



Overview of crime trends in SA

Antoinette Louw
Crime and Justice Programme



Outline

- Overview of available crime statistics: 2004/5 - 2005/6 (up to March 2006)
- What do we know about crime in 2006/7?
- What happened in 2006 to spark the current 'crime wave' or the perception thereof?



Overview of available crime statistics

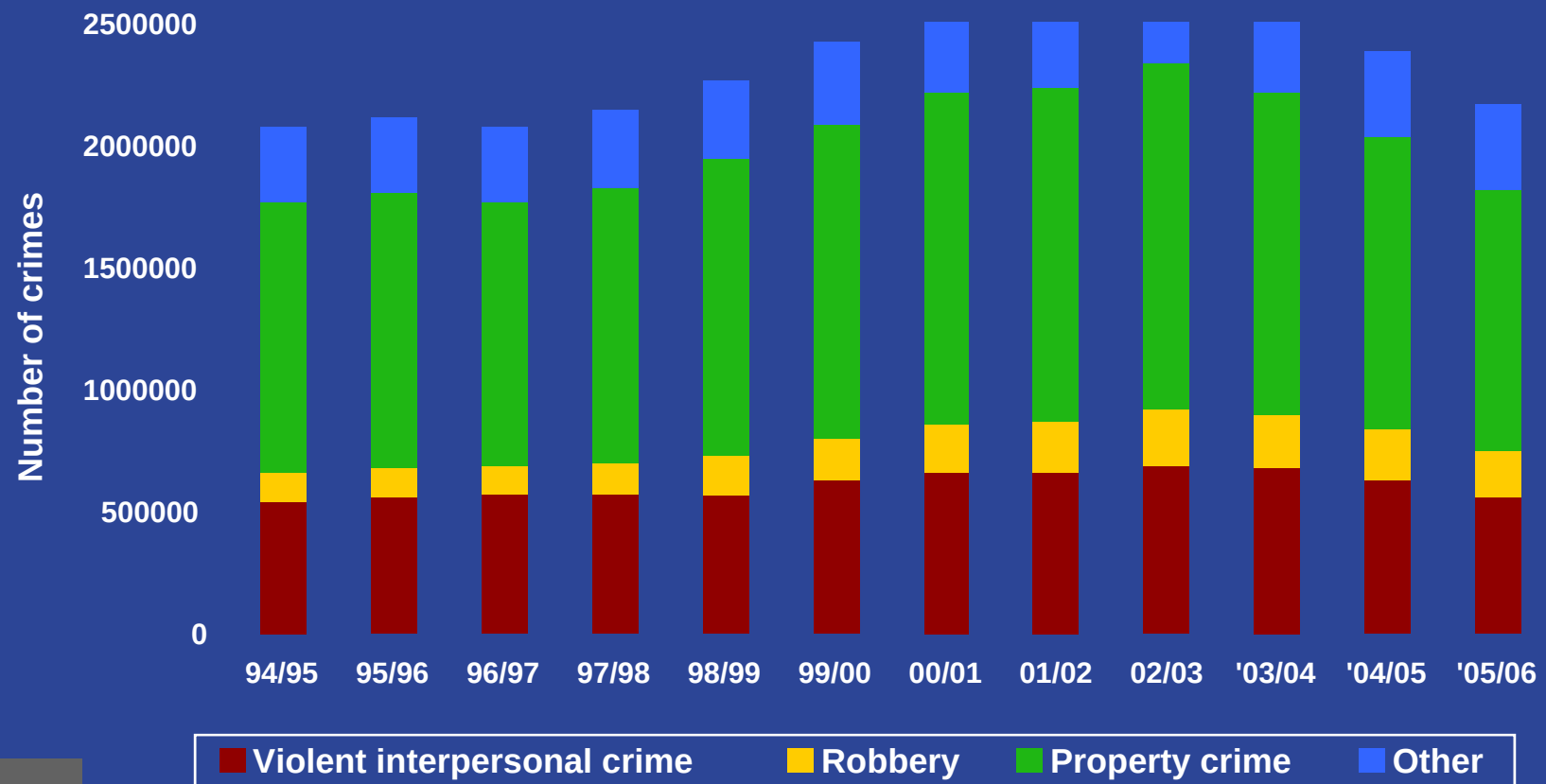


General trends over past 12 years

- Total number of crimes ↑ 7%
- Total crime, and most serious crimes, peaked around 2002/3
- After 2002/3, encouraging decreases were recorded (↓ 6% per year)
- Several types of serious crime ↓ since 2002/3: murder, burglary, robbery overall
- Serious crimes that increased recently: vehicle theft, hijacking, CIT robberies

