

# Crimes: Prosecutions and convictions with regard to certain offences

1995/1996

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## **PROSECUTIONS AND CONVICTIONS WITH REGARD TO CERTAIN OFFENCES**

*This report puts under spotlight one of the most contagious issues plaguing our country today, namely, crime. Of the 291 774 prosecutions for more serious offences recorded during 1995/96, 74,9% (218 394) resulted in convictions while 24,9% (72 781) were discharged. Contrary to popular belief, the report shows an apparent downward trend in the number of convictions for more serious offences from 373 590 in 1991/92 to 218 394 in 1995/96.*

More recently, between 1994/95 and 1995/96 indicates a further 16,3% decrease in convictions of a similar nature from 260 887 to 218 394 respectively. More fascinating, on further analysis, a total of 17 526, (8,0%) of all the 1995/96 convictions for serious offences were recorded for juveniles (persons between 7 and 17 years old). Young adults (persons between 18 and 20 years old) are responsible for 30 565 (14,0%) convictions.

Convictions related to crimes committed in respect of property rated the highest (106 986), while convictions for 'economic affairs' related crimes rated the lowest, (998).

Regarding convictions according to the place where the offence was committed, the largest number of convictions is reflected by the province of Western Cape (53 972 or 24,7% of all convictions). North West (9 702) and the former TBVC states (749) show the lowest number of convictions. In terms of persons convicted per 100 000 inhabitants, Northern Cape shows the highest number (1 713), followed by Western Cape (1 450), while Northern Province (237) and the former TBVC states (11) show the lowest.

Information on prosecutions and convictions for the more serious offences is furnished to the Central Statistics, after conclusion of the court case, by the South African Police Service and the Military Police. Appeal court cases are not reflected in this statistics.

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