

Department of Justice

Northern Territory Quarterly Crime & Justice Statistics

Issue 21: September Quarter 2007



Northern Territory Government

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1 INTRODUCTION

The availability of comprehensive crime and justice figures is necessary for informed public debate and the development and evaluation of targeted crime prevention strategies.

This publication is the twenty-first in a series of quarterly reports and presents important crime and justice statistics relating to the Northern Territory. This publication covers the period September Quarter 2005 to the September Quarter 2007, presenting statistics that address four main areas:

- offences recorded by the Police;
- prisoners and detainees in correctional facilities;
- outcomes for drug offences; and
- court outcomes for aggravated property offences.

This publication was compiled by the Research and Statistics Unit of the Department of Justice. One of the major roles of the Unit is to collate, analyse and publish comprehensive crime and justice statistics. The Northern Territory Quarterly Crime and Justice Statistics publication will be publicised and freely available to the public via the website <www.nt.gov.au/justice>.

1.1 INTENDED AUDIENCE

This report contains statistics and commentary to inform the Northern Territory community and those organisations interested in trends and patterns in key crime indicators. Researchers and private and public agencies may also find this report both interesting and informative.

1.2 USE

Statistics in the Territory can be highly volatile, with large swings from one period to another. This is particularly the case for regional centres where small populations and changes in operational or administrative procedures may heavily influence statistics. Consequently, wherever possible crime and justice data is reported in this publication within an historical context to allow the reader to understand recent changes from a broader perspective.

Due to the complexity of crime and justice issues the statistics in this report may be misinterpreted. Consideration of the source of the data and what it represents is required before useful conclusions can be drawn. Supplementary notes and a glossary (which may be used to gain a fuller understanding of the contents of this report) are available at the end of the publication.

1.3 DATA SOURCES

The data used in the compilation of this report was sourced primarily from operational systems maintained by the Northern Territory Government. Consequently, as cases proceed through the criminal justice system new information may come to light that results in minor changes in statistics from one publication to another.

The data used in sections describing offences recorded by the NT Police was extracted from the Police Real-time On-line Management Information System. This is an operational system run by the Police that contains data relating to incidents and offences recorded by the Police.

The data used in the sections describing outcomes for offences was extracted from the Integrated Justice Information System. This is an operational system run by the Department of Justice containing data relating to NT Correctional Services, Courts Administration and Infringement Notices.

Data on the daily average number of prisoners and detainees has been obtained from records maintained by Northern Territory Correctional Services.

2 OVERVIEW

2.1 OFFENCES RECORDED BY THE POLICE

The following is a summary of the findings relating to key offence groups recorded by the Police for the Northern Territory as a whole, six major urban centres and the Northern Territory Balance.

A statistical test has been applied to the last 12 months of the recorded crime data to identify any upward or downward trends. The last 12 months data is considered to be stable unless a statistically significant trend is reported.

2.1.1 Northern Territory

Offences Against the Person

In the current quarter, the total number of recorded offences against the person was 1669; *assault* accounted for 90% and *sexual assault* 5%. The remaining offences were *murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, robbery and other offences against the person*.

- The underlying average level of *assault* has ranged between 323 and 440 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 440 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable. A statistically significant upward trend was identified (refer Figure 2).

There were 1510 *assault* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 11% (152) from the previous quarter and an increase of 55% (534) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *sexual assault* has remained stable at 30 offences per month during the past nine quarters (refer Figure 3).

There were 89 *sexual assault* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 8% (8) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 6% (6) from the same quarter the previous year.

Property Offences

In the current quarter, the total number of recorded property offences was 4668; *property damage* accounted for 38% and *other theft* 35%. The remaining offences were *house break-ins, break-ins to commercial or other premises, motor vehicle theft and related offences and other property offences*.

- The underlying average level of *house break-ins* has ranged between 118 and 174 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 118 per month is at the lower end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average decreased in the middle of the period. A statistically significant downward trend was identified (refer Figure 6).

There were 326 *house break-ins* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 30% (137) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 33% (162) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *break-ins to commercial or other premises* has ranged between 90 and 155 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 155 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period (refer Figure 7).

There were 437 *break-ins to commercial or other premises* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 7% (33) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 1% (5) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *motor vehicle theft and related offences* has ranged between 107 and 146 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 146 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period. A statistically significant upward trend was identified (refer Figure 8).

There were 440 *motor vehicle theft and related offences* recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 9% (43) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 25% (87) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *other theft* has ranged between 568 and 665 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 568 per month is at the lower end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average decreased in the middle of the period. A statistically significant downward trend was identified (refer Figure 9).

There were 1645 *other theft* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 12% (229) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 18% (367) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *property damage* has ranged between 482 and 679 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 609 per month is in the middle of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period and decreased in the middle of the period (refer Figure 10).

There were 1794 *property damage* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 8% (154) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 6% (110) from the same quarter the previous year.

2.1.2 Darwin

Offences Against the Person

In the current quarter, a total of 526 offences against the person were recorded in Darwin; *assault* accounted for 90%, *sexual assault* 4% and *robbery* 4%. The remaining offences were *other offences against the person*. There were no recorded offences relating to *murder, attempted murder or manslaughter* in this quarter.

- The underlying average level of *assault* has ranged between 82 and 146 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 146 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased in the middle of the period. A statistically significant upward trend was identified (refer Figure 12).

There were 476 *assault* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 8% (36) from the previous quarter and an increase of 107% (246) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *sexual assault* has ranged between 10 and 11 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 10 per month is at the lower end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable (refer Figure 13).

There were 23 *sexual assault* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 26% (8) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 39% (15) from the same quarter the previous year.

Property Offences

In the current quarter, the total number of recorded property offences in Darwin was 2201; *property damage* accounted for 39% and *other theft* 36%. The remaining offences included *house break-ins, break-ins to commercial or other premises, motor vehicle theft and related offences* and *other property offences*.

- The underlying average level of *house break-ins* has ranged between 52 and 86 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 52 per month is at the lower end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average decreased in the middle of the period. A statistically significant downward trend was identified (refer Figure 16).

There were 123 *house break-ins* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 48% (112) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 51% (127) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *break-ins to commercial or other premises* has ranged between 40 and 62 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 62 per month is at

the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable (refer Figure 17).

There were 189 *break-ins to commercial or other premises* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 7% (15) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 11% (23) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *motor vehicle theft and related offences* has ranged between 57 and 75 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 75 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period. A statistically significant upward trend was identified (refer Figure 18).

There were 229 *motor vehicle theft and related offences* recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 3% (7) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 16% (32) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *other theft* has ranged between 297 and 348 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 297 per month is at the lower end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average decreased early in the period. A statistically significant downward trend was identified (refer Figure 19).

There were 800 *other theft* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 13% (121) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 30% (340) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *property damage* has ranged between 228 and 347 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 314 per month is in the middle of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period (refer Figure 20).

There were 850 *property damage* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 12% (115) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 15% (153) from the same quarter the previous year.

2.1.3 Palmerston

Offences Against the Person

In the current quarter, the total number of offences against the person recorded in Palmerston was 134; *assault* accounted for 90% and *sexual assault* 7%. The remaining offences were *manslaughter*, *robbery* and *other offences against the person*. There were no recorded offences relating to *murder* or *attempted murder* in this quarter.

- The underlying average level of *assault* has ranged between 18 and 33 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 33 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period. A statistically significant upward trend was identified (refer Figure 22).

There were 120 *assault* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 36% (32) from the previous quarter and an increase of 88% (56) from the same quarter the previous year.

Property Offences

In the current quarter, the total number of recorded property offences in Palmerston was 622; *other theft* accounted for 36% and *property damage* 35%. The remaining offences were *house break-ins*, *break-ins to commercial or other premises*, *motor vehicle theft and related offences* and *other property offences*.

- The underlying average level of *house break-ins* has ranged between 16 and 29 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 21 per month is in the middle of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable (refer Figure 24).

There were 57 *house break-ins* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 21% (15) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 40% (38) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *break-ins to commercial or other premises* has ranged between 8 and 21 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 21 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased in the middle of the period. A statistically significant upward trend was identified (refer Figure 25).

There were 63 *break-ins to commercial or other premises* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 2% (1) from the previous quarter and an increase of 80% (28) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *motor vehicle theft and related offences* has ranged between 13 and 23 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 23 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased in the middle of the period (refer Figure 26).

There were 58 *motor vehicle theft and related offences* recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 26% (20) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 57% (21) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *other theft* has ranged between 58 and 75 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 75 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable (refer Figure 27).

There were 226 *other theft* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 1% (3) from the previous quarter and an increase of 7% (15) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *property damage* has ranged between 47 and 76 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 76 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period. A statistically significant upward trend was identified (refer Figure 28).

There were 215 *property damage* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 6% (13) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 6% (13) from the same quarter the previous year.

2.1.4 Alice Springs

Offences Against the Person

In the current quarter, the total number of offences against the person recorded in Alice Springs was 320; *assault* accounted for 92%, *sexual assault* 3% and *other offences against the person* 3%. The remaining offences included *murder*, *attempted murder* and *robbery*. There were no recorded offences relating to *manslaughter* in this quarter.

- The underlying average level of *assault* has ranged between 62 and 102 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 97 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable (refer Figure 30).
- There were 295 *assault* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of less than one percent (1) from the previous quarter and an increase of 36% (78) from the same quarter the previous year.

Property Offences

In the current quarter, the total number of recorded property offences in Alice Springs was 802; *property damage* accounted for 47% and *other theft* 29%. The remaining offences included *house break-ins*, *break-ins to commercial or other premises*, *motor vehicle theft and related offences* and *other property offences*.

- The underlying average level of *house break-ins* has ranged between 19 and 30 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 19 per month is at the lower end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable. A statistically significant downward trend was identified (refer Figure 33).

There were 48 *house break-ins* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 17% (10) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 7% (3) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *break-ins to commercial or other premises* has ranged between 20 and 28 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 28 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period (refer Figure 34).

There were 69 *break-ins to commercial or other premises* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 14% (11) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 23% (13) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *motor vehicle theft and related offences* has ranged between 15 and 24 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 24 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased in the middle of the period (refer Figure 35).

There were 69 *motor vehicle theft and related offences* recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 10% (8) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 9% (7) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *other theft* has ranged between 91 and 112 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 101 per month is in the middle of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period (refer Figure 36).

There were 236 *other theft* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 23% (69) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 14% (40) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *property damage* has ranged between 102 and 137 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 137 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable (refer Figure 37).

There were 375 *property damage* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 8% (33) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 1% (2) from the same quarter the previous year.

2.1.5 Katherine

Offences Against the Person

In the current quarter, the total number of offences against the person recorded in Katherine was 123; *assault* accounted for 90%, *sexual assault* 9% and *robbery* 1%. There were no recorded offences relating to *murder, attempted murder, manslaughter or other offences against the person* in this quarter.

- The underlying average level of *assault* has ranged between 32 and 47 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 40 per month is in the middle of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable (refer Figure 39).

There were 111 *assault* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 1% (1) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 26% (23) from the same quarter the previous year.

Property Offences

In the current quarter, the total number of recorded property offences in Katherine was 251; *other theft* accounted for 37% and *property damage* 30%. The remaining offences were *house break-ins, break-ins to commercial or other premises, motor vehicle theft and related offences* and *other property offences*.

- The underlying average level of *house break-ins* has ranged between 8 and 12 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 8 per month is at the lower end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average decreased in the middle of the period (refer Figure 41).

There were 31 *house break-ins* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 55% (11) from the previous quarter and an increase of 41% (9) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *break-ins to commercial or other premises* has remained stable at 8 offences per month during the past nine quarters (refer Figure 42).

There were 29 *break-ins to commercial or other premises* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 21% (5) from the previous quarter and an increase of 26% (6) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *motor vehicle theft and related offences* has ranged between 2 and 7 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 7 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period and increased again in the middle of the period. A statistically significant upward trend was identified (refer Figure 43).

There were 20 *motor vehicle theft and related offences* recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 25% (4) from the previous quarter and an increase of 400% (16) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *other theft* has ranged between 30 and 42 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 34 per month is in the middle of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable (refer Figure 44).

There were 94 *other theft* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 8% (8) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 3% (3) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *property damage* has ranged between 18 and 30 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 25 per month is in the middle of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable (refer Figure 45).

There were 76 *property damage* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 21% (13) from the previous quarter and an increase of 58% (28) from the same quarter the previous year.

2.1.6 Tennant Creek

Offences Against the Person

In the current quarter, the total number of offences against the person recorded in Tennant Creek was 152; *assault* accounted for 92% and *sexual assault* 4%. The remaining offences were *murder*, *manslaughter*, *robbery* and *other offences against the person*. There were no recorded offences relating to *attempted murder* in this quarter.

- The underlying average level of *assault* has ranged between 27 and 41 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 41 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period (refer Figure 47).

There were 140 *assault* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 35% (36) from the previous quarter and an increase of 77% (61) from the same quarter the previous year.

Property Offences

In the current quarter, the total number of recorded property offences in Tennant Creek was 128; *property damage* accounted for 41% and *other theft* 37%. The remaining offences were *house break-ins*, *break-ins to commercial or other premises*, *motor vehicle theft and related offences* and *other property offences*.

- The underlying average level of *house break-ins* has ranged between 3 and 7 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 4 per month is in the middle of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average decreased in the middle of the period (refer Figure 49).

There were 11 *house break-ins* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 39% (7) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 57% (4) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *break-ins to commercial or other premises* has ranged between 3 and 11 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 6 per month is in the middle of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period and decreased in the middle of the period (refer Figure 50).

There were 13 *break-ins to commercial or other premises* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 52% (14) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 7% (1) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *motor vehicle theft and related offences* has ranged between 1 and 2 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 2 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased in the middle of the period (refer Figure 51).

There were 4 *motor vehicle theft and related offences* recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 2 from the previous quarter, but an increase of 2 from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *other theft* has ranged between 15 and 23 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 20 per month is in the middle of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period (refer Figure 52).

There were 47 *other theft* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 31% (21) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 12% (5) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *property damage* has ranged between 13 and 23 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 20 per month is in the middle of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable (refer Figure 53).

There were 52 *property damage* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 37% (31) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 13% (6) from the same quarter the previous year.

2.1.7 Nhulunbuy

Offences Against the Person

In the current quarter, the total number of offences against the person recorded in Nhulunbuy was 43; *assault* accounted for 88%, *sexual assault* 5% and *robbery* 5%. The remaining offences were *other offences against the person*. There were no recorded offences relating to *murder*, *attempted murder* or *manslaughter* in this quarter.

- The underlying average level of *assault* has ranged between 5 and 12 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 12 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period (refer Figure 55).

There were 38 *assault* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 27% (8) from the previous quarter and an increase of 192% (25) from the same quarter the previous year.

Property Offences

In the current quarter, the total number of recorded property offences in Nhulunbuy was 69; *property damage* accounted for 42% and *other theft* 30%. The remaining offences were *house break-ins*, *break-ins to commercial or other premises*, *motor vehicle theft and related offences* and *other property offences*.

- The underlying average level of *house break-ins* has ranged between 1 and 2 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 2 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable (refer Figure 57).

There were 3 *house break-ins* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 2 from the previous quarter, but an increase of 1 from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *break-ins to commercial or other premises* has ranged between 2 and 3 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 3 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable (refer Figure 58).

There were 9 *break-ins to commercial or other premises* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 50% (3) from the previous quarter, but a decrease of 36% (5) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *other theft* has ranged between 7 and 11 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 7 per month is at the lower end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average decreased in the middle of the period (refer Figure 59).

There were 21 *other theft* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 42% (15) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 32% (10) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *property damage* has remained stable at 9 offences per month during the past nine quarters (refer Figure 60).

There were 29 *property damage* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 3% (1) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 21% (5) from the same quarter the previous year.

2.1.8 Northern Territory Balance

The Northern Territory Balance is the area of the Northern Territory that lies outside of the six major urban centres of Darwin, Palmerston, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy.

Offences Against the Person

In the current quarter, the total number of offences against the person recorded in the Northern Territory Balance was 371; *assault* accounted for 89% and *sexual assault* 7%. The remaining offences were *robbery* and *other offences against the person*. There were no recorded offences relating to *murder*, *attempted murder* or *manslaughter* in this quarter.

- The underlying average level of *assault* has ranged between 83 and 101 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 101 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable (refer Figure 62).

There were 330 *assault* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 14% (40) from the previous quarter and an increase of 16% (45) from the same quarter the previous year.

Property Offences

In the current quarter, the total number of recorded property offences in the Northern Territory Balance was 595; *other theft* accounted for 37% and *property damage* 33%. The remaining offences were *house break-ins*, *break-ins to commercial or other premises*, *motor vehicle theft and related offences*, and *other property offences*.

- The underlying average level of *house break-ins* has ranged between 18 and 23 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 18 per month is at the lower end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average decreased early in the period (refer Figure 65).

There were 53 *house break-ins* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 4% (2) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 21% (14) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *break-ins to commercial or other premises* has ranged between 24 and 40 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 26 per month is at the lower end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable (refer Figure 66).

There were 65 *break-ins to commercial or other premises* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 3% (2) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 17% (13) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *motor vehicle theft and related offences* has ranged between 13 and 20 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 20 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased in the middle of the period (refer Figure 67).

There were 54 *motor vehicle theft and related offences* recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 17% (11) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 54% (19) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *other theft* has remained stable at 74 offences per month during the past nine quarters (refer Figure 68).

There were 221 *other theft* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 2 (1%) from the previous quarter and an increase of 6 (3%) from the same quarter the previous year.

- The underlying average level of *property damage* has ranged between 66 and 78 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 66 per month is at the lower end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable (refer Figure 69).

There were 197 *property damage* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 15% (26) from the previous quarter, but a decrease of 5% (11) from the same quarter the previous year.

2.2 PRISONERS AND DETAINEES IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

- The daily average number of prisoners in the Northern Territory was 842 during the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 6% (56) from the previous quarter but an increase of 9% (71) from the same quarter the previous year.
- Indigenous prisoners currently represent 83% (699) of the daily average prison population. The current daily average of 699 was 5% (39) lower than the previous quarter but 10% (62) higher than the same quarter last year.
- The daily average number of juvenile detainees was 28 in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 20% (7) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 8% (2) from the same quarter the previous year.

2.3 OUTCOMES FOR DRUG OFFENCES

- Sentences were passed for 168 drug offences during the first three months of the 2007-08 financial year. During the period:
 - The most common drug offences, which were sentenced, were the possession and/or use of illicit drugs 43% (73) and the non-commercial dealing in illicit drugs 34% (57).
 - A monetary order was the most common principal penalty accounting for 57% (95) of the drug offences which had sentences passed. A term of imprisonment (actual or fully suspended) or home detention was ordered for 36% (61) of the drug offences.
- Sentences were passed for 754 drug offences during the 2006-07 financial year.
 - The most common drug offences, which were sentenced, were the possession and/or use of illicit drugs 42% (317) and the non-commercial dealing in illicit drugs 40% (300).
 - The principal penalty for 60% (456) of the drug offences was a monetary order. For 31% (232) of the drug offences the principal penalty was imprisonment (including home detention and fully suspended imprisonment).

- A total of 120 drug infringement notices, relating to 120 separate offences, were issued during the September quarter 2007. This is 28% (26) more notices than were issued in the previous quarter and 7% (9) less notices than were issued in the September quarter 2006.
- Possession of cannabis is the most common offence for which drug infringement notices have been issued (99% of offences in the September quarter 2007).

2.4 COURT OUTCOMES FOR AGGRAVATED PROPERTY OFFENCES

- A total of 112 aggravated property offences had sentences passed between 1 July 2007 and 30 September 2007, of which the most prevalent offence group was *break-ins* (66%).
- The principal penalty for 82% (92) of aggravated property offences fell within the standard sentencing guidelines (imprisonment, home detention or a community work order) contained in the *Sentencing Act*.
- A total of 522 aggravated property offences was finalised during the 2006-07 financial year.
- The principal penalty for 83% (433) of these offences fell within the standard sentencing guidelines contained in the *Sentencing Act*.
- In relation to 63% (330) of offences, the principal penalty was an actual term of imprisonment.

3 OFFENCES RECORDED BY THE POLICE

This section provides information on selected categories of offences recorded by the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPFES) for the period from the September quarter 2005 to the September quarter 2007.

The selected offence categories are:

- **Offences Against the Person:**
 - Murder
 - Attempted Murder
 - Manslaughter
 - Robbery
 - Assault
 - Sexual Assault
 - Other Offences Against the Person
- **Property Offences:**
 - House Break-ins
 - Break-ins to Commercial or Other Premises
 - Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences
 - Other Theft
 - Property Damage
 - Other Property Offences

The offence data is presented for the Northern Territory as a whole, six major urban centres and the Northern Territory Balance (areas outside of the six major urban centres):

- Northern Territory
- Darwin
- Palmerston
- Alice Springs
- Katherine
- Tennant Creek
- Nhulunbuy
- Northern Territory Balance

3.1 EXPLANATORY NOTES

The data used in this section was extracted from the Police Real-time On-line Management Information System on 01 November 2007.

- For a variety of reasons not all crimes are reported to the Police. Consequently, levels of recorded crime should not be interpreted as comprehensively representing the level of crime in the Northern Territory. Recorded crime is however adopted nationally as a lead indicator of the level and nature of crime and provides a sound basis for measuring changes over time.

- The underlying average summarises a data series, by reducing it to periods of stability and points from which sustained change is observed. The underlying average level at any point in a data series is the average of all data points in the same period of stability. The underlying average serves to focus attention on important underlying characteristics of a data series and is used extensively in the graphs presented in this section.
- A statistical test has been applied to the last 12 months of the recorded crime data to detect the presence of any upward or downward trends. The last 12 months data is considered to be stable unless a statistically significant trend is reported.
- The segments of the pie charts shown in this chapter may not sum to exactly 100 per cent due to rounding.

3.2 FINDINGS

3.2.1 Northern Territory

The following table presents the number of recorded offences by offence category on a quarterly basis.

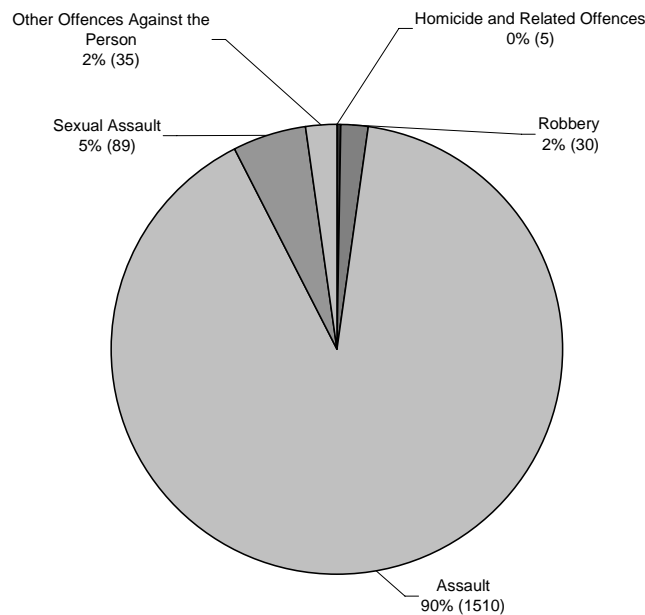
Table 1 Recorded Offences in the Northern Territory

	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep
	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr
	2005	2005	2006	2006	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007
Offences Against The Person									
Homicide and Related Offences									
Murder	5	4	4	2	2	4	2	5	2
Attempted Murder	0	3	1	0	2	2	1	3	1
Manslaughter	4	4	1	1	0	2	0	0	2
Robbery	15	10	19	21	22	19	27	30	30
Assault	1020	1221	1285	1027	976	1200	1276	1358	1510
Sexual Assault	91	81	92	68	95	99	79	97	89
Other Offences Against the Person	32	22	27	30	32	28	20	26	35
Total	1167	1345	1429	1149	1129	1354	1405	1519	1669
Property Offences									
Break-ins									
House	526	471	532	530	488	505	532	463	326
Commercial or Other Premises	304	335	462	386	432	377	484	470	437
Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences	403	374	401	383	353	291	347	483	440
Other Theft	1848	1856	2129	1987	2012	1966	2009	1874	1645
Property Damage	1483	1741	2092	1777	1904	1791	2042	1948	1794
Other Property Offences	26	22	34	37	18	26	25	20	26
Total	4590	4799	5650	5100	5207	4956	5439	5258	4668

Offences Against the Person

- In the current quarter, a total of 1669 offences against the person were recorded in the Territory. This is a 10% (150) increase from the previous quarter and an increase of 48% (540) from the same quarter the previous year.
- As shown in the figure below, *assault* was by far the most frequent offence, accounting for 90% of offences against the person. The next most frequently recorded offence was *sexual assault*, representing 5%. The remaining offences were *murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, robbery* and *other offences against the person*.

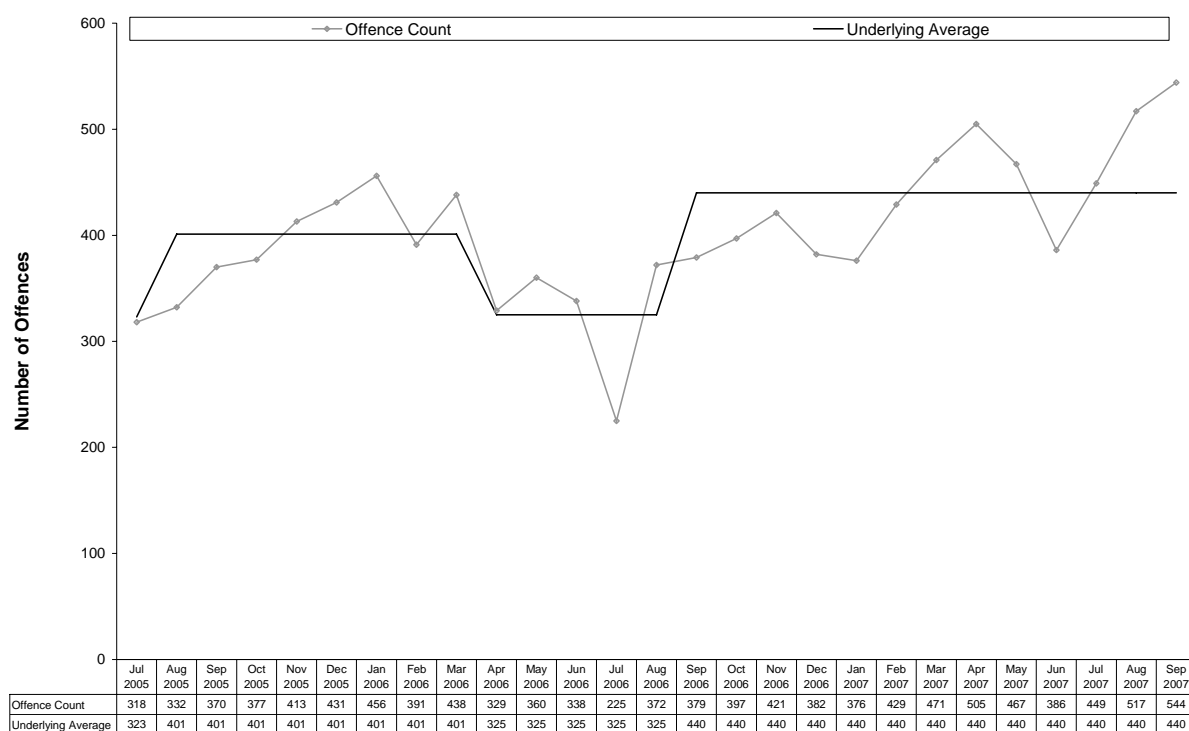
Figure 1 Recorded Offences Against the Person in the Northern Territory – Current Quarter



Assault

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *assault* has ranged between 323 and 440 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 440 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable. A statistically significant upward trend was identified.
- There were 1510 *assault* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 11% (152) from the previous quarter and an increase of 55% (534) from the same quarter the previous year.

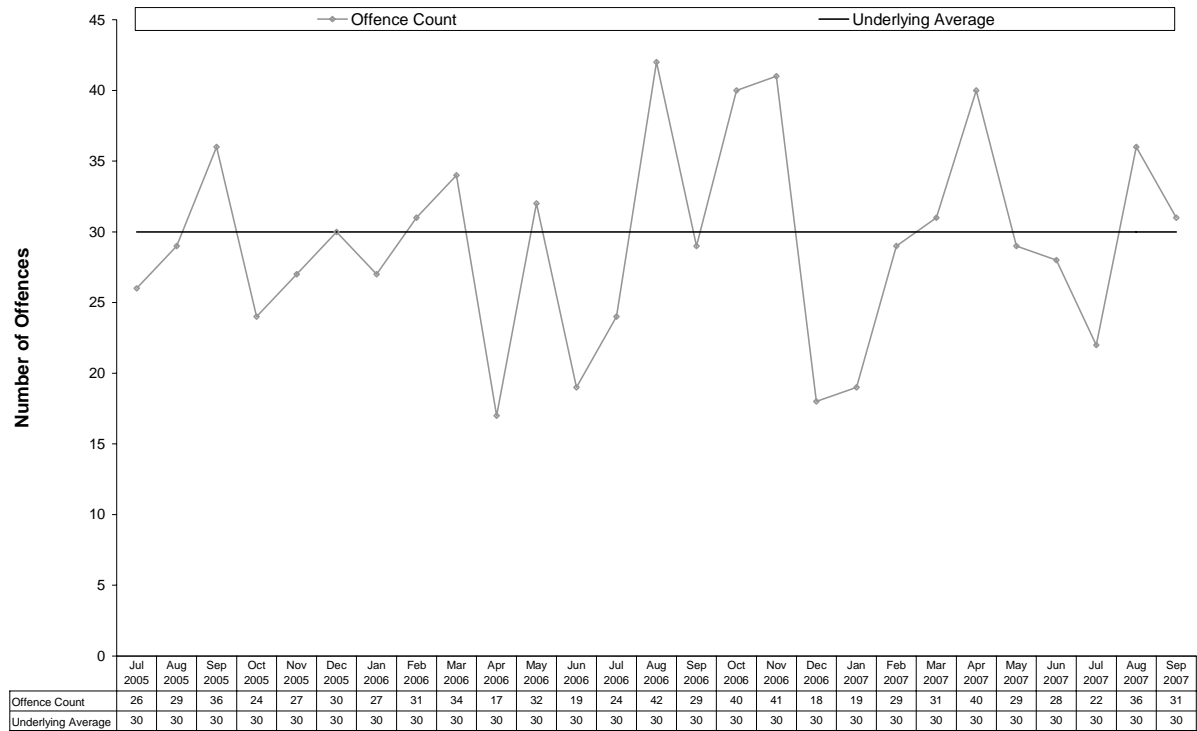
Figure 2 Recorded Assault in the Northern Territory



Sexual Assault

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *sexual assault* has remained stable at 30 offences per month during the past nine quarters.
- There were 89 *sexual assault* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 8% (8) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 6% (6) from the same quarter the previous year.

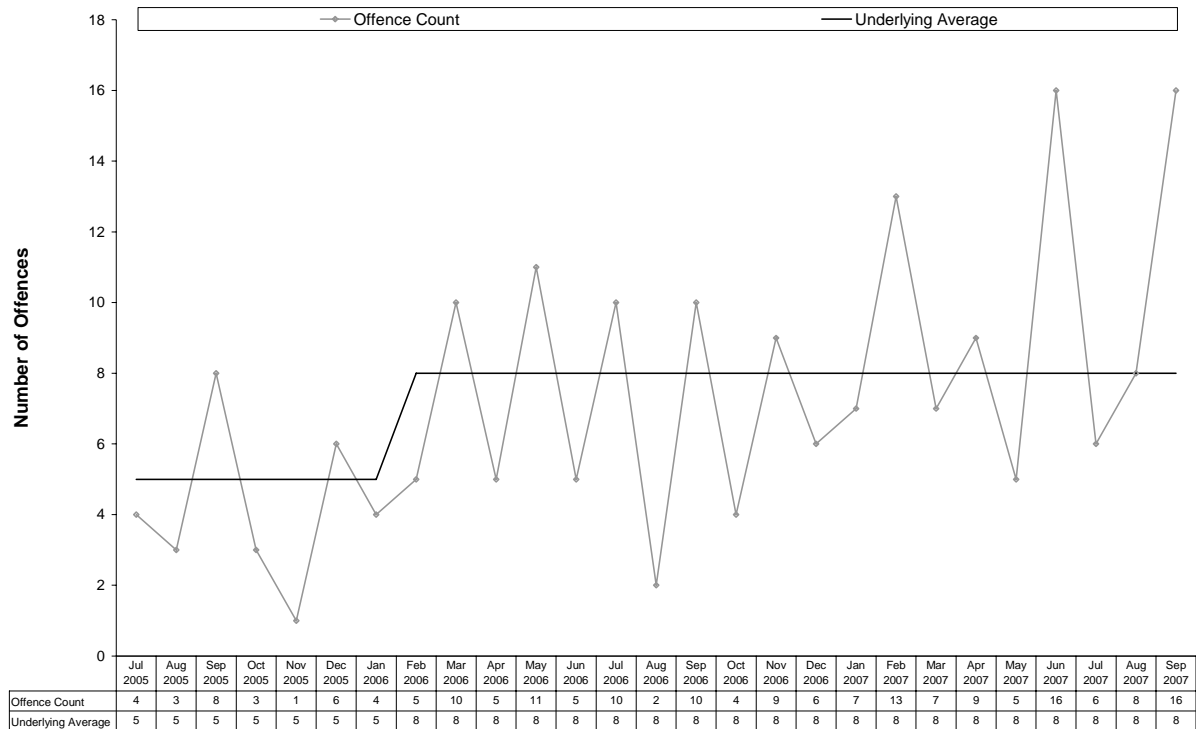
Figure 3 Recorded Sexual Assault in the Northern Territory



Robbery

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *robbery* has ranged between 5 and 8 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 8 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable.
- There were 30 *robbery* offences recorded in the current quarter. There were no changes from the previous quarter, but an increase of 36% (8) from the same quarter the previous year.

