

# Crime Rates in NSW

## Have they increased or decreased since 2010?

The aim is to see which crimes have increased or decreased rates since 2010.

**Hypothesis:** That crimes relating murder, assault, robbery and theft have dramatically decreased compared to sexual assault and other sexual related crimes. This idea is based on media and crime.

**Method:** Use Excel to analyse the increase and decrease rates for individual crime using the data from the NSW Bureau of Crime and Statistics and Research.

**Crime**, the intentional commission of an act usually deemed socially harmful or dangerous and specifically defined, prohibited, and punishable under criminal law (2019 Encyclopaedia Britannica). We are focusing on the following crimes:

**Murder, assault, sexual assault, other sexual offences, robbery without a weapon, robbery with a firearm, robbery with a weapon excluding firearms, breaking and entering in a dwelling, breaking and entering a non-dwelling and car theft.**

### The Rise and fall of Specific Crimes (Discussion and Analysis)

According to information gathered from Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research crimes relating to sexual assaults and offences have increased since 2010.

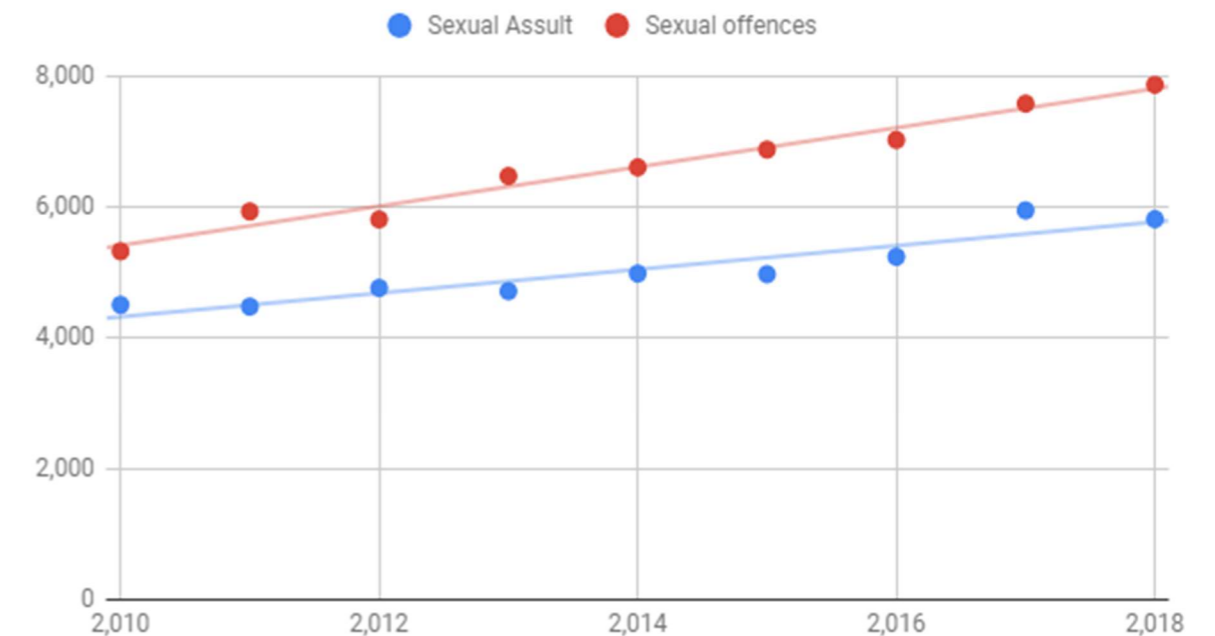
There are many theories you can take into account when looking at the decreasing rates of crimes (excluding sexual assault)

- Majority of criminals known for murder, assault, robbery etc are already in prison.
- There are more police outside
- People are using less cash (harder to steal larger amounts of money)
- Alcohol use has declined: The Brennan Centre analysis, shows that there's a strong association between alcohol consumption and crime.

