



Australian Government

Australian Institute of Criminology

Australian crime: Facts & figures

2013



Australian crime: Facts & figures

2013

aic.gov.au

© Australian Institute of Criminology 2014

ISSN 1832-228X (Print)
1836-2249 (Online)

Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth), no part of this publication may in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, microcopying, photocopying, recording or otherwise) be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted without prior written permission. Inquiries should be addressed to the publisher.

Published by the Australian Institute of Criminology
GPO Box 2944
Canberra ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6260 9200
Fax: (02) 6260 9299
Email: front.desk@aic.gov.au
Website: aic.gov.au

Acknowledgements

Extraction of data and preparation of text:
Simon Ng

Notes

Because of rounding, some percentages may not sum to 100.
Minor revisions are occasionally made to publications after release.
The online version available on the AIC website will include any revisions made since printing: <http://aic.gov.au/publications/current-series/facts/1-20/2013.html>

Edited and typeset by the Australian Institute of Criminology

Foreword

While the volume and rate of individual crime types has fluctuated over the past few years, overall, crime in Australia has been decreasing. *Australian Crime: Facts & Figures* uses information compiled from a broad range of sources to create an accurate and holistic picture of crime and criminal justice issues in Australia. Within this volume are the patterns and trends relating to specific crimes, victims, offenders, the location of criminal acts and the operation and cost of the criminal justice system (including the police, courts and prisons). The purpose of this publication is to provide government and justice agencies, the media and the Australian public with accurate, easy to access crime statistics in a single, centralised location.

An online version of *Australian Crime: Facts & Figures* is also available at the Australian Institute of Criminology's (AIC) website (aic.gov.au). This online tool allows users to generate their own graphs and tables and more fully engage with the data presented. For more information on specific crime and justice issues, the AIC disseminates a number of publications, from fact sheets through to detailed reports. These publications are available for free download from the AIC website in a variety of formats, or by contacting the AIC directly.

This publication
utilises data
from both
administrative
and survey-based
collections

Highlights

Property crime

- Property crime continued to be reported at a much higher volume than violent crime in 2012. While there were statistically small changes in 'other' theft and unlawful entry with intent, following a small increase

in motor vehicle theft in 2011, the six percent increase in the number of victims of motor vehicle theft in 2012 (from 55,310 in 2011 to 58,574 in 2012) is the greatest percentage increase on record for the last 10 years.

Financial crime

- Overall, while fraud committed on credit and charge cards decreased by 17 percent between 2011 and 2012—a decrease of 16.78 cents per \$1,000 transacted, these types of fraud have generally increased since 2006, increasing from 37.93 cents per \$1,000 transacted in 2006 to 79.26 cents per \$1,000 transacted in 2012.
- Scams aim to defraud an individual through deception. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission monitors the level of scam activity. The top 10 scams reported to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission in 2012 involved:
 - advance fee/upfront payment;
 - computer hacking (including malware and viruses);
 - lottery and sweepstakes;
 - banking and online account (including phishing and identity theft);
 - online auction and shopping (including classifieds);
 - unexpected prizes;
 - job and employment (including business opportunity);
 - false billing;
 - dating and romance (including adult services); and
 - mobile phone (including ringtones, competitions and missed calls).
- The proportion of reported scams involving advance fee/upfront payment scams decreased by five percentage points between 2011 and 2012, while computer hacking decreased by 10 percentage points.
- Conversely, the proportion of scams involving lottery and sweepstakes, banking and online accounts, online auction and shopping, and unexpected prizes increased between 2011 and 2012.

Drugs

- The number of amphetamine arrests peaked in 2011–12 at 16,828, a 30 percent increase on the previous year and consistent with an overall increase in use since 1996–97.

- Cannabis has accounted for the highest volume of drug arrests since 1996–97. In 2011–12, there were 61,011 drug arrests involving cannabis, a 12 percent decrease on that recorded in 1996–97. However, since 2007–08, the number of cannabis-related arrests has been increasing by approximately three percent per year.
- The number of cocaine arrests peaked in 2009–10 at 1,244. The 2011–12 figure (n=995) represented a 19 percent increase on the previous year, but is still 20 percentage points below the 2009–10 peak in arrests.
- Between 1998–99 and 2001–02, the number of heroin-related drug arrests decreased from 14,341 to 3,259—a total percentage decrease of 77 percent. In 2011–12, there were 2,714 heroin-related arrests.
- The proportion of police detainees testing positive to any drug at Drug Use Monitoring Australia program sites of Parramatta, Brisbane and Adelaide has increased in the past four years. Since 2009, the proportion testing positive to any drug in Parramatta increased by 20 percent, while the proportion in Brisbane and Adelaide increased by five and one percent respectively. Positive test rates for Kings Cross and Southport have also increased in the last three years.

Violent crime

- In 2012, there were 21 more homicides and 561 more sexual assaults compared with figures recorded in 2011. While all high impact crimes in themselves, the change is statistically small.
 - The homicide data is consistent with a general decline in homicide evident since 1999, when there was a peak of 344 murder victims. The 2012 figure of 255 murder victims represents a 26 percent decrease in the number of victims of murder compared with 1999 figures. There were 42 manslaughter victims in 2012.
 - Just over half of the 255 murders in 2012 occurred in a residential dwelling. The next most common location was the street or footpath, where 16 percent of victims were murdered.
- Generally, the rate of robbery victimisation has been declining since 2001. In the last six years, the rate of robbery victimisation has steadily declined from 86 per 100,000 in 2007 to 58 per 100,000 in 2012.
- Violent crimes occurring in recreational settings rose by four percent between 2011 and 2012; from 1,787 to 1,865 incidents, while the number of victims of violent crime in the home increased by six percent to 12,650.
- In 2012, there were 116,103 victims of assault, constituting 969 victims per 100,000 population. This is based on data from New South Wales, South Australia, Western

Australia, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory only. Assault data from Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania was not included.

Custody

- A total of 29,383 persons were in custody in Australian prisons on 30 June 2012—a one percent increase on the number recorded in 2011.
- In 2012, the rate of imprisonment of Indigenous offenders was 19 times higher at 2,302 per 100,000 population than the rate of 124 per 100,000 for non-Indigenous offenders.
- In 2012, the rate of incarceration of Indigenous juveniles was 460 per 100,000 population, currently 21 percent higher than the rate recorded in 1994. Indigenous juveniles were 32 times more likely to be incarcerated than non-Indigenous juveniles.
- The total recurrent expenditure on police services across Australia in 2011–12 was approximately \$9.8b. Victoria spent \$472 per adult on police services in 2011–12; less than any other state or territory. Conversely, expenditure per head of population was highest in the Northern Territory—\$1,734 per adult.

Adam Tomison
Director

Contents

iii	Foreword
iv	Highlights
vii	Contents
ix	Acronyms
x	Crime and justice statistics
xi	Notes on using these statistics
1	Recorded crime
2	Number of recorded victims of crime
5	Recorded crime victimisation rates
7	Location of crime
13	Selected crime profiles
13	Homicide
17	Assault
21	Sexual assault
25	Robbery
28	Unlawful entry with intent
29	Motor vehicle theft
33	Other theft
34	Fraud and deception-related crime
37	Drug arrests
42	Crime victimisation
42	Household and personal victimisation
54	Perception of the criminal justice system
55	Scams
60	Selected offender profiles
61	Offenders
70	Drug use by offenders

78 Characteristics of police detainees

83 Most serious offence

84 Criminal courts

85 The criminal court process

89 Court decisions

94 Sentencing

112 Corrections

113 Prisons

121 Community corrections

125 Juvenile detention centres

**129 Criminal justice
resources**

129 Justice expenditure

130 Police

134 Court administration

136 Adult corrective services

139 References

Acronyms

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACCC	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
AFP	Australian Federal Police
AIC	Australian Institute of Criminology
AICI	acts intended to cause injury
APCA	Australian Payments Clearing Association
CARS	Comprehensive Auto-theft Research System
CDPP	Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions
CSEO	child sexual exploitation offences
DUMA	Drug Use Monitoring in Australia
MPS	migration and people smuggling
MSO	most serious offence
MVT	motor vehicle theft
SCRGSP	Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision
UEWI	unlawful entry with intent


Crime and justice statistics

The statistics used in *Australian Crime: Facts & Figures* are derived from a variety of administrative datasets and surveys; using both types of information enables a better understanding of the incidence and effects of crime in the community. The sources used to compile this edition are listed in the *References* section.

Administrative collections—Criminal justice agencies keep records of their workflow at different stages of the criminal justice process. For example, police keep incident records, courts record the details of cases and their finalisation, and corrections agencies have details of the offenders in their charge. Most basic information comes from these administrative collections, which have the advantage of covering the whole population that comes into contact with the criminal justice system and of remaining relatively stable in their collection and production over time.

There are limitations to these data however, including issues of comparability among agencies and jurisdictions, and it is only recently that most of the data have been collated at a national level, if at all. Specifically, national collections of recorded crime from police records have been collated since 1996, prisoner data from corrections agencies have been collated since 1983, data for all criminal courts have been collated since 2001 and offender data have been collated since 2009. However:

- The collections are not all based on the same unit of measurement. For example, police services record details about offences, the courts record data at an individual case level and corrections agencies record information about individual offenders.
- Although substantial work has been undertaken to improve the national collections, the collections continue to be hampered by jurisdictional differences in legislation, definitions and data collection methods that are often not uniform. Data recording quality may also be an issue for some elements of the collection.
- Further, it can take time to reach agreement at a national level on key issues, including definitions of new and emerging offences. As a result, greater detail about crime and justice is often available at a jurisdictional level, even when it is not possible to produce national statistics.
- While most collections are grouped by year, the specific time period may vary between agencies. For instance some follow the calendar year (January to December), while others are based on the financial year (1 July to 30 June of the following year). Therefore, care should be taken when attempting to interpret information from incompatible time periods.



It is also worth noting that the datasets can only encapsulate reported crimes, yet not all crimes are reported to police. For example, it is estimated that only 20 percent of all sexual assaults are reported to police, compared with a reporting rate of nearly 100 percent for motor vehicle thefts (*Reference 27*). This is one of the primary reasons that the other main types of data collection, such as crime surveys, are undertaken.

Surveys—Crime victimisation surveys are believed to provide a more accurate picture of actual crime rates in society, as they attempt to measure all crime including crime that has not been reported to police. They have the advantage of asking the same questions in the same way to the whole of a sampled population. These answers are then recorded in a similarly uniform way so that the information they provide is both reliable and comparable.

However, it is not always valid to extrapolate from a sample to the whole population and all sample surveys have a certain amount of error. As surveys are also expensive, they generally tend to be undertaken on a ‘one off’ basis or infrequently. Surveys used in preparing this year’s edition of *Australian Crime: Facts & Figures* include the *Drug Use Monitoring in Australia* survey conducted by the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) and *Crime Victimisation* survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Notes on using these statistics

It should be noted that police information on victims and offenders has not been tested in court. For example, an offence recorded by police as ‘murder’ may later be reclassified as ‘manslaughter’, or there may be insufficient evidence to proceed to trial, or to convict an alleged offender of any criminal offence.

The apparent marked fluctuation in some crime rates may be due to the small number of cases involved. For example, if only four homicides have occurred in one year, the addition or removal of one homicide per year will appear as a 25 percent increase or decrease.

Rates are determined against one of two different types of base population—either the total population, or total relevant population. The property crime victimisation rate, for example, divides the number of property victims by the total population. In this publication, data in relation to the total population are presented as per 100,000. Rates in relation to a relevant population (eg juveniles, males, females, or Indigenous persons) refer to the number of persons as a proportion of that population.

Population projections for Indigenous (Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander) adults are based on data provided by the ABS. The ABS uses two methods to estimate Indigenous populations—the low series and the high series. Both contain certain

assumptions about births, deaths and migration. Figures in this publication are based on high-series population data. This method accounts for the effects of an increasing propensity for people to identify as being of Indigenous background from the 1991 to the 2001 censuses. In 2004, the ABS released revised Indigenous population figures in the high series for 2001–03, based on the 2001 census. Rate calculations for these years therefore differ from those in some previous publications.

Data on juveniles refer to persons aged 10 to 17 years, while data on adults refers to persons aged 18 years and over. Prior reports of *Australian Crime: Facts & Figures* up to 2004 defined adults as persons aged 17 years and over, affecting calculations such as rates of imprisonment. From the 2005 issue onward, imprisonment rates were recalculated based on the revised adult age and will therefore differ from those quoted in older issues.

Because of rounding, some percentages may not sum to 100. Furthermore, when percentages are being compared, the differences are reported as percentage points. When counts (eg number of incidents) are being compared, the difference is reported as a percentage.



Chapter 1

Recorded crime

Data on recorded crime as published by the ABS for the period 1996 to 2012 are presented in this first chapter. The information is based on police records of crimes from 1 January to 31 December each year. A victim of crime can be a person, premises or a motor vehicle.

The ABS has been collecting and publishing data since 1996 on the following eight major categories of offences—homicide (murder and manslaughter), assault, sexual assault, robbery, kidnapping, unlawful entry with intent (UEWI), motor vehicle theft (MVT) and other theft. It is estimated that these crimes account for about 60 percent of all crimes recorded by police.

Due to inconsistencies among jurisdictions in recording, the ABS has not released aggregated data on assault since 2003. As trends within jurisdictions appear to be consistent, however, the data for each jurisdiction have been released. The AIC used these data to compile the Australian totals for assault included in this chapter. It is important to note that since 2011, assault figures from the ABS do not include information from Victoria, Queensland or Tasmania and are therefore significantly lower than the expected national figure. Hence, the assault figures for 2011 and 2012 should not be compared with those of previous years.

Caution must be exercised when comparing the number of robbery victims from different years due to an undercounting of victims in New South Wales prior to 2005. Similarly affected are data on the number of victims of UEWI prior to 2006 because of an overstatement of victims in New South Wales. General trends, however, appear not to be affected.

Source: Reference 1

Number of recorded victims of crime

Violent crime

Violent crime includes homicide, assault, sexual assault, robbery and kidnapping (sometimes referred to as abduction). Although robbery may include an element of property crime, it is included as a violent crime, as the use or threat of violence is a more serious offence than the theft.

Table 1 Victims of selected violent crimes, 1996–2012 (n)

	Homicide ^a	Assault ^b	Sexual assault	Robbery ^c	Kidnapping/ abduction
1996	354	114,156	14,542	16,372	478
1997	364	124,500	14,353	21,305	564
1998	334	130,903	14,689	23,801	707
1999	385	134,271	14,699	22,606	766
2000	362	138,708	16,406	23,336	695
2001	347	152,283	17,577	26,591	767
2002	366	160,118	18,718	20,989	706
2003	341	157,280	18,025	19,709	696
2004	302	156,849	19,171	16,513	768
2005	301	166,507	18,695	17,176	729
2006	321	172,441	19,555	17,375	726
2007	283	176,077	19,954	17,996	733
2008	293	170,720	19,992	16,513	788
2009	293	175,277	18,807	15,238	564
2010	261	171,083	18,027	14,631	608
2011	276	117,992	17,592	13,653	675
2012	297	116,105	18,153	13,155	636

a: Comprises the offences of murder and manslaughter

b: 2011 and 2012 figures do not include information from Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania. Therefore these assault figures cannot be compared with those prior to 2011

c: Comprises the offences armed and unarmed robbery. Robbery is classified as a violent crime, as the use or threat of violence is more serious than a property offence

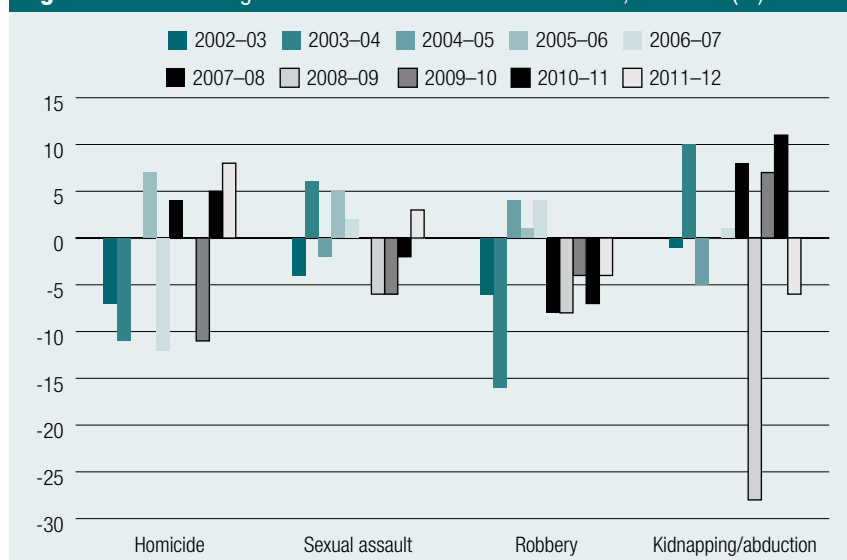
Note: Number of victims presented here represents revised estimates on numbers published in earlier editions of *Australian Crime: Facts & Figures*

Continuing the trend of recent years, robbery offences decreased in 2012.

- Assaults continue to represent the majority of recorded violent crimes. The number of assault victims fell from 117,992 to 116,105 between 2011 and 2012 (based on data available from all jurisdictions except for Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania).
- In 2012, the number of homicides and sexual assaults increased. There were 21 more homicides and 561 more sexual assaults (3% increase) compared with figures recorded in 2011.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 1 Annual change in victims of selected violent crimes, 2002–12 (%)



- Homicide incidents have been generally decreasing through the last decade. However, in 2012 there was an additional 21 incidents of homicide, representing an eight percent increase over 2011. The 297 incidents recorded in 2012 is still 16 percent lower than the 385 incidents of 1999, the highest number of homicides recorded since 1996.
- Kidnapping/abduction totals have fluctuated over the 10 year period. The greatest percentage decrease was recorded in 2008–09 at 28 percent. In 2011–12, there were 39 fewer victims of kidnapping/abduction, a decrease of six percent from 2011.
- Between 2011 and 2012, robbery decreased by four percent continuing a trend of a decreasing number of incidents evident from much of the last 10 years.

Source: Reference 1

Property crime

Property crime comprises UEWI (also referred to as break and enter or burglary), MVT and 'other' theft, which includes offences such as pickpocketing, bag snatching, shoplifting and bicycle theft.

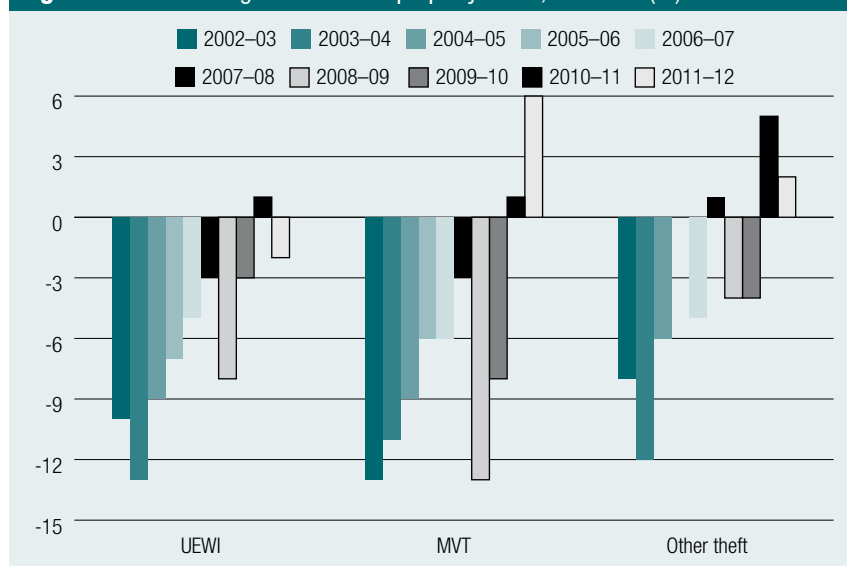
Table 2 Victims of property crime, 1996–2012 (n)			
	UEWI	MVT	Other theft
1996	402,079	122,914	521,762
1997	421,569	130,138	530,881
1998	434,376	131,587	563,482
1999	415,735	129,552	612,559
2000	436,968	138,912	681,268
2001	435,754	139,894	700,137
2002	394,323	113,460	680,799
2003	354,020	98,298	624,036
2004	308,675	87,939	548,778
2005	281,994	80,365	518,335
2006	262,005	75,377	518,734
2007	248,475	70,614	491,935
2008	241,760	68,265	497,053
2009	222,664	59,649	478,807
2010	217,030	54,821	465,547
2011	218,285	55,310	490,059
2012	214,222	58,574	500,552

Note: Number of victims presented here represents revised estimates on numbers published in earlier editions of *Australian Crime: Facts & Figures*

- Property crime continued to be reported at a much higher volume than violent crime.
- The number of MVTs increased from 55,310 in 2011 to 58,574 in 2012.
- The number of 'other' theft victims (n=500,552) also increased in 2012 compared with 2011, where there were 490,059 recorded victims.
- By contrast, there were 4,063 fewer victims of UEWI offences in 2012 than were recorded in 2011; a two percent decrease.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 2 Annual change in victims of property crime, 2002–12 (%)



- Despite a small increase in 2011, UEWI victimisation continued an overall downward trend in 2012 that has been evident since the 1990s.
- Conversely, MVT and to a lesser extent other theft victimisation, increased in 2012.
- Following a small increase in MVT in 2011, the six percent increase in the number of victims of MVT in 2012 is the greatest percentage increase on record for the last 10 years. Overall however, MVT still remains half as prevalent as it was in 1996.
- Other theft victimisation increased by two percent.

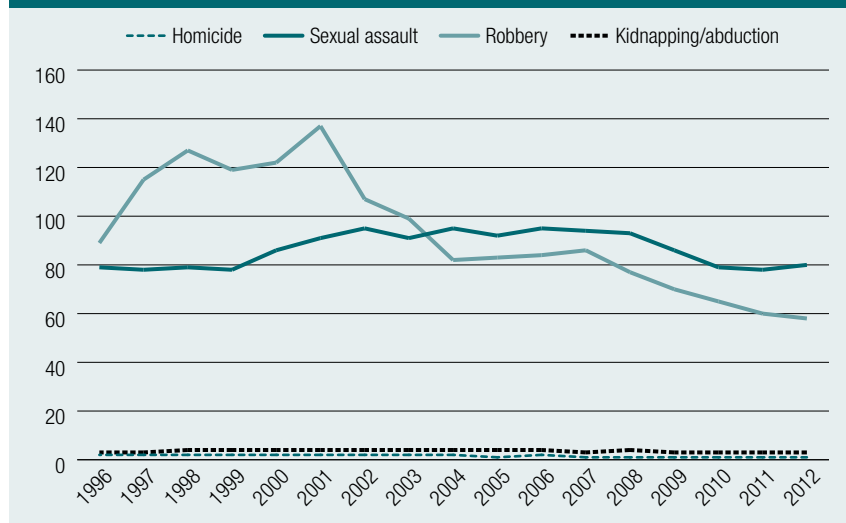
Source: Reference 1

Recorded crime victimisation rates

Trends in the number of recorded crime victims do not take into account increases in the population over time. As a result, an increase may reflect an increase in the general population in that period rather than an increase in the actual likelihood of a person becoming a victim of crime. Crime rates adjust for changes in population size. In this section, they are calculated per 100,000 persons of the population per year.

Violent crime victimisation rate

Figure 3 Victims of violent crimes, 1996–2012 (rate per 100,000 population)



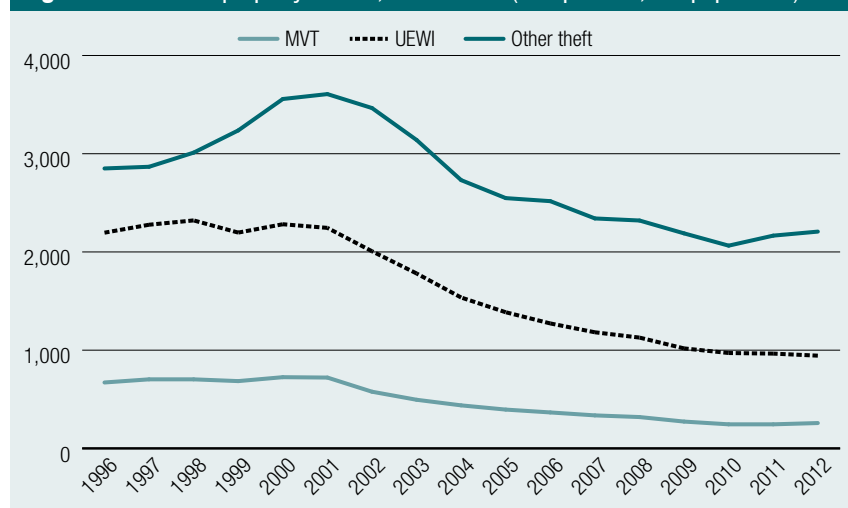
Note: Homicide and kidnapping each occur at rates of fewer than 5 per 100,000 population per year and are difficult to distinguish on this graph

- In the last six years, the rate of robbery victimisation has steadily declined from 86 per 100,000 in 2007 to 58 per 100,000 in 2012. Generally, the rate of robbery victimisation has been declining since 2001.
- The rate of sexual assault victimisation increased to 80 per 100,000 in 2012. The last increase in the rate of victimisation was seen in 2006. The rate of victimisation in 2012 is at a similar rate to what it was in 1996, when the rate was 79 per 100,000.
- The rate of homicide victimisation has never exceeded two per 100,000 in the 17 years for which data are available. Victimization has stayed at one per 100,000 since 2007.
- In 2012, like 2011, the rate of kidnapping/abduction was three per 100,000 population; much lower than the peak of four per 100,000 in 1999.

Source: References 1 and 2

Property crime victimisation rate

Figure 4 Victims of property crimes, 1996–2012 (rate per 100,000 population)



- The rate of ‘other’ theft victimisation reached its lowest point since data were available at 2,064 per 100,000 in 2010, before rising modestly to 2,206 per 100,000 in 2012.
- The rate of UEWI victimisation has generally declined since 2001. In 2012, the victimisation rate was 944 per 100,000 population—the lowest on record since the collection of data in 1996.
- Between 2011 and 2012, the rate of MVT victimisation increased by five percent; from 245 to 258 per 100,000 population.

Source: References 1 and 2

Location of crime

The ABS classifies crime locations according to the function of the site of the crime. There are three broad location types:

- *residential*—including houses, garages/carports, motels and hostels;
- *community*—including car parks, transport facilities, streets and footpaths, and schools; and
- *other*—including retail premises, recreational facilities, government offices and warehousing/storage.

The number of victims of selected violent offences that occurred within each type of location is presented in Table 3.

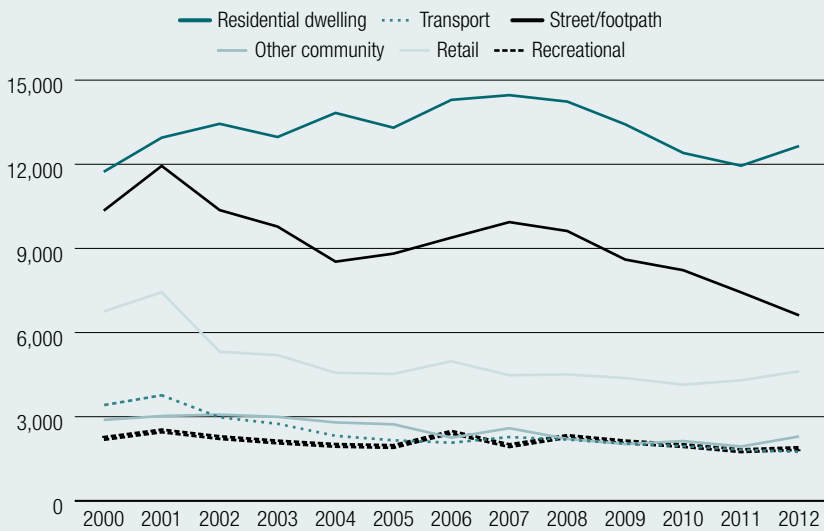
Table 3 Location type of violent crimes, 2012

	Murder	Sexual assault	Robbery	Kidnapping/abduction
Residential				
Residential dwelling	134	11,215	1,064	237
Outbuilding/residential land	11	234	171	8
Other residential	12	248	27	0
Total residential	157	11,697	1,262	245
Community				
Transport	5	607	1,121	15
Street/footpath	38	1,197	5,128	250
Other community location	20	1,527	383	48
Total community	63	3,331	6,632	313
Other location				
Retail	10	767	3,809	33
Recreational	8	839	988	30
Other	6	253	262	8
Total other	24	1,859	5,059	71
Unspecified	10	1,193	138	7
Total	254	18,080	13,091	636

- Sexual assault and murder victimisation occurred most frequently in the home. Specifically, 11,215 sexual assaults (62% of all sexual assault victims) and 134 murders (53% of all murder victims) occurred in a residential dwelling.
- Instances of robbery most commonly occurred on the street/footpath, accounting for 39 percent of all robbery victims. Retail and transport settings were the second and third most common robbery locations (29% and 9% respectively).
- For kidnapping/abduction, the most common location for victimisation was on the street/footpath (39%), followed by residential dwellings (37%) and other community locations (8%).

Source: Reference 1

Figure 5 Victims of violent crimes^a by type of location, 2000–12 (n)



a: Excludes assault

- Residential dwellings remain the most common location for violent crime victimisation. In 2012, the number of victims of violent crime in the home increased by six percent to 12,650.
- The number of victims of violent crimes committed on the street/footpath has decreased by 34 percent since 2007, reaching a low of 6,613 victims in 2012.
- Violent crimes occurring in recreational settings rose by four percent between 2011 and 2012; from 1,787 to 1,865.
- The number of victims of violent crimes in retail settings increased by eight percent between 2011 and 2012, from 4,297 to 4,619 victims.
- The number of violent crimes occurring in retail, recreational and transport settings has remained relatively stable since 2005.

Source: Reference 1

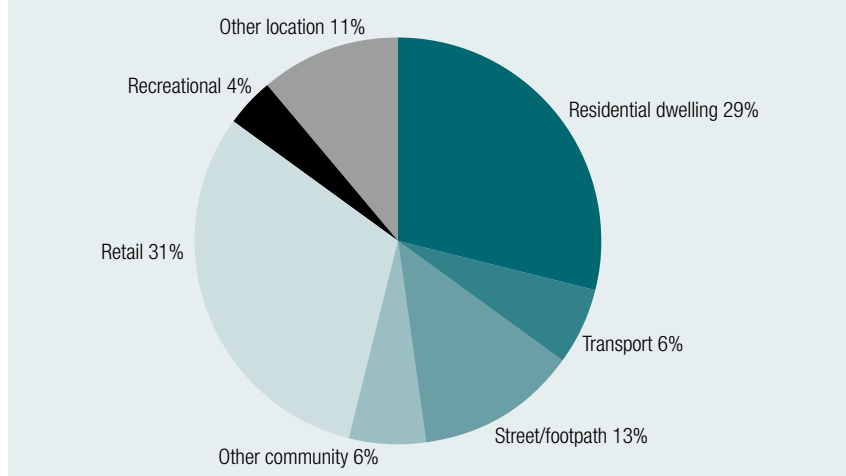
Table 4 Location type of property crimes, 2012

	UEWI	MVT	Other theft
Residential			
Residential dwelling	131,709	0	52,978
Outbuilding/residential land	16,494	26,512	94,226
Other residential	3,716	26	3,169
Total residential	151,919	26,538	150,373
Community			
Transport	422	3,507	31,499
Street/footpath	3	18,527	61,876
Other community location	10,959	854	24,485
Total community	11,384	22,888	117,860
Other location			
Retail	24,358	3,605	171,753
Recreational	5,567	656	18,446
Other	19,601	4,002	28,869
Total other	49,526	8,263	219,068
Unspecified	1,394	884	13,251
Total	214,223	58,573	500,552

- UEWI victimisation most commonly occurred in residential settings. Sixty-one percent (n=131,709) of victims of UEWI were victimised in dwellings and eight percent (n=16,494) occurred on outbuilding/residential lands.
- In 2012, the highest proportion of MVTs occurred on outbuilding/residential lands, which represented 45 percent of all MVT offences. A further 32 percent of victims had their motor vehicles stolen on the street/footpath.
- The greatest number of 'other' thefts occurred in retail settings (34%), followed by outbuilding/residential land (19%) and on the street/footpath (12%).

Source: Reference 1

Figure 6 Property crime by location, 2012 (%)

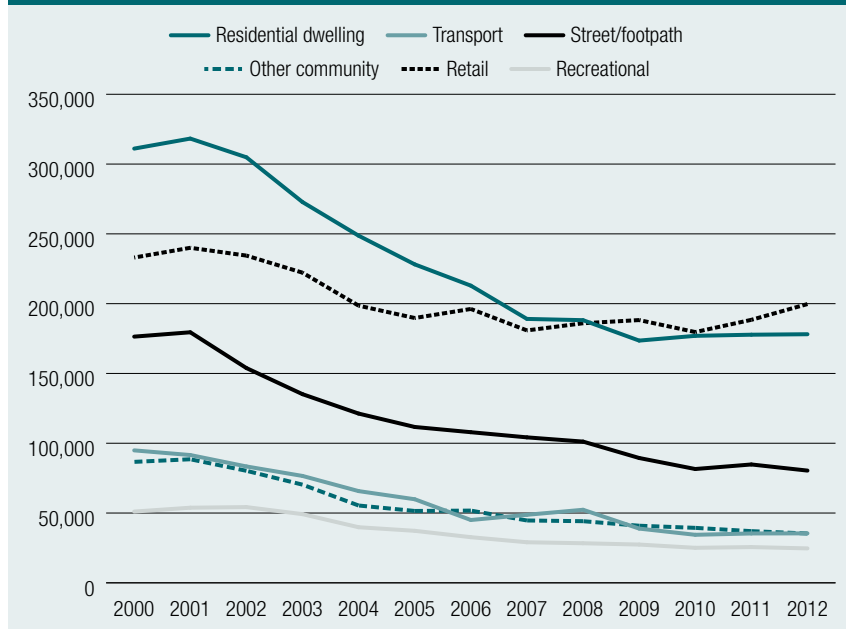


Note: n=621,649. Excludes residential locations that could not be classified as a dwelling, outbuilding/residential land and locations not further defined

- The largest proportion of all property crimes in 2012 occurred in retail settings (31%), followed by residential dwellings (29%).
- Property offences were least likely to occur on transport (6%), other community settings (6%) and recreational settings (4%).

Source: Reference 1

Figure 7 Property crime by location, 2000–12



- Since 2009, property crimes were most often committed in retail settings. In 2012, 199,716 property offences occurred in retail settings compared with 178,098 offences in residential settings.
- There has been an overall decline in offence numbers for all property offence types since 2000. For example, there has been a 63 percent decrease in property crimes at transport locations, a 59 percent decline in community locations and a 54 percent decline on the street/footpath.
- Despite an overall decline, property crimes in retail locations increased by six percent between 2011 and 2012.

Source: Reference 1

Selected crime profiles

Homicide

The definition of homicide used by the ABS is the unlawful killing of another person. Homicide statistics discussed here include the following categories of offences:

- *murder*—the wilful killing of a person either intentionally or with reckless indifference to life; and
- *manslaughter*—the unlawful killing of a person:
 - without intent to kill, usually as a result of a careless, reckless, or negligent act; or
 - intentionally, but due to extreme provocation; or
 - when in a state of mind that impairs the capacity to understand or control one's actions.

This reflects categories recorded by police at the time of the homicide and does not necessarily take into account the final outcome of the court case.

Homicide does not include:

- *attempted murder*—the attempt to unlawfully kill another person by any means, act or omission; and
- *driving causing death*—the unlawful killing of a person without intent to kill, caused through culpable, dangerous or negligent driving.