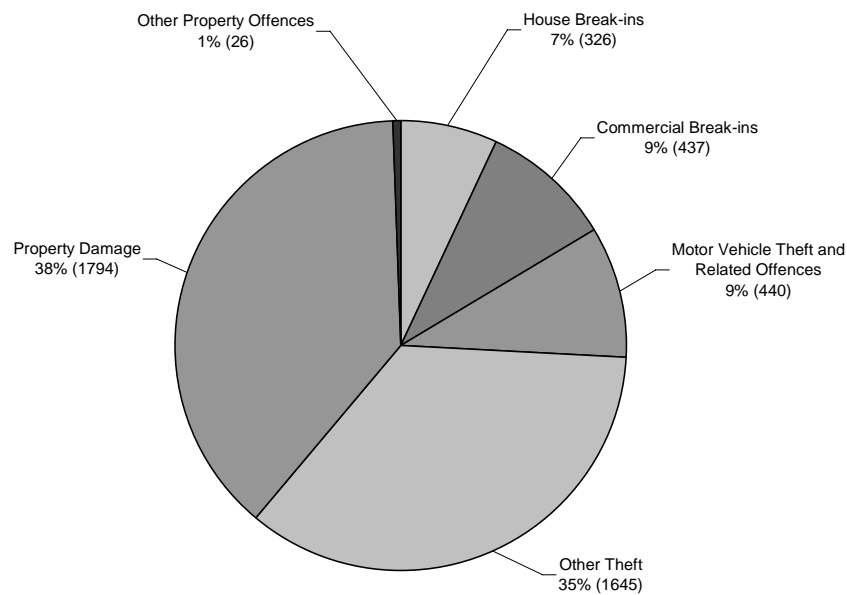
Figure 4 Recorded Robbery in the Northern Territory



Property Offences

- In the current quarter, a total of 4668 property offences were recorded in the Territory. This represents a decrease of 11% (590) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 10% (539) from the same quarter the previous year.
- The figure below shows 38% of property offences relate to *property damage*, with *other theft* at 35%. *Break-ins to commercial or other premises* and *motor vehicle theft and related offences* both accounted for 9% each, *house break-ins* accounted for 7% and *other property offences* 1%.

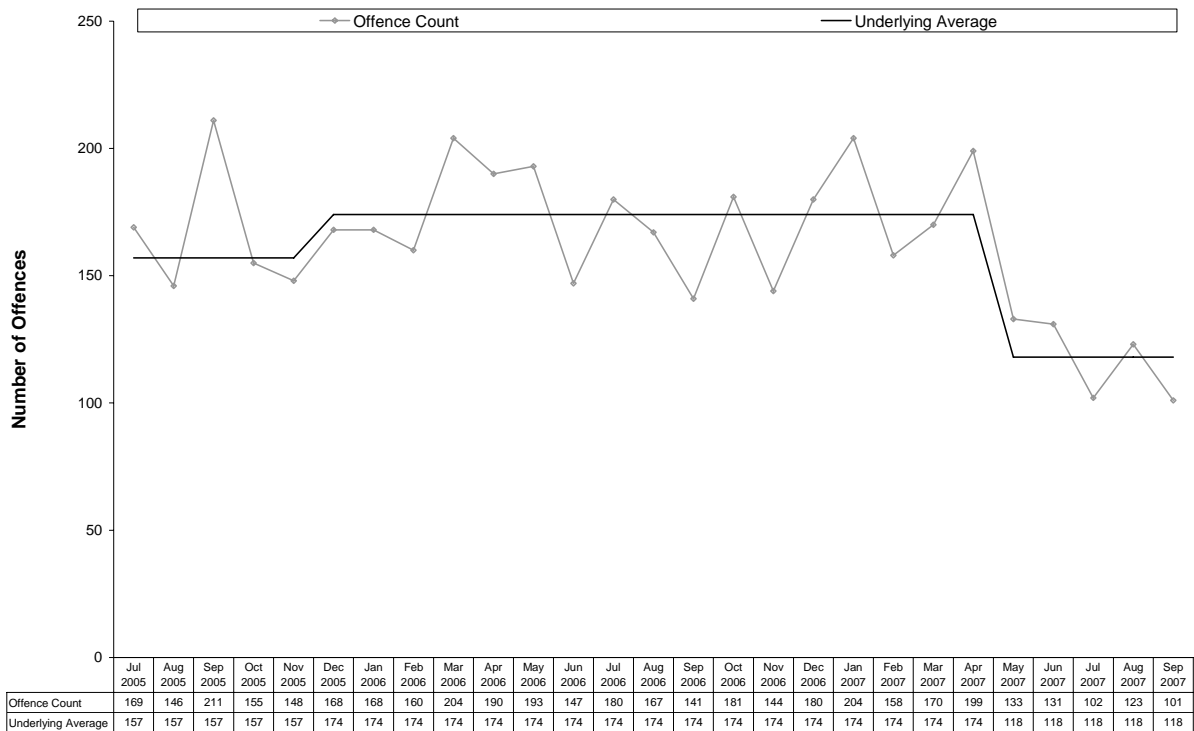
Figure 5 Recorded Property Offences in the Northern Territory – Current Quarter



House Break-ins

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *house break-ins* has ranged between 118 and 174 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 118 per month is at the lower end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average decreased in the middle of the period. A statistically significant downward trend was identified.
- There were 326 *house break-ins* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 30% (137) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 33% (162) from the same quarter the previous year.

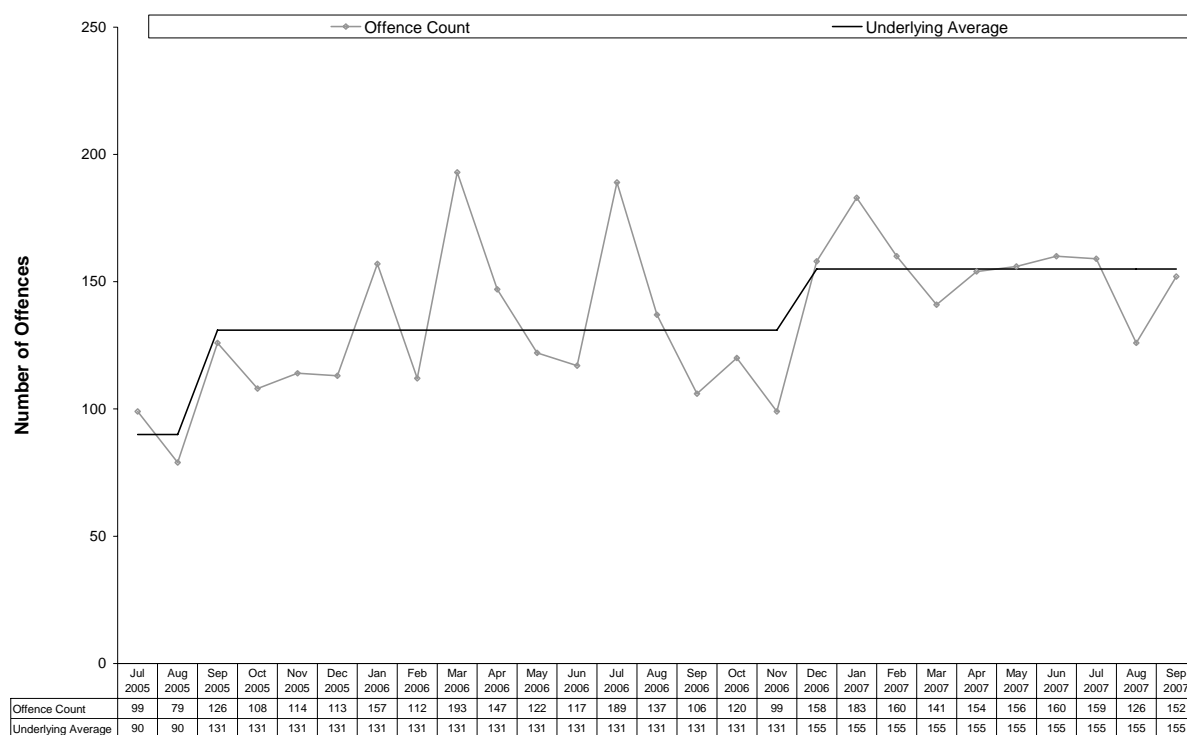
Figure 6 Recorded House Break-ins in the Northern Territory



Break-ins to Commercial or Other Premises

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *break-ins to commercial or other premises* has ranged between 90 and 155 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 155 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period.
- There were 437 *break-ins to commercial or other premises* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 7% (33) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 1% (5) from the same quarter the previous year.

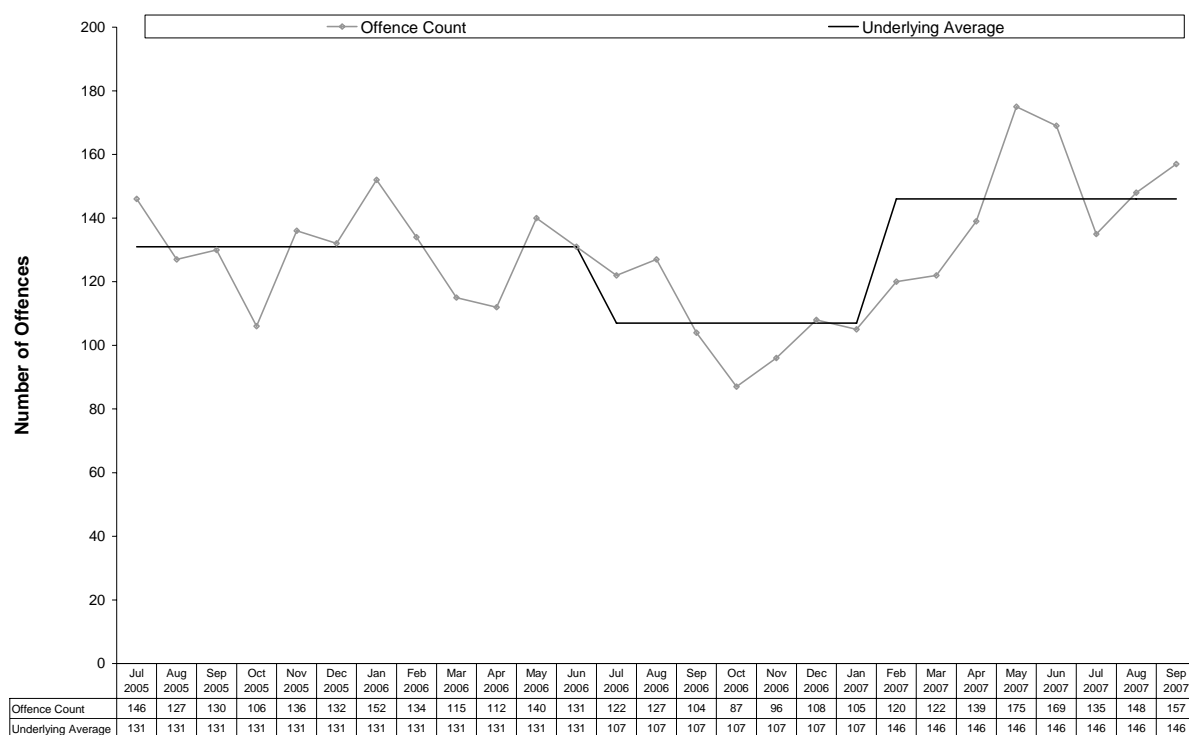
Figure 7 Recorded Break-ins to Commercial or Other Premises in the Northern Territory



Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *motor vehicle theft and related offences* has ranged between 107 and 146 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 146 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period. A statistically significant upward trend was identified.
- There were 440 *motor vehicle theft and related offences* recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 9% (43) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 25% (87) from the same quarter the previous year.

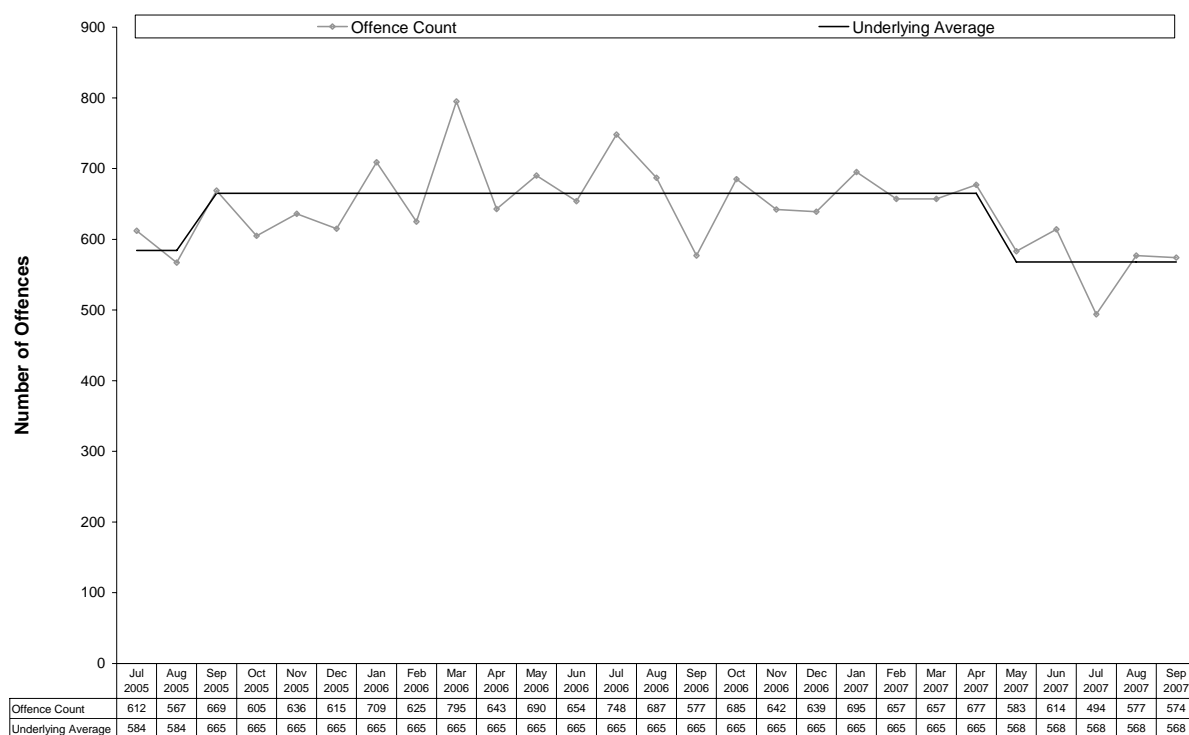
Figure 8 Recorded Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences in the Northern Territory



Other Theft

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *other theft* has ranged between 568 and 665 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 568 per month is at the lower end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average decreased in the middle of the period. A statistically significant downward trend was identified.
- There were 1645 *other theft* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 12% (229) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 18% (367) from the same quarter the previous year.

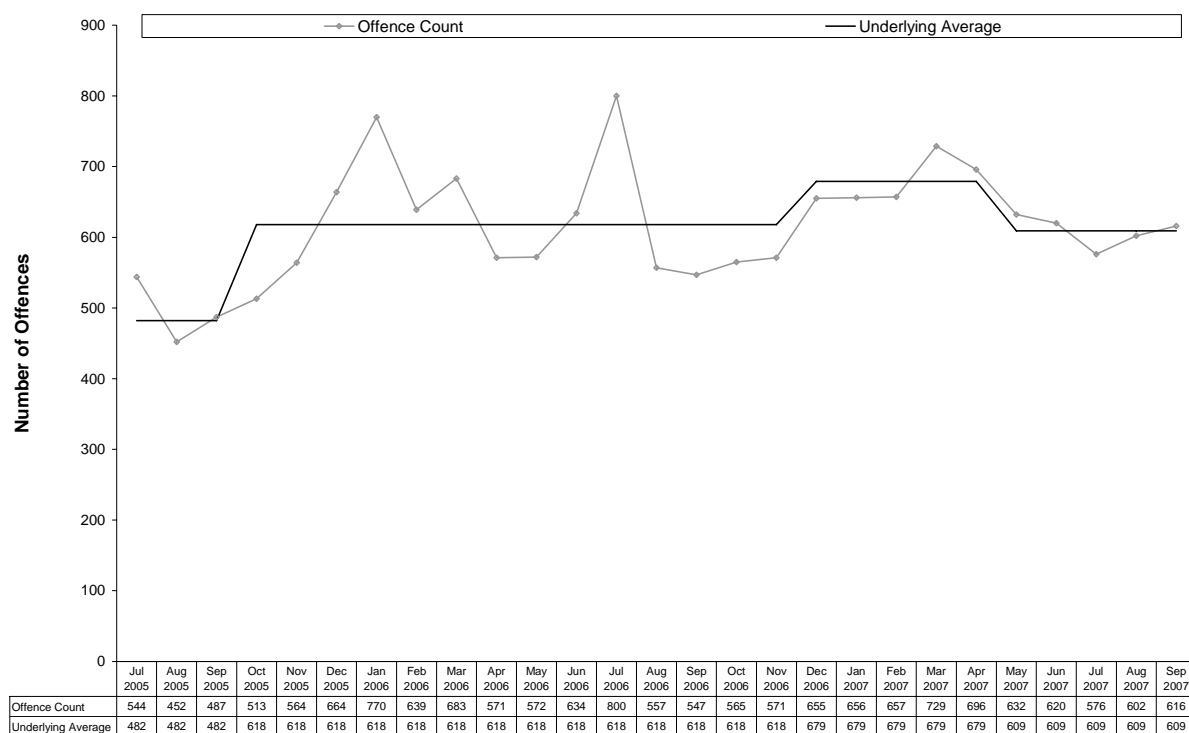
Figure 9 Recorded Other Theft in the Northern Territory



Property Damage

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *property damage* has ranged between 482 and 679 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 609 per month is in the middle of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period and decreased in the middle of the period.
- There were 1794 *property damage* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 8% (154) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 6% (110) from the same quarter the previous year.

Figure 10 Recorded Property Damage in the Northern Territory



3.2.2 Darwin

The following table presents the number of recorded offences by offence category on a quarterly basis.

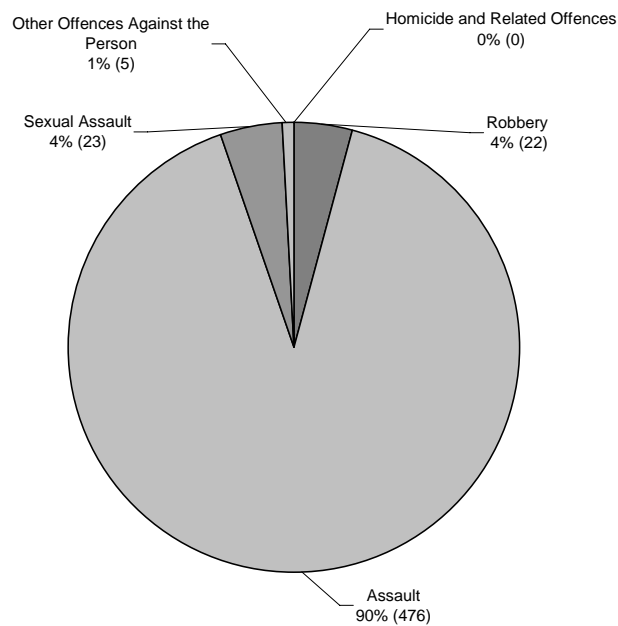
Table 2 Recorded Offences in Darwin

	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep
	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr
	2005	2005	2006	2006	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007
Offences Against The Person									
Homicide and Related Offences									
Murder	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Attempted Murder	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Manslaughter	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	7	5	14	15	15	11	12	17	22
Assault	219	269	255	250	230	316	271	440	476
Sexual Assault	32	34	24	20	38	36	31	31	23
Other Offences Against the Person	9	7	16	5	6	7	9	5	5
Total	268	319	309	290	289	372	324	494	526
Property Offences									
Break-ins									
House	297	247	248	278	250	270	269	235	123
Commercial or Other Premises	106	131	127	143	212	174	171	204	189
Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences	226	196	215	202	197	138	184	236	229
Other Theft	1028	967	1006	1045	1140	1077	948	921	800
Property Damage	722	848	1065	947	1003	864	968	965	850
Other Property Offences	7	6	9	19	6	10	7	6	10
Total	2386	2395	2670	2634	2808	2533	2547	2567	2201

Offences Against the Person

- In the current quarter, a total of 526 offences against the person were recorded in Darwin. This represents an increase of 6% (32) from the previous quarter and an increase of 82% (237) from the same quarter the previous year.
- As shown in the figure below *assault* was by far the most frequent offence, accounting for 90% of offences against the person. The next most frequently recorded offence were *sexual assault* and *robbery* representing 4% each. The remaining offences were *other offences against the person*. There were no recorded offences relating to *murder*, *attempted murder* or *manslaughter*.

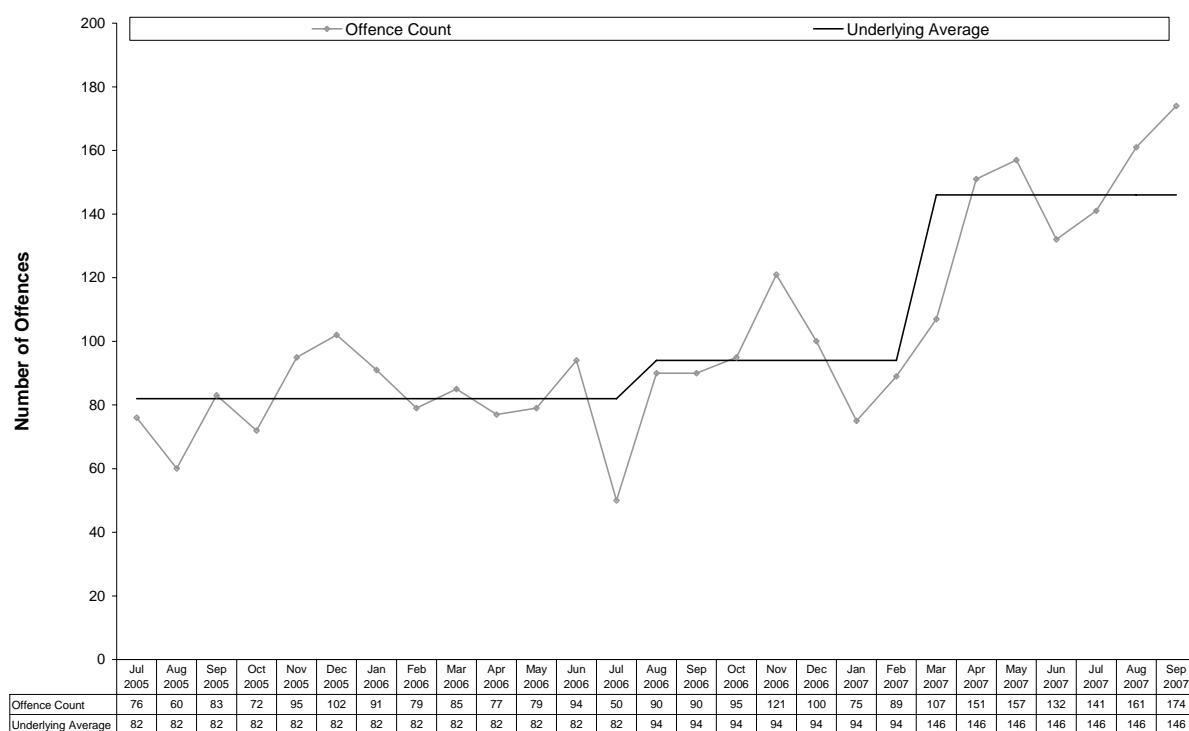
Figure 11 Recorded Offences Against the Person in Darwin – Current Quarter



Assault

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *assault* has ranged between 82 and 146 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 146 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased in the middle of the period. A statistically significant upward trend was identified.
- There were 476 *assault* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 8% (36) from the previous quarter and an increase of 107% (246) from the same quarter the previous year.

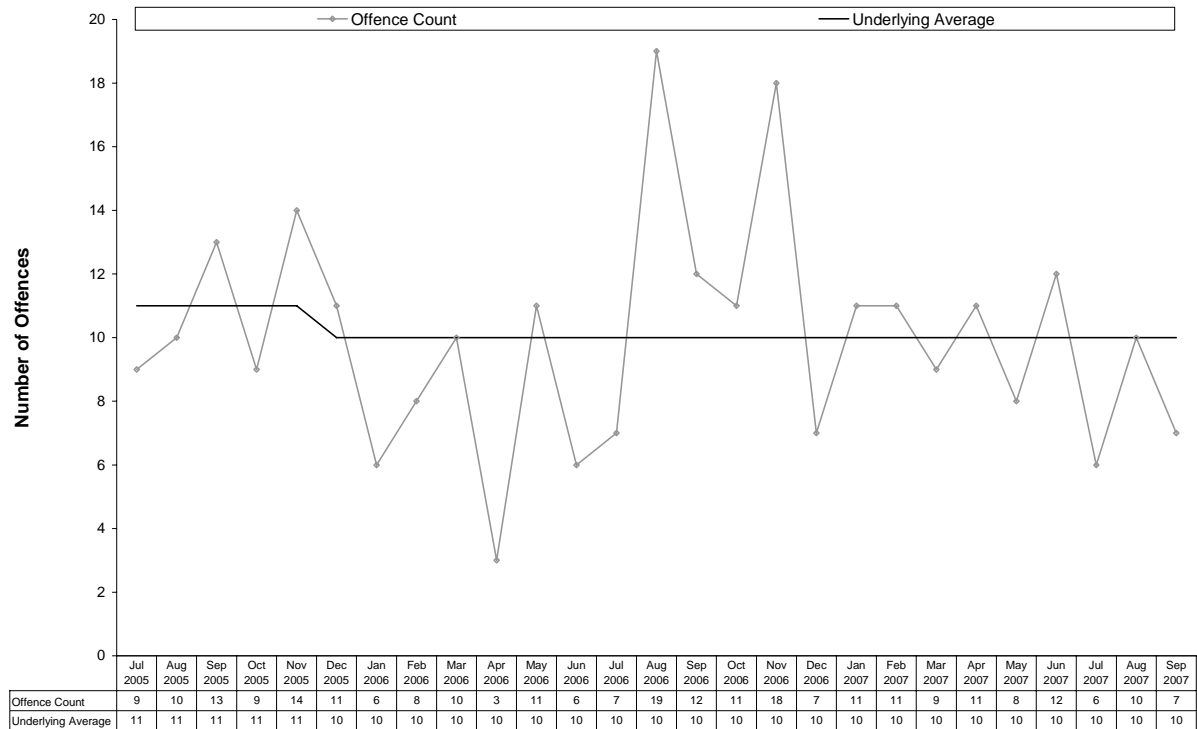
Figure 12 Recorded Assault in Darwin



Sexual Assault

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *sexual assault* has ranged between 10 and 11 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 10 per month is at the lower end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable.
- There were 23 *sexual assault* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 26% (8) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 39% (15) from the same quarter the previous year.

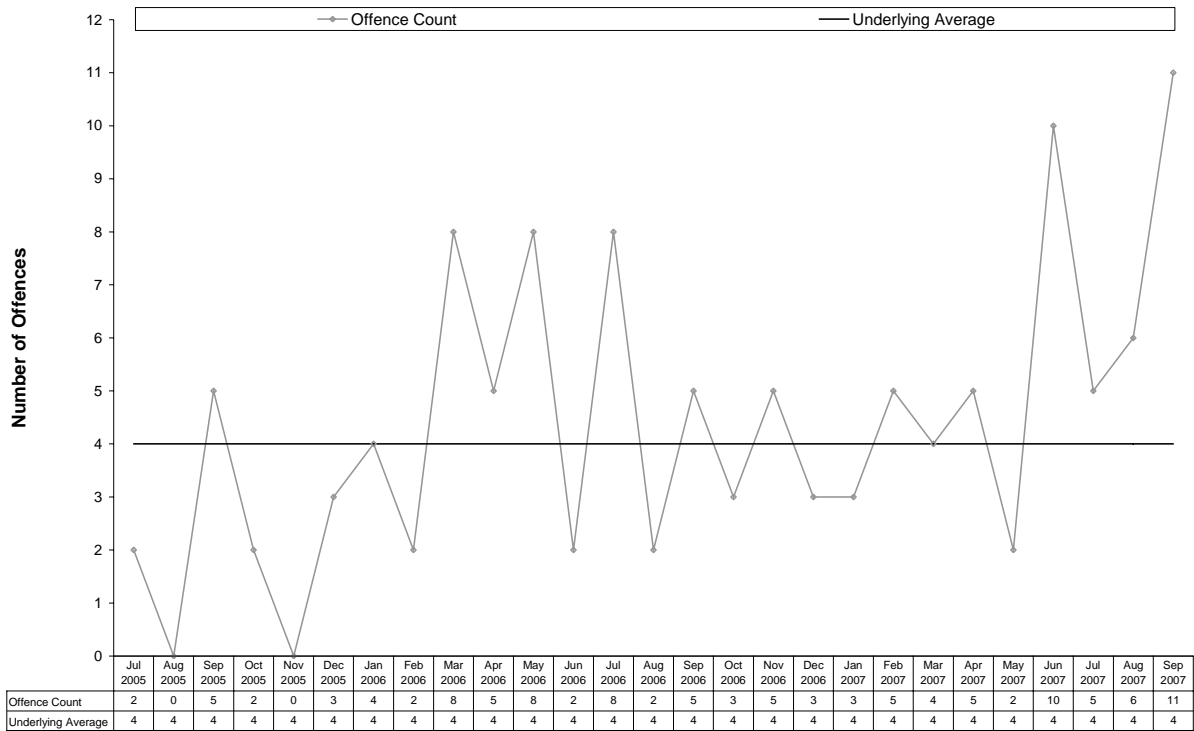
Figure 13 Recorded Sexual Assault in Darwin



Robbery

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *robbery* has remained stable at 4 offences per month during the past nine quarters. A statistically significant upward trend was identified.
- There were 22 *robbery* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 29% (5) from the previous quarter and an increase of 47% (7) from the same quarter the previous year.

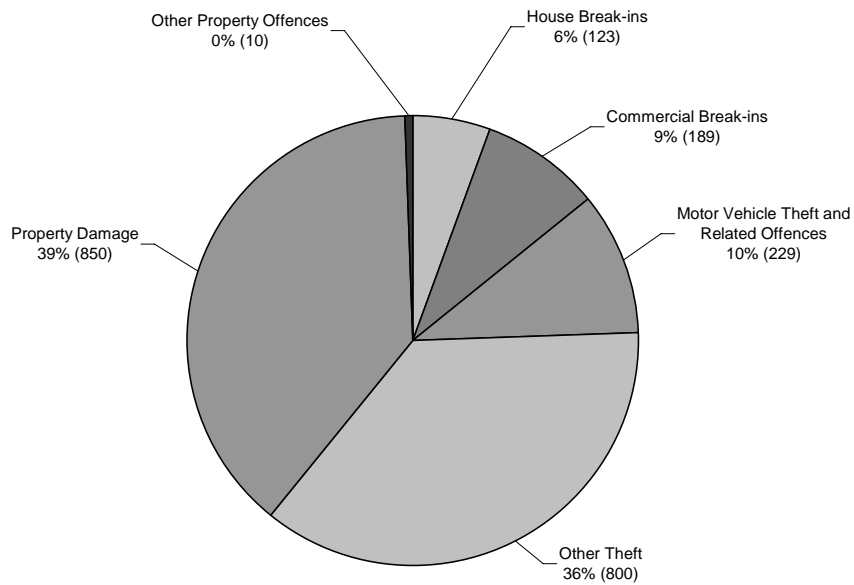
Figure 14 Recorded Robbery in Darwin



Property Offences

- There were 2201 recorded property offences in Darwin in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 14% (366) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 22% (607) from the same quarter the previous year.
- The figure below shows 39% of property offences relate to *property damage*, with *other theft* at 36%. *Motor vehicle theft and related offences* constitute 10%, *break-ins to commercial or other premises* 9%, *house break-ins* 6% and *other property offences* less than 1%.

