

94

Del 2.4% de indiferentes el 31.6% exigió pena de muerte, y el resto no castiga.

Del 73.4% que condenó el acto, se obtuvo la siguiente exigencia de aplicación de tratamiento:

Someter a custodia	0.2%
Reprimenda ante otros	1.2%
Reprimenda ante otros y someter a custodia	2.7%
Obligación de reparar el daño causado	2.7%
Obligación de reparar el daño causado y someter a custodia	14.5%
Obligación de reparar el daño causado y reprimenda ante otros	9.4%
Referir el caso al juzgado	50.9%
Detención por largo tiempo	3.7%
Estudiar el problema	4.4%
Tratamiento asistencial	1.0%
Reprimenda ante otros y referir el caso al juzgado	0.2%
No castiga	9.0%

Entre el 22.4% que condenó totalmente, se obtuvo la asignación de los siguientes tratamientos:

Someter a custodia y reprimenda ante otros	1.1%
Obligación de reparar el daño causado	2.2%
Obligación de reparar el daño causado y someter a custodia	7.3%
Obligación de reparar el daño causado y reprimenda ante otros	14.0%
Referir el caso al juzgado	55.9%
Detención por largo tiempo	9.5%
Estudiar el problema	5.6%
Tratamiento asistencial	0.6%
No castiga	3.9%

44- MALVERSACION DE FONDOS:

Reacción emocional: Los funcionarios del Concejo Municipal malgastaron gran parte del presupuesto en obras inútiles e improductivas. Ellos no tenían preparación para administrar.

Tal acto ameritó por parte del público: un 0.5% de aprobación total, un 1.0% de aprobación, un 3.0% de indiferencia, un 77.8% de condena, un 17.5% de condena total y un 0.3% de no respuesta.

95

El 0.5% que aprobó totalmente, exigió tratar con:

Someter a custodia	50.0%
Reprimenda ante otros	25.0%
Obligación de reparar el daño y someter a custodia	25.0%

El 1.0% que aprobó, se pronunció por tratar con:

Someter a custodia	12.5%
Reprimenda ante otros	50.0%
Obligación de reparar el daño causado	12.5%
Obligación de reparar el daño causado y someter a custodia	12.5%

Del 3.0% de los indiferentes, un 33.3% exigió aplicar pena de muerte y el 66.7% no castiga.

El 77.8% de los que condenaron exigieron aplicar:

Reprimenda ante otros	4.5%
Reprimenda ante otros y someter a custodia	4.3%
Obligación de reparar el daño causado	10.1%
Obligación de reparar el daño causado y someter a custodia	51.0%
Obligación de reparar el daño causado y reprimenda ante otros	7.4%
Referir el caso al juzgado	15.0%
Detención por largo tiempo	0.2%
Pena de muerte	0.5%
Estudiar el problema	1.3%
Orientar	0.2%
Tratamiento asistencial	0.3%
No castiga	5.3%

El 17.5% de los que condenaron totalmente, seleccionaron:

Someter a custodia	0.7%
Reprimenda ante otros	2.9%
Reprimenda ante otros y someter a custodia	5.7%
Obligación de reparar el daño causado	8.6%
Obligación de reparar el daño causado y someter a custodia	35.7%
Obligación de reparar el daño causado y reprimenda ante otros	9.3%
Referir el caso al juzgado	25.0%

Estudiar el problema - averiguar las causas	5.0%
Orientar	0.7%
Tratamiento asistencial	0.7%
No castiga	5.7%

45- ACEPTACION DE SOBORNO:

Reacción emocional: Un empleado público recibe dinero de particulares a cambio de realizar con más rapidez servicios por los que no hay que pagar.

Ante esta conducta, encontramos que el 6.1% aprobó, el 6.6% fué indiferentes, el 71.6% condenó, el 13.9% condenó totalmente y el 1.8% no respondió al acto.

El 6.1% que aprobó el acto exigió aplicar:

Someter a custodia	73.5%
Obligación de reparar el daño causado	2.0%
Obligación de reparar el daño causado y someter a custodia	6.1%
Penal de muerte	16.3%
No castiga	2.0%

El 6.6% de los que se declararon indiferentes, seleccionó:

Someter a custodia	1.9%
Referir el caso al juzgado	1.9%
Penal de muerte	18.9%
No castiga	77.4%

El 71.6% de los encuestados que condenaron seleccionó:

Reprimenda ante otros	2.1%
Otorgamiento de ciertos privilegios	3.8%
Obligación de reparar el daño causado	11.9%
Obligación de reparar el daño causado y someter a custodia	44.3%
Obligación de reparar el daño causado y reprimenda ante otros	8.6%
Referir el caso al juzgado	19.9%
Penal de muerte	0.9%
Estudiar el problema	3.1%
Tratamiento asistencial	0.7%

No castiga

4.5%

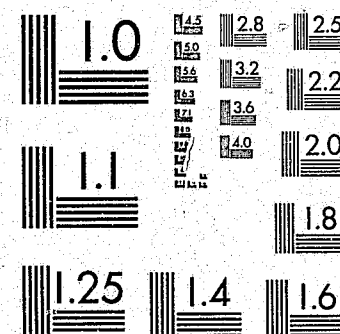
El 13.9% de informantes que condenó totalmente, eligió:

Reprimenda ante otros	0.9%
Reprimenda ante otros y someter a custodia	0.9%
Obligación de reparar el daño causado	7.2%
Obligación de reparar el daño causado y someter a custodia	45.9%
Obligación de reparar el daño causado y reprimenda ante otros	7.2%
Referir el caso al juzgado	28.8%
Estudiar el problema - averiguar las causas	6.3%
No castiga	1.8%

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NOVEMBER, 1981

HOMICIDE AND SERIOUS ASSAULT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

82967

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OFFICE OF CRIME STATISTICS
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H.D. BAJARZ, CLERICAL OFFICER
B.W. JOYCE, CLERICAL OFFICER

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SERIES II
NO. 9
NOVEMBER, 1981

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ACQUISITIONS

HOMICIDE AND SERIOUS ASSAULT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF CRIME STATISTICS
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SUMMARY

1. This report summarises 67 cases of homicide (61 murder and 6 non-negligent manslaughter) and 1259 of serious assault committed in South Australia during the three years ending 31st December, 1980, and reported to the police.
2. The rate of murder and non-negligent manslaughter in South Australia for the year ended 30th June, 1981 was 1.23 per 100,000 of the general population. This is low by Australian and world standards.
3. 94% of the homicides were cleared up by police.
4. The annual incidence of murder in South Australia has shown no discernible trend over the past decade.
5. For every incident of homicide in South Australia, there are approximately six suicides and fourteen road traffic deaths.
6. Approximately half of all murders and attempted murders recorded during the three year period were committed with firearms.
7. 23% of all murder victims were wives or female de-facto partners killed by their male partners.
8. Only 9% of all homicides were committed by strangers to the victim. Marital, de-facto, or intimate relationships gave rise to 39% of all homicides; other family ties provided the context for an additional 15%.
9. Sixty percent of homicide victims and an estimated 90% of homicide offenders/suspects were male.
10. Aboriginal people comprised approximately 13% of homicide offender/suspects and at least 10% of homicide victims; missing data, however, prevented a more accurate estimate.
11. Approximately 25% of those charged with homicide, and 40% of those charged with non-fatal assaults were unemployed at the time of the offence.
12. Local Government Areas in the Adelaide Statistical Division which had the highest rates of long term unemployment, tended to have the highest rates of serious assault - both in dwellings and in public places.
13. The report concludes with recommendations for reducing the level of violence in South Australian society.

ii.

PREFACE

The subjects of this study are homicide and serious assault, issues of particular concern, both to the public and to the Government of South Australia.

Despite the fact that homicides, in particular, tend to be accorded extensive media attention, public knowledge of fatal and non-fatal assaults and their surrounding circumstances is inadequate.

This report is one of a series of special research reports produced by the Office of Crime Statistics. It is intended to enhance public awareness about the offences of homicide and the more serious non-sexual assaults, their victims, and the manner in which persons charged with the offences are dealt with in the South Australian criminal justice system.

The report was prepared with the generous assistance of the South Australian Police Department. Particular thanks are due to Fred Richardson and to Laura Leach, Special Projects Section, Police Headquarters. Computer programming and data analysis were done by N.S. Koshnitsky, Statistician, Office of Crime Statistics.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION

This report summarises 67 cases of homicide and 1259 cases of serious assault committed in South Australia during the three years ended 31st December, 1980, and coming to the attention of the police.

An incident form designed especially for this study (reprinted in Appendix I of this report) was completed for each known victim by personnel of M3 Division at Police Headquarters. In cases where the alleged offender was identified, police personnel completed a defendant's background form as well (reprinted in Appendix II). The data were then placed on a computer file and analysed.

Any study which involves the coding, storage and retrieval of large amounts of data is subject to some errors. The data on which this report is based were checked by police personnel, and subsequently by the Office of Crime Statistics. Additional caution was exercised in formulating the interpretations and generalisations which appear below.

Slight discrepancies may exist between the yearly totals reported here, and those published in other reports. These arise from the fact that the present report is based on the date of the offences themselves and not the date at which the offences were reported to or recorded by Police.

Chapter II of this report provides a brief summary of the law of homicide and serious assault in South Australia, and specifies those offences under review. Chapter III reviews some of the processes by which an assault incident is transformed into an assault

statistic, and discusses some of the problems involved in comparing assault statistics over time and across jurisdictions. It then describes trends in South Australian homicide rates since World War II, and compares rates over the past decade with those from other Australian States and Territories. Recent statistics available from a variety of overseas jurisdictions are also presented. Another table presents rates of serious assault in South Australia, and insofar as is possible, compares them with rates from other Australian jurisdictions over the past 15 years.

Chapter IV summarises the known background circumstances of homicide and assault incidents occurring in South Australia during the three years under review, including such items as victim-offender relationship, premises of attack, time of occurrence, and nature of weapon employed, if any.

Chapter V describes the basic demographic characteristics of homicide and assault victims, including age, race, gender, and nature of injury sustained.

Chapter VI describes those persons alleged to have committed the offences described in earlier chapters, including their previous criminal history, and bail or parole status at the time of the alleged offence.

Chapter VII reviews the clear-up of recorded offences, then summarises the outcome of those criminal charges which were laid.

Chapter VIII reviews possible approaches to the prevention and control of violence in South Australian society.

CHAPTER II.

THE LAW OF HOMICIDE AND ASSAULT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The law of homicide in South Australia is based upon the common law, and upon the Criminal Law Consolidation Act, 1935-1976. Criminal homicide in South Australia may be classified as either murder or manslaughter. (1) For a killing to be defined as murder, it must be committed intentionally, or at least have resulted from an act deliberately done for the purpose of inflicting serious injury. Homicides committed in the course of a robbery or sexual assault also constitute murder, even when the element of premeditation is lacking. Homicides committed with reckless indifference to the causing of death or serious injury may also be charged as murder. Section 11 of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act prescribes that a person convicted of murder shall be imprisoned for life.

Attempted murder is punishable by a maximum of life imprisonment. An attempted murder need not cause any injury to the victim, but it must involve the essential element of intent to kill.

Manslaughter, on the other hand, is a killing where the element of premeditation is lacking. It may be voluntary, such as when death results from a fight in the heat of the moment, or when excessive force is employed in self defence. Death arising unintentionally from the acts or omissions of a person may also be defined as manslaughter, depending on the degree of negligence on the part of the victim or offender. Section 13 of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act prescribes that a person convicted of manslaughter may be sentenced to a maximum term of life imprisonment.

The offence of assault involves any application of physical force against a person, or the use of words or gestures intended to threaten the use of such force. Words uttered or gestures made with reckless indifference to their consequences may also constitute assault.

Because the definition of assault is so broad, it has long been customary to classify assaults according to their severity. The basic types of assault according to South Australian law are as follows:

Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm includes the intentional infliction of a serious injury such as a stab wound, the loss of an eye, or teeth. It also includes shooting at a person, even if no wound is actually inflicted. An essential element of this offence is the specific intent to maim, disfigure, or disable. Section 21 of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act provides that a person convicted of this offence may be sentenced to a maximum term of life imprisonment.

Where injury sufficient to be defined as grievous bodily harm is inflicted, but the element of deliberate intent to inflict such serious injury is not apparent, the offence is termed malicious wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm. Section 23 of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act makes this offence punishable by imprisonment not to exceed three years.

Assault occasioning actual bodily harm involves the infliction of a minor injury such as a split lip or broken tooth. This offence is punishable under Section 40 of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act by imprisonment not exceeding three years.

4.

The least serious form of assault in South Australia is called common assault. This offence involves no significant injury to the victim, or any other feature (such as the use of a weapon) which would be regarded as an aggravating element. Indeed, mere words or gestures of a threatening nature may suffice to constitute common assault. The maximum penalty for common assault is imprisonment for one year.

Special provisions of the criminal law cover assaults on police officers. Section 6 of the Police Offences Act provides a maximum of one year imprisonment for a person convicted of assaulting a member of the Police Department. It should be noted that persons who inflict bodily harm to a police officer are liable to be charged with one of the above forms of aggravated assault, depending upon the degree of injury inflicted.

Readers seeking a more detailed discussion of the law of homicide and assault in South Australia should begin with the Criminal Law and Penal Methods Reform Committee of South Australia, Fourth Report: The Substantive Criminal Law (Adelaide: Government Printer, 1977) Chapter 2.

Resource limitations precluded an exhaustive survey of all assault incidents reaching the attention of police. Coverage of this report is limited to the more severe acts of homicide and assault, and excludes such matters as causing death or injury by dangerous driving, and common assault.

The offences summarised in this report are listed in Table 1.

TABLE 1
HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LAW

CLASSIFICATION	OFFENCE	MAXIMUM PENALTY	CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION ACT, SECTION	OFFENCES COMMITTED 1ST JANUARY 1978 - 30TH DECEMBER 1980 AND RECORDED BY POLICE
<u>Murder</u>	Murder	Life Imprisonment (Mandatory)	s.11	61
<u>Manslaughter</u>	Manslaughter (other than by driving)	Life Imprisonment	s.13	6
<u>Attempted Murder</u>	Attempted Murder	Life Imprisonment	s.18	40
<u>Grievous Bodily Harm</u>	Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm	Life Imprisonment	s.21	56
	Using explosives with intent to do grievous bodily harm	Life Imprisonment	s.32	2
	Choking or stupefying to commit crime	Life Imprisonment	s.25	2
	Maliciously Administering Poison	Ten Years Imprisonment	s.26	2
	Inflict grievous bodily harm	Three Years Imprisonment ²	s.23	37
<u>Actual Bodily Harm</u>	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	Three Years Imprisonment ²	s.40	1116
	Administer Poison	Three Years Imprisonment	s.27	1
	Cause bodily injury by explosives	Three Years Imprisonment	s.31	3

6.

NOTES

¹ A homicide may be regarded as other than a criminal matter, depending upon the circumstances. For example, a killing may be justifiable when committed to prevent the occurrence of a serious crime, or when committed in self defence. It may be regarded as excusable when it results from the victim's misadventure.

² At the time of publication (November, 1981) the South Australian Government was considering amendments to the Criminal Law Consolidation Act which would increase the maximum penalties for certain offences. With the enactment of these proposed amendments, conviction under Sections 23 and 40 would be punishable by imprisonment not exceeding five years (eight years in cases where victims were under twelve years of age).

CHAPTER III.

RATES AND TRENDS OF HOMICIDE AND SERIOUS ASSAULT IN
COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Comparisons reported in the following pages should be interpreted with great caution, as they may be jeopardised by inconsistencies from one jurisdiction to another and within a given jurisdiction over time. The inconsistencies in question are of two general types - identification and definition.

Because of the severity of the offence, among other reasons, the percentage of all homicides which reach the attention of the police is greater than for most other crimes. Nevertheless, there remain a few incidents which are never discovered, others which only come to the attention of the police after a considerable period of time has elapsed, and others still which do reach official attention, but in which the cause of death may not be determined with certainty.

The initial police assessment of the circumstances surrounding a homicide may be based on fragmentary information; only after prolonged investigation might the presence (or absence) of premeditation be determined. Moreover, the quantity and quality of evidence required to lay a charge of murder or attempted murder may vary from time to time and from place to place.