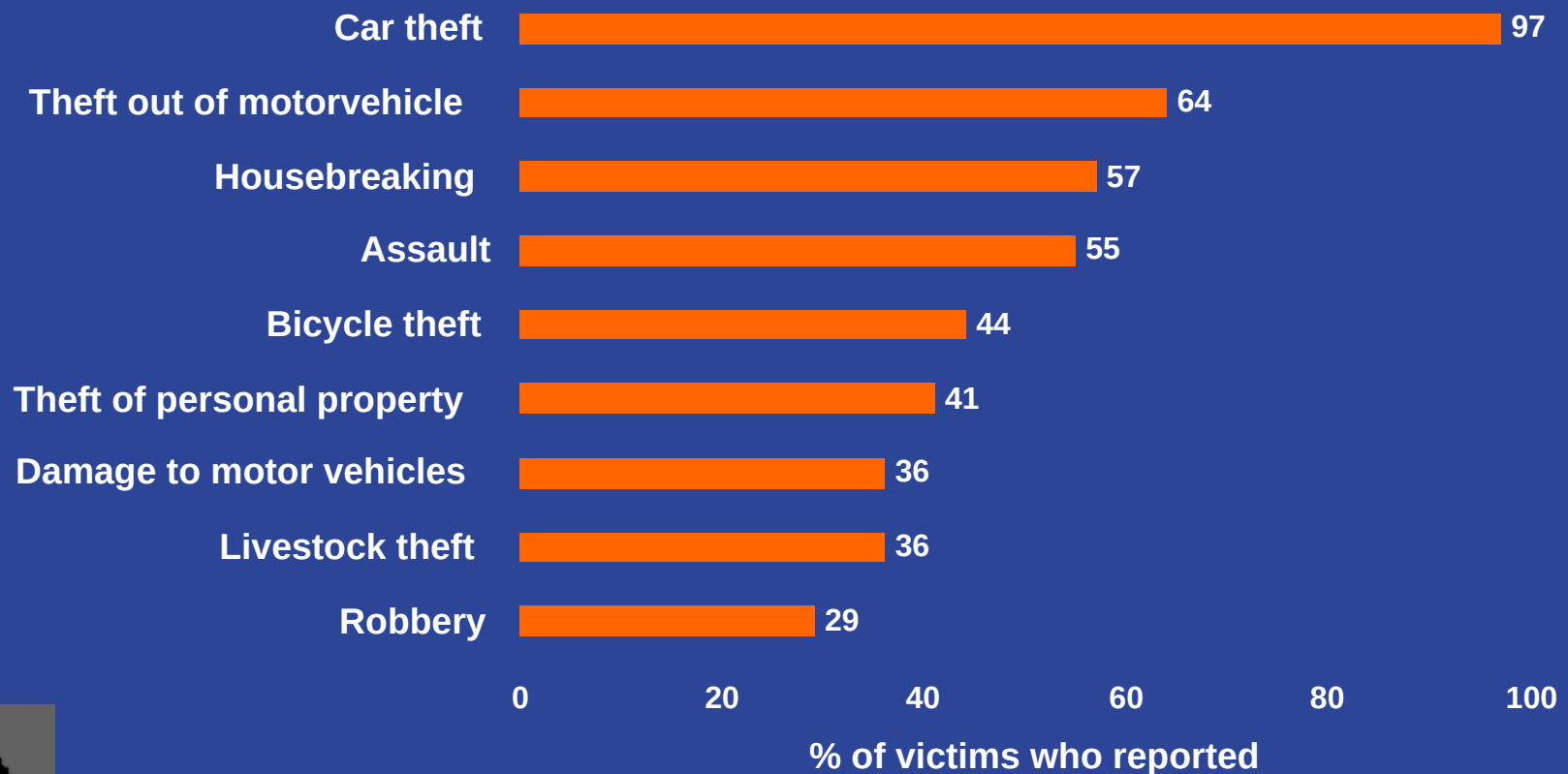


Total 21 crimes recorded by SAPS 1994/95 - 2005/06



