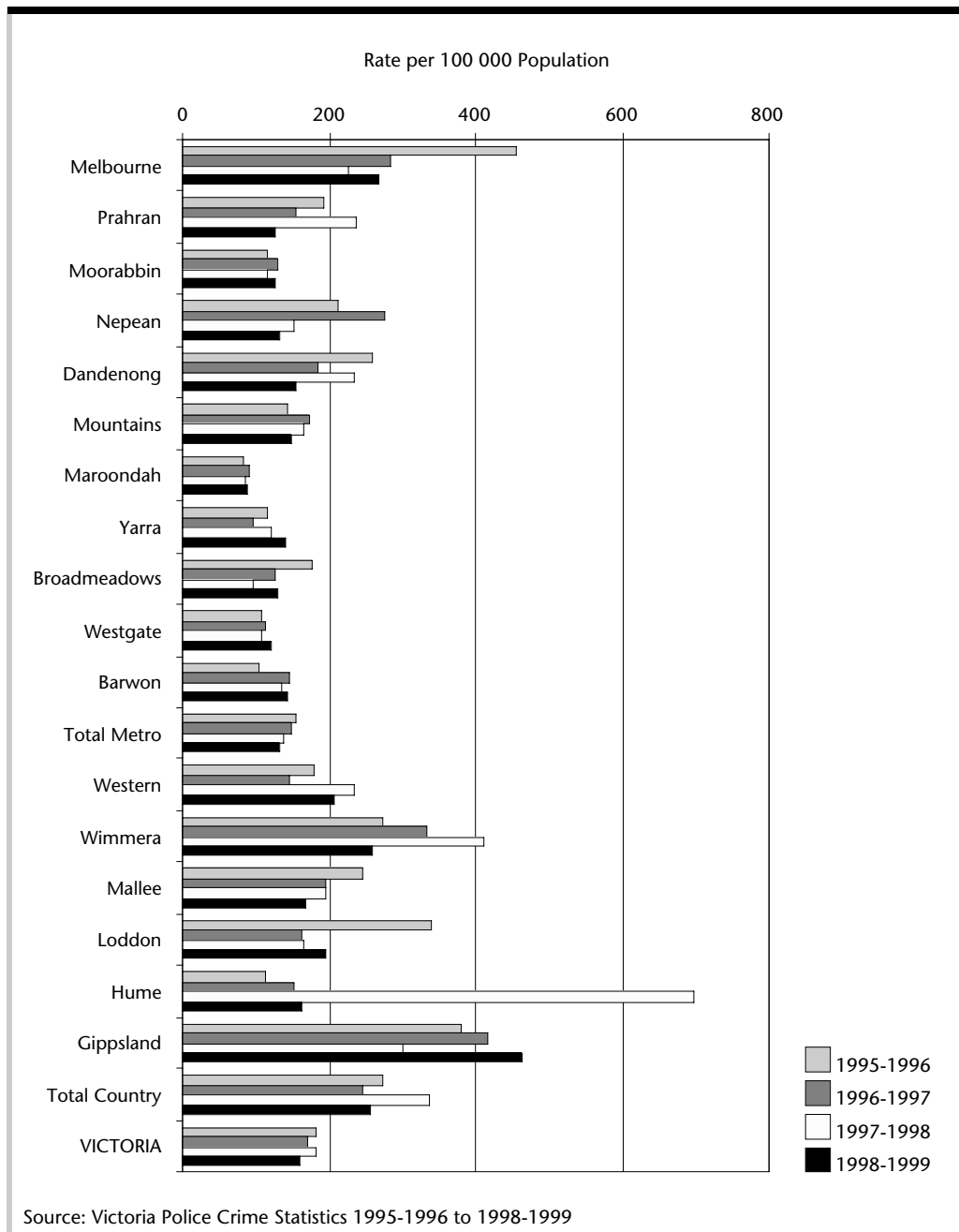
The 4-year trend data show that females are consistently about 3 times more likely to be a victim of a non-rape sex offence than males. The figures consistently confirm females aged 10–14 as the most victimised group in the community, accounting for over 22.8% of all victims. This group is followed by girls under 10 and 15-19, and boys aged 10–14, all of whom are over-represented given their relative proportions of the general population. There has been a steady decline in the proportion of women aged 30–39 being victimised.

**Figure 6.14 Location of sex (non-rape) offences per year**



The most common location for non-rape sex offences for each year of the series was the residence. However, since 1997–1998 its proportion in relation to other locations has been declining. The 1999–2000 figures indicate modest increases in the proportions of non-rape sex offences occurring in the street or ‘other transport’.

**Figure 6.15 Police District in which sex (non-rape) offence occurred per year 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**



There has been a downward trend in the numbers of sex (non-rape) offences reported in 7 Districts, and across the State generally. The Districts that have shown an upward trend include Yarra, Westgate, Barwon, Western, Wimmera, Hume and Gippsland. Hume district had a particularly high year in 1997-1998 when 1219 offences were reported. Gippsland and Wimmera have rates that are above the country and State rates.



**Table 6.6 Sex (non rape) offenders by age and sex per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**

Male					Age	Female				
1995–1996 %	1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %		1995–1996 %	1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %
0.16	0.39	0.10	0.00	6.9	<10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.5
5.62	5.88	6.43	5.72	3.3	10-14	0.25	0.11	0.13	0.36	3.4
8.87	11.20	9.59	10.50	3.4	15-19	0.19	0.18	0.19	0.21	3.5
8.11	8.10	7.68	7.82	3.6	20-24	0.47	0.04	0.16	0.18	3.7
8.90	12.08	12.32	10.80	4.0	25-29	0.13	0.49	0.80	0.27	4.0
28.95	27.15	27.71	25.19	7.7	30-39	1.36	0.60	0.25	0.60	7.8
18.53	17.25	19.75	19.32	7.1	40-49	0.73	0.21	0.19	0.18	7.2
9.75	7.89	8.50	11.32	5.6	50-59	0.06	0.04	0.10	0.06	5.5
5.21	6.23	3.69	3.73	3.8	60-69	0.06	0.00	0.03	0.06	4.0
1.64	1.37	1.88	1.53	2.7	70-79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	3.4
0.22	0.28	0.35	0.24	1.0	80+	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.9
0.79	0.53	0.16	1.78		Unspecified	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	
<b>96.75</b>	<b>98.35</b>	<b>98.15</b>	<b>97.95</b>		<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>3.25</b>	<b>1.65</b>	<b>1.85</b>	<b>2.05</b>	

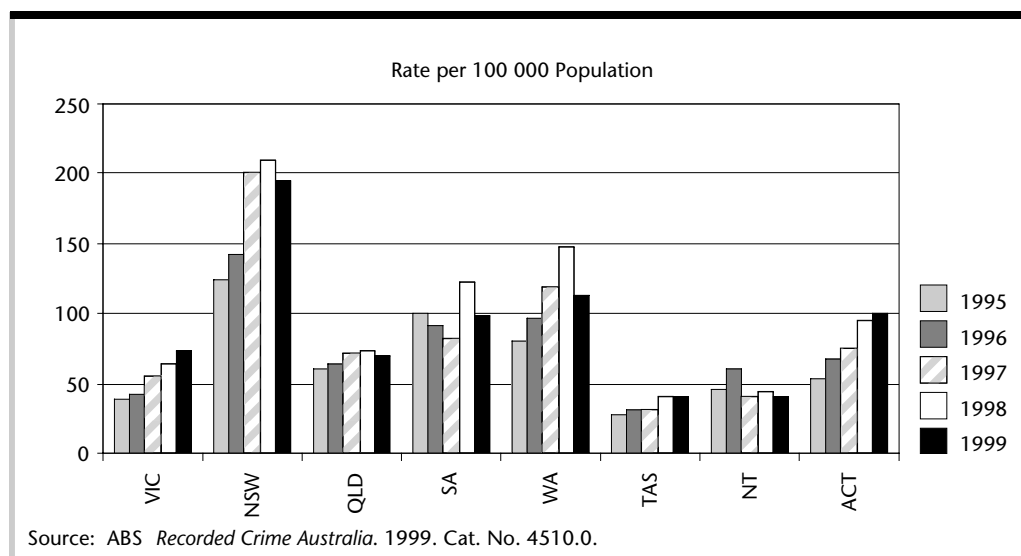
Source. Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995–1996 to 1998–1999

Males were the offenders in over 96% of all sex (non-rape) cases over the period 1995–1996 to 1998–1999, with little variation in the age and sex distribution of offenders between the 4 years of available data. The ‘age’ distribution resembles a normal distribution with males in the 30–39 year age category being the modal offenders.

## ROBBERY

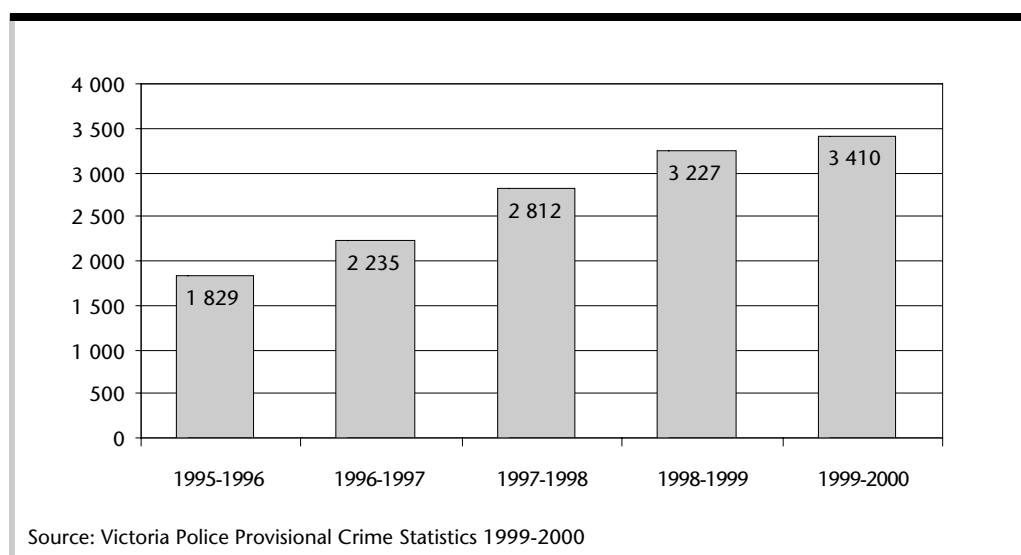
The robbery category includes the following offences: Armed robbery (54.8% of all 1998–1999 robbery offences), Robbery (42.3%), and Assault with intent to rob.

**Figure 6.16 National comparisons of recorded robbery by State per year 1995–1999**



The ABS National Crime Statistics data show a rising trend in Victoria's robbery rates. Despite these increases, Victoria's rates per 100 000 population are well below the national average for these offences. In 1999, Victoria had the fourth lowest robbery rate compared with other Australian States and Territories.

**Figure 6.17 Number of recorded robbery offences per year**



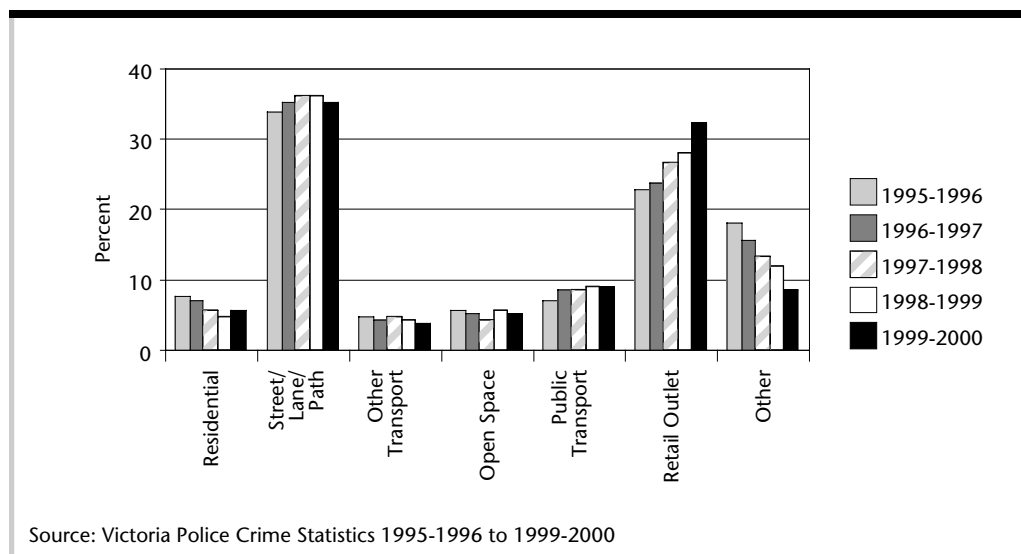
There has been a marked increase in the number of robberies reported over the 5-year period under review. The 1999–2000 figure of 3410 represents a 5.7% increase over the previous year's figure of 3227. This, however, represents a slow-down in the rates of increase between 1995–1996 and 1996–1997 of 22%, 1996–1997 and 1997–1998 of 25%, 1997–1998 and 1998–1999 of 14%.

**Table 6.7 Robbery victims by age and sex per year 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**

		Male			VIC POP 6/99 %	Age	Female			VIC POP 6/99 %
1995- 1996 %	1996- 1997 %	1997- 1998 %	1998- 1999 %	1995- 1996 %			1996- 1997 %	1997- 1998 %	1998- 1999 %	
0.19	0.16	0.21	0.26	6.9	<10	0.06	0.00	0.04	0.07	6.5
4.95	4.26	4.68	4.97	3.3	10-14	0.82	1.56	1.03	0.97	3.4
14.97	14.79	16.58	15.22	3.4	15-19	3.55	5.76	4.34	5.16	3.5
11.98	10.59	11.00	10.91	3.6	20-24	5.14	4.57	5.54	5.27	3.7
7.86	6.69	6.01	6.98	4.0	25-29	3.61	4.15	4.98	4.57	4.0
10.15	9.50	8.08	9.76	7.7	30-39	6.02	5.29	5.97	7.05	7.8
9.07	7.06	5.37	5.72	7.1	40-49	4.82	6.12	5.37	5.49	7.2
3.30	3.43	4.04	3.82	5.6	50-59	2.47	3.43	4.08	3.93	5.5
2.22	2.54	1.80	1.30	3.8	60-69	1.33	2.28	2.53	2.45	4.0
1.01	0.52	1.25	0.63	2.7	70-79	1.27	1.76	2.79	1.48	3.4
0.19	0.16	0.13	0.15	1.0	80+	0.44	0.57	1.55	0.71	1.9
2.85	2.39	1.29	1.67		Unspecified	1.71	2.44	1.33	1.45	
<b>68.74</b>	<b>62.07</b>	<b>60.44</b>	<b>61.40</b>		<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>31.26</b>	<b>37.93</b>	<b>39.56</b>	<b>38.60</b>	

Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995-1996 to 1998-1999

Males were the victims in over 60% of all robberies in each of the 4 years for which data is available. The female victimisation rate had risen steadily from 1995-1996 to 1997-1998, from 31.26% to 39.56% of all victims. Steady rates of increase were seen among all women aged 50 years and over for these years. However, in 1998-1999 the female victimisation rate fell back to 38.6% of all victims.

**Figure 6.18 Location of robbery offences per year**


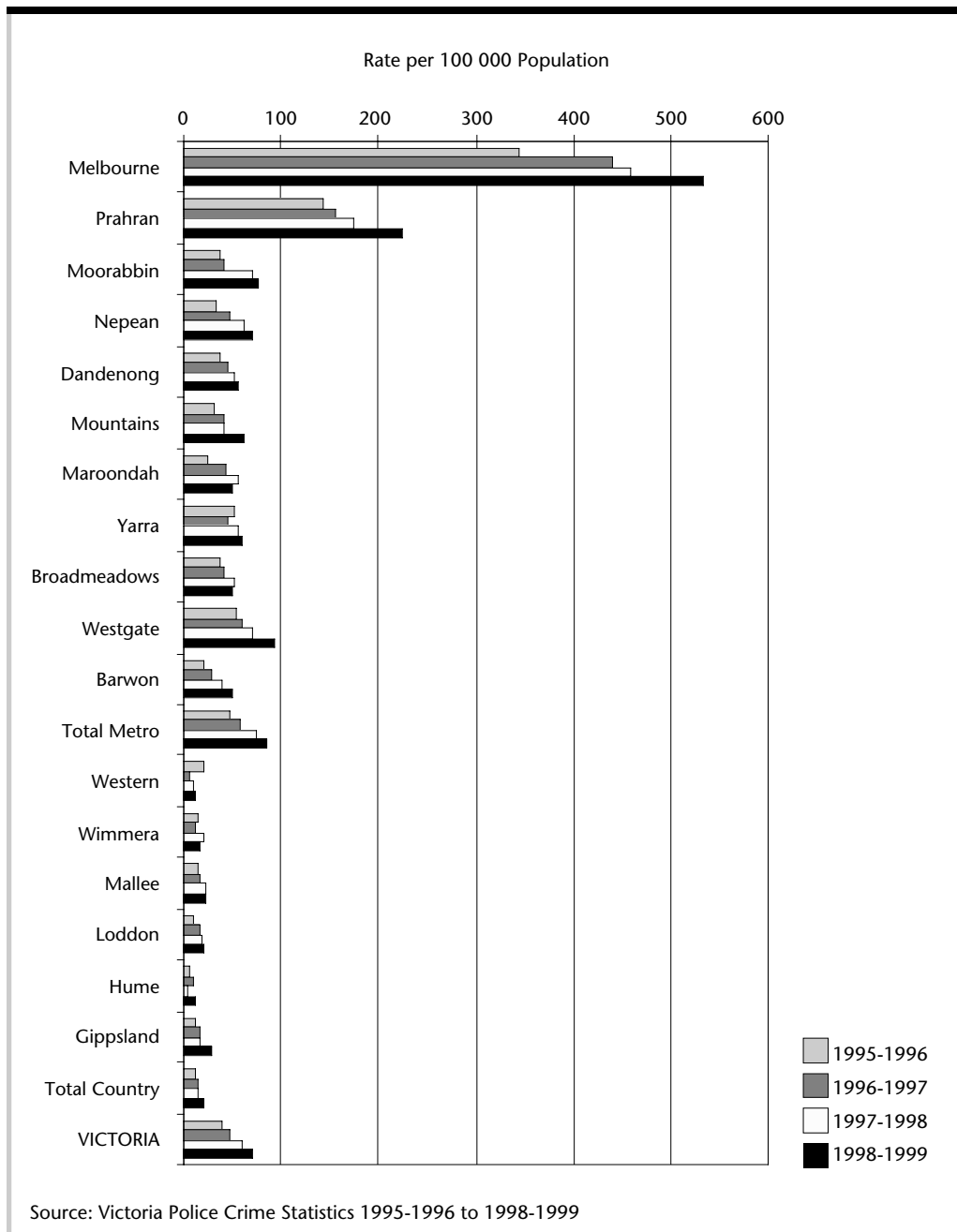
For each of the 5 years under review, the street/lane/footpath has been the most common location for robberies to occur. These figures show that the proportion of robberies occurring in the street had been steadily increasing up to 1998-1999, however, the 1999-2000 figures report a slight decrease in the proportion of robberies occurring in the street as opposed to other locations. There have been steady increases in the proportions of robberies in retail outlets and, to a lesser extent, on public transport (which includes taxis).

Milkbars/Convenience stores were the most commonly robbed businesses with 309 such robberies being recorded in 1999–2000.

The proportion of robberies at Other Locations, which includes, recreational, justice, wholesale, agricultural and other community settings, have been steadily declining over the 5 years relative to other location categories.

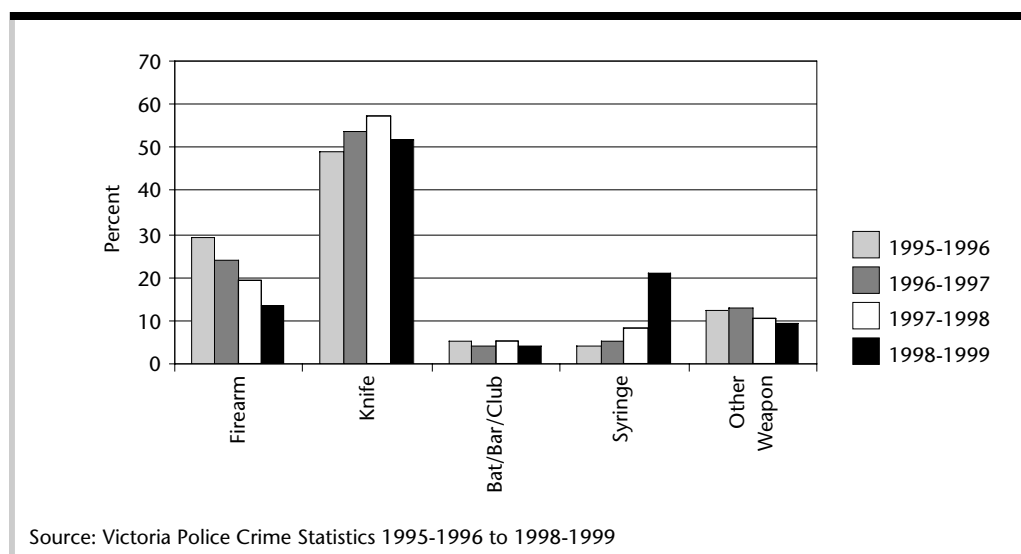
Provisional statistics for 1999–2000 show significant increases relative to 1998–1999 in the number of robberies at ATMs (70%), Service Stations (20%), Bank/Credit Unions (45%) and Restaurants/Fastfood outlets (31%). On the other hand, decreases in the numbers of robberies of Supermarkets (22%), Chemists (34%) and Educational/ Health/Religious premises (31%) were also recorded for these years.

**Figure 6.19 Police District in which robbery offence occurred per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**



The robbery rates per 100 000 population have been steadily increasing in every Police District across the State, with the exception of the Western District, between the years 1995–1996 to 1998–1999. The most dramatic rises have been in the Melbourne, Prahran, Moorabbin, Nepean, Mountains, Westgate and Barwon Districts.

In the 4-year period 1995–1996 to 1998–1999, the *number* of robberies in Melbourne District has risen 95 percent. Over the same period, Prahran’s robberies have risen 86% while Westgate’s have increased by 77%.

**Figure 6.20 Type of weapon involved in robbery offence 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**

The most striking trends over the period have been the steady decline in the use of firearms, blunt instruments and other weapons, and the increase in the use of knives and syringes, particularly in 1998–1999. The use of syringes rose from 4.17% of all weapons used/threatened/displayed in robberies to 20.72% in 1998–1999.

**Table 6.8 Robbery offenders by age and sex per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**

1995–1996 %	1996–1997 %	Male			VIC POP 6/99 %	Age	Female			
		1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %				1995–1996 %	1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %
0.30	0.00	0.00	0.17	6.9	<10	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.5
8.67	5.96	4.45	6.62	3.3	10-14	1.92	2.62	2.61	1.15	3.4
32.86	33.28	34.35	35.25	3.4	15-19	4.94	6.75	6.17	8.87	3.5
19.15	18.51	20.80	18.38	3.6	20-24	2.32	1.27	1.91	3.11	3.7
11.90	12.79	12.53	12.04	4.0	25-29	1.81	1.91	3.05	2.42	4.0
11.79	12.55	9.10	8.70	7.7	30-39	1.41	1.51	2.23	1.15	7.8
1.51	2.14	2.42	1.38	7.1	40-49	0.40	0.56	0.00	0.12	7.2
0.60	0.00	0.13	0.40	5.6	50-59	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.06	5.5
0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	3.8	60-69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.0
0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.7	70-79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.4
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.0	80+	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.9
0.00	0.08	0.19	0.17		Unspecified	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	
<b>86.90</b>	<b>85.31</b>	<b>84.03</b>	<b>83.12</b>		<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>13.10</b>	<b>14.69</b>	<b>15.97</b>	<b>16.88</b>	

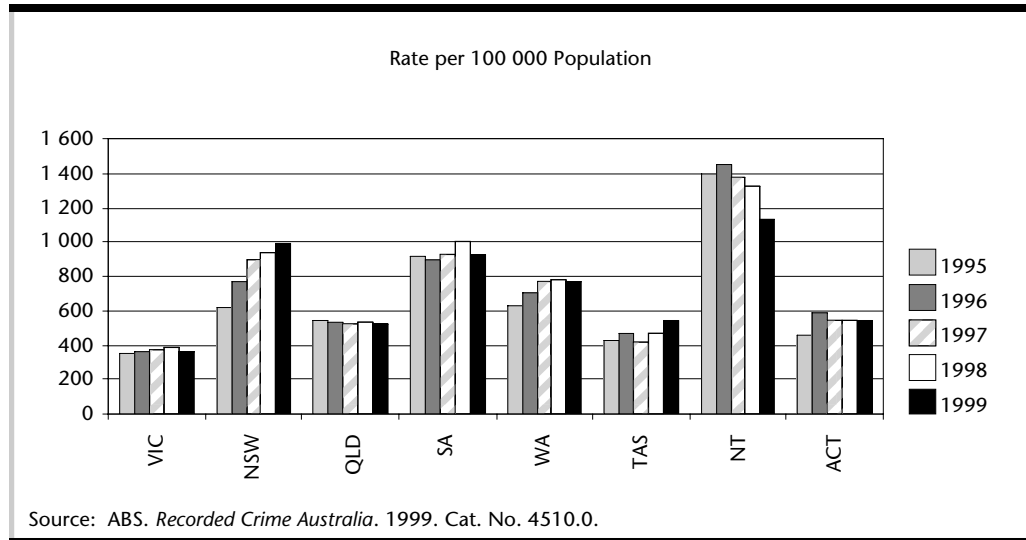
Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995–1996 to 1998–1999

Over the period 1995–1996 to 1998–1999, 15-19 year old males, constituted more than 32% of all offenders. The proportion of girls aged 15-19 increased from 4.94% to 8.87 % of all robbery offenders.