Statistical accounting practices may further inhibit comparison. Some jurisdictions may report combined totals of murder and attempted murder, whilst others might combine murder and manslaughter, grouping attempted murder with serious assault. Some jurisdictions include infanticide with murder; others record it separately. Manslaughter categories may include deaths caused by negligent driving - or they may not.

Comparisons of assault rates and trends may also be jeopardised by inconsistencies of identification and definition. Many assaults, particularly those where no physical injury is inflicted, are never reported to the police. Assaults committed by relatives and acquaintances are also less likely to be reported than are those suffered at the hands of strangers.

Whilst police departments have definitional standards to permit classification of an assault according to degrees of severity, the decision is not always clear cut. Neither the intent of the offender nor the degree of injury inflicted may be consistently obvious.

Moreover, the definitional standards themselves may change. Beginning in 1973 for example, the Victoria Police narrowed their definition of serious assault. (1) By contrast, in 1979 the Northern Territory Police widened their definition of serious assault. The effects of these changes will be clearly visible in Table 5 below.

Because of these subtleties of identification and definition, the data reported in the tables and graphs on the following pages can not be expected to portray homicide and assault rates and trends with perfect accuracy. They should, however, present a reasonable reflection of general patterns and trends.

The South Australian data have been checked, insofar as possible, to protect against distortion attributable to changes in definition and accounting. The absence of any marked discontinuities in the South Australian data series provides some reassurance of their integrity.

8.

Quality control of interstate and overseas data necessarily remained the responsibility of the source agencies, the original collators of these data. Despite the precautions taken by the Office of Crime Statistics and by these other organisations, comparisons of South Australian data with those from other jurisdictions must therefore be regarded as suggestive rather than definitive.

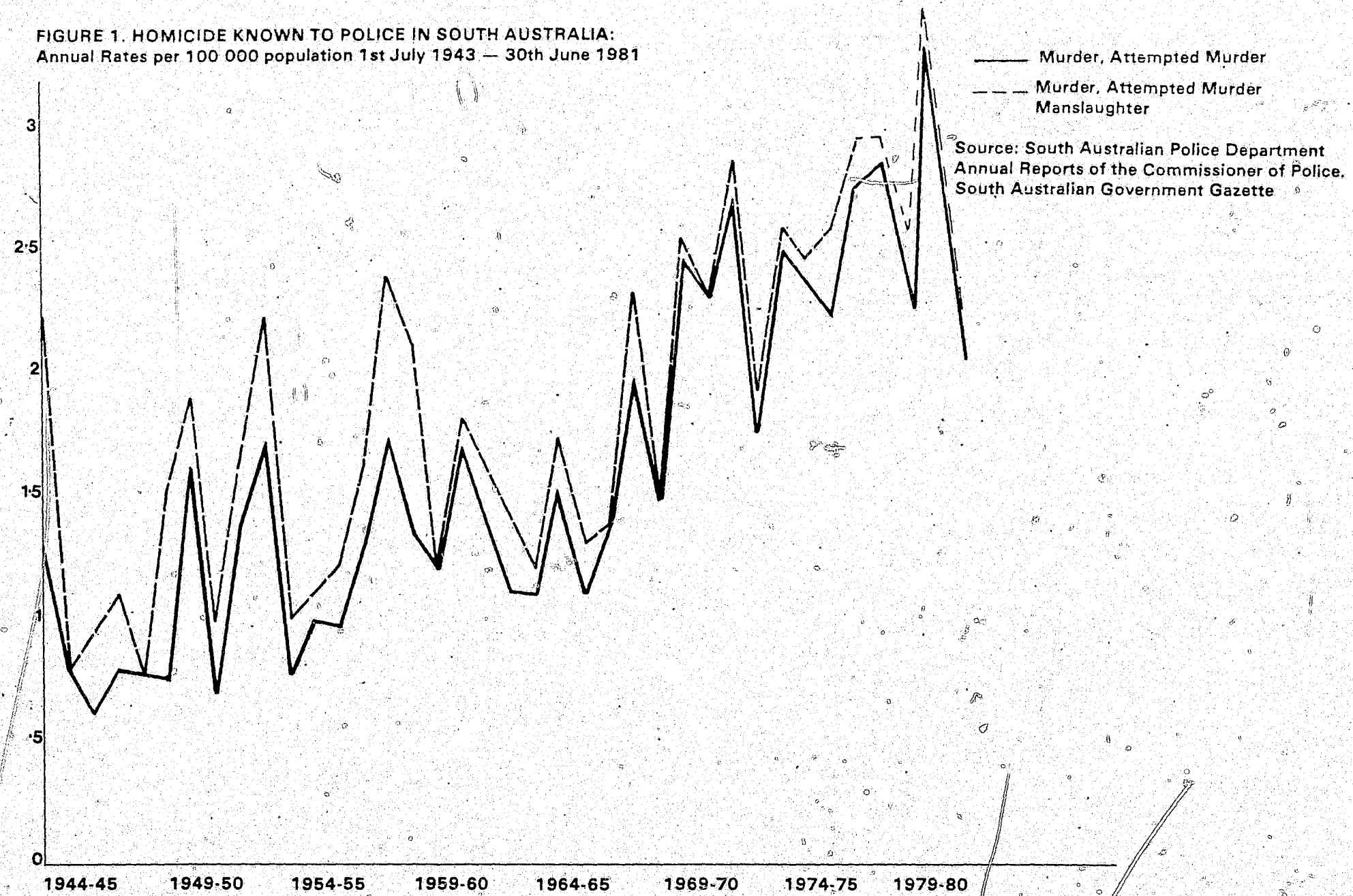
In co-operation with the various police departments throughout Australia, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has recently devised a uniform system of defining and classifying offences. Future studies will thus benefit from greater comparability of data.

Trends in South Australian Homicide Since World War II

Figure 1 shows annual rates of murder/attempted murder and manslaughter known to police in South Australia from 1st July, 1943 through 30th June, 1981. The rates have been adjusted to include seven murders committed during 1976-7, which only came to the attention of police early in 1979. The rates do not reflect deaths caused by negligent driving.

Figure 1 illustrates that there has been some year to year fluctuation around a slight upward trend in homicide.

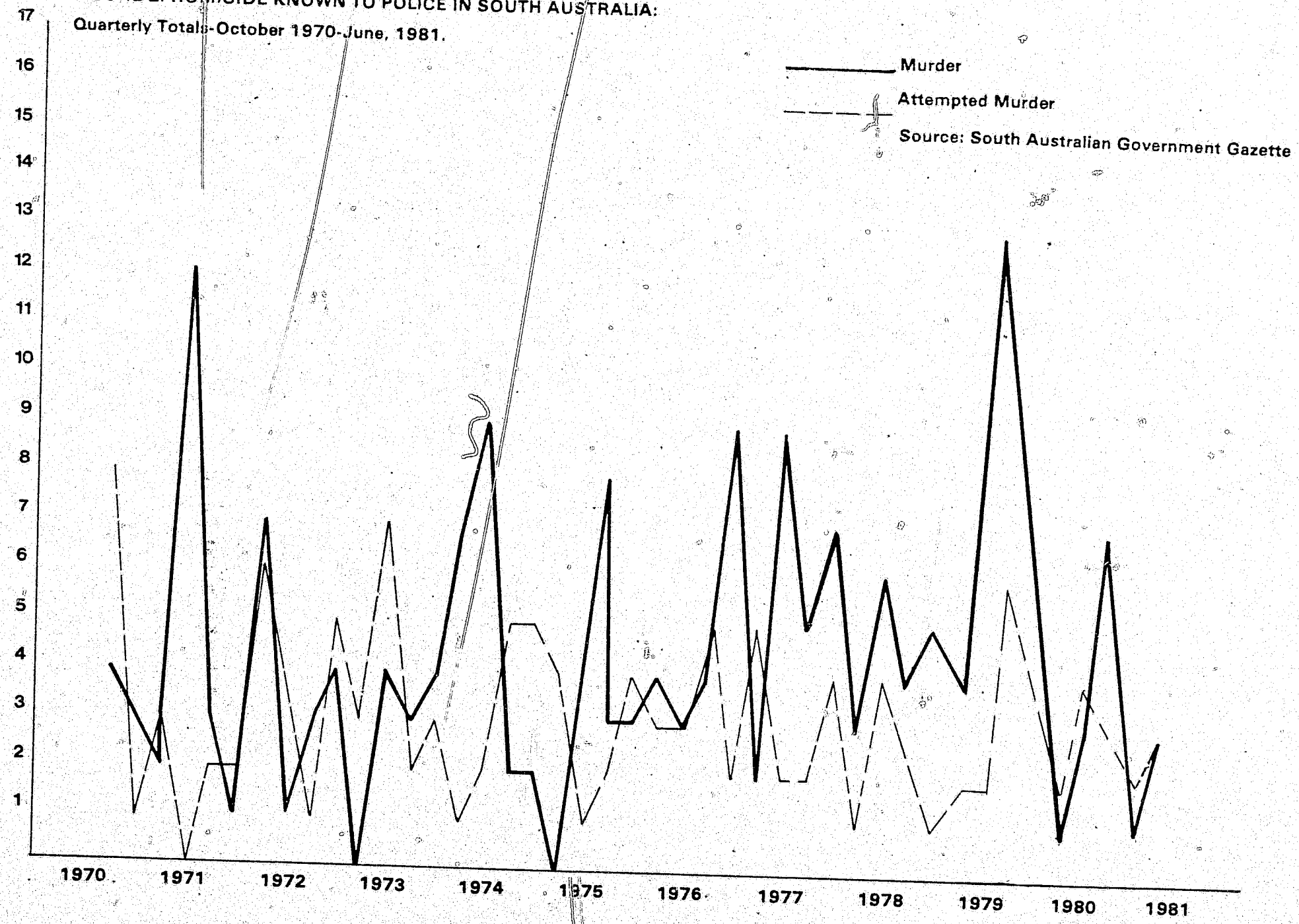
FIGURE 1. HOMICIDE KNOWN TO POLICE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA:
Annual Rates per 100 000 population 1st July 1943 — 30th June 1981



Recent Quarterly Variations in South Australian Homicide

Figure 2 shows the number of murders and attempted murders coming to the attention of the police in South Australia on a quarterly basis from 1st October, 1970 through 30th June, 1981. These represent total offences, and are not weighted by population. They have been adjusted to account for the actual date of occurrence of the seven murders alluded to above, but delays in the reporting and recording of other offences may have introduced some slight inaccuracies. The totals do not include manslaughter. As this figure illustrates, the known incidence of murder and attempted murder has remained fairly stable over the decade, with no consistent upward or downward trends visible.

FIGURE 2. HOMICIDE KNOWN TO POLICE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA:
Quarterly Totals - October 1970-June, 1981.



Homicide, Suicide, and Road Traffic Fatalities in South Australia

Table 2 shows recorded deaths from homicide, suicide, and road traffic accidents in South Australia for each calendar year from 1970 through 1980. These totals reflect the date of recording and not necessarily the period in which the death actually occurred. The table suggests that for every death arising from homicide or injury purposefully inflicted by other persons in South Australia, there were approximately six suicides and fourteen road traffic deaths.

TABLE 2
SOUTH AUSTRALIA:
DEATHS RECORDED 1970-1980

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER	HOMICIDE (960-969)*	SUICIDE (950-959)*	ROAD TRAFFIC DEATHS (810-829)*
1970	28	138	354
1971	22	122	301
1972	17	127	293
1973	8	121	304
1974	23	134	384
1975	18	149	331
1976	22	146	296
1977	24	129	328
1978	27	155	297
1979	27	179	302
1980	28	145	280
TOTAL	244	1545	3470

* Standard World Health Organisation Classification

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics:
Causes of Death 1970-1980

14.

Homicide Deaths in Australian States and Territories

Table 3 shows the annual number and rate per 100,000 population of deaths from homicide for each of the States and Territories of Australia from 1968 to 1980. These totals reflect the date of recording, and not necessarily the period in which the death actually occurred. South Australian rates do not appear significantly different from the national average.

TABLE 3
TOTAL DEATHS - HOMICIDE AND INJURY PURPOSEFULLY INFLICTED BY OTHER PERSONS
STATES AND TERRITORIES OF AUSTRALIA
RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION 1968-1980

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUSTRALIA
1968	76 (1.75)	49 (1.48)	27 (1.57)	14 (1.25)	9 (0.99)	5 (1.32)	10 (14.88)	0	190 (1.59)
1969	52 (1.18)	30 (0.89)	31 (1.76)	13 (1.15)	8 (0.84)	8 (2.08)	9 (12.43)	2 (1.65)	153 (1.25)
1970	69 (1.53)	48 (1.40)	23 (1.29)	28 (2.42)	8 (0.81)	8 (2.07)	6 (7.69)	0	190 (1.53)
1971	87 (1.86)	56 (1.59)	25 (1.33)	22 (1.86)	16 (1.54)	8 (2.05)	8 (8.71)	6 (4.12)	228 (1.77)
1972	72 (1.52)	52 (1.46)	46 (2.38)	17 (1.42)	15 (1.40)	6 (1.53)	8 (8.71)	3 (1.90)	219 (1.67)
1973	95 (1.99)	58 (1.60)	55 (2.77)	8 (0.66)	18 (1.66)	7 (1.77)	9 (9.22)	3 (1.79)	253 (1.89)
1974	66 (1.37)	80 (2.18)	41 (2.01)	23 (1.86)	22 (1.97)	3 (0.76)	7 (6.71)	0	242 (1.78)
1975	62 (1.27)	48 (1.29)	53 (2.55)	18 (1.44)	22 (1.92)	8 (1.98)	13 (14.55)	0	224 (1.63)
1976	93 (1.90)	53 (1.42)	55 (2.61)	22 (1.75)	25 (2.14)	10 (2.46)	23 (22.69)	2 (0.99)	283 (2.04)
1977	83 (1.68)	65 (1.72)	49 (2.30)	24 (1.88)	21 (1.76)	5 (1.22)	20 (18.96)	3 (1.44)	270 (1.92)
1978	88 (1.76)	49 (1.29)	43 (1.99)	27 (2.10)	19 (1.56)	9 (2.18)	17 (15.12)	2 (0.93)	254 (1.79)
1979	87 (1.72)	59 (1.54)	40 (1.83)	27 (2.09)	30 (2.42)	10 (2.40)	11 (9.51)	1 (0.45)	265 (1.84)

Source: Australian Bureau of
Statistics:

Causes of Death, 1968-1980

Contemporary Homicide Rates in International Perspective

Table 4, based on statistics from the World Health Organisation, shows recent rates of reported murder and manslaughter for various overseas jurisdictions.

The table does not include all of the nations of the world, and is limited to those from which data were made available to the W.H.O. The figures do not include attempted murder, or deaths accidentally inflicted.

Differences in accounting and reporting practices aside, it may be inferred from these data that there is wide variation in homicidal violence from country to country. Latin American nations tend to have the highest homicide rates, and Western European nations the lowest. South Australia's rate approximates the Australian average, which ranks among the lowest in the world.

TABLE 4
DEATHS BY HOMICIDE AND INJURY PURPOSEFULLY INFLICTED BY OTHER PERSONS
RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION

17.

COUNTRY	YEAR	RATE	COUNTRY	YEAR	RATE
El Salvador	1974	33.0	Israel	1978	1.6
Nicaragua	1977	30.0	England, Wales and Scotland	1978	1.5
Thailand	1978	20.5	Austria	1978	1.4
Colombia	1975	18.4	Iceland	1978	1.3
Puerto Rico	1975	16.1	Czechoslovakia	1975	1.3
Paraguay	1977	14.4	Egypt	1975	1.2
Northern Ireland	1977	14.3	Fed. Rep. Germany	1978	1.2
Argentina	1977	9.4	South Australia	1981	1.2
United States	1977	9.2	Japan	1978	1.1
Venezuela	1977	8.6	New Zealand	1978	1.1
Costa Rica	1977	4.4	Mauritius	1978	1.0
Dominican Republic	1977	4.2	Sweden	1978	1.0
Cuba	1977	3.9	Ireland	1977	0.9
Barbados	1977	3.5	France	1976	0.9
Uruguay	1975	2.9	Belgium	1976	0.9
Martinique	1975	2.5	Netherlands	1978	0.8
Canada	1977	2.4	Switzerland	1978	0.7
Bulgaria	1977	2.4	Greece	1978	0.7
Hungary	1978	2.2	Norway	1978	0.7
Australia	1979	1.8	Denmark	1978	0.5
Singapore	1976	1.6	Syria	1978	0.3

Sources: World Health Organization World Health Statistics Annual (Geneva: WHO, 1978-80)
South Australian Government Gazette 1980-81.

