



# Domestic violence: Key facts and findings



# Roadmap

- Domestic offences
- Trends in DV related offence
- Penalties for DV offences
- Trends and patterns in apprehended violence orders
- Victim-offender relationship
- Trends and patterns in female DV assault
- Court outcomes for DV offences
- Reoffending by DV offenders
- What works



# Key notes

- DV offences are identified using the “DV flag” in COPS (can be attached to any event)
- Domestic relationships include much more than husband wife (also: siblings, other kin, boy/girl friends, ex-partners)
- A DV offence can be the principal offence or a secondary offence (here we present data on DV principal offences)

# Offences, 2010

- In 2010, more than 10,000 people were convicted of a domestic offence
- Offenders were most frequently found guilty of Common assault (36%), followed by Breach of violence orders (33 %) and Serious assault resulting in injury (20%)
- Only about 1 in 3 (36%) of domestic assaults are reported to police (2006 figure)

Principal offence	Percent of total, 2010
Common assault	36.4
Breach of violence order	33.1
Serious assault resulting in injury	20.4
Property damage, other	7.1
Stalking	1.7
Serious assault not resulting in injury	0.4
Aggravated sexual assault	0.3
Property damage by fire or explosion	0.2
Resist or hinder police officer or justice official	0.2
Abduction and kidnapping	0.1
Other	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>

# Trends in DV related offences, 2001 -2010

Offence	2 year trend and average yearly per cent change	10 year trend and average yearly per cent change
DV related assault	stable	up 1.4 %
Breach Apprehended Violence Order	stable	Stable
Harassment, threatening behaviour and private nuisance	stable	up 15.4 %
Malicious damage to property	stable	up 4.3 %
Sexual assault	stable	up 5.3 %
Indecent assault, act of indecency	stable	up 3.7 %
Abduction and kidnapping	stable	stable

# General Penalties, 2010

- Across all DV offences, the most common penalties were:
  - Bond without supervision (26%)
  - Bond without conviction
  - Fine and Bond with supervision (both at 15%)
- Ten percent of offenders were sentenced to imprisonment

Principal penalty	Per cent of total, 2010
Bond without supervision	25.7
Fine	15.1
Bond without conviction	14.9
Bond with supervision	14.6
Imprisonment	10.4
Suspended sentence with supervision	4.7
No conviction recorded	3.9
Community service order	3.5
Suspended sentence without supervision	2.5
Conviction without penalty	2.1
Dismissed with Caution	0.9
Probation Order	0.8
Periodic detention	0.4
Other proven Outcomes	0.4
Nominal sentence	0.1
Control order	0.1
Other	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

# Offences and Penalties, 2010

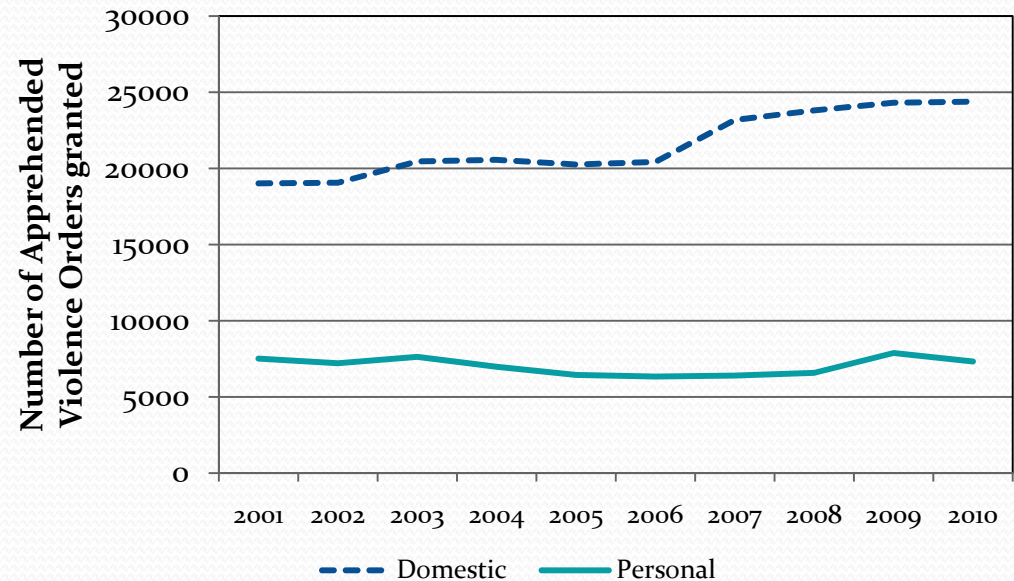
- The relative frequency of bonds without supervision and prison for the 3 most common domestic offences

