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by Tom Gotsis and Matthew Dobson

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A statistical snapshot of crime and justice in New South Wales

by

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SUMMARY

This paper collates recent statistical information on crime, policing, the criminal courts and corrections in New South Wales (NSW). It is designed to provide an evidence base to inform public discussion and policy development. In doing so, it draws from a number of statistical sources but is particularly indebted to the Australian Bureau of Statistics; NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research; NSW Department of Justice and the Productivity Commission's Steering Committee for the Review of Government Services.

Key statistics presented in this paper include:

Offenders

The number of offenders in NSW increased from 128,397 in 2015-16 to 128,777 in 2016-17, an increase of 0.3%. Over the same period, the offender rate in NSW decreased by 1.25%, to 1,894.1 offenders for every 100,000 people aged 10 years and over.

In 2016-17, NSW offender rates were highest for theft (551 persons per 100,000 people aged 10 years and over) and acts intending to cause injury (433.8 persons per 100,000 people aged 10 years and over). The offender rate was lowest for homicide (3.5 persons per 100,000 people aged 10 years and over).

Between 2015-16 and 2016-17 in NSW, the number of male offenders decreased by 0.8% to 99,198 while the number of female offenders increased by 4.2% to 29,360. The 2016-17 offender rate for males was almost 3.5 times the rate for females (2,960.1 offenders per 100,000 males, compared to 851.6 offenders per 100,000 females). For both men and women in 2016-17, the offences with the highest offender rates were theft (772 and 333.2, respectively), followed by acts intending to cause injury (693.3 and 181.8, respectively).

In NSW in 2016-17, 15–19 year olds constituted the highest proportion of offenders (19.43%), followed by 20–24 year olds (17.93%).

Recorded crime

In the five years to March 2018,¹ the trend in recorded incidents of violent offences across NSW was stable. Over the same period, recorded incidents of property offences decreased by 3.1%.

Across NSW, over the five years to March 2018 there was an increase in recorded incidents of sexual assault (up 4.3%), indecent assault and other sexual offences (up 2.7%) and steal from retail store (up 3.5%). There were decreases in murder (down 11.6%) and various robbery and break and enter offences, as well as stealing from dwelling (down 3%) and stealing from person (down 9.9%). During this period the trend for other major offences remained stable.

¹ On 5 September 2018, the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research released the [June 2018 Quarterly Update](#) of its Recorded Crimes Statistics.

In the two years to March 2018, NSW experienced an increase in recorded incidents of: sexual assault (up 7.2%), intimidation stalking and harassment (up 2.4%), possession and/or use of cocaine (up 45.9%), possession and/or use of other drugs (up 3.9%) and dealing/trafficking in ecstasy (up 12.6%).

Over the same period (in the two years to March 2018), there was a decrease in recorded incidents of: fraud (down 3.5%), possession and/or use of amphetamines (down 7.3%), dealing/trafficking in narcotics (down 59.7%), dealing/trafficking in amphetamines (down 26%) and fail to appear (down 22.8%).

Data is also presented on crime trends by NSW Local Government Area (LGA) over the two years to March 2018. The differences across NSW LGA's revealed by that data highlights the need for responses to crime to address both State-wide and local concerns.

Separate data on domestic violence related offending in NSW, based on the 12 month period from April to March, reveals that:

- The number of victims of domestic violence related murder decreased from 31 in 2013–14 to 16 in 2017–18.
- The number of recorded incidents of domestic violence related assault decreased from 28,777 in 2013–14 to 28,268 in 2017–18.
- The number of recorded incidents of domestic violence related sexual assault increased from 866 in 2013–14 to 1,069 in 2017–18.
- The number of recorded incidents of domestic violence related intimidation, stalking and harassment increased from 12,251 in 2013–14 to 13,667 in 2017–18.
- The number of recorded incidents of domestic violence related breach Apprehended Violence Order increased from 11,700 in 2013–14 to 13,843 in 2017–18.

Victims

The Australian Bureau of Statistic's (ABS) 2016-17 Crime Victimization Survey measures the incidence of a selected range of personal and household crimes in the last 12 months. In NSW:

- 2.1% of people aged 15 years and over were physically assaulted and 50.6% of those victims reported the physical assault to police.
- 2.2% of people aged 15 years and over were victims of face to face threats of assault and 47.6% of those victims reported the threatened assault to police.
- 0.5% of people aged 18 years and over were sexually assaulted and 44.7% of those victims reported the sexual assault to police.
- 2% of households were victims of a break and enter, and 76.3% of those households reported the break and enter to police.

The ABS's Recorded Crime data for 2017 shows that in NSW there were:

- 72 recorded crime victims of homicide.
- 65,460 recorded crime victims of assault.
- 9,847 recorded crime victims of sexual assault.
- 227 recorded crime victims of kidnapping/abduction.
- 99 recorded crime victims of blackmail/extortion.

- 38,223 recorded crime victims of unlawful entry with intent.
- 2,676 recorded crime victims of robbery.
- 12,377 recorded crime victims of motor vehicle theft.
- 132,202 recorded crime victims of other theft.

The 2017 NSW Indigenous recorded crime victimisation rate for assault (1,821.1 victims per 100,000 people) was 2.8 times higher than the corresponding non-Indigenous rate (649.6 victims per 100,000 people). The 2017 NSW Indigenous recorded crime victimisation rate for sexual assault (347.7 victims per 100,000 people) was 3.4 times higher than the corresponding non-Indigenous rate (102.1 victims per 100,000 people).

Police

In 2016-17, the NSW Police Force had 20,667 employees, comprising 16,649 police officers and 4,018 administrative officers. Between 2012-13 and 2016-17, the number of NSW police officers increased by 1.7%. Over the same period the NSW population increased by 6.1%. Using this data to calculate the ratio of police officers to the resident NSW population shows that there were 472 persons in NSW for each police officer in 2017 (452 in 2014).

In NSW, there were high levels of public satisfaction with police services in 2016-17. More than three quarters of community members surveyed reported being satisfied with their most recent contact with police (between 76.4% and 86.8%). A high proportion also reported their confidence in the NSW Police Force (between 81.4% and 88.5%).

Public perceptions of crime and safety are another measure of police effectiveness. In 2016-17, 3.9% of persons in NSW said they felt unsafe at home alone during the night (down from 5.1% in 2012-13), 22.8% of persons said they felt unsafe walking alone in their neighbourhood during the night (up from 20.4% in 2012-13) and 17.9% said they felt unsafe on public transport during the night (down from 18.5% in 2012-13). In 2016-17, 50.4% of people in NSW reported that illegal drugs were a problem in their neighbourhood (up from 39.8% in 2012-13).

In 2016-17, the NSW Police Force conducted 2,472 pursuits. Those pursuits resulted in two fatalities and 43 injuries. Road fatalities, which are another measure of police effectiveness, have increased over the last five years, from 333 in 2013 to 392 in 2017.

In 2014-15, there were seven deaths in police custody and custody related police operations.

Courts

In 2016-17, there were 156,652 finalised defendants across the NSW Higher, Local and Children's courts; of whom 6,637 (4.2%) were acquitted, 136,145 (86.9%) were proven guilty; 5,269 (3.4%) were transferred to another court level; and 8,388 (5.4%) had their charges withdrawn by the prosecution.

In 2017, 92.28% of defendants had their court appearance finalised in the Local Court, followed by the Children's Court (4.42%), District Court (3.2%) and Supreme Court (0.07%).

In 2017, 77.69% of finalised defendants were male and 20.95% of finalised defendants were

female.² Over 2013 to 2017 the number of male finalised defendants increased by 15.11% and the number of female finalised defendants increased by 25.14%. Over 2013 to 2017 the number of finalised Indigenous defendants increased by 16.24% and the number of non-Indigenous finalised defendants increased by 15.29%.

From 2013 to 2017, the number of bail refusals increased by 38.67% (7,174 in 2013; 9,948 in 2017).

In 2017, in the NSW Higher, Local and Children's Court, 90.5% of defendants were found guilty of at least one charge. The largest number of defendants were found guilty by principal offence of traffic and vehicle regulatory offences (45,887 or 35.9%), followed by "Acts intended to cause injury" (19,085 or 14.95%). Over 2013 to 2017, there was a 43% increase in the number of defendants found guilty by principal offence of sexual assault and related offences.

In 2017, in the NSW Higher, Local and Children's Courts, the largest number of defendants (45,844 or 35.9%) were sentenced by way of a fine, followed by a bond without conviction (18,048 or 14.13%), bond without supervision (16,910 or 13.24%) and imprisonment (13,042 or 10.21%).

In the NSW Higher, Local and Children's Courts, there has been an increase in the number and percentage of defendants sentenced to imprisonment, from 9,570 (8.9%) in 2013 to 13,042 (10.2%) in 2017.

Over the period 2013 to 2017, the mean custodial sentence imposed by the NSW Higher, Local and Children's Courts across all offence categories remained stable at 10.6 months. It increased for the offence categories of:

- homicide and related offences (from 118.4 months in 2013 to 127.7 months in 2017)
- acts intended to cause injury (from 8.1 months in 2013 to 8.3 months in 2017)
- sexual assault and related offences (from 25.9 months in 2013 to 29 months in 2017)
- dangerous or negligent act endangering persons (from 7.1 months in 2013 to 8.3 months in 2017)
- Robbery, extortion and related offences (from 20.1 months in 2013 to 20.9 months in 2017)
- Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter (from 11.3 months in 2013 to 11.6 months in 2017)
- Illicit drug offences (from 21 months in 2013 to 22 months in 2017)
- Property damage and environmental pollution (from 4.9 months in 2013 to 6.8 months in 2017)
- Public order offences (from 6.3 months in 2013 to 6.7 months in 2017)
- Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations (from 4.5 months in 2013 to 4.9 months in 2017)
- Miscellaneous offences (from 5.6 months in 2013 to 10.3 months in 2017)

Separate statistics are provided with respect to domestic violence and child sexual assault offences. Those statistics reveal that the mean custodial sentence imposed by the NSW

² In the remaining 1.36% of cases the defendants were either companies or their gender was unknown.

Higher, Local and Children's Courts increased for domestic violence offences (from 7.6 months in 2013 to 8.3 months in 2017) and for child sex offences (from 26 months in 2013 to 29.8 months in 2017).

Corrections

As at 30 June 2017, there were 19,269 offenders (16,147 males and 3,108 females) serving community-based corrections orders in NSW. In 2016-17, the NSW completion rate for community-based corrections orders was 73.5%, down from 80.6% in 2007-08.

As at 30 June 2018, the number of NSW adults in custody was 13,630. This is expected to increase to almost 14,200 by June 2019.³ One-third of the current prison population is on remand. While Indigenous persons comprise only 2.9% of the NSW population,⁴ 24.1% of the NSW adult prison population is Indigenous.⁵

In 2016-17, NSW prisoners spent an average of 8 hours per day out of cells, a decrease from the 2010-11 average of 11.4 hours per day spent out of cells.

NSW prisons are experiencing crowding pressures, with a prison design capacity utilisation rate of 122.9% in 2016-17, compared to 95.6% in 2011-12. The increase in prison design capacity utilisation rates has been accompanied by an increase in prison assaults. The rate of prisoner-on-prisoner assaults increased from 12.27 per 100 prisoners in 2011-12 to 27.48 per 100 prisoners in 2016-17. The rate of prisoner-on-officer assaults increased from 0.65 per 100 prisoners in 2011-12 to 1.95 per 100 prisoners in 2015-16 and 1.55 per 100 prisoners in 2016-17.

In 2016-17, there were 12 escapes from open custody and 3 escapes from secure custody.

Juvenile detention

The average daily number of juveniles (10 to 17 years) in detention in NSW fell by 15.7% between 2012-13 (324) and 2016-17 (273). In 2016-17, the average daily detention rate for Indigenous juveniles was 33 per 10,000 juveniles; compared to an average daily detention rate for non-Indigenous juveniles of 2 per 10,000. The average daily detention rate of all juveniles was 3 per 10,000.

Over the period 2011-12 to 2015-16, the rate of self-harm incidents in juvenile detention per 1,000 admissions increased by 151% in NSW, from 43 to 108. There have been no deaths in custody in the 5 year period to 2015-16.

In 2016-17, the average length of stay for NSW juveniles in custody on remand was 18.4 days. The average length of stay for juveniles in custody subject to control orders was 108.6 days.

³ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [NSW female prison population reaches record high](#), 30 July 2018 [website — accessed 1 August 2018].

⁴ Angus C, [Indigenous NSW: Findings from the 2016 Census](#), NSW Parliamentary Research Service, 2018, p 13.

⁵ For a comprehensive discussion of this long-standing issue, see: [Pathways to Justice—An Inquiry into the Incarceration Rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples \(Final Report\)](#), Australian Law Reform Commission, 2018.

There were no escapes from secure perimeter juvenile detention in the five year period from 2011-12 to 2015-16.

Prisoner employment, education and training

Prisoner employment is seen as a way of promoting rehabilitation and reintegration into the community upon release. Nationally, 74.7% of the eligible prisoner population was employed in 2016-17. In NSW, over the same period, 78.4% of the eligible prisoner population was employed and 24.6% of eligible prisoners participated in accredited education and training courses.

Recidivism

In 2016-17, 51% of adults released from NSW prisons returned to prison within two years, compared to the national rate of 45%. In 2012-13, 43% of adults released from NSW prisons returned to prison within two years.

In 2016-17, 56% of adults released from NSW prisons returned to corrective services within two years, compared to the national rate of 53%. In 2012-13, 48% of adults released from NSW prisons returned to corrective services within two years.

An April 2018 study by Don Weatherburn and Stephanie Ramsey, of the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, indicates that efforts to reduce recidivism could benefit from a renewed focus on young people making their first contact with the criminal justice system before the age of 15.⁶

Expenditure

Recurrent expenditure on public order and safety in 2018-19 is expected to be \$8.0 billion, making up 10.1 per cent of total recurrent expenditure. Capital spending on public order and safety is forecast to reach \$1.4 billion.

In 2016-17, real recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources) in NSW per person was \$375 for police services, \$28 for criminal court services and \$135 for corrective services. In each case this was less than the comparable national figures of \$431, \$35 and \$167. It cost \$172.80 a day to keep a prisoner in a NSW prison (lower than the national daily cost of \$214.94) and \$21.41 a day to keep an offender in a community corrections program (slightly below the national daily cost of \$21.61).

⁶ Weatherburn D and Ramsey S, [*Offending over the life course: Contact with the NSW criminal justice system between age 10 and age 33*](#), NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2018, p 1.

1. OFFENDERS

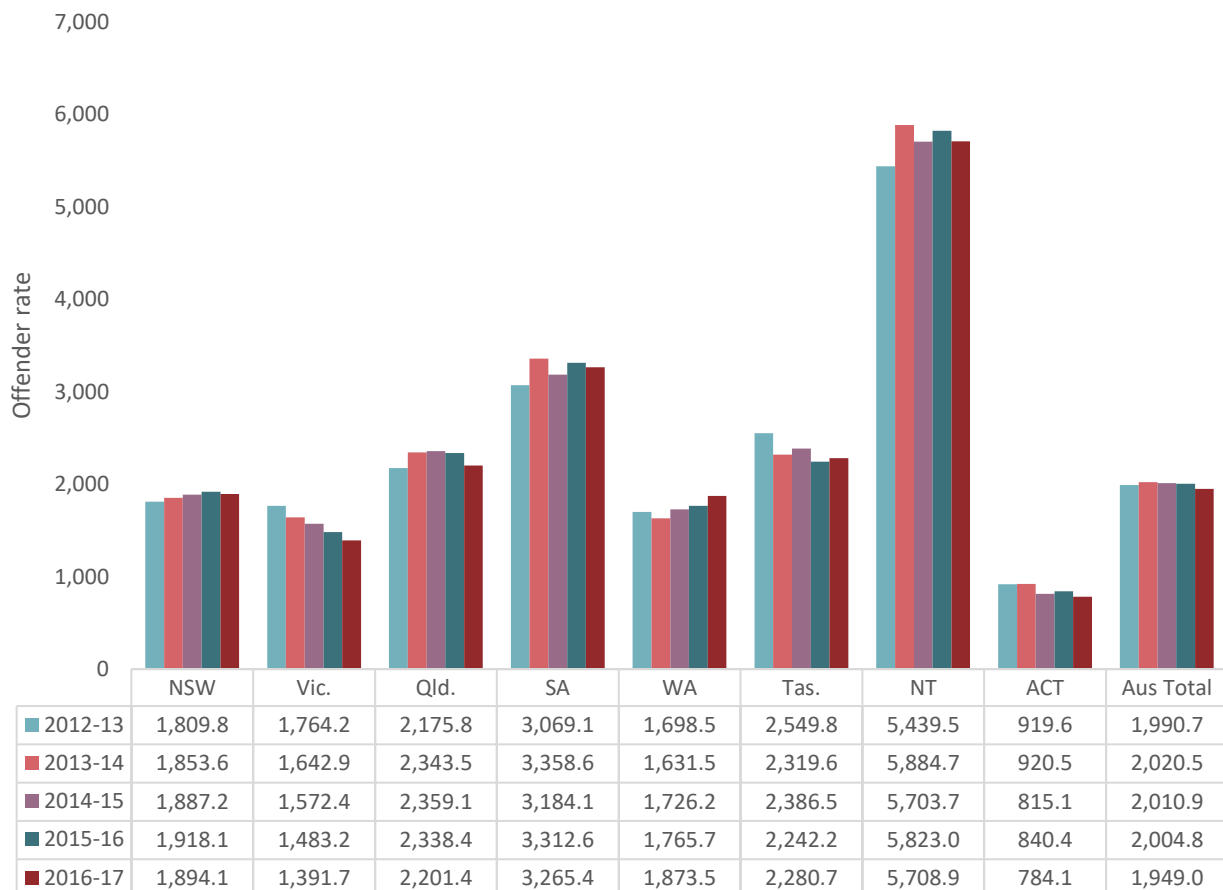
1.1 Offender numbers

The number of offenders in NSW increased by 0.3% from 128,397 offenders in 2015-16 to 128,777 offenders in 2016-17. This compares with 116,056 offenders in 2012-13.

1.2 Offender rates

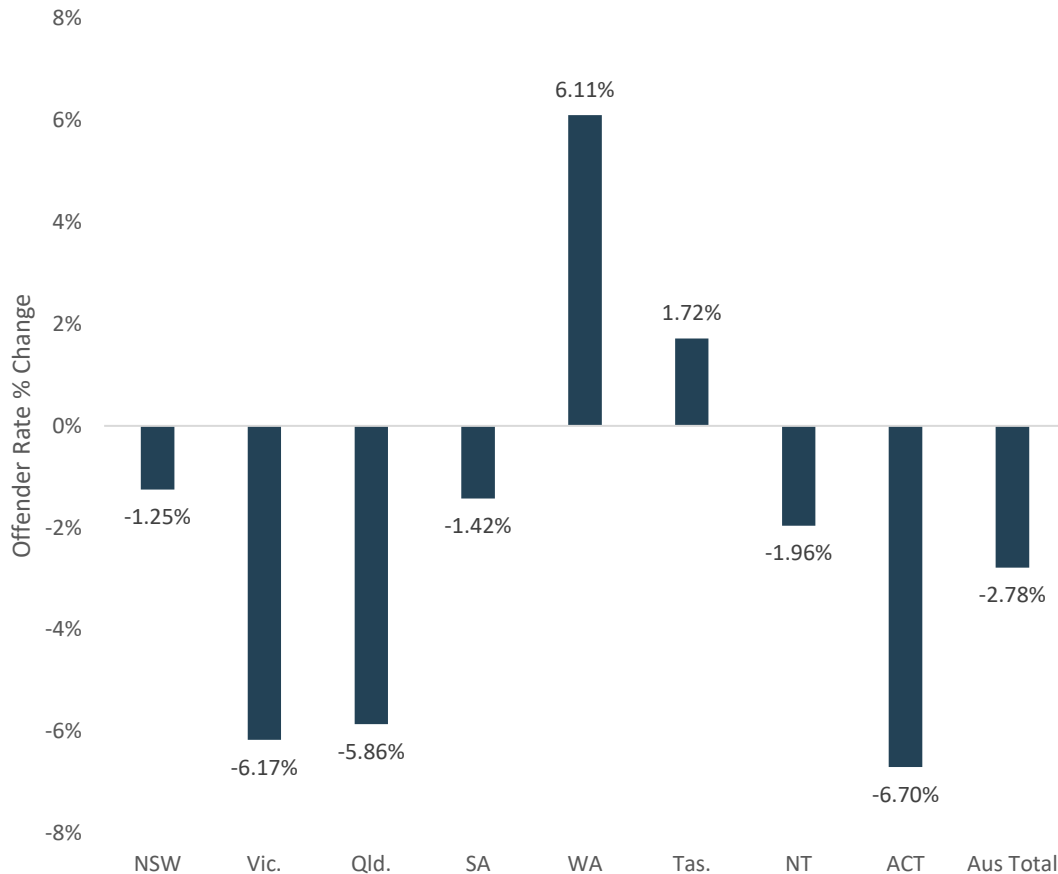
Between 2015-16 and 2016-17 the offender rate in NSW decreased by 1.25% to 1,894.1 offenders for every 100,000 people aged 10 years and over.

Figure 1: Offender rate per 100,000 people aged 10 years and over, across Australia, 2012-13 to 2016-17



Notes: (1) Offender rate equals the rate per 100,000 of the population aged 10 years and over of the ABS Estimated Resident Population (ERP). Rates for the offender population are calculated using the ERP as at the midpoint of the reference period (e.g. 31 December 2016 for the 2016-17 reference period).

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Recorded Crime, Offenders 2016-17](#)

Figure 2: Percentage change in offender rate, 2015–16 and 2016–17

Source: [Recorded Crime, Offenders 2016–17](#)

1.3 Offender rate by principal offence

Table 1 sets out the offender rates (per 100,000 people aged 10 years and over) by principal offence across Australia for 2016-17. In NSW the top three offender rates were for: theft (551); acts intended to cause injury (433.8); and public order offences (256.7). These three offences were also the top three offences in 2012–13, however the offender rate for theft offences is now higher than acts intended to cause injury.

| Table 1: Offender rates (per 100,000 people aged 10 years and over) by principal offence for 2016-17 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Principal offence | NSW | Vic. | Qld. | SA | WA | Tas. | NT | ACT | Aus |
| Homicide | 3.5 | 2.1 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 3.8 | 3.1 | 8.7 | 1.7 | 3.1 |
| Acts intended to cause injury | 433.8 | 325.2 | 257.5 | 439.3 | 369.9 | 404.5 | 1,370.0 | 207.0 | 369.3 |
| Sexual assault | 32.5 | 32.6 | 50.5 | 54.8 | 38.4 | 23.9 | 67.0 | 19.0 | 38.2 |
| Dangerous/negligent acts | 6.6 | 19.3 | 16.1 | 5.8 | 4.9 | 0.0 | 31.3 | 4.3 | 11.6 |
| Abduction/harassment | 15.3 | 29.6 | 1.1 | 18.5 | 78.1 | 4.2 | 75.1 | 15.0 | 23.3 |
| Robbery/extortion | 11.1 | 9.6 | 19.5 | 15.2 | 38.8 | 11.2 | 40.9 | 13.9 | 16.0 |
| Unlawful entry with intent | 34.1 | 39.5 | 95.4 | 49.3 | 103.8 | 49.3 | 240.9 | 19.9 | 58.2 |
| Theft | 551.0 | 191.0 | 325.4 | 641.5 | 235.5 | 194.5 | 164.7 | 82.3 | 367.7 |
| Fraud/deception | 56.8 | 44.0 | 57.6 | 27.3 | 72.4 | 53.9 | 36.6 | 20.2 | 52.3 |
| Illicit drug offences | 255.7 | 161.6 | 593.6 | 1,066.8 | 465.0 | 327.8 | 701.9 | 118.7 | 382.2 |
| Prohibited/regulated weapons | 24.4 | 77.9 | 42.8 | 107.8 | 86.1 | 81.9 | 166.7 | 36.3 | 57.1 |
| Property damage and environmental pollution | 69.0 | 62.7 | 96.2 | 81.8 | 90.8 | 92.4 | 107.9 | 53.7 | 76.6 |
| Public order offences | 256.7 | 153.2 | 365.5 | 574.4 | 132.9 | 682.0 | 2,260.2 | 137.4 | 288.2 |
| Offences against justice | 78.6 | 84.1 | 230.7 | 91.8 | 147.9 | 169.7 | 357.0 | 48.8 | 122.7 |
| Miscellaneous offences | 65.0 | 159.4 | 5.0 | 88.1 | 5.0 | 180.9 | 73.7 | 1.4 | 74.1 |
| Total | 1,894.1 | 1,391.7 | 2,201.4 | 3,265.4 | 1,873.5 | 2,280.7 | 5,708.9 | 784.1 | 1,949.0 |

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Recorded Crime, Offenders 2016–17](#)

In 2016-17 the NSW offender rate was above the national rate for:

- homicide and related offences,
- acts intended to cause injury,
- theft, and
- fraud/deception.

The NSW offender rate in 2012–13 was above the national rate for:

- homicide,
- acts intended to cause injury,
- theft,
- fraud/deception,
- property damage, and
- miscellaneous offences.

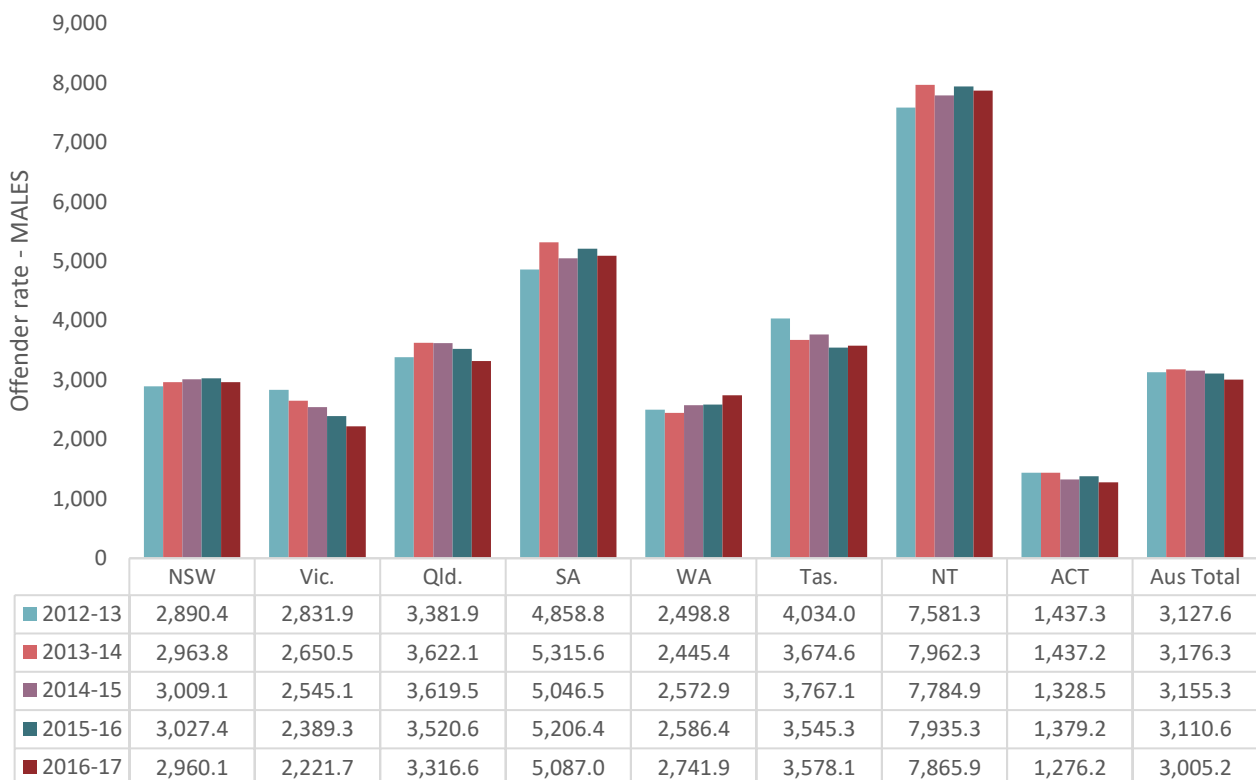
1.4 Offender rates by sex

Between 2015–16 and 2016–17 in NSW the number of male offenders decreased by 0.8% to 99,198, while the number of female offenders increased by 4.2% to 29,360. The offender rate remains significantly higher for males. In 2016–17, the NSW offender rate for males was almost 3.5 times the NSW offender rate for females (2,960.1 offenders per 100,000 males, as compared to 851.6 offenders per 100,000 females).