18.

Rates of Serious Assault in Australian States and Territories

Table 5 shows totals and rates of reported serious assault in Australian States and Territories from 1964-65 to 1980-81. Comparisons between jurisdictions are inappropriate, since definitions of what constitutes serious assault are not uniform. The effects of the 1973 Victoria and 1979 Northern Territory reclassifications, cited above, are clearly apparent.

Definitional inconsistencies notwithstanding, it does appear that rates of serious assault have increased throughout Australia in recent years. Insofar as one may determine, rates of serious assault in South Australia appear lower than the national average.

NOTES

¹Victoria Police, Statistical Review of Crime, 1973
(Melbourne: Government Printer, 1974).

TABLE 5
SERIOUS ASSAULT
CASES REPORTED AND RATES FOR 100,000 POPULATION
STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1964-65 to 1979-80

19.

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUSTRALIA
1964-65	481 (11.6)	1259 (40.1)	55 (3.4)	51 (4.8)	23 (2.8)	36 (9.8)	16 (30.2)	14 (16.5)	
1965-66	502 (11.9)	1288 (40.3)	71 (4.3)	43 (4.0)	10 (1.2)	6 (1.6)	12 (21.8)	19 (20.4)	
1966-67	545 (12.8)	1567 (48.2)	108 (6.4)	61 (5.5)	17 (2.0)	9 (2.4)	15 (25.9)	10 (10.0)	
1967-68	561 (13.0)	1548 (46.9)	116 (6.8)	67 (6.0)	42 (4.7)	9 (2.4)	31 (48.4)	17 (15.7)	
1968-69	658 (15.0)	1354 (40.3)	140 (8.0)	69 (6.1)	54 (5.8)	37 (9.7)	21 (30.0)	24 (20.5)	
1969-70	657 (14.6)	1795 (52.5)	153 (8.6)	83 (7.2)	98 (10.0)	34 (8.8)	30 (39.5)	25 (19.7)	
1970-71	757 (16.6)	2272 (65.2)	188 (10.4)	86 (8.2)	96 (9.5)	47 (12.1)	70 (84.3)	44 (31.9)	
1971-72	828 (17.8)	2712 (76.7)	224 (12.1)	104 (8.7)	157 (15.0)	21 (5.3)	131 (147.2)	35 (23.3)	
1972-73	877 (18.7)	1942 (54.2)	289 (15.2)	157 (13.0)	112 (10.5)	11 (2.8)	73 (78.5)	40 (24.5)	
1973-74	905 (19.1)	1373 (38.0)	178 (9.1)	188 (15.3)	168 (15.5)	22 (5.5)	64 (65.3)	41 (23.4)	2939 (21.6)
1974-75	908 (18.9)	1104 (30.1)	307 (15.4)	212 (17.2)	238 (21.3)	33 (8.1)	42 (60.0)	34 (18.3)	2878 (20.9)
1975-76	837 (17.4)	1413 (38.3)	537 (26.7)	242 (19.7)	320 (28.1)	45 (11.0)	43 (44.8)	34 (16.9)	3471 (25.0)
1976-77	895 (18.3)	1277 (34.2)	544 (26.7)	252 (19.9)	429 (36.7)	42 (10.2)	58 (56.3)	42 (19.8)	3539 (25.2)
1977-78	1076 (21.6)	1531 (40.3)	738 (34.3)	260 (20.3)	367 (30.3)	63 (20.6)	42 (38.9)	53 (25.1)	4152 (29.1)
1978-79	1134 (22.3)	1775 (46.1)	968 (44.1)	351 (27.2)	292 (23.5)	89 (21.3)	258 (222.6)	56 (25.2)	4923 (34.2)
1979-80	1274 (24.9)	1910 (49.4)	1263 (56.8)	460 (35.5)	445 (35.5)	142 (33.8)	530 (447.6)	52 (23.19)	6098 (42.0)

Sources: David Biles, *The Size of the Crime Problem in Australia* (Canberra, Australian Institute of Criminology, 1979); South Australian Police Department, *Annual Report of the Commissioner of Police 1979-80* (Adelaide Government Printers 1981)

CHAPTER IV

PATTERNS OF HOMICIDE AND SERIOUS ASSAULT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1978-1980

For a number of reasons, the assault incidents summarised in this report do not constitute an omniscient perspective on serious assault in South Australia. First, not all assaults are reported to the police. The size of this "dark figure" of unreported assault is not well known. A survey taken in 1975 by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) suggested that during the previous 12 month period, only 46.4% of Australian assault victims claimed to have notified the police. (1)

Circumstances which underlie the non-reporting of an assault are varied, but criminologists have identified a number of factors which bear significantly upon the likelihood of an assault incident being reported and officially counted as such:

1. The relationship between victim and offender. The closer the relationship, the less likely the assault incident will be reported or counted as such.
2. The severity of the offence. The greater the extent of injury to the victim, the more likely the assault will be defined as such by both the victim and the authorities.
3. The degree of victim implication. A victim who provokes an assault will be less likely to report it than would a completely innocent victim. (2)

The summary which follows is thus likely to understate the following types of assault incident: Non-fatal domestic assaults, assaults committed by acquaintances, and assaults involving the infliction of relatively minor injuries. The incidence and nature of homicides will be more accurately depicted.

The totals in this Chapter are based on the counting rule one victim = one offence. That is, one offence is recorded for each victim, regardless of the number of offenders or the number of victims involved in a particular incident. For example, if three offenders assault one victim, one offence is recorded. If one offender assaults three victims, three offences are recorded.

In the pages which follow, the term homicide will refer to recorded murders and manslaughters. The term serious assault will refer collectively to attempted murders, grievous bodily harm, and actual bodily harm. Reference to a particular offence grouping will pertain to that offence only.

Table 6 shows the annual number of recorded offences in each category, which were committed during the three years under review. A noticeable drop in the number of murders occurred from 28 in 1979 to 13 in 1980. On the other hand, the recorded incidence of assault occasioning actual bodily harm increased in both 1979 and 1980.

TABLE 6
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS
COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND
31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE
TOTALS BY YEAR OF OCCURRENCE

OFFENCE	1978	1979	1980	TOTAL
Murder	20	28	13	61
Manslaughter	2	2	2	6
Attempted Murder	14	14	12	40
Grievous Bodily Harm	34	31	34	99
Actual Bodily Harm	331	378	411	1120

LOCATION OF OFFENCE

Table 7 shows the location of recorded homicides and serious assaults committed during each of the three years. There are two basic settings in which homicides and assaults tend to occur - the home and in public places.

Approximately two-thirds of all murders occurred in private homes or flats.

One-third of the serious assaults were committed in private homes or flats; a further 40% occurred in hotels or in the street.

Details of the relationship between victims and their assailants will be discussed below. It is important to note here, however, that the majority of assaults in general, and an even greater proportion of attacks in dwelling places, are suffered at the hands of family members and acquaintances.

TABLE 7
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

23.

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE
LOCATION OF OFFENCE

LOCATION	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
Private Home or Flat	13	16	8	37 ^{60.7}	0	1	0	1 ^{16.7}	8	7	10	25 ^{62.5}	10	13	16	39 ^{39.4}	111	107	133	351 ^{31.3}
Shop									0	1	0	1 ^{2.5}	0	2	0	2 ^{2.0}	8	7	9	24 ^{2.1}
Restaurant, Hotel or Club	0	0	1	1 ^{1.6}	1	0	1	2 ^{3.3}	0	1	0	1 ^{2.5}	8	0	4	12 ^{12.1}	75	98	83	256 ^{22.9}
Car Park or Public Garage									0	1	0	1 ^{2.5}	1	0	0	1 ^{1.0}	10	21	9	40 ^{3.6}
Street	4	3	4	11 ^{18.0}	0	1	0	1 ^{16.7}	3	3	2	8 ^{20.0}	10	9	7	26 ^{26.3}	68	85	82	235 ^{21.0}
Sporting Event													0	1	0	1 ^{1.0}	9	6	7	22 ^{2.0}
Beach	0	1	0	1 ^{1.6}									2	0	0	2 ^{2.0}	1	4	5	10 ^{0.9}
Public Transport													0	1	1	2 ^{2.0}	0	1	2	3 ^{0.3}
Taxi													0	0	1	1 ^{1.0}	2	1	4	7 ^{0.6}
Other Motor Vehicle	0	2	0	2 ^{3.3}					1	1	0	2 ^{5.0}	0	0	1	1 ^{1.0}	6	4	16	26 ^{2.3}
Railway Station													0	1	1	2 ^{2.0}	2	1	2	5 ^{0.4}
Public Park																	3	11	7	21 ^{1.9}
Theatre																				
Other Place of Entertainment													0	0	1	1 ^{1.0}	6	5	9	20 ^{1.8}
Other	1	4	0	5 ^{8.2}	0	0	1	1 ^{16.7}	2	0	0	2 ^{5.0}	3	3	1	7 ^{7.1}	24	22	36	82 ^{7.3}
Unknown	2	2	0	4 ^{6.6}	1	0	0	1 ^{16.7}					0	1	1	2 ^{2.0}	6	5	7	18 ^{1.6}
Total	20	28	13	61 ^{100.0}	2	2	2	6 ^{100.0}	14	14	12	40 ^{100.0}	34	31	34	99 ^{100.0}	331	378	411	1120 ^{100.0}

Geographic Setting

Any discussion of homicide and assault in South Australia must take into account the question of opportunity. All else equal, assaults in the home will be more numerous in those areas with higher residential populations. Assaults in public places, on the other hand, will be more numerous in those areas where people tend to congregate for purposes of recreation and/or employment.

Table 8 shows the Local Government Area in which the offences were committed. Homicide cases were too few in number to permit any meaningful generalisations concerning their concentration.

Assaults in public places were most prevalent in the Adelaide Local Government Area, while consistently high totals of assault in the home were noted in Adelaide, Port Adelaide and Enfield.

The incidence of homicide and assault in country areas was commensurate with the size of the non-metropolitan population.

Rates of assault, both in dwellings and in public places, tended to be higher in those Local Government Areas with higher rates of long term unemployment and other indicators of social disadvantage. (3)

TABLE 8
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

25.

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF OFFENCE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	per cent of State pop. at 30 June, 1980	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
		1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
Adelaide	1.02	0	1	1	2 3.3					0	1	0	1 2.5	4	3	2	9 9.1	46	58	58	162 1.45
Brighton	1.58	0	2	0	2 3.3													2	1	4	7 0.6
Burnside	2.89	1	1	0	2 3.3					1	1	2	4 10.0	2	1	0	3 3.0	5	8	5	18 1.6
Campbelltown	3.26	0	0	1	1 1.6													9	6	9	24 2.1
East Torrens	0.40													1	0	0	1 1.0	2	2	1	5 0.4
Elizabeth	2.61													0	2	2	4 4.0	6	5	11	22 2.0
Enfield	5.32	0	2	1	3 4.9	1	0	0	1 16.7	2	1	1	4 10.0	2	2	1	5 5.1	26	29	32	87 7.8
Gawler	0.49																	4	0	2	6 0.5
Glenelg	1.06	0	0	1	1 1.6					0	0	1	1 2.5	1	1	0	2 2.0	4	5	8	19 1.7
Henley-Grange	1.24	0	0	1	1 1.6									0	0	1	1 1.0	6	5	3	15 1.3
Hindmarsh	0.62													1	0	0	1 1.0	3	5	3	11 1.0
Kensington-Norwood	0.72									0	1	2	3 7.5	1	0	0	1 1.0	1	10	6	17 1.5
Marion	5.37	1	1	1	3 4.9					1	0	1	2 5.0	0	1	1	2 2.0	4	5	4	13 1.2
Meadows	1.46																	16	13	15	44 3.9
Mitcham	4.56	0	0	1	1 1.6													1	0	0	1 0.1
Munno Para	2.06																	5	6	4	15 1.3
Noarlunga	4.51	0	1	0	1 1.6					0	1	1	2 5.0	1	0	0	1 1.0	6	4	7	17 1.5
Payneham	1.30	0	1	1	2 3.3													8	14	20	42 3.7
Port Adelaide	2.79	3	3	0	6 9.8					2	0	0	2 5.0	2	1	4	7 7.1	3	5	2	10 0.9
Prospect	1.41									5	1	0	6 15.0	0	2	0	2 2.0	23	13	41	77 6.9
Salisbury	2.62	3	1	0	4 6.6					0	1	1	2 5.0	3	3	3	9 9.1	1	5	9	15 1.3
St. Peters	0.67																	20	26	30	76 6.8
Stirling	1.02																	5	4	1	10 0.9
Tea Tree Gully	5.01	1	1	0	2 3.3									0	0	1	1 1.0	4	5	1	10 0.9
Thebarton	0.73									0	1	0	1 2.5	0	1	2	3 3.0	3	7	9	19 1.7
Unley	2.72	0	2	1	3 4.9					0	1	0	1 2.5					3	6	5	14 1.2
Walkerville	0.54									1	0	0	1 2.5	0	0	1	1 1.0	7	9	6	22 2.0
West Torrens	3.51	0	1	0	1 1.6					1	1	0	2 5.0	1	1	0	2 2.0	6	3	1	10 0.9
Willunga	0.51													1	1	2	4 4.0	13	7	8	28 2.5
Woodville	5.87	3	3	0	6 9.8					2	0	0	2 5.0	2	0	0	2 2.0	1	3	0	4 0.4
Country	32.80	6	6	4	16 26.2	1	2	2	5 8.3	1	2	0	3 7.5	5	1	4	10 10.1	28	21	8	57 5.1
Unknown		2	2	0	4 6.6					0	2	3	5 12.5	8	10	10	28 28.3	63	86	96	245 21.9
																		1	7	5	13 1.2
Total	100.0	20	28	13	61 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	14	14	12	40 100.0	34	31	34	99 100.0	331	378	411	1120 100.0

26.

Time of Occurrence

Table 9 shows the month, day and time of occurrence of reported homicides and assaults. Although a disproportionate number of murders and attempted murders occurred in September, there were too few cases to permit any meaningful generalisation. No significant monthly variation in serious assault was apparent, although totals for the months of September, November and December were slightly higher than the monthly average.

Nearly half of all homicides and serious assaults occurred on weekends. More than 60% of the homicides and 75% of the serious assaults occurred between 6.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m.

