

**Table 9 - Total number of sectors at the 148 high-crime stations in relation to the total number of sectors where sector policing has been implemented**

PROVINCE	Total number of stations	Total number of sectors	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Final Phase
Gauteng	1 (excl 19 other priority station)	5		3	2		
KwaZulu-Natal	14 (excl 7 other priority stations)	159	68	1	59	26	5
Western Cape	13 (excl 7 other priority stations)	92	49	28	14	1	0
Eastern Cape	14 (excl 6 other priority stations)	165	55	95	11	0	4
Free State	12 (excl 2 other priority stations)	188	21	27	66	40	34
Mpumalanga	11 (excl 3 other priority stations)	149	64	6	20	46	13
Northern Cape	5 (excl 2 other priority stations)	34	23	1		5	5
Limpopo	12 (excl 2 other priority stations)	135		99	3	8	25
North West	16 (excl 2 other priority stations)	78		20	5	7	46
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>98 (excl 50 other priority stations)</b>	<b>1 005</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>132</b>

The 148 high-crime stations (excluding presidential and priority stations) were divided into 1 005 sectors. Sector policing has been fully implemented in 132 (that is 13,1 per cent) of these sectors. The allocation of additional personnel to these stations will continue until the ideal figures have been reached.

**Table 10 - Total number of sectors at all stations (including priority stations) per province in relation to the total number of sectors where sector policing has been fully implemented**

PROVINCE	Total number of stations	Total number of stations that has started with implementation	Total number of sectors	Total number of sectors where sector policing is fully implemented	Percentage of stations where sector policing has been implemented
Gauteng	123	114	680	138	
KwaZulu-Natal	182	122	793	58	
Western Cape	141	67	444	34	
Eastern Cape	201	109	892	71	
Free State	107	106	1 048	234	
Mpumalanga	91	76	653	86	
Northern Cape	83	75	495	72	
Limpopo	90	70	420	85	
North West	92	89	331	165	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1 110</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>5 756</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>16,4</b>

Sector policing has been fully implemented in 943 (that is 16,4 per cent) of the 5 756 sectors in the service areas of 828 police stations (including priority stations).

## Safety and Security

### Crime in South Africa

#### INTRODUCTION

##### Categories of Crime

In this section of the 2002/2003 Annual Report of the National Commissioner of the South African Police Service an overview of the 20 most common serious crime trends in South Africa is presented. The focus falls on three broad categories, namely contact crimes (crimes against the person), property related and commercial crime, and crimes generated through police action. The reporting period corresponds with the financial year of 2002/2003. Reported crime figures for the latter are compared to those of previous financial years as far back as 1994/1995. Where research or analysis results are available, these are used to offer some explanations as to why each specific crime tendency occurs and exhibits certain trends. Spatial and time analyses of some of the more important categories of serious crime are also provided.

##### Context of crime in South Africa

Crime does not occur in isolation in the RSA or any other country. Crime is associated with people and certain conducive factors and conditions exist which increase the chances of people becoming involved in crime. Some specific explanations pertaining to different crimes are provided where possible. The following factors should be seen as the background against which the incidence of crime in South Africa should be evaluated. Despite efforts to combat crime, these factors and conditions continue to expand and increase the probability of crime occurring. Decreases and stabilisations observed with regard to most of the serious crime trends should be considered against the odds presented by the circumstances discussed below.

- **Urbanization**

During the past two decades South Africa experienced extremely high levels of rapid urbanization - some experts believe the rate to be up to six times higher than that experienced in Brazil (this can also be described as compacted urbanization). Urbanization, which should have occurred naturally over a period of at least fifty years, has now occurred in 17 years since the lifting of influx control measures. This massive and rapid rate of urbanization is further compounded by the fact that South Africa's urban migration is not only fed from within the country's boundaries, but start far beyond the Limpopo river and the Lebombo mountains. Estimates concerning the number of undocumented immigrants in South Africa range from four million (Department of Home Affairs) to eight million (academic circles). Even if the untested suspicion that undocumented immigrants are disproportionately contributing to South Africa's crime statistics is rejected and another extreme view accepted, namely that these people are mainly economic refugees who do not really contribute to local crime, their mere presence here increases South Africa's crime ratios (crimes per 100,000 of the population) by between 10 - 20% because their numbers (between 4 and 8 million) are not taken into account in the calculation of these ratios.

Universally, rapid and high levels of urbanization result in higher levels of urban unemployment which directly or indirectly generate or are conducive to the incidence of crime. Urban unemployment is usually worse than rural unemployment, which is often alleviated by the presence of a subsistence economy. This may at least provide the basic food needed for survival (e.g. maize, meat, etc.), as well as an extended family/kinship network providing social, emotional and psychological support. For the new arrival in the city such a support system does not exist. Sometimes the family/kinship support network is replaced in the urban areas by the peer group system with its associated extravagant youthful lifestyle (based on e.g. music, alcohol, drugs, expensive clothing, fast cars and girlfriends) which may create more needs among unemployed youngsters.

All prolonged unemployment (especially urban unemployment) may result in family tensions, arguments and fights as well as a lack of the most basic commodities needed to survive, which may literally force people to steal for food (housebreaking and the category of stock-theft known as "pot slaughtering"). It may also cause increasing exploitation of children who cannot satisfy their basic needs or develop extravagantly expensive

needs through their interaction with peer groups and may as a result become involved in prostitution, the drug trade and other criminal acts. The development of a weak or negative self-image - especially amongst breadwinners and men - because they cannot provide for their dependents is also a dominant feature. In reaction to this a male will in all probability develop the projection of a macho-man image and lifestyle, which usually includes alcohol or drug misuse, association with friends following the same lifestyle, the use of violence and abuse to achieve aims and the perception of and attitude towards women as being "inferior" or "there to fulfil sexual needs".

The difference between rich and poor is always visible, but usually much more so in the urban setting than in rural surroundings. In the city even the blind will realise whether they find themselves in a ghetto or in a wealthy suburb (Alexandra and Sandton within view of each other presents an excellent example). Relative deprivation generates growing new needs and aspirations to a different lifestyle. To afford this people need substantial amounts of money, while they sometimes lack even the means to afford basic foodstuffs.

The rapid influx into the cities (especially the larger metropolitan areas) does not allow Government to keep up with the demand for low-cost housing. The result is that large squatter/informal settlements start to appear in open spaces on the periphery of the cities - and even in the backyards of existing housing schemes. It is extremely difficult to police such areas because there are usually no proper streets with streetlights or clear street blocks with easily identifiable addresses. Proper crime mapping is also very difficult or even impossible in these areas, which further inhibits crime prevention.

In addition, it is very difficult to safeguard shacks against housebreaking, other theft and even robberies, which make them easy targets for these crimes. The shacks erected by squatters are usually also small, while some people move into single room (bachelor) flats in the inner city. The result of this is often overcrowding and a situation in which adults and children are crowded together day and night. This is not a healthy condition for the socialization process of children. They experience adult behaviour like marital conflict and even sexual intercourse, which may impact negatively on their socialization. According to docket analysis of child rape cases it seems as if most children are raped by other children and that they may do this because they imitate adult sexual behaviour.