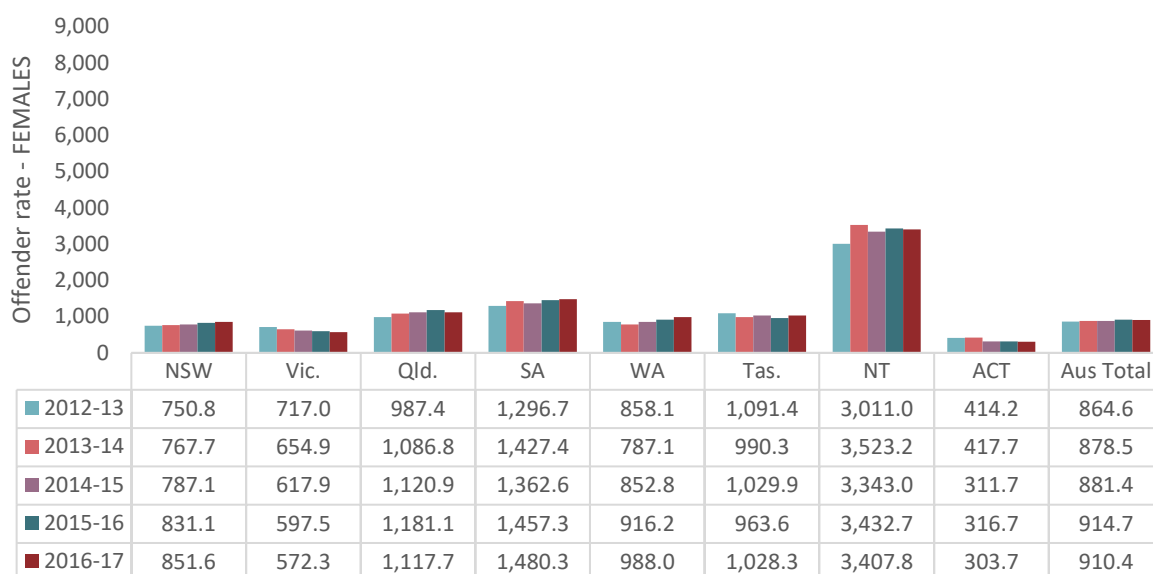
In the 2016–17 year:

- NSW had one of the lowest female offender rates in the country. Victoria (572.3) and the ACT (303.7) were the only other State or Territory to record a lower female offender rate.
- NSW's female offender rate was below the national average.
- Three other jurisdictions had a lower male offender rate than NSW (in order, WA (2,741.9), Victoria (2,221.7) and the ACT (1,276.2)).
- NSW's male offender rate was below the national average.

Figure 3: Male offender rate* across Australia, 2012–13 to 2016–17



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Recorded Crime, Offenders 2016–17](#); *Offenders per 100,000 relevant population.

Figure 4: Female offender rate* across Australia, 2012–13 to 2016–17

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Recorded Crime, Offenders 2016–17](#); *Offenders per 100,000 relevant population.

Tables 2 and 3 provide the male and female offender rates (per 100,000 people aged 10 years and over) by principal offence in NSW for the last five years. As evidenced earlier (Table 1), the three principal offences in NSW with the highest offender rates were theft; acts intended to cause injury and public order offences. Figure 5 presents the offender rates for these offences by gender in the five years to 2016-17.

Table 2: Male offender rates (per 100,000 people aged 10 years and over) by principal offence in NSW, 2012-13 to 2016-17

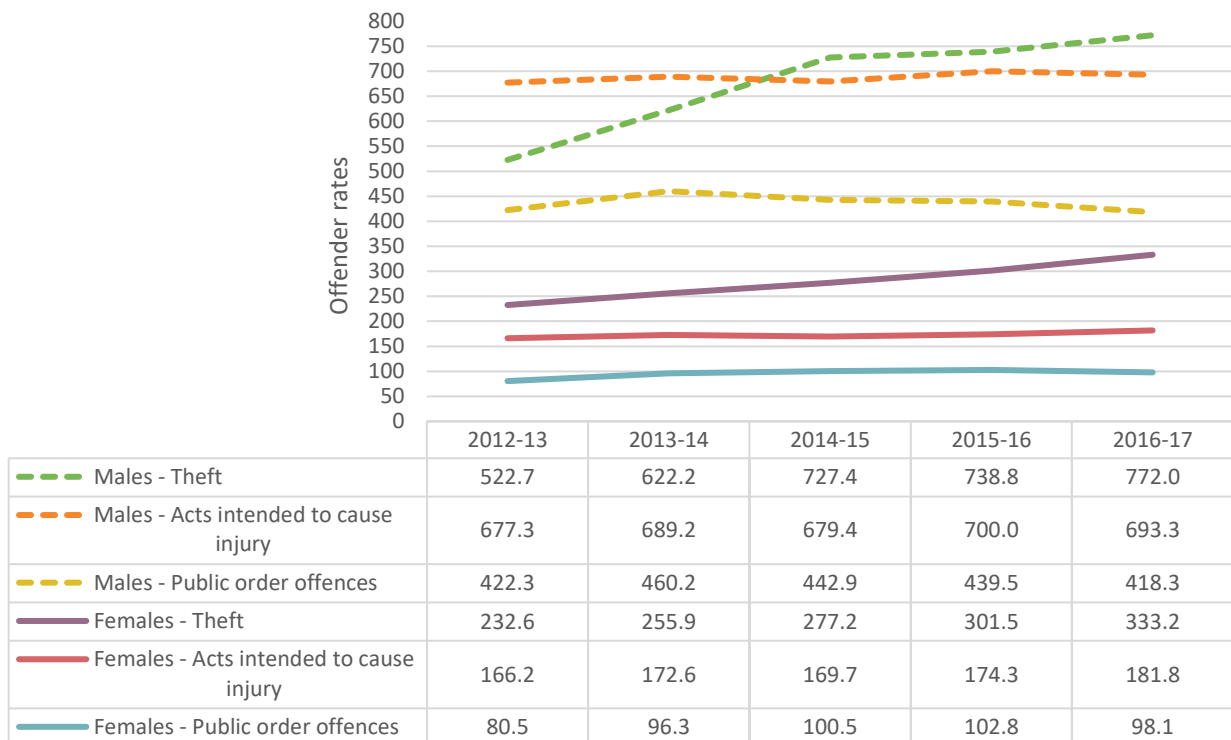
| Principal offence | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Homicide | 7.0 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.1 | 6.2 |
| Acts intended to cause injury | 677.3 | 689.2 | 679.4 | 700.0 | 693.3 |
| Sexual assault | 46.1 | 55.1 | 55.0 | 59.5 | 63.7 |
| Dangerous/negligent acts | 2.8 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 9.6 | 12.0 |
| Abduction/harassment | 21.8 | 22.3 | 26.3 | 26.3 | 25.1 |
| Robbery/extortion | 31.1 | 25.9 | 24.1 | 21.0 | 19.5 |
| Unlawful entry with intent | 70.6 | 68.3 | 62.1 | 61.9 | 59.7 |
| Theft | 522.7 | 622.2 | 727.4 | 738.8 | 772.0 |
| Fraud/deception | 73.8 | 90.7 | 97.7 | 88.4 | 77.9 |
| Illicit drug offences | 382.1 | 408.6 | 428.0 | 432.4 | 418.2 |
| Prohibited/regulated weapons | 36.4 | 38.8 | 39.4 | 44.8 | 43.8 |
| Property damage and environmental pollution | 148.0 | 137.9 | 117.9 | 115.6 | 109.9 |
| Public order offences | 422.3 | 460.2 | 442.9 | 439.5 | 418.3 |
| Offences against justice | 161.7 | 162.4 | 141.8 | 142.8 | 124.0 |
| Miscellaneous offences | 287.2 | 167.9 | 153.0 | 140.3 | 116.6 |
| Total | 2,890.4 | 2,963.8 | 3,009.1 | 3,027.4 | 2,960.1 |

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Recorded Crime, Offenders 2016–17](#); *Offenders per 100,000 relevant population.

Table 3: Female offender rates (per 100,000 people aged 10 years and over) by principal offence in NSW, 2012-13 to 2016-17

| Principal offence | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Homicide | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.0 |
| Acts intended to cause injury | 166.2 | 172.6 | 169.7 | 174.3 | 181.8 |
| Sexual assault | 1.1 | 1.5 | 1.9 | 2.7 | 2.1 |
| Dangerous/negligent acts | 0.8 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.4 |
| Abduction/harassment | 5.3 | 4.6 | 6.1 | 5.4 | 5.8 |
| Robbery/extortion | 4.4 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 3.3 | 3.0 |
| Unlawful entry with intent | 9.3 | 9.0 | 8.5 | 9.5 | 9.0 |
| Theft | 232.6 | 255.9 | 277.2 | 301.5 | 333.2 |
| Fraud/deception | 31.7 | 37.5 | 40.0 | 38.4 | 36.1 |
| Illicit drug offences | 72.9 | 80.1 | 85.9 | 97.2 | 97.5 |
| Prohibited/regulated weapons | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 5.4 | 5.6 |
| Property damage and environmental pollution | 33.6 | 33.2 | 31.5 | 30.1 | 29.0 |
| Public order offences | 80.5 | 96.3 | 100.5 | 102.8 | 98.1 |
| Offences against justice | 50.5 | 46.8 | 39.5 | 42.4 | 34.3 |
| Miscellaneous offences | 57.5 | 20.2 | 16.4 | 15.7 | 13.7 |
| Total | 750.8 | 767.7 | 787.1 | 831.1 | 851.6 |

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Recorded Crime, Offenders 2016-17](#); *Offenders per 100,000 relevant population.

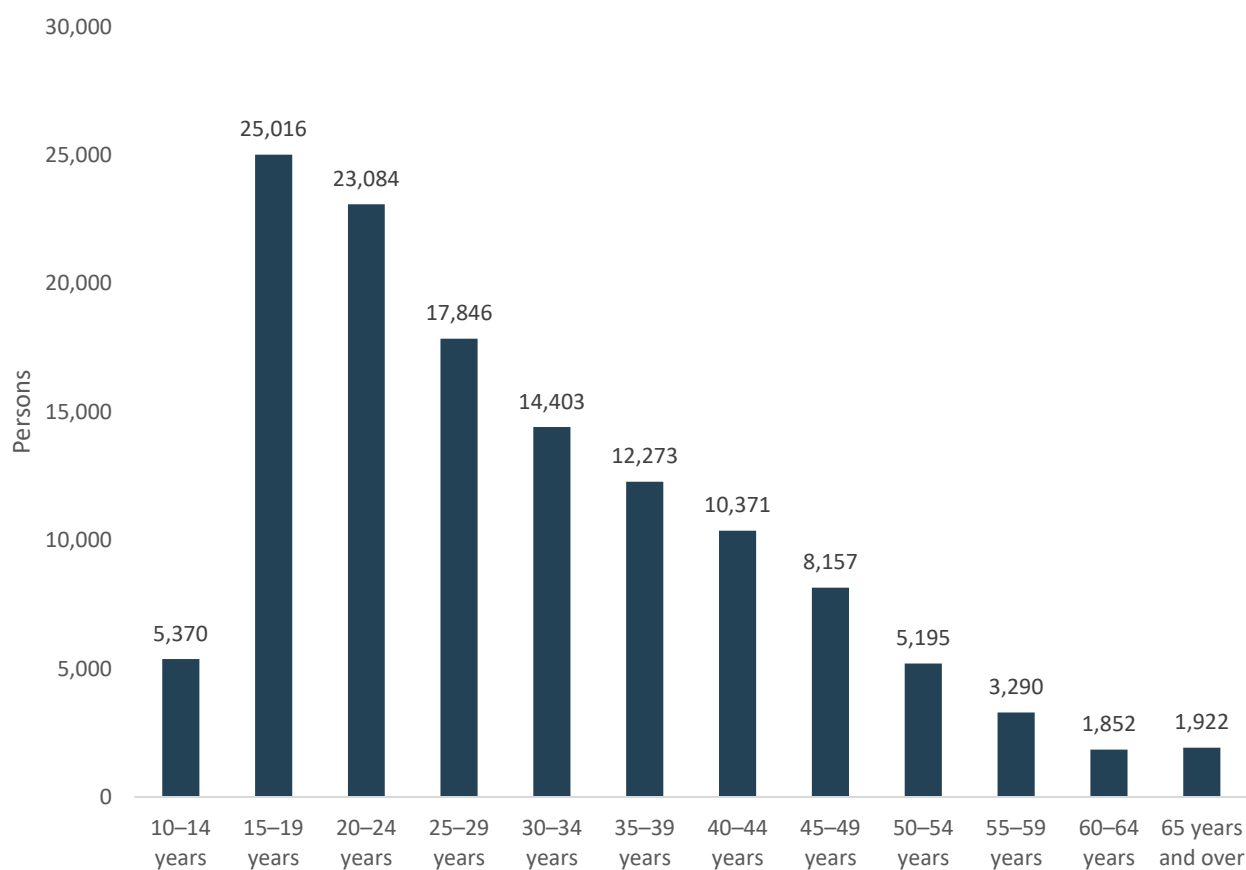
Figure 5: Offender rates* for top 3 principal offences NSW, by gender, 2012-13 to 2016-17

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Recorded Crime, Offenders 2016-17](#); *Offenders per 100,000 relevant population.

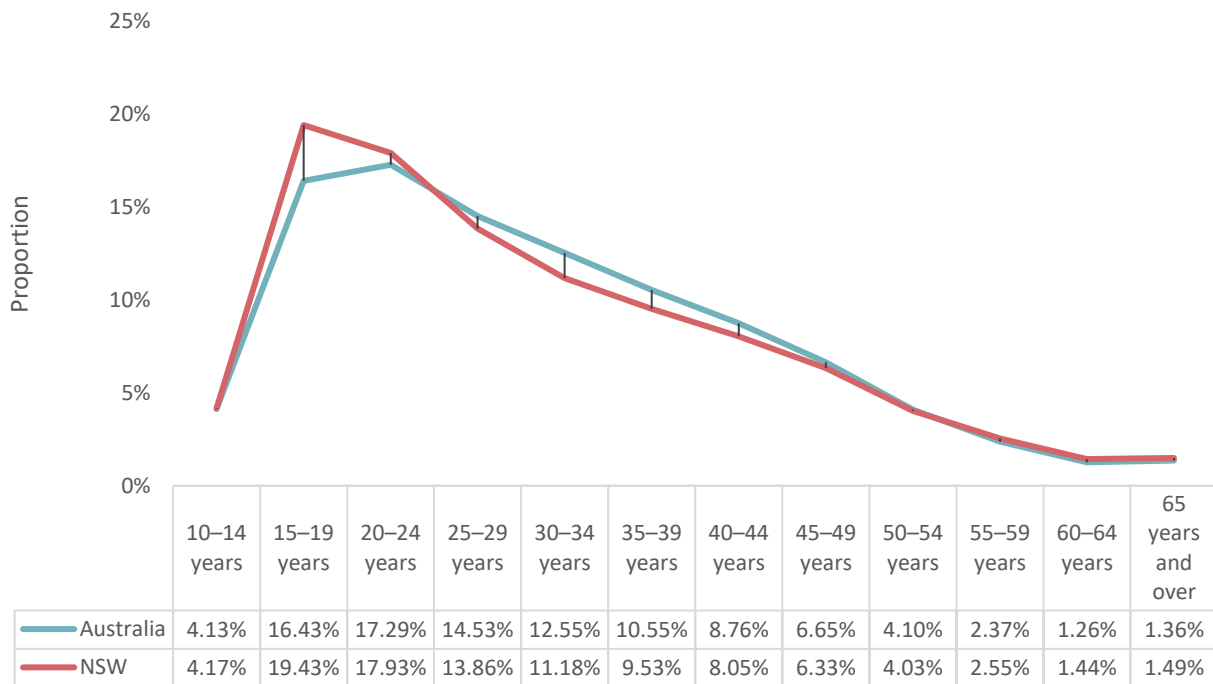
1.5 Offender age

In 2016–17 the median offender age in NSW was 27 years. As Figures 6–7 show, in 2016-17 in NSW, 15–19 year olds constitute the highest number (25,016) and proportion (19.43%) of offenders. Furthermore, over 37% of offenders fell within the 15–19 years and 20–24 years age ranges, closely reflecting the trends in the national data.

Figure 6: NSW offenders by age, 2016–17



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Recorded Crime, Offenders 2016–17](#);

Figure 7: Offenders in Australia and NSW, proportion by age, 2016–17

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Recorded Crime, Offenders 2016–17](#);

1.6 Number of times police proceeded against offenders

In 2016–17 police proceeded against offenders in NSW an average of 1.9 times. 70.5% of offenders were proceeded against once and 6.6% of offenders were proceeded against 5 or more times. This is comparable with the other States and Territories for which data is available.

Table 4: Proportion of offenders (%) proceeded against by police by number of times, 2016-17

| Times proceeded against | NSW | Vic. | Qld. | SA | Tas. | NT | ACT |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1 | 70.5 | 75.4 | 65.8 | 81.8 | 75.6 | 65.3 | 83.7 |
| 2 | 14.1 | 12.7 | 17.0 | 10.6 | 13.6 | 16.9 | 10.4 |
| 3 | 5.7 | 5.2 | 7.2 | 3.8 | 4.8 | 7.0 | 3.0 |
| 4 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 3.8 | 1.7 | 2.4 | 3.6 | 1.4 |
| 5 or more | 6.6 | 3.9 | 6.2 | 2.0 | 3.5 | 7.3 | 1.6 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Recorded Crime, Offenders 2016–17](#)

SOURCES

Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Recorded Crime, Offenders 2016–17](#)

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [NSW Criminal Court Statistics 2017](#)

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2. RECORDED CRIME

2.1 Recorded criminal incidents

Table 5 sets out the Trends in recorded criminal incidents for violent and property offences over the 60 months to March 2018, for NSW statistical areas and NSW.⁷

| Table 5: Trends in recorded criminal incidents for violent and property offences over the 60 months to March 2018, for NSW statistical areas and NSW. | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| ■ = % down or ratio half (or less) NSW rate. ■ = % up or ratio double (or more) NSW rate | | | | | | |
| NSW Statistical Area | Violent offences ⁸ | | | Property offences ⁹ | | |
| | Annual percentage change over the last 24 months | Average annual percentage change over last 60 months | Ratio to NSW rate ¹⁰ | Annual percentage change over the last 24 months | Average annual percentage change over the last 60 months | Ratio to NSW rate |
| Greater Sydney | Stable | Stable | 0.9 | -3.7% | -4% | 0.9 |
| Capital region | 5.5% | Stable | 0.9 | Stable | Stable | 0.8 |
| Central West | Stable | Stable | 1.4 | -18% | -6% | 1 |
| Coffs Harbour–Grafton | 7.1% | Stable | 1.4 | Stable | Stable | 1.1 |
| Far West and Orana | Stable | Stable | 2.4 | -23.5 | Stable | 1.8 |
| Hunter Valley excluding Newcastle | Stable | 1.8% | 1.2 | -5.7% | Stable | 1.2 |
| Illawarra | Stable | -3.2% | 0.8 | Stable | -4.1% | 0.9 |
| Mid North Coast | Stable | Stable | 1.2 | 6% | Stable | 1.1 |
| Murray | -3.2% | -5% | 1.1 | Stable | Stable | 1.1 |
| New England & North West | Stable | Stable | 1.6 | Stable | 1.7% | 1.5 |

⁷ On 5 September 2018, the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research released the [June 2018 Quarterly Update](#) of its Recorded Crimes Statistics.

⁸ Violent offences include: murder, domestic violence related assault, non-domestic violence related assault, assault police, robbery without a weapon, robbery with a firearm, robbery with a weapon not a firearm, sexual assault and indecent assault/act of indecency/other sexual offences.

⁹ Property offences include: break and enter dwelling, break and enter non-dwelling, motor vehicle theft, steal from motor vehicle, steal from retail store, steal from dwelling, steal from person, stock theft, other theft and fraud.

¹⁰ The ratio to NSW rate statistics are a comparison of a NSW regional rate per 100,000 population to the NSW rate per 100,000 population. A ratio of one indicates parity with the NSW rate. Ratios indicating double the NSW rate (or more) before rounding are highlighted in red, whilst ratios indicating half the NSW rate (or less) before rounding are highlighted in yellow.

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| NSW Statistical Area | Violent offences | | | Property offences | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|-------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| | Annual percentage change over the last 24 months | Average annual percentage change over last 60 months | Ratio to NSW rate | Annual percentage change over the last 24 months | Average annual percentage change over last 60 months | Ratio to NSW rate |
| Newcastle and Lake Macquarie | Stable | Stable | 1.2 | Stable | Stable | 1.4 |
| Richmond–Tweed | Stable | -3.2 | 1.1 | Stable | -3.9 | 0.9 |
| Riverina | Stable | Stable | 1.4 | Stable | 1.4% | 1.3 |
| Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven | Stable | Stable | 0.9 | -11.8% | -7.5% | 0.7 |
| NSW | Stable | Stable | 1 | Stable | -3.1% | 1 |

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, Quarterly Update, March 2018](#), p 8.

As Table 5 shows, for NSW the trend in recorded criminal incidents of violent offences over 24 and 60 months to March 2018 was stable; while the trend in recorded criminal incidents for property offences over 24 months was stable and over 60 months decreased by 3.1%.

Table 6 sets out the trends in recorded criminal incidents for major offences over the 60 months to March 2018 in NSW.

| Table 6: Trends in recorded criminal incidents for major offences over the 60 months to March 2018, NSW. | | |
|--|---|---|
| ■ = down. ■ = up | | |
| Offence category | Trend result and annual percentage change over the last 24 months | Trend result and average annual percentage change over the last 60 months |
| Murder ¹¹ | Stable | Down by 11.6% |
| Domestic violence related assault | Stable | Stable |
| Non-domestic violence related assault | Stable | Stable |
| Sexual assault | Up by 7.2% | Up by 4.3% |
| Indecent assault, act of indecency and other sexual offences | Up by 6.3% | Up by 2.7% |
| Robbery without a weapon | Stable | Down by 10.6% |
| Robbery with a firearm | Stable | Down by 20.7% |
| Robbery with a weapon not a firearm | Stable | Down by 10.3% |
| Break and enter dwelling | Stable | Down by 5.8% |
| Break and enter non-dwelling | Down by 10% | Down by 7.4% |
| Motor vehicle theft | Stable | Down by 4.5% |
| Steal from motor vehicle | Down by 3.3% | Down by 3% |
| Steal from retail store | Stable | Up by 3.5% |
| Steal from dwelling | Stable | Down by 3% |
| Steal from person | Stable | Down by 9.9% |
| Fraud | Down by 3.5% | Stable |
| Malicious damage to property | Stable | Down by 5.2% |

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research *NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, Quarterly Update, March 2018*, p 14.

¹¹ For murder, the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research applied the trend test to the monthly number of recorded victims, rather than to the number of criminal incidents.

Table 7 sets out the number and trends in recorded criminal incidents for 62 offences over the 24 months to March 2018 in NSW.

| Table 7: Number and trends: recorded criminal incidents: 62 offences: 24 months to March 2018: NSW | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| ■ = down. ■ = up | | | | |
| Offence category | Number of recorded criminal incidents | | Trend over last 24 months ¹² | |
| | Over 12 months to March 2017 | Over 12 months to March 2018 | Trend test result | Percentage change |
| Homicide¹³ | | | | |
| Murder | 62 | 50 | Stable | |
| Attempted murder | 25 | 17 | . | |
| Murder accessory, conspiracy | 3 | 2 | . | |
| Manslaughter | 5 | 6 | . | |
| Assault | | | | |
| Domestic violence related assault | 29,043 | 28,268 | Stable | |
| Non-domestic violence related assault | 31,874 | 32,156 | Stable | |
| Assault police | 2,283 | 2,343 | Stable | |
| Sexual offences | | | | |
| Sexual assault | 5,376 | 5,764 | Up | 7.2% |
| Indecent assault, act of indecency and other sexual offences | 7,100 | 7,545 | Up | 6.3% |
| Abduction and kidnapping | 230 | 209 | Stable | |
| Robbery | | | | |
| Robbery without a weapon | 1,400 | 1,464 | Stable | |
| Robbery with a firearm | 163 | 130 | Stable | |
| Robbery with a weapon not a firearm | 813 | 886 | Stable | |
| Blackmail and extortion | 97 | 93 | Stable | |
| Intimidation, stalking and harassment | 30,348 | 31,086 | Up | 2.4% |
| Other offences against the person | 1,319 | 1,096 | Stable | |
| Theft | | | | |
| Break and enter dwelling | 29,269 | 27,315 | Stable | |

¹² The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research states that: "The result '.' indicates that a trend test was not performed. A non-significant test result ($p > .05$) is denoted by 'Stable' or by 'ns'": [NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, Quarterly Update, March 2018](#), p 42.

¹³ For murder and manslaughter incidents, the trend test was applied to the monthly number of recorded victims rather than criminal incidents.

| Offence category | Number of recorded criminal incidents | | Trend over last 24 months | |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| | Over 12 months to March 2017 | Over 12 months to March 2018 | Trend test result | Percentage change |
| Break and enter non-dwelling | 11,479 | 10,328 | Down | -10% |
| Receiving or handling stolen goods | 8,158 | 7,409 | Down | -9.2% |
| Motor vehicle theft | 13,159 | 12,960 | Stable | |
| Steal from motor vehicle | 40,366 | 39,053 | Down | -3.3% |
| Steal from retail store | 23,786 | 24,508 | Stable | |
| Steal from dwelling | 21,200 | 19,314 | Stable | |
| Steal from person | 4,703 | 4,549 | Stable | |
| Stock theft | 484 | 439 | Stable | |
| Fraud | 50,318 | 48,554 | Down | -3.5% |
| Other theft | 29,081 | 27,222 | Stable | |
| Arson | 5,682 | 5,891 | Stable | |
| Malicious damage to property | 62,310 | 60,330 | Stable | |
| Drug offences | | | | |
| Possession and/or use of cocaine | 2,134 | 3,114 | Up | 45.9% |
| Possession and/or use of narcotics | 1,312 | 1,351 | Stable | |
| Possession and/or use of cannabis | 25,592 | 25,635 | Stable | |
| Possession and/or use of amphetamines | 9,825 | 9,112 | Down | -7.3% |
| Possession and/or use of ecstasy | 4,134 | 4,158 | Stable | |
| Possession and/or use of other drugs | 5,215 | 5,419 | Up | 3.9% |
| Dealing, trafficking in cocaine | 484 | 752 | Stable | |
| Dealing, trafficking in narcotics | 541 | 218 | Down | -59.7% |
| Dealing, trafficking in cannabis | 849 | 804 | Down | -5.3% |
| Dealing, trafficking in amphetamines | 2,206 | 1,633 | Down | -26% |
| Dealing, trafficking in ecstasy | 651 | 733 | Up | 12.6% |
| Dealing, trafficking in other drugs | 277 | 339 | Stable | |
| Cultivating cannabis | 1,073 | 1,140 | Stable | |
| Manufacture drug | 56 | 67 | Stable | |
| Importing drugs | 60 | 79 | Stable | |
| Other drug offences | 5,294 | 5,210 | Stable | |
| Prohibited and regulated weapons offences | 12,471 | 12,926 | Stable | |
| Disorderly conduct | | | | |
| Trespass | 10,084 | 9,948 | Stable | |
| Offensive conduct | 5,382 | 5,039 | Stable | |
| Offensive language | 3,505 | 3,143 | Stable | |
| Criminal intent | 2,263 | 2,218 | Stable | |

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| Offence category | Number of recorded criminal incidents | | Trend over last 24 months | |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| | Over 12 months to March 2017 | Over 12 months to March 2018 | Trend test result | Percentage change |
| Betting and gaming offences | 98 | 62 | Stable | |
| Liquor offences | 11,179 | 11,054 | Stable | |
| Pornography offences | 584 | 604 | Stable | |
| Prostitution offences | 75 | 51 | Stable | |
| Against justice procedures | | | | |
| Escape custody | 195 | 160 | Stable | |
| Breach apprehended violence order | 15,344 | 14,927 | Stable | |
| Breach bail conditions | 42,437 | 42,268 | Stable | |
| Fail to appear | 707 | 546 | Down | -22.8% |
| Resist or hinder officer | 6,269 | 6,204 | Stable | |
| Other offences against justice procedures | 580 | 556 | Stable | |
| Transport regulatory offences | 124,809 | 125,926 | Stable | |
| Other offences | 14,875 | 14,495 | Stable | |

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, Quarterly Update, March 2018](#), p 16.

Table 7 reveals that, across NSW in the 24 months to March 2018, recorded criminal incidents increased the most for the following offences:

- Possession and/or use of cocaine (up 45.9%)
- Dealing, trafficking in ecstasy (up 12.6%)
- Sexual assault (up 7.2%)
- Indecent assault, act of indecency and other sexual offences (up 6.3%)

Across NSW in the 24 months to March 2018, recorded criminal incidents decreased the most for the following offences:

- Dealing, trafficking in narcotics (down 59.7%)
- Dealing, trafficking in amphetamines (down 26%)
- Fail to appear (down 22.8%)
- Break and enter non-dwelling (down 10%)

Table 8 sets out the trends in recorded criminal incidents for major offences over the 24 months to March 2018 in NSW by Local Government Area.