TABLE 9

27.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE

MONTH, DAY AND TIME OF OCCURRENCE

MONTH OF OCCURRENCE	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
January	1	0	0	1 1.6					0	1	1	2 5.0	2	5	4	11 11.1	23	40	25	88 7.9
February	2	0	2	4 6.6					2	1	0	3 7.5	2	0	2	4 4.0	24	27	26	77 6.9
March	2	2	1	5 8.2					3	1	1	5 12.5	6	3	1	10 10.1	35	25	24	84 7.5
April	1	2	0	3 4.9	1	0	0	1 16.7	1	0	0	1 2.5	1	2	3	6 6.1	32	32	31	95 8.5
May	2	2	1	5 8.2					0	2	0	2 5.0	6	1	3	10 10.1	26	32	35	93 8.3
June	0	2	0	2 3.3					1	0	3	4 10.0	1	2	4	7 7.1	30	20	34	84 7.5
July	0	5	3	8 13.1	0	1	1	2 33.3	0	2	2	4 10.0	3	3	5	11 11.1	27	32	23	82 7.3
August					0	0	1	1 16.7	0	0	2	2 5.0	3	1	4	8 8.1	25	32	52	109 9.7
September	8	3	2	13 21.3					6	2	0	8 20.0	1	1	3	5 5.1	30	28	39	97 8.7
October	1	2	2	5 8.2	0	1	0	1 16.7	1	1	0	2 5.0	3	4	4	11 11.1	28	31	33	92 8.2
November	3	3	1	7 11.5					0	1	3	4 10.0	0	4	1	5 5.1	26	44	41	111 9.9
December	0	7	1	8 13.1	1	0	0	1 16.7	0	3	0	3 7.5	6	5	0	11 11.1	25	35	48	108 9.6
Total	20	28	13	61 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	14	14	12	40 100.0	34	31	34	99 100.0	331	378	411	1120 100.0
DAY OF OCCURRENCE																				
Monday	3	5	1	9 14.8					1	4	0	5 12.5	2	3	4	9 9.1	22	33	39	94 8.4
Tuesday	1	5	2	8 13.1	1	0	0	1 16.7	0	2	1	3 7.5	1	3	4	8 8.1	21	41	35	97 8.7
Wednesday	1	4	2	7 11.5	0	0	1	1 16.7	2	2	1	5 12.5	5	3	5	13 13.1	41	36	38	115 10.3
Thursday	1	3	2	6 9.8					0	1	1	2 5.0	8	2	6	16 16.2	51	51	66	168 15.0
Friday	6	2	1	9 14.8	1	2	0	3 50.0	5	4	0	9 22.5	7	6	9	22 22.2	55	51	59	165 14.7
Saturday	3	6	1	10 16.4					3	1	5	9 22.5	4	7	4	15 15.2	80	98	102	280 25.0
Sunday	5	3	4	12 19.7	0	0	1	1 16.7	3	0	4	7 17.5	7	7	2	16 16.2	61	68	72	201 17.9
Total	20	28	13	61 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	14	14	12	40 100.0	34	31	34	99 100.0	331	378	411	1120 100.0
TIME OF OCCURRENCE																				
0000-0559	4	7	5	16 26.2	0	1	0	1 16.7	9	3	4	16 40.0	6	7	9	22 22.2	90	117	125	332 29.6
0600-1159	4	4	2	10 16.4	1	0	0	1 16.7	3	0	0	3 7.5	0	1	1	2 5.0	23	15	15	53 4.7
1200-1759	3	10	2	15 24.6					0	5	4	9 22.5	9	3	5	17 17.2	70	59	88	217 19.4
1800-2359	9	7	4	20 32.8	1	1	2	4 66.7	2	6	4	12 30.0	19	20	19	58 58.6	148	187	183	518 46.2
Total	20	28	13	61 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	14	14	12	40 100.0	34	31	34	99 100.0	331	378	411	1120 100.0

28.

Table 10 summarises the day and time of occurrence for each of the major offence groups.

Approximately one-third of homicides, and 40% of the non-fatal serious assaults occurred during the 36 hour period between 6.00 p.m. on Friday and 6.00 a.m. on Sunday.

TABLE 10
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

29.

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE
DAY AND TIME OF OCCURRENCE

MURDER									MANSLAUGHTER								
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total		Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
0001-0559	0	2	2	2	0	3	7	16	0001-0559	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
0600-1159	2	1	0	2	2	1	2	10	0600-1159	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
1200-1759	3	3	3	0	3	2	1	15	1200-1759	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1800-2359	4	2	2	2	4	4	2	20	1800-2359	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	4
Total	9	8	7	6	9	10	12	61	Total	0	1	1	0	3	0	1	6

ATTEMPTED MURDER									GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM									ACTUAL BODILY HARM								
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total		Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total		Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
0001-0559	1	1	2	1	2	3	6	16	0001-0559	3	1	2	6	4	1	5	22	0001-0559	11	23	12	33	34	103	116	332
0600-1159	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0600-1159	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0600-1159	5	5	4	17	7	9	6	53
1200-1759	0	1	0	0	4	3	1	9	1200-1759	0	1	1	4	3	3	5	17	1200-1759	21	20	31	38	35	39	33	217
1800-2359	3	1	3	1	1	3	0	12	1800-2359	6	6	9	6	15	10	6	58	1800-2359	57	49	68	80	89	129	46	518
Total	5	3	5	2	9	9	7	40	Total	9	8	13	16	22	15	16	99	Total	94	97	115	168	165	280	201	1120

Principal means of Attack

Table 12 (opposite) shows the principal means of attack employed in each of the offences under review. Approximately half of all murders and attempted murders were committed with firearms. The proportion of homicides involving firearms is less than in the United States, where guns are employed in two out of every three such offences. (4) It is, however, greater than the Australian average; 36% of Australian homicides in 1976-78 were committed with firearms. (5) By comparison, only about 8% of homicides recorded in England and Wales involve the use of firearms. (6) The following data are illustrative:

TABLE 11
SELECTED JURISDICTIONS
PRINCIPAL MEANS OF ATTACK
MURDER AND NON-NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER
KNOWN TO POLICE (7)

Means of Attack	South Australia 1978-80 (N=67)	England & Wales 1979 (N=571)	United States 1979 (N=20,591)
Firearm	49%	9%	63%
Sharp Instrument	19%	35%	19%
Blunt Instrument	3%	12%	5%
Fists/Feet	19%	34%	6%
Other/Unknown	10%	10%	7%
	100%	100%	100%

The most serious of the remaining non-fatal assaults, grievous bodily harm, tended to involve sharp instruments (43%) or firearms (28%). By contrast, over half of assaults occasioning actual bodily harm involved punching or kicking.

The use of sharp instruments in assaults occasioning actual bodily harm increased after 1978. In 1980, nearly one in four of recorded assaults occasioning actual bodily harm was committed with a sharp instrument.

TABLE 12
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

31.

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE
PRINCIPAL MEANS OF ATTACK

WEAPON	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
Firearm	13	14	5	32 52.5	0	0	1	1 16.7	4	8	6	18 45.0	8	10	10	28 28.3	5	7	5	17 1.5
Explosion									0	1	0	1 2.5	1	1	0	2 2.0	1	2	1	4 0.4
Poison									2	2	0	4 10.0	0	2	0	2 2.0	1	1	0	2 0.2
Strangulation	2	0	1	3 4.9					0	0	1	1 2.5	0	0	1	1 1.0	1	0	0	1 0.1
Sharp Instrument	4	7	2	13 21.3					6	2	5	13 32.5	16	11	16	43 43.4	45	62	97	204 18.2
Blunt Instrument	0	1	1	2 3.3					1	0	0	1 2.5	3	2	0	5 5.1	57	57	58	172 15.4
Fists, Feet, Etc.	1	5	3	9 14.8	1	2	1	4 66.7					4	2	4	10 10.1	192	218	219	629 56.2
Missile					1	0	0	1 16.7					0	3	2	5 5.1	16	16	12	44 3.9
Other/Unknown	0	1	1	2 3.3					1	1	0	2 5.0	2	0	1	3 3.0	13	15	19	47 4.2
Total	20	28	13	61 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	14	14	12	40 100.0	34	31	34	99 100.0	331	378	411	1120 100.0

32.

Type of Firearm

Table 13 shows that rifles were the most common firearm employed in each category of offence. The absence of handgun involvement in South Australian homicide is worthy of note. Whilst one out of every two homicides in the United States is committed with a handgun (8), these weapons were employed in only 8% of South Australia's fatal assaults.

TABLE 13
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

33.

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE

TYPE OF FIREARM USED, IF ANY

TYPE OF FIREARM	MURDER					MANSLAUGHTER					ATTEMPTED MURDER					GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM					ACTUAL BODILY HARM				
	1978	1979	1980	Total	(%)	1978	1979	1980	Total	(%)	1978	1979	1980	Total	(%)	1978	1979	1980	Total	(%)	1978	1979	1980	Total	(%)
Rifle - single shot	0	2	0	2	3.3											0	1	0	1	1.0	0	1	0	1	0.1
repeater	1	4	0	5	8.2						2	2	2	6	15.0	1	2	2	5	5.1					
self loading	1	0	0	1	1.5																				
unspecified	2	5	0	7	11.5	0	0	1	1	16.7	0	3	3	6	15.0	5	3	3	11	11.1	1	1	2	4	0.4
Shotgun - single shot	1	0	0	1	1.6																2	0	0	2	0.2
repeater	3	0	0	3	4.9						0	1	0	1	2.5										
double barrrel	1	1	0	2	3.3						0	0	1	1	2.5										
unspecified	0	1	2	3	4.9											1	1	2	4	4.0	0	1	1	2	0.2
Air rifle																0	0	1	1	1.0	1	3	1	5	0.5
Revolver - repeater	3	0	0	3	4.9						1	1	0	2	5.0										
unspecified	0	1	1	2	3.3						0	1	0	1	2.5	1	0	0	1	1.0					
Aut. Pistol - repeater																					0	0	1	1	0.1
unspecified																					1	0	0	1	0.1
Unknown	1	0	2	3	4.9						1	0	0	1	2.5	0	3	2	5	5.1	0	1	0	1	0.1
Total - Firearm	13	14	5	32	52.5	0	0	1	1	16.7	4	8	6	18	45.0	8	10	10	28	28.3	5	7	5	17	1.5
Non Firearm	7	14	8	29	47.5	2	2	1	5	83.3	10	6	6	22	55.0	26	21	24	71	71.7	326	371	406	1103	98.5
Total	20	28	13	61	100.0	2	2	2	6	100.0	14	14	12	40	100.0	34	31	34	99	100.0	331	378	411	1120	100.0

34.

Injuries sustained by victims.

Table 14 shows the injuries sustained by assault victims. The differences between grievous bodily harm and actual bodily harm are reflected in the greater proportion of victims of the former who required hospitalisation.

Aside from a slight increase in the proportion of stab wounds, the types of injuries sustained by assault victims appear to have remained generally consistent from year to year.

TABLE 14
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

35.

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE
INJURIES SUSTAINED BY VICTIM

INJURY TO VICTIM	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
Death	20	28	13	61 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0												
Fractures													1	1	0	2 2.0	16	21	31	68 6.1
Cuts, Stabs									1	0	1	2 5.0	9	10	9	28 28.3	113	121	154	388 34.6
Fractures and Cuts or Gashes													1	0	0	1 1.0	37	33	16	86 7.7
Fractures requiring Hospitalization													2	0	1	3 3.0	15	24	30	69 6.2
Cuts, Gashes, Stabs requiring Hospitalization									8	8	8	24 60.0	15	10	15	40 40.4	46	59	49	154 13.7
Fractures and Cuts requiring Hospitalization													3	1	3	7 7.1	35	26	29	90 8.0
Shock requiring Medical Attention																	0	2	0	2 0.2
Other - requiring Medical Attention									4	3	1	8 20.0	1	6	3	10 10.1	31	39	40	110 9.8
Bruises, Abrasions or Minor Wounds									0	1	0	1 2.5	1	0	0	1 1.0	28	33	32	93 8.3
None or Negligible									1	2	2	5 12.5	1	3	2	6 6.1	1	2	2	5 0.4
Unknown													0	0	1	1 1.0	9	18	28	55 4.9
Total	20	28	13	61 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	14	14	12	40 100.0	34	31	34	99 100.0	331	378	411	1120 100.0

Motives

Tables 15 and 16 address possible motives for the homicides and assaults under review. The reader should be aware that the identification of motives may involve subjective judgment on the part of investigating officers, and may not be recorded systematically on the crime report forms from which these data were extracted.

Robbery was positively identified as a motive in only 3 of the 67 homicides committed during the period. By contrast, robberies give rise to approximately 10% of all known homicides in the United States. (9) Evidence of provocation was noted in 20% of South Australian homicides, and in a small percentage of non-fatal assaults. Given the large proportion of cases for which data were not available, no generalisations are warranted.

TABLE 15
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE
CASES IN WHICH ROBBERY WAS IDENTIFIED AS A MOTIVE

ROBBERY IDENTIFIED AS MOTIVE	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
Yes	1	2	0	3 4.9					0	1	2	3 7.5	1	3	2	6 5.1	14	14	15	43 3.8
No	17	24	13	54 88.5	2	2	2	6 100.0	14	13	9	36 90.0	28	25	24	77 77.8	286	324	336	946 84.5
Undetermined	2	2	0	4 6.6					0	0	1	1 2.5	5	3	8	16 16.2	31	40	60	131 11.7
Total	20	28	13	61 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	14	14	12	40 100.0	34	31	34	99 100.0	331	378	411	1120 100.0

TABLE 16
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE
CASES IN WHICH EVIDENCE OF PROVOCATION WAS PRESENT

EVIDENCE OF PROVOCATION	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
Yes	9	4	0	13 21.3					2	0	1	3 7.5	3	2	2	7 7.1	25	32	19	76 6.8
No	7	17	7	31 50.8	0	2	1	3 50.0	11	10	8	29 72.5	21	21	14	56 56.6	204	222	210	636 56.8
Undetermined	4	7	6	17 27.9	2	0	1	3 50.0	1	4	3	8 20.0	10	8	18	36 36.4	102	124	182	408 36.4
Total	20	28	13	61 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	14	14	12	40 100.0	34	31	34	99 100.0	331	378	411	1120 100.0

Alcohol or Drug Use

Table 17 reflects evidence of alcohol or drug use by victims and/or offenders, as indicated on the crime reports from which the data were extracted.

Offenders in 24% of all homicides were identified as having consumed alcohol prior to the offence. Evidence of drug use was negligible. The large proportion of cases for which data were not available precludes meaningful generalisation, although the considerable number of assault incidents occurring in (or in the immediate vicinity of) hotels was noted above in Table 7.

TABLE 17
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

39.

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE
ALCOHOL OR DRUG CONSUMPTION BY VICTIM OR OFFENDER

EVIDENCE OF ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION	MURDER					MANSLAUGHTER					ATTEMPTED MURDER					GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM					ACTUAL BODILY HARM				
	1978	1979	1980	Total	(%)	1978	1979	1980	Total	(%)	1978	1979	1980	Total	(%)	1978	1979	1980	Total	(%)	1978	1979	1980	Total	(%)
By Victim	2	0	1	3	4.9						0	0	1	1	2.5	3	1	3	7	7.1	30	34	36	100	8.9
By Offender	2	5	0	7	11.5	1	0	0	1	16.7	1	1	1	3	7.5	2	5	3	10	10.1	26	38	38	102	9.1
By Both Victim and Offender	2	3	0	5	8.2	1	1	1	3	50.0	6	1	2	9	22.5	5	5	8	18	18.2	35	55	50	140	12.5
By Neither	7	2	1	10	16.4	0	0	1	1	16.7	3	3	1	7	17.5	1	1	2	4	4.0	25	19	22	66	5.9
Undetermined	7	18	11	36	59.0	0	1	0	1	16.7	4	9	7	20	50.0	23	19	18	60	60.6	215	232	265	712	63.6
Total	20	28	13	61	100.0	2	2	2	6	100.0	14	14	12	40	100.0	34	31	34	99	100.0	331	378	411	1120	100.0

EVIDENCE OF DRUG CONSUMPTION	MURDER					MANSLAUGHTER					ATTEMPTED MURDER					GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM					ACTUAL BODILY HARM				
	1978	1979	1980	Total	(%)	1978	1979	1980	Total	(%)	1978	1979	1980	Total	(%)	1978	1979	1980	Total	(%)	1978	1979	1980	Total	(%)
By Victim	0	1	0	1	1.6											0	1	0	1	1.0	0	0	1	1	0.1
By Offender	0	1	0	1	1.6						1	1	1	3	7.5	1	1	0	2	2.0	2	1	1	4	0.4
By Both Victim and Offender																0	0	1	1	1.0					
By Neither	10	5	0	15	24.6	0	0	1	1	16.7	6	2	0	8	20.0	0	1	1	2	2.0	28	20	19	67	6.0
Undetermined	10	21	13	44	72.1	2	2	1	5	83.3	7	11	11	29	72.5	33	28	32	93	93.9	301	357	390	1046	93.5
Total	20	28	13	61	100.0	2	2	2	6	100.0	14	14	12	40	100.0	34	31	34	99	100.0	331	378	411	1120	100.0

Victim Offender Relationship

Table 19 (opposite) shows the relationship between victims and offenders at the time of the incident under review. In only 9% of all known homicides were the offenders strangers to their victims. Marital, de facto, or intimate relationships gave rise to 39% of all homicides, and other family ties provided the context for an additional 15%. In a further 28%, victim and offender were otherwise acquainted. By contrast, 46% of homicides in England and Wales and only 20% in the United States occurred between relatives or intimates. (10)

The following data are illustrative.

