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**CRIME, THE COURTS
AND CORRECTIONS:
South African
statistics for 1992**

**Lorraine Glanz
Charmaine Smit**

**HSRC
Pretoria
1995**

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LORRAINE GLANZ
CHARMAINE SMIT
January 1995

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Abstract

The aim of this report was, firstly, to present criminal justice statistics for the RSA for 1992 and, secondly, to sensitize the reader to the numerous complexities surrounding crime statistics and the crime situation in this country. South Africa does not have a strong tradition of transparency and accountability in terms of reporting crime information. This report was therefore an attempt to bring together, in one publication, the three main types of official crime information in South Africa, namely police, court and prison statistics, as well as victimization data. The victimization data were obtained from a countrywide survey conducted by the HSRC. Crime trends over the five-year period preceding 1992 were also reviewed in the report.

The number of crimes reported to the police is the first link in the chain of official crime statistics. Police statistics for 1992 were obtained from the South African Police Service, and the information is presented according to province, and within provinces according to metropolitan area. There were considerable differences between the provinces in the total offence rate: The Orange Free State appeared to be the safest province in the country in terms of an individual's aggregate chances of becoming a victim of crime. Natal had the highest crime rate, followed by the Transvaal and the Cape Province.

In terms of metropolitan area, Johannesburg and Soweto had the highest rate for property offences, and were also ranked first with regard to the level of seriousness of crime. Durban took second position with regard to property crime and the level of seriousness of crime. Rather surprisingly, Port Elizabeth had the highest rate for violent offences, but was ranked second lowest on property offences. Bloemfontein most certainly appeared to be the safest metropolitan area in the RSA. In sum: Property crime had a six times higher rate in Johannesburg and Soweto than it had in Bloemfontein; the rate of violent crime was four times higher in Port Elizabeth than it was in Bloemfontein; and the level of seriousness of crime was five times higher in Johannesburg and Soweto than it was in Bloemfontein.

A total of 485 099 persons were prosecuted in South African courts in 1991/92. Convictions were obtained in 77 per cent of the prosecutions. The conviction rate varied considerably by subclass of offence. Whereas the rate was relatively low for sex-related offences, theft from the person, and abduction and kidnapping, it was relatively high for offences involving public finance (for example, contravention of income tax laws), drug-related offences, and offences against communal life (such as gambling).

Males were convicted seven times more often than females, and they were generally convicted of more serious crimes. Also of note is the fact that young males between the ages of 18 and 20 years were convicted of relatively serious crimes—rape, burglary and robbery in particular—at a very high rate.

There were a number of inconsistencies in South African criminal justice statistics. For example, there appeared to be a discrepancy between the number of crimes reported by the police, their reported crime clear-up rate and the number of cases going to court. The most disconcerting aspect of this problem was the fact that, whereas crime increased steadily by 25 per cent from 1988 to 1992, the number of both prosecutions and convictions dropped by 4 per cent.

The above notwithstanding, more than 400 000 persons were admitted to prisons in the RSA during 1992. The majority (58 per cent) of them were awaiting-trial prisoners. In view of the fact that over 90 000 persons were admitted to prison with sentences of six months or less (in other words, who were found guilty of less serious offences), one must assume that, of the 235 000 awaiting-trial prisoners, a considerable proportion must have been granted, and not been able to meet bail. In addition, awaiting-trial prisoners constituted approximately 18 per cent of the prison population at any given time. The awaiting-trial period appeared to be longest in the case of the black accused. This suggests that court cases took longer to be finalized in the case of this group of prisoners. This matter needs urgent attention.

The overrepresentation of the coloureds is one of the most notable features of the South African prison population. Questions such as whether the coloureds actually committed more crime than persons from the other population groups, and whether the difference in the crime commission rate was of the magnitude suggested by the prison statistics, were addressed in the report.

The victimization data in the report indicate that 25 per cent of the survey sample reported that they, or a member of their household had been criminally victimized during 1992. Of concern is the fact that one in ten households reported that a member had been the victim of a violent crime.

For a country experiencing the magnitude of crime that South Africa is experiencing at present, a more efficient, effective and innovative management of the crime problem is needed. This can only be achieved with adequate information. The need for ongoing, careful analysis of criminal justice statistics was thereafter emphasized in the report.

Ekserp

Die doel met hierdie verslag was om, eerstens, strafregplegingstatistiek vir die RSA vir 1992 aan te bied en, tweedens, om die leser bedag te maak op die talle kompleksiteite rondom misdaadstatistiek en die misdaadsituasie in hierdie land. Suid-Afrika het nie 'n sterk tradisie van deursigtigheid en verantwoordbaarheid ten opsigte van verslagdoening oor misdaadinligting nie. Hierdie verslag was daarom 'n poging om die drie hoofsoorte amptelike misdaadinligting, naamlik polisie-, hof-, en gevangenisstatistiek, asook viktimisasiedata, in een publikasie bymekaar te bring. Die viktimisasiedata is verkry uit 'n landwye opname onderneem deur die RGN. Misdaad-tendense oor die vyfjaartydperk voor 1992 is ook bekryk.

Die aantal misdade wat by die polisie aangemeld word, is die eerste skakel in die ketting van amptelike misdaadstatistiek. Polisiestatistiek vir 1992 is van die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisie Diens verkry, en per provinsie en per metropolitaanse gebied binne provinsies aangedui. Daar was aansienlike verskille tussen die provinsies ten opsigte van die totale misdaadsyfer. Die Oranje-Vrystaat was klaarblyklik die veiligste provinsie ten opsigte van 'n individu se algehele kans om 'n slagoffer van misdaad te word. Natal het die hoogste misdaadkoers gehad, gevolg deur Transvaal en die Kaaprovinsie.

Onder die metropolitaanse gebiede het Johannesburg en Soweto die hoogste koers vir eiendoms misdade gehad, en die erns van die misdade daar was ook die hoogste. Durban het die tweede hoogste koers vir eiendoms misdade gehad, en die erns van misdaad daar was die tweede hoogste. Dit was nogal verrassend dat Port Elizabeth die hoogste koers vir geweldsmisdade gehad het, maar die tweede laagste koers vir eiendoms misdade. Bloemfontein was sekerlik die veiligste metropolitaanse gebied in die RSA. Om op te som: Eiendoms misdade het 'n ses keer hoër koers in Johannesburg en Soweto as in Bloemfontein gehad; die koers vir geweldsmisdade was vier keer hoër in Port Elizabeth as in Bloemfontein; en die erns van misdaad was vyf keer hoër in Johannesburg en Soweto as in Bloemfontein.

Altesaam 485 099 persone is gedurende 1991/1992 in Suid-Afrikaanse howe vervolgt. Skuldigebevindings is in 77 persent van die vervolgings verkry. Die skuldigebevindingskoers het aansienlik gewissel per misdaadsubklas. Teenoor die relatief lae koers vir seksverwante misdade, diefstal van die persoon, en ontvoering en menseroof, was daar 'n relatief hoër koers vir misdade wat met openbare finansies te doen het (byvoorbeeld oortreding van inkomstebelastingwette), dwelmverwante misdaad, en misdaad teen die gemeenskaplewe (soos dobbelary).

Mans is sewe keer meer dikwels as vroue skuldig bevind, en hulle is in die algemeen aan ernstiger misdade skuldig bevind as vroue. Dit is belangrik om daarop te let dat jong mans tussen die ouderdom van 18 en 20 teen 'n baie hoër koers aan taamlik ernstige misdaad—verkragting, diefstal en roof in die besonder—skuldig bevind is.

Daar was 'n aantal teenstrydighede in die Suid-Afrikaanse strafregplegingstatistiek. Byvoorbeeld, daar het geblyk 'n verskil te wees tussen die aantal misdade wat by die polisie aangemeld word, hul gerapporteerde oplossingskoers en die aantal sake wat na die hof verwys is. Die ontstellendste aspek van hierdie probleem was dat, terwyl misdaad bestendig met 25 persent tussen 1988 en 1992 toegeneem het, die getal vervolgings en skuldigbevindings met 4 persent afgeneem het.

Bogenoemde ten spyt, is meer as 400 000 persone gedurende 1992 in gevangnisse in die RSA opgeneem. Die meerderheid (58 persent) van hulle is opgeneem as verhoorafwagtendes. In die lig daarvan dat meer as 90 000 persone met strawwe van ses maande of minder (met ander woorde, persone wat aan minder ernstige misdaad skuldig bevind is) in gevangnisse opgeneem is, moet 'n mens aanvaar dat, onder die 235 000 verhoorafwagtendes, daar 'n aansienlike aantal moes gewees het aan wie borgtog toegestaan is maar wat die borggeld nie kon betaal nie. Boonop het verhoorafwagtendes ongeveer 18 persent van die gevangenisbevolking op enige gegewe tydstip uitgemaak. Die verhoorafwagtingstyd het geblyk die langste te wees in die geval van die swart beskuldigdes. Dit dui daarop dat hofsake langer geneem het om gefinaliseer te word in die geval van hierdie groep gevangenes. Hierdie saak verdien dringende aandag.

Die oorverteenvoordiging van die kleurlinge is een van die opvallendste eienskappe van die Suid-Afrikaanse gevangenisbevolking. Vrae soos of die kleurlinge werklik meer misdaad gepleeg het as persone van ander bevolkingsgroepe, en of die verskille in die koers van misdaadpleging van die omvang was soos aangedui deur die gevangenisstatistiek, is in die verslag aangespreek.

Die viktimisasiedata in die verslag dui aan dat 25 persent van die opnamesteekproef gemeld het dat hulle, of 'n lid van hul huishouding, gedurende 1992 krimineel geviktimizeer is. Dit is kommerwekkend dat daar in een uit tien huishoudings 'n slagoffer van geweldsmisdaad was.

Vir 'n land wat die omvang van misdaad beleef wat Suid-Afrika tans ervaar, is 'n meer doelmatige, doeltreffende en vernuwende bestuur van die misdaadprobleem nodig. Dit kan slegs verwesonlik word met behulp van voldoende inligting. Die behoefte aan voortdurende, versigtige ontleding van strafregplegingstatistiek is daarom in die verslag beklemtoon.

CHAPTER 1

Introduction and orientation

Introduction

The successful management of crime in any country depends to a great extent on the availability of reliable crime statistics. Crime management and crime prevention are extremely complex tasks and certainly two of the most difficult tasks for a government. In order to manage and prevent crime effectively, one needs reliable, usable information. This is particularly true when resources are limited, in which event careful planning to achieve optimal application is imperative. Good statistics are also essential for the evaluation of prevention programmes that have been put in place. It would be difficult to judge the success or failure of measures adopted to control and manage crime unless a meaningful recording and reporting system is in operation.

In addition, careful, accurate reporting of crime is necessary in order to avoid or minimize the manipulation and misuse of crime information. Politicians and the media world-wide are known to use crime information to generate a specific image for a particular purpose (Jupp, 1989; *The Economist*, 1994). The public's perceptions of the extent of crime and subsequently their level of fear of crime are influenced to a considerable extent by media reports of crime trends and specific crime incidents. Research has indicated that members of the public—particularly those who could be considered to be vulnerable, such as women and the elderly—often have levels of fear that are quite disproportional to the actual risk they face. Regular, impartial reporting on crime trends could alleviate this problem.

South Africa does not have a strong tradition of transparency and accountability in terms of the reporting of crime information. Historically, researchers, planners and the general public have not been given free access to crime statistics. Needless to say, limited manpower and lack of resources are two of the reasons why crime information has not always been readily available. Regrettably, a misguided belief that crime statistics are not for *public consumption* is another reason why detailed crime information is not published by the authorities on an ongoing basis.

South Africa is, however, no exception in this regard. Researchers and other interested persons in other countries commonly experience problems in gaining access to criminal justice information. Jupp (1989:130) notes in this regard:

... the criminal justice system as a whole is concerned with practices and policies about the detection, control and punishment of crime, each of which has important security aspects and the interests of security ... invariably run contrary to the goals and aims of researchers. More fundamentally, these practices and policies are inevitably underpinned by important political viewpoints about which there is often considerable dispute. It is not surprising, therefore, that those who formulate such policies and those who activate them are sensitive to and often hostile towards those who appear to be questioning or undermining such policies and practices.

Considerable progress has been made by the South African Police Service (SAPS) toward making crime information more accessible and presenting the data in a more meaningful way. This has particularly been the case after the inception of the SAPS Centre for the Analysis and Interpretation of Crime Information (CAICI).

Aim of the research

In view of the shortcomings of South African crime statistics, the Centre for Crime and Related Studies of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), in partnership with UNISA's Criminal Justice Research Unit, embarked on a research project to co ordinate, analyze and interpret existing criminal justice statistics and to devise ways to improve the usefulness and availability of crime information. This report is the first in a series of reports which will be published as end products of this project. The report is an attempt to bring together, in one publication, the three main types of crime information in South Africa, namely police, court and prison statistics.

The fact that police crime statistics are an underrepresentation of the true extent of crime is a well-documented phenomenon. This is due mainly to the public's non-reporting of a considerable proportion of crime. This is also partly due to the fact that not all crimes reported to or discovered by the police are recorded. Victimization surveys were developed in the USA in the 1970s in an attempt to obtain a picture of the so-called dark figure of crime. Very few victimization surveys have been undertaken in South Africa, mainly on account of the considerable cost of conducting this type of research.

The HSRC has undertaken a limited number of victimization surveys. Information in respect of one of them, conducted in 1992, is included in this report in an attempt to provide a more complete picture of the crime situation in South Africa.

Research method

The statistics that are given in this report were obtained in the following manner:

- The Commissioner of the SAPS granted the researchers permission to obtain crime statistics from CAICI. The total number of crimes for each crime code that had been reported to and recorded by every police station throughout the RSA during 1992 was obtained in computerized form.
- The research division of the Department of Correctional Services provided the data on the number of prisoners admitted to prisons throughout the RSA during 1992 and the size and composition of the prison population on 31 December 1992.
- Court-related statistics (i.e. data relating to prosecutions and convictions) were obtained from the Central Statistical Service report *Crimes: Prosecutions and convictions with regard to certain offences* (Report No. 00-11-01 for 1991/92).
- Victimization data were obtained during a country-wide survey conducted by Markdata, the HSRC's market research division, during April 1992. The sample, which was drawn from the four population groups, covered the nine development regions of the Republic of South Africa, the former self-governing territories and two of the former TBVC states (Venda and Ciskei). Metropolitan, urban and rural areas were included. Ninety-nine per cent of the sample of 2 000 which was drawn was realized, yielding a final sample of 1 982 (200 Asians, 1 112 blacks, 300 coloureds and 370 whites).

Criminal justice statistics (and many other types of statistics) hold little meaning unless converted to a *per capita* figure. This is particularly true if any type of comparison is being undertaken, such as a comparison over time, between geographical areas, between population groups, or between the sexes. For example, 5 000 murders committed in one year in the Cape Peninsula is a serious matter indeed, but not nearly as serious as 5 000 murders committed in Bloemfontein. Crime statistics are generally expressed as a rate per 100 000 of the population.

All three types of data (i.e. police, court and prison statistics) were therefore expressed as a rate per 100 000 of the population. In the case of both police and prison statistics, the total population (i.e. persons of all ages) was used as the denominator—in keeping with standard criminological practice. In the case of court statistics, the population aged seven years and older was used as the denominator.

The population figures used to calculate the rates for all three types of data were those given in the 1991 census publications for the RSA. The figures used for the police statistics were based on the population of the four provinces of the RSA. These figures therefore exclude the populations of both the former self-governing

territories and the former TBVC states. This was necessary since police districts only cover the four provinces.

Police districts were carefully matched with statistical (census) regions in order to link each to the population it serves. The ideal would be to match **police stations** to **enumerator areas**, which would provide crime statistics in considerably greater detail than the detail given in this report. This fine level of *matching* is at present being undertaken by the HSRC, and it is hoped that more detailed crime statistics will be available in respect of 1993 in a forthcoming publication.

Once crimes known to the police become court statistics, they are reported by the Central Statistical Service (CSS) for the RSA as a whole. This means that the population for the RSA as a whole (i.e. including the former self-governing territories but excluding the TBVC states) was used when calculating conviction rates in the case of court statistics. The population for the RSA was also used to calculate the prison rates.

Although these differences in the population figures may appear to be problematic, it simply means that comparisons between the rates calculated for different types of data (such as police, court and prison data) cannot be made. However, comparisons within a data set present no problem. These problems associated with differing population figures should fall away once the reporting system for the nine new South African regions is in place and the next census is undertaken.

Finally, it is important to note that the information relating to crimes reported to the police and the information on the number of persons in prison relate to the calendar year of 1992. Unfortunately, the reporting period used by CSS is a 12-month period from 1 July to 30 June. The court-related information contained in this report therefore refers to the period 1 July 1991 to 30 June 1992.