Table 8: Trends in recorded criminal incidents for major offences over the 24 months to March 2018 in NSW by Local Government Area (LGA)¹⁴ ■ = down. ■ = up

| NSW LGA | Murder ¹⁵ | Domestic violence related assault | Non-domestic violence related assault | Sexual assault | Indecent assault, act of indecency etc | Robbery without a weapon | Robbery with a firearm | Robbery with a weapon not a firearm | Breaking and entering dwelling | Breaking and entering non-dwelling | Motor vehicle theft | Steal from motor vehicle | Steal from retail store | Steal from dwelling | Steal from person | Fraud | Malicious damage to property |
|-------------------|----------------------|--|--|---|--|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------|--|--|--|-------------------|--|--|
| Albury | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | Ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| Armidale Region | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | Ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Ballina | . | ns | 26.3 | ns | ns | . | . | . | Ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Balranald | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | ns |
| Bathurst Regional | . | 19.3 | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | -34.7 | ns | ns | ns | -31.1 | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| Bayside | . | ns | 4.7 | ns | ns | ns | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | 32.8 | -17.3 | ns | ns | ns |
| Bega Valley | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Bellingen | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | ns | . | ns | . | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Berrigan | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | -34.4 |
| Blacktown | . | ns | ns | 9.8 | ns | ns | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | 15.5 | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| Bland | . | ns | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | ns | ns |
| Blayney | . | . | ns | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | ns | . | . | . | . | ns |
| Blue Mountains | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | -33.7 | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | 22.4 |
| Bogan | . | ns | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | ns | . | . | . | . | ns |
| Bourke | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | -60.4 | . | ns | -28.4 | ns | . | ns | -30.8 |
| Brewarrina | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | . | ns |
| Broken Hill | . | ns | ns | . | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Burwood | . | ns | ns | . | ns | . | . | . | -32 | ns | ns | ns | ns | -28.4 | ns | ns | ns |
| Byron | . | ns | 25.2 | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | -29.1 | ns |

¹⁴ "NS" means a test result was not statistically significant ($p > .05$). A "." means a test was not performed.

¹⁵ The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research states: "There were no LGAs with 20 murder victims, hence no trend tests were reported. The trend test for NSW on the offence of murder is for the number of victims, not incidents": [NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, Quarterly Update, March 2018](#), p 25.

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| NSW LGA | Murder | Domestic violence related assault | Non-domestic violence related assault | Sexual assault | Indecent assault, act of indecency etc | Robbery without a weapon | Robbery with a firearm | Robbery with a weapon not a firearm | Breaking and entering dwelling | Breaking and entering non-dwelling | Motor vehicle theft | Steal from motor vehicle | Steal from retail store | Steal from dwelling | Steal from person | Fraud | Malicious damage to property | |
|----------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|
| Cabonne | . | ns | . | . | . | . | . | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | . | ns | ns | |
| Camden | . | 44.9 | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | -30 | ns | ns | ns | -27.3 | . | -29.1 | ns | |
| Campbell-town | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | ns | ns | ns | -15.8 | ns | ns | ns | -19.3 | -17.1 | |
| Canada Bay | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | -25.9 | ns | ns | ns | |
| Canterbury-Bankstown | . | -17 | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | -10.1 | ns | ns | ns | -14.5 | ns | |
| Carrathool | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | ns |
| Central Coast | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | -24.2 | -20.3 | ns | -24 | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | -11.1 |
| Central Darling | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | . | . | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns |
| Cessnock | . | ns | ns | 76 | ns | . | . | . | ns | -15.7 | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | 22.8 |
| Clarence Valley | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | -33 | 22.2 | ns | ns | -13 | ns | . | ns | ns | -22 |
| Cobar | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | . | . | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns |
| Coffs Harbour | . | ns | 30.7 | ns | ns | . | . | . | 70 | ns | 42.2 | ns | -24.9 | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| Coolamon | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Coonamble | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | -27.2 | ns | . | ns | . | ns | . | . | . | ns |
| Cootamundra-Gundagai | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | . | . | ns | . | ns | . | ns | ns | Ns |
| Cowra | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | ns | . | -30.8 | ns | ns | . | ns | ns | ns |
| Cumberland | . | ns | ns | 18.3 | ns | ns | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| Dubbo Regional | . | ns | ns | ns | 21.6 | . | . | . | -39.3 | ns | -30.9 | -35.1 | -25.6 | -30.3 | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| Dungog | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | Ns |
| Edward River | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | ns | . | ns | . | ns | . | ns | ns | Ns |

| NSW LGA | Murder | Domestic violence related assault | Non-domestic violence related assault | Sexual assault | Indecent assault, act of indecency etc | Robbery without a weapon | Robbery with a firearm | Robbery with a weapon not a firearm | Breaking and entering dwelling | Breaking and entering non-dwelling | Motor vehicle theft | Steal from motor vehicle | Steal from retail store | Steal from dwelling | Steal from person | Fraud | Malicious damage to property |
|--------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| Eurobodalla | . | ns | ns | . | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | -47.5 | ns | . | ns | 6.8 |
| Fairfield | . | ns | ns | ns | 47.1 | ns | . | ns | ns | ns | -16.9 | -16.8 | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| Federation | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | ns | . | ns | . | ns | . | ns | 43.1 |
| Forbes | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | ns | . | ns | . | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Georges River | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| Gilgandra | . | ns | . | . | . | . | . | . | ns | . | . | . | . | ns | . | . | ns |
| Glen Innes Severn | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | -65.5 | ns | ns | -77.7 | . | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Goulburn Mulwaree | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | 41.1 | . | ns | ns |
| Greater Hume Shire | . | ns | . | . | . | . | . | . | ns | . | . | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns |
| Griffith | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Gunnedah | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | . | . | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Gwydir | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | ns |
| Hawkesbury | . | ns | ns | 36.6 | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | -39.5 | ns | -26.6 | -18.5 |
| Hay | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 23.5 |
| Hilltops | . | 30.3 | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Hornsby | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| Hunters Hill | . | . | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | . | ns | ns | . | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Inner West | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | -14.5 | ns | ns | ns | ns | -24.1 | ns | -13.4 | ns |
| Inverell | . | ns | ns | . | ns | . | . | . | ns | 163.3 | . | ns | ns | ns | . | -33.3 | 33.8 |
| Junee | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | ns | . | . | . | . | ns | . | . | ns |
| Kempsey | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Kiama | . | ns | -37 | . | . | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Ku-ring-gai | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Kyogle | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | . | . | . | . | ns | . | . | ns |

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| NSW LGA | Murder | Domestic violence related assault | Non-domestic violence related assault | Sexual assault | Indecent assault, act of indecency etc | Robbery without a weapon | Robbery with a firearm | Robbery with a weapon not a firearm | Breaking and entering dwelling | Breaking and entering non-dwelling | Motor vehicle theft | Steal from motor vehicle | Steal from retail store | Steal from dwelling | Steal from person | Fraud | Malicious damage to property |
|----------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| Lachlan | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | 90.5 | . | ns | . | ns | . | . | ns |
| Lake Macquarie | . | ns | ns | 19.4 | 8.7 | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| Lane Cove | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Leeton | . | 23.6 | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Lismore | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | -29.8 | ns | . | -40.2 | ns |
| Lithgow | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | -24.1 | -36.2 | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Liverpool | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | -13.9 | -23.3 | ns | -9.9 | ns |
| Liverpool Plains | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | . | ns | 35.2 |
| Lockhart | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Lord Howe Island | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Maitland | . | ns | 18.4 | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | -20.9 | ns | ns | ns | 42.7 | 6.7 |
| Mid-Coast | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | 32.5 | 44 | 23 | ns | 18.2 | ns |
| Mid-Western Regional | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Moree Plains | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Mosman | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | . | . | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Murray River | . | . | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | -43.4 | . | ns | . | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Murrumbidgee | . | ns | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | ns |
| Muswell-brook | . | ns | ns | . | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | -46.3 | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Nambucca | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | 48.9 | 93.2 | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Narrabri | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | -39.1 | ns | ns | ns | -43.2 | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Narrandera | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | ns | . | ns | ns | ns | . | . | ns |
| Narromine | . | 40 | ns | . | . | . | . | . | -38.7 | ns | . | ns | . | ns | . | ns | ns |

| NSW LGA | Murder | Domestic violence related assault | Non-domestic violence related assault | Sexual assault | Indecent assault, act of indecency etc | Robbery without a weapon | Robbery with a firearm | Robbery with a weapon not a firearm | Breaking and entering dwelling | Breaking and entering non-dwelling | Motor vehicle theft | Steal from motor vehicle | Steal from retail store | Steal from dwelling | Steal from person | Fraud | Malicious damage to property |
|-------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| Newcastle | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| North Sydney | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| Northern Beaches | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| Oberon | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | ns |
| Orange | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Parkes | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | -41.5 | ns | ns | ns | -56.4 | ns | . | ns | -19.4 |
| Parramatta | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | 27 | ns | ns | ns | -7.4 | ns |
| Penrith | . | 9 | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | 14 | ns | ns | 32.9 | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| Port Macquarie-Hastings | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | 65.7 | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | 28.9 |
| Port Stephens | . | ns | ns | -13.7 | ns | . | . | . | -29.4 | ns | ns | -17.5 | ns | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Queanbeyan-Palerang | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Randwick | . | ns | ns | ns | -2 | ns | . | . | -18.4 | ns | ns | ns | 14.5 | -28.4 | ns | ns | ns |
| Richmond Valley | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | -30.6 | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | -38.7 |
| Ryde | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | 46 | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| Shellharbour | . | ns | -25.2 | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | -46.8 | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Shoalhaven | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Singleton | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | 78.3 | ns |
| Snowy Monaro Regional | . | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | ns | . | . | ns | . | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Snowy Valleys | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | ns | . | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | ns |

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| NSW LGA | Murder | Domestic violence related assault | Non-domestic violence related assault | Sexual assault | Indecent assault, act of indecency etc | Robbery without a weapon | Robbery with a firearm | Robbery with a weapon not a firearm | Breaking and entering dwelling | Breaking and entering non-dwelling | Motor vehicle theft | Steal from motor vehicle | Steal from retail store | Steal from dwelling | Steal from person | Fraud | Malicious damage to property |
|-------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| Strathfield | . | 40.2 | ns | . | ns | . | . | . | -20.1 | -44.2 | -37.6 | ns | ns | -54.5 | ns | ns | ns |
| Sutherland Shire | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| Sydney | . | ns | ns | 29.2 | 58.5 | ns | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | -22 | ns | ns | ns | -15 | ns |
| Tamworth Regional | . | ns | 11.6 | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | 34.2 | ns | -15.9 | ns | ns | ns |
| Temora | . | . | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | ns |
| Tenterfield | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | -57.6 | . | . | . | . | ns | . | ns | ns |
| The Hills Shire | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | -47.1 | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| Tweed | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| Unincorporated Far West | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Upper Hunter Shire | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | ns | -11.1 | ns | . | ns | . | ns | -26.9 |
| Upper Lachlan Shire | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | ns |
| Uralla | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | ns |
| Wagga Wagga | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | 33.9 | ns | -21.2 | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| Walcha | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Walgett | . | ns | 24.4 | . | . | . | . | . | ns | ns | . | ns | . | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Warren | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | ns | . | . | . | . | 51.1 |
| Warrumbungle Shire | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | . | . | ns | . | ns | . | ns | Ns |
| Waverley | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | -39.4 | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| Weddin | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | ns |
| Wentworth | . | ns | 78.4 | . | . | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | . | . | 36.7 |

| NSW LGA | Murder | Domestic violence related assault | Non-domestic violence related assault | Sexual assault | Indecent assault, act of indecency etc | Robbery without a weapon | Robbery with a firearm | Robbery with a weapon not a firearm | Breaking and entering dwelling | Breaking and entering non-dwelling | Motor vehicle theft | Steal from motor vehicle | Steal from retail store | Steal from dwelling | Steal from person | Fraud | Malicious damage to property |
|---------------|--------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| Willoughby | . | 49.2 | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | -24.3 | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| Wingecarribee | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | -45.6 | ns | ns | ns | -51.9 | . | ns | ns |
| Wollondilly | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | ns | . | ns | ns |
| Wollongong | . | ns | 6.7 | ns | ns | ns | . | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| Woollahra | . | ns | ns | ns | ns | . | . | . | -34.3 | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| Yass Valley | . | ns | ns | . | . | . | . | . | ns | . | . | ns | . | . | . | ns | ns |
| NSW | ns | ns | ns | 7.2 | 6.3 | ns | ns | ns | ns | -10 | ns | -3.3 | ns | ns | ns | -3.5 | ns |

Source: NSW Bureau of Crimes Statistics and Research, [NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, Quarterly Update, March 2018](#), p 24.

2.2 Domestic violence

Domestic violence data from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research for the five years from April 2013 to March 2018 is set out below. That data (which refers to the 12 month April to March period) reveals that:

- The number of recorded domestic violence related victims of murder decreased from 31 in 2013–14 to 16 in 2017–18.
- The number of recorded incidents of domestic violence related assault decreased from 28,777 in 2013–14 to 28,268 in 2017–18.
- The number of recorded incidents of domestic violence related sexual assault increased from 866 in 2013–14 to 1,069 in 2017–18.
- The number of recorded incidents of domestic violence related indecent assault, act of indecency and other sexual offences increased from 615 in 2013–14 to 738 in 2017–18).
- The number of recorded incidents of domestic violence related abduction and kidnapping increased from 68 in 2013–14 to 74 in 2017–18.
- The number of recorded incidents of domestic violence related intimidation, stalking and harassment increased from 12,251 in 2013–14 to 13,667 in 2017–18.

- The number of recorded incidents of domestic violence related malicious damage to property increased from 9,234 in 2013–14 to 9,570 in 2017–18.
- The number of recorded incidents of domestic violence related breach Apprehended Violence Order increased from 11,700 in 2013–14 to 13,843 in 2017–18.¹⁶

An overview of trends in the number of recorded domestic violence related offences over the five years from April 2013 to March 2018 is provided in Table 9.

| Table 9: Trends in recorded domestic violence related crime: April 2013–March 2018 | | |
|--|---|---|
| Offence | 2 year incident trend and annual % change | 5-year incident trend and annual % change ¹⁷ |
| domestic violence related murder | nc | nc |
| domestic violence related assault | Stable | Stable |
| domestic violence related sexual assault | Up 7% | Up 5.4% |
| domestic violence related indecent assault, act of indecency and other sexual offences | Up 10.3% | Up 4.7% |
| domestic violence related abduction and kidnapping | Stable | Stable |
| domestic violence related intimidation, stalking and harassment | Up 2.2% | Up 2.8% |
| domestic violence related malicious damage to property | Stable | Up 0.9% |
| domestic violence related breach Apprehended Violence Order | Stable | Up 4.3% |

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [Domestic violence statistics for NSW](#), ([Domestic Violence Table](#))

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research examined changes in the incidence of domestic violence assaults occasioning grievous bodily harm (DVGBH) from 2008–09 to 2015–16 in their recent [Is domestic violence in NSW decreasing?](#) paper.¹⁸ Discussing the data reproduced in Figure 8, the author, Karen Freeman, noted:

... an examination of DVGBH incidents shows a decline from 5.8 incidents per 100,000 population in 2008/9 to 4.9 per 100,000 in 2015/16. ... the fall in the incident rate per 100,000 was statistically significant...¹⁹

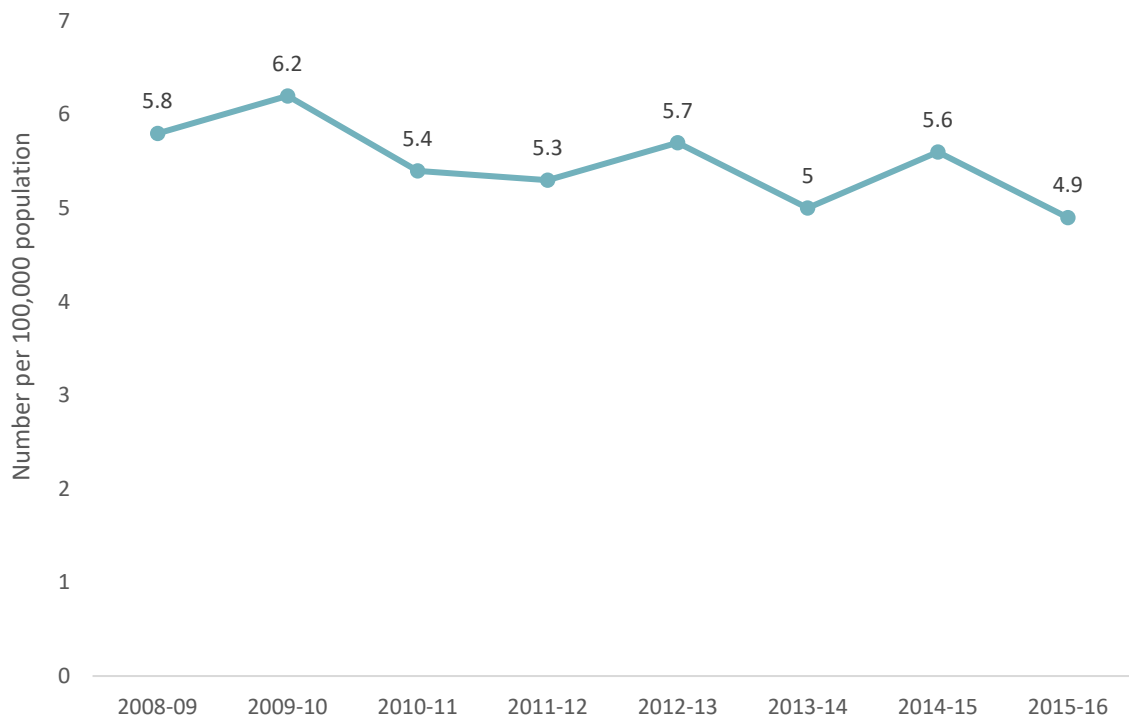
¹⁶ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [Domestic violence statistics for NSW](#), ([Domestic Violence Table](#)), no date [website— accessed 13 July 2018].

¹⁷ “nc” indicates that the number of incidents recorded was too small for a statistical test to be reliably performed.

¹⁸ Freeman K, [Is domestic violence in NSW decreasing?](#), NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2018.

¹⁹ Ibid, p 4.

Figure 8: Number of domestic assault incidents occasioning grievous bodily harm per 100,000 population, NSW, 2008–09 to 2015–16.



Source: Freeman K, [Is domestic violence in NSW decreasing?](#), NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2018, p 4

While there was a statistically significant decline across NSW in the number of domestic violence assaults occasioning grievous bodily harm from 2008–09 to 2015–16, “the rate of serious assault in some areas of NSW still remains very high”.²⁰ Additionally:

While this finding provides evidence of a reduction in domestic assaults over the time period examined, we are unable to tell from the police data whether this reduction is due to a change in prevalence (percent of the population who are victims), a change in the number of incidents per victim, or both.²¹

The number and rate of incidents of domestic violence assault occasioning grievous bodily harm by statistical area from 2013 to 2017 are set out in Table 10:

²⁰ *ibid*, p 4

²¹ *Ibid* p 4.

A statistical snapshot of crime and justice in New South Wales

| Table 10: Domestic violence assaults occasioning grievous bodily harm: statistical area: 2013–17 | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Statistical area | Rate per 100,000 | Number of incidents |
| Far West and Orana | 139.6 | 163 |
| New England and North West | 52.7 | 98 |
| Murray | 43.3 | 51 |
| Riverina | 40.7 | 65 |
| Mid North Coast | 37.5 | 81 |
| Sydney–Blacktown | 37.4 | 131 |
| Coffs Harbour–Grafton | 34.6 | 48 |
| Central West | 33.7 | 71 |
| Sydney—City and Inner South | 31.7 | 107 |
| Sydney–Outer West and Blue Mountains | 27.9 | 88 |
| Richmond–Tweed | 27.7 | 68 |
| Sydney–Parramatta | 27.6 | 129 |
| Central Coast | 26.8 | 90 |
| Sydney–South West | 25.6 | 108 |
| Hunter Valley Excluding Newcastle | 25.2 | 68 |
| Sydney–Outer South West | 23.4 | 63 |
| Sydney–Inner South West | 22.9 | 137 |
| Illawarra | 22.4 | 68 |
| Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven | 20.6 | 31 |
| Newcastle and Lake Macquarie | 20.5 | 76 |
| Capital Region | 20.1 | 45 |
| Sydney–Inner West | 15.2 | 47 |
| Sydney–Eastern Suburbs | 14.4 | 41 |
| Sydney–Sutherland | 14.2 | 32 |
| Sydney–North Sydney and Hornsby | 8 | 34 |
| Sydney–Northern Beaches | 7.9 | 21 |
| Sydney–Baulkam Hills and Hawkesbury | 6.8 | 16 |
| Sydney–Ryde | 4.2 | 8 |
| Total NSW | 25.6 | 1985 |

Source: Freeman K, [Is domestic violence in NSW decreasing?](#), NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2018, p 4.

Sources

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [*NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, Quarterly Update, March 2018*](#).

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [*Domestic violence statistics for NSW, \(Domestic Violence Table\)*](#).

Freeman K, [*Is domestic violence in NSW decreasing?*](#), NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2018.

3. VICTIMS

3.1 Crime Victimization Survey

The recorded crime statistics set out in Chapter 2 are part of a larger picture, one that is framed by unreported crime. In an attempt to ascertain the extent of unreported crime, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducts a [Crime Victimization Survey](#) of persons aged 15 years or older across Australia. The victimisation rates generated from the survey estimate the percentage of the NSW population aged 15 years or older who were victims of a particular type of crime during the survey period. In the case of sexual assault, where information is collected for people aged 18 years and over, the victimisation rate estimates the percentage of the NSW population aged 18 years and over who were victims of sexual assault. The reporting rates generated from the survey estimate the percentage of victims of a particular type of crime who reported the crime to police.

The 2016–17 Crime Victimization Survey was conducted throughout Australia from July 2016 to June 2017. A “victim” is defined as a person or household who experienced one or more incidents of the selected crimes in the 12 months prior to interview.²² Tables 11 and 12 report the victimisation and reporting rates across Australia for personal and household crime in 2016–17.

Table 11: Victimization rates for personal and household crime across Australia, 2016–17

| Type of crime | Victimization Rate (%) | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| | NSW | Vic | Qld | SA | WA | Tas | NT | ACT | Aus |
| Personal crime | | | | | | | | | |
| Physical assault | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 2.9 | 2 | 4.9 | 2.2 | 2.4 |
| Threatened assault (face to face) | 2.2 | 3 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 3.4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2.6 |
| Threatened assault (non-face to face) | 0.8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1* | 0.2** | 0.9 |
| Robbery | 0.4* | 0.4 | 0.2* | 0.4* | 0.7 | 0.3* | 0.8* | 0.2** | 0.4 |
| Sexual assault | 0.5 | 0.4* | 0.4* | 0.4* | 0.3* | 0.3** | 0.7** | 0.5** | 0.4 |
| Household crime | | | | | | | | | |
| Break and enter | 2 | 2.8 | 2 | 1.9 | 4.3 | 2 | 5 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| Attempted break and enter | 1.5 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 3.7 | 1.6 | 4 | 1.4* | 2.1 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.3* | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.1* | 0.4** | 0.6 |
| Theft from motor vehicle | 2 | 3.8 | 1.6 | 2.7 | 5.4 | 1.6 | 6 | 5.3 | 2.8 |
| Malicious property damage | 4.4 | 5.6 | 4 | 4.3 | 7.7 | 4.3 | 7.3 | 6.3 | 5 |
| Other theft | 2.4 | 3.0 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 4.0 | 2.3 | 3.6 | 2.7* | 2.8 |

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Crime Victimization, Australia, 2016–17 \(4530.0\)](#) * Estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution. ** Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

²² Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Crime Victimization, Australia, 2016–17 \(4530.0\)](#), [Introduction](#), release date 16 February 2018 [website—accessed 11 April 2018].

Table 12: Reporting rates for personal and household crime across Australia, 2016–17

| Type of crime | Reporting rate (%) | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| | NSW | Vic | Qld | SA | WA | Tas | NT | ACT | Aus |
| Personal crime | | | | | | | | | |
| Physical assault | 50.6 | 59.4 | 57.9 | 50.5 | 56.5 | 54.9 | 61.4 | 56.5* | 53.8 |
| Threatened assault (face to face) | 47.6 | 34.3 | 41.8 | 44.8 | 36.5 | 26.8 | 55.8 | 35* | 41.1 |
| Threatened assault (non-face to face) | 35.7* | 45.1 | 27.1* | 32.6* | 33.3 | 26* | 64.3 | 100** | 36.5 |
| Robbery | 65* | 59.3 | 46.7** | 25** | 56.8 | 46.2* | 33.3* | 100** | 58 |
| Sexual assault | 44.7* | 26.7** | 40* | 37.5** | 44.8* | 0 | 0 | 25** | 39 |
| Household crime | | | | | | | | | |
| Break and enter | 76.3 | 75.9 | 75.1 | 70.5 | 77.9 | 66.7 | 71.9 | 91.9* | 75.4 |
| Attempted break and enter | 48.8 | 50.8 | 37.6 | 25.3 | 48.4 | 45.5* | 34.6 | 57.1 | 44.2 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 90.9 | 98.8 | 86.2 | 77.8* | 100* | 75 | 100* | 100* | 90.1 |
| Theft from motor vehicle | 58.6 | 60.2 | 53.1 | 44.7 | 48.5 | 62.9 | 59 | 51.9 | 56.9 |
| Malicious property damage | 54.1 | 55.3 | 52.2 | 41.8 | 56.8 | 55.4 | 61.7 | 56.4 | 53.2 |
| Other theft | 36.5 | 38.9 | 38.7 | 40 | 37 | 20* | 34.8 | 22.5* | 37.8 |

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Crime Victimization, Australia, 2016–17 \(4530.0\)](#). * Estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution. ** Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

Figures 9 and 10 detail the NSW victimisation and reporting rates for personal crimes over the period 2008–09 to 2016–17.

Figure 9: NSW victimisation rates for personal crime: 2008-09 to 2016-17

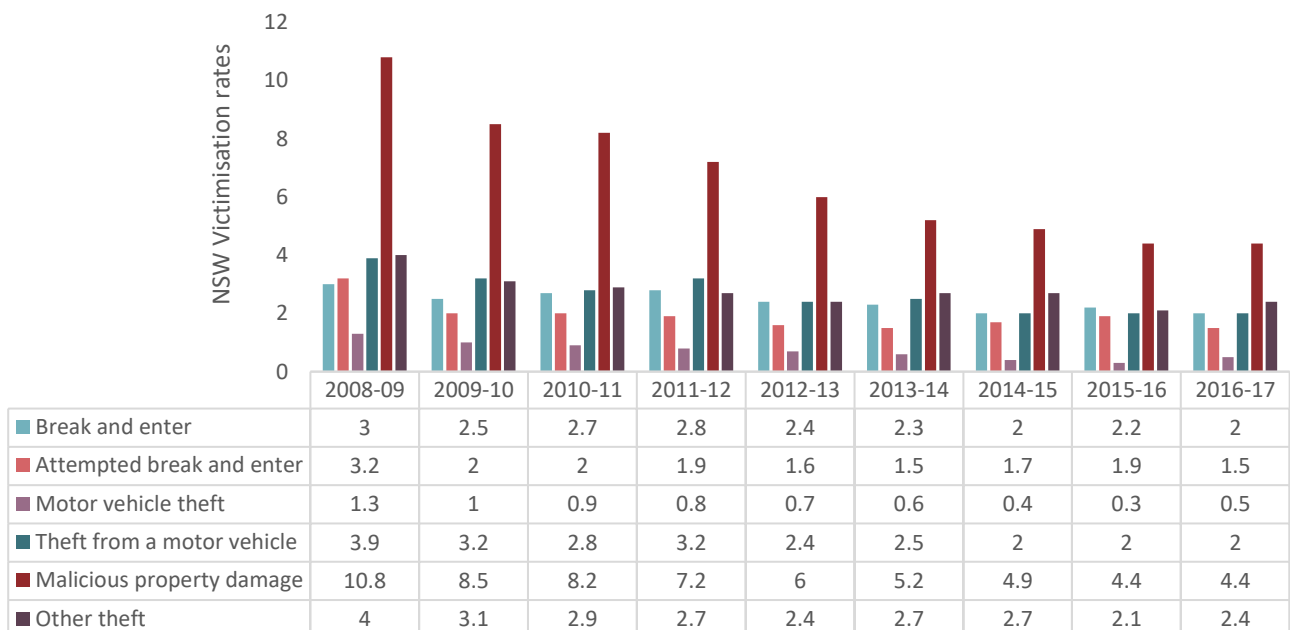


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Crime Victimization, Australia, 2016–17 \(4530.0\)](#). Contains estimates with a relative standard error of 25% to 50% that should be used with caution.

