

CHAPTER 12: CRIME

12.1 CRIME STATISTICS

Table 12.1: Gosford LGA - Trends in Recorded Crime Statistics, 1998 to 2002

Offence Category	Annual Percentage Change 2001-2002	Average Annual Percentage Change 1998-2002
Murder*	N.A.	N.A.
Assault	Up by 8.6%	Up by 11.5%
Sexual Assault	Stable	Stable
Indecent Assault, Act of Indecency and Other Sexual Offences	Stable	Stable
Robbery Without a weapon	Stable	Stable
Robbery With a Firearm	N.A.	N.A.
Robbery With a Weapon Not a Firearm	Stable	Down by 22.5%
Break and Enter - Dwelling	Down by 24.0%	Stable
Break and Enter - Non-Dwelling	Down by 40.3%	Stable
Motor Vehicle Theft	Down by 37.8%	Down by 9.5%
Steal from Motor Vehicle	Down by 28.1%	Up by 4.1%
Steal from Retail Store	Stable	Up by 9.7%
Steal from Dwelling	Stable	Stable
Steal from Person**	Stable	Not calculated
Fraud	Stable	Stable
Malicious damage to Property	Stable	Up by 3.9%

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.

Note: This table shows the results of statistical tests for a significant upward or downward monthly trend in the number of criminal incidents * recorded over 2 years and 5 years respectively, for selected offence categories. Where the trend is significant, the annual percentage change in the number of incidents is shown.

"N.A." indicates that the number of incidents recorded was too small for a reliable trend test to be performed.

* For murder, the trend test is applied to the monthly number of recorded victims.

** Due to a discontinuity in recording, the test for trend in the incidence of steal from person covers the 17 months from Aug 2001 to Dec 2002. Where a significant trend was found the percentage change shown compares Aug 2001 to Dec 2001 with Aug 2002 to Dec 2002. A 5 year trend has not been calculated.

Table 12.2: Wyong LGA - Trends in Recorded Crime Statistics, 1998 to 2002

Offence Category	Annual Percentage Change 2001-2002	Average Annual Percentage Change 1998-2002
Murder*	N.A.	N.A.
Assault	Stable	Up by 10.0%
Sexual Assault	Stable	Stable
Indecent Assault, Act of Indecency and Other Sexual Offences	Stable	Stable
Robbery Without a Weapon	Stable	Stable
Robbery With a Firearm	N.A.	Down by 16.9%
Robbery With a Weapon Not a Firearm	Stable	Down by 17.6%
Break and Enter - Dwelling	Down by 21.8%	Stable
Break and Enter - Non-Dwelling	Stable	Stable
Motor Vehicle Theft	Down by 32.2%	Stable
Steal from Motor Vehicle	Down by 18.5%	Stable
Steal from Retail Store	Stable	Up by 14.6%
Steal from Dwelling	Stable	Stable
Steal from Person**	Stable	Not calculated
Fraud	Stable	Stable
Malicious Damage to Property	Up by 18.0%	Up by 12.3%

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.

Note: This table shows the results of statistical tests for a significant upward or downward monthly trend in the number of criminal incidents * recorded over 2 years and 5 years respectively, for selected offence categories. Where the trend is significant, the annual percentage change in the number of incidents is shown.

"N.A." indicates that the number of incidents recorded was too small for a reliable trend test to be performed.

* For murder, the trend test is applied to the monthly number of recorded victims.