CHAPTER 2

Crimes reported to the police

Introduction

An important symbiotic relationship exists between the public and agents of the criminal justice system (i.e. the police, courts and corrections). An individual victimization incident can only be followed up if the case is known to the police. Therefore, the overwhelming majority of incidents only come to the attention of the police after being reported by the public. Furthermore, the public's willingness and inclination to report crimes to the police and to co-operate during the course of investigations are strongly influenced by their perceptions of police fairness, impartiality and competence. The picture is complicated further by the fact that general levels of crime are affected to some degree by the perceptions of criminals and potential criminals regarding the efficiency of the police and the courts and by the public's perceptions of the legitimacy of the criminal justice system.

The above notwithstanding, the number of crimes reported to the police is the first *link* in the chain of official crime statistics. Police statistics for 1992 are given in this chapter. The information is presented according to province, and within provinces it is given according to metropolitan area. An overall view of crime trends between 1991 and 1992, as well as of trends over the five-year period from 1987 to 1992, is also given.

The crime picture in South Africa

Differences between provinces

The number of crimes reported to the police are indicated according to province for a selection of crimes in Table 2.1.* The rate per 100 000 of the population is also

* A comparison of the total number of specific crimes, such as murder, rape and robbery, reflected in Table 2.1 and the total in the SAPS annual report for 1992 revealed that the figures were invariably different (being slightly greater in the annual report). The only plausible explanation for this is the fact that the statistics in the annual report include some crimes that were committed outside the borders of the four provinces whereas the statistics in the table relate to the four provinces only. The authors were given to understand by the SAPS that certain police stations in the self governing territories are run by the SAPS on an agency basis.

Crimes reported to the police

given in the table. A total of 668 978 property and 367 225 violent offences* were recorded by SAPS police stations throughout the RSA during 1992. The reader is reminded of the fact that this figure excludes minor offences or misdemeanours. This means that a property crime was recorded for one in every 30 persons of all ages and a violent crime for one in every 55 persons of all ages during 1992.

Considerable differences between the provinces** can be noted in the total offence rate: The Orange Free State (OFS) appeared to be the safest province in the country in terms of an individual's aggregate chances of becoming a victim of crime (rate for property offences=1 727, rate for violent offences=1 237). Natal had the highest crime rate (rate for property offences=4 950; rate for violent offences=2 449), followed by the Transvaal (Tvl) (rate for property offences=3 696, rate for violent offences=1 882) and the Cape Province (CP) (rate for property offences=2 581, rate for violent offences=1 655).

A somewhat different picture emerges if one examines the relative proportion of the Big Six*** in the different provinces. By doing so, one is able to get an idea of the level of seriousness of crime in a particular province. The relative proportion of the Big Six can be examined by determining what proportion of the total number of offences given in the table is constituted by the Big Six for each province. The Big Six constituted 49 per cent of the total number of offences in the table in the case of the Tvl, 47 per cent in the CP, 46 per cent in the OFS and 44 per cent in Natal. This means that although Natal had the highest crime rate when property and violent crimes are considered, very serious crime formed a greater

* The offences that constitute the property and violent categories used in the tables were generally selected from the list of offences contained in the main body of the tables. This means that certain less serious property offences in particular, such as the SAPS category of *Other thefts*, were excluded. The particular crimes which make up each category are given at the end of the table.

** The authors wish to point out that they have serious reservations about the crime picture created by the reported police crime statistics for Natal. As noted in Chapter 1, the SAPS uses the population figures relating to the four provinces only when calculating crime rates. This is done because the crime statistics that are recorded by the SAPS are ostensibly only in respect of crimes committed in the four provinces. However, in view of the fact that some police stations are managed on an agency basis for certain self-governing territories, such as KwaZulu, the population covered by those police stations should also be included in the population figures used to calculate rates. For this reason, all comments made by the authors in respect of Natal's crime picture should be approached with circumspection.

*** *Big Six* is a term adopted by the authors to denote the six most serious types of crime, namely murder, rape, aggravated robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and motor vehicle theft. This group of crimes is equivalent to the American Federal Bureau of Investigation's so-called *Index Offences*.

proportion of all crime in the Tvl. Naturally, differences in the crime reporting behaviour of the public may influence these figures to some extent. For example, people in one area may tend not to report crimes of a less serious nature to a greater extent than people in another area. However, one would expect differences in the public's reporting behaviour to be more or less constant across provinces.

If one examines the rates for individual crimes such as murder, rape and robbery, the most notable trend is that the rate for the most serious crimes was generally the highest in Natal, followed by the Tvl, the CP and the OFS. Exceptions are the following:

- The rate for illegal possession of firearms, theft of firearms, murder, attempted murder and arson was extremely high in Natal.
- The rate for drug-related offences was higher in the CP and the OFS than in the Tvl.
- The rate for aggravated assault in the CP was extremely high.
- The rate for aggravated robbery and theft of firearms in the Tvl was comparatively high.
- The rate for theft of livestock was highest in the OFS, followed by Natal.
- The rate for motor vehicle theft was highest in the Tvl, followed by Natal.

Crime in the Cape Province

Crime statistics for the CP for 1992 are indicated in Table 2.2. The number of crimes reported to the police and the rate per 100 000 of the respective populations are given separately for the Cape Peninsula and Port Elizabeth, while *Remainder of the CP* is used as a third area.

From this table one can see that crime in both the Cape Peninsula and Port Elizabeth is a comparatively serious problem. This underscores the importance of looking at crime statistics in the most **localized** manner possible. In the discussion of the differences between provinces, crime in the CP as a whole did not appear to be as serious a problem as in, for example, the Tvl. However, when the focus is narrowed down to metropolitan area, a different picture emerges. The rate of 4 433 for property crime in the Cape Peninsula was almost as high as the rate for property crime in Natal noted in the previous section and the rate for violent crime in Port Elizabeth (2 797) was higher than the rate for violent crime in Natal.

If one examines the proportion of the total of the Big Six crimes in the table, one notes that this group of serious offences comprised 46 per cent of the offences listed in the table for the Remainder of the CP, 44 per cent for Port Elizabeth and 43 per

cent for the Cape Peninsula. From this it is evident that although the crime rate in general may have been highest in the Cape Peninsula, the level of seriousness of crime was somewhat greater in the Remainder of the CP.

With regard to particular types of crime, the rates for most types were considerably higher in the Cape Peninsula and Port Elizabeth than in the Remainder of the CP, with the exception of theft of livestock; the rate for this type of crime in the Remainder of the CP was comparatively high, which can be attributed to the fact that much of this area is rural. The following crimes were a more serious problem in Port Elizabeth than in the Cape Peninsula: rape and attempted rape, common and aggravated assault, malicious damage to property and driving under the influence of alcohol. The rates for most other types of crime were higher in the Cape Peninsula than in Port Elizabeth.

Crime in the Orange Free State

For the purposes of this report, only two areas are distinguished in the OFS: the metropolitan area of Bloemfontein and the Remainder of the OFS. Crime statistics for these regions for 1992 are given in Table 2.3. An examination of the table indicates that the rates for both property and violent offences for the Remainder of the OFS were approximately twice the rates for Bloemfontein.* These rates were also higher than the rates in the Remainder of the CP. It is therefore important to examine which areas fall under the Remainder of the OFS. This geographical area is served by the police districts of Ladybrand, Bethlehem, Bethulie, Welkom, Kroonstad and Odendaalsrus.

The Big Six comprises 43 per cent of the total number of offences given in the table in the case of both Bloemfontein and the Remainder of the OFS.

Crime in Natal

Natal is also represented by two regions: Durban and surrounding areas (excluding Pietermaritzburg) and the Remainder of Natal. Crime statistics for these regions for 1992 are given in Table 2.4. The rates for property and violent offences for these two areas were approximately the same, and were extremely high at 5 319 for property offences and 2 247 for violent offences in the case of Durban, and 4 625 for property offences and 2 626 for violent offences in respect of the Remainder of Natal. Crime would appear to be as serious a problem in the non-urban areas of Natal as it is in the metropolitan area of Durban. In fact, if one examines the

* Again, the rates for the Remainder of the OFS may be artificially high owing to the fact that the population figures for the province only have been used when calculating rates, while crimes may be committed by persons coming across the borders of the RSA from self-governing territories, independent states and even neighbouring countries.

relative proportion of the Big Six the seriousness of the crime situation in the non-urban areas of Natal is evident. This group of offences comprised 47 per cent of all the offences listed in the table in the Remainder of Natal, and 40 per cent in Durban.

With regard to the rate for specific crimes, the following is of interest:

- The rates for illegal possession of firearms, aggravated assault, murder and attempted murder for the Remainder of Natal were more than double the corresponding rates for Durban.
- The rate for theft of livestock for the Remainder of Natal was 33 times greater than the rate for Durban, and the rate for arson for the Remainder of Natal was four times greater than the rate for Durban.
- The rates for bag-snatching, theft of a motor vehicle and theft from a motor vehicle for Durban were more than double the corresponding rates for the Remainder of Natal.

Crime in the Transvaal

Crime statistics for the Tvl for 1992 are given in Table 2.5. The Tvl is divided into the metropolitan areas of Pretoria and surrounding areas, Johannesburg and Soweto, the Remainder of the Witwatersrand and the Remainder of Tvl. The rates for property and violent offences were considerably different in these areas. The rate for property offences was greatest in Johannesburg and Soweto (5 719), followed by Pretoria (4 672), the Remainder of the Witwatersrand (3 212) and the Remainder of the Tvl (2 535). This means that the rate for Johannesburg and Soweto was more than twice the rate for the Remainder of the Tvl (2 535).

The rates for violent offences follow the same trend, being the greatest in Johannesburg and Soweto (2 715), followed by Pretoria (1 818), the Remainder of the Witwatersrand (1 791) and the Remainder of the Tvl (1 476).

When considering the seriousness of crime by examining the proportion of the total of the Big Six crimes in the table, a slightly different picture emerges. The proportion of the Big Six was greatest in the Remainder of the Witwatersrand (54 per cent), followed by Johannesburg and Soweto (49 per cent), the Remainder of the Tvl (47 per cent) and Pretoria (42 per cent). This means that although Pretoria had the second highest general level of crime, the level of seriousness of the crime was lowest compared with the other areas of the Tvl. On the other hand, the Remainder of the Witwatersrand only had the third highest general level of crime but the level of seriousness of crime was the highest.

TABLE 2.1: Offences reported to the police in the RSA during 1992, by province

Type of offence	CP		OFS		Natal		Tvl		TOTAL: RSA	
	N	Rate*	N	Rate*	N	Rate*	N	Rate*	N	Rate*
Property offences**	158 053	2 581,1	36 406	1 727,2	120 277	4 949,9	354 242	3 696,3	668 978	3 304,4
Violent offences***	101 315	1 654,5	26 077	1 237,2	59 497	2 448,6	180 336	1 881,7	367 225	1 813,9
The Big Six*	124 640	2 035,4	29 531	1 401,0	87 955	3 619,8	276 943	2 889,8	519 069	2 564,0
A selection of offences:										
Illegal possession of firearms	1 156	18,9	356	16,9	4 728	194,6	3 570	37,3	9 810	48,5
Rape or attempted rape	5 690	92,9	1 653	78,4	3 264	134,3	10 883	113,6	21 490	106,2
Drugs and dependence-producing substances	15 984	261,0	4 763	226,0	13 648	561,7	17 804	185,8	52 199	257,8
Assault: common	36 605	597,8	10 990	521,4	20 137	828,7	57 567	600,7	125 299	618,9
aggravated	40 210	656,7	9 695	460,0	14 075	579,3	49 625	517,8	113 605	561,2
Murder	3 168	51,7	852	40,4	4 827	198,7	8 815	92,0	17 662	87,2
Attempted murder	1 706	27,9	522	24,8	4 367	179,7	7 887	82,3	14 482	71,5
Burglary: business premises	16 964	277,0	4 677	221,9	12 363	508,8	30 927	322,7	64 931	320,7
residential premises	38 364	626,5	8 889	421,7	28 894	1 189,1	89 123	930,0	165 270	816,4
Bag-snatching	2 382	38,9	226	10,7	1 800	74,1	4 784	49,9	9 192	45,4
Robbery: aggravated	8 415	137,4	1 525	72,4	8 936	367,8	33 399	348,5	52 275	258,2
other	5 521	90,2	840	39,9	3 891	160,1	12 160	126,9	22 412	110,7
Theft of livestock (excluding poultry)	3 149	51,4	4 581	217,3	5 152	212,0	6 678	69,7	19 560	96,6
Shoplifting	13 074	213,5	3 573	169,5	9 442	388,6	23 392	244,1	49 481	244,4
Theft of firearms	508	8,3	181	8,6	720	29,6	2 426	25,3	3 835	18,9
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	10 123	165,3	1 718	81,5	11 229	462,1	46 284	483,0	69 354	342,6
Theft from a vehicle	35 280	576,1	3 890	184,6	25 225	1 038,1	77 764	811,4	142 159	702,2
All fraud	13 770	224,9	2 505	118,8	8 145	335,2	28 811	300,6	53 231	262,9
Arson	866	14,1	486	23,1	2 093	86,1	2 041	21,3	5 486	27,1
Malicious damage to property	23 573	385,0	5 680	269,5	15 214	626,1	42 012	438,4	86 479	427,2
Driving whilst under the influence	6 551	107,0	1 200	56,9	3 924	161,5	12 701	132,5	24 376	120,4

- * Rates are given per 100 000 of the population.
- ** Property offences include the following: burglary (business and residential), bag-snatching, theft of livestock, shoplifting, theft of firearms, theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle, theft from a vehicle, all fraud, arson, malicious damage to property.
- *** Violent offences include the following: rape or attempted rape, assault (common and aggravated), murder, attempted murder, robbery (aggravated and other).
- ◇ The Big Six includes the following: murder and attempted murder, rape and attempted rape, assault (aggravated), burglary (business and residential), robbery (aggravated), theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle.

TABLE 2.2: Offences reported to the police in the Cape Province during 1992, by region

Type of offence	Cape Peninsula*		Port Elizabeth**		Remainder of the CP		TOTAL: CP	
	N	Rate***	N	Rate***	N	Rate***	N	Rate***
Property offences [†]	88 784	4 433,2	24 952	3 720,6	44 317	1 284,5	158 053	2 581,1
Violent offences**	41 377	2 066,0	18 757	2 796,8	41 181	1 193,6	101 315	1 654,5
The Big Six***	60 527	3 022,2	20 734	3 091,6	43 379	1 257,3	124 640	2 035,4
A selection of offences:								
Illegal possession of firearms	863	43,1	87	13,0	206	6,0	1 156	18,9
Rape or attempted rape	2 335	116,6	1 127	168,1	2 228	64,6	5 690	92,9
Drugs and dependence-producing substances	8 721	435,5	1 226	182,8	6 037	175,0	15 984	261,0
Assault: common	14 947	746,3	6 654	992,2	15 004	434,9	36 605	597,8
aggravated	12 794	638,8	7 913	1 179,9	19 503	565,3	40 210	656,7
Murder	1 452	72,5	528	78,7	1 188	34,4	3 168	51,7
Attempted murder	1 114	55,6	216	32,2	376	10,9	1 706	27,9
Burglary: business premises	8 563	427,6	2 111	314,8	6 290	182,3	16 964	277,0
residential premises	21 319	1 064,5	5 721	853,1	11 324	328,2	38 364	626,5
Bag-snatching	1 521	76,0	228	34,0	633	18,4	2 382	38,9
Robbery: aggravated	5 506	274,9	1 522	226,9	1 387	40,2	8 415	137,4
other	3 229	161,2	797	118,8	1 495	43,3	5 521	90,2
Theft of livestock (excluding poultry)	180	9,0	308	45,9	2 661	77,1	3 149	51,4
Shoplifting	6 219	310,5	1 714	255,6	5 141	149,0	13 074	213,5
Theft of firearms	292	14,6	92	13,7	124	3,6	508	8,3
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	7 444	371,7	1 596	238,0	1 083	31,4	10 123	165,3
Theft from a vehicle	24 330	1 214,9	5 661	844,1	5 289	153,3	35 280	576,1
All fraud	7 989	398,9	2 757	411,1	3 024	87,7	13 770	224,9
Arson	329	16,4	201	30,0	336	9,7	866	14,1
Malicious damage to property	10 598	529,2	4 563	680,4	8 412	243,8	23 573	385,0
Driving whilst under the influence	2 395	119,6	2 064	307,8	2 092	60,6	6 551	107,0

- * The Cape Peninsula includes the following police districts: Cape Town, Wynberg, Athlone and Bellville.
- ** Port Elizabeth includes the following police districts: Port Elizabeth and Port Elizabeth North.
- *** Rates are given per 100 000 of the population.
- ♦ Property offences include the following: burglary (business and residential), bag-snatching, theft of livestock, shoplifting, theft of firearms, theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle, theft from a vehicle, all fraud, arson, malicious damage to property.
- ♦♦ Violent offences include the following: rape or attempted rape, assault (common and aggravated), murder, attempted murder, robbery (aggravated and other).
- ♦♦♦ The Big Six includes the following: murder and attempted murder, rape and attempted rape, assault (aggravated), burglary (business and residential), robbery (aggravated), theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle.