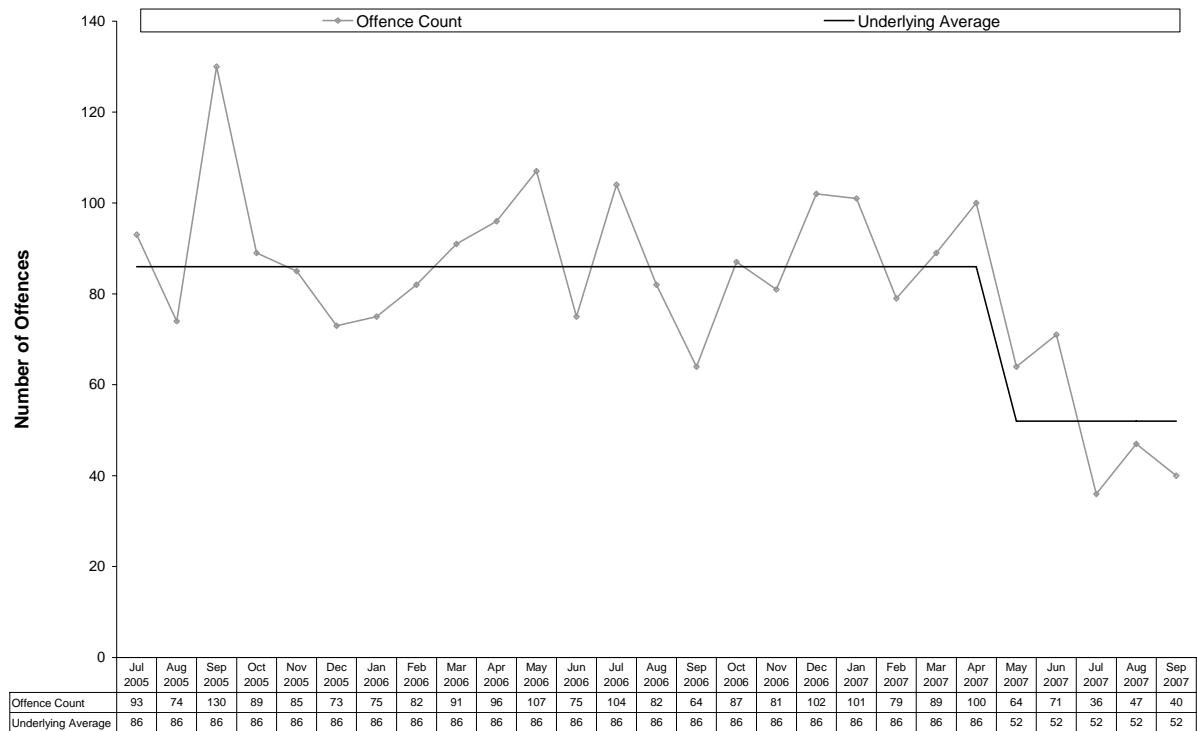
Figure 15 Recorded Property Offences in Darwin – Current Quarter



House Break-ins

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *house break-ins* has ranged between 52 and 86 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 52 per month is at the lower end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average decreased in the middle of the period. A statistically significant downward trend was identified.
- There were 123 *house break-ins* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 48% (112) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 51% (127) from the same quarter the previous year.

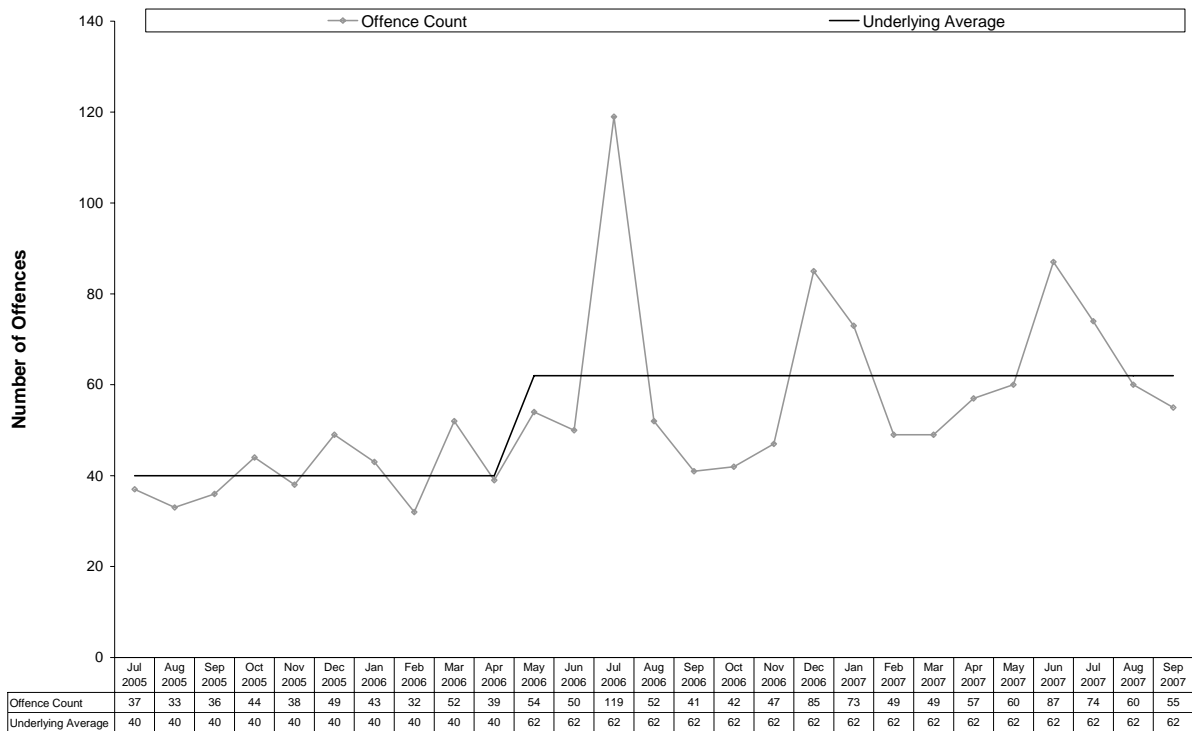
Figure 16 Recorded House Break-ins in Darwin



Break-ins to Commercial or Other Premises

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *break-ins to commercial or other premises* has ranged between 40 and 62 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 62 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable.
- There were 189 *break-ins to commercial or other premises* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 7% (15) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 11% (23) from the same quarter the previous year.

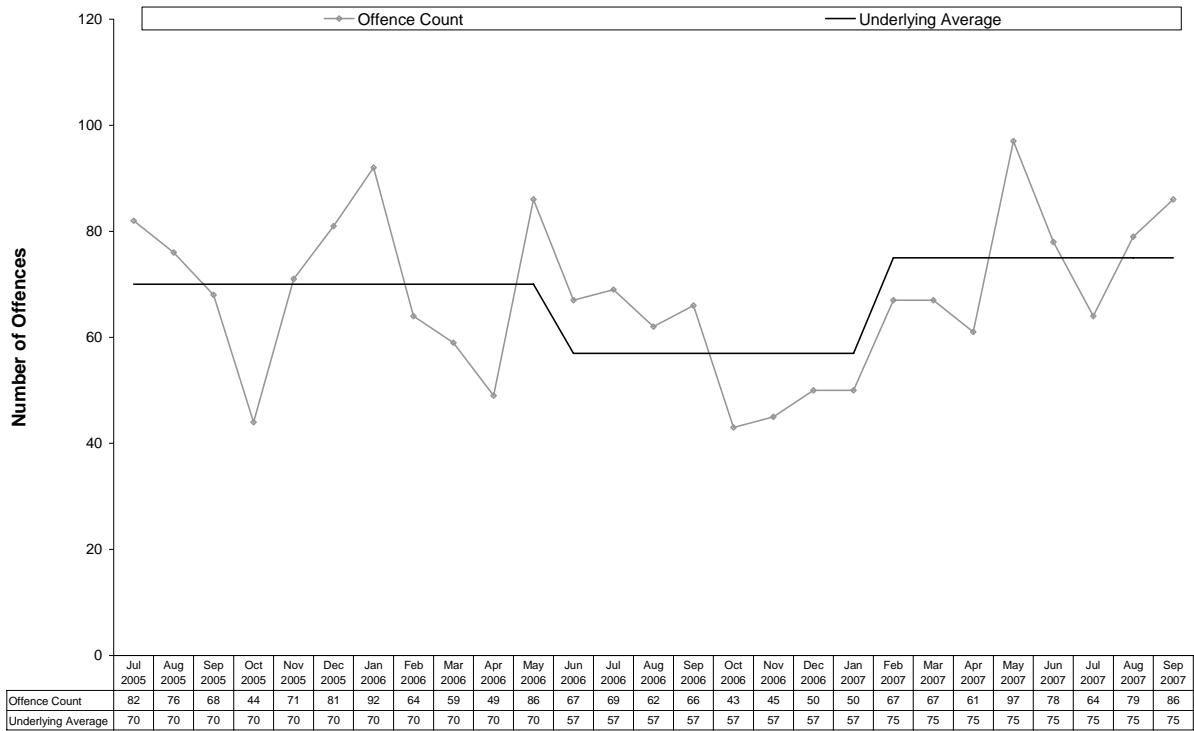
Figure 17 Recorded Break-ins to Commercial or Other Premises in Darwin



Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences

- The figure shows the underlying average level of motor vehicle theft and related offences has ranged between 57 and 75 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 75 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period. A statistically significant upward trend was identified.
- There were 229 motor vehicle theft and related offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 3% (7) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 16% (32) from the same quarter the previous year.

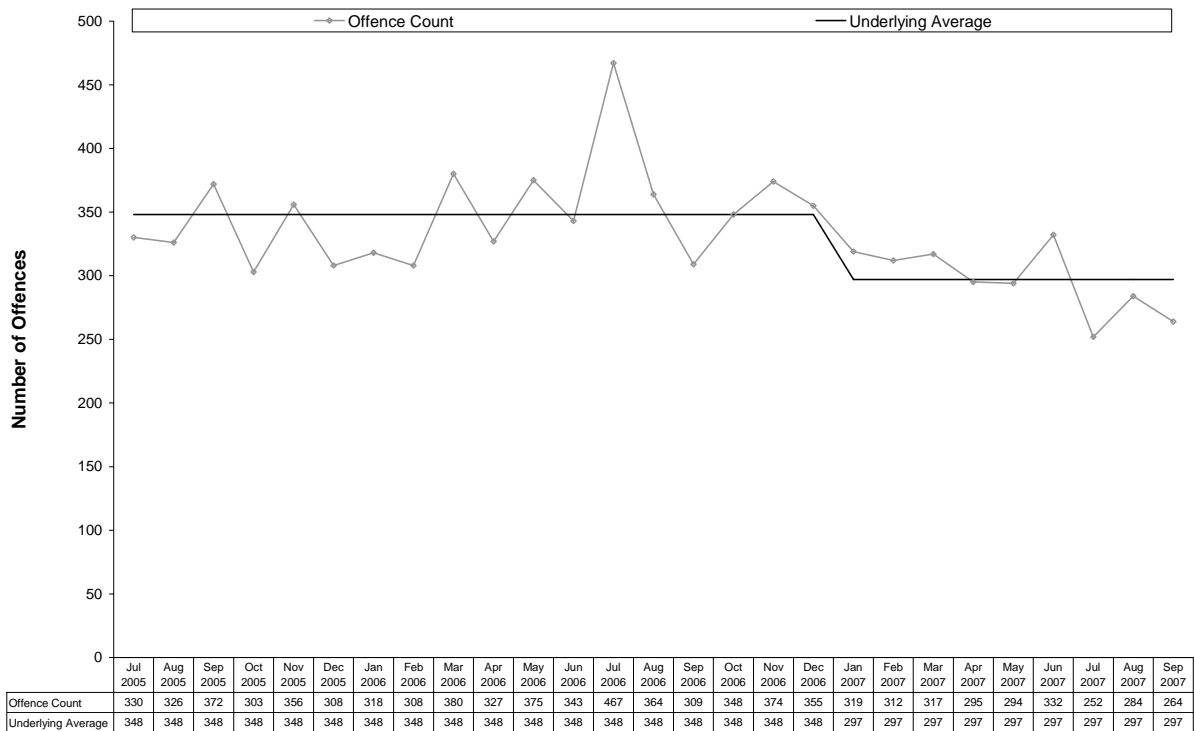
Figure 18 Recorded Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences in Darwin



Other Theft

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *other theft* has ranged between 297 and 348 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 297 per month is at the lower end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average decreased early in the period. A statistically significant downward trend was identified.
- There were 800 *other theft* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 13% (121) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 30% (340) from the same quarter the previous year.

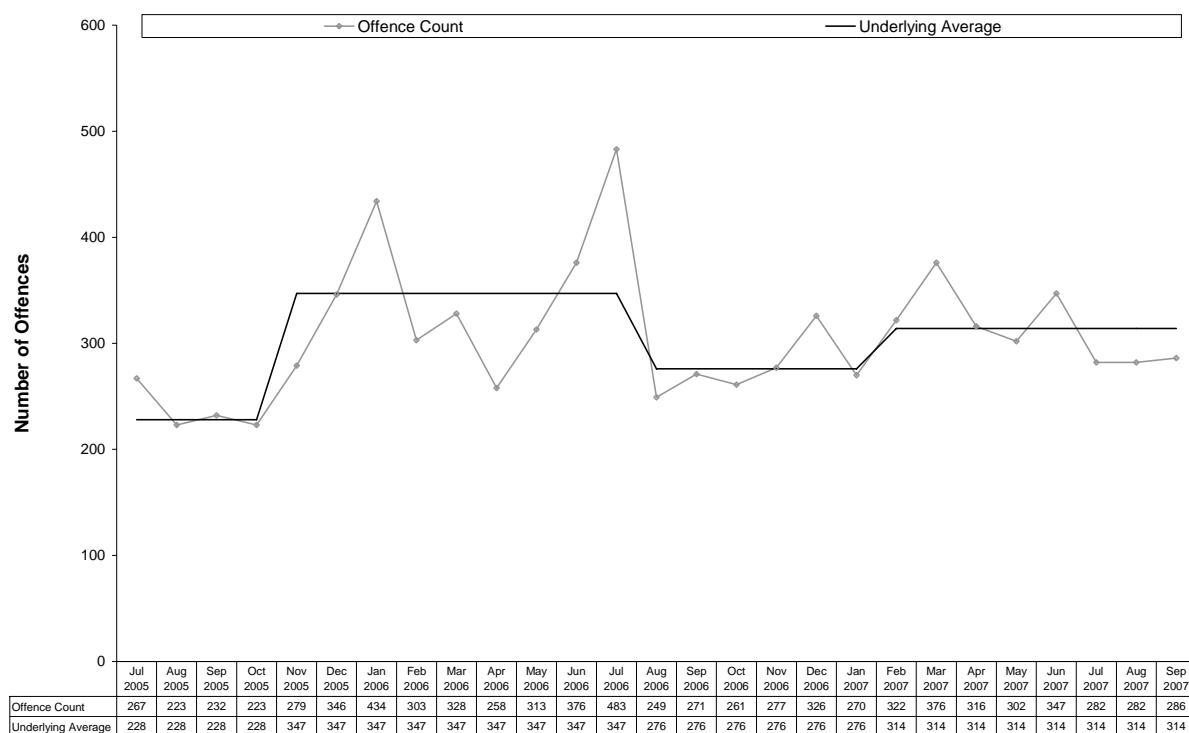
Figure 19 Recorded Other Theft in Darwin



Property Damage

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *property damage* has ranged between 228 and 347 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 314 per month is in the middle of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period.
- There were 850 *property damage* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 12% (115) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 15% (153) from the same quarter the previous year.

Figure 20 Recorded Property Damage in Darwin



3.2.3 Palmerston

The following table presents the number of recorded offences by offence category on a quarterly basis.

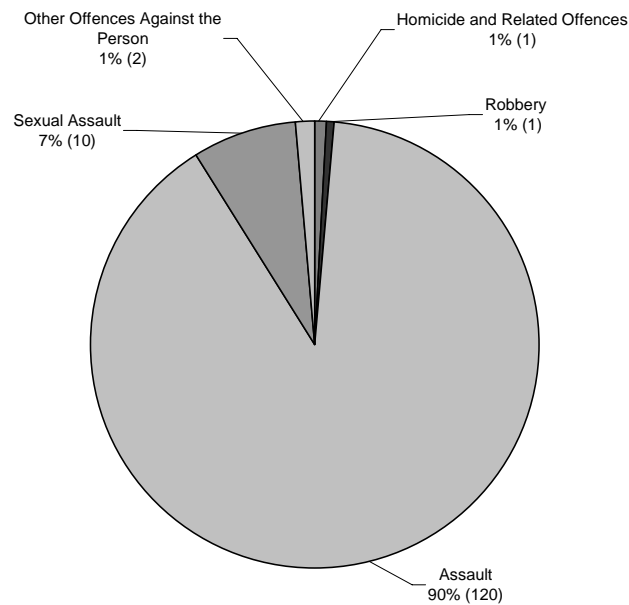
Table 3 Recorded Offences in Palmerston

	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep
	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr
	2005	2005	2006	2006	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007
Offences Against The Person									
Homicide and Related Offences									
Murder	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted Murder	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Robbery	4	0	0	1	0	2	5	6	1
Assault	54	59	58	46	64	51	96	88	120
Sexual Assault	10	9	10	8	7	7	3	9	10
Other Offences Against the Person	4	2	2	1	3	0	3	4	2
Total	72	71	71	56	74	60	107	107	134
Property Offences									
Break-ins									
House	67	52	56	78	95	48	73	72	57
Commercial or Other Premises	26	24	35	32	35	20	42	62	63
Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences	28	29	50	37	37	40	44	78	58
Other Theft	178	208	245	240	211	192	257	223	226
Property Damage	125	148	205	188	202	138	240	228	215
Other Property Offences	0	2	1	0	2	0	1	0	3
Total	424	463	592	575	582	438	657	663	622

Offences Against the Person

- In the current quarter there were 134 offences against the person recorded in Palmerston. This represents an increase of 25% (27) from the previous quarter and an increase of 81% (60) from the same quarter the previous year.
- As shown in the figure below *assault* was by far the most frequent offence, accounting for 90% of offences against the person in the current quarter. The next most frequently recorded offence was *sexual assault*, accounting for 7%. The remaining offences were *manslaughter*, *robbery* and *other offences against the person*. There were no offences recorded relating to *murder* or *attempted murder*.

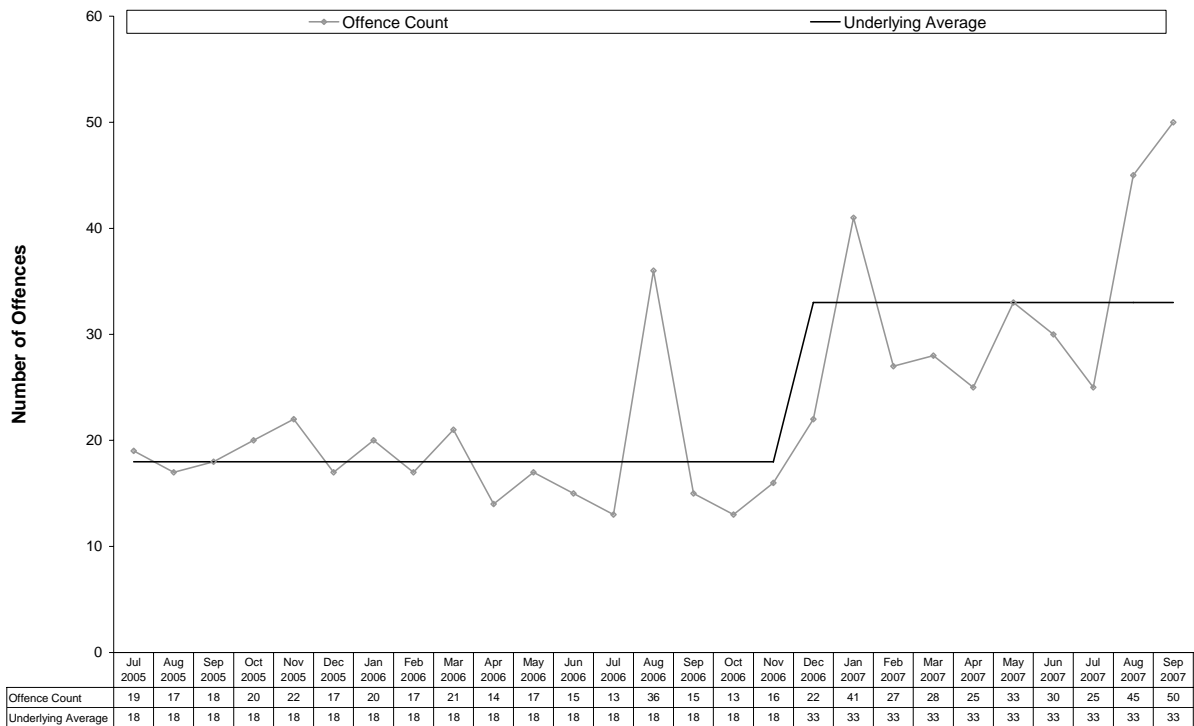
Figure 21 Recorded Offences Against the Person in Palmerston – Current Quarter



Assault

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *assault* has ranged between 18 and 33 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 33 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period. A statistically significant upward trend was identified.
- There were 120 *assault* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 36% (32) from the previous quarter and an increase of 88% (56) from the same quarter the previous year.

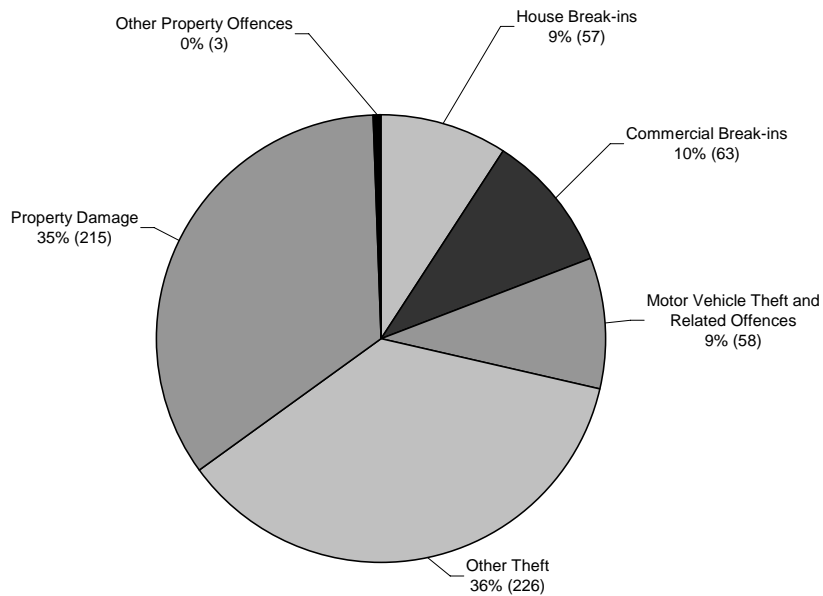
Figure 22 Recorded Assault in Palmerston



Property Offences

- In the current quarter there was a total of 622 recorded property offences in Palmerston. This represents a decrease of 6% (41) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 7% (40) from the same quarter the previous year.
- As shown in the figure below *other theft* accounted for 36% of the property offences. *Property damage* constitute 35% and *break-ins to commercial or other premises* 10%. Both *house break-ins* and *motor vehicle theft related offences* accounted for 9% each and *other property offences* accounted for less than 1%.

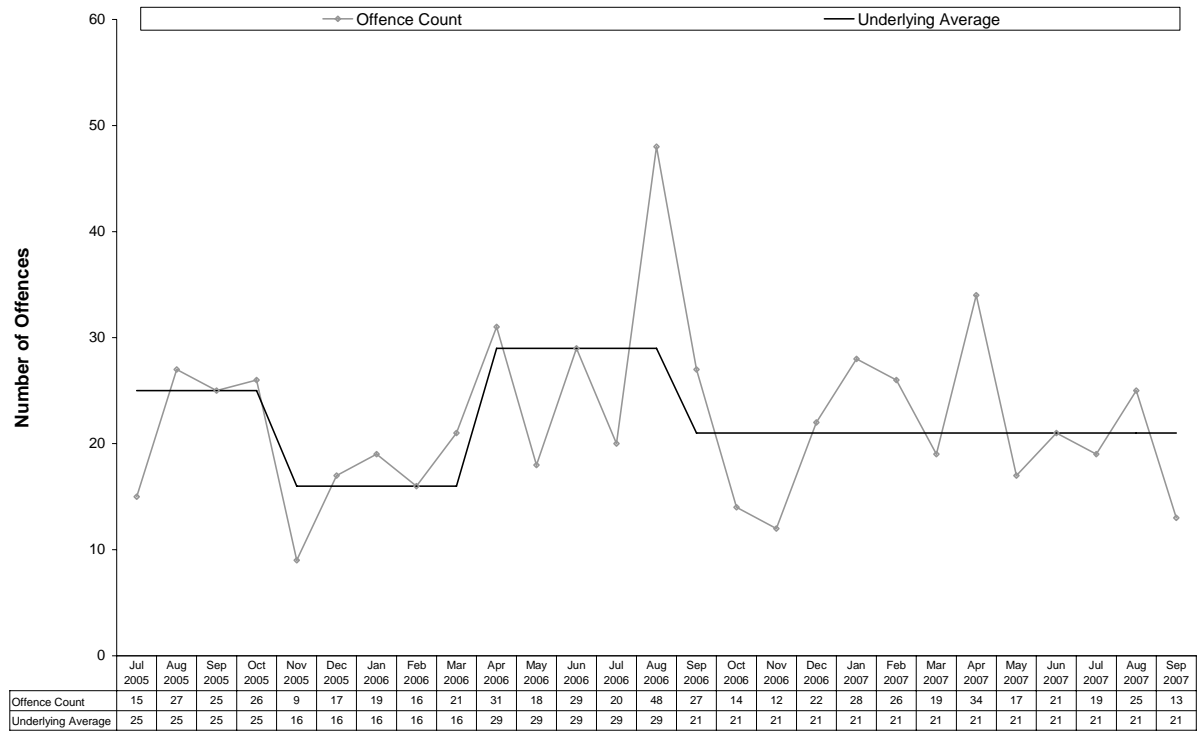
Figure 23 Recorded Property Offences in Palmerston – Current Quarter



House Break-ins

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *house break-ins* has ranged between 16 and 29 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 21 per month is in the middle of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable.
- There were 57 *house break-ins* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 21% (15) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 40% (38) from the same quarter the previous year.

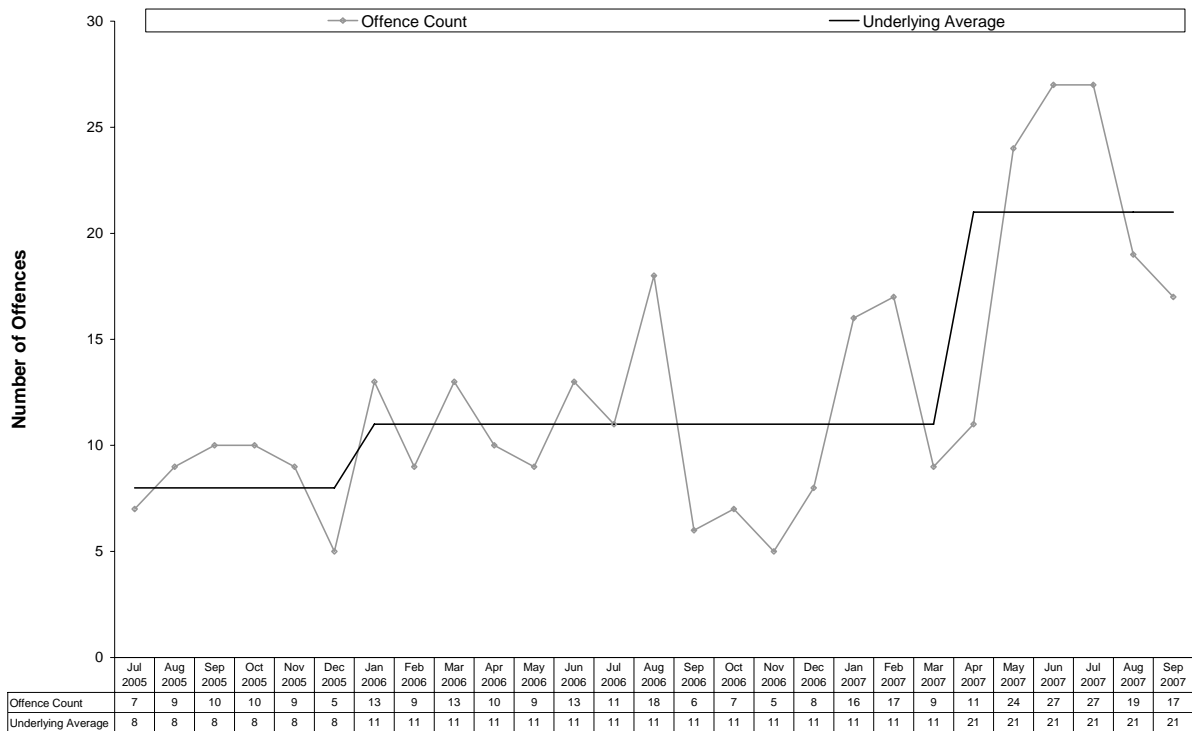
Figure 24 Recorded House Break-ins in Palmerston



Break-ins to Commercial or Other Premises

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *break-ins to commercial or other premises* has ranged between 8 and 21 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 21 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased in the middle of the period. A statistically significant upward trend was identified.
- There were 63 *break-ins to commercial or other premises* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 2% (1) from the previous quarter and an increase of 80% (28) from the same quarter the previous year.

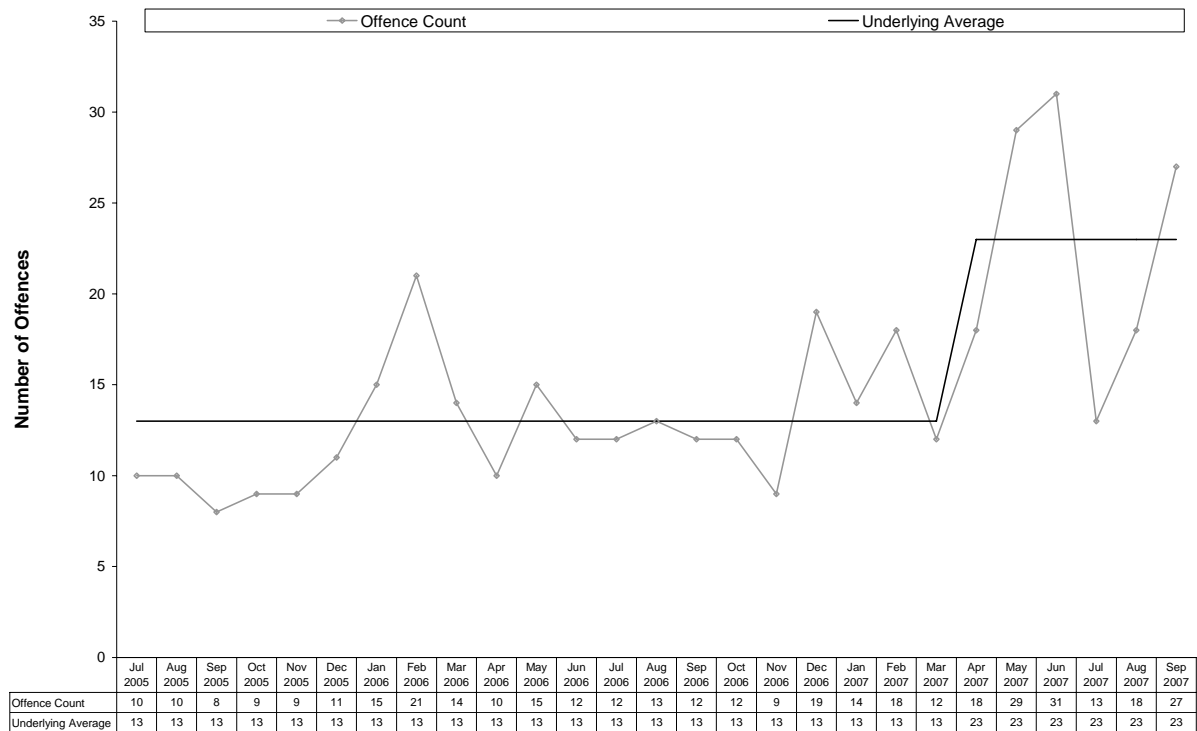
Figure 25 Recorded Break-ins to Commercial or Other Premises in Palmerston



Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *motor vehicle theft and related offences* has ranged between 13 and 23 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 23 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased in the middle of the period.
- There were 58 *motor vehicle theft and related offences* recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 26% (20) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 57% (21) from the same quarter the previous year.