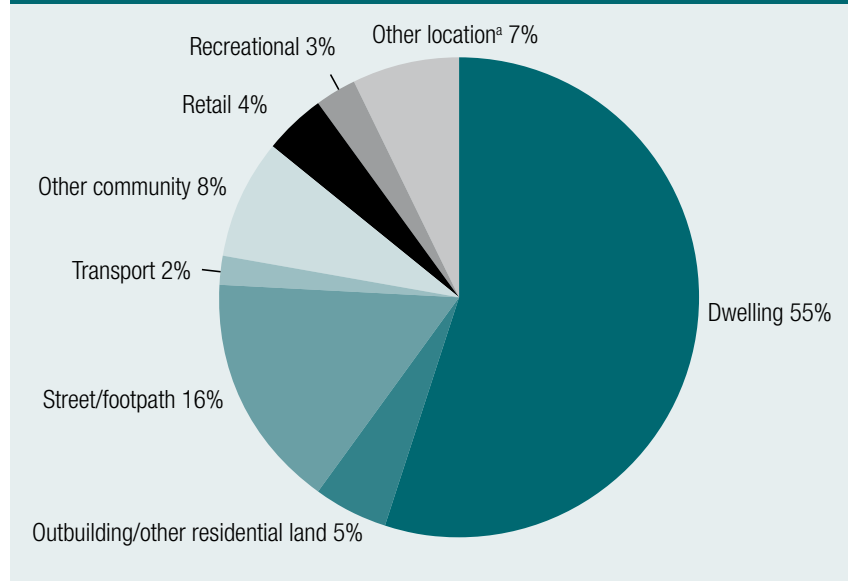
In 2011, the AIC changed the format of the National Homicide Monitoring Program so that it reports biennially rather than annually. As a result, *Australian Crime: Facts & Figures* no longer reports information regarding the relationship between offender and victim or long-term trends in firearm-related homicides.

According to the ABS, there were 297 homicides in Australia in 2012, with 1.3 victims per 100,000 population. In 2012, murder accounted for 255 (86%) of the homicide victims recorded. The remaining 42 victims (or 14%) were victims of manslaughter.

Source: References 1

Location of murders

Figure 8 Murder location by type, 2012 (%)



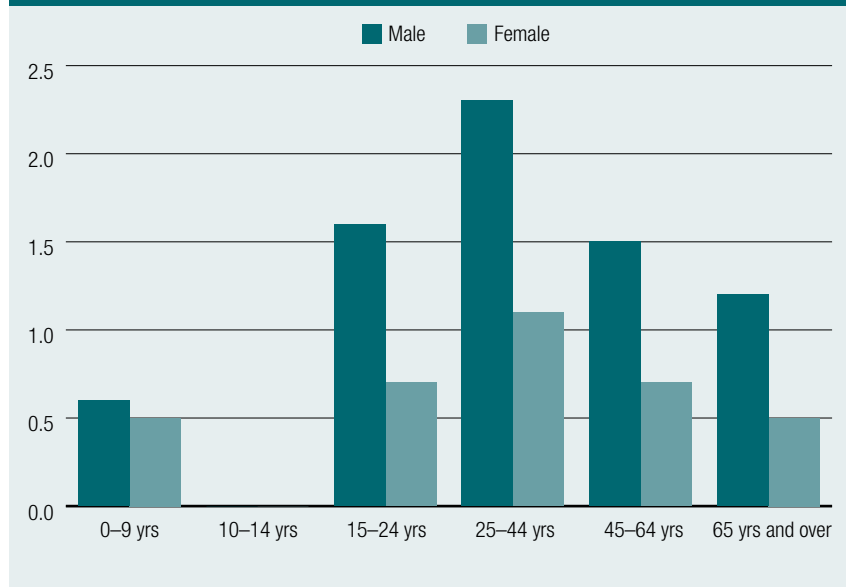
a: Includes unspecified location

Note: n=242. National data on the location of manslaughter victims (42 victims) cannot be presented here as it was in previous years, due to incompleteness of ABS published data, particularly regarding the breakdown of manslaughter by residential and community locations

- Just over half of all murders in 2012 occurred in a residential dwelling. The next most common location was the street or footpath, where 16 percent of victims were murdered. Compared with 2011 data, there was an increase in murders reported to have occurred on the streets and a reduction in murders in dwellings.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 9 Murder victimisation rates by age group and sex, 2012 (per 100,000 population of that age group and sex)



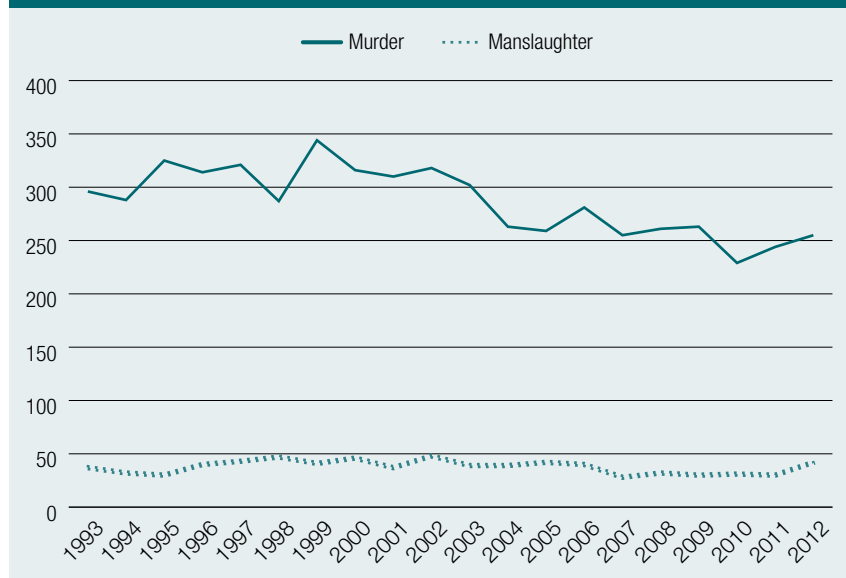
Note: National data on the age and sex of manslaughter victims (42 victims) cannot be presented here as it was in previous years, due to incompleteness of published data, particularly regarding the breakdown of manslaughter by age categories

- Due to the relatively small numbers of murders each year, victimisation rates for murder are uniformly small across the age groups. However, both males and females experienced the highest rate of victimisation in the 25–44 year age group; 2.3 and 1.1 per 100,000 respectively.
- For females, the rate of murder victimisation was less than one per 100,000 of the population in all age categories, except for the 25–44 year age group.
- For males, the rate of victimisation was less than one per 100,000 for those aged 0–9 years and 10–14 years. The rate of victimisation was 1.5 per 100,000 for males aged 45–64 years and 1.6 per 100,000 population for males aged 15–24 years.

Source: Reference 1

Trend in homicide

Figure 10 Homicide victims, 1993–2012 (n per year)

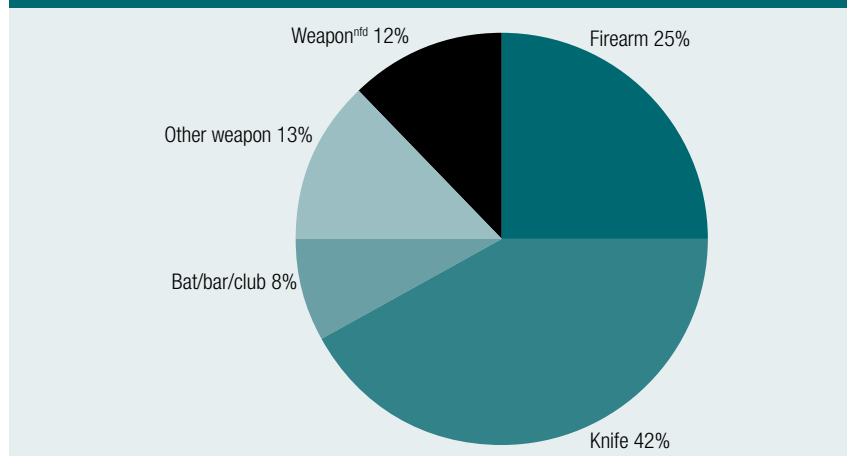


- Since 2010, there has been some increase in homicides.
- Since 1999, when there was a peak of 344 victims, the number of murder victims has been in decline. The 2012 figure of 255 victims represents a 26 percent decrease in the number of victims of murder compared with 1999.
- The number of manslaughter victims in Australia has remained at less than 50 per year. The greatest number was recorded in 2002, when there were 48 victims of manslaughter. In 2012, there were 42 victims of manslaughter.

Source: Reference 1

Weapon use

Figure 11 Type of weapon used in murder, 2012 (%)



Note: n=173. nfd=not further defined. Does not include information from Tasmania or the Australian Capital Territory. Does not include instances where no weapon was used. Data presented in Figure 11 is derived from ABS information regarding use of weapon in the commission of the offence of murder

- In 2012, 42 percent of all victims of murder were killed by an offender armed with a knife. The second most common weapon used in the commission of a murder was a firearm (25%).
- Victims were least likely to have been killed by an offender who used a bat/bar/club (8%).

Source: Reference 1

Assault

The ABS defines assault as the direct infliction of force, injury or violence upon a person, including attempts or threats. This definition excludes sexual assault.

The ABS does not provide national data on victims of assault due to differences in business rules, procedures, systems, policies and recording practices between states and territories. In 2011, the ABS updated the way assault information is collected from each of the states and territories. This has resulted in incomplete information being received and data was not available for Queensland, Victoria or Tasmania. This has important ramifications for the number of assaults reported in the current edition of

Australian Crime: Facts & Figures. Therefore, any decrease in assault figures should be interpreted with consideration to this change in recording practice.

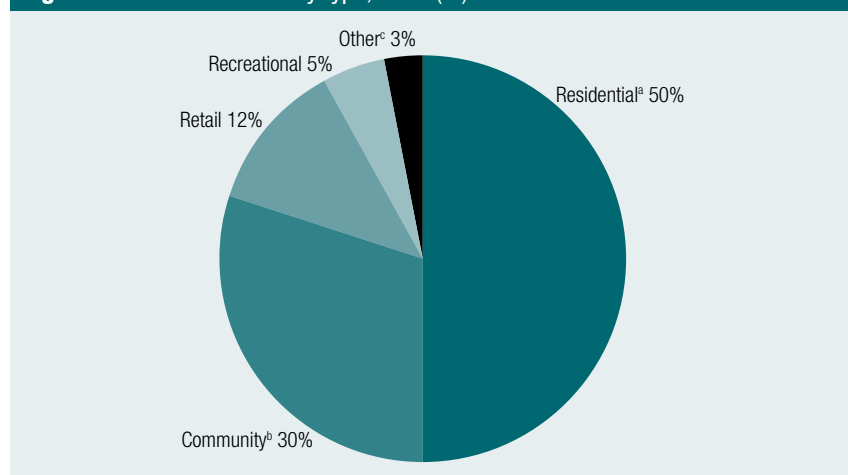
In 2012, there were 116,103 victims of assault, constituting 969 victims per 100,000 population. This is based on data from New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory only.

The data for the following charts on the location of incidents and the age and sex of victims of assaults are presented here as an aggregation of ABS data for all Australian states and territories where information was available.

Source: Reference 1 and 2

Location of assault

Figure 12 Assault location by type, 2012 (%)



a: Administrative/professional, banking, wholesale, warehousing/storage, manufacturing, agricultural and other locations not specified

b: Outbuilding or other residential land

c: Includes educational, health and religious community locations, as well as community locations not specified

Note: n=116,103. Due to changes in ABS recording practice, the data reported do not include Queensland, Victoria or Tasmania

- In 2012, 50 percent of victims were assaulted in residential locations, followed by 30 percent who were assaulted in community locations.
- The smallest proportion of victims were assaulted in other (3%) and recreational (5%) locations.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 13 Assault victims by age group and sex, 2012 (per 100,000 of that age group and sex)



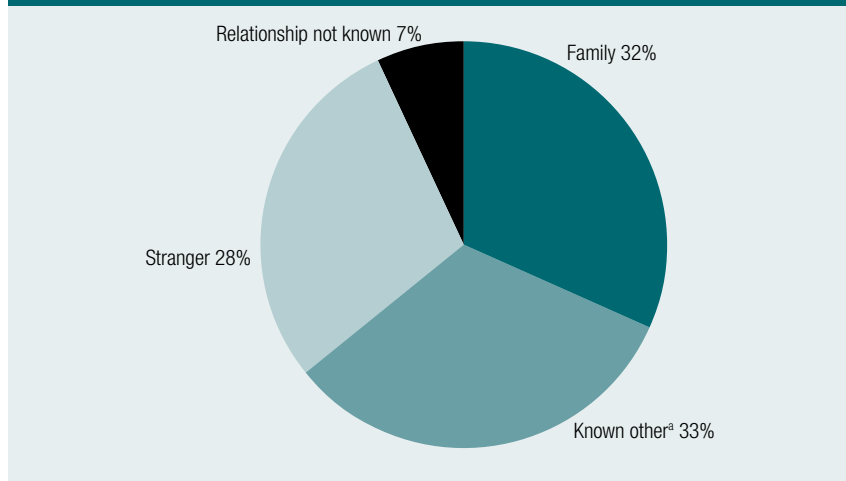
Note: Due to changes in ABS recording practice, the data reported does not include Queensland, Victoria or Tasmania

- In 2012, the victimisation rate for assault was highest in the 15–24 year age group for both sexes. The rate was higher for females, who were victimised at a rate of 2,136 per 100,000 population compared with 2,009 per 100,000 for males.
- Very young children and the elderly had the lowest rate of assault victimisation in 2012. People aged 0–9 years were assaulted at a rate of 133 per 100,000 population, while those aged 65 years and over were victimised at a rate of 174 per 100,000.
- Males were victimised at a higher rate than females in all age categories except the 15–24 and 25–44 year age groups. The rate of assault victimisation experienced by males aged 10–14 years was 893 per 100,000 population compared with 757 per 100,000 for females. Similarly, for males aged 45–64 the victimisation rate was 746 per 100,000 population, compared with 538 per 100,000 for females.

Source: Reference 1

Assault victim–offender relationship

Figure 14 Assault victims by relationship to offender, 2012 (%)



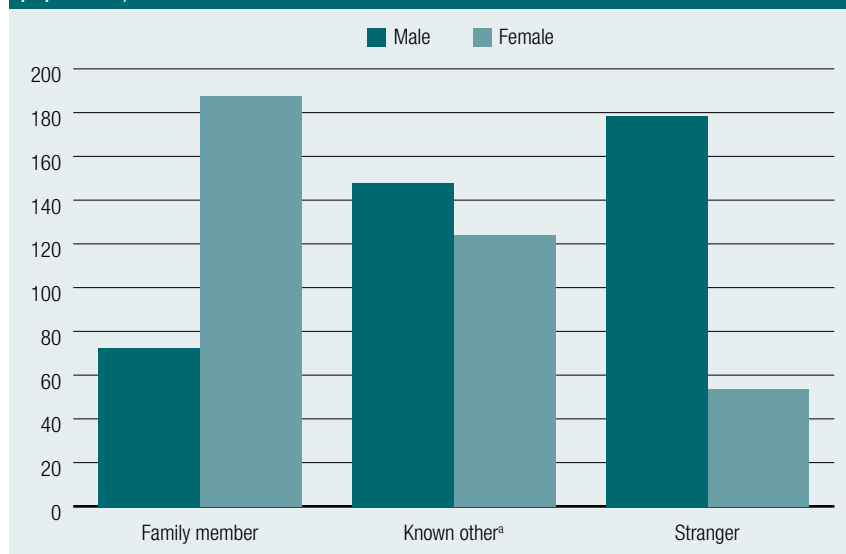
a: Includes known non-family member and known but not further defined, which may include some family members

Note: n=92,987. Due to changes in ABS recording practice, the data reported do not include Queensland, Victoria or Tasmania. Further, information regarding relationship to victim was not available for Western Australia

- Similar proportions of victims were assaulted by 'known other' (33%) and family (32%). Twenty-eight percent of victims were assaulted by a stranger.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 15 Assault victims by relationship to offender and sex, 2012 (per 100,000 population)



a: Includes known non-family member and known but not further defined, which may include some family members

Note: Due to changes in ABS recording practice, the data reported does not include Queensland, Victoria or Tasmania. Further information regarding relationship to victim was not available for Western Australia

- Males were assaulted by strangers at a much higher rate than females (179 per 100,000 population compared with 54 per 100,000). Conversely, females were victimised by family members at a much higher rate than males (188 per 100,000 population compared with 73 per 100,000).
- Both sexes were next most commonly victimised by a 'known other'. For males, the rate was 148 per 100,000 population and for females 124 per 100,000.

Source: Reference 1

Sexual assault

The ABS defines *sexual assault* as a physical assault of a sexual nature, directed toward another person who:

- does not give consent, or
- gives consent as a result of intimidation or fraud; or
- is legally deemed incapable of giving consent because of youth or incapacity.

In 2012, there were 18,152 recorded sexual assaults, with 80 victims per 100,000 population.

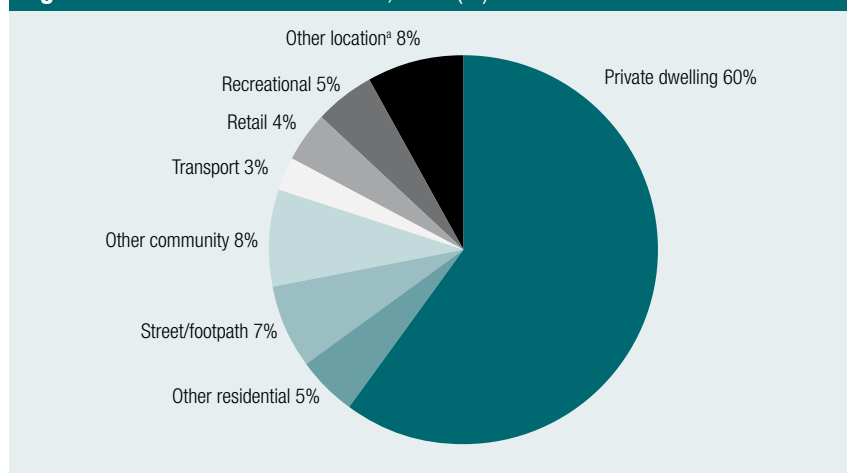
Information pertaining to the relationship between offender and victim of sexual assault (see Figure 18) is an aggregate of ABS data from all available Australian states and territories.

National data on the age and gender of victims of sexual assault cannot be presented here due to incompleteness of published state and territory age data, differences in business rules, procedures, systems, policies and recording practices between states and territories.

Source: Reference 1

Location of sexual assaults

Figure 16 Location of sexual assault, 2012 (%)



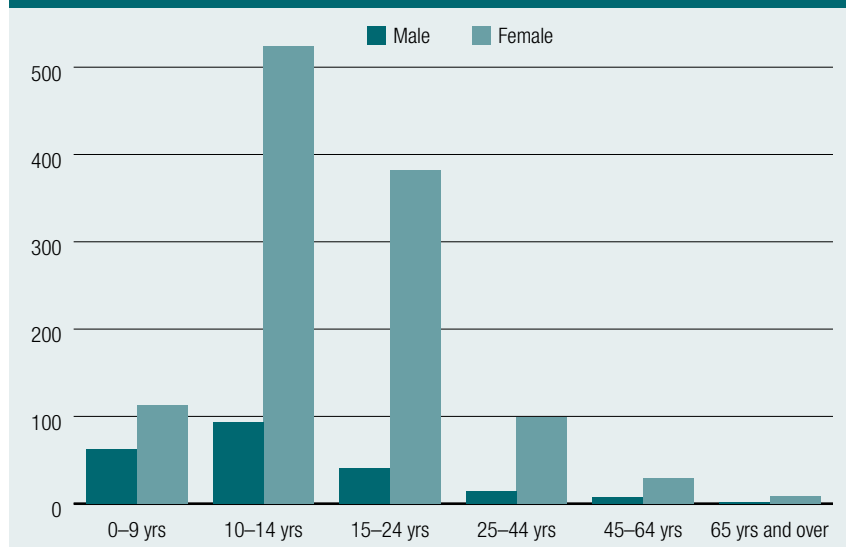
a: Includes unspecified location

Note: n=18,152. Does not include Queensland, Victorian or Tasmanian data

- The most common location where sexual assaults occurred in 2012 was private dwellings (60%).
- Similar proportions of sexual assaults occurred in other community and other locations (8% respectively). Seven percent of sexual assaults occurred on the street and footpath.

Source: References 1 and 2

Figure 17 Age and sex of sexual assault victims, 2012 (rate per 100,000 population)

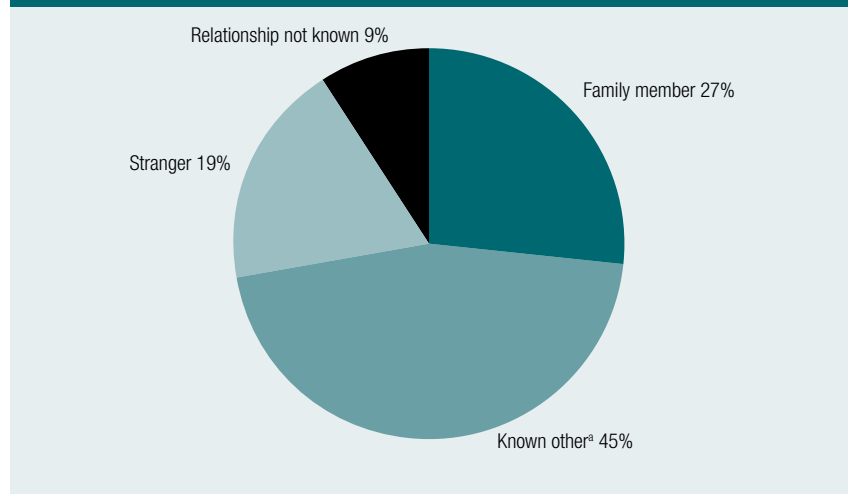


Note: Does not include Queensland, Victorian or Tasmanian data

- In 2012, females were consistently victimised at a higher rate than males across all age groups. However, the pattern in sexual assault victimisation was similar for both sexes (peaking in the 10–14 year age group and then declining).
- For females aged 10–14 years, the rate of sexual assault victimisation was 525 per 100,000 population compared with 94 per 100,000 for males. The rate of victimisation for females aged 15–24 years was 382 per 100,000 population. The rate declined more noticeably in the 25–44 year age group, at 100 per 100,000 population.
- For males, children under the age of 15 years experienced the highest rate of victimisation. The rate was highest in the 10–14 year age group followed by those aged 0–9 years (63 per 100,000 population).

Source: References 1 and 2

Figure 18 Sexual assault victims by relationship to offender, 2012 (%)



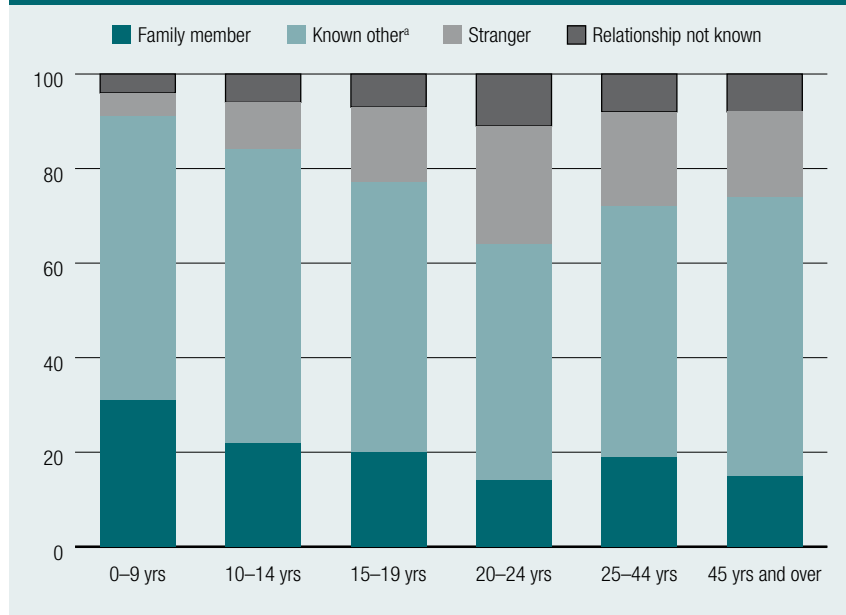
a: Includes known non-family members and known but not further defined, which may include some family members

Note: n=16,366. Excludes Western Australia (information not available). Also excludes cases where the relationship was not known or stated

- Sexual assault victims were most commonly victimised by ‘known others’ or family members. Specifically in 2012, 45 percent of all victims were sexually assaulted by a ‘known other’ and 27 percent by a family member.
- In 2012, strangers accounted for 19 percent of sexual assaults.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 19 Sexual assault victims' relationship to offender by age of victim, 2012 (%)



a: Includes known non-family members and known but not further defined, which may include some family members

Note: Excludes Western Australia (information not available)

- Across all age groups, 'known other' was the most common relationship between sexual assault victims and offenders. This ranged from 50 percent of victims aged 20-24 years to 62 percent of victims aged 10-14 years.
- The proportion of victims who were sexually assaulted by a stranger was highest in the 20-24 year age group (25%). Children aged 0-9 years were least likely to be victimised by a stranger (5%) but were most likely to be victimised by a family member (31%).
- In 2012, 57 percent of victims aged 15-19 years were sexually assaulted by a 'known other', 20 percent by a family member and 16 percent by a stranger.

Source: Reference 1

Robbery

Robbery is defined by the ABS as *the unlawful taking of property, without consent, accompanied by force or threat of force*. Robbery victims can be persons or organisations.

Types of robbery

Robbery is divided into two categories:

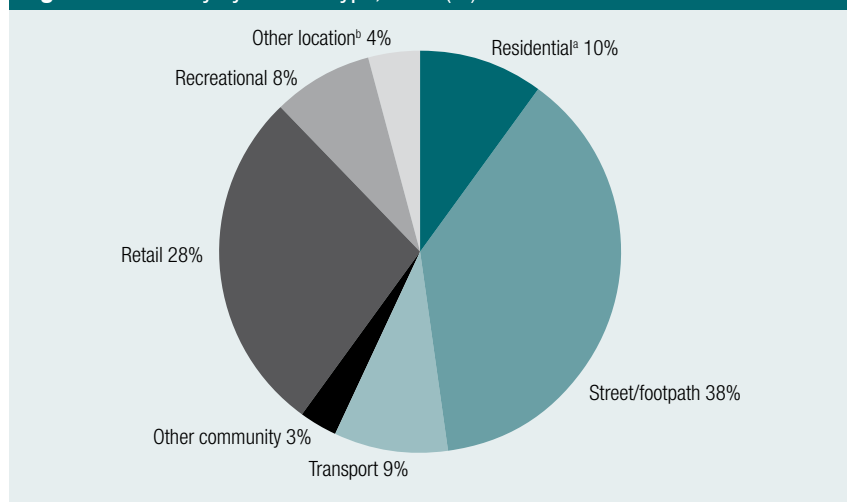
- *armed robbery*—robbery conducted with the use of a weapon. A weapon is any object used to cause fear or injury and includes imitation weapons and implied weapons; for example, where a weapon is not seen by the victim but the offender claims to possess one.
- *unarmed robbery*—robbery conducted without the use of a weapon.

Of the 13,153 robberies recorded during 2012, 58 percent were unarmed, while 42 percent were committed with some type of weapon.

Source: Reference 1

Location of robberies

Figure 20 Robbery by location type, 2012 (%)



a: Includes dwellings and other residential locations

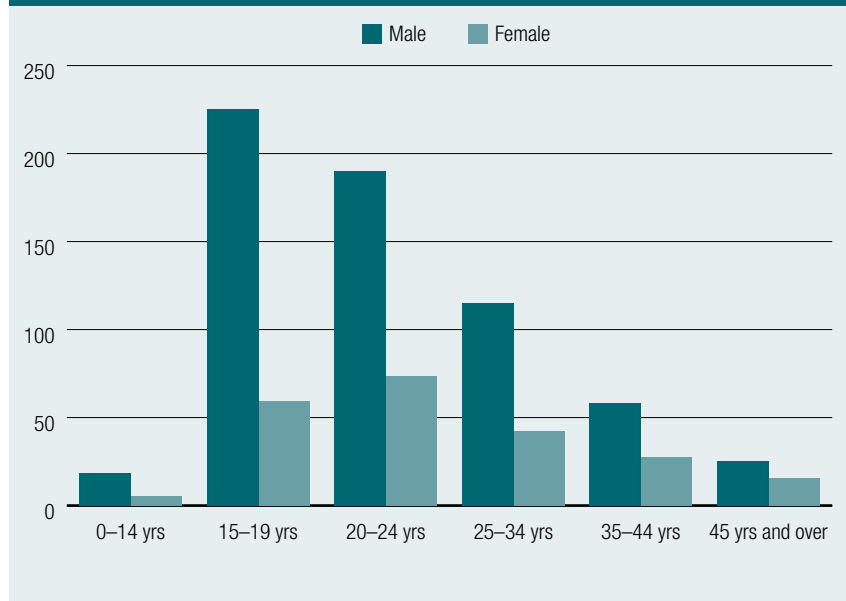
b: Includes unspecified locations

Note: n=13,153

- In 2012, victims were most commonly robbed on the street/footpath (38%) and in retail locations (28%). Only four percent were robbed in other locations and three percent in other community locations.

Source: Reference 1

Figure 21 Robbery victims by age group and sex, 2012 (per 100,000 population of that age group and sex)

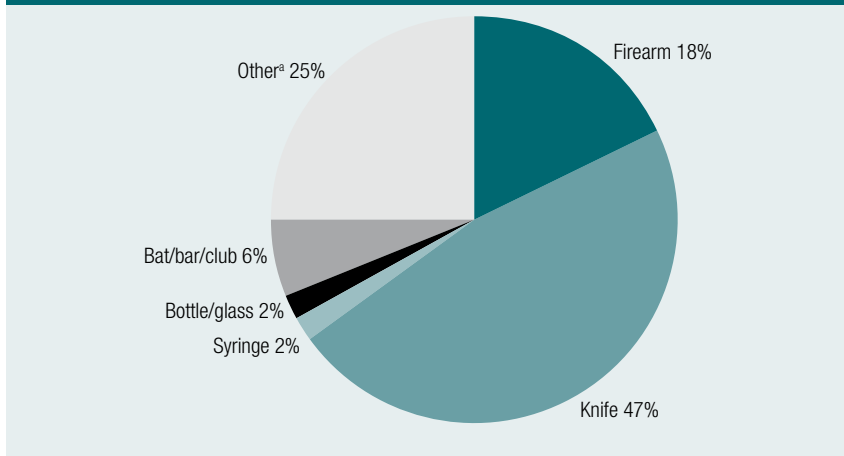


- Males experienced a higher rate of robbery victimisation compared with females across the age spectrum. This was particularly noticeable in the age groups 15–19 years and 20–24 years, where male victimisation was 226 and 190 per 100,000 population respectively.
- The rate of female victimisation peaked in the 20–24 year age group, slightly later than that of male victims.
- Victimisation was lowest at either end of the age spectrum. For instance, males and females aged 0–14 years were robbed at a rate of 18 and six per 100,000 population respectively. Similarly, males and females aged 45 years and over were victimised at a rate of 25 and 16 per 100,000 population respectively.

Source: References 1 and 2

Armed robbery

Figure 22 Types of weapons used in armed robbery, 2012 (%)



a: Includes 'chemical' weapon and unspecified type of weapon

Note: n=6,219

- Knives and other weapons were the most commonly used weapons in armed robbery. In 2012, almost half (47%) of victims were robbed by an offender(s) using a knife, while 25 percent of robberies involved another type of weapon.
- In 2012, only 18 percent of victims were robbed by an offender armed with a firearm.
- Weapons least likely to be used during an armed robbery included a bottle/glass (2%) or a syringe (2%).

Source: Reference 1

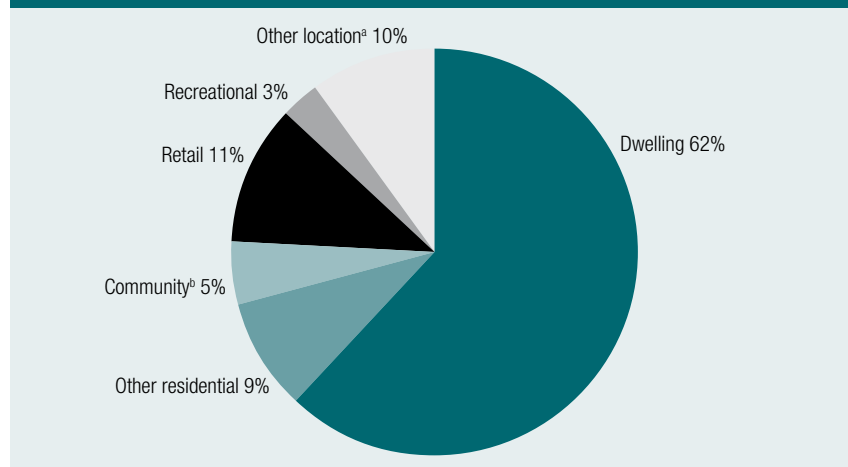
Unlawful entry with intent

UEWI is defined by the ABS as *the unlawful entry of a structure with the intent to commit an offence*. UEWI offences include burglary, break and enter, and some theft.

In 2012, there were 214,222 recorded victims of UEWI offences, equating to a rate of 944 per 100,000.

Location of unlawful entry with intent

Figure 23 Location of unlawful entry with intent, 2012 (%)



a: Includes unspecified location

b: Includes transport, the street and footpath, and other community locations

Note: n=214,223

- In 2012, the greatest proportion of victims of UEWI were victimised in residential dwellings (62%). Eleven percent were victimised in a retail location, while 10 percent were victimised in other locations.
- UEWI victimisation was least likely to occur in recreational locations (3%).

Source: Reference 1

Motor vehicle theft

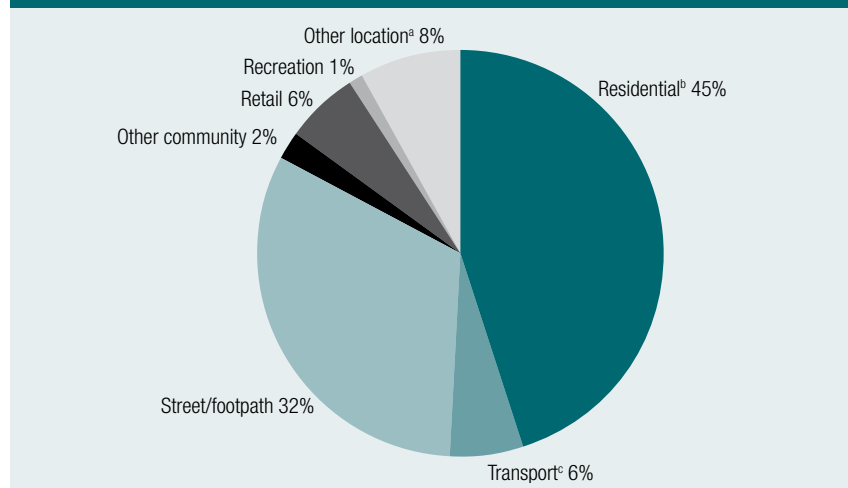
MVT involves the taking of a motor vehicle unlawfully or without permission. It excludes damaging, tampering with or interfering with motor vehicles. The theft of motor vehicle parts or contents is included under the offence category of 'other theft'. *Motor vehicle* is defined as cars, motorcycles, campervans, trucks, buses and plant/equipment vehicles.

In 2012, according to the ABS, there were 58,483 motor vehicles reported stolen to police, with 349 vehicles stolen per 100,000 registered vehicles.

Source: References 1 and 3

Location of motor vehicle theft

Figure 24 Location of motor vehicle thefts, 2012 (%)



a: Includes unspecified location

b: Includes dwellings and other residential locations

c: Includes public car parks

Note: n=58,483

- Forty-five percent of MVTs occurred at a residential location, followed by 32 percent that occurred on the street/footpath.
- In 2012, recreation (1%) and other community (2%) locations were less likely to have been the location for MVT.