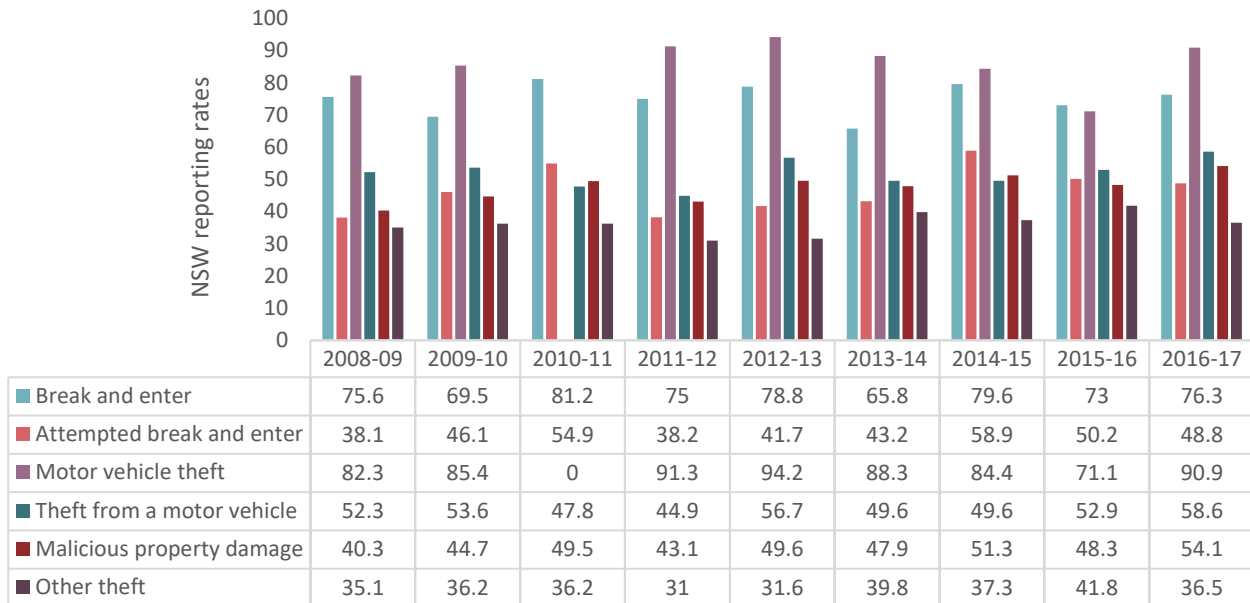
Figure 10: NSW reporting rates for personal crime: 2008-09 to 2016-17

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics. [Crime Victimization, Australia, 2016-17 \(4530.0\)](#). Contains estimates with a relative standard error of 25% to 50% that should be used with caution. Scores of zero denote that the value was not available for publication.

Figures 11 and 12 detail the NSW victimisation and reporting rates for household crimes over the period 2008-09 to 2016-17.

Figure 11: NSW victimisation rates for household crime: 2008-09 to 2016-17

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Crime Victimization, Australia, 2016-17 \(4530.0\)](#)

Figure 12: NSW reporting rates for household crime: 2008-09 to 2016-17

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Crime Victimization, Australia, 2016–17*. Zero indicates the value was not available for publication.

Tables 11 and 12 and Figures 9–12 reveal that, in NSW in the 12 months prior to the 2016–17 survey, an estimated:

- 2.1% of people aged 15 years and over were physically assaulted and 50.6% of those victims reported the physical assault to police.
- 2.2% of people aged 15 years and over experienced a face to face threatened assault and 47.6% of those victims reported the threatened assault to police.
- 0.8% of people aged 15 years and over experienced a non face to face threatened assault²³ and 35.7% of those victims reported the threatened assault to police.
- 0.4% of people aged 15 years and over were robbed and 65% of those victims reported the robbery to police.
- 0.5% of people aged 18 years and over were sexually assaulted and 44.7% of those victims reported the sexual assault to police.

The 2016-17 survey data on households shows that in NSW:

- 2% of households were victims of a break and enter, and 76.3% of those households reported the break and enter to police.
- 1.5% of households were victims of an attempted break and enter, and 48.8% of those households reported the attempted break and enter to police.

²³ This could include threats delivered via letters and telecommunications technology.

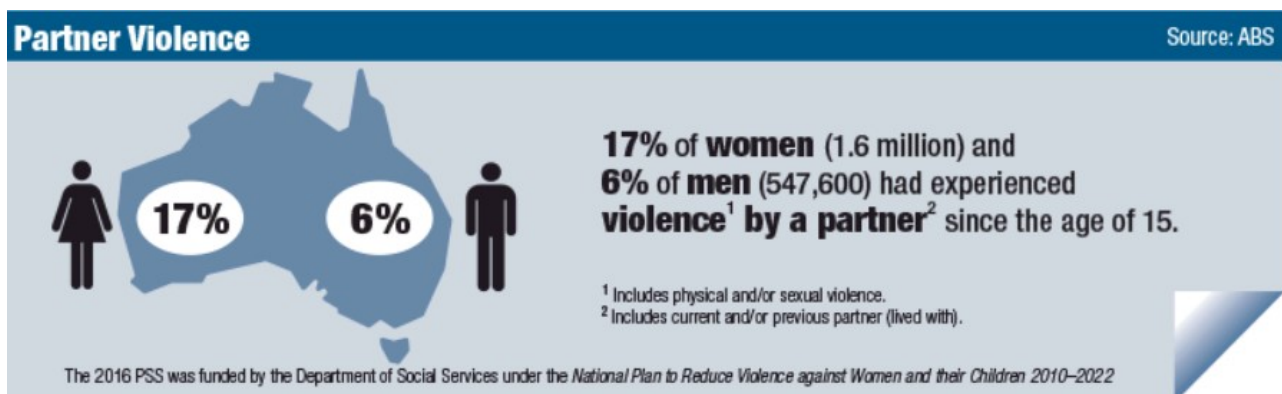
- 0.5% of households were victims of motor vehicle theft and 90.9% of those households reported the motor vehicle theft to police.
- 2% of households experienced a theft from a motor vehicle and 58.6% of those households reported the theft to police.
- 4.4% of households were victims of malicious property damage and 54.1% of those households reported the malicious property damage to police.
- 2.4% of households were victims of other theft and 36.5% of those households reported the theft to police.

Over the surveyed period (2008-09 to 2016-17), the NSW victimisation rate fell for all crime types, with the exception of sexual assault, which increased from 0.3% in 2008-09 to 0.5% in 2016-17.

3.2 Domestic violence victims

The Australian Bureau of Statistics's [Personal Safety Survey \(2016\)](#) reveals that an estimated 1.6 million women (17% of women) and 547,000 men (6% of men) aged 18 years and over had, since the age of 15, experienced violence by a partner with whom they had lived with in a married or de facto relationship.²⁴ "Violence" includes physical and/or sexual abuse.

Figure 13: Partner violence in Australia



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Personal Safety Survey \(2016\)](#),

A customised subset of data from the ABS *Crime Victimisation Australia* survey relating to intimate partner and family violence was analysed by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research in a briefing paper entitled [Is domestic violence in NSW decreasing?](#)²⁵ As stated by the paper's author, Karen Freeman, the victimisation rate (per 100,000) of physical domestic and family violence (DFV):

... rose in NSW between 2008–10 and 2010–12 but then fell sharply from 2012–14 with a further small reduction from 2012–14 to 2014–16. ... the fall in physical DFV victimisation rates in NSW between 2010–12 and 2012–14 was statistically significant.²⁶

²⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics's [Personal Safety Survey \(2016\)](#), 8 November 2017 [website—accessed 18 May 2018].

²⁵ Freeman K, [Is domestic violence in NSW decreasing?](#), NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2018.

²⁶ *ibid*, p 3.

3.3 Recorded Crime Victims

The ABS provides data on the number of victims of recorded crime for the selected offences of: homicide²⁷; assault; sexual assault; kidnapping/abduction; blackmail/extortion; unlawful entry with intent; motor vehicle theft; robbery and other theft.²⁸ Table 13 sets out the number of NSW victims of recorded crime for selected offences over the period 2010–17. It reveals that, compared to 2010, in 2017 there were less NSW victims of homicide, assault, kidnapping/abduction, blackmail/extortion, unlawful entry with intent, robbery, motor vehicle theft and other theft; and more NSW victims of sexual assault.

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Homicide | 130 | 153 | 110 | 134 | 110 | 101 | 98 | 72 |
| Assault | 73968 | 71165 | 68745 | 68963 | 65576 | 65140 | 65260 | 65460 |
| Sexual assault | 7269 | 7024 | 7628 | 8121 | 8192 | 8603 | 8795 | 9847 |
| Kidnapping/abduction | 329 | 408 | 351 | 305 | 305 | 259 | 267 | 227 |
| Blackmail/extortion | 174 | 139 | 124 | 114 | 120 | 142 | 115 | 99 |
| Unlawful entry with intent | 59721 | 58269 | 58228 | 49902 | 46221 | 43316 | 41206 | 38223 |
| Robbery | 6569 | 5327 | 5100 | 4723 | 3850 | 2930 | 2602 | 2676 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 19406 | 19208 | 17198 | 15114 | 14110 | 13032 | 12013 | 12377 |
| Other theft | 145399 | 151977 | 154335 | 147627 | 138254 | 135407 | 135728 | 132,202 |

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Recorded Crime, Victims, Australia, 2017](#),

ABS's recorded crimes data provides victimisation rates by Indigenous status for the selected offences of homicide, assault, sexual assault, kidnapping/abduction, blackmail/extortion and robbery.²⁹ The victimisation rate refers to victims per 100,000 of the NSW [Estimated Resident Population](#).

Table 14 sets out NSW's 2017 victimisation rate for Indigenous persons, non-Indigenous persons and all persons (including persons whose Indigenous status is unknown). Across each of these victim categories, assault was the offence with the highest victimisation rate, followed by sexual assault. The 2017 NSW Indigenous victimisation rate for assault (1,821.1 victims per 100,000 people) was 2.8 times higher than the corresponding non-Indigenous rate (649.6 victims per 100,000 people). The 2017 NSW Indigenous victimisation rate for sexual assault (347.7 victims per 100,000 people) was 3.4 times higher than the corresponding non-Indigenous rate (102.1 victims per 100,000 people).

²⁷ Includes the related offences of attempted murder and manslaughter.

²⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Recorded Crime, Victims, Australia, 2017](#), 28 June 2018, [website—accessed 5 July 2018].

²⁹ Includes the related offences of attempted murder and manslaughter.

| Table 14: NSW recorded crime victimisation rates (victims per 100,000 of population): 2017 | | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Indigenous | Non-Indigenous | Persons³⁰ |
| Homicide | 1.3 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Assault | 1821.1 | 649.6 | 832.7 |
| Sexual assault | 347.7 | 102.1 | 125.3 |
| Kidnapping/abduction | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.9 |
| Blackmail/extortion | 0 | 1 | 1.1 |
| Robbery | 15.8 | 26.4 | 29.4 |

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Recorded Crime, Victims, Australia, 2017](#)

Sources

Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Crime Victimisation, Australia, 2016–17](#)

Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Personal Safety Survey \(2016\)](#),

Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Recorded Crime, Victims, Australia, 2017](#)

Freeman K, [Is domestic violence in NSW decreasing?](#), NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2018.

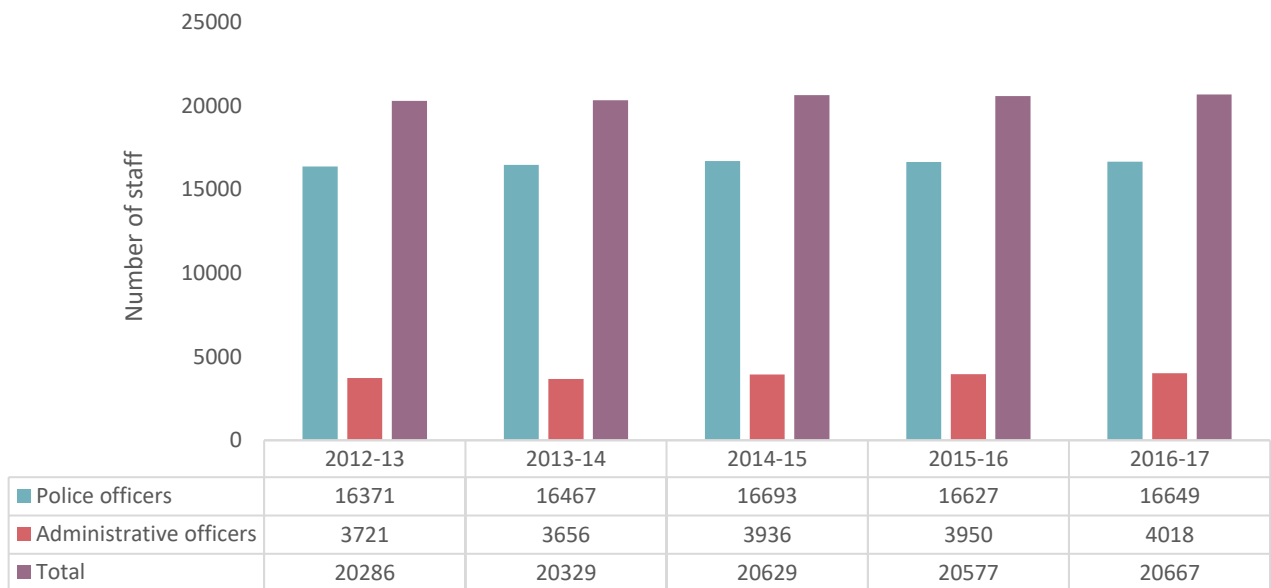
³⁰ Includes persons whose Indigenous status is not known.

4. POLICE

4.1 Staff numbers

In 2016–17 the NSW Police Force operated across six Regional Areas, 76 Local Area Commands and 432 police stations³¹ with 20,667 employees.³² Of these 20,667 employees, 16,649 were police officers and 4,018 were administrative officers.³³ Figure 14 sets out the number of police officers, administrative staff and total staff numbers for 2012–13 to 2016–17.³⁴

Figure 14: NSW Police Force Staff as at 30 June 2017



Source: [NSW Police Force 2016–17 Annual Report](#), p 83

Between 2012-13 and 2016–17, the number of NSW police officers increased by 1.7%.³⁵ As set out in Figure 15, over the same period the NSW population increased by 6.1% (from 7,407,700 in June 2013 to 7,861,100 in June 2017).³⁶

³¹ NSW Police Force, [NSW Police Force 2016–17 Annual Report](#), 2017, p 6.

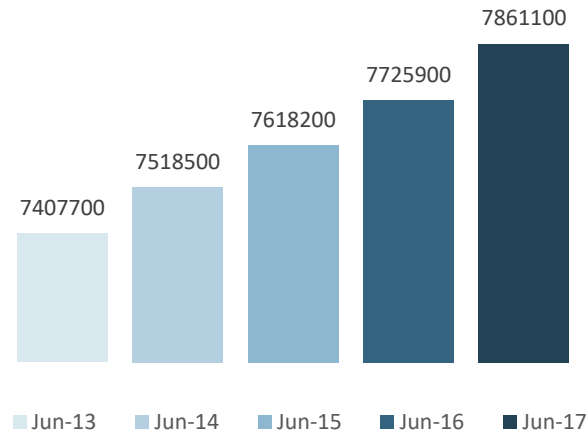
³² *ibid*, p 83.

³³ *ibid*, p 83.

³⁴ The total number of police force staff includes officers on secondment to other public sector agencies.

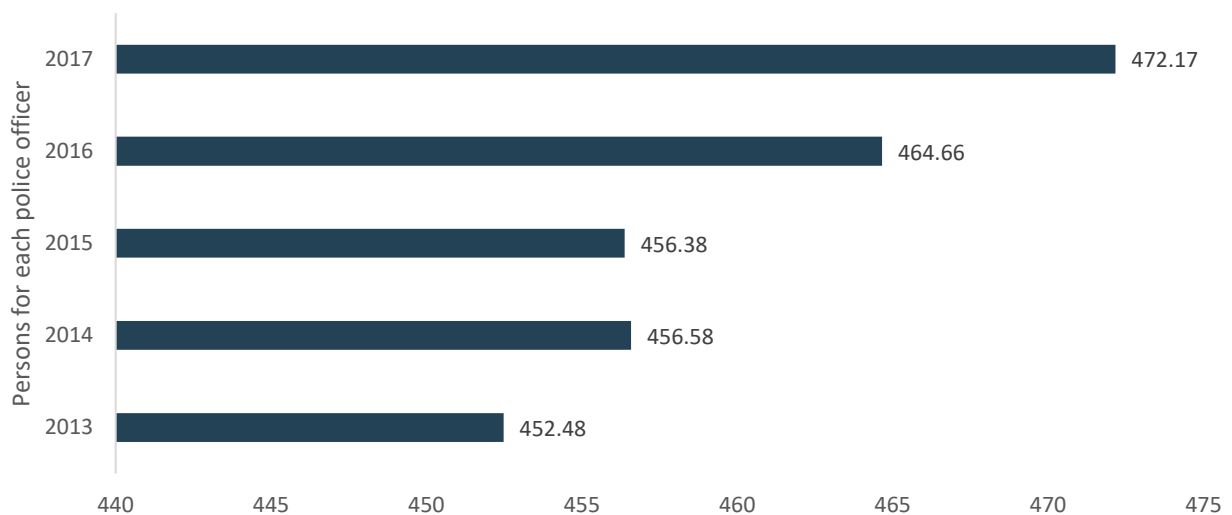
³⁵ The number of full time equivalent operational sworn NSW police staff was 15,456 in 2012-13 and 15,693 in 2016-17, an increase of 237 full time equivalent operational sworn police staff (1.5%) in 5 years: Productivity Commission, [Report on Government Services 2018](#), Volume C, [Chapter 6 Police Services](#), Table 6A.3.

³⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Australian Demographic Statistics](#), 22 March 2018 [website—accessed 28 May 2018].

Figure 15: NSW population end of June quarter 2013–2017

Source: [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#), Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2017

This data was used to calculate the ratio of police officers to the resident NSW population for the last five years. Figure 16 shows that, as at 30 June 2013, there were approximately 452.49 persons in NSW for each police officer; whereas, as at 30 June 2017, there were approximately 472.17 persons in NSW for each police officer.

Figure 16: Number of persons for each police officer: NSW

Source: NSW Parliamentary Research Service

4.2 Measures of police effectiveness

The recorded crime and victim rates reported in Chapters 2 and 3 are key measures of police effectiveness.^{37,38} Other measures of police effectiveness include:

- The number of urgent response calls and the percentage of those calls attended to within set timeframes.
- The number of road fatalities.
- Outcomes of police pursuits.
- Deaths in custody.
- Crime investigation outcomes.
- Public perceptions of crime and safety.
- Public satisfaction with police services.

4.2.1 Urgent response calls

The *NSW Police Force 2016–17 Annual Report* states that “[t]he community expects police to be available and capable of responding to calls for assistance within a reasonable time.”³⁹

Urgent response calls relate to situations where there is an imminent threat to life or property and include triple zero calls, calls to police stations or radio calls from police in the field. The NSW Police Force has an overall target of attending to 80% of urgent response jobs within 12 minutes.⁴⁰ The number of urgent response calls and the percentage of those calls attended to within set timeframes are set out in Table 15.

| | 2012–13 | 2013–14 | 2014–15 | 2015–16 | 2016–17 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Urgent response calls | 121,666 | 121,493 | 122,322 | 131,972 | 128,266 |
| % attended to within target time | 79.8 | 80.8 | 78.7 | 77.7 | 78.1 |

Source: *NSW Police Force 2016–17 Annual Report*, p 21

³⁷ NSW Police Force, *NSW Police Force 2016–17 Annual Report*, 2017.

³⁸ Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, *Report on Government Services 2018, Volume C Chapter 6 Police Services*, Productivity Commission, 25 January 2018.

³⁹ NSW Police Force, *NSW Police Force 2016–17 Annual Report*, 2017, p 21.

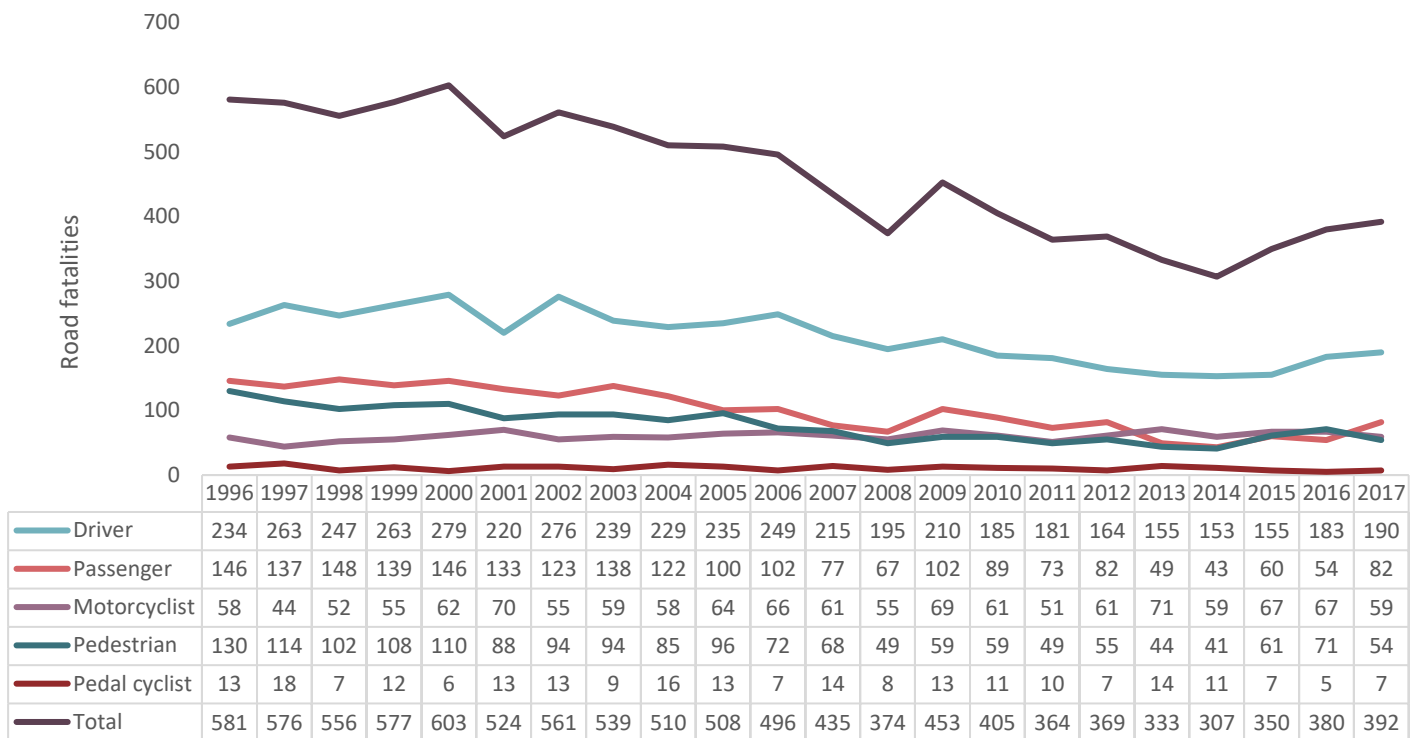
⁴⁰ *Personal Correspondence*, NSW Police Force, 29 May 2018.

⁴¹ NSW Police Force, *NSW Police Force 2016–17 Annual Report*, 2017, p 21.

4.2.2 Road fatalities

Although many factors contribute to road fatalities, the number of annual road fatalities in NSW is a measure of the effectiveness of the NSW Police Force in promoting road safety.⁴² Figure 17 shows the total number of road fatalities by road user type from 1996 to 2017.⁴³

Figure 17: NSW Road Fatalities by Road User 1996–2017



Source: [NSW Centre for Road Safety](#)

4.2.3 Outcomes of police pursuits

Statistics on police pursuits provide an indication of the effectiveness of the NSW Police Force in apprehending offenders effectively and safely. In 2016–17 there were 2,472 police pursuits.⁴⁴ Of these 2,472 police pursuits, 603 were terminated by police and 243 resulted in collisions. The 2,472 pursuits that were conducted in 2016–17 resulted in two fatalities and 43 injuries.⁴⁵ Table 16 sets out the reasons (individual pursuits may have more than one reason) for police pursuits in NSW in 2015–16 and 2016–17.

⁴² Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, [Report on Government Services 2018, Volume C: Justice](#), Productivity Commission, 25 January 2018, p 6.28.

⁴³ NSW Government, Transport for NSW, Centre for Road Safety, [Fatality Trends by Road User](#). [website—accessed 29 May 2018]. The 2017 data is provisional.

⁴⁴ NSW Police Force, [NSW Police Force 2016–17 Annual Report](#), 2017, p 106.

⁴⁵ NSW Police Force, [NSW Police Force 2016–17 Annual Report](#), 2017, p 106.

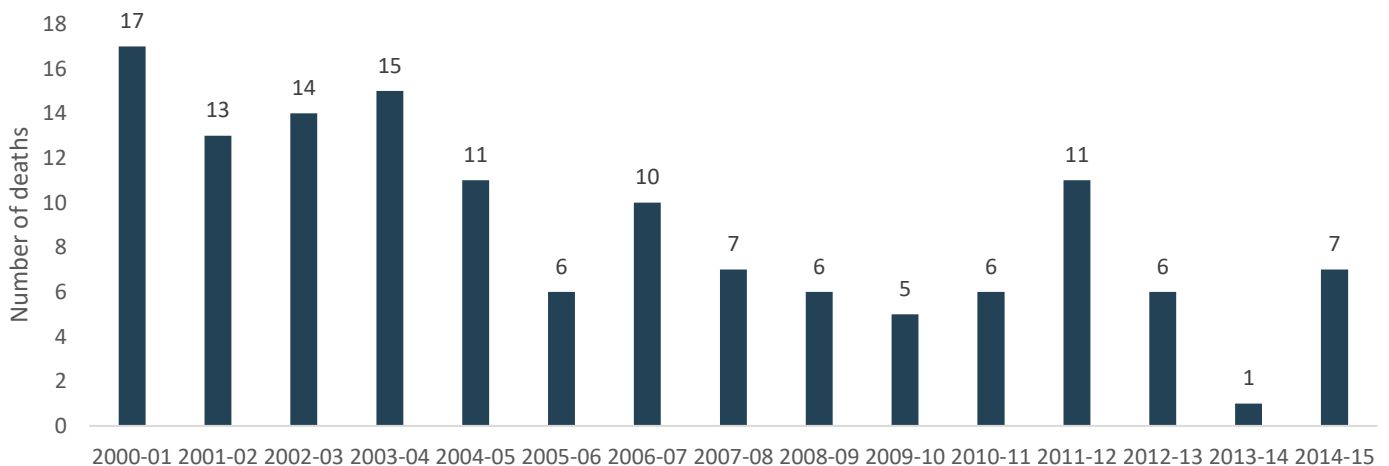
| Reason | 2015–16 | 2016–17 |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| Traffic | 1,258 | 1,378 |
| Criminal | 232 | 234 |
| Stolen vehicle | 305 | 375 |
| Not stop RBT | 514 | 606 |
| Other | 1 | 1 |

Source: [NSW Police Force 2016–17 Annual Report](#), p 106

4.2.4 Deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations

Figure 18 provides the number of deaths in police custody and custody-related operations in NSW over the period 1999–2000 to 2014–15.⁴⁶

Figure 18: Deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations: NSW⁴⁷



Source: [Australian Institute of Criminology: Crime Statistics Australia](#), National Deaths in Custody Program, [Appendix: Table 3](#)

⁴⁶ Deaths in police custody include: (i) deaths in institutional settings (such as police stations or lock ups, police vehicles or hospitals) *during* transfer to or from such institutions, or *following* transfer from an institution; and (ii) other deaths in police operations where officers were in close contact with the deceased, such as most deaths linked to police raids and shootings by police (but not sieges where, due to a perimeter being established, police did not have close contact with the deceased). Deaths during custody-related police operations includes case where officers did not have close contact with the deceased, such as most sieges and cases where officers are attempting to detain a person (for example, during a pursuit). See: Australian Institute of Criminology, Crime Statistics Australia, National Deaths in Custody Program, [About the National Deaths in Custody Program](#), no date [website—accessed 30 May 2018].

⁴⁷ Australian Institute of Criminology, Crime Statistics Australia, National Deaths in Custody Program, [Appendix: Table 3](#), no date [website—accessed 29 May 2018].

4.2.4 Crime investigations outcomes (30 day status)

Tables 17 and 18 set out, respectively, the outcomes of investigations (30 day status) of selected crimes against the person and property in NSW for 2016.⁴⁸

| Table 17: Outcomes of investigations: selected crimes against the person: 30 day status: NSW 1 January–31 December 2016 | |
|--|-------|
| Investigations of homicide and related offences | |
| Investigations finalised | 63.3% |
| Finalised investigations—offender proceeded against | 95.2% |
| Total number | 98 |
| Investigations of sexual assault | |
| Investigations finalised | 30.7% |
| Finalised investigations—offender proceeded against | 34.5% |
| Total number | 8,795 |
| Investigations of armed robbery | |
| Investigations finalised | 34.6% |
| Finalised investigations—offender proceeded against | 94.1% |
| Total number | 1,068 |
| Investigations of unarmed robbery | |
| Investigations finalised | 30.9% |
| Finalised investigations—offender proceeded against | 86.7% |
| Total number | 1,531 |

Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, *Report on Government Services 2018: Volume C: Justice*, Table 6A.15, 25 January 2018

| Table 18: Outcomes of investigations: selected crimes against property: 30 day status: NSW 1 January–31 December 2016 | |
|--|---------|
| Investigations of unlawful entry with intent | |
| Investigations finalised | 7.9% |
| Finalised investigations—offender proceeded against | 85.5% |
| Total number | 41,206 |
| Investigations of motor vehicle theft | |
| Investigations finalised | 8.7% |
| Finalised investigations—offender proceeded against | 84.8% |
| Total number | 12,013 |
| Investigations of other theft | |
| Investigations finalised | 13.2% |
| Finalised investigations—offender proceeded against | 76.7% |
| Total number | 135,728 |

Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, *Report on Government Services 2018: Volume C: Chapter 6 Justice*, Table 6A.15, 25 January 2018

⁴⁸ Investigations finalised includes no offender proceeded against and offender proceeded against.