## ASSAULT

The most commonly recorded offences under the assault category included, Unlawful assault (36.6% of all 1998–1999 assault offences), Intentionally cause injury, Recklessly cause injury, Assault police, Assault with weapon/instrument and Make threats to kill.

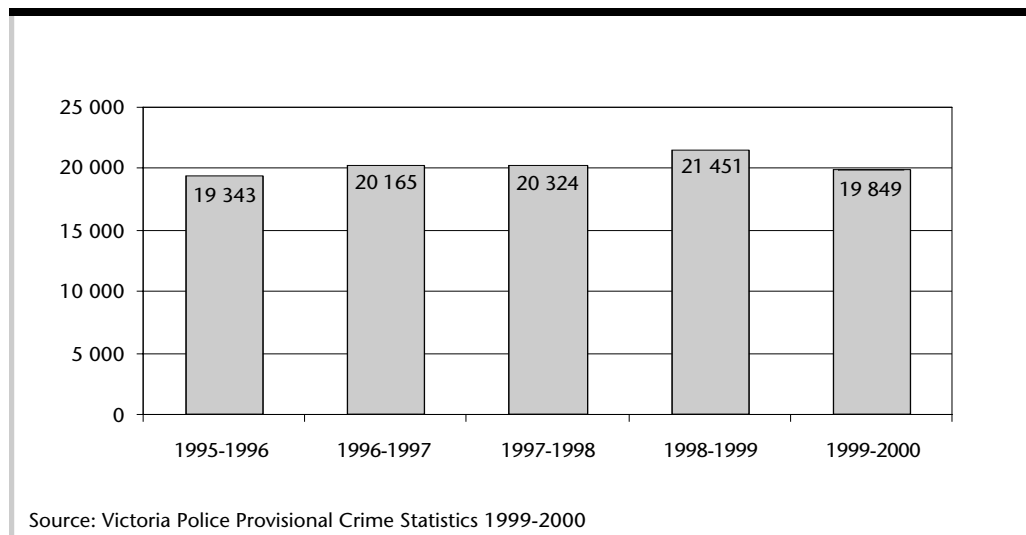
**Figure 6.21 National comparisons of recorded assault by State per year 1995–1999**



Victoria’s assault rate, as reflected in the Australian Bureau of Statistics *Recorded Crime*, has been significantly below the national average for the last 5 years. Over this period, the rate has been steadily rising, with a slight drop being seen in 1999. In 1999, Victoria had the country’s lowest assault rate of 358 per 100 000 compared with the national average of 705 assaults per 100 000 population. Queensland had the second lowest rate of 525 victims per 100 000 population.

The ABS Crime Victim Survey, *Crime and Safety, Australia, April 1998*, confirmed Victoria’s position as consistently the State with the lowest assault rate. The ABS reports that 38 in 1 000 respondents over 15 years of age (compared with the National Average of 43 in 1 000) indicated that they had been a victim of at least one assault in the 12 months prior to April 1998 (ABS 1998).

**Figure 6.22 Number of recorded assault offences per year**



The number of recorded assaults had risen steadily each year from 1995–1996 to 1998–1999. The 1999–2000 figures, however, reported a 7.5% decrease in the number of assaults compared with the year 1998–1999. Overall, assaults constituted 4.5% of all recorded offences in 1999–2000.

**Table 6.9 Assault victims by age and sex per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**

		Male			VIC POP 6/99 %	Age	Female			VIC POP 6/99 %
1995– 1996 %	1996– 1997 %	1997– 1998 %	1998– 1999 %	1995– 1996 %			1996– 1997 %	1997– 1998 %	1998– 1999 %	
1.24	1.31	1.53	2.04	6.9	<10	0.63	0.77	0.85	1.57	6.5
2.89	3.00	3.37	3.56	3.3	10-14	1.62	1.98	2.05	2.28	3.4
9.04	9.57	9.12	9.18	3.4	15-19	4.98	4.81	5.16	5.12	3.5
12.20	10.93	10.30	9.58	3.6	20-24	6.10	5.84	5.96	5.32	3.7
10.90	10.98	11.27	10.62	4.0	25-29	5.30	5.41	6.04	5.31	4.0
12.76	13.02	12.23	12.91	7.7	30-39	6.64	6.88	7.46	7.75	7.8
6.58	6.63	7.27	6.99	7.1	40-49	3.26	3.78	3.96	3.94	7.2
2.66	2.91	3.18	3.33	5.6	50-59	1.10	1.26	1.37	1.22	5.5
0.93	1.06	1.03	1.11	3.8	60-69	0.47	0.35	0.42	0.44	4.0
0.37	0.33	0.29	0.30	2.7	70-79	0.16	0.19	0.28	0.16	3.4
0.03	0.06	0.09	0.06	1.0	80+	0.08	0.11	0.06	0.04	1.9
6.93	6.06	4.77	4.86		Unspecified	3.12	2.76	1.96	2.32	
<b>66.54</b>	<b>65.85</b>	<b>64.43</b>	<b>64.53</b>		<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>33.46</b>	<b>34.15</b>	<b>35.57</b>	<b>35.47</b>	

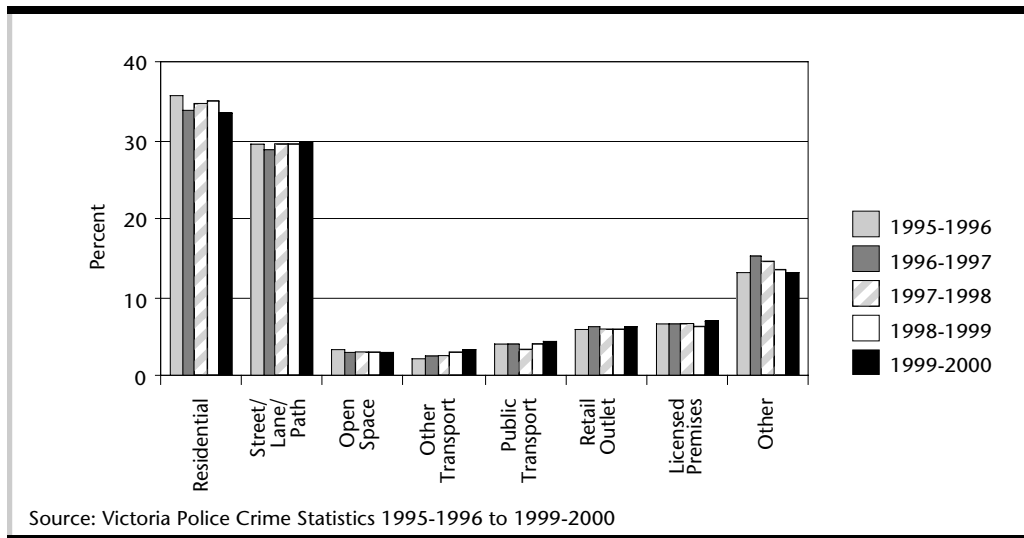
Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995–1996 to 1998–1999

Males aged 20–29 were the most commonly assaulted over the period under review. However, there has been a significant downward trend in the proportion of this group's victimisation over the last 4 years. In 1995–1996, 23.10% of all assault victims were from this category. This decreased to 20.20% in 1998–1999.

Over the 4-year period 1995–1996 to 1998–1999 there has been a steady growth in the proportion of female assault victims, rising from 33.46% of all victims in 1995–1996 to 35.47% in 1998–1999. A very worrying trend is the steady increase in the proportions of both girls and boys under the age of 10 being victimised. The proportion of girls the age of under 10 who are assault victims has more than doubled: 0.63% of all victims (109 victims) in 1995–1996 and 1.57% (304 victims) in 1998–1999.

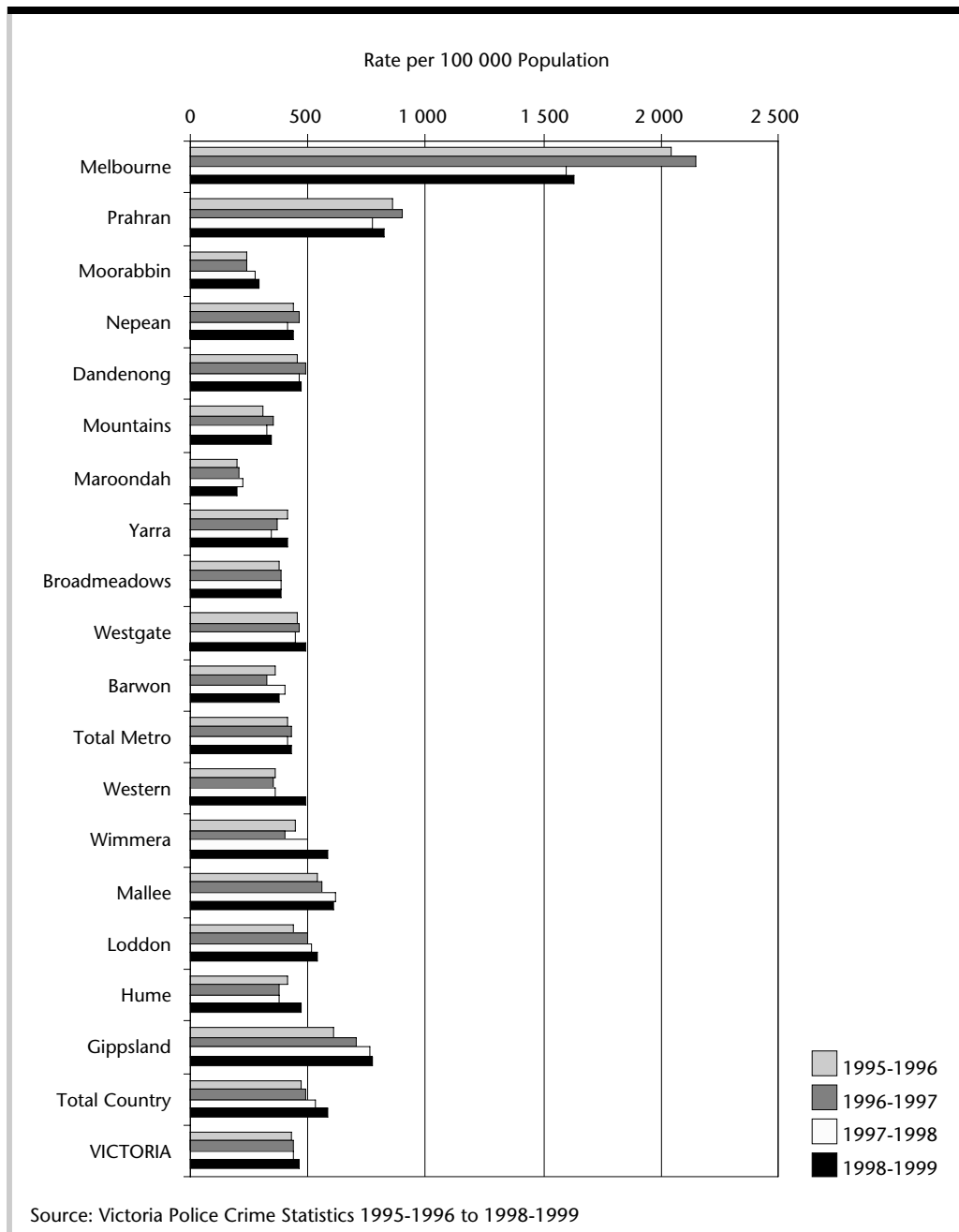


**Figure 6.23 Location of assault offences per year**



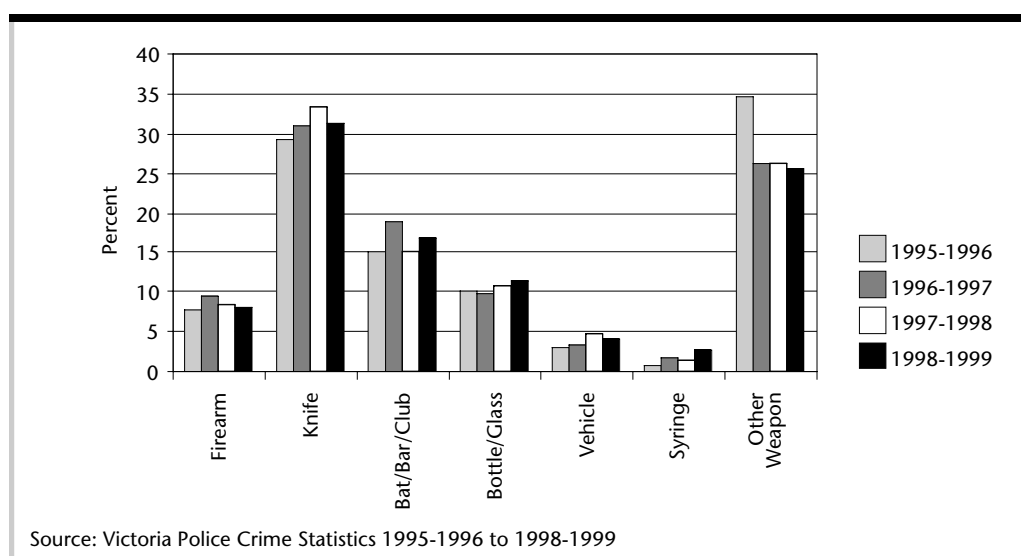
The assault location chart shows that there has been little real variation in the location of assaults over the 5 years under review. With the exception of the residence and the street, which together constitute approximately 65% of all locations, assaults are spread reasonably evenly amongst a number of different settings. The trend data show that there have been modest declines in the proportions of assaults occurring in residential and other locations over the 5 years of the data series. There has been a slight upward trend in the proportion of assaults occurring on public transport and retail outlets.

**Figure 6.24 Police District in which assault offence occurred per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**



This chart shows that the assault rates have been steadily increasing in the country areas of Victoria between 1995–1996 and 1998–1999. Gippsland, Loddon, Wimmera, Western, Mallee and Hume Districts have all seen their rates increase over the last 3 or 4 years. Steady upward trends have also been apparent in Moorabbin, Mountains and Broadmeadows Districts, while Melbourne, and to a lesser extent Prahran, have experienced downturns in their assault rates.

**Figure 6.25 Type of weapon involved in assault offence per year 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**



Knives have consistently and increasingly been the weapons most commonly used, threatened or displayed in assaults over the period under review. There is also an upward trend in the percentage of syringes being used threatened or displayed in assaults. Firearms use has steadily declined since 1996-1997. The proportional use of other weapons fell significantly between 1995-1996 and 1996-1997 and has been steady since.

**Table 6.10 Assault offenders by age and sex per year 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**

Male					Age	Female				
1995-1996 %	1996-1997 %	1997-1998 %	1998-1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %		1995-1996 %	1996-1997 %	1997-1998 %	1998-1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %
0.02	0.03	0.04	0.01	6.9	<10	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.01	6.5
3.05	3.68	3.63	3.50	3.3	10-14	0.98	0.86	1.09	1.19	3.4
19.11	18.31	17.72	18.77	3.4	15-19	3.32	3.84	3.80	4.03	3.5
21.03	18.58	18.66	17.41	3.6	20-24	2.37	2.55	2.96	2.52	3.7
15.25	15.46	15.23	15.20	4.0	25-29	2.20	2.41	2.32	2.64	4.0
17.40	17.83	18.12	18.12	7.7	30-39	2.96	3.33	3.39	3.45	7.8
7.11	7.87	7.08	7.39	7.1	40-49	1.08	1.21	1.12	0.93	7.2
2.23	2.30	2.84	2.61	5.6	50-59	0.20	0.30	0.26	0.29	5.5
0.83	0.72	0.85	0.81	3.8	60-69	0.06	0.07	0.03	0.04	4.0
0.16	0.16	0.19	0.26	2.7	70-79	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.02	3.4
0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	1.0	80+	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	1.9
0.38	0.33	0.44	0.57		Unspecified	0.20	0.12	0.11	0.22	
<b>86.61</b>	<b>85.30</b>	<b>84.84</b>	<b>84.66</b>		<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>13.39</b>	<b>14.70</b>	<b>15.16</b>	<b>15.34</b>	

Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995-1996 to 1998-1999

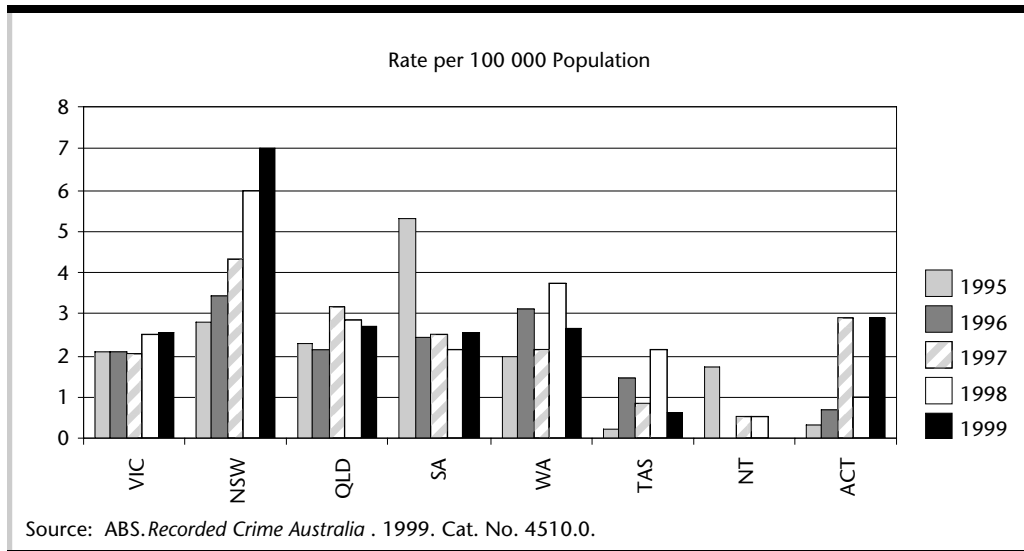
There has been a slight, yet steady, decline in the overall proportions of male assault offenders from 86.61% in 1995-1996 to 84.66% in 1998-1999. The majority of offenders are males aged 15-39 year of age. Males aged 15-29 offend at almost 4 times their representation in the community. That is, while 20-24 year-old males represented 3.6% of the total population as at 30 June 1999, they accounted for 17.41% of all assault offenders in the year 1998-1999.

Small yet steady increases in the proportions of females in each of the 10–14, 15–19, 25–29 and 30–39 year age groups and males in the 30–39 year age group were apparent during this period.

### KIDNAP/ABDUCTION

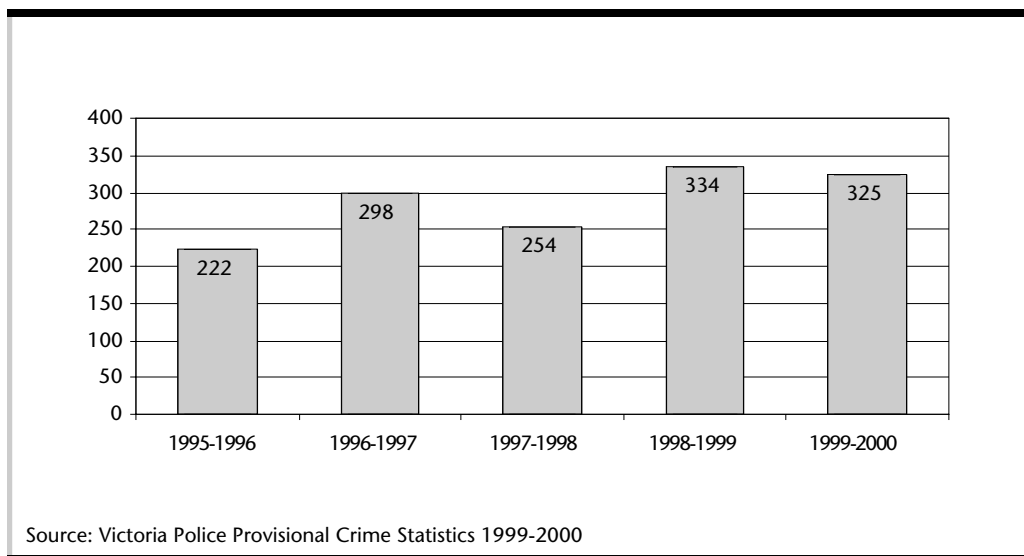
Kidnap/abduction offences include, False imprisonment (53.5% of all 1998–1999 kidnap/abduction offences), Abduction for the act of sexual penetration, Kidnap and Unlawful and injurious imprisonment.

**Figure 6.26 National comparisons of recorded kidnap/abduction by State per year 1995–1999**



The national rates per 100 000 population closely mirrors the upward trend depicted in the Victoria Police figures (Figure 6.27) over the 5 years. Victoria's 1999 rate of 2.55 per 100 000 was the equal third lowest (with South Australia) after Tasmania and the Northern Territory and was well below the 1999 national rate of 4.02.

**Figure 6.27 Number of recorded kidnap/abduction offences per year**



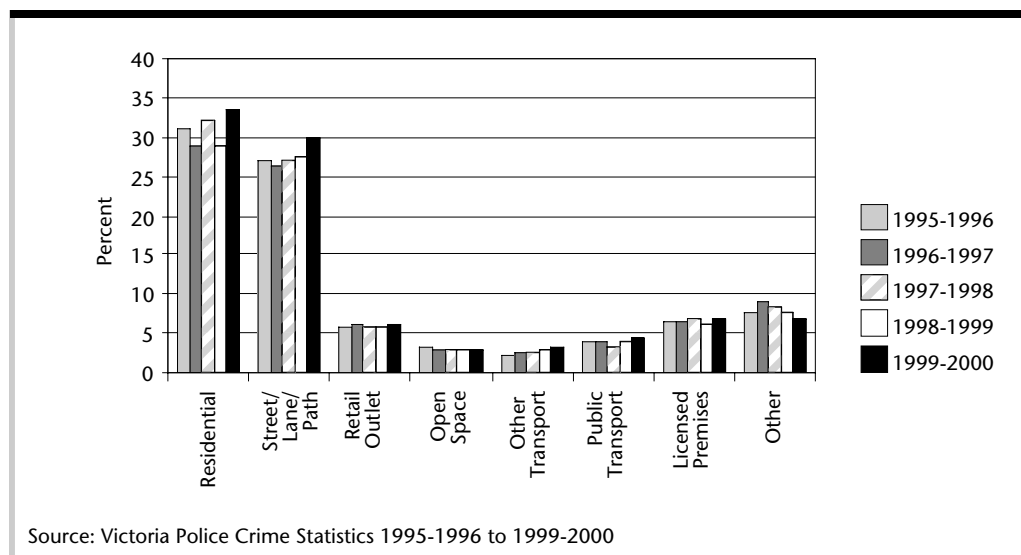
There has been an upward trend in Kidnaps and Abductions over the 5-year period, 1995–1996 to 1999–2000, despite a mild downturn in both 1997–1998 and 1999–2000. This offence type constituted just 0.07% of all offences recorded in Victoria in 1999–2000.