Source: Reference 1

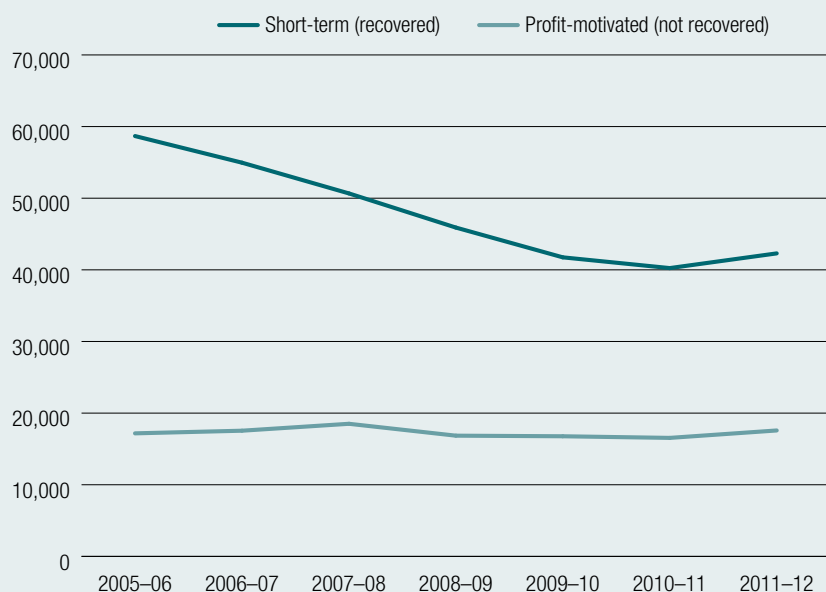
Recovery rates

This section presents data on recovery rates of stolen vehicles from the National Comprehensive Auto-theft Research System (CARS) Project. CARS classify MVTs in two ways. Vehicles that are recovered are classified as short-term thefts and are primarily used for opportunistic purposes. Vehicles that are not recovered are classified as profit-motivated thefts. In these instances, offenders on-sell the car, either as a whole vehicle or in separated parts (*Reference 3*).

In 2012, 42,296 thefts were classified as short term. This equates to a national recovery rate for stolen vehicles of 71 percent.

Source: Reference 4

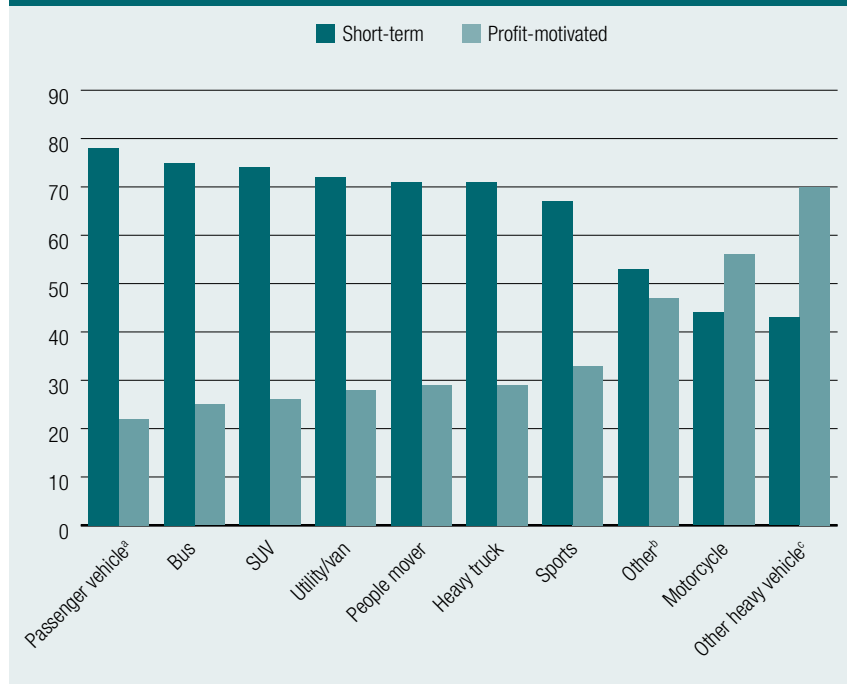
Figure 25 Short-term and profit-motivated motor vehicles thefts, 2005–06 to 2011–12 (n)



- For the past seven years, a significant number of stolen motor vehicles have been recovered.
- The number of short-term MVTs increased for the first time since data was collected in 2005–06. There were 40,244 short-term MVTs in 2010–11 compared with 42,296 in 2011–12; an increase of five percent. Generally, the number of short-term MVTs has been declining since 2005–06.
- The number of profit-motivated thefts increased by six percent between 2010–11 and 2011–12; from 16,541 to 17,578 thefts.

Source: Reference 4

Figure 26 Short-term and profit-motivated motor vehicle thefts by type of vehicle, 2011–12 (%)



a: Includes small, medium, large and unknown passenger vehicles

b: Includes motor homes

c: Includes heavy plant and equipment and unknown heavy vehicles

- In 2011–12, the category of vehicle with the most number of cars stolen was passenger vehicles. Specifically, 32,243 were stolen, while 25,234 (78%) were recovered. Only 22 percent of passenger vehicle thefts were considered profit motivated.
- The greatest proportion of profit-motivated thefts involved other heavy vehicles. Specifically, of the 784 other heavy vehicles stolen in 2011–12, only 299 were recovered (43%).
- Motorcycles and other heavy vehicles were the only categories of vehicles where a greater proportion of thefts were not recovered compared with those that were.

Source: Reference 4

Other theft

The ABS defines *other theft* as *the taking of another person's property with the intention of permanently depriving the owner of the property illegally and without permission, but without force, threat of force, use of coercive measures, deceit or having gained unlawful entry to any structure even if the intent was to commit theft.*

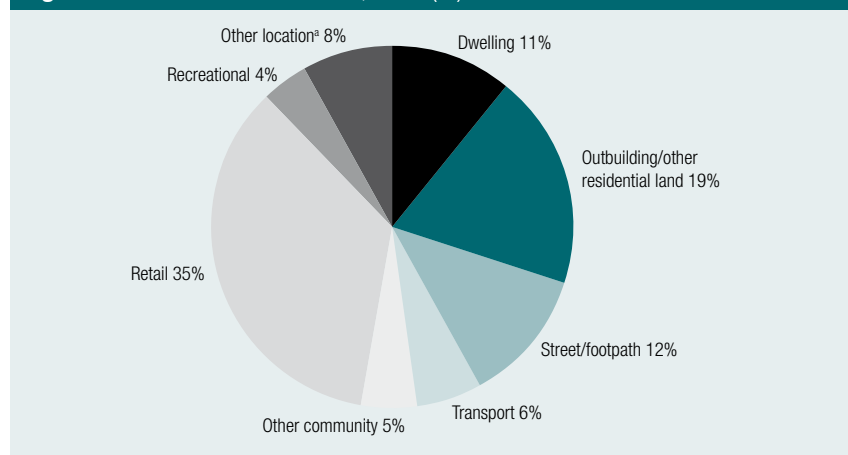
This offence includes such crimes as pick pocketing, bag snatching, stealing (including shoplifting), theft from a motor vehicle, theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories or petrol, theft of stock/domestic animals and theft of non-motorised vehicles/boats/aircraft/bicycles. It is the largest of all the crime categories included in the national statistics.

There were 496,527 victims of other theft in 2012—a rate of 2,189 per 100,000 population.

Source: Reference 1

Location of other theft

Figure 27 Location of other thefts, 2012 (%)



a: Includes unspecified location

Note: n=496,527

- Thirty-five percent of all victims of other theft were victimised in retail locations in 2012. A further 19 percent were victimised in outbuilding/other residential lands.
- Only four percent of victims were victimised in recreational settings, while five percent were victimised in other community locations.

Source: Reference 1

Fraud and deception-related crime

This section presents data extracted from information published by state and territory police agencies, as well as the Australian Payments Clearing Association (APCA). Police agencies' classifications of fraud and deception-related offences include cheque and credit card fraud, fraudulent trade practices, social security fraud, forgery, counterfeiting, bribery and other deception offences. Precise definitions may vary by state/territory.

Police record fraud offences by financial year. Fraud is believed to be one of the most under-reported offences, with fewer than 50 percent of incidents being reported to police or other authorities (*Reference 27*).

In 2011–12, Tasmania Police amended their counting rules for the category of Fraud and Similar Offences from offence (transaction)-based counting to victim-based counting (*Reference 5*).

Table 5 Reported fraud offences, 1995–96 to 2011–12 (rate per 100,000 population)

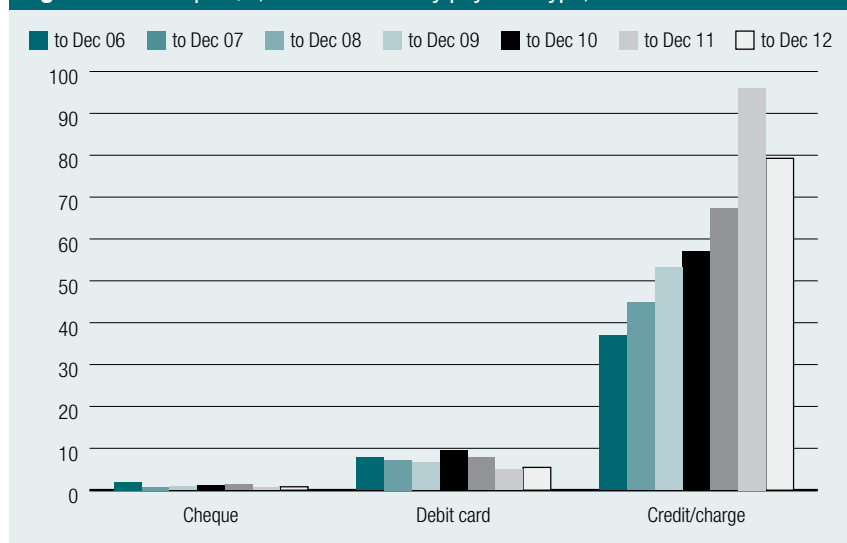
Year	Rate
1995–96	500
1996–97	547
1997–98	585
1998–99	593
1999–2000	586
2000–01	547
2001–02	555
2002–03	485
2003–04	512
2004–05	539
2005–06	491
2006–07	455
2007–08	438
2008–09	432
2009–10	391
2010–11	380
2011–12	430

- The rate of reported fraud offences was 430 per 100,000 population in 2011–12, an increase of 13 percent from 2010–11, but an overall decrease of 27 percent from the peak rate of reported fraud in 1998–99.
- The rate of reported fraud offences in 2011–12 was the first observed increase since 2004–05, but may reflect changes to counting rules rather than an increase in reported offences.

Source: References 2 and 5–12

This section presents data on rates of fraud on transactions from the APCA. The APCA coordinates and manages payments clearing systems in Australia including cheques, direct debit and credit payments, EFTPOS and ATM, high value and bulk cash.

Figure 28 Fraud per \$1,000 transacted by payment type, 2006–12



- Overall, fraud committed on credit and charge cards has increased since 2006, increasing from 37.93 cents per \$1,000 transacted in 2006 to 79.26 cents per \$1,000 transacted in 2012. However, fraud committed on credit and charge cards decreased by 17 percent between 2011 and 2012—a decrease of 16.78 cents per \$1,000 transacted.
- Fraud committed through the use of cheques and fraud on debit cards increased in 2012. Specifically, fraud via cheques increased from 0.69 cents per \$1,000 to 0.81 cents, while fraud on debit cards increased from 4.87 cents per \$1,000 to 5.44 cents.

Source: Reference 13

Federal charges

The Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP) publishes annual statistics on summary and indictable fraud offences against Commonwealth law that were dealt with in the preceding year. Prior years have presented the statistics as charges dealt with against Commonwealth Acts and Regulations, specifically the *Criminal Code Act 1995* and the *Crimes Act 1914*.

In 2008–09, the CDPP reviewed the way it calculated the number of charges and defendants dealt with. As a result, figures reported in the current edition are not directly comparable to those published in preceding years.

Source: Reference 14

Table 6 Defendants dealt with by CDPP by most common referring Commonwealth agency, 2011–12

Referring agency	Defendants (n)	Percent of total
Summary		
Centrelink	1,461	55
Australian Federal Police	413	16
Insolvency and Trustee Service, Australia	204	8
Other Commonwealth agencies ^a	568	21
Total	2,646	100
Indictable		
Australian Federal Police	657	67
Non-Commonwealth agencies ^b	149	15
Australian Customs & Border Protection Service	66	7
Other Commonwealth agencies ^a	105	11
Total	977	100

a: Includes the 35 other agencies that referred matters of fraud to the CDPP in 2011–12

b: Includes state or territory police

- Centrelink was the most common referring agency for summary offences in 2011–12, referring a total of 1,461 defendants. This accounted for 55 percent of all summary defendants referred.
- Conversely, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) referred 67 percent of all indictable defendants—657 in total. Non-Commonwealth agencies were the next most common referring agency for indictable defendants, referring 15 percent of defendants in 2011–12.

Source: Reference 14

Drug arrests

This section provides an overview of drug arrest patterns for offenders from 1996–97 to 2011–12 as collated by the Australian Crime Commission in its *Illicit Drug Data Report* series. Drug offences usually come to the attention of police either through specific activity in drug law enforcement or coincidentally through an investigation into another matter, often related to property offences.

Arrest information is provided for the following types of drugs:

- cannabis;
- heroin (and other opioids);
- amphetamines (including methamphetamine and phenethylamines);
- cocaine; and
- other drugs (hallucinogens, steroids and drugs not defined elsewhere).

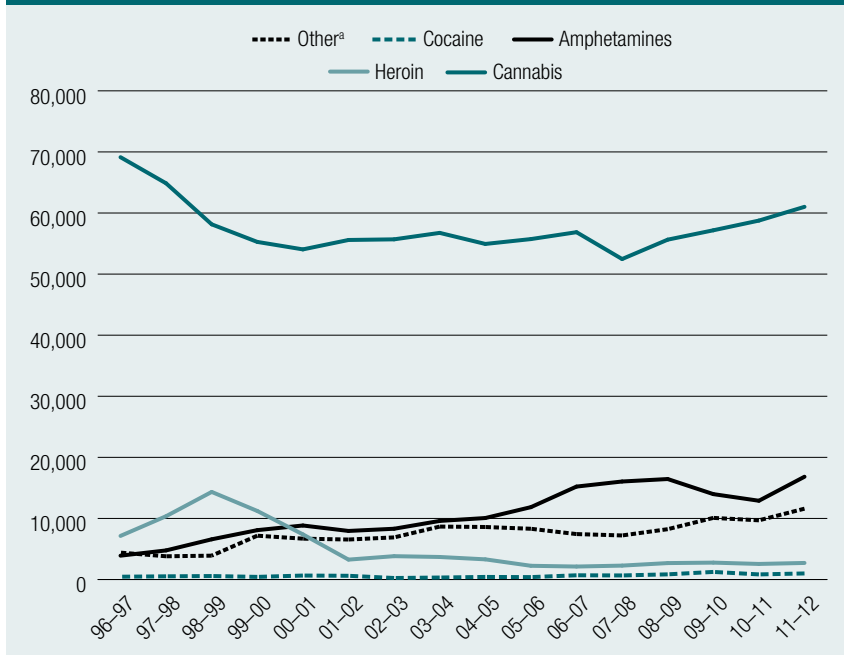
Cannabis arrests include expiation notices, drug infringement notices and simple cannabis offence notices.

Offenders involved in drug arrests are divided into two categories:

- *consumers*—persons charged with user offences (eg possessing or administering drugs for own personal use); and
- *providers*—persons charged with supply offences (eg importation, trafficking, selling, cultivation, manufacture).

In the case of a person being charged with consumer and provider offences, the provider charge takes precedence and the person is counted only as a provider of that drug. A person charged with multiple drug offences is counted as a consumer or provider of each drug type.

Figure 29 Drug arrests by type of drug, 1996–97 to 2011–12 (n per year)



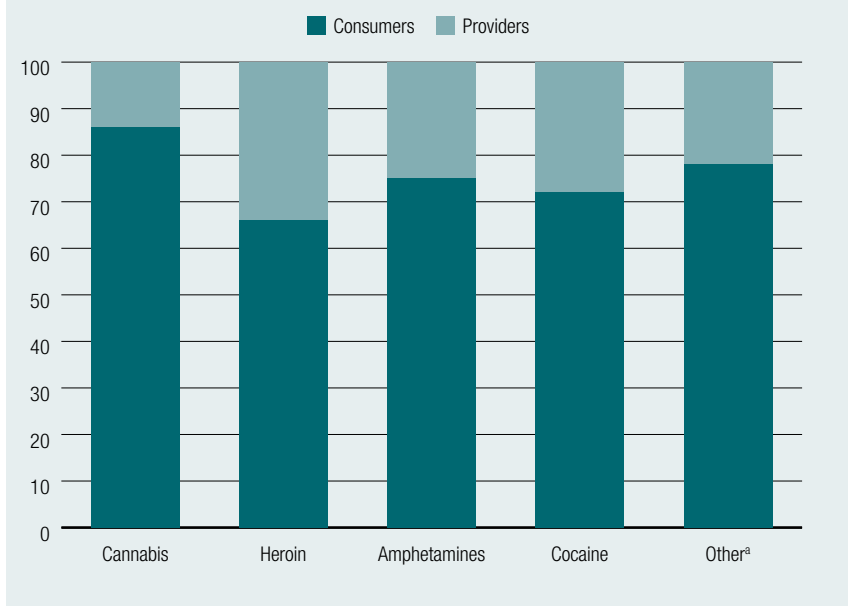
a: Includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere)

- The number of amphetamine arrests peaked in 2011–12 at 16,828. The 2011–12 figure represented a 30 percent increase on the previous year and an overall increase since 1996–97.
- Cannabis has accounted for the highest volume of drug arrests since 1996–97. In 2011–12, there were 61,011 drug arrests involving cannabis. This figure was a 12 percent decrease on that recorded in 1996–97. However, since 2007–08, the number of cannabis-related arrests has been increasing by approximately three percent per year.
- The number of cocaine arrests peaked in 2009–10 at 1,244. The 2011–12 figure (n=995) represented a 19 percent increase on the previous year.
- Between 1998–99 and 2001–02, the number of heroin-related drug arrests decreased from 14,341 to 3,259—a total percentage decrease of 77 percent. In 2011–12, there were 2,714 heroin-related arrests.

- In 2011–12, the number of arrests related to other drugs increased. In the last five years, other drug-related arrests increased from 7,215 to 11,600—an increase of 61 percent.

Source: Reference 15

Figure 30 Consumer/provider status of drug arrestees by type of drug, 2011–12 (%)



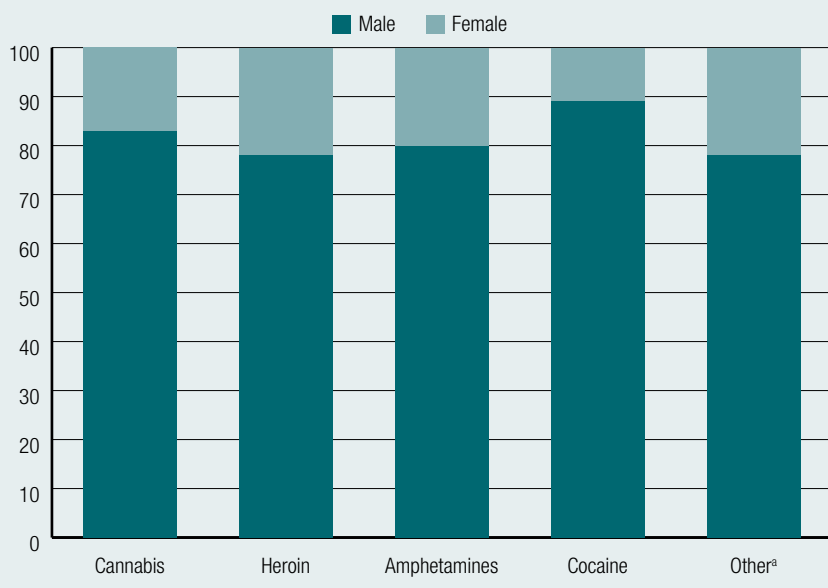
a: Includes hallucinogens, steroids and other drugs (not defined elsewhere)

Note: Does not include cases where consumer or provider status was unknown

- The proportion of drug arrestees who were consumers was greater than the proportions who were providers across all drug types. This ranged from 66 percent for heroin to 86 percent for cannabis.

Source: Reference 15

Figure 31 Drug consumers by sex and type of drug, 2011–12 (%)

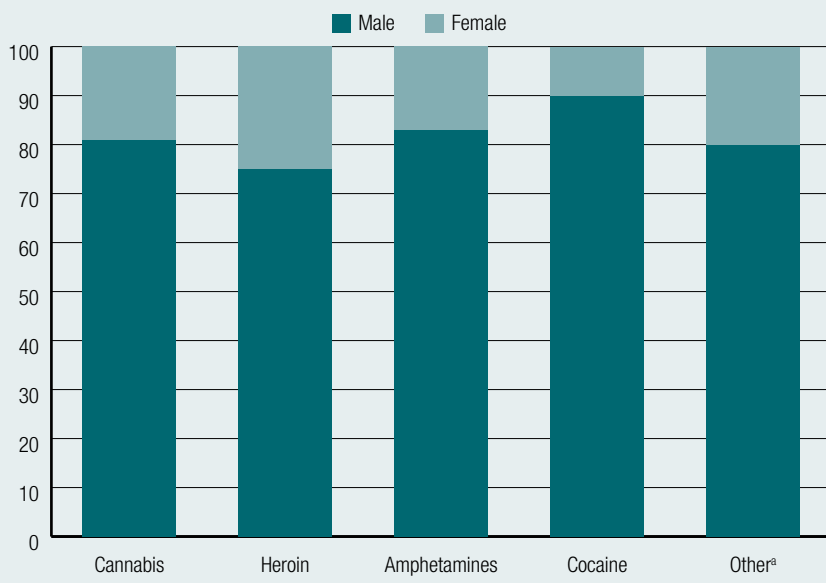


a: Includes hallucinogens, steroids, and other drugs (not defined elsewhere)

- Males were more often identified as drug consumers than females across all drug categories.
- The representation of females as drug consumers ranged from 13 percent arrested for cocaine to 23 percent for other drugs.

Source: Reference 15

Figure 32 Sex of arrested drug providers by type of drug, 2011–12 (%)



a: Includes hallucinogens, steroids, and other drugs (not defined elsewhere)

- Males were more commonly arrested for the provision of drugs than females across all drug categories. The proportion was greatest for cocaine (90%), followed by amphetamines (83%) and cannabis (81%).

Source: Reference 15

Chapter 3

Crime victimisation

Prior to 2009, information relating to the experience of criminal victimisation in Australia was obtained through the ABS' publication *Crime and Safety Survey*. Data presented in this chapter is built upon the ABS' annual publication, *Crime Victimisation, Australia*; first published in 2010. As such, figures contained in earlier editions of *Australian Crime: Facts & Figures* (prior to 2010 edition) are not comparable to those reported below.

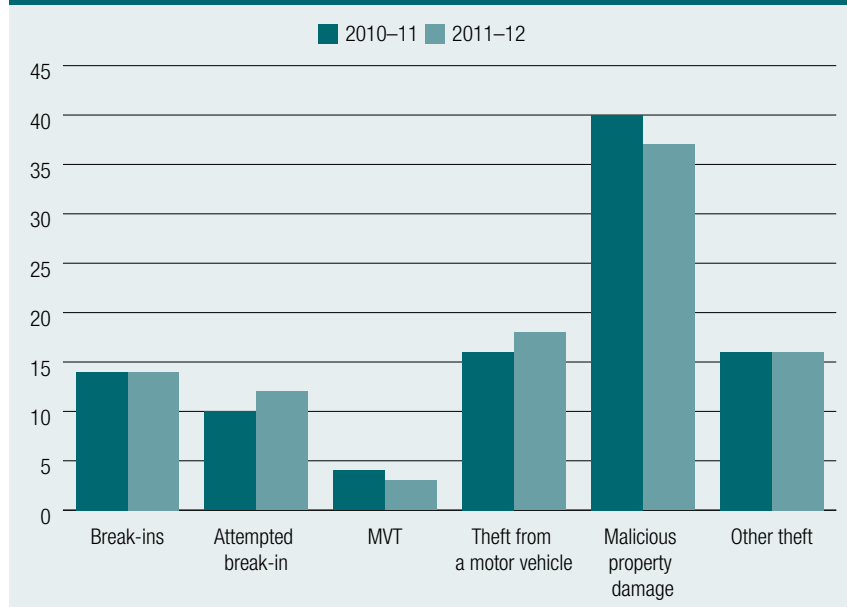
The majority of industrialised countries conduct crime victimisation surveys to estimate the frequency of certain crimes and the proportion reported to the police. These data are used to supplement police statistics and are particularly useful for examining crimes that have low percentages of reporting to police, such as sexual assault. *Crime Victimisation, Australia*, provides annual information that pertains to personal and household experiences of crime; including, repeat victimisation, reporting of incidents to police and perceived neighbourhood problems.

Household and personal victimisation

Crime Victimisation, Australia distinguishes between household and personal crime. Household crimes include those crimes in which the household (a group of persons resident in a private dwelling and sharing common facilities) is considered the victim of the crime. This includes home break-in, attempted break-in and MVT. For personal crimes, it is the individual who is considered the victim of the crime. Personal crimes include robbery, assault and sexual assault.

Source: Reference 16

Figure 33 Reported experiences of household crime, 2010–11 to 2011–12 (%)



Note: Population totals excluded households that did not report any incident of household crime in 2010–11 and 2011–12

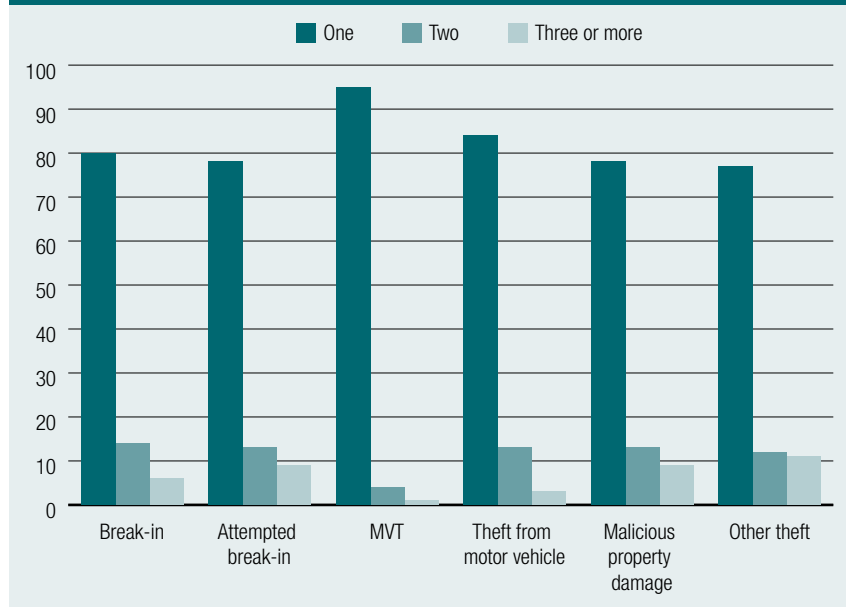
2010–11: n=1,798,000

2011–12: n=1,748,400

- An estimated 1,748,400 households experienced at least one incident of household crime in 2011–12.
- Compared with the number estimated in 2010–11, there were fluctuations in the proportion of household crime for all categories, with the exception of break-ins and other theft. Specifically, 14 percent experienced break-ins and 16 percent experienced other theft in both years.
- Attempted break-ins and theft from a motor vehicle both increased by two percent from 2010–11, while MVT and malicious property damage decreased by one and three percent respectively.

Source: Reference 16

Figure 34 Experiences of repeat victimisation for household crimes, 2011–12 (%)



Note: Population totals excluded households that did not report any incident of household crime

- It is estimated that the majority of households experiencing crime in 2011–12 were involved in only a single incident. These proportions ranged from 95 percent that experienced MVT to 77 percent that experienced other theft.
- Where it occurred, repeated victimisation was greater in 2011–12 for break-ins, malicious property damage, attempted break-ins and other theft.

Source: Reference 16

Figure 35 Persons over the age of 15 years experiencing personal crime, 2010–11 and 2011–12 (%)



a: Includes physical and threatened assault

Note: Population totals excluded individuals who did not report any incident of personal crime

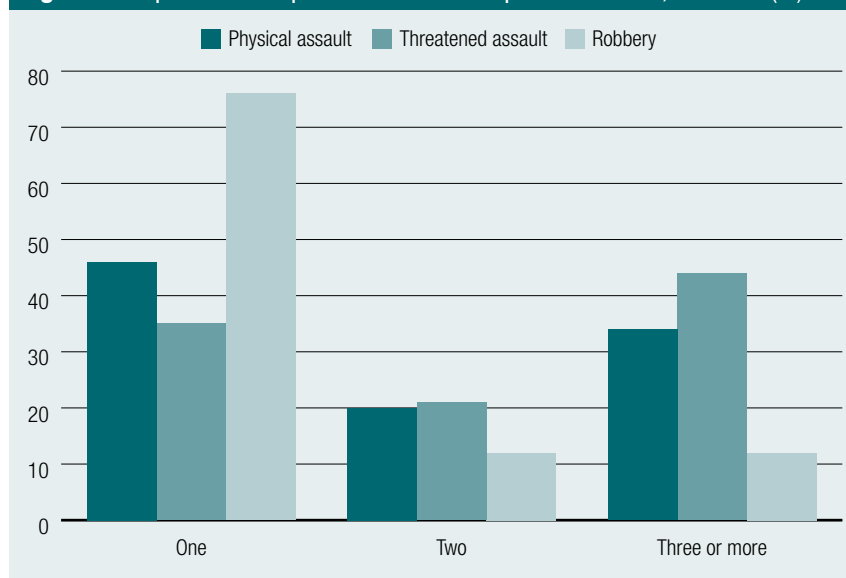
2010–11: n=1,213,100

2011–12: n=1,211,000

- Assault remained the most commonly experienced personal crime in 2011–12. There was a minimal increase in reported victimisation, with assault increasing by one percent compared with the previous year.
- In 2011–12, it is estimated that five percent of people over the age of 15 years experienced a robbery, while four percent were the victim of sexual assault.

Source: Reference 16

Figure 36 Experience of repeat victimisation for personal crimes, 2011–12 (%)

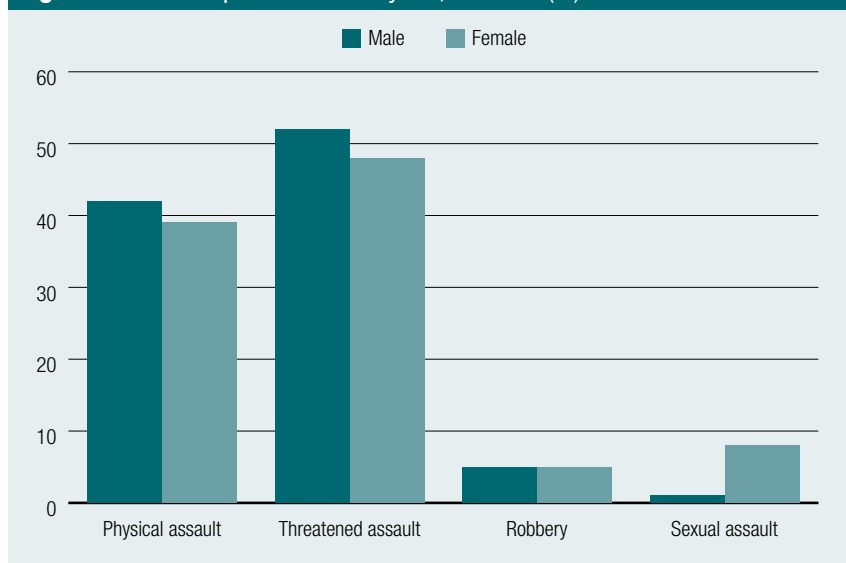


Note: Population totals excluded individuals who did not report any incident of personal crime. Excludes incidents of personal crime that could not be categorised

- For robbery and physical assault, greater proportions of people over the age of 15 years experienced one incident rather than two or more incidents. In 2011–12, approximately 76 percent of people who were the victim of a personal crime were the victim of a single robbery, while 46 percent were a victim of a single incident of physical assault.
- It is estimated that of those people who experienced personal crime, 44 percent were threatened with assault on three or more occasions compared with 35 percent who reported one incident and 21 percent who reported two incidents.

Source: Reference 16

Figure 37 Victim of personal crime by sex, 2011–12 (%)

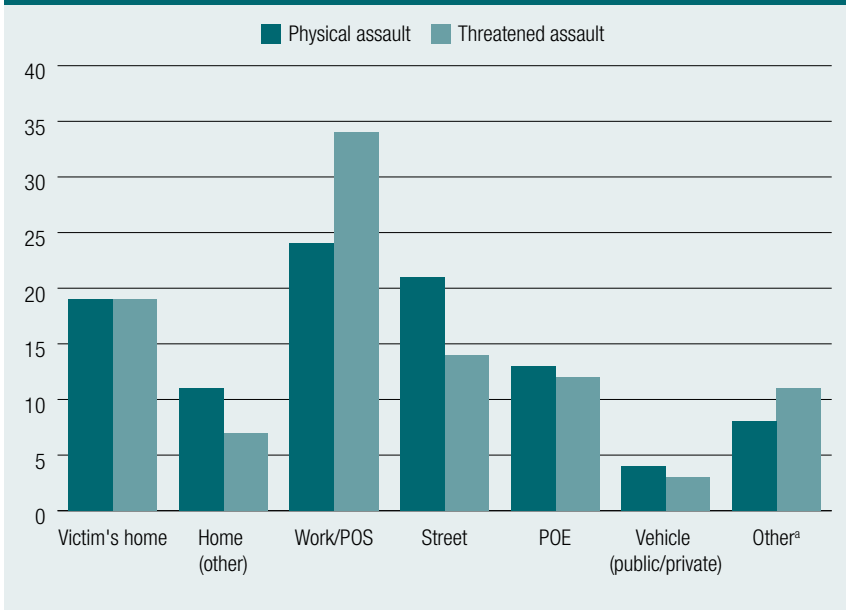


Note: Population totals excluded individuals who did not report any incident of personal crime

- Of all males who experienced personal crime in 2011–12, 42 percent were physically assaulted, compared with 39 percent of females. Forty-eight percent of females were threatened with assault compared with 52 percent of males.
- It is estimated that only one percent of males were sexually assaulted in 2011–12 compared with eight percent of females.

Source: Reference 16

Figure 38 Male victims of assault by location, 2011–12 (%)



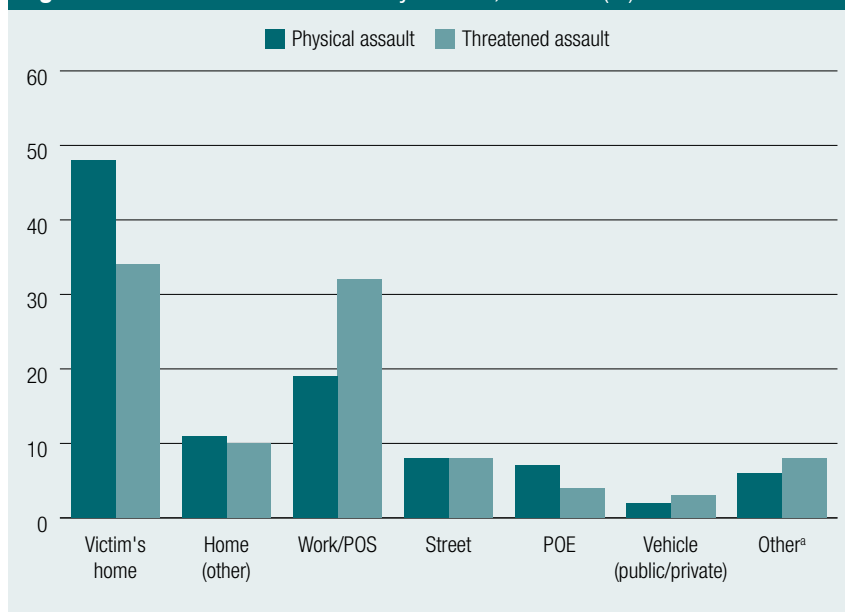
a: Includes locations such as train stations, bus stops or interchanges and shopping centres

Note: POS=place of study. POE=place of entertainment

- In 2011–12, males were most likely (24%) to have been physically assaulted in their place of work or study, followed by the street (21%), their own home (19%) or a place of entertainment (13%).
- Similarly, male victims were more likely to have been threatened with assault at their place of work or study (34%), followed by their home (19%) or the street (14%).
- Only an estimated four percent of physical assaults and three percent of threatened assaults of males occurred in a public or private vehicle.