TABLE 2.3: Offences reported to the police in the Orange Free State during 1992, by region

Type of offence	Bloemfontein*		Remainder of OFS		TOTAL: OFS	
	N	Rate**	N	Rate**	N	Rate**
Property offences***	5 269	991,3	31 137	1 975,4	36 406	1 727,2
Violent offences [†]	4 007	753,9	22 070	1 400,1	26 077	1 237,2
The Big Six**	4 272	803,7	25 259	1 602,5	29 531	1 401,0
A selection of offences:						
Illegal possession of firearms	38	7,2	318	20,2	356	16,9
Rape or attempted rape	274	51,6	1 379	87,5	1 653	78,4
Drugs and dependence-producing substances	444	83,5	4 319	274,0	4 763	226,0
Assault: common	1 557	292,9	9 433	598,4	10 990	521,4
aggravated	1 572	295,8	8 123	515,3	9 695	460,0
Murder	140	26,3	712	45,2	852	40,4
Attempted murder	91	17,1	431	27,3	522	24,8
Burglary: business premises	496	93,3	4 181	265,3	4 677	221,9
residential premises	1 373	258,3	7 516	476,8	8 889	421,7
Bag-snatching	18	3,4	208	13,2	226	10,7
Robbery: aggravated	199	37,4	1 326	84,1	1 525	72,4
other	174	32,7	666	42,3	840	39,9
Theft of livestock (excluding poultry)	1 099	206,8	3 482	220,9	4 581	217,3
Shoplifting	211	39,7	3 362	213,3	3 573	169,5
Theft of firearms	24	4,5	157	10,0	181	8,6
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	127	23,9	1 591	100,9	1 718	81,5
Theft from a vehicle	495	93,1	3 395	215,4	3 890	184,6
All fraud	284	53,4	2 221	140,9	2 505	118,8
Arson	157	29,5	329	20,9	486	23,1
Malicious damage to property	985	185,3	4 695	297,9	5 680	269,5
Driving whilst under the influence	120	22,6	1 080	68,5	1 200	56,9

- * Bloemfontein consists of the single police district of Bloemfontein.
- ** Rates are given per 100 000 of the population.
- *** Property offences include the following: burglary (business and residential), bag-snatching, theft of livestock, shoplifting, theft of firearms, theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle, theft from a vehicle, all fraud, arson and malicious damage to property.
- * Violent offences include the following: rape or attempted rape, assault (common and aggravated), murder, attempted murder and robbery (aggravated and other).
- ** The Big Six includes the following: murder and attempted murder, rape and attempted rape, assault (aggravated), burglary (business and residential), robbery (aggravated) and theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle.

TABLE 2.4: Offences reported to the police in Natal during 1992, by region

Type of offence	Durban and surrounding areas*		Remainder of Natal		TOTAL: NATAL	
	N	Rate**	N	Rate**	N	Rate**
Property offences***	60 505	5 319,4	59 772	4 624,8	120 277	4 949,9
Violent offences†	25 555	2 246,7	33 942	2 626,2	59 497	2 448,6
The Big Six**	38 174	3 356,1	49 781	3 851,8	87 955	3 619,8
A selection of offences:						
Illegal possession of firearms	1 147	100,8	3 581	277,1	4 728	194,6
Rape or attempted rape	1 316	115,7	1 948	150,7	3 264	134,3
Drugs and dependence-producing substances	7 524	661,5	6 124	473,8	13 648	561,7
Assault: common	10 636	935,1	9 501	735,1	20 137	828,7
aggravated	4 234	372,2	9 841	761,4	14 075	579,3
Murder	1 406	123,6	3 421	264,7	4 827	198,7
Attempted murder	1 303	114,6	3 064	237,1	4 367	179,7
Burglary: business premises	4 952	435,4	7 411	573,4	12 363	508,8
residential premises	11 900	1 046,2	16 994	1 314,9	28 894	1 189,1
Bag-snatching	1 169	102,8	631	48,8	1 800	74,1
Robbery: aggravated	4 900	430,8	4 036	312,3	8 936	367,8
other	1 760	154,7	2 131	164,9	3 891	160,1
Theft of livestock (excluding poultry)	132	11,6	5 020	388,4	5 152	212,0
Shoplifting	4 217	370,7	5 225	404,3	9 442	388,6
Theft of firearms	319	28,0	401	31,0	720	29,6
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	8 163	717,7	3 066	237,2	11 229	462,1
Theft from a vehicle	16 147	1 419,6	9 078	702,4	25 225	1 038,1
All fraud	4 182	367,7	3 963	306,6	8 145	335,2
Arson	364	32,0	1 729	133,8	2 093	86,1

Type of offence	Durban and surrounding areas*		Remainder of Natal		TOTAL: NATAL	
	N	Rate**	N	Rate**	N	Rate**
Malicious damage to property	8 960	787,7	6 254	483,9	15 214	626,1
Driving whilst under the influence	1 908	167,7	2 016	156,0	3 924	161,5

* Durban and surrounding areas include the following police districts: Durban, Durban North, Durban South, Pinetown and Chatsworth.

** Rates are given per 100 000 of the population.

*** Property offences include the following: burglary (business and residential), bag-snatching, theft of livestock, shoplifting, theft of firearms, theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle, theft from a vehicle, all fraud, arson and malicious damage to property.

♦ Violent offences include the following: rape or attempted rape, assault (common and aggravated), murder, attempted murder and robbery (aggravated and other).

♦♦ The Big Six includes the following: murder and attempted murder, rape and attempted rape, assault (aggravated), burglary (business and residential), robbery (aggravated) and theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle.

TABLE 2.5: Offences reported to the police in the Transvaal during 1992, by region

Type of offence	Pretoria and surrounding areas*		Johannesburg and Soweto**		Remainder of Witwatersrand***		Remainder of Tvl		TOTAL: TVL	
	N	Rate ^o	N	Rate ^o	N	Rate ^o	N	Rate ^o	N	Rate ^o
Property offences**	58 999	4 672,1	109 598	5 718,9	110 437	3 212,2	75 208	2 535,4	354 242	3 696,3
Violent offences***	22 954	1 817,7	52 036	2 715,3	61 560	1 790,5	43 786	1 476,1	180 336	1 881,7
The Big Six ^d	36 736	2 909,1	82 160	4 287,2	97 725	2 842,4	60 322	2 033,6	276 943	2 889,8
A selection of offences:										
Illegal possession of firearms	314	24,9	1 263	65,9	1 288	37,5	705	23,8	3 570	37,3
Rape or attempted rape	1 521	120,4	3 196	166,8	3 430	99,8	2 736	92,2	10 883	113,6
Drugs and dependence-producing substances	4 362	345,4	3 566	186,1	3 663	106,5	6 213	209,5	17 804	185,8
Assault: common	10 814	856,3	14 629	763,4	17 499	509,0	14 625	493,0	57 567	600,7
aggravated	5 036	398,8	10 324	538,7	16 139	469,4	18 126	611,1	49 625	517,8
Murder	496	39,3	3 007	156,9	3 970	115,5	1 342	45,2	8 815	92,0
Attempted murder	669	53,0	3 004	156,8	3 198	93,0	1 016	34,3	7 887	82,3
Burglary: business premises	4 303	340,7	7 581	395,6	10 005	291,0	9 038	304,7	30 927	322,7
residential premises	14 829	1 174,3	23 114	1 206,1	31 598	919,1	19 582	660,2	89 123	930,0
Bag-snatching	700	55,4	2 660	138,8	824	24,0	600	20,2	4 784	49,9
Robbery: aggravated	2 475	196,0	14 082	734,8	13 340	388,0	3 502	118,1	33 399	348,5
other	1 943	153,9	3 794	198,0	3 984	115,9	2 439	82,2	12 160	126,9
Theft of livestock (excluding poultry)	509	40,3	37	1,9	1 261	36,7	4 871	164,2	6 678	69,7
Shoplifting	3 191	252,7	4 772	249,0	6 839	198,9	8 590	289,6	23 392	244,1
Theft of firearms	343	27,2	726	37,9	923	26,9	434	14,6	2 426	25,3
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	7 407	586,6	17 852	931,5	16 045	466,7	4 980	167,9	46 284	483,0
Theft from a vehicle	14 868	1 177,4	31 384	1 637,6	20 706	602,3	10 806	364,3	77 764	811,4
All fraud	6 379	505,1	7 898	412,1	7 702	224,0	6 832	230,3	28 811	300,6
Arson	275	21,8	441	23,0	794	23,1	531	17,9	2 041	21,3

Type of offence	Pretoria and surrounding areas*		Johannesburg and Soweto**		Remainder of Witwatersrand***		Remainder of TVI		TOTAL: TVL	
	N	Rate ^o	N	Rate ^o	N	Rate ^o	N	Rate ^o	N	Rate ^o
Malicious damage to property	6 195	490,6	13 133	685,3	13 740	399,6	8 944	301,5	42 012	438,4
Driving whilst under the influence	1 371	108,6	1 987	103,7	5 895	171,5	3 448	116,2	12 701	132,5

* Pretoria and surrounding areas include the following police districts: Pretoria, Pretoria North, Pretoria Moot and Verwoerdburg.

** Johannesburg and Soweto include the following police districts: Johannesburg, Johannesburg North, Randburg, Soweto East and Soweto West.

*** Remainder of the Witwatersrand includes the following police districts: Springs, Benoni, Kempton Park, Germiston, Krugersdorp, Vereeniging and Roodepoort.

o Rates are given per 100 000 of the population.

oo Property offences include the following: burglary (business and residential), bag-snatching, theft of livestock, shoplifting, theft of firearms, theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle, theft from a vehicle, all fraud, arson, malicious damage to property.

ooo Violent offences include the following: rape or attempted rape, assault (common and aggravated), murder, attempted murder, robbery (aggravated and other).

o The Big Six includes the following: murder and attempted murder, rape and attempted rape, assault (aggravated), burglary (business and residential), robbery (aggravated), theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle.

TABLE 2.6: Serious offences reported to the police during 1992, by metropolitan area

Type of offence	Bloemfontein*	Cape Peninsula**	Durban and surrounding areas***	Johannesburg and Soweto [†]	Port Elizabeth**	Pretoria and surrounding areas***
	Rate per 100 000 of the population					
Property offences [†]	991,3	4 433,2	5 319,4	5 718,9	3 720,6	4 672,1
Violent offences**	753,9	2 066,0	2 246,7	2 715,3	2 796,8	1 817,7
The Big Six***	803,7	3 022,2	3 356,1	4 287,2	3 091,6	2 909,1
Rape or attempted rape	51,6	116,6	115,7	166,8	168,1	120,4
Drugs and dependence-producing substances	83,5	435,5	661,5	186,1	182,8	345,4
Assault: common	292,9	746,3	935,1	763,4	992,2	856,3
aggravated	295,8	638,8	372,2	538,7	1179,9	398,8
Murder	26,3	72,5	123,6	156,9	78,7	39,3
Attempted murder	17,1	55,6	114,6	156,8	32,2	53,0
Burglary: business premises	93,3	427,6	435,4	395,6	314,8	340,7
residential premises	258,3	1 064,5	1 046,2	1 206,1	853,1	1 174,3
Robbery: aggravated	37,4	274,9	430,8	734,8	226,9	196,0
other	32,7	161,2	154,7	198,0	118,8	153,9
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	23,9	371,7	717,7	931,5	238,0	586,6

* Bloemfontein consists of the single police district of Bloemfontein.

** The Cape Peninsula includes the following police districts: Cape Town, Wynberg, Athlone and Bellville.

*** Durban and surrounding areas include the following police districts: Durban, Durban North, Durban South, Pinetown and Chatsworth.

[†] Johannesburg and Soweto include the following police districts: Johannesburg, Johannesburg North, Randburg, Soweto East and Soweto West.

- ♦♦ Port Elizabeth includes the following police districts: Port Elizabeth and Port Elizabeth North.
- ♦♦♦ Pretoria and surrounding areas include the following police districts: Pretoria, Pretoria North, Pretoria Moot and Verwoerdburg.
- # Property offences include the following: burglary (business and residential), bag-snatching, theft of livestock, shoplifting, theft of firearms, theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle, theft from a vehicle, all fraud, arson, malicious damage to property.
- ## Violent offences include the following: rape or attempted rape, assault (common and aggravated), murder, attempted murder, robbery (aggravated and other).
- ### The Big Six includes the following: murder and attempted murder, rape and attempted rape, assault (aggravated), burglary (business and residential), robbery (aggravated), theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle.

Patterns with regard to particular types of crime of significance are as follows:

- The rate for drug-related offences was relatively high in Pretoria.
- The rate for murder, attempted murder and aggravated robbery in Johannesburg and Soweto was extremely high; the rates for these offences were also relatively high in the Remainder of the Witwatersrand.
- Given the rural nature of the Remainder of the Tvl, the rate for theft of livestock for this area was understandably high. Similarly, the comparative rate for Johannesburg and Soweto was very low.
- The rate for fraud and driving whilst under the influence of alcohol was higher in Pretoria than in Johannesburg and Soweto. The rate for driving under the influence was highest in the Remainder of the Witwatersrand.
- The rate for bag-snatching was very high in Johannesburg and Soweto.

A comparison between metropolitan areas

The rates per 100 000 of the population for a selection of serious offences for six metropolitan areas in the RSA are given in Table 2.6. Interesting comparisons can be made from this table and very significant trends emerge. For the convenience of the reader, a ranking of metropolitan areas according to their rates for property crime and violent crime, as well as the level of seriousness of crime as measured by the Big Six, is given in Table 2.7. Johannesburg and Soweto had the highest rate for property offences and was also ranked first with regard to the level of seriousness of crime. Rather surprisingly Port Elizabeth had the highest rate for violent offences but was ranked second lowest on property offences. Durban took second position with regard to property crime and the level of seriousness of crime. Bloemfontein most certainly appears to be the safest metropolitan area in the RSA in which to live; it ranked lowest on all three categories of crime.

From Table 2.6 it is evident that property crime was six times greater in Johannesburg and Soweto than it was in Bloemfontein; violent crime was four times greater in Port Elizabeth than it was in Bloemfontein; and the level of seriousness of crime (as measured by the Big Six) was five times greater in Johannesburg and Soweto than it was in Bloemfontein.

If one looks at individual crimes, the following trends can be noted (comparisons between metropolitan areas are made relative to an area's total crime rate):

TABLE 2.7: Ranking of metropolitan areas according to their rates for property and violent offences and the Big Six for 1992

Property offences	Violent offences	The Big Six
Johannesburg and Soweto Durban and surrounding areas Pretoria and surrounding areas Cape Peninsula Port Elizabeth Bloemfontein	Port Elizabeth Johannesburg and Soweto Durban and surrounding areas Cape Peninsula Pretoria and surrounding areas Bloemfontein	Johannesburg and Soweto Durban and surrounding areas Port Elizabeth Cape Peninsula Pretoria and surrounding areas Bloemfontein

- The rate for rape and attempted rape was somewhat high in Bloemfontein, Johannesburg and Soweto and Port Elizabeth.
- The rate for drug-related offences was extremely high in Durban and somewhat high in the Cape Peninsula. It was relatively low in Johannesburg and Soweto and Port Elizabeth. It should again be pointed out that variations in the reported incidence of this type of offence are related to variations in police practice and activities.
- The relative crime pattern in respect of assault was as follows: The rate for common assault was somewhat high in Bloemfontein, the Cape Peninsula, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Pretoria, and the rate for aggravated assault was extremely high in Bloemfontein, the Cape Peninsula and Port Elizabeth.
- The rate for murder was somewhat high in Johannesburg and Soweto and comparatively low in Pretoria: One would have had a four times greater chance of being the victim of a murder in 1992 in Johannesburg and Soweto than in Pretoria.
- The rate for burglary of residential premises was somewhat high in the Cape Peninsula and Pretoria.
- The rate for aggravated robbery was extremely high in Johannesburg and Soweto.
- The rate for theft of a motor vehicle was somewhat high in Johannesburg and Soweto, relatively low in the Cape Peninsula and Port Elizabeth and very low in Bloemfontein.

