

RECORDED CRIME REJECTED INCIDENT MONITORING REPORT

RECORDED CRIME DATA TO SEPTEMBER 2010

The Bureau's Recorded Crime Audit Strategy includes monitoring rejected incidents to identify possible under-reporting of criminal incidents through biannual analysis of the effect of 'rejected' incidents on state-wide and regional trends.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- One reported trend at the State level (*breach bail conditions*) and seven at the regional level would have been less favourable if all rejected incidents had been included in the data.
- There was a State-wide downward trend (5.3%) in rejected incidents across all offences in the 24 months to September 2010.
- While NSW showed upward trends in rejected incidents of *motor vehicle theft* and *fraud* over the 24 months to September 2010, these have not affected the reported State trends and the rejected rates for these offences remain below 5%.
- Twelve LACs achieved a significant decrease in rejected *non-domestic violence related assault* incidents.

DEFINITIONS

Rejected – The NSW Police Crime Recording Standard (Version 1.5, February 2010) states:

An Incident should only be classified as 'REJECTED' if verifiable information is available which indicates that the crime / incident did not occur.

An incident will be recorded as REJECTED where evidence exists to indicate the crime / incident did not occur or was very unlikely to have occurred (i.e. statement of person reporting and / or observation or witness statements reveal a crime / incident did not occur or was unlikely to have occurred).

Doubtful - prior to August 2008, criminal incidents could also be given a 'doubtful' status. Both doubtful and rejected incidents were referred to as 'rejected incidents' in the analysis of rejected incidents to March 2010. As the 24 month data period commences October 2008, there are no doubtful incidents in the analysis of rejected incidents to September 2010.

Selected offences – selected offences are the standard 17 major offences excluding *murder* (no rejected incidents) and *robbery with a firearm* (insufficient rejected incidents) with the addition of the two justice offences of *breach bail conditions* and *breach Apprehended Violence Order*.

Trend test - 'Kendall's rank-order correlation test' is used to determine whether there has been an increasing or decreasing trend in the number of criminal incidents over the most recent 24-month period.

ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECT OF 'REJECTED' INCIDENTS ON STATE-WIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

Trend tests were applied to total incident counts (accepted plus rejected) and the results compared with the NSW and regional (Statistical Divisions (SDs) and Metropolitan Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs)) results for the recorded crime data (which excludes rejected incidents). NSW trends for all offences and regional trends for selected offences were considered. Conflicting results were highlighted and LAC-level data investigated for these offences, so as to isolate areas where the classification of incidents as 'Rejected' by individual LACs had affected any state-level or regional trend.

A) NSW AND REGIONAL TRENDS AFFECTED BY REJECTED INCIDENTS

A summary of inconsistencies between reported trends (accepted incidents) and those that would result from total incidents (accepted plus rejected incidents) is given in the Appendix at Table 1. This table shows that for the selected offences at the State, SD and Metropolitan SSD levels, eight reported trends would have been less favourable had all rejected incidents been included in the data. Conversely, eleven trends would have been more favourable had all rejected incidents been included.

The offences where the reported trend was more favourable than the trend for total incidents are shown in bold type in Table 1 in the Appendix. Points to note are;

- At the State level, *breach bail conditions* was stable but would have had an upward trend if all rejected incidents had been included.
- At the SD level, Murrumbidgee has a trend change from downward to upward when rejected incidents are included for *non-domestic violence related assault*. However, the figures do not suggest any sudden pattern change in the monthly data and annual rejections remained relatively constant over the two 12 month periods.
- For the Metropolitan SSDs, there were six trends that would have been affected by including rejected incidents:
 - *Motor vehicle theft* would have changed from a downward trend to stable in the Inner Sydney SSD. Past audits have shown that almost all rejected *motor vehicle theft* incidents are rejected with valid reasons.
 - *Steal from person* in both Canterbury-Bankstown and Central Western Sydney would have changed from a downward trend to stable.
 - Three trends were in the Eastern Suburbs SSD; *robbery with a weapon not a firearm*, *fraud* and *motor vehicle theft* all would have changed from a downward trend to stable if all rejected incidents had been included. The trend change for *fraud* came from two fraud events with large numbers of (correctly) rejected incidents.