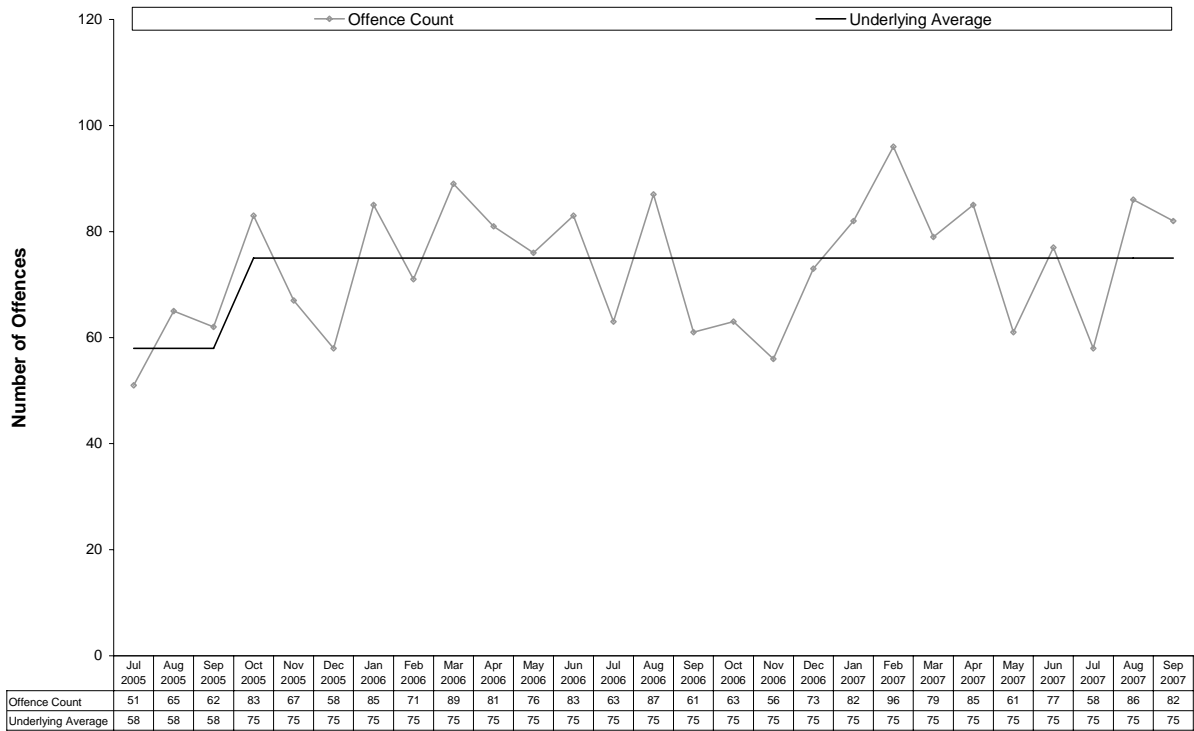
Figure 26 Recorded Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences in Palmerston



Other Theft

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *other theft* has ranged between 58 and 75 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 75 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable.
- There were 226 *other theft* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 1% (3) from the previous quarter and an increase of 7% (15) from the same quarter the previous year.

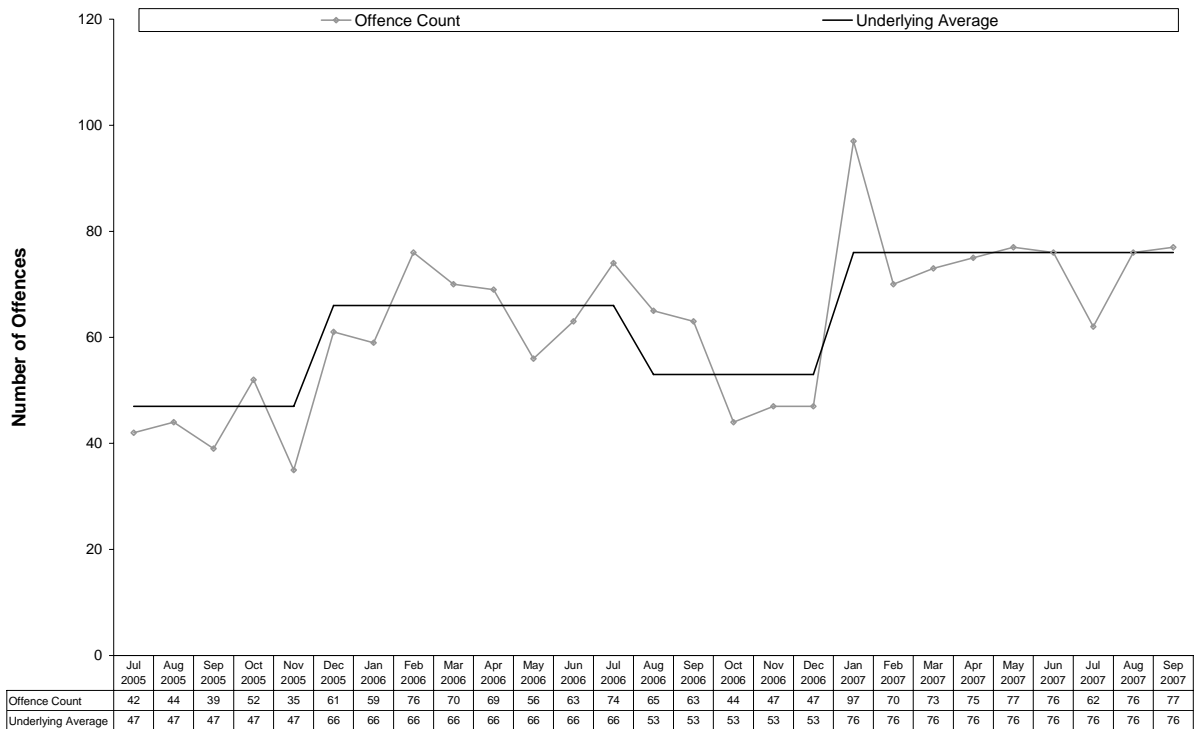
Figure 27 Recorded Other Theft in Palmerston



Property Damage

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *property damage* has ranged between 47 and 76 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 76 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period. A statistically significant upward trend was identified.
- There were 215 *property damage* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 6% (13) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 6% (13) from the same quarter the previous year.

Figure 28 Recorded Property Damage in Palmerston



3.2.4 Alice Springs

The following table presents the number of recorded offences by offence category on a quarterly basis.

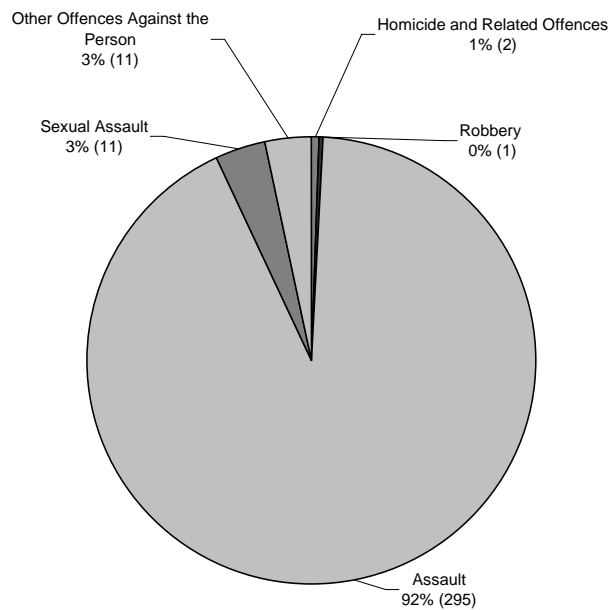
Table 4 Recorded Offences in Alice Springs

	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep
	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr
	2005	2005	2006	2006	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007
Offences Against The Person									
Homicide and Related Offences									
Murder	4	2	2	2	0	0	1	3	1
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1
Manslaughter	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	1	2	3	2	4	0	2	5	1
Assault	251	316	354	191	217	267	305	294	295
Sexual Assault	16	8	20	5	8	12	12	10	11
Other Offences Against the Person	3	3	2	5	8	9	5	4	11
Total	277	333	381	205	237	288	326	318	320
Property Offences									
Break-ins									
House	59	62	98	57	45	62	65	58	48
Commercial or Other Premises	56	69	93	85	56	65	107	80	69
Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences	72	68	68	77	76	53	55	77	69
Other Theft	247	275	368	291	276	323	364	305	236
Property Damage	274	343	382	291	373	412	450	408	375
Other Property Offences	5	3	3	5	1	7	5	1	5
Total	713	820	1012	806	827	922	1046	929	802

Offences Against the Person

- In the current quarter, a total of 320 offences against the person were recorded in Alice Springs. This represents an increase of 1% (2) from the previous quarter and an increase of 35% (83) from the same quarter the previous year.
- As shown in the figure below *assault* was by far the most frequent offence, accounting for 92% of offences against the person in the current quarter. The remaining offences included *murder, attempted murder, robbery, sexual assault* and *other offences against the person*. There were no offences recorded relating to *manslaughter*.

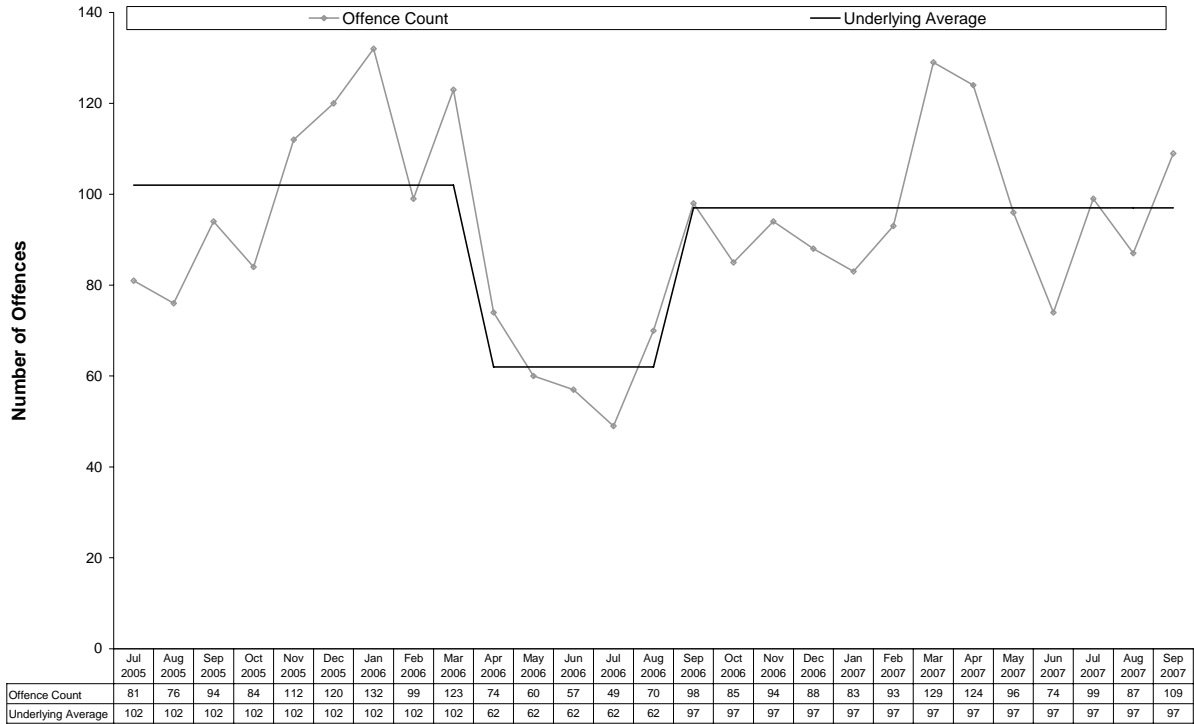
Figure 29 Recorded Offences Against the Person in Alice Springs – Current Quarter



Assault

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *assault* has ranged between 62 and 102 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 97 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable.
- There were 295 *assault* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of less than one percent (1) from the previous quarter and an increase of 36% (78) from the same quarter the previous year.

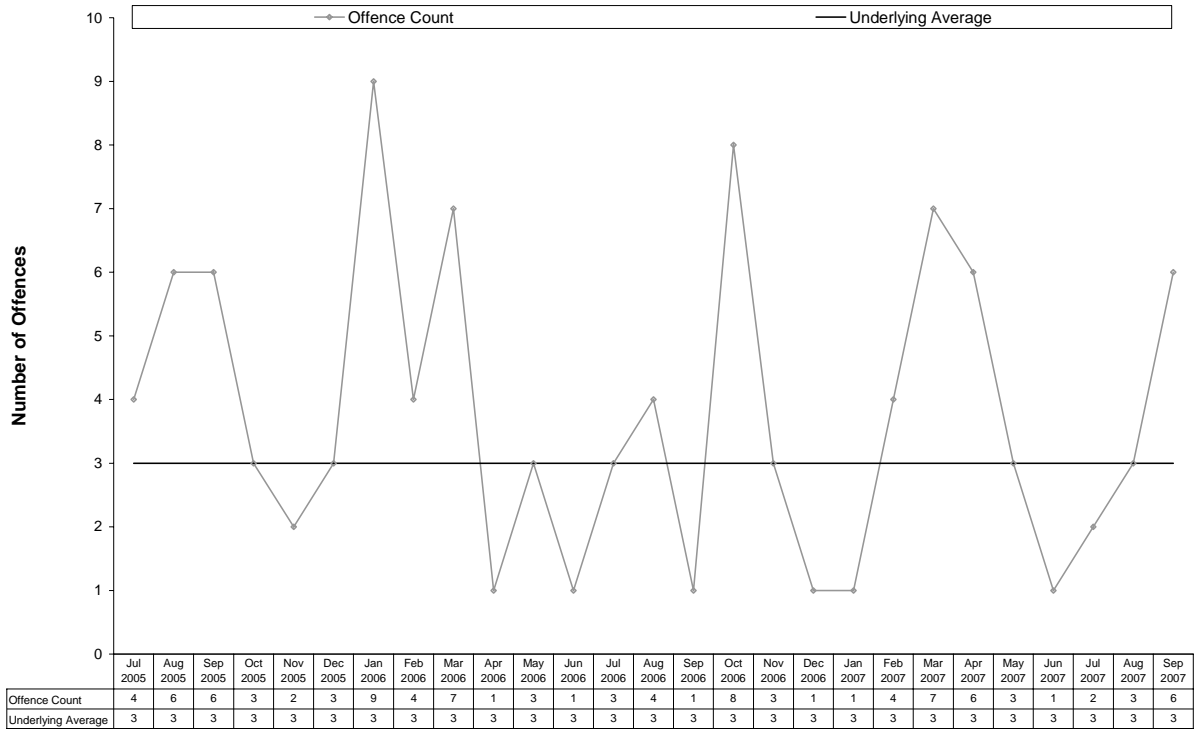
Figure 30 Recorded Assault in Alice Springs



Sexual Assault

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *sexual assault* has remained stable at 3 offences per month during the past nine quarters.
- There were 11 *sexual assault* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 10% (1) from the previous quarter and an increase of 38% (3) from the same quarter the previous year.

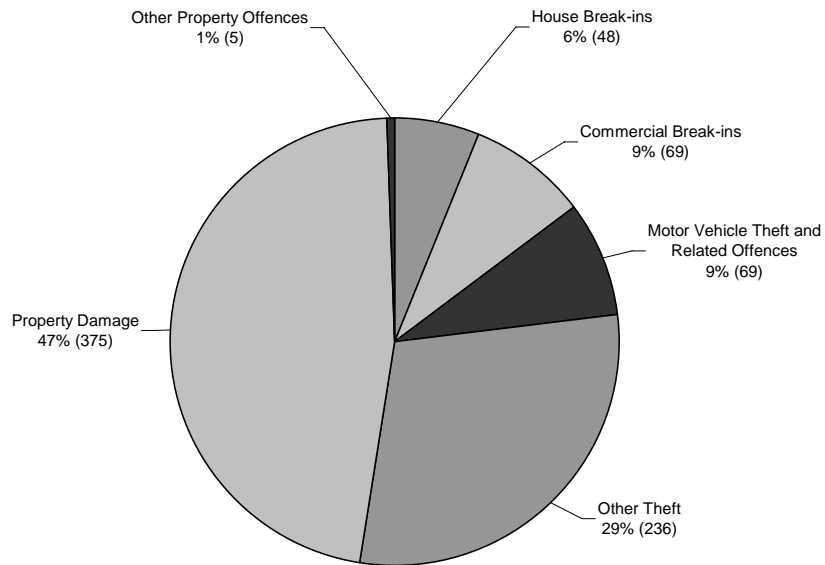
Figure 31 Recorded Sexual Assault in Alice Springs



Property Offences

- In the current quarter there was a total of 802 recorded property offences in Alice Springs. This represents a decrease of 14% (127) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 3% (25) from the same quarter the previous year.
- The figure below shows 47% of the property offences relate to *property damage* and 29% relate to *other theft*. Both *break-ins to commercial or other premises* and *motor vehicle theft and related offences* accounted for 9% each while *house break-ins* accounted for 6% and *other property offences* 1%.

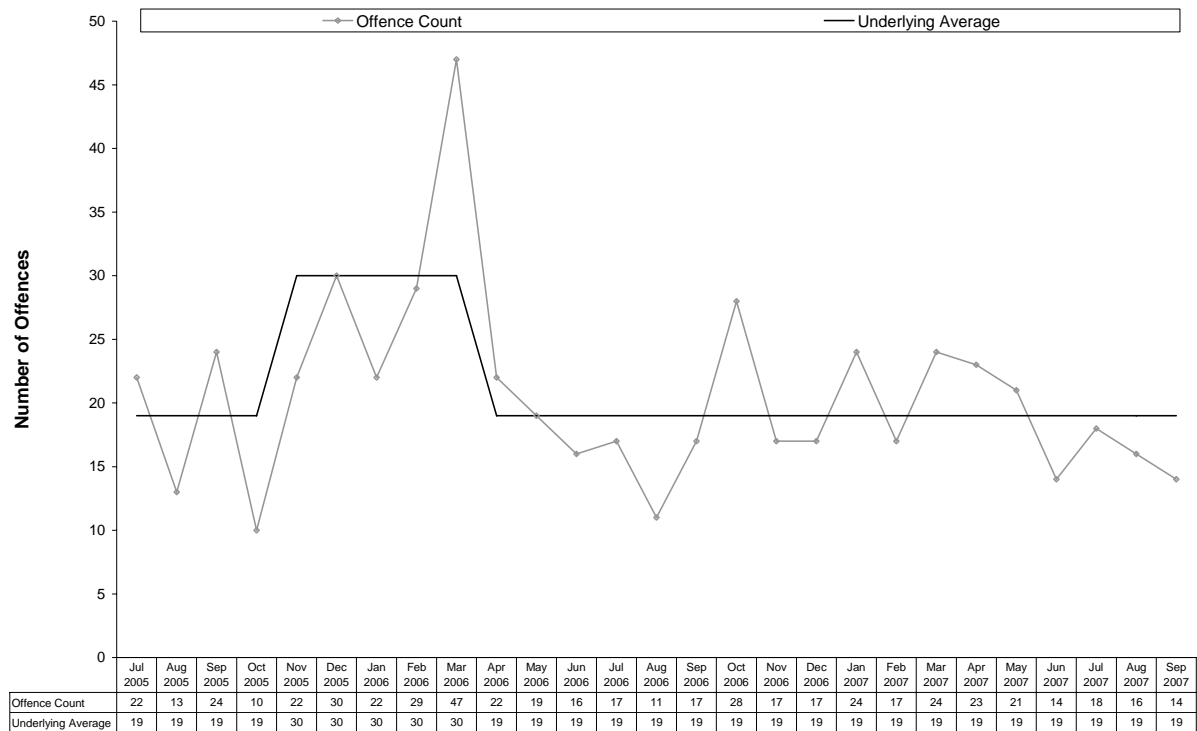
Figure 32 Recorded Property Offences in Alice Springs – Current Quarter



House Break-ins

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *house break-ins* has ranged between 19 and 30 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 19 per month is at the lower end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable. A statistically significant downward trend was identified.
- There were 48 *house break-ins* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 17% (10) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 7% (3) from the same quarter the previous year.

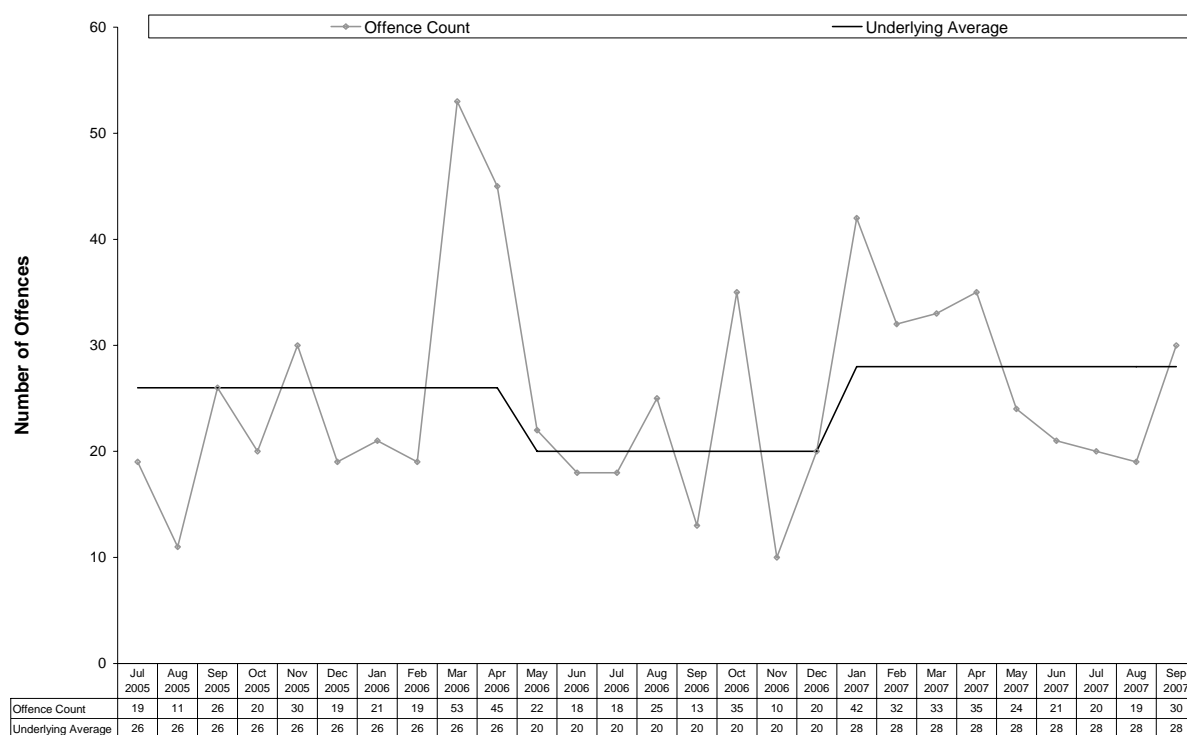
Figure 33 Recorded House Break-ins in Alice Springs



Break-ins to Commercial or Other Premises

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *break-ins to commercial or other premises* has ranged between 20 and 28 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 28 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period.
- There were 69 *break-ins to commercial or other premises* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 14% (11) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 23% (13) from the same quarter the previous year.

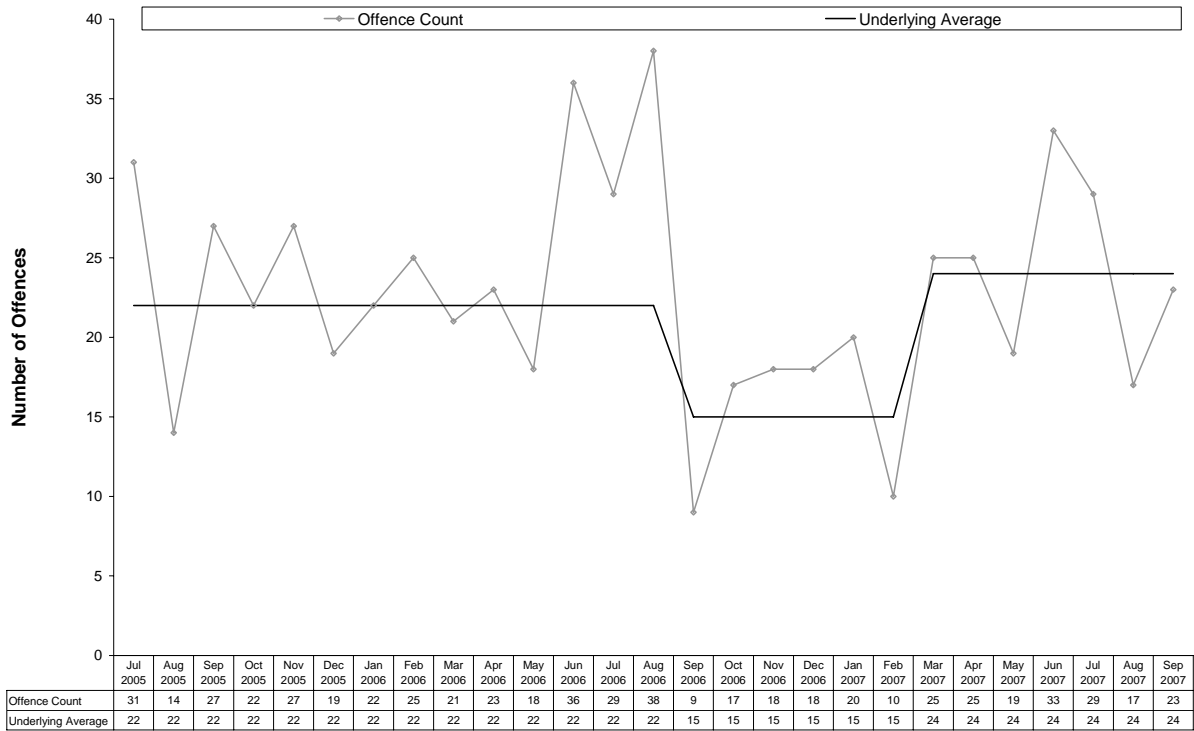
Figure 34 Recorded Break-ins to Commercial or Other Premises in Alice Springs



Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *motor vehicle theft and related offences* has ranged between 15 and 24 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 24 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased in the middle of the period.
- There were 69 *motor vehicle theft and related offences* recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 10% (8) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 9% (7) from the same quarter the previous year.

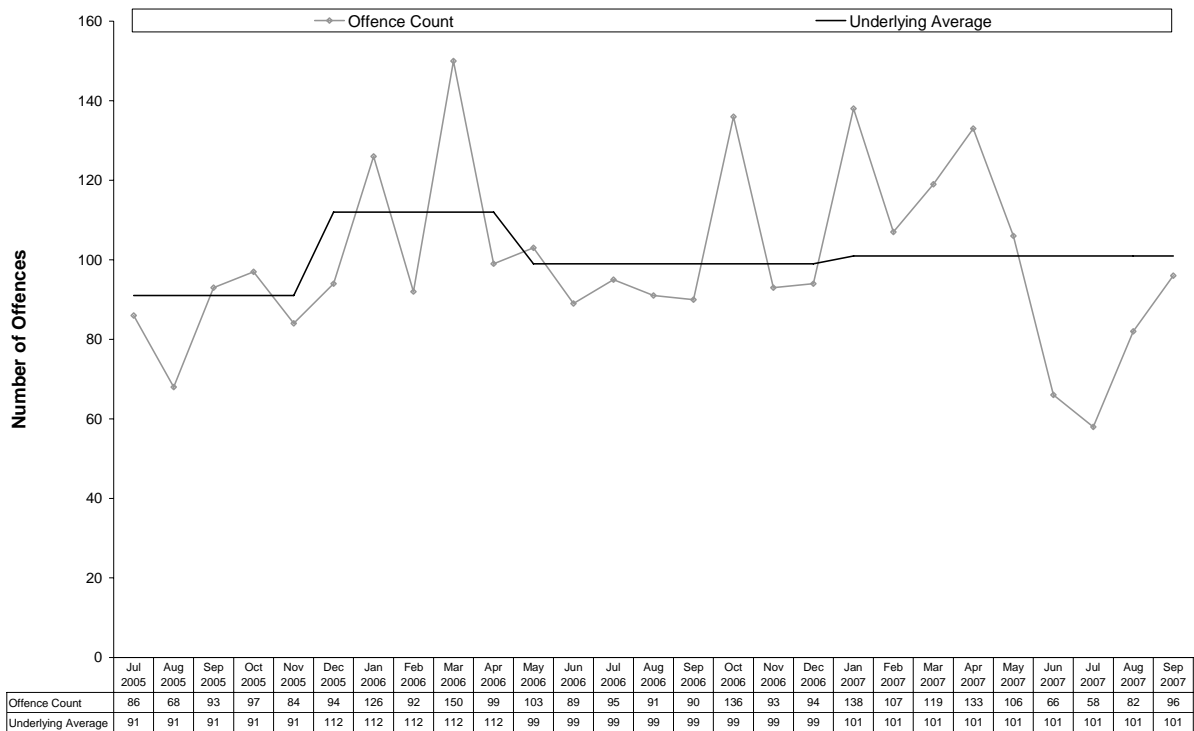
Figure 35 Recorded Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences in Alice Springs



Other Theft

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *other theft* has ranged between 91 and 112 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 101 per month is in the middle of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period.
- There were 236 *other theft* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 23% (69) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 14% (40) from the same quarter the previous year.

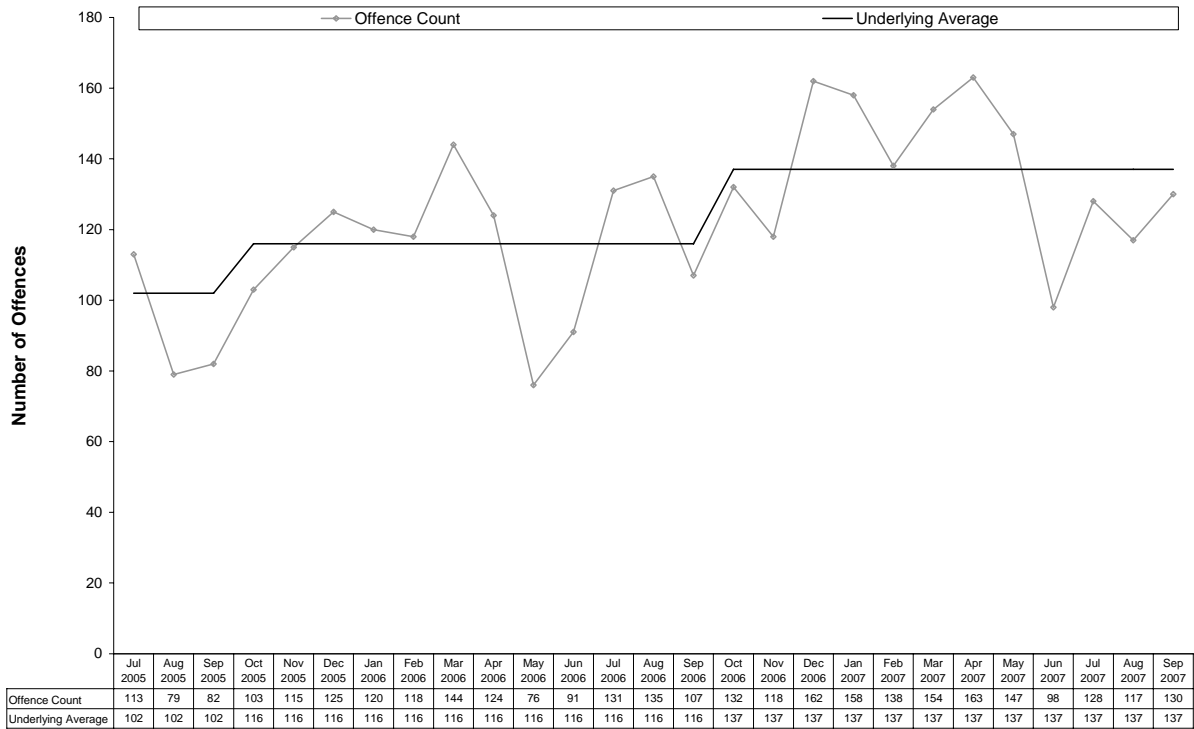
Figure 36 Recorded Other Theft in Alice Springs



Property Damage

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *property damage* has ranged between 102 and 137 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 137 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable.
- There were 375 *property damage* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 8% (33) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 1% (2) from the same quarter the previous year.

Figure 37 Recorded Property Damage in Alice Springs



3.2.5 Katherine

The following table presents the number of recorded offences by offence category on a quarterly basis.