Offence	Principal Penalty, 2010			
	% Bond without supervision	% Imprisonment	% Other	Total
Common assault	28.5	4.4	67.1	100
Breach of violence order	22.4	12.8	64.8	100
Serious assault resulting in injury	29.2	19.1	51.7	100
All DV flagged offences	25.7	10.4	63.9	100

- For both males and females, the average minimum length of the sentence was five months

# Apprehended Violence Orders

- Over the last 10 years, the number of Domestic AVOS granted increased from 19,016 in 2001 to 24,378 in 2010
- Over the same period, the number of Personal AVOs granted remained stable
- On average, the number of Domestic AVOs granted has increased 2.8 per cent per year





# Apprehended Violence Orders

- In 2010, The Far West had the highest rate of domestic AVOs granted per 100,000
- The Lower North Shore and Central Northern Sydney had the lowest rates at less than 100 per 100, 000

Top 10 areas (offenders area of residence)	Number of domestic AVOs granted	Rate per 100,000 population
Far West	299	1315.4
North Western	920	776.1
Northern	1171	633.6
Murrumbidgee	887	559.3
Central West	898	490.3
Murray	550	464
Outer South Western Sydney	1150	458.8
Blacktown	1355	452
Mid-North Coast	1399	451.9
Richmond-Tweed	910	376.1

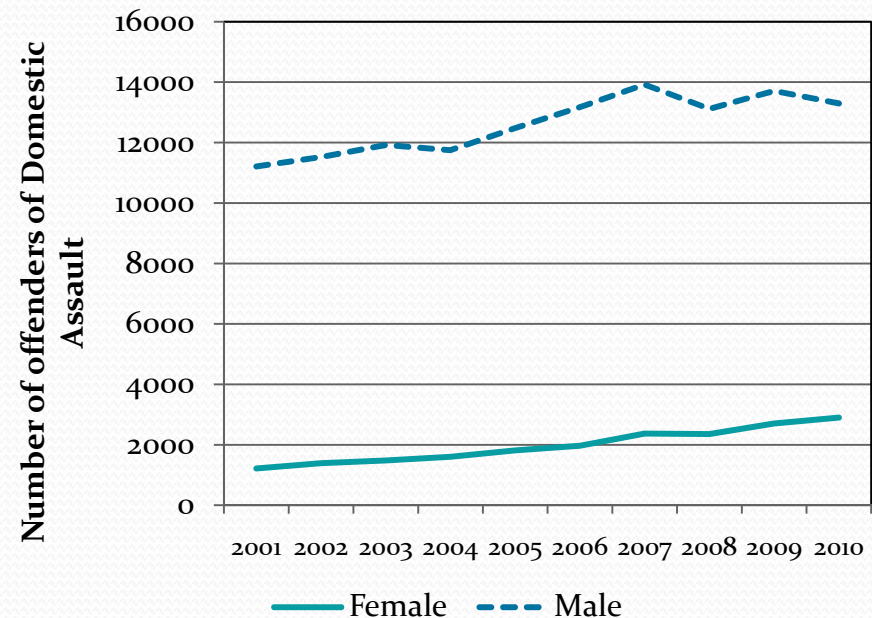
# Victims and Offenders of Domestic Assault

- The vast majority of offenders of domestic assault are male and victims female
- Male offenders have predominantly female victims
- Female offenders have are equally likely to have male and female victims

	Male Offender	Female Offender	All Offenders
Female Victim	61.2 %	10.2 %	71.4%
Male Victim	16.8 %	11.7 %	28.5%
All victims	78 %	22 %	100%

# Female offenders: Domestic Assault Trends

- The number of female offenders increased on average by 10 per cent per year, while the number of male offenders increased by 2 per cent per year
- The percentage of male decreased from 90 per cent in 2001 to 82 per cent in 2010



# Domestic Assault - Female offenders, 2010

- The Far West and North West had the highest rates of female offending
- Outer South Western Sydney, Blacktown and Inner Sydney were the only metropolitan areas in the top 10
- The Lower Northern and the Northern Beaches had the lowest rates of female offending in NSW