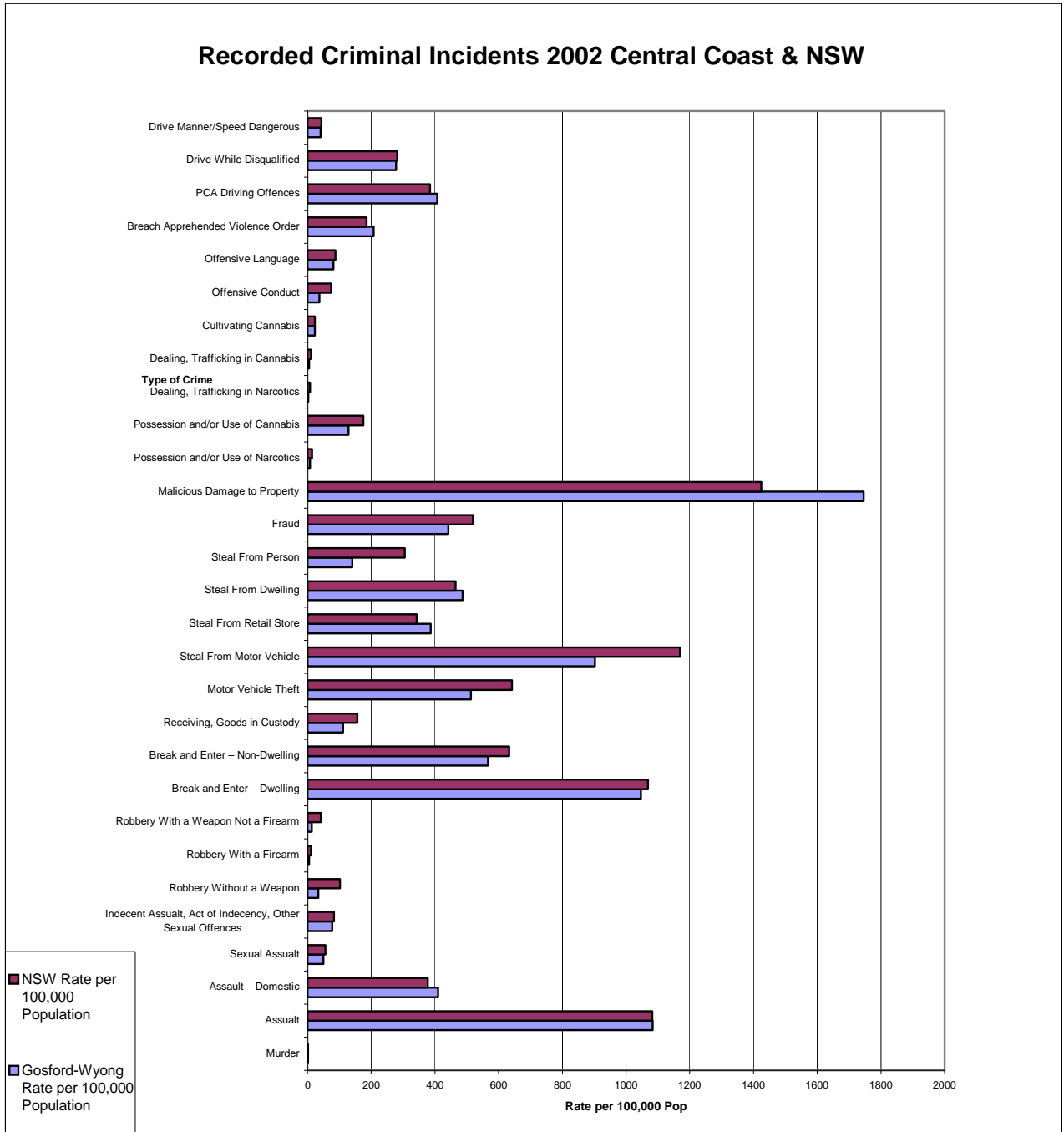
** Due to a discontinuity in recording, the test for trend in the incidence of steal from person covers the 17 months from Aug 2001 to Dec 2002. Where a significant trend was found the percentage change shown compares Aug 2001 to Dec 2001 with Aug 2002 to Dec 2002. A 5 year trend has not been calculated.

Table 12.3: Recorded Criminal Incidents - 2002 Comparison of Gosford-Wyong and New South Wales

Recorded Criminal Incident	Central Coast Number of Incidents	Central Coast Rate per 100,000 Population	NSW Rate per 100,000 Population
Murder	4	1 . 3	1 . 4
Assault	3 . 2 2 5	1 . 0 8 3 . 7	1 . 0 8 1 . 7
Assault - Domestic	1 . 2 2 0	4 1 0 . 0	3 7 7 . 6
Sexual Assault	1 4 7	4 9 . 4	5 6 . 0
Indecent Assault, Act of Indecency, Other Sexual Offences	2 3 0	7 7 . 3	8 2 . 8
Robbery Without a Weapon	1 0 0	3 3 . 6	1 0 1 . 6
Robbery With a Firearm	1 3	4 . 4	1 0 . 9
Robbery With a Weapon Not a Firearm	4 1	1 3 . 8	4 2 . 1
Break and Enter - Dwelling	3 . 1 1 4	1 . 0 4 6 . 4	1 . 0 6 8 . 4
Break and Enter - Non-Dwelling	1 . 6	5 6 6	6 3 3