- **Vigilantism**

Because of a fear of crime and feelings of insecurity, some people may lose confidence in the official structures of law enforcement. This may cause them to start creating their own parallel structures to enforce safety and security. The result is a growth in the phenomenon of vigilante groups. Court records in various provinces reveal that hundreds of cases of assault GBH, common assault, attempted murder, malicious damage to property, arson and even a few murder cases can be linked to vigilante action. When vigilantes "arrest" somebody they do not bother with niceties like due process. For them the suspect is guilty and should be punished. During the "arrest" and punishment they will often assault the "suspect" and the result is usually the generation of the crimes mentioned above.

- **HIV/AIDS**

It is believed that the HIV infection level is very high in South Africa and that the country has moved into a phase during which increasing numbers of people are dying of either the disease itself or related illnesses. Most experts expect a rapid and large increase in mortality. This may already have become conducive to crime in that police officers and other officials serving the criminal justice system may also contract the disease and become demoralised and/or medically unfit to render a proper service. In addition, children are orphaned and one may increasingly find a situation in which children not only grow up with single parents, but with no parents at all or in equal age parent family units (where a brother or sister of a few years older looks after the younger children). This will of course affect the socialization of children and their future prospects.

There is a very strong perception that certain beliefs regarding HIV/AIDS and the cure or prevention thereof cause certain crimes such as rape (especially child and granny rape) and bestiality (sexual intercourse with animals). Some people apparently believe that they can be cured or rid themselves of HIV/AIDS by having sexual intercourse with an uninfected person.

- **Conditions conducive to the growth of organised crime**

Most of the conditions conducive to the growth of organised crime also exist in South Africa, namely *inter alia* the following:

- The availability of resources attractive to organised criminals (e.g. abalone, diamonds, gold, ivory, rhino horn, luxury vehicles and drugs like cannabis).
- The existence of markets for contraband goods - especially illegal firearms and drugs.
- The porousness of borders and circumvention of controls at entry/exit points. South Africa can easily be entered and exited because of the physical nature of its borders.
- Opportunities for money laundering. Although the necessary legislation is in place, its successful application will take some time to become fully operational. Organised criminals cannot really operate without opportunities to launder their illegal loot.
- The very sophisticated and well-developed communication and transport network with its international links. Communication *via* the cyber-net and air travel to virtually all locations in the world are features of the modern South Africa which can also be exploited by criminals.

#### CONTACT CRIMES (CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON)

Contact crimes (or crimes against the person) include murder, attempted murder, rape and attempts, assault GBH, common assault, aggravated robbery, other robbery and - although not strictly a contact crime - malicious damage to property because the latter is usually closely associated with assault (both serious and common). The reason why these crimes are called contact crimes is that physical contact indeed occurs between the victim and the perpetrator - usually of a violent nature. These crimes account for **39,9%** of the serious crime reported in South Africa. They are considered the most important crimes in South Africa for the reasons stated below.

These crimes tend to:

- » Directly threaten life and limb.
- » Cause trauma and post traumatic stress (also among police officers).
- » Negatively affect whole families (loss of breadwinners).
- » Project an extremely negative image abroad.
- » Inhibit confidence, investment and tourism.
- » Promote the so-called braindrain and associated loss of skills.
- » Provoke vigilantism.
- » Affect the psychological profile of the population.
- » Present an aberration. South Africa is not generally more crime-ridden than Australia, Canada or New Zealand. The real problem is the abnormal violence associated with our crime.

Murder

**Definition: Murder consists of the unlawful and intentional killing of another human being.**

The murder ratios (that is the number of murders per 100,000 of the population) for the nine-year period from 1994/1995 to 2002/2003 are as follows:

1994/1995	1995/1996	1996/1997	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
67.2	68.1	63.1	59.4	59.6	52.5	49.8	48.0	47.4

The decrease in the incidence of murder between 1994/1995 and the reporting (financial) year of 2002/2003 equals **29,5%**.

The decrease between 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 stood at a marginal **1,3%**, in line with a persistent small decrease in the incidence of murder annually. The single most significant decrease occurred between 1998/1999 and 1999/2000 - namely **11,9%**.

Note should be taken of the following:

- The percentage decreases and increases are calculated on the basis of the ratios (per capita figures) to

equalize population growth. If the raw figures had been used (if no provision had been made for population growth in the calculation) the murder figures in any case declined from **25 965** during 1994/1995 to **21 553** during 2002/2003. This reflects a decrease of **17,0%** in the actual number of cases. The difference of nearly 13 percentage points between **29,5%** and **17,0%** is caused by the population growth over the period 1994/1995 to 2002/2003. All the increases and decreases calculated in the report are based on ratios, since this levels out the effect of population growth.

- Internationally, murder is seen as the most reliable crime trend. The definition of murder does not really differ from country to country. It is furthermore very difficult to over or under-report murder or to hide a murder forever. Either a person goes missing and the body is only found much later or the body of a person who had clearly died under suspicious circumstances and/or from injuries caused by some kind of a weapon is found.
- Comparisons involving crime statistics are internationally recognised as a very difficult and risky venture. The reasons for this are the following:
  - Reporting and under-reporting levels differ from country to country and over time.
  - Definitions of crime can differ quite considerably among countries.
  - The sophistication of crime recording systems will differ in various countries.
  - All countries may not approach the issue of crime statistics with equally high degrees of honesty and integrity.
  - Only about half the countries in the world report their crime statistics to INTERPOL.

The INTERPOL report<sup>5</sup> itself states very strongly that:

"THE INFORMATION GIVEN IS IN NO WAY INTENDED FOR USE AS A BASIS FOR COMPARISONS BETWEEN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES"

"Our statistics cannot take account of the differences that exist between the legal definitions of punishable offences in various countries, of the different methods of calculation, or of any changes which may have occurred in the countries concerned during the reference period. All these factors obviously have repercussions on the figures supplied.

Police statistics reflect the crimes reported to or detected by the police and therefore cover only part of the total number of offences actually committed. On the other hand it also includes a number of false/unfounded cases.

Consequently, the figures given in these statistics must be interpreted with caution."

- Since shortly before the Minister for Safety and Security's budget speech delivered in June 2003, there has been constant media references to a murder figure of **32 482** cases for 2000 calculated by Dr Debbie Bradshaw of the Medical Research Council (MRC), as opposed to the police figure of **21 683** cases. Scrutiny of the third annual report of the National Injury Mortality Surveillance System (NIMSS) compiled by the MRC and UNISA<sup>6</sup>, which forms the basis of Dr Bradshaw's calculation, reveals the following:
  - a) The NIMSS based their research on a sample of 32 mortuaries from a total of 122 (that is a sample of **26,2%** of all mortuaries in the RSA). According to the report, the sample covers **31,7%** to **39%** of all non-natural mortality cases.
  - b) They estimate the non-natural mortality cases at between **68 930** to **80 000**. Given the sample and the estimate for non-natural deaths, the report itself states on page 5 that: "Because the registered cases were not adequately representative of rural areas, the data were not used to calculate national rates."

The Crime Information Analysis Centre (CIAC) of the SAPS reviewed and scrutinised its own CAS/SAP6 systems as well as the way in which statistics are generated from these systems and can state without any doubt that the **21 683** murder cases recorded during 2000 is correct within a 2 - 3% margin of error. The figure of **32 482** calculated by Dr Bradshaw is incorrect and is actually not even supported by the 3rd Annual Report of the NIMSS itself.

5 INTERPOL. 1999. *International Crime Statistics 1999*.

6 Matzopoulos, R (ed) 2002. *A profile of fatal injuries in South Africa*. Third Annual Report of the National Injury Mortality Surveillance System.