B) CHANGES IN NUMBERS OF REJECTED INCIDENTS ACROSS ALL OFFENCES FOR NSW

Table 2 in the Appendix shows that overall there has been a statistically significant downward trend of 5.3% in rejected incidents across all offence categories for NSW in the 24 months to September 2010, compared with an 8.7% decrease in the 24 months to March 2010.

Most offence types showed a stable or downward trend in rejected incidents¹, with the exception of *motor vehicle theft* and *fraud*.

¹ Note that there were too few rejected incident counts to carry out trend tests for 37 of the 62 offences.

Rejected *motor vehicle theft* incidents had an upward trend of 13.3% in the 24 months to September 2010, an improvement on the 35.7% increase in the 24 months to March 2010. While remaining below 5%, the rejected rate increased from 3.8% of all *motor vehicle theft* incidents in the 12 months to September 2009 to 4.6% in the following 12 month period.

[Note that an earlier analysis of event narratives for rejected *motor vehicle theft* incidents in the 12 months to March 2010 showed that 95% to 100% of these incidents were validly rejected.]

Rejected *fraud* incidents showed a statistically significant increase of 23.4% in the 24 months to September 2010, after being stable in the 24 months to March 2010. This upward trend came from two *fraud* events with multiple rejected incidents: nine incidents in the Eastern Suburbs LAC in March 2010 and 44 in the Eastern Beaches LAC in April 2010.

Of note was a significant downward trend of 25.0% in rejected *non-domestic violence related assault* incidents.

Table 2 in the Appendix also shows that for all offences at the State level, (where more than 20 incidents were rejected over the 12 months to September 2010), the only offences with a rejection rate above 5% were: *abduction and kidnapping* (15.0%), *stock theft* (9.1%), *robbery without a weapon* (7.7%), *sexual assault* (6.0%) and *breach Apprehended Violence Order* (5.8%).

C) LAC TRENDS IN REJECTED INCIDENTS

A trend test was carried out to determine whether a significant upward trend was present for any LAC that rejected at least 20 incidents during both the 12 months to September 2010 and the previous 12 months for all selected offences.

Table 3 of the Appendix shows that there was an upward trend in rejected *motor vehicle theft* incidents in the Eastern Beaches LAC (up 81% from 21 in the 12 months to September 2009 to 38 in the 12 months to September 2010) and an upward trend in rejected *other theft* incidents in Newtown LAC (up 57.1% from 21 to 33).

There were 16 downward trends in rejected incidents, including 12 LACs with a significant decrease in rejected *non-domestic violence related assault* incidents.

D) WATCH LIST OF OFFENCE CATEGORIES IN LACS WITH HIGHEST RATES OF REJECTED INCIDENTS

Table 4 in the Appendix contains offence incidents recorded by NSW LACs where the rejection rate was at least 9.1% and there were at least 20 incidents rejected in the year to September 2010. From the list of 26 records in the table, only six showed an increase of more than 20 rejected incidents from the previous year. These were *sexual assault* in Bankstown LAC, *fraud* in Sutherland LAC, *non-domestic violence related assault* in Campsie LAC, *break and enter dwelling* in Rose Bay LAC and *fraud* and *steal from person* in the Eastern Beaches LAC.

The highest rejection rate was for *sexual assault* in Bankstown LAC with 33% of all incidents rejected in the 12 months to September 2010, compared with 11.3% of incidents in the 12 months to September 2009. Looking at the event narratives for some of these incidents, it appears that at least half of them may have been rejected in error.

Table 4 in the Appendix shows that the Lower Hunter LAC had a statistically significant decrease in rejected incidents of *other theft* and all other LACs were stable or had insufficient numbers to calculate a trend.

CONCLUSION

While there have been some marked improvements in rejecting incidents across the State, there are still State-wide and regional trends being affected by increases in rejected incidents.

Following the previous Rejected Incidents audit using data to March 2010, there has been a marked improvement in recording of *non-domestic violence related assault* incidents, with a statistically significant 25% decrease in rejected incidents.

BOCSAR has recommended that the NSW Police Force Crime Recording Standard currently under review include more complex examples of situations where an incident should or should not be rejected.