**Table 6.11 Kidnap/abduction victims by age and sex per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**

		Male			VIC POP 6/99 %	Age	Female			
1995– 1996 %	1996– 1997 %	1997– 1998 %	1998– 1999 %	1995– 1996 %			1996– 1997 %	1997– 1998 %	1998– 1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %
5.26	3.51	6.25	5.79	6.9	<10	4.31	2.81	7.08	6.75	6.5
5.26	5.61	3.75	4.18	3.3	10-14	6.70	9.47	12.08	9.65	3.4
3.35	8.42	7.92	6.11	3.4	15-19	16.75	13.33	19.58	15.76	3.5
6.22	3.86	3.75	3.86	3.6	20-24	11.48	11.58	13.75	9.65	3.7
0.96	4.56	2.08	2.89	4.0	25-29	6.70	10.18	4.58	9.65	4.0
3.83	2.46	2.08	2.57	7.7	30-39	11.48	6.67	7.92	9.65	7.8
1.91	0.70	0.00	2.89	7.1	40-49	4.31	5.26	2.92	3.86	7.2
1.44	0.00	1.25	0.96	5.6	50-59	1.91	1.40	0.83	1.29	5.5
0.00	1.05	0.00	0.00	3.8	60-69	0.48	0.35	0.00	0.64	4.0
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.7	70-79	1.44	0.00	0.42	0.00	3.4
0.00	0.35	0.00	0.00	1.0	80+	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.9
1.91	2.81	1.25	1.29		Unspecified	4.31	5.61	2.50	2.57	
<b>30.14</b>	<b>33.33</b>	<b>28.33</b>	<b>30.55</b>		<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>69.86</b>	<b>66.67</b>	<b>71.67</b>	<b>69.45</b>	

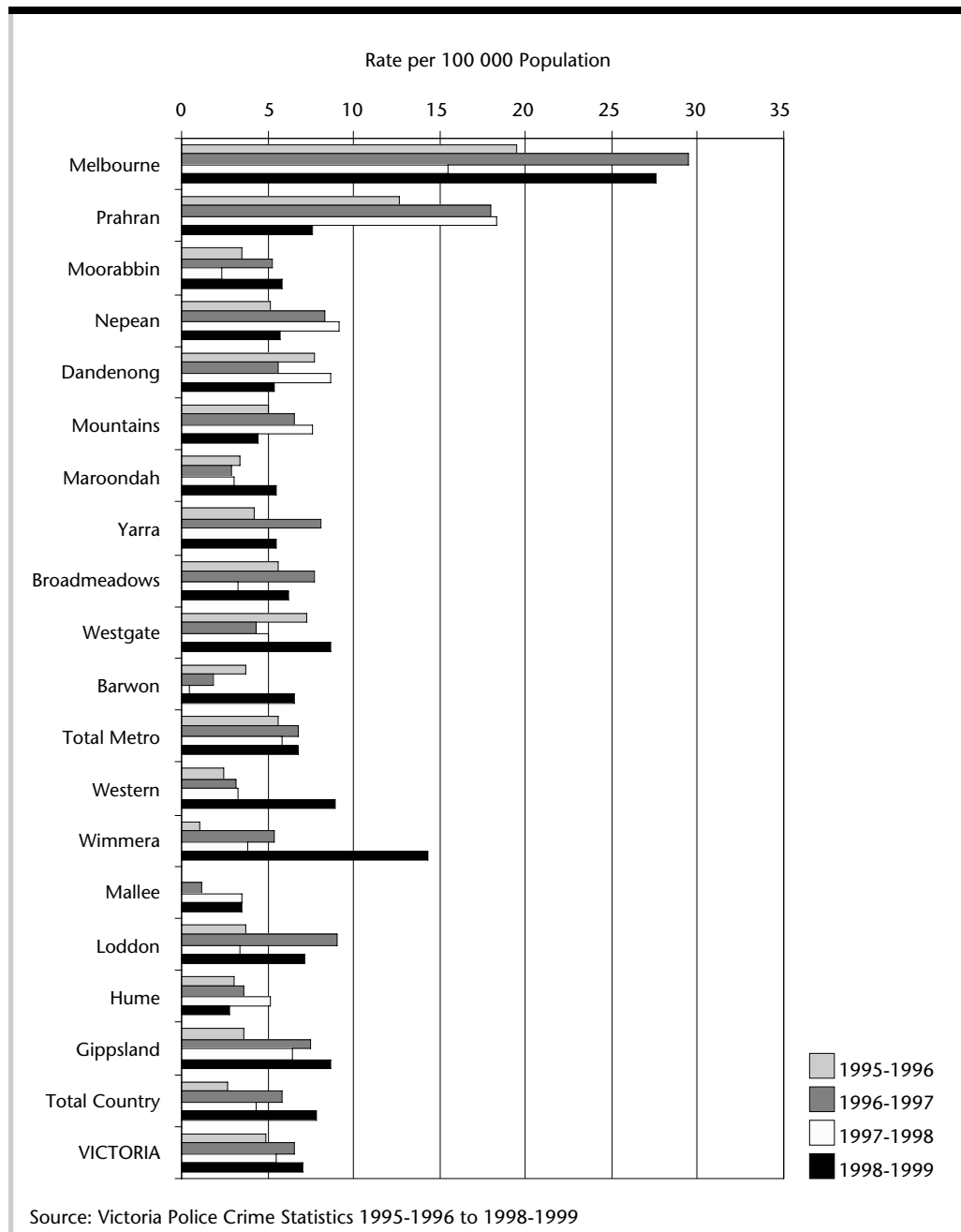
Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995–1996 to 1998–1999

Females are consistently more than twice as likely to be a victim of a kidnapping/abduction than males. Females aged 15-19 were consistently the modal victims over the years of the data series with their victimisation ranging from 13.33% in 1996–1997 to 19.58% in 1997–1998.

**Figure 6.28 Location of kidnap/abduction offences per year**

The locations of kidnaps and abductions have remained fairly consistent over the 5 years of the data series, with slight increases becoming apparent in the proportions of kidnappings and abductions occurring in residences, streets and on public transport. There has been a subsequent decline in kidnappings and abductions from 'other' locations.

**Figure 6.29 Police District in which kidnap/abduction occurred 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**



The rate of kidnapping and abduction has generally been increasing across the State with both the total metro and total country rates showing upward trends over the 4 years of available data. At least 3 years of consecutive growth were recorded in Prahran, Nepean, Mountains, Westgate, Western and Hume Districts, with the remaining districts fluctuating in the directions of their rates. The relatively small numbers of kidnappings and abductions per year allows for more volatility in the movement of rates following small changes in the numbers of offences recorded. The large increase in the rates for the Wimmera District between 1997-1998 and 1998-1999, reflect the fact that the number of recorded kidnappings/abductions rose, almost fourfold, from 7 in 1997-1998 to 26 in 1998-1999.

**Table 6.12 Kidnap/abduction offenders by age and sex per year 1996–1997 to 1998–1999**

Male				Age	Female			
1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %		1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %
0.00	0.00	0.00	6.9	<10	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.5
1.57	1.82	0.76	3.3	10-14	0.79	0.00	0.76	3.4
27.17	16.82	11.45	3.4	15-19	1.97	3.18	3.44	3.5
14.57	25.00	17.18	3.6	20-24	0.39	2.27	2.29	3.7
9.84	9.09	20.61	4.0	25-29	1.57	3.64	1.91	4.0
24.02	21.36	19.85	7.7	30-39	1.57	4.55	1.91	7.8
10.63	5.91	12.60	7.1	40-49	0.79	0.91	0.38	7.2
2.36	4.55	5.34	5.6	50-59	0.39	0.00	0.38	5.5
0.00	0.45	0.38	3.8	60-69	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.0
0.00	0.00	0.38	2.7	70-79	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.4
0.00	0.45	0.00	1.0	80+	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.9
0.39	0.00	0.38		Unspecified	1.97	0.00	0.00	
90.55	85.45	88.93		Total Persons	9.45	14.55	11.07	

Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1996–1997 to 1998–1999

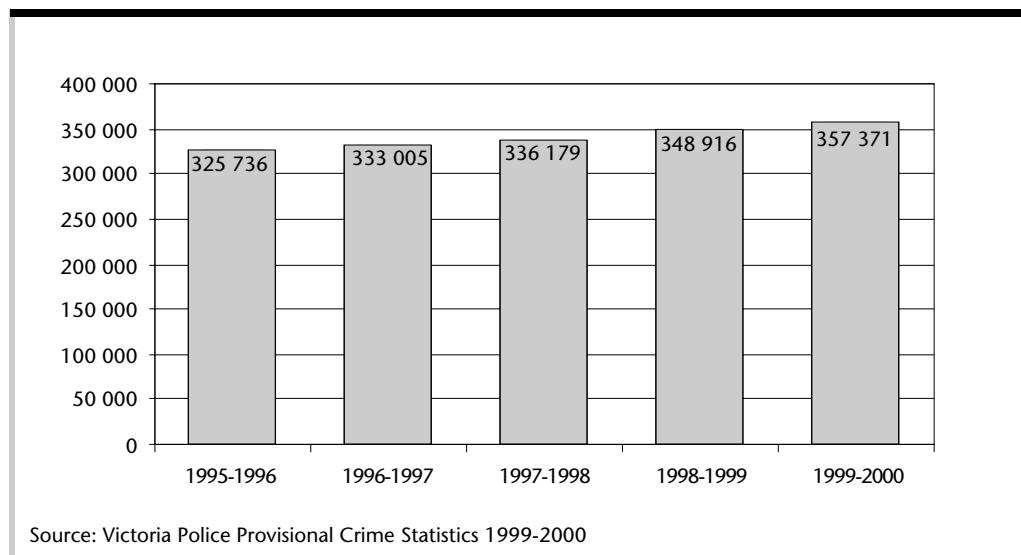
Males were again the predominant offenders in kidnappings and abductions. There are a number of interesting trends in the offender age and sex data for this offence type. The most striking is the strong downward trend in the proportions of 15–19 year-old male offenders over the 3 years for which comparable data is available. In 1996–1997 this group accounted for 27.17% of all offenders while by 1998–1999 their overall proportional offending had fallen to just 11.45% of all offenders. Similar although not as dramatic decreases are also apparent in the 30–39 year-old male group. There was a sharp increase in the proportion of 25–29 year-old male offenders between 1997–1998 and 1998–1999. Steady increases are seen in the proportions of 50–59 year-old males and 15–19 year-old female offenders over the three years of the data series.





## 7. Recorded Crime Against Property

**Figure 7.1 Recorded crime against property by year**



The class of Crime Against Property is made up of the following offence categories:

- Arson
- Property damage
- Burglary (aggravated)
- Burglary (residential)
- Burglary (other)
- Deception
- Handle stolen goods
- Theft from motor vehicle
- Theft (shopsteal)
- Theft of motor vehicle
- Theft of bicycle
- Theft (other).

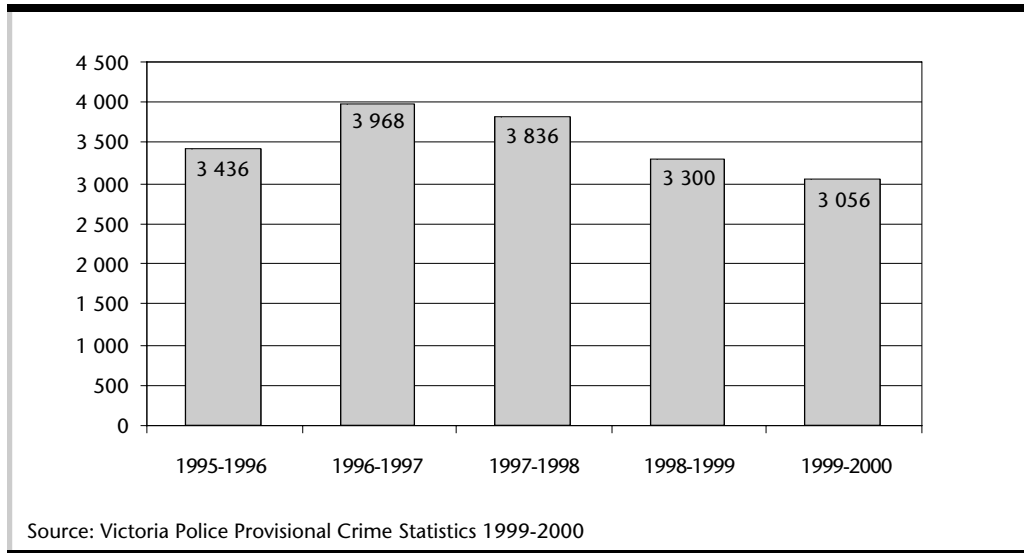
In the 5 years under review, crimes against property represented an average 80.60% of all offences recorded by police. In the 1998–1999 figures, 79.86% of all recorded crime were crimes against property, while in the 1999–2000 figures the proportion had increased to 81.86%.

The years 1995–1996 to 1998–1999 have seen an average annual increase of 3.7% in the number of crimes against the person reported to police; however, provisional figures for 1999–2000 have reported a 2.4% increase over the previous year.

**ARSON**

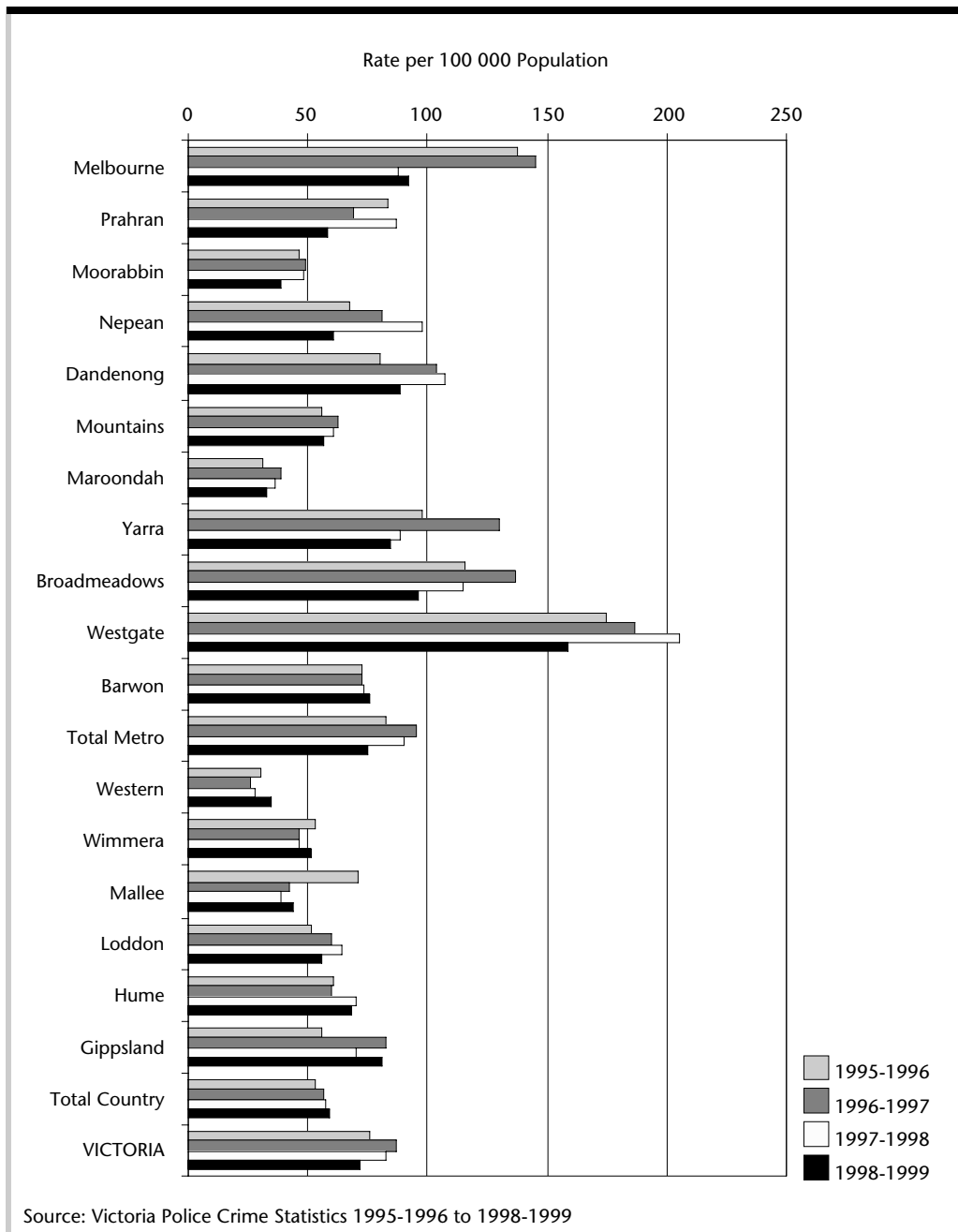
Arson offences include: Criminal damage by fire (Arson) (98.5% of all arson offences recorded in 1998–1999), Criminal damage (intentionally damage /destroy), Set fire to litter receptacle and Light /use fire and destroy /damage property.

**Figure 7.2 Number of recorded arson offences per year**



There has been a clear downward trend in the number of Arson offences over the last 4 years of the data series, after an initial rise in the 1996–1997 figures compared with those of 1995–1996.

**Figure 7.3 Police District in which arson offence occurred per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**



Despite the overall downward trend in arson offences in the metro area and statewide, country Victoria and a number of individual Police Districts have seen their arson offence rates rise. Nepean, Dandenong, Westgate, Barwon, Western, Wimmera, Loddon, Hume and Gippsland have each seen at least three consecutive years of growth in arson rates.

**Table 7.1 Arson offenders by age and sex per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**

1995–1996 %	1996–1997 %	Male			Age	Female			VIC POP 6/99 %	
		1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %		1995–1996 %	1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %		1998–1999 %
0.74	1.38	3.38	0.54	6.9	<10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.5
22.41	26.68	19.93	22.66	3.3	10-14	2.41	2.58	1.86	2.70	3.4
27.41	27.37	33.28	26.26	3.4	15-19	2.59	1.89	4.05	3.42	3.5
15.93	14.80	12.84	13.85	3.6	20-24	2.22	1.72	0.84	0.90	3.7
5.37	8.09	5.57	9.53	4.0	25-29	0.37	1.89	0.34	1.08	4.0
5.93	6.37	7.94	8.09	7.7	30-39	0.37	2.41	3.21	3.24	7.8
7.96	2.24	2.87	1.80	7.1	40-49	1.85	0.34	1.01	1.08	7.2
3.15	0.52	2.03	1.08	5.6	50-59	0.74	0.17	0.17	1.98	5.5
0.56	0.69	0.00	0.36	3.8	60-69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.0
0.00	0.17	0.00	0.00	2.7	70-79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.4
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	1.0	80+	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.9
0.00	0.69	0.68	0.72		Unspecified	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.54	
<b>89.44</b>	<b>88.98</b>	<b>88.51</b>	<b>85.07</b>	<b>49.10</b>	<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>10.56</b>	<b>11.02</b>	<b>11.49</b>	<b>14.93</b>	

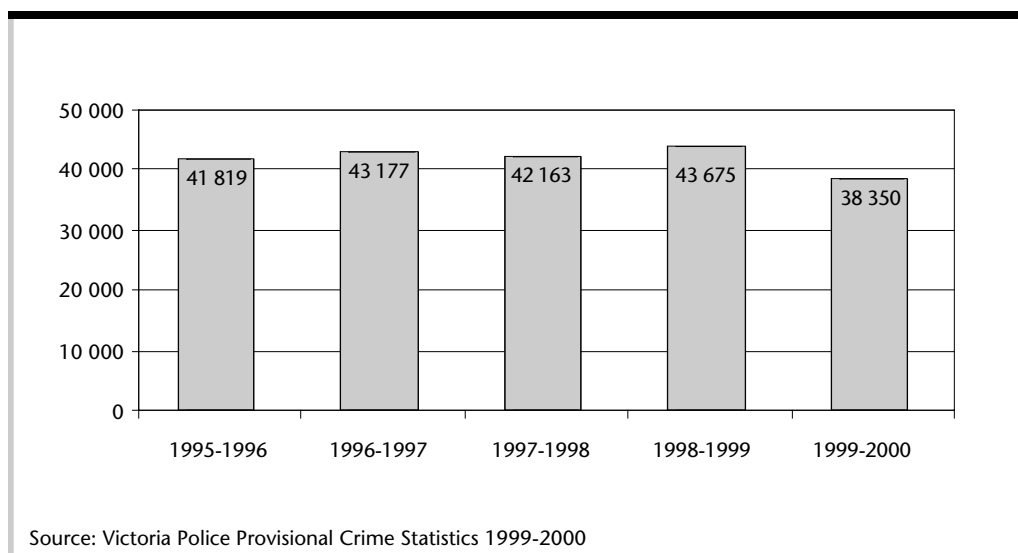
Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995–1996 to 1998–1999

Over 70% of arson offenders are males aged 10–29 years with the 10–19 year male group consistently making up around 50% of all offenders. There has also been a steady upward trend in the proportions of 30–39 year old male and female arson offenders over the data series.

## PROPERTY DAMAGE

This category includes: Criminal damage (53.5% of 1998–1999 offences); Wilful damage/injure property (46% of 1998–1999 property damage offences); Possess article for criminal damage; and Kill homing pigeon offences. In 1996–1997 Victoria Police changed the offence category from Criminal Damage to Property Damage. As a result of this change, only comparable data is presented.

**Figure 7.4** Number of recorded property damage offences per year



The number of property damage offences recorded has been fluctuating around the 43 000 per year mark. The 1999–2000 figures, however, represent a decrease of 12.2% on the 1998–1999 figures, which is the most significant drop for this offence type over the 5 years of the data series.

**Table 7.2** Property damage offenders by age and sex per year 1996–1997 to 1998–1999

Male				Age	Female			
1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %		1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %
0.21	0.19	0.12	6.9	<10	0.00	0.01	0.03	6.5
14.12	12.08	13.39	3.3	10-14	1.50	1.83	2.37	3.4
35.29	36.25	37.93	3.4	15-19	3.08	3.10	3.16	3.5
17.22	16.70	14.65	3.6	20-24	0.98	1.39	1.13	3.7
10.36	9.46	9.34	4.0	25-29	1.40	1.14	1.25	4.0
8.87	9.73	9.43	7.7	30-39	1.69	1.73	1.67	7.8
3.11	3.08	3.04	7.1	40-49	0.65	0.64	0.45	7.2
0.70	1.37	0.75	5.6	50-59	0.08	0.17	0.14	5.5
0.19	0.22	0.32	3.8	60-69	0.02	0.10	0.02	4.0
0.06	0.03	0.10	2.7	70-79	0.01	0.02	0.00	3.4
0.00	0.02	0.00	1.0	80+	0.00	0.01	0.00	1.9
0.33	0.37	0.53		Unspecified	0.12	0.33	0.18	
90.44	89.52	89.60		Total Persons	9.56	10.48	10.40	

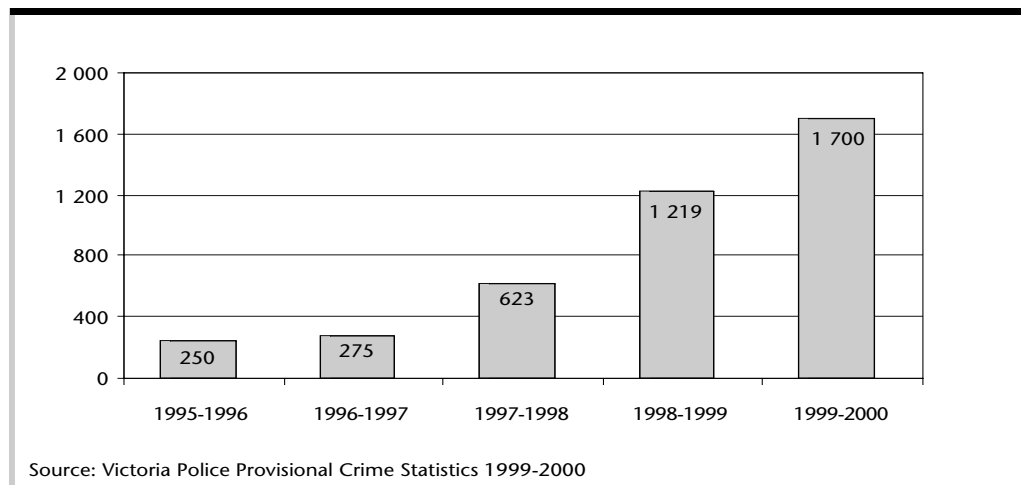
Source. Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1996–1997 to 1998–1999

The modal offender category was 15–19 year old males, with this group contributing over a third of all offenders known. The 3 years of comparable data show an upward trend in the proportions of 15–19 year-old male, 10–19 year-old female offenders and, to a lesser extent 60–69 year old males committing property damage offences. Over the same period, the proportions of 20–24 and 25–29 year-old male, and to a lesser extent 40–49 year-old male and female, offenders have been in decline

## BURGLARY (AGGRAVATED)

This category represents the following offences. Aggravated burglary (98% of 1998–1999 offences), Aggravated burglary-person present, Aggravated burglary offensive weapon and Aggravated burglary-firearm offences.

**Figure 7.5 Number of recorded burglary (aggravated) offences per year**



Aggravated burglaries have increased dramatically over the 5 years between 1995–1996 and 1999–2000. It must be noted that a change to the definition of aggravated burglary from 1 September 1997 broadened the nature of the offence. This amendment extended the offence to include situations where:

...at the time of entering the building or the part of the building a person was then present in the building or part of the building and he or she knew that a person was then so present and was reckless as to whether or not a person was so present (*Crimes Act 1958 s.77 1(b)*).

