



Australian Government

Australian Institute of Criminology

AIC reports

Statistical Report

47

Sexual offending in Australia 2021–22

Tom Sullivan
Emily Faulconbridge
Samantha Bricknell
Merran McAlister

© Australian Institute of Criminology 2024

ISSN 2206-7930 (Online)

ISBN 978 1 922877 51 2 (Online)

<https://doi.org/10.52922/sr77512>

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 1936 Canberra ACT 2601

Tel: (02) 6268 7166

Email: front.desk@aic.gov.au

Website: www.aic.gov.au

Please note: Minor revisions are occasionally made to publications after release. The online versions available on the AIC website will always include any revisions.

Disclaimer: This research report does not necessarily reflect the policy position of the Australian Government.

General editor: Dr Rick Brown, Deputy Director, Australian Institute of Criminology

Edited and typeset by the Australian Institute of Criminology

A full list of publications in the AIC Reports series can be found on the Australian Institute of Criminology website at www.aic.gov.au

Contents

vi	Acknowledgements	18	Sexual offence victims
vii	Acronyms and abbreviations	19	Victims with one or more offenders
viii	Abstract	20	Types of sexual offending
1	Introduction	23	Offender sex by offence type
2	Data collection	24	Offender age by offence type
3	Definitions	24	Youth offenders
4	Data items and coding	25	Adult offenders
4	Sexual offence categories	26	Offenders by offence type and victim sex and age
4	Age of victims	27	References
5	Age of alleged offenders	29	Appendix A: Methodology
5	Dyads	32	State and territory data items coding
5	Index event	32	New South Wales
5	Location	32	Victoria
6	Relationship between alleged offenders and victims	33	Queensland
6	Counting rules	33	Western Australia
7	Limitations	34	Australian Capital Territory
8	Sexual offenders	35	Northern Territory
9	Sex and age	36	Appendix B: Data tables
10	Indigenous status		
10	Number of incidents and victims		
11	Offender–victim relationship		
13	Offenders with child sexual offences		
14	Offenders with non-child sexual offences		
15	Location of offending		
16	Number and type of proceedings		
17	Prior police proceedings		

Boxes

- 3 Box 1: Definitions of sexual offences, incidents, offenders and victims
- 29 Box A1: Sexual offence categories

Figures

- 9 Figure 1: Sexual offenders by age group and jurisdiction, 2021–22
- 12 Figure 2: Sexual offenders by relationship with primary victim and jurisdiction, 2021–22
- 17 Figure 3: Sexual offenders with prior police proceedings by type of prior offence and child or non-child sexual offence, 2021–22
- 20 Figure 4: Sexual offenders by offence type, 2021–22
- 23 Figure 5: Sexual offenders by sex and offence type, 2021–22

Tables

- 8 Table 1: Sexual offenders by sex and jurisdiction, 2021–22
- 10 Table 2: Sexual offenders by Indigenous status and sex, 2021–22
- 11 Table 3: Sexual offenders by offence type and number of sexual offence incidents, 2021–22
- 11 Table 4: Sexual offenders by relationship with primary victim, 2021–22
- 13 Table 5: Offender–victim dyads by relationship and jurisdiction, 2021–22
- 14 Table 6: Sexual offenders by child or non-child sexual offence and jurisdiction, 2021–22
- 15 Table 7: Sexual offenders by relationship with primary victim and location, 2021–22
- 16 Table 8: Sexual offenders by type of police proceeding, sex and age, 2021–22
- 18 Table 9: Sexual offence victims by sex, Indigenous status and jurisdiction, 2021–22
- 21 Table 10: Characteristics of penetrative or non-penetrative sexual offenders, 2021–22
- 21 Table 11: Characteristics of handling of unlawful sexual material offenders, 2021–22
- 22 Table 12: Characteristics of enabling unlawful sexual conduct offenders, 2021–22
- 22 Table 13: Sexual offenders by offence type and jurisdiction, 2021–22
- 24 Table 14: Sexual offenders by sex and offence type, 2021–22
- 25 Table 15: Youth offenders by sex and offence type, 2021–22
- 25 Table 16: Adult offenders by sex and offence type, 2021–22

- 26 Table 17: Sexual offenders by victim sex, victim age and offence type, 2021–22
- 31 Table A1: Location type classification
- 36 Table B1: Sexual offenders by sex, age and jurisdiction, 2021–22 (*n*)
- 37 Table B2: Sexual offenders by sex, age and jurisdiction, 2021–22 (rate)
- 38 Table B3: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sexual offenders by child or non-child sexual offence and offence type, 2021–22 (*n*)
- 39 Table B4: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sexual offenders by child or non-child sexual offence and offence type, 2021–22 (rate)
- 39 Table B5: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sexual offenders by age and sex, 2021–22
- 40 Table B6: Non-Indigenous sexual offenders by child or non-child sexual offence and offence type, 2021–22 (*n*)
- 41 Table B7: Non-Indigenous sexual offenders by child or non-child sexual offence and offence type, 2021–22 (rate)
- 42 Table B8: Non-Indigenous sexual offenders by age and sex, 2021–22
- 42 Table B9: Sexual offenders by sexual and non-sexual offending, number of sexual offence incidents and jurisdiction, 2021–22
- 43 Table B10: Sexual offenders by offence type, number of unique victims and jurisdiction, 2021–22
- 44 Table B11: Sexual offenders by child or non-child sexual offence, relationship with primary victim and jurisdiction, 2021–22
- 45 Table B12: Sexual offenders by child or non-child sexual offence, offence type and jurisdiction, 2021–22 (*n*)
- 46 Table B13: Sexual offenders by child or non-child sexual offence, offence type and jurisdiction, 2021–22 (rate)
- 47 Table B14: Sexual offenders by relationship with primary victim, offence location and jurisdiction, 2021–22
- 48 Table B15: Sexual offenders by number of police proceedings for sexual offences and jurisdiction, 2021–22
- 48 Table B16: Sexual offenders by prior police proceedings for any offence and child or non-child sexual offences, 2021–22
- 49 Table B17: Sexual offence victims by number of offenders and jurisdiction, 2021–22
- 50 Table B18: Sexual offenders by sex, offence type and jurisdiction, 2021–22 (*n*)
- 51 Table B19: Sexual offenders by sex, offence type and jurisdiction, 2021–22 (rate)
- 52 Table B20: Youth offenders by sex and sexual offence type, 2021–22
- 53 Table B21: Adult offenders by sex, sexual offence type and jurisdiction, 2021–22
- 54 Table B22: Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual offenders by child or non-child sexual offence and jurisdiction, 2021–22
- 55 Table B23: Enabling sexual offenders by child or non-child sexual offence and victim sex, 2021–22
- 56 Table B24: Sexual offenders by offender age, victim sex and child or non-child sexual offence, 2021–22

Acknowledgements

The Australian Institute of Criminology gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Australia's police services in supplying the data that form the basis of this report. It also appreciates the advice provided by the National Office for Child Safety, the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Crime Statistics Agency in Victoria. The authors also wish to thank Australian Institute of Criminology Research Manager Anthony Morgan for his assistance. The pilot Australian Sexual Offence Statistical collection project received funding under the *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002*.

Acronyms and abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIC	Australian Institute of Criminology
ANZSOC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification
ASOS collection	Australian Sexual Offence Statistical collection
CSAM	child sexual abuse material
IBSA	image-based sexual abuse

Abstract

The Australian Sexual Offence Statistical collection was established by the Australian Institute of Criminology to monitor sexual offending across the country. The collection brings together data on all types of sexual offending, with a focus on alleged sexual offenders. This is the collection's first Statistical Report, covering 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. It describes the 8,326 alleged sexual offenders proceeded against by police in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory in 2021–22. The offenders were proceeded against for offences involving a total of 8,460 identified victims.

Introduction

The Australian Sexual Offence Statistical (ASOS) collection was established by the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) to monitor the extent and nature of sexual offending across the country. The collection brings together police-recorded data on sexual offences, alleged offenders and victims. It covers sexual offences perpetrated against children and adults, including penetrative and non-penetrative sexual offences, persistent sexual abuse offences, child sexual abuse material (CSAM) offences, image-based sexual abuse (IBSA), and conduct done to enable unlawful sexual conduct, such as procurement and grooming offences.

The ASOS collection is a measure of the *First Commonwealth Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021–2024*. The AIC received funding under the *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002* for a pilot project to establish the ASOS collection. This pilot project involved consultation with Commonwealth and state/territory stakeholders, development of data specifications, collation of data and statistical reporting. The AIC has since extended the project.

This report is based on the pilot ASOS collection, which gathered data from police in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. It describes the characteristics of alleged offenders proceeded against by police in 2021–22, their patterns of offending and the characteristics of identified victims. It also reports on the sexual offence incidents reported to or detected by police for which an offender was proceeded against in 2021–22. The report does not cover sexual offences that were unreported or undetected, alleged offenders who the police have not proceeded against, or the victims of these offences or offenders.

Data collection

In 2022, the AIC wrote to the commissioners of police in each state and territory to invite them to provide data for the pilot ASOS collection. The AIC also provided codebooks to each police agency with details of the data requested and a data item list. Six police agencies agreed to provide data to the pilot collection: New South Wales Police Force, Victoria Police, Queensland Police Service, Western Australia Police Force, Northern Territory Police Force and Australian Capital Territory Policing.

The AIC requested police-recorded data extracts from all state and territory police agencies for:

“

all persons, aged 10 years and over at the time of the offence, who the police initiated action or proceeded against, for one or more sexual offences in the financial year beginning 1 July 2021 and ending 30 June 2022.

Individuals were included if they had been proceeded against in 2021–22 for any offence identified in Division 3 (Sexual assault and related offences) of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC; Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2011). We also used offence coding the AIC had undertaken in a separate project to identify emerging offences not covered by the classification. This report includes individuals whose date of police proceeding was in the 2021–22 financial year. Police proceedings included arrest, caution and summons against the offender.

Police agencies provided de-identified unit record data. The data included characteristics of the alleged sexual offenders and the victims, such as date of birth, date of police proceeding, sex and Indigenous status. The data also included information about the offences such as offence description, start and end date, location type, postcode, relationship between each offender and victim, date of police action and method of proceeding by police.

The police provided data extracts in two parts. The first part comprised information about the offences for which the alleged sexual offenders were proceeded against in 2021–22. The second part was information about the offending and victimisation histories of the alleged offenders proceeded against and the victimisation history of their victims for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2022. This report uses the historic data to examine the extent to which police had proceeded against alleged offenders before their first police action for a sexual offence in 2021–22. The report also examines whether prior police proceedings varied for alleged offenders proceeded against for sexual offences of different categories.

Definitions

Definitions of sexual offences, offenders and victims are presented in Box 1.

Box 1: Definitions of sexual offences, incidents, offenders and victims

Sexual offence

A sexual offence includes any offence within Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC), (third edition) Division 03: Sexual assault and related offences (ABS 2011). Data were requested from police before the release of the 2023 edition of ANZSOC. Division 03 of the 2011 edition defines sexual assault and related offences as ‘acts, or intent of acts, of a sexual nature against another person, which are non-consensual or where consent is proscribed’.

The ASOS collection excludes sexual servitude offences, which are classified as a slavery-like offence. It also excludes offences against public order sexual standards (eg prostitution) as these offences do not involve an unwilling victim and are therefore not considered assault. The ASOS collection also excludes sexual acts that do not require a specific victim (eg indecent exposure, lewdness) and sexual acts not committed against a person (eg bestiality, necrophilia). It also excludes abduction, taking, detention or enticement for sexual purposes (where known).

Incident

An incident is one or more offences perpetrated by the same alleged offender(s) with the same date of police proceeding, and occurring in the same location. An incident may include one or more offences, one or more offenders and one or more victims, but will have a common offender, date and location.

Alleged sexual offender

Alleged offenders are all persons aged 10 years and over at the time of an offence who the police have initiated action or proceeded against for one or more sexual offences between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022. Action includes arrest, caution and summons on a date in the 2021–22 reference period. Persons aged less than 10 years at the time of a sexual offence were excluded because they were below the age of criminal responsibility during the reference period.

Victims

Victims are any persons the police identified as a victim of a sexual offence for which an individual was proceeded against by the police in 2021–22.

Data items and coding

Sexual offence categories

This report categorises sexual offences into four types of conduct: penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct, persistent sexual abuse, handling of unlawful sexual material and conduct enabling unlawful sexual conduct (see *Appendix A: Methodology* for definitions). The categories are based on a comprehensive national review of child sexual abuse and sexual assault legislation in Australia (Dowling et al. forthcoming). We coded sexual offence data according to definitions in this national review, using the offence name or description provided by the police and, where available, the relevant section of the state, territory or Commonwealth legislation. Each offence was coded to a single category.

Age of victims

The age of the victim is their age in years on the date of the sexual offence. For all data except those provided by Victoria Police, we calculated the age based on the victim's date of birth and the start date of the sexual offence. For Victorian data, which did not include date of birth, we used the victim's age at the time of the offence provided by Victoria Police.

We used offence names or descriptions and the recorded age of the victim, where applicable, to identify offenders with child sexual offences and non-child sexual offences. For any offences where the victim's age was inconsistent with the offence description, we changed the age to a missing value. If these victims had any other sexual offences perpetrated against them with offence names that did not specify an age, their age was not changed. This affected our ability to calculate the number of offenders proceeded against for a child and non-child offence. Some offenders with child sexual offences may not have had identified victims.

We defined a child sexual offence in the way the relevant jurisdiction defined the applicable offence type. For penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences, a child sexual offence is an offence against a child under the age of consent for that jurisdiction. The age of consent is 16 years in all jurisdictions that provided data. For persistent sexual abuse offences and enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences, children are defined consistent with the laws of the relevant jurisdiction. To identify child sexual abuse material offences, we used the offence description and applied the relevant jurisdiction's definition of a child with reference to their depiction, description or some form of representation in the sexual material. For these offences, most states and territories that provided data define a child as being under the age of 16 years (Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia) while two states and territories (Northern Territory, Victoria) define a child as being under 18 years. These variations may mean child sexual abuse material offences include victims with different age ranges for different jurisdictions.

Age of alleged offenders

This report presents offender age in two ways. The first is based on the date of first police proceeding in 2021–22. This is the date of police proceeding for a sexual offence for individuals with one sexual offence incident in 2021–22 or the earliest date of police proceeding for individuals with more than one police proceeding for a sexual offence incident in 2021–22. We included individuals in this report on the basis of this date.

While many types of crime come to the attention of the police soon after they occur (ABS 2023c), empirical evidence suggests most victims who experience rape or sexual assault delay disclosing and reporting, or never disclose their experiences (Tidmarsh & Hamilton 2020). Thus, the second way this report presents offender age is their age in years on the date of the sexual offence. For all data except those provided by Victoria Police, we calculated the age based on the offender's date of birth and the start date of the sexual offence. For Victorian data, we used the offender's age at the time of the offence provided by Victoria Police. The report specifies which method we used to derive offender age where relevant. We excluded any individuals whose recorded age was less than 10 years at the time of the offence because they were below the age of criminal responsibility during the reference period.