4.2.5 Public feelings of safety and perceptions of crime

Table 19 sets out the extent to which the NSW public feel safe while alone at night at home, on public transport, or while walking alone in their local neighbourhoods. The percentage shown refers to the percentage of survey participants who selected the various options.

| | Table 19: Feelings of safety (%) | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| | NSW | | | | | Australia |
| | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2016-17 |
| Feelings of safety at home alone during the night | | | | | | |
| Total safe | 87.9 | 87.5 | 88.4 | 90.2 | 90.2 | 86.1 |
| Total unsafe | 5.1 | 5 | 4 | 4.7 | 3.9 | 6.5 |
| Neither | 5.6 | 7.2 | 7.2 | 4.8 | 5.3 | 6.8 |
| Not applicable | 1.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| Feelings of safety walking alone in your neighbourhood during the day | | | | | | |
| Total safe | 92.6 | 93.2 | 93.6 | 91.4 | 90 | 88.7 |
| Total unsafe | 2.6 | 2.8 | 1.3 | 3.3 | 2.9 | 3.8 |
| Neither | 3.2 | 2.7 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 5.4 | 5.8 |
| Not applicable | 1.5 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.5 | 1.7 |
| Walking alone in your neighbourhood during the night | | | | | | |
| Total safe | 49.1 | 53 | 54.3 | 53.9 | 48.4 | 47.8 |
| Total unsafe | 20.4 | 20.6 | 19.7 | 22.4 | 22.8 | 23.1 |
| Neither | 15.2 | 12.6 | 14.8 | 12.3 | 17.2 | 16.1 |
| Not applicable | 15.3 | 13.8 | 11.2 | 11.2 | 11.6 | 13 |
| On public transport during the day | | | | | | |
| Total safe | 62.6 | 64.4 | 67.1 | 59.6 | 58.7 | 56 |
| Total unsafe | 1.8 | 3.8 | 3.2 | 2.4 | 3.4 | 3.9 |
| Neither | 5.9 | 4.1 | 4 | 5.6 | 7.1 | 6.8 |
| Do not use | 24.2 | 23.6 | 21.8 | 27.5 | 27.7 | 29.6 |
| Not applicable | 5.5 | 4 | 3.9 | 5 | 3.1 | 3.6 |
| On public transport during the night | | | | | | |
| Total safe | 26.6 | 26.3 | 30.3 | 25.8 | 25.5 | 24 |
| Total unsafe | 18.5 | 20.7 | 18.5 | 17.1 | 17.9 | 18 |
| Neither | 14.1 | 10.2 | 13.3 | 10.9 | 12.4 | 11.4 |
| Do not use | 32.8 | 37.6 | 32.4 | 40.8 | 39.1 | 41.5 |
| Not applicable | 8 | 5.3 | 5.7 | 5.3 | 5 | 4.9 |

Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, *Report on Government Services 2018, Volume C Chapter 6 Police Services*, 25 January 2018, Table 6A.5.

Table 20 set outs the level of public concern about two distinct types of crime in local neighbourhoods; illegal drugs and dangerous driving. The percentage shown refers to the percentage of survey participants who selected the various options.

| | Table 20: Perceptions of crime in local neighbourhoods (%) ⁴⁹ | | | | | |
|---|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| | NSW | | | | | Australia |
| | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2016-17 |
| Whether illegal drugs are a problem in the neighbourhood | | | | | | |
| Total major or somewhat of a problem | 39.8 | 39.9 | 42.1 | 51 | 50.4 | 48.2 |
| Not a problem | 47.3 | 48.5 | 44.9 | 37.3 | 39 | 39.6 |
| Don't know | 12.9 | 11.6 | 13 | 11.7 | 10.7 | 12.3 |
| Whether speeding cars, dangerous or noisy driving are a problem in the neighbourhood | | | | | | |
| Total major or somewhat of a problem | 57.6 | 59.2 | 62.4 | 72.8 | 73.1 | 69.7 |
| Not a problem | 41.9 | 40.5 | 37.4 | 26.9 | 26.8 | 29.9 |
| Don't know | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.4 |

Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, *Report on Government Services 2018*, [Volume C Chapter 6 Police Services](#), Table 6A.6, Productivity Commission, 25 January 2018

4.2.6 Public satisfaction and confidence with police

Table 21 sets out the level of community confidence in police.

| | Table 21: Community confidence in police ⁵⁰ | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|------|-----------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------|------|
| | NSW | | | | | | | | | | Australia | |
| | 2012-13 Lower/upper limit % | | 2013-14 Lower/upper limit % | | 2014-15 Lower/upper limit % | | 2015-16 Lower/upper limit % | | 2016-17 Lower/upper limit % | | 2016-17 Lower/upper limit % | |
| Satisfaction with most recent contact with police | 78.9 | 87.6 | 79.8 | 89 | 87.2 | 93 | 83.3 | 91.1 | 76.4 | 86.8 | 81.6 | 85.6 |
| Have confidence in police | 80.7 | 87 | 84.3 | 90 | 89.3 | 93.7 | 81.7 | 89.3 | 81.4 | 88.5 | 84.2 | 86.9 |

Source: *NSW Police Force 2016–17 Annual Report*, p 20. Results are presented as a range (a 95% confidence interval), meaning there are 19 chances in 20 that the true value lies within the range. The percentage shown refers to survey participants who responded either “very satisfied/strongly agree” or “satisfied/agree”.

⁴⁹ Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, *Report on Government Services 2018*, Volume C [Chapter 6 Police Services](#), Productivity Commission, Table 6A.6, 25 January 2018.

⁵⁰ Results are presented as a range (a 95% confidence interval), meaning there are 19 chances in 20 that the true value lies within the range. The percentage shown refers to survey participants who responded either “very satisfied/strongly agree” or “satisfied/agree”.

Sources

Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Australian Demographic Statistics](#), June 2017

Australian Institute of Criminology, Crime Statistics Australia, National Deaths in Custody Program, [Appendix: Table 3](#).

NSW Government, Transport for NSW, Centre for Road Safety, [Fatality Trends by Road User](#).

NSW Police Force, [NSW Police Force 2016–17 Annual Report](#).

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, *Report on Government Services 2018*, [Chapter 6 Police Services](#), Productivity Commission.

5. COURTS

5.1 Finalised defendants

Table 22 sets out the number of finalised defendants across Australia in 2016–17, as well as the method of finalisation and mean duration until finalisation.

| Table 22: Finalised defendants: Higher, Local and Children's courts: Australia 2016–17 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| | NSW | Vic | Qld | SA | WA | Tas | NT | ACT | Aus |
| Method finalised | | | | | | | | | |
| Adjudicated outcomes ⁵¹ | 142,783 | 103,337 | 151,359 | 28,828 | 85,961 | 12,281 | 10,143 | 3,712 | 538,410 |
| Acquitted | 6,637 | 315 | 1,314 | 252 | 752 | 1,609 | 312 | 191 | 11,395 |
| Proven guilty | 136,145 | 103,021 | 150,042 | 28,573 | 85,209 | 10,670 | 9,835 | 3,520 | 527,013 |
| Transfer to other court level | 5,269 | 555 | 4,534 | 2,327 | 2,110 | 356 | 341 | 209 | 15,700 |
| Withdrawn by prosecution | 8,388 | 14,936 | 12,376 | 9,286 | 3,698 | 402 | 1,000 | 1,452 | 51,539 |
| Duration until finalisation | | | | | | | | | |
| Mean (weeks) | 12.4 | 18.7 | 14.2 | 40.6 | 13.8 | 36.7 | 31.8 | 22.9 | 17.2 |
| Median (weeks) | 5.1 | 8.4 | 5.1 | 16.6 | 6.6 | 18 | 8.4 | 13.4 | 6.9 |
| Total finalised⁵² | 156,652 | 118,833 | 168,499 | 40,721 | 92,749 | 13,045 | 11,490 | 5,385 | 607,375 |

Source: [Australian Bureau of Statistics, Criminal Courts Australia, 2016–17](#)

Figure 19 sets out the number of defendants with a finalised court appearance in the NSW higher, local and children's criminal courts from 2013 to 2017. Over this period, the number of finalised defendants increased by 17.1% (from 120,404 in 2013 to 141,024 in 2017). A review of the data for each court reveals:

- the number of finalised defendants in the District Court increased by 29.7% (from 3,500 in 2013 to 4,541 in 2017).
- the number of finalised defendants in the Local Court increased by 18.9% (from 109,385 in 2013 to 130,145 in 2017).
- the number of finalised defendants in the Supreme Court decreased by 15.25% (from 118 in 2013 to 100 in 2017); and
- the number of finalised defendants in the Children's Court decreased by 15.71% (from 7401 in 2013 to 6238 in 2017).

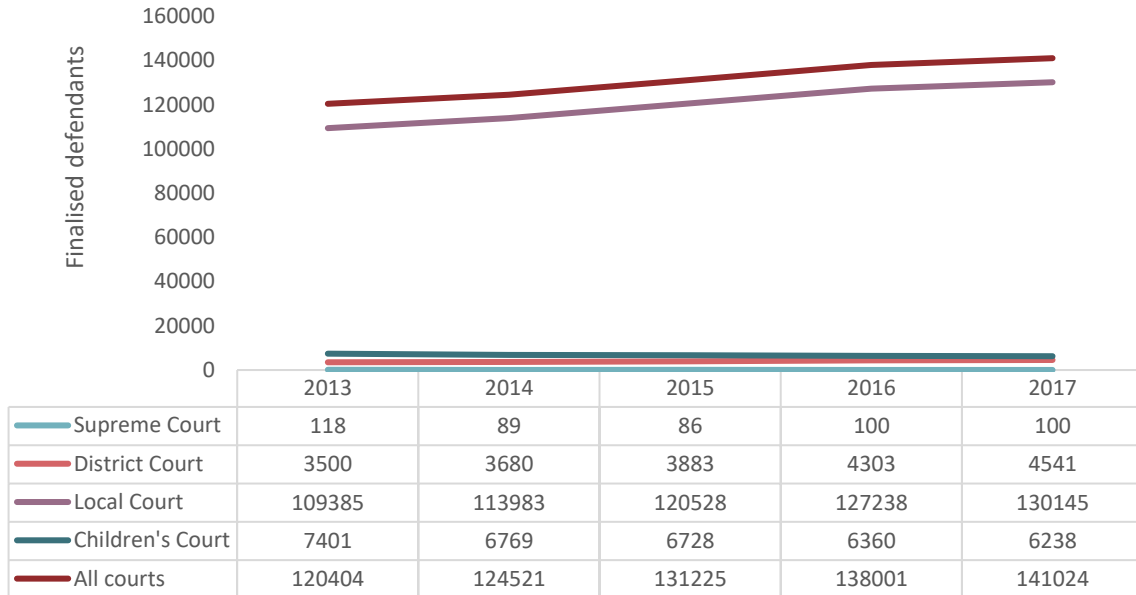
In 2017, 92.28% of defendants had their court appearance finalised in the Local Court. This was followed by the Children's Court (4.42%), District Court (3.2%) and Supreme Court (0.07%).

Figure 20 sets out the gender of defendants with a finalised court appearance in the NSW higher, local and children's criminal courts from 2013 to 2017. In 2017, 77.69% of finalised defendants were male and 20.95% of finalised defendants were female. Over 2013 to 2017, the number of male finalised defendants increased by 15.11%, while the number of female finalised defendants increased by 25.14%.

⁵¹ Includes adjudicated outcomes not further defined.

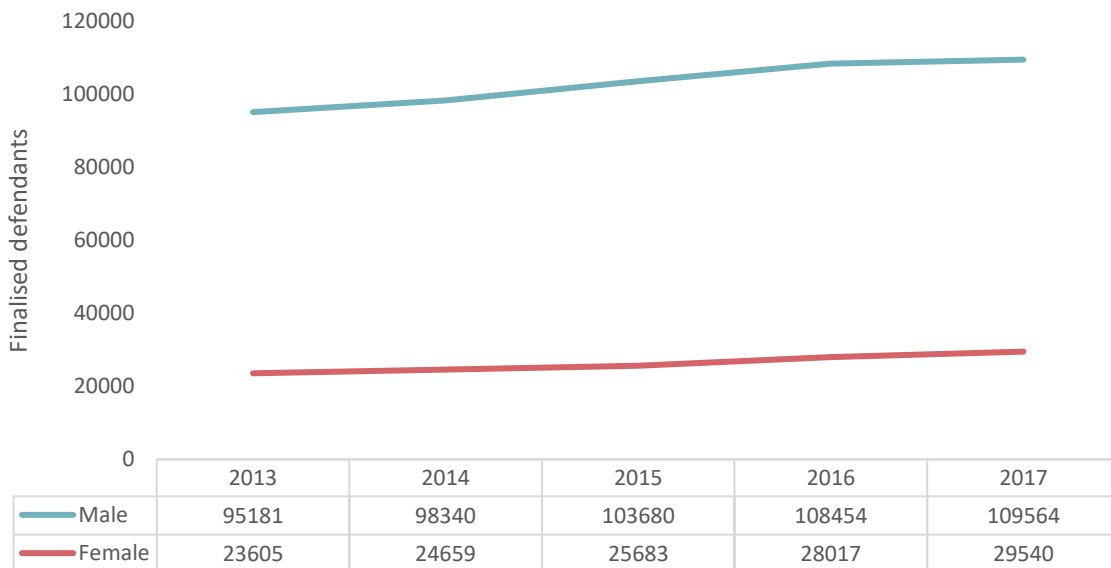
⁵² Includes defendants for whom the method of finalisation could not be determined.

Figure 19: Number of defendants with finalised court appearances, NSW higher, local and children’s courts



NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [Criminal Court Statistics](#), 2017

Figure 20: Finalised defendants: gender: NSW higher, local and children’s courts⁵³

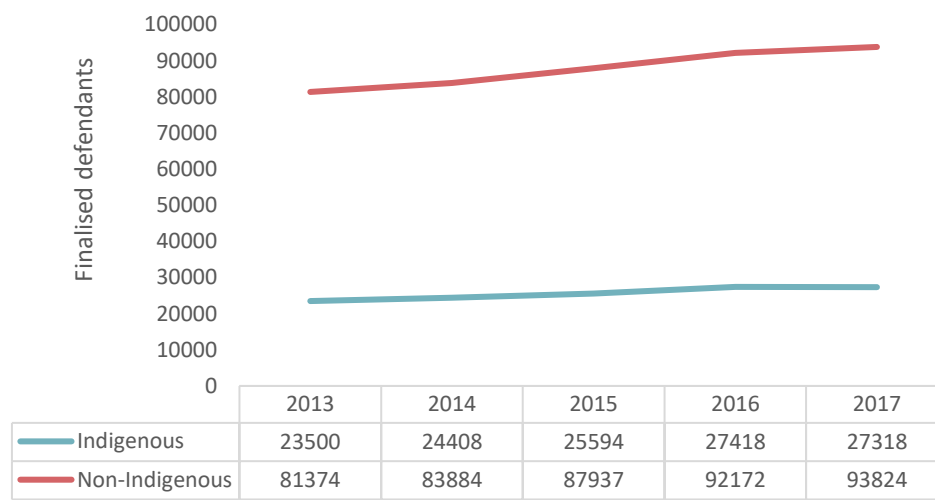


Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [Criminal Court Statistics](#), 2017

⁵³ The data in this Figure excludes companies and defendants whose gender is unknown.

Figure 21 sets out the Indigenous status of defendants with a finalised court appearance in the NSW higher, local and children's criminal courts from 2013 to 2017. Over that period, the number of Indigenous finalised defendants increased by 16.24% and the number of non-Indigenous finalised defendants increased by 15.29%.

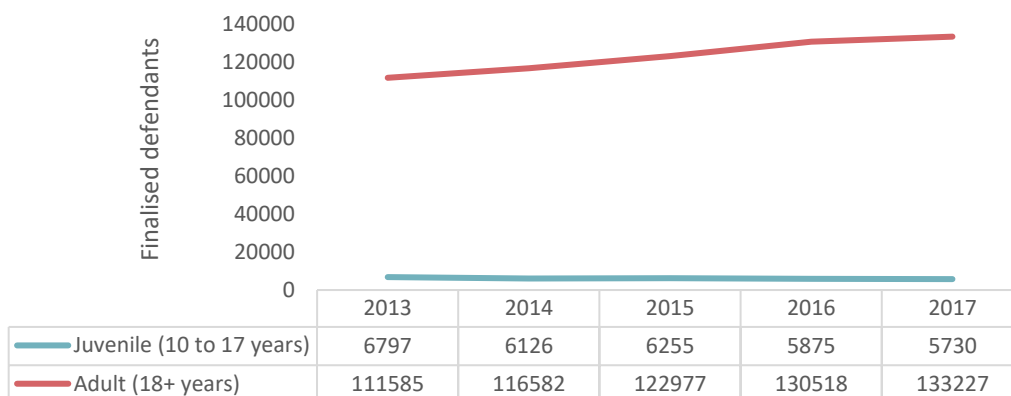
Figure 21: Finalised defendants: Indigenous: NSW higher, local and children's courts⁵⁴



Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [Criminal Court Statistics](#), 2017

Figure 22 sets out the age of defendants with a finalised court appearance in the NSW higher, local and children's criminal courts, from 2013 to 2017. Over that period, the number of juvenile defendants with a finalised court appearance decreased by 15.69%, while the number of adult finalised defendants increased by 19.39%.

Figure 22: Finalised defendants: age: NSW higher, local and children's courts⁵⁵



Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [Criminal Court Statistics](#), 2017

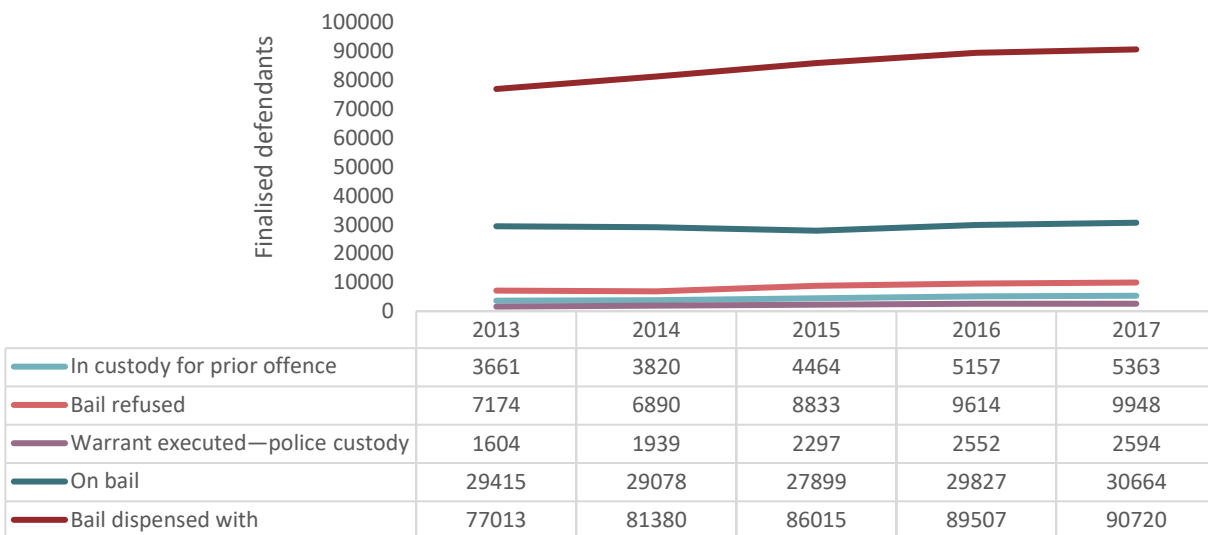
⁵⁴ The data in this Figure excludes companies and defendants whose Indigenous status is unknown.

⁵⁵ The data in this Figure excludes companies and defendants whose age is unknown.

5.2 Bail status

Figure 23 sets out the bail status of defendants at finalisation in the NSW higher, local and children’s courts from 2013 to 2017. During that period the number of bail refusals increased by 38.67%, from 7,174 in 2013 to 9,948 in 2017.

Figure 23: Bail status at finalisation: NSW higher, local and children’s courts.

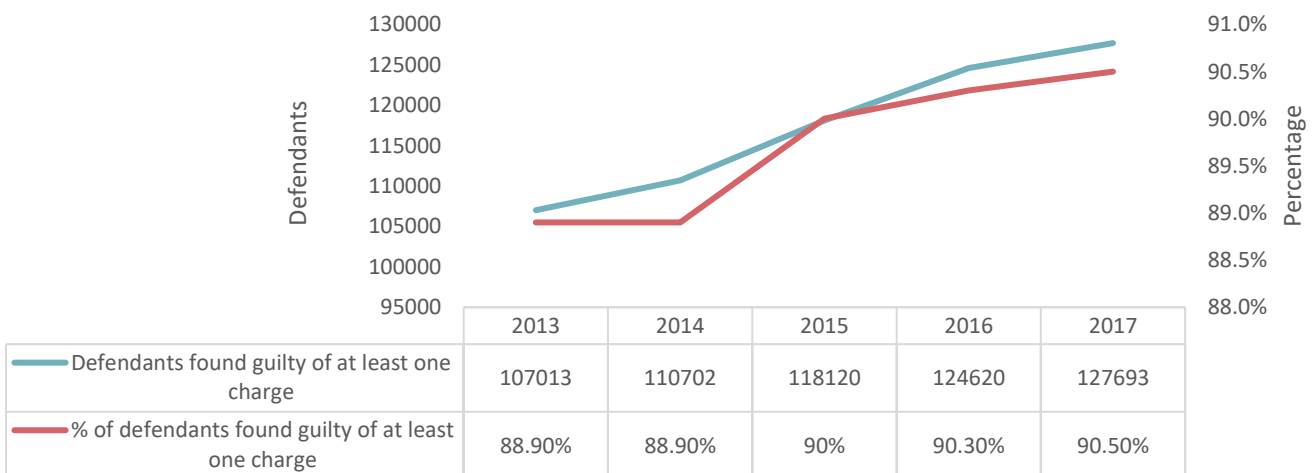


Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *Criminal Court Statistics*, 2017

5.3 Defendants found guilty

Figure 24 sets out the number and percentage of defendants found guilty in the NSW higher, local and children’s criminal courts, from 2013 to 2017.

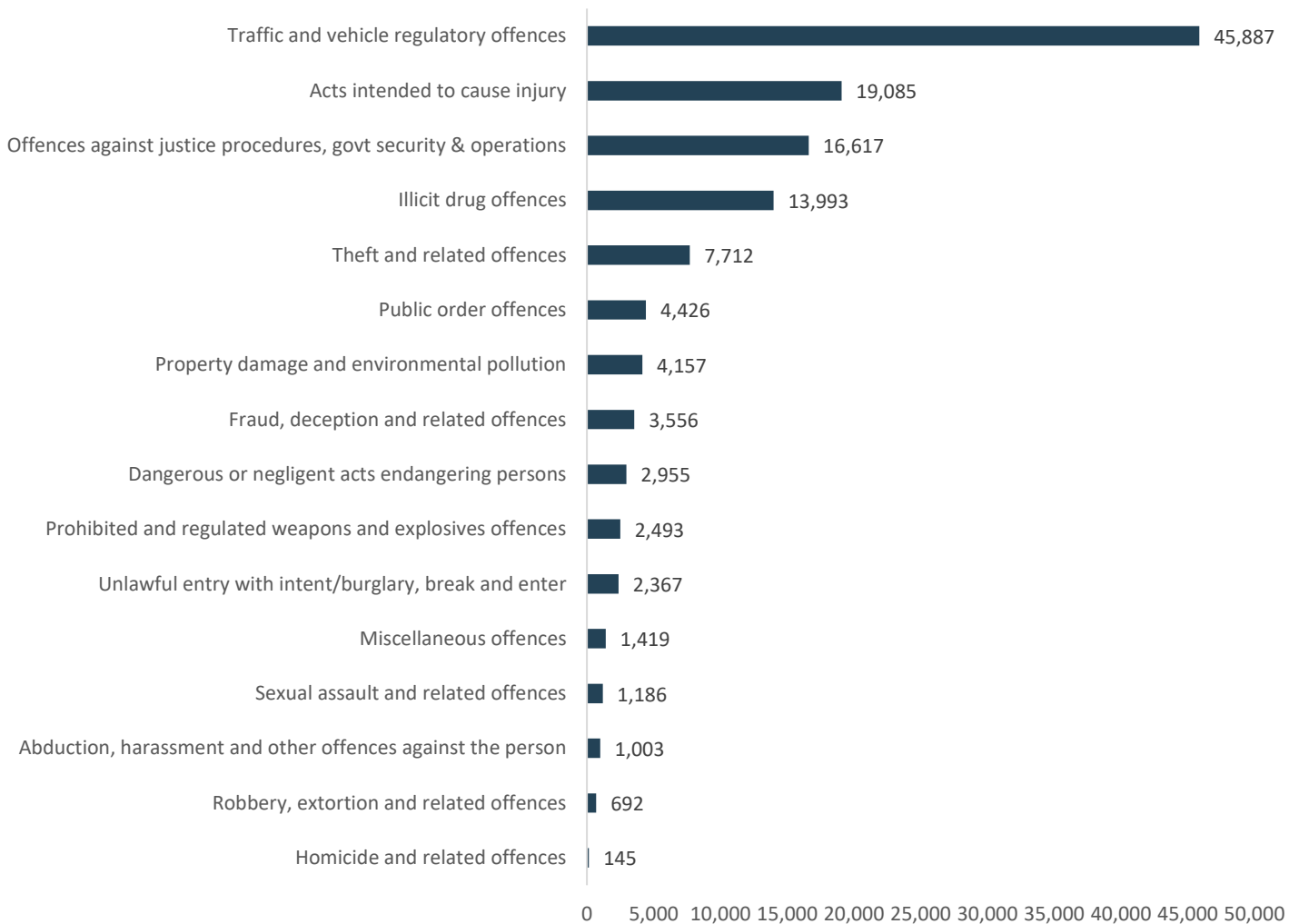
Figure 24: Defendants found guilty: NSW higher, local and children’s courts



Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *Criminal Court Statistics*, 2017

Figure 25 sets out the number of defendants found guilty by principal offence in the NSW higher, local and children's criminal courts in 2017. As shown, the largest number of defendants (45,887 or 35.9%) were found guilty of traffic and vehicle regulatory offences, followed by acts intended to cause injury (19,085 or 14.95%).

Figure 25: Number of defendants found guilty by principal offence, NSW higher, lower and children's courts, 2017⁵⁶



Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [Criminal Court Statistics](#), 2017

⁵⁶ The data relates to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC), 2011 (Third edition).