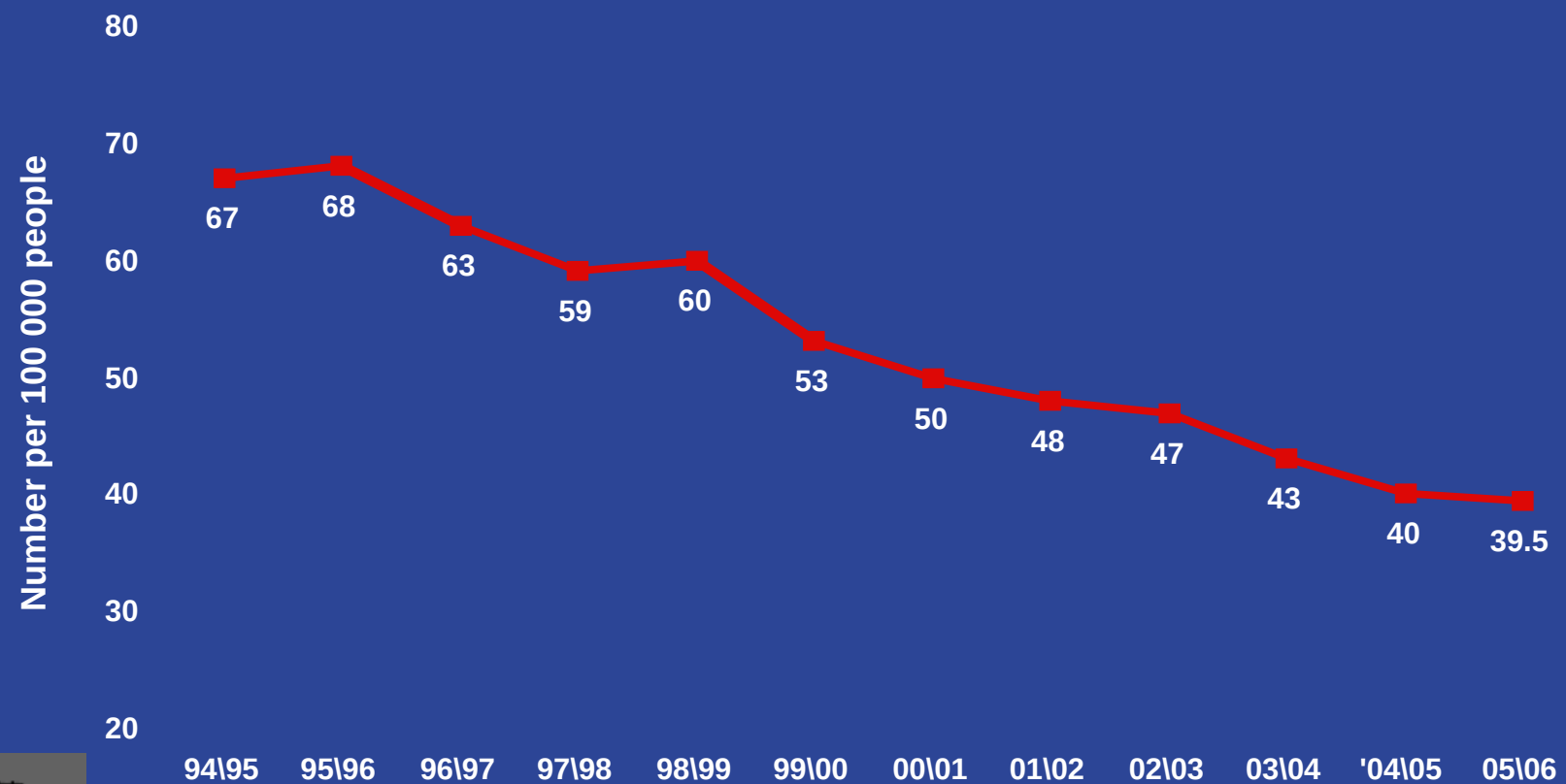
How accurate are the police statistics?