Source: Reference 16

Figure 39 Female victims of assault by location, 2011–12 (%)



a: Includes locations such as train stations, bus stops or interchanges and shopping centres

Note: POS=place of study. POE=place of entertainment

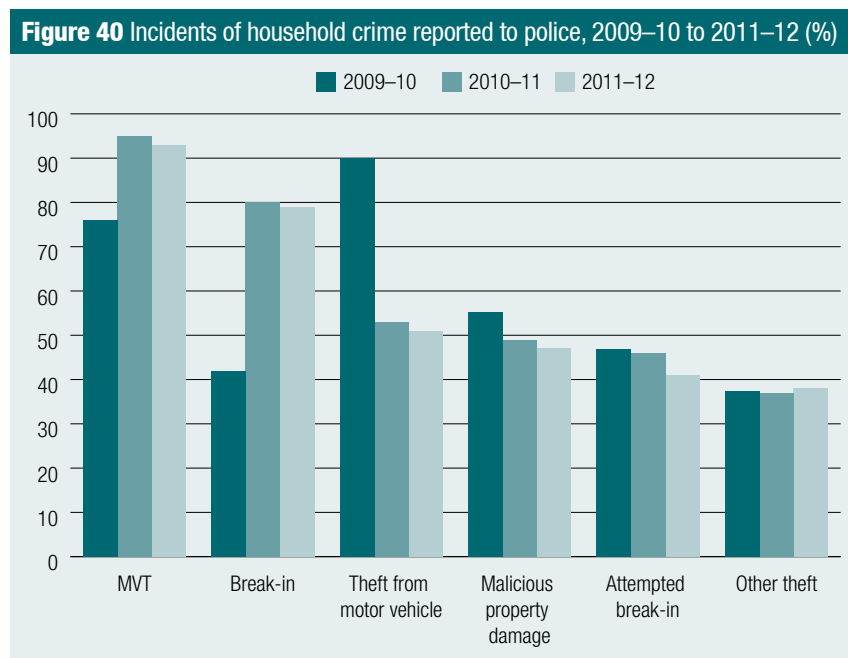
- It is estimated that nearly half of females who were physically assaulted in 2011–12 were assaulted in their own homes (48%). A further 19 percent were assaulted at their work or place of study, 11 percent were assaulted in another person's home and eight percent were assaulted on the street.
- Females were also slightly more likely to be threatened with assault in their own home (34%) than at their place of work or study (32%).
- The smallest proportions of females experienced assault in a vehicle—two percent were physically assaulted and three percent were threatened.

Source: Reference 16

Reporting crime to the police

Victimisation surveys are useful for assessing the extent of crime that is not reported to the police. Surveys find a wide variation in reporting, depending on the type of crime. The estimated proportions of reports to police for selected offence categories in the 2011–12 *Crime Victimisation Survey* are shown in Figure 40.

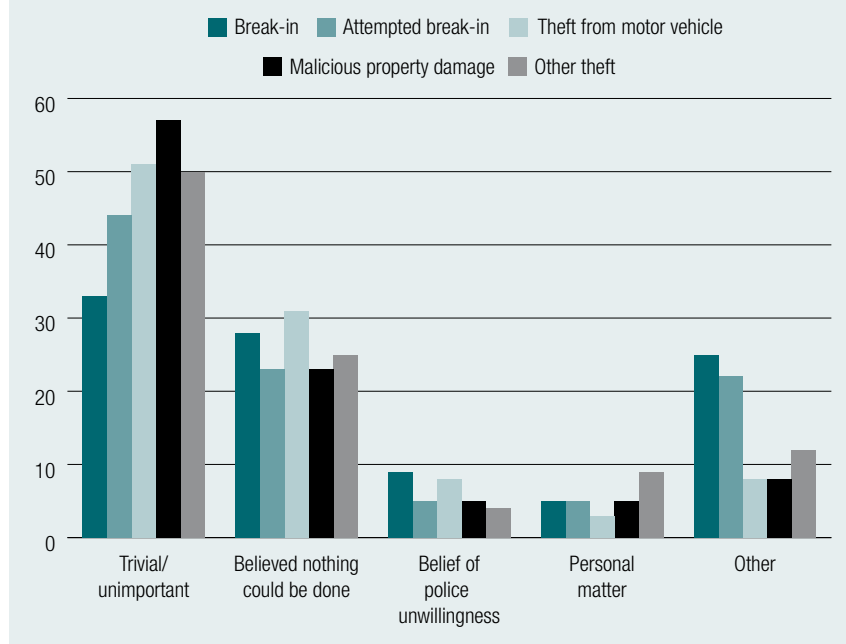
Source: Reference 16



- The proportion of victims who reported household crime to police varied depending on the type of crime. For instance, in 2011–12, it is estimated that 93 percent of those who experienced MVT and 79 percent who experienced a break-in informed police. However, only an estimated 38 percent who experienced other thefts reported the crime to the police.
- Reporting decreased slightly in 2011–12 for all household crime types with the exception of other thefts. The most noticeable was a five percentage point decrease in reporting of attempted break-ins.

Source: Reference 16

Figure 41 Reasons for not reporting selected household crimes to police, 2011–12 (%)



- Victims who did not report household crime to police did so predominantly because they considered it to be trivial or unimportant. This was the case for an estimated 57 percent of victims who experienced malicious property damage, 51 percent of victims who experienced theft from a motor vehicle and 50 percent who experienced other theft.
- The second most common reason was that the victim felt that there was nothing that could be done by the police. It is estimated that this was the reason for not reporting for 31 percent of victims who experienced theft from a motor vehicle.
- An estimated nine percent of other thefts were not reported because it was considered a personal matter.
- Twenty-eight percent of break-ins were not reported because the victim believed that nothing could be done about the crime.

Source: Reference 16

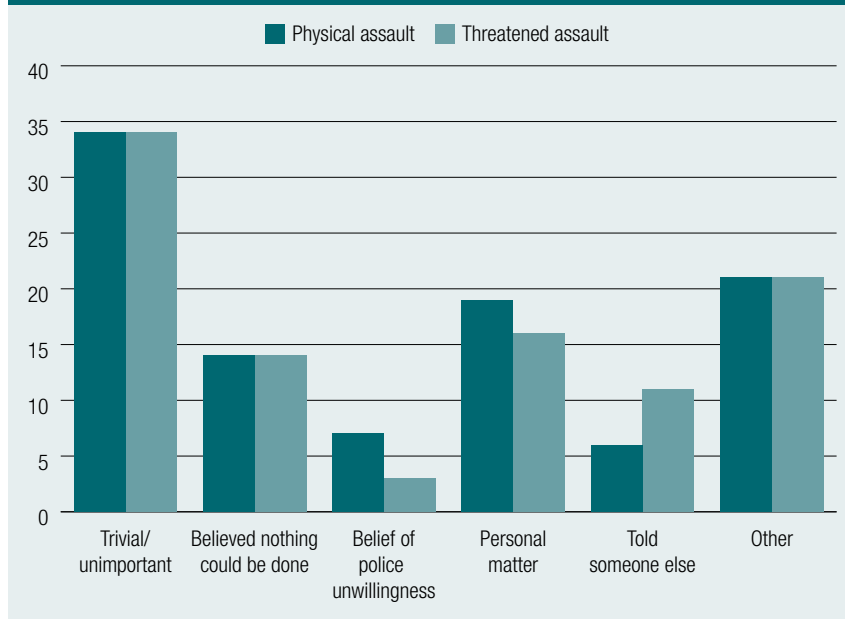
Figure 42 Incidents of selected personal crimes reported to police, 2008–09 to 2011–12 (%)



- It is estimated that the proportion of victims threatened with assault who report to police has been increasing over the past four years. In 2008–09, only an estimated 30 percent of victims threatened with assault reported the incident to police while in 2011–12, the proportion increased to 38 percent.
- An estimated 53 percent of victims reported robbery to police in 2011–12. This was a decrease of seven percentage points from 2010–11.
- In 2011–12, it is estimated that just under half of victims (49%) reported incidents of physical assault to police.

Source: Reference 16

Figure 43 Reasons for not reporting incidents of assault to police, 2011–12 (%)



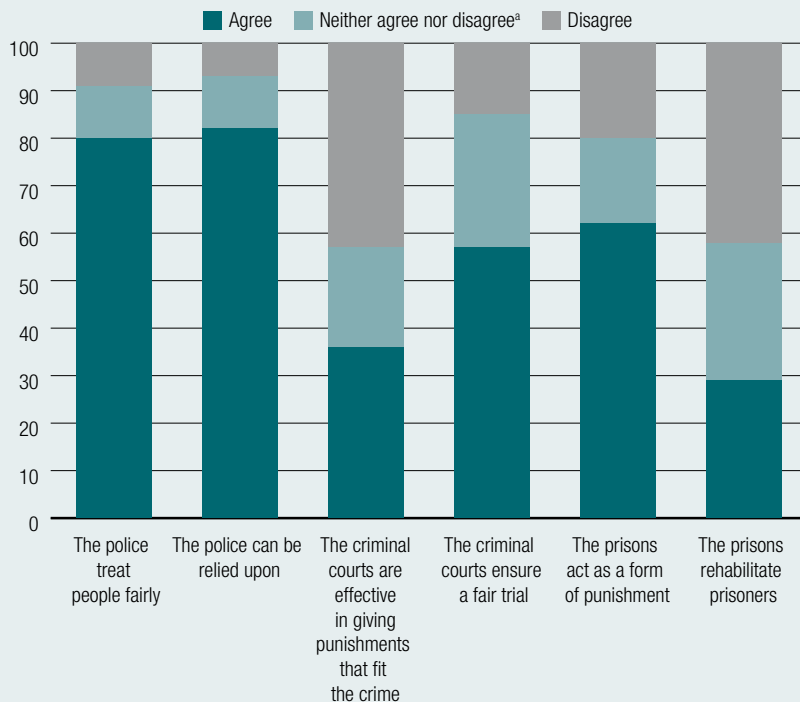
- The belief that the incident was too trivial or unimportant was the most common reason for not reporting assault to the police. This proportion was the same for physical assault and threatened assault (34% respectively).
- The second most common reason for not reporting an incident of physical assault was that the respondent believed it was a personal matter. Specifically, this was the case for an estimated 19 percent of physical assault victims compared with 16 percent of threatened assault victims.
- In 2011–12, an estimated 14 percent of victims who experienced physical assault and 14 percent of victims who were threatened with assault did not tell police because they believed that nothing could be done about the crime.

Source: Reference 16

Perception of the criminal justice system

Confidence in the criminal justice system encourages the public to report crime and participate in court processes (*Reference 16*). In the *Crime Victimisation Survey*, the ABS measured the degree to which respondents were confident that the criminal justice system operated effectively in providing services.

Figure 44 Perceptions of criminal justice institutions, 2011–12 (%)



a: Includes those with no opinion

Note: n=17,153,900. All respondents aged 18 years and over

- It was generally agreed by respondents that police treated people fairly (80%) and could be relied upon (82%).
- Views were mixed in the perceived effectiveness of criminal courts in giving punishments that suit the crime. Specifically, 43 percent of respondents disagreed with the statement, 36 percent agreed and 21 percent neither agreed nor disagreed. Similarly, 42 percent of respondents felt that prisons did not rehabilitate prisoners, while 29 percent agreed that they did and another 29 percent neither agreed nor disagreed.

- Over half of respondents agreed that courts ensured a fair trial (57%) and prisons acted as a form of punishment (62%).

Source: Reference 16

Scams

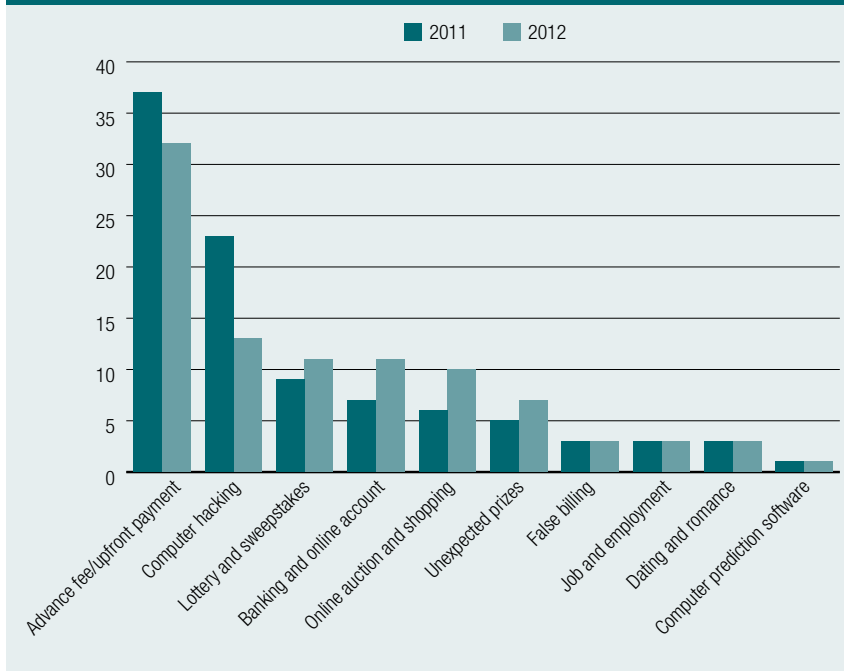
Scams aim to defraud an individual through deception. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) monitors the level of scam activity in Australia and publishes the findings in *Target Scams: Report of the ACCC on Scam Activity*.

The top 10 scams reported to the ACCC in 2012 involved:

- advance fee/upfront payment;
- computer hacking (including malware and viruses);
- lottery and sweepstakes;
- banking and online account (including phishing and identity theft);
- online auction and shopping (including classifieds);
- unexpected prizes;
- job and employment (including business opportunity);
- false billing;
- dating and romance (including adult services); and
- mobile phone (including ringtones, competitions and missed calls).

Source: Reference 17

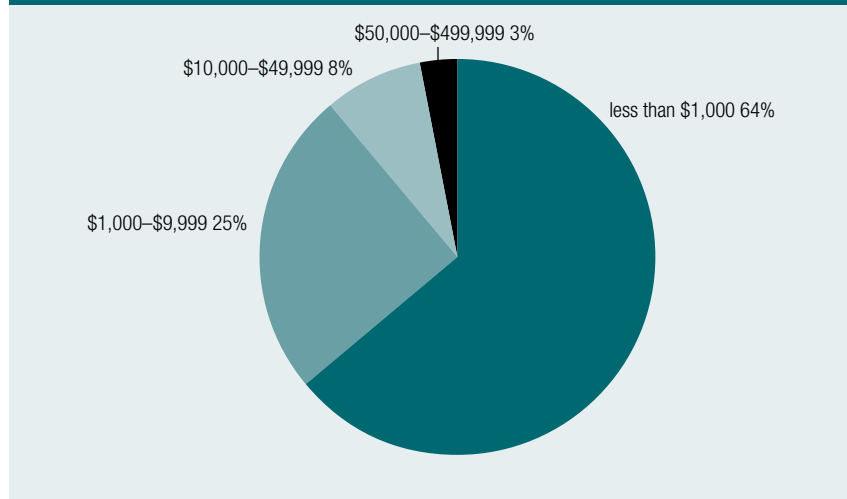
Figure 45 Proportion of scams reported to ACCC, 2011 and 2012 (%)



- The proportion of reported scams involving advance fee/upfront payment and computer hacking decreased between 2011 and 2012. Specifically, reports of advance fee/upfront payment scams decreased by five percentage points and computer hacking by 10 percentage points.
- Conversely, the proportion of scams involving lottery and sweepstakes, banking and online accounts, online auction and shopping, and unexpected prizes increased between 2011 and 2012.

Source: Reference 17

Figure 46 Money lost to scams by proportion of victims (%)

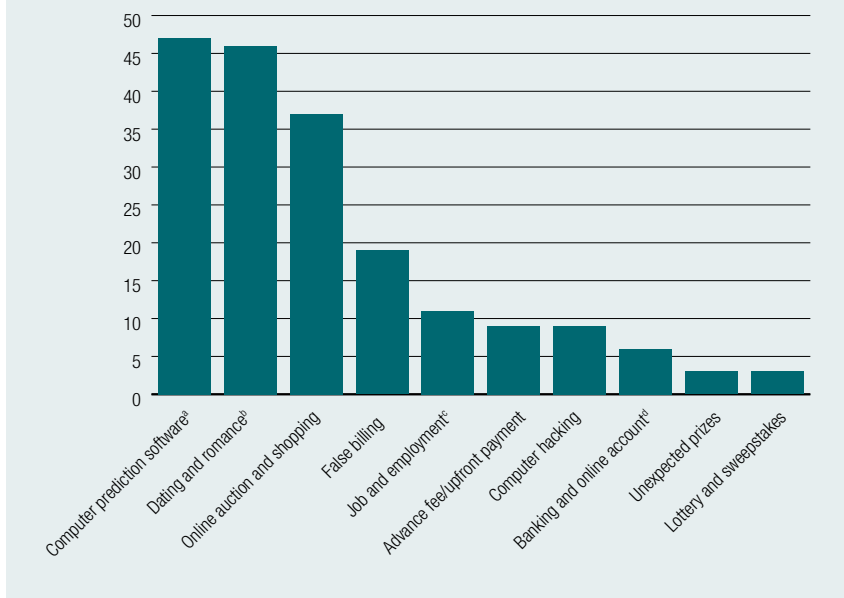


Note: n=10,572

- In 2012, 10,572 people reported losing money to a scam.
- Less than one percent of victims reported losing between \$500,000 and \$999,999 or \$1m or greater in 2012. The greatest proportion of victims reported losing less than \$1,000.

Source: Reference 17

Figure 47 Reported monetary losses by selected scams, 2012 (%)



a: Includes betting

b: Includes adult services

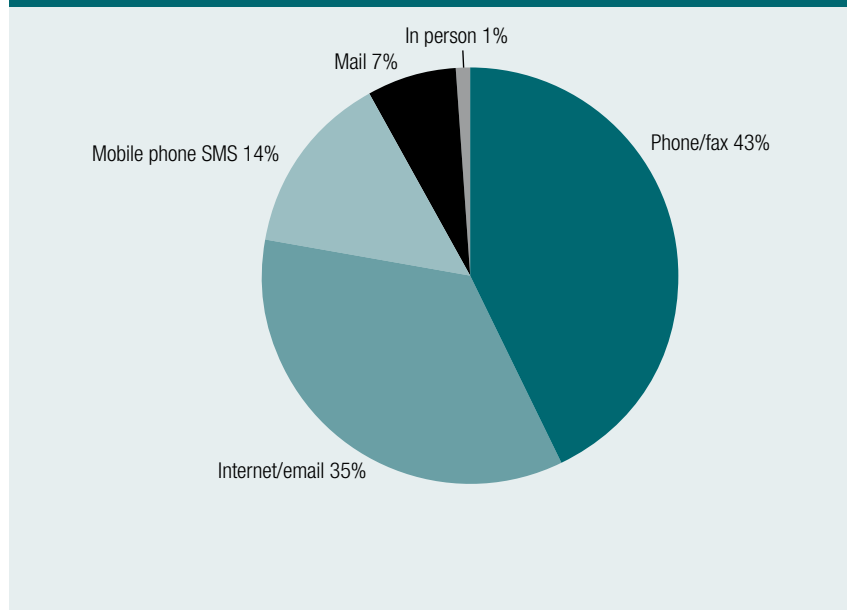
c: Includes business opportunities

d: Includes phishing and identity theft

- The greatest proportion of scam victims who reported monetary losses were victims of computer prediction software (47%). The next highest proportion were victims of dating and romance scams (46%).
- Despite being the most commonly reported scam in 2012, only nine percent of victims of advance fee/upfront payment scams reported any monetary loss. Similarly, small proportions reported losing money to scams involving computer hacking (9%), banking and online accounts (6%), unexpected prizes (3%), and lottery and sweepstakes (3%).

Source: Reference 17

Figure 48 Method of scam delivery, 2012 (%)



Note: n=83,803

- In 2012, 43 percent of scams were delivered by phone or fax machine, while 35 percent of scams were delivered by internet or email.
- Scams were less likely to be delivered in person (1%) or by mail (7%).

Source: Reference 17

Chapter 4

Selected offender profiles

The offender information reported in previous editions of *Australian Crime: Facts & Figures*, Chapter Four, has been drawn from Victorian, Queensland and South Australian police data. Recently, the ABS supplied offender information that encompassed more jurisdictions and was therefore more reflective of national patterns and trends. In 2011–12, the offender data from New South Wales was not comparable with other states and territories due to the exclusion of offenders proceeded against under the *NSW Young Offenders Act 1997*. Due to the more limited data from New South Wales, offender data from the ABS reported in Chapter Four includes information from all states and territories excluding New South Wales and is therefore no longer comparable with information contained in editions prior to 2013.

This chapter brings together information on offenders from two sources:

- the AIC's *Drug Use Monitoring in Australia* (DUMA) program; and
- the ABS' *Recorded Crime—Offenders, States and Territories, 2011–12*.

Recorded Crime—Offenders, States and Territories, 2011–12 includes national data on offender age and sex for four key offence categories:

- acts intended to cause injury;
- theft and related offences;
- illicit drug offences; and
- public order offences.

It also contains information on offender characteristics for other offences on a state-by-state basis.

Offenders

This chapter presents data on offenders classified according to sex and age. The main purpose here is to give an indicative view of major issues relating to offenders, particularly the following:

- At what age do offending rates peak?
- How does the age/offending pattern of male offenders compare with that of female offenders?
- Are female offender rates increasing?

The number of offenders does not equal the number of distinct alleged offenders during a year because police may take action against the same individual for several offences, or the individual may be processed on more than one occasion for the same offence type. Neither does it equate to the total number of crimes cleared during a given period, as one crime may involve more than one offender.

The offender data are for the following major types of crime:

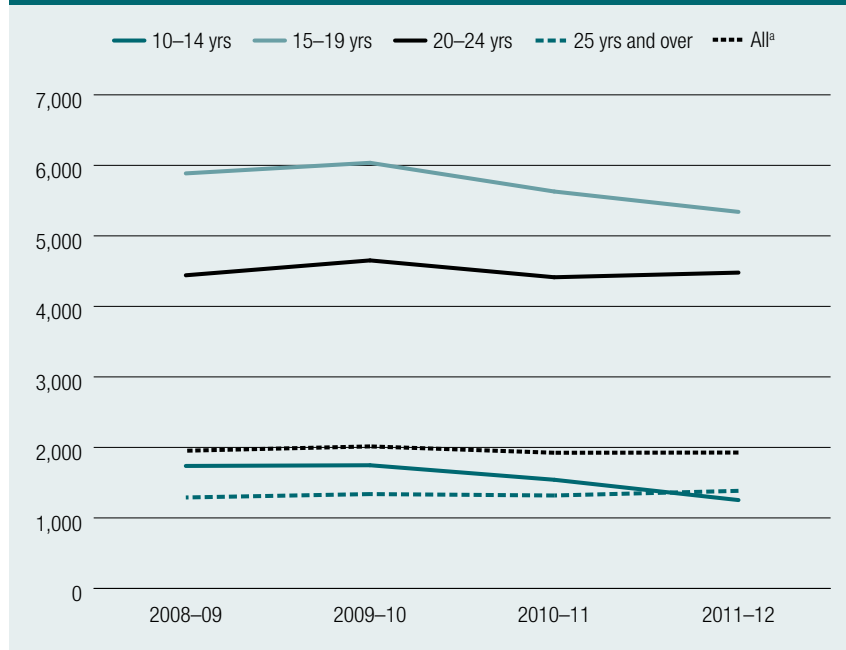
- homicide and related offences (murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, infanticide and driving causing death);
- assault;
- sexual assault;
- robbery;
- UEWI;
- MVT;
- other theft; and
- fraud and deception-related crime.

Source: Reference 18

Age

Persons aged 15 to 19 years are more likely to be processed by police for the commission of a crime than were members of any other age group. In 2011–12, the offending rate for persons aged 15 to 19 years was almost three times the rate for all other offenders (5,340 per 100,000 compared with 1,927 per 100,000 respectively).

Figure 49 Offenders by age, 2008–09 to 2011–12 (rate per 100,000 relevant persons)



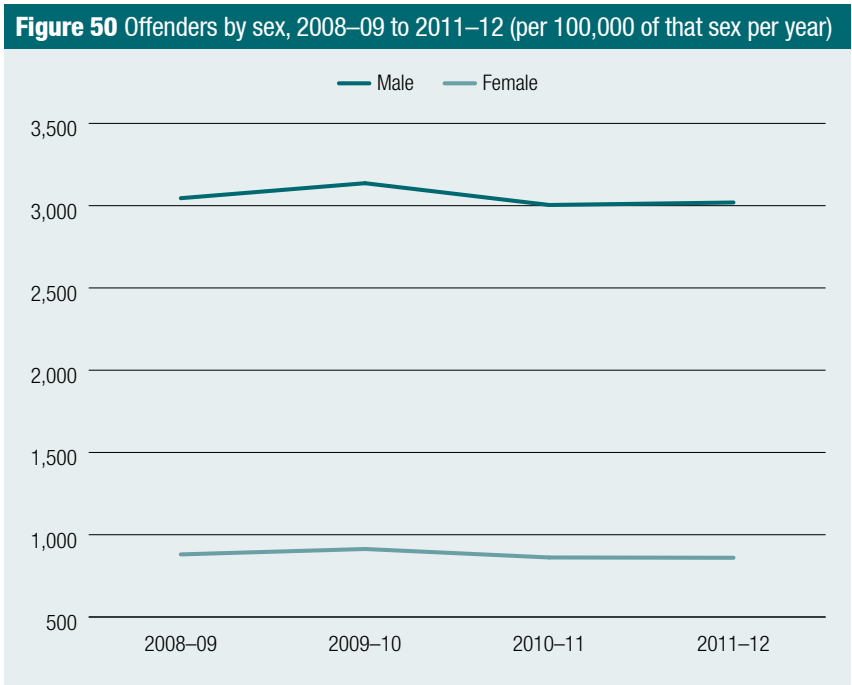
a: 'All' refers to all offenders aged 10 years and over

- For the past four years, the rate of offending has consistently been highest in the 15 to 19 year age group. In 2011–12, the rate of offending within this age group was 5,340 per 100,000 compared with a rate of offending of 4,479 per 100,000 population for persons aged 20 to 24 years.
- Between 2010–11 and 2011–12, the overall offending rate remained stable. The largest change in the rate of offending between 2010–11 and 2011–12 occurred in the 10–14 year age group, where offending decreased from 1,541 per 100,000 to 1,253—a total decrease of 19 percent.
- The rate of offending in the 25 years and over group increased between 2010–11 and 2011–12—from 1,318 per 100,000 persons to 1,384. Offending also increased slightly between 2010–11 and 2011–12 for the 20 to 24 age group, from 4,413 per 100,000 persons to 4,479.
- Between 2008–09 and 2011–12, the rate of offending in the 10–14 and 15–19 years age groups has been declining gradually. The rate of offending for 15–19 year olds declined from 6,036 per 100,000 in 2009–10 to 5,340 in 2011–12.

Source: Reference 18

Sex

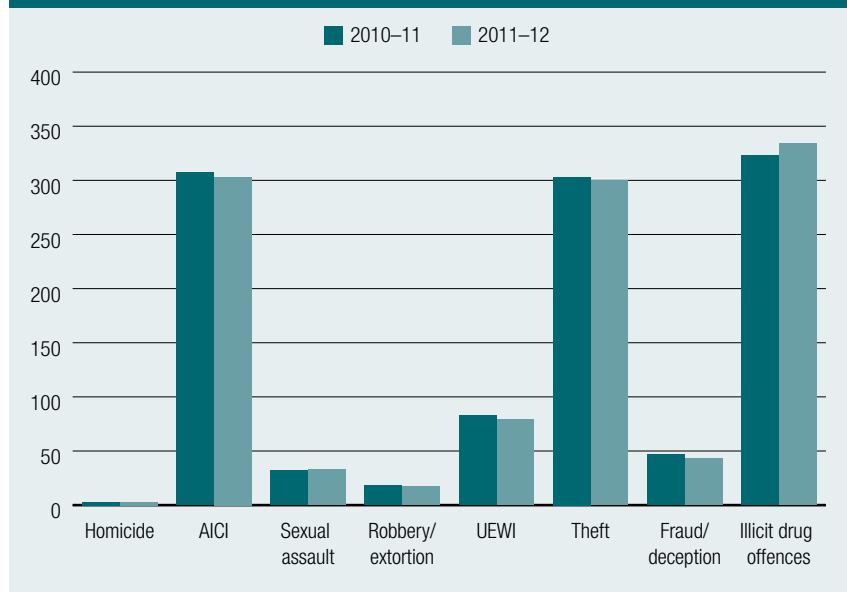
In 2011–12, the total number of offenders was 259,959 nationally (excluding New South Wales). Of these, 201,040 were male and 58,250 were female (669 offenders did not have their sex recorded). The ratio of males to female offenders in 2011–12 was approximately four to one.



- Over the four year period from 2008–09 to 2011–12, males have consistently offended at higher rates than females. In 2011–12, the rate of offending for males was 3,019 per 100,000 population compared with 860 per 100,000 for females.
- The rate of offending for both sexes increased between 2008–09 and 2009–10, before declining between 2009–10 and 2010–11, with male offending decreasing by four percent (from 3,137 to 3,004 per 100,000 population) and female offending decreasing by six percent (from 913 to 862 per 100,000 population). However, between 2010–11 and 2011–12, female offending remained stable while male offending increased by one percent.

Source: References 2 and 18

Figure 51 Offenders by offence type, 2010–11 and 2011–12 (per 100,000 per year)



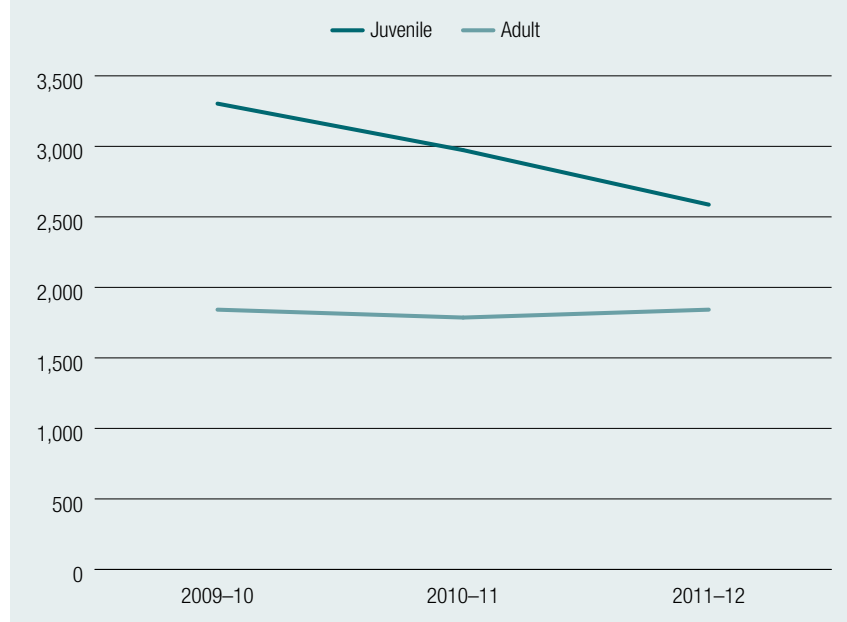
- The categories of crime with the highest rate of offending were illicit drug offences, acts intended to cause injury (AICI) and theft. The rate of offending for both AICI and theft declined by one percent between 2010–11 and 2011–12.
- Illicit drug offences and sexual assault were the only categories of crime where the offending rate increased between 2010–11 and 2011–12. Specifically, the rate of illicit drug offending increased from 323 per 100,000 in 2010–11 to 344 per 100,000 in 2011–12—a total increase of three percent. Similarly, the rate of sexual assault increased by three percent between 2010–11 and 2011–12—from 32 to 33 per 100,000 population.
- Homicide and robbery/extortion were the two categories of crime with the lowest rate of offending. In 2011–12, the rate of robbery/extortion offending was 18 per 100,000 and the rate of homicide offending was three per 100,000 population.

Source: References 2 and 18

Juveniles

There are differences among the states in the definition of a juvenile. Unless otherwise indicated, data in this section include alleged offenders aged between 10 and 17 years.

Figure 52 Juvenile and adult offenders by age group, 2009–10 to 2011–12
(per 100,000 of that age group per year)



- The rate of juvenile offending has been consistently higher than that of adult offending over the three year period. Specifically, in 2011–12, adults offended at a rate of 1,823 per 100,000 population compared with juveniles who offended at a rate of 2,587 per 100,000 population.
- While adult offending has remained relatively consistent, averaging approximately 1,811 per 100,000 population per year, juvenile offending declined between 2009–10 and 2011–12. In 2011–12, the juvenile offending rate was 13 percent lower than that recorded in 2010–11 (2,973 per 100,000 population).

Source: References 2 and 18

Figure 53 Juvenile offenders by sex, 2009–10 to 2011–12 (per 100,000 juveniles of that sex per year)^a



a: Excludes juvenile offenders with unknown gender

- Over the three year period from 2009–10 to 2011–12, male juveniles have consistently offended at higher rates than female juveniles. In 2011–12, the rate of offending for males was 3,627 per 100,000 population compared with 1,483 per 100,000 for females.
- In 2011–12, male juvenile offending had decreased by 24 percent since 2009–10, while female juvenile offending had decreased by 38 percent.

Source: References 2 and 18

Figure 54 Young offenders by age and sex, 2011–12 (rate per 100,000 of that age and sex)



- The rate of male youth offending was highest among the 18 year old age group in 2011–12. Specifically, males in the 18 year old age group offended at a rate of 10,218 per 100,000 population compared with females in the 18 year old age group who offended at a rate of 2,748 per 100,000 population.
- While offending for males gradually increased until a peak at 18 years of age, female offending remained stable between 15 to 18 years—averaging approximately 2,630 per 100,000 population per age group.

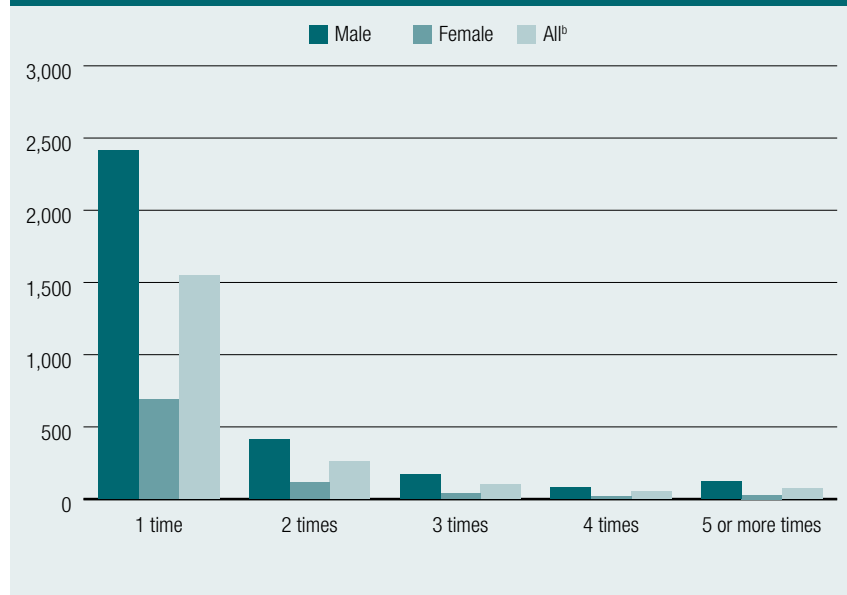
Source: References 2 and 18

Number of times offenders were proceeded against by police

An offender can be counted more than once if proceeded against for multiple offences and on separate occasions, where these offences attributed to the offender may result in both court and non-court proceedings. ABS police proceeding data excludes Western Australia and New South Wales, and counts the number of times offenders were proceeded against by police in 2011–12.