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
9 February 2011

Appendix Table 1: NSW (major offences plus breaches) and regional trends (major offences) affected by rejected incidents

Region	Area Name	Offence category	Accepted incidents			All incidents			Number of rejected incidents for Oct 2008-Sep 2009	Number of rejected incidents for Oct 2009-Sep 2010	Percentage of incidents rejected for Oct 2008-Sep 2009	Percentage of incidents rejected for Oct 2009-Sep 2010
			Oct 2008-Sep 2009	Oct 2009-Sep 2010	Trend and annual percentage change	Oct 2008-Sep 2009	Oct 2009-Sep 2010	Trend and annual percentage change				
NSW	NSW	Breach bail conditions	24,253	26,173	Stable	24,401	26,387	8.1%	148	214	0.6%	0.8%
NSW SD	Sydney	Assault - non-domestic violence related	22,750	22,518	Stable	24,075	23,593	-2.0%	1325	1075	5.5%	4.6%
NSW SD	Illawarra	Motor vehicle theft	1,230	1,126	Stable	1,280	1,165	-9.0%	50	39	3.9%	3.3%
NSW SD	Richmond-Tweed	Robbery without a weapon	72	66	Stable	82	75	-8.5%	10	9	12.2%	12.0%
NSW SD	Richmond-Tweed	Steal from dwelling	1,073	1,010	Stable	1,117	1,052	-5.8%	44	42	3.9%	4.0%
NSW SD	Mid-North Coast	Assault - domestic violence related	1,448	1,337	Stable	1,533	1,401	-8.6%	85	64	5.5%	4.6%
NSW SD	North Western	Fraud	460	342	Stable	492	375	-23.8%	32	33	6.5%	8.8%
NSW SD	Murrumbidgee	Assault - non-domestic violence related	1,114	1,110	-0.4%	1,170	1,179	0.8%	56	69	4.8%	5.9%
NSW SD	Murrumbidgee	Steal from person	87	73	Stable	94	76	-19.1%	7	3	7.4%	3.9%
NSW SD	Far West	Assault - non-domestic violence related	219	202	Stable	260	219	-15.8%	41	17	15.8%	7.8%
Metropolitan SSD	Inner Sydney	Motor vehicle theft	1,533	1,423	-7.2%	1,623	1,559	Stable	90	136	5.5%	8.7%
Metropolitan SSD	Eastern Suburbs	Robbery with a weapon not a firearm	75	41	-45.3%	76	45	Stable	1	4	1.3%	8.9%
Metropolitan SSD	Eastern Suburbs	Motor vehicle theft	753	727	-3.5%	790	801	Stable	37	74	4.7%	9.2%
Metropolitan SSD	Eastern Suburbs	Fraud	2,046	1,720	-15.9%	2,082	1,824	Stable	36	104	1.7%	5.7%
Metropolitan SSD	St George-Sutherland	Assault - non-domestic violence related	1,586	1,636	Stable	1,749	1,728	-1.2%	163	92	9.3%	5.3%
Metropolitan SSD	Canterbury-Bankstown	Steal from person	295	227	-23.1%	310	244	Stable	15	17	4.8%	7.0%
Metropolitan SSD	Central Western Sydney	Steal from person	531	465	-12.4%	551	480	Stable	20	15	3.6%	3.1%
Metropolitan SSD	Central Coast	Sexual assault	250	276	10.4%	274	289	Stable	24	13	8.8%	4.5%
Metropolitan SSD	Newcastle	Steal from motor vehicle	4,820	4,379	Stable	4,861	4,397	-9.5%	41	18	0.8%	0.4%