Dyads

Dyads are unique pairs of alleged sexual offenders and victims.

Index event

An offender's index event is the only or first police proceeding for a sexual offence or offences in 2021–22. The offender's age at police proceeding is based on the date of this first police proceeding. Offenders proceeded against for more than one offence type in an index event are counted separately for each offence type where offence types are disaggregated, but they are included only once in the total number of offenders.

Location

This report codes the location of the sexual offence at the subdivision level adapted from the location type classification published by Victoria's Crime Statistics Agency (2022). We coded location for all sexual offences where the police recorded a location and used this location variable to derive incident data.

Relationship between alleged offenders and victims

The relationships between the alleged sexual offenders and victims are classified using the following categories:

- intimate partner (including former intimate partners);
- non-intimate partner family member;
- non-family member known to victim;
- stranger; or
- not stated/unknown.

We coded the relationship between the alleged offender and victim as a missing value if the police data did not include a unique identifying number for a victim or victims or indicated the victim was not a person. We also coded as missing values the relationship of any dyads with separate offences during the reference period for which different relationships were recorded.

Relationship with primary victim refers to the offender's relationship to the only victim if one victim was involved in the sexual offending or the closest relationship to a victim if more than one was involved. The closest relationship is intimate partner (including former intimate partners), followed by non-intimate partner family member, non-family member known to victim and stranger.

Counting rules

This report includes statistics on 8,326 alleged offenders proceeded against for one or more sexual offences in 2021–22 (see Tables B1, B12, B15 and B18). It also includes a subtotal of offenders proceeded against for penetrative or non-penetrative offences, persistent sexual abuse, handling of unlawful sexual material and enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences who had an identified victim ($n=6,914$, see Tables B10 and B24). This excludes Australian Capital Territory data, which did not allow direct linking of offender charges to a victim. This offender subtotal is broken down by the offence type for which the offenders were proceeded against:

- 5,880 offenders proceeded against for penetrative or non-penetrative offences who had an identified victim;
- 77 offenders proceeded against for persistent sexual abuse offences who had an identified victim;
- 1,104 offenders proceeded against for handling of unlawful sexual material offences who had an identified victim; and
- 579 offenders proceeded against for enabling unlawful sexual offences who had an identified victim.

The report also includes a sexual offender–victim dyad total ($n=7,515$; see Table 5).

Limitations

This report contains statistics about sexual offending for which police proceeded against an alleged offender or offenders in 2021–22. Its main limitation is that these offences are only a portion of all sexual offending in Australia (ABS 2023a, 2023d). The report excludes sexual offences for which the police had not initiated proceedings against an offender and those that had not come to the attention of the police. These excluded offences may account for a substantial proportion of all sexual offending. Australian research suggests the rate at which sexual offence cases fail to reach or progress through the criminal justice system is high, particularly at the police investigation stages of the process (Bright et al. 2021; Fitzgerald 2006). Australian research also suggests the likelihood of an incident progressing through the justice system can vary based on the offender–victim relationship, whether a co-occurring offence was reported and geographical location (Bright et al. 2021). Differences between sexual offence incidents that progress and do not progress through the justice system may mean the findings in this report could be different to the findings of an analysis of all (reported and unreported) sexual offences in Australia.

Another limitation is that these data relate to alleged perpetrators of sexual offence incidents whose allegations are unproven in court. Some of the incidents reported on may not have progressed past the prosecution stage, where determinations are made about the prospects of conviction and whether a prosecution is in the public interest (Bright et al. 2021). Other alleged offenders may have had their charge or charges struck out or dismissed by a court.

Access to and use of data on police proceedings may also be constrained by police recording practices and privacy and ethical concerns (Morgan 2022). Some police agencies could not provide data items requested because of police system constraints or privacy concerns. Some of the data items provided for this report also included missing values, which may affect the quality of data for statistical reporting. To mitigate the impact of these missing values, we used alternative data items where possible. For example, some variables used the date of police proceeding rather than the date of the offence. In some tables statistics have been suppressed to protect the privacy of individuals.

Some states and territories also provided data that varied from the ASOS codebook. We addressed these differences by standardising the applicable data across the states and territories through classifications for offences, police actions and locations. We also consulted the Australian Bureau of Statistics to assist with standardisation. Some inconsistencies between data from different jurisdictions may remain and the report identifies these differences where applicable.

Although police-recorded data on sexual offenders have limitations, these individuals are of interest to the law enforcement community and policymakers. Data on the characteristics of these individuals, their patterns of offending and victims may provide information directly relevant to prevention, disruption and detection of sexual offending. Information about this population was also readily accessible through requests for police proceedings data in the jurisdictions for which data were collected.

Sexual offenders

In 2021–22, 8,326 unique alleged offenders were proceeded against for sexual offences by police in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory (see Tables 1 and B1). The sexual offending rate in 2021–22 was 40.11 per 100,000 population aged 10 years and over (see Tables 1 and B2).

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	ACT	NT	Total
Number							
Male	2,543	1,615	2,306	1,085	na	na	7,756
Female	161	77	229	na	na	na	538
Total^a	2,705	1,692	2,540	1,179	103	107	8,326
Rate per 100,000 population aged 10 years and over							
Male	71.55	56.25	100.06	89.13	na	na	75.64
Female	4.43	2.60	9.65	na	na	na	5.12
Total	37.65	28.98	54.30	48.32	25.67	49.76	40.11

a: Includes 32 offenders whose sex was not stated, unknown or non-binary

Note: Rates per 100,000 relevant population aged 10 years and over were calculated using population data from ABS 2023b

Source: AIC ASOS collection 2021–22 [computer file]; see Tables B1 and B2

New South Wales had the highest number of alleged sexual offenders with 2,705, followed by Queensland with 2,540 offenders, Victoria with 1,692 offenders, Western Australia with 1,179 offenders, Northern Territory with 107 offenders and Australian Capital Territory with 103 offenders (see Tables 1 and B1). The highest rate of sexual offending was in Queensland (54.30 per 100,000 population aged 10 years and over) and the lowest rate was in the Australian Capital Territory (25.67 per 100,000 population aged 10 years and over; see Tables 1 and B2).

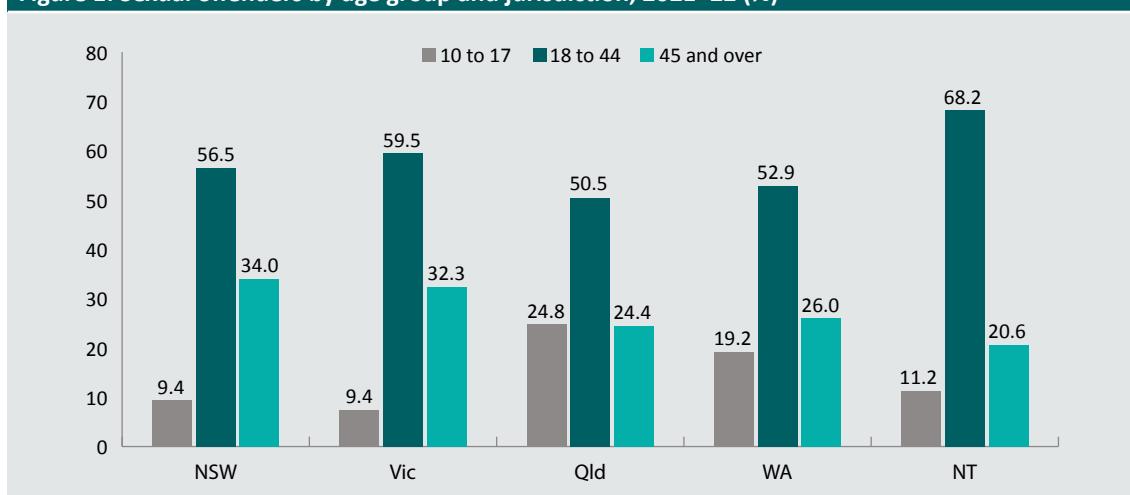
Sex and age

Most alleged sexual offenders were male (93%, $n=7,756$; see Tables 1 and B1), with a male sexual offending rate of 75.64 per 100,000 population aged 10 years and over (see Tables 1 and B2). Six percent ($n=538$) of alleged sexual offenders were female and the female sexual offending rate was 5.12 per 100,000 population aged 10 years and over. In each of the six states and territories, more than 90 percent of alleged sexual offenders were male, ranging from 91 percent ($n=2,306$) in Queensland to 95 percent ($n=1,615$) in Victoria (see Tables 1 and B1).

On average, offenders were aged 36.4 years (median=34.2 years) at their first or only (index) police proceeding for a sexual offence in 2021–22 (see Table B1). Male sexual offenders had an average age of 37.2 years (median=35.0 years) and female sexual offenders had an average age of 24.8 years (median=17.7 years). Most male offenders were aged 18–44 years (57%, $n=4,390$), whereas half of the female offenders were aged 10–17 years (51%, $n=274$).

In all jurisdictions, the largest proportion of offenders was aged 18–44 years (see Table B1 and Figure 1). The next largest proportion of offenders were aged 45 years and over in all jurisdictions except Queensland, which had a similar proportion of offenders aged 10–17 years (25%, $n=631$) and 45 years and over (24%, $n=621$). The 10–17 year age group in Queensland comprised 20 percent of male offenders and 71 percent of female offenders (males: $n=467$, females: $n=163$). For Western Australian offenders, one-fifth were aged 10–17 years (19%, $n=226$).

Figure 1: Sexual offenders by age group and jurisdiction, 2021–22 (%)



Note: Excludes ACT

Source: AIC ASOS collection 2021–22 [computer file]; see Table B1

Indigenous status

In 2021–22, 12 percent of alleged sexual offenders were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander ($n=1,039$), 76 percent were non-Indigenous ($n=6,317$) and 12 percent ($n=970$) had an unknown Indigenous status (see Tables 2, B3 and B6). The Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander sexual offending rate was 162.44 per 100,000 relevant population and the non-Indigenous offending rate was 31.40 per 100,000 relevant population (see Tables 2, B4 and B7).

Most Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (93%, $n=962$) and non-Indigenous (94%, $n=5,915$) sexual offenders were male (see Tables 2, B5 and B8). The average age of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander sexual offenders was 32.0 years (median=30.0 years; see Table B5). Male Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander offenders had a higher average age (32.6 years, median=30.8 years) than female Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander offenders (24.8 years, median=21.0 years). The sexual offending rate for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander males was 302.83 per 100,000 relevant population and the rate for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander females was 23.29 per 100,000 relevant population (see Table 2).

For non-Indigenous offenders, the average age was 37.1 years (median=35.0 years; see Table B8). Male non-Indigenous offenders had a higher average age (37.9 years, median=35.8 years) than female non-Indigenous offenders (24.9 years, median=16.7 years). The sexual offending rate for non-Indigenous males was 59.53 per 100,000 relevant population and the rate for non-Indigenous females was 3.91 per 100,000 relevant population (see Table 2).

Table 2: Sexual offenders by Indigenous status and sex, 2021–22

	Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander		Non-Indigenous	
	<i>n</i>	Rate per 100,000	<i>n</i>	Rate per 100,000
Male	962	302.83	5,915	59.53
Female	75	23.29	398	3.91
Total^a	1,039	162.44	6,317	31.40

a: Total includes 6 offenders whose sex was not stated, unknown or non-binary

Note: Excludes 970 offenders where Indigenous status was not stated or unknown

Source: AIC ASOS collection 2021–22 [computer file]; see Tables B3, B4, B6 and B7

Number of incidents and victims

The number of sexual offence incidents in 2021–22 was available for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. Ninety-one percent of alleged sexual offenders were proceeded against for one incident of sexual offending ($n=7,461$; see Tables 3 and B9) and nine percent for more than one incident ($n=758$). The number of incidents ranged from one to nine. Similar proportions of male and female offenders were proceeded against for one incident of sexual offending (91%, $n=6,923$ vs 94%, $n=506$). The proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous offenders proceeded against for one incident were also similar (88%, $n=851$ vs 91%, $n=5,709$).

Table 3: Sexual offenders by offence type and number of sexual offence incidents, 2021–22 (*n*)

	Proceeded against for sexual offences only	Proceeded against for sexual and non-sexual offences	All sexual offenders
1 sexual offence incident	2,494	4,967	7,461
2 or more sexual offence incidents	219	539	758
Total	2,713	5,506	8,219

Note: Excludes NT

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]; see Table B9

Selected victim information was available for 6,914 alleged offenders proceeded against for sexual offences in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory in 2021–22. Fifteen percent ($n=1,051$) of these offenders had multiple victims and 85 percent ($n=5,863$) had one victim (see Table B10). The median number of victims was one and the range was one to 24 victims.

Offender–victim relationship

Information about offenders' relationship with primary victims was available for 5,938 offenders in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and the Northern Territory. Around one-third of offenders were a non-family member known to the victim (32%, $n=1,891$), one-third were either an intimate partner (15%, $n=886$) or other family member of the victim (19%, $n=1,124$), and one-fifth were a stranger (21%, $n=1,267$; see Tables 4 and B11).