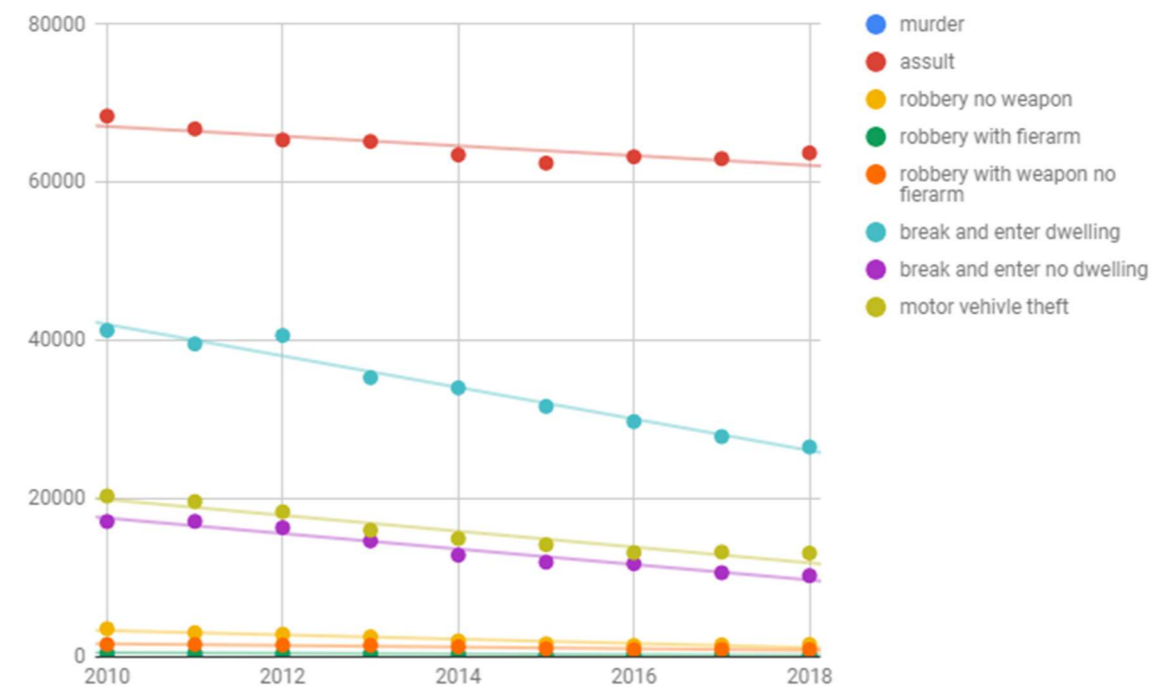
**Sexual Assault:** Numbers of these victims are still increasing and remaining at an all-time high, in 2018 there was nearly 8000 sexual offences just in NSW. But why are these results so high? Considering the fact that nationally across Australia there was about 180 000 victims of sexual assault, but there could be 60% more as many crimes are unreported. This may be because these are often crimes that often involves acquaintances, no witnesses and little evidence. Reasons people don't report include feelings of denial, shame, fear of getting the assailant into trouble or fear of reprisals.

**In conclusion:** Crimes in NSW surrounding murder, assault, robbery, breaking and entering and vehicle theft have decreased since 2010. Unfortunately crimes relating to sexual offences still remain high and aren't showing any signs of decreasing at the moment. This may be because of the sad reality that it's only looked at as a "new issue" and the breakout of media surrounding sexual assaults and crime is to try and lower these rates. So is it because we waited too long it the severity of the crime scene where it becomes hard to charge where there is little-no witnesses, usually no evidence and people find it hard to come forwards? Hopefully with the media takin action we ca start to lower the amount of sexual assaults in not only NSW and Australia but internationally.

### Sexual Assault and Sexual offences



### Crimes excluding Sexual Offences



By looking at the data graphed, our hypothesis was correct. Every individual crime dramatically decreased since 2010 excluding sexual offences.



#### References

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (2019) *Crim Statistics*. Accessed on Oct,2019.  
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[https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Pages/bocsar\\_crime\\_stats/bocsar\\_crime\\_stats.aspx](https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Pages/bocsar_crime_stats/bocsar_crime_stats.aspx)