Reporting of crime to police, 2003 ISS national victim survey



Murder rate

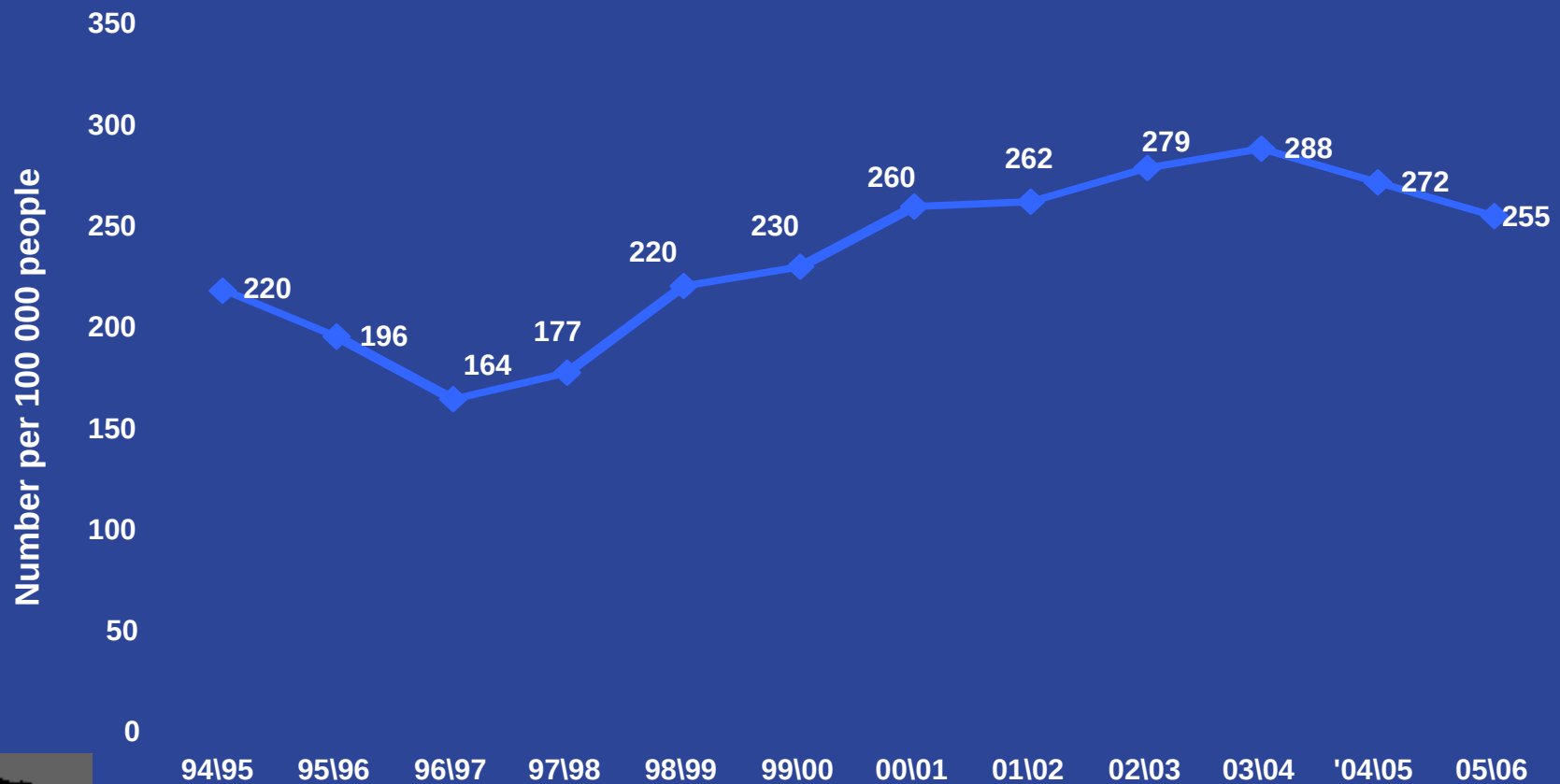