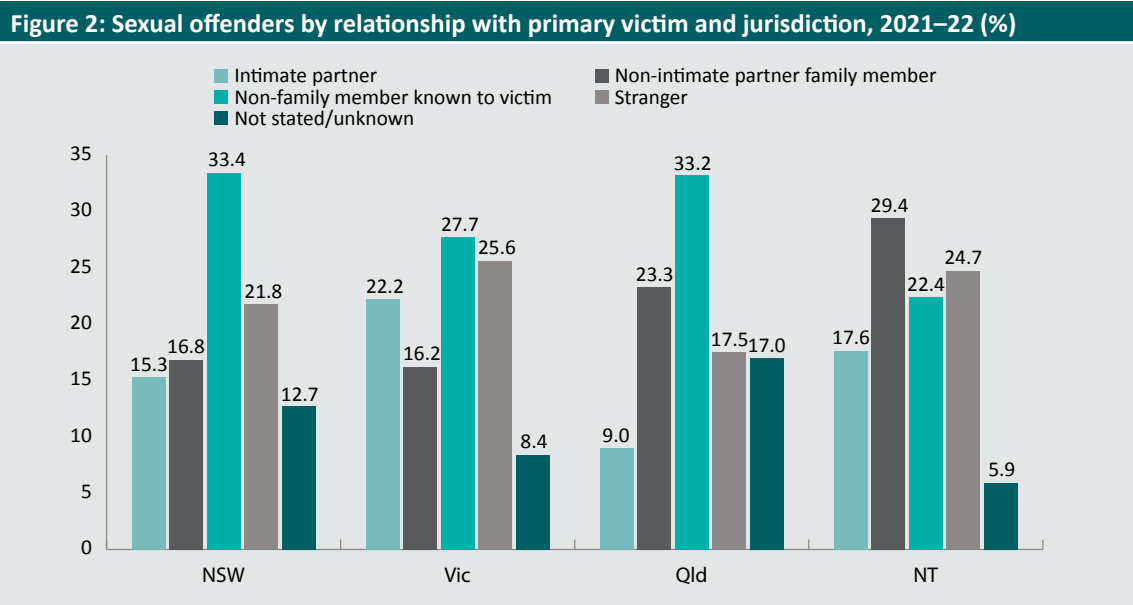
Table 4: Sexual offenders by relationship with primary victim, 2021–22

	<i>n</i>	%
Intimate partner	886	14.9
Non-intimate partner family member	1,124	18.9
Non-family member known to victim	1,891	31.8
Stranger	1,267	21.3
Not stated/unknown	770	13.0
Total	5,938	100

Note: Excludes WA and the ACT. Excludes offenders for whom the police did not provide victim information. Data relate to each offender's index event. The relationship data in this table relate to an individual's relationship with their only or primary victim in sexual offences for which they were first proceeded against in 2021–22. This first police proceeding may have involved one or more offences and one or more victims. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]; see Table B11

In all states and territories except the Northern Territory, the offender was most commonly a non-family member known to the victim (see Figure 2 and Table B11). Non-family members included associates, carers, persons in authority, guardians and other non-family relationships. In the Northern Territory, non-intimate partner family member was the leading relationship (29%, $n=25$). Non-intimate partner family members included parents, step-parents, children, siblings and other family relationships. In Victoria and New South Wales, a stranger relationship was the next most common (Vic: 26%, $n=348$; NSW: 22%, $n=568$), whereas in Queensland non-intimate partner family member was the second most common relationship (23%, $n=439$). In the Northern Territory an intimate partner relationship was the least common (18%, $n=15$). Elsewhere the proportion of offenders with an intimate partner relationship with their victim was 22 percent in Victoria ($n=302$), 15 percent in New South Wales ($n=400$) and nine percent in Queensland ($n=169$).



Note: Excludes WA and the ACT
Source: AIC ASOS collection 2021–22 [computer file]; see Table B11

In terms of offender–victim dyads, or unique pairs of alleged sexual offenders and victims, the most common relationship was non-family members known to each other (32%, $n=2,441$ dyads; see Table 5). Strangers accounted for 22 percent of offender–victim dyads ($n=1,630$) and non-intimate partner family members for 20 percent ($n=1,489$). For another 14 percent of dyads, the relationship was unknown or not stated ($n=1,041$).

Table 5: Offender–victim dyads by relationship and jurisdiction, 2021–22 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	NT	Total
Intimate partner	410	314	174	16	914
Non-intimate partner family member	630	295	538	26	1,489
Non-family member known to victim	1,201	453	766	21	2,441
Stranger	711	468	427	24	1,630
Not stated/unknown	428	195	413	5	1,041
Total	3,380	1,725	2,318	92	7,515

Note: Dyads are unique pairs of alleged sexual offenders and victims. Excludes WA and the ACT
Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

Non-family member was the most common offender–victim dyad relationship in New South Wales (36%, $n=1,201$) and Queensland (33%, $n=766$). Victoria had similar proportions of stranger and non-family member dyads (stranger: 27%, $n=468$; non-family member: 26%, $n=453$).

For dyads with male offenders, the most common relationship was a non-family member known to the victim (32%, $n=2,307$), followed by a stranger (22%, $n=1,575$), a non-intimate partner family member (20%, $n=1,437$) and an intimate partner (12%, $n=860$). In dyads with female offenders, non-family member relationships with victims (36%, $n=133$) were more than twice as common as intimate partner (15%, $n=54$), stranger (15%, $n=54$) and non-intimate partner family member relationships (14%, $n=52$).

Offenders with child sexual offences

In 2021–22, 51 percent of alleged offenders (excluding the Australian Capital Territory due to data limitations) were proceeded against for one or more child sexual offences on their first or only police proceeding for a sexual offence (index event) ($n=4,272$; see Tables 6 and B12). These offenders include those proceeded against in 2021–22 for only child sexual offences or for both child and non-child sexual offences.

Ninety-one percent of alleged sexual offenders with child sexual offences ($n=3,891$) were male, similar to the proportion of male sexual offenders overall. On average, offenders with child sexual offences were aged 35.4 years (median=33.0) at first police proceeding, with male offenders older than female offenders (males: mean=36.8 years, median=34.7 years vs females: mean=20.3 years, median=14.9 years). Males proceeded against for child sexual offences were most commonly aged 18–44 years (47%, $n=1,826$) and females proceeded against for child sexual offences were mostly aged 10–17 years (73%, $n=260$). Sexual offenders in Queensland (58%, $n=1,475$) and Western Australia (57%, $n=675$) were more likely to have been proceeded against for child sexual offences than non-child sexual offences (see Tables 6 and B12).

Table 6: Sexual offenders by child or non-child sexual offence and jurisdiction, 2021–22 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA ^a	ACT	NT	Total
Offenders with child sexual offences ^b	1,356	719	1,475	675	na	47	4,272
Offenders with non-child sexual offences ^c	1,417	940	855	381	na	60	3,653
Offenders with offences of unknown child/non-child sexual offence type ^d	38	115	247	147	103	1	651
Total^e	2,705	1,692	2,540	1,179	103	107	8,326

a: Excludes IBSA offences

b: Includes offenders proceeded against in 2021–22 for only child sexual offences and those proceeded against for child and non-child sexual offences. A child sexual offence is defined in the way the relevant jurisdiction defines that offence type. For penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences, children are aged under 16 years; for persistent sexual abuse offences children are defined consistent with the relevant jurisdiction; for child sexual abuse material offences children are defined consistent with the relevant jurisdiction; for IBSA child sexual offences children are aged under 16 years; and for enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences, children are defined consistent with the relevant jurisdiction

c: Includes offenders proceeded against in 2021–22 for offences involving only non-child sexual offences and those proceeded against for non-child and child sexual offences. For penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences and IBSA offences, non-child sexual offences are offences involving victims aged 16 years and over, and for enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences, non-child sexual offences are offences not involving children as defined by the relevant jurisdiction

d: Alleged offenders proceeded against in 2021–22 only for sexual offences against victims whose age was not known or not provided by the police or offences for which the police identified no specific victims

e: Numbers may not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for more than one type of sexual offence in 2021–22

Source: AIC ASOS collection 2021–22 [computer file]; see Table B12

Offenders with non-child sexual offences

Forty-four percent of alleged sexual offenders were proceeded against for non-child sexual offences ($n=3,653$; see Tables 6 and B12). These offenders include those proceeded against in 2021–22 only for non-child sexual offences and for both non-child and child sexual offences. Offenders in Victoria (56%, $n=940$) and the Northern Territory (56%, $n=60$) were more likely to have been proceeded against for non-child than child sexual offences.

Overall 250 offenders were proceeded against for child and non-child sexual offences (3% of offenders). Another eight percent of offenders ($n=651$) only had victims whose age was not stated or unknown.

Location of offending

Location data were available for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia. In 2021–22 almost seven in 10 alleged sexual offenders were proceeded against for an offence that had occurred in or around a residence (69%, $n=4,646$; see Table B14). Residential locations included private houses, flats, units and apartments, and non-private dwellings such as boarding houses, nursing homes, hotels and motels. Around two in 10 offenders (19%, $n=1,295$) were proceeded against for an offence at a community location such as a street or footpath, a public transport location or an open space. More than one in 10 were proceeded against for an offence at another location such as retail premises (12%, $n=796$). In all states and territories for which data were available, most offenders were proceeded against for offences at residential locations, ranging from 65 percent in Victoria ($n=880$) to 71 percent in Western Australia ($n=655$).

Location and offender–victim relationship data were available for New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. Offenders whose victims were non-intimate partner family members (93%, $n=1,021$) or intimate partners (87%, $n=760$; see Tables 7 and B14) were more likely to have offended at residential locations than other locations. Residential locations were also most common when the offender and victim were non-family members who knew each other (67%, $n=1,257$) although one-fifth offended at a community location (19%, $n=352$). Among offenders proceeded against for offences involving a stranger, similar proportions offended at residential and community locations (residential: 36%, $n=453$; community: 40%, $n=498$).

Table 7: Sexual offenders by relationship with primary victim and location, 2021–22 (n)

	Intimate partner	Non-intimate partner family member	Non-family member	Stranger	Not stated/unknown	Total
Residential	760	1,021	1,257	453	500	3,991
Community	72	41	352	498	148	1,111
Other	20	36	254	295	98	703
Not stated/unknown ^a	47	70	84	18	45	264
Total^b	871	1,099	1,872	1,246	765	5,853

a: Includes offenders with one or more not stated/not applicable offence locations

b: Numbers do not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for sexual offences in more than one location in 2021–22

Note: Excludes WA, the ACT and the NT

Source: AIC ASOS collection 2021–22 [computer file]; see Table B14

Number and type of proceedings

In 2021–22, 95 percent ($n=7,894$) of alleged offenders were proceeded against once for a sexual offence and five percent ($n=432$) were proceeded against more than once for a sexual offence (see Table B15). The median number of police proceedings for sexual offences was one (range: 1–9).

Eighty-three percent of alleged sexual offenders were charged, arrested or summonsed ($n=6,920$). Male offenders were more likely than female offenders to have been charged, arrested or summonsed (males: 86%, $n=6,647$ vs females: 47%, $n=252$; see Table 8). The average age of offenders charged, arrested or summonsed was 39.1 years (median=36.9 years), and among these offenders males were slightly older than females (male: mean=39.2 years, median=37.0 years vs females: mean=35.0 years, median=33.4 years).

On average, offenders proceeded against with other actions such as a formal caution, conference or penalty notice were younger than those charged, arrested or summonsed (mean=24.1 years, median=16.1 years). Female offenders with other actions had a lower average age than male offenders with other actions (16.0 years vs 26.0 years) and were more likely to be in the 10–17 year age group (females: 90%, $n=260$ vs males: 55%, $n=648$; see Table 8).

Table 8: Sexual offenders by type of police proceeding, sex and age, 2021–22

	Charged, arrested, summonsed				Other action			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
10–17	340	5.1	15	6.0	648	54.8	260	90.3
18–44	4,070	61.2	178	70.6	358	30.3	21	7.3
45 and over	2,223	33.4	59	23.4	173	14.6	6	2.1
Total^a	6,647	100	252	100	1,182	100	288	100

a: Includes 14 male offenders charged, arrested or summonsed whose age was not stated or unknown, 3 male offenders with other actions whose age was not stated or unknown and 1 female offender with other actions whose age was not stated or unknown

Note: Some offenders may have had more than one type of police proceeding

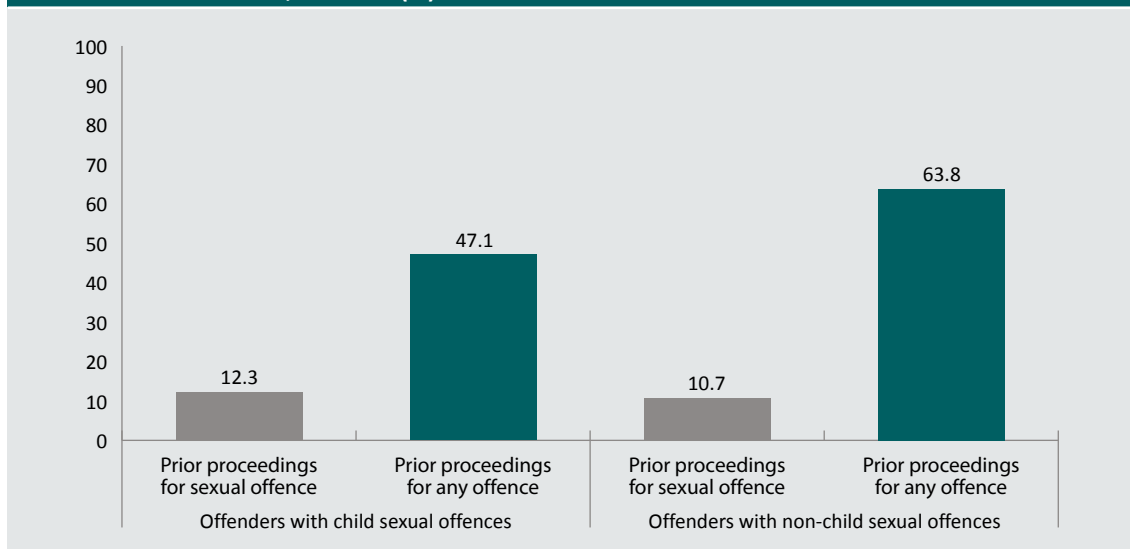
Source: AIC ASOS collection 2021–22 [computer file]

Prior police proceedings

Most alleged sexual offenders had no prior police proceedings for separate sexual offences in the previous nine-year reference period (88%, $n=7,216$; see Table B16). Similar proportions of alleged offenders with child and non-child sexual offences had no prior police proceedings (88%, $n=3,745$ vs 89%, $n=3,262$).

Prior police proceedings for any offences were more common, with 56 percent of all alleged sexual offenders previously proceeded against for sexual and/or non-sexual offences ($n=4,599$). Alleged offenders with non-child sexual offences were more likely than those with child sexual offences to have a history of police proceedings for any offending (64%, $n=2,330$ vs 47%, $n=2,013$; see Figure 3).

Figure 3: Sexual offenders with prior police proceedings by type of prior offence and child or non-child sexual offence, 2021–22 (%)



Note: Prior police proceedings are defined as instances where an offender was proceeded against by police once or more in the nine years before their first or only police proceeding for a sexual offence in 2021–22

Source: AIC ASOS collection 2021–22 [computer file]; see Table B16

Sexual offence victims

Alleged sexual offenders were proceeded against for offences involving a total of 8,460 identified victims in 2021–22 (see Table 9). The number of victims per jurisdiction ranged from 89 in the Northern Territory to 3,125 in New South Wales. Eighty-five percent of victims were females ($n=7,181$), 14 percent were males ($n=1,155$) and the remaining 124 victims had a non-binary, unknown or unstated sex. The Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of male victims (23%, $n=29$) followed by New South Wales (17%, $n=515$).

Table 9: Sexual offence victims by sex, Indigenous status and jurisdiction, 2021–22 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	ACT	NT	Total
Sex							
Male	515	210	270	126	29	5	1,155
Female	2,548	1,474	1,955	1,022	98	84	7,181
Not stated/unknown or non-binary	62	0	7	55	0	0	124
Indigenous status^a							
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	197	46	216	151	na	33	643
Non-Indigenous	2,350	1,352	1,739	562	na	24	6,027
Not stated/unknown	578	286	277	490	na	32	1,663
Total victims	3,125	1,684	2,232	1,203	127	89	8,460

a: Excludes victims from the ACT because the Indigenous status of victims was not available

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

Eight percent of victims ($n=643$) were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and 71 percent were non-Indigenous ($n=6,027$). The Indigenous status of the remaining 20 percent of victims ($n=1,663$) was not stated or unknown. Similar proportions of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander victims and non-Indigenous victims were female (87%, $n=562$ vs 86%, $n=5,161$).