There are two ways of looking at the spatial distribution of any crime, namely according to the per capita/ratio spread or according to real/raw frequencies/numbers. In the case of a geographic distribution according to ratios, the different population sizes of provinces, policing areas and stations are equalized to make comparisons possible. This tells one something of the chances of becoming a victim of crime in one area compared to another and of the presence of generators of and conditions conducive to a given crime. If ratios of murder (murder per 100,000 of the population) for the different provinces are calculated and compared, it becomes clear that the highest ratio of **84.8** murders per 100,000 in the Western Cape stands in sharp contrast to the lowest ratio of **12.1** murders per 100,000 in Limpopo (both for the 2002/2003 financial year). This indicates a seven times higher probability of becoming a murder victim in the Western Cape than in Limpopo. It further indicates a predominance of factors which generate and conditions which are conducive to the incidence of murder in the Western Cape. The raw figures pertaining to a given crime, in this case murder, provide an indication of where the largest number of crimes/murders occur. The distribution of human and logistical resources has as a matter of course to depend on the frequency of crime, while also taking crime ratios into consideration. This basically only reflects the fact that the largest volumes of crime will logically be associated with the densest concentrations of population - although such areas may not necessarily reflect the highest crime ratios. The large population centres will therefore need the largest concentration of human and logistical resources available to the police. When the raw figures/frequencies of murder for the different provinces are compared, it reveals a different picture from that provided by the ratios. The province with the highest number/frequency of murders is KwaZulu-Natal with **5 405** cases, compared to the **433** cases reported for the Northern Cape during the 2002/2003 financial year. It is clear from these figures that one needs at least ten times the number of investigators to handle the murder cases in KwaZulu-Natal than in the Northern Cape. Whenever the spatial distribution of any crime or combination of crimes is indicated in this report, this will be based on the frequency of the specific crime or combination of crimes. The spatial distribution of murder at provincial, area and station level is as follows:

A majority of **65%** of all murders occurred in only three provinces, namely KwaZulu-Natal (**25%**), Gauteng (**23%**) and the Western Cape (**17%**).

Just more than half of all murders (**51%**) occurred in 11 of the 43 police areas (**26%** of the total number of areas). These police areas are the following:

X^	Eastern Metropole	6,0%
X^	Western Metropole	5,6%
X	Durban South	5,0%
X	Durban North	5,0%
X^	Umtata	4,9%
X	Midlands	4,8%
X^	Johannesburg	4,7%
X^	East Rand	4,6%
X	Umfolozi	3,6%
^	Boland	3,5%
X^	Marico	3,1%

A fifth (**20%**) of all murders occurred in only 23 police station precincts (that is **2,1%** of all the stations in South Africa).

These stations are:

X^	Khayelitsha	X^	Umlazi	X^	Moroka
X^	Nyanga	X^	Tembisa	X	Esikhawini
X^	Kwa Mashu	X^	Guguletu	X^	Ivory Park
	Inanda	X^	Kuilsrivier	^	Kwazakele
	Johannesburg Central	X^	Alexandra	X^	Mamelodi
X	Katlehong	^	Kraaifontein	X^	Evaton
^	Plessislaer		Umtata		Jeppe
X^	Hillbrow	X	Mitchells Plain		

Geographically, a strong correlation exists among murder, attempted murder and assault GBH cases. Murder tends to occur in the same areas and precincts than assault GBH and attempted murder. Those areas and stations marked with an X and a ^ are also high on the list (among the top 20%) with regard to the incidence of attempted murder and assault GBH respectively. At a micro level a relationship usually also exists between the occurrence of murder and the presence of certain drinking establishments (taverns, bars, shebeens, etc.).

Murder, like assault GBH, common assault and attempted murder, experiences a strong seasonal trend (see graphs 7, 8, 9 and 10). Its occurrence is high in summer (Christmas season) and low in winter (June - July). If analysed according to weekdays, it peaks during weekends - especially Friday and Saturday nights.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) through their 3 metropolitan areas Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) programme found that on the average (in the three phases) **50%** of murder arrestees, **45%** of rape arrestees and **35%** of assault arrestees had tested positive for the use of one or a combination of six drugs within 48 hours prior to arrest<sup>7</sup>. This clearly points to a relationship between drugs and crime. Drugs may directly cause violent behaviour or motivate people addicted to drugs to commit various crimes in order to pay for their habit. In addition, drugs are one of the central commodities feeding organised crime.

A docket analysis done by the CIAC of the SAPS indicates that in the majority of murder cases studied, the perpetrators and victims were known to each other. In the **87%** of cases covered by the sample in which a relationship was stated, it was indicated as the following:

- 28% of the offenders were in an intimate relationship with or family members of their victims.
- 22% of the offenders were friends of their victims.
- 19% of the offenders were acquaintances.
- 14% of the offenders were known by sight only.

The most prominent motive determined through the docket analysis was murder as a result of a misunderstanding or argument between the victim and the offender. A majority of **56%** of murders started as an argument which degenerated into a fight and then an assault. The assault subsequently went wrong and ended up in murder.

The third annual report (2002) of the National Injury Mortality Surveillance System (NIMSS) of the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the University of South Africa (UNISA) contains the following findings:

- **54%** of victims covered by their study had died from injuries caused by firearms. (An analysis of the information contained in the SAPS Crime Administration System (CAS) indicates that **49,3%**, **49,6%** and **49,3%** of victims were murdered by means of firearms during 1998, 1999 and 2000 respectively. The latter analysis has bearing on **all** cases recorded during those three years, whereas the NIMSS study is based on a sample of cases only.)
- **28%** of victims had died from injuries caused by sharp instruments.
- **13%** of victims had died from injuries caused by blunt objects.
- **2%** of victims had been strangled.
- **1%** of victims had died from burn wounds.
- The remaining **2%** were killed in various other ways.

According to the NIMSS study nearly **53%** (**52,9%**) of homicide cases (**76,6%** of those linked to injuries caused by sharp objects and **40 - 50%** of those linked to injuries caused by blunt objects and firearms) were alcohol related. In almost **90%** of these cases the victims had blood alcohol concentrations of more than 0,05g/100ml (the legal limit for driving).

An analysis of murder dockets registered since February 2002 (when the crime code list was altered and it became possible to analyse certain attributes pertaining to victims) reveals that **14,1%** of all murder victims were female.

- **4,7%** of these females were 12 years old or younger.
- **5,4%** were aged between 13 - 18 years.
- **17,6%** were aged between 19 - 25 years.
- **15,6%** were aged between 26 - 30 years.

7 Parry, C.D.H: Louw, A; and Pluddemann, A. 2001. *Drugs and Crime in South Africa*. Medical Research Council and Institute for Security Studies.

- 28,0% were aged between 31 - 40 years.
- 28,6% were older than 40 years.

Children of both genders in the age categories of 0 -12 years and 13 - 18 years accounted for 1,6% and 4,2% of all murder victims respectively.

Attempted Murder, Assault GBH and Common Assault

The three contact crimes (crimes against the person) of Attempted Murder, Assault GBH and Common Assault are, as has already been indicated, closely related to one another and also to murder. In this section they will consequently be discussed together.