Appendix Table 2: NSW trends in rejected incidents

Region	Offence category	Subcategory	Number of rejected incidents for Oct 2008-Sep 2009	Number of rejected incidents for Oct 2009-Sep 2010	Trend and annual percentage change of rejected incidents over Oct 2008-Sep 2010	Total number of incidents for Oct 2008-Sep 2009	Total number of incidents for Oct 2009-Sep 2010	Percentage of incidents rejected for Oct 2008-Sep 2009	Percentage of incidents rejected for Oct 2009-Sep 2010
NSW	Homicide	Murder*	0	0	-	88	71	0.0%	0.0%
NSW	Homicide	Attempted murder	0	0	-	46	35	0.0%	0.0%
NSW	Homicide	Murder accessory, conspiracy	1	0	-	8	11	12.5%	0.0%
NSW	Homicide	Manslaughter*	0	0	-	6	12	0.0%	0.0%
NSW	Assault	Domestic violence related assault	899	805	-10.5%	27145	26839	3.3%	3.0%
NSW	Assault	Non-domestic violence related	2490	1868	-25.0%	43402	41949	5.7%	4.5%
NSW	Assault	Assault Police	1	0	-	2799	2408	0.0%	0.0%
NSW	Sexual offences	Sexual assault	325	285	-12.3%	4723	4723	6.9%	6.0%
NSW	Sexual offences	Indecent assault, act of indecency	193	175	-9.3%	5520	5527	3.5%	3.2%
NSW	Abduction and kidnapping		64	49	Stable	448	326	14.3%	15.0%
NSW	Robbery	Robbery without a weapon	260	307	Stable	4172	3981	6.2%	7.7%
NSW	Robbery	Robbery with a firearm	10	7	-	461	391	2.2%	1.8%
NSW	Robbery	Robbery with a weapon not a	72	67	Stable	1768	1619	4.1%	4.1%
NSW	Blackmail and extortion		8	7	-	141	174	5.7%	4.0%
NSW	Harassment, threatening behaviour and private nuisance		459	362	-21.1%	28444	28992	1.6%	1.2%
NSW	Other offences against the person		30	25	Stable	1511	1405	2.0%	1.8%
NSW	Theft	Break and enter dwelling	1228	1240	Stable	43462	42476	2.8%	2.9%
NSW	Theft	Break and enter non-dwelling	178	167	Stable	20295	17448	0.9%	1.0%
NSW	Theft	Receiving or handling stolen	19	20	-	5248	5439	0.4%	0.4%
NSW	Theft	Motor vehicle theft	894	1013	13.3%	23683	21981	3.8%	4.6%
NSW	Theft	Steal from motor vehicle	346	377	Stable	48185	45797	0.7%	0.8%
NSW	Theft	Steal from retail store	158	179	Stable	20727	20576	0.8%	0.9%
NSW	Theft	Steal from dwelling	963	921	-4.4%	22031	22218	4.4%	4.1%
NSW	Theft	Steal from person	374	403	Stable	10229	9454	3.7%	4.3%
NSW	Theft	Stock theft	45	51	Stable	580	562	7.8%	9.1%
NSW	Theft	Fraud	1113	1373	23.4%	36636	37732	3.0%	3.6%
NSW	Theft	Other theft	926	825	-10.9%	36136	35553	2.6%	2.3%
NSW	Arson		10	5	-	7124	6347	0.1%	0.1%
NSW	Malicious damage to property		964	815	Stable	105319	94505	0.9%	0.9%
NSW	Drug offences	Possession and/or use of cocaine	0	0	-	509	740	0.0%	0.0%
NSW	Drug offences	Possession and/or use of	0	2	-	876	959	0.0%	0.2%
NSW	Drug offences	Possession and/or use of	10	3	-	13214	17494	0.1%	0.0%
NSW	Drug offences	Possession and/or use of	2	0	-	1909	2547	0.1%	0.0%
NSW	Drug offences	Possession and/or use of ecstasy	2	1	-	1855	1735	0.1%	0.1%
NSW	Drug offences	Possession and/or use of other	5	6	-	1800	2482	0.3%	0.2%
NSW	Drug offences	Dealing, trafficking in cocaine	0	0	-	147	253	0.0%	0.0%
NSW	Drug offences	Dealing, trafficking in narcotics	0	0	-	358	412	0.0%	0.0%
NSW	Drug offences	Dealing, trafficking in cannabis	0	4	-	510	665	0.0%	0.6%
NSW	Drug offences	Dealing, trafficking in	0	0	-	604	731	0.0%	0.0%
NSW	Drug offences	Dealing, trafficking in ecstasy	0	0	-	551	425	0.0%	0.0%
NSW	Drug offences	Dealing, trafficking in other drugs	1	0	-	130	217	0.8%	0.0%
NSW	Drug offences	Cultivating cannabis	3	2	-	1117	1291	0.3%	0.2%
NSW	Drug offences	Manufacture drug	0	0	-	66	80	0.0%	0.0%
NSW	Drug offences	Importing drugs	0	1	-	23	41	0.0%	2.4%
NSW	Drug offences	Other drug offences	8	8	-	3383	3681	0.2%	0.2%
NSW	Prohibited and regulated weapons		34	27	Stable	8438	7667	0.4%	0.4%
NSW	Disorderly conduct	Trespass	110	62	-43.6%	8779	8795	1.3%	0.7%
NSW	Disorderly conduct	Offensive conduct	7	5	-	8867	9362	0.1%	0.1%
NSW	Disorderly conduct	Offensive language	3	2	-	6825	6454	0.0%	0.0%
NSW	Disorderly conduct	Criminal intent	6	9	-	1491	1541	0.4%	0.6%
NSW	Betting and gaming offences		1	0	-	313	237	0.3%	0.0%
NSW	Liquor offences		18	20	-	18335	17673	0.1%	0.1%
NSW	Pornography offences		7	2	-	287	261	2.4%	0.8%
NSW	Prostitution offences		0	0	-	185	222	0.0%	0.0%
NSW	Against justice procedures	Escape custody	2	1	-	208	186	1.0%	0.5%
NSW	Against justice procedures	Breach Apprehended Violence	760	730	-3.9%	12971	12611	5.9%	5.8%
NSW	Against justice procedures	Breach bail conditions	148	214	Stable	24401	26387	0.6%	0.8%
NSW	Against justice procedures	Fail to appear	3	13	-	933	1191	0.3%	1.1%
NSW	Against justice procedures	Resist or hinder officer	3	2	-	7732	7064	0.0%	0.0%
NSW	Against justice procedures	Other offences against justice	6	6	-	639	452	0.9%	1.3%
NSW	Transport regulatory offences		10	12	-	40853	51116	0.0%	0.0%
NSW	Other offences		56	55	Stable	15303	15622	0.4%	0.4%
NSW	All offences		13235	12533	-5.3%	683949	679145	1.9%	1.8%