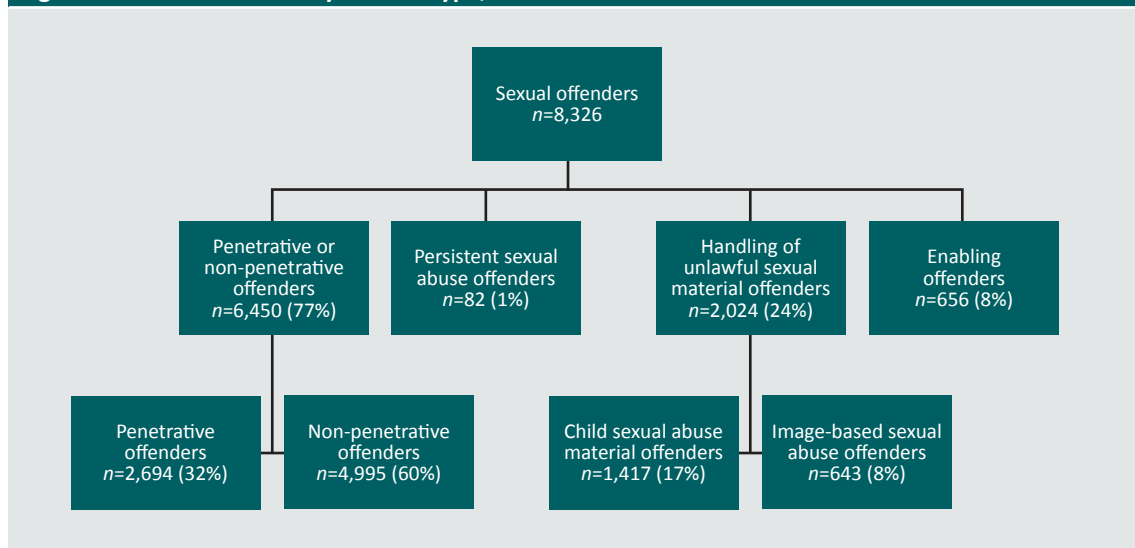
Victims with one or more offenders

Data on the number of offenders per victim were available for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia. Most victims had a single alleged offender who was proceeded against for a sexual offence in 2021–22 (97%, $n=7,970$; see Table B17). Three percent of victims had more than one offender who was proceeded against for a sexual offence ($n=274$). Victims may have had more than one offender for the same offence or been offended against separately by different offenders. Victims in all states and territories had an average of one offender. Victims in Western Australia were more likely than those in other jurisdictions to have had more than one offender proceeded against for sexual offences (5%, $n=65$).

Types of sexual offending

This report categorises sexual offences as penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct, persistent sexual abuse, handling of unlawful sexual material and enabling unlawful sexual conduct. Figure 4 shows the number of offenders proceeded against at least once for the different sexual offence categories.

Figure 4: Sexual offenders by offence type, 2021–22



Note: Numbers do not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for more than one type of sexual offence in 2021–22

Source: AIC ASOS collection 2021–22 [computer file]; Table B18

Most offenders were proceeded against for one sexual offence on their first police proceeding but 20 percent were proceeded against for more than one type of sexual offence ($n=1,702$). The largest proportion of offenders proceeded against for sexual offences in 2021–22 were alleged to have committed penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences (77%, $n=6,450$; see Figure 4 and Tables 10 and B18). Penetrative sexual conduct offences include rape, attempted rape and sexual intercourse without consent, and non-penetrative offences include sexual assault and sexually touching another person. On their first or only police proceeding for a sexual offence in 2021–22, 32 percent ($n=2,694$) of alleged sexual offenders had been proceeded against for a penetrative sexual conduct offence and 60 percent ($n=4,995$) for a non-penetrative sexual conduct offence. The penetrative sexual offence rate was 12.98 per 100,000 population aged 10 years and over and the non-penetrative sexual offence rate was 24.06 per 100,000 population aged 10 years and over (see Tables 10 and B19).

	Penetrative offenders	Non-penetrative offenders	Total
Number	2,694	4,995	6,450
% of all sexual offenders	32	60	77
Rate^a	12.98	24.06	31.07
Offender sex			
Male	97% (<i>n</i> =2,612)	96% (<i>n</i> =4,809)	96% (<i>n</i> =6,216)
Female	3% (<i>n</i> =70)	3% (<i>n</i> =166)	3% (<i>n</i> =208)
Median age (years)	33.5	38.0	35.9

a: Per 100,000 population aged 10 years and over

Note: Numbers do not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for more than one type of sexual offence in 2021–22 and the sex of some offenders was not stated, unknown or non-binary

Source: AIC ASOS collection 2021–22 [computer file]; see Tables B18 and B19

One-quarter of alleged offenders were proceeded against for handling of unlawful sexual material offences, which comprised CSAM and IBSA offences (24%, *n*=2,024; see Tables 11 and B18). The handling of unlawful sexual material offending rate was 9.75 per 100,000 population aged 10 years and over (see Tables 11 and B19).

Seventeen percent of sexual offenders were alleged to have committed CSAM offences (*n*=1,417) and eight percent IBSA offences (*n*=643; see Tables 11 and B18). The CSAM offending rate was 6.83 per 100,000 population aged 10 years and over and the IBSA offending rate was 3.10 per 100,000 population aged 10 years and over (see Table B19).

	Child sexual abuse material	Image-based sexual abuse ^a	Handling of unlawful sexual material ^a
Number	1,417	643	2,024
% of all sexual offenders	17	8	24
Rate^b	6.83	3.10	9.75
Offender sex			
Male	83% (<i>n</i> =1,176)	83% (<i>n</i> =536)	83% (<i>n</i> =1,680)
Female	16% (<i>n</i> =233)	17% (<i>n</i> =107)	17% (<i>n</i> =336)
Median age (years)	25.4	29.6	27.2

a: Excludes IBSA offenders in Qld and WA

b: Per 100,000 population aged 10 years and over

Note: Numbers do not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for more than one type of sexual offence in 2021–22 and the sex of some offenders was not stated, unknown or non-binary

Source: AIC ASOS collection 2021–22 [computer file]; see Tables B18 and B19

Eight percent of alleged sexual offenders in 2021–22 had been proceeded against for offences related to enabling unlawful sexual conduct ($n=656$; see Tables 12 and B18). Enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences include grooming children under 16 years for a sexual offence and using a carriage service to procure a child under 16 years for sexual activity. The enabling unlawful sexual conduct rate was 3.16 per 100,000 population aged 10 years and over (see Tables 12 and B19).

Number	656
% of all sexual offenders	8
Rate per 100,000 population aged 10 years and over	3.16
Offender sex	
Male	95% ($n=622$)
Female	5% ($n=33$)
Median age (years)	36.0

Note: Numbers do not add to total as the sex of some alleged offenders was not stated, unknown or non-binary
Source: AIC ASOS collection 2021–22 [computer file]; see Tables B18 and B19

The number of offenders proceeded against for each type of sexual offence in each jurisdiction is shown in Table 13 (see also Table B18). In all jurisdictions except the Northern Territory, more offenders were proceeded against for non-penetrative sexual offences than for any other type of sexual offence. The proportion of non-penetrative sexual offenders ranged from 56 percent ($n=1,423$) in Queensland to 67 percent ($n=790$) in Western Australia.

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	ACT	NT	Total
<i>Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct^{a,b}</i>	1,989	1,231	2,037	1,027	81	85	6,450
Penetrative sexual conduct	958	385	822	437	45	47	2,694
Non-penetrative sexual conduct	1,603	1,078	1,423	790	57	44	4,995
<i>Handling of unlawful sexual material^b</i>	772	489	559	161	na	na	2,024
Child sexual abuse material	416	257	na	na	17	22	1,417
Image-based sexual abuse	379	243	na	na	na	na	643
Enabling unlawful sexual conduct	350	148	74	65	na	na	656
Total^{b,c}	2,705	1,692	2,540	1,179	103	107	8,326

a: The number of offenders with penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences in Qld may be overstated because it may include offenders with persistent sexual abuse offences

b: Numbers may not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for more than one type of sexual offence in 2021–22

c: May include offenders with persistent sexual abuse offences and/or enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences

Note: Data in this table relate to each offender's index event. Excludes IBSA offenders in Qld and WA. Some data are not available because of the confidentialisation of table cells. Data presented refer to an individual's sex (ie sex characteristics) rather than gender (ie 'social and cultural identity, expression and experience'; ABS 2021). This reflects the definitions in the data provided by the source organisations

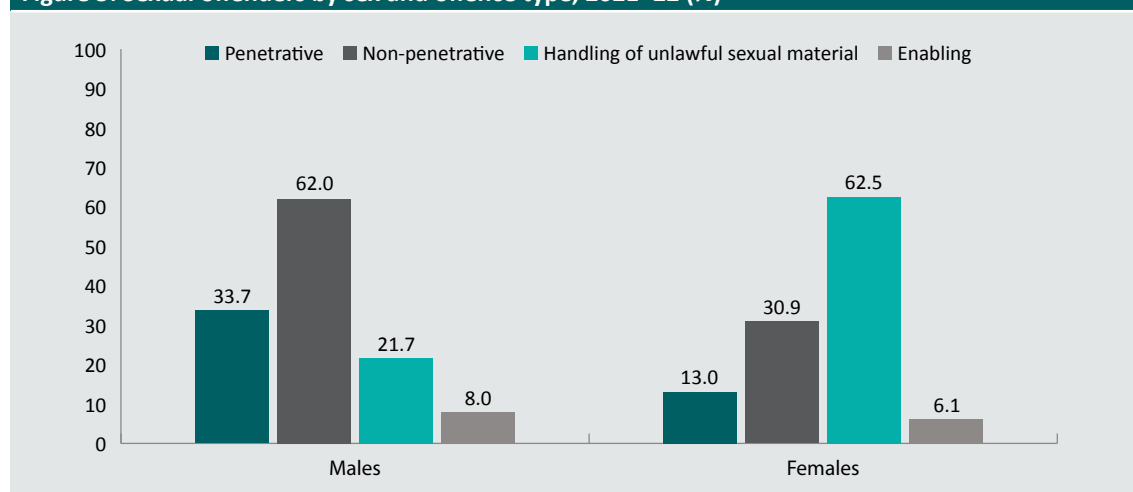
Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]; see Table B18

The proportion of penetrative offenders ranged from 23 percent in Victoria ($n=385$) to 44 percent ($n=47$) in the Northern Territory. In Victoria and New South Wales, similar proportions of offenders were proceeded against for CSAM offences (NSW: 15%, $n=416$; Vic: 15%, $n=257$), IBSA (NSW: 14%, $n=379$; Vic: 14%, $n=243$) and enabling offences (NSW: 13%, $n=350$; Vic: 9%, $n=148$). Compared with other jurisdictions, the Northern Territory had a larger proportion of CSAM offenders (21%, $n=22$).

Offender sex by offence type

Thirty-four percent of male offenders ($n=2,612$) were proceeded against for penetrative offences, 62 percent ($n=4,809$) for non-penetrative sexual offences, 22 percent ($n=1,680$) for handling of unlawful sexual material and eight percent for enabling offences ($n=622$; see Figure 5 and Table B18). Among female offenders, 13 percent ($n=70$) were proceeded against for penetrative offences, 31 percent ($n=166$) for non-penetrative offences, 62 percent ($n=336$) for handling of unlawful sexual material and six percent for enabling offences ($n=33$).

Figure 5: Sexual offenders by sex and offence type, 2021–22 (%)



Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]; see Table B18

Altogether, 80 percent of male sexual offenders ($n=6,216$) were proceeded against for a penetrative or non-penetrative offence, compared with 39 percent of female sexual offenders ($n=208$; see Tables 14 and B18). The rate of male penetrative or non-penetrative offending was 60.62 per 100,000 population aged 10 years and over compared with a female rate of 1.98 per 100,000 population aged 10 years and over (see Tables 14 and B19).

One-fifth of male sexual offenders were proceeded against for handling of unlawful sexual material offences, compared with almost two-thirds of female sexual offenders (males: 22%, $n=1,680$ vs females 62%, $n=336$). Similar proportions of male and female offenders proceeded against for handling of unlawful sexual material were alleged to have committed CSAM offences (70%, $n=1,176$ vs 69%, $n=233$ respectively; see Tables 14 and B18).

Table 14: Sexual offenders by sex and offence type, 2021–22

	Male		Female		Total ^a	
	<i>n</i>	Rate	<i>n</i>	Rate	<i>n</i>	Rate
<i>Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct^{b,c}</i>	6,216	60.62	208	1.98	6,450	31.07
Penetrative sexual conduct	2,612	25.47	70	0.67	2,694	12.98
Non-penetrative sexual conduct	4,809	46.90	166	1.58	4,995	24.06
Persistent sexual abuse ^d	78	0.76	4	0.04	82	0.40
<i>Handling of unlawful sexual material^c</i>	1,680	16.39	336	3.20	2,024	9.75
Child sexual abuse material	1,176	11.47	233	2.22	1,417	6.83
Image-based sexual abuse ^e	536	5.23	107	1.02	643	3.10
Enabling unlawful sexual conduct	622	6.07	33	0.31	656	3.16
Total offenders^c	7,756	75.64	538	5.12	8,326	40.11

a: May include offenders whose sex was not stated, unknown or non-binary

b: The number of offenders with penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences in Qld may be overstated because it may include offenders with persistent sexual abuse offences

c: Numbers may not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for more than one type of sexual offence in 2021–22

d: The number of offenders with persistent sexual abuse offences in Qld could not be determined based on the data provided

e: Excludes IBSA offenders in Qld and WA

Note: Data in this table relate to each offender’s index event. Rates per 100,000 relevant population aged 10 years and over were calculated using population data from ABS 2023b. Data presented refer to an individual’s sex (ie sex characteristics) rather than gender (ie ‘social and cultural identity, expression and experience’; ABS 2021). This reflects the definitions in the data provided by the source organisations

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]; see Tables B18 and B19

Offender age by offence type

In 2021–22 offenders proceeded against for CSAM offences were on average younger than other offenders, with a median age of 25.4 years. Offenders proceeded against for penetrative sexual offences had a lower median age than non-penetrative offenders (33.5 years vs 38.0 years) and offenders proceeded against for enabling offences had the highest median age of all types of offenders (36.0 years).

Youth offenders

Around half of the sexual offenders aged under 18 years at the time of their first police proceeding in 2021–22 were alleged to have committed penetrative or non-penetrative offences (54%, *n*=682; see Tables 15 and B20). Almost half were proceeded against for handling of unlawful sexual material offences (49%, *n*=612).

Male youth offenders predominantly had penetrative or non-penetrative offences (65%, *n*=637), but 38 percent (*n*=373) were proceeded against for handling of unlawful sexual material. In contrast, most female youth offenders were proceeded against for handling of unlawful sexual material (87%, *n*=238) and almost one-fifth were proceeded against for penetrative or non-penetrative offences (16%, *n*=44).