Crimes reported to the police

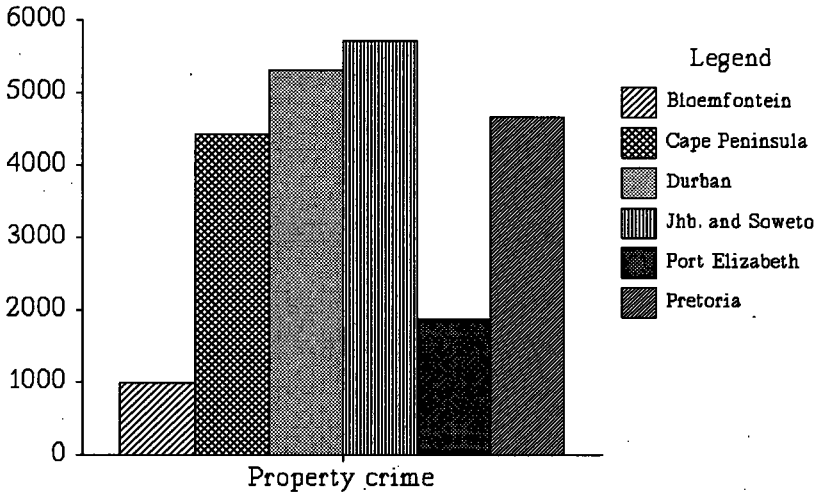
The above trends for individual crimes are summarized in Table 2.8.

TABLE 2.8: Comparative crime trends in metropolitan areas based on their rates for selected serious offences for 1992

Type of offence	Comparative position in relation to overall crime rate		
	Extremely high	Somewhat high	Low
Rape or attempted rape		Bloemfontein; Johannesburg and Soweto; Port Elizabeth	
Drug-related offences	Durban	Cape Peninsula	Johannesburg and Soweto; Port Elizabeth
Common assault		Bloemfontein; Cape Peninsula; Durban; Port Elizabeth; Pretoria	
Aggravated assault	Bloemfontein; Cape Peninsula; Port Elizabeth		
Murder		Johannesburg and Soweto	Pretoria
Burglary: residential premises		Cape Peninsula; Pretoria	
Aggravated robbery	Johannesburg and Soweto		
Theft of motor vehicle		Johannesburg and Soweto	Bloemfontein; Cape Peninsula; Port Elizabeth

FIGURE 2.1: Property and violent crime in metropolitan areas in the RSA in 1992

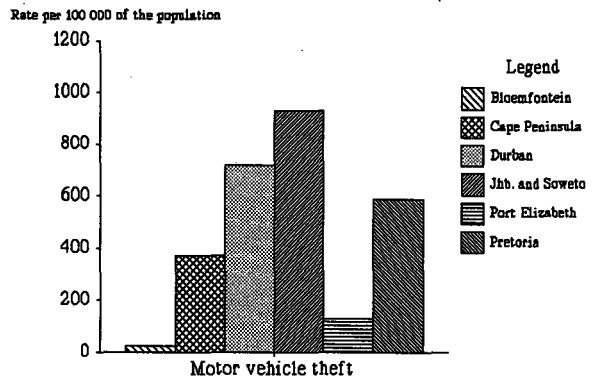
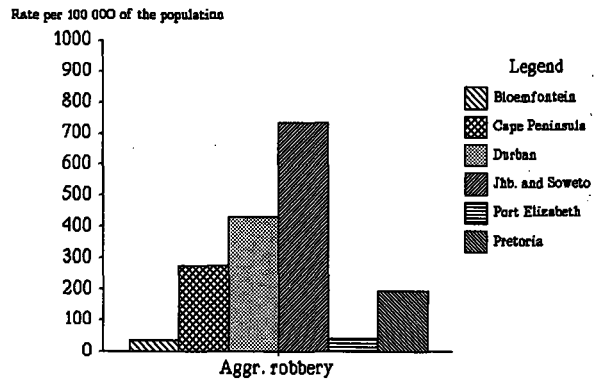
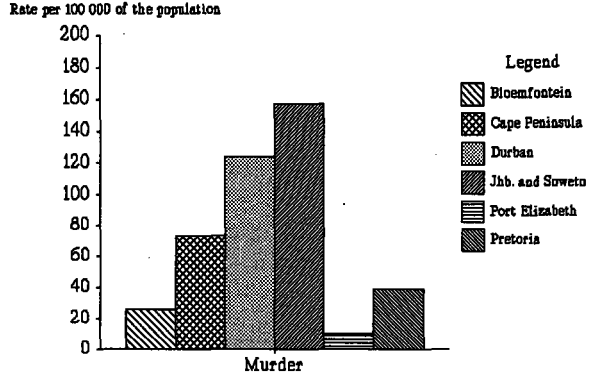
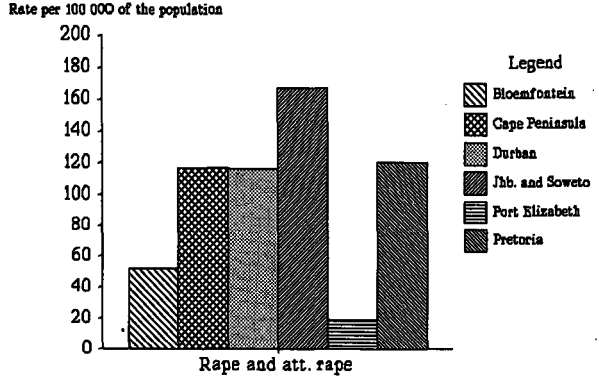
Rate per 100 000 of the population



Rate per 100 000 of the population



FIGURE 2.2: selected serious crimes in metropolitan areas in the RSA in 1992



Recent crime trends in South Africa*

A comparison between 1991 and 1992

A comparison of the crime statistics in the SAPS annual reports for 1991 and 1992 is made in Table 2.9. The following trends can be noted:

- Whereas one would anticipate that the continuing recession would have led to an escalation in property crime, the rate for it actually declined somewhat between 1991 and 1992. Although the rate for some categories of property crime, such as theft of livestock, shoplifting and fraud continued to increase, the rate for others, such as house-breaking and theft from a motor vehicle, decreased by as much as 6 per cent.
- On the other hand, the rate for crimes of violence increased between 1991 and 1992. While the overall rate for crimes of violence increased by 6 per cent, the rate for murder increased by 7 per cent and the rate for robbery with aggravating circumstances by 18 per cent. Coupled with this is the fact that whereas violent crime comprised 13,6 per cent of all crime reported in 1991, this proportion increased to 14,5 per cent in 1992 (figures not shown in the table).

Crime trends between 1987 and 1992

If one examines the crime statistics for the RSA reported by the SAPS over a period of five years (i.e. from 1987 to 1992), the following observations can be made (see Table 2.10):

- The rate for both property and violent crime increased by 19 per cent during the five-year period. The Big Six, however, increased at a somewhat lower rate during this period, namely by 8 per cent. The reader is reminded of the fact that the reference to rates means that the effect of population growth has been taken into account.

* Contrary to the procedure adopted when the rates were calculated for the crime statistics presented in the previous sections of this chapter, the population figures used when calculating the rates in this section were those relating to the RSA as well as the self-governing territories. This was done in view of the fact that the crime statistics presented in the SAPS annual reports for 1991 and 1992 were used for the trends presented in this section. For this reason, comparisons between rates given in previous sections with those in this section should not be made.

Crimes reported to the police

- The increases in the rates for particular types of crime were considerable during this period: illegal possession of firearms increased by 79 per cent; murder increased by 55 per cent; and robbery with aggravating circumstances increased by 91 per cent.
- Whereas the rate for burglary of residential premises actually decreased by 9 per cent between 1987 and 1992, the rate for burglary of business premises increased by 25 per cent.

TABLE 2.9: Crime statistics in the RSA for 1991 and 1992: A comparison of the most serious types of crime

Type of offence	1991		1992		% Change in the rate
	N	Rate*	N	Rate*	
Property offences**	1 016 655	3 281	1 010 329	3 197	- 2,6
Violent offences***	238 422	769	257 676	815	+ 6,0
The Big Six [†]	543 968	1 756	557 416	1 764	+ 0,5
A selection of offences:					
Illegal possession of firearms	9 706	31	10 580	34	+ 7,0
Rape	22 765	74	24 360	77	+ 4,9
Aggravated assault	129 626	418	136 322	431	+ 3,1
Murder	14 693	47	16 067	51	+ 7,2
Burglary: business premises	74 749	241	73 282	232	- 3,9
residential premises	185 912	600	181 659	575	- 4,4
Robbery: aggravated	45 103	146	54 194	172	+ 17,8
other	23 833	77	24 483	78	+ 0,8
Theft of livestock (excluding poultry)	24 116	78	26 921	85	+ 9,5
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	71 120	230	71 532	226	- 1,8
Theft from a vehicle	160 179	517	154 247	488	- 5,9
All fraud	55 280	178	58 576	185	+ 3,9
Malicious damage to property	92 676	299	96 138	304	+ 1,7

* The rates are calculated per 100 000 of the population of the RSA (i.e. excluding the TBVC states but including the self-governing territories) as given in the census publications for 1991 and taking population growth into account for 1992.

** The category *violent offences* includes the following: public violence, murder, rape, aggravated assault, aggravated robbery and other robbery.

*** The category *property offences* includes the following: burglary (business and residential), theft of livestock, shoplifting, theft of a motor vehicle, theft from a motor vehicle, theft of a bicycle, other theft, fraud, malicious damage to property and arson.

♠ The Big Six includes the following: rape, murder, aggravated assault, aggravated robbery, burglary (business and residential) and theft of a motor vehicle.

TABLE 2.10: Crime statistics in the RSA for 1987 and 1992: A comparison of the most serious types of crime

Type of offence	1987		1992		% Change in the rate
	N	Rate*	N	Rate*	
Property offences**	767 890	2 671	1 010 329	3 197	+ 19,7
Violent offences***	196 685	685	257 676	815	+ 19,0
The Big Six♠	469 809	1 634	557 416	1 764	+ 8,0
A selection of offences:					
Illegal possession of firearms	5 409	19	10 580	34	+ 79,0
Rape	18 145	63	24 360	77	+ 22,2
Aggravated assault	120 779	420	136 322	431	+ 2,6
Murder	9 487	33	16 067	51	+ 54,6
Burglary: business premises	53 451	186	73 282	232	+ 24,7
residential premises	181 741	632	181 659	575	- 9,0
Robbery: aggravated	25 957	90	54 194	172	+ 91,1
other	20 331	71	24 483	78	+ 10,0
Theft of livestock (excluding poultry)	23 342	81	26 921	85	+ 4,9
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	59 936	209	71 532	226	+ 8,1
Theft from a vehicle	**	-	154 247	488	-
All fraud	32 560	113	58 576	185	+ 63,7
Malicious damage to property	70 427	245	96 138	304	+ 24,1

* The rates are calculated per 100 000 of the population of the RSA (i.e. excluding the TBVC states but including the self-governing territories) as given in the census publications. Rates for 1987 are based on 1985 census data, taking population growth into account between 1985 and 1987, and rates for 1992 are based on 1991 census data, taking population growth into account for 1992.

** The category *violent offences* includes the following: public violence, murder, rape, aggravated assault, aggravated robbery and other robbery.

Crimes reported to the police

- *** The category *property offences* includes the following: burglary (business and residential), theft of livestock, shoplifting, theft of a motor vehicle, theft from a motor vehicle, theft of a bicycle, other theft, fraud, malicious damage to property and arson.
- ♦ The Big Six includes the following: rape, murder, aggravated assault, aggravated robbery, burglary (business and residential) and theft of a motor vehicle.
- ♦♦ The category *Theft from a vehicle* was only recorded as a separate category from 1 July 1987. These offences had previously been included in the category *Other thefts* (not shown in this table).

CHAPTER 3

Court statistics

Introduction

Once a crime has been recorded by the police, what happens next in terms of crime statistics is influenced by a considerable number of factors. Some of these relate to the relationship between the public and the police (which will determine how co-operative the public is during the investigation stage), as indicated in the previous chapter. Others relate to the efficiency of the police in solving crimes and to police practices in general. The clear-up rate varies substantially according to type of crime. Generally, the clear-up rate is highest in the case of crimes where the offender is known to the victim.

A clear-up rate of 51 per cent was reported by the SAPS for 1993 (South African Police, 1994). This rate has decreased somewhat over the past five years (the rate was 56,8 per cent in 1988), probably in part due to the increase in the number of crimes reported to the police.

Once a crime has been solved, a decision still has to be taken whether or not to prosecute the offender. Factors such as the strength of the evidence and consequently the likelihood of a conviction influence this decision. The age of the offender and the seriousness of the offence also affect the decision to prosecute, particularly in countries such as the United Kingdom where a formal system of warning or cautioning is in operation. It is not clear to what extent a system of cautioning may be functioning in South Africa, even at an informal or discretionary level.

When a case proceeds to the prosecution stage, it is recorded as part of the court statistics. South African court statistics for the 12-month period 1 July 1991 to 31 June 1992 are given in this chapter.

The outcome of prosecutions

The number and percentage distribution of persons prosecuted and the outcome of prosecutions in each class and subclass of offence are given in Table 3.1. A total of 485 099 persons were prosecuted in South African courts in 1991/92. It is

interesting to note that this amounts to 27,6 per cent of the number of crimes* that were reported to the police in 1991. Naturally, prosecutions during 1991/92 did not necessarily stem from crimes reported during 1991. However, if approached tentatively, this type of comparison does give the reader some idea of why court statistics are considered to be the *tip of the iceberg* in terms of the total crime picture. It should also be noted that the SAPS reported a crime clear-up rate of 52 per cent for 1991. Although it certainly conceded that solving a crime does not necessarily mean that a prosecution will follow, one would expect a greater number of prosecutions than those recorded,** given a reported crime figure of 1 744 738 for 1991 and a reported clear-up rate of 52 per cent.

Convictions were obtained in 77 per cent of prosecutions. The conviction rate varies considerably by subclass of offence. The proportion was relatively low for offences such as cases involving sex-related matters (61 per cent), theft from the person (57 per cent), and abduction and kidnapping (57 per cent). A relatively high rate of conviction can be noted for offences such as those involving public finance (for example, contravention of income tax laws) (88 per cent), drug-related offences (87 per cent), and offences against communal life (such as gambling) (91 per cent).

The outcome of prosecutions with regard to a selection of offences is given in Table 3.2. The variation in the outcome of prosecutions between specific types of offences is clearly discernible in the table. Whereas a conviction was obtained in only just over 50 per cent of cases of rape, the conviction rate in drug-related cases was relatively high (87 per cent). Similarly, while convictions for murder, attempted murder, robbery and arson were also only obtained in just over 50 per cent of cases, convictions for shoplifting, fraud and driving under the influence were more readily obtained.

Overall, convictions were obtained in a greater proportion of cases relating to property crime (80 per cent) than in respect of violent crime (67 per cent).

* The figures given by the SAPS as the number of crimes reported to the police cover the same types of offences as those covered by court statistics.

** Court statistics are given in respect of all individuals who are prosecuted, which means that if more than one person were arrested for the same offence, it would be recorded per person. Similarly, if one person is charged with more than one offence during a particular case, the information in respect of up to four offences is recorded. This should actually inflate the court statistics as compared to the police statistics since the latter are in respect of crimes reported to the police. This difference in recording procedure in fact widens the gap between police and court statistics.