This change means that extreme care must be taken in comparing the figures before the change to the legislation, with those following it. There can be little doubt that this change helps to account for the dramatic increase in offences recorded between 1997–1998 and 1998–1999. *The figures produced for 1998–1999 and 1999–2000 are comparable, as police have been operating under the same legislation. In this period the number of recorded aggravated burglaries jumped from 1219 in 1998–1999 to 1700 in 1999–2000, which represents a 39.5% increase. This increase could be partly attributed to an increased awareness among police of the legislative changes and as well as the widening effect of the legislation.*



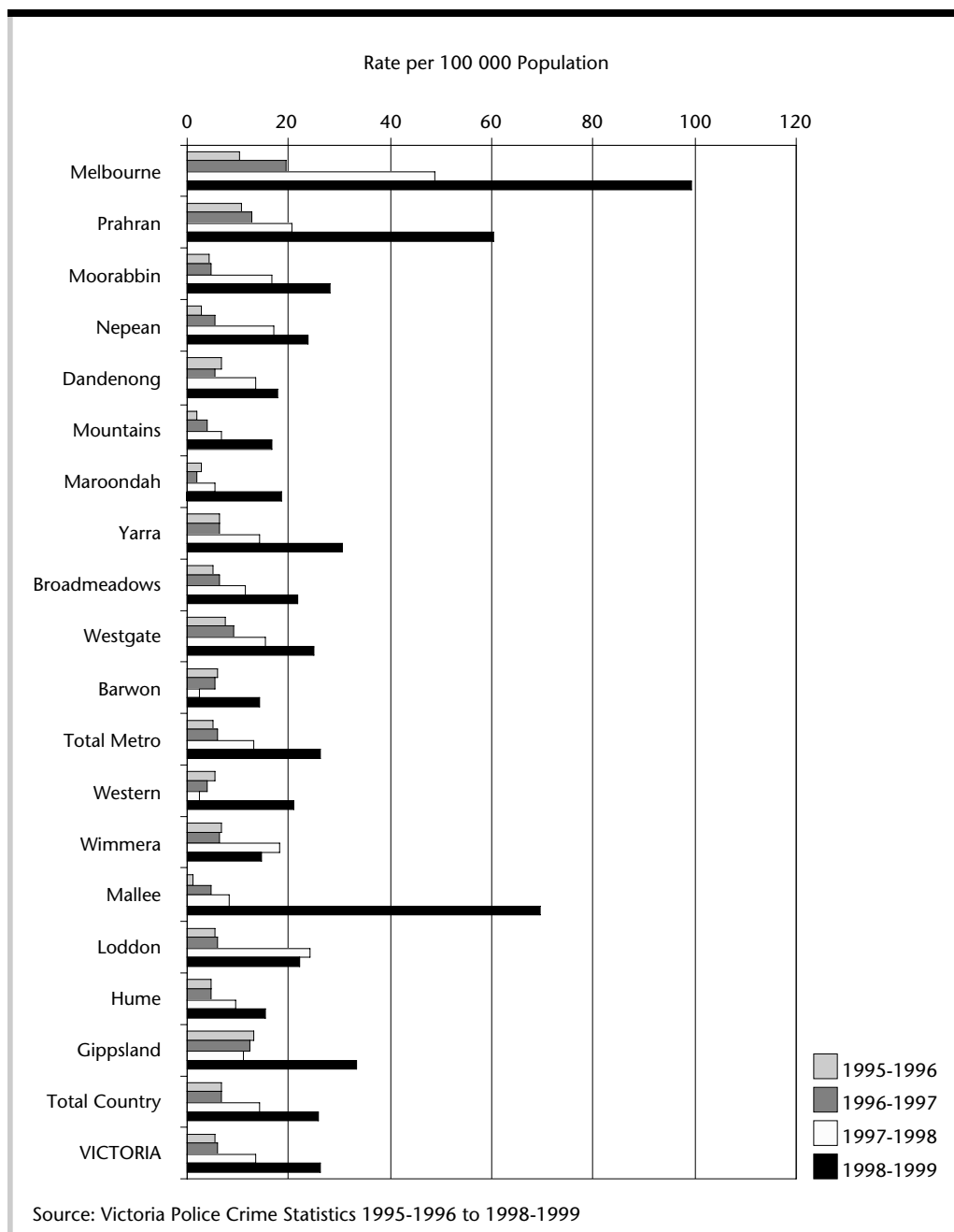
**Table 7.3 Burglary (aggravated) victims by age and sex per year 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**

Male					Age	Female				
1995-1996 %	1996-1997 %	1997-1998 %	1998-1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %		1995-1996 %	1996-1997 %	1997-1998 %	1998-1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %
0.00	0.00	0.18	0.09	6.9	<10	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.09	6.5
0.00	0.83	1.09	0.18	3.3	10-14	0.44	0.00	0.18	0.36	3.4
9.33	9.09	4.55	3.33	3.4	15-19	4.44	1.65	1.64	2.97	3.5
16.00	9.92	8.00	6.03	3.6	20-24	4.00	3.31	6.73	6.21	3.7
7.56	11.57	7.27	6.65	4.0	25-29	4.44	6.61	7.64	7.28	4.0
15.56	17.36	11.27	10.88	7.7	30-39	5.78	5.37	11.64	11.87	7.8
8.44	13.22	8.73	7.55	7.1	40-49	4.00	3.31	5.45	6.74	7.2
1.78	4.96	5.27	5.13	5.6	50-59	1.33	0.83	4.55	4.50	5.5
3.56	3.72	2.73	3.24	3.8	60-69	0.00	1.65	2.18	2.16	4.0
2.67	0.41	1.45	2.88	2.7	70-79	1.78	0.00	3.82	3.87	3.4
0.89	1.24	0.55	1.53	1.0	80+	0.44	0.00	1.64	3.42	1.9
4.89	2.48	1.45	1.35		Unspecified	2.22	2.48	2.00	1.71	
70.67	74.79	52.55	48.83		Total Persons	29.33	25.21	47.45	51.17	

Source. Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995-1996 to 1998-1999

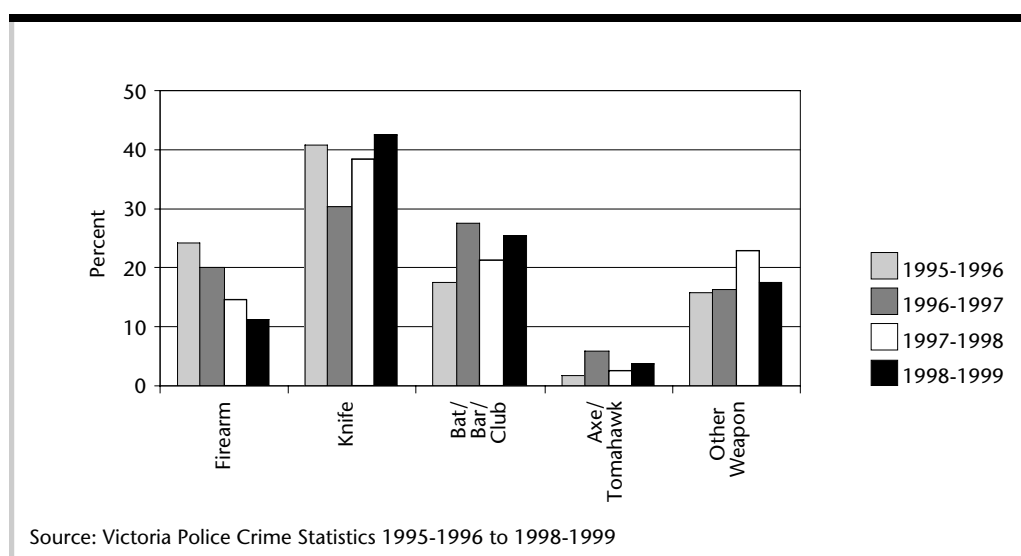
There has been a very dramatic shift in the aggravated burglary victim profile over the 4 years for which data is available. Prior to the change in legislation, males were the victims in over 70% of cases. The 1998-1999 figures show that females are now the predominant victims for this offence category, representing 51.17% of all victims. There has been a dramatic shift in victimisation towards females and older victims which is a reflection of the legislative change allowing police to charge a burglar with aggravated burglary if the victim is in the house.

**Figure 7.6 Police District in which burglary (aggravated) offence occurred per year 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**



Dramatic increases in the aggravated burglary rates per 100 000 population have been seen in every Police District since 1997-1998, with Melbourne, Prahran and Mallee Districts recording the greatest increases in the 1998-1999 rates. Two Districts, Wimmera and Mallee, recorded slight downturns in their 1998-1999 figures, relative to those of 1997-1998.

**Figure 7.7 Type of weapon involved in burglary (aggravated) offences per year 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**



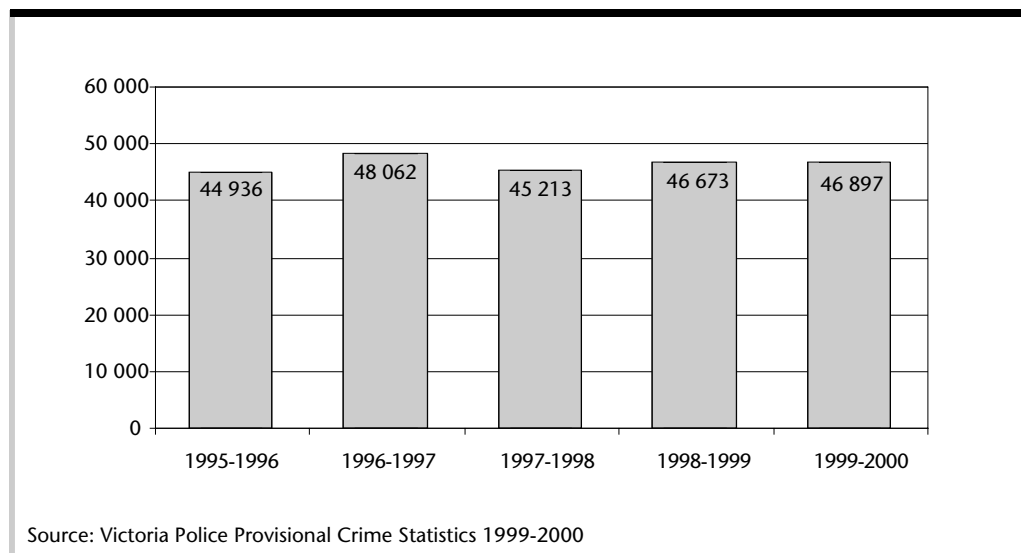
The percentage of firearms being recorded for aggravated burglary offences has been falling steadily relative to other weapons since 1995-1996. Each of the other weapon types, however, have shown an upward trend, with knives showing the greatest rate of change, closely followed by 'bats/bars /clubs'.

**Table 7.4 Burglary (aggravated) offenders by age and sex per year 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**

		Male			Age	Female				
1995-1996 %	1996-1997 %	1997-1998 %	1998-1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %		1995-1996 %	1996-1997 %	1997-1998 %	1998-1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.9	<10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.5
3.19	1.01	1.13	3.25	3.3	10-14	0.00	0.00	0.38	0.14	3.4
15.96	18.92	25.19	22.63	3.4	15-19	1.77	1.69	2.63	2.57	3.5
26.95	18.92	20.86	19.24	3.6	20-24	2.13	2.36	2.82	1.36	3.7
16.31	19.59	14.85	18.83	4.0	25-29	1.06	2.70	3.38	1.90	4.0
19.15	21.96	19.92	17.75	7.7	30-39	1.77	3.72	2.44	2.44	7.8
6.38	7.43	4.14	7.18	7.1	40-49	1.42	0.34	1.13	0.68	7.2
1.42	0.68	0.75	1.08	5.6	50-59	1.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.5
0.35	0.34	0.19	0.27	3.8	60-69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.0
0.00	0.00	0.19	0.00	2.7	70-79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.4
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.0	80+	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.9
0.71	0.34	0.00	0.68		Unspecified	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>90.43</b>	<b>89.19</b>	<b>87.22</b>	<b>90.92</b>		<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>9.57</b>	<b>10.81</b>	<b>12.78</b>	<b>9.08</b>	

Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995-1996 to 1998-1999

The offender profiles have also shifted slightly in favour of males aged 15 to 19 over the 4 years of data, with a decrease in the number of offenders in the category of 20-24 year-old males. A similar upward shift is apparent in the proportions of females aged 15-19. Again, this shift is most likely a reflection of the change in legislation, as offenders can now be charged with aggravated burglary if the victim was in the house at the time of the offence.

**BURGLARY (RESIDENTIAL)****Figure 7.8** Number of recorded burglary (residential) offences per year

The number of residential burglaries has been relatively stable over the 5 years of the data series. The 1999–2000 figure of 46 897 is higher than each of the previous years with, the figure of 48 062 from 1996–1997 being the exception.

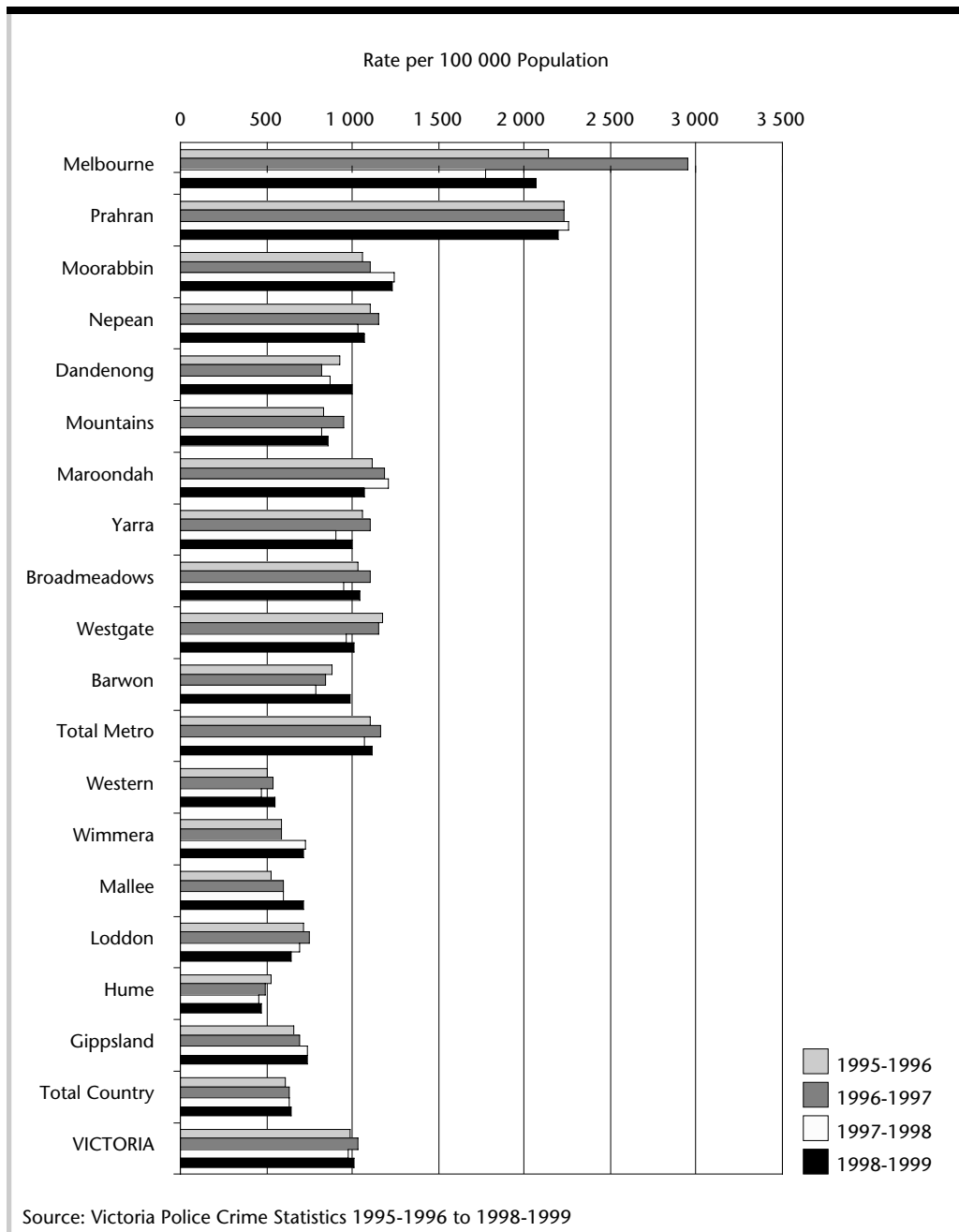
**Table 7.5** Burglary (residential) victims by age and sex 1995–1996 to 1998–1999

		Male			Age	Female				
1995-1996 %	1996-1997 %	1997-1998 %	1998-1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %		1995-1996 %	1996-1997 %	1997-1998 %	1998-1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %
0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	6.9	<10	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	6.5
0.15	0.17	0.18	0.14	3.3	10-14	0.05	0.07	0.06	0.04	3.4
1.54	1.49	1.53	1.45	3.4	15-19	1.51	1.42	1.43	1.30	3.5
4.75	4.27	4.26	4.02	3.6	20-24	4.49	4.33	3.91	3.94	3.7
6.74	6.81	6.82	6.62	4.0	25-29	5.07	5.42	5.62	5.32	4.0
14.44	14.22	14.15	14.47	7.7	30-39	9.89	10.35	10.73	10.50	7.8
12.62	12.40	12.15	12.53	7.1	40-49	7.68	8.19	8.56	8.70	7.2
7.47	7.44	7.94	8.12	5.6	50-59	3.90	4.27	4.63	4.76	5.5
4.59	4.66	4.49	4.56	3.8	60-69	2.32	2.39	2.45	2.47	4.0
2.28	2.49	2.51	2.63	2.7	70-79	1.67	2.01	2.19	2.05	3.4
0.66	0.71	0.70	0.80	1.0	80+	0.89	1.02	1.15	1.08	1.9
3.96	3.10	2.50	2.46		Unspecified	3.32	2.76	2.04	2.03	
59.21	57.76	57.22	57.81		Total Persons	40.79	42.24	42.78	42.19	

Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995–1996 to 1998–1999

Residential burglary victims are reasonably representative of the general population of property owners. There have been slight upward trends in the proportions of 40–79 year-old female, 50–59 year-old male and 70–79 year-old male victims. A decline in the victimisation of 20–24 year-old males over the 4 years of the data series is also evident.

**Figure 7.9 Police District in which burglary (residential) offence occurred per year 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**



Increases in residential burglary rates in 3 or more consecutive years, have been recorded in Moorabbin, Dandenong, Maroondah, Mallee and Gippsland Districts, with downward trends in Westgate, Loddon and Hume. The total metro and total country figures have been relatively stable as has the total Victorian rates per 100 000 population.

**Table 7.6 Burglary (residential) offenders by age and sex per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**

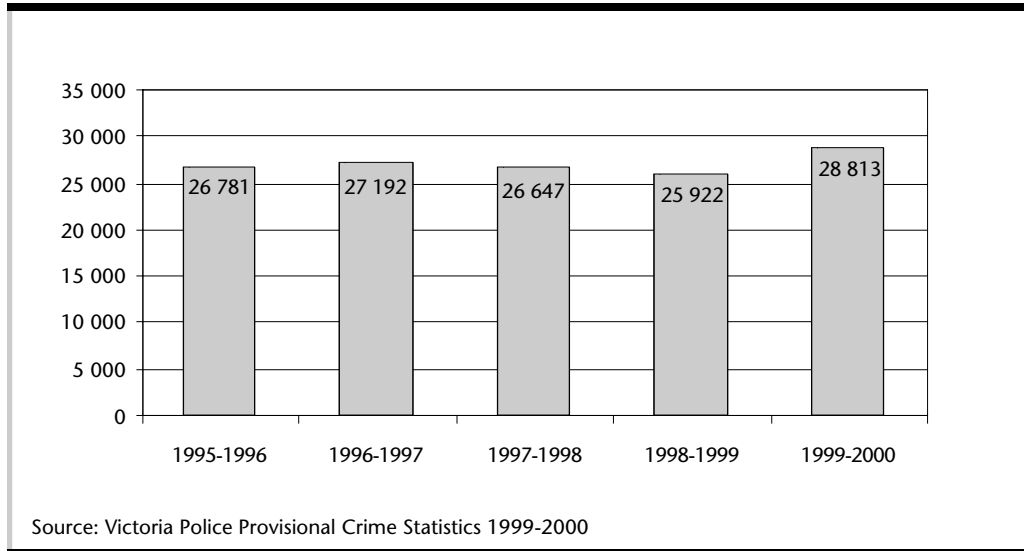
		Male			Age	Female				
1995–1996 %	1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %		1995–1996 %	1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %
0.12	0.14	0.19	0.05	6.9	<10	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.00	6.5
10.83	9.00	10.52	7.99	3.3	10-14	1.01	1.25	1.14	1.27	3.4
31.86	31.00	29.18	25.80	3.4	15-19	3.43	4.04	4.55	3.76	3.5
17.28	20.77	22.42	20.79	3.6	20-24	2.43	3.09	2.78	2.88	3.7
11.96	11.14	12.55	14.36	4.0	25-29	1.90	1.65	2.06	3.44	4.0
13.24	12.82	10.04	12.39	7.7	30-39	1.36	1.24	1.14	2.20	7.8
3.37	2.28	2.28	3.39	7.1	40-49	0.49	0.56	0.42	0.25	7.2
0.47	0.68	0.40	0.87	5.6	50-59	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	5.5
0.03	0.03	0.06	0.01	3.8	60-69	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.0
0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	2.7	70-79	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	3.4
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.0	80+	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.9
0.03	0.27	0.17	0.43		Unspecified	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.09	
89.17	88.14	87.84	86.08		Total Persons	10.83	11.86	12.16	13.92	

Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995–1996 to 1998–1999

There has been a steady increase in the proportions of female residential burglary offenders overall, particularly those aged 25–29 years over the 4 years of the data series. Similarly the proportion of male offenders aged 25–29 has steadily increased. The proportions of 15–19 year-old males, however, has been in steady decline, dropping from 31.86% of all offenders in 1995–1996 to 25.8% in 1998–1999.

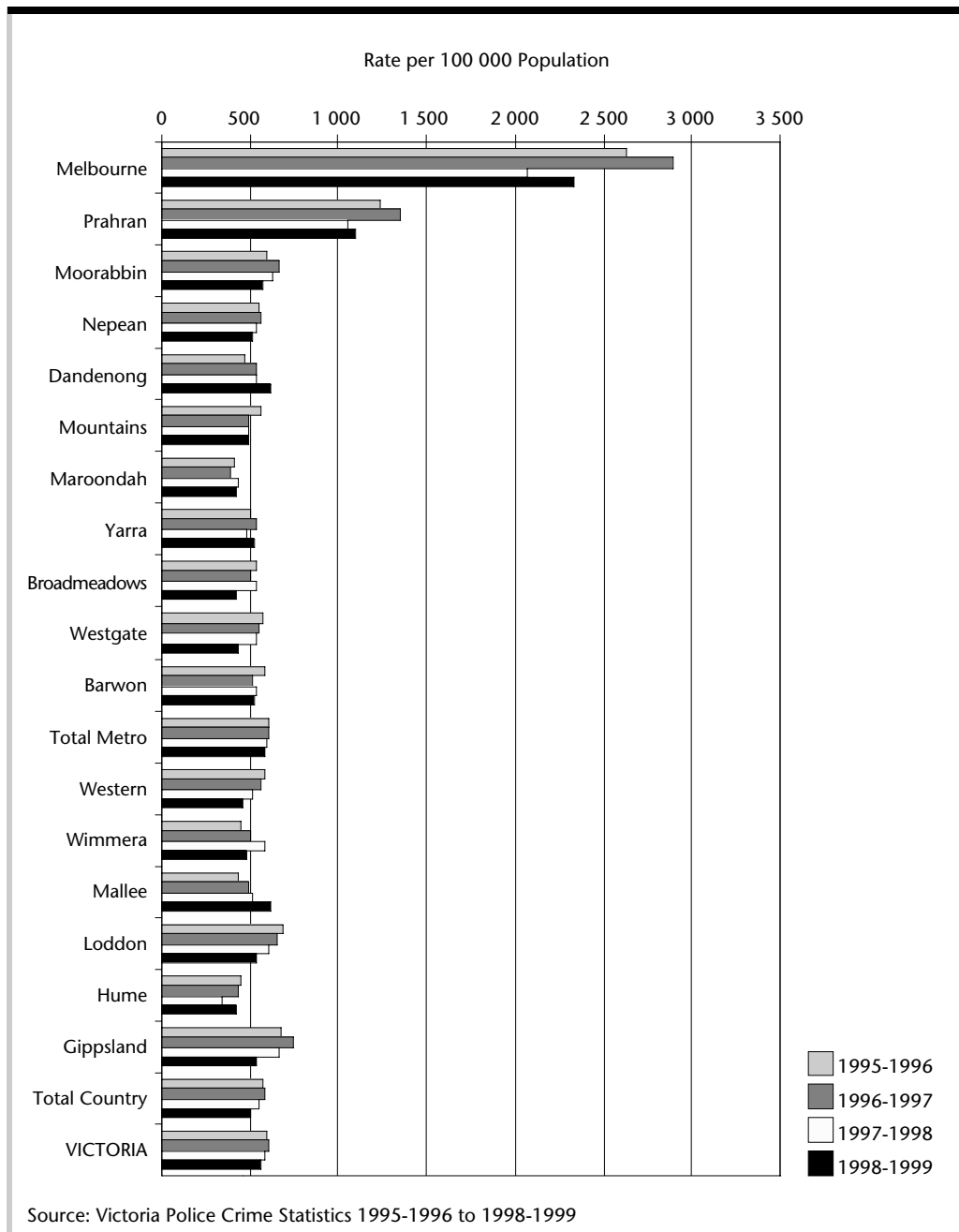
**BURGLARY (OTHER)**

**Figure 7.10 Number of recorded burglary (other) offences per year**



The number of other burglaries increased 11% in the 1999–2000 period relative to the 1998–1999 figures. This increase came after 3 years of steady decline in the number of ‘other burglary’ offences.

**Figure 7.11 Police District in which burglary (other) offence occurred per year 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**



All districts, with the exception of Dandenong, Maroondah, Wimmera and Mallee Districts, have shown downward trends in the rates of 'other burglaries' per 100 000 population over the 4 years of the data series.