Table 23 sets out the number of finalised defendants found guilty of each principal offence in the NSW higher, local and children's courts from 2013 to 2017.

| Principal offence | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Homicide and related offences | 142 | 140 | 128 | 121 | 145 |
| Acts intended to cause injury | 16,771 | 17,444 | 17,859 | 18,512 | 19,085 |
| Sexual assault and related offences | 829 | 859 | 937 | 1,117 | 1,186 |
| Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons | 3,444 | 3,127 | 2,972 | 2,939 | 2,955 |
| Abduction, harassment, other offences against person | 792 | 803 | 987 | 933 | 1,003 |
| Robbery, extortion and related offences | 978 | 791 | 791 | 716 | 692 |
| Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter | 2,289 | 2,154 | 2,233 | 2,212 | 2,367 |
| Theft and related offences | 7,027 | 6,819 | 7,231 | 7,879 | 7,712 |
| Fraud, deception and related offences | 2,513 | 2,639 | 2,885 | 3,452 | 3,556 |
| Illicit drug offences | 10,108 | 11,762 | 13,264 | 14,040 | 13,993 |
| Prohibited/regulated weapons/explosives offences | 1,623 | 1,975 | 2,215 | 2,444 | 2,493 |
| Property damage and environmental pollution | 4,245 | 4,175 | 4,073 | 4,259 | 4,157 |
| Public order offences | 4,204 | 4,351 | 4,270 | 4,458 | 4,426 |
| Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences | 37,094 | 38,408 | 42,241 | 44,213 | 45,887 |
| Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations | 13,152 | 13,602 | 14,582 | 15,780 | 16,617 |
| Miscellaneous offences | 1,802 | 1,653 | 1,452 | 1,545 | 1,419 |
| Total defendants found guilty | 107,013 | 110,702 | 118,120 | 124,620 | 127,693 |

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *Criminal Court Statistics*, 2017

From 2013 to 2017, there was a 19.32% increase in the overall number of defendants found guilty in the NSW higher, local and children's criminal courts. There was also an increase in the number of defendants found guilty of:

- homicide and related offences (2.11%);
- acts intended to cause injury (13.79%);
- sexual assault and related offences (43.06%);
- abduction, harassment and other offences against the person (26.64%);
- unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter (3.41%);
- theft and related offences (9.75%);
- fraud, deception and related offences (41.5%);
- illicit drug offences (38.43%);

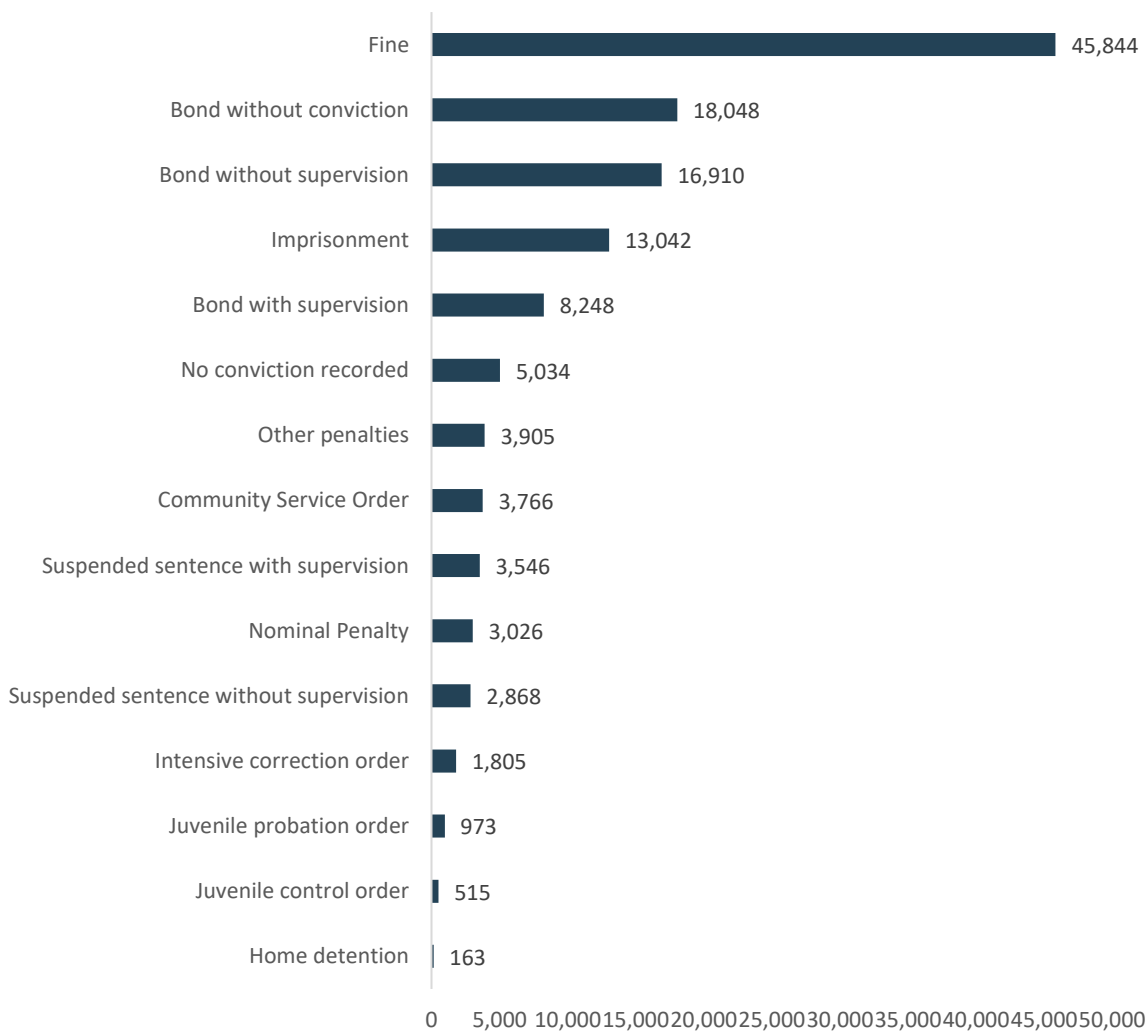
⁵⁷ The data relates to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC), 2011 (Third edition).

- prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences (53.6%);
- public order offences; (5.28%)
- traffic and vehicle regulatory offences (23.7%); and
- offences against justice procedures, government security and operations (26.35%).

5.4 Defendants found guilty by penalty type

Figure 26 sets out the number of defendants found guilty by penalty type in the NSW higher, local and children's courts in 2017. The largest number of defendants (45,884 or 35.9%) were sentenced by way of a fine, followed by a bond without conviction (18,048 or 14.13%), bond without supervision (16,910 or 13.24%) and imprisonment (13,042 or 10.2%).

Figure 26: Number of defendants found guilty by penalty type in the NSW higher, local and children's courts in 2017.



Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [Criminal Court Statistics](#), 2017

Table 24 sets out the number of defendants found guilty by penalty type in the NSW higher, local and children's courts, from 2013 to 2017.

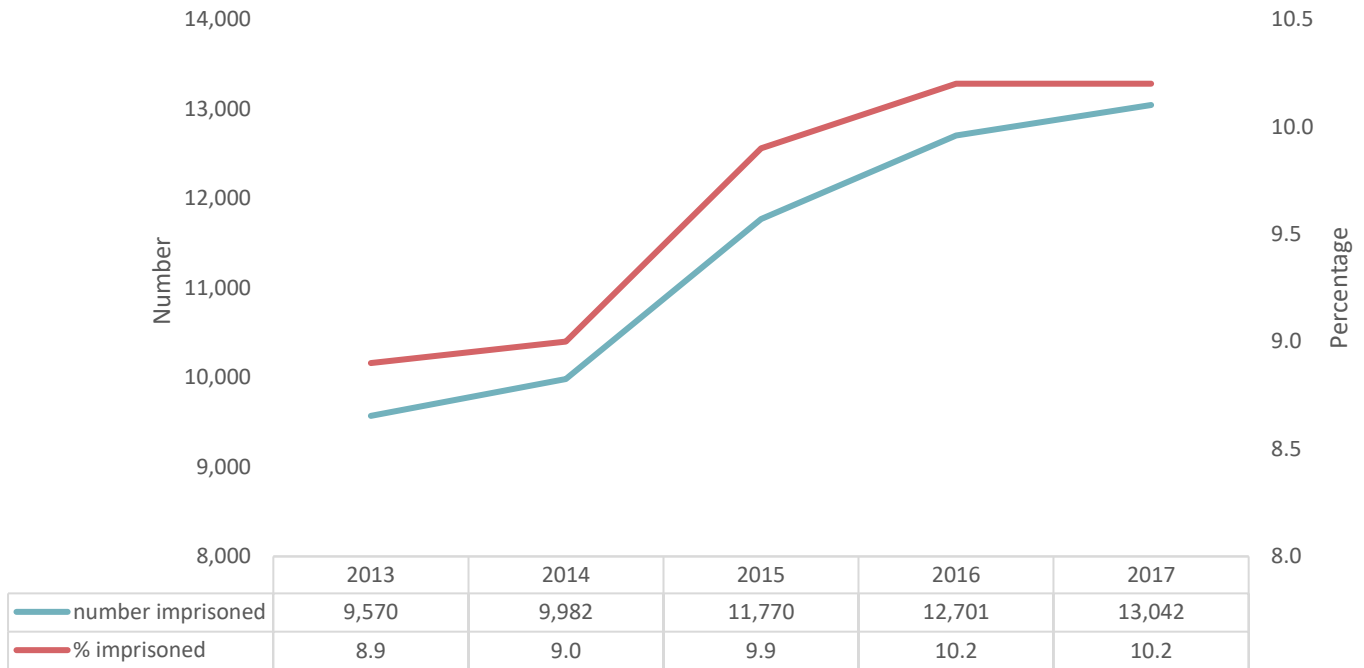
| Table 24: Defendants found guilty by penalty: NSW higher, local and children's courts, 2013– 2017 | | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Penalty | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| Imprisonment | 9,570 | 9,982 | 11,770 | 12,701 | 13,042 |
| <i>Mean duration (months)</i> | <i>11.1</i> | <i>11.1</i> | <i>10.5</i> | <i>10.5</i> | <i>10.9</i> |
| Juvenile control order | 706 | 589 | 610 | 538 | 515 |
| <i>Mean duration (months)</i> | <i>4.3</i> | <i>4.5</i> | <i>4.3</i> | <i>4.8</i> | <i>4.5</i> |
| Home detention | 134 | 133 | 143 | 155 | 163 |
| Intensive correction order | 1,032 | 1,285 | 1,337 | 1,528 | 1,805 |
| Suspended sentence with supervision | 3,215 | 3,026 | 3,399 | 3,673 | 3,546 |
| Suspended sentence without supervision | 2,201 | 2,250 | 2,444 | 2,832 | 2,868 |
| Community Service Order | 3,902 | 3,850 | 3,702 | 3,710 | 3,766 |
| Juvenile probation order | 1,235 | 1,077 | 1,117 | 978 | 973 |
| Bond with supervision | 7,334 | 7,235 | 7,887 | 8,225 | 8,248 |
| Bond without supervision | 14,392 | 14,742 | 14,896 | 15,836 | 16,910 |
| Fine | 39,227 | 41,023 | 43,553 | 44,712 | 45,844 |
| Nominal Penalty | 1,815 | 1,886 | 2,194 | 2,747 | 3,026 |
| Bond without conviction | 13,831 | 14,991 | 16,325 | 17,904 | 18,048 |
| No conviction recorded | 4,855 | 4,902 | 5,108 | 5,192 | 5,034 |
| Other penalties | 3,564 | 3,731 | 3,635 | 3,889 | 3,905 |
| Total | 107,013 | 110,702 | 118,120 | 124,620 | 127,693 |

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [Criminal Court Statistics](#), 2017

5.5 Number and percentage of defendants who received custodial sentences

As set out in Figure 27, there has been an increase in the number and percentage of defendants sentenced to imprisonment in the NSW higher, local and children's courts, from 2013 to 2017.

Figure 27: Number and percentage of defendants sentenced to imprisonment in the NSW higher, local and children's courts, from 2013 to 2017



Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [Criminal Court Statistics](#), 2017

The number and percentage of convicted defendants who received a custodial sentence by principal offence in the NSW higher, local and children's criminal courts from 2013–17 is set out in Table 25.⁵⁸

| Table 25: Convicted defendants in finalised court appearances who received custodial sentences by principal offence type: NSW higher, local and children's criminal courts | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2016 | | 2017 | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Homicide and related offences | | | | | | | | | | |
| Murder | 51 | 100 | 39 | 100 | 38 | 100 | 37 | 100 | 42 | 100 |
| Attempted murder | 8 | 100 | 6 | 100 | 7 | 100 | 10 | 100 | 12 | 100 |
| Manslaughter and driving causing death | 45 | 54.2 | 50 | 52.6 | 45 | 54.2 | 34 | 45.9 | 45 | 49.5 |
| Total | 104 | 73.2 | 95 | 67.9 | 90 | 70.3 | 81 | 66.9 | 99 | 68.3 |

⁵⁸ Custodial sentences are defined as "sentences imposed on a defendant requiring a person to have restricted liberty for a specified period of time either through detention in an institution/home." NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [Criminal Court Statistics](#), 2017, [website—accessed 8 June 2018].

| | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2016 | | 2017 | |
|--|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Acts intended to cause injury | | | | | | | | | | |
| Assault | 1,662 | 12.4 | 1,761 | 12.8 | 2,001 | 14.7 | 2,182 | 15.7 | 2,146 | 15.1 |
| Other acts intended to cause injury | 388 | 11.7 | 473 | 12.8 | 626 | 14.7 | 684 | 14.9 | 723 | 14.8 |
| Total | 2,050 | 12.2 | 2,234 | 12.8 | 2,627 | 14.7 | 2,866 | 15.5 | 2,869 | 15 |
| Sexual assault and related offences | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sexual assault | 319 | 49.6 | 324 | 48.4 | 394 | 53.5 | 455 | 52.3 | 463 | 50.5 |
| Non-assaultive sexual offences | 69 | 37.1 | 88 | 46.6 | 76 | 37.8 | 110 | 44.5 | 112 | 41.6 |
| Total | 388 | 46.8 | 412 | 48 | 470 | 50.2 | 565 | 50.6 | 575 | 48.5 |
| Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dangerous or negligent operation of vehicle | 264 | 7.8 | 278 | 9 | 349 | 11.9 | 389 | 13.5 | 418 | 14.4 |
| Other dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons | 1 | 2.6 | 2 | 4.1 | 5 | 10.6 | 2 | 3.8 | 5 | 10.9 |
| Total | 265 | 7.7 | 280 | 9 | 354 | 11.9 | 391 | 13.3 | 423 | 14.3 |
| Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person | | | | | | | | | | |
| Abduction and kidnapping | 54 | 80.6 | 39 | 73.6 | 35 | 70 | 65 | 84.4 | 57 | 86.4 |
| Deprivation of liberty/false imprisonment | 3 | 75 | 5 | 71.4 | 2 | 40 | 2 | 100 | 2 | 28.6 |
| Harassment and threatening behaviour | 93 | 12.9 | 119 | 16 | 163 | 17.5 | 138 | 16.2 | 155 | 16.7 |
| Total | 150 | 18.9 | 163 | 20.3 | 200 | 20.3 | 205 | 22 | 214 | 21.3 |
| Robbery, extortion and related offences | | | | | | | | | | |
| Robbery | 588 | 60.3 | 497 | 63.9 | 483 | 61.5 | 472 | 66.9 | 440 | 64.4 |
| Blackmail and extortion | 0 | 0 | 5 | 38.5 | 2 | 40 | 1 | 10 | 3 | 33.3 |
| Total | 588 | 60.1 | 502 | 63.5 | 485 | 61.3 | 473 | 66.1 | 443 | 64 |
| Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and entry | 1,021 | 44.6 | 993 | 46.1 | 1,107 | 49.6 | 1,067 | 48.2 | 1,202 | 50.8 |
| Theft and related offences | | | | | | | | | | |
| Motor vehicle theft and related offences | 238 | 35.4 | 178 | 32.7 | 249 | 39.2 | 251 | 37 | 276 | 38.2 |
| Theft (except motor vehicles) | 603 | 14.4 | 539 | 13.6 | 686 | 16.7 | 733 | 16.4 | 743 | 16.7 |
| Receive or handle proceeds of crime | 318 | 14.7 | 354 | 15.2 | 401 | 16.1 | 427 | 15.6 | 448 | 17.7 |
| Illegal use of property (except motor vehicles) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 1,159 | 16.5 | 1,071 | 15.7 | 1,336 | 18.5 | 1,411 | 17.9 | 1,467 | 19 |
| Fraud, deception & related offences | | | | | | | | | | |
| Obtain benefit by deception | 295 | 16.5 | 346 | 18.8 | 399 | 20.2 | 491 | 20.7 | 493 | 20.3 |

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| | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2016 | | 2017 | |
|---|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Forgery and counterfeiting | 20 | 24.7 | 25 | 30.1 | 20 | 24.1 | 39 | 44.8 | 21 | 24.4 |
| Deceptive business/government practices | 7 | 8.1 | 1 | 1.3 | 2 | 2.9 | 4 | 5.9 | 1 | 3.2 |
| Other fraud and deception offences | 26 | 4.7 | 24 | 3.8 | 18 | 2.4 | 26 | 2.8 | 17 | 1.7 |
| Total | 348 | 13.8 | 396 | 15 | 439 | 15.2 | 560 | 16.2 | 532 | 15 |
| Illicit drug offences | | | | | | | | | | |
| Import or export illicit drugs | 69 | 93.2 | 102 | 95.3 | 88 | 97.8 | 77 | 92.8 | 95 | 89.6 |
| Deal or traffic in illicit drugs | 491 | 38.4 | 490 | 35 | 640 | 40.5 | 741 | 38.9 | 690 | 37.3 |
| Manufacture of cultivate illicit drugs | 75 | 9.6 | 95 | 10.5 | 67 | 8.9 | 98 | 14.1 | 109 | 16.7 |
| Possess and/or use illicit drugs | 72 | 0.9 | 104 | 1.2 | 178 | 1.7 | 162 | 1.5 | 140 | 1.3 |
| Other illicit drug offences | 3 | 1.1 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 1.6 | 7 | 1.8 | 8 | 2.9 |
| Total | 710 | 7 | 798 | 6.8 | 979 | 7.4 | 1,085 | 7.7 | 1,042 | 7.4 |
| Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prohibited weapons/explosives offences | 45 | 11.4 | 79 | 15.6 | 106 | 19.1 | 102 | 16.7 | 97 | 15.8 |
| Regulated weapons/explosives offences | 98 | 8 | 147 | 10 | 181 | 10.9 | 178 | 9.7 | 205 | 10.9 |
| Total | 143 | 8.8 | 226 | 11.4 | 287 | 13 | 280 | 11.5 | 302 | 12.1 |
| Property damage and environmental pollution | | | | | | | | | | |
| Property damage | 202 | 4.9 | 209 | 5.1 | 197 | 5 | 214 | 5.2 | 238 | 5.9 |
| Environmental pollution | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 202 | 4.8 | 209 | 5 | 197 | 4.8 | 214 | 5 | 238 | 5.7 |
| Public order offences | | | | | | | | | | |
| Disorderly conduct | 358 | 13.6 | 357 | 12.8 | 428 | 14.8 | 460 | 14.8 | 505 | 15.7 |
| Regulated public order offences | 7 | 1.5 | 3 | 0.6 | 7 | 1.7 | 4 | 0.9 | 11 | 2.7 |
| Offensive conduct | 20 | 1.8 | 11 | 1 | 13 | 1.4 | 11 | 1.2 | 12 | 1.5 |
| Total | 385 | 9.2 | 371 | 8.5 | 448 | 10.5 | 475 | 10.7 | 528 | 11.9 |
| Traffic and vehicle offences | | | | | | | | | | |
| Driver licence offences | 568 | 4.1 | 581 | 4 | 749 | 5 | 755 | 4.7 | 828 | 5 |
| Vehicle registration and roadworthiness offences | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Regulatory driving offences | 289 | 1.3 | 253 | 1.1 | 220 | 0.8 | 193 | 0.7 | 190 | 0.7 |
| Total | 857 | 2.3 | 834 | 2.2 | 969 | 2.3 | 948 | 2.1 | 1,018 | 2.2 |
| Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations | | | | | | | | | | |
| Breach of custodial order offences | 596 | 55.1 | 591 | 53 | 710 | 56.9 | 793 | 56.9 | 808 | 50.4 |

| | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2016 | | 2017 | |
|--|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Breach of community-based order | 615 | 12.1 | 626 | 11.2 | 777 | 13 | 786 | 12.1 | 764 | 11.2 |
| Breach of violence and non-violence restraining orders | 418 | 11.4 | 423 | 12.2 | 568 | 14.7 | 642 | 15.4 | 597 | 14.8 |
| Offences against government operations | 8 | 1.1 | 16 | 2.4 | 2 | 0.3 | 2 | 0.3 | 12 | 1.2 |
| Offences against government security | 1 | 16.7 | 2 | 33.3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 35.3 | 11 | 57.9 |
| Offences against justice procedures | 209 | 8 | 264 | 9.5 | 292 | 10.7 | 361 | 11.7 | 380 | 12.1 |
| Total | 1,847 | 14 | 1,922 | 14.1 | 2,349 | 16.1 | 2,590 | 16.4 | 2,572 | 15.5 |
| Miscellaneous offences | | | | | | | | | | |
| Defamation, libel and privacy offences | 1 | 33.3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 16.7 | 2 | 33.3 | 1 | 10 |
| Public health and safety offences | 34 | 3.4 | 26 | 2.8 | 19 | 2.5 | 11 | 1.3 | 15 | 2.1 |
| Commercial/industry/financial regulation | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.3 | 4 | 0.9 | 2 | 0.4 | 2 | 0.5 |
| Other miscellaneous offences | 24 | 7.1 | 38 | 11.2 | 19 | 7.7 | 13 | 5.8 | 15 | 5.5 |
| Total | 59 | 3.3 | 65 | 3.9 | 43 | 3 | 28 | 1.8 | 33 | 2.3 |
| Total | 10,276 | 9.6 | 10,571 | 9.5 | 12,380 | 10.5 | 13,239 | 10.6 | 13,557 | 10.6 |

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [Criminal Court Statistics](#), 2017

As set out in Table 26, the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research also provides separate data on the number and percentage of convicted defendants for domestic violence offences and sexual offences against children who received custodial sentences.

Table 26: Convicted defendants in finalised court appearances who received custodial sentences: domestic violence and child sex offences: NSW higher, local and children's criminal courts

| | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2016 | | 2017 | |
|--|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Domestic violence offences⁵⁹ | 1,321 | 10.6 | 1,497 | 10.8 | 1,965 | 13.1 | 2,188 | 13.6 | 2,153 | 13.3 |
| Child sex offences⁶⁰ | 259 | 52.4 | 299 | 56.1 | 315 | 56 | 401 | 59.5 | 382 | 57.4 |

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [Criminal Court Statistics](#), 2017, Table 16

⁵⁹ The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research notes that: "Domestic violence offences is not a category within ANZSOC. These offences are also counted in the appropriate ANZSOC categories - Acts intended to cause injury, Homicide and related offences, Sexual assault and related offences, Abduction, harassment and related offences, Property damage and environmental pollution and Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations.": [Criminal Court Statistics](#), 2017, [website—accessed 14 June 2018].

⁶⁰ The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research notes that: "Sexual offences against children is not a category within ANZSOC. These offences are also counted in the appropriate ANZSOC categories - sexual assault and non-assaultive sexual offences." [Criminal Court Statistics](#), 2017, [website—accessed 14 June 2018].

5.6 Length of custodial sentence by principal offence

Table 27 sets out the mean custodial sentence (months) in finalised court appearances by type of principal offence in the NSW Higher, Local and Children's Criminal Courts from January 2013 to December 2017.

Table 27: Mean custodial sentence (months) in finalised court appearances by type of principal offence: NSW higher, local and children's criminal courts⁶¹

| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Homicide and related offences | | | | | |
| Murder | 199.1 | 217.1 | 204 | 216.7 | 237.4 |
| Attempted murder | 78.9 | 81.2 | 101.1 | 94.4 | 68.7 |
| Manslaughter and driving causing death | 39.4 | 48.3 | 41.3 | 48.6 | 48.4 |
| Total | 118.4 | 118.7 | 114.7 | 127.8 | 127.7 |
| Acts intended to cause injury | | | | | |
| Assault | 8.8 | 9.6 | 9 | 9 | 9.1 |
| Other acts intended to cause injury | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.6 | 5.7 | 5.6 |
| Total | 8.1 | 8.7 | 8.2 | 8.2 | 8.3 |
| Sexual assault and related offences | | | | | |
| Sexual assault | 28.7 | 26.4 | 27.4 | 31.7 | 33 |
| Non-assaultive sexual offences | 13 | 11.1 | 12.5 | 12.3 | 12.2 |
| Total | 25.9 | 23.2 | 25 | 27.9 | 29 |
| Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons | | | | | |
| Dangerous or negligent operation of a vehicle | 7.2 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 7.6 | 8.3 |
| Other dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons | 6 | 7 | 8 | 4.5 | 7.7 |
| Total | 7.1 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 7.6 | 8.3 |
| Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person | | | | | |
| Abduction and kidnapping | 23 | 29.2 | 25.8 | 33 | 30.3 |
| Deprivation of liberty/false imprisonment | 21.7 | 25.1 | 27 | 24 | 13 |
| Harassment and threatening behaviour | 5.2 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.1 |
| Total | 11.9 | 11.7 | 9.4 | 14.5 | 11.9 |
| Robbery, extortion and related offences | | | | | |
| Robbery | 20.1 | 21.9 | 21.6 | 20.3 | 20.9 |
| Blackmail and extortion | n.a | 12.4 | 19.5 | 9 | 13.0 |
| Total | 20.1 | 21.8 | 21.6 | 20.3 | 20.9 |
| Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter | | | | | |
| | 11.3 | 11.5 | 11.7 | 12.1 | 11.6 |

⁶¹ Custodial sentences are defined as "sentences imposed on a defendant requiring a person to have restricted liberty for a specified period of time either through detainment in an institution/home." This includes the penalties of imprisonment and control order.

| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| Theft and related offences | | | | | |
| Motor vehicle theft and related offences | 7.8 | 7.6 | 6.8 | 6.9 | 7 |
| Theft (except motor vehicles) | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.5 | 4.7 | 4.8 |
| Receive or handle proceeds of crime | 5.4 | 4.4 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 5.4 |
| Illegal use of property (except motor vehicles) | n.a | n.a | n.a | n.a | n.a |
| Total | 5.6 | 5.1 | 5 | 5 | 5.4 |
| Fraud, deception and related offences | | | | | |
| Obtain benefit by deception | 8.3 | 8.2 | 7.4 | 6.4 | 7.2 |
| Forgery and counterfeiting | 12.7 | 7.8 | 7.4 | 8.4 | 4.8 |
| Deceptive business/government practices | 16.5 | 6 | 12 | 18.7 | 3 |
| Other fraud and deception offences | 12.1 | 11.4 | 11.6 | 10.6 | 6.7 |
| Total | 9 | 8.4 | 7.6 | 6.8 | 7.1 |
| Illicit drug offences | | | | | |
| Import or export illicit drugs | 48.8 | 58.3 | 66.1 | 72.4 | 57.6 |
| Deal or traffic in illicit drugs | 20.2 | 18.7 | 19.8 | 18.4 | 18.8 |
| Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs | 18.4 | 22.7 | 25.8 | 23.1 | 37.2 |
| Possess and/or use illicit drugs | 3.1 | 3.6 | 2.7 | 3.2 | 3.1 |
| Other illicit drug offences | 9.3 | 6.7 | 6 | 5.5 | 5.3 |
| Total | 21 | 22.2 | 21.2 | 20.3 | 22 |
| Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences | | | | | |
| Prohibited weapons/explosives offences | 14 | 11.9 | 11.1 | 12.2 | 16 |
| Regulated weapons/explosives offences | 11.7 | 10.8 | 9.2 | 9.7 | 9.8 |
| Total | 12.4 | 11.2 | 9.9 | 10.6 | 11.8 |
| Property damage and environmental pollution | | | | | |
| Property damage | 4.9 | 5.5 | 6.3 | 5.8 | 6.8 |
| Environmental pollution | n.a | n.a | n.a | n.a | n.a |
| Total | 4.9 | 5.5 | 6.3 | 5.8 | 6.8 |
| Public order offences | | | | | |
| Disorderly conduct | 6.5 | 6.8 | 6.4 | 6.3 | 6.9 |
| Regulated public order offences | 2.5 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 2.8 | 2.7 |
| Offensive conduct | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 2.9 | 2.7 |
| Total | 6.3 | 6.6 | 6.3 | 6.2 | 6.7 |
| Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences | | | | | |
| Driver licence offences | 6 | 6 | 6.1 | 6.2 | 5.8 |
| Vehicle registration and roadworthiness offences | n.a | n.a | n.a | n.a | n.a |
| Regulatory driving offences | 5.7 | 6.2 | 5.9 | 6.2 | 6.4 |
| Total | 5.9 | 6.1 | 6.1 | 6.2 | 5.9 |

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| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations | | | | | |
| Breach of custodial order offences | 4.7 | 5.1 | 5 | 4.8 | 5 |
| Breach of community-based order | 3.7 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 4.1 | 3.7 |
| Breach of violence and non-violence restraining orders | 4.1 | 3.9 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.2 |
| Offences against government operations | 15.3 | 24.2 | 7.5 | 28 | 32.6 |
| Offences against government security | 12 | 5 | n.a | 76 | 83.9 |
| Offences against justice procedures | 7.1 | 5.3 | 4.7 | 5.4 | 5.2 |
| Total | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 4.7 | 4.9 |
| Miscellaneous offences | | | | | |
| Defamation, libel and privacy offences | 12 | n.a | 6 | 7.8 | 3.1 |
| Public health and safety offences | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 1.8 | 3.7 |
| Commercial/industry/financial regulation | n.a | 2 | 7.5 | 8 | 23.3 |
| Other miscellaneous offences | 9.8 | 10.5 | 15.1 | 6.8 | 15.6 |
| Total | 5.6 | 7.2 | 8.8 | 5 | 10.3 |
| Total | 10.6 | 10.8 | 10.2 | 10.3 | 10.6 |

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *Criminal Court Statistics*, 2017

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research also provides separate data on mean custodial sentences for domestic violence offences and sexual offences against children.

Table 28: Mean custodial sentence (months) in finalised court appearances: domestic violence and child sex offences: NSW higher, local and children's criminal courts⁶²

| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| Domestic violence offences⁶³ | 7.6 | 7.1 | 7.3 | 7.7 | 8.3 |
| Child sex offences⁶⁴ | 26 | 22.3 | 25.4 | 27.1 | 29.8 |

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *Criminal Court Statistics*, 2017

⁶² Custodial sentences are defined as "sentences imposed on a defendant requiring a person to have restricted liberty for a specified period of time either through detainment in an institution/home." This includes the penalties of imprisonment and control order.

⁶³ The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research notes that "domestic violence offences" is not a category within ANZSOC and that: "These offences are also counted in the appropriate ANZSOC categories — Acts intended to cause injury, Homicide and related offences, Sexual assault and related offences, Abduction, harassment and related offences, Property damage and environmental pollution and Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations."

⁶⁴ The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research notes that "sexual offences against children is not a category within ANZSOC and that "these offences are also counted in the appropriate ANZSOC categories—sexual assault and non-assaultive sexual offences".

Sources

Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Criminal Courts Australia, 2016–17](#)

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [Criminal Court Statistics](#), 2017

6. CORRECTIONS

Corrective Services NSW administers sentences imposed by the courts that entail either community-based supervision or imprisonment in a correctional facility. Corrective Services NSW administers those sentences in line with the objectives stipulated in [section 2A\(1\)](#) of the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999*, in order:

- (a) to ensure that those offenders who are required to be held in custody are removed from the general community and placed in a safe, secure and humane environment,
- (b) to ensure that other offenders are kept under supervision in a safe, secure and humane manner,
- (c) to ensure that the safety of persons having the custody or supervision of offenders is not endangered,
- (d) to provide for the rehabilitation of offenders with a view to their reintegration into the general community.