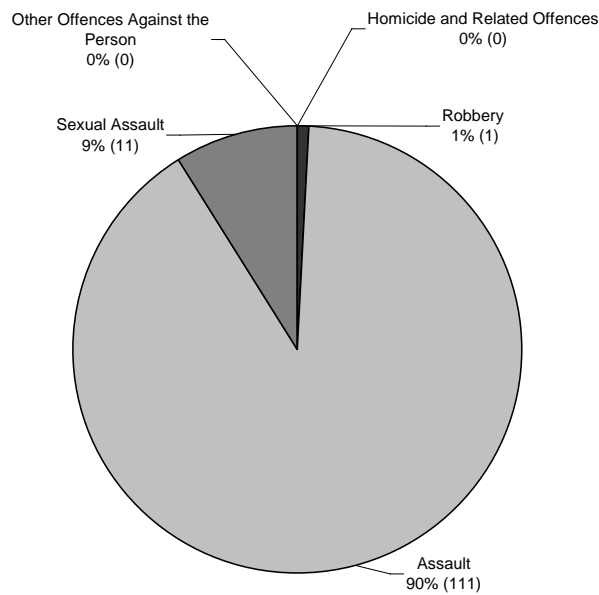
Table 5 Recorded Offences in Katherine

	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep
	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr
	2005	2005	2006	2006	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007
Offences Against The Person									
Homicide and Related Offences									
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Manslaughter	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	0	1
Assault	116	134	148	113	88	129	149	112	111
Sexual Assault	6	2	4	3	9	7	5	9	11
Other Offences Against the Person	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	2	0
Total	123	137	153	117	100	139	159	125	123
Property Offences									
Break-ins									
House	25	19	29	27	22	29	36	20	31
Commercial or Other Premises	21	19	32	14	23	15	30	24	29
Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences	19	13	21	9	4	8	14	16	20
Other Theft	91	100	127	110	97	93	136	102	94
Property Damage	65	76	88	60	48	71	92	63	76
Other Property Offences	1	3	1	4	3	0	2	4	1
Total	222	230	298	224	197	216	310	229	251

Offences Against the Person

- In the current quarter, a total of 123 offences against the person were recorded in Katherine. This represents a decrease of 2% (2) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 23% (23) from the same quarter the previous year.
- As shown in the figure below *assault* was the dominant offence, accounting for 90% of offences against the person in the current quarter. The next most frequently recorded offence was *sexual assault* accounting for 9% and *robbery* 1%. There were no recorded offences relating to *murder*, *attempted murder*, *manslaughter* or *other offences against the person*.

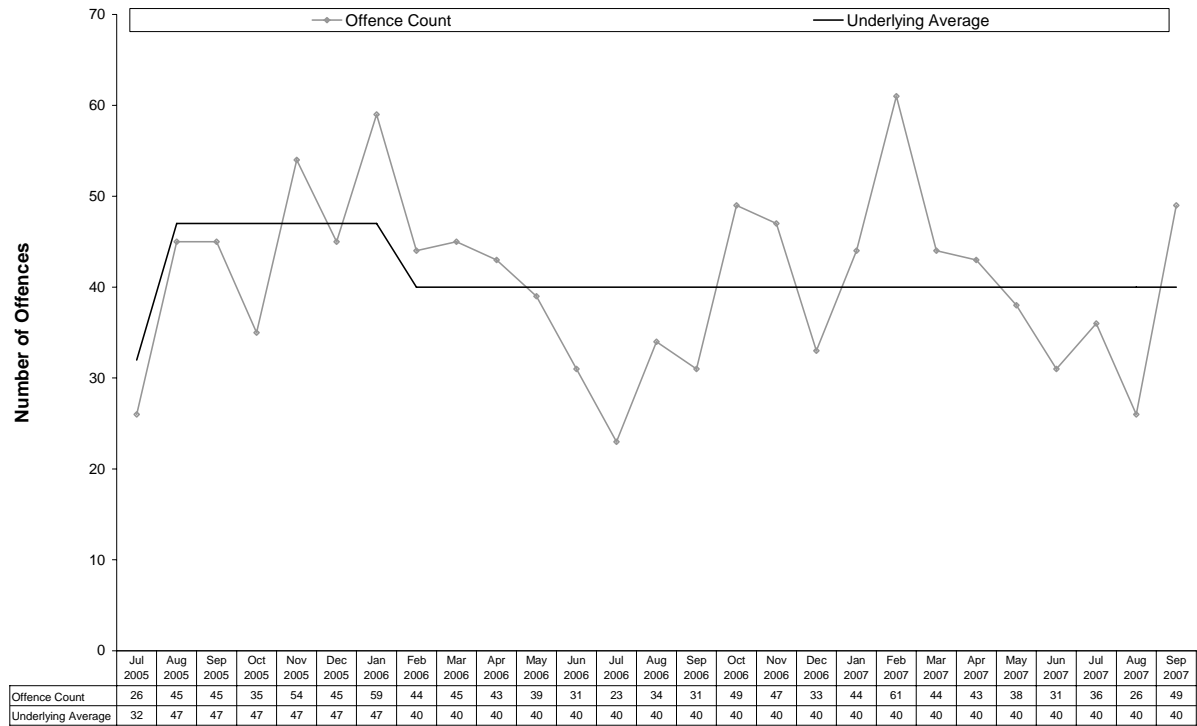
Figure 38 Recorded Offences Against the Person in Katherine – Current Quarter



Assault

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *assault* has ranged between 32 and 47 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 40 per month is in the middle of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable.
- There were 111 *assault* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 1% (1) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 26% (23) from the same quarter the previous year.

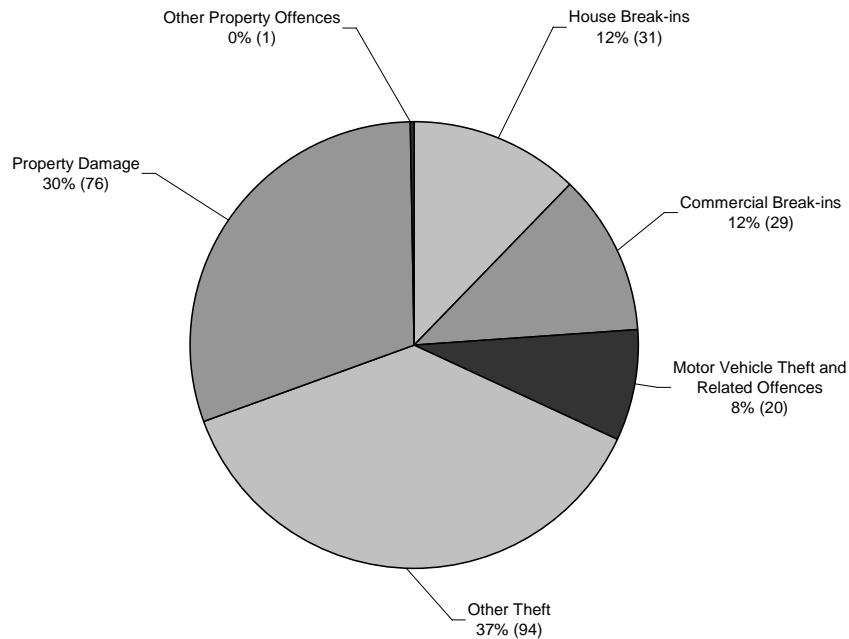
Figure 39 Recorded Assault in Katherine



Property Offences

- In the current quarter there was a total of 251 recorded property offences in Katherine. This represents an increase of 10% (22) from the previous quarter and an increase of 27% (54) from the same quarter the previous year.
- The figure below shows 37% of property offences relate to *other theft*, with *property damage* at 30%. *House break-ins* and *break-ins to commercial or other premises* both accounted for 12% each, *motor vehicle theft and related offences* accounted for 8% and *other property offences* less than 1%.

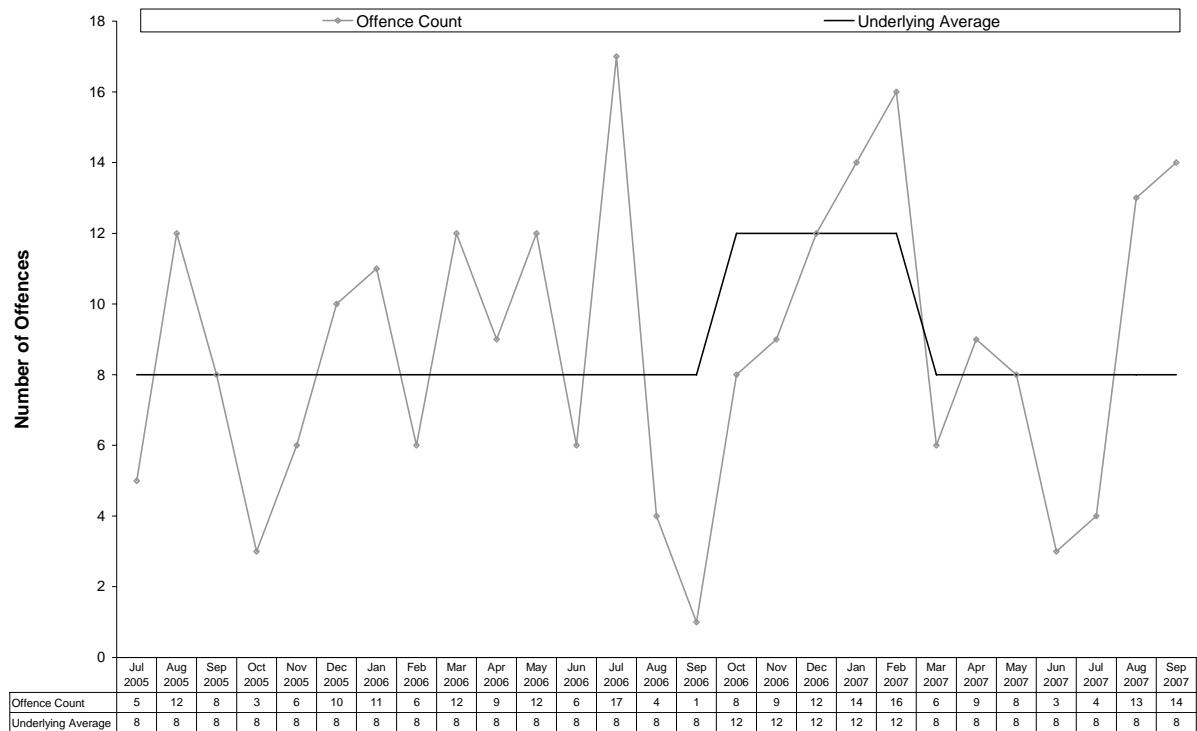
Figure 40 Recorded Property Offences in Katherine – Current Quarter



House Break-ins

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *house break-ins* has ranged between 8 and 12 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 8 per month is at the lower end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average decreased in the middle of the period.
- There were 31 *house break-ins* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 55% (11) from the previous quarter and an increase of 41% (9) from the same quarter the previous year.

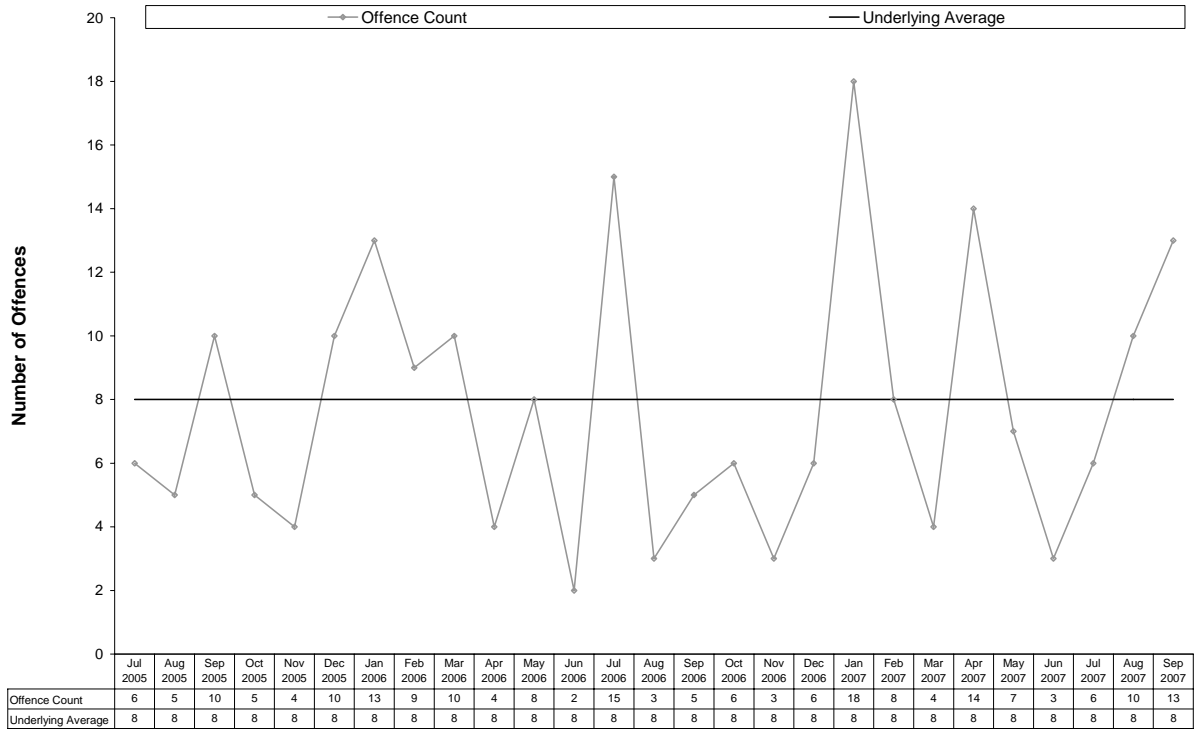
Figure 41 Recorded House Break-ins in Katherine



Break-ins to Commercial or Other Premises

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *break-ins to commercial or other premises* has remained stable at 8 offences per month during the past nine quarters.
- There were 29 *break-ins to commercial or other premises* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 21% (5) from the previous quarter and an increase of 26% (6) from the same quarter the previous year.

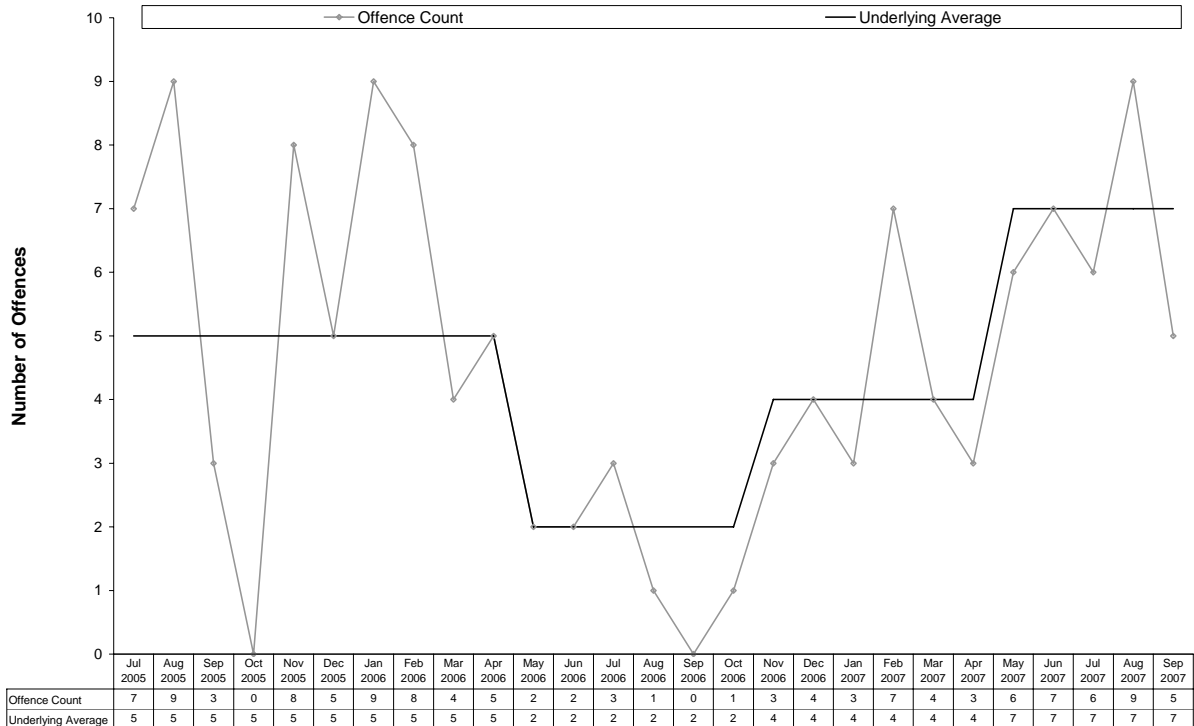
Figure 42 Recorded Break-ins to Commercial or Other Premises in Katherine



Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *motor vehicle theft and related offences* has ranged between 2 and 7 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 7 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period and increased again in the middle of the period. A statistically significant upward trend was identified.
- There were 20 *motor vehicle theft and related offences* recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 25% (4) from the previous quarter and an increase of 400% (16) from the same quarter the previous year.

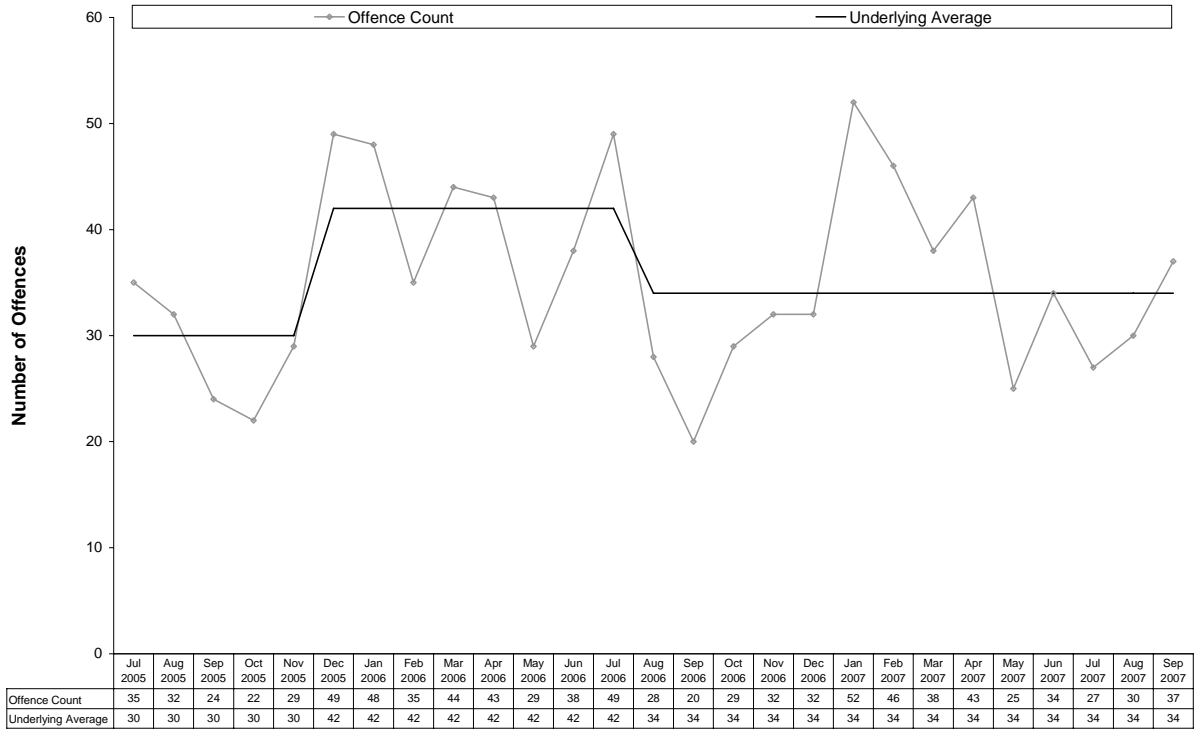
Figure 43 Recorded Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences in Katherine



Other Theft

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *other theft* has ranged between 30 and 42 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 34 per month is in the middle of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable.
- There were 94 *other theft* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 8% (8) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 3% (3) from the same quarter the previous year.

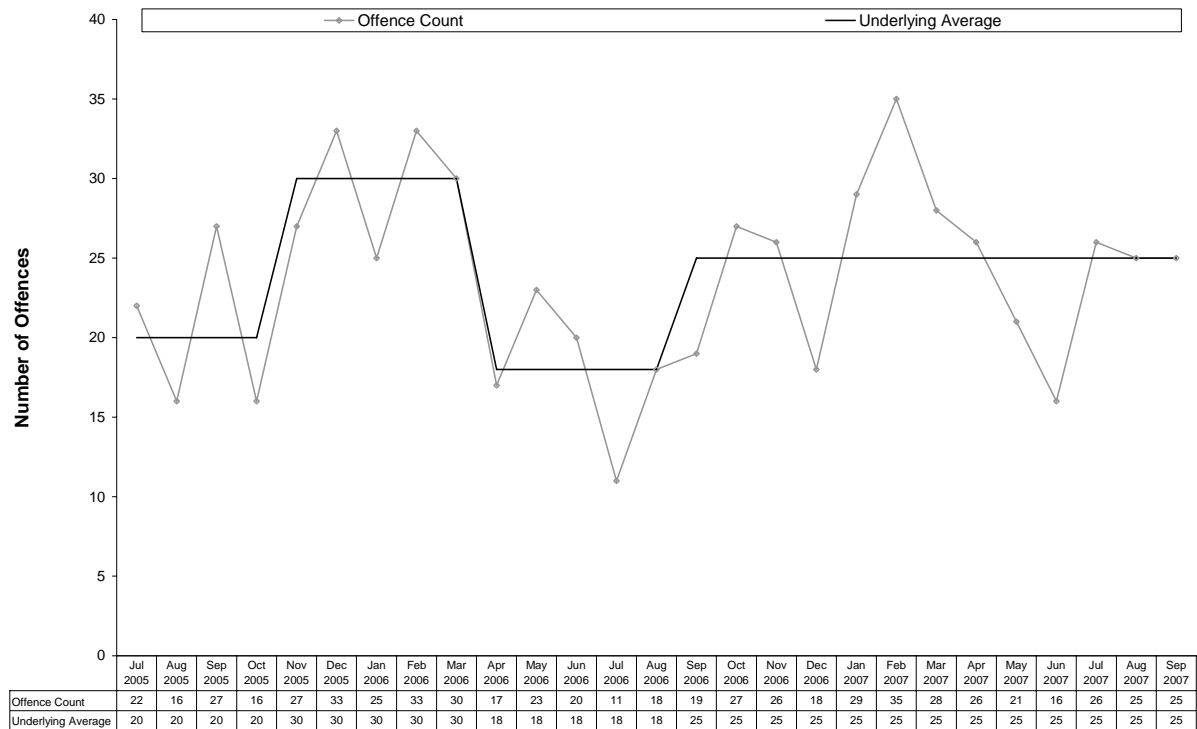
Figure 44 Recorded Other Theft in Katherine



Property Damage

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *property damage* has ranged between 18 and 30 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 25 per month is in the middle of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable.
- There were 76 *property damage* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 21% (13) from the previous quarter and an increase of 58% (28) from the same quarter the previous year.

Figure 45 Recorded Property Damage in Katherine



3.2.6 Tennant Creek

The small population of Tennant Creek results in relatively low numbers of offences that are particularly volatile and may result in large proportional swings from one period to the next. The following table presents the number of recorded offences by offence category on a quarterly basis.

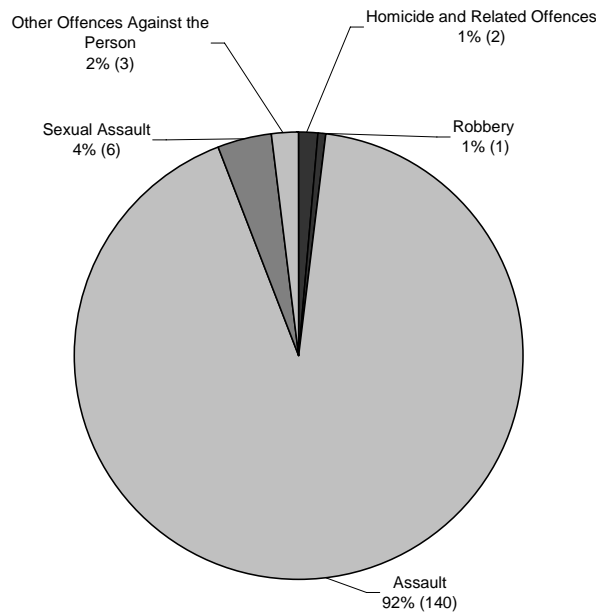
Table 6 Recorded Offences in Tennant Creek

	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep
	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr
	2005	2005	2006	2006	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007
Offences Against The Person									
Homicide and Related Offences									
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Robbery	0	2	1	3	0	1	0	1	1
Assault	88	96	129	104	79	111	123	104	140
Sexual Assault	6	2	8	11	4	4	4	3	6
Other Offences Against the Person	0	2	1	4	6	0	0	1	3
Total	94	102	139	122	89	116	127	109	152
Property Offences									
Break-ins									
House	10	24	23	13	7	22	14	18	11
Commercial or Other Premises	9	12	42	20	14	20	29	27	13
Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences	3	7	7	6	2	2	2	6	4
Other Theft	49	61	99	37	42	60	57	68	47
Property Damage	41	52	81	59	46	63	56	83	52
Other Property Offences	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	1
Total	112	158	253	135	111	167	160	202	128

Offences Against the Person

- In the current quarter, a total of 152 offences against the person were recorded in Tennant Creek. This represents an increase of 39% (43) from the previous quarter and an increase of 71% (63) from the same quarter the previous year.
- As shown in the figure below *assault* was the dominant offence, accounting for 92% of offences against the person in the current quarter. *Sexual assault* constitute 4% and *other offences against the person* 2%. The remaining offences were *murder*, *manslaughter* and *robbery*. There were no offences recorded relating to *attempted murder*.

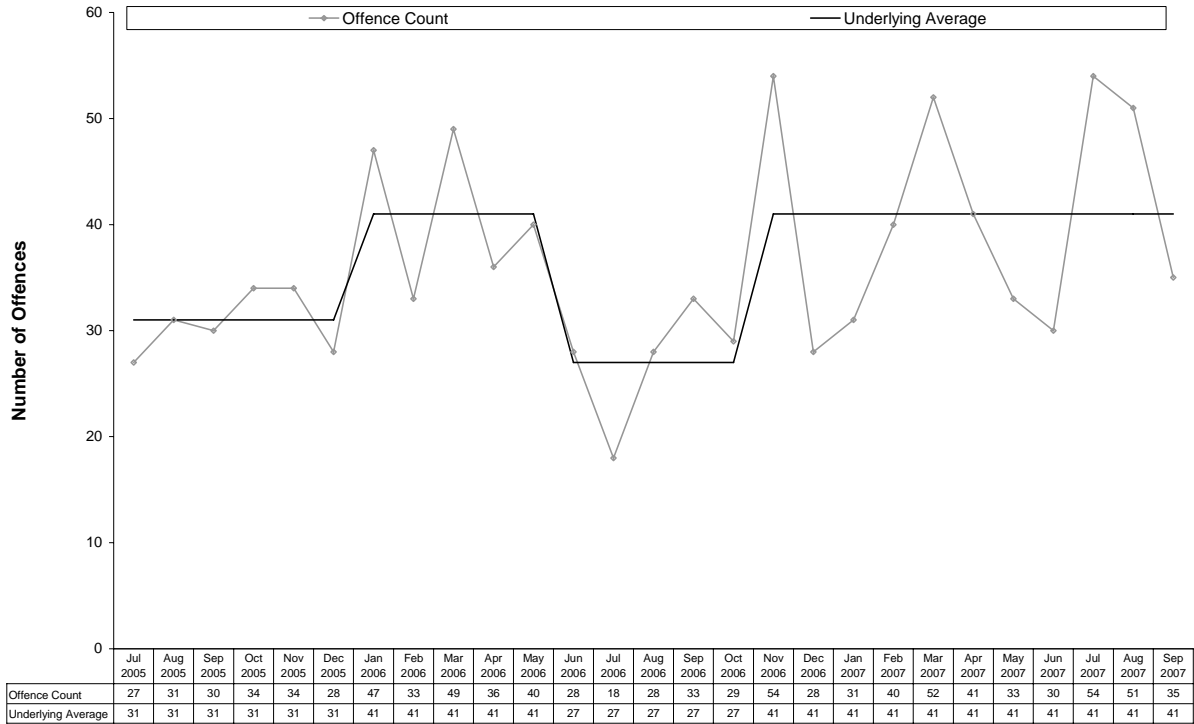
Figure 46 Recorded Offences Against the Person in Tennant Creek – Current Quarter



Assault

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *assault* has ranged between 27 and 41 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 41 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period.
- There were 140 *assault* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 35% (36) from the previous quarter and an increase of 77% (61) from the same quarter the previous year.

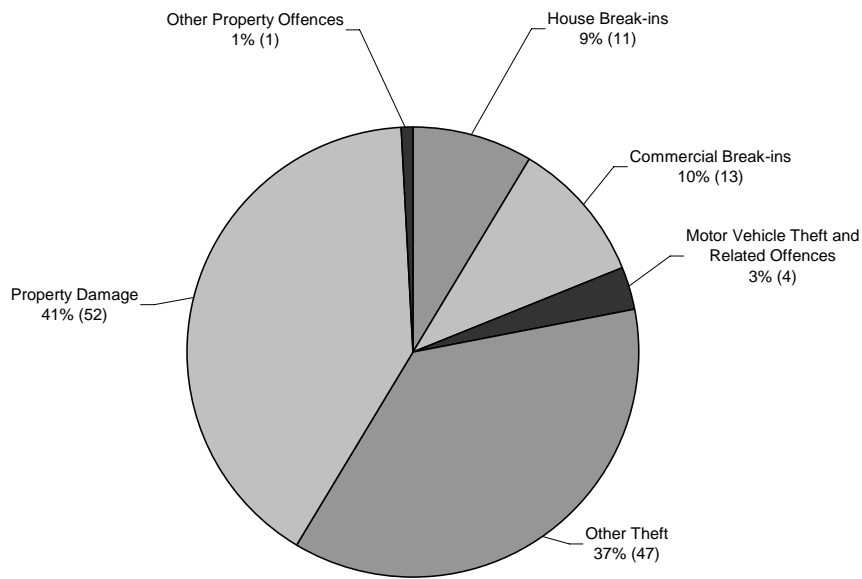
Figure 47 Recorded Assault in Tennant Creek



Property Offences

- In the current quarter there was a total of 128 recorded property offences in Tennant Creek. This represents a decrease of 37% (74) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 15% (17) from the same quarter the previous year.
- The figure below shows 41% of property offences relate to *property damage*, with *other theft* at 37%. *Break-ins to commercial or other premises* constitute 10%, *house break-ins* 9%, *motor vehicle theft and related offences* 3% and *other property offences* 1%.

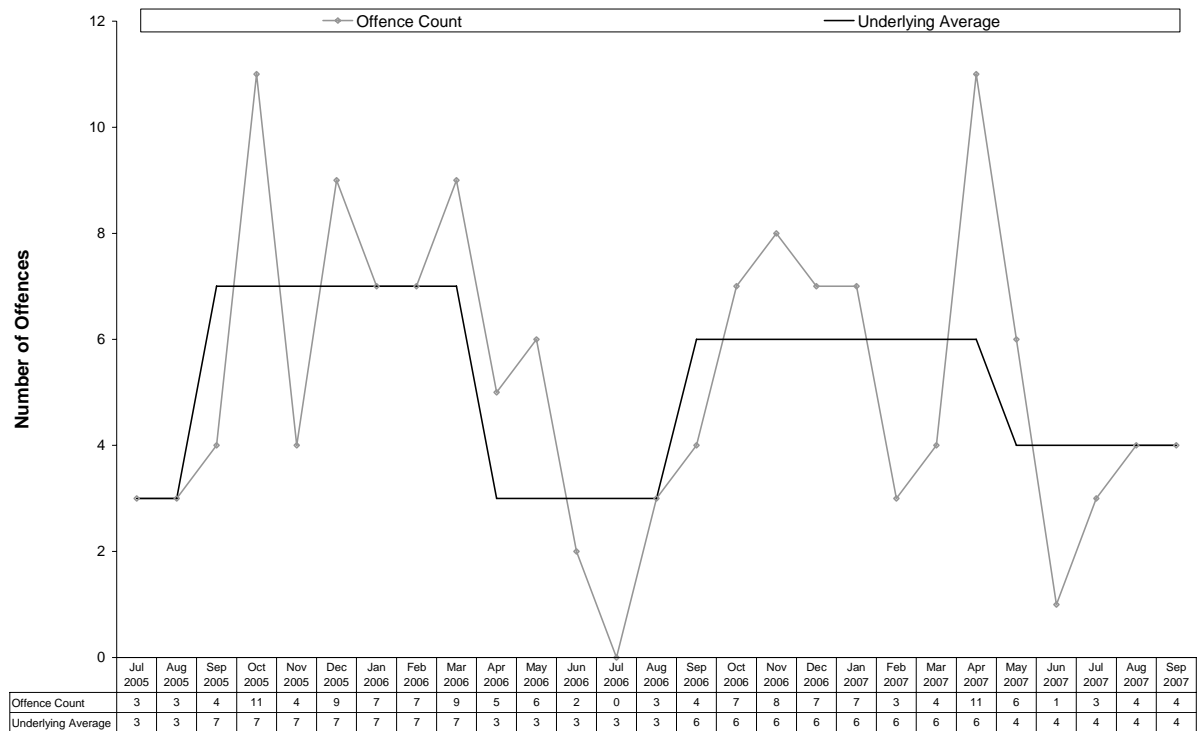
Figure 48 Recorded Property Offences in Tennant Creek – Current Quarter



House Break-ins

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *house break-ins* has ranged between 3 and 7 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 4 per month is in the middle of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average decreased in the middle of the period.
- There were 11 *house break-ins* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 39% (7) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 57% (4) from the same quarter the previous year.