**Definitions:**  
Attempted Murder - Attempted murder consists of the commission of an unlawful act with the intent to kill another human being, but which does not result in the death of that human being.  
Assault GBH - Assault with the intent to cause grievous bodily harm is the unlawful and intentional direct or indirect application of force to the body of another person with the intent to cause grievous bodily harm to that person.  
Common Assault - Assault is the unlawful and intentional - (a) direct or indirect application of force to the body of another person, or (b) threat of application of immediate personal violence to another under circumstances in which the threatened person is prevailed upon to believe that the person making the threat has the intention and power to carry out the threat.

Attempted Murder, Assault GBH and Common Assault account for 4,0%, 30,0% and 31,8% of all crimes against the person and 1,4%, 10,2% and 10,8% of all serious crime in South Africa respectively.

During and shortly after the moratorium on crime statistics (July 2000 - May 2001) clear definitions and counting rules for the different crimes were implemented. Before that crimes were not always correctly registered, especially as far as closely related crimes like the above are concerned. Since the implementation of the definitions and counting rules and the strict application of these, one can reasonably expect some shifts of cases among these three categories to occur. In the table below figures pertaining to the three crimes are provided separately and counted together for different financial years.

Attempted Murder

1994/1995	1995/1996	1996/1997	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
69.4	68.1	70.8	68.3	70.1	65.5	64.4	70.2	78.9

Assault GBH

1994/1995	1995/1996	1996/1997	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
558.3	565.1	573.8	569.6	564.5	608.1	630.2	592.4	585.9

Common Assault

1994/1995	1995/1996	1996/1997	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
518.4	521.9	503.2	488.3	483.5	538.9	569.7	587.7	621.6

All Assaults (three counted together)

1994/1995	1995/1996	1996/1997	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
1146.1	1155.1	1147.8	1126.2	1118.1	1212.5	1264.3	1250.3	1286.4

The incidence of all assaults (attempted murder, assault GBH and common assault combined) actually remained very stable between 1994/1995 and 2002/2003. The highest ratio for all assaults at **1286.4** per 100,000 of the population was recorded during 2002/2003, with the lowest ratio of **1 118.1** being recorded during 1998/1999 (a difference of **13,1%**). Between 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 a marginal increase of **2,9%** in the incidence of all assaults was recorded. Strictly speaking, all assaults had actually stabilized. If the incidence of attempted murder, assault GBH and common assault during the financial years of 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 are compared separately, the following transpires:

- Attempted Murder - Increased by **12,4%**
- Assault GBH - Decreased by **1,1%**
- Common Assault - Increased by **5,8%**

The increases with regard to especially attempted murder (**12,4%**) and common assault (**5,8%**) are worrying, but it should be kept in mind that these may have been caused by shifts from assault GBH to attempted murder and common assault respectively as a result of the more correct and purified registration of cases.

It should also be kept in mind that, especially in the case of common assault and assault GBH, a single fight may end up in the registration of various assault cases - depending on how many of the victims afterwards report a case to the police, which may even occur at different stations and/or at different times. A bar brawl at a bar in Sandton in which fifteen people are involved may, for example, result in fifteen cases of either common assault or assault GBH being registered at various police stations in Gauteng. In the end these cases will all be registered against Sandton CAS numbers, but will still be recorded as different cases.

Attempted murder and assault GBH occur especially in the following provinces, police areas and station precincts:

**ATTEMPTED MURDER**

**PROVINCES**

Gauteng	<b>24,9%</b>
KwaZulu-Natal	<b>23,3%</b>

**AREAS (12)**

Western Metropole	<b>5,4%</b>
Durban South	<b>5,2%</b>
Eastern Metropole	<b>4,9%</b>
Pretoria	<b>4,7%</b>
East Rand	<b>4,6%</b>
Johannesburg	<b>4,3%</b>
Marico	<b>4,2%</b>
Umfolozi	<b>4,2%</b>
Durban North	<b>4,0%</b>
Midlands	<b>3,6%</b>
North Rand	<b>3,4%</b>
Umtata	<b>3,3%</b>

**ASSAULT GBH**

**PROVINCES**

Gauteng	<b>20,7%</b>
Eastern Cape	<b>15,5%</b>
Western Cape	<b>13,4%</b>

**AREAS (15)**

Boland	<b>4,5%</b>
Marico	<b>4,4%</b>
Eastern Metropole	<b>3,9%</b>
Pretoria	<b>3,8%</b>
Moorivier	<b>3,4%</b>
East Rand	<b>3,3%</b>
Johannesburg	<b>3,3%</b>
Soweto	<b>3,2%</b>
Highveld	<b>3,1%</b>
East London	<b>2,9%</b>
Mopani	<b>2,8%</b>
North Rand	<b>2,7%</b>
Western Metropole	<b>2,7%</b>
Southern Free State	<b>2,7%</b>
Port Elizabeth	<b>2,6%</b>

#### TOP 20 % STATIONS

(Accounting for 2,4% of all Stations in the RSA)

Nyanga  
Galeshewe  
Khayelitsha  
Tembisa  
Mitchells Plain  
Batho  
Mamelodi  
Kwa Mashu  
Kuilsvier  
Katlhong  
Moroka  
Umlazi  
Mdantsane  
Hillbrow  
Butterworth  
Duncan Village  
Evaton  
Esikhawini  
Loate  
Ivory Park  
Empangeni  
Orange Farm  
Guguletu  
Chatsworth  
Temba  
Alexandra

#### TOP 20 % STATIONS

(Accounting for 3,7% of all Stations in the RSA)

Khayelitsha  
Galeshewe  
Vosman  
Hillbrow  
Ikageng  
Mamelodi  
Upington  
Kuilsvier  
Thohoyandou  
Alexandra  
Moroka  
Nyanga  
Temba  
Worcester  
Ivory Park  
Rietgat  
New Brighton  
Kwanobuhle  
Daveyton  
Tembisa  
Batho  
Kwa Mashu  
Atteridgeville  
Evaton  
Plessislaer  
Queenstown  
Kanyamazane  
Phokeng  
Guguletu  
Thabong  
Kwazakele  
Umlazi  
Oudtshoorn  
Kraaifontein  
Orange Farm  
Motherwell  
Dobsonville  
Randfontein  
Mokopane  
Duncan Village  
Meadowlands

From the above it is clear that nearly 50% (48,2%) of all attempted murders occurred in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, while 51,8% of all attempted murders occurred in 12 of the 43 police areas. A fifth (20,0%) of attempted murders occurred in 2,4% of all station precincts in the RSA. Assault GBH is somewhat more widely distributed, with 49,6% of all cases occurring in Gauteng, the Eastern Cape and the Western Cape, 49,3% occurring in 15 of the 43 police areas and 20% occurring in 3,7% of all station precincts in the RSA. These crimes thus reflect a quite concentrated incidence in specific areas.

These areas and specifically the above precincts are mainly township precincts in which high levels of urbanisation/informal settlements, prolonged high levels of unemployment and poverty are often prevalent. Sometimes these conditions result in marital/relationship conflict (especially about economic hardships and shortages) and a poor self-image among males. The development of a macho-man attitude in reaction to the poor

self-image is almost always associated with alcohol and drug abuse, the perception of women as sex objects to be exploited, etc. All of this can lead to fights and the resultant registration of assault GBH (even attempted murder) and common assault cases. This hypothesis is also supported by time analysis (see graphs 8, 9 and 10) which clearly indicates that most of these crimes occur at times associated with parties and drinking (e.g. the Christmas season and weekends - especially Friday and Saturday evenings).