6.1 Offenders with community-based corrections orders

Table 29 sets out the number of offenders by type of community-based order in NSW, as at 30 June 2017.

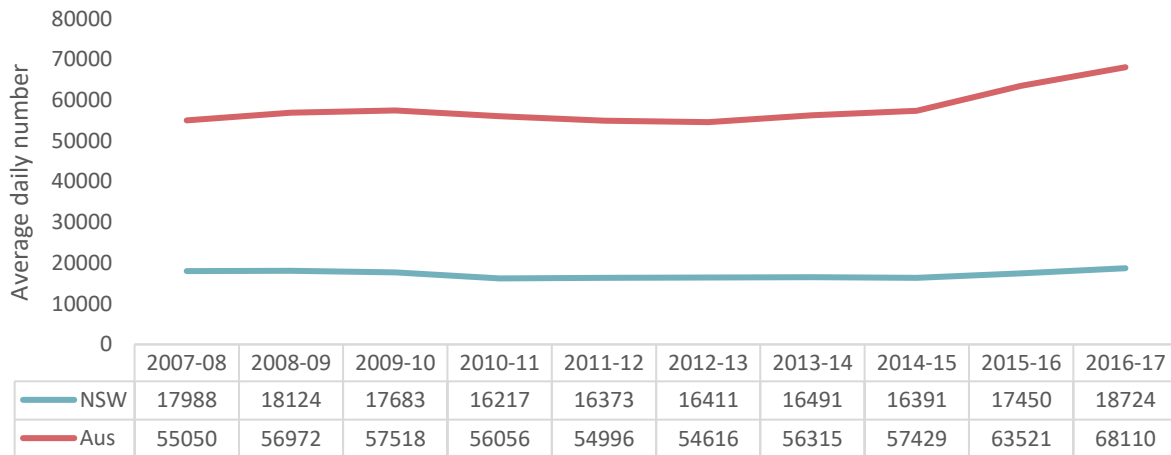
| Table 29: Number of offenders by type of community-based order, as at 30 June 2017, NSW | | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|
| | Male | Female | Not known/recorded | Total |
| Total⁶⁵ | 16,147 | 3,108 | 14 | 19,269 |
| Extended Supervision Orders | 84 | – | – | 84 |
| State Parole Authority Parole | 1,663 | 121 | – | 1,784 |
| Court-based Parole | 3,461 | 466 | – | 3,927 |
| Home Detention | 92 | 42 | – | 134 |
| Intensive Correction Order | 1,665 | 231 | 1 | 1,897 |
| Community Service Order | 2,532 | 490 | 3 | 3,025 |
| Bond (including suspended sentences) | 8,583 | 2,080 | 10 | 10,673 |
| Drug Court | 225 | 78 | – | 303 |
| Bail supervision (post-conviction) | 12 | 11 | – | 23 |

Source: Corrective Services NSW, [Community-based orders](#), April 2018, p 2

⁶⁵ Corrective Services NSW states: “Total offenders is a unique count of persons and does not represent the sum of persons across orders, as offenders may be subject to more than one order”: [Community-based orders](#), April 2018, p 2.

Figure 28 sets out the average daily community corrections offender population in NSW and Australia from 2007–08 to 2016–17. In 2016–17, 22.3% of the average daily community corrections offender population in NSW were Indigenous.⁶⁶

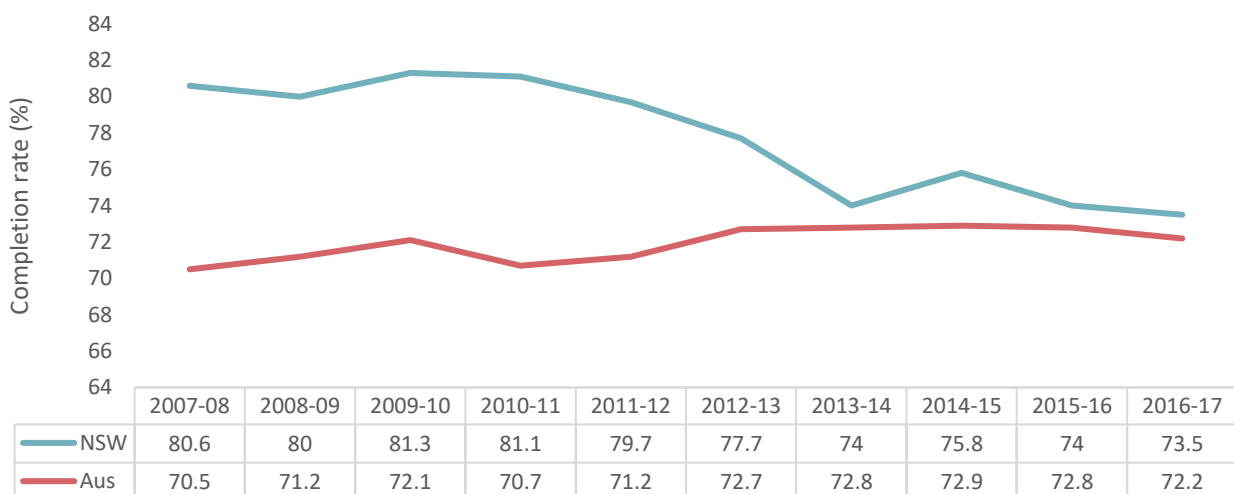
Figure 28: Community corrections offender population (average daily number)



Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, *Report on Government Services 2018*, Part C, Chapter 8, Table 8A.8, Productivity Commission, 25 January 2018

Figure 29 sets out completion rate for community-based corrections orders in NSW and Australia from 2007–08 to 2016–17.

Figure 29: Completion rate (%) for community-based corrections orders



Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, *Report on Government Services 2018*, Part C, Chapter 8, Table 8A.19, Productivity Commission, 25 January 2018

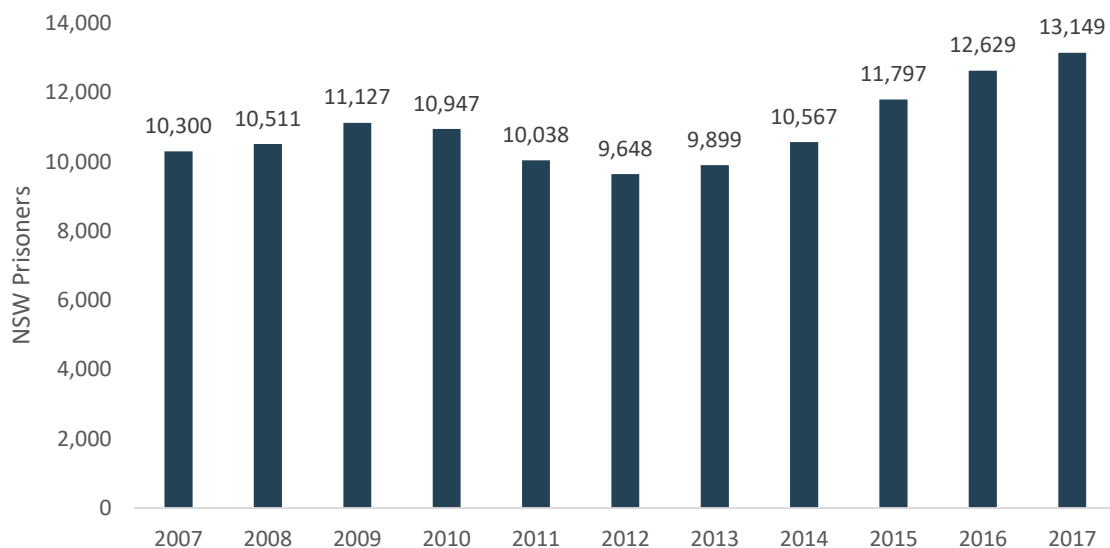
⁶⁶ Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, *Report on Government Services 2018*, Part C Chapter 8, Table 8A.8, Productivity Commission, 25 January 2018.

6.2 Imprisonment

6.2.1 Prison population

Figures 30–36 set out the following characteristics of the NSW adult prison population between 2007 and 2017: NSW total prisoner number, male and female imprisonment rates, prisoner median age, the percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners, the percentage of prisoners with prior known imprisonment and the percentage of unsentenced prisoners.⁶⁷

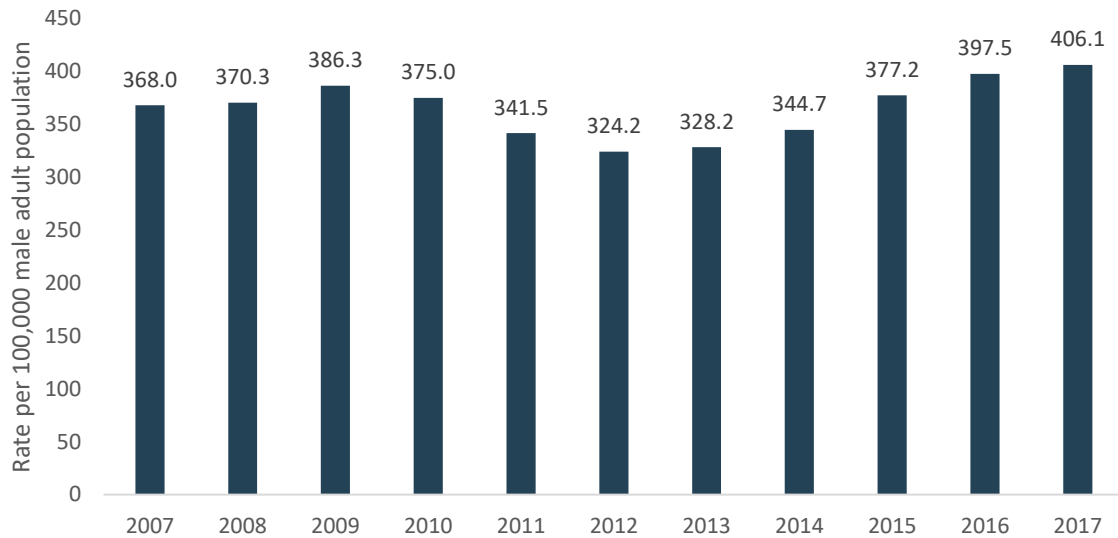
Figure 30: Number of NSW prisoners, 2007–2017⁶⁸



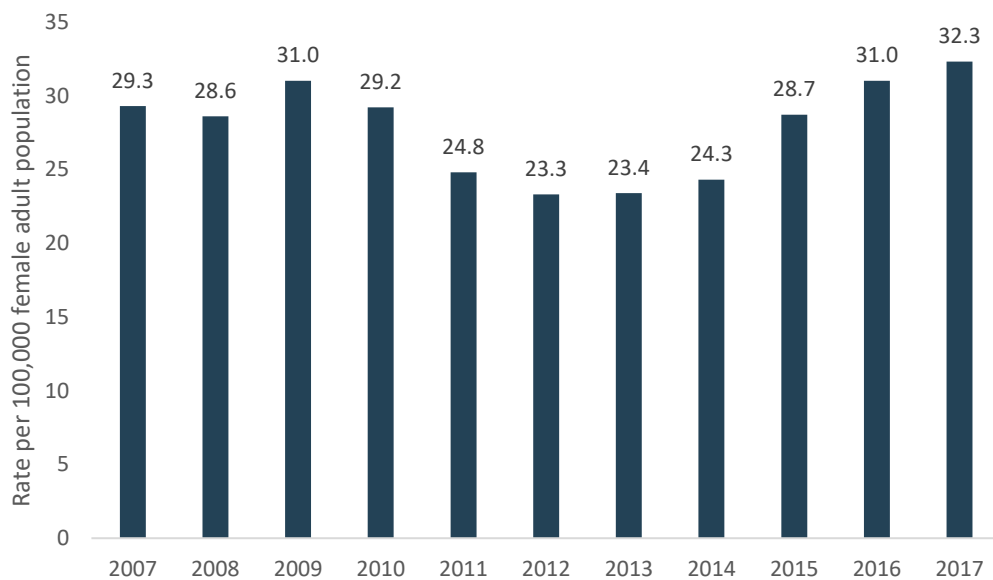
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Prisoners in Australia, 2017](#), Table 15.

⁶⁷ The figures are sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' [Prisoners in Australia, 2017](#), which presents statistics on prisoners held in custody in Australian adult prisons in all States and Territories, as at 30 June 2017.

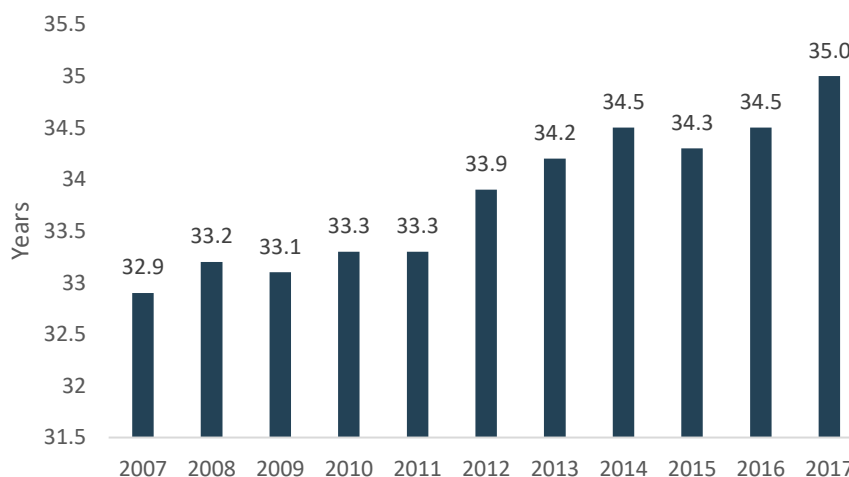
⁶⁸ The [Glossary](#) to [Prisoners in Australia, 2017](#), defines "unsentenced prisoners" as: "A legal status indicating that a person is confined to custody on remand while awaiting the outcome of their trial. They may be unconvicted (remanded in custody for trial), convicted but awaiting sentence (remanded in custody for sentence) or awaiting deportation".

Figure 31: NSW male imprisonment rate (per 100,000 male adult population)

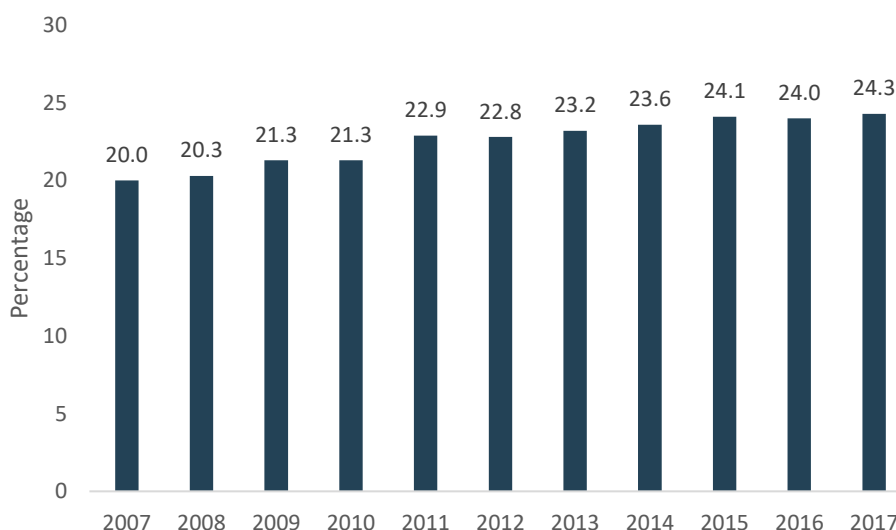
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Prisoners in Australia, 2017*, Table 15

Figure 32: NSW female imprisonment rate (per 100,000 female adult population)

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Prisoners in Australia, 2017*, Table 15

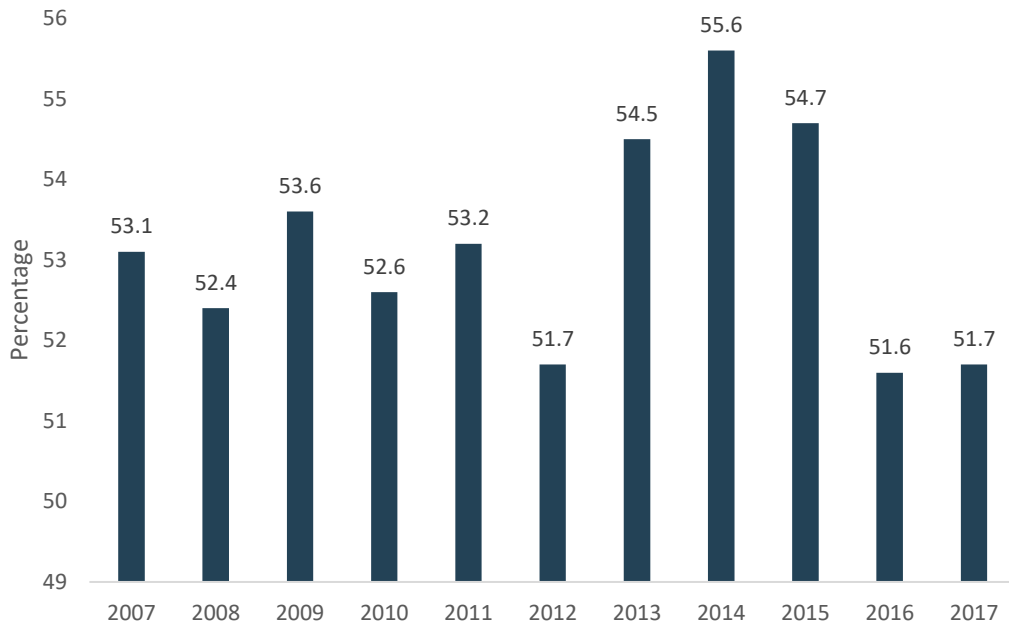
Figure 33: NSW prisoners median age (years)

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Prisoners in Australia, 2017*, Table 15.

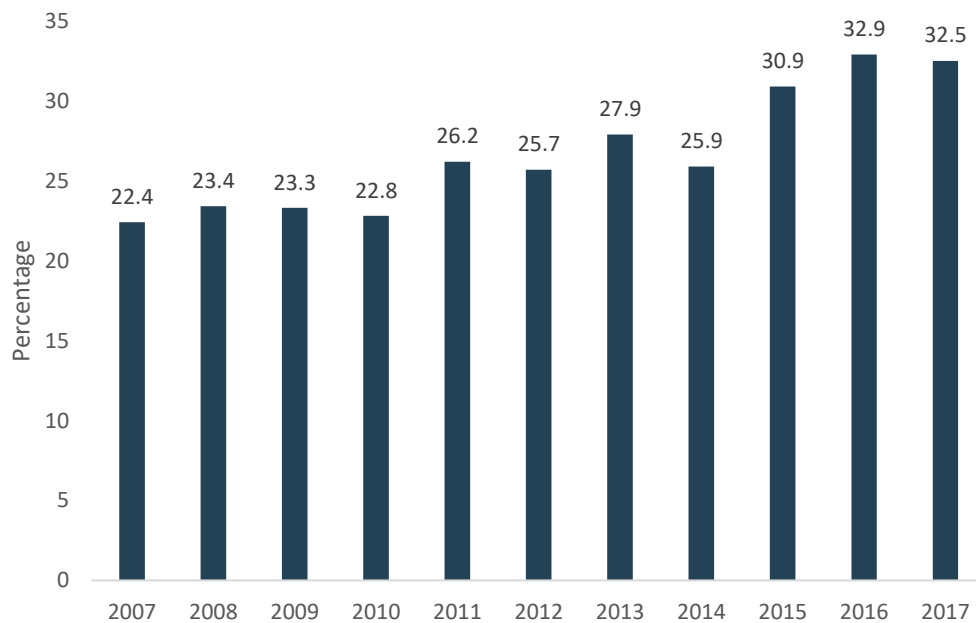
Figure 34: NSW prisoners: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander percentage⁶⁹

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Prisoners in Australia, 2017*, Table 15.

⁶⁹ See also: Weatherburn D and Ramsey S, *What's causing the growth in Indigenous Imprisonment in NSW?* NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2016; Weatherburn D and Holmes J, *Indigenous Imprisonment in NSW: A closer look at the trend*, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2017; and Australian law Reform Commission, *Pathways to Justice—An Inquiry into the Incarceration Rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*, 2018.

Figure 35: NSW prisoners: known prior imprisonment percentage

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Prisoners in Australia, 2017](#), Table 15.

Figure 36: NSW prisoners: unsentenced percentage

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics [Prisoners in Australia, 2017](#), Table 15

Table 30 sets out the number of adult prisoners in NSW as at June 2018.

| Table 30: NSW adult custody numbers as at the end of June 2018 quarter | | | |
|---|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Remand | Sentenced | Total |
| Total male | 4,098 | 8,465 | 12,563 |
| Total female | 404 | 663 | 1,067 |
| Indigenous male | 897 | 2,032 | 2,929 |
| Indigenous female | 145 | 218 | 363 |
| Total | 4,502 | 9,128 | 13,630 |

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [NSW Custody Statistics: Quarterly Update June 2018](#), p 19

Commenting on these June 2018 figures, the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research noted:

The NSW female prison population grew by 6.6 per cent over the last 12 months, reaching a new high in June 2018 of 1,067.

This brings the total increase in female prisoners to more than 50 per cent since 2011 (an additional 370 prisoners), compared to an increase of 35 per cent for male prisoners (9,304 to 12,587).

Overall the adult prison population continues to grow, increasing by 4.1 per cent in the last 12 months. As of June this year, the prison population stood at 13,630.

The increase is attributable to a steady growth in both prisoners on remand (i.e. unconvicted prisoners awaiting trial or sentence) and sentenced prisoners.

Over the last 12 months to June 2018, the number of adult prisoners on remand grew by 4.5 per cent (from 4,309 to 4,502), while the number of sentenced prisoners rose by 3.9 per cent (from 8,783 to 9,128).

On average over the last 12 months, 1,557 prisoners were received into custody and 1,513 were released back into the community.⁷⁰

Based on the June 2018 figures, the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research forecasts the prison population to reach “almost 14,200 by June 2019”.⁷¹

⁷⁰ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [NSW female prison population reaches record high](#), 30 July 2018 [website — accessed 1 August 2018]. For an analysis of the increase in the female prison population, see: Ooi EJ, [Recent Trends in the NSW Female Prison Population](#), NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2018.

⁷¹ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [NSW female prison population reaches record high](#), 30 July 2018 [website — accessed 1 August 2018].

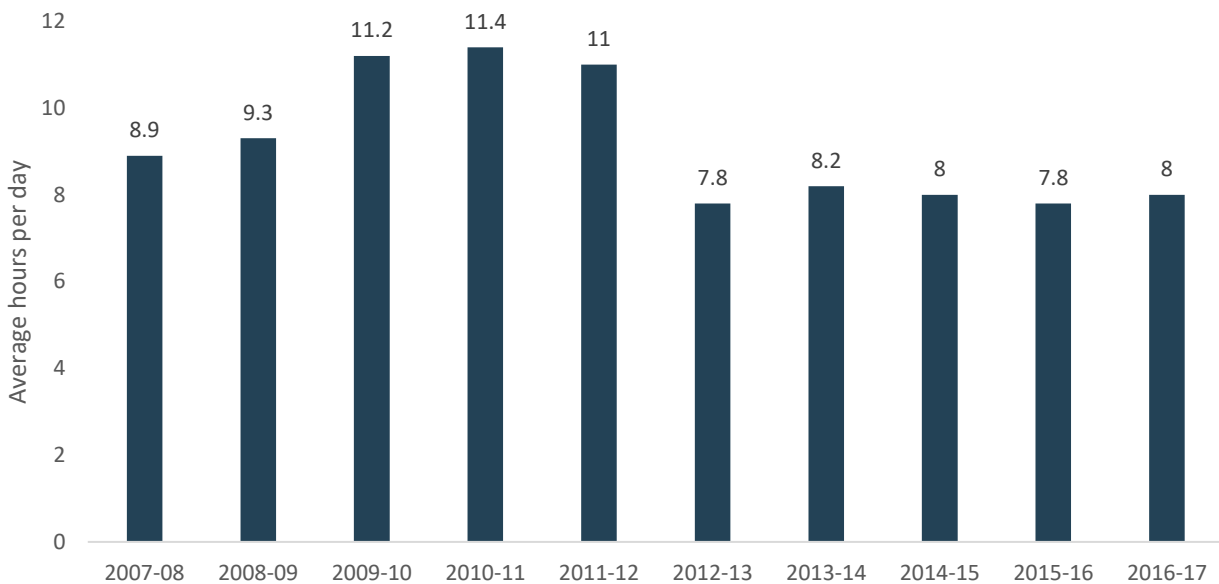
6.2.2 Time out of cells

Time out of cells refers to the average number of hours in a day that prisoners are not confined to a cell or unit.⁷² The Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision states that it is desirable for the average number of hours per day out of cells to be “relatively high or increasing” because:

The periods during which prisoners are not confined to their cells or units provides them with the opportunity to participate in a range of activities that may include work, education and training, wellbeing, recreation and treatment programs, the opportunity to receive visits, and interacting with other prisoners and staff.⁷³

In 2016-17, the national average number of hours of time out of cells per day was 10.1.⁷⁴

Figure 37: NSW prisoners: Total prison time out of cells (average hours per day)



Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, [Report on Government Services 2018 \(Chapter 8: Corrective Services\)](#), Table 8A.12, Productivity Commission, 25 January 2018.

⁷² Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, [Report on Government Services 2018 \(Chapter 8: Corrective Services\)](#), Productivity Commission, 25 January 2018, p 8.13.

⁷³ *ibid*, p 8.13.

⁷⁴ *ibid*, p 8.13.

6.2.3 Prison design capacity utilisation

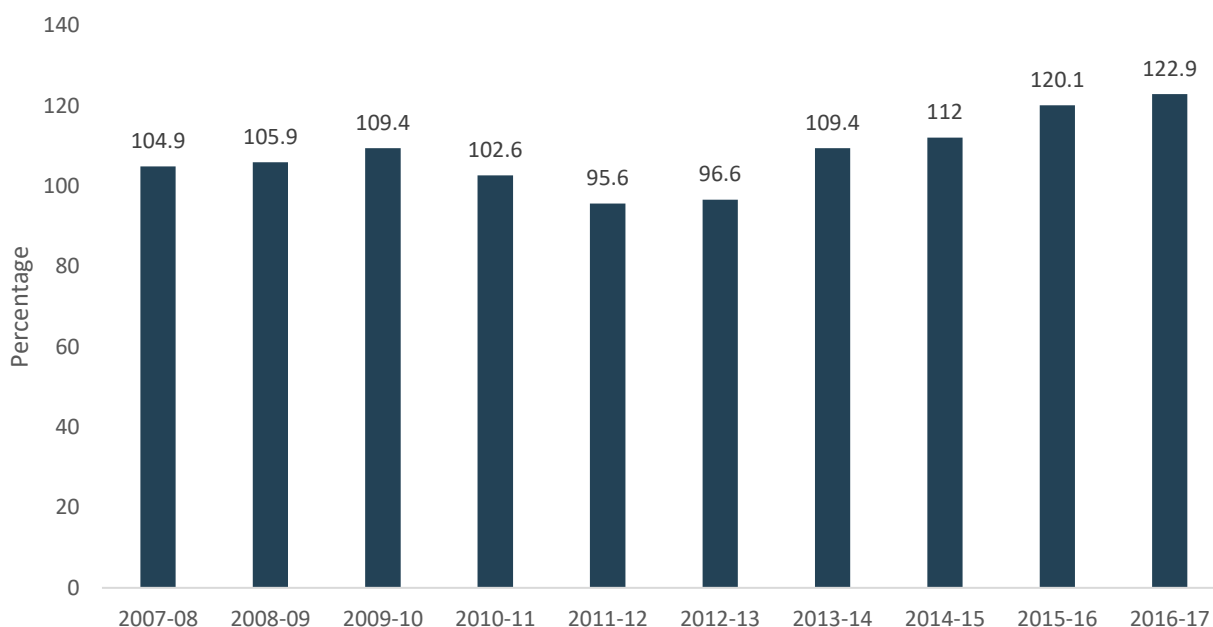
The extent to which prison design capacity meets the demand for prison accommodation is measured as:

the annual daily average prisoner population as a percentage of the number of single occupancy cells and designated beds in shared occupancy cells provided for in the design capacity of the prisons.⁷⁵

Percentages close to, but not exceeding 100%, are desirable to ensure that prisons retain spare capacity to manage fluctuations in prison populations, without either underutilisation of prison resources or overcrowding of prisons.⁷⁶

In 2016-17 the national rate of prison design capacity utilisation was 115.8%.⁷⁷

Figure 38: NSW prison design capacity utilisation (percentage)



Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, [Report on Government Services 2018 \(Chapter 8: Corrective Services\)](#), Table 8A.13, Productivity Commission, 25 January 2018.

⁷⁵ Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, [Report on Government Services 2018 \(Chapter 8: Corrective Services\)](#), Productivity Commission, 25 January 2018, p 8.14.