	8	.	.		
Receiving, Goods in Custody	Dealing, Trafficking in Narcotics	5	3	2	7
	3	1	5	7	7
	Dealing, Trafficking in Cannabis	1	6	5	1
Motor Vehicle Theft	2	.	.5	.	0
	1	5	6	0	9
	Cultivating Cannabis	1	4	2	2
	5	2	9	3	3
Steal From Motor Vehicle	2
	Offensive Conduct	9	1	3	7
	6	0	.1	7	4
	8	2	1	.	.
	5	.	6	3	1
Steal From Retail Store	Offensive Language	2	2	8	8
	1	3	4	1	7
	1	3	1	.	.
	Breach Apprehended Violence Order	3	3	0	4
Steal From Dwelling	1	1	6	2	1
	9	7	2	0	8
	2	.	1	7	5
	1	4	4	.	.
Steal From Person	4	1	3	7	4
	1	3	4	4	3
	4	.	.	0	8
	0	2	6	7	4
Fraud	4	1	3	.	.
	1	1	0	3	0
	8	.	5	2	2
Possession and/or Use of Narcotics	1	5	8	7	8
	1	1	2	8	1
	6	2	7	.	.
Possession and/or Use of Cannabis	1	4	5	2	7
	1	1	1	4	4
	6	2	7	1	3
Malicious Damage to Property	3	1	1	3	3
	1	7	4		
	9	4	2		
	6	6	4		
		0	3		
Possession and/or Use of Narcotics	2	8	1		
	4	.	4		
Possession and/or Use of Cannabis		1	.		
	3	1	1		
	8	2	7		
	4	9	4		
		.	.		

Graph 12.1: Recorded Criminal Incidents, 2002 - Central Coast and NSW



Trends

- Between 1998 and 2002, Gosford experienced an increase in recorded crime incidents in the areas of assault, steal from a motor vehicle, steal from retail store and malicious damage to property and a decrease in robbery with a weapon not a firearm and motor vehicle theft.
- During the same time period in Wyong there was an increase in assault, steal from retail store and malicious damage to property, and a downward trend in incidents of robbery with a fire arm and robbery with a weapon not a fire arm.
- When compared with NSW, the Central Coast has higher rates of recorded criminal incidents in six areas. These are domestic assault, steal from retail store, steal from dwelling, malicious damage to property, breach apprehended violence order and PCA driving offences. In assessing the impact of these crimes it is important to note a number of contextual factors that influence recorded rates on the Central Coast.
- With regard to malicious damage to property, the breadth of crimes that can be included in this category means that it is difficult to determine how many serious incidents occurred during this period compared with relatively minor offences. In addition to this, the presence of large scale public infrastructure such as the railway line on the Central Coast, where a large number of these incidents tend to occur, also means that rates for the region will be higher than for other areas.
- The higher rate of steal from retail store is directly influenced by the fact that the Central Coast has two large regional shopping centres which tend to act as a focal point for this type of crime.

12.2 COURT STATISTICS

Trends

- In 2002, the most common reasons for local court appearances on the Central Coast were Road Traffic and Motor Vehicle Regulatory Offences, followed by Theft and Acts Intended to Cause Injury.
- The rate of court appearances per 100,000 on the Central Coast are largely below or consistent with other regions in the Sydney Statistical Division.

Table 12.4: Local Court Statistics

<i>Persons Found Guilty in Local Court Appearances Finalised</i>															
Rate per 100,000 Population.	2002														
Type of Principal Offence	Gosford-Wyong	Inner Sydney	East Subs	St George-Sutherland	Canterbury-Bankst	Fair/Liverp	Outer Sth West Syd	Inner West Sydney	Central Western Sydney	Outer West Sydney*	Blacktown	Lower Nth Sydney	Central Nth Sydney	Nth Beaches	
Homocide and Related	0.7	0.7	0	0.2	0.3	1.4	0.4	0	1	1.3	0.4	1	0.7	0.9	
Acts Intended to Cause Injury	171.8	199.1	101.3	127.5	134.8	160.6	218.1	98.6	169.3	155.7	251.8	57.6	44.7	96.7	
Sexual Assault and Related	0.7	5.7	0.4	2.8	3.2	3.7	2.5	2.4	4.4	3.8	2.6	1	1.2	0.9	
Dangerous and Negligent Acts Endangering Persons	79.2	55.1	42.2	67.4	90.9	77.5	76.6	35.3	73.1	82.1	85.9	37.9	48.6	44.7	
Robbery, Extortion and Related	0.7	2.7	0.8	0.2	1	1.1	0.8	1.8	2	0.3	0.4	0	0.2	0	
Unlawful Entry with Intent/Burglary, Break and Enter	25.3	38.7	10.3	12.4	19.7	20.7	26.5	12.2	21.8	22.9	32.2	58	3.9	9.9	
Theft and Related	174.4	352	119.1	103.4	193.4	216	206.8	119.9	187.7	126.3	218.8	59.6	52.5	80	
Deception and related	40.3	83.5	45.9	45.4	72.9	72.4	64.4	39.6	72.4	44.5	77	26.4	16	29.7	
Illicit Drug Offences	72.2	162.3	50.5	49.5	76.4	120.3	91.8	73.7	81.4	74.3	95.9	29.1	34.6	47.3	
Weapons and Explosives	11.3	13.7	3.7	5.3	19.7	13.1	14.7	4.9	12.4	10.7	11.8	2.7	4.1	3.4	
Property Damage and Environmental Pollution	73.2	79.5	41.4	43.8	46.7	50.8	77.1	33.5	49.9	46.7	74	24	17.2	40	
Public Order	81.2	172.7	51.7	50.5	72.5	100.8	101.5	49.3	84.1	84.3	118.8	24.7	27.8	58	
Road Traffic and Motor Vehicle Regulatory	651.1	543.4	481	498.7	573.9	702.4	687.2	393.9	569.8	536.8	784.9	328.8	268.1	604.8	
Against Justice Procedures, Govt. Security, Govt. Operations	125.2	134.6	80.7	80.5	105.7	127.7	134.8	81.6	95.9	100.6	139.9	55.2	44.7	71.8	
Miscellaneous	23.3	31.7	26.5	20.9	38	33.8	29.9	20.1	27.5	15.7	36.7	14.9	14	39.1	