1994/95 - 2005/06



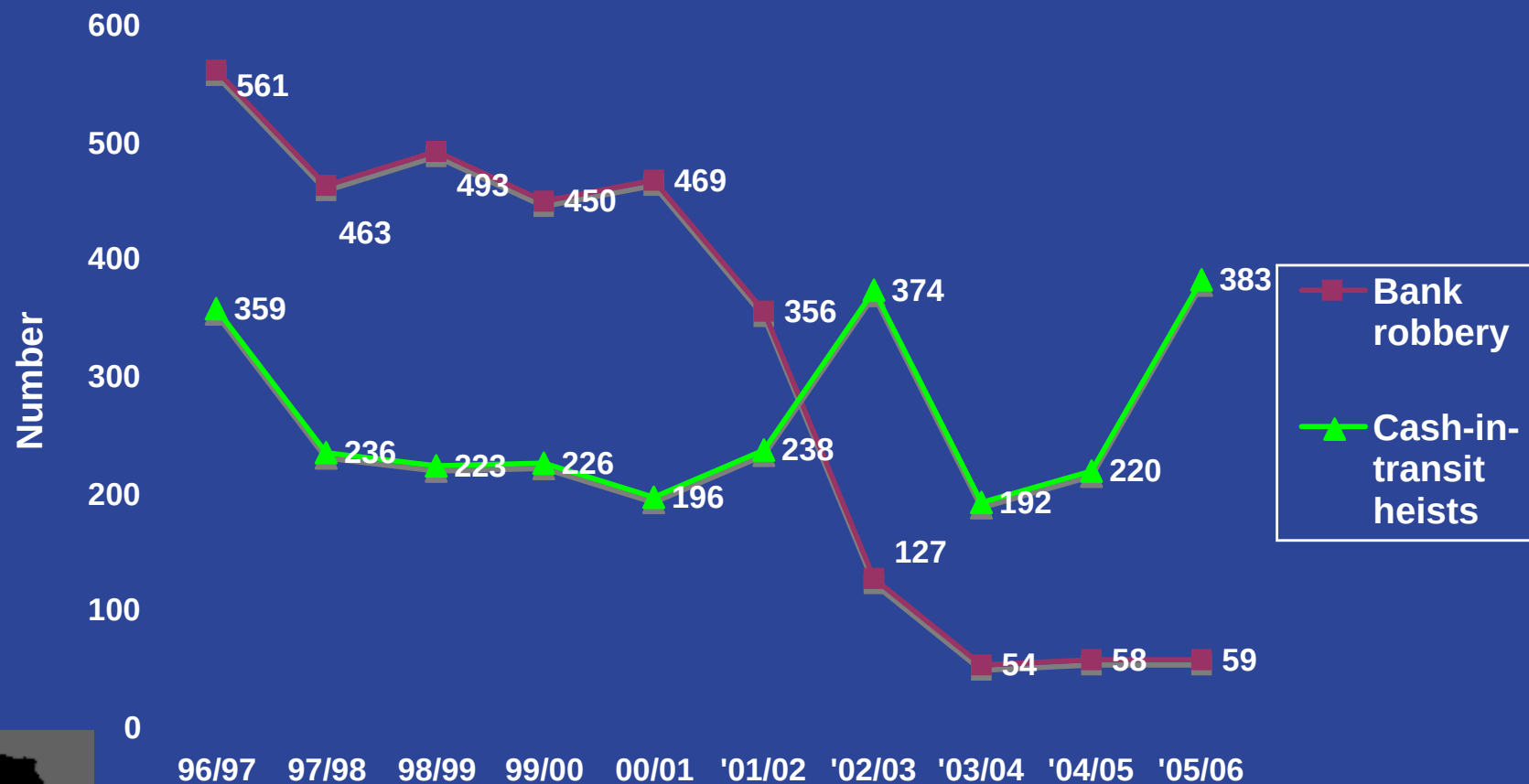
Housebreaking rate 1994/95 - 2005/06



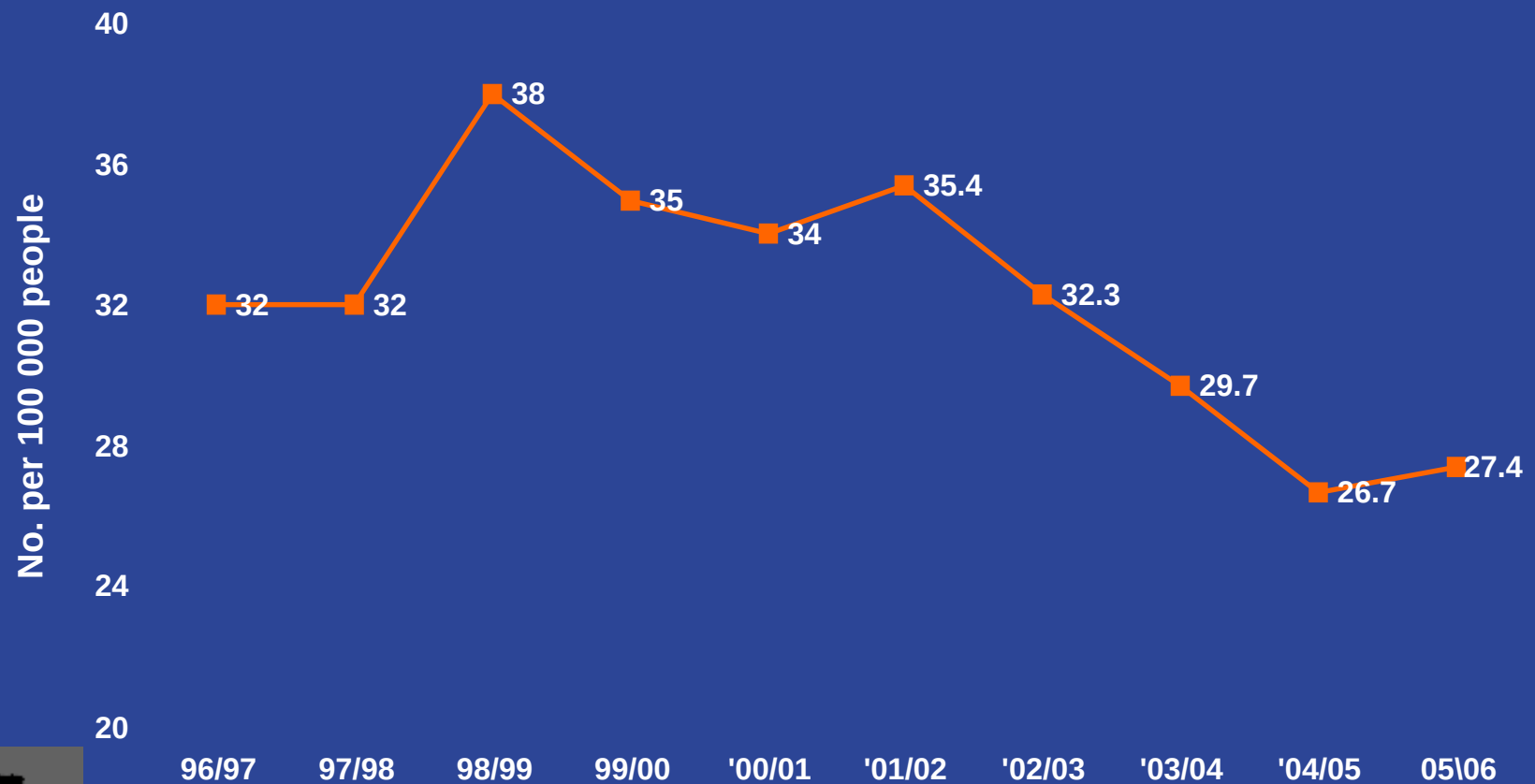
Aggravated robbery rate 1994/95 - 2005/06



