



Crime Facts Info

No. 194 17 July 2009

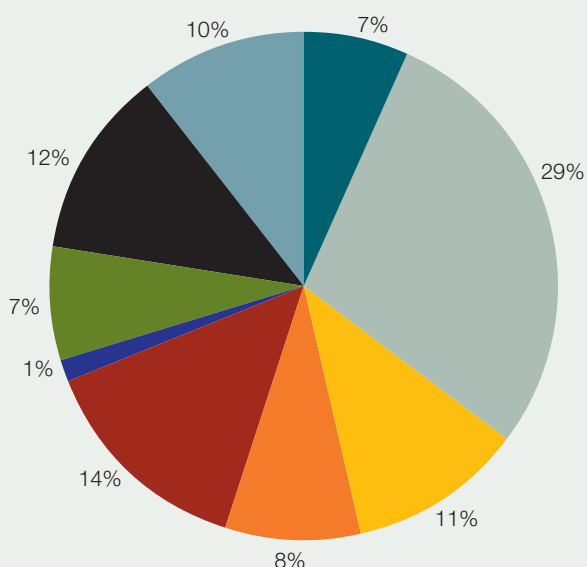
Most serious offence by Indigenous status

Of the 5,145 Indigenous persons in prison in 2008, nearly 30 percent had been sentenced with assault as their most serious offence (MSO; ABS 2009). Other MSO categories were burglary (14%), offences against justice procedures/government, security and operations (12%) and sexual assault (11%). These four offences accounted for 66 percent of Indigenous sentenced prisoners' MSOs. Of all Indigenous sentenced prisoners, seven percent had been sentenced with homicide as their MSO. Conversely, non-Indigenous sentenced prisoners were more likely to have sexual assault recorded as their MSO (14%), followed by illicit drug offences (12%), homicide (12%), assault (12%) and burglary (10%). These five offences accounted for 61 percent of non-Indigenous sentenced prisoners' MSOs.

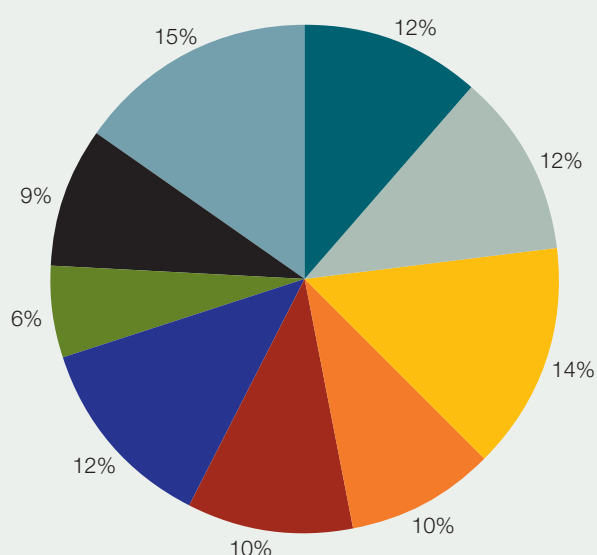
Proportion of sentenced prisoners by most serious offence 2008



Indigenous



Non-Indigenous



Source: ABS 2009

References

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2009. *Prisoners in Australia, 2008*. ABS cat. no. 4517.0. Canberra: ABS.
<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/cat/4517.0>