Source: Reference 18

Figure 55 Offenders by sex and number of times proceeded against by police, 2011–12 (per 100,000 of that sex)^a



a: Excludes Western Australia and New South Wales

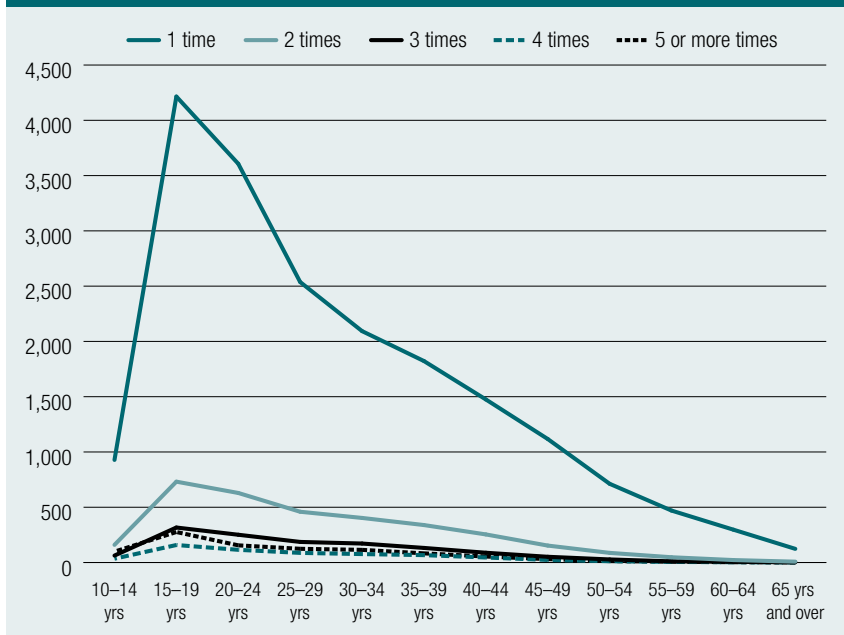
b: Includes offenders with unknown sex

- In 2011–12, male offenders were four times more likely than female offenders to be proceeded against by police for more than one offence.
- Offenders of both sexes were most likely to be proceeded against once by police in 2011–12. Specifically, males were proceeded against once by police at a rate of 2,415 per 100,000, while females were proceeded against once at 690 per 100,000.

- The rate of offenders who were proceeded against by police decreases gradually from one police proceeding to four police proceedings. For both sexes, the rate of offenders proceeded against five or more times was slightly higher than those who were proceeded against four times. The rate for males proceeded against five or more times was 123 per 100,000 while females had a rate of 28 per 100,000.

Source: Reference 18

Figure 56 Offenders by age and number of times proceeded against by police, 2011–12 (per 100,000 of that age group)^a



a: Excludes Western Australia and New South Wales

- Offenders were most likely to be proceeded against by police only once compared with two or more times in all age groups. The number of times proceeded against by police generally peaks between the ages of 15 and 19 years before declining. However, this decline for offenders who were proceeded against multiple times was more gradual compared with those that were only proceeded against once.
- Offenders aged 15–19 years were most likely to be proceeded against by police once (4,215 per 100,000), followed by those aged 20–24 years (3,607 per 100,000) before declining sharply for those aged 25–29 years (2,537 per 100,000).

Source: Reference 18

Drug use by offenders

Police detainees

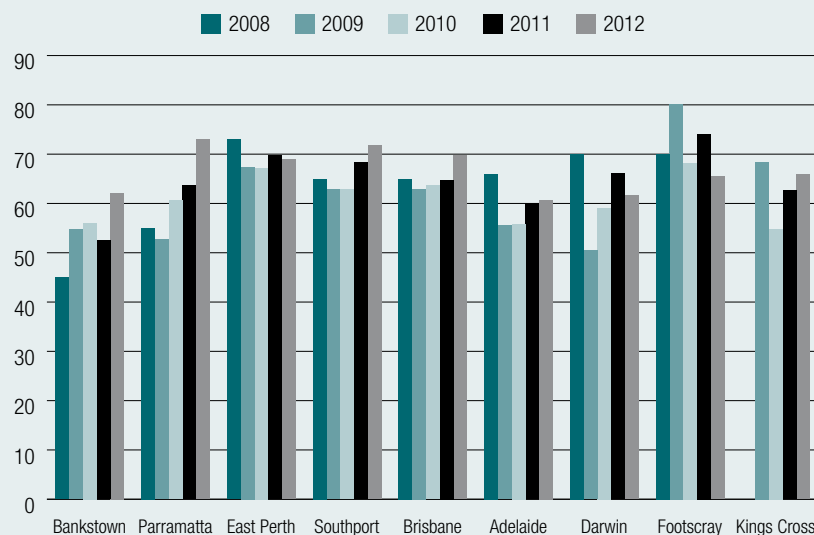
Established in 1999 and operating at selected watchhouses and police stations across Australia, the AIC's DUMA program is Australia's largest national survey of the illicit drug use patterns of police detainees. Detainees are interviewed within 48 hours of arrest and asked a series of questions relating to their drug and alcohol use, treatment history, prior contact with the criminal justice system and a range of socio-demographic factors (eg age, Indigenous status and employment status). Detainees are also requested to provide a urine sample for urinalysis to confirm drug use.

DUMA provides a reasonable and independent indicator of drug-related crime at the selected locations. By 2010, nine sites were being monitored—East Perth in Western Australia, Southport and Brisbane City in Queensland, Bankstown, Parramatta and Kings Cross in New South Wales, Adelaide City in South Australia, Darwin in the Northern Territory and Footscray in Victoria. Brisbane City and Adelaide City began participating in 2002, Darwin and Footscray in 2006 and King Cross in 2009.

Data are collected quarterly and presented in the following Figures as annual averages. Data presented in the majority of this section includes males only, who account for approximately 84 percent of adult police detainees in the DUMA collection. As the DUMA data deals with percentage of drug use as opposed to the count, changes and comparisons between years are reported in percentage points. The nine sites differed in the proportion of police detainees testing positive to each of methamphetamine, cocaine, cannabis and heroin.

Source: Reference 19

Figure 57 Adult male police detainees testing positive to any drug^a by DUMA site, 2008–12 (%)

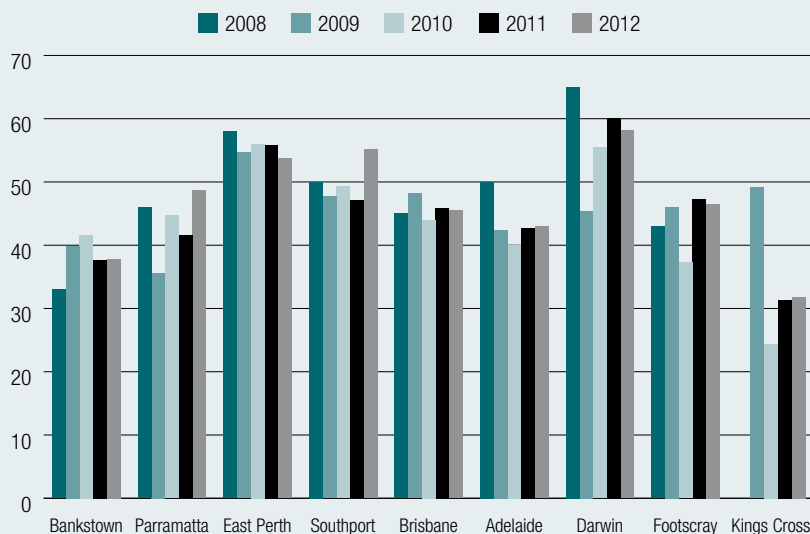


a: Includes cannabis, heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, or benzodiazepines

- In 2009, 80 percent of detainees tested positive to a drug at the Footscray testing site—the highest of any testing site in the five year period. Conversely, the lowest recorded proportion was 50 percent of adult male police detainees at the Darwin site in 2009.
- The proportion of detainees testing positive to any drug at the sites of Parramatta, Brisbane and Adelaide has increased in the past four years. Since 2009, the proportion testing positive to any drug in Parramatta increased by 20 percent, while the proportion in Brisbane and Adelaide increased by five and one percent respectively. Test positive rates for Kings Cross and Southport have also increased in the last three years.
- Between 2011 and 2012, the proportion of detainees testing positive to any drug in East Perth, Darwin and Footscray decreased.

Source: Reference 19

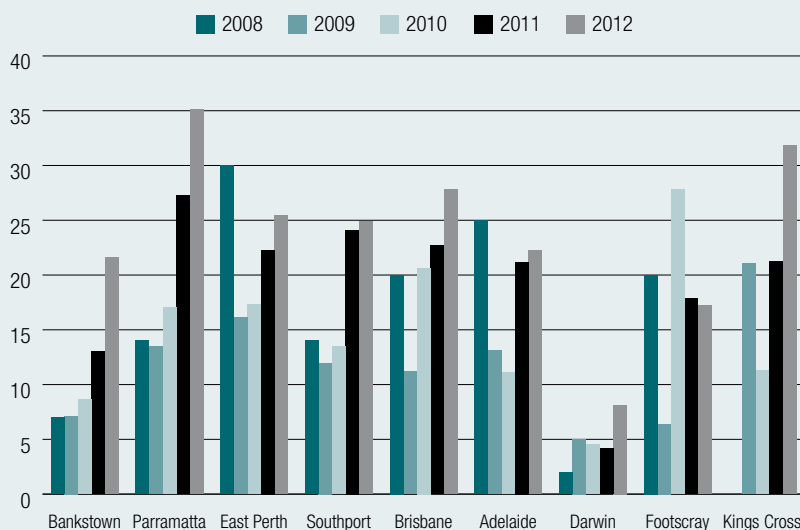
Figure 58 Adult male police detainees testing positive to cannabis by DUMA location, 2008–12 (%)



- In some of the testing sites, there was an overall decrease in police detainees testing positive to cannabis. At the Adelaide, Darwin and East Perth sites, the proportion of detainees who tested positive was lower in 2012 than it was in 2008.
- In 2012, 55 percent of detainees at Southport tested positive to cannabis. This is an eight percentage point increase on the 47 percent recorded in 2011. Similarly, the proportion of detainees testing positive to cannabis in Parramatta increased—from 42 percent of detainees in 2011 to 49 percent.
- Since 2008, an average of 38 percent of detainees have tested positive at the Bankstown site; the lowest of any long-term site.

Source: Reference 19

Figure 59 Adult male police detainees testing positive to methamphetamine by DUMA location, 2008–12 (%)

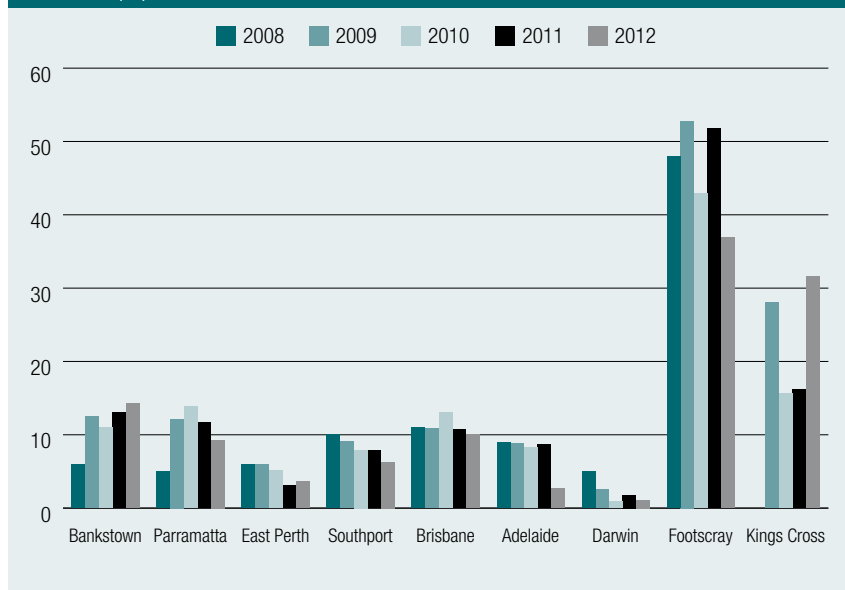


Note: The scale for this chart is different from that of other charts as the percentages involved are relatively small

- In 2012, the proportion of detainees who tested positive to methamphetamines in Bankstown increased by nine percentage points from the previous year, rising to 22 percent.
- The sites in New South Wales shared similar increases in the proportions of detainees testing positive to methamphetamine. In 2012, Parramatta recorded the highest proportions of detainees testing positive to methamphetamines (35%) in the six year period. Kings Cross recorded an 11 percentage point increase in the number of detainees testing positive to methamphetamine (32% in 2012) from the previous year.
- Over the five year period, the Darwin testing site has consistently recorded the smallest proportion of police detainees testing positive to methamphetamine. Specifically, proportions have remained less than nine percent each year and in 2012, only eight percent tested positive.
- All sites recorded an increase in the proportion of detainees testing positive to methamphetamine between 2011 and 2012 except Footscray. In Footscray, the proportion testing positive decreased by one percentage point to 17 percent in 2012.

Source: Reference 19

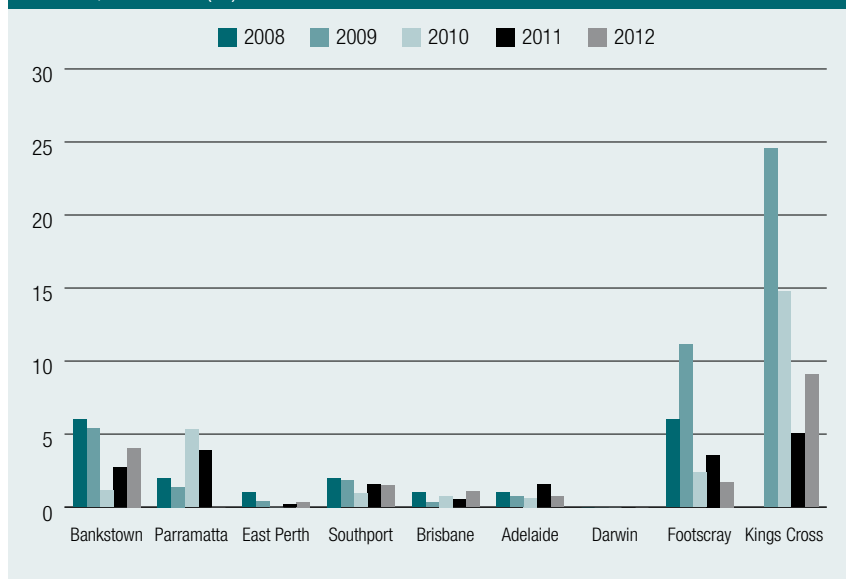
Figure 60 Adult male police detainees testing positive to heroin by DUMA location, 2008–12 (%)



- The highest proportion of detainees who tested positive to heroin was 53 percent. This was recorded in Footscray in 2009. By 2012, the proportion had decreased to 37 percent.
- In 2012, the proportions testing positive to heroin at Kings Cross increased to 32 percent from 16 percent in 2011. In Bankstown, the proportions testing positive to heroin has increased in the last three years, while the proportions in Parramatta have decreased in the last three years.
- The proportions of detainees testing positive to heroin at the East Perth, Adelaide and Darwin testing sites have consistently remained below 10 percent for the five year period.

Source: Reference 19

Figure 61 Adult male police detainees testing positive to cocaine by DUMA location, 2008–12 (%)

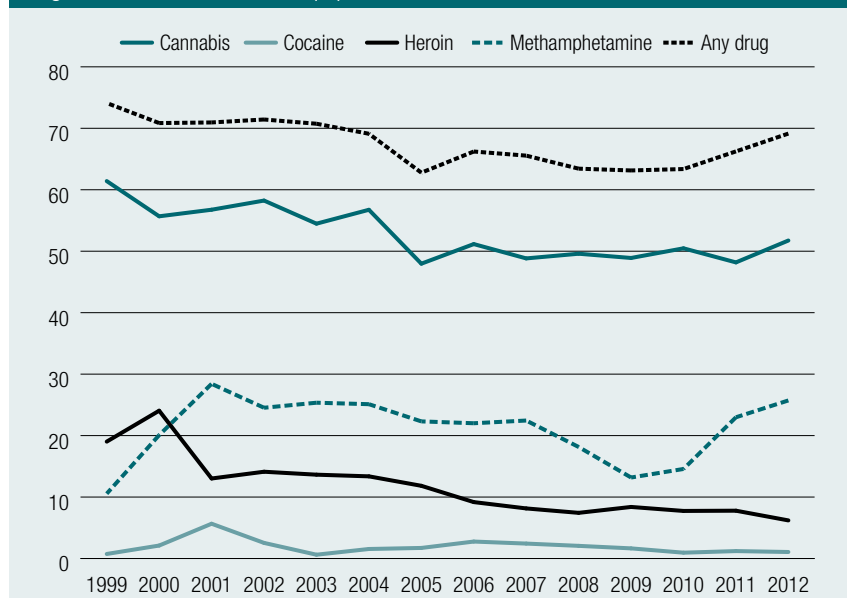


Note: The scale for this chart is different from that of other charts as the percentages involved are relatively small

- The proportion of detainees testing positive to cocaine at Kings Cross has been decreasing overall since 2009. In 2012, nine percent of detainees in Kings Cross tested positive to cocaine; the highest recorded at any site in 2012.
- Similarly, the proportions have been declining at the Footscray site since 2009 (11%) and in 2012, only two percent tested positive to cocaine.
- Since 2008, no detainees have tested positive to cocaine at the Darwin testing site, while both the Brisbane and East Perth sites have remained at around one percent or below.

Source: Reference 19

Figure 62 Adult male police detainees testing positive to selected drugs at four long-term sites^a, 1999–2012 (%)

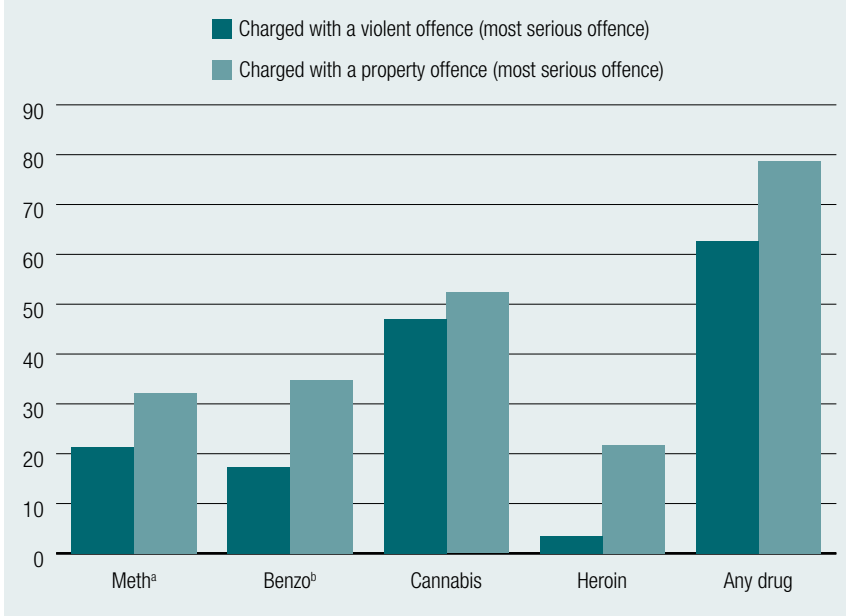


a: Bankstown, Parramatta, East Perth, Southport

- Police detainees tested positive to cannabis (52%) more frequently than any other type of drug in 2012.
- Over two-thirds of the population of police detainees tested positive to any drug (69%). This is the highest proportion reported since 2004. In 2005, 2008, 2009 and 2010, 63 percent of detainees tested positive to any drug—the lowest on record.
- Since 2006, the proportion of police detainees testing positive to cocaine or heroin has remained less than 10 percent. Specifically, the average proportion of detainees testing positive to cocaine or heroin per year is approximately two and eight percent respectively.
- Methamphetamine use among police detainees increased by 13 percentage points between 2009 and 2012—from 13 percent to 26 percent.

Source: Reference 19

Figure 63 Adult male police detainees testing positive to a drug by type of offence, 2012 (%)



a: Methamphetamine

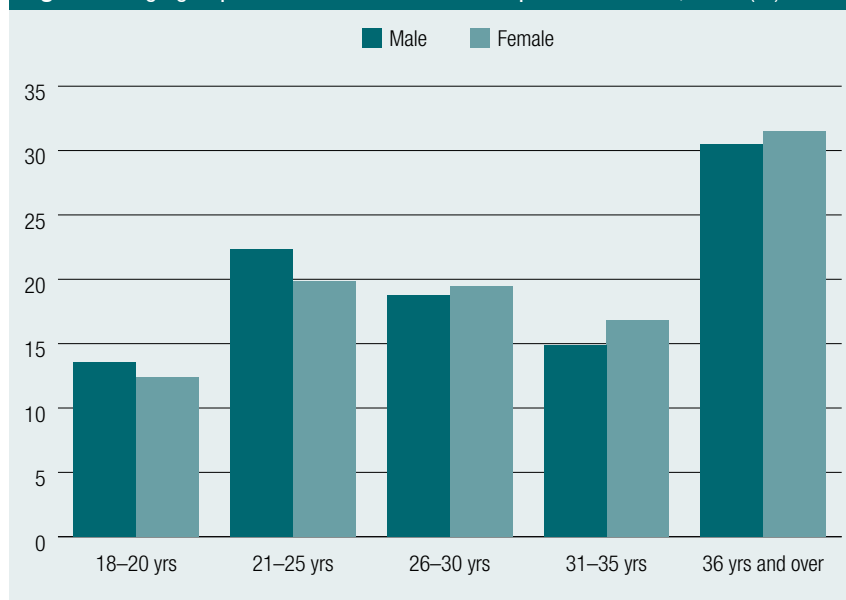
b: Benzodiazepines

- In 2012, a greater proportion of detainees charged with a property offence (79%) were found to have at least one drug in their system compared with the proportion charged with a violent offence (63%).
- The most common drug type was cannabis (47% for violent and 52% for property offenders) and the least common was heroin (3% for violent and 22% for property).
- Thirty-two percent of offenders charged with a property offence tested positive to methamphetamine compared with 21 percent who were charged with a violent offence. Similarly, 35 percent of offenders charged with a property offence tested positive to benzodiazepines compared with 17 percent who were charged with a violent offence.

Source: Reference 19

Characteristics of police detainees

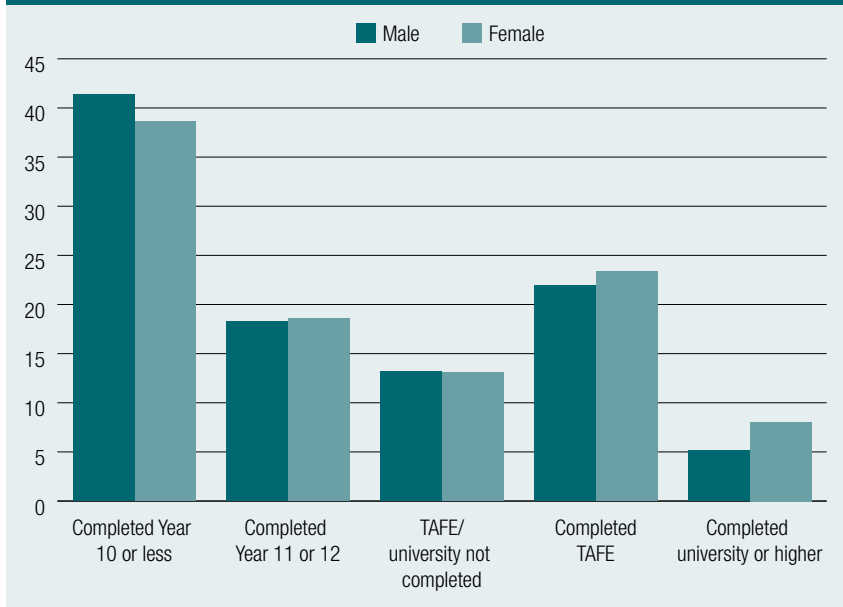
Figure 64 Age group and sex distribution of adult police detainees, 2012 (%)



- The greatest proportion of police detainees were aged 36 years and over.
- Equal proportions of male and female detainees were aged between 26 and 30 years (approximately 19%). While there were more males aged between 21 and 25 years than females, there were more females than males in the 31-35 year age group.
- The smallest proportions of detainees for both sexes were aged between 18 and 20 years.

Source: Reference 19

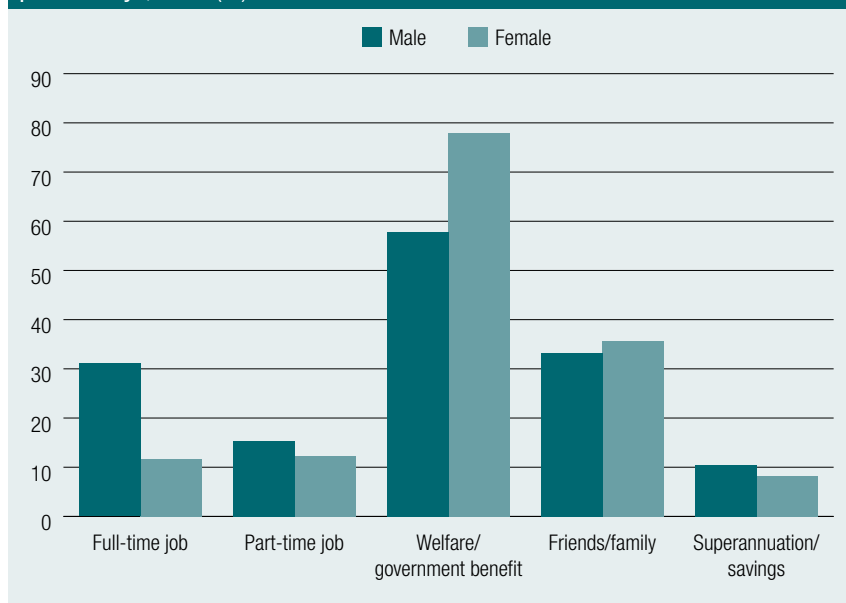
Figure 65 Adult police detainees by education level, 2012 (%)



- Very few police detainees possessed a qualification at university level or higher. However, the proportion of females who had completed at least a university-level qualification was three percentage points higher than that recorded for males (8% compared with 5%).
- Near equal proportions of male and female detainees had completed TAFE (22% compared with 23%) or had completed Year 11 or 12 (18% compared with 19%).
- The majority of detainees, regardless of sex, had only completed education to the Year 10; specifically, 41 percent of male detainees and 39 percent of females.

Source: Reference 19

Figure 66 Adult police detainees by source of income (non-crime generated) in the past 30 days, 2012 (%)

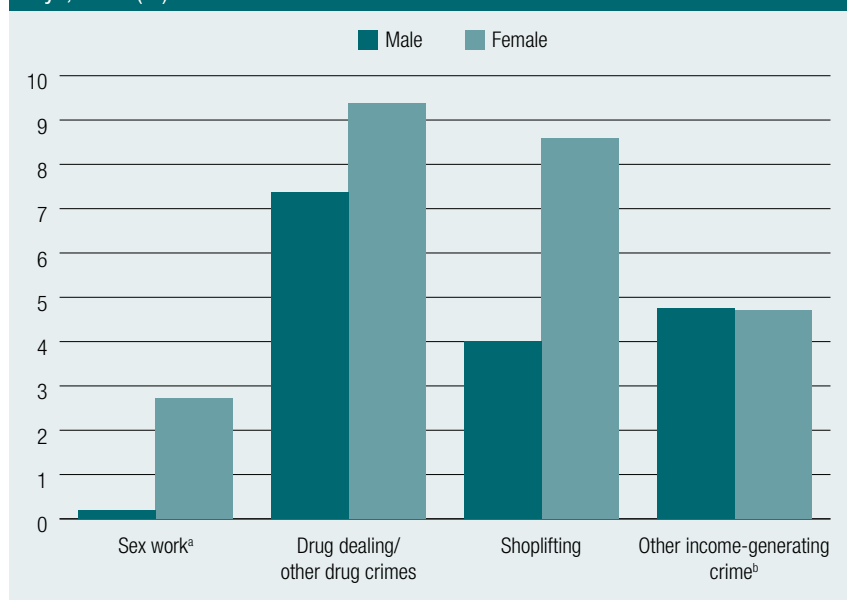


Note: Survey respondents could select more than one source of income. Therefore, the percentage for each sex may not total 100

- Both male and female detainees most commonly reported welfare/government benefits as their main source of non-crime generated income. In 2012, 78 percent of females and 58 percent of male police detainees received income from this source.
- Thirty-one percent of male police detainees reported that they held a full-time job, which was 19 percentage points higher than the proportion of female police detainees. Further, 36 percent of female police detainees compared with 33 percent of male detainees reported receiving non-crime generated financial support from friends/family.

Source: Reference 19

Figure 67 Adult police detainees by source of income (crime generated) in past 30 days, 2012 (%)



a: Sex work is decriminalised in some states and territories

b: Includes theft, fraud, burglary and robbery

Note: Survey respondents could select more than one source of income. As such, the percentage for each sex may not total 100

- Sex work was the least common source of crime-generated income for both sexes. However, less than one percent of male detainees reported receiving an income through sex work, compared with three percent for females.
- Drug dealing/other drug crimes were the most common source of crime-generated income for both sexes, with approximately seven percent of males and nine percent of females receiving an income through this source. Almost nine percent of females received crime-generated income through shoplifting.

Source: Reference 19

Figure 68 Adult police detainees by previous experience of homelessness, arrest and imprisonment, and mental illness, 2012 (%)



- Recidivism was quite common for male and female police detainees. Forty-five percent of male detainees and 40 percent of female detainees reported having been arrested on a previous occasion in the last 12 months.
- Nearly half of female detainees (47%) reported having been diagnosed or treated for a mental health issue. Thirty-two percent of male detainees reported similar issues.
- Six percent of both male and female detainees reported living on the street or not having a fixed address in the 30 days prior to arrest.

Source: Reference 19

Most serious offence

Table 7 Most serious offence of adult male police detainees, 2008–12 (%)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Violent offences	28	27	29	29	30
Property offences	20	19	19	17	17
Drug offences	8	8	8	8	9
Drink-driving offences	6	5	5	5	4
Traffic offences	8	7	6	5	4
Disorder offences	7	8	8	11	9
Breaches	20	16	23	22	25
Other offences	4	9	2	3	2

Table 8 Most serious offence of adult female police detainees, 2008–12 (%)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Violent offences	18	18	23	23	21
Property offences	36	31	29	28	27
Drug offences	9	10	10	8	10
Drink-driving offences	5	5	5	4	3
Traffic offences	8	5	5	5	6
Disorder offences	5	9	8	8	8
Breaches	15	12	18	21	22
Other offences	4	9	3	3	4

- On average, from 2008 to 2012, the most serious offence (MSO) committed by male police detainees most frequently was a violent offence. Conversely, for females it was property offences.
- Since 2008, the proportion of detainees whose MSO was a property offence has decreased from 36 percent to 27 percent for females and from 20 percent to 17 percent for males.
- The top three most serious offences for males and females have been violent and property offences, followed by breaches of court orders. In 2012, 22 percent of female detainees were charged with a breach as their most serious offence compared with 25 percent of males.

Source: Reference 19



Chapter 5

Criminal courts

There is a hierarchy of criminal courts at the federal and state/territory levels. The state and territory court systems comprise:

- *Magistrates' courts*—lower courts that deal with relatively minor or summary criminal offences. Under some circumstances, these courts may also deal with less serious indictable offences. They are also responsible for conducting preliminary (committal) hearings for indictable offences.
- *Intermediate (district/county) courts*—courts that deal with crimes of greater seriousness. Intermediate courts hear the majority of cases involving indictable crimes.
- *Supreme courts*—the highest level of court within a state or territory. Supreme courts deal with the most serious crimes.

Higher courts comprise intermediate and Supreme courts, where defendants charged with serious or indictable offences are dealt with and where appeals are heard. Magistrates' courts are called lower courts.

Each state and territory also has a children's court, which sits within the Magistrates' court system. Children's courts deal solely with defendants who committed an offence when aged under 18 years (or under 17 years in Queensland).

Minor criminal offences, called summary offences, are dealt with in the lower courts where penalties are less severe; major offences, dealt with by the higher courts, are called indictable offences. If a defendant pleads not guilty, indictable offences normally require a trial by judge and jury.

All state, territory and federal courts handle a number of matters that appear in the court system for the first time, although almost all criminal charges, including those for federal criminal offences, are lodged initially with a Magistrates' court.

In states with both Supreme and intermediate courts, the majority of charges are decided in intermediate courts. Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory do not have intermediate courts; all relevant charges are dealt with by Supreme courts.

The ABS publishes statistics on criminal defendants whose cases were initiated or finalised in higher and Magistrates' courts and recently, in children's courts. ABS data do not include defendants finalised in electronic courts, family violence courts, Koori courts or drug courts.

In addition, in recent years, the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (SCRGSP) has produced statistics on the number of lodgements at each court level.

Both the ABS and the SCRGSP report on criminal court data for financial rather than calendar years.

Source: References 20 and 21

The criminal court process

Case flows

Cases passing through the courts generally share the following common elements:

- *lodgement*—the initiation of the matter with the court;
- *pre-trial procedures*—committal hearing or discussion and mediation between the parties;
- *trial*; and
- *court decision*—judgment or verdict followed by sentencing.

Source: References 20 and 21

Lodgements

Most lodgements are processed by the Magistrates' court in the relevant criminal jurisdiction.

In 2011–12, 772,696 cases were lodged in criminal courts in Australia; 96 percent were initiated in Magistrates' courts, three percent were initiated in district/county courts and the remaining one percent initiated in the Supreme courts.

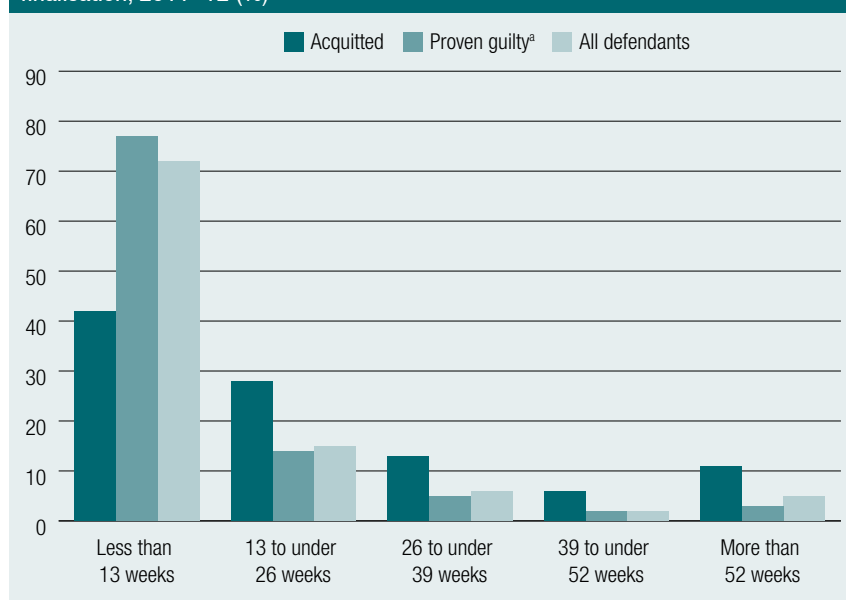
Source: Reference 20

Timeliness

The duration between the lodgement of a matter with the court and its finalisation is referred to as timeliness. Generally, lower courts complete a similar proportion of their workload with greater timeliness than higher courts, because cases are of a more straightforward nature, the disputes and prosecutions heard are usually less complex and there is a greater proportion of guilty pleas.