**Table 7.7 Burglary (other) offenders by age and sex per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**

		Male			VIC POP 6/99 %	Age	Female			VIC POP 6/99 %
1995– 1996 %	1996– 1997 %	1997– 1998 %	1998– 1999 %	1995– 1996 %			1996– 1997 %	1997– 1998 %	1998– 1999 %	
0.07	0.26	0.24	0.14	6.9	<10	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.00	6.5
12.76	13.22	13.64	12.30	3.3	10-14	0.91	1.00	0.98	1.12	3.4
41.88	42.62	36.89	34.24	3.4	15-19	2.57	2.85	2.71	3.37	3.5
17.84	17.76	18.12	19.07	3.6	20-24	1.10	1.22	1.70	1.68	3.7
10.01	9.60	9.89	12.39	4.0	25-29	1.03	0.52	0.68	1.12	4.0
7.56	7.83	11.10	9.29	7.7	30-39	1.36	0.93	0.60	0.74	7.8
1.74	1.20	2.08	3.21	7.1	40-49	0.35	0.39	0.19	0.22	7.2
0.58	0.33	0.94	0.38	5.6	50-59	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.5
0.05	0.10	0.00	0.05	3.8	60-69	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.0
0.01	0.00	0.00	0.10	2.7	70-79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.4
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	1.0	80+	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.9
0.08	0.16	0.24	0.43		Unspecified	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.14	
<b>92.57</b>	<b>93.07</b>	<b>93.13</b>	<b>91.62</b>		<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>7.43</b>	<b>6.93</b>	<b>6.87</b>	<b>8.38</b>	

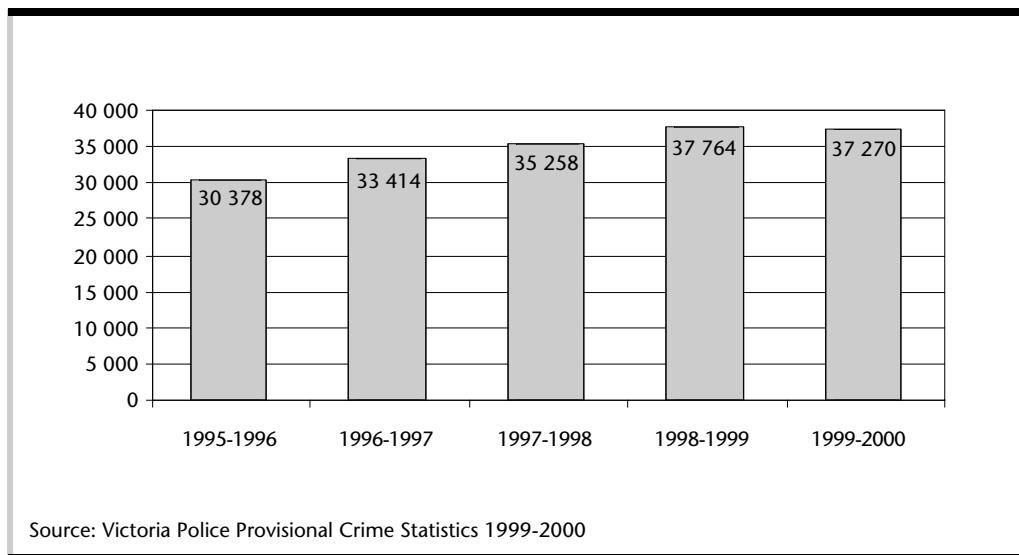
Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995–1996 to 1998–1999

Over the course of the data series, males in the 15–19 year-old category consistently made up the majority of Other Burglary offenders. However, their overall proportional representation declined from a high of 42.62% in 1996–1997 to 34.24% in 1998–1999. The overall proportions of 20–24 year-old males and 15–19 year-old females subsequently increased over this time.

## DECEPTION

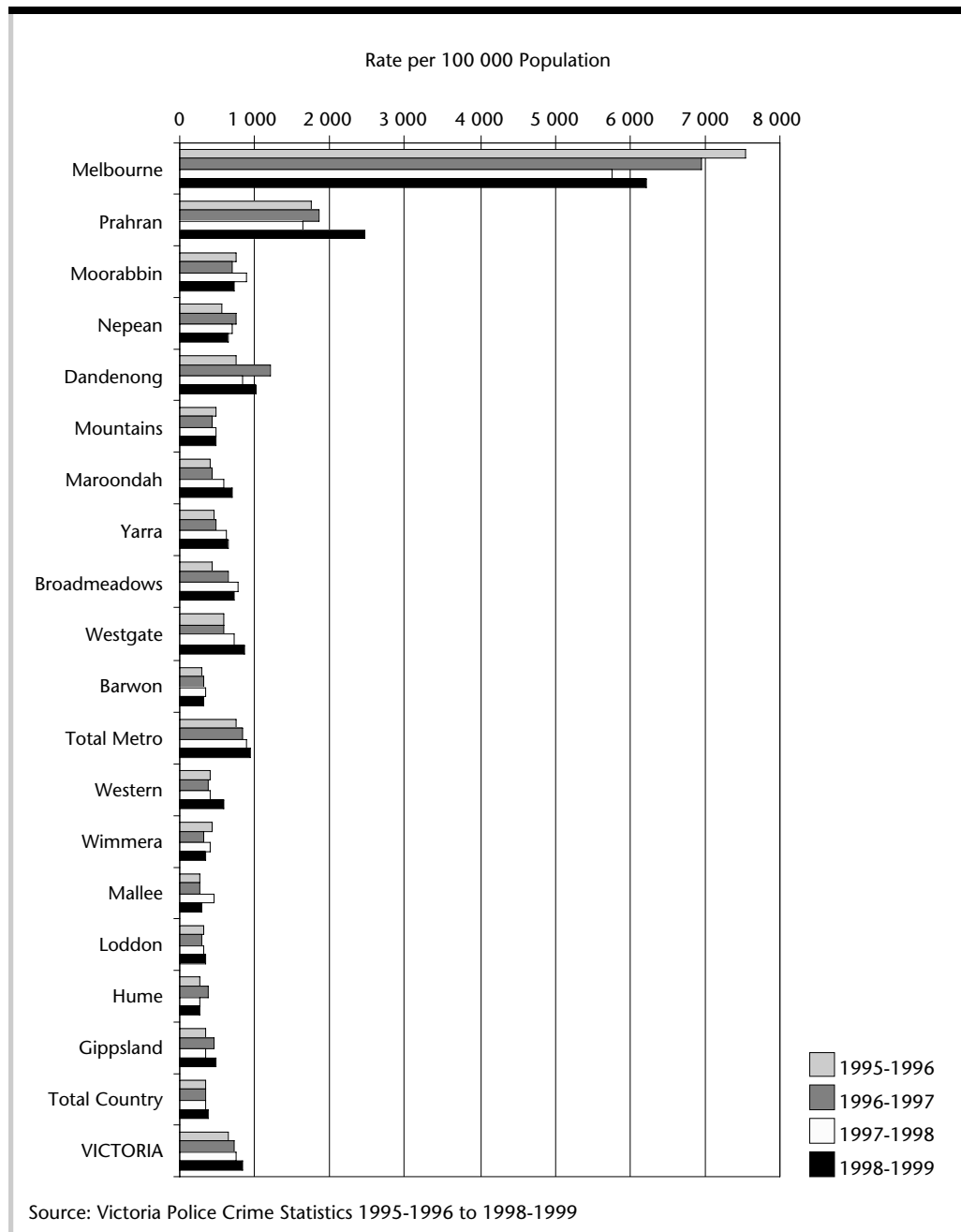
The Deception category is comprised primarily of 154 different offences of which: Obtain property by deception (72.8% of 1998–1999 deception offences), Obtain financial advantage by deception and Make false document offences, were the most commonly recorded.

**Figure 7.12 Number of recorded deception offences per year**



The number of deception offences has been steadily increasing over the period 1995–1996 to 1998–1999. The 1999–2000 figures of 37 270 represent a 1.3% downturn on the 1998–1999 figures.

**Figure 7.13 Police District in which deception offence occurred per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**



The deception rate per 100 000 population is clearly highest in the Melbourne and Prahran districts. The Melbourne District has seen a sharp downturn in the rate of deceptions between 1995–1996 and 1998–1999. Steady increases in deception rates are apparent in Prahran, Maroondah, Yarra, Broadmeadows, Westgate, Barwon, Loddon and Gippsland Districts as well as the metropolitan area of the State and the State as a whole. Rates have remained generally stable in country Victoria.

**Table 7.8 Deception offenders by age and sex per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**

		Male			Age	Female				
1995–1996 %	1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %		1995–1996 %	1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %
0.01	0.00	0.01	0.02	6.9	<10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.5
0.88	0.56	0.60	0.51	3.3	10-14	0.32	0.13	0.13	0.24	3.4
10.60	12.09	9.77	9.78	3.4	15-19	4.56	4.19	4.65	3.95	3.5
16.12	16.98	19.10	16.28	3.6	20-24	6.70	10.51	6.72	7.99	3.7
16.97	15.49	17.24	15.92	4.0	25-29	9.06	7.64	5.93	6.39	4.0
15.12	14.60	18.65	15.92	7.7	30-39	6.97	5.60	7.64	7.13	7.8
5.72	6.22	5.05	6.92	7.1	40-49	3.14	2.46	1.86	3.85	7.2
1.71	1.71	1.54	2.38	5.6	50-59	0.62	1.02	0.42	1.28	5.5
0.73	0.20	0.28	0.23	3.8	60-69	0.15	0.19	0.06	0.05	4.0
0.01	0.03	0.02	0.05	2.7	70-79	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.12	3.4
0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.0	80+	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.9
0.49	0.22	0.18	0.63		Unspecified	0.12	0.14	0.14	0.37	
68.36	68.10	72.44	68.64		Total Persons	31.64	31.90	27.56	31.36	

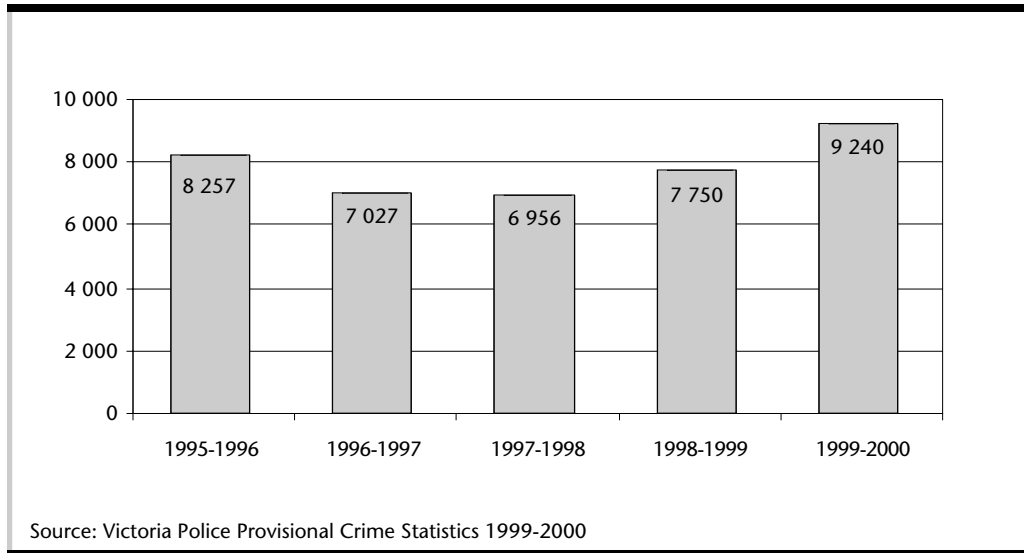
Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995–1996 to 1998–1999

Deception offender patterns have remained reasonably stable with only mild fluctuations in the proportions of offender categories over the 4 years for which data is available. Males outnumbered female offenders, in consistent proportions, with 20–24 and 25–29 year-old males forming the highest offender category per capita in each year.

### HANDLE STOLEN GOODS

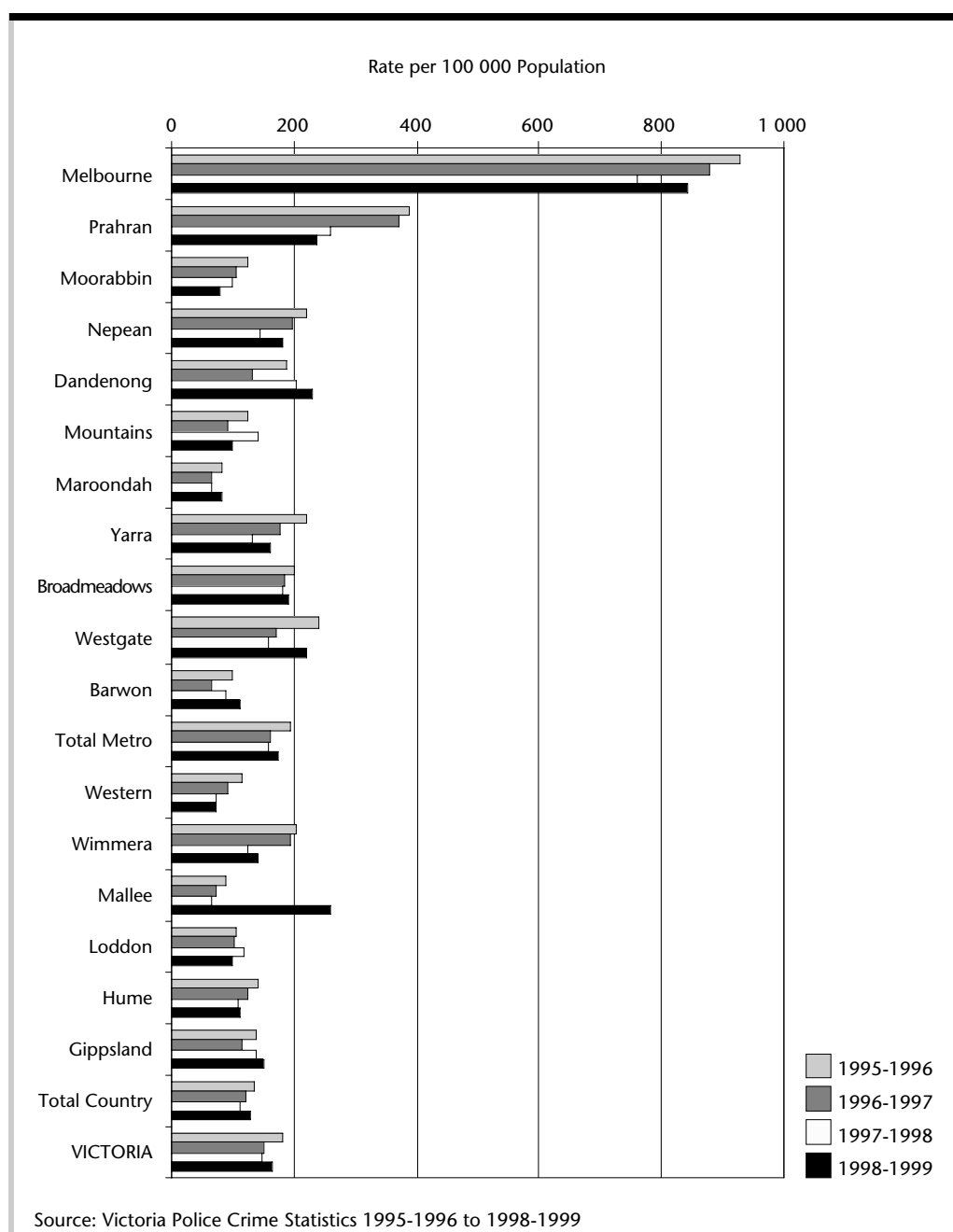
This category is composed of 15 offences of which, Handle/receive/retain stolen goods (66.6% of all 1998–1999 handle stolen goods offences), Unlawful possession and Possess property being proceeds of crime offences are the most common.

**Figure 7.14 Number of recorded handle stolen goods offences per year**



Despite a downturn between 1995–1996 and 1996–1997, the number of handle stolen goods offences has been steadily increasing since 1997–1998. The 1999–2000 figure of 9 240 is the highest of the series and represents a 19.2% increase on the 1998–1999 total of 7 750.

**Figure 7.15 Police District in which handle stolen goods offence occurred per year 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**



The rates of offending for 'Handle stolen goods' rates have been declining in Melbourne, Prahran, Moorabbin, Nepean, Yarra, Broadmeadows, Westgate, Western Mallee and Hume Districts over at least 3 of the 4 years of the data series. Increases have been seen in Dandenong, Barwon and Gippsland over the same period. The Mallee District had a particularly sharp rise in its rate of Handle stolen goods offences in 1998-1999 which may reflect a police operation in that district or the arrest of a very active offender or group.

**Table 7.9 Handle stolen goods offenders by age and sex per year 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**

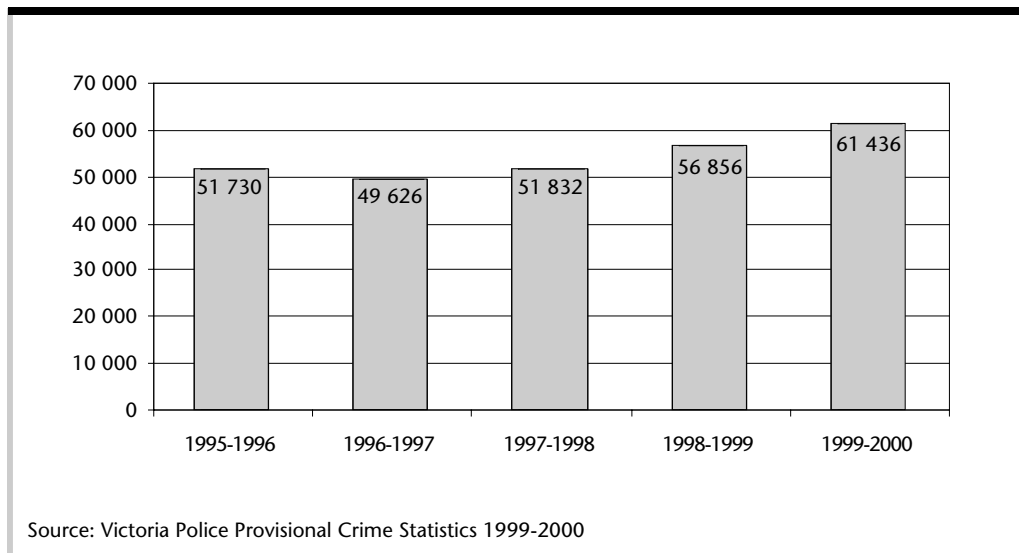
		Male			Age	Female				
1995-1996 %	1996-1997 %	1997-1998 %	1998-1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %		1995-1996 %	1996-1997 %	1997-1998 %	1998-1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %
0.00	0.02	0.04	0.00	6.9	<10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.5
3.91	3.97	3.47	3.05	3.3	10-14	0.92	0.58	0.68	0.60	3.4
21.55	22.05	22.51	21.12	3.4	15-19	4.55	5.14	5.67	4.65	3.5
17.09	18.08	21.22	19.88	3.6	20-24	5.88	5.16	4.64	4.96	3.7
13.67	14.25	12.82	14.14	4.0	25-29	4.03	3.97	4.42	3.56	4.0
14.66	14.23	12.90	14.38	7.7	30-39	5.29	3.83	4.25	4.39	7.8
4.68	4.86	4.35	5.46	7.1	40-49	1.62	1.20	1.03	1.16	7.2
1.33	1.79	1.19	1.47	5.6	50-59	0.14	0.28	0.19	0.31	5.5
0.29	0.20	0.23	0.20	3.8	60-69	0.07	0.02	0.04	0.05	4.0
0.02	0.08	0.04	0.03	2.7	70-79	0.02	0.04	0.00	0.03	3.4
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	1.0	80+	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.9
0.19	0.20	0.19	0.26		Unspecified	0.10	0.06	0.12	0.29	
77.39	79.73	78.96	80.01		Total Persons	22.61	20.27	21.04	19.99	

Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995-1996 to 1998-1999

The proportion of male 'Handle stolen goods' offenders has generally been on the increase since 1995-1996, despite a downturn in the proportion of male offenders between 1996-1997 and 1997-1998. Fifteen to 19 year-old males represented the major offender category, accounting for at least 21% of all offenders, for each year of the series. There has been no clear 4-year trend for any of the different age and sex groupings, rather the figures have been fluctuating between the years.

## THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE

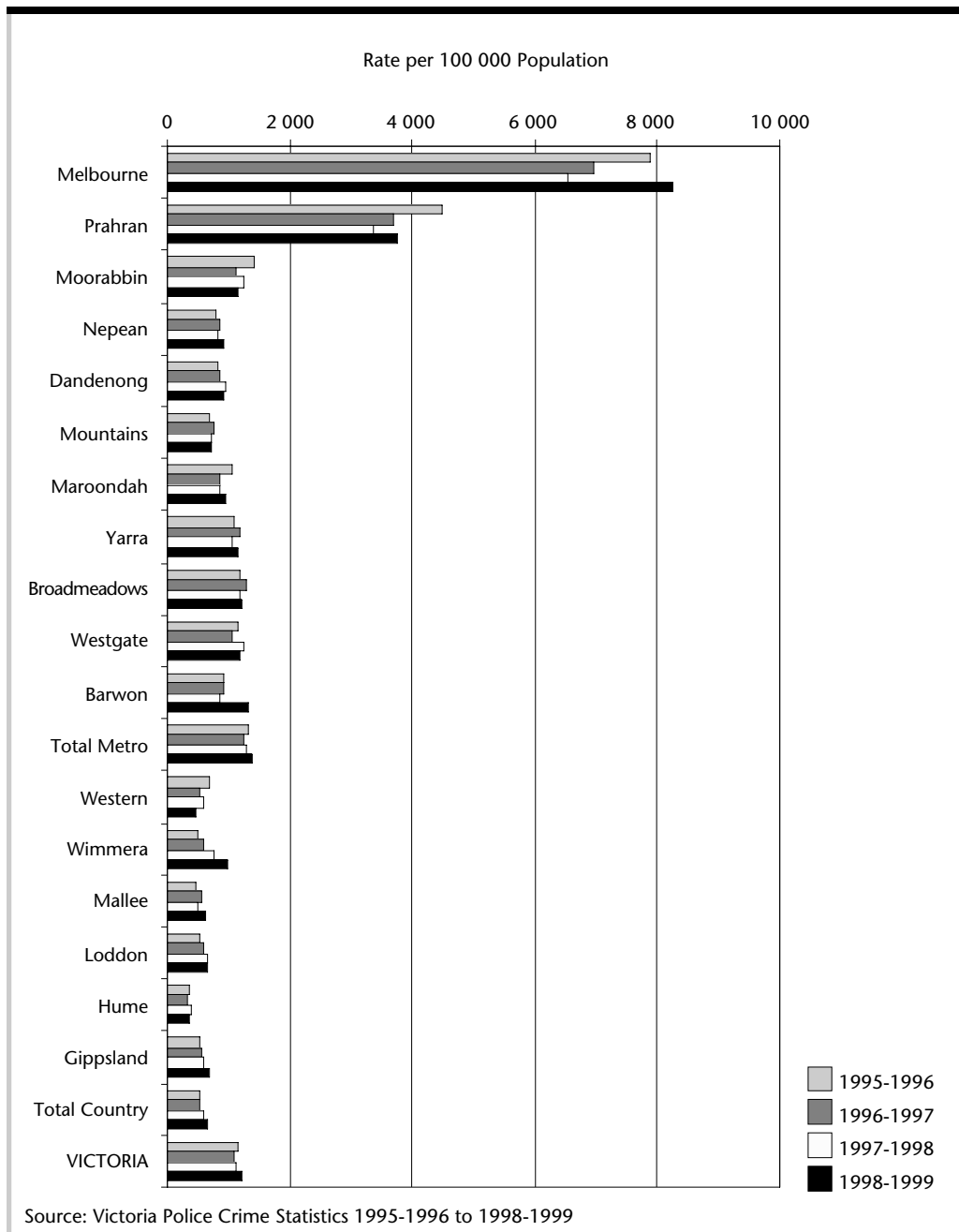
**Figure 7.16** Number of recorded theft from motor vehicle offences per year



The years 1996–1997 to 1999–2000 have shown steady increases in the number of thefts from motor vehicles. The 1999–2000 figures represent an 8.1% increase over the 1998–1999 figure, which itself was a 9.7% increase on the previous year's figure. This increase is mainly due to rise in thefts of mobile phones, wallet and compact discs that were left in motor vehicles.



**Figure 7.17 Police District in which theft from motor vehicle offence occurred per year 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**



After 3 years of decline, the Melbourne Police District saw a large upsurge in the rates of thefts from motor vehicles in 1998-1999. Steady increases in the rates of thefts from motor vehicles have also been apparent in Nepean, Dandenong, Maroondah, Wimmera and Gippsland Districts, with the overall Victorian rate showing an upward trend.

**Table 7.10 Theft from motor vehicles offenders by age and sex per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**

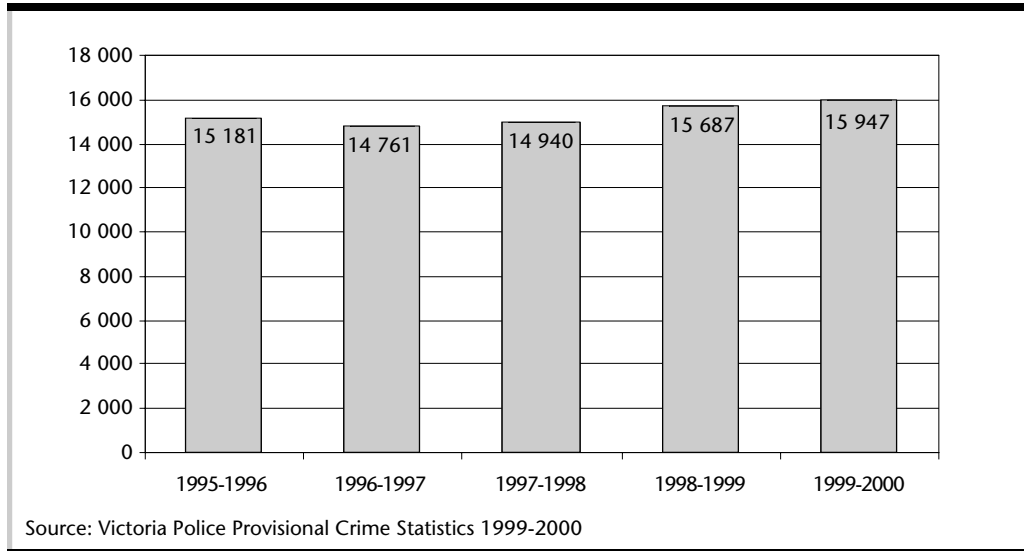
		Male			Age	Female				
1995–1996 %	1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %		1995–1996 %	1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %
0.13	0.16	0.03	0.01	6.9	<10	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.5
12.07	14.16	10.26	9.08	3.3	10-14	0.33	0.67	0.48	0.70	3.4
46.90	44.98	45.33	45.57	3.4	15-19	1.89	1.41	1.71	2.81	3.5
18.64	18.53	21.36	17.74	3.6	20-24	1.29	1.35	2.44	2.27	3.7
9.23	9.13	9.59	9.29	4.0	25-29	1.09	0.89	0.58	1.19	4.0
6.05	5.51	6.30	8.77	7.7	30-39	0.83	0.94	0.71	0.63	7.8
1.21	1.46	0.76	0.82	7.1	40-49	0.06	0.10	0.11	0.09	7.2
0.09	0.62	0.11	0.28	5.6	50-59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	5.5
0.03	0.00	0.00	0.09	3.8	60-69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.0
0.03	0.00	0.00	0.03	2.7	70-79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	3.4
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.0	80+	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00	1.9
0.06	0.10	0.23	0.53		Unspecified	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.05	
<b>94.44</b>	<b>94.65</b>	<b>93.96</b>	<b>92.22</b>		<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>5.56</b>	<b>5.35</b>	<b>6.04</b>	<b>7.78</b>	

Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995–1996 to 1998–1999

Males in the 15–19 age category were overwhelmingly the most common offenders of thefts from motor vehicles, with this group accounting for around 45% of all offenders in each of the years in this series. There have been 3-year increases in the proportions of 15–19 and 30–39 year-old male and 15–19 and 20–24 year-old female offenders relative to other categories. The proportion of 10–14 year-old male offenders has been declining over the 3 years 1996–1997 to 1998–1999.