Top 10 areas (female offenders area of residence, 2010)	Number	Rate per 100,000 female population
Far West	41	417.8
North Western	129	271.5
Outer South Western Sydney	175	174.5
Northern	130	171.8
Central West	121	163
Murrumbidgee	95	149.7
Murray	71	146.5
Mid-North Coast	169	131.3
Blacktown	141	122.5
Inner Sydney	148	105.1

# Domestic Assault - Female offenders, 2010

- Largest proportion of female offenders were 20 – 29 year olds (26.8%) and 30 to 39 year olds (26.2)
- These two groups contained more than 50 per cent of all female offenders

Age group	Per cent
10 to 17	15.5
18 - 19	6.6
20 - 29	26.8
30 - 39	26.2
40 - 49	18.3
50 - 59	5.1
60 +	1.4
Missing / unknown	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

# Domestic Assault - Female offenders, 2010

- The rate of Indigenous female offending was much higher
- Per capita, Indigenous women were POIs in domestic assault at a rate of nearly 12 times higher than non Indigenous women

Indigenous status	Number	Rate per 100,000 (females aged 10+)
Indigenous	529	996.4
non-Indigenous	2250	83.59
Unknown	126	

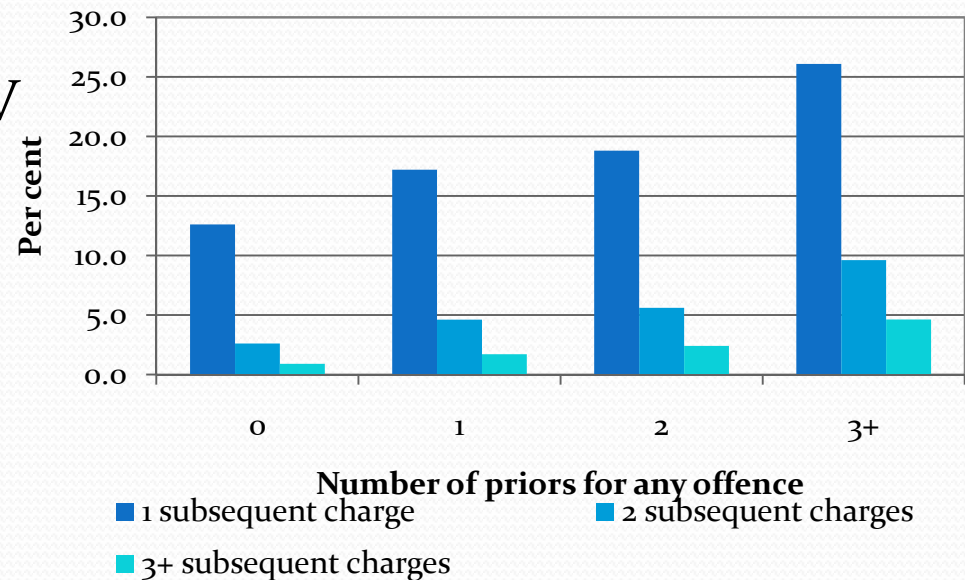
# Going to court for a DV offence, 2010

- In 2010, 95 per cent of female POIs were proceeded against to court
- 99 per cent of male POIs were proceeded against to court
- In 2010, 77 per cent of defendants pleaded guilty or were found guilty

Gender	Per cent Proceeded against to court
Female	94.9%
Male	98.6%

# Re offending

- Among those who appeared in court with a charge of a DV offence during 2008/09, 74 per cent did not reappear (as of March 11)
- Those with more priors had more subsequent offences







# Evidence on what works

- Evidence on pro-arrest strategies mixed. Some suggestion they work best with offenders who have a 'stake in conformity'
- Evidence on AVOs is fairly good
- Evidence on 'second responder' interventions (e.g. developing a safety plan, obtaining a restraining order, increasing knowledge about legal rights and options, providing shelter) is negative although they do seem to have some effect on willingness to report DV
- Evidence on DV offender programs suggests that they exert weak effects at best (e.g. 5% reduction in re-offending)
- **Other possibilities:** Restrictions on alcohol sales, treatment for alcohol abuse
- **Source:** Campbell Collaboration Library of Systematic Reviews.