TABLE 18
SELECTED JURISDICTIONS
VICTIM-OFFENDER RELATIONSHIPS
MURDER AND NON-NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER
KNOWN TO POLICE (11)

Relationship	South Australia 1978-80 (N=67)	England and Wales 1979 (N=571)	United States 1979 (N=20,591)
Spouse	25%	24%	9%
Other Kin	15%	18%	8%
Lovers/Close Friends	13%	4%	3%
Acquaintances	28%	26%	32%
Strangers	9%	20%	13%
Unknown/No Suspect	9%	7%	35%
TOTAL	99%*	99%*	100%

* rounded

Non-fatal assaults manifested a slightly different pattern. In the case of the most serious non-fatal assault, attempted murder, 38% of recorded incidents occurred in marital, ex-marital or quasi marital relationships. 23% were committed by strangers.

Intimate relationships were less prominent in grievous bodily harm and actual bodily harm cases, where greater social distance between victim and offender was evident. In the category of assault occasioning actual bodily harm, 39% of recorded assaults were inflicted by strangers.

The reader should be cautious in interpreting these data on non-fatal assaults, however. As was suggested above, only the more extreme incidents of violence between intimates are likely to be reported to the police and to be defined as crimes. The apparent predominance of stranger-inflicted assaults occasioning actual bodily harm may be somewhat deceptive.

TABLE 19

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE

VICTIM-OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP

41.

RELATIONSHIP	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
Married	6	4	2	12 19.7					0	6	3	9 22.5	1	2	0	3 3.0	13	11	12	36 3.2
Divorced													0	1	0	1 1.0	1	1	0	2 0.2
De Facto	1	2	0	3 4.9	0	1	0	1 1.6	1	0	1	2 5.0	1	4	1	6 6.1	15	8	20	43 3.8
Lover/Close Friend	2	3	2	7 11.5	0	1	1	2 3.3	0	1	2	3 7.5	2	4	1	7 4.0	19	17	23	59 5.3
Ex De Facto	0	1	0	1 1.6					0	1	0	1 2.5					2	4	4	10 0.9
Parent-Child	3	3	2	8 13.1					2	0	0	2 5.0	1	0	3	4 4.0	2	6	5	13 1.2
Brother-Sister	0	1	0	1 1.6									2	0	0	2 2.0	4	0	2	6 0.5
Other Family	0	1	0	1 1.6					0	0	1	1 2.5					4	5	5	14 1.2
Sex Rivals	2	4	0	6 9.8					2	0	3	5 12.5	1	0	3	4 4.0	4	5	15	24 2.1
Acquaintance	3	3	4	10 16.4	2	0	1	3 5.0	4	0	1	5 12.5	8	9	12	29 29.3	108	125	121	354 31.6
Stranger	1	3	2	6 9.8					4	4	1	9 22.5	15	8	8	31 31.3	132	148	157	437 39.0
Citizen-Police									0	1	0	1 2.5	1	1	1	3 3.0	6	10	5	21 1.9
Other													1	0	0	1 1.0	7	9	5	21 1.9
Unknown	2	3	1	6 9.8					1	1	0	2 5.0	1	2	5	8 8.1	14	29	37	80 7.1
Total	20	28	13	61 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	14	14	12	40 100.0	34	31	34	99 100.0	331	378	411	1120 100.0

42.

Table 20 provides further insight on the victim-offender relationship by showing the gender of victims within the standard victim-offender categories.

23% of all murder victims were wives or female de-factos killed by their male partners. Fifteen of the seventeen victims of homicide within the marriage/de-facto relationship were women.

Women were also victims in 74% of the recorded non-fatal serious assault incidents occurring within the marriage/de-facto relationship.

CONTINUED

1 OF 2

TABLE 20

43.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE

VICTIM-OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP BY SEX OF VICTIM

VICTIM	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
Husband	0	1	0	1 1.6					0	2	2	4 10.0	1	0	0	1 1.0	0	4	4	8 0.7
Wife	6	3	2	11 18.0					0	4	1	5 12.5	0	2	0	2 2.0	13	7	8	28 2.5
Divorced Husband													0	1	0	1 1.0				
Divorced Wife																	1	1	0	2 0.2
De Facto - Male	0	1	0	1 1.6					1	0	1	2 5.0	1	1	1	3 3.0	2	2	6	10 0.9
- Female	1	1	0	2 3.3	0	1	0	1 16.7					0	3	0	3 3.0	13	6	14	33 2.9
Ex De Facto - Male																	0	1	0	1 0.1
Ex De Facto - Female	0	1	0	1 1.6					0	0	0	1 2.5					2	3	4	9 0.8
Child (by parent)																				
- Male	3	3	0	6 9.0					1	0	0	1 2.5	0	0	2	2 2.0	1	3	2	6 0.5
- Female	0	0	2	2 3.3					1	0	0	1 2.5	1	0	1	2 2.0	1	3	3	7 0.6
Brother	0	1	0	1 1.6									2	0	0	2 2.0	2	0	2	4 0.4
Sister																	2	0	0	2 0.2
Other Family - Male	0	1	0	1 1.6													1	4	5	10 0.9
- Female									0	0	1	1 2.5					3	1	0	4 0.4
Close Friend, Lover																				
- Male	2	3	0	5 8.2	0	1	1	2 33.3	0	0	1	1 2.5	2	2	1	5 5.1	9	12	12	33 2.9
- Female	0	0	2	2 3.3					0	1	1	2 5.0	0	2	0	2 2.0	10	5	11	26 2.3
Sex Rivals, Enemies																				
- Male	0	4	0	4 6.6					1	0	3	4 10.0	1	0	1	2 2.0	3	5	12	20 1.8
- Female	2	0	0	2 3.3					1	0	0	1 2.5					1	0	3	4 0.4
Acquaintance, Bus Relat.																				
- Male	2	3	4	9 14.8	2	0	1	3 50.0	3	0	1	4 10.0	7	9	9	25 25.3	100	107	102	309 27.6
- Female	1	0	0	1 1.6					1	0	0	1 2.5	1	0	3	4 4.0	8	18	19	45 4.0
Strangers - Male	0	3	2	5 8.2					1	4	0	5 12.5	13	7	7	27 27.3	116	127	141	384 34.3
- Female	1	0	0	1 1.6					3	0	1	4 10.0	2	1	1	4 4.0	15	21	16	52 4.6
Cit. Police Officer - Male									0	1	0	1 2.5	1	1	1	3 3.0	6	10	5	21 1.9
Other - Male													1	0	0	1 1.0	4	8	4	16 1.4
- Female																	3	1	1	5 0.4
Unknown	2	3	1	6 9.0					1	1	0	2 5.0	1	2	7	10 10.1	15	29	37	83 7.4
Total	20	28	13	61 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	14	14	12	40 100.0	34	31	34	99 100.0	331	378	411	1120 100.0

Table 21 shows the number of victims and offenders involved in each incident of homicide and serious assault occurring during the three year period. The Table is incident based, rather than victim based, as is the case with previous tables.

Of the incidents with known number of offenders, 93% of homicide incidents, and 77% of recorded serious assault incidents involved one victim and one offender, and approximately 21% of assault incidents involved multiple offenders and one victim.

TABLE 21

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

45.

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE

NUMBER OF VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS INVOLVED PER INCIDENT

NUMBER OF VICTIMS	NUMBER OF OFFENDERS	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
		1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
1	1	13	25	13	51 87.9	2	2	2	6 100.0	8	11	10	29 78.4	24	23	25	72 73.5	242	249	277	768 74.2
	2	0	1	0	1 1.7					0	1	0	1 2.7	3	2	0	5 5.1	17	36	39	92 8.4
	3	0	1	0	1 1.7					1	1	0	2 5.4	0	1	2	3 3.1	14	12	14	40 3.7
	4 or more													4	1	3	8 8.2	18	31	35	84 7.7
	Unknown	2	1	0	3 5.2					2	1	0	3 8.1	3	4	2	9 9.2	20	32	32	84 7.7
2	1	1	0	0	1 1.7					0	0	1	1 2.7	0	0	1	1 1.0	5	7	5	17 1.6
	2																	2	0	2	4 0.4
	3																	0	1	0	1 0.1
	4 or more																	2	1	0	3 0.3
	Unknown																	1	0	0	1 0.1
3	1	1	0	0	1 1.7																
	2									1	0	0	1 2.7								
4	1																				
Total		17	28	13	58 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	12	14	11	37 100.0	34	31	33	98 100.0	321	369	404	1094 100.0

46.
NOTES

- (1) D. Biles and J. Braithwaite, "Crime Victims and the Police" Australian Psychologist 14, 1979, pp.345-355.
- (2) R. Block, "Why Notify the Police: The Victim's Decision to Notify the Police of an Assault" Criminology Vol.11, no.4 (February, 1974) pp.555-569; D. Black, The Manners and Customs of the Police (New York: Academic Press, 1980) Chapter 3.
- (3) The interrelationship of assault, unemployment, and other indicators of social disadvantage for Local Government Areas in the Adelaide Statistical Division is indicated by the following correlation coefficients:

	Assault-Dwellings	Assault-Public Places	Assault-Total
Long Term Unemployment	.56**	.58**	.63**
Perinatal Mortality	.36	.18	.23
Supporting Mothers	.55**	.32	.39
R ²	.35	.32	.44

N = 30

** P = .001

The measures of social disadvantage jointly explained 44% of the variation in rates of non-fatal serious assault across the 30 metropolitan Local Government Areas. Results of a multiple regression analysis revealed that long term unemployment had the greatest single influence on rates of assault in public places. Rates of assault in dwelling places were best explained by a combination of long term unemployment and other measures of social disadvantage.

Assault-Dwellings: Attempted Murder, Grievous Bodily Harm, and Actual Bodily Harm cases in houses, flats, or dwelling places, 1978-1980, per 1000 residential population.

Assault-Public Places: Attempted Murder, Grievous Bodily Harm, and Actual Bodily Harm cases outside of houses, flats, or dwelling places, 1978-1980, per 1000 residential population.

Long Term Unemployment: Percentage of population unemployed for two years or more, at January, 1981. Source: Department for Community Welfare.

Perinatal Mortality: Perinatal deaths per 1000 live births and fetal deaths, 1975-1979. Source: Department for Community Welfare.

Supporting Mothers: Percentage of families with children in receipt of Supporting Mothers' benefits, January, 1981. Source: Department for Community Welfare.

- (4) U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigations, Crime in the United States, 1979 (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1980) p.7.
- (5) R. Harding, Firearms and Violence in Australian Life (Nedlands: University of Western Australia Press, 1981) p.130.
- (6) Great Britain, Home Office, Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, 1979. (London: HMSO, 1980) p.192.
- (7) Sources: South Australian Police Department; Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, 1979; Crime in the United States, 1979.

- (8) U.S. Department of Justice, op.cit. p.7.

- (9) Ibid, P.10. Great Britain, Home Office, op.cit. p.190.

- (10) Approximately 50% of New South Wales homicide victims are killed by kin. See S. Egger, "Victims of Women Homicide Offenders in New South Wales" in P.N. Grabosky (ed.) Proceedings of the National Symposium on Victimology (Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology, 1981).

- (11) Sources: South Australian Police Department; Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, 1979; Crime in the United States, 1979.

CHAPTER V

CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMICIDE AND ASSAULT VICTIMS

The data in this Chapter reflect the background characteristics of homicide and serious assault victims. As these data pertain to the victims of recorded homicide and assault, and since data were unavailable for a number of cases, the reader should exercise caution in generalising to all assault victims.

Sex Race and Age of Victims

Table 22 shows the sex, race and age of homicide and assault victims.

Males comprised approximately 60% of homicide victims, and just under 80% of victims of serious assault.

Data on the age of victims were missing for about 30% of the cases under review. Just under 60% of those assault victims whose ages were identified were between the ages of 15 and 30.

Data on the race of victims were missing from most files. Nevertheless, Aboriginal people comprised 10% of those homicide victims whose race was identified. Thus, Aboriginal people comprised no less than 10% (and perhaps an even greater percentage) of homicide victims.

TABLE 22

49.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE

SEX, RACE AND AGE OF VICTIMS

SEX OF VICTIM	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
Male	7	21	7	35 57.4	2	1	2	5 83.3	8	8	8	24 60.0	30	22	26	78 78.8	257	303	328	893 79.7
Female	13	6	6	25 41.0	0	1	0	1 16.7	6	6	4	16 40.0	4	8	6	18 18.2	73	70	83	226 20.2
Unknown	0	1	0	1 1.6									0	1	2	3 3.0	1	0	0	1 0.1
Total	20	28	13	61 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	14	14	12	40 100.0	34	31	34	99 100.0	331	378	411	1120 100.0
RACE OF VICTIM																				
White	12	13	2	27 44.3					7	6	1	14 35.0	8	7	4	19 19.2	84	93	28	205 18.3
Aboriginal	1	3	1	5 8.2	1	0	1	2 33.3					1	3	1	5 5.1	5	14	11	30 2.7
Oriental									0	1	0	1 2.5	1	0	0	1 1.0	1	1	6	8 0.7
Other																	0	0	3	3 0.3
Unknown	7	12	10	29 47.5	1	2	1	4 66.7	7	7	11	25 62.5	24	21	29	74 74.7	241	270	363	874 78.1
Total	20	28	13	61 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	14	14	12	40 100.0	34	31	34	99 100.0	331	378	411	1120 100.0
AGE OF VICTIM																				
0-9	2	3	0	5 8.2					2	0	0	2 5.0	0	0	1	1 1.0	6	4	3	13 1.2
10-15													2	0	3	5 5.0	12	11	22	45 4.0
16-20	3	1	2	6 9.8					1	0	1	2 5.0	2	7	3	12 12.0	41	57	92	190 17.0
21-24	1	4	0	5 8.2					2	0	3	5 12.5	3	3	4	10 10.0	28	36	48	112 10.0
25-29	2	2	0	4 6.6					3	1	0	4 10.0	3	2	4	9 9.0	22	42	54	118 10.5
30-35	2	4	1	7 11.5	0	0	1	1 16.7	1	2	2	5 12.5	1	3	1	5 5.0	18	21	51	90 8.0
36-39	1	0	0	1 1.6	0	1	0	1 16.7	0	1	2	3 7.5	1	2	1	4 4.0	6	12	17	35 3.1
40-45	0	0	1	1 1.6					1	0	1	2 5.0	1	2	5	8 8.0	7	17	24	48 4.3
46-49	0	2	0	2 3.3					0	1	1	2 5.0					10	7	8	25 2.2
50 and over	1	2	2	5 8.2	0	1	0	1 16.7	0	1	2	3 7.5	1	1	1	3 3.0	16	17	36	69 6.2
Unknown	8	10	7	25 40.1	2	0	1	3 50.0	4	8	0	12 30.0	20	11	8	39 39.0	165	154	56	375 33.5
Total	20	28	13	61 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	14	14	12	40 100.0	34	31	34	99 100.0	331	378	411	1120 100.0

50.

Victim-Offender Race and Sex

Table 23 shows the sex of victims and offenders. Of cases on which data were available on both parties, 63% of homicides and 73% of serious assaults were committed by males against males.

29% of homicides and 18% of serious assaults were committed by males against females.

Offences committed by females were too few in number to permit meaningful generalisations.

As noted above, data on the racial background of victims was often not available. Those data which do exist suggest that most homicide and serious assault in South Australia occurs amongst members of the same racial background.

TABLE 23
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

51.

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE
SEX OF VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS

SEX OF OFFENDER	SEX OF VICTIM	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
		1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
Male	Male	6	17	7	30 49.2	2	1	2	5 83.3	4	4	5	13 32.5	15	12	16	43 43.4	134	146	163	443 39.6
	Female	7	4	5	16 26.2					1	4	3	8 20.0	2	5	4	11 11.1	32	30	42	104 9.3
	Unknown	0	1	0	1 1.6									0	0	2	2 2.0				
Female	Male	1	2	0	3 4.9					2	2	3	7 17.5	2	3	2	7 7.1	4	12	4	20 1.8
	Female	1	0	1	2 3.3					3	1	0	4 10.0	0	1	0	1 1.0	4	8	8	20 1.8
	Unknown					0	1	0	1 16.7												
Unknown	Male	0	2	0	2 3.3					2	2	0	4 10.0	13	7	8	28 28.3	119	150	161	430 38.4
	Female	5	2	0	7 11.5					2	1	1	4 10.0	2	2	2	6 6.1	37	32	33	102 9.1
	Unknown													0	1	0	1 1.0	1	0	0	1 0.1
Total		20	28	13	61 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	14	14	12	40 100.0	34	31	34	99 100.0	331	378	411	1120 100.0

CHAPTER VI

CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMICIDE AND SERIOUS ASSAULT
OFFENDERS/SUSPECTS

The data in this Chapter reflect the background characteristics of homicide and serious assault offender/suspects. As these data pertain to the identified perpetrators or accused perpetrators of recorded homicide and assault, the reader should exercise caution in generalising to all assault offenders.