Committal is the first stage of hearing an indictable offence in the criminal justice system. A Magistrate assesses the sufficiency of evidence presented against the defendant and decides whether to commit the matter for trial in a higher court. Defendants are held in custody pending a committal hearing or trial, or released on bail. The conduct of the committal hearing is important for timely adjudication of the charges against the defendant.

Figure 69 Timeliness of matters finalised in Magistrates' court by method of finalisation, 2011–12 (%)

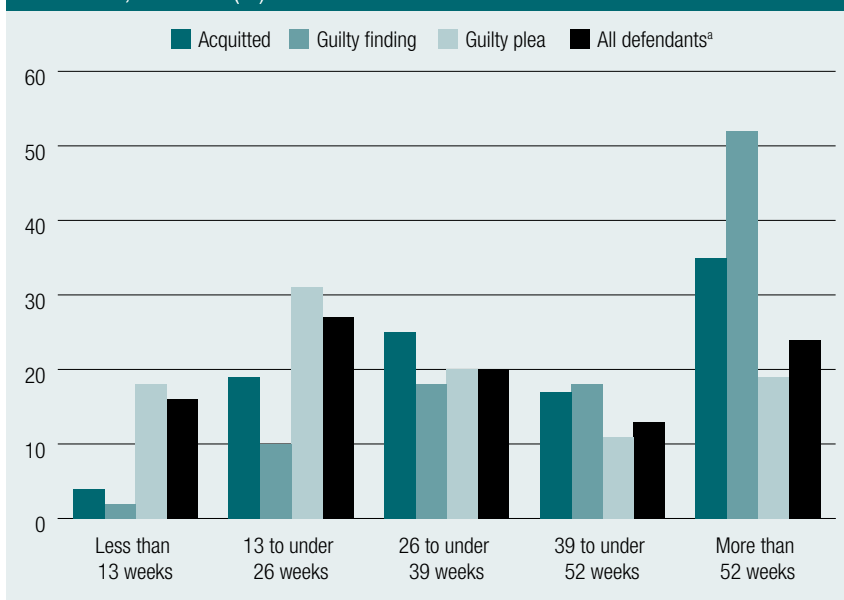


a: Includes guilty plea and guilty verdict

- The majority of matters in the Magistrates' court in 2011–12 (72%) were finalised in less than 13 weeks. This varied depending on the method of finalisation. For example, 77 percent of matters proven guilty took less than 13 weeks to be finalised, compared with 42 percent of those resulting in acquittal.
- In 2011–12, only five percent of matters took greater than 52 weeks to finalise. The majority of these were for matters that ended in an acquittal.
- Overall, 15 percent of defendants were finalised within 13 to 26 weeks, followed by six percent that were finalised between 26 and 39 weeks.

Source: Reference 21

Figure 70 Timeliness of matters finalised in higher courts by method of finalisation, 2011–12 (%)



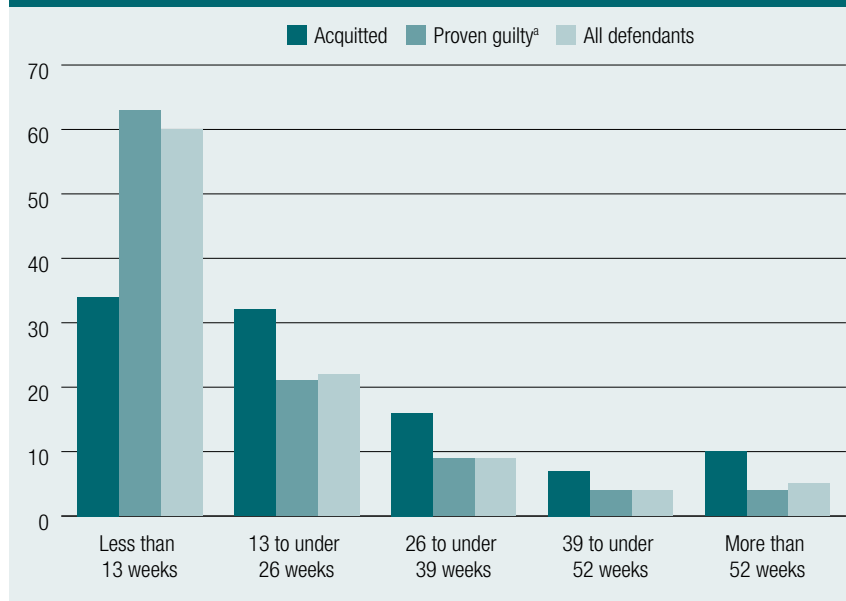
a: All defendants includes cases where finalisation method was unknown or defendants whose cases were finalised by other means (eg transferred to other court methods, withdrawn by prosecution)

- Overall, in 2011–12, the greatest proportion of defendants' before the higher courts were finalised between 13 and 26 weeks (27%), followed by 24 percent of matters that took greater than 52 weeks.
- Matters where defendants were found guilty generally took longer than any other finalisation method. Just over half of matters resulting in a guilty verdict took longer than 52 weeks to finalise, compared with 35 percent of matters that resulted in acquittal and 19 percent that ended with a guilty plea.

- Matters ending in a guilty plea generally took the least time to finalise, with 18 percent of matters being resolved in less than 13 weeks compared with four percent of matters ending in acquittal and two percent that ended in a guilty verdict.

Source: Reference 21

Figure 71 Timeliness of matters finalised in the children's courts by method of finalisation, 2011–12 (%)



a: Includes guilty plea and guilty verdict

- In 2011–12, three in five defendants (60%) in the children's courts were finalised in less than 13 weeks. This trend was driven mainly by the 63 percent of defendants who were proven guilty in 2010–11.
- Similar proportions of matters before the children's courts and that were ultimately acquitted were finalised in less than 13 weeks (34%) or between 13 and 26 weeks (32%).
- Overall, only 18 percent of all defendants took more than 26 weeks to finalise.

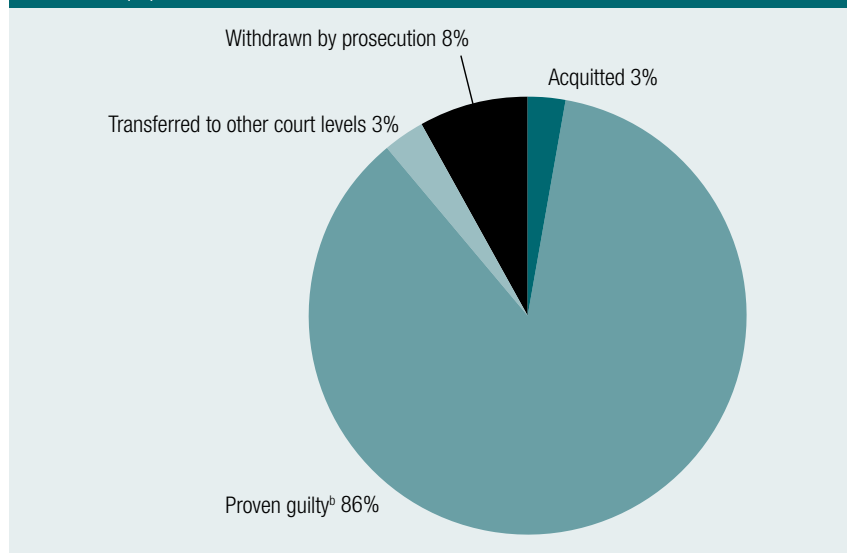
Source: Reference 21

Court decisions

Cases are finalised in the courts in the following ways:

- *adjudicated*—determined whether guilty of the charges, by court judgement or plea of guilty; and
- *non-adjudicated*—unresolved for a variety of reasons, including withdrawal by prosecution, unfitness to plead, death of the accused, diplomatic immunity and statute of limitations.

Figure 72 Criminal cases finalised in Magistrates' court by method of finalisation, 2011–12^a (%)



a: New South Wales refers to finalised appearances rather than defendants, resulting in possible over counting. New South Wales excludes defendants finalised by committal to a higher court

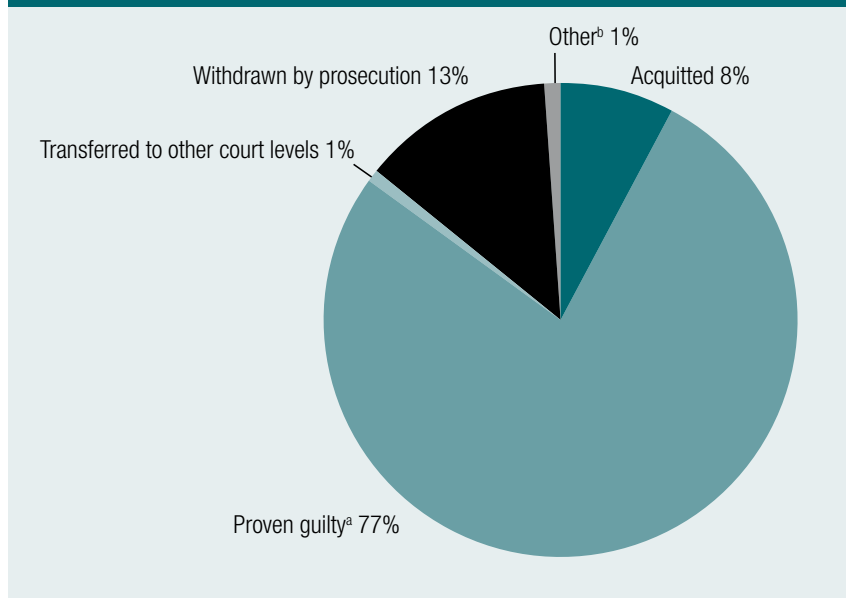
b: Includes guilty plea and guilty verdict

Note: n= 523,166

- In 2011–12, the majority of criminal cases finalised in the Magistrates' court resulted in a proven guilty finding (86%). Eight percent of cases were withdrawn by the prosecution, three percent were acquitted and a further three percent were transferred to other court levels.

Source: Reference 21

Figure 73 Criminal cases finalised in higher courts by method of finalisation, 2011–12 (%)



a: Includes guilty plea and guilty verdict

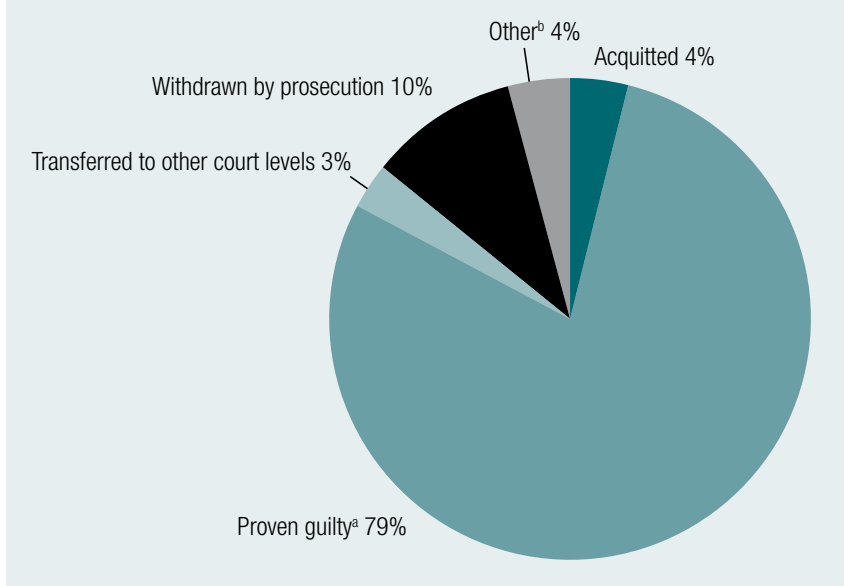
b: Includes defendants unfit to plead, defendants deceased and other non-adjudicated finalisations

Note: n=15,479

- While 77 percent of criminal cases finalised in the higher courts ended with a proven guilty finding, eight percent were acquitted. Thirteen percent were withdrawn by the prosecution and one percent of cases were transferred to other court levels.

Source: Reference 21

Figure 74 Criminal cases finalised in children's courts by method of finalisation, 2011–12



a: Includes guilty plea and guilty verdict

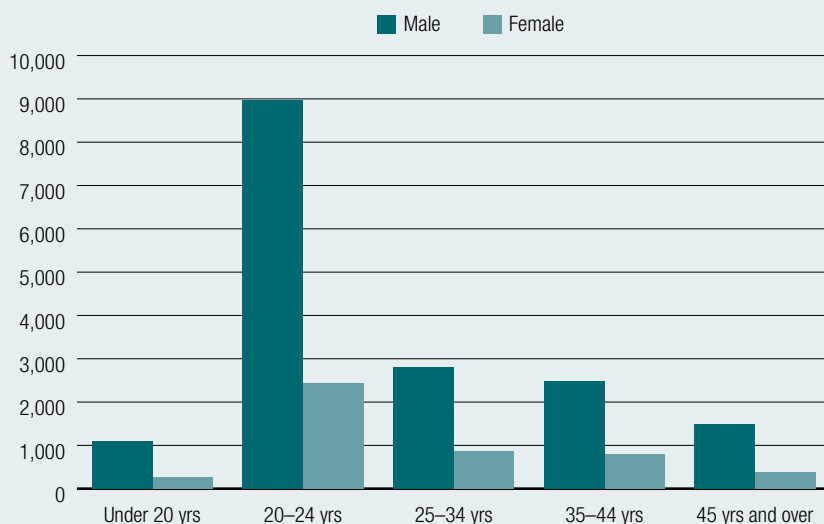
b: Includes defendants unfit to plead, defendants deceased, and other non-adjudicated finalisations

Note: n=33,604

- In 2011–12, the majority of cases finalised in children's courts resulted in a proven guilty finding (79%), while four percent were acquitted.
- Ten percent of matters were withdrawn by prosecution and three percent were transferred to other court levels.

Source: Reference 21

Figure 75 Adjudicated defendants in Magistrates' court by age and sex, 2011–12
(rate per 100,000 relevant persons)



- Males aged 20–24 years were the group most commonly adjudicated in the Magistrates' court in 2011–12. Females aged 20–24 years were adjudicated at a rate of 2,426 per 100,000 females compared with 8,974 per 100,000 males.
- The rate of male adjudication in the Magistrates' court declined by 83 percent between the ages of 20–24 and 45 years and over. In 2011–12, males aged 45 years and over were adjudicated at a rate of 1,490 per 100,000 population.
- The rate of adjudication in the Magistrates' court was lowest for both sexes for defendants aged under 20 years. Females were adjudicated at a rate of 275 per 100,000 and males were adjudicated at a rate of 1,106 per 100,000 population.

Source: References 2 and 21

Figure 76 Adjudicated defendants in higher courts by age and sex, 2011–12



- Although adjudication of male defendants in the higher courts is significantly greater than that of female defendants, both sexes follow similar patterns across the age groups. The rate of adjudication peaks in the 20–24 year age group before declining over the subsequent age groups.
- The rate of adjudication was lowest for defendants of both sexes aged less than 20 years. Specifically, males were adjudicated at a rate of 32 per 100,000 population and females at a rate of three per 100,000.
- The rate of female adjudication was lower for those aged 25–34 years than for those aged 20–24 years. For those aged 20–24 years, the rate was 32 per 100,000 population, compared with 30 per 100,000 females aged 25–34 years.
- Similarly, for males, the rate of adjudication was greater for those aged 20–24 years compared with 25–34 years (307 compared with 216 per 100,000 population). The adjudication rate was lower still for those aged 35–44 years at 157 per 100,000 population.

Source: References 2 and 21

Sentencing

Sentencing options available at each court level include, but are not limited to:

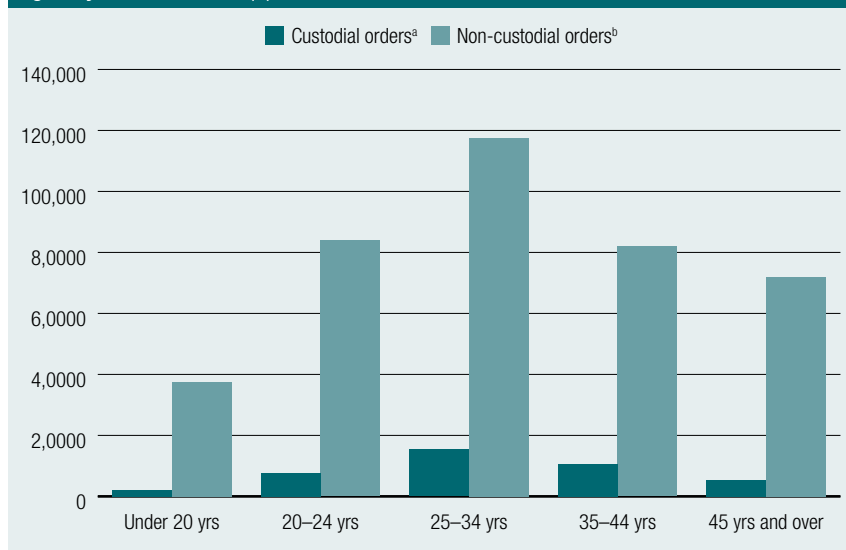
- fine;
- good-behaviour bond;
- probation order;
- suspended sentence;
- community service order;
- community custody (including home detention and periodic detention); and
- imprisonment.

A custodial order restricts an offender's liberty and may be served in a correctional facility or under supervision in the community. Suspended sentences are also classified as a form of custodial order.

Non-custodial orders are sentences that do not involve being held in custody. They may include supervision by a probation officer, community service orders or monetary penalties.

Sentencing data for adult offenders have been available since 2002–03 from all states and territories. The ABS is continuing to work towards a more detailed and regular sentencing collection for higher courts, Magistrates' courts and children's courts.

Figure 77 Principal sentence of defendants found guilty in Magistrates' courts by age in years, 2011–12 (n)



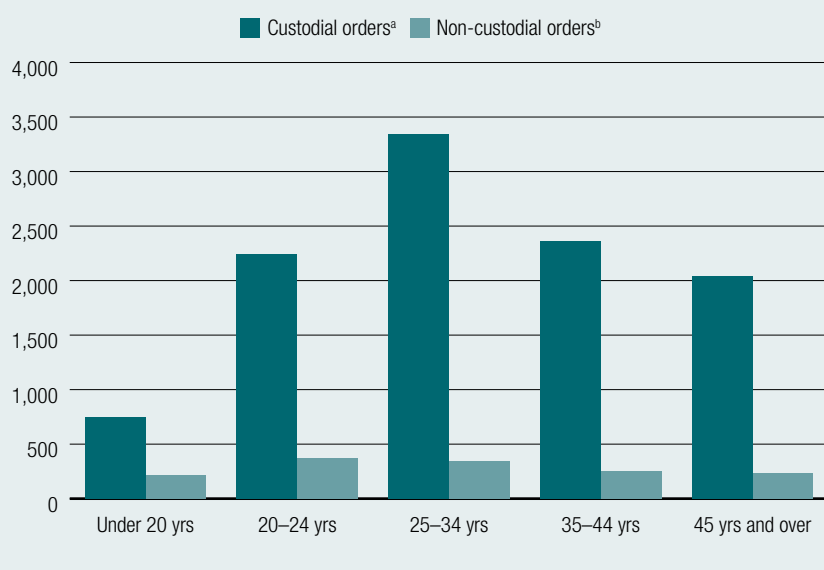
a: Includes custody in a correctional institution, custody in the community and suspended sentence

b: Includes community supervision or work orders, monetary orders and other non-custodial orders

- In 2011–12, non-custodial orders were the most common sentence handed down in the Magistrates' courts, constituting 392,821 or 91 percent of all sentences.
- Defendants aged 25–34 years received the greatest number of sentences in 2011–12. Specifically, 37 percent of custodial and 30 percent of non-custodial sentences were handed down to defendants aged 25–34 years.

Source: Reference 21

Figure 78 Defendants found guilty in higher courts by age and principal sentence, 2011–12 (n)



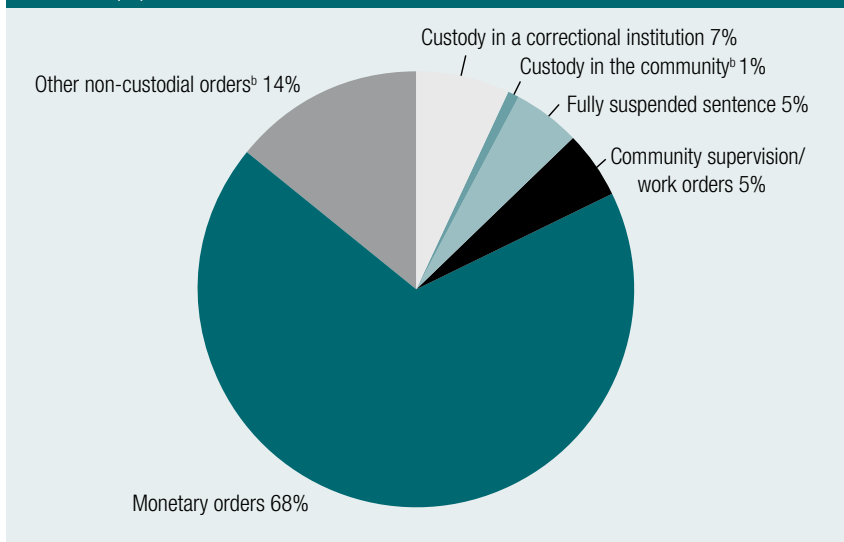
a: Includes custody in a correctional institution, custody in the community and suspended sentence

b: Includes community supervision or work orders, monetary orders and other non-custodial orders

- Defendants found guilty in the higher courts in 2011–12 more commonly received a custodial than a non-custodial sentence. Of the 12,140 sentences handed down in the higher courts in 2011–12, 10,726 (88%) were custodial orders.
- The proportion of custodial orders handed down to defendants by the higher courts was greatest among the 25–34 year group (31%), while defendants aged 20–24 years were handed the largest proportion of non-custodial orders of any other age group (27%).

Source: Reference 21

Figure 79 Principal sentence of adult male defendants found guilty in any court^a, 2011–12 (%)



a: Includes Magistrates' and higher courts

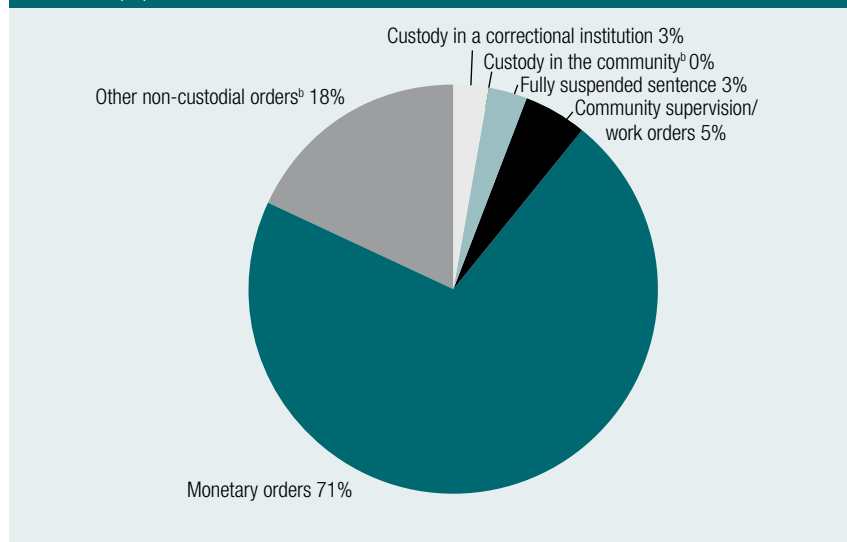
b: Includes intensive corrections orders, home detention and other orders restricting liberty, although allowing living within the community

Note: n=356,290 (excludes male defendants whose type of custodial order handed down was unknown)

- In 2011–12, 68 percent of males found guilty in Australian courts received a monetary order. Fourteen percent received other non-custodial orders, while five percent were sentenced to community supervision/work orders.
- Of those who received custodial sentences, seven percent were sentenced to custody in a correctional institution, five percent received a fully suspended sentence and one percent served custody in the community.

Source: Reference 21

Figure 80 Principal sentence of adult female defendants found guilty in any court^a, 2011–12 (%)



a: Include Magistrates' and higher courts

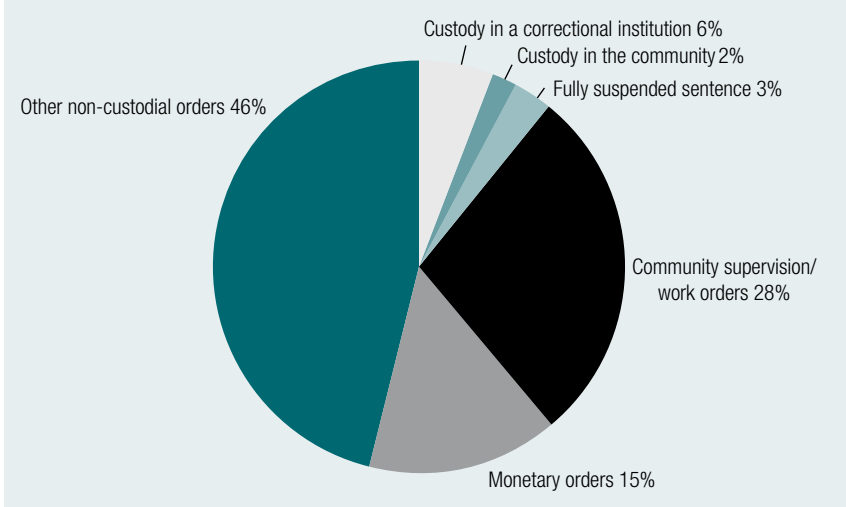
b: Includes intensive corrections orders, home detention and other orders by which liberty is restricted, although living within the community

Note: n=101,009

- In 2011–12, 71 percent of female defendants who were found guilty in Australian courts received a monetary order. A further 18 percent of female defendants received other non-custodial orders.
- Approximately six percent of female defendants received a custodial sentence in 2011–12. Specifically, three percent were sentenced to custody in a correctional institution, three percent received a fully suspended sentence and less than one percent served custody in the community.

Source: Reference 21

Figure 81 Principal sentence of defendants found guilty in a children's court, 2011–12 (%)

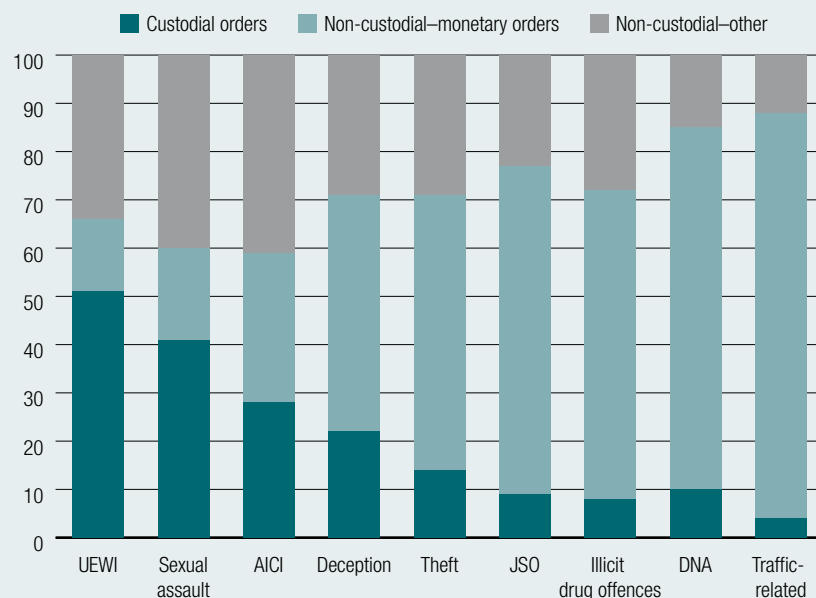


Note: n=26,525

- In 2011–12, the most common sentences handed down to defendants found guilty in children's courts were other non-custodial orders (46%), community supervision or work orders (28%) and monetary orders (15%).
- Only 11 percent of defendants in the children's courts received a custodial sentence. Specifically, six percent were sentenced to custody in a correctional institution, three percent received a fully suspended sentence and two percent served custody in the community.

Source: Reference 21

Figure 82 Principal sentence of adult defendants found guilty in Magistrates' courts by most serious offence, 2011–12

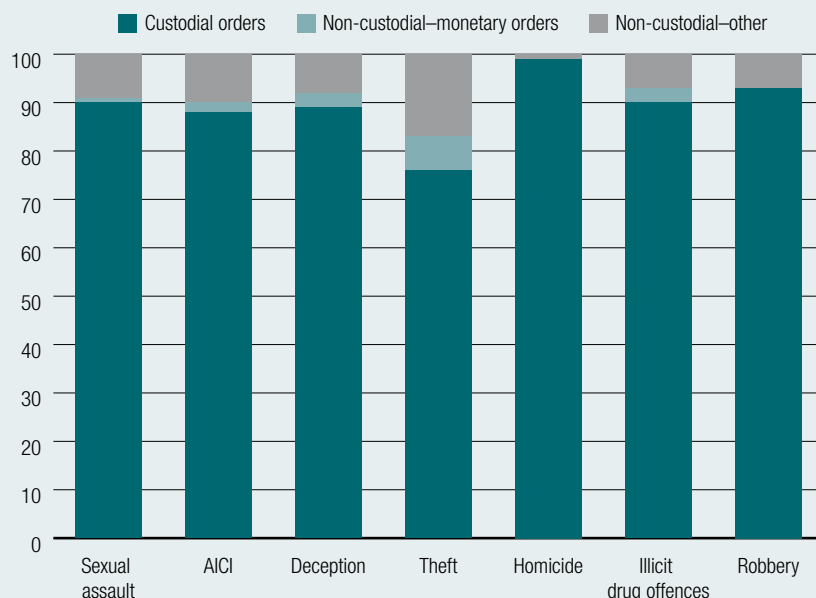


Note: JSO=offences against justice procedures, government security, or government operations. DNA=dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons

- A greater proportion of custodial orders were handed down in the Magistrates' courts for UEWI and sexual assault. Fifty-one percent of defendants found guilty of UEWI and 41 percent found guilty of sexual assault received a custodial sentence in 2011–12.
- Monetary orders were the most common sentence awarded to defendants found guilty of traffic-related crimes (84%) or dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons (75%).
- Defendants found guilty of AICI and sexual assault were commonly given other non-custodial orders (41% and 40%, respectively).

Source: Reference 21

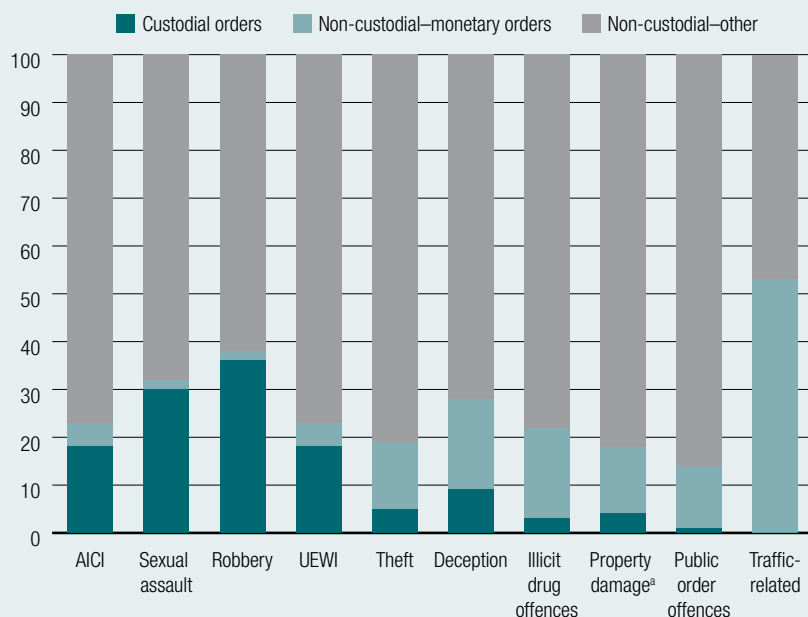
Figure 83 Principal sentence of defendants found guilty in higher courts by most serious offence, 2011–12



- In 2011–12, defendants found guilty in higher courts most commonly received custodial orders compared with any other sentence across all offence types. No defendants found guilty of homicide or robbery received a non-custodial sentence. Defendants convicted of theft offences were more likely to be awarded non-custodial monetary orders (7%) and other non-custodial orders (16%) than defendants convicted of any other offence in 2011–12.

Source: Reference 21

Figure 84 Principal sentence of defendants found guilty in a children's court by most serious offence, 2011–12 (%)



a: Includes environmental pollution

- In 2011–12, it was generally uncommon for defendants found guilty in the children's courts to receive custodial sentences. Defendants found guilty of committing robbery were more likely to receive a custodial order (36%) than those found guilty of sexual assault (30%), UEWI (18%) and AICI (18%).
- Non-custodial monetary orders were most common for defendants found guilty of traffic-related offences (53%).
- The majority of defendants found guilty in children's courts received other non-custodial orders for all offence types. This was the case for 85 percent of defendants found guilty of public order offences, 82 percent found guilty of property damage/environmental pollution and 81 percent found guilty of theft.

Source: Reference 21

Federal courts

In Australia, most crimes are committed against state and territory laws. Federal law deals with crimes that have a national or international focus; for example, tax crimes, transnational and cybercrime, terrorism or child sexual offences committed overseas.

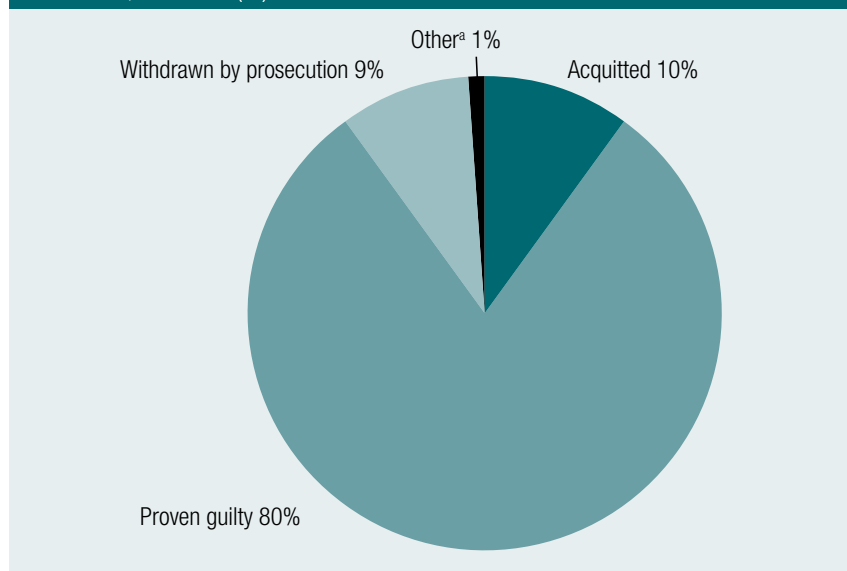
There is not one specific court that prosecutes federal defendants. The Australian Government through the *Crimes Act 1914* invests the Supreme, district (county), Magistrates' and children's courts with federal jurisdiction, allowing them to pass judgement in these matters. Federal prisoners are held in state prisons.

In 2009, the ABS released the first edition of *Federal Defendants: Selected States and Territories*, which provides a snapshot of crimes committed in Australia that were tried under federal law.