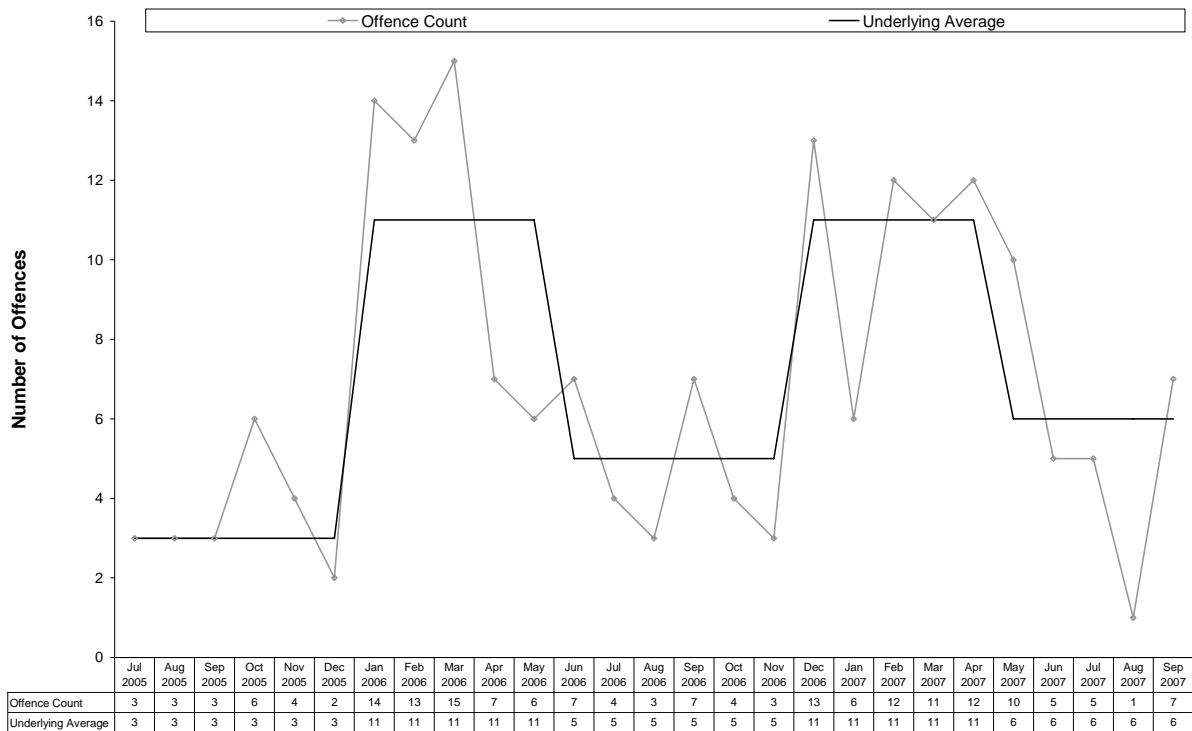
Figure 49 Recorded House Break-ins in Tennant Creek



Break-ins to Commercial or Other Premises

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *break-ins to commercial or other premises* has ranged between 3 and 11 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 6 per month is in the middle of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period and decreased in the middle of the period.
- There were 13 *break-ins to commercial or other premises* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 52% (14) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 7% (1) from the same quarter the previous year.

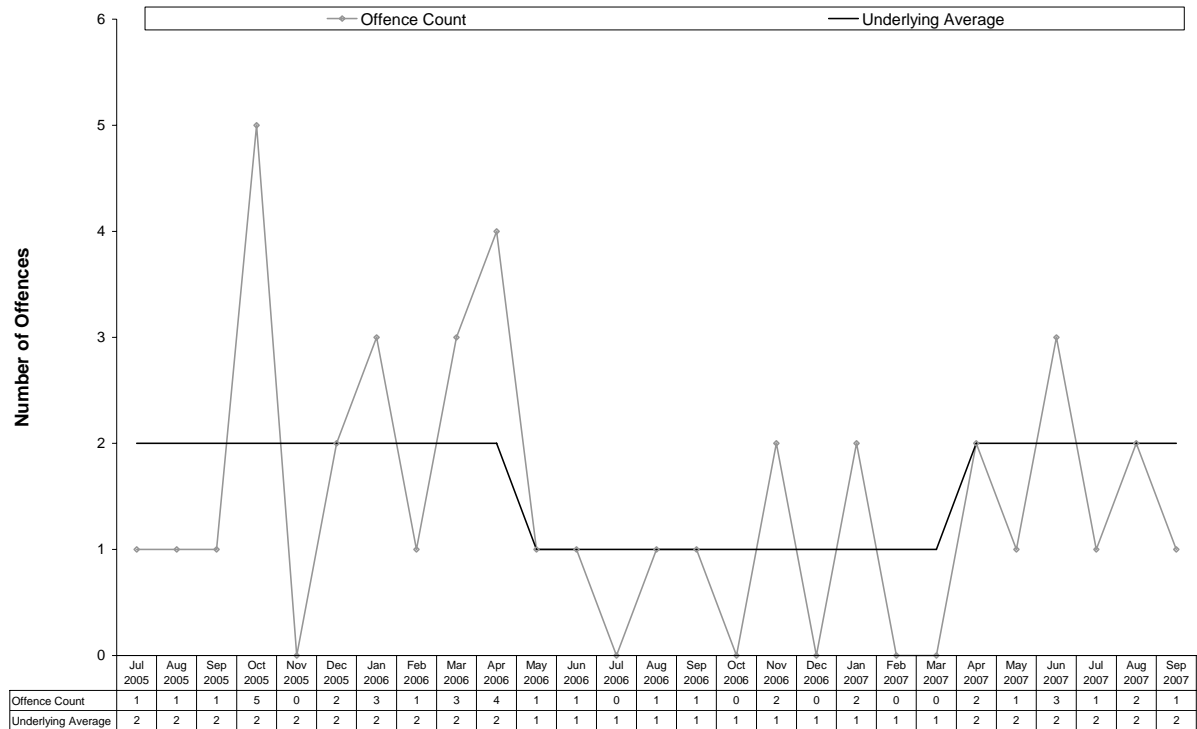
Figure 50 Recorded Break-ins to Commercial or Other Premises in Tennant Creek



Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *motor vehicle theft and related offences* has ranged between 1 and 2 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 2 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased in the middle of the period.
- There were 4 *motor vehicle theft and related offences* recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 2 from the previous quarter, but an increase of 2 from the same quarter the previous year.

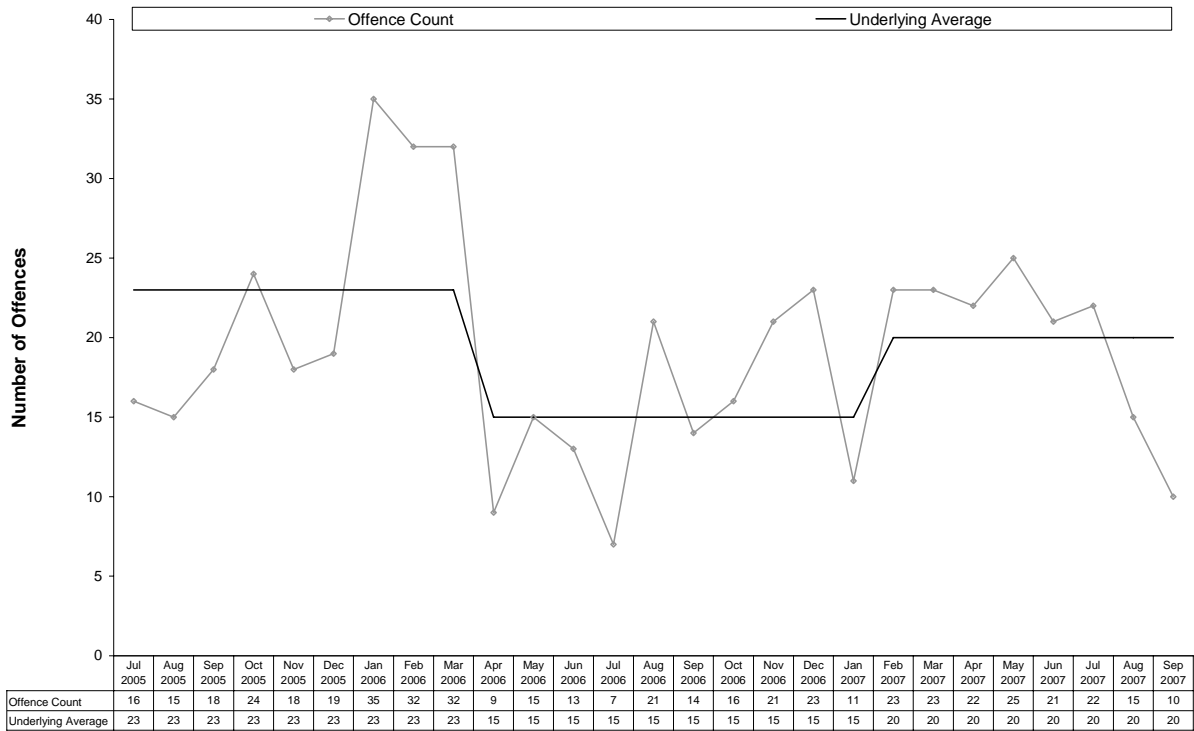
Figure 51 Recorded Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences in Tennant Creek



Other Theft

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *other theft* has ranged between 15 and 23 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 20 per month is in the middle of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period.
- There were 47 *other theft* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 31% (21) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 12% (5) from the same quarter the previous year.

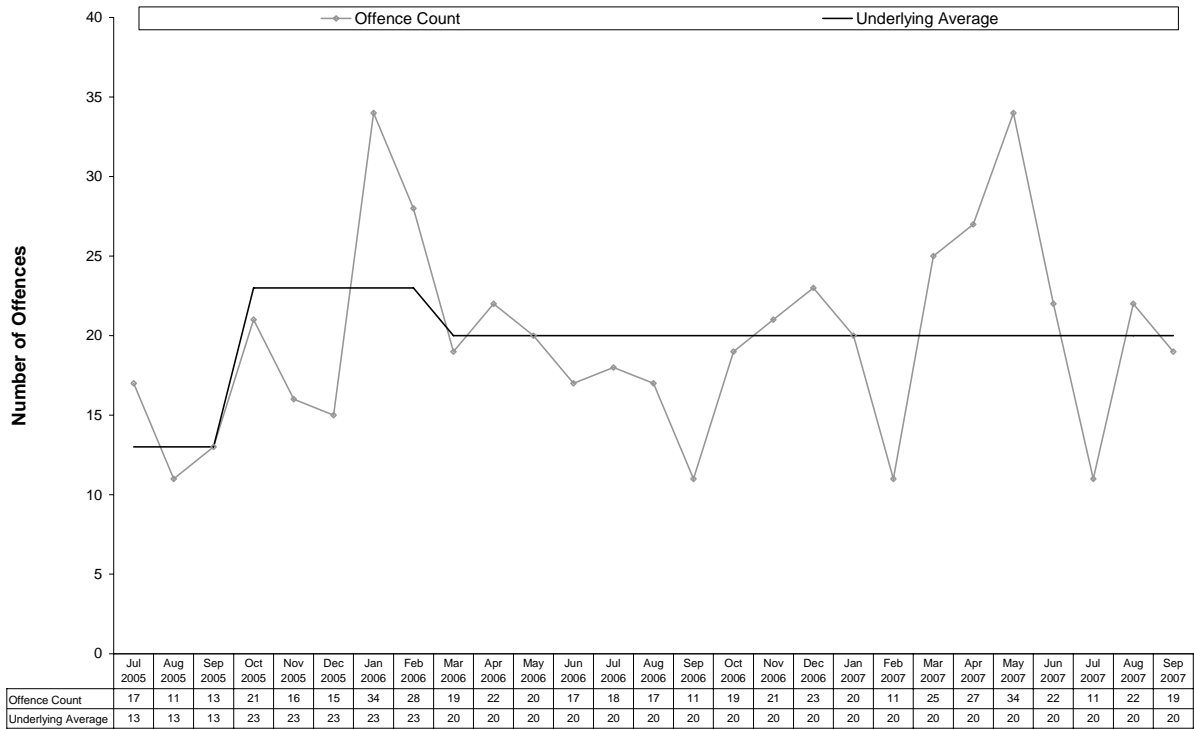
Figure 52 Recorded Other Theft in Tennant Creek



Property Damage

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *property damage* has ranged between 13 and 23 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 20 per month is in the middle of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable.
- There were 52 *property damage* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 37% (31) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 13% (6) from the same quarter the previous year.

Figure 53 Recorded Property Damage in Tennant Creek



3.2.7 Nhulunbuy

The small population of Nhulunbuy results in relatively low numbers of offences that are particularly volatile. This may result in large proportional swings from one period to the next. The following table presents the number of recorded offences by offence category on a quarterly basis.

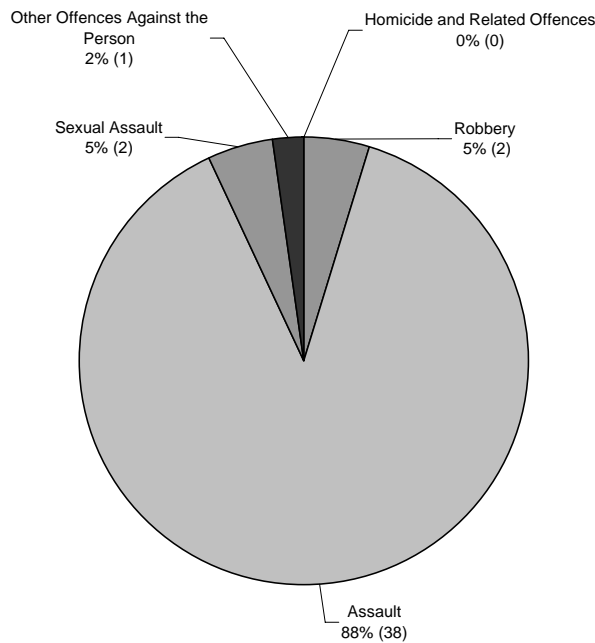
Table 7 Recorded Offences in Nhulunbuy

	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep
	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr
	2005	2005	2006	2006	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007
Offences Against The Person									
Homicide and Related Offences									
Murder	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Assault	19	30	35	14	13	16	42	30	38
Sexual Assault	2	0	1	3	4	2	2	4	2
Other Offences Against the Person	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	22	31	37	17	17	19	44	34	43
Property Offences									
Break-ins									
House	1	7	2	8	2	3	7	5	3
Commercial or Other Premises	12	10	3	10	14	2	8	6	9
Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences	5	7	0	2	2	6	2	5	6
Other Theft	31	46	29	32	31	21	29	36	21
Property Damage	24	41	26	33	24	24	31	30	29
Other Property Offences	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Total	74	111	60	85	74	56	78	82	69

Offences Against the Person

- In the current quarter, a total of 43 offences against the person were recorded in Nhulunbuy. This represents an increase of 26% (9) from the previous quarter and an increase of 153% (26) from the same quarter the previous year.
- As shown in the figure below *assault* was the most frequent offence, accounting for 88% of offences against the person in the current quarter. *Sexual assault* and *robbery* accounted for 5% each and *other offences against the person* 2%. There were no recorded offences relating to *murder, attempted murder or manslaughter*.

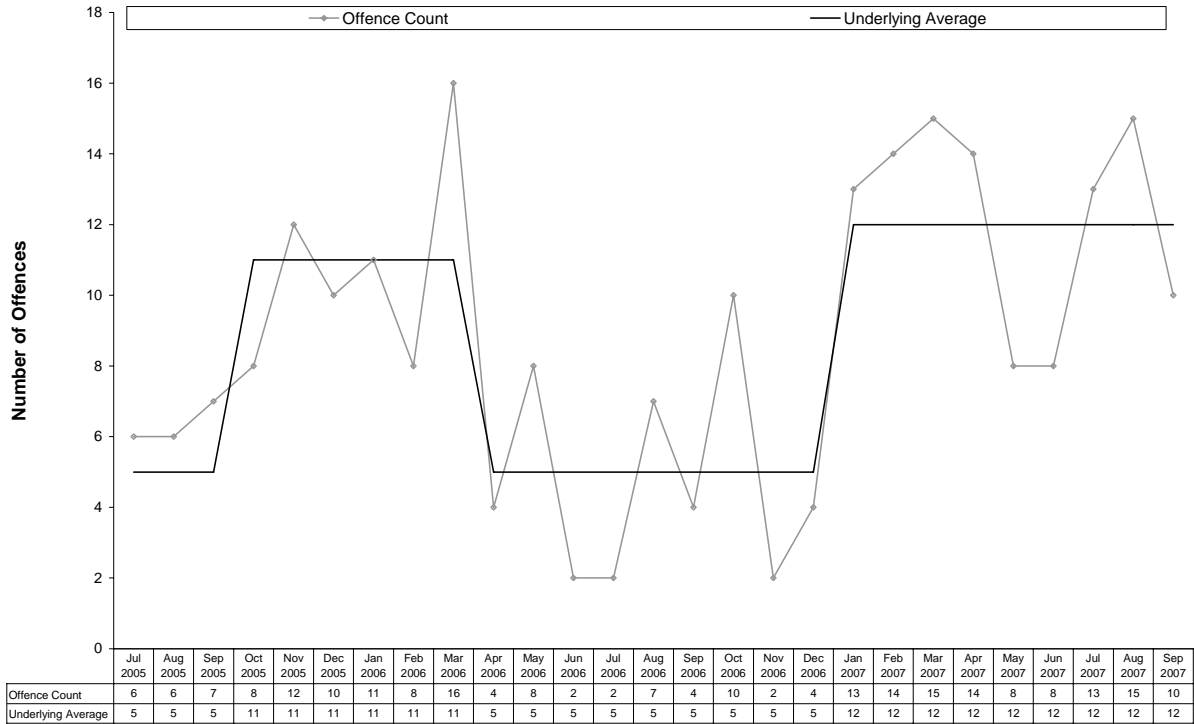
Figure 54 Recorded Offences Against the Person in Nhulunbuy – Current Quarter



Assault

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *assault* has ranged between 5 and 12 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 12 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased early in the period.
- There were 38 *assault* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 27% (8) from the previous quarter and an increase of 192% (25) from the same quarter the previous year.

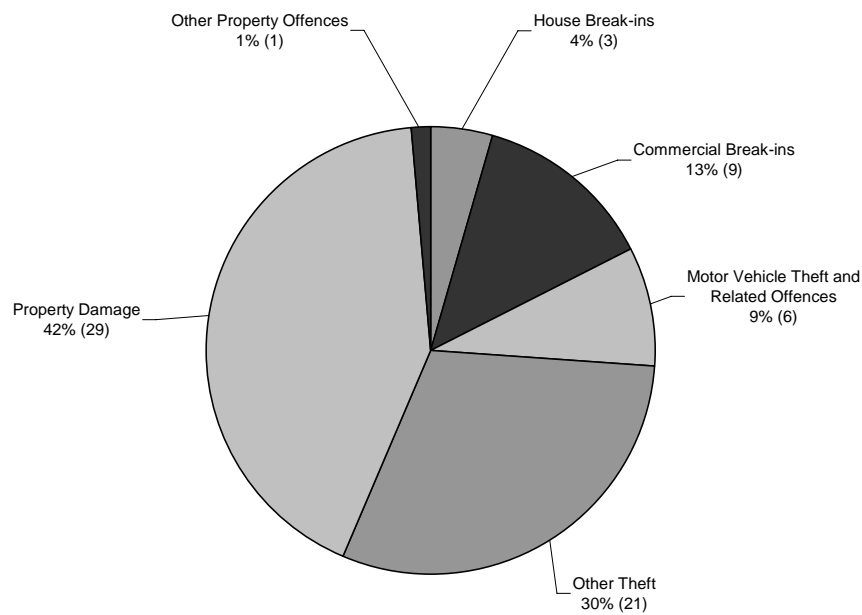
Figure 55 Recorded Assault in Nhulunbuy



Property Offences

- In the current quarter there was a total of 69 recorded property offences in Nhulunbuy. This represents a decrease of 16% (13) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 7% (5) from the same quarter the previous year.
- The figure below shows 42% of property offences relate to *property damage*, with *other theft* at 30%. *Break-ins to commercial and other premises* constitute 13%, *motor vehicle theft and related offences* 9%, *house break-ins* 4% and *other property offences* 1%.

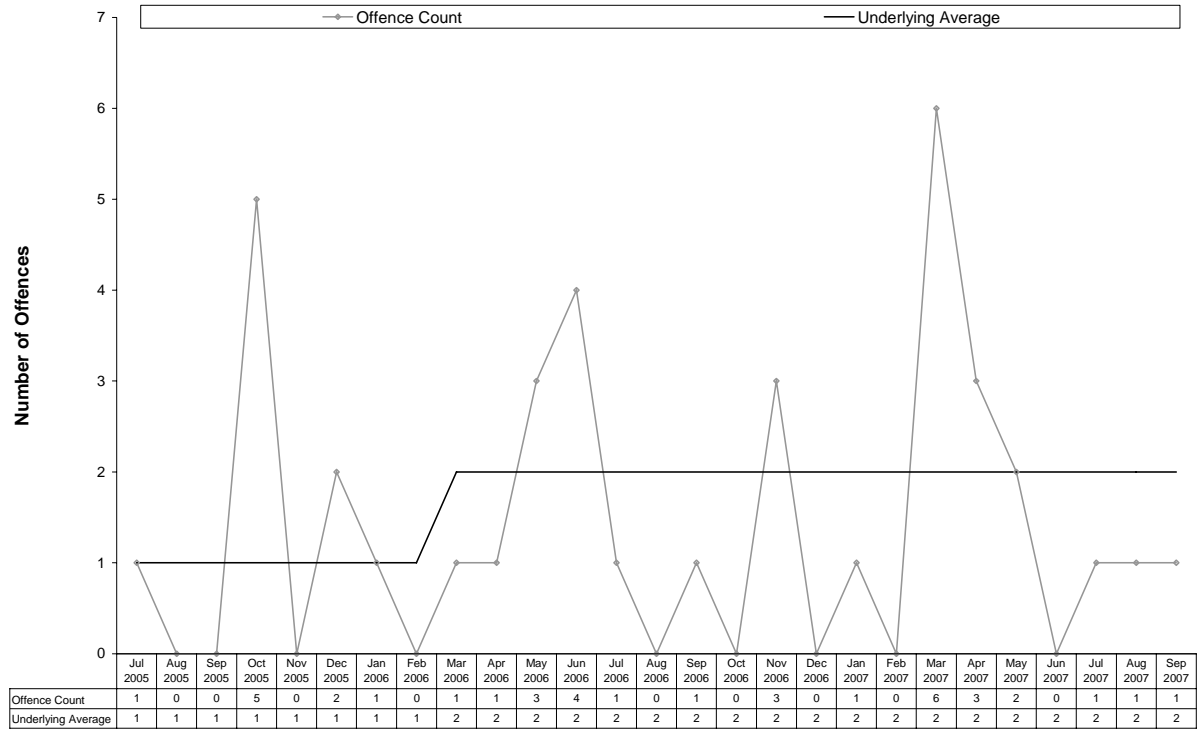
Figure 56 Recorded Property Offences in Nhulunbuy – Current Quarter



House Break-ins

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *house break-ins* has ranged between 1 and 2 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 2 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable.
- There were 3 *house break-ins* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 2 from the previous quarter, but an increase of 1 from the same quarter the previous year.

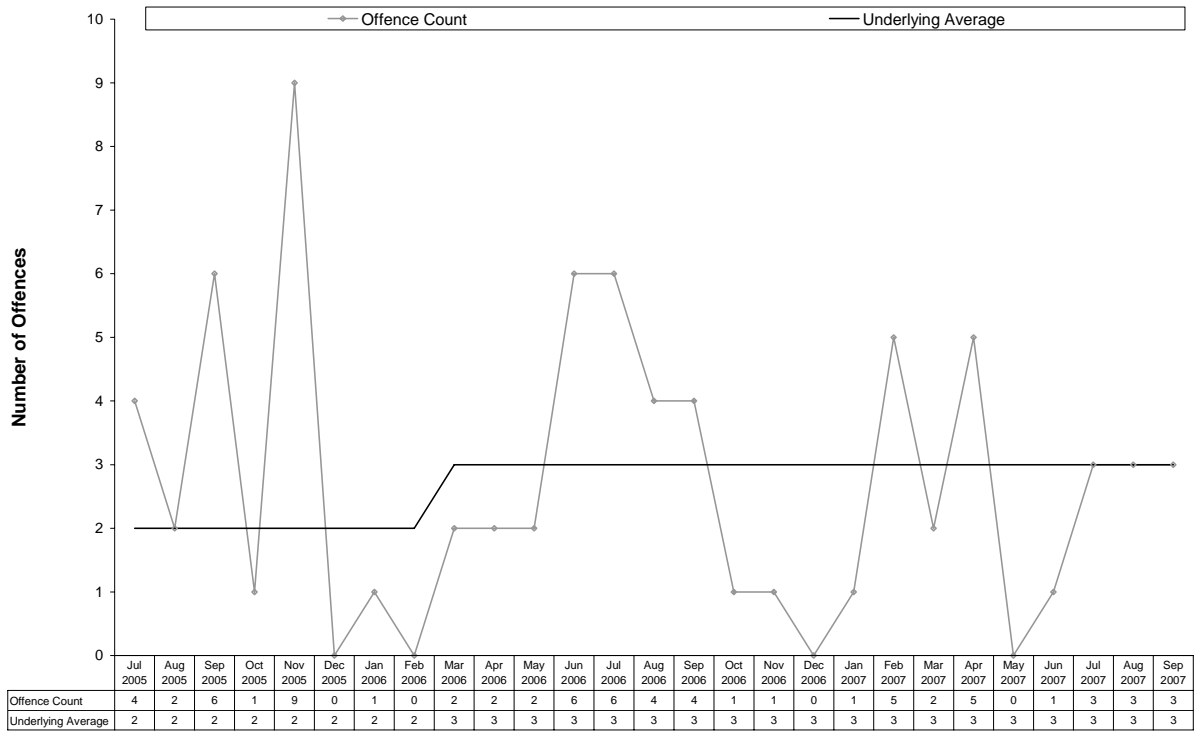
Figure 57 Recorded House Break-ins in Nhulunbuy



Break-ins to Commercial or Other Premises

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *break-ins to commercial or other premises* has ranged between 2 and 3 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 3 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable.
- There were 9 *break-ins to commercial or other premises* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 50% (3) from the previous quarter, but a decrease of 36% (5) from the same quarter the previous year.

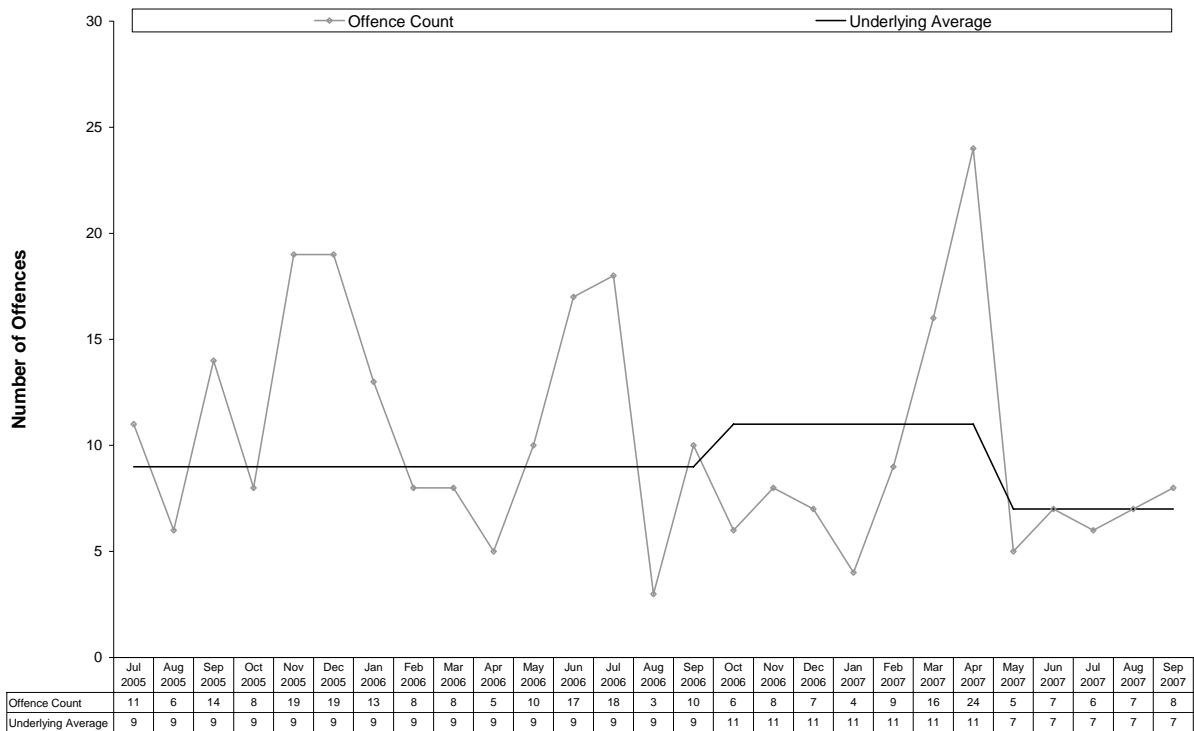
Figure 58 Recorded Break-ins to Commercial or Other Premises in Nhulunbuy



Other Theft

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *other theft* has ranged between 7 and 11 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 7 per month is at the lower end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average decreased in the middle of the period.
- There were 21 *other theft* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 42% (15) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 32% (10) from the same quarter the previous year.

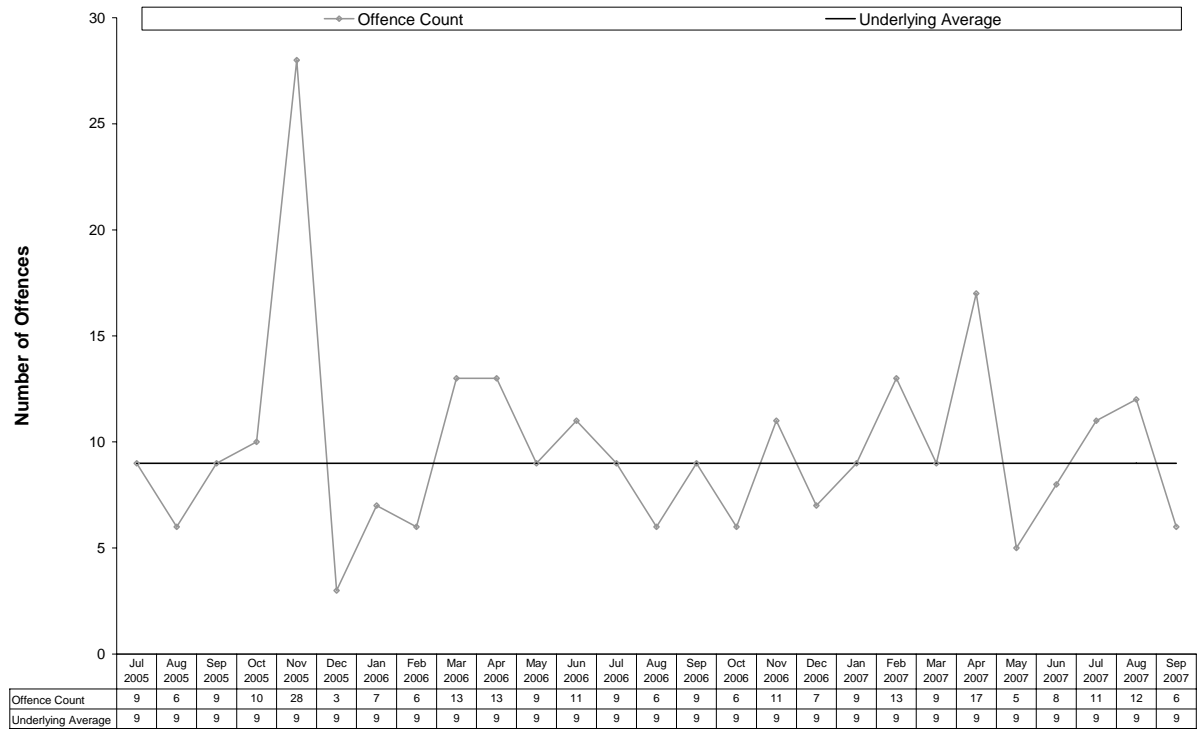
Figure 59 Recorded Other Theft in Nhulunbuy



Property Damage

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *property damage* has remained stable at 9 offences per month during the past nine quarters.
- There were 29 *property damage* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 3% (1) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 21% (5) from the same quarter the previous year.

Figure 60 Recorded Property Damage in Nhulunbuy



3.2.8 Northern Territory Balance

The following table presents the number of recorded offences by offence category on a quarterly basis.