Table 15: Youth offenders by sex and offence type, 2021–22 (n)

	Male	Female	Total ^a
Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct	637	44	682
Handling of unlawful sexual material	373	238	612
Enabling unlawful sexual conduct	38	5	43
Total offenders^b	977	274	1,253

a: Includes offenders whose sex was unknown, not stated or non-binary

b: Numbers may not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for more than one sexual offence in 2021–22

Note: Data in this table relate to each offender's index event. Offender age calculated at the earliest date they were proceeded against by police in 2021–22 for a sexual offence. Offenders aged under 18 years at the time of their first police action in 2021–22 are classified as youth offenders. No young person was proceeded against for a persistent sexual abuse offence. Data presented refer to an individual's sex (ie sex characteristics) rather than gender (ie 'social and cultural identity, expression and experience'; ABS 2021). This reflects the definitions in the data provided by the source organisations

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]; see Table B20

Adult offenders

Eighty-two percent of adult sexual offenders were proceeded against for penetrative or non-penetrative offences ($n=5,736$; see Tables 16 and B21). Most male and female adult offenders were alleged to have committed penetrative or non-penetrative offences, although males were more likely than females to have these offences (82%, $n=5,569$ vs 62%, $n=164$). A higher proportion of adult female offenders than adult male offenders were proceeded against for handling of unlawful sexual material (37%, $n=97$ vs 19%, $n=1,300$). Similar proportions of males and females were proceeded against for enabling offences (9%, $n=584$ vs 11%, $n=28$).

Table 16: Adult offenders by sex and offence type, 2021–22 (n)

	Male	Female	Total ^a
Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct	5,569	164	5,736
Persistent sexual abuse ^b	78	4	82
Handling of unlawful sexual material	1,300	97	1,398
Enabling unlawful sexual conduct	584	28	612
Total offenders^c	6,762	263	7,029

a: Includes offenders whose sex was unknown, not stated or non-binary

b: The number of offenders with persistent sexual abuse offences in Qld could not be determined based on the data provided

c: Numbers may not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for more than one sexual offence in 2021–22

Note: Data in this table relate to each offender's index event. Offenders aged 18 years or over at the time of their first police action in 2021–22 are classified as adult offenders. Offender age calculated at the earliest date they were proceeded against by police in 2021–22 for a sexual offence. Data presented refer to an individual's sex (ie sex characteristics) rather than gender (ie 'social and cultural identity, expression and experience'; ABS 2021). This reflects the definitions in the data provided by the source organisations

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]; see Table B21

Offenders by offence type and victim sex and age

Comprehensive information on the age and sex of victims by offender type was available for penetrative or non-penetrative and enabling offenders. Most penetrative or non-penetrative sexual offenders were proceeded against for offences with female victims (80%, $n=5,154$; see Table 17). Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual offenders with female victims were more likely to have non-child sexual offences than child sexual offences (56%, $n=2,873$ vs 47%, $n=2,436$; see Table 17). Conversely, penetrative or non-penetrative sexual offenders with male victims were more likely to have child rather than non-child sexual offences (64%, $n=498$ vs 38%, $n=297$).

Enabling offenders also predominantly had female victims (66%, $n=435$; see Tables 17 and B23). Regardless of whether the victims were male or female, around nine in 10 enabling offenders were proceeded against for child sexual offences (offenders with male child victims: 91%, $n=106$; offenders with female child victims: 88%, $n=383$; see Tables 17 and B23).

Table 17: Sexual offenders by victim sex, victim age and offence type, 2021–22 (n)

	Male victims ^a			Female victims ^a			All victims		
	Child	Non-child	All male victims ^b	Child	Non-child	All female victims ^b	Child ^{c,d}	Non-child ^e	All victims ^b
Penetrative or non-penetrative offenders ^f	498	297	778	2,436	2,873	5,154	2,906	3,137	6,450
Enabling offenders ^g	106	10	116	383	55	435	564	65	656

a: Excludes ACT because data did not allow direct linking of offender charges to a victim

b: Numbers may not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for child and non-child sexual offences

c: Includes 77 penetrative or non-penetrative offenders whose victims' sex was unknown, not stated or non-binary. Includes 87 enabling sexual offenders whose victims' sex was unknown, not stated or non-binary

d: Numbers do not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for child sexual offences with male and female victims in 2021–22

e: Includes two penetrative or non-penetrative offenders against non-child victims whose sex was unknown, not stated or non-binary. Numbers do not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against in 2021–22 for non-child sexual offences with male and female victims

f: Offenders proceeded against for a penetrative or non-penetrative sexual offence the only or first time they were proceeded against for a sexual offence in 2021–22

g: Offenders proceeded against for an enabling sexual offence the only or first time they were proceeded against for a sexual offence in 2021–22

Note: Data in this table relate to each offender's index event. Offenders with multiple victims in the same age group were only counted once. Conversely, offenders with multiple victims across different age groups were counted once in each age group. As such, cells may not add to the total number of offenders. Victim age calculated at date of offence. A child sexual offence is defined in the way the relevant jurisdiction defines that offence type. For penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences, children are aged under 16 years and non-child sexual offences are offences involving victims aged 16 years and over. For enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences, children are defined consistent with the relevant jurisdiction. Data presented refer to an individual's sex (ie sex characteristics) rather than gender (ie 'social and cultural identity, expression and experience'; ABS 2021). This reflects the definitions in the data provided by the source organisations

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]; see Tables B22 and B23

References

URLs correct as at April 2024

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2023a. *Crime victimisation, Australia*. Canberra: ABS. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/crime-victimisation-australia/latest-release>

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2023b. *National, state and territory population*. Canberra: ABS. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/national-state-and-territory-population/latest-release>

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2023c. *Recorded crime – victims*. Canberra: ABS. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/recorded-crime-victims/latest-release#data-downloads>

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2023d. *Sexual violence*. Canberra: ABS. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/sexual-violence/2021-22>

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021. *Standard for sex, gender, variations of sex characteristics and sexual orientation variables*. Canberra: ABS. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/standard-sex-gender-variations-sex-characteristics-and-sexual-orientation-variables/latest-release>

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2019. *Estimates and projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians*. Canberra: ABS. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples/estimates-and-projections-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-australians/latest-release>

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011. *Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC)*, 3rd ed. Canberra: ABS. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/australian-and-new-zealand-standard-offence-classification-anzsoc/2011>

Bright S, Roach C, Barnaba L, Walker S & Millsted M 2021. *Attrition of sexual offence incidents through the Victorian criminal justice system: 2021 update*. Melbourne: Crime Statistics Agency. <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/research-and-evaluation/publications/attrition-of-sexual-offence-incidents-through-the-victorian>

Crime Statistics Agency 2022. Location type classification. Melbourne: CSA. <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/about-the-data/classifications-and-victorian-map-boundaries/location-type-classification>

Dowling C, Lawler S, Doherty L & Wolbers H forthcoming. National review of child sexual abuse and sexual assault legislation in Australia. Special reports. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology

Fitzgerald J 2006. *The attrition of sexual offences from the New South Wales criminal justice system*. Crime and Justice Bulletin no. 92. Sydney: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Pages/bocsar_publication/Pub_Summary/CJB/cjb92-Attrition-of-sexual-offences-from-the-NSW-criminal-justice-system.aspx

Morgan A 2022. *Exploring the role of opportunity in recidivist child sexual offending*. Research Report no. 24. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology. <https://doi.org/10.52922/rr78719>

Tidmarsh P & Hamilton G 2020. Misconceptions of sexual crimes against adult victims: Barriers to justice. *Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice* no. 611. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology. <https://doi.org/10.52922/ti04824>

Appendix A: Methodology

This report categorises sexual offences into four types of conduct (see Box A1) based on categories developed by an extensive national review of child sexual abuse and sexual assault legislation in Australia (Dowling et al. forthcoming).

Box A1: Sexual offence categories

Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct

Penetrative sexual conduct

Penetrative sexual conduct is defined as sexual intercourse with or penetration (to any extent) of another person. This does not include penetration carried out for proper medical or hygienic purposes, or any other purpose authorised by law.

Non-penetrative sexual conduct

Non-penetrative sexual conduct includes a range of other behaviours involving sexual physical contact without penetration. These refer broadly to conduct of a sexual nature, including sexualised touching or touching of the genitalia, and sexual behaviours or gestures in the presence of a victim.

Persistent sexual abuse

Persistent sexual abuse offences apply in circumstances where a child has been subjected to ongoing patterns of sexual abuse in which repeated instances of sexual offending are perpetrated by an offender over a period of time.

Handling of unlawful sexual material

Handling of unlawful sexual material includes image-based sexual abuse and conduct pertaining to child sexual abuse material.

Image-based sexual abuse

Image-based sexual abuse involves taking and/or distributing an intimate image or recording without the consent of the person depicted, or threatening to take and distribute such material. This material can include depictions of a person engaged in a sexual act, or images of a person's breasts, genitals or anal region.

Child sexual abuse material

Child sexual abuse material offences involve conduct pertaining to material that sexually depicts children. Every Australian jurisdiction has specifically criminalised the possession, distribution and production of child sexual abuse material.

Box A1: Sexual offence categories (cont.)

Conduct done to enable unlawful sexual conduct

Enabling offences involve various forms of conduct undertaken with the intent of enabling unlawful sexual conduct. These include:

- coercion—making another person do something against their will through the use of violence, force or intimidation, specifically with the intent of engaging in unlawful sexual conduct of some kind;
- deception and trickery—unlawful sexual conduct committed against victims procured through false pretence, false or misleading representation, or fraud; deceptive recruitment of victims into delivering sexual services; and deception regarding sexual health status in the context of sex work;
- use of substances—coercive or deceptive administration of intoxicating substances to render a victim incapacitated so as to allow the offender to engage in unlawful sexual conduct against them;
- procuring, grooming and encouragement—enticing or persuading a person into engaging in unlawful sexual conduct. Because of the nature of this conduct, the offences relate mostly to victims who are children or young people;
- incitement—offences that involve offenders encouraging or making (through whatever means) another person commit a sexual offence;
- facilitation—any conduct that aids or enables another person to commit a sexual offence or to avoid apprehension for a sexual offence;
- causing a child to perform sexual service—conduct that results in a child providing commercial sexual services.

Note: The national review of child sexual abuse and sexual assault legislation also included legislation relating to a failure to report or stop unlawful sexual conduct. This report excludes failure to report child abuse offences because the AIC did not request data on these offences from police agencies on the basis that ANZSOC 2011 classifies them as dangerous and negligent acts endangering persons rather than sexual assault and related offences. This report also excludes trafficking and sexual servitude offences on the basis they are modern slavery offences

Source: Adapted from Dowling et al. (forthcoming)

This report codes the location of sexual offences at the subdivision level adapted from the location type classification published by Victoria’s Crime Statistics Agency (2022; see Table A1).

Table A1: Location type classification	
Location division	Location subdivision
Residential	Dwelling—private
	Dwelling—non-private
	Grounds/surrounding land
Community	Education
	Health
	Religious
	Public transport
	Other transport
	Justice
	Open space
	Street/footpath
	Other community location
Other	Administrative/professional
	Financial
	Retail
	Wholesale
	Warehousing/storage
	Manufacturing
	Agricultural
	Recreational
	Other location
Unknown	Unknown location
	Missing

Source: Crime Statistics Agency (2022)

For some offenders and victims involved in more than one police proceeding in 2021–22, their Indigenous status was recorded inconsistently. This report classes an offender or victim as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander if they identified as least once as Indigenous in 2021–22. Similarly, an offender or victim was classed as non-Indigenous if they identified as non-Indigenous each time in 2021–22 or if they had an Indigenous status of non-Indigenous on at least one occasion and a status of ‘not stated’ on the remaining occasions.

State and territory data items coding

New South Wales

New South Wales Police Force provided data for offenders proceeded against for sexual offences in 2021–22 by any of the following methods:

- charge and bail/remand;
- charge and summons;
- formal caution or formal warning; or
- conference.

The report excludes alleged offenders if the only sexual offence they were proceeded against by New South Wales Police Force in 2021–22 was wilful and obscene exposure in or near a public place or school. New South Wales Police Force categorised this as a public order offence and did not provide data for these individuals.

Victoria

Victoria Police provided the age of each offender and victim at the date of offence and date of offender proceeding rather than the dates of birth.

Victoria Police provided an outcome variable with the following categories:

- complaint withdrawn;
- intent to summon;
- no offence detected;
- offender processed;
- penalty notice not authorised;
- summons not authorised; and
- other.

Victoria Police also provided method of proceeding data in the following categories:

- arrest;
- caution;
- complaint withdrawn;
- infringement notice issued;
- not authorised;
- offender deceased;
- official warning;
- summons applied for/issued;
- under age; and
- other.

This report includes offences with an ‘offender processed’ outcome in accordance with the ASOS collection inclusion criteria that an offender must have been proceeded against by the police in the form of a charge, caution or other form of action. To standardise the Victorian data with those of the other jurisdictions, we also restricted the data to offences coded with the following methods of proceeding: arrest, caution, infringement notice issued, official warning, summons applied for/issued, and ‘other’.

This report also excludes the Victorian offences of ‘abduction or detention for a sexual purpose’ and ‘abduction or detention of a child under the age of 16 for a sexual purpose’. It further excludes failure to report child abuse offences on the basis that ANZSOC 2011 classifies them as dangerous and negligent acts endangering persons rather than sexual assault and related offences.

Queensland

Queensland Police Service provided data for offenders proceeded against for sexual offences in 2021–22 by any of the following methods:

- charge and bail/remand;
- charge and summons;
- other court action, not elsewhere classified;
- formal caution or formal warning;
- conference;
- counselling;
- penalty notices; or
- other non-court action, not elsewhere classified.

We excluded offences with an ‘other non-court action, not elsewhere classified’ method of proceeding to ensure the data met the ASOS collection criteria.

Western Australia

Western Australia Police Force provided data for offenders proceeded against for sexual offences in 2021–22 by any of the following methods:

- charge and bail/remand;
- charge and summons;
- formal caution or formal warning;
- conference; or
- other non-court action, not elsewhere classified.

We excluded offences with an ‘other non-court action, not elsewhere classified’ method of proceeding to ensure the data met the ASOS collection criteria. These included offences with the outcomes: ‘no action taken’, ‘not criminally responsible’, ‘not in public interest’, ‘offender deceased’ and ‘statute barred’.

Western Australia Police Force’s Incident Management System uses identifiers for each victim and offender. A person may have multiple identifiers and their offence history and associations may be spread across multiple identifiers. Where an offender or victim included in this report has multiple identifiers in the Incident Management System, data on criminal history and the relationship between an offender and victim may be incomplete.

The date of birth and Indigenous status was obtained for offenders and victims based on the current information associated with their system identifier in the Incident Management System.

