



NSW Bureau of Crime  
Statistics and Research

# Crime and Justice Statistics

**Bureau Brief**

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## RECORDED CRIME TRENDS IN CABRAMATTA LOCAL AREA COMMAND

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*In 2002 Cabramatta Local Area Command experienced significant decreases in seven of the 16 major crime categories. Six of these offences also fell in New South Wales as a whole. Recorded drug offences in Cabramatta either decreased or remained stable in the 24 months to December 2002.*

This paper shows trends in recorded incidents of selected crimes in the Cabramatta Local Area Command for the period January 2001 to December 2002. Trends in the 16 major offence categories and recorded drug offences are shown. Table 1 shows the number of recorded incidents in 2001 and 2002 for each of the 16 major crime categories and Table 2 shows the number of recorded drug offences. A statistical test was applied to the monthly numbers of recorded criminal incidents in Cabramatta Local Area Command to determine trend. For those offences where a statistically significant trend was found, the extent of the trend is indicated by the percentage change between the total number of recorded criminal incidents in 2001 and 2002. Table 1 also shows the rate of incidents per 100,000 population for each major crime category in both Cabramatta Local Area Command and New South Wales.

Table 1 shows that none of the 16 major crime categories showed a statistically significant upward trend in the Cabramatta Local Area Command between January 2001 and December 2002. Seven offences showed a downward trend over this period, and nine remained unchanged.

In the same period New South Wales experienced decreases in the following offences: robbery without a

weapon (down 17.9%), robbery with a weapon not a firearm (down 36.5%), break and enter - dwelling (down 12.9%), break and enter - non-dwelling (down 20.9%), motor vehicle theft (down 22.2%) and steal from motor vehicle (down 15.7%).

For each of these offences the decreases in Cabramatta exceeded the State decrease. Unlike New South Wales, Cabramatta reported a significant downward trend in the incidence of robbery with a firearm.

Despite the reported decreases it is still the case that Cabramatta has high rates of crime for particular offences. This is especially true of robbery, steal from person and fraud.

The trends in recorded incidents of drug offences in Cabramatta Local Area Command are shown in Table 2. Between January 2001 and December 2002 no drug offence showed a significant upward trend in Cabramatta.

Both possession/use of narcotics and dealing/trafficking narcotics remained stable between January 2001 and December 2002. Possession of cocaine, cannabis and other drugs fell significantly as did dealing, trafficking in cocaine. All other drug offences were stable over the reference period.

**Table 1: Recorded criminal incidents of selected offences in Cabramatta Local Area Command, 2001, 2002**

<i>Offence</i>	<i>2001 (no.)</i>	<i>2002 (no.)</i>	<i>Trend Jan 01 to Dec 02</i>	<i>Cabramatta 2002 rate per 100,000</i>	<i>NSW 2002 rate per 100,000</i>
Murder	9	2	Stable	<b>3.8</b>	1.4
Assault	595	582	Stable	<b>1,101.6</b>	1,081.7
Sexual assault	26	25	Stable	47.3	56.0
Indecent assault, act of indecency	29	22	Stable	41.6	82.8
Robbery without a weapon	201	101	Down 49.8%	<b>191.2</b>	101.6
Robbery with a firearm	31	13	Down 58.1%	<b>24.6</b>	10.9
Robbery with a weapon not a firearm	154	57	Down 63.0%	<b>107.9</b>	42.1
Break and enter – dwelling	852	629	Down 26.2%	<b>1,190.5</b>	1,068.4
Break and enter – non-dwelling	363	220	Down 39.4%	416.4	633.3
Motor vehicle theft	547	390	Down 28.7%	<b>738.2</b>	642.0
Steal from motor vehicle	541	415	Down 23.3%	785.5	1,169.7
Steal from retail store	75	83	Stable	157.1	342.8
Steal from dwelling	141	127	Stable	240.4	464.6
Steal from person*	219	221	Stable	<b>418.3</b>	128.1
Fraud	479	528	Stable	<b>999.4</b>	519.7
Malicious damage to property	556	501	Stable	948.3	1,424.3

*'Bold italics'* indicate that the rate of incidents per 100,000 population in Cabramatta LAC for that offence was notably higher than the State rate in 2002.

\* Due to a discontinuity in the recording, the trend test in the incidence of steal from person has been calculated over the 17 month period from August 2001 to December 2002.

**Table 2: Recorded incidents of drug offences in Cabramatta Local Area Command, 2001, 2002**

<i>Offence</i>	<i>2001 (no.)</i>	<i>2002 (no.)</i>	<i>Trend Jan 01 to Dec 02</i>
Possession and/or use of narcotics	240	237	Stable
Possession and/or use of cocaine	93	29	Down 68.8%
Possession and/or use of cannabis	131	65	Down 50.4%
Possession and/or use of other drugs	53	28	Down 47.2%
Dealing, trafficking in narcotics	161	163	Stable
Dealing, trafficking in cocaine	46	7	Down 84.8%
Dealing, trafficking in cannabis	8	3	Stable
Dealing, trafficking in other drugs	17	6	Stable
Cultivating cannabis	3	4	Stable
Importing drugs	1	1	Stable