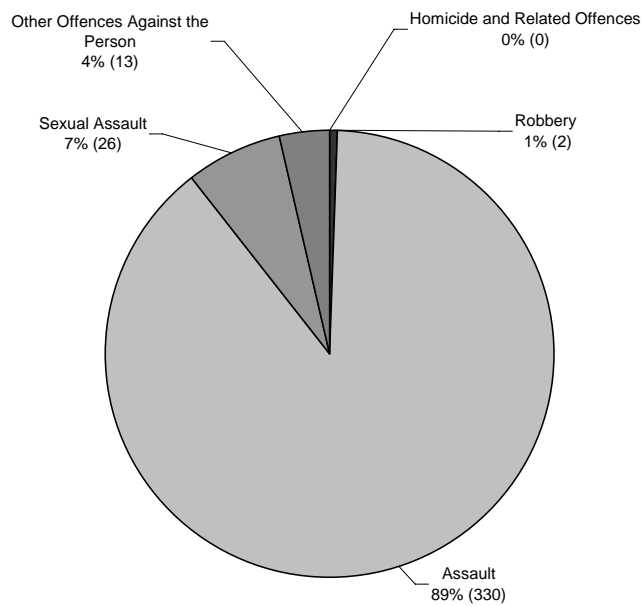
Table 8 Recorded Offences in the Northern Territory Balance

	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep
	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr
	2005	2005	2006	2006	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007
Offences Against The Person									
Homicide and Related Offences									
Murder	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0
Attempted Murder	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Manslaughter	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
Robbery	3	0	1	0	3	4	4	1	2
Assault	273	317	306	309	285	310	290	290	330
Sexual Assault	19	26	25	18	25	31	22	31	26
Other Offences Against the Person	14	7	6	14	7	11	2	10	13
Total	311	352	339	342	323	360	318	332	371
Property Offences									
Break-ins									
House	67	60	76	69	67	71	68	55	53
Commercial or Other Premises	74	70	130	82	78	81	97	67	65
Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences	50	54	40	50	35	44	46	65	54
Other Theft	224	199	255	232	215	200	218	219	221
Property Damage	232	233	245	199	208	219	205	171	197
Other Property Offences	12	6	19	9	5	9	7	9	5
Total	659	622	765	641	608	624	641	586	595

Offences Against the Person

- In the current quarter, a total of 371 offences against the person were recorded in the Northern Territory Balance. This represents an increase of 12% (39) from the previous quarter and an increase of 15% (48) from the same quarter the previous year.
- As shown in the figure below, *assault* was by far the most frequent offence, accounting for 89% of offences against the person. The next most frequently recorded offence was *sexual assault*, representing 7%. The remaining offences were *robbery* and *other offences against the person*. There were no recorded offences relating to *murder*, *attempted murder* or *manslaughter*.

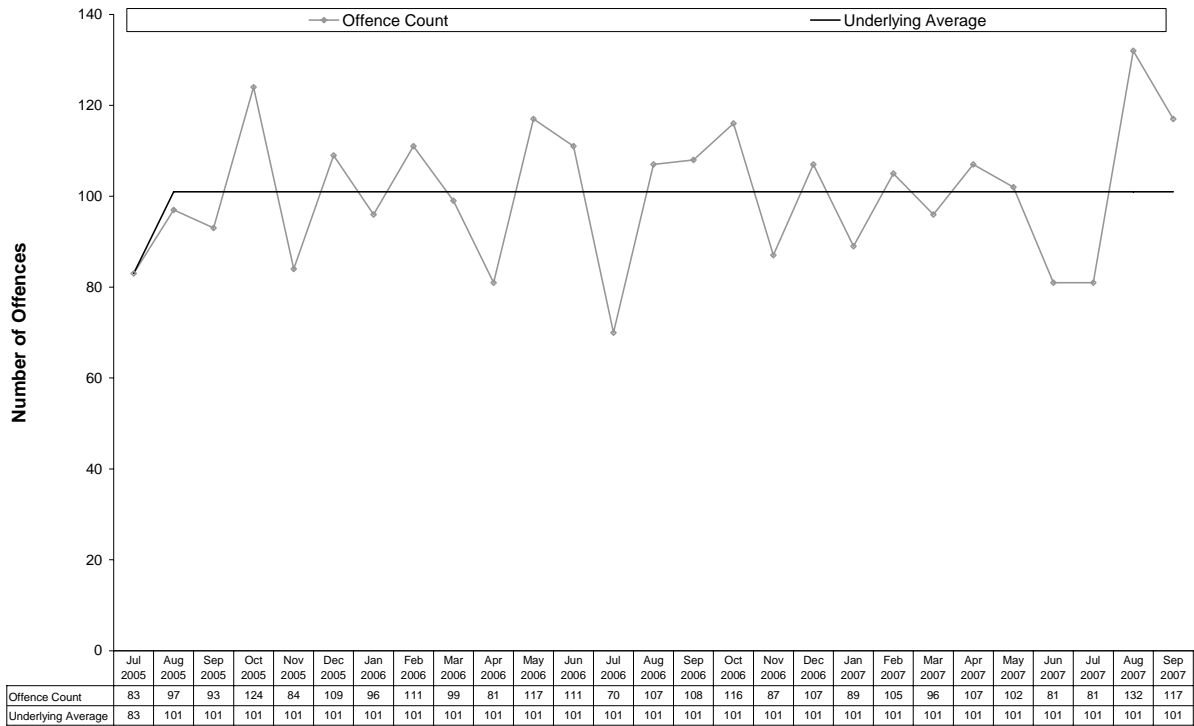
Figure 61 Recorded Offences Against the Person in the Northern Territory Balance – Current Quarter



Assault

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *assault* has ranged between 83 and 101 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 101 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable.
- There were 330 *assault* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 14% (40) from the previous quarter and an increase of 16% (45) from the same quarter the previous year.

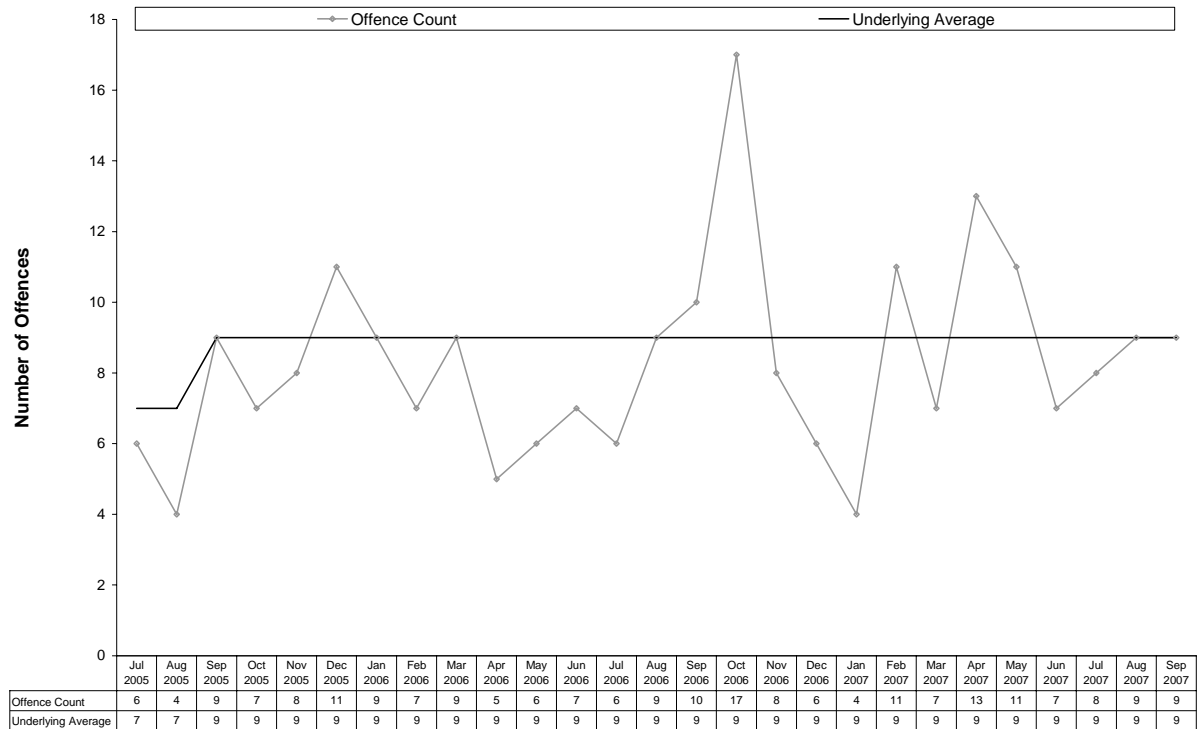
Figure 62 Recorded Assault in the Northern Territory Balance



Sexual Assault

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *sexual assault* has ranged between 7 and 9 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 9 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable.
- There were 26 *sexual assault* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 16% (5) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 4% (1) from the same quarter the previous year.

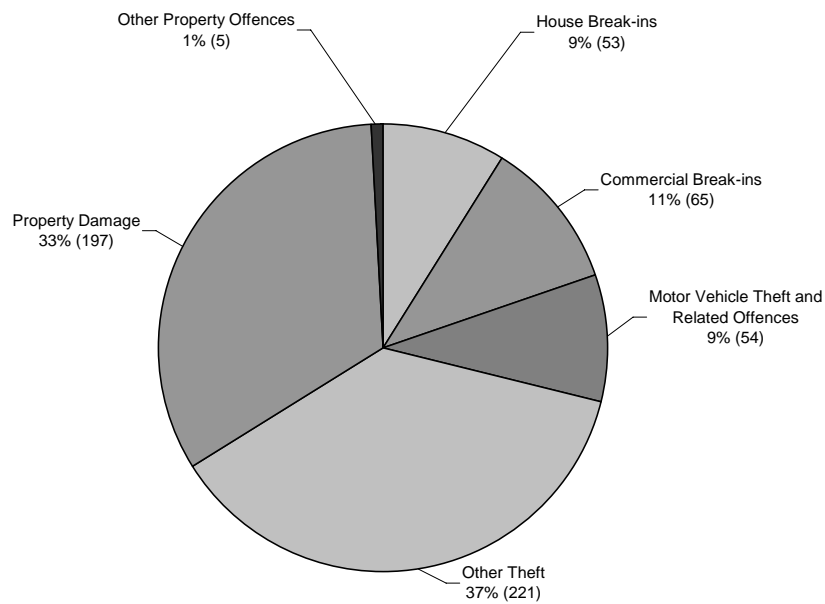
Figure 63 Recorded Sexual Assault in the Northern Territory Balance



Property Offences

- In the current quarter, a total of 595 property offences were recorded in the Northern Territory Balance. This represents an increase of 2% (9) from the previous quarter, but a decrease of 2% (13) from the same quarter the previous year.
- The figure below shows 37% of property offences relate to *other theft*, with *property damage* at 33%. *Break-ins to commercial or other premises* constitute 11%, *house break-ins* and *motor vehicle theft and related offences* both accounted for 9% each and *other property offences* 1%.

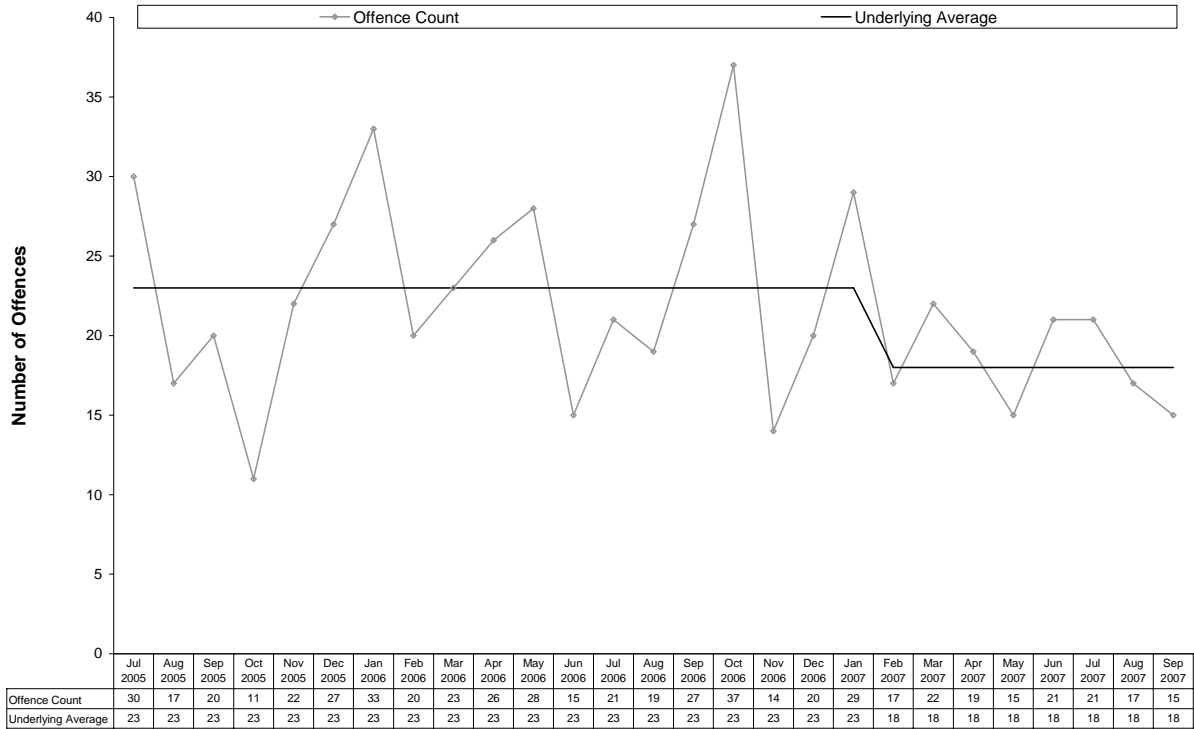
Figure 64 Recorded Property Offences in the Northern Territory Balance – Current Quarter



House Break-ins

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *house break-ins* has ranged between 18 and 23 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 18 per month is at the lower end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average decreased early in the period.
- There were 53 *house break-ins* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 4% (2) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 21% (14) from the same quarter the previous year.

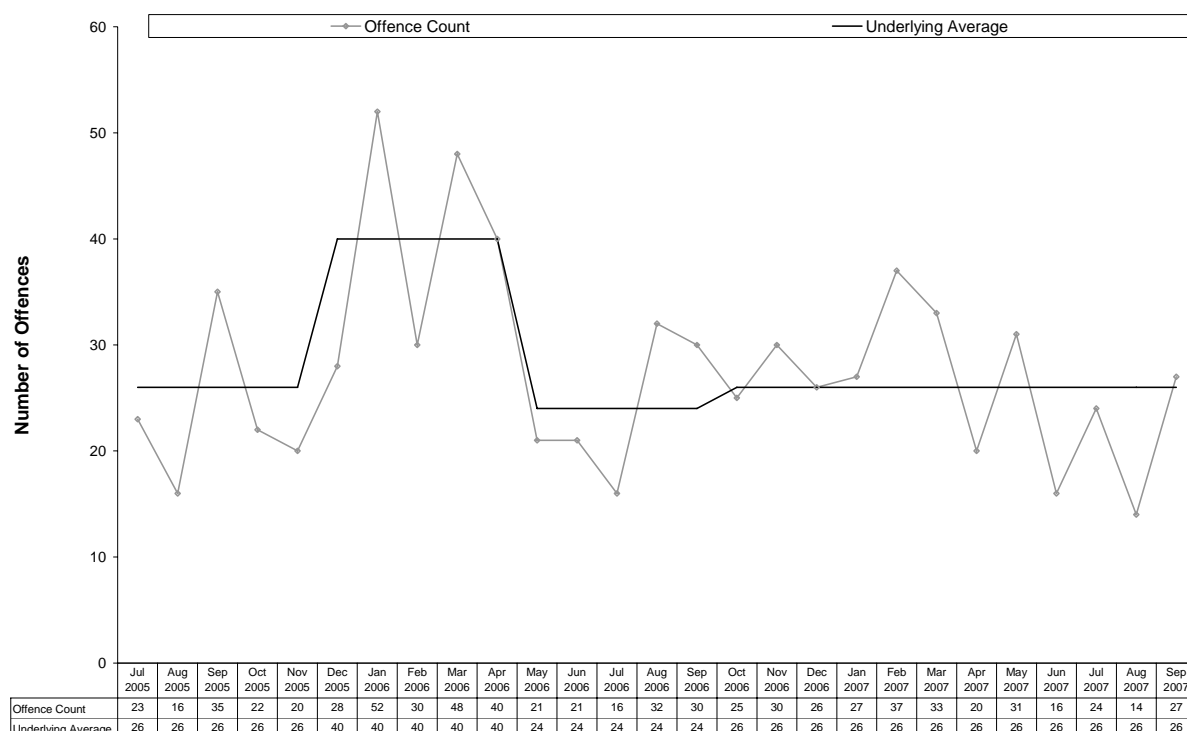
Figure 65 Recorded House Break-ins in the Northern Territory Balance



Break-ins to Commercial or Other Premises

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *break-ins to commercial or other premises* has ranged between 24 and 40 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 26 per month is at the lower end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable.
- There were 65 *break-ins to commercial or other premises* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 3% (2) from the previous quarter and a decrease of 17% (13) from the same quarter the previous year.

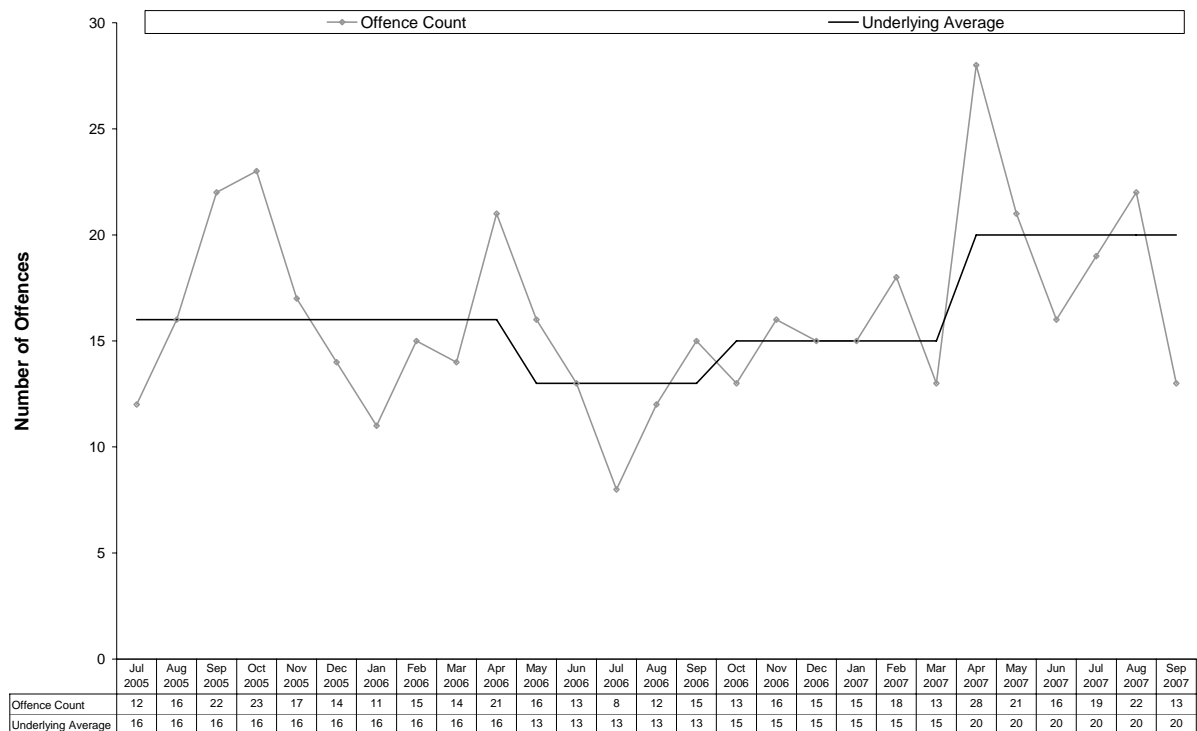
Figure 66 Recorded Break-ins to Commercial or Other Premises in the Northern Territory Balance



Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *motor vehicle theft and related offences* has ranged between 13 and 20 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 20 per month is at the higher end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average increased in the middle of the period.
- There were 54 *motor vehicle theft and related offences* recorded in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 17% (11) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 54% (19) from the same quarter the previous year.

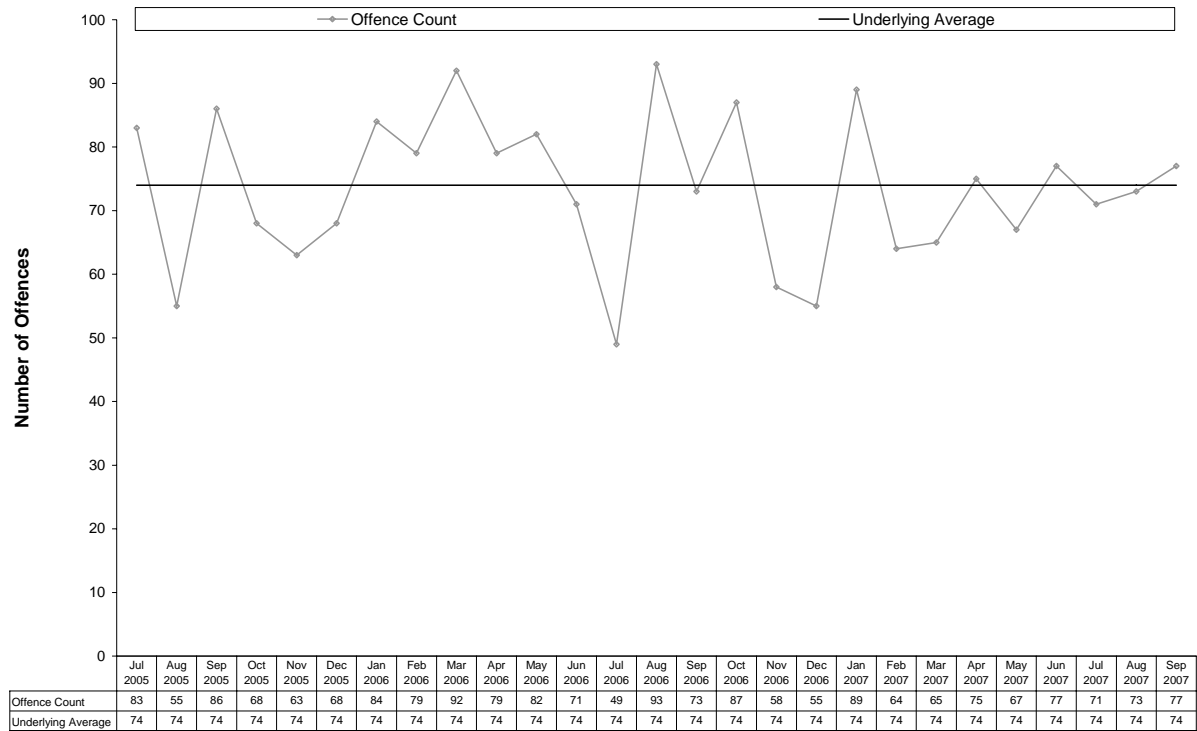
Figure 67 Recorded Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences in the Northern Territory Balance



Other Theft

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *other theft* has remained stable at 74 offences per month during the past nine quarters.
- There were 221 *other theft* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 2 (1%) from the previous quarter and an increase of 6 (3%) from the same quarter the previous year.

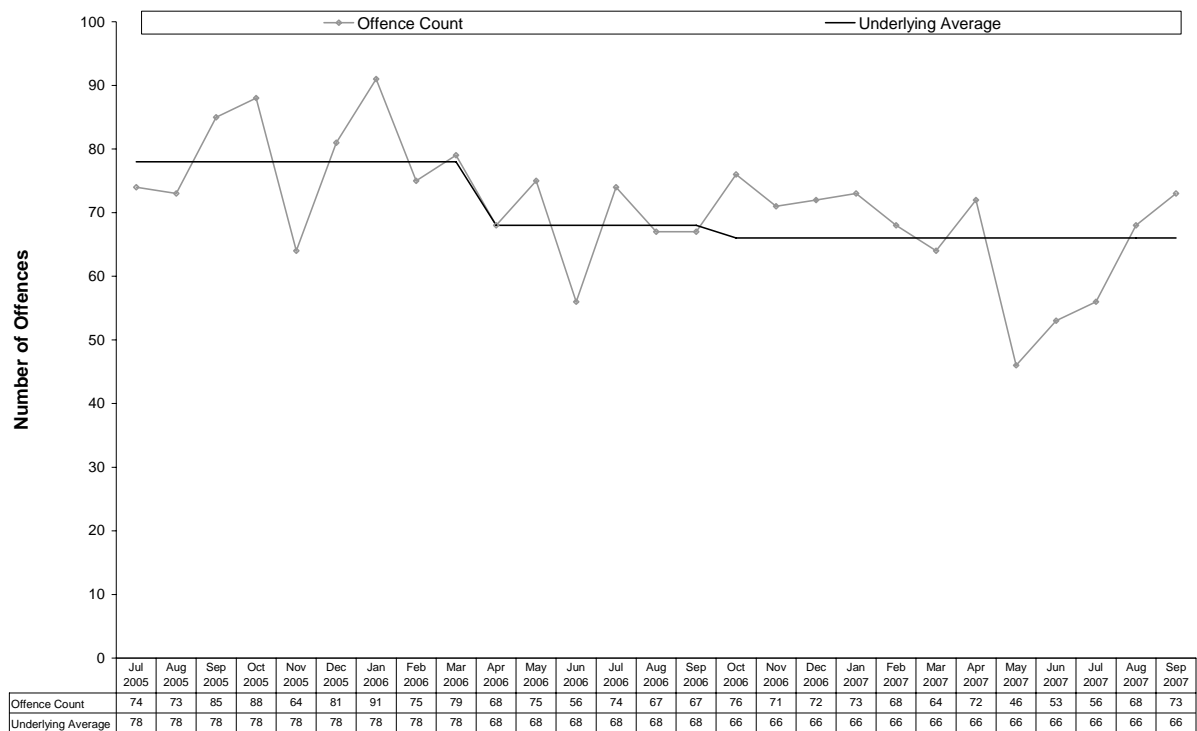
Figure 68 Recorded Other Theft in the Northern Territory Balance



Property Damage

- The figure shows the underlying average level of *property damage* has ranged between 66 and 78 offences per month during the past nine quarters. Its current level of 66 per month is at the lower end of the range. Over the past 12 months the underlying average remained stable.
- There were 197 *property damage* offences recorded in the current quarter. This represents an increase of 15% (26) from the previous quarter, but a decrease of 5% (11) from the same quarter the previous year.

Figure 69 Recorded Property Damage in the Northern Territory Balance



4 PRISONERS AND DETAINEES IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

This section provides a description of persons under the custodial supervision of Northern Territory Correctional Services during the period from the September quarter 2005 to the September quarter 2007.

The statistics cover two areas:

- the average number of adults held in prison; and
- the average number of juveniles held in detention.

4.1 EXPLANATORY NOTES

The data used for this section was extracted from the *Northern Territory Correctional Services Monthly Daily Average Returns*.

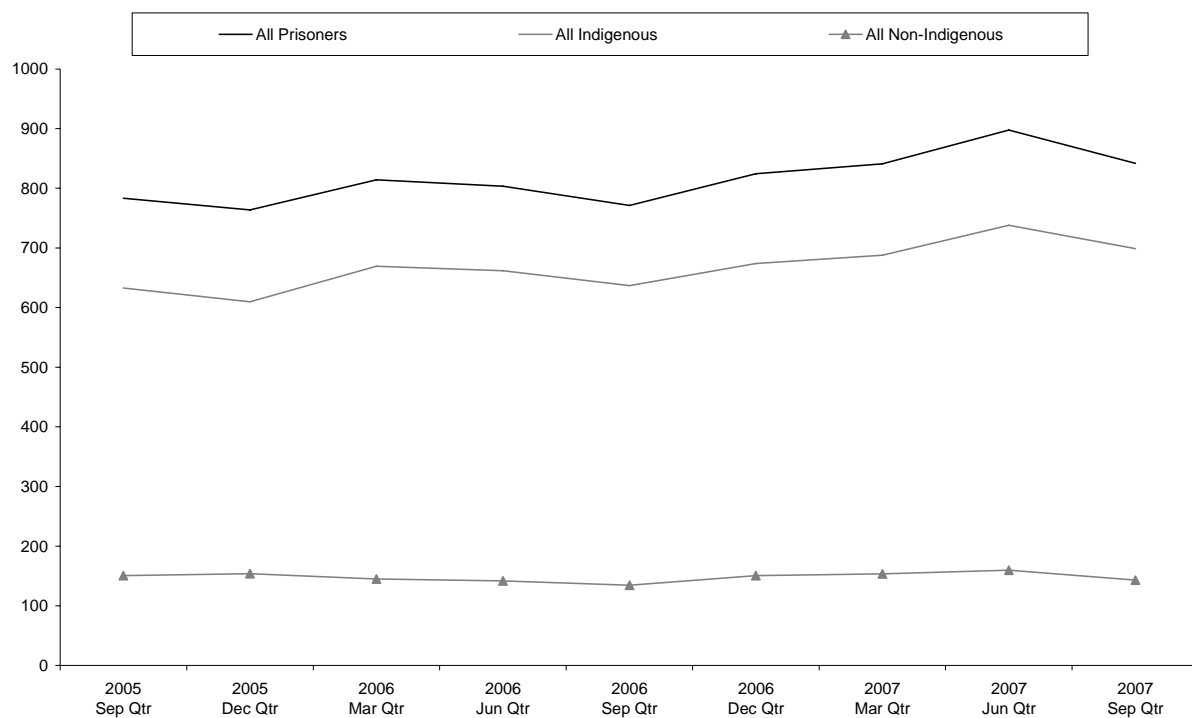
- The *quarterly daily average* is the average number of persons held in institutions per day over the stipulated three-month period. The quarterly daily averages have been rounded to the closest whole number — as a result, discrepancies may occur between the sum of component items and the total.
- *People smugglers* are foreign national persons convicted under Federal legislation for offences relating to the transport of illegal immigrants to Australia.
- *Fine defaulters* are persons who are imprisoned solely for non-payment of fines.

4.2 FINDINGS

4.2.1 Adults

- Over the past nine quarters the quarterly daily average number of prisoners has ranged between 764 and 898. In the current quarter, the daily average was 842. It decreased by 6% (56) from the previous quarter but increased by 9% (71) from the same quarter last year.
- The daily average number of Indigenous prisoners has ranged between 610 and 738 during the past nine quarters. The current quarterly daily average number was 699, 5% (39) lower than the previous quarter but 10% (62) higher than the same quarter last year. During the current quarter, Indigenous prisoners represented 83% of the total daily average prison population.
- The daily average number of female prisoners is small compared to the number of males, representing around 4% of the total prison population during the nine-quarter reporting period. On average there were 38 female prisoners in the current quarter. This represents a decrease of 7% (3) from the previous quarter but an increase of 12% (4) from the same quarter the previous year.

Figure 70 Quarterly Daily Average Number of Adults Held in Prison



4.2.2 Juveniles

- The number of juveniles detained in the Territory is small and relatively volatile. The quarterly daily average ranged between 15 and 35 over the period September quarter 2005 to the current quarter.
- In the current quarter, the quarterly daily average number of juveniles held in detention in the Northern Territory was 28. This represents a decrease of 20% (7) from the previous quarter but an increase of 8% (2) from the same quarter last year.
- Indigenous juveniles represented 89% (25) of the daily average detainee population in the current quarter.