In 2011–12, a total of 10,809 federal cases were lodged in Australian courts; 89 percent were initiated in the Magistrates' Court, nine percent in the higher courts and two percent in the children's courts.

Reference 22

Figure 85 Federal criminal cases finalised in higher courts by method of finalisation, 2011–12 (%)



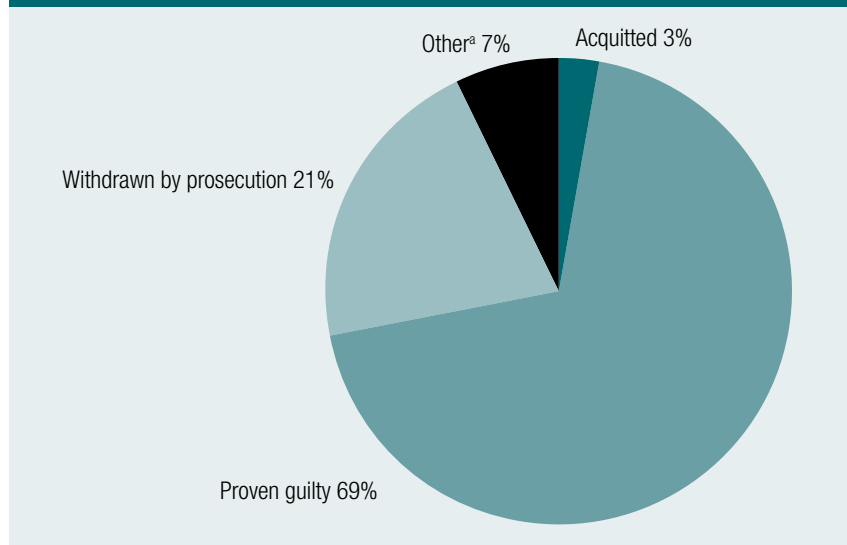
a: Includes transfers to other courts, defendants deceased, unfit to plead, transfers to non-court agencies and other non-adjudicated finalisations not elsewhere classified

Note: n=975

- In 2011–12, the majority of federal criminal cases (80%) in the higher courts resulted in guilty verdicts.
- Ten percent of cases were acquitted in 2011–12, while nine percent of matters were withdrawn by the prosecution.

Source: Reference 22

Figure 86 Federal criminal cases finalised in the Magistrates' and children's courts by method of finalisation, 2011–12 (%)



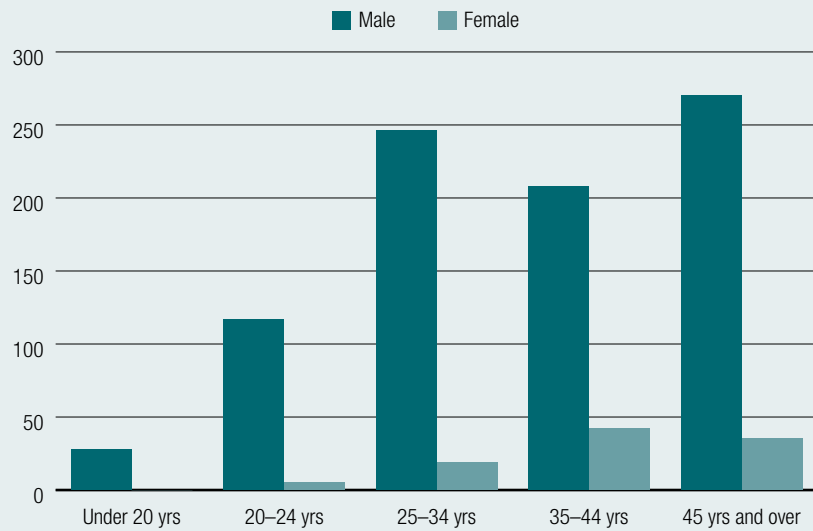
a: Includes transfers to other courts, defendants deceased, unfit to plead, transfers to non-court agencies and other non-adjudicated finalisations not elsewhere classified

Note: n=9,836

- The majority of federal criminal cases in the Magistrates' and children's courts in 2011–12 resulted in a guilty verdict (69%). Twenty-one percent of cases were withdrawn by the prosecution before a verdict could be reached and three percent were acquitted.

Source: Reference 22

Figure 87 Federal defendants in higher courts by age and sex, 2011–12 (n)



- There were no female federal defendants aged less than 20 years in the higher courts in 2011–12 and there were only 28 male federal defendants aged less than 20 years.
- The greatest number of federal defendants in the higher courts were aged 45 years or older. Eighty-nine percent of federal defendants in this age group were male.
- The number of female federal defendants was highest in the 35–44 years group.
- Overall, males accounted for 90 percent (n=869) of federal defendants in the higher courts.

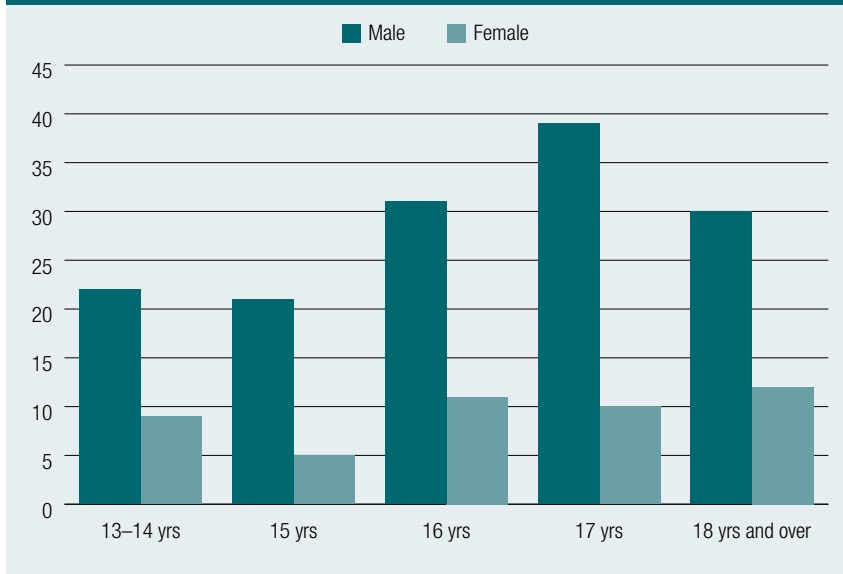
Figure 88 Federal defendants in the Magistrates' court by age and sex, 2011–12 (n)



- There were 6,170 male federal defendants in the Magistrates' court in 2011–12. Thirty-four percent of these were aged 45 years and over, while 28 percent were aged 35–44 years.
- Of the 1,958 female federal defendants in the Magistrates' court, 34 percent were aged 35–44 years, while 30 percent were 45 years and over.

Source: Reference 22

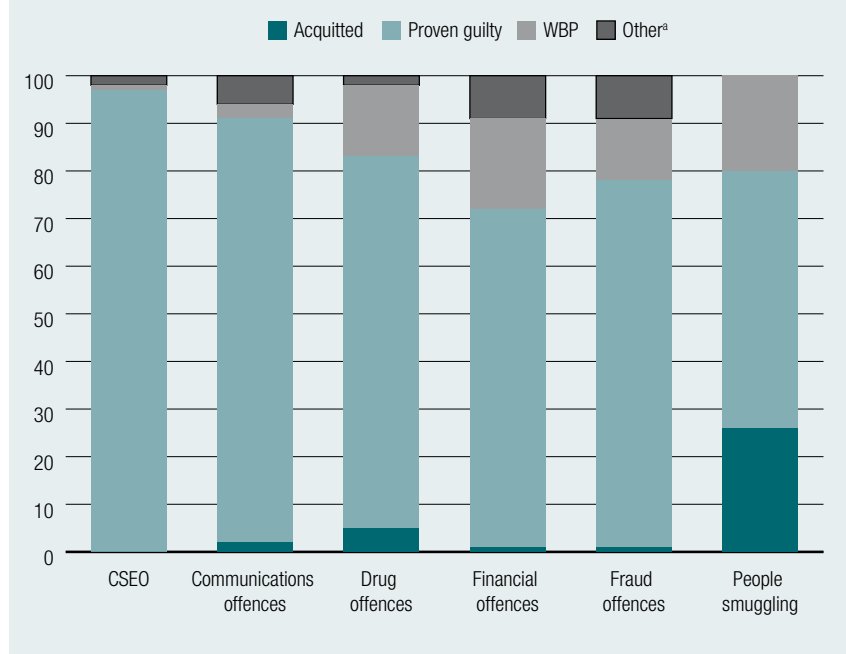
Figure 89 Federal defendants in the children's court by age and sex, 2011–12 (n)



- Very small numbers of federal defendants were prosecuted in the children's courts in 2011–12. Approximately 45 percent of federal defendants in the children's court were charged with either harassment and private nuisance or threatening behaviour.
- The greatest number of male federal defendants in the children's court were 17 years old (n=39), while the largest number of female federal defendants were aged 18 years and over (n=12).

Source: Reference 22

Figure 90 Selected federal offences in the higher courts by method of finalisation, 2011–12 (%)



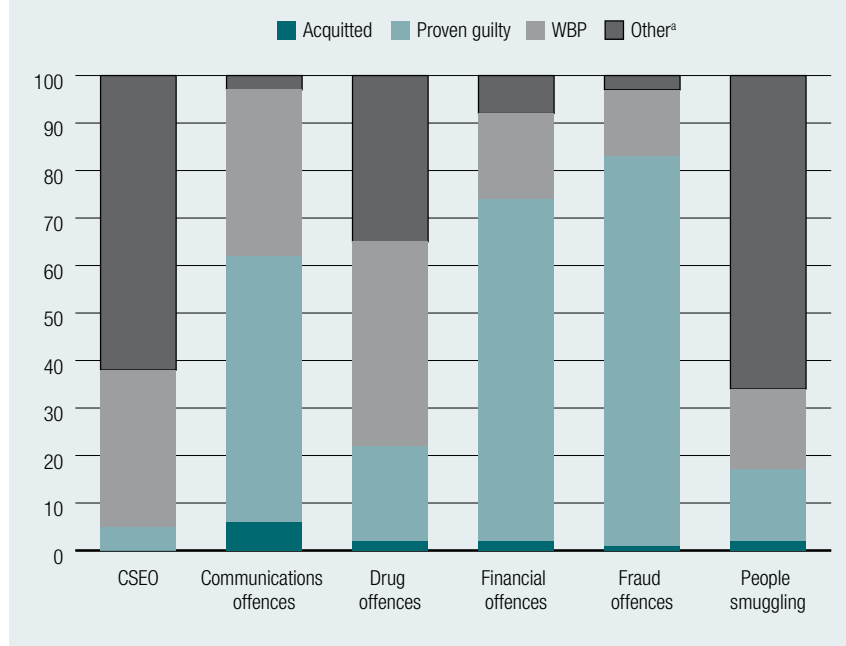
a: Includes transfers to other courts, defendants deceased, unfit to plead, transfers to non-court agencies and other non-adjudicated finalisations not elsewhere classified

Note: WBP=Withdrawn by prosecution. CSEO=Child sexual exploitation offences

- The most common method of finalisation for all offences was a proven guilty verdict. Of all offence types, federal defendants charged with child sexual exploitation offences (CSEO) had the highest proportion of a proven guilty verdict (97%). The lowest proportion of defendants proven guilty were those charged with people smuggling offences (54%).
- In 2011–12, the proportion of federal cases that were acquitted in the higher courts was generally low. The greatest proportion was for people smuggling offences (26%). By comparison, no federal defendants charged with CSEO were acquitted.
- The proportion of federal cases that were withdrawn by the prosecution varied across offence types. For instance, the proportions range from one percent of CSEO to 19 percent of financial offences.

Source: Reference 22

Figure 91 Selected federal offences in the Magistrates' and children's courts by method of finalisation, 2011–12 (%)



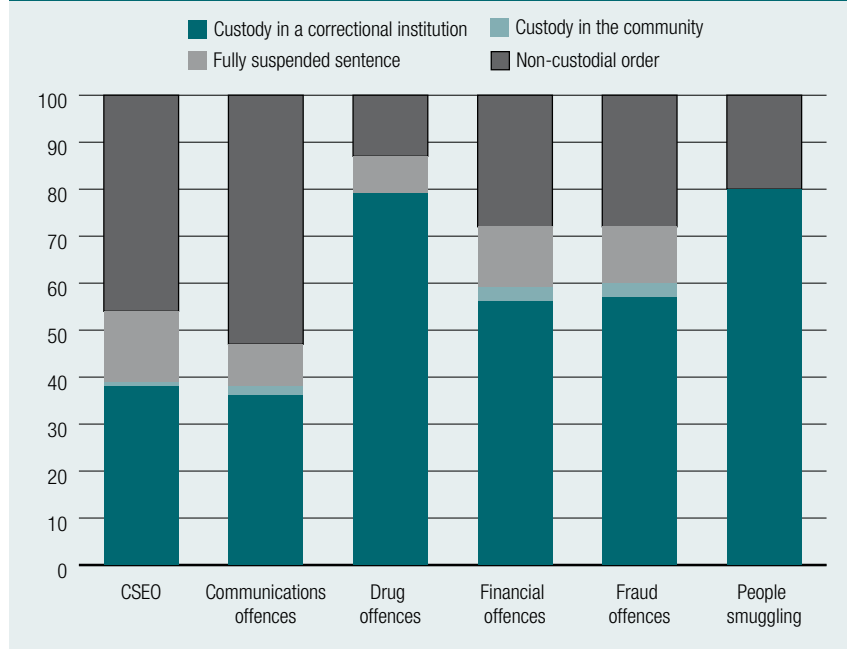
a: Includes transfers to other courts, defendants deceased, unfit to plead, transfers to non-court agencies and other non-adjudicated finalisations not elsewhere classified

Note: WBP=Withdrawn by prosecution. CSEO=Child sexual exploitation offences

- Finalisation of federal offences in the Magistrates' and children's court varied by offence type. A proven guilty verdict was more common for fraud offences (82%), financial offences (72%) and communications offences (56%).
- Federal defendants charged with drug offences in 2011–12 were more likely to have their case withdrawn by prosecution than any other offence type. Specifically for drug offences, 43 percent were withdrawn by prosecution, 35 percent were finalised through other means and 20 percent were proven guilty.
- An acquittal was uncommon across all offences. The greatest proportion of acquittals was reported for defendants charged with communication offences (6%). No federal defendants charged with CSEO were acquitted.
- In 2011–12, a large proportion of CSEO and people smuggling offences were finalised through other means (62% and 66%, respectively).

Source: Reference 22

Figure 92 Selected federal offences proven guilty in the higher courts by sentence type, 2011–12 (%)

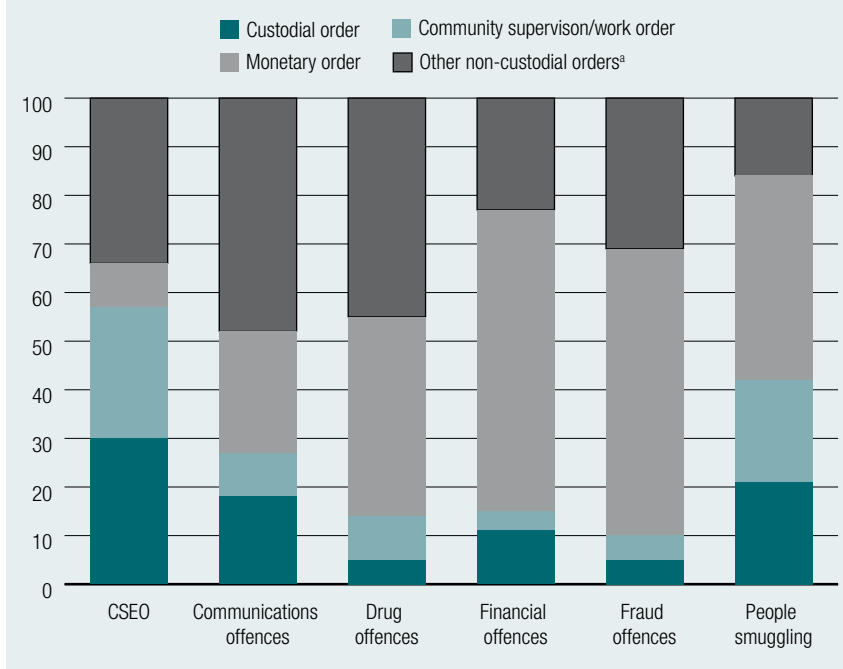


Note: CSEO=Child sexual exploitation offences

- Custodial orders were the most common sentence handed down in higher courts in response to selected federal offences. For example, 79 percent of defendants found guilty of a federal drug offence received a custodial order, while the same was true for 80 percent of those defendants charged with people smuggling.
- No defendants proven guilty of drug offences or people smuggling were sentenced to custody in the community. The highest proportion of those sentenced to custody in the community was only three percent for both financial and fraud offences.
- The proportion of defendants who received a non-custodial order ranged from 13 percent of those found guilty of a drug offence to 53 percent of defendants found guilty of a communications offence.

Source: Reference 22

Figure 93 Selected federal offences proven guilty in the Magistrates' and children's courts by sentence type, 2011–12 (%)



a: Includes transfers to other courts, defendants deceased, unfit to plead, transfers to non-court agencies and other non-adjudicated finalisations not elsewhere classified

Note: CSEO=Child sexual exploitation offences

- For federal defendants found guilty of drug offences, 45 percent received an 'other non-custodial' sentence, while 41 percent received a monetary order.
- The proportion of federal defendants who received a monetary order ranged from nine percent of defendants guilty of CSEO offences to 62 percent of those guilty of a federal financial offence.
- Less than 10 percent of federal defendants received community supervision or a work order for any offence except people smuggling and CSEO offences. In 2011–12, 21 percent of defendants guilty of people smuggling were sentenced to community supervision or work orders.

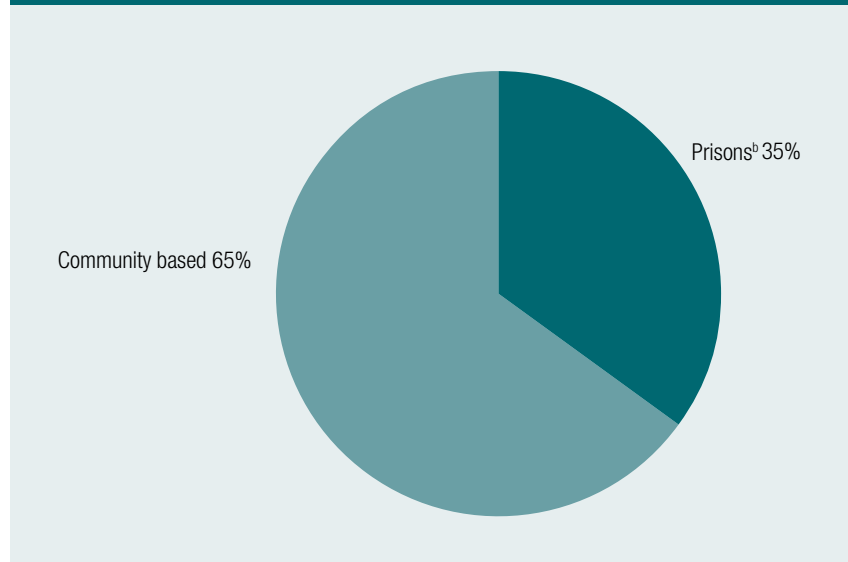
Source: Reference 22

Chapter 6

Corrections

Corrective services in this chapter includes prison custody, community corrections and juvenile detention. Corrective services agencies manage offenders sentenced to prison, community corrections or periodic detention.

Figure 94 Offenders by type of corrective program, 2011–12^a



a: Figures based on average daily population (prisons and community corrections)

b: Includes periodic detention (available only in the Australian Capital Territory)

Note: n=84,325

- In 2011–12, there were 54,996 offenders in community-based corrective programs, which accounted for 65 percent of all offenders in any corrective program. Conversely, 35 percent of offenders were in prison (n=29,330).

Source: Reference 20

Prisons

A national census of adult prisoners is taken on 30 June each year. Prisoner counts include both sentenced prisoners and those on remand (awaiting trial or sentence), unless otherwise specified.

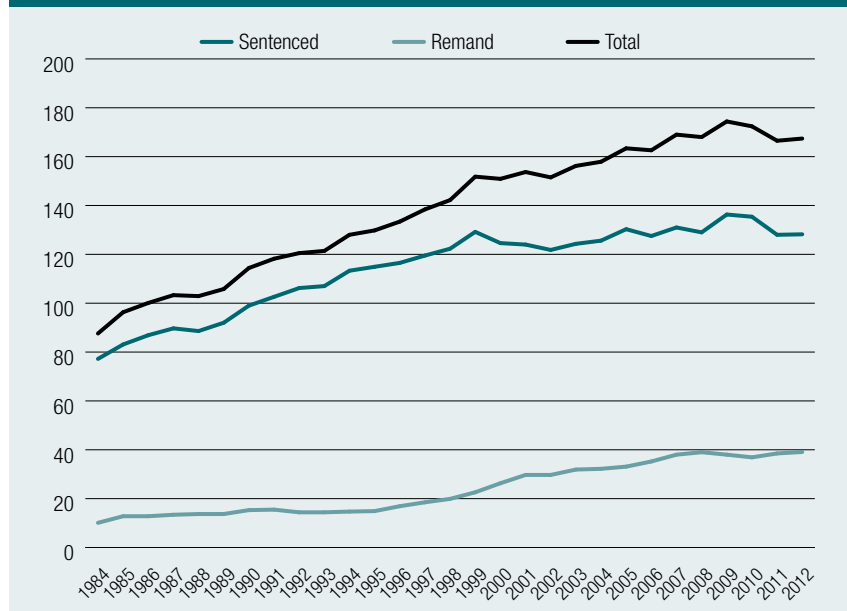
A total of 29,383 persons were in custody in Australian prisons on 30 June 2012—a one percent increase on the number recorded in 2011. This corresponds to a rate of 167 per 100,000 of the adult population, which is the same rate as the previous year. Of these prisoners, 22,510 were serving sentences, while 6,870 were on remand awaiting trial.

Source: Reference 23

From 1 October 2010, periodic detention was discontinued in New South Wales and replaced with Intensive Correction Orders. These are an alternative to custodial sentences where the offender serves their time (a maximum of 2 years) within the community, performing community services (*Reference 24*). Previously, individuals serving time in periodic detention would have been recorded as part of the number of offenders serving time in prison. This change is likely to affect the long-term trend and therefore should be considered when accounting for any decrease.

Trend in prison population

Figure 95 Prisoners by status, 1984–2012 (per 100,000 population)



- In the past 10 years, the rate of prisoners has increased overall by 10 percent, rising from 152 per 100,000 population in 2002 to 167 in 2012. During the same time period, the rate of prisoners on remand and the rate of sentenced prisoners increased by 30 percent and five percent respectively.
- In 2012, the rate of prisoners remained the same compared with the previous year. Specifically, the rate of sentenced prisoners was 128 per 100,000 population while the rate of prisoners on remand remained at 39 per 100,000.

Source: References 2 and 23

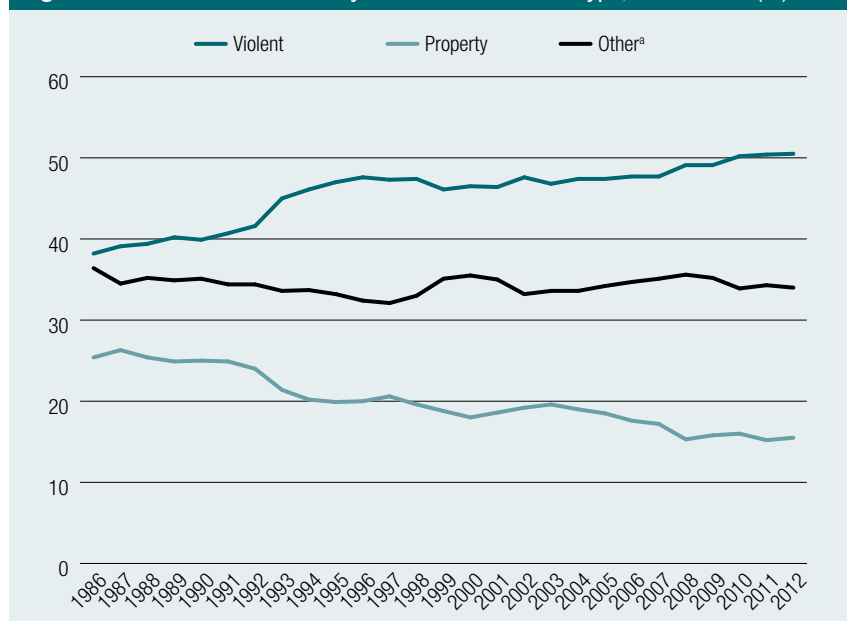
Most serious offence

Some offenders serve sentences for multiple offences concurrently. These offenders are categorised as being in prison for the offence with the longest sentence, usually the offence deemed most serious. Violent prisoners are those convicted of homicide, assault, sexual offences or robbery. Prisoners convicted of property offences include those charged with breaking and entering or with 'other theft' (including MVT). 'Other' offenders are those who have been convicted of fraud, offences against justice

procedures, government security and government operations, drug offences and others such as public order and driving offences.

On 30 June 2012, the MSO for which 11,368 prisoners were sentenced was a violent offence. There were 3,481 prisoners whose MSO was a property offence and 2,310 prisoners who were sentenced for other MSOs.

Figure 96 Prisoners sentenced by most serious offence type, 1986–2012 (%)



a: Includes fraud/deception, offences against justice procedures and drug offences

- Just over half (51%) of prisoners sentenced in 2012 had committed a violent offence as their MSO.
- The proportion of prisoners sentenced for a MSO involving property crime increased by one percentage point between 2011 and 2012, while other offences decreased by one percentage point.

Source: Reference 23

Table 9 Most serious offence of sentenced prisoners by sex, 2012

	Male		Female	
	n	%	n	%
Violent				
Homicide	2,141	10	184	12
Assault	3,534	17	225	14
Sexual offences	3,031	14	37	2
Robbery	2,120	10	96	6
Property				
Break and enter	2,466	12	144	9
Other theft ^a	729	3	142	9
Other				
JGSO ^b	2,057	10	143	9
Drug offences	2,248	11	274	17
Fraud	433	2	196	12
Other ^c	2,156	10	154	10
Total	20,915		1,595	

a: Includes motor vehicle theft

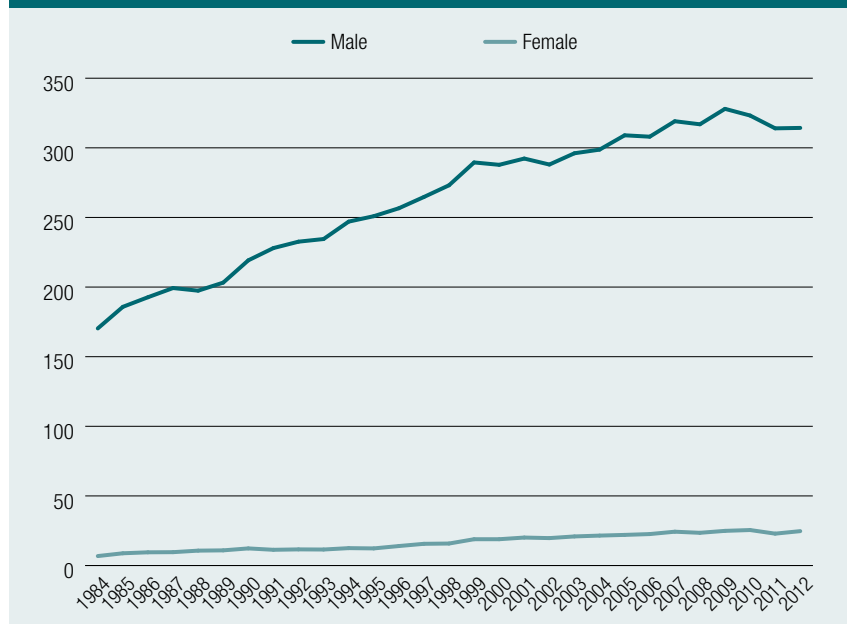
b: Includes offences such as breach of court order, breach of parole, escape from custody, offences against justice procedures, treason, sedition and resisting customs officials. Classified as offences against justice procedures, government security and operations (JGSO)

c: Includes other offences against the person and property, public order offences and driving offence

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

- The ratio of males to females sentenced in 2012 was approximately 13 to one.
- In terms of property and other offences, males were more often sentenced for break and enter (12%) compared with female offenders (9%).
- A greater proportion of males were sentenced for assault (17%) and sexual offences (14%) than any other most serious offence. Females were sentenced more often for drug offences (17%) than any other crime.

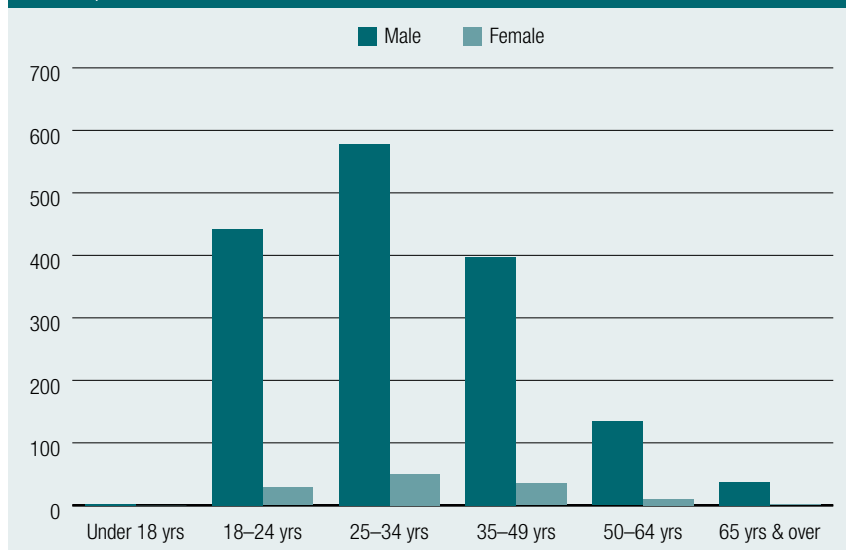
Source: Reference 23

Figure 97 Prisoners by sex, 1984–2012 (per 100,000 of that sex)

- The rate of male imprisonment in 2012 was 314 per 100,000 population. Between 2009 and 2011, the rate of male imprisonment decreased from 328 per 100,000 to 314—a decline of four percent. However, the 2012 rate represents an increase of 85 percent on the imprisonment rate recorded in 1984 (170 per 100,000 population).
- Over the last 10 years, the rate of female imprisonment has increased by 26 percent. In 2012, the rate of female imprisonment increased by eight percent to 25 per 100,000 population.

Source: References 2 and 23

Figure 98 Prisoners by age group and sex, 2012 (per 100,000 of that age group and sex)



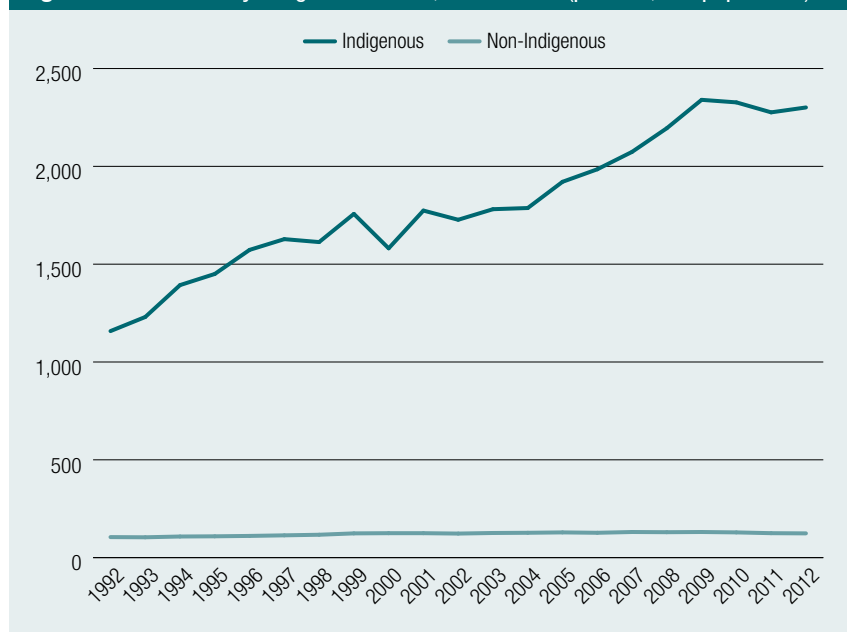
- Across all age groups, the rate of imprisonment for males was significantly greater than that of females. However, both rates were greatest in the 25–34 year age group.
- For males, the age group with the second highest rate of imprisonment was the 18–24 year age group who were imprisoned at a rate of 442 per 100,000 population. For females, however, the age group with the second highest rate of imprisonment was the 35–49 year old category. In this age group, females were imprisoned at a rate of 45 per 100,000 population.
- The rate of imprisonment for males aged under 18 years was two per 100,000 population. There were no females imprisoned under 18 years of age in 2012.

Source: References 2 and 23

Indigenous status

Figure 99 shows the imprisonment rate of Indigenous (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) and non-Indigenous persons.

Figure 99 Prisoners by Indigenous status, 1992–2012 (per 100,000 population)



- In 2012, 73 percent of prisoners were of non-Indigenous backgrounds.
- However, Indigenous offenders were imprisoned at a much higher rate than non-Indigenous offenders. This trend has been evident over the 21 year recording period. In 2012, the rate of imprisonment of Indigenous offenders was 19 times higher at 2,302 per 100,000 population than the rate of 124 per 100,000 for non-Indigenous offenders.
- In the past four years, non-Indigenous imprisonment rates have been in decline. Between 2009 and 2012, the rate of non-Indigenous offender imprisonment decreased by five percent.
- The rate of imprisonment of Indigenous offenders increased by one percent between 2011 and 2012—from 2,276 per 100,000 population to 2,302 per 100,000.

Source: References 2 and 23

Federal prisoners

Figure 100 Federal prisoners by sex, 2002–12 (n)



- In 2012, there were a total of 967 federal prisoners and 13 percent of these were female.
- The number of male federal prisoners has increased significantly over the past five years. In 2008, there were 562 male federal prisoners. In 2012, this number had increased by 49 percent to 838.

Source: Reference 25

Recidivism

One measure of recidivism is the rate of return to prison, which has remained stable in Australia over the past five years of data collection. Of those prisoners released in 2009–10, 39 percent had returned to prison under sentence by 30 June 2012, while 46 percent were returned to corrective services.

Source: Reference 20

Another measure, collected by the ABS, is the previous imprisonment of inmates currently serving custodial sentences. Note that the prior imprisonment was not necessarily for the same type of offence.

Table 10 Detainees previously imprisoned by selected current offences and Indigenous status, at 30 June 2012

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	n	%	n	%
Homicide	494	57	2,326	32
AICI	2,675	76	3,074	53
Sexual assault	758	60	2,807	25
Robbery	739	72	2,169	58
UEWI	1,231	79	2,126	74
Theft	258	76	921	68
Illicit drug offences	146	57	3,223	32
Total ^a	7,979	74	21,258	48

a: Total also includes dangerous and negligent acts endangering persons, abduction, harassment and other offences against the person, fraud, deception and related offences, prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences, property damage and environmental pollution, public order offences, traffic and vehicle regulatory offences, offences against justice procedures, government security and operations, miscellaneous offences and cases where the offence was unknown

- Of the 494 Indigenous prisoners serving time for homicide in 2012, over half had a history of prior imprisonment. Conversely, only 32 percent of non-Indigenous prisoners serving time for the same offence had a history of prior imprisonment.
- Across all offence categories, the history of prior imprisonment was higher for Indigenous prisoners than non-Indigenous prisoners.
- The proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoners with a history of prior imprisonment was greater for UEWI than any other offence.