An analysis of the gender and age attributes on the CAS for the period February 2002 to January 2003 reveals the following with regard to Attempted Murder, Assault GBH and Common Assault cases:

Attempted Murder	-	18,4% of the victims were females, of whom 2,8% were aged between 0 - 12 years.
	-	1,2% were children of both genders aged between 0 - 12 years.
	-	5,5% were children of both genders aged between 13 - 18 years.
Assault GBH	-	40,2% of victims were females, of whom 1,1% were aged between 0 - 12 years.
	-	1,2% were children of both genders aged between 0 - 12 years.
	-	8,1% were children of both genders aged between 13 - 18 years.
Common Assault	-	53,7% of victims were females, of whom 1,0% were aged between 0 - 12 years.
	-	1,6% were children of both genders aged between 0 - 12 years.
	-	9,9% were children of both genders aged between 13 - 18 years years.

This gender and age analysis clearly indicates that the most prominent violent offences against women next to rape are common assault (53,7% of the victims being female) and assault GBH (40,2% of victims being female). This is supported by a limited docket analysis of a sample of domestic violence cases (N=612) reported during 2001 at the stations of Worcester, Khayelitsha and Nyanga:

- In 89% of the domestic violence cases the victims were female, in 10% the victims were male and in 1% of cases the gender was indicated as unknown. The gender of the perpetrators was exactly the opposite.
- During 50,7% and 27,9% of the domestic violence incidents the crimes of common assault and assault GBH were respectively committed. In a further 12,1% of cases the crime of intimidation was recorded and in 6,5% arson/malicious damage to property occurred. This finding correlates with gender and age analyses based on the Crime Administration System (CAS) and supports the deduction made above that most domestic violence cases usually involve assault and especially common assault.
- As far as this could be determined, 21,1% of the incidents were caused by arguments or misunderstandings, 16,7% were due to financial disputes and socio-economic frustrations, 15,7% were alcohol related, 13,2% resulted from family disputes and 5,1% were caused by accusations of infidelity. It should be kept in mind that the officers taking down the statements in many of these cases frequently do not inquire as to what caused the incidents under discussion. The "causes" indicated above were probably those revealed by the victims themselves and may not reflect the full spectrum of factors sparking any specific incident. Alcohol may, for example, also have played a role in the 21,1% of cases linked to arguments/misunderstandings and the 16,7% of cases attributed to financial/socio-economic frustrations.
- Almost two-thirds (65,6%) of the incidents of domestic violence occurred within the shared residence of the victim and the offender, while 14,4%, 5,7% and 4,9% occurred within the victims' residences, residences known to the victims (e.g. the home of a family member and/or friend) and the offenders' residences respectively. This illustrates the difficulty of policing such crimes by means of conventional policing.
- In 38,7% of the cases of domestic violence it was unknown whether a history of previous domestic violence existed, but in 61,0% of the known cases indications of previous domestic violence were found. This illustrates a very important aspect of domestic violence, namely that it may start with arguments and verbal

abuse before turning into minor violence which will often continue until it one day ends up in very serious violence like assault GBH, attempted murder or even murder.

- No weapon was used in **66,0%** of the cases. Where a weapon was used, the following details became evident:
  - In **45,2%** of cases the weapon of choice was a blunt instrument, e.g. a stick, club, stone, etc.
  - In **22,1%** of cases the weapon of choice was a knife, with a further **11,1%** of cases involving another kind of sharp instrument, e.g. a broken bottle, screwdriver, etc.
  - In **7,7%** [16 cases] a firearm was used.
  - In **4,3%** [9 cases] a panga/axe was used.
  - In **3,8%** [8 cases] the victim was assaulted with a hot object or hot liquid.
  - In **2,4%** [5 cases] the weapon used was a sjambok.
  - In two cases a rope/cord was used, in one case the offender closed a window on the victim's hand and in another case the victim was bitten.

Physical violence (e.g. slapping, kicking, etc.) occurred in **71,6%** of the incidents. As indicated above, a weapon was in some cases used to commit the physical violence. In **22,9%** of the cases no physical violence was reported and in **5,5%** details in this regard were indicated as unknown. The occurrence of physical violence could thus have been higher.

From all the analyses done so far it seems clear that murder is in the majority of cases related to assaults going wrong, that alcohol and drugs play some part and that domestic conflict (which include boyfriend - girlfriend relationships) also features prominently. The latter is probably often caused by economic hardships and resultant factors like the macho-man culture and may frequently serve as the cause of the original assault. To address murder, attempted murder and all assaults in South Africa and to significantly decrease these crimes in the years to come not only require proper policing and efforts to improve socio-economic conditions by the Government, but a change in lifestyle by the community. The very significant decrease of more than **30%** in the occurrence of murder between 1994/1995 and 2002/2003 was mainly achieved through focused conventional policing and other government initiatives. These actions were specifically targeted at the combating of bank related robberies, vehicle hijackings, clan fighting, gang violence, farm attacks and attacks on police officers. In future more and more attention will have to be paid to socio-economic development, job creation and moral regeneration in order to proceed towards even more significant decreases in the incidence of these crimes.

The ratio trend with regard to malicious damage to property (which accounts for **6,0%** of the serious crime in South Africa) from 1994/1995 to 2002/2003 was as follows:

1994/1995	1995/1996	1996/1997	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
319.2	328.5	321.7	306.9	306.6	312.0	319.2	326.4	345.6

**Definition: Malicious damage to property consists of the unlawful and intentional damaging of property belonging to another.**

The levels of malicious damage to property decreased during the first four financial years of the existence of the SAPS and then remained stable from 1997/1998 to 1999/2000 before experiencing an increase during 2000/2001 (when the definitions and counting rules for crime were implemented) and 2002/2003. A **5,9%** increase occurred between 2001/2002 and 2002/2003. Since the implementation of the refined definitions and counting rules malicious damage to property is more often registered as an alternative charge to common assault or assault GBH. Say, for example, that a husband beats his wife and in the process tears her blouse. An alternative charge of malicious damage to property will probably be registered in addition to the assault case. The increases between 2000/2001, 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 should be viewed against this background.

Rape and Attempted Rape

**Definition: Rape consists of unlawful and intentional sexual intercourse with a female without her consent.**

Rape accounts for 5,9% and 2,0% of reported contact crimes (crimes against the person) and serious crime in the RSA respectively. The reported rape ratios for all the financial years since 1994/1995 are indicated below.

1994/1995	1995/1996	1996/1997	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
115.8	126.2	127.5	126.0	117.9	122.9	121.0	121.8	115.3

The rape ratio has reached its lowest level since 1994/1995 during the 2002/2003 financial year. With the exception of a quite significant increase from 115.8 to 126.2 per 100,000 of the population between 1994/1995 and 1995/1996 (that is a 9,0% increase) its incidence remained at an average of 122.9 between 1996/1997 and 2001/2002. However, the incidence of rape decreased by 5,3% between 2001/2002 and 2002/2003. This may be a result of police action as part of the Anti-rape Strategy of the IDMT of the National Prosecuting Authority.

This strategy *inter alia* includes focused and systematic analysis of the where, when, why and who questions involved in rape at all those police stations which record 50% of the rape cases in each province. In this process (since September 2002) mapping of all reported rapes has identified flashpoints of rape within precincts. The subsequent analysis of these hot spots revealed some social and/or physical environmental factors/conditions conducive to rape at these specific flashpoints (e.g. a shortcut or footpath through long grass to a station or taxi rank, or a drinking venue frequented by women where it is dark outside in the vicinity of an open space). The local SAPS, where necessary with the help of other government departments and especially the local authority and the community itself, can then prevent rapes from occurring at such flashpoints. This will definitely decrease the incidence of rape. Through matrix linkage analysis, rape cases are linked in terms of victim, suspect and *modus operandi* commonalities and clustered together for investigation. This procedure can in future ensure that repeat offenders are investigated by the same detective or group of detectives and that the chances of achieving arrests, successful prosecutions and proper convictions be increased, with the effect that such repeat offenders will for quite some time not be able to further contribute to the rape figures.