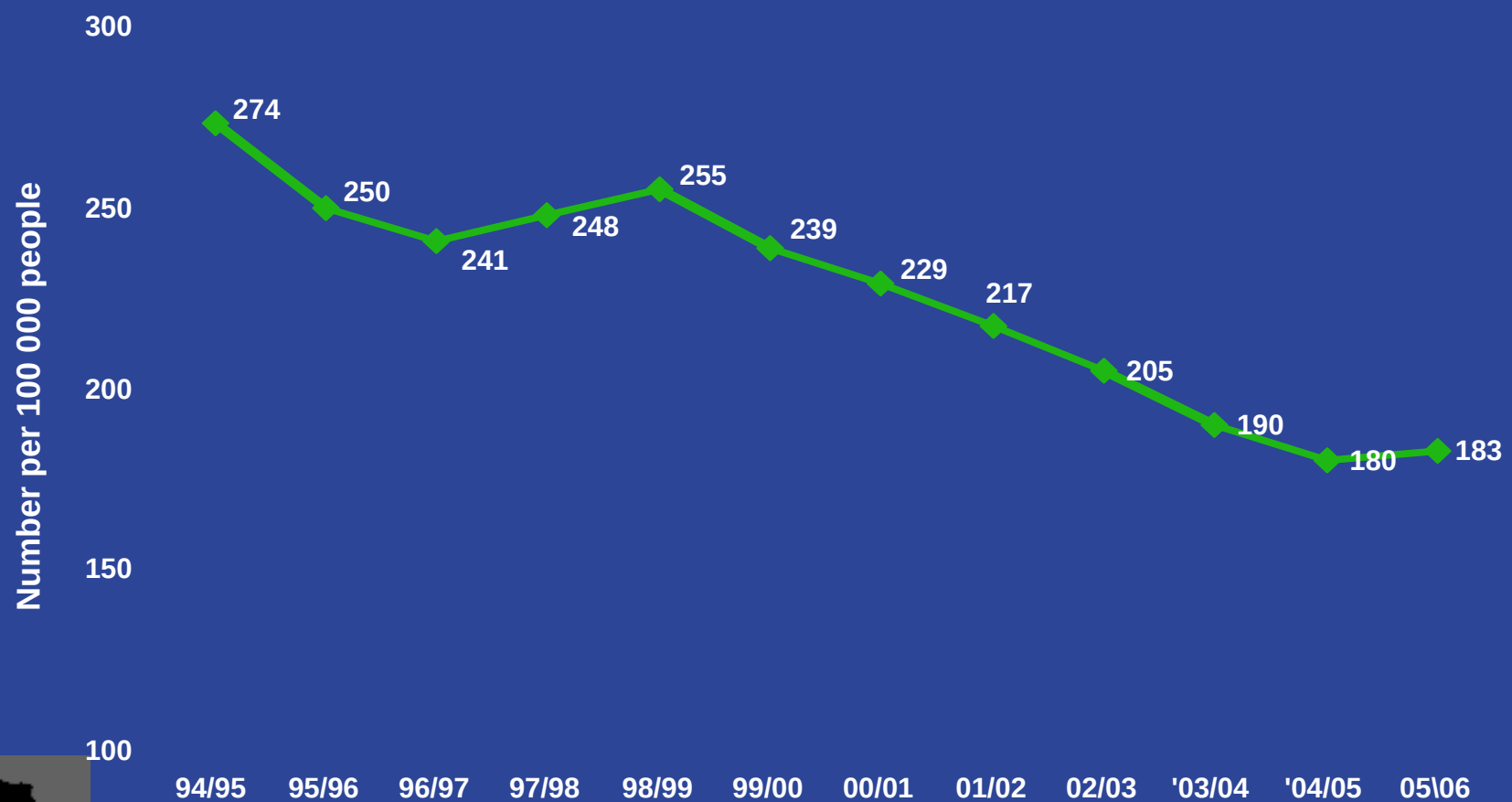
Bank robbery & cash in transit heists 1996/97 - 2005/06