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2002.

12.3 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND APPREHENDED VIOLENCE ORDERS

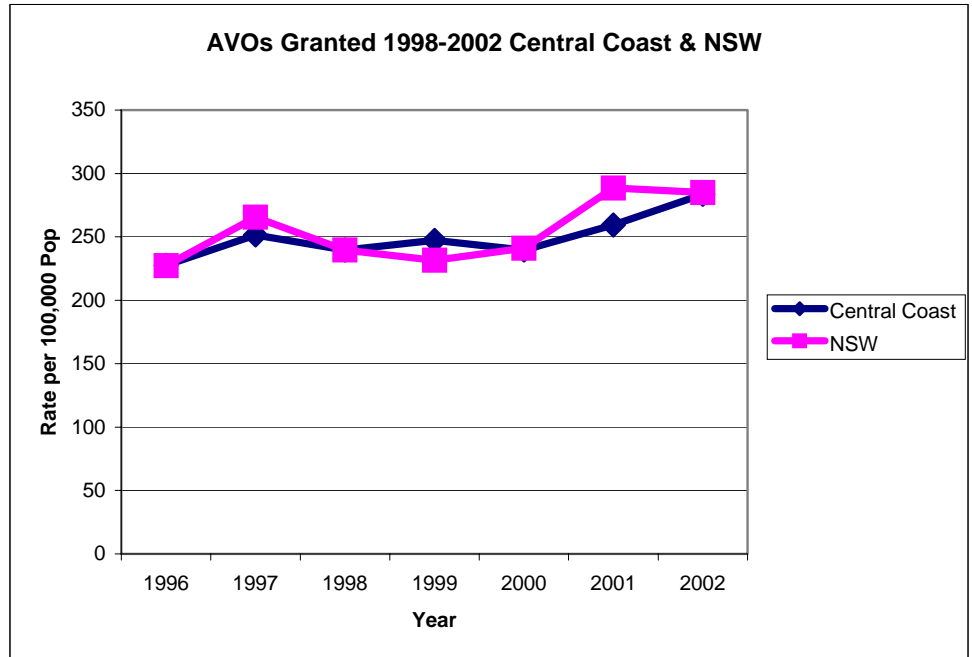
- In 2002, there were 852 Apprehended Violence Orders issued in relation to Domestic Violence on the Central Coast, and a further 214 Orders issued in relation to Personal Violence.
- In 2002, the Central Coast had a marginally lower rate of Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs) relating to Domestic Violence with 283.6 per 100,000 people compared with New South Wales where there were 285 per 100,000 people.
- The rate of AVO's made in Gosford-Wyong per 100,000 people in relation to Personal Violence in 2002 was 71.2. This was lower than the New South Wales rate of 108.

Table 12.5: Domestic AVO's Granted, 1996 to 2002 - Central Coast and NSW Rate per 100,000 People

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Central Coast	227.6	251.6	239.6	247.3	239.6	259.4	283.6
NSW	227.3	265.5	239.6	231.7	241.1	288.6	285

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.

Graph 12.2: AVO's Granted, 1998 to 2002 - Central Coast and NSW



12.4 GRAFFITI

- According to the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics, in the period shown in the table below, "The number of recorded graffiti incidents has fluctuated widely ... with no steady trend either upward or downward."
- In NSW in 1999, Gosford rated 46 and Wyong rated 76 out of 170 local government areas across the State with regard to Police Recorded Incidents of graffiti.

Table 12.6: Recorded Incidents of Graffiti, 1995 to 1999 - Central Coast and NSW

	1995		1996		1997		1998		1999	
	No.	Rate per 100,000	No.	Rate per 100,000	No.	Rate per 100,000	No.	Rate per 100,000	No.	Rate per 100,000
Central Coast	133	50.6	93	34.4	72	26.1	106	37.7	259	90.1
NSW	6,411	104.9	4,837	78.0	4,465	71.2	6,019	95.0	6,870	107.1

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics Bureau Brief, March 2000.