Provincial, area and station flashpoints are the following:

#### PROVINCE

Gauteng	23,2%
KwaZulu-Natal	18,0%
Western Cape	12,5%

#### POLICING AREA

Marico	5,0%
Pretoria	4,7%
Eastern Metropole	4,0%
East Rand	3,8%
Durban North	3,7%
Durban South	3,6%
Soweto	3,5%
Boland	3,5%
Western Metropole	3,4%
Johannesburg	3,2%
Vaalrand	3,2%
Midlands	3,1%
Moorivier	3,1%
Southern Free State	3,0%

## STATIONS

(20% of rapes occurred in 34 station precincts - i.e. 3,1% of all stations)

Khayelitsha	Katlehong	Seshego
Mamelodi	Orange Farm	Tsakane
Inanda	Kuilsrivier	Mitchells Plain
Kwa Mashu	Thohoyandou	Mankweng
Moroka	Rietgat	Worcester
Nyanga	Kwazakele	Guguletu
Temba	Hillbrow	Bethelsdorp
Plessislaer	Galeshewe	Sebokeng
Umlazi	Atteridgeville	Vanderbijlpark
Batho	Ivory Park	Meadowlands
Tembisa	New Brighton	
Evaton	Alexandra	

Before providing a short overview of some findings revealed by rape studies conducted in South Africa in the past, it is necessary to address the issue of under-reporting of rape and the general perception that South Africa has the highest rape ratio in the world. Every now and then the media or an academic/researcher emerge with shocking allegations regarding the under-reporting of rape figures. Only 1 out of 26 or even 1 out of 35 rapes are allegedly reported to the police (*Pretoria News*, 24 June 2003, page 5). This figure is usually referred to - and correctly so - as a police figure. It was mentioned in passing by a police media spokesperson in connection with the release of crime statistics by the SAPS for the old South Africa (excluding the homelands) during 1994. The figure was ostensibly based on what a certain Professor had found during research. After various scientific victim surveys done by Statistics South Africa (SSA), the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), everybody should by now know that these surveys revealed that at least 1 out of 3 rapes are reported to the SAPS. To multiply the officially reported rape figure of 52 425 cases for the 2002/2003 financial year by 35 and then arrive at an annual rape figure of 1,8 million cases is absolute fiction in search of sensation. To then compare these figures to the rape figures/ratios of other countries and reach the conclusion that South Africa has the highest rape figures/ratios in the world is even more absurd.

The fact of the matter is that one should be extremely cautious with regard to all international crime ratio comparisons (but especially so where rape is involved) for the following reasons:

- Definitions of rape differ widely among countries. Reference has earlier been made to the 1999 International Crime Statistics of INTERPOL. In addition to the warning regarding international comparisons contained in the introduction to that report (and already quoted earlier in this report), it states the following: "2.2 'Sex offences (including rape)': Each country should use the definitions in its own laws to determine whether or not an act is a sex offence; rape should always be included in this category". Rape is nowhere defined in the report. When the ratios under (2) sex offences (including rape) and (2.1) rape are studied, it becomes obvious that something is very suspect and that a difference in definitions may play an important role in this. Under column (2) and (2.1) the following figures are provided for a selection of countries:

	<u>Column 2</u> <u>Sexual Offences</u>	<u>Column 2.1</u> <u>Rape</u>
South Africa	162.86	119.03
Gibraltar	166.67	3.33
Seychelles	120.22	0.00
Qatar	90.42	1.72
Canada	89.12	0.00
Tunisia	87.51	4.79
Australia	74.22	0.00

The obvious question presenting itself is why there is only a relatively small difference between the figures for rape and sexual offences (which include rape) in the case of South Africa, but major differences as far as the other examples mentioned are concerned. It is not inconceivable that cases recorded as rape in South Africa may be

hidden under the label of sexual offences by other INTERPOL member countries.

- The under-reporting levels pertaining to rape differ widely from country to country. In many countries in the world the victims will not report rape from fear of the negative perceptions and possible sanctions against them should they report this to the police. In contrast, it seems as if the level of reporting is very high in South Africa (one out of three cases). Despite the above arguments, the SAPS and the Government of South Africa have repeatedly stated in the past that one rape is one too many and that everything possible should be done to reduce the figure of  $\pm 52\ 000$  rapes per annum.

Various spatial, time, docket and Crime Administration System (CAS) analyses conducted during the past few years indicate the following:

- Spatial (as indicated with regard to the flashpoints referred to above) and time pattern analyses (see graphs) point the finger at the same kinds of explanations than those forwarded in the case of murder and assault, namely a macho-man and gangster subculture and the abuse of alcohol and drugs.
- All docket analyses up to now confirm that in a very high percentage (50% - 80%) of rape cases the victims and perpetrators had been known to each other.
- A study by the Department of Correctional Services and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) found the following:

*"Rape was statistically significantly associated with drinking, especially drinking that occurred mostly (a) in the company of friends of all ages, gang members, people who have been involved in criminal activity, and (b) at public drinking places such as shebeens, bottle stores and clubs ... in this respect note should also be taken that offenders who were serving a sentence for rape especially reported that they took alcohol/drugs immediately before or at the time that they committed this offence."*

- 45% of arrestees in rape cases tested positive for drugs (ADAM study).
- A large percentage (40% - 60%) of rape cases are withdrawn at the request of the victims.
- An analysis of rape cases registered on the CAS since February 2002 reveals that in 41% of all the cases the victims were aged 18 years or younger - with 14,2% being 12 years old or younger.

Given the fact that 14,2% of rape victims were in the age group of 0 - 12 years, compared to this age group's share in the victim figures for murder (1,6%), attempted murder (1,2%), assault GBH (1,2%) and common assault (1,6%) during the period under consideration, the CIAC during the 2002/2003 financial year embarked on a docket analysis of cases involving sexual offences against children of 12 years and younger. A total number of 3 222 dockets were analysed and the following findings were *inter alia* made:

- More than half (52,7%) of the cases actually involved rape, followed by 24,8% indecent assault cases, 11,4% incest cases and 5,2% cases of attempted rape. Many of the indecent assault cases were registered as such because the fact that the victims were only 0 - 12 years of age prevented penetration from occurring and consequently precluded the registration of rape cases. Many of these cases should actually have been registered as attempted rapes, a more serious charge than indecent assault.
- Nearly 90,0% (87,8%) of the offenders were known to their victims before the sexual offence occurred. Among these:
  - 41,8% were acquaintances;
  - 21,4% were relatives (of whom 9,2% - that is 43% of the relatives - were the victims' own parents or guardians);
  - 10,4% were known by sight; and
  - 9,4% were neighbours.

- Most of the offences occurred in the seclusion of a private residence. In nearly **70,0% (69,1%)** of cases the contact between victims and offenders just prior to the offence occurred in the victim's residence (**41,2%**), the offender's residence (**15,1%**) or a residence known to the victim (**12,8%**). The actual offence also frequently occurred at the offender's residence (**32,5%**), the victim's residence (**31,4%**) or at a residence known to the victim (**9,9%**). Only **16,5%** occurred in an open space.