Source: Reference 23

Community corrections

Community corrections comprise a variety of non-custodial programs, varying in the extent and nature of supervision, the conditions of the order and the restrictions on the person's freedom of movement in the community. They generally provide either a

non-custodial sentencing alternative or a post-custodial mechanism for reintegrating prisoners into the community under continuing supervision.

Due to different definitions in the source material, the definition of community corrections in this chapter is somewhat different from the definition of non-custodial sentences given in Chapter 5. Whereas in that chapter weekend detention and home detention are considered custodial sentences, this chapter includes them as community-based sentences.

In Australia during 2011–12, an average of 54,996 offenders were serving community corrections orders on any given day—a decrease of two percent from the number recorded in 2010–11. This corresponds to a rate of 313 per 100,000 adults, with 522 per 100,000 adult males and 111 per 100,000 adult females.

Source: References 2, 20 and 25

Figure 101 Average daily community corrections population by sex, 2000–01 to 2011–12 (n)



- Over the past 12 years, the average daily community corrections population has remained below the highest figure first recorded in 2000–01 (n=59,733).
- Eighteen percent of the average community corrections population in 2011–12 were females.

Source: References 2 and 20

There are three main categories of community corrections orders:

- restricted-movement orders (eg home detention);
- reparation orders (eg fines, community service); and
- supervision (compliance) orders (eg parole, bail, sentenced probation).

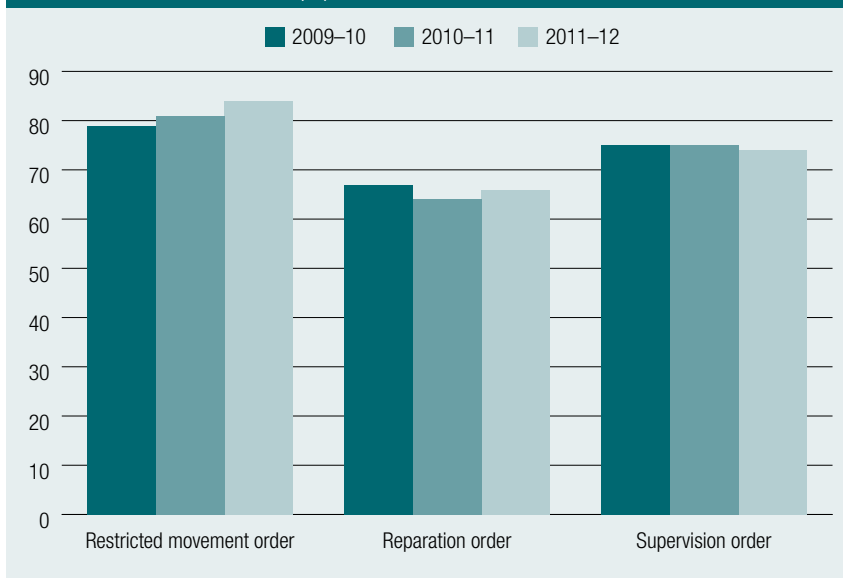
Figure 102 Average daily community corrections population by type of order, 2009–10 to 2011–12 (n)



- Consistent with the overall decrease in the community corrections population, the number of prisoners serving each type of order also decreased in the three years period 2009–10. Most notably, the number of individuals serving reparation orders declined from 13,960 in 2009–10 to 11,968 in 2011–12—a decrease of 14 percent.
- Despite there being significantly fewer individuals serving time on restricted movement orders, the number further decreased in 2011–12. Specifically, in 2009–10, there were 608 people on restricted movement orders compared with 570 in 2010–11 and 557 in 2011–12.
- Seventy-nine percent (n=46,160) of the average daily community corrections population were serving supervision orders in 2011–12.

Source: Reference 20

Figure 103 Successful completion of community corrections orders by type of order, 2009–10 to 2011–12 (%)



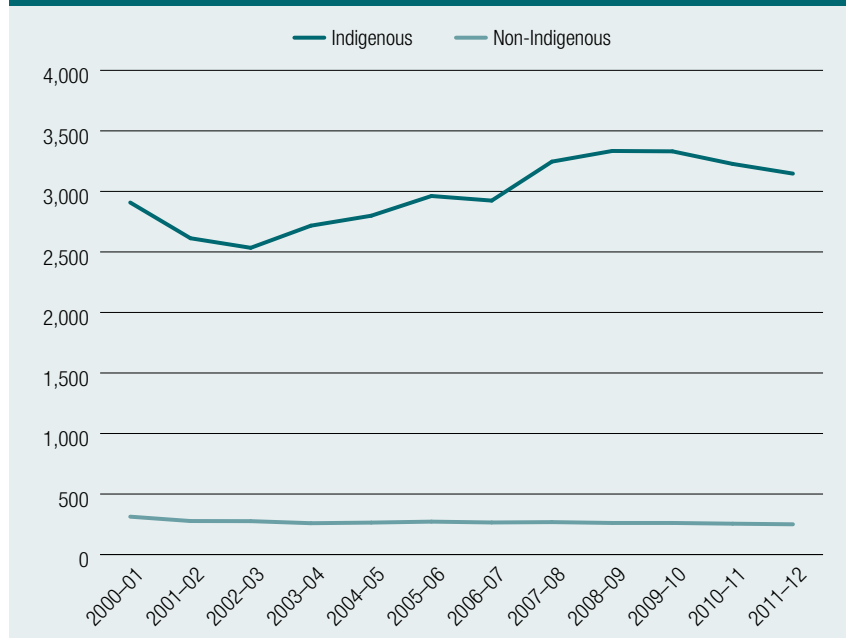
- In 2011–12, the proportion of individuals completing restricted movement orders increased by four percentage points from 81 percent to 84.
- The proportion who completed reparation orders in 2011–12 increased by two percentage points from 64 percent to 66. Conversely, the proportion who completed a supervision order decreased marginally by one percentage point from 75 percent to 74.

Source: Reference 20

Indigenous status

In 2011–12, 43,079 non-Indigenous and 10,913 Indigenous offenders served community corrections orders.

Figure 104 Average daily community corrections population by Indigenous status, 2000–01 to 2011–12 (per 100,000 of that status)



- Indigenous persons have been consistently overrepresented in the average daily community corrections population compared with non-Indigenous people.
- Between 2008–09 and 2011–12, the rate of Indigenous prisoners in community corrections decreased from 3,334 per 100,000 population to 3,147; a total decline of six percent. By comparison, the rate of non-Indigenous prisoners in community corrections decreased by two percent in the same period; from 261 to 250 per 100,000 population.
- In 2011–12, Indigenous prisoners were 13 times more likely to be serving time in community corrections than non-Indigenous prisoners.

Source: References 2 and 20

Juvenile detention centres

The AIC has maintained a data collection on the number of persons detained in juvenile detention centres since 1981, consisting of a count of persons detained in detention centres on the last day of each quarter of each year. Similar information is

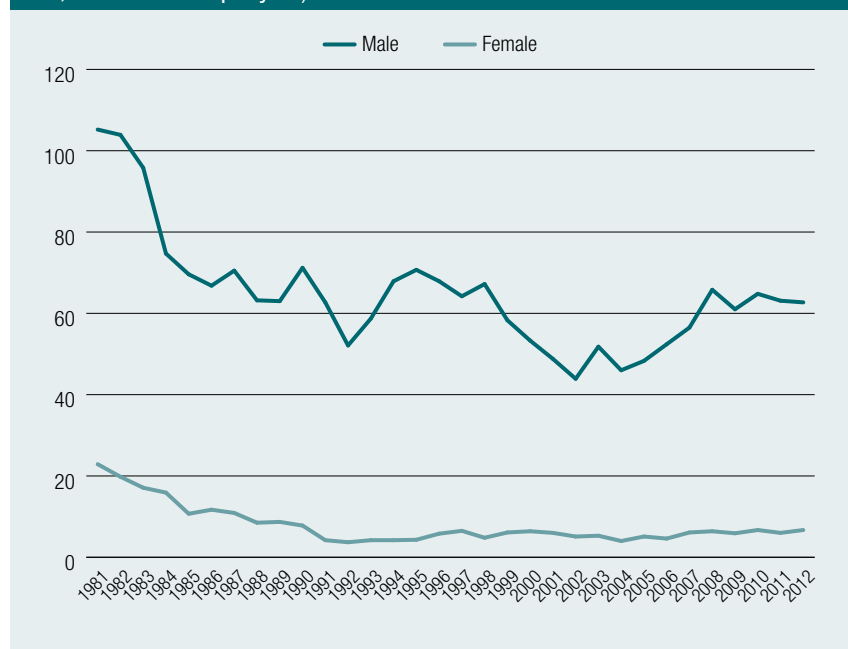
not available on the sentenced non-custodial juvenile population. In 2010, responsibility for these data transferred to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

The long-term trend data shown in this section are based on the census of juvenile detention centres conducted on 30 June of each year.

Trend in juvenile detention centre population

As there are differences between jurisdictions regarding the definition of a juvenile, statistics are shown for persons aged from 10 to 17 years. The detention rate of male and female juveniles from 1981 to 2012 is depicted in Figure 105 and includes those on remand and those sentenced.

Figure 105 Persons in juvenile detention centres by sex^a, 1981–2012 (per 100,000 of that sex per year)



a: Rates as at 30 June of each year

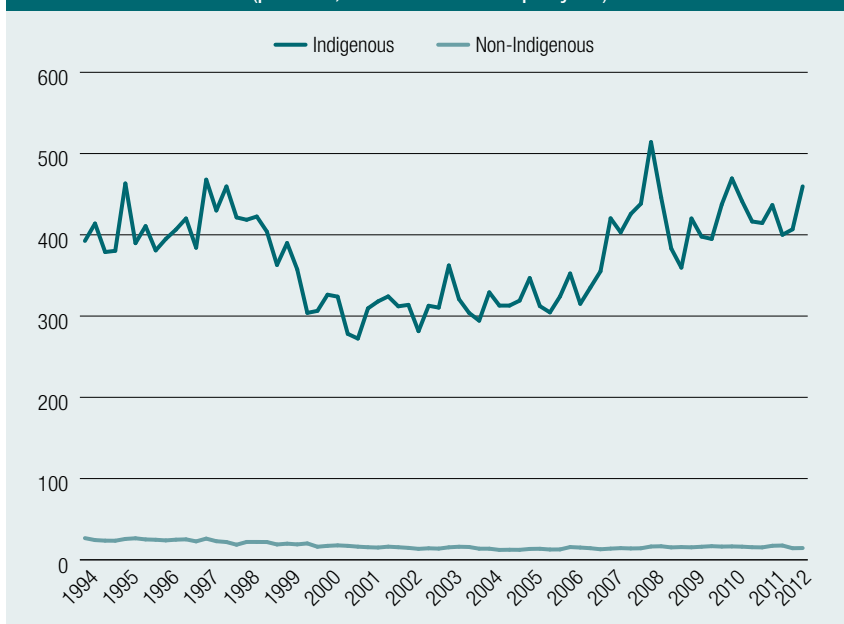
- Male juveniles are consistently incarcerated at a much higher rate than female juvenile offenders. The rate of juvenile male incarceration recorded in 2012 (63 per 100,000 population) is 40 percent lower than that recorded in 1981.
- In 2002, the juvenile male incarceration rate was the lowest on record, at 44 per 100,000 population.
- In 2012, eight percent of the juvenile prison population was female. Since 1988, the rate of female juvenile incarceration has remained below 10 per 100,000 population.

Source: Reference 26

Indigenous status

Data on incarcerated juveniles by Indigenous status have been made available since 1994. This section shows the incarceration rate of Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons in juvenile corrective institutions, from 31 March 1994 to 30 June 2012, for each quarter.

Figure 106 Persons in juvenile detention centres by Indigenous status, 31 March 1994 to 30 June 2012^a (per 100,000 of that status per year)



a: Rates from 30 September 1996 and 31 December 2002 have been calculated using detainee totals and population estimates and exclude Tasmania, because data on detainee Indigenous status in Tasmania were unavailable for this period

- On 30 June 2012, 61 percent of the juvenile prison population were of Indigenous background.
- The rate of incarceration of Indigenous juveniles is currently 21 percent higher than that recorded in 1994. Between these two years however, the rate has fluctuated. Specifically, the rate was lowest in the year 2000 at 272 per 100,000 population and peaked in 2008 at 514.
- In 2012, the rate of incarceration of Indigenous juveniles was 460 per 100,000 population. Therefore, Indigenous juveniles were 32 times more likely to be incarcerated than non-Indigenous juveniles.
- Conversely, the rate of non-Indigenous juvenile incarceration has remained below 20 per 100,000 population since 2000. In 2012, there were 311 non-Indigenous juveniles in prisons; a rate of 15 per 100,000 population non-Indigenous juveniles.

Source: References 2, 25 and 26



Chapter 7

Criminal justice resources

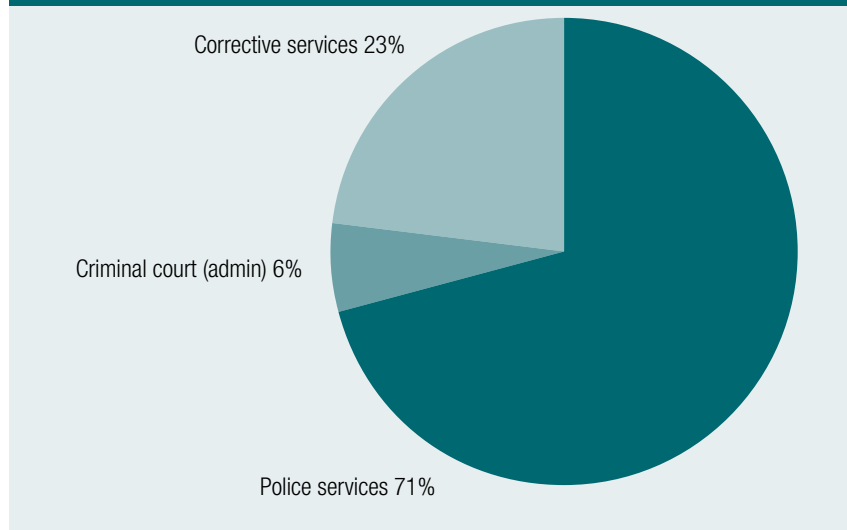
Justice expenditure

According to the Report on Government Services in 2013 (*Reference 20*), the total real recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources) on justice in 2011–12 was \$14b. Of this, approximately \$13.4b was spent on criminal justice. The remaining \$653.9m was spent on the administration of civil courts. Since 2002–03, expenditure on criminal justice has increased by 49 percent overall and by an average of 10 percent each year.

Police services represent the largest component of the criminal justice system, accounting for approximately 71 percent of total expenditure. Corrective services account for a further 23 percent, while criminal courts administration accounts for the remaining six percent (see Figure 107).

Source: Reference 20

Figure 107 Composition of government expenditure on criminal justice, 2011–12 (%)



Note: Total=\$13,364,596,000

Source: Reference 20

Police

Policing activities are predominantly the responsibility of the state and territory government policing agencies, with the AFP providing a community policing service in the Australian Capital Territory on behalf of the ACT Government. Funding for these services comes almost exclusively from state and territory government budgets, with some specific-purpose grants provided by the Australian Government.

The figures below exclude resource data for the AFP for non-ACT policing functions.

Expenditure

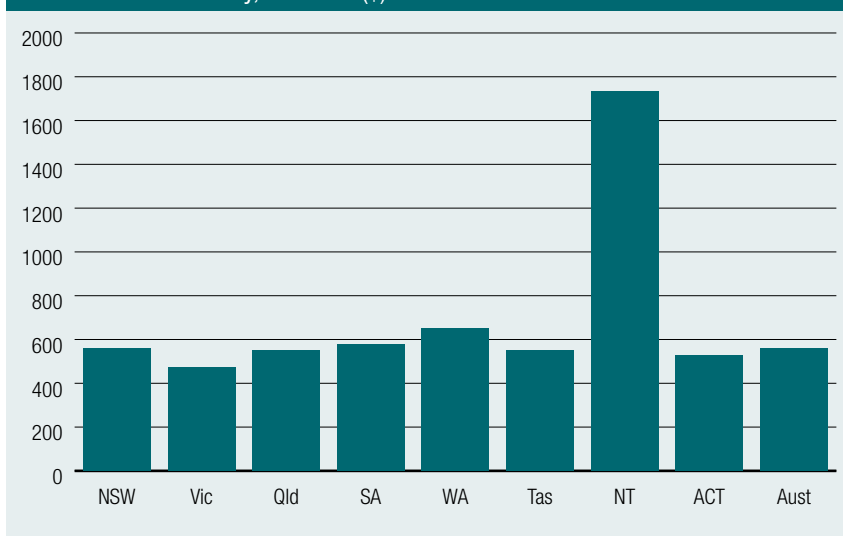
The total recurrent expenditure on police services across Australia in 2011–12 was approximately \$9.8b. This amounts to \$432 per person in Australia, or \$558 per adult. Salaries accounted for 73 percent (ie \$7b) of this expenditure.

Real total recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources and payroll tax) in 2011–12 was \$9.4b; \$417 per person or \$539 per adult.

Table 11 Expenditure on state and territory police services, 2011–12

Expenditure (including salaries)	\$'000
Total recurrent expenditure	9,796.1
Total capital expenditure	550.6
Staff salaries	
Average police staff salaries	125,278.61
Average police non-staff salaries	78,547.49

Source: Reference 20

Figure 108 Recurrent expenditure on police services per head of adult population in each state or territory, 2011–12 (\$)

- Across Australia, \$558 per adult was spent on police services in 2011–12.
- Victoria spent \$472 per adult on police services in 2011–12; less than any other state or territory. Conversely, expenditure per head of population was highest in the Northern Territory (\$1,734 per adult).

Source: References 2 and 20

Staffing

Most people involved directly in the delivery of police services are sworn police officers (employees recognised under each jurisdiction's policing legislation). Sworn officers exercise police powers such as arrest, summons, caution, detain, fingerprint and search.

In recent years, there has been a trend towards civilianisation of police services, with some peripheral activities undertaken by unsworn officers or contracted to external providers.

- On 30 June 2012, the total police services' staffing in Australia (excluding the AFP) was 65,017. This averages 287 per 100,000 persons (228 sworn police officers and 58 civilian employees).
- The Australian police services/forces comprised 51,778 sworn police officers and 13,239 civilian employees in 2012.

Source: References 2 and 20

Table 12 Composition of state and territory police services by jurisdiction^a, 2011–12 (n)

Jurisdiction	Sworn police officers	Civilian staff	Total	Police officers by 1,000km ²
NSW	15,642	3,493	19,135	20
Vic	12,478	2,741	15,219	55
Qld	10,503	3,308	13,811	6
WA	4,506	1,032	5,538	2
SA	5,634	1,750	7,384	6
Tas	1,198	316	1,514	18
ACT	690	259	949	293
NT	1,127	340	1,467	1
Australia	51,778	13,239	65,017	7

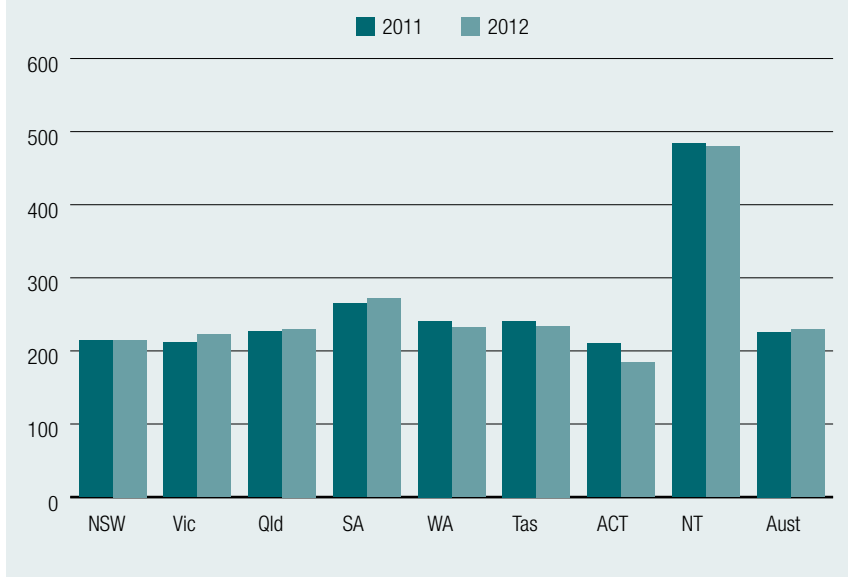
a: Excludes AFP for non-ACT policing

- In 2011–12, the NSW Police Force comprised 19,135 sworn police officers and civilian staff. This was the largest police service of any state or territory. However, it equated to only 20 police officers per 1,000km².
- By comparison, while the Australian Capital Territory had the smallest police service, it had approximately 293 police officers per 1,000km².

- Civilian staff account for 27 percent of ACT Policing—the highest proportion of any police service in Australia.

Source: Reference 20

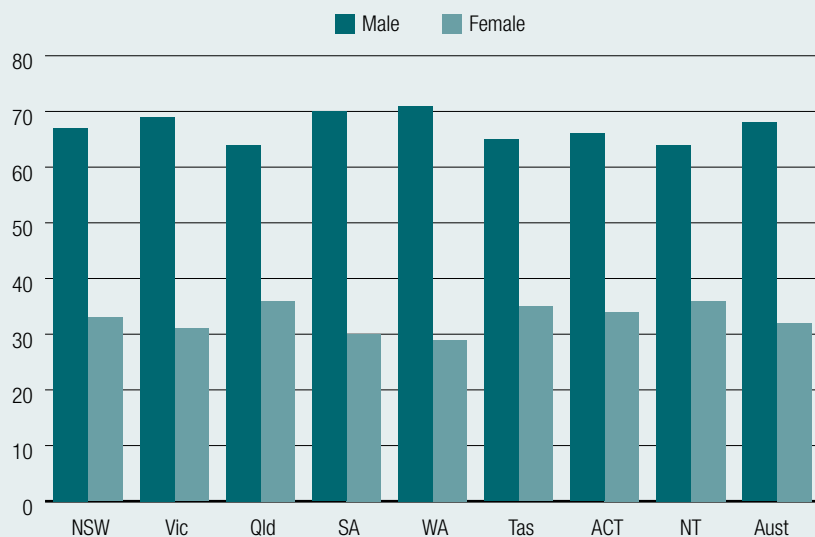
Figure 109 Sworn police officers by jurisdiction, at 30 June 2011 and 30 June 2012 (per 100,000 persons in that jurisdiction)



- Compared with 30 June 2011, the proportion of sworn police officers had increased most noticeably in Victoria, rising from 212 to 222 per 100,000 population in 2012.
- The rate of sworn police officers decreased in Western Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australia Capital Territory. In 2011, the Australian Capital Territory had 210 sworn police officers per 100,000 people compared with 184 per 100,000 in 2012. This equates to a decrease of 12 percent.
- In 2012, there were 229 sworn police officers per 100,000 people nationally in Australia.

Source: References 2 and 20

Figure 110 Sex composition of sworn and unsworn police staff by jurisdiction, 2011–12 (%)



- The ratio of male to female police staff in Australia in 2011–12 was approximately 2:1.
- The Northern Territory and Queensland had the highest proportion of female police staff (36% respectively) compared with male police staff (63% respectively) of any state or territory.
- Conversely, Western Australia Police had the highest percentage of male police staff (71%).

Source: Reference 20

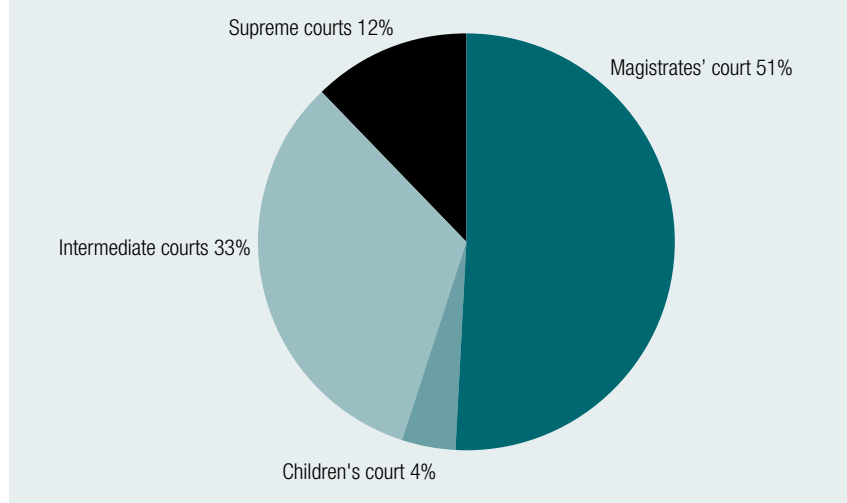
Court administration

Total recurrent expenditure on court administration services around Australia (excluding the High Court and specialist jurisdiction courts) was \$1.4b in 2011–12; approximately \$80m more than in 2010–11. Expenditure on criminal courts' administration was about \$810m for 2011–12, an increase from \$745m in the previous year.

Total criminal court expenditure less income (excluding fines) was \$780m. This amounts to \$34 per person in Australia, or \$44 per adult.

Source: Reference 20

Figure 111 Total expenditure (less income) on criminal courts, 2011–12 (%)



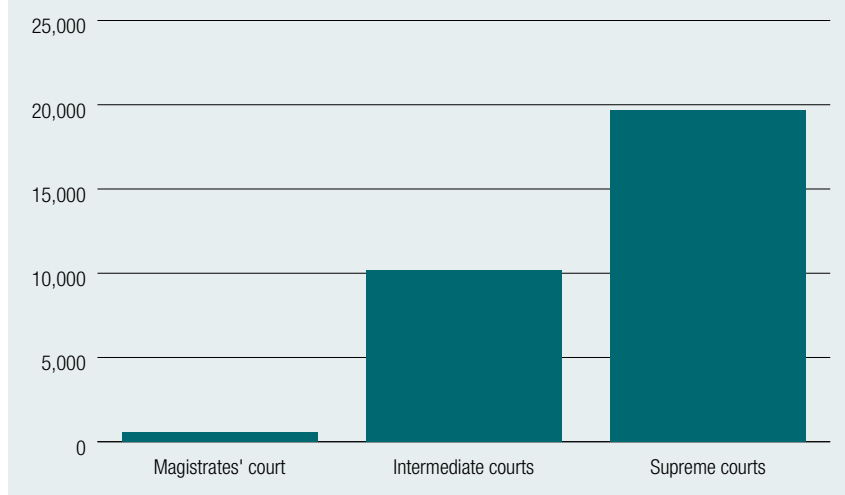
Note: Total=\$779,955,745

- Approximately half of the total expenditure on criminal courts was spent on the Magistrates' court in 2011–12. This equates to \$396m.
- The Supreme courts accounted for 12 percent of the total expenditure (\$97m), while the children's courts cost \$33m in 2011–12.

Source: Reference 20

Figure 112 shows the average expenditure per case lodgement in the criminal courts. The higher the level of court, the higher the cost associated with each criminal case lodgement. This is because more complex and lengthy cases are generally heard in the higher courts.

Figure 112 Average expenditure per criminal case lodgement by court, 2011–12 (\$)



- In 2011–12, there were a total of 682,548 lodgements in the Magistrates' court. On average, \$580 was spent per lodgement.
- While there were only 4,949 lodgements in Supreme courts, each cost an average of \$19,664.

Source: Reference 20

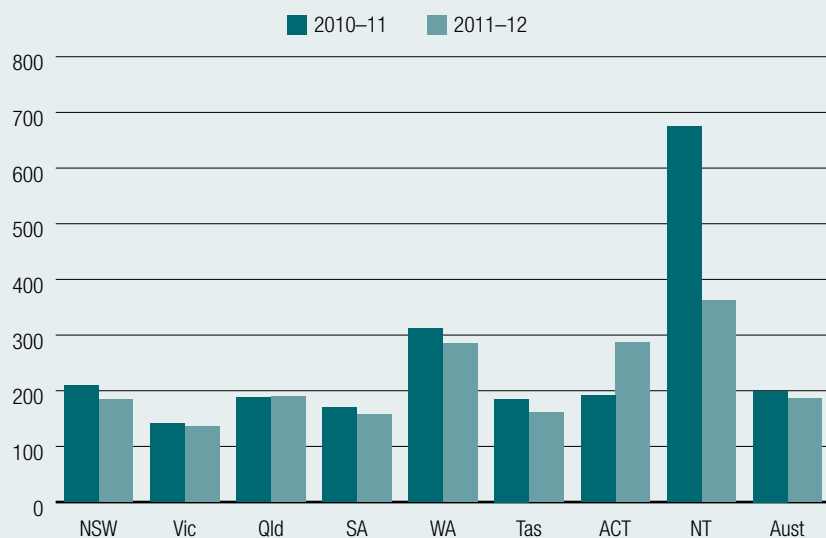
Adult corrective services

Resources allocated for corrective services in Australia are divided into two broad categories—prisons and community corrections.

Total net expenditure on corrective services in Australia was approximately \$3.8b in 2011–12; \$3.2b (85%) for prisons, \$478m (12%) for community corrections and \$103m (3%) for transport and escort services. This corresponds to \$169 for every person in Australia, or \$219 for every adult.

Source: References 2 and 20

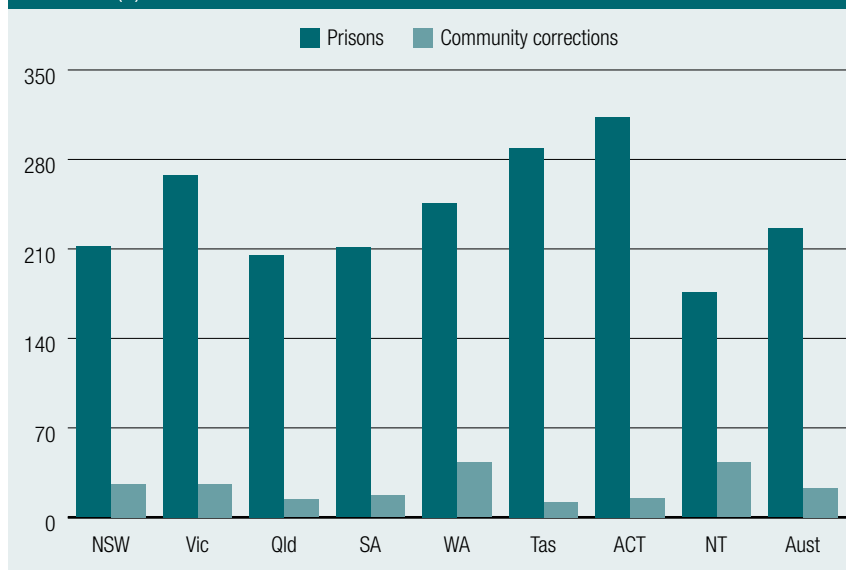
Figure 113 Real recurrent expenditure on corrective services per head of adult population, 2010–11 to 2011–12 (\$)



- Overall, spending on corrective services per head of the adult population decreased in 2011–12 compared with the previous 12 months. Specifically, in Australia in 2011–12, \$186 was spent per head of the adult population on corrective services compared with \$200 in 2010–11.
- The most significant spending decrease in 2011–12 was in the Northern Territory, which decreased by 46 percent from \$675 per adult head in 2010–11 to \$363.
- Spending increased in two of the eight states and territories. Queensland spent one percent more on corrective services in 2011–12, while the Australian Capital Territory increased spending by 50 percent (\$286 up from \$191 in 2010–11).

Source: References 2 and 20

Figure 114 Corrective services expenditure per offender per day by jurisdiction, 2011–12 (\$)



- In Australia, in 2011–12, for every \$1 spent on community corrections per offender per day, approximately \$10 was spent on offenders in prisons. Over the year, approximately \$82,538 was spent per prisoner in Australia compared with \$8,227 per person in community corrections.
- Community corrections cost an average of \$12 per offender per day in Tasmania. This cost increased to \$43 per offender per day in both Western Australia and the Northern Territory.
- The cost per prisoner per day in prison was highest in the Australian Capital Territory at \$313. Conversely, it cost \$176 per offender per day to keep an offender in prison in the Northern Territory.

Source: Reference 20



References

All URLs correct at January 2014

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 1997–2012. *Recorded crime victims, Australia* (various issues; title varies). ABS cat. no. 4510.0. Canberra: ABS
2. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 1996–2013. *Australian demographic statistics* (various issues). ABS cat. no. 3101.0. Canberra: ABS
3. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2013. *Motor vehicle census, Australia*. ABS cat. no. 9309.0. Canberra: ABS
4. National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) 2013. *Comprehensive Auto Theft Research System (CARS) annual statistical report 2011/12*. Adelaide: CARS.
<http://ncars.on.net/>
5. Tasmania Department of Police and Emergency Management (DPEM) 1992–2012. *Annual report of the Department of Police and Public safety* (various issues). Hobart: DPEM
6. New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) 1992–2012. *New South Wales recorded crime statistics* (various issues). Sydney: BOCSAR
7. Queensland Police Service (QPS) 1992–2012. *Annual statistical review* (various issues). Brisbane: QPS
8. Victoria Police 1992–2012. *Victoria police crime statistics* (various issues). Melbourne: Victoria Police
9. South Australia Police (SAPOL) 1996–2012. *Statistical review/annual report* (various issues). Adelaide: SAPOL
10. West Australia Police Service (WAPS) 1992–2012. *Western Australian police service annual crime statistics report* (various issues). Perth: WAPS

11. Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPFES) 1992–2012. *Annual report of the police force of the Northern Territory, Northern Territory emergency services, fire service of the Northern Territory* (various issues). Darwin: NTPFES
12. Australian Federal Police (AFP) 2012. *Annual report 2009–2012*. Canberra: AFP
13. Australian Payments Clearing House (APCH) 2013. Payments fraud in Australia. *Media release* 6 June. <http://apca.com.au/docs/2013-media-releases/payments-fraud-statistics-for-calendar-year-2012.pdf>
14. Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP) 2012. *Annual report 2011–2012*. Canberra: CDPP
15. Australian Crime Commission (ACC) 2002–2012. *Illicit drug data report* (various issues, title varies). Canberra: ACC. 2002 report released by the Australian Bureau of Crime Intelligence
16. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2011–12. *Crime victimisation, Australia* (various issues). ABS cat. no. 4530.0 Canberra: ABS
17. Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) 2013. *Targeting scams: Report of the ACCC on scam activity 2012*. Canberra: ACCC
18. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2009–2012. *Recorded crime—offenders* (various issues). ABS cat. no. 4519.0. Canberra: ABS
19. Extract from unpublished data from AIC's Drug use monitoring in Australia Program
20. Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision (SCRCSP) 2013. *Report on government services, volume 1: Education, justice emergency management*. Melbourne: Productivity Commission
21. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2013. *Criminal courts, Australia 2011–12*. ABS cat. no. 4513.0. Canberra: ABS
22. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2013. *Federal defendants, selected states and territories 2011–12*. ABS cat. no. 4515.0. Canberra: ABS
23. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 1982–2013. *Prisoners in Australia* (various issues, title varies). ABS cat. no. 4517.0. Canberra: ABS. 1982–1993 published by Australian Institute of Criminology
24. Corrective Services NSW nd. *Intensive corrections orders*. http://www.correctiveservices.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/220664/ico-brochure.pdf
25. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2002–2013. *Corrective services, Australia* (various issues, title varies). ABS cat. no. 4512.0. Canberra: ABS
26. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2012. *Juvenile detention population in Australia 2012*. Juvenile justice series no. 11. cat. no. JUV 11. Canberra: AIHW
27. Rollings K 2008. Counting the costs of crime in Australia: A 2005 update. *Research and Public Policy series* no. 91. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology. <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/current%20series/rpp/81-99/rpp91.aspx>

Australian crime: Facts & figures 2013

Australian Institute of Criminology

GPO Box 2944
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Tel: +61 2 6260 9200
Fax: +61 2 6260 9201
Email: front.desk@aic.gov.au

Australia's national research and
knowledge centre on crime and justice

aic.gov.au