Table 24 shows the Local Government Area of residence of homicide and assault offenders charged during the three years under review.

Homicide offenders were too few in number to permit any meaningful generalisations.

The number of assault offenders residing in Adelaide, Enfield, Hindmarsh, and Port Adelaide was greater than one might predict from the population size of these Local Government Areas.

The number of offender/suspects residing in country areas was commensurate with the proportionate size of the non-metropolitan population.

TABLE 24
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

53.

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE
RESIDENCE OF OFFENDERS/SUSPECTS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	% of State Pop. at 30 June 1980	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
		1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
Adelaide	1.02	0	0	1	1 2.0													3	5	10	18 2.8
Brighton	1.58																	0	4	1	5 0.8
Burnside	2.89	0	0	1	1 2.0					1	0	1	2 6.3	0	1	0	1 1.4	3	2	3	8 1.2
Campbelltown	3.26	0	1	1	1 2.0					0	2	0	2 6.3	0	1	0	1 1.4	6	2	9	17 2.6
East Torrens	0.40																	1	0	1	2 0.3
Elizabeth	2.61	0	1	1	1 2.0					1	0	0	1 3.1	0	1	1	2 2.9	6	4	6	16 2.5
Enfield	5.32	0	3	1	4 8.0	1	0	0	1 16.7	2	2	0	4 12.5	4	0	3	7 10.0	16	20	28	64 9.9
Gawler	0.49													1	1	0	2 2.9	3	0	0	3 0.5
Glenelg	1.06									0	1	0	1 1.4	0	1	0	1 1.4	0	3	2	5 0.8
Henley-Grange	1.24	0	0	1	1 2.0									0	0	1	1 1.4	4	4	2	10 1.5
Hindmarsh	0.62													2	0	0	2 2.9	4	3	4	11 1.7
Kensington-Norwood	0.72									0	0	2	2 6.3	2	0	0	2 2.9	2	1	1	4 0.6
Marion	5.37	1	0	1	2 4.0									0	1	0	1 1.4	8	8	8	24 3.7
Meadows	1.46																				0 0.0
Mitcham	4.56	0	0	1	1 2.0													3	7	3	13 2.0
Munno Para	2.06	0	3	0	3 6.0													1	2	2	5 0.8
Noarlunga	4.51	0	1	0	1 2.0													5	7	11	23 3.5
Payneham	1.30	0	0	1	1 2.0													3	3	1	7 1.1
Port Adelaide	2.79	1	1	2	4 8.0	1	0	0	1 16.7	2	1	0	3 9.4	0	0	1	1 1.4	8	3	17	28 4.3
Prospect	1.41									1	1	1	3 9.4	1	1	2	4 5.7	4	3	5	12 1.8
Salisbury	2.62	2	2	0	4 8.0					0	1	2	3 9.4	1	2	3	6 8.6	13	19	18	50 7.7
St. Peters	0.67																	0	1	2	3 0.5
Stirling	1.02																	1	1	1	3 0.5
Tea Tree Gully	5.01	0	1	0	1 2.0					0	1	1	2 6.3	0	0	1	1 1.4	1	1	1	3 0.5
Thebarton	0.73	1	1	0	2 4.0					0	1	1	2 6.3	0	2	0	2 2.9	5	5	7	17 2.6
Unley	2.72	1	0	1	2 4.0					1	0	0	1 1.4	1	0	1	2 2.9	2	1	4	7 1.1
Walkerville	0.54																	2	3	5	10 1.5
West Torrens	3.51	0	1	0	1 2.0													0	1	0	1 0.2
Willunga	0.51									1	1	1	3 9.4	0	0	1	1 1.4	9	6	10	25 3.9
Woodville	5.87	0	2	1	3 6.0	0	0	1	1 16.7	2	0	0	2 6.3	2	0	1	3 4.3	1	1	0	2 0.3
Country	32.80	5	5	2	12 29.0	0	1	1	2 5.0	1	1	0	2 6.3	3	1	1	5 7.1	16	14	9	39 6.0
Other		1	3	0	4 8.0	0	1	0	1 16.7	0	1	2	3 9.4	7	9	5	21 30.0	61	63	63	187 28.8
Unknown						0	1	0	1 16.7	1	0	1	2 6.3	3	3	1	7 10.0	4	7	8	19 2.9
																		4	6	1	11 1.7
Total	100.0	12	25	13	50 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	10	11	11	32 100.0	24	24	22	70 100.0	198	209	242	649 100.0

54.

Offenders's Birthplace

Table 25 shows the birthplace of offenders alleged to have been responsible for the homicides and serious assaults committed during the three year period.

Australian born persons were predominant, and no overseas born nationality was consistently over-represented. These findings are consistent with other research on migration and crime in Australia. (1)

TABLE 25

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

55.

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE
BIRTHPLACE OF OFFENDERS/SUSPECTS

BIRTHPLACE	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
South Australia	6	9	10	25 50.0	1	1	1	3 50.0	6	6	2	14 43.0	10	16	16	42 60.0	112	120	134	366 56.4
Interstate	2	7	1	10 20.0					1	1	2	4 12.5	5	5	0	10 14.3	28	29	34	91 14.0
Australia-Unspecified																	3	4	6	13 2.0
New Zealand													0	0	2	2 2.9	3	1	1	5 0.8
United Kingdom	1	3	0	4 8.0					2	1	3	6 18.8	2	1	2	5 7.1	24	27	31	82 12.6
Ireland					1	0	0	1 16.7									1	2	2	5 0.0
Italy	2	1	1	4 8.0									3	0	0	3 4.3	5	1	4	10 1.5
Greece																	1	6	0	7 1.1
Yugoslavia	1	2	0	3 6.0					0	0	1	1 3.1	1	0	0	1 1.4	2	6	4	12 1.8
Poland																	0	1	0	1 0.2
Germany	0	2	0	2 4.0	1	0	1	2 16.7	0	1	0	1 3.1					4	1	4	9 1.4
All Other	0	1	1	2 4.0	0	1	0	1 16.7	1	2	3	6 18.8	3	2	2	7 10.0	15	11	22	48 7.4
Unknown																				
Total	12	25	13	50 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	10	11	11	32 100.0	24	24	22	70 100.0	198	209	242	649 100.0

Age, Sex, Race, and Employment Status of Offenders/Suspects

Table 26 summarises the age, sex, race and employment status of identified homicide and serious assault offenders/suspects.

The typical offender was a white male in his twenties, although homicide offenders tended to be slightly older. 82% of homicide offenders were under the age of 40. Fifty-nine percent of serious assault offenders were under age 25.

Ninety percent of homicide and assault offenders were male. The overwhelming predominance of males is consistent across the major offence groupings, with the exception of attempted murder where females comprised approximately 38% of identified offenders.

Caucasians comprised approximately 85% of homicide and serious assault offenders, and Aboriginal persons roughly 15%. The percentage of offenders from Oriental or other racial backgrounds was negligible.

Approximately 25% of those charged with murder or manslaughter were identified as unemployed at the time of the offence. 40% of those charged with non-fatal assaults were unemployed.

This latter figure increased annually from 36.2% in 1978 to 44.4% in 1980. In the largest class of offences, Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm, the number of unemployed offenders increased from 1978 to 1980, while totals from other occupational categories and other offence categories remained essentially constant.

TABLE 26

57.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE

AGE, RACE, SEX AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF IDENTIFIED OFFENDERS/SUSPECTS

AGE OF OFFENDER	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
Under 18	1	0	0	1 2.0	0	1	0	1 16.7	0	1	1	2 6.3	3	2	4	9 12.9	44	40	46	130 20.0
18-20	1	5	3	9 18.0	1	0	0	1 16.7	1	0	0	1 3.1	6	3	5	14 20.0	36	43	52	131 20.2
21-24	2	2	4	8 16.0	0	0	1	1 16.7	1	2	0	3 9.4	5	8	5	18 25.7	35	35	40	110 16.9
25-30	1	3	2	6 12.0	1	0	0	1 16.7	5	3	3	11 34.4	4	2	5	11 15.7	36	46	51	133 20.5
31-40	6	9	1	16 32.0	0	1	1	2 33.3	2	2	1	5 15.6	6	5	1	12 17.1	25	26	33	84 12.9
41-50	1	4	2	7 14.0					1	1	3	5 15.6	0	2	1	3 4.3	11	12	15	38 5.9
51-60	0	2	0	2 4.0					0	1	2	3 9.4	0	2	0	2 2.9	7	6	3	16 2.5
Over 60	0	0	1	1 2.0					0	1	1	2 6.3	0	0	1	1 1.4	4	1	2	7 1.1
Total	12	25	13	50 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	10	11	11	32 100.0	24	24	22	70 100.0	198	209	242	649 100.0
RACE OF OFFENDER																				
White	11	22	12	45 90.0	1	1	1	3 50.0	10	9	10	29 90.6	14	20	19	53 75.7	168	173	200	541 83.4
Aboriginal	1	3	1	5 10.0	1	0	1	2 33.3	0	1	0	1 3.1	6	4	2	12 17.1	27	33	34	94 14.5
Oriental									0	1	0	1 3.1	2	0	1	3 4.3	2	2	3	7 1.1
Other																	1	0	5	6 0.9
Unknown					0	1	0	1 16.7			1	1 3.1	2	0	0	2 2.9	0	1	0	1 0.2
Total	12	25	13	50 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	10	11	11	32 100.0	24	24	22	70 100.0	198	209	242	649 100.0
SEX OF OFFENDER																				
Male	10	23	12	45 90.0	2	1	2	5 83.3	4	8	7	19 59.4	22	20	20	62 88.6	189	184	225	598 92.1
Female	2	2	1	5 10.0					6	3	3	12 37.5	2	4	2	8 11.4	9	25	17	51 7.9
Unknown					0	1	0	1 16.7	0	0	1	1 3.1								
Total	12	25	13	50 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	10	11	11	32 100.0	24	24	22	70 100.0	198	209	242	649 100.0
EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF OFFENDER																				
Employed	4	16	6	26 52.0	2	1	0	3 50.0	4	5	5	14 43.8	11	14	8	33 47.1	99	100	102	301 46.4
Unemployed	3	8	2	13 26.0	0	0	1	1 16.7	5	2	2	9 28.1	10	8	9	27 38.6	69	85	111	265 40.8
Pensioner	2	0	4	6 12.0	0	0	1	1 16.7	0	1	1	2 6.3	0	1	3	4 5.7	6	4	7	17 2.6
Home Duties	1	1	0	2 4.0					1	2	2	5 15.6	2	1	0	3 4.3	3	7	3	13 2.0
Student	1	0	0	1 2.0					0	1	0	1 3.1	1	0	1	2 2.9	16	10	17	43 6.6
Unknown	1	0	1	2 4.0	0	1	0	1 16.7	0	0	1	1 3.1	0	0	1	1 1.4	5	3	2	10 1.5
Total	12	25	13	50 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	10	11	11	32 100.0	24	24	22	70 100.0	198	209	242	649 100.0

Previous Criminal History of Adult Offenders/Suspects

Table 27 provides some insight into the previous criminal histories of adult persons charged with the homicide and serious assault offences occurring during the three year period.

Approximately 33% of the homicide offenders/suspects and 28% of the assault offenders/suspects were identified as having no previous adult convictions. 47% of those accused of homicide and 50% of those accused of serious assault were identified as having three or more priors. Closer examination of the three most recent adult convictions revealed that many arose from relatively minor matters, such as drunkenness or offences under the Road Traffic Act. When one excludes convictions for drinking, driving, and other breaches of public decorum one finds that 51% of homicide defendants, and 52% of serious assault defendants had no previous adult convictions.

TABLE 27
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE
PREVIOUS ADULT CONVICTIONS OF OFFENDERS/SUSPECTS AGED 18 YEARS OR OLDER

PREVIOUS ADULT CONVICTIONS OFFENDERS > 18 YEARS	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
0	2	3	6	17 34.7					2	5	5	12 40.0	7	6	4	17 27.9	31	40	71	142 22.4
1	2	7	2	11 22.4					2	1	0	3 10.0	2	3	3	8 13.1	23	20	24	67 12.9
2									2	1	0	3 10.0	1	1	1	3 4.9	16	19	13	48 9.2
3 or more	7	9	5	21 42.9	2	1	2	5 10.0	4	3	5	12 40.0	11	12	10	33 54.1	84	90	88	262 50.5
Total	11	25	13	49 100.0	2	1	2	5 100.0	10	10	10	30 100.0	21	22	18	61 100.0	154	169	196	519 100.0

60.

Prior Assault Convictions and Previous Imprisonment

Table 28 shows those homicide and assault offenders/suspects with previous assault convictions, and those who had served previous terms of imprisonment, whether as adults or as juveniles.

Approximately 38% of the homicide defendants, and 28% of the assault defendants were identified as having previous assault convictions.

In addition, approximately 40% of the homicide defendants, and 32% of the assault defendants were identified as having served previous terms of juvenile or adult imprisonment.

TABLE 28
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE
PRIOR ASSAULT CONVICTION, AND PREVIOUS DETENTION OF OFFENDERS/SUSPECTS

OFFENDER HAS PRIOR ASSAULT CONVICTION	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
Prior assault conviction	5	10	3	18 36.0	2	1	0	3 50.0	3	1	3	7 21.9	7	12	5	24 34.3	54	63	62	179 27.6
No prior assault conviction	7	15	10	32 64.0	0	1	2	3 50.0	7	10	8	25 76.1	15	11	16	42 60.0	140	146	169	455 70.1
Unknown													2	1	1	4 5.7	4	0	11	15 2.3
Total	12	25	13	50 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	10	11	11	32 100.0	24	24	22	70 100.0	198	209	242	649 100.0

PREVIOUS JUVENILE OR ADULT DETENTION	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
Previous detention	4	9	5	18 36.0	2	1	1	4 66.7	3	3	4	10 31.3	8	7	7	22 31.4	72	62	75	209 32.2
No previous detention	8	16	8	32 64.0	0	1	1	2 33.3	7	8	7	22 68.8	14	16	15	45 64.3	122	147	156	425 65.5
Unknown													2	1	0	3 4.3	4	0	11	15 2.3
Total	12	25	13	50 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	10	11	11	32 100.0	24	24	22	70 100.0	198	209	242	649 100.0

62.

Bail and Parole Status at Time of Offence

Table 29 shows that less than 1% of defendants were on bail or parole for a previous offence at the time they were charged with the homicide or assault in question.

It should be noted that the one parolee charged with having committed a murder in 1979 was in fact a former Victorian prisoner who had been granted parole by the Victorian Parole Board.

Monthly returns published by the Australian Institute of Criminology have shown consistently higher rates of remand and lower rates of parole in South Australia compared to the national average. (2)

These findings suggest that bail and parole are not granted indiscriminately in South Australia, and that persons on bail or parole appear not to contribute significantly to the incidence of homicide or serious assault.

TABLE 29
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE
OFFENDER/SUSPECTS BAIL AND PAROLE STATUS AT TIME OF OFFENCE

ON BAIL AT TIME OF OFFENCE	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
On bail				0.0									1	2	0	3 4.3	3	1	1	5 0.8
Not on bail	12	25	12	49 98.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	10	11	11	32 100.0	21	21	22	64 91.4	193	208	230	631 97.2
Unknown	0	0	1	1 2.0									2	1	0	3 4.3	2	0	11	13 2.0
Total	12	25	13	50 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	10	11	11	32 100.0	24	24	22	70 100.0	198	209	242	649 100.0
ON PAROLE AT TIME OF OFFENCE	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
On parole	0	1	0	1 2.0					1	1	0	2 6.3	1	1	0	2 2.9	2	0	0	2 0.3
Not on parole	12	24	13	49 98.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	9	10	11	30 93.8	20	22	22	64 91.4	193	208	231	632 97.5
Unknown													3	1	0	4 5.7	2	0	11	13 2.0
In Jail																	1	1	0	2 0.3
Total	12	25	13	50 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	10	11	11	32 100.0	24	24	22	70 100.0	198	209	242	649 100.0

Pre-Trial Detention, Absconding and Recidivism by
Homicide and Assault Offenders/Suspects

Table 30 shows the number of defendants detained without bail prior to the disposition of charges against them, and of those at liberty, the number who absconded or who committed subsequent offences prior to the disposition of charges against them.

