

South Australian youth crime drops

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Figures compiled for the first time show the number of apprehensions involving young people in South Australia has dropped over the past five years.

The statistics collect police apprehension statistics across age groups, offence type, local government area, Indigenous status and gender.

They show the number of apprehension reports involving young people dropped from 8,366 in 2011 to 5,630 in 2016.

During the same period, the number of apprehensions involving indigenous young people dropped from 2,270 to 1,979.

Other key points in 2016 include:

- Approximately 71% of all young individuals apprehended are male
- The most common age of a juvenile to be apprehended was 17
- Of that age group, approximately 43% were arrested, and 57% were reported
- Just under 44% of young people apprehended were reported for one offence, and 20% had two offences. The remaining group had three or more offences.
- The most common offences were breach of bail, theft from a retail premises, unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter, and property damage.
- The highest number of recorded offences occurred in the local government areas of Adelaide (621), Port Adelaide Enfield (554), Onkaparinga (543), Playford (511) and Salisbury (384).
- Based on the home address of the offender, the most common reports by LGA were Port Adelaide Enfield (765), Onkaparinga (641), Playford (506), Salisbury (486) and Charles Sturt (307).

The report has been compiled by the Attorney General's Department's Office of Crime Statistics and Research based on SAPOL data from 2011-2016.

The office also released a report called "Young People Under Supervision", based on publically available data from June 2012 to June 2016.

It showed there were an average of 50 youths in detention on any given day in South Australia last year, less than the 72 in 2012.

The reports are available at www.agd.sa.gov.au/justice-system/crime-and-justice-data/young-offenders-data

Background

The State Government relies on robust data on key issues and trends to inform its decision-making on initiatives aimed at improving South Australia's justice system.

A series of data dashboards have been prepared, involving data gathered from Government agencies that highlight the impact of existing policies.

This is the third release of detailed justice and crime data compiled by the Office of Crime Statistics and Research (OCSAR), which is responsible for researching and monitoring crime trends and the criminal justice system within South Australia.

Quotes attributable to Attorney-General John Rau

This detailed data shows a drop of more than one-third in youth offending in the past five years.

It's the result of a significant period of reforms to improve the effectiveness of the justice system in this state.

It also demonstrates our commitment to transparency and focus on cross-agency information sharing.

These dashboards make public for the first time the extensive cooperation between Police, courts and the prison system and will be widely used to inform our policy decisions across the justice system.

Quotes attributable to Youth Minister Zoe Bettison

Finding ways to continue our efforts for rehabilitation of young offenders relies on knowing where the problem exist.

This is extremely detailed data that allows for analysis of patterns of behaviour for 10 to 17 year old offenders.

What the information shows is that our focus on young Aboriginal offenders remains a high priority if we are to continue to see the sort of reduction in offences that these dashboards show.