In a related finding it was found that in only **4,0%** of the offences occurring at the victims' residences forced entry was gained to such residences. These findings regarding the place of contact just prior to the offence, the location at which the offence occurred, the relationship between victims and offenders and the manner in which entry was gained clearly illustrate the dilemma faced in combating sexual offences and especially sexual offences involving children. These crimes tend to occur in the privacy of a residence between people who are clearly not strangers to each other. The question is raised as to how conventional policing can prevent this and protect the young children of South Africa if not even the parents and guardians of these children are in a position to do so.

- An analysis of the biographical characteristics of victims and offenders reveal that **39,3%** of the offenders were 19 years and younger. Nearly **10,0% (9,8%)** were in the same age group than the victims (0 - 12 years of age). This finding as such is not sufficient to confirm or reject the hypothesis that overcrowding leads to a situation in which children observe adult sexual behaviour and then imitate this behaviour with other children. However, it certainly makes a thorough investigation of this and other hypotheses about rape in general and specifically child rape imperative.
- An analysis of how the **3 222** dockets under consideration were disposed of, reveals the following:

Cases withdrawn	<b>51,8%</b>
Undetected	<b>16,2%</b>
Found guilty	<b>15,0%</b>
Found not guilty	<b>12,7%</b>
Unfounded	<b>2,6%</b>
Other	<b>1,7%</b>

The number of cases withdrawn again emphasizes a finding repeatedly made by the Crime Information Analysis Centre (CIAC) during the past decade. A rape docket (in this case sexual offences against children) only has a **50%** chance from the start to end in a conviction, because more than **50%** of the cases are withdrawn. This usually occurs at the request of the parents or guardians in the case of children, often because the accused is a family member (sometimes the breadwinner) or a family friend.

The **16,2%** of undetected cases do not necessarily indicate a failure on the side of investigation, especially with regard to cases involving children.

- Some of the main reasons why these cases remain undetected are the following:
  - The victim is too young to speak or tell anything.
  - The victim has sometimes clearly been sexually abused (e.g. blood on the nappy), but no real clue of a possible suspect can be found.
  - Doubt sometimes exists in the mind of the medical practitioner as to whether sexual abuse had ever occurred.
  - The complainant/victim cannot be traced by the investigator (this occurs especially in informal settlements or very large townships saturated with informal housing (built in e.g. open spaces or on the same plots than existing houses)).

### All Robbery

The crime category of All Robbery includes Robbery with Aggravating Circumstances and Other Robbery.

**Definition: Robbery with Aggravating Circumstances is the unlawful and intentional forceful removal and appropriation under aggravating circumstances of movable tangible property belonging to another.**

**Definition: Other Robbery is the unlawful and intentional forceful removal and appropriation of movable tangible property belonging to another.**

Aggravated robbery contributes **14,3%** and **4,8%** to contact crimes (crimes against the person) and all serious crime in the RSA respectively, while other robbery contributes **11,4%** and **3,9%** to these two broad categories of crime respectively. The following ratios for aggravated robbery, other robbery and all robbery combined were registered during the past nine financial years.

### Aggravated Robbery

1994/1995	1995/1996	1996/1997	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
219.5	195.5	164.0	177.2	219.9	229.5	260.3	262.0	279.2

### Other Robbery

1994/1995	1995/1996	1996/1997	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
84.5	115.7	125.6	133.2	154.2	173.5	206.5	202.4	223.4

### All Robbery

1994/1995	1995/1996	1996/1997	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
304.0	311.2	289.6	310.4	374.1	403.0	466.8	464.4	502.6

Because of the more correct registration of the two categories of robbery since 2001/2002, some shifts occurred between aggravated robbery and other robbery. Figures for the two crimes should be added together in a category of all robbery to arrive at a better idea of the trends involved. From the ratios above it is clear that all robbery (the two together) increased by **8,2%** between the past two financial years. Aggravated robbery and other robbery increased by **6,6%** and **10,4%** respectively.

High profile aggravated robberies (which enjoy media focus on a daily basis) like vehicle hijackings (carjacking plus truckjacking) and bank related robberies (bank robbery plus cash in transit robbery) decreased by **20,0%** and **15,4%** respectively between the 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 financial years. Both these high profile aggravated robbery trends are at present at their lowest level since first being recorded during the 1996/1997 financial year. Vehicle hijacking and bank related robbery have during 2002/2003 decreased by **33,7%** and **52,2%** respectively from their highest levels during the preceding nine financial years. This remarkable achievement is the result of focused, information-driven projects and operations by the SAPS in active cooperation with the Banking Council South Africa. The banking and cash in transit fraternities have taken a number of initiatives (e.g. money dyeing and the establishment of banking forums, etc.) to inhibit bank and cash in transit robberies, increase the chances that these will fail or to ensure that the money taken will become useless. It has to be emphasized that vehicle hijackings and bank related robberies together accounted for **12,8%** of all aggravated robberies reported during the 2002/2003 financial year, in contrast to the **26,6%** of aggravated robberies these phenomena contributed to the overall figures during the 1996/1997 financial year.

The remaining **87,2%** of robberies with aggravating circumstances are made up of street robberies, robberies at residential premises (the so-called house robberies), robberies at business premises, etc. These aggravated robberies increased by **11,6%** between the 2001/2002 and the 2002/2003 financial years. The chances of so-called "bonus crimes" like murder, attempted murder, rape, indecent assault, assault GBH, common assault, etc. occurring are much higher during robberies at residential premises or isolated business premises and vehicle hijackings during which the occupants of a vehicle are forced to accompany the robbers than in the case of bank and cash in transit robberies, street robberies and conventional robberies at business premises. In the former instance the robbers have more time on their hands and they are able to use the opportunity to also commit other crimes.

The **11,6%** increase in the remaining **87,2%** of aggravated robberies is indeed cause for concern. Analysis up to now clearly indicates that street robbery and robbery at residential and business premises have become a scourge in especially the informal settlements, former black townships, CBD/inner city areas and even rural villages, thereby significantly increasing the levels of aggravated robbery country-wide. An analysis of the police areas in which **51,9%** of all the aggravated robberies occurred during 2002 reveals the following:

Top Seven Policing Areas in terms of aggravated robbery

The following areas accounted for **51,9%** of all cases of aggravated robbery reported in South Africa:

Johannesburg	14,2%	➤ + ▲ ●
Pretoria	7,2%	+ ▲ ●
Durban North	6,7%	➤ + ▲
East Rand	6,7%	➤ + ▲ ●
North Rand	5,9%	+ ●
Western Metropole	5,6%	➤ + ▲ ●
Durban South	5,5%	➤ + ▲

Most affected stations

Hillbrow	➤ + ▲ ●
Johannesburg Central	➤
Durban Central	
Kwa Mashu	➤ + ▲
Khayelitsha	➤ + ▲ ●
Morokka	➤ + ▲ ●
Booyens	
Tembisa	➤ + ▲ ●
Mamelodi	+ ▲ ●
Nyanga	➤ + ▲ ●
Mitchells Plain	➤ +
Jeppe	
Pretoria Central	
Yeoville	
Pietermaritzburg	
Inanda	➤ ▲

Twenty percent of South Africa's aggravated robberies occurred in only 16 police station precincts (1,4% of South Africa's stations). Eight of the 16 stations are township stations, while six are CBD/inner city stations and two (namely Yeoville and Booyens) are either inner city stations or situated on the periphery between the inner city/CBD and residential areas.