TABLE 3.1: The outcome of prosecutions in the RSA for 1991/92: Persons aged seven years and older

Class and subclass of offence	Prosecutions	Convictions		Other (e.g. discharged, mentally disordered)	
	N	N	%	N	%
Class A: Government authority and good order	23 555	16 680	70,8	6 875	29,2
A1: State security	377	251	66,6	126	33,4
A2: Law and order	12 058	8 810	73,1	3 248	26,9
A3: Administration of justice	10 879	7 407	68,1	3 472	31,9
A4: Public finance	241	212	88,0	29	12,0
Class B: Communal life	71 636	58 808	82,1	12 828	17,9
B1: Family life and care of children	613	468	76,3	145	23,7
B2: Indecent sexual and related matters	14 048	8 550	60,9	5 498	39,1
B3: Drugs and dependence-producing substances	53 304	46 468	87,2	6 836	12,8
B4: Other matters against communal life	3 671	3 322	90,5	349	9,5
Class C: Personal relations	121 765	88 394	72,6	33 371	27,4
C1: Life and body of a person	117 962	85 827	72,8	32 135	27,2
C2: Reputation and honour of a person	3 241	2 248	69,4	993	30,6
C3: Liberty and right to possess	562	319	56,8	243	43,2
Class D: Property	229 325	175 184	73,8	54 141	26,2
D1: Burglaries and related matters	47 696	37 334	78,3	10 362	21,7
D2: Theft from the person	16 914	9 562	56,5	7 352	43,5
D3: Theft of livestock and related matters	10 015	7 638	76,3	2 377	23,7
D4: Other thefts	125 445	99 456	79,3	25 989	20,7
D5: Falsitas and related behaviour	10 493	8 614	82,1	1 879	17,9
D6: Other matters relating to property	18 319	12 239	66,8	6 080	33,2
D7: Animals	443	341	77,0	102	23,0
Class E: Economic affairs	1 464	1 149	78,5	315	21,5
E1: Economy, general	155	132	85,2	23	14,8
E2: Agriculture, animal husbandry, fishery and water affairs	19	18	94,7	1	5,3
E3: Mining and related matters	1 280	993	77,6	287	22,4
E4: Manufacturing and construction	2	-	-	2	100,0
E5: Commerce and business services	1	1	100,0	0	-
E8: Other economic affairs	7	5	71,4	2	28,6
Class F: Social affairs	37 354	33 375	89,3	3 979	10,7
F1: Road traffic	37 323	33 349	89,4	3 974	10,6
F6: Health services	31	26	83,9	5	16,1
TOTAL: RSA	485 099	373 590	77,0	111 509	23,0

TABLE 3.2: The outcome of prosecutions for selected offences in the RSA for 1991/92: Persons aged seven years and older

Type of offence	Prosecutions	Convictions		Other (e.g. discharged, mentally disordered)	
	N	N	%	N	%
TOTAL: All types of offences	485 099	373 590	77,0	111 509	23,0
Property offences*	142 200	113 790	80,0	28 410	20,0
Violent offences**	137 981	92 097	66,7	45 884	33,3
The Big Six***	144 259	100 226	69,5	44 033	30,5
A selection of offences:					
Illegal possession of firearms	6 047	4 413	73,0	1 634	27,0
Rape or attempted rape	9 450	4 841	51,2	4 609	48,8
Drugs and dependence-producing substances	53 304	46 468	87,2	6 836	12,8
Assault: common	41 509	30 324	73,0	11 185	27,0
aggravated	62 490	43 511	69,6	18 979	30,4
Murder	6 763	3 743	55,4	3 020	44,6
Attempted murder	2 209	999	45,2	1 210	54,8
Burglary: business premises	14 020	11 041	78,8	2 979	21,2
residential premises	33 458	26 191	78,3	7 267	21,7
Bag-snatching	1 277	840	65,8	437	34,2
Robbery: aggravated	9 145	5 241	57,3	3 904	42,7
other	6 415	3 438	53,6	2 977	46,7
Theft of livestock (excluding poultry)	7 997	6 001	75,0	1 996	25,0
Shoplifting	41 146	37 472	91,1	3 674	8,9
Theft of firearms	524	383	73,1	141	26,9
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	6 724	4 659	69,3	2 065	30,7
Theft from a vehicle	8 408	6 350	75,5	2 058	24,5
All fraud	10 327	8 614	83,4	1 713	16,6
Arson	1 312	599	45,7	713	54,3
Malicious damage to property	17 007	11 640	68,4	5 367	31,6
Driving whilst under the influence	21 146	19 956	94,4	1 190	5,6
All other types of offences not already mentioned	124 421	96 866	77,9	27 555	22,1

* Property offences include the following: burglary (business and residential), bag snatching, theft of livestock, shoplifting, theft of firearms, theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle, theft from a vehicle, all fraud, arson, malicious damage to property.

** Violent offences include the following: rape or attempted rape, assault (common and aggravated), murder, attempted murder, robbery (aggravated and other).

*** The Big Six includes the following: murder and attempted murder, rape and attempted rape, assault (aggravated), burglary (business and residential), robbery (aggravated), theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle.

TABLE 3.3: Convictions in the RSA for 1991/92: Persons aged seven years and older, by gender

Class and subclass of offence	Male		Female		TOTAL	
	N	Rate*	N	Rate*	N	Rate*
Class A: Government authority and good order	15 672	122,3	1 008	7,8	16 680	64,9
A1: State security	235	1,8	16	0,1	251	1,0
A2: Law and order	8 359	65,1	451	3,5	8 810	34,3
A3: Administration of justice	6 905	53,8	502	3,9	7 407	28,8
A4: Public finance	173	1,3	39	0,3	212	0,8
Class B: Communal life	54 268	423,4	4 540	35,2	58 808	228,7
B1: Family life and care of children	277	2,2	191	1,5	468	1,8
B2: Indecent sexual and related matters	7 775	60,5	775	6,0	8 550	33,3
B3: Drugs and dependence-producing substances	43 151	336,0	3 317	25,8	46 468	180,7
B4: Other matters against communal life	3 065	23,9	257	2,0	3 322	12,9
Class C: Personal relations	76 004	593,0	12 390	96,1	88 394	343,8
C1: Life and body of a person	74 126	577,2	11 701	90,9	85 827	333,8
C2: Reputation and honour of a person	1 582	12,3	666	5,2	2 248	8,7
C3: Liberty and right to possess	296	2,3	23	0,2	319	1,2
Class D: Property	147 344	1 149,6	27 840	216,0	175 184	681,4
D1: Burglaries and related matters	36 191	281,8	1 143	8,9	37 334	145,2
D2: Theft from the person	9 334	72,7	228	1,8	9 562	37,2
D3: Theft of livestock and related matters	7 339	57,2	299	2,3	7 638	29,7
D4: Other thefts	76 373	594,7	23 083	179,4	99 456	386,8
D5: Falsitas and related behaviour	7 025	54,7	1 589	12,3	8 614	33,5
D6: Other matters relating to property	10 766	83,8	1 473	11,5	12 239	47,6
D7: Animals	316	2,5	25	0,2	341	1,3
Class E: Economic affairs	1 057	8,3	92	0,7	1 149	4,5
E1: Economy, general	116	0,9	16	0,1	132	0,5
E2: Agriculture, animal husbandry, fishery and water affairs	18	0,1	-	-	18	0,1
E3: Mining and related matters	917	7,1	76	0,6	993	3,9
E4: Manufacturing and construction	-	-	-	-	-	-
E5: Commerce and business services	1	0,0	-	-	1	0,0
E8: Other economic affairs	5	0,0	-	-	5	0,0
Class F: Social affairs	31 790	248,0	1 585	12,3	33 375	129,8
F1: Road traffic	31 766	247,4	1 583	12,3	33 349	129,7
F6: Health services	24	0,2	2	0,0	26	0,1
TOTAL: RSA	326 135	2 544,6	47 455	368,1	373 590	1 453,1

* The rate is calculated per 100 000 of the RSA population aged seven years and older, using 1991 census data.

An analysis of convictions for 1991/92

The number of persons and the rate per 100 000 of the population convicted in each class and subclass of offence are given in Table 3.3. The information is given separately for males and females.

A total of 373 590 persons were convicted in courts in the RSA during 1991/92. This represents 1 453,1 per 100 000 of the population. The complexity and seriousness of the crime situation in South Africa become apparent if one considers the following:

- CSS reported that 389 978 persons were convicted during 1987/88 (Glanz, Mostert & Hofmeyr, 1992:33).
- According to the SAPS, 1 423 763 crimes were reported to the police during 1988 (Glanz, 1994:10).
- In the above paragraph it was noted that 373 590 persons were convicted during 1991/92, which means a decrease of 16 388 cases, or 4 per cent, in a four-year period.
- The SAPS reported 1 781 861 offences for 1992, which represents an increase of 358 098 incidents, or 25 per cent, in a four-year period.

Gender differences

Gender differences can be observed in Tables 3.3 and 3.4. The overall male/female conviction ratio was 7:1 (see Table 3.3). This is slightly greater than the ratio of 6:1 noted for the 1987/88 conviction statistics (Glanz, Mostert & Hofmeyr, 1992). In the light of the 4 per cent decrease in the total number of convictions between 1987/88 and 1991/92, the increase in the male/female ratio suggests an increase in the involvement of males in crime over the four year period, as compared with females. The male/female conviction ratio varies considerably between classes and subclasses of offences. The difference in the rate for males and females was smaller in the case of *Other thefts* (which includes shoplifting) (3:1), and for fraud and related crimes (4:1). However, the difference was considerably greater in respect of offences such as those relating to law and order (19:1), drug-related offences (13:1), burglaries (32:1), and road traffic offences (20:1).

The difference in conviction patterns between the sexes is clearly evident from Table 4. Whereas the male/female conviction ratio for property offences was 5:1 and the ratio for violent offences was 7:1, the ratio for the Big Six was 11:1. This confirms that females were involved in crimes of a comparatively less serious nature than those of males. The male/female difference was most pronounced in respect of, for example, drug-related offences (13:1), murder and attempted murder (14:1),

burglary (32:1), robbery (41:1), motor vehicle theft (72:1) and driving under the influence (35:1). It was less pronounced in the case of offences such as shoplifting (1,5:1) and fraud (5:1).

Male/female differences were even greater in the younger age category (i.e. persons aged between seven and 20 years). In this age category the male/female conviction ratio was 7:1 for property offences, 9:1 for violent offences and 17:1 for the Big Six (i.e. for the most serious types of crime).

Age differences

Differences in conviction patterns between persons aged 21 years and older and those below the age of 21 can be seen from Tables 3.4 and 3.5. Rates are based on the particular age groups involved.* The following observations are of considerable significance:

- Whereas the **overall** conviction rate for adult males was **nearly twice** the rate for young males, the conviction rate for **property** offences for adult males was **slightly lower** than the rate for young males. The rate for this group of offences for young males between the age of 18 and 20 years was more than twice the rate for adult males.
- The conviction rate for the Big Six for young males was nearly as great as the rate for adult males. Again, if one looks particularly at males in the age group 18 to 20 years, the rate for the Big Six was more than twice the rate for adults. This demonstrates the fact that young males' involvement in crime tends to be in crimes of a serious nature.
- Young males were convicted of rape, burglary, robbery, theft from a motor vehicle, bag-snatching and shoplifting more often than adult males.
- Young males were convicted of offences such as illegal possession of firearms, drug-related offences, murder, assault, fraud, arson, theft of livestock and malicious damage to property considerably less often than adult males.
- The conviction rate for young males in the age category 18 to 20 years for virtually every category of offence was greater than the rate for adult males. The rate for rape, robbery, burglary and motor vehicle theft was three times

* It should be borne in mind that when comparing conviction rates for the 18 to 20-year-old age group with rates for adults, ideally one should be able to compare the rates of the former group with, for example, the rates for the age group 21 to 25 years. Conviction statistics for the latter group are however not published separately by the CSS.

greater, and the rate for theft from a motor vehicle was four times greater than the rate for adult males.

The differences in conviction rates between the two age groups seven to 17 years and 18 to 20 years can be seen in Table 3.5. As one would expect, this table clearly indicates that the conviction rate for the former age group was considerably lower than the rate for the latter group. The difference in rate between the two age groups was greatest in respect of violent crime and less in the case of property crime.

The conviction pattern for young and adult females tends to follow the same trend as the pattern described above for young and adult males.

Area differences

The number of convictions according to the place where the offence was committed is given in Table 3.6. In view of the fact that the conviction statistics are for the RSA as a whole (and not just in respect of the four provinces, as in the case of police crime statistics), the authors are of the opinion that it would be inadvisable to calculate conviction rates for specific areas since in order to do this the population numbers for the former self-governing territories would have to be arbitrarily allocated to certain areas, and this could create a false picture of the conviction rate in those areas.* When making comparisons between areas it should be borne in mind that (1) variations in the police's ability to solve cases and (2) variations in the conviction success rate (in terms of the outcome of cases going to court) among different areas will affect the conviction statistics for an area. For this reason, conviction patterns (across areas) can look quite different to crime patterns and some quite surprising conviction trends can be noted.

There were considerable differences in the proportion of convictions obtained for property and violent offences in each area, compared with these proportions for the country as a whole. For example, whereas convictions for **property** offences

* An attempt was made to calculate conviction rates for each area. Highly improbable results were obtained—probably as a result of crimes being recorded as having been committed in certain areas and the population *pool* which the offenders represent as not being included in the population numbers used to calculate the rates. For example, calculations indicated that whereas the overall conviction rate per 100 000 of the population for the Cape Peninsula was 2 129 and the rate for Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage was 1 976, the rate for the Remainder of the CP was 3 663. This does not make sense and is probably due to the fact that a considerable proportion of the crimes being committed in certain parts of the CP (in areas other than the Cape Peninsula and Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage) were being committed by persons from outside the borders of the CP (such as from the Ciskei and the Transkei). The effect of crimes committed by persons from across South Africa's borders on crime (and conviction) rates has been noted previously (Glanz, Mostert & Hofmeyr, 1992).

comprised 31 per cent of the total number of convictions for the country as a whole, the same offences comprised 40 per cent of convictions in the Cape Peninsula. Furthermore, while convictions for **violent** offences comprised 25 per cent of the total number of convictions for the country as a whole, the same offences comprised 10 per cent of convictions in Durban/Pinetown and 14 per cent in Pretoria. Given the general view (substantiated by police crime statistics) that the rate of violence in Natal is high, the above finding relating to violent crime in Durban is surprising and probably due to the factors referred to in the above paragraph. (These percentages are not given in Table 3.6.)

With regard to the **Big Six**, convictions in respect of this group of offences accounted for 27 per cent of the total number of convictions for the RSA as a whole. Again, the proportion of the **Big Six** in the case of Durban/Pinetown was much lower (12 per cent of the total number of convictions in this area). The proportion of the **Big Six** was also low for Pretoria (14 per cent).

TABLE 3.4: Convictions for selected offences in the RSA for 1991/92: Persons aged seven years and older, by age and gender

Type of offence	7 - 20 years				21 years and older				Total: 7 years and older					
	Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		TOTAL	
	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate
TOTAL: All types of offences	81 409	1 747,2	10 238	222,4	244 726	3 000,0	37 217	449,0	326 135	2 544,6	47 455	368,1	377 590	1 468,7
Property offences*	34 845	747,9	5 271	114,5	55 997	723,2	14 537	175,3	90 842	732,2	19 808	153,6	113 650	442,0
Violent offences**	20 079	431,0	2 125	46,3	64 501	790,7	9 539	115,1	84 580	659,9	11 664	90,4	96 244	374,3
The Big Six***	31 893	684,5	1 837	40,0	59 713	732,0	6 547	78,9	91 606	714,7	8 384	65,3	99 990	388,9
A selection of offences:														
Illegal possession of firearms	893	19,2	22	0,5	3 397	41,6	101	1,2	4 290	33,5	123	0,9	4 413	11,1
Rape or attempted rape	1 919	41,2	-	-	2 922	35,8	-	-	4 841	37,8	-	-	4 841	19,2
Drugs and dependence-producing substances	7 495	160,9	357		35 656	437,0	2 960	35,7	43 151	336,7	3 317	25,7	46 468	180,7
Assault: common	5 066	108,7	766	16,6	25 258	309,6	3 617	43,6	30 324	236,6	4 383	34,0	34 707	135,0
Assault: aggravated	8 458	181,5	1 245	27,1	28 063	344,0	5 509	66,5	36 521	284,9	6 754	52,4	43 275	168,3
Murder	943	20,2	46	1,0	2 528	31,0	226	2,7	3 471	27,1	272	2,1	3 743	14,6
Attempted murder	232	5,0	14	0,3	713	8,7	40	0,5	945	7,4	54	0,4	999	3,9
Burglary:														
business premises	5 045	108,3	56	1,2	2 828	71,4	112	1,3	10 873	84,8	168	1,3	11 041	42,9
residential premises	11 616	249,3	429	9,3	13 602	166,7	544	6,6	25 218	196,8	973	7,5	26 191	101,8
Bag-snatching	387	8,3	4	0,1	428	5,2	21	0,2	815	6,3	25	0,2	840	3,3
Robbery: aggravated	2 059	44,2	35	0,8	3 079	37,7	68	0,8	5 138	40,1	103	0,8	5 241	20,4
Robbery: other	1 402	30,1	19	0,4	1 938	23,7	79	0,9	3 340	26,1	98	0,8	3 438	13,4
Theft of livestock (excluding poultry)	1 092	23,4	23	0,5	4 718	57,8	168	2,0	5 810	45,3	191	1,5	6 001	23,3
Shoplifting	8 537	183,2	4 348	94,5	13 682	167,7	10 905	131,5	22 219	173,4	15 253	118,3	37 472	145,7
Theft of firearms	92	2,0	5	0,1	261	3,2	25	0,3	353	2,8	30	0,2	383	1,5
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	1 621	34,8	12	0,3	2 978	36,5	48	0,6	4 599	35,9	60	0,5	4 659	18,1

Type of offence	7 - 20 years				21 years and older				Total: 7 years and older					
	Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		TOTAL	
	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate
Theft from a vehicle	2 925	62,8	27	0,6	3 360	41,2	38	0,4	6 285	49,0	65	0,5	6 350	24,7
All fraud	510	11,0	117	2,5	6 394	78,3	1 453	17,5	6 904	53,9	1 570	12,1	8 474	32,9
Arson	126	2,7	10	0,2	388	4,6	75	0,9	514	4,0	85	0,7	599	2,3
Malicious damage to property	2 894	62,1	240	5,2	7 358	90,1	1 148	13,8	10 252	80,0	1 388	10,8	11 640	45,2
Driving whilst under the influence	749	16,1	30	0,7	18 649	228,6	528	6,3	19 398	151,3	558	4,3	19 956	77,6
All other types of offences not already mentioned	17 348	372,3	2 433	52,8	63 526	775,4	9 552	115,2	80 874	630,9	11 985	93,4	96 866	376,8

* Property offences include the following: burglary (business and residential), bag-snatching, theft of livestock, shoplifting, theft of firearms, theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle, theft from a vehicle, all fraud, arson, malicious damage to property.