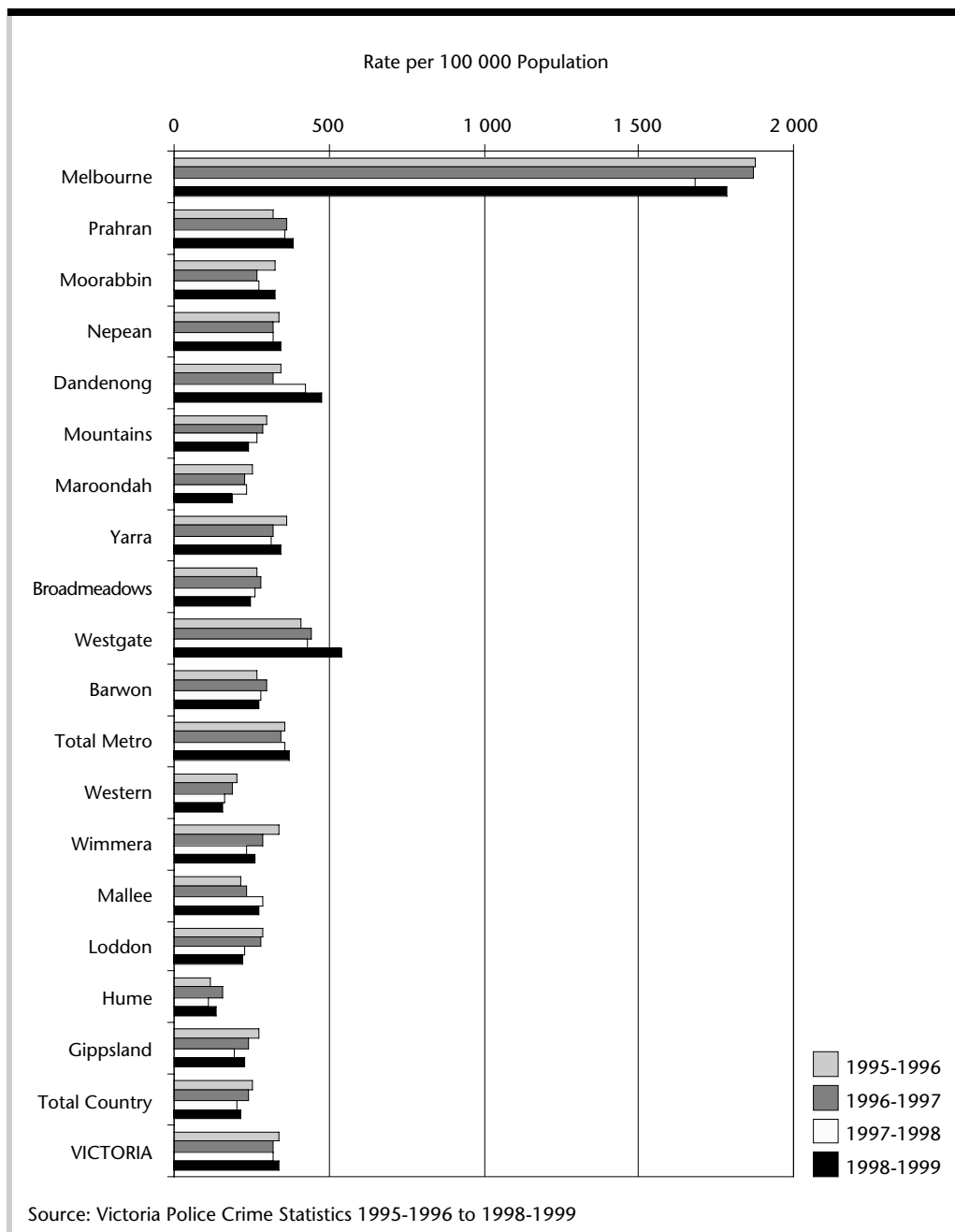
**THEFT (SHOPSTEAL)**

**Figure 7.18 Number of recorded theft (shopsteal) offences per year**



Theft shopsteal offences have also been steadily increasing over the last 4 years. The 1999–2000 figure of 15 947 was 1.7% higher than that for 1998–1999.

**Figure 7.19 Police District in which theft (shopsteal) offence occurred per year 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**



Steady increases in the rates of shopstealing per 100 000 have been recorded in Prahran, Moorabbin, Dandenong, Westgate and Mallee Districts in at least 3 of the last 4 years. Country Victoria has generally seen a reduction in the shopstealing rates over the 4-year period.

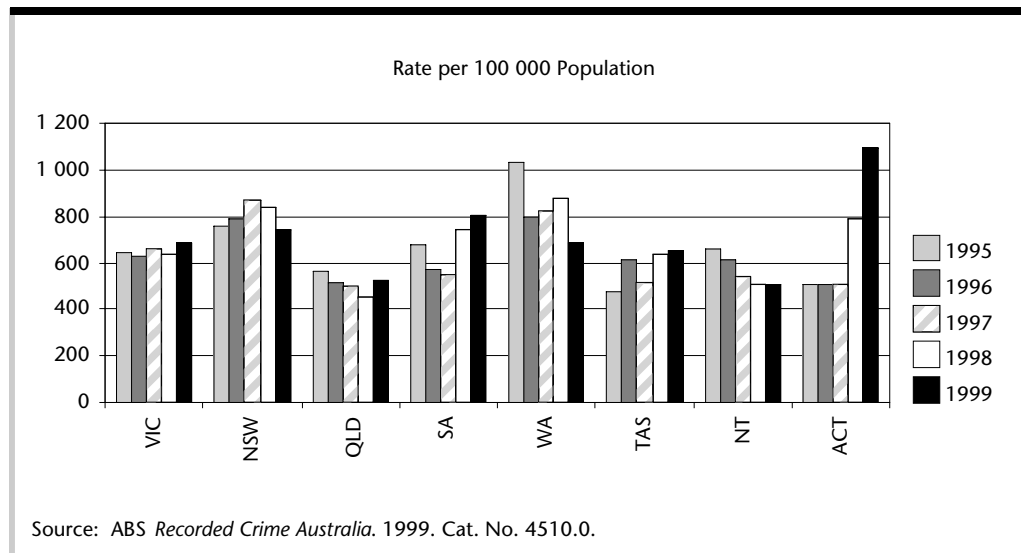
**Table 7.11 Theft (shopsteal) offenders by age and sex per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**

		Male			Age	Female				
1995–1996 %	1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %		1995–1996 %	1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %
0.14	0.15	0.21	0.04	6.9	<10	0.05	0.01	0.06	0.03	6.5
13.16	13.12	9.06	8.14	3.3	10-14	8.96	8.51	8.09	7.92	3.4
14.47	14.21	14.09	13.21	3.4	15-19	10.26	10.50	11.50	11.54	3.5
5.36	7.44	8.59	9.95	3.6	20-24	4.69	5.47	5.61	5.19	3.7
3.46	4.21	5.83	6.61	4.0	25-29	5.00	4.56	5.83	5.18	4.0
6.12	6.18	6.11	6.79	7.7	30-39	7.34	6.66	7.01	8.34	7.8
3.16	3.19	3.65	3.71	7.1	40-49	4.61	3.92	3.94	3.53	7.2
2.49	2.20	1.92	2.00	5.6	50-59	2.72	2.96	2.36	2.09	5.5
2.25	1.72	1.47	1.36	3.8	60-69	1.86	1.68	1.45	1.34	4.0
1.33	0.96	1.17	0.90	2.7	70-79	1.25	1.25	0.83	0.86	3.4
0.26	0.24	0.30	0.33	1.0	80+	0.31	0.25	0.26	0.23	1.9
0.43	0.28	0.26	0.26		Unspecified	0.36	0.31	0.39	0.46	
52.61	53.91	52.66	53.30		Total Persons	47.39	46.09	47.34	46.70	

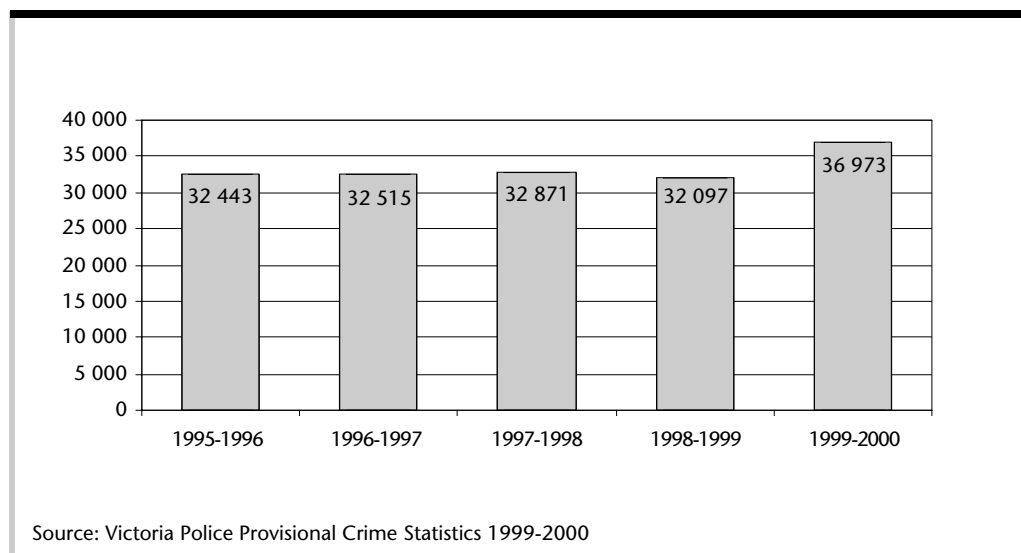
Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995–1996 to 1998–1999

The figures for shopstealing offences show a more even distribution of offenders by sex than many other types of crime. The modal category is 15 to 19 year-old males, followed by their female cohort. The most remarkable trends in offender age and sex data is the steady increase in the proportion of 20–29 year old males who have increased their proportional offending rates from 8.81% in 1995–1996 to 16.56% in 1998–1999. Modest increases occurred in the proportion of 30–39 year-old female and 80+ year-old male offenders. The proportions of 10–14 and 15–19 year-old male and 10–14 and 70+ year-old female offenders are in decline.

## THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE

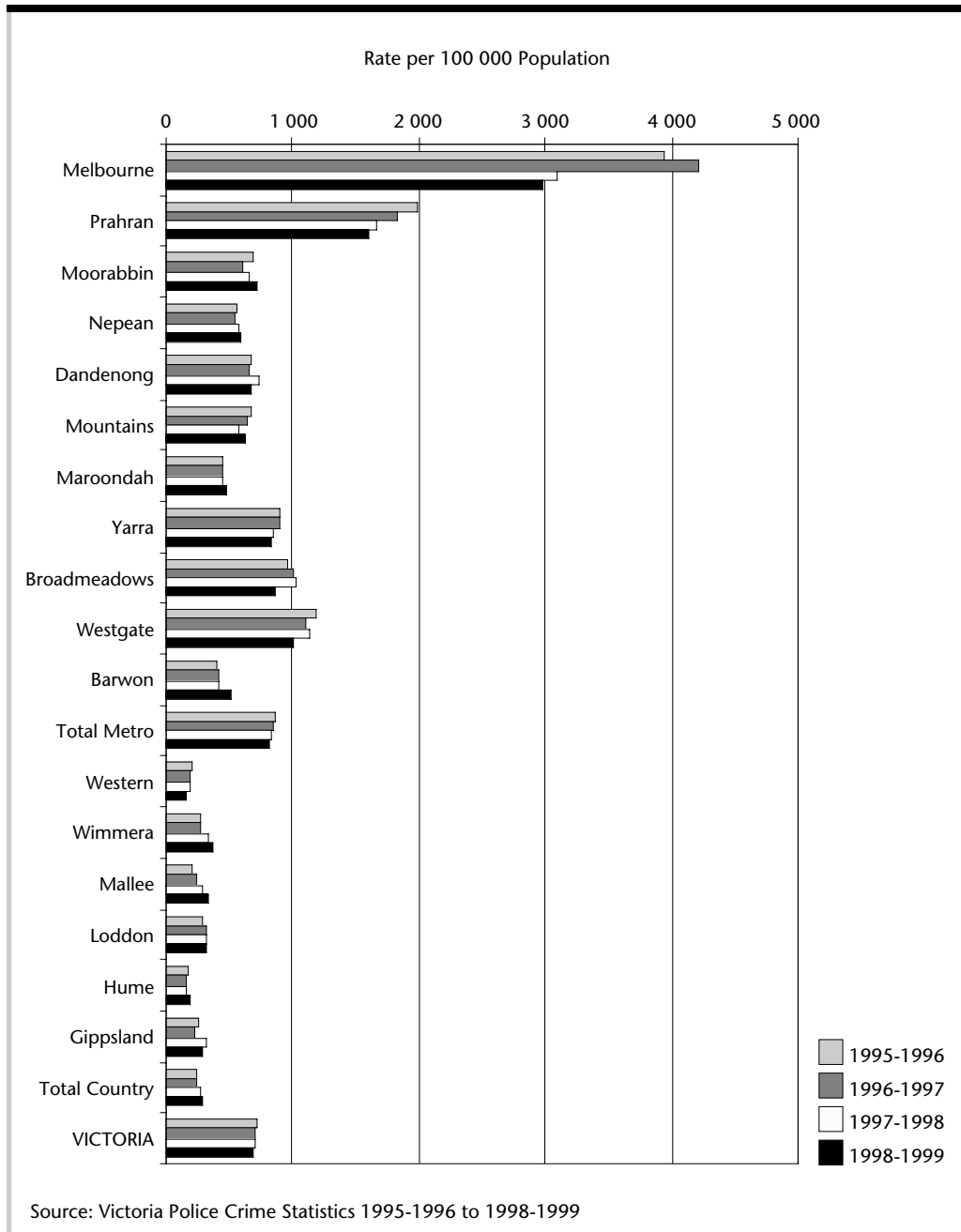
**Figure 7.20 National comparisons of theft of motor vehicle offences by State per year 1995–1999**

Victoria's national crime statistics rates per 100 000 population has been relatively stable over the 5 years of the data series. Figure 7.20 shows that Victoria's rate conforms very closely to the national average of thefts of motor vehicles.

**Figure 7.21 Number of recorded theft of motor vehicle offences per year**

The number of stolen motor vehicles increased by 15.2% in 1999–2000 compared with 1998–1999 figures. This was after 4 years of relative stability.

**Figure 7.22 Police District in which theft of motor vehicle offence occurred per year 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**



The rates of motor vehicle theft fell steadily in Melbourne, Prahran, Mountains and Westgate Districts between 1995-1996 and 1998-1999. Upward trends were apparent in Moorabbin, Wimmera and Mallee Districts, with other Districts showing fluctuations in their rates.

**Table 7.12 Theft of motor vehicle offenders by age and sex per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**

		Male			Age	Female				
1995–1996 %	1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %		1995–1996 %	1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %
0.04	0.48	0.03	0.00	6.9	<10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.5
8.03	6.91	6.33	8.70	3.3	10-14	1.33	1.73	1.28	1.45	3.4
49.83	46.74	45.29	41.45	3.4	15-19	4.81	3.77	3.74	5.55	3.5
16.23	18.29	19.25	17.12	3.6	20-24	1.29	1.33	2.07	1.82	3.7
8.41	9.09	9.84	10.73	4.0	25-29	0.97	1.11	0.92	1.06	4.0
6.62	6.97	7.75	8.70	7.7	30-39	0.82	1.24	0.76	0.67	7.8
1.34	1.74	1.72	1.72	7.1	40-49	0.07	0.11	0.31	0.27	7.2
0.15	0.25	0.42	0.40	5.6	50-59	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.06	5.5
0.00	0.03	0.03	0.03	3.8	60-69	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.01	4.0
0.00	0.02	0.00	0.04	2.7	70-79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.4
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.0	80+	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.9
0.03	0.11	0.23	0.10		Unspecified	0.01	0.05	0.02	0.13	
90.68	90.62	90.89	88.99		Total Persons	9.32	9.38	9.11	11.01	

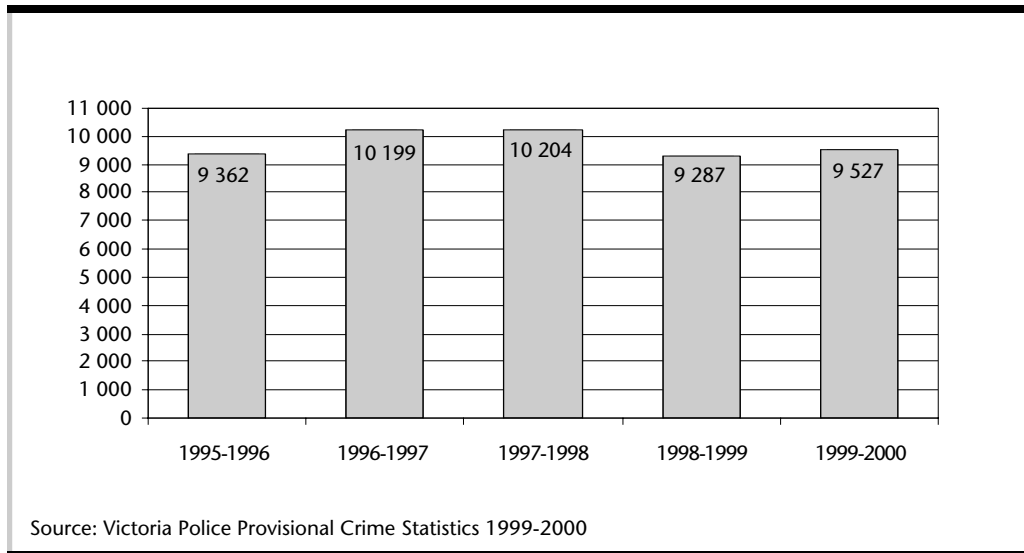
Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995–1996 to 1998–1999

Fifteen to 19 year-old males accounted for at least 41% (a twelve fold overrepresentation according to their relative proportion of the population) of motor vehicle theft offenders in each year of the data series. However, their proportional representation has been in steady decline. In 1995–1996, this group accounted for 49.83% of all offenders, however, by 1998–1999 this group represented 41.45% of offenders. Slight upward trends in the proportion of 25–29 and 30–39 year old male offenders are apparent in the data series.



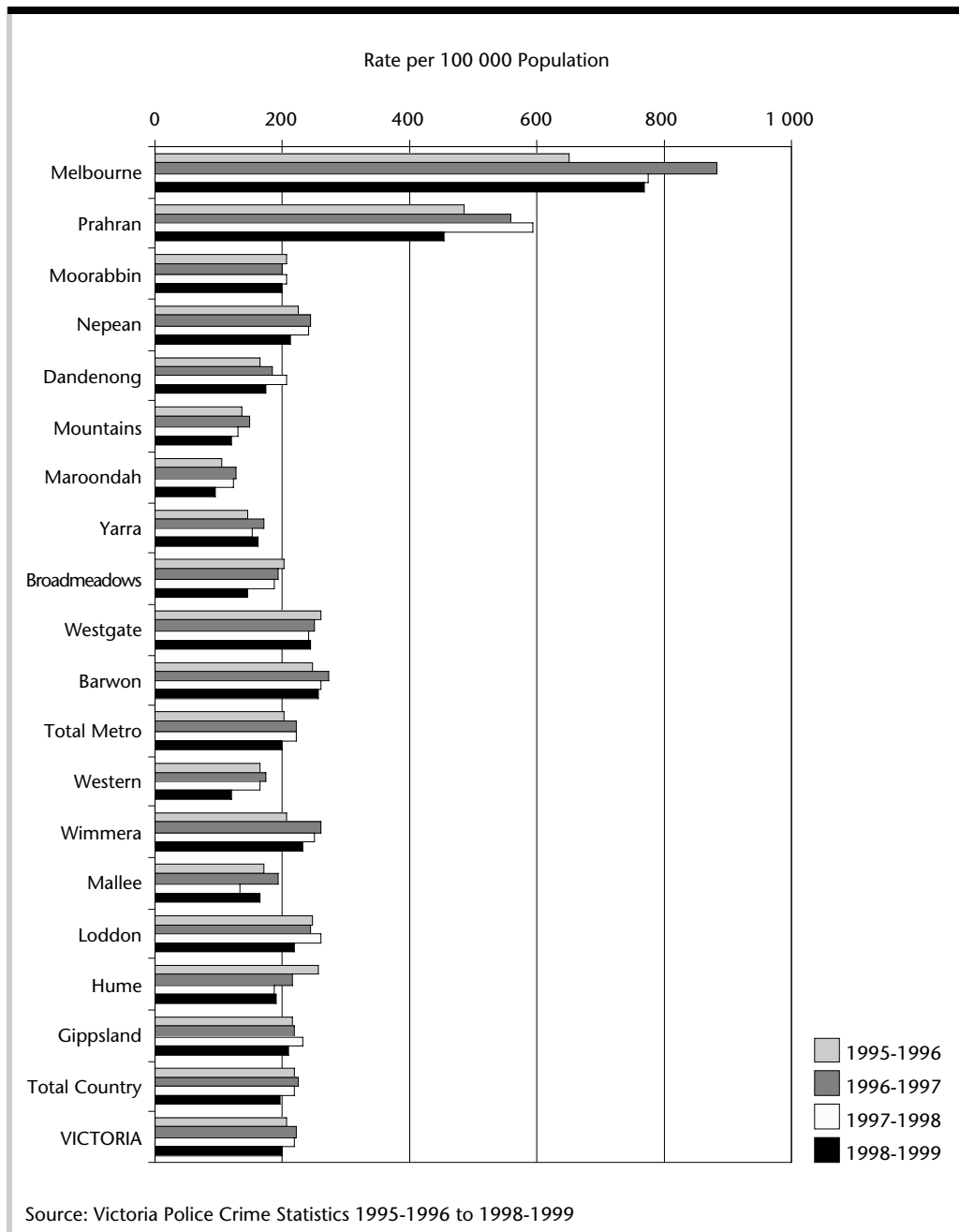
## THEFT OF BICYCLE

**Figure 7.23** Number of recorded theft of bicycle offences per year



After gradually increasing over the 3 years, 1995–1996 –1997–1998 the number of bicycle thefts dropped in 1998–1999. However, the number of bicycle thefts increased slightly (2.6%) in 1999–2000.

**Figure 7.24 Police District in which offence theft of bicycle occurred per year 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**



The rates of bicycle thefts per 100 000 have generally fallen in each of the Police Districts in 1998-1999, following peaks in 1996-1997 and 1997-1998.

**Table 7.13 Theft of bicycle offenders by age and sex per year 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**

Male					Age	Female				
1995-1996 %	1996-1997 %	1997-1998 %	1998-1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %		1995-1996 %	1996-1997 %	1997-1998 %	1998-1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %
0.38	0.25	0.31	0.20	6.9	<10	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00	6.5
25.13	26.76	22.85	20.63	3.3	10-14	0.64	0.37	0.62	0.99	3.4
46.17	44.27	38.42	37.80	3.4	15-19	2.30	1.36	2.28	1.79	3.5
13.78	11.71	15.26	16.27	3.6	20-24	0.64	0.37	2.49	0.60	3.7
5.74	6.66	9.97	10.71	4.0	25-29	0.64	0.74	0.52	1.98	4.0
3.83	4.56	5.50	6.94	7.7	30-39	0.13	0.99	0.42	0.69	7.8
0.38	0.62	1.25	1.19	7.1	40-49	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.2
0.00	0.37	0.00	0.00	5.6	50-59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.5
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	3.8	60-69	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	4.0
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.7	70-79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.4
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.0	80+	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.9
0.13	0.62	0.10	0.10		Unspecified	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
95.54	95.81	93.67	93.95		Total Persons	4.46	4.19	6.33	6.05	

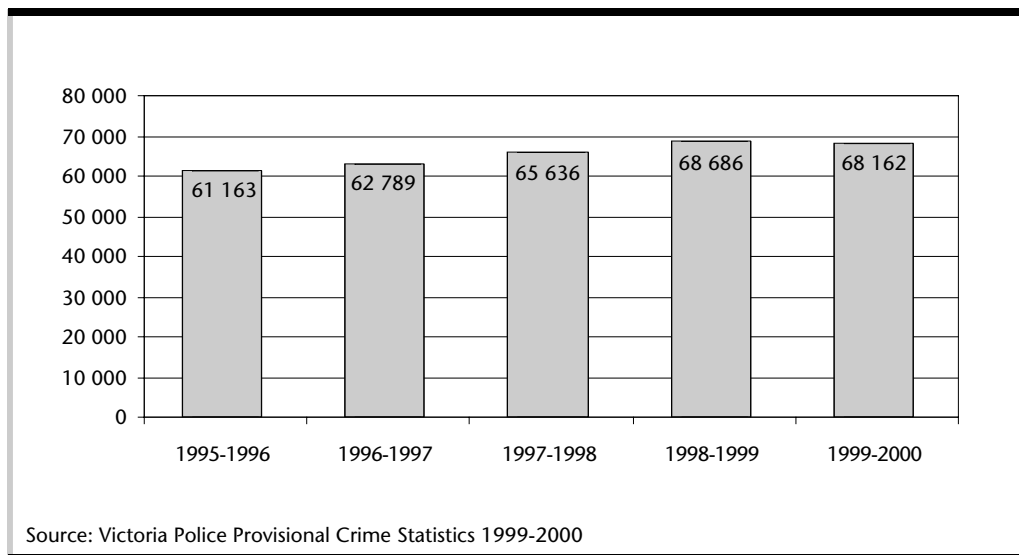
Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995-1996 to 1998-1999

The predominant offender categories for theft of bicycles were males aged 10-14 and 15-19, with these groups combined accounting for at least 58% of all offenders in each of the years of the series. However, their proportional representation has been in steady decline. In 1995-1996, 71.3% of all offenders were 10-19 year old males compared with 58.43% in 1998-1999. There have been steady increases in the proportions of 25-29 and 30-39 year-old male bicycle thieves over the same period.