Australian Capital Territory

Australian Capital Territory Policing provided data for offenders proceeded against for sexual offences in 2021–22 by any of the following methods:

- charge and bail/remand;
- charge and summons;
- formal caution or formal warning; or
- conference.

Australian Capital Territory Policing data does not allow direct linking of offender charges to a victim. Consequently, this report does not include any information from the Australian Capital Territory that combined offender and victim information. Additionally, Australian Capital Territory Policing did not provide the Indigenous status of victims.

Northern Territory

Northern Territory Police Force uses the following categories to classify methods of proceeding:

- arrest;
- arrest—DNA;
- caution;
- complaint withdrawn;
- deceased—offender;
- infringement notice issued;
- insufficient evidence;
- no complaint forthcoming;
- no criminal responsibility;
- not cleared—offender known;
- not cleared—offender not known;
- notice to appear issued;
- other court proceedings;
- summons;
- summons—DNA;
- Youth Pre-Court Diversion Scheme—referral; or
- Youth Pre-Court Diversion Scheme—victim/offender conference.

To ensure the data met the ASOS collection criteria, we excluded offences with the following methods of proceeding:

- complaint withdrawn;
- deceased—offender;
- insufficient evidence;
- no complaint forthcoming;
- no criminal responsibility;
- not cleared—offender known;
- not cleared—offender not known;
- other court proceedings;
- Youth Pre-Court Diversion Scheme—referral; and
- Youth Pre-Court Diversion Scheme—victim/offender conference.

The report also excludes alleged offenders if the only sexual offence they were proceeded against by Northern Territory Police Force in 2021–22 was gross indecency in a public place. Northern Territory Police Force categorised this as a public order offence and did not provide data for these individuals. Location data were also not provided.

Appendix B: Data tables

Table B1: Sexual offenders by sex, age and jurisdiction, 2021–22 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	ACT	NT	Total
Male offenders							
10–17	198	106	467	na	na	na	977
18–44	1,448	958	1,236	602	na	na	4,390
45 and over	896	536	602	na	na	na	2,372
<i>Total male offenders^a</i>	<i>2,543</i>	<i>1,615</i>	<i>2,306</i>	<i>1,085</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>7,756</i>
Mean age (years)	39.6	38.7	34.7	35.3	na	na	37.2
Median age (years)	37.3	36.0	32.8	34.2	na	na	35.0
Female offenders							
10–17	57	19	163	na	na	na	274
18–44	80	48	47	21	na	na	199
45 and over	24	10	18	na	na	na	64
<i>Total female offenders^b</i>	<i>161</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>229</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>538</i>
Mean age (years)	28.1	29.6	20.4	26.6	na	na	24.8
Median age (years)	24.4	28.0	14.8	17.4	na	na	17.7
All offenders							
10–17	255	125	631	226	4	12	1,253
18–44	1,528	1,006	1,283	624	76	73	4,590
45 and over	921	546	621	306	23	22	2,439
Total offenders^c	2,705	1,692	2,540	1,179	103	107	8,326
Mean age (years)	38.9	38.3	33.4	34.8	36.1	32.5	36.4
Median age (years)	36.6	36.0	31.2	33.8	33.8	30.0	34.2

a: Includes 17 male offenders whose age was not stated or unknown

b: Includes 1 female offender whose age was not stated or unknown

c: Includes 44 offenders whose age was not stated or unknown and 32 offenders whose sex was not stated, unknown or non-binary

Note: Data in this table relate to each offender's index event. Age group data for male and female offenders in WA, the ACT and NT are not available because of confidentialisation of table cells. Offender age calculated at the earliest date they were proceeded against by police in 2021–22 for a sexual offence. Data presented refer to an individual's sex (ie sex characteristics) rather than gender (ie 'social and cultural identity, expression and experience'; ABS 2021). This reflects the definitions in the data provided by the source organisations

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

Table B2: Sexual offenders by sex, age and jurisdiction, 2021–22 (rate per 100,000 relevant population)							
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	ACT	NT	Total
Male offenders							
10–17	47.83	32.69	162.25	na	na	na	80.92
18–44	96.14	75.41	130.34	116.35	na	na	99.90
45 and over	54.84	41.98	56.34	na	na	na	51.00
<i>Total male offenders^a</i>	<i>71.55</i>	<i>56.25</i>	<i>100.06</i>	<i>89.13</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>75.64</i>
Female offenders							
10–17	14.65	6.19	60.07	na	na	na	24.07
18–44	5.40	3.81	4.89	4.14	na	na	4.56
45 and over	1.36	0.71	1.58	na	na	na	1.28
<i>Total female offenders^b</i>	<i>4.43</i>	<i>2.60</i>	<i>9.65</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>5.12</i>
All offenders							
10–17	31.75	19.80	112.85	79.85	9.40	45.07	53.41
18–44	51.14	39.77	67.20	60.89	37.24	69.78	52.42
45 and over	27.14	20.40	28.11	27.02	14.14	27.68	25.26
Total offenders^c	37.65	28.98	54.30	48.32	25.67	49.76	40.11

a: Includes 17 male offenders whose age was not stated or unknown

b: Includes 1 female offender whose age was not stated or unknown

c: Includes 44 offenders whose age was not stated or unknown and 32 offenders whose sex was not stated, unknown or non-binary

Note: Data in this table relate to each offender's index event. Age group data for male and female offenders in WA, the ACT and NT are not available because of confidentialisation of table cells. Offender age calculated at the earliest date they were proceeded against by police in 2021–22 for a sexual offence. Data presented refer to an individual's sex (ie sex characteristics) rather than gender (ie 'social and cultural identity, expression and experience'; ABS 2021). This reflects the definitions in the data provided by the source organisations. Rates per 100,000 relevant population aged 10 years and over were calculated using population data from ABS 2023b

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

Table B3: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sexual offenders by child or non-child sexual offence and offence type, 2021–22 (n)

	Total
Offenders with child sexual offences^a	
Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct	378
<i>Handling of unlawful sexual material</i>	119
Child sexual abuse material	114
Image-based sexual abuse	9
Enabling unlawful sexual conduct	54
<i>Total offenders with child sexual offences^b</i>	497
Offenders with non-child sexual offences^a	
Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct	422
Handling of unlawful sexual material	30
<i>Total offenders with non-child sexual offences^c</i>	450
Offenders with offences of unknown child/non-child sexual offence type^{a,d}	107
Offenders with any sexual offences	
Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct	895
Persistent sexual abuse	6
Handling of unlawful sexual material	147
Enabling unlawful sexual conduct	60
Total offenders	1,039

a: Excludes ACT because data did not allow direct linking of offender charges to a victim

b: Includes offenders with persistent sexual abuse offences

c: Includes offenders with enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences

d: Alleged offenders proceeded against in 2021–22 only for sexual offences against victims whose age was not known or not provided by the police or offences for which the police identified no specific victims

Note: Data in this table relate to each offender's index event. Numbers may not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for more than one type of sexual offence in 2021–22, and some were proceeded against for both child and non-child sexual offences. A child is defined in the way the relevant jurisdiction defines that offence type. For penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences and IBSA, children are aged under 16 years. For persistent sexual abuse offences, child sexual abuse material offences and enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences, children are defined consistent with the relevant jurisdiction

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

Table B4: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sexual offenders by child or non-child sexual offence and offence type, 2021–22 (rate per 100,000 relevant population)	
	Total
Offenders with child sexual offences^a	
Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct	59.76
<i>Handling of unlawful sexual material</i>	<i>18.81</i>
Child sexual abuse material	18.02
Image-based sexual abuse	1.42
Enabling unlawful sexual conduct	8.54
<i>Total offenders with child sexual offences^b</i>	<i>78.57</i>
Offenders with non-child sexual offences^a	
Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct	66.71
Handling of unlawful sexual material	4.74
<i>Total offenders with non-child sexual offences^c</i>	<i>71.14</i>
Offenders with offences of unknown child/non-child sexual offence type^{a,d}	16.91
Offenders with any sexual offences	
Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct	139.92
Persistent sexual abuse	0.94
Handling of unlawful sexual material	22.98
Enabling unlawful sexual conduct	9.38
Total offenders	162.44

a: Excludes ACT because data did not allow direct linking of offender charges to a victim

b: Includes offenders with persistent sexual abuse offences

c: Includes offenders with enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences

d: Alleged offenders proceeded against in 2021–22 only for sexual offences against victims whose age was not known or not provided by the police or offences for which the police identified no specific victims

Note: Data in this table relate to each offender's index event. Rates per 100,000 relevant population aged 10 years and over were calculated using population data from ABS 2019. A child is defined in the way the relevant jurisdiction defines that offence type. For penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences and IBSA, children are aged under 16 years. For persistent sexual abuse offences, child sexual abuse material offences and enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences, children are defined consistent with the relevant jurisdiction

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

Table B5: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sexual offenders by age and sex, 2021–22 (n)			
	Male	Female	Total^a
10–17	158	30	189
18–44	608	36	645
45 and over	196	9	205
Total offenders	962	75	1,039
Mean age (years)	32.6	24.8	32.0
Median age (years)	30.8	21.0	30.0

a: Total includes two offenders whose sex was non-binary, not stated or unknown

Note: Data in this table relate to each offender's index event. Offender age was calculated at the earliest date they were proceeded against by the police in 2021–22 for a sexual offence. Data presented refer to an individual's sex (ie sex characteristics) rather than gender (ie 'social and cultural identity, expression and experience'; ABS 2021). This reflects the definitions in the data provided by the source organisations

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

Table B6: Non-Indigenous sexual offenders by child or non-child sexual offence and offence type, 2021–22 (n)

	Total
Offenders with child sexual offences^a	
Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct	2,144
<i>Handling of unlawful sexual material</i>	1,182
Child sexual abuse material	1,120
Image-based sexual abuse	77
Enabling unlawful sexual conduct	430
<i>Total offenders with child sexual offences^b</i>	<i>3,229</i>
Offenders with non-child sexual offences^a	
Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct	2,377
Handling of unlawful sexual material	431
Enabling unlawful sexual conduct	50
<i>Total offenders with non-child sexual offences</i>	<i>2,790</i>
Offenders with offences of unknown child/non-child sexual offence type^{a,c}	400
Offenders with any sexual offences	
Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct	4,816
Persistent sexual abuse	57
<i>Handling of unlawful sexual material</i>	1,628
Child sexual abuse material	1,136
Image-based sexual abuse	520
Enabling unlawful sexual conduct	503
Total offenders	6,317

a: Excludes ACT because data did not allow direct linking of offender charges to a victim

b: May include offenders with persistent sexual abuse offences

c: Alleged offenders proceeded against in 2021–22 only for sexual offences against victims whose age was not known or not provided by the police or offences for which the police identified no specific victims

Note: Data in this table relate to each offender's index event. Numbers may not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for more than one type of sexual offence in 2021–22, and some were proceeded against for both child and non-child sexual offences. A child is defined in the way the relevant jurisdiction defines that offence type. For penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences and IBSA, children are aged under 16 years. For persistent sexual abuse offences, child sexual abuse material offences and enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences, children are defined consistent with the relevant jurisdiction

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

Table B7: Non-Indigenous sexual offenders by child or non-child sexual offence and offence type, 2021–22 (rate per 100,000 relevant population)	
	Total
Offenders with child sexual offences^a	
Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct	10.87
<i>Handling of unlawful sexual material</i>	5.99
Child sexual abuse material	5.68
Image-based sexual abuse	0.39
Enabling unlawful sexual conduct	2.18
<i>Total offenders with child sexual offences^b</i>	<i>16.37</i>
Offenders with non-child sexual offences^a	
Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct	12.05
Handling of unlawful sexual material	2.19
Enabling unlawful sexual conduct	0.25
<i>Total offenders with non-child sexual offences</i>	<i>14.15</i>
Offenders with offences of unknown child/non-child sexual offence type^{a,c}	2.03
Offenders with any sexual offences	
Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct	23.94
Persistent sexual abuse	0.28
<i>Handling of unlawful sexual material</i>	<i>8.09</i>
Child sexual abuse material	5.65
Image-based sexual abuse	2.58
Enabling unlawful sexual conduct	2.50
Total offenders	31.40

a: Excludes ACT because data did not allow direct linking of offender charges to a victim

b: May include offenders with persistent sexual abuse offences

c: Alleged offenders proceeded against in 2021–22 only for sexual offences against victims whose age was not known or not provided by the police or offences for which the police identified no specific victims

Note: Data in this table relate to each offender's index event. Rates per 100,000 relevant population aged 10 years and over were calculated using population data from ABS 2023b and ABS 2019. A child is defined in the way the relevant jurisdiction defines that offence type. For penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences and IBSA, children are aged under 16 years. For persistent sexual abuse offences, child sexual abuse material offences and enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences, children are defined consistent with the relevant jurisdiction

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

	Male	Female	Total ^a
10–17	694	211	906
18–44	3,323	139	3,462
45 and over	1,881	47	1,930
Age unknown or not stated	17	1	19
Total offenders	5,915	398	6,317
Mean age (years)	37.9	24.9	37.1
Median age (years)	35.8	16.7	35.0

a: Total includes four offenders whose sex was non-binary, not stated or unknown

Note: Data in this table relate to each offender's index event. Offender age calculated at the earliest date they were proceeded against by the police in 2021–22 for a sexual offence. Data presented refer to an individual's sex (ie sex characteristics) rather than gender (ie 'social and cultural identity, expression and experience'; ABS 2021). This reflects the definitions in the data provided by the source organisations

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	ACT	Total
Sexual offenders proceeded against for sexual offences only						
1 sexual offence incident	498	548	988	426	34	2,494
2 or more sexual offence incidents	32	64	73	46	4	219
<i>Total offenders</i>	<i>530</i>	<i>612</i>	<i>1,061</i>	<i>472</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>2,713</i>
Sexual offenders proceeded against for sexual and non-sexual offences						
1 sexual offence incident	2,020	942	1,325	620	60	4,967
2 or more sexual offence incidents	155	138	154	87	5	539
<i>Total offenders</i>	<i>2,175</i>	<i>1,080</i>	<i>1,479</i>	<i>707</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>5,506</i>
All sexual offenders						
1 sexual offence incident	2,518	1,490	2,313	1,046	94	7,461
2 or more sexual offence incidents	187	202	227	133	9	758
Total offenders	2,705	1,692	2,540	1,179	103	8,219

Note: A sexual offence incident is one or more sexual offences perpetrated by the same alleged offender or offenders on the same date of police proceeding and occurring in the same location. Excludes NT as location data were not available