Appendix Table 3: Significant LAC trends for rejected incidents

<i>Region</i>	<i>LAC</i>	<i>Offence category</i>	<i>Subcategory</i>	<i>Number of rejected incidents for Oct 2008-Sep 2009</i>	<i>Number of rejected incidents for Oct 2009-Sep 2010</i>	<i>Trend and annual percentage change</i>
Central Metro	Eastern Beaches	Theft	Motor vehicle theft	21	38	81.0%
Central Metro	Newtown	Theft	Other theft	21	33	57.1%
Northern	Lower Hunter	Theft	Steal from dwelling	102	27	-73.5%
Northern	Newcastle	Assault	Non-domestic violence related assault	166	55	-66.9%
Central Metro	Sutherland	Assault	Non-domestic violence related assault	57	21	-63.2%
South West Metro	Macquarie Fields	Theft	Break and enter dwelling	51	24	-52.9%
Western	Barrier	Assault	Non-domestic violence related assault	47	23	-51.1%
Central Metro	Surry Hills	Assault	Non-domestic violence related assault	54	29	-46.3%
Western	Canobolas	Assault	Non-domestic violence related assault	44	25	-43.2%
Western	Orana	Assault	Non-domestic violence related assault	44	26	-40.9%
Northern	Lower Hunter	Theft	Other theft	238	142	-40.3%
Northern	Coffs-Clarence	Assault	Domestic violence related assault	43	26	-39.5%
North West Metro	Penrith	Assault	Non-domestic violence related assault	54	34	-37.0%
Western	Oxley	Assault	Non-domestic violence related assault	31	20	-35.5%
South West Metro	Flemington	Assault	Non-domestic violence related assault	32	21	-34.4%
Northern	Manning-Great Lakes	Assault	Non-domestic violence related assault	33	22	-33.3%
Northern	Coffs-Clarence	Assault	Non-domestic violence related assault	62	45	-27.4%
Central Metro	Eastern Beaches	Assault	Non-domestic violence related assault	39	29	-25.6%