** Violent offences include the following: rape or attempted rape, assault (common and aggravated), murder, attempted murder, robbery (aggravated and other).

*** The Big Six includes the following: murder and attempted murder, rape and attempted rape, assault (aggravated), burglary (business and residential), robbery (aggravated), theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle.

TABLE 3.5: Convictions for selected offences in the RSA for 1991/92: Persons aged seven to 20 years, by gender

Type of offence	7 - 17 years				18 - 20 years				Total: 7 - 20 years					
	Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		TOTAL	
	N	Rate*	N	Rate*	N	Rate*	N	Rate*	N	Rate*	N	Rate*	N	Rate*
TOTAL: All types of offences	34 182	923,8	4 181	114,4	47 102	4 911,2	6 028	636,1	81 409	1 747,2	10 241	222,4	91 650	989,4
Property offences**	17 642	476,8	2 475	67,7	17 203	1 793,7	2 796	295,1	34 845	747,9	5 271	114,5	40 116	433,1
Violent offences***	6 763	184,3	624	17,7	13 311	1 395,6	1 504	159,2	20 079	431,0	2 128	46,3	22 204	239,7
The Big Six^d	14 551	393,2	710	19,4	17 342	1 808,2	1 130	119,2	31 893	684,5	1 840	40,0	33 733	364,2
A selection of offences:														
Illegal possession of firearms	293	7,9	8	0,2	600	62,6	14	1,5	893	19,2	22	0,5	915	9,9
Rape or attempted rape	866	23,4	-	-	1 053	109,8	-	-	1 919	41,2	-	-	1 919	20,7
Drugs and dependence-producing substances	2 277	61,5	108	3,0	5 218	544,1	249	26,3	7 495	160,9	357	7,8	7 852	84,8
Assault: common	1 348	36,4	208	5,7	3 718	387,7	558	58,9	5 066	108,7	766	16,6	5 832	63,0
Assault: aggravated	2 845	76,9	384	10,5	5 613	585,3	864	91,2	8 458	181,5	1 248	27,1	9 706	104,8
Murder	310	8,4	12	0,3	633	66,0	34	3,6	943	20,2	46	1,0	989	10,7
Attempted murder	76	2,1	2	0,1	156	16,3	12	1,3	232	5,0	14	0,3	246	2,7
Burglary:														
business premises	2 709	73,2	29	0,8	2 336	243,6	27	2,9	5 045	108,3	56	1,2	5 101	55,1
residential premises	6 258	169,1	267	7,3	5 358	558,7	162	17,1	11 616	249,3	429	9,3	12 045	130,0
Bag-snatching	190	5,1	2	0,1	197	20,5	2	0,2	387	8,3	4	0,1	391	4,2
Robbery: aggravated	777	21,0	13	0,3	1 282	133,7	22	2,3	2 059	44,2	35	0,8	2 094	22,6
Robbery: other	541	14,6	5	0,1	861	89,8	14	1,5	1 402	30,1	19	0,4	1 421	15,3
Theft of livestock (excluding poultry)	481	13,0	8	0,2	611	63,7	15	1,6	1 092	23,4	23	0,5	1 115	12,0
Shoplifting	4 647	125,6	2 041	55,8	3 890	405,6	2 307	243,5	8 537	183,2	4 348	94,5	12 885	139,1
Theft of firearms	36	1,0	3	0,1	56	5,8	2	0,2	92	2,0	5	0,1	97	1,1
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	710	19,2	3	0,1	911	95,0	9	1,0	1 621	34,8	12	0,3	1 633	17,6

Type of offence	7 - 17 years				18 - 20 years				Total: 7 - 20 years					
	Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		TOTAL	
	N	Rate*	N	Rate*	N	Rate*	N	Rate*	N	Rate*	N	Rate*	N	Rate*
Theft from a vehicle	1 375	37,2	10	0,3	1 550	161,6	17	2,0	2 925	62,8	27	0,6	2 952	31,9
All fraud	125	3,4	29	0,8	385	40,1	88	9,3	510	11,0	117	2,5	627	6,8
Arson	44	1,2	3	0,1	82	8,6	7	0,7	126	2,7	10	0,2	136	1,5
Malicious damage to property	1 067	28,8	80	2,2	1 827	190,5	160	16,9	2 894	62,1	240	5,2	3 134	33,8
Driving whilst under the influence	61	1,7	2	0,1	688	71,7	28	3,0	749	16,1	30	0,7	779	8,4
All other types of offences not already mentioned	7 146	193,1	964	26,4	10 077	1 050,7	1 437	151,6	17 348	372,3	2 433	52,8	19 781	213,5

* Rates are based on the 1991 census figures and are calculated per 100 000 of the population of the particular age category concerned.

** This is a selection of property offences as follows: burglary (business and residential), bag-snatching, theft of livestock, shoplifting, theft of firearms, theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle, theft from a vehicle, all fraud, arson, malicious damage to property.

*** This is a selection of violent offences as follows: rape or attempted rape, assault (common and aggravated), murder, attempted murder, robbery (aggravated and other).

† The term Big Six refers to the six most serious offences as follows: murder and attempted murder, rape and attempted rape, assault (aggravated), burglary (business and residential), robbery (aggravated), theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle.

TABLE 3.6: Convictions for selected offences in the RSA for 1991/92: Persons aged seven years and older, by place where offence was committed

Type of offence	Cape Peninsula	Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage	Remainder of the CP	TOTAL: CP
TOTAL: All types of offences	35 389	13 992	99 351	148 732
Property offences*	11 321	4 153	35 945	51 419
Violent offences**	6 643	3 379	29 774	39 796
The Big Six***	8 290	4 136	34 279	46 705
A selection of offences:				
Illegal possession of firearms	447	44	232	723
Rape or attempted rape	381	187	1 351	1 919
Drugs and dependence-producing substances	6 674	2 033	10 586	19 293
Assault: common	1 702	669	11 970	14 341
aggravated	2 833	2 000	13 872	18 705
Murder	296	185	842	1 323
Attempted murder	55	26	162	243
Burglary: business premises	856	460	4 485	5 801
residential premises	2 308	860	12 262	15 430
Bag-snatching	146	18	141	305
Robbery: aggravated	876	186	775	1 837
other	500	126	802	1 428
Theft of livestock (excluding poultry)	68	85	2 707	2 860
Shoplifting	3 619	1 227	8 155	13 001
Theft of firearms	40	13	44	97
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	685	232	530	1 447
Theft from a vehicle	1 249	314	1 881	3 444
All fraud	1 208	340	1 208	2 756
Arson	28	32	109	169
Malicious damage to property	1 114	571	4 423	6 108
Driving whilst under the influence	1 708	1 272	4 764	7 744
All other types of offences not already mentioned	8 596	3 112	18 050	29 758

* Property offences include the following: burglary (business and residential), bag-snatching, theft of livestock, shoplifting, theft of firearms, theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle, theft from a vehicle, all fraud, arson, malicious damage to property.

** Violent offences include the following: rape or attempted rape, assault (common and aggravated), murder, attempted murder, robbery (aggravated and other).

*** The Big Six includes the following: murder and attempted murder, rape and attempted rape, assault (aggravated), burglary (business and residential), robbery (aggravated), theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle.

Type of offence	Durban and Pinetown	Remainder of Natal	TOTAL: NATAL	Bloemfontein	Remainder of the OFS	TOTAL: OFS
TOTAL: All types of offences	18 309	47 919	66 228	5 595	26 526	32 121
Property offences*	6 152	12 942	19 094	1 951	8 278	10 229
Violent offences**	1 447	11 600	13 049	1 160	7 633	8 793
The Big Six***	2 710	11 982	14 692	1 243	6 811	8 054
A selection of offences:						
Illegal possession of firearms	331	2 068	2 399	32	139	171
Rape or attempted rape	89	517	606	76	431	507
Drugs and dependence-producing substances	3 673	7 215	10 888	716	2 756	3 472
Assault: common	651	4 636	5 287	468	3 186	3 654
aggravated	373	4 931	5 304	423	3 404	3 827
Murder	71	636	707	82	187	269
Attempted murder	59	184	243	14	50	64
Burglary:						
business premises	416	1 275	1 691	168	781	9 49
residential premises	769	3 233	4 002	413	1 703	2 116
Bag-snatching	147	111	258	26	20	46
Robbery: aggravated	416	696	1 112	67	255	322
other	161	510	671	30	120	150
Theft of livestock (excluding poultry)	4	719	723	104	1 136	1 240
Shoplifting	3 000	4 533	7 533	743	2 577	3 320
Theft of firearms	31	56	87	7	34	41
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	517	510	1 027	67	174	241
Theft from a vehicle	449	646	1 095	117	345	462
All fraud	538	705	1 243	155	601	756
Arson	10	188	198	3	42	45
Malicious damage to property	271	966	1 237	148	865	1 013
Driving whilst under the influence	857	1 815	2 672	163	789	952
All other types of offences not already mentioned	5 476	11 769	17 248	1 573	6 931	8 504

* Property offences include the following: burglary (business and residential), bag-snatching, theft of livestock, shoplifting, theft of firearms, theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle, theft from a vehicle, all fraud, arson, malicious damage to property.

** Violent offences include the following: rape or attempted rape, assault (common and aggravated), murder, attempted murder, robbery (aggravated and other).

*** The Big Six includes the following: murder and attempted murder, rape and attempted rape, assault (aggravated), burglary (business and residential), robbery (aggravated), theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle.

Court statistics

Type of offence	Pretoria	Johannesburg	Remainder of Witwatersrand	Remainder of Tvl	TOTAL:TVL
TOTAL: All types of offences	14 203	20 840	26 308	65 758	127 109
Property offences*	4 210	5 984	8 959	17 784	36 937
Violent offences**	1 959	5 813	6 929	20 518	35 219
The Big Six***	2 198	5 840	7 632	19 025	34 695
A selection of offences:					
Illegal possession of firearms	52	347	273	448	1 120
Rape or attempted rape	154	357	418	880	1 809
Drugs and dependence-producing substances	2 745	2 179	2 103	5 788	12 815
Assault: common	813	1 596	1 738	7 278	11 425
aggravated	673	2 098	3 140	9 924	15 835
Murder	60	226	260	897	1 443
Attempted murder	38	708	92	212	450
Burglary: business premises	239	374	479	1 574	2 666
residential premises	658	964	1 671	4 214	9 507
Bag-snatching	31	78	41	81	231
Robbery: aggravated	134	502	994	811	2 441
other	87	326	287	516	1 216
Theft of livestock (excluding poultry)	15	14	82	1 067	1 178
Shoplifting	1 742	2 163	3 547	6 166	13 618
Theft of firearms	29	19	41	69	158
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	242	611	578	513	1 944
Theft from a vehicle	226	339	326	652	1 543
All fraud	729	690	730	1 570	3 719
Arson	12	15	22	139	188
Malicious damage to property	287	717	1 442	1 739	4 185
Driving whilst under the influence	784	1 356	3 319	3 129	8 588
All other types of offences not already mentioned	4 453	5 161	4 725	18 091	32 430

* Property offences include the following: burglary (business and residential), bag-snatching, theft of livestock, shoplifting, theft of firearms, theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle, theft from a vehicle, all fraud, arson, malicious damage to property.

** Violent offences include the following: rape or attempted rape, assault (common and aggravated), murder, attempted murder, robbery (aggravated and other).

*** The Big Six includes the following: murder and attempted murder, rape and attempted rape, assault (aggravated), burglary (business and residential), robbery (aggravated), theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle.

CHAPTER 4

Prison statistics

Introduction

Prison statistics, which form the final link in the criminal justice statistics chain, are kept by the Department of Correctional Services. This Department has the responsibility of receiving offenders who have been sentenced to prison by the courts. Although sentences other than imprisonment (such as correctional supervision) are also handed down by the courts and persons receiving these types of sentences also become the responsibility of the Department, only information relating to the number of offenders admitted to prisons in the RSA is given in this chapter. The data include information on the type of sentence being served and on the number of persons admitted to prison who have not yet been sentenced (i.e. on the number received from police custody).

Persons admitted to prison during 1992

The number of prisoners admitted from police cells and the courts during the period 1 January 1992 to 31 December 1992 is given in Table 4.1. The data are given separately for males and females and according to population group.

The majority of persons who were admitted to prisons in South Africa during 1992 were those awaiting trial (58 per cent). Offenders sentenced to six months imprisonment or less constituted the second largest proportion of those admitted (22 per cent). Ninety-four males were admitted who had received the death sentence.

The overall male/female admission ratio was approximately 10:1. This ratio varies little by population group, except in the case of the Asians for whom the male/female ratio was 7:1. The male/female ratio varies considerably however by type of sentence: It was 6:1 in the case of sentences of six months and less and much greater in respect of longer sentences, such as 28:1 for sentences of two to five years. This suggests that most females who are taken up in prison are sentenced to relatively short periods of imprisonment, indicative of the fact that women tend to be convicted for less serious types of offences. It is interesting to note that the ratio in the case of the category *Other*, namely 3:1, was considerably lower than the overall ratio. This is due to the fact that the category *Other* consists overwhelmingly of judgement debtors, and there are relatively large numbers of women appearing in court for this type of offence.

TABLE 4.1: Number of prisoners admitted from police and courts in the RSA during the period 1 January 1992 to 31 December 1992, by population group and gender

Category of prisoner	Asians		Blacks		Coloureds		Whites		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Unsentenced (awaiting trial)	1 733	64	184 897	12 366	27 031	1 459	6 647	456	220 308	14 345
Sentenced:										
Corporal punishment only	1	-	748	-	172	-	28	-	949	-
Periodic imprisonment	15	-	173	3	115	5	144	12	447	20
<i>Short-term prisoners:</i>										
- 6 months and less	541	41	52 755	10 853	21 943	2 913	1 582	82	76 821	13 889
- more than 6 months, less than 2 years	152	7	18 752	1 339	7 155	342	895	56	26 954	1 744
<i>Long-term prisoners:</i>										
- 2 to 5 years	157	10	15 619	480	4 711	187	1 097	109	21 584	786
- more than 5 years, up to 15 years	64	2	5 569	92	1 490	29	493	20	7 616	143
- more than 15 years, habitual criminal and life imprisonment	5	-	743	11	267	4	144	4	1 159	19
Death sentence	-	-	75	-	12	-	7	-	94	-
Other (e.g. State President's patient, judgement debtor, detainee)	1 616	494	4 302	1 909	4 860	2 147	2 330	522	13 108	5 072
TOTAL	4 284	618	283 633	27 053	67 756	7 086	13 367	1 261	369 040	36 018

TABLE 4.2: Prisoners in custody in the RSA on 31 December 1992, by population group

Category of prisoner	Asians		Blacks		Coloureds		Whites		Total	
	N	Rate*	N	Rate*	N	Rate*	N	Rate*	N	Rate*
Unsentenced (awaiting trial)	87	8,7	17 131	76,8	2 345	70,0	466	9,1	20 029	63,1
Sentenced:										
Corporal punishment only	-	-	2	0,0	-	-	-	-	2	0,0
Periodic imprisonment	2	0,2	-	-	-	-	6	0,1	8	0,0
<i>Short-term prisoners:</i>										
- 6 months and less	25	2,5	4 876	21,9	1 932	57,7	140	2,7	6 973	22,0
- more than 6 months, less than 2 years	66	6,6	7 490	33,6	3 438	102,6	322	6,3	11 316	35,6
<i>Long-term prisoners:</i>										
- 2 to 5 years	226	22,6	22 646	101,6	9 528	284,3	1 298	25,4	33 698	106,1
- more than 5 years, up to 15 years	206	20,6	19 079	85,6	7 357	219,5	1 429	27,9	28 071	88,4
- more than 15 years, habitual criminal and life imprisonment	56	5,6	5 040	22,6	2 332	69,6	520	10,2	7 948	25,0
Death sentence	3	0,3	216	1,0	32	1,0	20	0,4	271	0,9
Other (e.g. State President's patient, judgement debtor, detainee)	6	0,6	145	0,7	164	4,9	67	1,3	382	1,2
TOTAL	677	67,6	76 625	343,7	27 128	809,5	4 268	83,4	108 698	342,2

* The rates, which are given per 100 000 of the population, are based on the 1991 census figures, taking population growth for 1992 for the different groups into account.

Persons in prison on 31 December 1992

The number of persons in prison on 31 December 1992 is given in Table 4.2. The rate *per capita* is also given for purposes of comparison. It should be noted that when absolute numbers are extremely small, comparisons should not be made.

The overall prison rate among the Asians and the whites was quite similar, with the rate for the Asians being slightly less than the rate for the whites, particularly in the case of longer sentences. The difference between the rates for these two groups on the one hand and the rates for the coloureds and the blacks on the other hand was quite substantial, with the total rate for the whites, for example, being four times less than the total rate for the blacks.