Predictably, the likelihood of pre-trial detention was commensurate with the gravity of the offence charged. Whilst the majority of those charged with murder or attempted murder were detained, only a small percentage of defendants charged with non-fatal assaults were held in custody. With very few exceptions, defendants free on bail neither absconded nor committed subsequent offences prior to disposition of their case.

NOTES

- (1) R.D. Francis, Migrant Crime in Australia (St. Lucia: University of Queensland Press, 1981).
- (2) D. Biles, Australian Prison Trends Nos. 35-64 (Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology 1978-81).

TABLE 30
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

65.

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE
PRE-TRIAL DETENTION, ABSCONDING, AND RECIDIVISM BY HOMICIDE AND ASSAULT OFFENDER/SUSPECTS

DETAINED WITHOUT BAIL AT START OF TRIAL	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
Detained Without Bail	8	12	3	23 45.0					4	5	3	12 37.5	6	5	3	14 20.0	8	19	13	40 52.0
No	2	7	1	10 20.0					2	3	4	9 28.1	10	12	9	31 44.3	125	133	96	354 54.5
Unknown/Not Applicable	2	6	9	17 34.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	4	3	4	11 34.4	8	7	10	25 35.3	65	57	133	255 39.3
Total	12	25	13	50 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	10	11	11	32 100.0	24	24	22	70 100.0	198	209	242	649 100.0

DID DEFENDANT ABSCOND	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
Yes													2			2 2.9	2	2	3	7 1.1
No	12	24	12	48 96.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	10	11	9	30 93.7	20	23	20	63 90.0	190	198	198	586 90.2
Unknown/Not Applicable	0	1	1	2 4.0					0	0	2	2 6.3	2	1	2	5 7.1	6	9	41	56 8.7
Total	12	25	13	50 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	10	11	11	32 100.0	24	24	22	70 100.0	198	209	242	649 100.0

DID DEFENDANT COMMIT A SUBSEQUENT OFFENCE	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
Yes													1	0	0	1 1.4	3	4	2	9 1.4
No	12	25	12	49 98.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	10	11	9	30 93.7	19	23	20	62 88.6	187	196	196	579 89.2
Unknown/Not Applicable	0	0	1	1 2.0					0	0	2	2 6.3	4	1	2	7 10.0	8	9	44	61 9.4
Total	12	25	13	50 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	10	11	11	32 100.0	24	24	22	70 100.0	198	209	242	649 100.0

CHAPTER VII

THE APPREHENSION, CONVICTION AND SENTENCING OF HOMICIDE
AND SERIOUS ASSAULT OFFENDERS

Table 31 shows the initial outcomes of homicide and assault cases under study.

The reader will note the relatively high percentage of offences cleared up by police: 94% of homicides and 70% of serious assaults. This high clear-up rate is largely a function of victim-offender relationship. Where an assault is committed by an acquaintance or a relative, the identity and whereabouts of the offender is rarely in question.

TABLE 31
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

67.

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE
OUTCOMES OF RECORDED INCIDENTS

OUTCOME	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
Cleared	18	26	13	57 93.4	2	2	2	6 100.0	12	12	12	36 90.0	22	22	25	69 65.7	226	237	266	729 65.1
Not Cleared	2	2	0	4 6.6					2	2		4 10.0	12	8	9	29 29.3	101	135	132	368 32.9
Unfounded													0	1		1 1.0	4	4	7	15 1.3
Victim requested no further action																	0	2	5	7 0.6
Unknown																	0	0	1	1 0.1
Total	20	28	13	61 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	14	14	12	40 100.0	34	31	34	99 100.0	331	378	411	1120 100.0

68.

Table 32 shows the outcome of homicide and serious assault charges laid.

The reader will also note a significant attrition of cases. Only 25% of homicide defendants and 36% of those charged with non-fatal assaults were found guilty as charged.

The most common outcome of murder cases is for the defendant to be convicted of a lesser charge, usually manslaughter. Overall 78% of those charged with murder, and 59% of those charged with serious assault were convicted of some offence.

Reasons for the attrition of cases are numerous and complex. The most obvious involves the different evidentiary requirements of charge and conviction. A person may be charged with an offence if the Police have reasonable grounds to suspect that he or she may have committed the offence. A conviction on the other hand requires either an admission of guilt on the part of the accused (a guilty plea) or proof of guilt beyond reasonable doubt (conviction by a jury).

It is thus understandable that whilst the Police may generally be expected to lay the most serious charges which the evidence might conceivably support, the ultimate outcome can be quite different.

Readers will note that charges were withdrawn in 17% of assaults occasioning grievous bodily harm and in 16% of assaults occasioning actual bodily harm.

TABLE 32
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE
OUTCOME OF CHARGES LAID

69.

OUTCOME	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
Withdrawn, Nolle Pros.					0	1	0	1 16.7	3	2	2	7 21.9	5	1	6	12 17.2	29	37	35	101 15.6
Not guilty	1	4	4	9 18.0	1	0	1	2 33.3	1	0	1	2 6.3	1	4	1	6 8.0	4	17	6	27 4.2
Guilty as Charged	3	10	0	13 26.0	0	1	0	1 16.7	1	3	2	6 18.8	9	11	8	28 40.0	80	76	83	239 36.8
Guilty lesser charge	8	11	7	26 52.0	1	0	1	2 33.3	5	6	3	14 43.8	3	7	3	13 18.6	37	37	19	93 14.3
Charges pending	0	0	1	1 2.0					0	0	3	3 9.4	1	0	2	3 4.3	2	4	33	39 6.0
Other	0	0	1	1 2.0									3	0	1	4 5.7	31	27	34	92 14.2
Unknown													2	1	1	4 5.7	15	11	32	58 8.9
Total	12	25	13	50 100.0	2	2	2	6 100.0	10	11	11	32 100.0	24	24	22	70 100.0	198	209	242	649 100.0

When a defendant is convicted of a homicide or serious assault, it is the responsibility of the Justice of the Supreme Court, or the Judge of the District Criminal Court to impose a sentence.

Factors which enter into the judicial determination of a sentence are numerous and complex. The reader will recall that apart from murder, which carries a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment, the Criminal Law Consolidation Act gives judges considerable discretion in determining an appropriate sentence.

Among the factors which Judges may consider in determining a sentence are the relative seriousness of the offence, the degree of provocation on the part of the victim, the defendant's previous criminal record, his or her ties to family and community, and the degree of contrition which he or she has shown. In addition, an assessment of the likelihood of reoffending may also be made.

All of those adult defendants convicted of murder, and one-third of those convicted as charged of serious assault were sentenced to immediate imprisonment.

As Table 34 indicates, sixty-two percent of adult murder defendants convicted of a lesser offence, and 25% of serious assault defendants convicted of lesser charges received prison sentences.

TABLE 33

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

71.

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE
PENALTIES IMPOSED ON ADULTS CONVICTED OF PRINCIPAL OFFENCE CHARGED
(including multiple counts)

GUILTY PRINCIPAL ADULTS	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
IMMEDIATE IMPRISONMENT N= (in months)	3	10	0	13 100.0					0	3	1	4 80.0	2	4	1	7 28.0	21	13	26	60 29.5
Minimum	life	life							48	30			30	6	57		3	1	1	
Maximum	life	life							180	30			84	48	57		36	18	36	
Median	life	life							72	30			57	20	57		5	6	7	
Mean	life	life							100	30			57	23	57		8	7	13	
Standard Deviation	0	0							70	0			38	18	0		7	5	10	
SUSPENDED IMPRISONMENT N= (in months)									1	0	0	1 20.0	6	4	5	15 60.0	28	25	35	88 43.3
Minimum									120				9	6	3		1	1	1	
Maximum									120				29	24	60		21	12	21	
Median									120				14	9	9		8	6	8	
Mean									120				17	11	18		9	7	10	
Standard Deviation									0				8	9	24		7	5	9	
BOND ONLY (in months) N=					0	1	0	1 100.0					0	0	1	1 4.0	2	8	6	16 7.9
Minimum					24										24		12	4	12	
Maximum					24										24		24	36	36	
Median					24										24		18	19	24	
Mean					24										24		18	18	24	
Standard Deviation					0										0		9	10	8	
FINE ONLY (in dollars) N=													1	1	0	2 8.0	17	13	8	38 18.7
Minimum													1200	350			10	65	40	
Maximum													1200	350			300	250	450	
Median													1200	350			177	200	231	
Mean													1200	350			186	195	253	
Standard Deviation													0	0			93	86	147	
NOT APPLICABLE																	0	1	0	1 0.5
UNKNOWN																				
TOTAL	3	10	0	13 100.0	0	1	0	1 100.0	1	3	1	5 100.0	9	9	7	25 100.0	68	60	75	203 100.0

TABLE 34

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980 AND KNOWN TO POLICE

PENALTIES IMPOSED ON ADULTS CONVICTED OF LESSER CHARGES
(including multiple counts)

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73.

INITIAL CHARGE SENTENCE	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
IMMEDIATE IMPRISONMENT N= (in months)	5	7	4	16 61.5					2	3	1	6 46.2	2	0	1	3 25.0	7	7	4	18 21.7
Minimum	84	12	9						3	24	30		6			4	1	1	4	
Maximum	144	180	72						60	96	30		10			4	24	10	72	
Median	105	61	14						32	78	30		8			4	3	2	7	
Mean	107	71	32						32	72	30		8			4	6	4	22	
Standard Deviation	25	52	29						40	42	0		3			0	8	4	33	
SUSPENDED IMPRISONMENT N= (in months)	3	3	3	9 34.6					1	2	2	5 38.5	1	5	1	7 58.3	7	4	4	15 18.1
Minimum	24	24	15						15	36	24		1	3	9		1	1	3	
Maximum	54	36	60						15	36	38		1	12	9		5	21	12	
Median	36	33	28						15	36	30		1	11	9		3	1	5	
Mean	38	32	34						15	36	30		1	10	9		3	7	6	
Standard Deviation	15	7	23						0	0	8		0	4	0		2	10	4	
BOND ONLY (in months) N=	0	1	0	1 3.8	1	0	0	1 50.0					0	1	0	1 8.3	4	6	1	11 13.3
Minimum		36			12									18			12	6	12	
Maximum		36			12									18			36	24	12	
Median		36			12									18			24	12	12	
Mean		36			12									18			24	14	12	
Standard Deviation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	6	0	0	10	6	0	
FINE ONLY (in dollars) N=					0	0	1	1 50.0	2	0	0	2 15.4	0	1	0	1 8.3	14	16	8	38 45.8
Minimum							100		60					120			50	30	45	
Maximum							100		200					120			200	200	175	
Median							100		130					120			101	102	145	
Mean							100		130					120			115	112	129	
Standard Deviation							0		99					0			51	51	41	
NOT APPLICABLE																	1	0	0	1 1.2
UNKNOWN																				
TOTAL	8	11	7	26 100.0	1	0	1	2 100.0	5	5	3	13 100.0	3	7	2	12 100.0	33	33	17	83 100.0

TABLE 35
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

HOMICIDES AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS COMMITTED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1980

PENALTIES IMPOSED ON JUVENILES CONVICTED OF PRINCIPAL OFFENCE CHARGED
(including multiple counts)

GUILTY PRINCIPAL JUVENILE	MURDER				MANSLAUGHTER				ATTEMPTED MURDER				GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM				ACTUAL BODILY HARM			
	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)	1978	1979	1980	Total (%)
IMMEDIATE IMPRISONMENT N= (in months) Minimum Maximum Median Mean Standard Deviation									0	0	1	100.0	0	1	1	2 66.7	1	2	4	7 19.4
											14		3	8			1	8	3	
											14		3	8			1	9	9	
											14		3	8			1	9	8	
											14		3	8			1	9	7	
											0		0	0			0	1	3	
SUSPENDED IMPRISONMENT N= (in months) Minimum Maximum Median Mean Standard Deviation													0	1	0	1 33.3	0	2	3	5 13.9
													6					3	2	
													6					6	4	
													6					5	3	
													6					5	3	
													0					2	1	
BOND ONLY (in months) N= Minimum Maximum Median Mean Standard Deviation																	3	2	1	6 16.7
																	12	12	12	
																	12	24	12	
																	12	18	12	
																	12	18	12	
																	0	9	0	
FINE ONLY (in dollars) N= Minimum Maximum Median Mean Standard Deviation																	4	4	0	8 22.2
																	100	50		
																	100	50		
																	100	90		
																	100	83		
																	0	24		
NOT APPLICABLE																	0	1	0	1 2.8
UNKNOWN																	4	5	0	9 25.0
TOTAL	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100.0	0	2	1	3 100.0	12	16	8	36 100.0

CHAPTER VIII

THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF VIOLENCE: A REVIEW OF
POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

It should be apparent from earlier chapters of this report that the level of homicide and serious non-sexual assault in present day South Australia compares favourably with rates reported by other Australian jurisdictions and in western industrial societies generally. This is not to suggest that Government and members of the public should be unconcerned with approaches to the reduction of violence.

Violent crime is not randomly distributed across time and space. The propensity to offend, and the risk of becoming a victim, are much greater for some types of people, in certain social settings, than for others.

The findings reported above, in light of previous research from Australia and overseas, permit a review of some approaches to the prevention and control of violence. These will be discussed in the pages which follow.

It should be recognised at the outset that homicides and serious assaults occur in a variety of social and environmental contexts. Many factors contribute to criminal violence, and no combination of initiatives, much less one single policy or programme, can transform South Australia into a violence-free Utopia. Readers should be skeptical of easy answers or quick fixes. Apparently simple solutions may provide a very small return on a substantial investment. Others may in fact be counter-productive.

Alcohol and Other Drugs

The relationship of alcohol to violent crime is clearly apparent. Alcohol tends to "lubricate" altercations, often facilitating their escalation into an attack. Alcohol tends to lower inhibitions, enabling the release of aggressive impulses which might otherwise be contained. There is no doubt that alcohol increases the probability that some individuals will engage in violent crime. (1) For similar reasons, it increases the probability that other individuals will become victims of violence.

On the other hand, the vast majority of alcohol users do not engage in assaultive behaviour. Since a number of "non-pharmacological" factors influence both drinking and aggression, total prohibition, even if it were feasible, would not eliminate violence. Thus, the inconvenience to the law-abiding public, and disruption to some sectors of the economy which would result from severe restrictions in trading or from prohibitive increases in prices of alcoholic beverages, should be weighed against the number of offences likely to be averted.

Nevertheless, certain alternatives involving the pricing of alcoholic beverages are worthy of consideration. By fixing beverage prices in accordance with their alcohol content, one provides an economic incentive to select a milder drink. Anticipated amendments to the Licensing Act should accomplish this early in 1982. Such a strategy might also have a salutary effect on the incidence of road traffic fatalities which, as was noted above, are much more numerous than homicides in South Australia.

The relationship between crime and the use of drugs other than alcohol has been the subject of considerable discussion over the past decade, much of it ill-informed. To assert significantly that 'drug use impels people into a life of crime' overlooks the fact that many offenders who happen to be drug users have a record of offending which long precedes their involvement with drugs. (2) Moreover, when drug use and offending are found together, commentators tend too often to ignore that drug use and crime are often independent products (co-symptomatic, as it were) of non-pharmacological factors.

Overseas reasearch on the relationship between heroin use and crime suggests that addicts commit fewer violent crimes than non-addict offenders. The available data on the physiological and psychological effects of marijuana strongly suggest that it does not usually induce aggressive behaviour. On the other hand, it appears that amphetamines and barbiturates are both associated with assaultive behaviour, as is PCP (Angel Dust). (3) Generalisations about other substances or about combinations of substances must await further research.