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

Table B10: Sexual offenders by offence type, number of unique victims and jurisdiction, 2021–22 (n)						
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	NT	Total
Offenders with penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences^a						
1 victim	1,629	924	1,546	755	76	4,930
2 or more victims	344	186	269	146	5	950
<i>Total penetrative or non-penetrative offenders^b</i>	<i>1,973</i>	<i>1,110</i>	<i>1,815</i>	<i>901</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>5,880</i>
Mean number of victims	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.3
Median number of victims	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Offenders with enabling sexual conduct offences						
1 victim	295	88	52	69	0	504
2 or more victims	47	17	5	6	0	75
<i>Total enabling offenders^b</i>	<i>342</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>579</i>
Mean number of victims	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	–	1.2
Median number of victims	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	–	1.0
All sexual offenders^c						
1 victim	2,200	1,168	1,631	784	80	5,863
2 or more victims	415	200	274	157	5	1,051
Total offenders^{b,d}	2,615	1,368	1,905	941	85	6,914
Mean number of victims	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.3
Median number of victims	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

a: The number of offenders with penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences in Qld may be overstated because it may include offenders with persistent sexual abuse offences

b: Excludes offenders for whom the number of victims was unknown, not stated or not applicable

c: Includes offenders with persistent sexual abuse offences and handling of unlawful sexual material offences

d: Numbers may not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for more than one type of sexual offence in 2021–22

Note: Excludes offenders proceeded against for offences where the police did not identify any victims. Excludes ACT because data did not allow direct linking of offender charges to a victim

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

Table B11: Sexual offenders by child or non-child sexual offence, relationship with primary victim and jurisdiction, 2021–22 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	NT	Total
Offenders with child sexual offences					
Non-intimate partner family member	376	185	406	13	980
Non-family member known to victim	429	132	337	5	903
Stranger	256	77	108	4	445
<i>Total offenders with child sexual offences^a</i>	<i>1,294</i>	<i>475</i>	<i>1,052</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>2,847</i>
Offenders with non-child sexual offences					
Intimate partner	333	260	135	12	740
Non-intimate partner family member	91	58	38	12	199
Non-family member known to victim	468	260	291	15	1,034
Stranger	324	273	228	17	842
Not stated/unknown	179	80	153	4	416
<i>Total offenders with non-child sexual offences</i>	<i>1,395</i>	<i>931</i>	<i>845</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>3,231</i>
Offenders with any sexual offences^b					
Intimate partner	400	302	169	15	886
Non-intimate partner family member	439	221	439	25	1,124
Non-family member known to victim	871	377	624	19	1,891
Stranger	568	348	330	21	1,267
Not stated/unknown	332	114	319	5	770
Total offenders	2,610	1,362	1,881	85	5,938

a: May include offenders with intimate partner and not stated/unknown relationships with victims

b: Numbers may not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for child and non-child sexual offences in 2021–22

Note: Data in this table relate to each offender's index event. Excludes offenders for whom the police did not provide victim information. The relationship data in this table relate to an individual's relationship with their only or primary victim in sexual offences for which they were first proceeded against in 2021–22. This first police proceeding may have involved one or more offences and one or more victims. Victim age was calculated at the time of the offence. Excludes WA because of the proportion of not stated/unknown relationships. Excludes ACT because data did not allow direct linking of offender charges to a victim. A child is defined in the way the relevant jurisdiction defines that offence type. For penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences and IBSA, children are aged under 16 years. For persistent sexual abuse offences, child sexual abuse material offences and enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences, children are defined consistent with the relevant jurisdiction

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

Table B12: Sexual offenders by child or non-child sexual offence, offence type and jurisdiction, 2021–22 (n)							
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	ACT	NT	Total
Offenders with child sexual offences^a							
<i>Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct^{b,c}</i>	941	438	983	518	na	26	2,906
Penetrative sexual conduct	513	199	434	247	na	11	1,404
Non-penetrative sexual conduct	812	385	714	409	na	17	2,337
<i>Handling of unlawful sexual material^c</i>	457	295	544	161	na	22	1,479
Child sexual abuse material	416	257	na	na	na	22	1,400
Image-based sexual abuse	58	na	na	na	na	0	101
<i>Total offenders with child sexual offences^{c,d,e}</i>	1,356	719	1,475	675	na	47	4,272
Offenders with non-child sexual offences^a							
<i>Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct^{b,c}</i>	1,113	751	839	375	na	59	3,137
Penetrative sexual conduct	468	203	390	185	na	36	1,282
Non-penetrative sexual conduct	834	639	484	246	na	26	2,229
<i>Handling of unlawful sexual material</i>	326	189	na	na	na	na	533
Image-based sexual abuse	326	189	na	na	na	na	533
<i>Total offenders with non-child sexual offences^{c,d}</i>	1,417	940	855	381	na	60	3,653
Offenders with offences of unknown child/non-child sexual offence type^f							
<i>Offenders with offences where it was unknown if they were child or non-child sexual offences</i>	38	115	247	147	103	1	651
Offenders with any sexual offences							
<i>Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct^{b,c}</i>	1,989	1,231	2,037	1,027	81	85	6,450
Penetrative sexual conduct	958	385	822	437	45	47	2,694
Non-penetrative sexual conduct	1,603	1,078	1,423	790	57	44	4,995
<i>Handling of unlawful sexual material^{b,c}</i>	772	489	559	161	na	na	2,024
Child sexual abuse material	416	257	na	na	17	22	1,417
Image-based sexual abuse	379	243	na	na	na	na	643
Enabling unlawful sexual conduct	350	148	74	65	na	na	656
Total offenders^{c,e}	2,705	1,692	2,540	1,179	103	107	8,326

a: Excludes ACT because data did not allow direct linking of offender charges to a victim

b: The number of offenders with penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences in Qld may be overstated because it may include offenders with persistent sexual abuse offences

c: Numbers may not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for more than one type of sexual offence in 2021–22

d: May include offenders with enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences

e: May include offenders with persistent sexual abuse offences

f: Alleged offenders proceeded against in 2021–22 only for sexual offences against victims whose age was not known or not provided by the police or offences for which the police identified no specific victims

Note: Data in this table relate to each offender's index event. Data for offenders with CSAM and IBSA offences in Qld are not available. Data for the following are not available because of confidentialisation of table cells: offenders with CSAM, IBSA and non-child handling of unlawful sexual material offences in WA; offenders with handling of unlawful sexual material, IBSA and enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences in the ACT; and offenders with non-child and any IBSA and handling of unlawful sexual material offences and enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences in the NT. A child is defined in the way the relevant jurisdiction defines that offence type. For penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences and IBSA, children are aged under 16 years. For persistent sexual abuse offences, child sexual abuse material offences and enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences, children are defined consistent with the relevant jurisdiction

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

Table B13: Sexual offenders by child or non-child sexual offence, offence type and jurisdiction, 2021–22 (rate per 100,000 relevant population)							
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	ACT	NT	Total
Offenders with child sexual offences^a							
<i>Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct^b</i>	13.10	7.50	21.01	21.23	na	12.09	14.28
Penetrative sexual conduct	7.14	3.41	9.28	10.12	na	5.12	6.90
Non-penetrative sexual conduct	11.30	6.59	15.26	16.76	na	7.91	11.48
<i>Handling of unlawful sexual material</i>	6.36	5.05	11.63	6.60	na	10.23	7.27
Child sexual abuse material	5.79	4.40	na	na	na	10.23	6.88
Image-based sexual abuse	0.81	na	na	na	na	0.00	0.50
<i>Total offenders with child sexual offences^{b,c,d}</i>	18.87	12.32	31.53	27.66	na	21.86	20.99
Offenders with non-child sexual offences^a							
<i>Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct^b</i>	15.49	12.86	17.94	15.37	na	27.44	15.41
Penetrative sexual conduct	6.51	3.48	8.34	7.58	na	16.74	6.30
Non-penetrative sexual conduct	11.61	10.95	10.35	10.08	na	12.09	10.95
<i>Handling of unlawful sexual material</i>	4.54	3.24	na	na	na	na	2.62
Image-based sexual abuse	4.54	3.24	na	na	na	na	2.62
<i>Total offenders with non-child sexual offences^c</i>	19.72	16.10	18.28	15.61	na	27.90	17.95
Offenders with offences of unknown child/non-child sexual offence type^e							
<i>Offenders with offences where it was unknown if they were child or non-child sexual offences</i>	0.53	1.97	5.28	6.02	25.67	0.47	3.14
Offenders with any sexual offences							
<i>Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct^b</i>	27.69	21.09	43.55	42.09	20.19	39.53	31.07
Penetrative sexual conduct	13.33	6.59	17.57	17.91	11.21	21.86	12.98
Non-penetrative sexual conduct	22.31	18.47	30.42	32.37	14.20	20.46	24.06
<i>Handling of unlawful sexual material</i>	10.75	8.38	11.95	6.60	na	na	9.75
Child sexual abuse material	5.79	4.40	na	na	4.24	10.23	6.83
Image-based sexual abuse	5.28	4.16	na	na	na	na	3.10
Enabling unlawful sexual conduct	4.87	2.54	1.58	2.66	na	na	3.16
Total offenders^d	37.65	28.98	54.30	48.32	25.67	49.76	40.11

a: Excludes ACT because data did not allow direct linking of offender charges to a victim

b: The number of offenders with penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences in Qld may be overstated because it may include offenders with persistent sexual abuse offences

c: May include offenders with enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences

d: May include offenders with persistent sexual abuse offences

e: Alleged offenders proceeded against in 2021–22 only for sexual offences against victims whose age was not known or not provided by the police or offences for which the police identified no specific victims

Note: Data in this table relate to each offender's index event. Data for offenders with CSAM and IBSA offences in Qld are not available. Data for the following are not available because of confidentialisation of table cells: offenders with CSAM, IBSA and non-child handling of unlawful sexual material offences in WA; offenders with handling of unlawful sexual material, IBSA and enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences in the ACT; and offenders with non-child and any IBSA and handling of unlawful sexual material offences and enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences in the NT. Rates per 100,000 relevant population aged 10 years and over calculated using population data from ABS 2023b. A child is defined in the way the relevant jurisdiction defines that offence type. For penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences and IBSA, children are aged under 16 years. For persistent sexual abuse offences, child sexual abuse material offences and enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences, children are defined consistent with the relevant jurisdiction

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

Table B14: Sexual offenders by relationship with primary victim, offence location and jurisdiction, 2021–22 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA ^a	Total
Offenders with intimate partner victims					
Residential	358	250	152	na	760
Community	33	26	13	na	72
Other	9	6	5	na	20
Location not stated/unknown	6	40	1	na	47
<i>Total offenders with intimate partner victims^b</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>302</i>	<i>169</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>871</i>
Offenders with non-intimate partner family member victims					
Residential	396	211	414	na	1,021
Community	20	7	14	na	41
Location not stated/unknown	28	33	9	na	70
<i>Total offenders with non-intimate partner family member victims^{b,c}</i>	<i>439</i>	<i>221</i>	<i>439</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>1,099</i>
Offenders with non-family member victims					
Residential	556	281	420	na	1,257
Community	175	54	123	na	352
Other	133	46	75	na	254
Location not stated/unknown	42	24	18	na	84
<i>Total offenders with non-family member victims^b</i>	<i>871</i>	<i>377</i>	<i>624</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>1,872</i>
Offenders with stranger victims					
Residential	238	94	121	na	453
Community	192	178	128	na	498
Other	137	80	78	na	295
Location not stated/unknown	5	7	6	na	18
<i>Total offenders with stranger victims^b</i>	<i>568</i>	<i>348</i>	<i>330</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>1,246</i>
Offenders with not stated/unknown relationship to victims					
Residential	255	44	201	na	500
Community	43	43	62	na	148
Other	30	27	41	na	98
Location not stated/unknown	13	9	23	na	45
<i>Total offenders with not stated/unknown relationship to victims^b</i>	<i>332</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>319</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>765</i>
Offenders with any relationship to victims					
Residential	1,803	880	1,308	655	4,646
Community	463	308	340	184	1,295
Other	327	162	214	93	796
Location not stated/unknown ^d	94	113	57	0	264
Total offenders^b	2,610	1,362	1,881	929	6,782

a: Excludes relationship with primary victim data for WA due to the proportion of not stated or unknown relationships

b: Numbers may not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for sexual offences at more than one location in 2021–22

c: May include offences at other locations

d: Includes offenders with one or more not stated/not applicable offence locations

Note: Excludes ACT and NT due to data availability. Data in this table relate to each offender's index event and the relationship with the primary victim at the time of this offence. An offender's first police proceeding may have involved one or more offences, one or more victims and one or more locations. Individuals proceeded against for offence/s involving more than one victim in the same primary relationship and location category are counted once while individuals proceeded against for offences involving victims in different location categories are counted more than once. All individuals are counted only once in the offender total

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

Table B15: Sexual offenders by number of police proceedings for sexual offences and jurisdiction, 2021–22 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	ACT	NT	Total
1 proceeding	2,614	1,639	2,384	1,053	na	na	7,894
2 or more proceedings	91	53	156	126	na	na	432
Total offenders	2,705	1,692	2,540	1,179	103	107	8,326
Mean police proceedings	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.1
Median police proceedings	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

Note: Data for one or two or more proceedings in the ACT and NT are not available because of confidentialisation of table cells

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

Table B16: Sexual offenders by prior police proceedings for any offence and child or non-child sexual offences, 2021–22

	Offenders with child sexual offences		Offenders with non-child sexual offences		Offenders with offences of unknown child/non-child type ^a		Total sexual offenders ^b	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Sexual offending								
Prior police proceedings for sexual offending	527	12.3	391	10.7	124	22.6	1,007	12.3
No prior police proceedings for sexual offending	3,745	87.7	3,262	89.3	424	77.4	7,216	87.8
Any offending								
Prior police proceedings for any offending	2,013	47.1	2,330	63.8	397	72.4	4,599	55.9
No prior police proceedings for any offending	2,259	52.9	1,323	36.2	151	27.6	3,624	44.1
Total offenders	4,272	100	3,653	100	548	100	8,223	100

a: Alleged offenders proceeded against in 2021–22 only for sexual offences against victims whose age was not known or not provided by the police or offences for which the police identified no specific victims

b: Numbers do not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for both child and non-child sexual offences or offences against victims of unknown age

Note: Excludes the ACT because data did not allow direct linking of offender charges to a victim. Prior police proceedings are defined as instances where an offender was proceeded against by the police once or more in the nine years before their first or only police proceeding for a sexual offence in 2021–22. A child is defined in the way the relevant jurisdiction defines that offence type. For penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences and IBSA, children are aged under 16 years. For persistent sexual abuse offences, child sexual abuse material offences and enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences, children are defined consistent with the relevant jurisdiction

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	Total
1 offender	3,025	1,649	2,158	1,138	7,970
2 or more offenders	100	35	74	65	274
Total victims	3,125	1,684	2,232	1,203	8,244
Mean	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1
Median	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

Note: Excludes the ACT because data did not allow direct linking of offender charges to a victim. Excludes the NT because of small cell counts