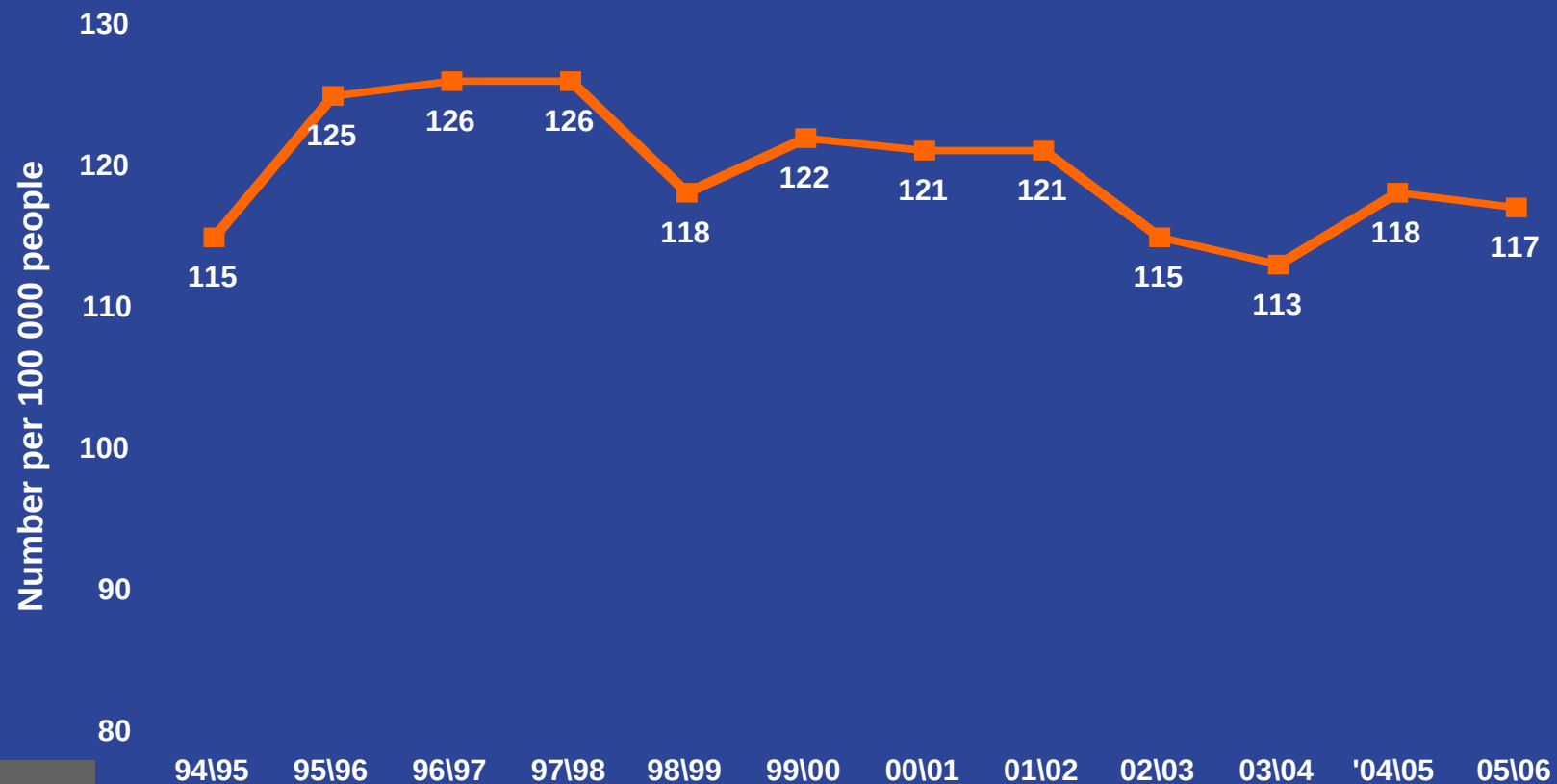
Car hijacking rate 1996/97 - 2005/06



Car theft rate 1994/95 - 2005/06



Rape rate 1994/95 - 2005/06



What do we know about crime in 2006/7?

Various sources indicate increases in certain crimes in certain places



Short-term insurance industry reports

- Mutual & Federal:

- Reversal of downward trend in hijacking in Apr-June 2006 quarter (4% increase over 2005 quarter)
- Stolen cars also resumed an upward trend in Apr-June quarter
- Burglary claims increased by 15% in this quarter

- Hollard:

- Spike in hijacking (20%) and burglary claims in Apr-June 2006 quarter



Increases in certain crimes in Gauteng (MEC for Community Safety, Feb 2007)

- Operation Iron Fist (July - Dec 2006) was launched to address the “spike in certain crimes”. Results:
 - Hijacking “stabilised” compared to 1st 6 months of 2006
 - “Substantial reduction” in CIT heists. SABRIC reports 27% reduction Sep-Dec 2006 compared to 2005
 - Business robberies “continued to increase” but at slower rate than 1st 6 months of 2006
 - Residential robberies: “decreases were not recorded”
 - Residential burglaries: “substantial reduction” after slight increase in 1st 6 months of 2006



Increases in certain crimes in Gauteng (Sunday Times Metro, 25 Feb 2007)

- During Oct-Dec 2006:
 - House robbery ↑ 29%
 - Business robbery ↑ 30%
 - Bank robbery ↑ 50%
 - Murder ↑ 8.5%
 - Rape ↑ 4.9%
 - Hijacking ↓ 0.2%



What happened in 2006 to spark the current 'crime wave' or the perception thereof?

- Increases in certain violent high profile crimes
- Response of leadership has had a negative impact on public perceptions



Increases in violent armed robberies

- Home robberies = most severe impact:
 - Home - the 'safest' place?
 - Presence of family
 - Homes can't be avoided (like other high risk areas)
 - Other violence (rape, torture) behind closed doors
 - Large groups of armed men - highly confrontational for public, police & private security
- Well known/high-profile victims
- Robberies in busy public places: taxi ranks, malls, restaurants

■ Jeppestown shootout June 2006



Impact of police leadership's response on perception

- SAPS policy on release of crime stats
 - Minister S&S: “the statistics will be published soon after the end of the financial year...”
- Police leadership's response
 - Regularity of communication ?
 - Nature of communication ?
 - Dismissive rather than empathetic



Thank You



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