The most notable aspect of South African prison statistics is the substantially high prison rate for the coloureds. The overall rate for the coloureds was 2,4 times greater than the overall rate for the blacks. It should be pointed out that the difference between the rates for the coloureds and the blacks all but disappeared in the case of persons awaiting trial, suggesting that the trials of the coloured accused were finalized more quickly than those of the black accused. This difference can be seen clearly in Table 4.4, which will be referred to shortly. It can also be noted that the prison rate for the coloureds increased to three times greater than the rate for the blacks in the case of longer sentences (i.e. sentences of 15 years and longer). This suggests that the coloureds were involved in crimes of a somewhat more serious nature and/or that extenuating circumstances were found to be present less often in the cases relating to the coloureds, as compared with the blacks.

These observed differences should be approached with caution and may be due to a number of factors which will be discussed in Chapter 6.

The distribution of the various categories of prisoners in custody on 31 December 1992 is given according to population group in Table 4.3. The differences between population groups in respect of the proportion of unsentenced prisoners in each group can be seen from the table. The blacks had the largest proportion of unsentenced prisoners (22 per cent, compared with 13 per cent for the Asians, 9 per cent for the coloureds and 11 per cent for the whites). This would appear to indicate that court cases involving black accused persons tend to take the longest to be finalized.

Differences between population groups in respect of the categories of prisoners in custody on 31 December 1992 can be seen in Table 4.4 and in Figure 4.1. The distribution of the South African population is also given in the table for comparison purposes. Again, the overrepresentation of the blacks among the **unsentenced** prisoners, as well as the overrepresentation of the coloureds among the **sentenced** prisoners were evident. Of note is the considerable overrepresentation of the coloureds, and underrepresentation of the blacks, in the category *Other* (consisting mainly of judgement debtors), and the fact that the proportion of whites in the category *Other* (judgement debtors) matches the proportion of whites in the

population, even though the whites are considerably underrepresented among the other two prisoner categories.

TABLE 4.3: Distribution of various categories of prisoners in custody in the RSA on 31 December 1992, by population group

Category of prisoner	Asians	Blacks	Coloureds	Whites	TOTAL
	Percentage				
Unsentenced	12,8	22,3	8,6	10,9	18,4
Sentenced	86,3	77,5	90,8	87,5	81,2
Other	0,9	0,2	0,6	1,6	0,4
TOTAL	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

TABLE 4.4: Distribution of population group of prisoners in custody in the RSA on 31 December 1992, by category of prisoner

Population group	Unsentenced	Sentenced	Other	TOTAL	Population distribution
	Percentage				
Asians	0,4	0,7	1,6	0,6	3,2
Blacks	85,5	67,2	38,0	70,5	69,9
Coloureds	11,7	27,9	42,9	25,0	10,6
Whites	2,3	4,2	17,5	3,9	16,3
TOTAL	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Differences between subgroups of sentenced prisoners can be examined in Tables 4.5 and 4.6. These tables give the distributions of the population of sentenced prisoners as at 31 December 1992 by type of sentence and population group. It can be seen from Table 4.5 that a somewhat greater proportion of the sentenced white prisoners (52 per cent) who were in prison on 31 December 1992 were serving sentences of longer than five years, than the proportion among the blacks (41 per cent) and the coloureds (39 per cent). This seems to suggest that although the overall prison rate among whites was substantially lower than the overall rate among the coloureds and the blacks, the whites who were in prison were serving somewhat longer sentences than the blacks and the coloureds, suggesting

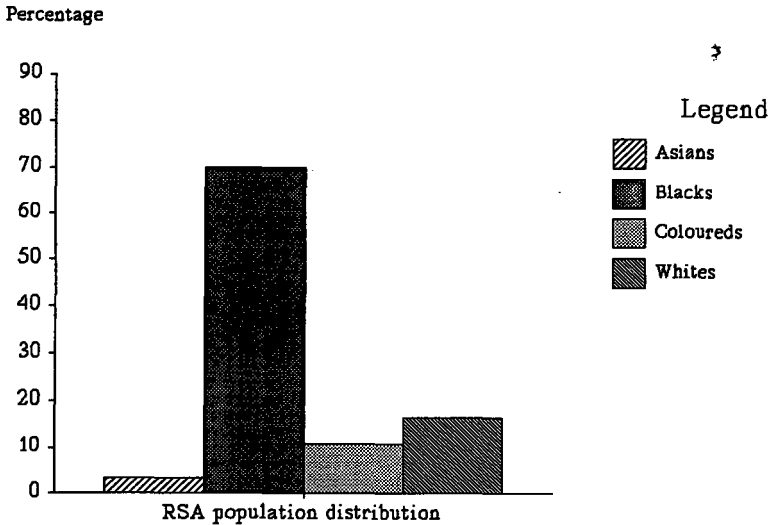
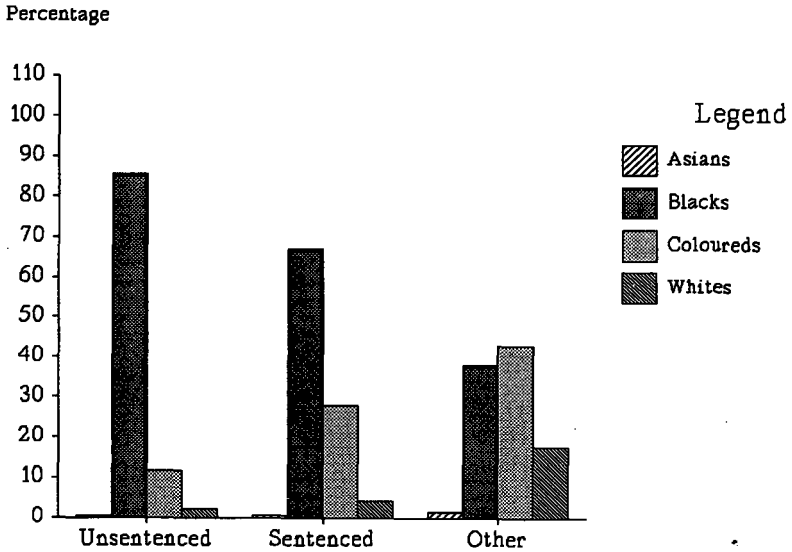
involvement in somewhat more serious crimes, or crimes with fewer extenuating circumstances.

TABLE 4.5: Distribution of various categories of sentenced prisoners in the RSA in custody on 31 December 1992, by population group

Category of sentenced prisoner	Asians	Blacks	Coloureds	Whites	TOTAL
	Percentage				
Corporal punishment only	-	0,0	-	-	0,0
Periodic imprisonment	0,3	-	-	0,2	0,0
Short-term prisoners:					
- 6 months and less	4,3	8,2	7,9	3,8	7,9
- more than 6 months, less than 2 years	11,3	12,6	14,0	8,6	12,8
Long-term prisoners:					
- 2 to 5 years	38,7	38,2	38,7	34,8	38,2
- more than 5 years, up to 15 years	35,3	32,2	29,9	38,3	31,8
- more than 15 years, habitual criminal and life imprisonment	9,6	8,5	9,5	13,9	9,0
Death sentence	0,5	0,4	0,1	0,5	0,3
TOTAL	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

The proportion of blacks in the various categories of sentence closely matches the proportion of blacks in the population (i.e. 70 per cent), except in the case of the death sentence for which 80 per cent of those so sentenced were black (see Table 4.6). Again, the proportion of whites in the various sentence categories tended to increase somewhat in the categories representing longer sentences. In addition, whereas the coloureds constitute 11 per cent of the population, they accounted for consistently between 26 and 30 per cent of the different sentence categories, except in the case of the death sentence. Twelve per cent of persons receiving the death sentence were coloureds, which is close to the proportion of coloureds in the population.

FIGURE 4.1 Population group of prisoners in the RSA on 31 December 1992, by category of prisoner, and distribution of the RSA population



CHAPTER 5

Victimization data

Introduction

The disadvantages of relying exclusively on official sources of information on crime (such as the number of crimes reported to the police) have been recognized for a number of decades. Official crime statistics are known to be an underrepresentation of the true extent of the problem of crime. Social scientists have attempted to address this shortcoming by asking members of the public directly about their victimization experiences. The most successful efforts to gather data on the true extent of crime have been those which use the victimization survey.

Victimization surveys have been conducted in many countries in the Western World since the 1970s. Valuable information on, *inter alia*, the nature and extent of crime, the circumstances surrounding victimization incidents and the relationship between the victim and the offender has been obtained during these surveys.

Victimization surveys are however very costly to undertake. The samples which are used have to be large enough to draw a sufficient number of victims (particularly in the case of the more serious crimes which occur less frequently) so that meaningful analyses (such as the calculation of victimization rates) can be undertaken.

A limited number of victimization surveys have been undertaken in South Africa, mainly by the HSRC (Boshoff, 1979; Strijdom, 1982; Strijdom & Boshoff, 1980; Strijdom & Schurink, 1977). These have generally been restricted to specific communities or areas. No comprehensive, country-wide victimization survey has been conducted in South Africa to date. However, some victimization information was obtained during a multipurpose survey conducted by the HSRC in 1992. The results relating to the victimization experiences of the respondents are given in this chapter.*

* It should be noted that the victimization data obtained during this survey cannot be used to calculate victimization rates for specific crimes since the size of the sample used during the survey is too small to allow for the identification of sufficient numbers of incidents to make it statistically feasible to calculate rates. The data remain a useful description of the general level of victimization among South Africans living in urban and non-urban areas, excluding farms. The overall victimization rate which is estimated in the conclusion of this chapter should be considered as tentative.

The extent of property* and violent** crime

The respondents' victimization history covering the 12-month period prior to the survey was established during the investigation. The survey question was worded in such a manner that the victimization experiences of other family members living in the respondent's household were also included. Careful attention was paid to demarcating the time-period for the respondent so that the information collected would be as accurate as possible. The specific period included in the research was clearly identified (i.e. from January to December 1991).

Eight types of crimes were included in the survey: bag-snatching, other theft of goods or money exceeding R50, theft of a motor vehicle or motorcycle, robbery with violence, assault that caused pain and injury (i.e. aggravated assault), a violent attack on a train, molestation in public, and rape or attempted rape.

The extent of the victimization of the sample is given in Table 5.1. A total of 489 respondents (25 per cent) indicated that they, or a family member in their household, had been the victim of one of the listed crimes during 1991. This means that one in four households had a member who had been victimized during the 12-month period. It is important to note that although 489 respondents reported at least one incident, a total of 584 crimes were uncovered during the survey since some households reported more than one victimization. This constitutes 401 property crimes (20 per cent of the sample) and 183 crimes of violence (9 per cent of the sample). This means that one in five households had been the victim of a property crime and nearly one in ten had been the victim of a crime of violence during the 12-month period.

Considerable differences between population groups can be noted. Whereas the whites were victimized overall to the greatest extent, 80 per cent*** of the victimizations were for property crimes. The same trend is evident for the Asians: 27 per cent of this group were victims, but 85 per cent of the incidents related to property crime. A different picture emerges when one examines the data relating to the blacks and the coloureds. Whereas 22 per cent of the blacks were victimized, only 62 per cent of these (compared with the above percentages in the

* The following are included in the classification *property crime*: bag-snatching, other theft of goods or money exceeding R50, and theft of a motor vehicle or motorcycle.

** The following are included in the classification *violent crime*: robbery with violence, assault that caused pain and injury, a violent attack on a train, molestation in public, and rape or attempted rape.

*** This percentage is not given in the table. It reflects the proportion of property crimes as compared to that of violent crimes.

eighties) were property crimes. Similarly, while 20 per cent of the coloureds reported a victimization, only 61 per cent of these incidents were property crimes. This means that the blacks and the coloureds were victims of violence to a considerably greater extent than the whites and the Asians (see Figure 5.1). This has been found during a number of other studies conducted by the HSRC (Glanz, 1988; Glanz, 1991; Glanz, Mostert & Hofmeyr, 1992). During research undertaken in 1985 and 1986 it was found, for example, that 33 per cent of the blacks,* 18 per cent of the coloureds, 10 per cent of the Asians and 4 per cent of the whites reported being the victim of a crime of violence.

TABLE 5.1: The extent of victimization, by population group

Measure of victimization	Asians		Blacks		Coloureds		Whites		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Victim of any one of the crimes included	53	27	243	22	61	20	132	35	489	25
Victim of a property crime	49	25	188	17	42	14	122	32	401	20
Victim of a violent crime	9	5	117	11	27	9	30	8	183	9

Results relating to the extent of the specific types of crime which were included in the survey are indicated in the section which follows.

The extent of specific types of crime

The type of crime reported most often was theft of goods or money exceeding R50 (see Table 5.2). Fourteen per cent of the sample reported incidents of this nature and these accounted for 46 per cent** (N=269) of all the victimizations. Bag-snatching was the type of crime reported the second most often and these incidents accounted for 27 per cent (N=158) of all the incidents. Naturally, the more serious

* It should be noted that the sample used for the survey which was conducted among the blacks in 1986 was drawn from the PWV area only. It is therefore not strictly comparable to the samples used for the other groups during that period or to the sample used for the present study. These comments notwithstanding, it is still useful to compare the findings of the various studies, but such comparisons should be approached with caution.

** This percentage is not shown in the table but is a proportion of victims of theft as compared with the total number of victimization incidents.

Victimization data

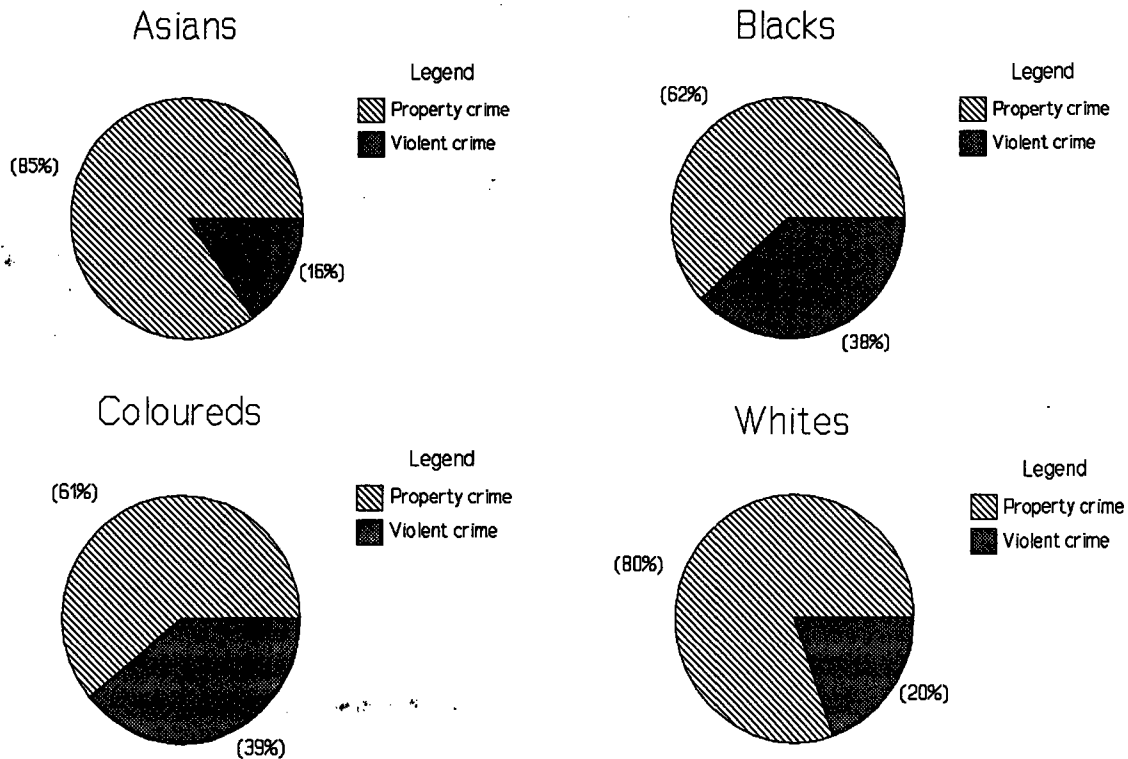
crimes, such as robbery, aggravated assault and rape, occurred less frequently. Aggravated assault was the type of violent crime reported most often, with 6 per cent (N=119) of the sample reporting an incident of this nature. Ninety-two cases of motor vehicle or motorcycle theft, 57 robberies, 20 attacks on a train, 27 incidents of public molestation, and 27 rapes or attempted rapes were uncovered during the survey.

Once again, substantial differences between the groups can be noted. As mentioned above, the whites and the Asians were victims of property crime to a greater extent than the other groups, with, for example, theft of goods or money exceeding R50 accounting for 61 per cent of all the victimizations reported by the whites. The incidence of aggravated assault, violent attacks on a train and rape and attempted rape is highest among the blacks, whereas the incidence of public molestation is highest among the coloureds. While approximately 3 per cent of the Asians, blacks and the whites reported being the victim of a robbery, less than 1 per cent of the coloureds reported likewise. None of the following three crimes of violence was reported by the Asians: a violent attack on a train, molestation in public, and rape or attempted rape.