Figure 71 Quarterly Daily Average Number of Juveniles Held in Detention

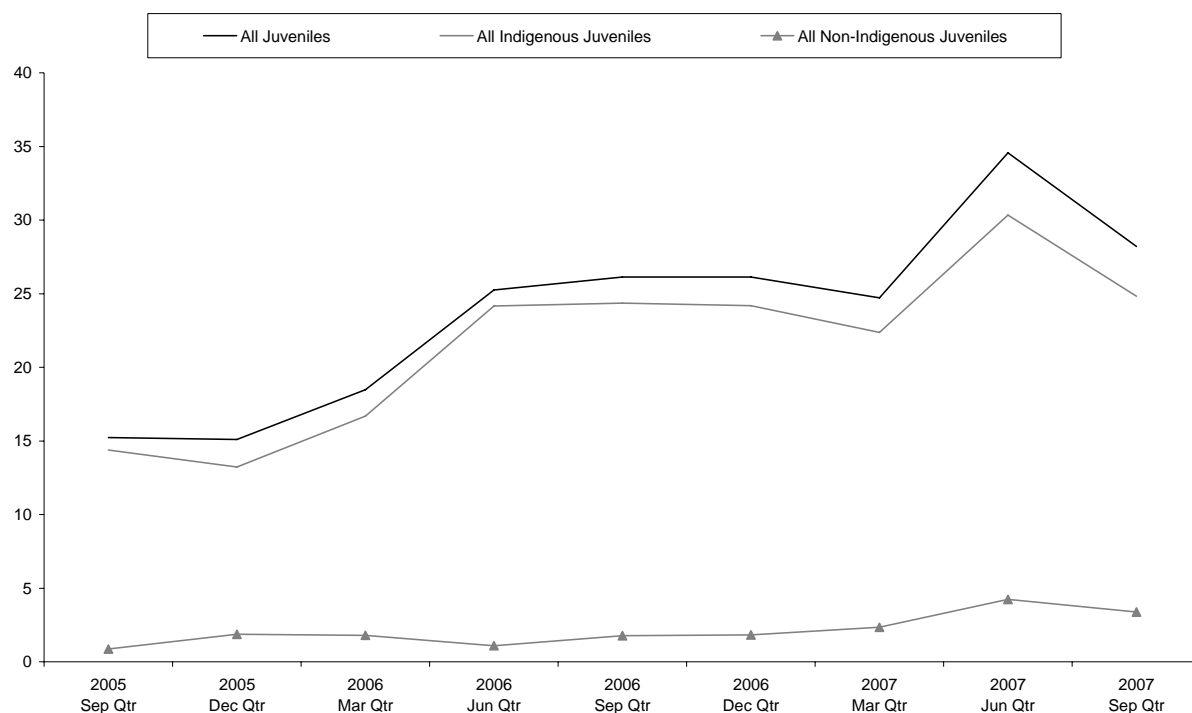


Table 9 Quarterly Daily Average Number of Adults Held in Prison

	Sep Qtr 2005	Dec Qtr 2005	Mar Qtr 2006	Jun Qtr 2006	Sep Qtr 2006	Dec Qtr 2006	Mar Qtr 2007	Jun Qtr 2007	Sep Qtr 2007
Total Number of Prisoners									
All Prisoners	783	764	814	804	771	825	841	898	842
Prisoner Gender and Ethnicity									
All Indigenous	633	610	669	662	637	674	688	738	699
All Non-Indigenous	151	154	145	142	134	151	153	160	143
All Males	760	737	783	770	737	795	803	857	804
All Females	23	27	31	33	34	30	38	41	38
Indigenous Males	615	590	645	638	613	653	657	705	666
Non-Indigenous Males	145	147	139	133	124	142	146	152	138
Indigenous Females	18	20	25	24	23	21	30	33	33
Non-Indigenous Females	5	7	6	9	11	8	8	8	5
Special Types of Offenders									
People Smugglers	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1
Fine Defaulters	1	3	0	0	0	5	3	3	3

Table 10 Quarterly Daily Average Number of Juveniles Held in Detention

	Sep Qtr 2005	Dec Qtr 2005	Mar Qtr 2006	Jun Qtr 2006	Sep Qtr 2006	Dec Qtr 2006	Mar Qtr 2007	Jun Qtr 2007	Sep Qtr 2007
Total Number of Detainees									
All Detainees	15	15	18	25	26	26	25	35	28
Detainee Gender and Ethnicity									
All Indigenous	14	13	17	24	24	24	22	30	25
All Non-Indigenous	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	4	3
All Males	15	15	18	25	26	26	23	33	27
All Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1
Indigenous Males	14	13	16	24	24	24	21	29	24
Non-Indigenous Males	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	4	3
Indigenous Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1
Non-Indigenous Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

5 OUTCOMES FOR DRUG OFFENCES

This section provides information on the outcome of judicial and administrative processes relating to drug offences.

This section presents the outcome for drug offences in two parts:

- an overview of court outcomes for drug offences; and
- drug offences dealt with by *Drug Infringement Notices* in the Northern Territory.

5.1 COURT OUTCOMES

Offences reported in this section refer to illicit and licit drug offences which have been *finalised* by a court in the Northern Territory during the specified period.

5.1.1 Explanatory Notes

The data used for the table in this section was extracted from the Integrated Justice Information System.

- An *offence* reflects a distinct charge brought against an individual on the basis of relevant Northern Territory legislation. A single incident may involve multiple offences of the same or different types.
- The number of offences processed by the court does not reflect the number of individuals who appeared before the court or the number of occasions on which sentence was passed.
- The proportion of actual crime that comes before the court is unknown. Changes in the number of offences processed by the court may not reflect changes in the level of crime in the community.
- An offence is considered to be *finalised* on the first date that the court makes an order that implies a definite finding of guilt. Where a court order is appealed, the offence is not counted as finalised until the appeal is decided.
- Offences relating to licit drugs are mainly prescription fraud.
- The *principal penalty* for an offence is the court order that is perceived to be the most severe in relation to each offence.
- Principal penalties classified as *other orders* in this section include good behaviour bonds and post-court juvenile diversions.

5.1.2 Findings

Current Financial Year to Date (1 July 2007 – 30 September 2007)

A total of 168 drug offences were finalised by the courts between 1 July 2007 and 30 September 2007. The principal penalty for 12% (20) of these offences was an actual term of imprisonment, for 4% (7) a period of home detention and for another 20% (34) a fully suspended term of imprisonment was ordered. For 57% (95) of the offences, the principal penalty was a monetary order. Community work orders comprised 4% (6) of the penalties.

Court Outcomes by Offence Group

Possession and non-commercial dealing in illicit drugs accounted for 77% (130) of drug offences finalised by the courts between 1 July 2007 and 30 September 2007. Principal penalties for non-commercial dealing in illicit drugs were as follows:

- 35% of offences (20) were associated with a fully suspended term of imprisonment;
- 26% of offences (15) were associated with a monetary order;
- 19% of offences (11) were associated with an actual term of imprisonment;
- 7% of offences (4) were associated with a community work order;
- 7% of offences (4) were associated with some form of other order; and

- 5% of offences (3) were associated with a home detention order.
- Principal penalties for possession and/or use of illicit drugs were as follows:
 - 85% of offences (62) were associated with a monetary order;
 - 10% of offences (7) were associated with a fully suspended term of imprisonment;
 - 3% of offences (2) were associated with a community work order;
 - 1% of offences (1) were associated with an actual term of imprisonment; and
 - 1% of offences (1) were associated with some form of other order.

Previous Financial Year (2006-07)

A total of 754 drug offences were finalised by the courts during the 2006-07 financial year. The principal penalty for 11% (83) of these offences was an actual term of imprisonment, for 2% (13) a period of home detention and for another 18% (136) a fully suspended term of imprisonment was ordered. For 60% (456) of the offences, the principal penalty was a monetary order. Community work orders comprised 4% (33) of the penalties.

Court Outcomes by Offence Group

Possession and non-commercial dealing in illicit drugs accounted for 82% (617) of drug offences finalised by the courts during the 2006-07 financial year.

- Principal penalties for non-commercial dealing in illicit drugs were as follows:
 - 43% of offences (130) were associated with a monetary order;
 - 29% of offences (88) were associated with a fully suspended term of imprisonment;
 - 17% of offences (52) were associated with an actual term of imprisonment;
 - 4% of offences (13) were associated with some form of other order;
 - 4% of offences (12) were associated with a community work order; and
 - 2% of offences (5) were associated with a home detention order.
- Principal penalties for possession and/or use of illicit drugs were as follows:
 - 81% of offences (257) were associated with a monetary order;
 - 6% of offences (18) were associated with a fully suspended term of imprisonment;
 - 5% of offences (17) were associated with a community work order;
 - 4% of offences (13) were associated with some form of other order; and
 - 3% of offences (11) were associated with an actual term of imprisonment.

Table 11 Drug Offences Finalised by Principal Penalty

Offence Group	Imprisonment Order		Home Detention Order		Fully Suspended Imprisonment		Community Work Order		Monetary Order		Other Order		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Current Financial Year (1 July 2007 - 30 September 2007)													
Import or Export Illicit Drugs	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	6	86%	1	14%	7
Deal or Traffic In Illicit Drugs – Non Commercial	11	19%	3	5%	20	35%	4	7%	15	26%	4	7%	57
Deal or Traffic In Illicit Drugs – Commercial	4	50%	1	13%	3	38%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	8
Manufacture or Cultivate Illicit Drugs – Non Commercial	0	0%	1	17%	2	33%	0	0%	3	50%	0	0%	6
Manufacture or Cultivate Illicit Drugs – Commercial	2	67%	1	33%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3
Possess and/or Use Illicit Drugs	1	1%	0	0%	7	10%	2	3%	62	85%	1	1%	73
Other Drug Related Offences	2	18%	1	9%	2	18%	0	0%	6	55%	0	0%	11
Prescription Drug Offences	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3	100%	0	0%	3
Total	20	12%	7	4%	34	20%	6	4%	95	57%	6	4%	168
Previous Financial Year (1 July 2006 - 30 June 2007)													
Import or Export Illicit Drugs	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	33%	2	67%	3
Deal or Traffic In Illicit Drugs – Non Commercial	52	17%	5	2%	88	29%	12	4%	130	43%	13	4%	300
Deal or Traffic In Illicit Drugs – Commercial	15	47%	5	16%	9	28%	0	0%	3	9%	0	0%	32
Manufacture or Cultivate Illicit Drugs – Non Commercial	0	0%	1	5%	8	36%	1	5%	12	55%	0	0%	22
Manufacture or Cultivate Illicit Drugs – Commercial	2	29%	0	0%	3	43%	0	0%	2	29%	0	0%	7
Possess and/or Use Illicit Drugs	11	3%	1	0%	18	6%	17	5%	257	81%	13	4%	317
Other Drug Related Offences	3	4%	1	1%	10	14%	3	4%	49	69%	5	7%	71
Prescription Drug Offences	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	100%	0	0%	2
Total	83	11%	13	2%	136	18%	33	4%	456	60%	33	4%	754

Source: Extracted from the Integrated Justice Information System (7 November 2007).

5.2 DRUG INFRINGEMENT NOTICES

5.2.1 Explanatory Notes

The data used for the table in this section was extracted from the Integrated Justice Information System.

- *Drug infringement notices* are summarily imposed fines that may be issued by Police for the possession or cultivation of cannabis for personal use only.
- A penalty of \$200 is payable for an offence issued with a *drug infringement notice*.

5.2.2 Findings

- A total of 120 drug infringement notices, relating to 120 separate offences, were issued during the September quarter 2007. This is 28% (26) more notices than were issued in the previous quarter, and 7% (9) less notices than were issued in the September quarter 2006.
- Possession of cannabis is the most common offence for which drug infringement notices have been issued. It constituted 99% of offences in the September quarter 2007.

Table 12 Drug Offences Processed by Infringement Notices

	Sep Qtr 2005	Dec Qtr 2005	Mar Qtr 2006	Jun Qtr 2006	Sep Qtr 2006	Dec Qtr 2006	Mar Qtr 2007	Jun Qtr 2007	Sep Qtr 2007
Number of Infringement Notices Issued	139	178	133	124	129	87	66	94	120
Drug Offences									
Possess Cannabis For Personal Use	139	178	130	124	127	86	64	94	119
Cultivation of Cannabis For Personal Use	0	0	4	0	3	1	2	0	1
Total	139	178	134	124	130	87	66	94	120

Source: Extracted from the Integrated Justice Information System (12 November 2007).

6 COURT OUTCOMES FOR AGGRAVATED PROPERTY OFFENCES

On 22 October 2001, legislation mandating prison sentences for property offences was repealed and replaced with an alternative sentencing regime for aggravated property offences.

Under the amended *Sentencing Act*, it is presumed that a person convicted for an aggravated property offence will receive at least one of the following:

- a term of imprisonment;
- a home detention order; or
- a community work order,

unless there are exceptional circumstances in relation to the offence or the offender.

6.1 EXPLANATORY NOTES

The data used for the tables in this section was extracted from the Integrated Justice Information System (IJIS).

- An *offence* reflects a distinct charge brought against an individual on the basis of relevant Northern Territory legislation. A single incident may involve multiple offences of the same or different types.
- The number of offences processed by the court does not reflect the number of individuals who appeared before the court or the number of occasions on which sentence was passed under the sentencing regime for aggravated property offences.
- The proportion of actual crime which comes before the court is unknown. Changes in the number of offences processed by the court may not reflect changes in the level of crime in the community.
- An offence is considered to be *finalised* on the first date that the court makes an order that implies a definite finding of guilt. Where a court order is appealed, the offence is not counted as finalised until the appeal is decided.
- The *principal penalty* for an offence is the court order that is perceived to be the most severe in relation to each offence.
- Principal penalties classified as *other orders* in this section include fully suspended terms of imprisonment, fines and good behaviour bonds.
- *Break-ins*, in this chapter, do not include *home invasions* and *business invasions* as these are considered separately. This differs from the chapter on offences recorded by the Police, where *home invasions* are included in *house break-ins* and *business invasions* are included in *break-ins to commercial or other premises*.
- Adults are persons who are aged 18 years or older at the time of the offence and are dealt with under the *Sentencing Act*. As juveniles are generally sentenced under the *Youth Justice Act/Juvenile Justice Act* and not the *Sentencing Act*, they are not included in these tables.

6.2 FINDINGS

Current Financial Year to Date (1 July 2007 – 30 September 2007)

A total of 112 aggravated property offences had sentences passed between 1 July 2007 and 30 September 2007.

The principal penalty for 82% (92) of these offences fell within the standard sentencing guidelines contained in the *Sentencing Act*.

In relation to 65% (73) of offences the principal penalty was an actual term of imprisonment.

Court Outcomes by Offence Group

The majority (98%) of offences dealt with under the sentencing regime for aggravated property offences were *break-ins* (74), *unlawful use of motor vehicle* (19) and *property damage* (17).

- Principal penalties for *break-ins* were as follows:
 - 72% of offences (53) were associated with an actual term of imprisonment;
 - 14% of offences (10) received orders other than those presumed in the sentencing guidelines, implying a finding of exceptional circumstances;
 - 11% of offences (8) were associated with a community work order; and
 - 4% of offences (3) were associated with a home detention order.
- Principal penalties for *property damage* were as follows:
 - 65% of offences (11) were associated with an actual term of imprisonment;
 - 24% of offences (4) received other orders, implying a finding of exceptional circumstances;
 - 6% of offences (1) were associated with a home detention order; and
 - 6% of offences (1) were associated with a community work order.
- Principal penalties for *unlawful use of a motor vehicle* were as follows:
 - 42% of offences (8) were associated with an actual term of imprisonment;
 - 26% of offences (5) were associated with a community work order;
 - 26% of offences (5) received other orders, implying a finding of exceptional circumstances; and
 - 5% of offences (1) were associated with a home detention order.

Previous Financial Year (2006-07)

A total of 522 aggravated property offences was finalised during the 2006-07 financial year.

The principal penalty for 330 (63%) of these offences was an actual term of imprisonment and for a further 103 offences (20%), the principal penalty fell within the standard sentencing guidelines contained in the *Sentencing Act*.

The principal penalty for the remaining 89 offences (17%) included fully suspended terms of imprisonment, fines and good behaviour bonds. These outcomes imply a finding of exceptional circumstances in relation to the offender or the offence.

Court Outcomes by Offence Group

The majority (96%) of offences dealt with under the sentencing regime for aggravated property offences were *break-ins* (322), *property damage* (117) and *unlawful use of motor vehicle* (61).

- Principal penalties for *break-ins* were as follows:
 - 61% of offences (197) were associated with an actual term of imprisonment;
 - 21% of offences (68) were associated with a community work order;
 - 16% of offences (52) received orders other than those presumed in the sentencing guidelines, implying a finding of exceptional circumstances; and
 - 2% of offences (5) were associated with a home detention order.
- Principal penalties for *property damage* were as follows:
 - 62% of offences (72) were associated with an actual term of imprisonment;
 - 26% of offences (31) received other orders, implying a finding of exceptional circumstances;
 - 10% of offences (12) were associated with a community work order; and
 - 2% of offences (2) were associated with a home detention order.

- Principal penalties for *unlawful use of motor vehicle* were as follows:
 - 70% of offences (43) were associated with an actual term of imprisonment;
 - 18% of offences (11) were associated with a community work order;
 - 8% of offences (5) received other orders, implying a finding of exceptional circumstances; and
 - 3% of offences (2) were associated with a home detention order.

Table 13 Aggravated Property Offences Finalised by Principal Penalty

Offence Group	Imprisonment Order		Home Detention Order		Community Work Order		Other Order		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Current Financial Year (1 July 2007 - 30 September 2007)									
Robbery	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%	2
Break-ins	53	72%	3	4%	8	11%	10	14%	74
Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle	8	42%	1	5%	5	26%	5	26%	19
Home Invasion	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
Business Invasion	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
Property Damage	11	65%	1	6%	1	6%	4	24%	17
Total	73	65%	5	4%	14	13%	20	18%	112
Previous Financial Year (1 July 2006 - 30 June 2007)									
Robbery	15	83%	2	11%	0	0%	1	6%	18
Break-ins	197	61%	5	2%	68	21%	52	16%	322
Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle	43	70%	2	3%	11	18%	5	8%	61
Home Invasion	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%	2
Business Invasion	2	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2
Property Damage	72	62%	2	2%	12	10%	31	26%	117
Total	330	63%	12	2%	91	17%	89	17%	522

Source: Extracted from the Integrated Justice Information System (5 November 2007).

A SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

A.1 OFFENCES RECORDED BY THE NT POLICE

Selected Offences

This report presents information on the two categories of offence that are of high public interest: offences against the person and property offences. Within each category, statistics are presented for the following offence groups:

- **Offences Against the Person**
 - Murder
 - Attempted Murder
 - Manslaughter
 - Robbery
 - Assault
 - Sexual Assault
 - Other Offences Against the Person
- **Property Offences**
 - House Break-ins
 - Break-ins to Commercial or Other Premises
 - Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences
 - Other Theft
 - Property Damage
 - Other Property Offences

Regional Centres and Northern Territory Balance

Six major urban centres and the Northern Territory Balance are reported on in this report:

- Darwin
- Palmerston
- Alice Springs
- Katherine
- Tennant Creek
- Nhulunbuy
- Northern Territory Balance (includes areas outside the six major urban centres)

Unreported Offences

Recorded crime statistics can only include those offences that are known to Police. It is well understood that there is a varying degree of under reporting across different types of offences. In its *Crime and Safety Survey* publication (4509.0, April 2005) the Australian Bureau of Statistics reports that nationally 26% of *house break-ins* and 69% of *assault* offences are not reported to the Police.

The reasons crimes were not reported to Police include: the offence was perceived to be too trivial; the victim did not want the offender punished; it was thought the Police could do nothing as the matter was seen as personal; and the victim would take care of it.

As a result of under reporting it is not appropriate to interpret recorded crime figures as comprehensively representing the actual level of crime occurring in the community. However, recorded crime is adopted nationally as the best data available for measuring changes in the nature and volume of crime over time.

Recording Offences

Data presented in this section were extracted from the Police Real-time On-line Management Information System (PROMIS). The Northern Territory Police use PROMIS to record incidents that come to their attention. Subsequent inquiries by the Police determine what, if any, offences are associated with the incident and should be recorded in PROMIS.

Counting Methodology

For the selected offences of interest every distinct offence recorded in an incident in PROMIS is counted. Police jurisdictions across Australia have not adopted a standard approach to counting offences. Consequently comparisons cannot be made between the statistics published in this report and those of other jurisdictions.

Underlying Average

Statistics in the Northern Territory are often volatile with large swings in values from one period to another, particularly for small regional centres. In order to assist the reader to understand the underlying patterns in recorded crime, the Research and Statistics Unit has adopted a technique from the South Australian Office of Crime Statistics and Research, known as *underlying averages* (also referred to as *fluctuating averages*).

The underlying average is based on the average of five or more observations in a time series; the actual number of observations depending on how far into the series a *break* occurs. A break occurs at a data point if the next five successive observations take higher or lower values than the average calculated to that point. The underlying average will then take the value of the average of the observations from the first point after the break to the next break point, or the end of the time series, whichever comes first.

The underlying average is calculated from the 1 September 2000 to provide a consistent base across publications.

The underlying average provides a simplified graphical presentation of time series data by defining points of change in the average value of a time series.

The range of the underlying average for an offence is defined by its maximum and minimum values over the period in question. If the underlying average value for an offence is in the bottom 25% of the range it is *at the lower end of the range*. If it is in the top 25% it is *at the higher end of the range*. All values in between are *in the middle of the range*. The underlying average values are rounded to the nearest whole number before the maximum and minimum range is calculated to enhance readability.

Trend Analysis

The Kendall rank-order correlation test was used to detect the presence of any upward or downward trends in recorded crime levels in the last 12 months data. The tests were performed at the 95% confidence level.

The Kendall rank-order correlation test is a statistical tool that is widely used by academic and research organisations. The New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) has used the Kendall rank-order correlation test to detect the presence of trends in recorded crime levels for a number of years. The Research and Statistics Unit has used computer procedures kindly provided by BOCSAR to implement the Kendall test.

A.2 PRISONERS AND DETAINEES IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Quarterly Daily Average

The average number of persons held in correctional institutions per day over the stipulated three month period. The quarterly daily averages have been rounded to the closest whole number. As a result, discrepancies may occur between the sum of component items and the total.

People Smugglers

Foreign national persons convicted under Federal legislation for offences relating to the transport of illegal immigrants to Australia. The Northern Territory prison population experienced an influx of people smugglers in late 1999. Since the end of 2002 the number of people smugglers has been falling.

A.3 OUTCOMES FOR DRUG OFFENCES

Offences

An offence reflects a distinct charge brought against an individual on the basis of relevant federal and Northern Territory legislation. A single incident may involve multiple offences of the same or different types.

The number of offences processed by the court does not reflect the number of individuals who appeared before the court, the number of occasions on which sentence was passed or the level of crime in the community.

Offence Groups

Offence Groups reported are based mainly on the interpretation of the *Commonwealth Customs Act*, the *Misuse of Drugs Act*, the *Kava Management Act*, and the *Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Act*. Offence groups are detailed below.

Import or Export Illicit Drugs

Relates mainly to three offences, namely, "Import narcotic goods, namely heroin", "Import a prohibited import" and "Attempt to export a prohibited export", in the *Commonwealth Customs Act*.

Deal or Traffic in Illicit Drugs - Non-Commercial

Relates to offences such as the possession, supply or purchase of prohibited drugs of a non-commercial quantity, mainly from the *Misuse of Drugs Act*. It also includes offences from the *Kava Management Act*, the *Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Act* and the *Commonwealth Crimes Act*.

Deal or Traffic in Illicit Drugs - Commercial

Relates to offences such as the possession, supply or purchase of prohibited drugs of a commercial quantity, mainly from the *Misuse of Drugs Act*, some offences from the *Kava Management Act* and the *Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Act*.

Manufacture or Cultivate Illicit Drugs - Non-Commercial

Relates to offences such as the production, manufacturing and cultivation of a non-commercial quantity of prohibited drugs. Offences mainly relate to the *Misuse of Drugs Act*, the *Kava Management Act* and the *Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Act*.

Manufacture or Cultivate Illicit Drugs - Commercial

Relates to offences such as the production, manufacturing and cultivation of a commercial quantity of prohibited drugs. Offences mainly relate to the *Misuse of Drugs Act*, the *Kava Management Act* and the *Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Act*.

Possess and/or Use Illicit Drugs

Relates to offences such as the personal use, possession and administering of prohibited drugs, mainly from the *Misuse of Drugs Act*, the *Kava Management Act*, the *Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Act* and the *Commonwealth Customs Act*.

Other Drug Related Offences

Relates to offences such as stealing or receiving prohibited drugs, possession/supply of drug use equipment (eg. syringe), supply of volatile substances (petrol, glue) and failure to dispose of a syringe in a prescribed manner. It also includes possession of precursors, equipment and information for the manufacture of prohibited drugs. Offences mainly relate to the *Misuse of Drugs Act* and the *Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Act*.

Prescription Drug Offences

Relates to offences such as prescription drug fraud (for example forging or altering a prescription, or supplying prescribed substances without a prescription), mainly from the *Misuse of Drugs Act* and *Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Act*.

Final Orders

Final orders are defined as court orders that imply a finding of guilt and carry an associated penalty for any offence. More than one final order may apply to any offence. Combinations of final orders are classified to determine the principal penalty for an offence.

The order(s) used in the analysis are all final orders made on the first occasion that a final order was made with respect to an offence. Thus, if a person receives a community work order for an offence and is later imprisoned for failure to perform duties required under the order, the principal penalty reported will remain a community work order.

Principal Penalty

The principal penalty applying to an offence is the court final order that is perceived to be the most severe in relation to each offence. The comparative severity of court penalties is based on the sentencing legislation applying to drug offences.

The Principal Penalties reported are:

- **Imprisonment**
An actual term of imprisonment or a term of imprisonment that is partially suspended (if the conditions set by the court are satisfied).
- **Home Detention Order**
Confinement to a residence within the hours specified by the court order. It may be combined with fully suspended imprisonment orders.
- **Fully Suspended Imprisonment**
A term of imprisonment that is fully suspended as long as conditions set by the court are satisfied.
- **Community Work Order**
Compulsory participation in an approved project for up to 480 hours, with or without a fully suspended imprisonment order.
- **Monetary Order**
Orders involving financial penalties, including fines, restitution orders and levies.
- **Other Order**
All other final orders, including good behaviour bonds and post-court juvenile diversions.

A.4 COURT OUTCOMES FOR AGGRAVATED PROPERTY OFFENCES

Offences

An offence reflects a distinct charge brought against an individual on the basis of relevant Northern Territory legislation. A single incident may involve multiple offences of the same or different types.

The number of offences processed by the court may not reflect the number of individuals who appeared before the court, the number of occasions on which sentence was passed or the level of crime in the community.

Offence Groups

Offence groups reported are based on the interpretation of “aggravated property offence” as defined in section 3 of the *Sentencing Amendment Act*.

The aggravated property offence groups reported in this report are detailed below. All definitions refer to the *Criminal Code Act*.

Robbery

A broad category involving theft of property with the use or threat of immediate force: includes offences against sections 211 (robbery) and 212 (assault with intent to steal).

Break-ins

Unlawful Entry with Intent – unlawful entry to a premises with intent to commit an offence: includes offences against sections 213 (unlawful entry of buildings) and 215 (persons found armed with intent to unlawfully enter buildings), including attempts to commit offences against section 213.

Break-ins, in this chapter, do not include *home invasions* and *business invasions* as these are considered separately. This differs from the chapter on offences recorded by the Police, where *home invasions* are included in *house break-ins* and *business invasions* are included in *break-ins to commercial or other premises*.

Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle

The taking of a vehicle illegally and without permission, with the intent of depriving the owner or possessor of its use: includes offences against section 218(2) (aggravated unlawful use of vessel, motor vehicle, caravan or trailer) where the offence causes injury or danger to the public, the vehicle is valued at \$20,000 or more or other aggravating circumstances.

Home Invasion

Unlawful entry of a dwelling and causing serious damage: includes offences against section 226(B)(1)&(3) where the offence is of a serious nature or damage caused is greater than \$5,000.

Business invasion

Unlawful entry of a business premises and causing serious damage: includes offences against section 226(B)(2)&(3) where the offence is of a serious nature or damage caused is greater than \$5,000.

Property Damage

The wilful and unlawful destruction, damage or defacement of property (including vandalism, graffiti and interfere with a motor vehicle causing damage): includes offences against section 251(2) (criminal damage in general) where the damage caused is greater than \$5,000, or is 50% or more of the value of the motor vehicle or was done during the commission of another crime.

Final Orders

Final orders are defined as court orders that imply a finding of guilt and carry an associated penalty for any offence. More than one final order may apply to any offence. Combinations of final orders are classified to determine the principal penalty for an offence.

The order(s) used in the analysis are all final orders made on the first occasion that a final order was made with respect to an offence. Thus, if a person receives a community work order for an offence and is later imprisoned for failure to perform duties required under the order, the principal penalty reported will remain a community work order.

Principal Penalty

The principal penalty applying to an offence is the court order that is perceived to be the most severe in relation to each offence. The comparative severity of court penalties is based on the sentencing legislation applying to aggravated property offences. All court penalties not “presumed” for aggravated property offences are classified as “Other” orders.

The principal penalties reported are:

- **Imprisonment**
An actual term of imprisonment or a term of imprisonment that is partially suspended if conditions set by the court are satisfied.
- **Home Detention**
Confinement to a residence within the hours specified by the court order, alone and when combined with fully suspended imprisonment orders.
- **Community Work Order**
Compulsory participation in an approved project for up to 480 hours, with or without a fully suspended imprisonment order.
- **Other Order**
All other final orders, including fully suspended imprisonment orders not combined with home detention or community work orders. “Other” orders include fully suspended terms of imprisonment, monetary orders and good behaviour bonds.

B GLOSSARY

Aggravated Property Offence	An offence defined to be an 'aggravated property offence' in s. 3 of the <i>Sentencing Act</i> .
Assault	Common assault and aggravated assault where the assault is of a non-sexual nature.
Attempted Murder	Attempted, unlawful intentional killing of another person, where death did not actually result.
Break-ins	Unlawful entry with intent of dwellings and other premises. Referred to as 'Unlawful Entry With Intent' in previous issues. See also: Break-ins to Commercial and Other Premises; Business Invasion; Home Invasion; House Break-ins.
Break-ins to Commercial or Other Premises	Unlawful entry with or without intent to commit an offence where the premises entered is not a dwelling (includes business invasion offences, excludes trespassing).
Business Invasion	Unlawful entry of a business premises where damage caused is of a serious nature, or in excess of \$5,000 in value.
Community Work Order	An order of the Court specifying compulsory participation in an approved project for up to 480 hours.
Deal or Traffic in Illicit Drugs – Commercial	Includes offences relating to the supply, purchase and possession of illicit drugs of a quantity large enough for it to be deemed a commercial activity.
Deal or Traffic in Illicit Drugs – Non-Commercial	Includes offences relating to the supply and purchase of illicit drugs where the amount involved is deemed to be of a quantity for personal use rather than commercial activity.
Drug Infringement Notice	An on-the-spot fine for possession or cultivation of cannabis for personal use.
Fine Defaulters	Persons who are imprisoned solely for non-payment of fines.
Home Detention Order	An order of the Court specifying confinement to a residence within hours specified by the order. A home detention order may be made for a period of up to 12 months.
Home Invasion	Unlawful entry of a dwelling where damage caused is of a serious nature, or in excess of \$5,000 in value.
Homicide and Related Offences	The killing of a person and related offences, includes murder, manslaughter, attempted murder and driving causing death.

House Break-ins	Unlawful entry with or without intent to commit an offence where the premises entered is a dwelling (includes home invasion, excludes trespassing). Commonly referred to as break and enter, burglary or unlawful entry.
Import or Export Illicit Drugs	Includes offences related to the importing and exporting of narcotic goods.
Imprisonment Order	An order of the Court specifying a period of confinement to a gazetted prison.
Incident	An event where an offence may have been committed.
Kendall Rank-Order Correlation Test	A statistical technique used to detect the presence of trends.
Manslaughter	Unlawful killing of another person without the intent to kill or with impaired capacity of one's mind.
Manufacture or Cultivate Illicit Drugs – Commercial	Includes offences relating to the production, manufacture and cultivation of prohibited drugs of a commercial quantity.
Manufacture or Cultivate Illicit Drugs – Non-Commercial	Includes offences relating to the production, manufacture and cultivation of prohibited drugs of a non-commercial quantity.
Monetary Order	An order of the Court specifying financial penalties, including fines, restitution and levies.
Motor Vehicle Theft and Related Offences	Includes unlawful use of motor vehicle, theft of a motor vehicle and theft from a motor vehicle.
Murder	Unlawful intentional killing of another person.
Northern Territory Balance	The Northern Territory Balance is the area of the Northern Territory that lies outside of the six major urban centres of Darwin, Palmerston, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy.
Offence	An act considered by the Northern Territory Police to be in conflict with the criminal law.
Other Drug Related Offences	Includes offences such as stealing or receiving prohibited drugs, possession/supply of drug use equipment (eg. syringe), supply of volatile substance (petrol, glue), or failure to dispose of a syringe in a prescribed manner. It also includes possession of precursors, equipment and information for the manufacture of prohibited drugs.
Other Offences Against the Person	Includes abduction and kidnapping, acts intended to cause injury, non-assaultive sexual offences, blackmail and extortion.
Other Property Offences	Includes receiving, handling, or processing goods or money obtained illegally.

Other Theft	A broad category involving theft without the use of force. Includes offences such as stealing and shoplifting.
People Smugglers	Foreign national persons convicted under Federal legislation for offences relating to the transport of illegal immigrants to Australia.
Possess and/or Use Illicit Drugs	Includes offences relating to the personal use, possession and administering of prohibited drugs.
Prescription Drug Offences	Mainly prescription drug fraud, for example forging or altering a prescription, or supplying prescribed substances without a prescription.
Principal Penalty	The most serious court first final order applying to an offence.
Property Damage	The unlawful destruction, damage, or defacement of property: includes vandalism, graffiti and interfering with a motor vehicle causing damage.
Quarterly Daily Average Prison/Detention Population	The average number of persons held in adult/juvenile correctional institutions per day over the stipulated three-month period.
Robbery	A broad category involving theft of property with the use or threat of immediate force.
Sexual Assault	Aggravated and non-aggravated assault of a sexual nature. Includes incest and rape.
Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle	The taking of a vehicle illegally and without permission, with the intent of depriving the owner or possessor of its use.