## THEFT (OTHER)

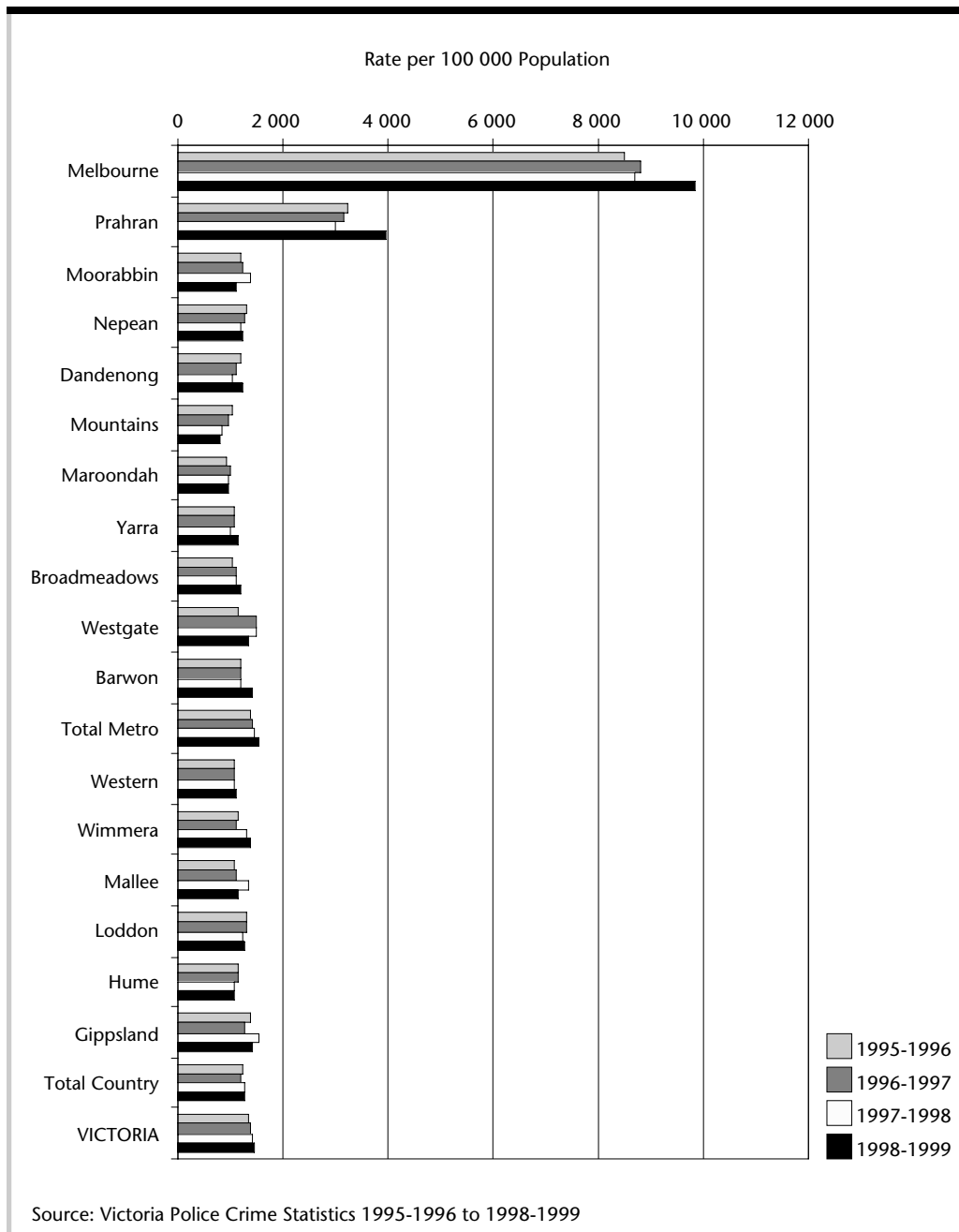
This category represents 10 offences of which Theft, Illegally use vehicle not motor car, and Steal mail from post, were the most common. Theft accounted for 99.96% of all 1998–1999 theft (other) offences.

**Figure 7.25 Number of recorded theft (other) offences per year**



The number of recorded other thefts has fallen slightly (0.8%) in 1999–2000 crime statistics relative to 1998–1999 figures, after 4 years of steady growth. Theft (other) is the largest single offence category, in 1999–2000 representing 15.6% of all recorded offences.

**Figure 7.26 Police District in which theft (other) offence occurred per year 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**



Melbourne, and to a lesser extent Broadmeadows Districts, have seen 4 years of steady growth in the rates of theft per 100 000 population. These two Districts alone accounted heavily for the overall upward trends in data for both the metro area and Victoria as a whole.

**Table 7.14 Theft (other) offenders by age and sex per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**

		Male			Age	Female				
1995–1996 %	1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %		1995–1996 %	1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %
0.04	0.05	0.14	0.03	6.9	<10	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.01	6.5
7.53	6.98	6.60	6.52	3.3	10-14	2.01	1.30	2.03	2.08	3.4
24.14	24.29	22.65	22.01	3.4	15-19	5.55	6.45	5.98	5.97	3.5
14.12	15.42	16.68	17.84	3.6	20-24	5.46	5.48	4.39	4.33	3.7
9.62	9.12	10.62	11.95	4.0	25-29	3.76	3.71	3.66	3.58	4.0
11.23	11.15	11.82	10.54	7.7	30-39	4.85	5.03	5.15	3.99	7.8
5.22	4.27	4.45	5.03	7.1	40-49	1.74	2.59	1.95	2.12	7.2
2.71	1.85	1.70	1.55	5.6	50-59	0.72	1.19	0.67	0.98	5.5
0.35	0.53	0.31	0.36	3.8	60-69	0.24	0.08	0.16	0.12	4.0
0.19	0.05	0.52	0.11	2.7	70-79	0.10	0.05	0.03	0.10	3.4
0.03	0.04	0.02	0.01	1.0	80+	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.01	1.9
0.19	0.18	0.27	0.42		Unspecified	0.15	0.13	0.16	0.32	
<b>75.38</b>	<b>73.94</b>	<b>75.79</b>	<b>76.38</b>		<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>24.62</b>	<b>26.06</b>	<b>24.21</b>	<b>23.62</b>	

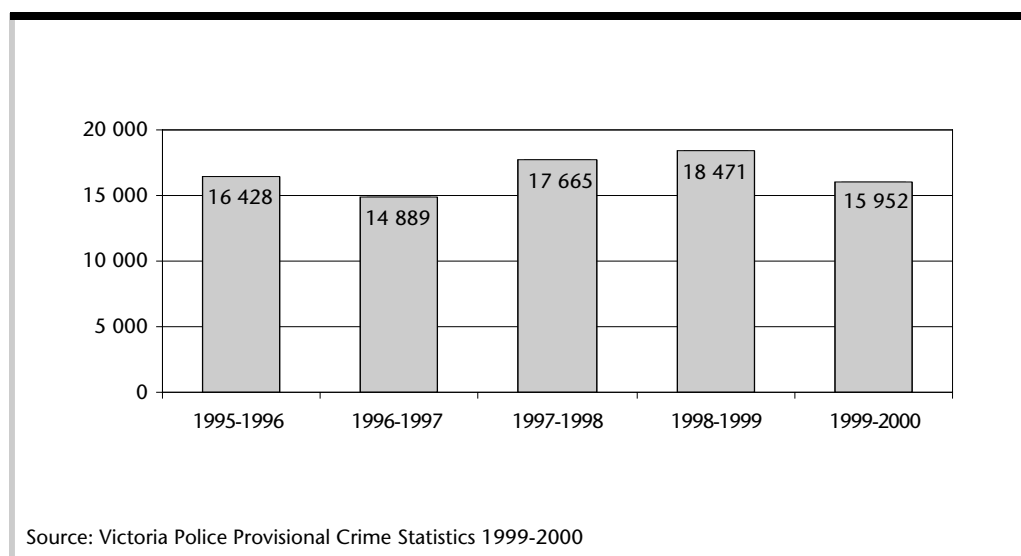
Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995–1996 to 1998–1999

The proportion of 'Other theft' male offenders aged 10–14 has been steadily decreasing, from 24.29% in 1996–1997 to 22.01% in 1998–1999. This decrease has been mirrored among 25–29 year-old females. At the same time, there have been upward trends in the proportion of 10–14 year old female and 25–29 year-old male offenders.



## 8. Drug Offences

**Figure 8.1** Number of recorded drug offences by year



The class of Drug Offences is made up of the following offence categories:

- Drug (Cultivate/Manufacture/Traffic), and
- Drug (Possess/Use)

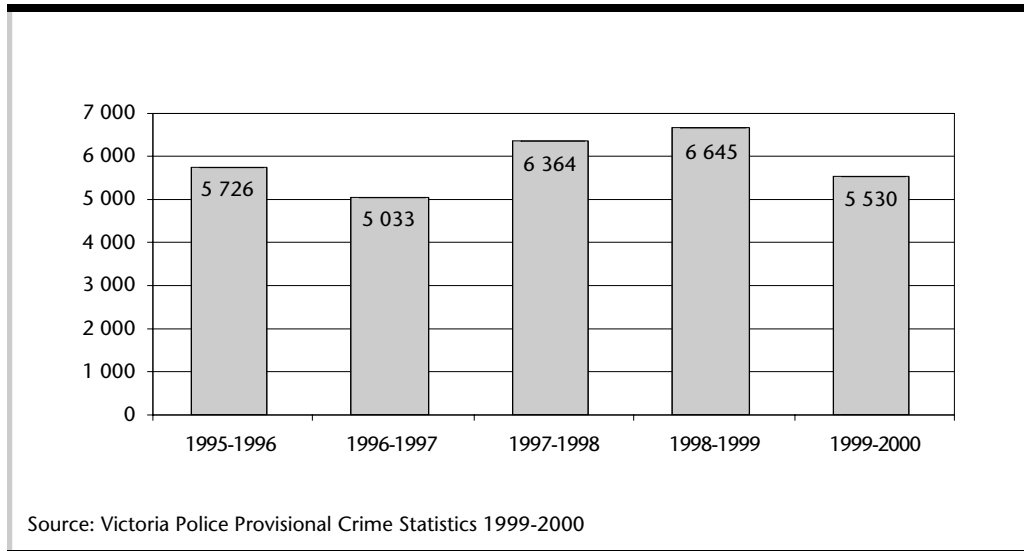
In the 5 years under review, Drug offences represented an average 3.95% of all offences recorded by police. In the 1998–1999 figures, 4.23% of all recorded crime were drug offences, while in the 1999–2000 figures the proportion had decreased to 3.65%. This reduction may be influenced by recent changes in police policy. However, it is not possible to attribute reasons for the reduction from these statistics alone. This is an area that requires further research.



**DRUG (CULTIVATE, MANUFACTURE, TRAFFIC)**

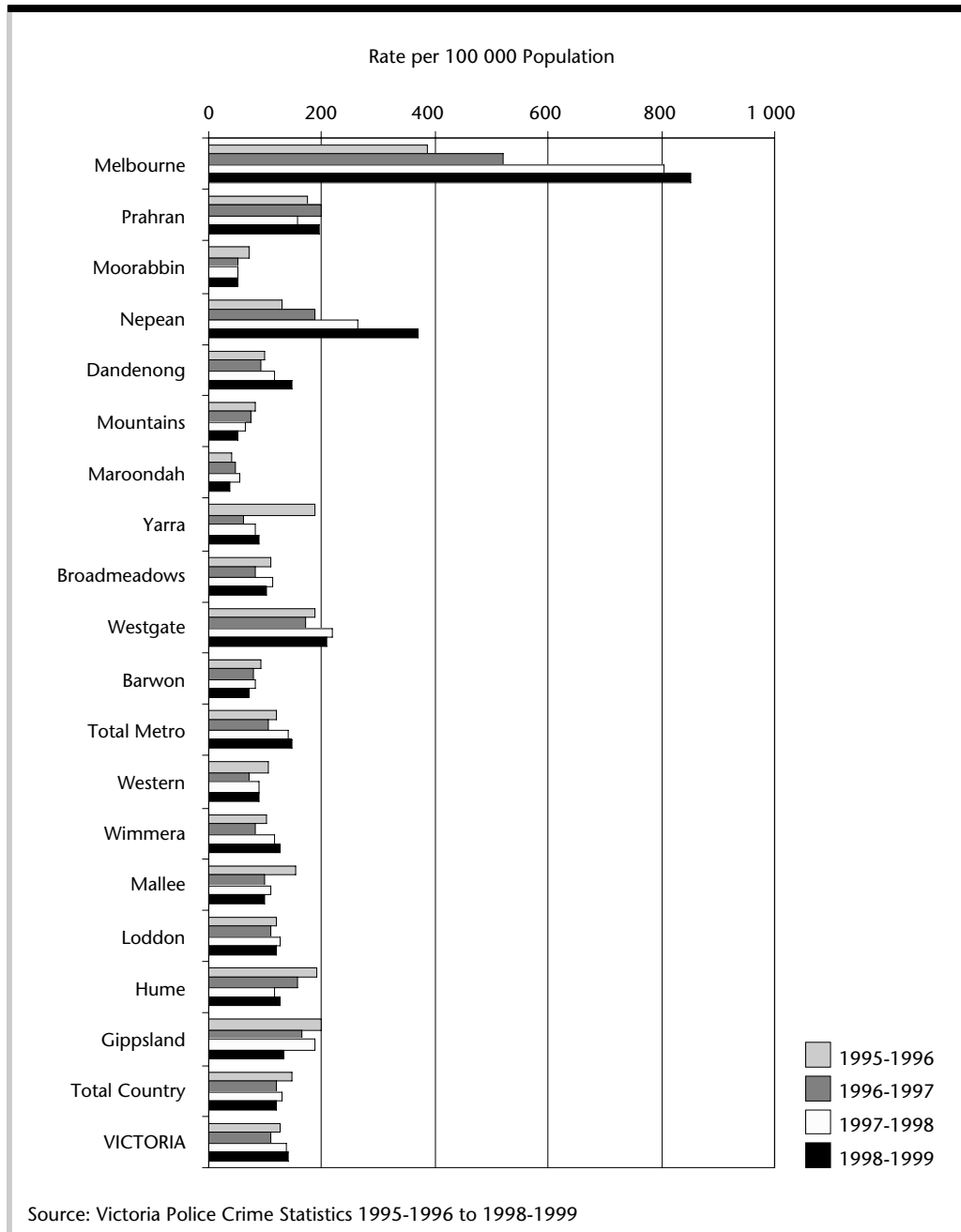
This category represents 25 offences of which: Traffic heroin (38.8% of 1998–1999 recorded offences), Traffic cannabis and Traffic amphetamines were the most commonly recorded offences.

**Figure 8.2 Number of recorded drug (cultivate, manufacture, traffic) offences per year**



The number of recorded drug cultivation, manufacturing and trafficking offences fell 16.8 % in the 1999–2000 figures relative to 1998–1999, after 3 years of steady growth.

**Figure 8.3 Police District in which drug (cultivate, manufacture, traffic) offence occurred per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**



The Melbourne and Nepean (which includes Springvale) Districts have seen the most dramatic rises in the rates of drug cultivate, manufacture and traffic offences over the years 1995–1996 to 1998–1999. Less dramatic increases have been recorded in Dandenong, Yarra, Wimmera and Loddon Districts, with a number of Districts recording declines in their rates of these offences.

**Table 8.1 Drug (cultivate, manufacture, traffic) offenders by age and sex per year 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**

Male					Age	Female				
1995-1996 %	1996-1997 %	1997-1998 %	1998-1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %		1995-1996 %	1996-1997 %	1997-1998 %	1998-1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %
0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.9	<10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.5
0.93	0.87	1.33	0.64	3.3	10-14	0.11	0.27	0.17	0.04	3.4
15.22	15.74	18.12	15.94	3.4	15-19	1.61	2.55	3.03	3.89	3.5
19.22	19.73	20.23	20.17	3.6	20-24	3.18	3.39	3.00	3.54	3.7
16.19	16.24	15.25	16.26	4.0	25-29	2.97	2.69	3.03	3.07	4.0
21.34	18.93	18.21	18.77	7.7	30-39	5.53	4.69	4.23	3.91	7.8
7.91	8.91	7.47	7.49	7.1	40-49	1.82	1.66	1.83	1.56	7.2
2.61	2.92	2.38	2.69	5.6	50-59	0.42	0.32	0.37	0.55	5.5
0.51	0.71	0.79	0.67	3.8	60-69	0.08	0.02	0.07	0.05	4.0
0.08	0.09	0.04	0.09	2.7	70-79	0.00	0.05	0.04	0.02	3.4
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.0	80+	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.9
0.15	0.11	0.31	0.42		Unspecified	0.08	0.11	0.09	0.24	
<b>84.19</b>	<b>84.24</b>	<b>84.14</b>	<b>83.14</b>		<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>15.81</b>	<b>15.76</b>	<b>15.86</b>	<b>16.86</b>	

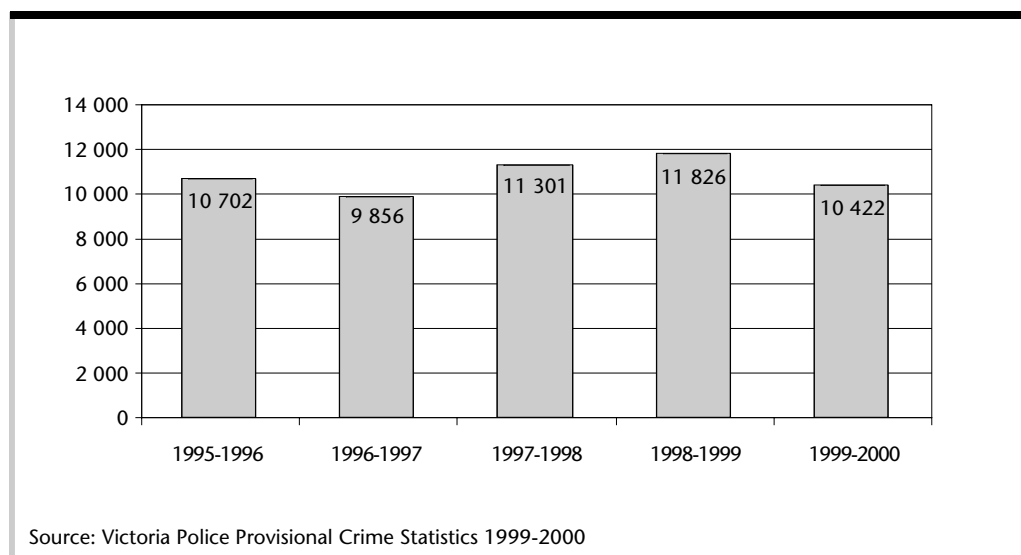
Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995-1996 to 1998-1999

Consistently, the highest proportion of offenders (relative to their proportion of the general population) for this offence were 20-24 year-old males. This group accounted for at least 19.22% of all offenders for each year of the data series. Offender profiles were reasonably stable for these offences with the exception of females aged 15-19 whose proportional representation increased steadily from 1.61% of all offenders in 1995-1996 to 3.89% in 1998-1999. Steady decreases are seen in the proportions of 30 to 39 year old male and female offenders over this period.

## DRUG (POSSESS, USE)

Thirty-one offences make up the drug (possess, use) category. The most commonly recorded include: Possess cannabis (37.4% of 1998–1999 drug (possess, use) offences), Possess heroin, Use heroin and Use cannabis.

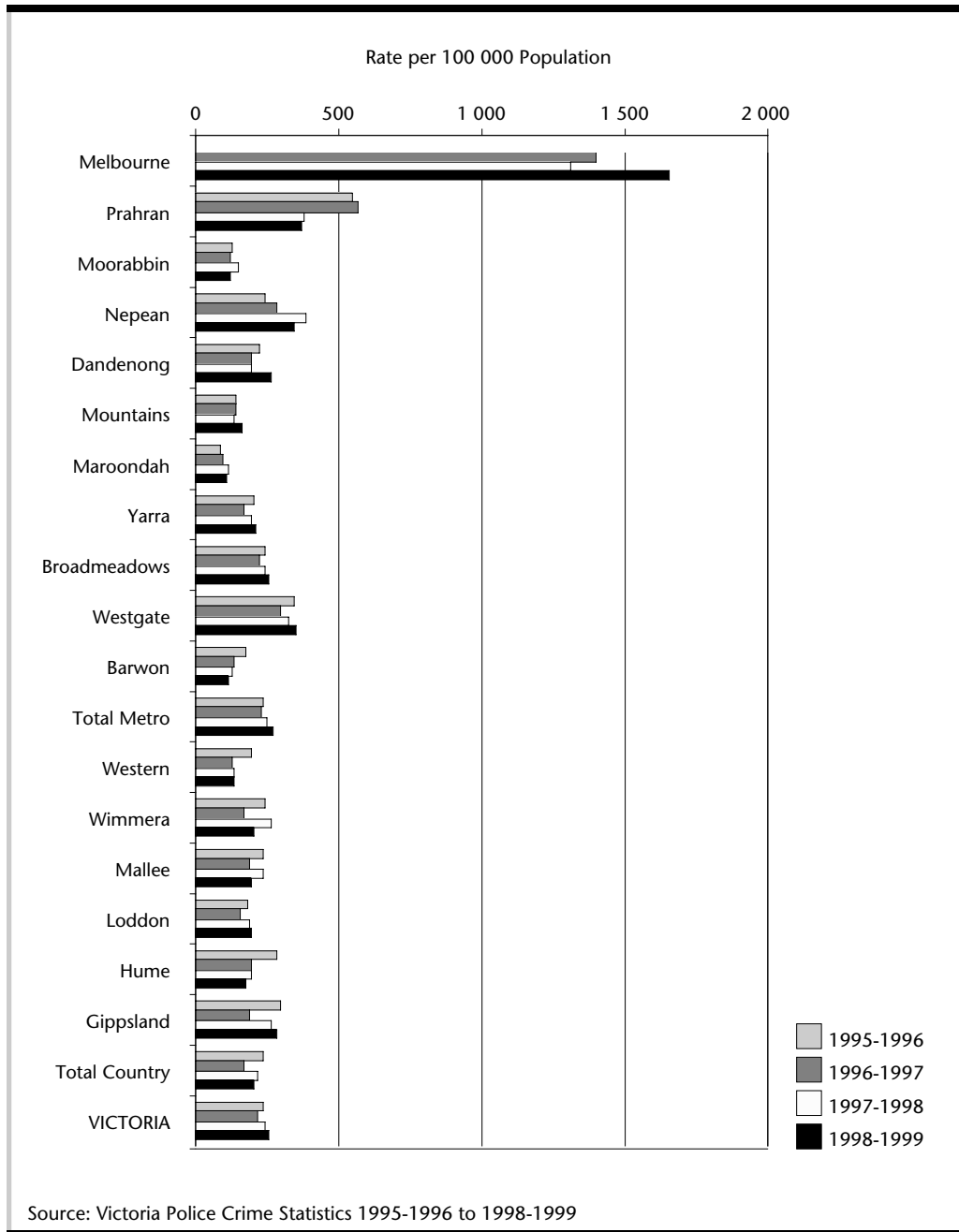
**Figure 8.4** Number of recorded drug (possess, use) offences per year 1995–1996 to 1999–2000



The trends in Drug (Possess/Use) mirror those of Drug (Cultivation/Manufacture /Traffic). Drug (Possess/Use) offences recorded in the 1999–2000 crime figures represent a reduction in relation to 1998–1999 figures, after 3 years of steady growth. The 1999–2000 figure was 11.9% lower than that of 1998–1999.

It must be noted that recorded crime statistics represent only the most serious offence that best describes a particular course of criminal conduct, and secondary offences are not counted. When an alleged offender is in possession of a drug and admits using the drug, only the offence of possession is counted although the alleged offender would be charged with both offences.

**Figure 8.5 Police District in which drug (possess, use) offence occurred per year 1995-1996 to 1998-1999**



The most notable trends in the data concerning Rates of drug (possession/use) by Police District in which the offence occurred, (1995-1996 to 1998-1999) include the increases in Melbourne, Nepean, Yarra, Broadmeadows, Westgate and Gippsland Districts over a 3 or 4 year period. These reflect increases in police operations in those areas. Also of interest are the downturns in the rates of offence in Prahran, Barwon and Hume Districts.