When these areas and stations are compared to those featuring among the top as far as murder (➤), attempted murder (+), rape (▲) and assault GBH (●) are respectively concerned, the following findings emerge:

- The seven areas in which **51,9%** of the aggravated robberies in South Africa occur, are also the following:
  - top murder areas in 5 cases;
  - top attempted murder areas in 7 cases;
  - top rape areas in 6 cases; and
  - top assault GBH areas in 5 cases.
  
- The 16 police station precincts in which **20%** of the aggravated robberies in South Africa occur, are also the following:
  - top murder precincts in 9 cases;
  - top attempted murder precincts in 8 cases;
  - top rape precincts in 8 cases; and
  - top assault GBH precincts in 6 cases.

The analysis makes it very clear that the stations of Hillbrow, Khayelitsha, Morokka, Tembisa and Nyanga range among the top precincts with regard to all of these violent crimes, while Mamelodi and Kwa Mashu find themselves in the same position with regard to at least 4 of the 5 crimes under discussion. With the exclusion of Hillbrow, these are also all large and rapidly expanding township stations.

Another factor which causes increasing upward pressure on aggravated robbery figures is the robbery of cellular telephones. Various docket analyses and analyses of the information on the CAS indicate that anything between 25% and 50% of all aggravated robbery cases *inter alia* involve cellular telephones. Various untested explanations exist for the increase in aggravated and other robberies during which cellular telephones are either the sole target or one of the targets. These explanations *inter alia* include the following (not listed in order of priority, while being untested):

- Cellular telephones have become a status symbol and most people want to possess the latest models. Furthermore, cellular telephones can easily be misplaced/lost or broken because of their size and fragility. People believe that lost or broken cellular telephones will only be refunded or replaced by insurance companies if they report these as stolen, or even better as robbed. If the items are reported as stolen or robbed, claimants may find it easier to dodge questions and doubts regarding possible negligence on their part. The possibility of such robberies being caused by insurance fraud therefore does exist.
- Cellular telephones may be stolen or robbed (also during aggravated robberies) to be sold for spare parts.
- Cellular telephones are stolen or robbed because they can still be used in South Africa, despite grey or black-listing.
- Cellular telephones are stolen or robbed by groups of runners who sell these items to exporters trading with countries in which all the networks do not belong to the International Blacklisting Organization, with the result that the instruments can still be used by subscribers linked to unlisted companies.

These robberies are mainly committed by small gangs of youths armed with firearms and knives who roam the streets of especially townships and CBD areas. The most serious operational obstacle to combating this crime is presented by a lack of information which makes it difficult to launch the same kind of projects and operations than those employed against hijackings and bank related robberies. In many cases the victims are robbed at night in dark streets and alleys and cannot provide proper descriptions to establish linkages among cases.

#### PROPERTY RELATED AND COMMERCIAL CRIME

Considerable effort was put into trying to explain the dynamics involved in contact crimes because of their extremely negative effect on society. In the case of property related and commercial crime only the tendencies over the past nine financial years and especially the changing situation between 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 will be discussed within the limits of this annual report. The reasons for this are as follows:

- In general, most of these crimes by far are either on the decrease or have at least stabilized.
- They may affect more people (victims), but they also have a more limited impact.
- A very broad comparison (taking into consideration all the dangers associated with international comparisons as already discussed previously) with international property related and commercial crime levels clearly indicates that South Africa falls in the middle range of the INTERPOL spectrum and is already at a more or less normal level as far as the reported incidence of these crimes are concerned. All stakeholders should do everything possible to at least keep the levels of these crimes stable.

In this section the tendencies with regard to all housebreakings (at both residential and business premises), theft of motor vehicles, theft out of/from motor vehicles, shoplifting and commercial crime, which have all decreased between the 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 financial years, as well as trends in relation to the increase in other thefts and stock-theft, are discussed.

PROPERTY RELATED CRIMES ON THE DECREASE										
	1994/ 1995	1995/ 1996	1996/ 1997	1997/ 1998	1998/ 1999	1999/ 2000	2000/ 2001	2001/ 2002	2002/ 2003	% Increase/ Decrease between 2001/2002 and 2002/2003
All housebreaking	825.7	851.8	822.4	829.2	874.4	889.6	903.3	874.7	866.7	- 0,9%
Theft of motor vehicles	274.0	249.9	241.3	248.8	255.0	239.3	229.0	217.4	204.9	- 5,8%
Theft out of/from motor vehicles	474.7	485.9	433.0	434.6	451.0	453.9	459.0	447.2	431.0	- 3,6%
Commercial Crime	163.2	154.4	154.1	153.5	150.4	157.7	152.4	131.2	123.7	- 5,7%
Shoplifting	171.6	160.4	153.1	154.1	153.3	153.4	154.9	153.5	151.8	- 1,1%
PROPERTY RELATED CRIMES ON THE INCREASE										
Other theft	1000.0	981.9	930.0	967.9	1048.0	1152.9	1281.1	1294.1	1364.5	+ 5,4%
Stock-theft	122.4	110.0	104.1	100.8	98.5	96.2	95.1	93.4	102.7	+ 10,0%

From the above table the following is evident:

#### All Housebreaking

All housebreaking (consisting of **81,2%** housebreakings at residential premises and **18,8%** housebreakings at business premises during 2002/2003), which contributes **15,0%** to the overall figures for all serious crime in South Africa, decreased by a marginal **0,9%** between the 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 financial years. Over the past nine financial years all housebreaking has increased from 1994/1995 to reach its highest level of **903.3** per 100,000 of the population during 2000/2001. It has since decreased by a significant **4,1%** between the 2000/2001 and 2002/2003 financial years.

#### Theft of Motor Vehicles

Theft of motor vehicles, which contributes **3,6%** to the serious crime of South Africa, decreased by **5,8%** between the 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 financial years. Theft of motor vehicles is actually at its lowest level (**204.9** per 100,000 of the population) since the 1994/1995 financial year, when it stood at **274.0** per 100,000 of the population.

#### Theft out of/from Motor Vehicles

Theft out of/from motor vehicles, which contributes **7,5%** to the figure for all serious crime in South Africa, decreased by **3,6%** between the 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 financial years. As is the case with regard to theft of motor vehicles, it has reached its lowest level since 1995/1996 when it stood at **485.9** per 100,000 of the population (a **11,3%** decrease).

#### Commercial Crime

Commercial crime (contributing **2,1%** to South Africa's serious crime) has decreased by **5,7%** between 2001/2002 and 2002/2003. It is now at its lowest level (**123.7** cases per 100,000) since 1994/1995, when it stood at a ratio of **163.2**. This represents a **24,2%** overall decrease.

#### Shoplifting

Shoplifting (which contributes **2,6%** to South Africa's serious crime) decreased by a marginal **1,1%** between the 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 financial years to reach an all-time low of **151.8** cases per 100,000 (a **11,5%** decrease since 1994/1995).

With regard to commercial crime and shoplifting it should be mentioned that it is increasingly being found that the financial sector and dealers themselves respectively play a role in the identification of cases linked to these two categories of crime. This notwithstanding, the SAPS spends considerable energy on the final investigations and the court processes associated with these crimes. The latter leads to a significant increase in especially the workload of detectives.