TABLE 5.2: The extent of victimization through specific crimes, by population group

Type of crime	Asians	Blacks	Coloureds	Whites	TOTAL
	Percentage				
Bag-snatching	12,1	8,7	2,3	8,5	8,0
Other theft of goods or money exceeding R50	10,6	11,5	9,4	24,5	13,5
Theft of a motor vehicle or motorcycle	8,1	3,7	3,9	6,1	4,6
Robbery with violence	3,0	3,3	0,7	3,5	2,9
Assault that caused pain and injury	2,5	7,3	6,2	4,0	6,0
A violent attack on a train	-	1,6	0,7	0,3	1,0
Molestation in public	-	0,7	3,6	2,1	1,4
Rape or attempted rape	-	2,1	0,3	0,8	1,4

FIGURE 5.1: Comparison of reported victimization incidents of violent and property crime, by population group



CHAPTER 6

Discussion, conclusions and recommendations

Crime in the RSA as reported by the police

The crime situation in South Africa, as reflected by officially reported crime statistics, is one of the most talked-about problems in this country. As in all other countries in the world, officially recorded crime is influenced by a host of factors; and because of these— and variations in these—one can never be sure what the true crime picture is like. The picture is undoubtedly grim for the thousands of victims of crime—serious, brutal crime in particular. It is however well documented that the following are just some of the factors that affect police reported crime statistics (*The Economist*, 1994:24,27):

- Differences among groups and between geographical areas regarding the public's willingness to report crime to the police. Willingness, in turn, is affected by perceptions of all aspects of the police (such as efficiency, fairness, impartiality etc.).
- Crimes of different levels of seriousness have different reporting patterns. Less serious crimes and crimes of a personal nature (such as wife abuse) tend not to be reported.
- Whether or not the particular crime is covered by some type of insurance affects reporting behaviour. Having insurance, in turn, varies according to population group and socio-economic status.
- The public's crime-reporting behaviour is also influenced by the level of ease with which it is possible for them to report a crime. Distance to the nearest police station, access to transport and access to a telephone are all factors that play a role in the decision whether or not to report, particularly in the case of less serious crime.
- The incidence of some crimes, such as drug-related offences, gambling, prostitution and driving under the influence of alcohol, is strongly related to police practices. The level of police staffing also affects the incidence of these types of offences in particular.

Discussion, conclusions and recommendations

- Differences in levels of police staffing across different geographical areas affect crime statistics. Research has shown that an increase in numbers of police in a specific area leads to an increase in reported crime.
- Whether or not a crime is actually recorded by the police and the particular classification of a crime are subject to bias. The degree of bias is to a certain extent related to police management and control. It has been shown in Great Britain, for example, that certain hard-to-solve crimes are recorded less often than other crimes in order to inflate the rate at which crimes are solved by the police.

Police crime statistics are often all that are available. However, a number of countries undertake national victimization surveys on a regular or occasional basis in order to assess the *dark figure* of crime. These surveys often show trends that are different to the trends indicated by police statistics. For example, offences recorded by the police in Great Britain between 1981 and 1993 showed an increase of 111 per cent whereas the British Crime Survey for the same period showed a smaller rise of 77 per cent (*The Economist*, 1994:24). Even when victimization data are available, police crime statistics—with all their shortcomings—are the crime figures referred to most often by the public, the media, policy-makers and politicians.

In view of the above discussion, the following recommendations are made:

- The public should be encouraged to report crime to the police, and steps should be taken to make it easy for them to do so. Naturally, a prerequisite is an improvement in police-community relations, including an improvement in the public's perception of the efficiency, fairness and competence of the police. Considerable progress has been made by the SAPS in this regard. Various steps have been taken, such as the establishment of police community forums and the setting-up of grievance procedures.
- National crime victimization surveys should be undertaken at least every five years. This would provide the opportunity to assess the accuracy of police-reported crime since the public's crime reporting behaviour could be determined. It would also enable researchers and other interested persons to determine differences in the crime-reporting behaviour across provinces and metropolitan areas. One would then be able to determine, for example, whether the low level of reported crime in the OFS is in fact correct or whether the OFS has a higher level of non-reporting of crime than other areas.

Victimization surveys would provide other important information such as the groups which are at the greatest risk. This could bring a more realistic, sobering perspective to crime from the public's point of view. Most people

generally have the greatest fear of violent crime at the hands of a stranger, yet the evidence indicates that the majority of violent crimes are committed by someone known to the victim. In the USA, for example, young, black males are 20 times more likely than the elderly to be victims of violent crime (*The Economist*, 1994:27). Yet women and the elderly are the most fearful. *The Economist* (1994:27) comments in this regard:

... a more accurate perception of crime patterns might help societies to fix more rationally the level of resources that they allocate for combatting crime, and to concentrate those resources more efficiently. To encourage the perception, as some newspapers and politicians are inclined to do, that society should worry most about gruesome acts committed by crazed strangers on middle-class victims, is to encourage a misunderstanding of the nature of crime, and so to contribute indirectly to the problem.

- The public must be informed of crime trends at a local level in order to encourage their participation in local crime prevention efforts. Comparative information should be made available so that communities can see how their crime picture compares with communities in other areas. This will help to create the incentive to address particular types of crime.

To give the reader a brief, overall view of the **incidence** of a few selected serious crimes in metropolitan areas in the RSA, the number being reported to the police **on average** each day is given below (fractions have been rounded off to the nearest whole number):

Type of offence	Bloemfontein	Cape Peninsula	Durban and surrounding areas	Johannesburg and Soweto	Port Elizabeth	Pretoria and surrounding areas
Murder	1 every 3rd day	4 per day	4 per day	8 per day	2 per day	1 per day
Rape or attempted rape	1 per day	6 per day	4 per day	9 per day	3 per day	4 per day
Aggravated assault	4 per day	35 per day	12 per day	28 per day	22 per day	14 per day
Aggravated robbery	1 every 2nd day	15 per day	13 per day	39 per day	4 per day	7 per day
Residential burglary	4 per day	58 per day	33 per day	63 per day	16 per day	41 per day
Theft of a motor vehicle	1 every 3rd day	20 per day	22 per day	49 per day	4 per day	20 per day

When crime trends in the RSA during the period 1987 to 1992 are looked at, it is evident that the rate for most types of crime increased substantially. However, the most outstanding feature was the great increase in the illegal possession of firearms and a comparable increase in murder and aggravated robbery. All types of fraud also increased considerably, probably owing to the effects of the economic recession.

A discussion of the possible reasons for the increase in crime is beyond the scope of this report. The reader is referred to a comprehensive discussion of these factors in a report by De Kock, Schurink and Schurink (in press), entitled *Towards explaining and preventing crime in South Africa: An exploration*. However, the following can be briefly mentioned:

- Certain direct causes of crime in South Africa can be identified: (1) rapid population growth which leads to a demographically young population (as noted in Chapter 3, the conviction rate is highest among young males); and (2) rapid urbanization which leads to increasing unemployment and high consumer demands. This in turn results in relative deprivation, which is the real and perceived difference between the *haves* and the *have-nots*. Relative deprivation has for many years been seen by experts to contribute to crime.

- A number of indirect causes of, or factors conducive to crime can be identified:
 - (1) The availability of weapons (the reader is reminded of the fact that the SAPS reported that the illegal possession of firearms increased by 79 per cent in five years. However, police figures are only the *tip of the iceberg*).

 - (2) The fact that the police are understaffed, underpaid and overworked. This is aggravated by high staff turnovers and the negative effects of the *war on police officers* (i.e. the sharp increase in the number of attacks on police officers). Policing is made more difficult by the size and geographic features of South Africa, poor and insufficient equipment, and tension between groups within the SAPS and within the population at large. Furthermore, the public's negative perceptions of the police and poor police-community relations further hinder the work of the police.

 - (3) The presence of huge numbers of illegal immigrants. This is firstly a burden on the police force and secondly a source of smuggled weapons. Illegal immigrants aggravate the unemployment problem and are themselves a *pool* of potential offenders.

 - (4) Politically related factors such as the effects of large-scale amnesty, the culture of protest, boycott and intolerance, and unrest, political violence and the frustrated expectations of the masses.

(5) Social factors such as unemployment, poverty, overcrowding, poor parental supervision, the breakdown of morals, values and norms and social decay, the marginalization and alienation of young people, the emerging human rights culture and the extent to which this **hampers** the functioning of the criminal justice system.

(6) Cultural factors such as the presence of criminal gangs and the existence of a subculture of violence.

(7) Economic factors such as the recent extended economic recession which led to widespread unemployment.

(8) Factors relating to the legacy of apartheid, such as the effects of the poor education system (for example, illiteracy and poor job skills), lack of faith in the criminal justice system, the breakdown of family life (as a result of influx control, the migratory labour system and the former Group Areas Act), and dehumanization and brutalization (as a result of, for example, forced removals).

South African court statistics

There are a number of inconsistencies in South African criminal justice statistics. For example, there appears to be a discrepancy between the number of crimes reported by the police, their reported crime clear-up rate and the number of cases going to court (this was referred to in greater detail in Chapter 3). The most disconcerting aspect of this problem is the fact that whereas crime has increased steadily over the past few years, the number of both prosecutions and convictions has dropped. Whereas reported crime **increased** by 25 per cent in the four-year period from 1988 to 1992, both the number of prosecutions and the number of convictions **decreased** by 4 per cent in the four-year period from 1987/88 to 1991/92. This could be due to any one, or all of the following:

- Fewer cases being successfully solved by the police, which could be due to, *inter alia*, a reduction in the public's willingness to co-operate with the police in solving crimes (Cachalia, 1995), police manpower shortages, a drop in police investigative efficiency and poorly trained police.
- Cases being less well prepared for court, which could again be due to police manpower shortages and case loads that are too heavy, with a consequent drop in police efficiency. This could also be due to public prosecutors being poorly trained and inexperienced. Cachalia (1995:33) notes in this regard:

Discussion, conclusions and recommendations

The poor salaries paid to prosecutors are responsible for the alarming exodus of skilled lawyers from government service. This adds to the already enormous workload of prosecutors and this often means cases are not properly prepared.

When one examines court statistics, of note is the fact that males were convicted seven times more often than females, and they were generally convicted of more serious crimes. This is consistent with world-wide trends and probably relates to sex-role differences. Males are generally socialized to be tough and aggressive and are permitted to pursue activities outside the home whereas females are generally expected to be nurturing and to pursue activities in the home, and are more closely supervised.

Also of note is the fact that young males between the ages of 18 and 20 years were convicted of relatively serious crimes—rape, burglary and robbery in particular—at a very high rate. This indicates that crime prevention efforts should be targeted at this group. This has been reported previously by the HSRC (Glanz *et al.*, 1992). Research was undertaken by the HSRC on contract for the former Department of National Health and Population Development in order to develop a national strategy for the prevention of juvenile offending. Recommendations included long-term strategies for the primary prevention of delinquency, as well as short-term strategies aimed at high-risk youth. The recommendations were discussed by role-players during a workshop held in February 1994. Some progress has been made by the present Department of Welfare and Population Development toward implementing the prevention model.

If South Africa wishes to address its crime problem it is imperative that all role-players work toward (1) increasing the conviction rate (including the rate at which cases are solved, the rate at which cases go to court, and the rate at which a conviction is obtained) and (2) concentrating crime prevention efforts on high-risk groups such as young males. There is irrefutable evidence that a relatively small group of offenders commit most offences. It stands to reason that if large proportions of this group remain free in society, crime will continue to increase.

With regard to conviction patterns across metropolitan areas, it would appear that the successful outcome of prosecutions varies from area to area. This could relate to either differences in police manpower and efficiency or to differences in the level of experience of prosecutors in different areas. The conviction rate for violent and other serious offences in the Durban/Pinetown area in particular is relatively low, suggesting that public prosecutors in that area experience problems in obtaining convictions.

South African prison statistics

The size of South Africa's prison population is influenced, *inter alia*, by the number of offenders sentenced to prison by the courts and by the release policy of the Department of Correctional Services. A host of factors determine the release policy

of the Department—not the least of which is the number of prisoners that can reasonably be accommodated in all the correctional facilities in the country. Similarly, various factors determine the number of offenders sentenced to prison by the courts, such as the number of cases being brought to court, the proportion of cases that end in a conviction, and the extent to which sentences other than imprisonment are used. The latter, in turn, is affected by the availability of such sentencing alternatives and the extent to which presiding court officials make use of the alternatives that are available. Naturally, the degree of seriousness of the offences being judged in court also determines whether the use of alternatives is possible.

The above notwithstanding, more than 400 000 persons were admitted to prisons in the RSA during 1992. The majority (58 per cent) of those admitted were awaiting-trial prisoners. The proportion of awaiting-trial prisoners who were admitted to prison on account of the fact that they were not able to meet bail is not known. In view of the fact that over 90 000 persons were admitted to prison who had received sentences of six months or less (in other words, who were found guilty of less serious offences), one must assume that of the 235 000 awaiting-trial prisoners, a considerable proportion must have been granted, and not been able to meet bail.

In addition, awaiting-trial prisoners constitute approximately 18 per cent of the prison population at any given time. The awaiting-trial period appears to be longest in the case of the black accused. This suggests that court cases take longer to be finalized in the case of this group of prisoners. This matter needs urgent attention.

The overrepresentation of the coloureds is one of the most notable features of the South African prison population. The obvious questions are: are the coloureds committing more crime than persons from the other population groups, and is the difference in the crime commission rate of the magnitude suggested by the prison statistics? It could be speculated that if the negative effects of apartheid (such as unemployment, overcrowding, poor education, the breakdown of the functioning of the family and the poor credibility of the criminal justice system) are conducive to criminality then this surely would have affected other groups such as the blacks to an equal or greater extent than the coloureds.

Two possible explanations for the observed difference in the prison rate for the coloureds and the blacks in particular should be considered. Firstly, the lack of trust in the police and poor police-community relations in general in the so-called black townships are well documented. This has led to the considerable underreporting of crime in black residential areas. Since the overwhelming majority of crimes are committed by persons of the same race as the victim, this would mean that large numbers of offenders in black areas commit offences and are not apprehended. This would affect the prison statistics. Another aspect to consider is the fact that if one takes into account the vast informal settlements in metropolitan areas it is evident that the geographical area (and consequently the number of people) served by police stations in black communities is relatively large. This

means that less police surveillance is possible and residents generally have great difficulty getting to a police station to report a crime. Even if police-community relations were ideal, these factors would affect the number of crimes known to, and hence followed-up by the police in such areas.

Secondly, criminal gangs are extremely active in coloured residential areas. Criminal gang activity is always associated with a considerable degree of violence, alcohol and drug abuse, drug dealing and many other illegal activities. This accounts to a great extent for the relatively high reported crime rate among coloureds. Besides gang activity, alcohol and drug abuse in coloured communities has been found to be high, and this abuse is often associated with violent crime.

Crime as reported by the public

Twenty-five per cent of the sample reported that they, or a member of their household, had been criminally victimized during 1992. If one takes the average size of a household for all population groups to be a *generous* six, this converts to a rate of 4 167 per 100 000. The considerable degree of underreporting of crime to the police is evident if one considers that the official crime rate for the **same period** and for the **same crimes** as those included in the victimization survey was 2 999 (Glanz, 1993).

The extent of the problem of underreporting is confirmed by the fact that HSRC victimization surveys have established that members of the public report between 18 per cent and 65 per cent of crimes to the police, depending on the type of crime involved (Strijdom, 1990). In a recent survey conducted in the magisterial district of Johannesburg, Naudé (1994:130) found that the rate of reporting of crime to the police varied from 89 per cent in the case of motor vehicle theft, to 14 per cent for incidents of personal theft.

Similar problems with underreporting are experienced in other countries. Davidson (1981) shows that American National Crime Surveys have found a rate for serious crime reported by the population which is slightly more than double the official rate.

The incidence of one in ten households being the victim of a *violent* crime, which was established during this survey, is cause for concern. This converts to a rate of 1 667 per 100 000 (using the same assumption of a household size of six persons). Police statistics for the same crimes produce a rate of 688 (Glanz, 1993). It is evident that the problem of violent crime in South Africa is more serious than the official figures indicate.

Conclusion

The aim of this report was, firstly, to present criminal justice statistics for the RSA and, secondly, to sensitize the reader to the numerous complexities surrounding the crime situation in this country. For a country experiencing the extent of crime that South Africa is experiencing at present, an ongoing, careful analysis of criminal justice statistics is essential. Needless to say, a more efficient, effective and innovative management of the crime problem is needed and this can only be achieved with adequate information. The HSRC, by means of its ongoing research on crime statistics, aims to address this need. In so doing, it hopes to make crime statistics—which have not always been readily available in this country—more accessible and meaningful to interested parties.

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