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

Table B18: Sexual offenders by sex, offence type and jurisdiction, 2021–22 (n)							
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	ACT	NT	Total
Male offenders							
<i>Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct^{a,b}</i>	1,933	1,196	1,956	na	na	na	6,216
Penetrative sexual conduct	934	373	797	na	na	na	2,612
Non-penetrative sexual conduct	1,561	1,046	1,361	na	na	na	4,809
<i>Handling of unlawful sexual material^b</i>	669	446	400	na	na	na	1,680
Child sexual abuse material	374	251	na	na	na	na	1,176
Image-based sexual abuse	317	205	na	na	na	na	536
<i>Total male offenders^{b,c}</i>	2,543	1,615	2,306	1,085	na	na	7,756
Female offenders							
<i>Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct^{a,b}</i>	56	35	77	na	na	na	208
Penetrative sexual conduct	24	12	25	na	na	na	70
Non-penetrative sexual conduct	42	32	58	na	na	na	166
<i>Handling of unlawful sexual material^b</i>	102	43	158	na	na	na	336
Child sexual abuse material	41	6	na	na	na	na	233
Image-based sexual abuse	62	38	na	na	na	na	107
<i>Total female offenders^{b,c}</i>	161	77	229	68	na	na	538
All offenders^d							
<i>Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct^{a,b}</i>	1,989	1,231	2,037	1,027	81	85	6,450
Penetrative sexual conduct	958	385	822	437	45	47	2,694
Non-penetrative sexual conduct	1,603	1,078	1,423	790	57	44	4,995
<i>Handling of unlawful sexual material^b</i>	772	489	559	161	na	na	2,024
Child sexual abuse material	416	257	na	na	17	22	1,417
Image-based sexual abuse	379	243	na	na	na	na	643
Enabling unlawful sexual conduct	350	148	74	65	na	na	656
Total offenders^{b,e}	2,705	1,692	2,540	1,179	103	107	8,326

a: The number of offenders with penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences in Qld may be overstated because it may include offenders with persistent sexual abuse offences

b: Numbers may not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for more than one type of sexual offence in 2021–22

c: May include offenders with persistent sexual abuse offences and/or enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences

d: May include offenders whose sex was not stated, unknown or non-binary

e: May include offenders with persistent sexual abuse offences

Note: Data in this table relate to each offender's index event. Excludes IBSA offenders in Qld and WA. The following are not available because of confidentialisation of table cells: data for male offenders with CSAM offences in Qld, WA and the ACT; male offenders with IBSA offences in the ACT and NT; male offenders with handling of unlawful sexual material offences in the ACT and NT; female offenders in WA and the ACT; female offenders with CSAM offences in Qld; all offenders with CSAM in Qld and WA; and all offenders with IBSA, handling of unlawful sexual material and enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences in the ACT and NT. Data presented refer to an individual's sex (ie sex characteristics) rather than gender (ie 'social and cultural identity, expression and experience'; ABS 2021). This reflects the definitions in the data provided by the source organisations

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

Table B19: Sexual offenders by sex, offence type and jurisdiction, 2021–22 (rate per 100,000 relevant population)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	ACT	NT	Total
Male offenders							
<i>Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct^a</i>	54.39	41.65	84.87	na	na	na	60.62
Penetrative sexual conduct	26.28	12.99	34.58	na	na	na	25.47
Non-penetrative sexual conduct	43.92	36.43	59.05	na	na	na	46.90
<i>Handling of unlawful sexual material</i>	18.82	15.53	17.36	na	na	na	16.39
Child sexual abuse material	10.52	8.74	na	na	na	na	11.47
Image-based sexual abuse	8.92	7.14	na	na	na	na	5.23
<i>Total male offenders^b</i>	71.55	56.25	100.06	89.13	na	na	75.64
Female offenders							
<i>Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct^a</i>	1.54	1.18	3.24	na	na	na	1.98
Penetrative sexual conduct	0.66	0.40	1.05	na	na	na	0.67
Non-penetrative sexual conduct	1.16	1.08	2.44	na	na	na	1.58
<i>Handling of unlawful sexual material</i>	2.81	1.45	6.66	na	na	na	3.20
Child sexual abuse material	1.13	0.20	na	na	na	na	2.22
Image-based sexual abuse	1.71	1.28	na	na	na	na	1.02
<i>Total female offenders^b</i>	4.43	2.60	9.65	5.56	na	na	5.12
All offenders^c							
<i>Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct^a</i>	27.69	21.09	43.55	42.09	20.19	39.53	31.07
Penetrative sexual conduct	13.33	6.59	17.57	17.91	11.21	21.86	12.98
Non-penetrative sexual conduct	22.31	18.47	30.42	32.37	14.20	20.46	24.06
<i>Handling of unlawful sexual material</i>	10.75	8.38	11.95	6.60	na	na	9.75
Child sexual abuse material	5.79	4.40	na	na	4.24	10.23	6.83
Image-based sexual abuse	5.28	4.16	na	na	na	na	3.10
Enabling unlawful sexual conduct	4.87	2.54	1.58	2.66	na	na	3.16
Total offenders^d	37.65	28.98	54.30	48.32	25.67	49.76	40.11

a: The number of offenders with penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences in Qld may be overstated because it may include offenders with persistent sexual abuse offences

b: May include offenders with persistent sexual abuse offences and/or enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences

c: May include offenders whose sex was not stated, unknown or non-binary

d: May include offenders with persistent sexual abuse offences

Note: Data in this table relate to each offender's index event. Excludes IBSA offenders in Qld and WA. The following are not available because of confidentialisation of table cells: data for male offenders with CSAM offences in Qld, WA and the ACT; male offenders with IBSA offences in the ACT and NT; male offenders with handling of unlawful sexual material offences in the ACT and NT; female offenders in WA and the ACT; female offenders with CSAM offences in Qld; all offenders with CSAM in Qld and WA; and all offenders with IBSA, handling of unlawful sexual material and enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences in the ACT and NT. Rates per 100,000 relevant population aged 10 years and over were calculated using population data from ABS 2023b. Data presented refer to an individual's sex (ie sex characteristics) rather than gender (ie 'social and cultural identity, expression and experience'; ABS 2021). This reflects the definitions in the data provided by the source organisations

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

Table B20: Youth offenders by sex and sexual offence type, 2021–22 (n)	
Male offenders	
Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct	637
Handling of unlawful sexual material	373
Enabling unlawful sexual conduct	38
<i>Total male offenders^a</i>	<i>977</i>
Female offenders	
Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct	44
Handling of unlawful sexual material	238
Enabling unlawful sexual conduct	5
<i>Total female offenders^a</i>	<i>274</i>
Total youth offenders^{a,b}	
Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct	682
Handling of unlawful sexual material	612
Enabling unlawful sexual conduct	43
Total youth offenders^a	1,253

a: Numbers may not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for more than one sexual offence in 2021–22

b: Includes offenders whose sex was unknown, not-stated or non-binary

Note: Data in this table relate to each offender's index event. Offenders aged under 18 years at the time of their first police proceeding in 2021–22 for a sexual offence are classified as youth offenders. No young person was proceeded against for a persistent sexual abuse offence. Data presented refer to an individual's sex (ie sex characteristics) rather than gender (ie 'social and cultural identity, expression and experience'; ABS 2021). This reflects the definitions in the data provided by the source organisations

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

Table B21: Adult offenders by sex, sexual offence type and jurisdiction, 2021–22 (n)							
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	ACT	NT	Total
Male offenders							
Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct	1,808	1,132	1,657	820	na	na	5,569
Handling of unlawful sexual material	590	388	208	76	na	na	1,300
<i>Total male offenders^{a,b}</i>	<i>2,344</i>	<i>1,494</i>	<i>1,838</i>	<i>895</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>6,762</i>
Female offenders							
Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct	49	33	53	na	na	na	164
Handling of unlawful sexual material	51	27	13	na	na	na	97
<i>Total female offenders^{a,b}</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>263</i>
Total adult offenders^{a,c}							
Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct	1,857	1,165	1,711	850	na	na	5,736
Handling of unlawful sexual material	642	415	221	80	na	na	1,398
Total adult offenders^{a,b}	2,449	1,552	1,904	930	99	95	7,029

a: May include offenders with persistent sexual abuse and/or enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences. The number of offenders with persistent sexual abuse offences in Qld could not be determined based on the data provided

b: Numbers may not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for more than one sexual offence in 2021–22

c: Includes offenders where sex was not stated, unknown or non-binary

Note: Data in this table relate to each offender's index event. Data for female offenders in WA and male and female offenders and total adult offenders with penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct and handling of unlawful sexual material offences in the ACT and NT are not available because of confidentialisation of table cells. Offenders aged 18 years or over at the time of their first police action in 2021–22 are classified as adult offenders. Data presented refer to an individual's sex (ie sex characteristics) rather than gender (ie 'social and cultural identity, expression and experience'; ABS 2021). This reflects the definitions in the data provided by the source organisations

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

Table B22: Penetrative or non-penetrative sexual offenders by child or non-child sexual offence and jurisdiction, 2021–22 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	ACT	NT	Total
Offenders with child sexual offences ^a	941	438	983	518	na	26	2,906
Offenders with non-child sexual offences ^a	1,113	751	839	375	na	59	3,137
Offenders with offences of unknown child/ non-child sexual offence type ^b	26	106	248	150	81	1	612
Total penetrative or non-penetrative offenders^c	1,989	1,231	2,037	1,027	81	85	6,450

a: Excludes the ACT because data did not allow direct linking of offender charges to a victim

b: Alleged offenders proceeded against in 2021–22 only for sexual offences against victims whose age was not known or not provided by the police or offences for which the police identified no specific victims

c: Numbers do not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for child and non-child sexual offences in 2021–22

Note: Data in this table relate to offenders whose index event included proceedings for a penetrative or non-penetrative sexual offence—that is, the only or first time the offender was proceeded against in 2021–22 for a sexual offence was for a penetrative or non-penetrative sexual offence. Victim ages calculated at the date of the offence. Offenders with multiple victims in the same age group were only counted once. Conversely, offenders with multiple victims across different age groups were counted once in each age group. As such, cells may not add to the total number of offenders. A child is defined in the way the relevant jurisdiction defines that offence type. For penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences, children are aged under 16 years. Non-child penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences are offences involving victims aged 16 years or over. Data presented refer to an individual’s sex (ie sex characteristics) rather than gender (ie ‘social and cultural identity, expression and experience’; ABS 2021). This reflects the definitions in the data provided by the source organisations

Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

Table B23: Enabling sexual offenders by child or non-child sexual offence and victim sex, 2021–22 (n)	
	Total
Enabling sexual offenders with male victims^a	
Offenders with child sexual offences	106
Offenders with non-child sexual offences	10
<i>Total offenders with male victims</i>	<i>116</i>
Enabling sexual offenders with female victims^a	
Offenders with child sexual offences	383
Offenders with non-child sexual offences	55
<i>Total offenders with female victims^b</i>	<i>435</i>
Enabling sexual offenders	
Offenders with child sexual offences ^{a,c}	564
Offenders with non-child sexual offences	65
Offenders with offences of unknown child/non-child sexual offence type ^d	30
Total enabling offenders^{b,e}	656

a: Excludes the ACT because data did not allow direct linking of offender charges to a victim

b: Numbers do not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for child and non-child sexual offences in 2021–22

c: Includes 87 enabling sexual offenders whose victims' sex was unknown, not stated, non-binary or not applicable

d: Alleged offenders proceeded against in 2021–22 only for sexual offences against victims whose age was not known or not provided by the police or offences for which the police identified no specific victims

e: Numbers do not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for child and non-child sexual offences in 2021–22

Note: Data in this table relate to offenders whose index event included proceedings for an enabling unlawful sexual conduct offence—that is, the only or first time the offender was proceeded against in 2021–22 for a sexual offence was for an enabling unlawful sexual conduct offence. Victim ages were calculated at the date of the offence. Offenders with multiple victims in the same age group were only counted once. Conversely, offenders with multiple victims across different age groups were counted once in each age group. As such, cells may not add to the total number of offenders. A child is defined in the way the relevant jurisdiction defines that offence type. For enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences, children are defined consistent with the relevant jurisdiction. Non-child enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences are offences not involving children as defined by the relevant jurisdiction. Data presented refer to an individual's sex (ie sex characteristics) rather than gender (ie 'social and cultural identity, expression and experience'; ABS 2021). This reflects the definitions in the data provided by the source organisations
Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

Table B24: Sexual offenders by offender age, victim sex and child or non-child sexual offence, 2021–22 (n)

	Offender age (years)				Total
	10–17	18–44	45 and over	Not stated/unknown	
Offenders with male victims					
Offenders with child sexual offences	178	288	118	7	591
Offenders with non-child sexual offences	34	226	101	1	362
<i>Total offenders with male victims^a</i>	<i>208</i>	<i>494</i>	<i>215</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>925</i>
Offenders with female victims					
Offenders with child sexual offences	756	1,471	619	33	2,879
Offenders with non-child sexual offences	211	2,249	841	11	3,312
<i>Total offenders with female victims^a</i>	<i>947</i>	<i>3,598</i>	<i>1,406</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>5,994</i>
Offenders with any victims^b					
Offenders with child sexual offences	920	1,753	726	39	3,438
Offenders with non-child sexual offences	242	2,446	932	12	3,632
Offenders with offences of unknown child/non-child sexual offence type ^c	11	39	17	11	78
Total offenders^a	1,149	4,087	1,617	61	6,914

a: Numbers may not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for child and non-child sexual offences in 2021–22

b: Includes offenders where victim sex is unknown. Numbers may not add to total as some alleged offenders were proceeded against for sexual offences involving victims in more than one age/sex group in 2021–22

c: Alleged offenders proceeded against in 2021–22 only for sexual offences against victims whose age was not known or not provided by the police

Note: Data in this table relate to each offender's index event. Offender age calculated at date of sexual offence for which they were first proceeded against in 2021–22. Victim age calculated at date of sexual offence for which offender was first proceeded against in 2021–22. Offenders with multiple victims in the same age/sex group are counted once. Offenders with multiple victims across different age/sex groups are counted once in each of the different age/sex groups. Offenders are counted once in the totals. Excludes ACT. A child is defined in the way the relevant jurisdiction defines that offence type. For penetrative or non-penetrative sexual conduct offences and IBSA, children are aged under 16 years. For persistent sexual abuse offences, child sexual abuse material offences and enabling unlawful sexual conduct offences, children are defined consistent with the relevant jurisdiction. Data presented refer to an individual's sex (ie sex characteristics) rather than gender (ie 'social and cultural identity, expression and experience'; ABS 2021). This reflects the definitions in the data provided by the source organisations
Source: AIC ASOS 2021–22 [computer file]

AIC reports

Statistical Report

Tom Sullivan is a Principal Research Analyst in the Statistical Collections and Indigenous Justice Research Program at the Australian Institute of Criminology.

Emily Faulconbridge is a former Research Analyst in the Statistical Collections and Indigenous Justice Research Program at the Australian Institute of Criminology.

Dr Samantha Bricknell is the Research Manager of the Statistical Collections and Indigenous Justice Research Program at the Australian Institute of Criminology.

Merran McAlister is a Research Analyst in the Statistical Collections and Indigenous Justice Research Program at the Australian Institute of Criminology.

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

www.aic.gov.au