Firearms

As was noted above, firearms are used in about half of all murders committed in South Australia. It is hardly coincidental that those industrial societies such as Sweden, Japan, Britain, France and West Germany, all noted for low rates of homicide, are also noted for the restrictions which they impose on their citizens' ability to purchase and possess firearms. As Australia's foremost authority on firearms and violence has observed, gun availability seems to be associated with gun violence. (4)

To be sure, the vast majority of people who own and use firearms in South Australia do not commit assault. It nevertheless seems appropriate to require that firearms owners demonstrate training qualifications and good character. Under existing South Australian law, persons with a previous criminal record may be denied a licence by the Registrar of Firearms. Moreover, police are empowered to seize firearms from anyone on reasonable suspicion that he or she is not a fit and proper person to possess such weapons.

A point worthy of note (recalling that half of all murders committed in the United States are committed with handguns) is the relative rarity of handgun use in South Australian violent crime. In contrast with those firearms used for hunting and target practice, handguns serve no legitimate recreational purpose. Their availability should continue to be stringently controlled.

Economic Conditions

The relationship between economic conditions and violent crime has been the subject of considerable overseas inquiry, and is receiving growing attention in Australia. (5) The frustrations inevitably engendered by adverse economic conditions are easily translated into aggressive acts. Recent Australian research has shown a relationship between poverty and crime. The Annual Report of the Commissioner of Police (1979-80) has noted the relationship between unemployment and crime in South Australia. (6) The reader will recall that upwards of 40% of those charged with serious assault in South Australia during the past three years were unemployed at the time of the offence. Results of the 1975 ABS survey suggest that the risk of becoming a victim of assault is also greater for an unemployed person. (7)

Although the majority of unemployed people are non-violent, law abiding citizens, there seems little doubt that steps taken to reduce unemployment and to improve the level of well being of the most disadvantaged members of the South Australian public could contribute to a reduction in violence.

Communications Media

The role of the media as an actual contributor to the level of violence in South Australia remains undetermined. Studies in Britain and the U.S. have shown that televised fictional portrayals of violence produce aggression in some viewers. (8) Accumulating evidence from overseas suggests that news coverage of violence may also inspire imitation. (9) Research on these issues in the Australian context is sorely lacking, and should be undertaken as soon as possible. Meanwhile, news editors and program directors should be encouraged to exercise greater discretion and sensitivity in portrayals of violence.

The Punishment of Violent Offenders

It is often argued that more severe punishment is the most efficient and effective means of reducing violent crime. Advocates of capital punishment maintain that it is a deterrent to homicide. Others contend that longer terms of imprisonment "incapacitate" violent offenders, and deter them and others from committing additional offences.

The solution of more punishment, however, does not do justice to the complexities of criminal behaviour. As we have seen, many murders and assaults are "inside" crimes, and therefore less amenable to deterrence

by surveillance than such offences as robbery. Moreover, a significant proportion of assaults are committed in the heat of the moment; offenders do not usually engage in a rational consideration of the consequence of their actions.

Research suggests that the threat of execution is no more likely than the threat of life imprisonment to deter prospective murderers. (10) Indeed, some evidence of a brutalizing, counter-deterrent effect of the death penalty has been found. (11)

Although the imposition of more and longer prison terms on convicted offenders might be expected to produce a decrease in the rate of assault, experts have found that massive increases in imprisonment are required in order to achieve a modest reduction in crime. (12) This is especially significant, given the cost of operating secure prisons. Minimal requirements of security and safety necessitate the employment of approximately one prison officer for every two prisoners. The cost of confining a prisoner in South Australia today exceeds \$14,000 per prisoner per year. (13)

This is not to suggest that prison is an inappropriate sanction for violent offenders. There are a few dangerous offenders from whom members of the public must be protected. The possibility of a prison sentence no doubt discourages some people from committing crimes of violence. Moreover, through the threat of imprisonment, society expresses its condemnation of violence.

Overall, the use of imprisonment is an imperfect and very costly solution to a complex problem. It should continue to be employed selectively rather than indiscriminately.

Confronting Domestic Violence

The issue of domestic violence, long neglected by criminologists and public officials in Australia, has begun to receive increasing attention. (14) Researchers and commentators on domestic violence have tended to focus on two themes: the passivity of victims (who, with few exceptions, are female) and the passivity of police, who whilst always responding to calls to the scene of domestic violence, have traditionally been disinclined to invoke the criminal sanction against offenders except in extreme cases.

This is particularly significant, given that much domestic violence appears to occur on a chronic, repetitive basis, as opposed to a one-time, sudden assault. One overseas study showed that during the two years preceding an arrest for a domestic assault or murder, police previously had been called to the scene of the crime at least once in 85% of the cases and five or more times in over half the cases. (15)

Procedures for dealing with domestic violence in South Australia are among the most sophisticated in Australia. In addition to police, a twenty-four hour mobile crisis intervention service is provided by the Department for Community Welfare.

Although it is argued by some that domestic violence requires a more rigorous application of powers of arrest and prosecution, the fact remains that there is no systematic evidence on the relative impact of arrest, and alternative crisis intervention approaches to domestic violence anywhere in Australia. It is well within the competence of Australian police and community welfare departments to conduct carefully designed field experiments on such questions. (16) The systematic knowledge which these experiments will yield should permit a more effective response to domestic conflict.

Detailed approaches to the problem of domestic violence in South Australia are presently under review by an interdepartmental Government committee, and will not be accorded discussion here. However, it is worth noting briefly three basic strategies for reducing the vulnerability of domestic violence victims. Equal employment opportunities for women will help reduce their economic dependence on offenders. Self-defence and assertiveness training, ideally incorporated in school physical education programmes, could contribute to a greater sense of self-worth and to a lessening of the passivity noted above. Finally, continued expansion and improvement of shelter facilities for domestic violence victims will provide a more desirable alternative to remaining within a violent relationship.

Measures to reduce violence against children in South Australia were accorded considerable attention in the Report of the Committee of Inquiry on Victims of Crime, and will not be discussed in detail here. (17) Parenting education and family support programmes are generally regarded as the best line of defence against child abuse. These should continue to be encouraged.

Information for Policy Planning

The traditional basis for the classification of assaults throughout the English speaking world has been the degree of injury inflicted upon the victim and the degree of premeditation on the part of the offender. The merits of these criteria and their utility for determining the severity of the offence and the culpability of the offender are beyond dispute.

Statistics of violent crime would be even more informative, however, if they were also based on victim-offender relationship. Not only would the public's fear of crime be considerably reduced if it were more widely

known that most criminal assaults are suffered at the hands of relatives or acquaintances; programmes for the prevention of crime and treatment of offenders - indeed the allocation of resources throughout the entire criminal justice system - could be accomplished on a more sound empirical basis. (18)

To this end, systematic data on the circumstances of assault, on the characteristics of victims, and on relationship between victims and offenders should be routinely compiled from a variety of sources. Information from police records should be supplemented by data from crime victim surveys, by statistics from crisis intervention services and women's shelters, and by health statistics. Such a differentiated approach will provide a more comprehensive perspective on violence in society. It would reassure those whose risk of becoming a victim is remote, while serving to caution the more vulnerable.

There can be no one "solution" to the reduction of homicide and serious assault in South Australia, for these forms of criminality can and do arise from a variety of contributing factors. Many of these factors are the responsibility of agencies outside the criminal justice system; it must be emphasised that a substantial proportion of criminal violence is beyond the capacity of police, courts, and corrections alone to control. A judicious mix of the alternatives discussed above, combined with continued basic and applied research, can contain violence within manageable limits.

NOTES

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- (2) Grant Wardlaw, Drug use and Crime (Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology 1978).
- (3) Gandossy et. al. pp.53-57.
- (4) Richard Harding, Firearms and Violence in Australian Life. (Nedlands: University of Western Australia Press, 1981) p.131.
- (5) M. Harvey Brenner, "Effects of the Economy on Criminal Behaviour and the Administration of Criminal Justice in the United States, Canada, England and Wales". In United Nations Social Defence Research Institute, Economic Crises and Crime (Rome: UNSDRI, 1976); John Braithwaite, Inequality, Crime and Public Policy. (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1979).
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(7) J. Braithwaite and D. Biles "On Being Unemployed and Being the Victim of Crime" Australian Journal of Social Issues Vol.14 (1979) pp.192-200

(8) W.A. Belson, Television Violence and the Adolescent Boy (Farnborough: Saxon House, 1978); G. Comstock et. al. Television and Human Behaviour (New York: Columbia University Press, 1978).

(9) D. Phillips, "Suicide, Motor Vehicle Fatalities, and the Mass Media; Evidence Toward a Theory of Suggestion" American Journal of Sociology Vol. 84 (1979) pp. 1150-1174; D. Phillips, "Airplane Accident Fatalities Increase Just After Newspaper Stories About Murder and Suicide" Science Vol. 201 (1978) pp. 748-750; L. Lenke, "Criminal Police and Public Opinion Towards Crimes of Violence" in Collected Studies in Criminological Research, Vol. XI. Strasbourg: Council of Europe, 1974; L. Berkowitz and J. Macauley, "the Contagion of Criminal Violence" Sociometry Vol. 34 (June, 1971) pp. 238-260; W. Exner, "Mögliche Auswirkungen der Publizität von Kriminalität Salzburg" Juristische Blätter Vol. 101 (1979) pp. 417-419; J. Garofalo, "Effects of the Mass Media on Crime" Journal of Research on Crime and Delinquency, July, 1981.

(10) Hans Zeisel, "The Deterrent Effect of the Death Penalty: Facts v. Faith" The Supreme Court Review, 1976. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1977) pp. 317-43.

(11) W.J. Bowers and G.L. Pierce, "Deterrence or Brutalization: What is the Effect of Executions?" Crime and Delinquency Vol. 26 No. 4 (October, 1980) pp. 453-484.

(12) A. Blumstein, J. Cohen and D. Nagin, Deterrence and Incapacitation: Estimating the Effects of Criminal Sanctions on Crime Rates (Washington, D.C.: National Academy of Sciences, 1978); S. van Dine, J.P. Conrad, and S. Dinitz, "The Incapacitation of the Chronic Thug" Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology Vol. 70 No. 1 (1979) pp. 125-135; S. Brody and R. Tarling, Taking Offenders out of Circulation (Home Office Research Study No. 64). (London: HMSO, 1980).

(13) South Australia, Annual Report of the South Australian Department of Correctional Services For the Year 1979-80 (Adelaide: Government Printer, 1981) p.31.

(14) J. Scutt (ed.), Violence in the Family (Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology, 1980); New South Wales, Report of New South Wales Task Force on Domestic Violence (Sydney, Government Printer, 1981); South Australia, Report of the Committee of Inquiry on Victims of Crime (Adelaide: Government Printer, 1981); P.N. Grabosky (ed.), Proceedings of the National Symposium on Victimology, 1981 (Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology, 1981).

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OFFICE OF CRIME STATISTICS
ASSAULT STUDY - CIRCUMSTANCES OF OFFENCE

C.R. Number

A.P. Number

Microfilm Number

Coder's Initials

OFFENCE:
(write in)1. Time of offence: At or between [] [] [] hours on
and [] [] [] hours on

2. D.C.U. where committed:

3. Location of offence:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 01. Private home or flat | 09. Taxi |
| 02. Shop | 10. Other motor vehicle |
| 03. Restaurant, Hotel or Club | 11. Railway station |
| 04. Car park or Public garage | 12. Public park |
| 05. Street | 13. Theatre |
| 06. Sporting event | 14. Other place of entertainment |
| 07. Beach | 15. Other |
| 08. Public transport | 19. Unknown |

3a. Was the offence committed in a public toilet?

4. Means of attack:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Firearm | 5. Missile |
| 2. Sharp instrument - held in hand | 6. Strangulation |
| 3. Blunt instrument - held in hand | 7. Explosion |
| 4. Punch, kick, push, etc. | 8. Poison |
| | 9. Unknown |

5. Type of firearm:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| A. 0. Not applicable | 5. Automatic pistol |
| 1. Rifle | 6. Spear gun |
| 2. Shotgun | 7. Explosive powered tool |
| 3. Air-rifle | 8. Other |
| 4. Revolver | 9. Unknown |
| B. 0. Not applicable | 4. Double barrel |
| 1. Single shot | 5. Imitation |
| 2. Repeater | 9. Unknown |
| 3. Self-loading | |

C. Calibre

6. Sex of victim:

- | | | |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1. Male | 2. Female | 9. Unknown |
|---------|-----------|------------|

7. Age of victim (in years - unknown 99)

8. Race of victim:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. White | 3. Oriental |
| 2. Aboriginal | 9. Unknown |

9. Injury to victim:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 01. Death | 07. Fractures & cuts, gashes, stabs, requiring medical attention, and hospital |
| 02. Fractures | 08. Shock requiring medical attention |
| 03. Cuts, gashes, stabs, requiring medical attention | 09. Other conditions requiring medical attention |
| 04. Fractures & cuts, gashes, stabs, requiring medical attention | 10. Bruises, abrasions or minor wounds |
| 05. Fractures and hospital | 11. None or negligible |
| 06. Cuts, gashes, stabs, requiring medical attention and hospital | |

10. Number of victims:

11. Number of offenders (as reported by victim):

12. Was robbery a motive for the assault?

- | | | |
|--------|-------|------------|
| 1. Yes | 2. No | 9. Unknown |
|--------|-------|------------|

13. Was there evidence of provocation?

- | | | |
|--------|-------|------------|
| 1. Yes | 2. No | 9. Unknown |
|--------|-------|------------|

14. Had alcohol been consumed prior to offence?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. By a victim | 4. No alcohol consumed |
| 2. By an offender | 9. Unknown |
| 3. By both victim and offender | |

15. Had drugs been consumed prior to offence?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. By a victim | 4. No drugs consumed |
| 2. By an offender | 9. Unknown |
| 3. By both victim and offender | |

16. Primary offender-victim relationship:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 01. Husband-wife | 08. Close friend or lover |
| 02. Divorced husband-wife | 09. Sex rivals or enemies |
| 03. De-facto | 10. Prostitute-client |
| 04. Ex de-facto | 11. Acquaintance or business relations |
| 05. Parent-child | 12. Strangers |
| 06. Brother-sister | 13. Citizen-police officer |
| 07. Other less immediate family (cousin, uncle, etc.) | 14. Other |
| | 19. Unknown |

17. Offence cleared up:

- | | | |
|-----------|-------|--------------|
| A. 1. Yes | 2. No | 3. Unfounded |
|-----------|-------|--------------|

B. If Yes

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Arrest by police | 2. Detention by victim or passerby | 3. Other |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------|

18. Number of offenders charged:

OFFICE OF CRIME STATISTICS
ASSAULT STUDY - DETAILS OF OFFENDER

A.P. Number

Microfilm Number

Coder's Initials

1. Residence of offender:
(suburb only - write in)
2. Country or State of birth of offender:
(write in)
3. Offender's date of birth:
4. Race of offender:
1. White 3. Oriental
2. Aboriginal 9. Unknown
5. Sex of offender:
1. Male 2. Female 9. Unknown
6. Offender's employment status:
1. Employed 3. Pensioner 5. Student
2. Unemployed 4. Home Duties 9. Unknown
7. Three most recent previous adult convictions (write in)
.....
.....
8. Date of last conviction:
9. Prior assault conviction:
1. Yes 2. No 9. Unknown
10. Number of cards of criminal record:
11. Previous juvenile or adult detention for any offence:
1. Yes 2. No 9. Unknown
12. Was offender on bail for previous offence at time of commission of offence?
1. Yes 2. No 9. Unknown
amount in \$
13. Was offender on parole for previous offence at time of commission of offence?
1. Yes 2. No 9. Unknown
14. Was offender detained without bail at commencement of trial?
1. Yes 2. No 9. Unknown

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- Vol.1 No.2 Report for the Period Ending 31st March, 1979 (June, 1979)
- Vol.1 No.3 Report for the Period Ending 30th June, 1979 (September, 1979)
- Vol.2 No.1 Report for the Period Ending 30th September, 1979 (December, 1979)
- Vol.2 No.2 Report for the Period Ending 31st December, 1979 (March, 1980)
- Vol.2 No.3 Report for the Period Ending 31st March, 1980 (July, 1980)
- Vol.2 No.4 Report for the Period Ending 30th June, 1980 (September, 1980)
- Vol.3 No.1 Report for the Period Ending 30th September, 1980 (December, 1980)
- Vol.3 No.2 Report for the Period Ending 31st December, 1980 (May, 1981)
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