**Table 8.2 Drug (possess, use) offenders by age and sex per year 1995–1996 to 1998–1999**

Male					Age	Female				
1995–1996 %	1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %		1995–1996 %	1996–1997 %	1997–1998 %	1998–1999 %	VIC POP 6/99 %
0.03	0.00	0.01	0.00	6.9	<10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.5
1.66	1.96	1.77	1.17	3.3	10-14	0.45	0.38	0.41	0.29	3.4
23.49	24.91	24.42	23.29	3.4	15-19	3.16	4.08	4.41	5.27	3.5
24.62	24.86	25.78	25.63	3.6	20-24	4.26	3.75	3.82	4.47	3.7
15.12	15.44	15.16	15.55	4.0	25-29	3.41	2.53	3.33	3.42	4.0
14.73	13.88	13.26	12.59	7.7	30-39	3.79	2.96	2.85	2.94	7.8
3.53	3.64	2.98	3.25	7.1	40-49	0.85	0.65	0.60	0.77	7.2
0.49	0.62	0.72	0.73	5.6	50-59	0.04	0.07	0.10	0.12	5.5
0.11	0.09	0.09	0.04	3.8	60-69	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.01	4.0
0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02	2.7	70-79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.4
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	1.0	80+	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.9
0.13	0.11	0.16	0.26		Unspecified	0.09	0.07	0.09	0.15	
83.90	85.49	84.37	82.55		Total Persons	16.10	14.51	15.63	17.45	

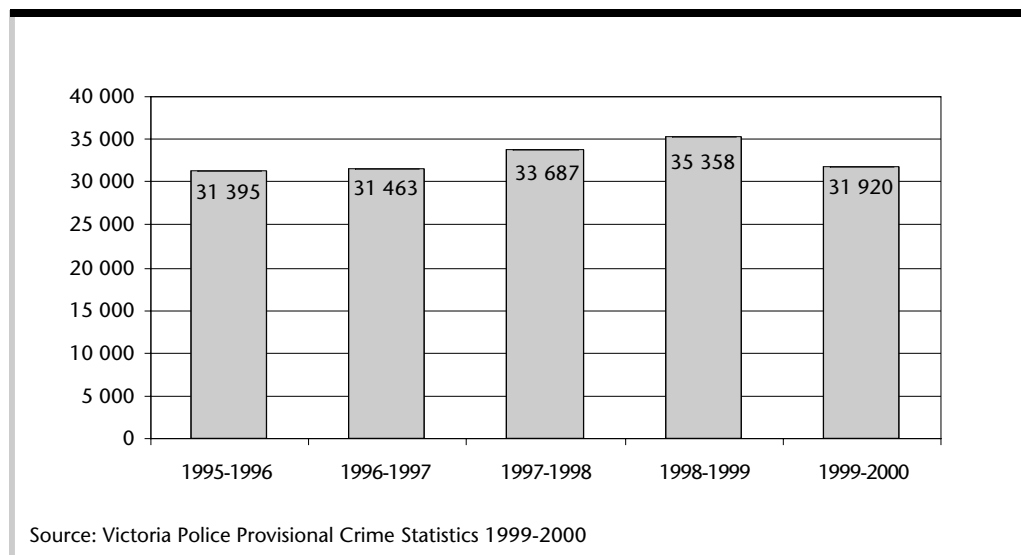
Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics 1995–1996 to 1998–1999

The proportions of drug (possess/use) offenders have remained fairly stable over the 4 years of the data series with males representing between 82.55% and 85.46% of all offenders. The combined offender categories, 15–19 and 20–24 year-old males, typically accounted for around 48% of all offenders in each year of the data series. There was an increasing proportion of 15–19 year-old female offenders over the years of the data series with a decline in the proportions of 30–39 year-old males.



## 9. Other Crime

**Figure 9.1 Recorded other crime per year**



The class of Other Crime consists of the following offence categories:

- Going Equipped to Steal;
- Justice Procedures;
- Regulated Public Order Offences;
- Weapons/Explosives;
- Harassment;
- Behaviour in Public;
- Other.

In the 5 years under review, Other Crime represented an average 7.76% of all offences recorded by police. In the 1997–1998 figures, 8.09% of all recorded crime were Other Crimes, while in the 1999–2000 figures the proportion had decreased to 7.31%

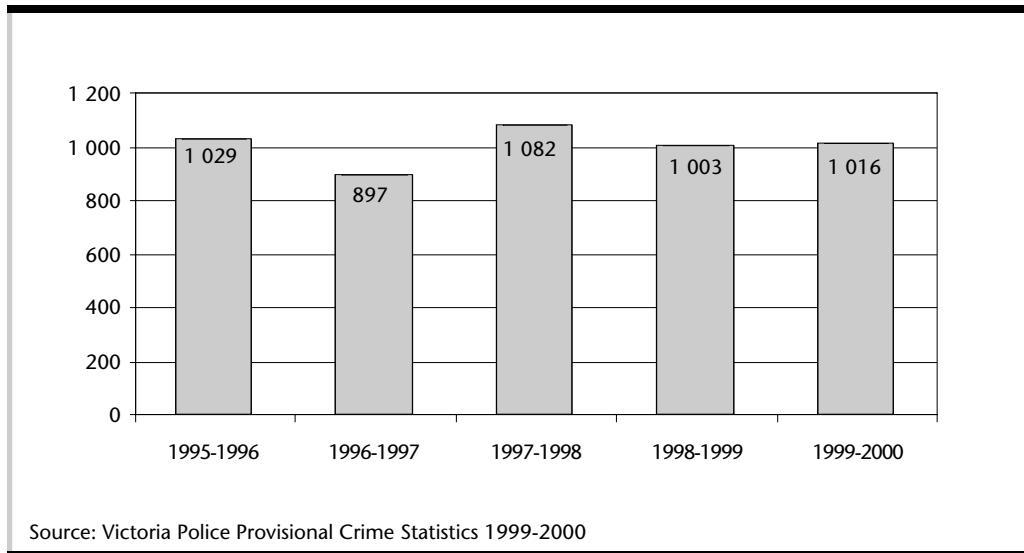
Note. Between July 1993 and June 1996 the heading ‘Other Crime’ included the offence categories of Drug (Cultivate/Manufacture/Traffic), Drug (Possess/Use), Other Indictable, and Other Summary.

Prior to 1997–1998 the current offence categories were not reported against, so comparable location and offender trend data is only available for these offences for the years 1997–1998 and 1998–1999 and is therefore not included in this Report.



## GOING EQUIPPED TO STEAL

**Figure 9.2** Number of recorded going equipped to steal offences per year

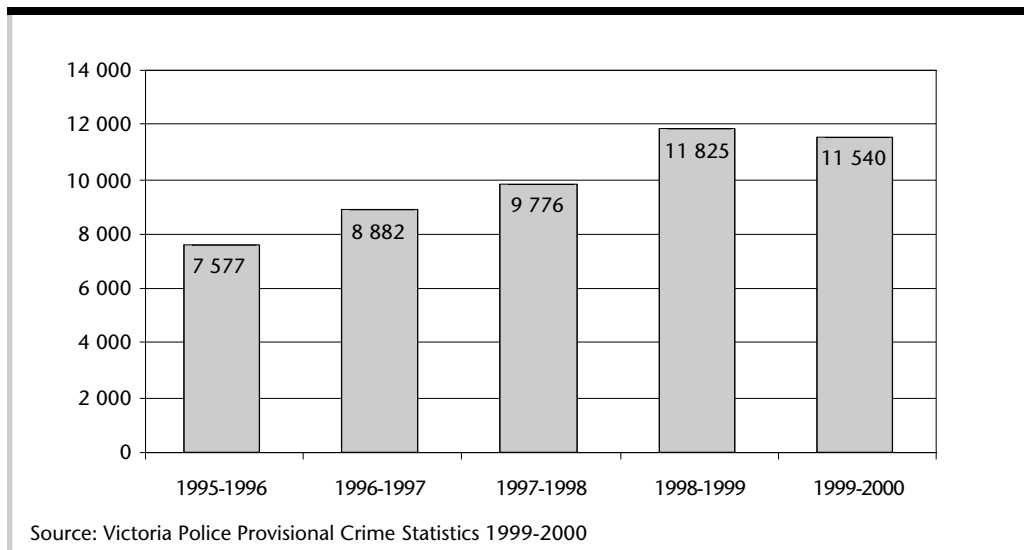


The number of going equipped to steal offences tended to fluctuate around 1000 offences per year. The 1999–2000 figure of 1016 offences represents a 1.3% increase on the previous year’s total.

## JUSTICE PROCEDURES

The justice procedures category comprises 110 different offences of which: Breach of intervention order (40.9% of 1998–1999-recorded justice procedure offences), Resist police/resist arrest, and Fail to answer bail are the most commonly recorded.

**Figure 9.3** Number of recorded justice procedure offences per year

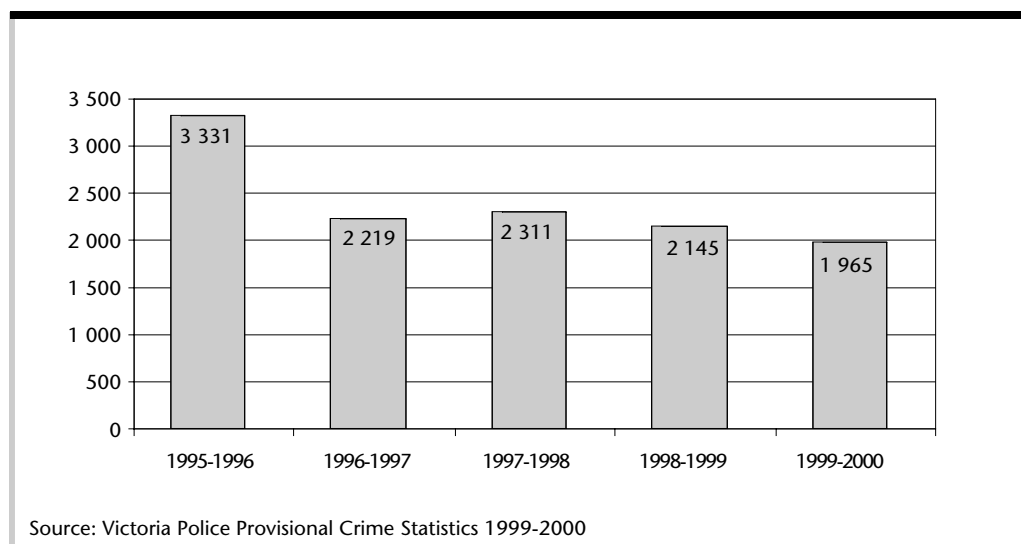


There has been a steady upward trend in the number of justice procedure offences being recorded by police between 1995–1996 and 1998–1999 with a slight (2.4%) downturn in the 1999–2000 figures. Within this category there were increases in both fail to answer bail (up 15.2%) and breach of intervention orders (up 2.0%) offences, recorded between 1998–1999 and 1999–2000.

## REGULATED PUBLIC ORDER

There are 162 different offences making up the regulated public order category. The most commonly recorded offences include: Prostitution-loiter for prostitution (19.9% of 1998–1999 recorded regulated public order offences), Minor possess liquor, Minor consume liquor offences.

**Figure 9.4** Number of recorded regulated public order offences per year

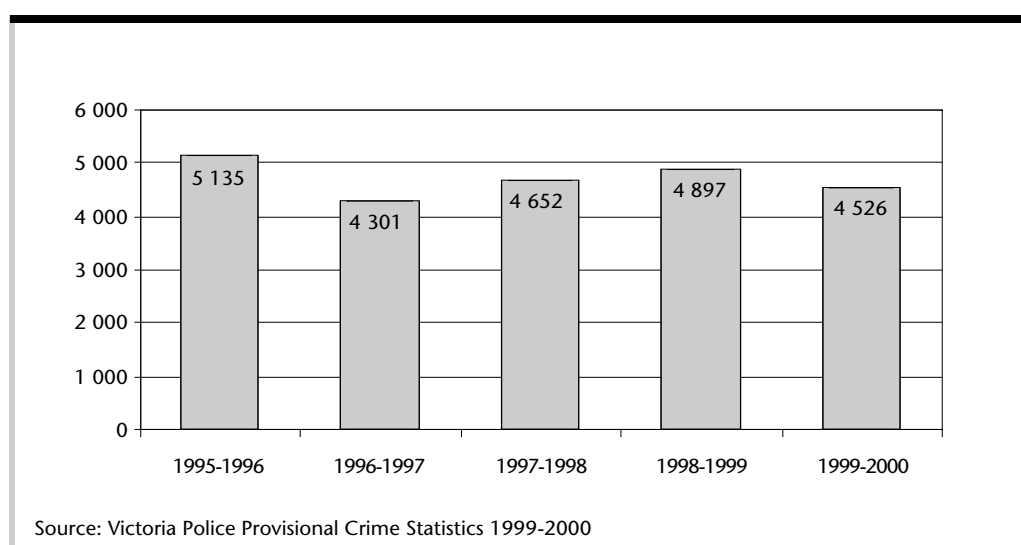


There has been a steady downward trend in Regulated Public Order offences over the 5 years of the data series. The 1999–2000 figure of 1 965 offences was 8.4% lower than that of 1998–1999 and 41% lower than the 1995–1996 figure of 3 331.

## WEAPONS EXPLOSIVES

There are 169 offences in this category. The most commonly recorded offences include: Possess regulated weapon (37% of all recorded weapons/explosives offences recorded in 1998–1999), Possess/carry/use unlicensed gun, Possess a dangerous article and Prohibited person possess a firearm.

**Figure 9.5** Number of recorded weapons/explosives offences per year

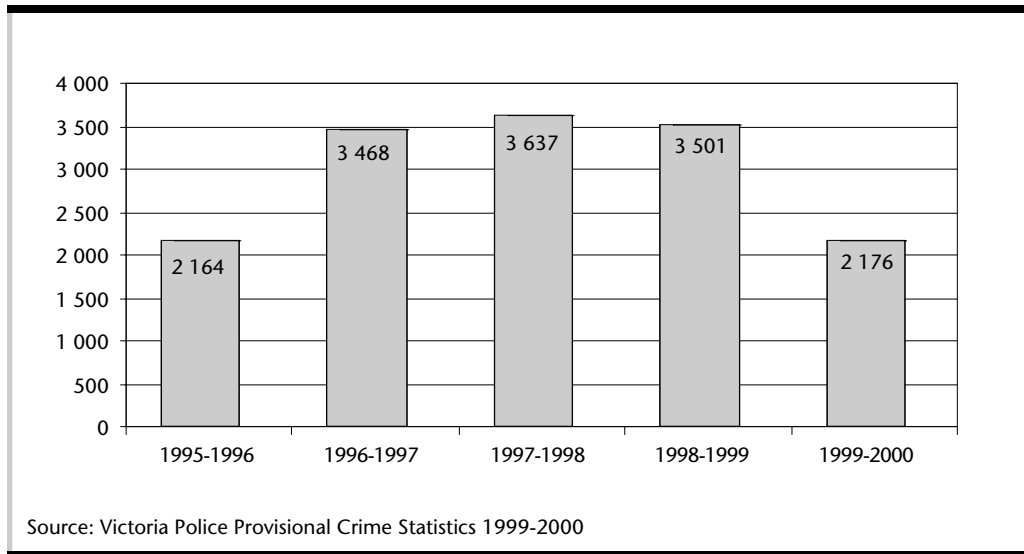


Weapons/Explosives offences tended to fluctuate around the high 4000 offences per year mark. The 1999–2000 figure of 4526 was 7.6% lower than that recorded in 1998–1999.

**HARASSMENT**

There are 26 offences in the harassment category. The most commonly recorded offences include: Use phone service to menace/harass/offend (34% of all 1998–1999-harassment offences), Stalk another person, Use telecommunications service to menace, Use telecommunications service to harass and Knowingly interfere with facility.

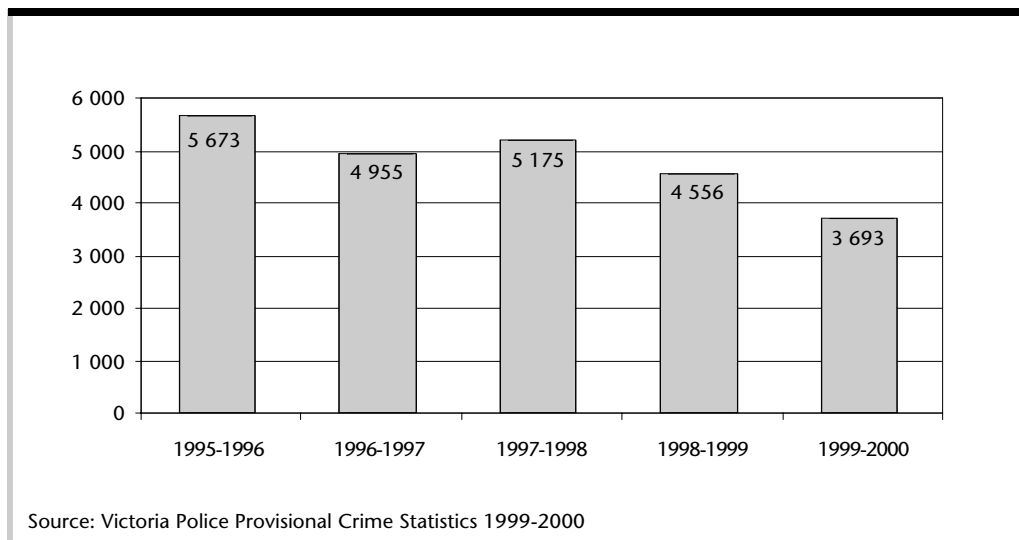
**Figure 9.6 Number of recorded harassment offences per year**



Harassment figures declined 37.8% in 1999–2000 compared with the 1998–1999 figures, to be on level footing with the number recorded in 1995–1996. Within this category, there were large decreases in the number of recorded ‘Use phone/telecommunications/postal service to stalk/menace/harass/offend’ (down 48.8) and ‘Stalk another person’ (down 15.6) offences in 1999–2000 relative to 1998–1999 figures.

**BEHAVIOUR IN PUBLIC**

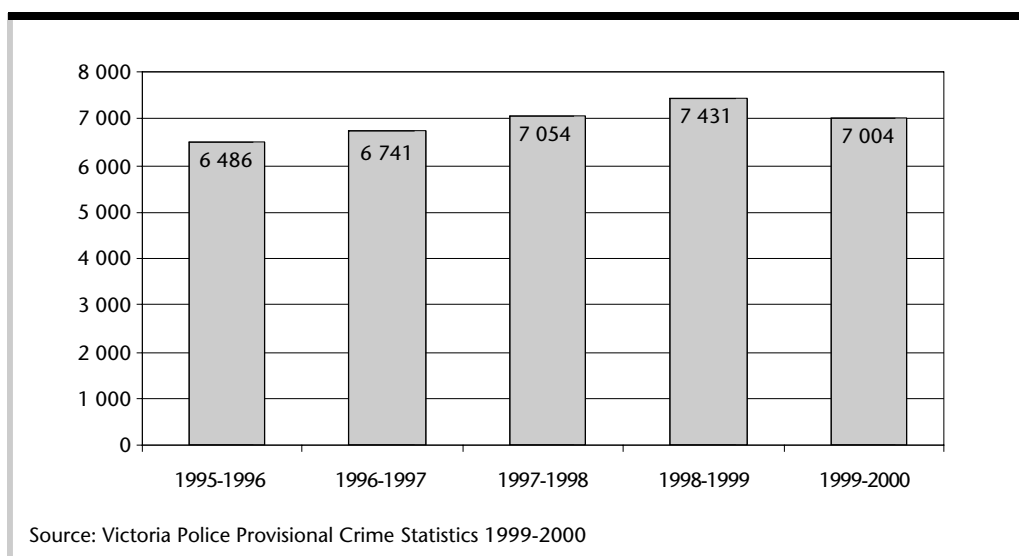
This category contains 57 different offences. The most commonly recorded offences includes: Behave in an offensive manner in a public place (33% of all 1998–1999 behaviour in public offences), Use indecent language in a public place, Drunk in a public place and Loiter with intent to commit an indictable offence.

**Figure 9.7** Number of recorded behaviour in public offences per year

The number of recorded Behaviour in Public offences has been in steady decline over the last 5 financial years, dropping 35% from a high of 5673 in 1995–1996 to 3693 in 1999–2000.

#### OTHER OFFENCES

This category is a grab bag of 408 different offences. Unlawfully on premises (20.8% of all 1998–1999 other offences), Tamper with motor vehicle, Licensed Motor Car Trader fail to make entries in dealings book, Interfere with motor vehicle, Beg alms, Bomb hoax-make statement/convey information and Travel without a valid ticket are among the most common offences.

**Figure 9.8** Number of recorded other offences per year

There has been a slight upward trend in the number of 'other offences' recorded over the 5 years of the data series, with the 1999–2000 figures showing a slight decrease on the 1998–1999 figures, after 4 years of steady growth.



## Conclusion

The Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee received a reference from the Legislative Council on 1 March 2000 to:

inquire into, consider and report on the incidence of crime in Victoria and to report every six months to the Parliament on levels of crime, areas of emerging concern and (where suitable) options for crime reduction or control.

This Report is the first in a series of reports to Parliament in relation to this reference. The purpose of this Report was to provide five years of comparable crime data from 1995–1996 to 1999–2000, which would set both a benchmark of crime levels in Victoria and clearly show any trends emerging from the official police statistics and national crime statistics.

The Report shows that whilst official statistics, such as Victoria Police and ABS statistics are used to measure crime they have clear limitations which need to be taken into account when they are being interpreted. Crime Victimization Surveys and Self-Report Surveys, which also have limitations, are useful in understanding the nature and extent of the 'dark figure of crime'. When used in conjunction with official statistics a much more comprehensive understanding of crime can be obtained.

The Report presented and analysed 3, 4, or 5-year trend data on a number of variables for each of the 4 classes and 27 categories of crime recorded by Victoria Police for the years 1995–1996 to 1999–2000. Nationally comparable offence data from the ABS, for the years 1995 to 1999, were included where they fit into particular Victoria Police categories.

A number of trends were identified and these were presented in the section 'Summary of Crime Trends Data 1995–1996 to 1999–2000'. This report provides the Committee with solid statistical data on which to base further investigations.



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## Appendix 1. Police Stations in Police Districts.

### Metropolitan District Stations

#### 'A' DISTRICT (MELBOURNE)

Bourke/Swanson St Booth	Carlton	City Patrol Group
Collingwood	Fitzroy	Flinders St Booth
Melbourne City	Melb Custody Centre	Richmond
Swanston St		

#### 'B' DISTRICT (PRAHRAN)

Prahran	South Melbourne	St Kilda
St Kilda Road		

#### 'C' DISTRICT (MOORABBIN)

Brighton	Caulfield	Cheltenham
Clayton	Elsternwick	Glenhuntly
Malvern	Moorabbin	Murrumbeena
Oakleigh	Sandringham	

#### 'D' DISTRICT (NEPEAN)

Chelsea	Dromana	Frankston
Hastings	Mordialloc	Mornington
Rosebud	Rye	Sorrento
Springvale		

#### 'E' DISTRICT (DANDENONG)

Bunyip	Cowes	Cranbourne
Dandenong	Doveton	Koo-wee-rup
Lang Lang	Narre Warren	Pakenham
San Remo	Wonthaggi	

#### 'F' DISTRICT (MOUNTAINS)

Belgrave	Boronia	Croydon
Emerald	Healesville	Knox
Lilydale	Monbulk	Mooroolbark
Mount Evelyn	Olinda	Ringwood
Warburton	Yarra Glen	Yarra Junction

#### 'G' DISTRICT (MAROONDAH)

Ashburton	Balwyn	Box Hill
Burwood	Camberwell	Doncaster
Glen Waverley	Hawthorn	Kew
Mount Waverley	Warrandyte	

#### 'H' DISTRICT (YARRA)

Diamond Creek	Eltham	Epping
Greensborough	Heidelberg	Heidelberg west
Hurstbridge	Mill Park	Northcote
Preston	Preston East	Reservoir
Whittlesea		

**'I' DISTRICT (BROADMEADOWS)**

Avondale Heights	Broadmeadows	Brunswick
Campbellfield	Coburg	Craigieburn
Flemington	Gisborne	Keilor Downs
Macedon	Melbourne Airport	Moonee Ponds
St Albans	Sunbury	Westmeadows

**'J' DISTRICT (WESTGATE)**

Altona North	Bacchus Marsh	Footscray
Kingsville	Laverton	Maidstone
Melton	Sunshine	Werribee
Williamstown		

**'K' DISTRICT (BARWON)**

Anglesea	Bannockburn	Birregurra
Corio	Drysdale	Geelong
InverleighLara	Lorne	
Meredith	Ocean Grove	Portarlington
Queenscliff	Rokewood	Torquay
Winchelsea		

**Country Districts 24 Hour Stations**

**'L' DISTRICT (WESTERN)**

Colac	Hamilton
Portland	Warrnambool

**'M' DISTRICT (HIGHLANDS/WIMMERA)**

Ararat	Ballarat
Horsham	

**'N' DISTRICT (MALLEE)**

Mildura	Swan Hill
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**'O' DISTRICT (LODDON/CAMPASPE)**

Bendigo	Castlemaine
Echuca	Kyneton
Maryborough	Shepparton

**'P' DISTRICT (HUME)**

Benalla	Mansfield
Seymour	Wangaratta
Wodonga	

**'Q' DISTRICT (GIPPSLAND)**

Bairnsdale	Moe
Morwell	Sale
Traralgon	Warragul