Appendix Table 4: Watchlist of offence categories from LACs with high rates of rejected incidents

<i>Region</i>	<i>LAC</i>	<i>Offence category</i>	<i>Subcategory</i>	<i>Number of rejected incidents for Oct 2008-Sep 2009</i>	<i>Number of rejected incidents for Oct 2009-Sep 2010</i>	<i>Difference</i>	<i>Trend and annual percentage change of rejected incidents over Oct 2008-Sep 2010</i>	<i>Total number of incidents for Oct 2008-Sep 2009</i>	<i>Total number of incidents for Oct 2009-Sep 2010</i>	<i>Percentage of incidents rejected for Oct 2008-Sep 2009</i>	<i>Percentage of incidents rejected for Oct 2009-Sep 2010</i>
South West Metro	Bankstown	Sexual offences	Sexual assault	7	30	23	nc	62	91	11.3%	33.0%
Northern	Lower Hunter	Theft	Other theft	238	142	-96	-40.3%	813	699	29.3%	20.3%
Central Metro	Sutherland	Theft	Fraud	51	87	36	Stable	366	430	13.9%	20.2%
Central Metro	Harbourside	Theft	Motor vehicle theft	27	25	-2	Stable	180	131	15.0%	19.1%
Central Metro	City Central	Theft	Motor vehicle theft	11	26	15	nc	112	143	9.8%	18.2%
Western	Orana	Against justice procedures	Breach Apprehended Violence Order	23	33	10	Stable	210	207	11.0%	15.9%
Southern	Cootamundra	Against justice procedures	Breach Apprehended Violence Order	13	24	11	nc	130	157	10.0%	15.3%
Southern	Monaro	Theft	Fraud	18	36	18	nc	338	249	5.3%	14.5%
Central Metro	Rose Bay	Theft	Motor vehicle theft	6	20	14	nc	174	140	3.4%	14.3%
Central Metro	Eastern Beaches	Theft	Steal from person	7	22	15	nc	200	162	3.5%	13.6%
Southern	Albury	Against justice procedures	Breach Apprehended Violence Order	9	24	15	nc	156	178	5.8%	13.5%
Central Metro	Rose Bay	Theft	Steal from dwelling	8	25	17	nc	212	194	3.8%	12.9%
Central Metro	Newtown	Assault	Non-domestic violence related assault	38	36	-2	Stable	323	297	11.8%	12.1%
South West Metro	Campsie	Assault	Non-domestic violence related assault	19	49	30	nc	406	435	4.7%	11.3%
South West Metro	Green Valley	Assault	Non-domestic violence related assault	43	35	-8	Stable	307	325	14.0%	10.8%
Central Metro	Rose Bay	Theft	Break and enter dwelling	8	32	24	nc	502	300	1.6%	10.7%
South West Metro	Macquarie Fields	Against justice procedures	Breach Apprehended Violence Order	10	25	15	nc	286	236	3.5%	10.6%
Southern	Shoalhaven	Against justice procedures	Breach Apprehended Violence Order	34	36	2	Stable	394	345	8.6%	10.4%
Central Metro	Miranda	Theft	Motor vehicle theft	27	20	-7	Stable	238	195	11.3%	10.3%
North West Metro	Northern Beaches	Theft	Motor vehicle theft	21	30	9	Stable	292	298	7.2%	10.1%
Central Metro	Newtown	Theft	Steal from person	20	20	0	Stable	158	201	12.7%	10.0%
Western	Lachlan	Assault	Non-domestic violence related assault	24	29	5	Stable	307	292	7.8%	9.9%
Central Metro	Eastern Beaches	Theft	Fraud	32	74	42	Stable	828	771	3.9%	9.6%
North West Metro	Mount Druitt	Against justice procedures	Breach Apprehended Violence Order	26	33	7	Stable	306	354	8.5%	9.3%
Southern	Cootamundra	Assault	Non-domestic violence related assault	26	27	1	Stable	278	292	9.4%	9.2%
Central Metro	Eastern Suburbs	Theft	Steal from person	2	23	21	nc	304	254	0.7%	9.1%