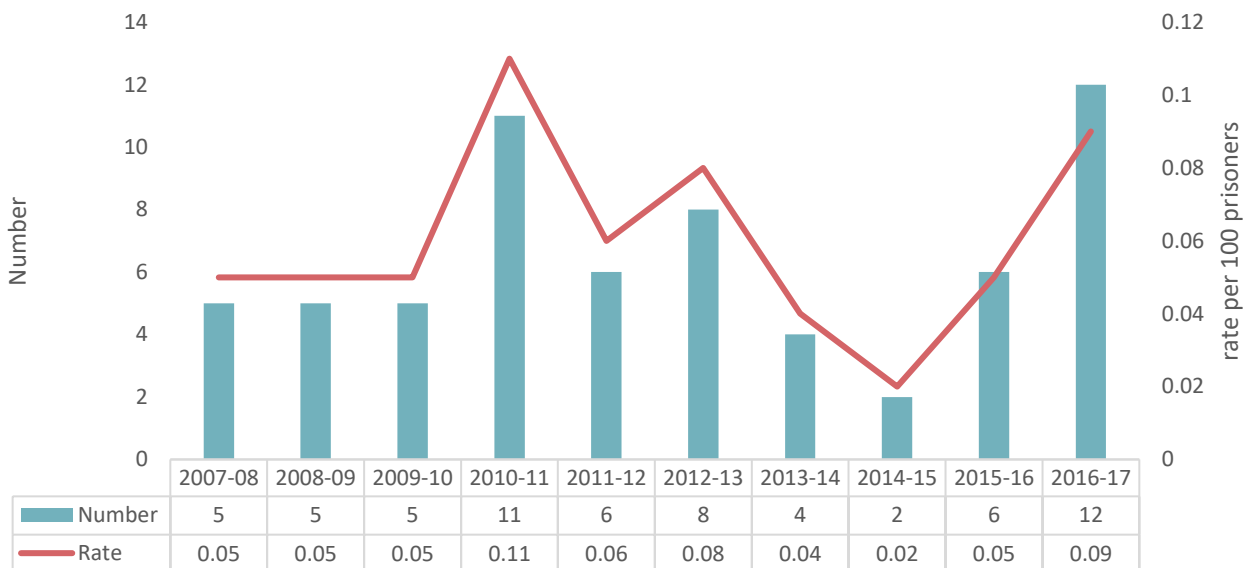
⁷⁶ *ibid*, p 8.14.

⁷⁷ *ibid*, p 8.14.

6.2.4. Apparent unnatural deaths in custody

Prisoner deaths are categorised as “apparent unnatural deaths” if the likely cause of death was suicide, drug overdose, accidental injury or homicide.⁷⁸ The desirable outcome of this measure is “zero, low or decreasing rates of apparent unnatural deaths”.⁷⁹ In 2016-17, the national rate of apparent unnatural prisoner deaths was 0.05 per 100 prisoners.⁸⁰

Figure 39: NSW prisoners, apparent unnatural deaths, number and rate per 100 prisoners



Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, [Report on Government Services 2018 \(Chapter 8: Corrective Services\)](#), Productivity Commission, 2018, Table 8A.14

6.2.5. Assaults in custody

“Assaults in custody” is a measure of assaults by one prisoner on another and assaults by a prisoner on a corrective services staff member.⁸¹ Assaults in custody are classified as either assaults or serious assaults:

‘Assaults’ refer to acts of physical violence resulting in a physical injury but not requiring overnight hospitalisation or on-going medical treatment. ‘Serious assaults’ refer to acts of physical violence resulting in injuries that require treatment involving overnight hospitalisation in a medical facility or ongoing medical treatment, as well as all sexual assaults.⁸²

⁷⁸ *ibid*, p 8.15.

⁷⁹ *ibid*, p 8.15.

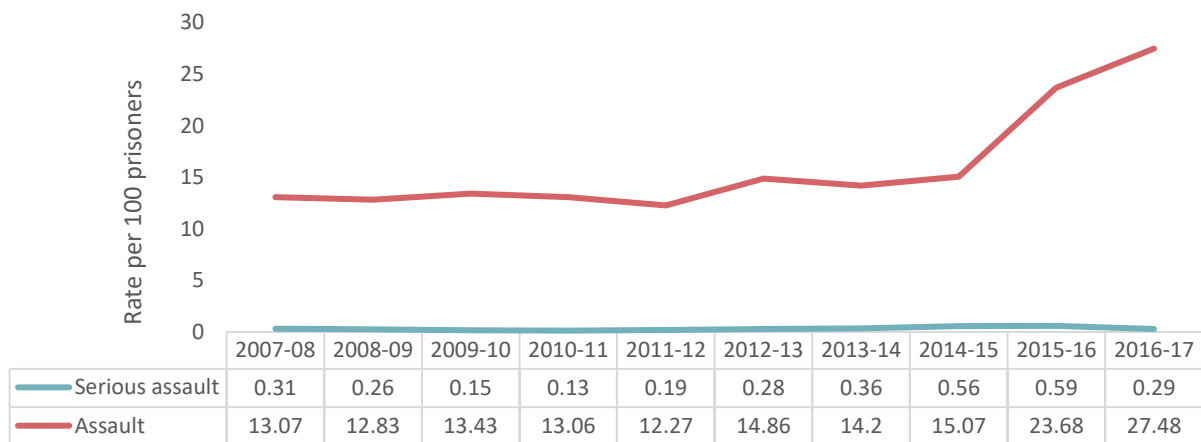
⁸⁰ *ibid*, p 8.16.

⁸¹ *ibid*, p 8.16.

⁸² *ibid*, p 8.16

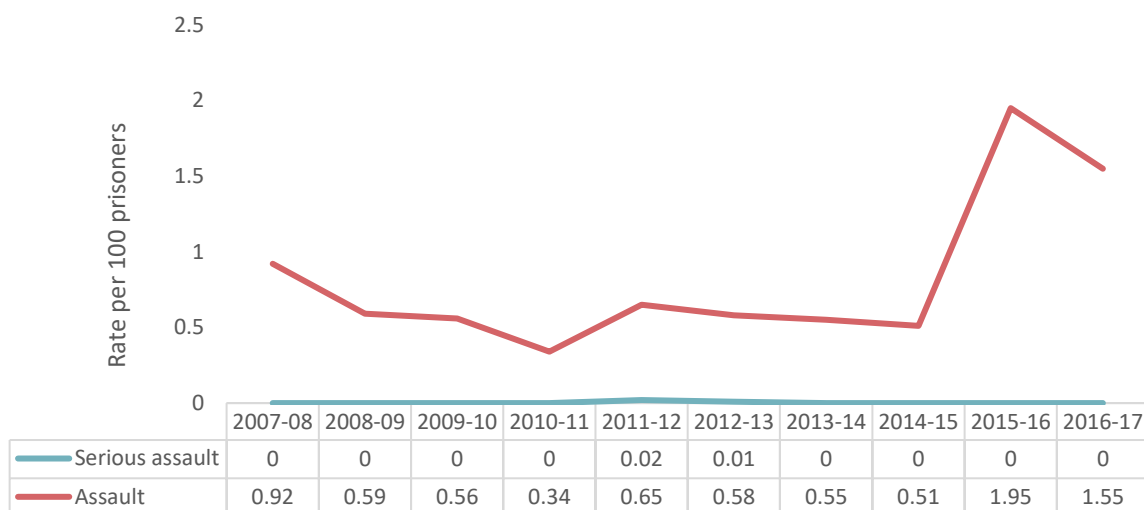
“Zero, low or decreasing rates of assaults in custody are desirable”.⁸³ A national average is not available for this indicator due to differing reporting and administrative practices across jurisdictions.⁸⁴

Figure 40: NSW prisoners, assaults in custody, prisoner on prisoner, rate per 100 prisoners



Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, *Report on Government Services 2018 (Chapter 8: Corrective Services)*, Productivity Commission, 25 January 2018, Table 8A.16

Figure 41: NSW prisoners, assaults in custody, prisoner on officer, rate per 100 prisoners⁸⁵



Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, *Report on Government Services 2018 (Chapter 8: Corrective Services)*, Productivity Commission, 25 January 2018, Table 8A.16

⁸³ *ibid*, p 8.16.

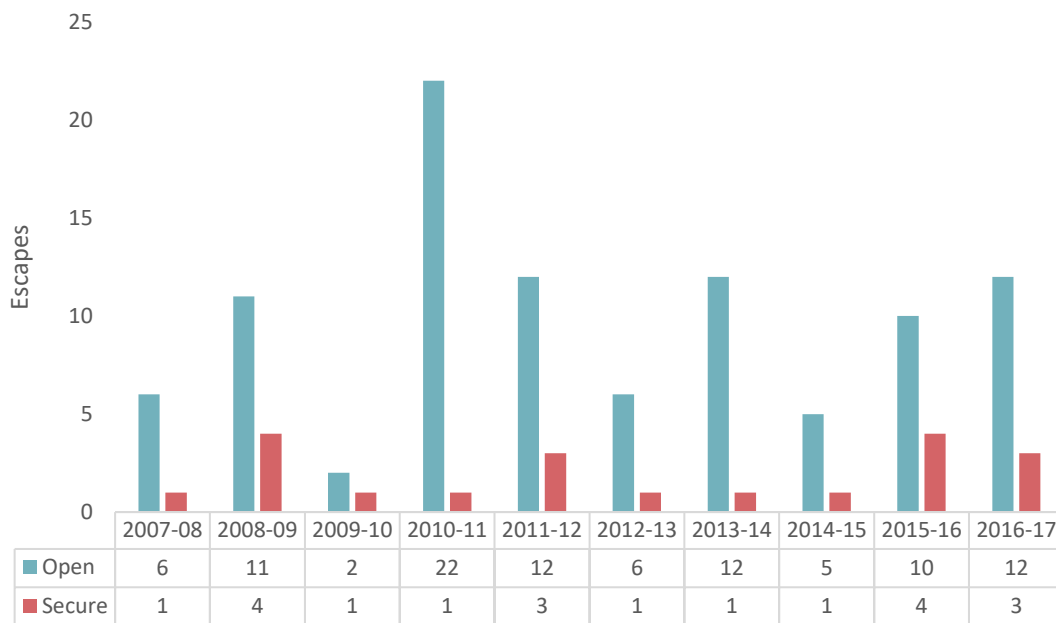
⁸⁴ *ibid*, p 8.17.

⁸⁵ Zero includes nil or rounded to zero.

6.2.6 Escapes from custody

Escapes from custody are a measure of the capacity of government to provide correctional centres that contribute to the protection of the community.⁸⁶ Escapes from custody are reported separately for prisoners escaping from secure and open custody.⁸⁷ “Zero, low or decreasing rates are desirable”.⁸⁸ In 2016-17 the national rate of escape from open custody was 0.38 (per hundred prisoners) and the national rate of escape from secure custody was 0.03 (per 100 prisoners).⁸⁹

Figure 42: NSW prisoners, number of escapes from custody



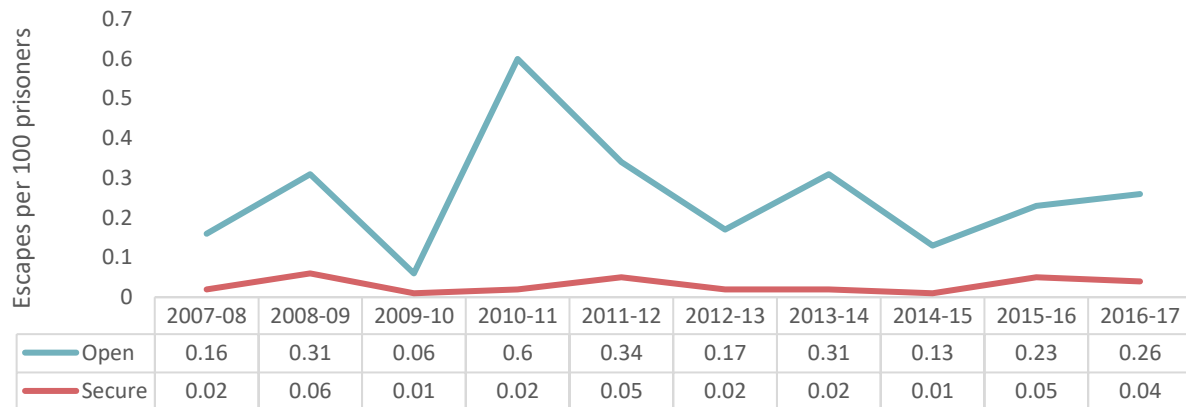
Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, [Report on Government Services 2018 \(Chapter 8: Corrective Services\)](#), Productivity Commission, 2018, Table 8A.20

⁸⁶ *ibid*, p 8.21.

⁸⁷ *ibid*, p 8.21.

⁸⁸ *ibid*, p 8.21.

⁸⁹ *ibid*, p 8.22.

Figure 43: NSW prisoners, rate of escape from custody per 100 prisoners

Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, [Report on Government Services 2018 \(Chapter 8: Corrective Services\)](#), Productivity Commission, 2018, Table 8A.20

Sources

Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Prisoners in Australia, 2017](#)

Corrective Services NSW, [Community-based orders](#)

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [NSW Custody Statistics: Quarterly Update June 2018](#)

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [NSW female prison population reaches record high](#)

Ooi EJ, [Recent Trends in the NSW Female Prison Population](#), NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2018

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, [Report on Government Services 2018](#), Productivity Commission, 2018

7. JUVENILE DETENTION

NSW Justice⁹⁰ has documented a range of risk factors that impact on youth participation in crime. These factors include:

- anti-social personality patterns, attitudes and a history of anti-social behaviour;
- problematic home environment;
- problems and lack of achievement at school/work;
- problematic leisure and recreational activities; and
- substance abuse.

The relationship between risk factors and a young person's propensity to engage in criminal behaviour has attracted considerable research attention^{91,92} in order to identify whether these factors can be modified through early intervention. For example, McGee et al⁹³ examined the relationship between individual, family and neighbourhood factors as predictors of adolescent antisocial behaviour (ASB). They found that the strongest predictors of adolescent ASB are those "which measure disruptions in parenting processes, poor school performance and early childhood aggression" (p.1).

The study findings support the need for prevention programs that target at-risk children and families during the period of early childhood and adolescence. The study authors concluded:

Programs that enhance parenting practices which include improving communication, supervision and monitoring of children are important in reducing ASB. (p. 5).

7.1 Average daily detention rates of young people for 2016–17, across jurisdictions

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) in its latest research on youth justice⁹⁴ examined trends in detention rates across jurisdictions from 2007-08 to 2016-17:

Between 2007–08 and 2016–17, detention rates fell overall in New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, and the Australian Capital Territory, and rose slightly in Victoria, Queensland, and the Northern Territory (p.33).

NSW has a juvenile detention rate (3 per 10,000 young people) which is equivalent to the

⁹⁰ NSW Justice, [Risk and protective factors](#).

⁹¹ Stewart A, Dennison S & Waterson E, [Pathways from child maltreatment to juvenile offending](#), Australian Institute of Criminology, *Trends and issues in crime and criminal justice*, No. 241, October 2002.

⁹² Lynch M, Buckman J & Krenske R, [Youth Justice: Criminal Trajectories](#), Australian Institute of Criminology, *Trends and issues in crime and criminal justice*, No. 265, September 2003.

⁹³ McGee TR, et al., [Antisocial behaviour: An examination of individual, family, and neighbourhood factors](#), Australian Institute of Criminology, *Trends and issues in crime and criminal justice*, No. 410, February 2011.

⁹⁴ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, [Youth Justice in Australia 2016-17](#), 25 May 2018

Australian rate (3) and lower than the rates of Queensland (4), Western Australia (6) and the Northern Territory (15). The average daily detention rate of Indigenous young people aged 10 to 17 was highest in Western Australia (62 per 10,000) and lowest in Victoria (23 per 10,000). In NSW in 2016-17, the detention rate for Indigenous juveniles was 33 per 10,000; compared to the detention rate of 2 per 10,000 for non-Indigenous juveniles.

Table 31: Average daily detention rate of young persons by Indigenous status* and jurisdiction, 2016-17

| | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT# | Aus |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-------|-------|------|-----|
| Indigenous | 33 | 23 | 34 | 62 | 44 | n.p.^ | n.p.^ | 30 | 36 |
| Non-Indigenous | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | n.p. | 2 |
| All young people | 3 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 3 |

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, [Youth Justice in Australia 2016-17](#), May 2018, p. 8

*Detention rate refers to the number of young people in detention per 10,000 young people of the relevant population.

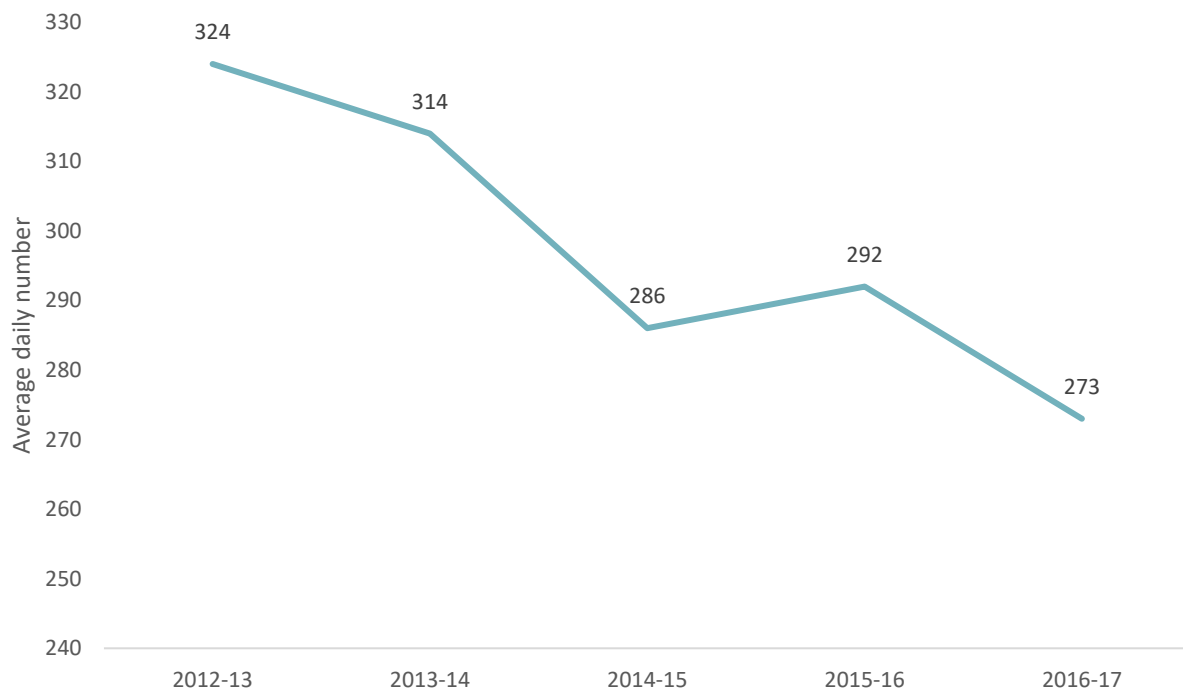
#Indigenous rates for Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, and the Australian Capital Territory should be interpreted with caution due to Indigenous population denominators that are less than 10,000.

^Includes non-standard data for the Northern Territory, as JJ NMDS data were not supplied for 2016-17.

^Rates are not published where there were fewer than 5 young people.

As Figure 44 illustrates, the average number of people aged 10 to 17 years in juvenile detention in NSW fell by 15.7% between 2012-13 (324) to 2016-17 (273).

Figure 44: Average daily number of juveniles in custody in NSW* 2012-13 to 2016-17

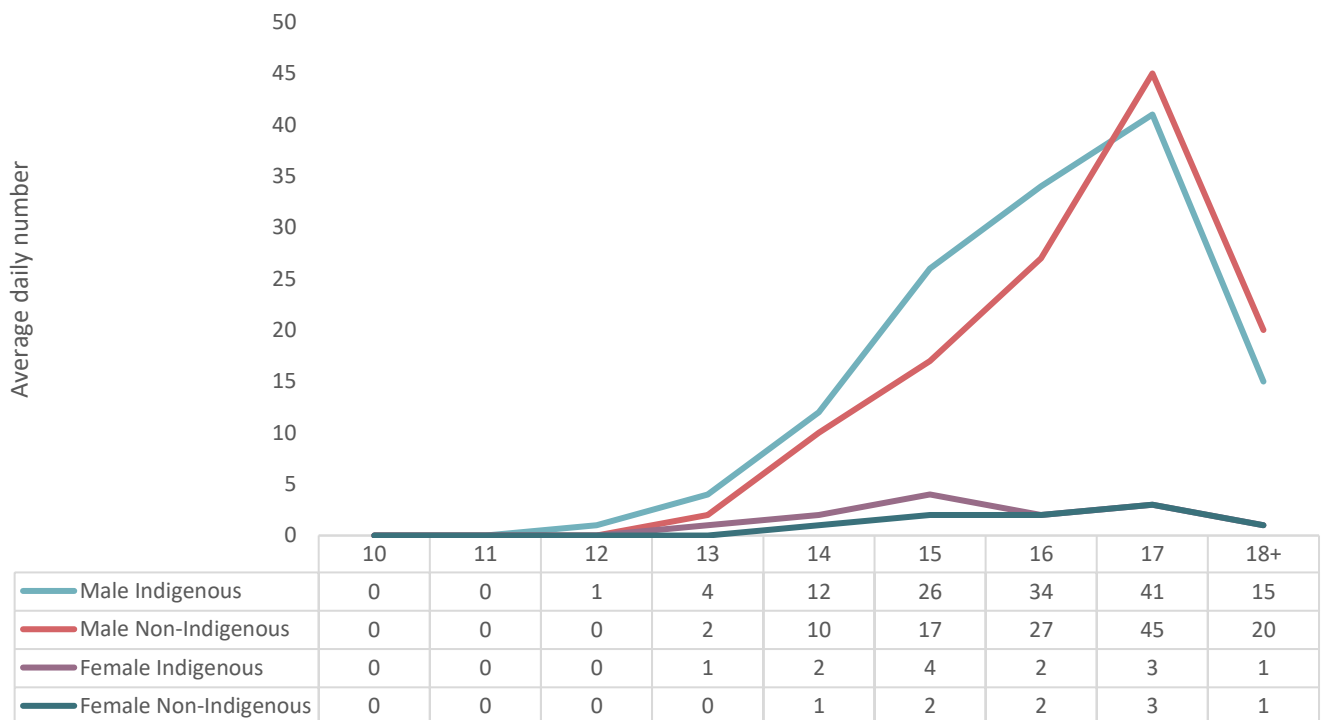


*As at 1 July 2017. Source: NSW Government Juvenile Justice, [Young people in custody, 2016-17](#)

As at 1 July 2017, there were an average of 273 juveniles in custody, of whom 144 (53%) were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. Twenty one (8%) were women.

Figure 45 shows the number of young people in detention in NSW by their age, gender and Indigenous status. It reveals that on an average day in the 2016-17 year, there were a greater number of male juveniles in detention than females. The latest data shows that males in the 15 to 17 age group accounted for the majority of detention cases. Indigenous juvenile males in NSW detention outnumbered their non-Indigenous male counterparts.

Figure 45: Juveniles in detention, average daily number by age, gender and Indigenous status, NSW, 2016–17



Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, [Youth Justice in Australia 2016-17](#), May 2018, Table S128c. AIHW Juvenile Justice National Minimum Dataset (JJ NMDS) 2000–01 to 2016–17.

7.2 Average daily number of young people under supervision in NSW

Based on the latest AIHW data⁹⁵, there were 1,377 young people in NSW under youth justice supervision on an average day in 2016-17. Of these, 80% were supervised in the community, with the remainder in detention. The supervision rate was 18 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (15 per 10,000 young people under community-based supervision and 3 per 10,000 were in detention). The majority of young people under supervision were male (82%). While

⁹⁵ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2018. [Youth justice in New South Wales 2016–17](#). Cat. no. JUV 123. AIHW.

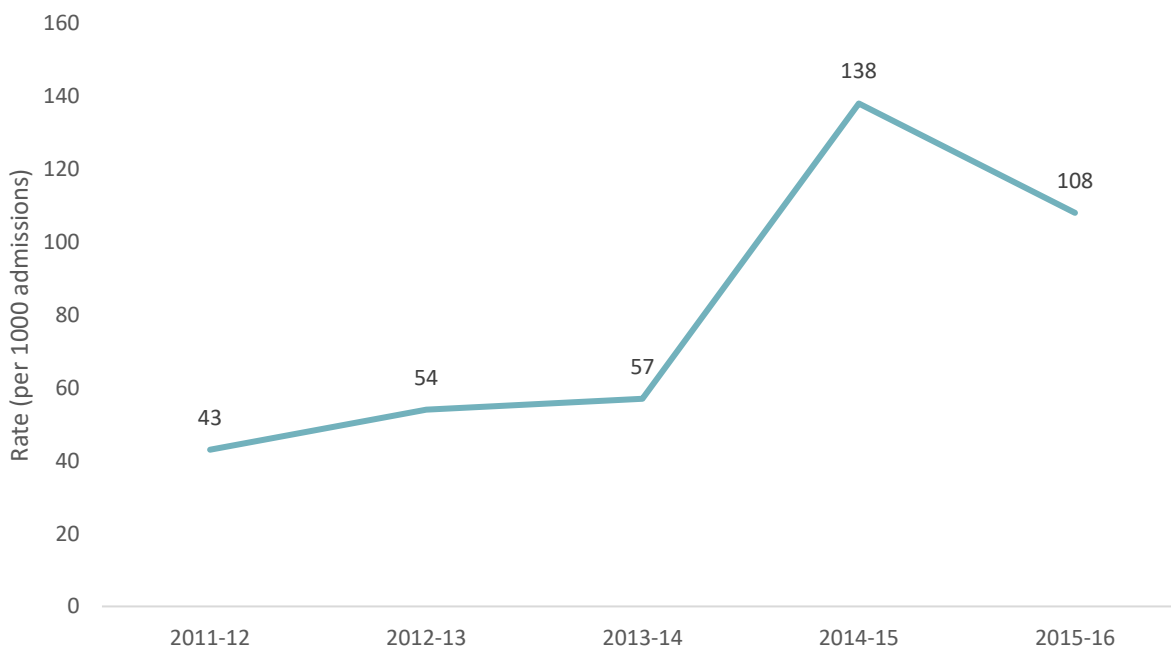
Indigenous young people account for approximately 5% of those aged 10–17 in the general NSW population, they represent 46% of the same age group under supervision. The AIHW data analysis reveals that Indigenous young people aged 10–17 were 17 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under supervision (154 per 10,000 compared with 9 per 10,000).

In examining the 10 year trend data on young people under supervision, the AIHW concluded that the rate “followed a similar pattern in nearly all states and territories, with rates over the 10 years peaking between 2008–09 and 2010–11 before falling in the subsequent years.” The Northern Territory was the exception to this trend with the supervision rate increasing between 2014–15 and 2016–17.

7.3 Deaths and self-harm in juvenile detention in NSW

Over the period 2011–2012 to 2015–2016 the rate of NSW juvenile self-harm incidents per 1000 admissions increased by 151%, as illustrated in Figure 46. The number of self-harm incidents more than doubled in the 12 months to 2014-15 (138) before reducing to 108 incidents in 2015-16. There have been no juvenile deaths in custody in the 5 year period to 2015-16.

Figure 46: NSW juvenile detention self-harm rate per 1000 admissions, 2011-12–2015-16

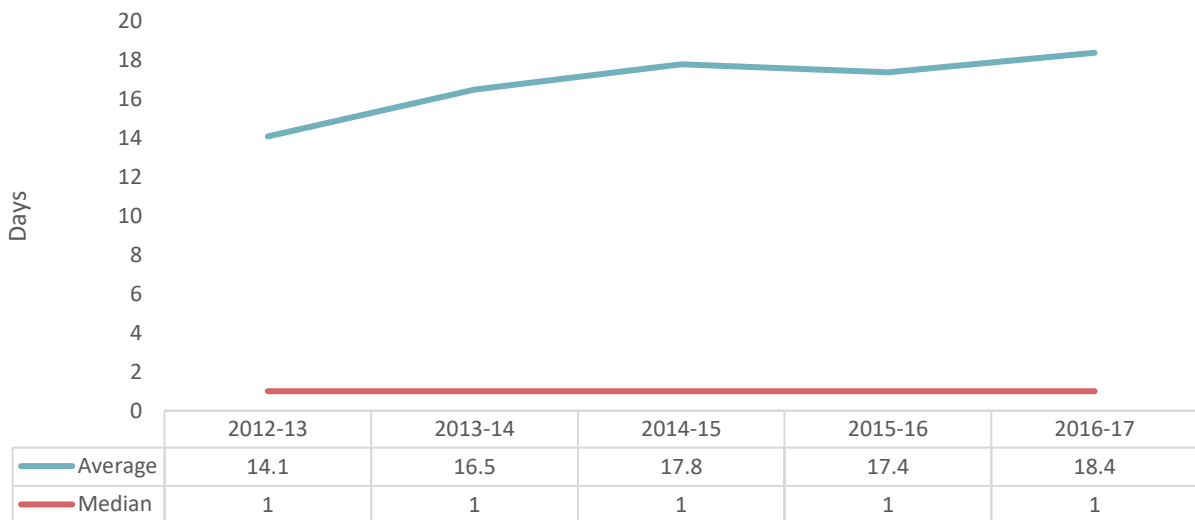


Source: NSW Justice, [Juvenile Justice Year in Review 2015-16](#), p. 25.

7.4 Length of stay (in days) for young people in custody in NSW

Figure 47 depicts the length of stay for young people in custody on remand in 2016-17, as measured in average days. Figure 48 depicts the length of stay for young people in custody subject to control orders, as measured in average days.

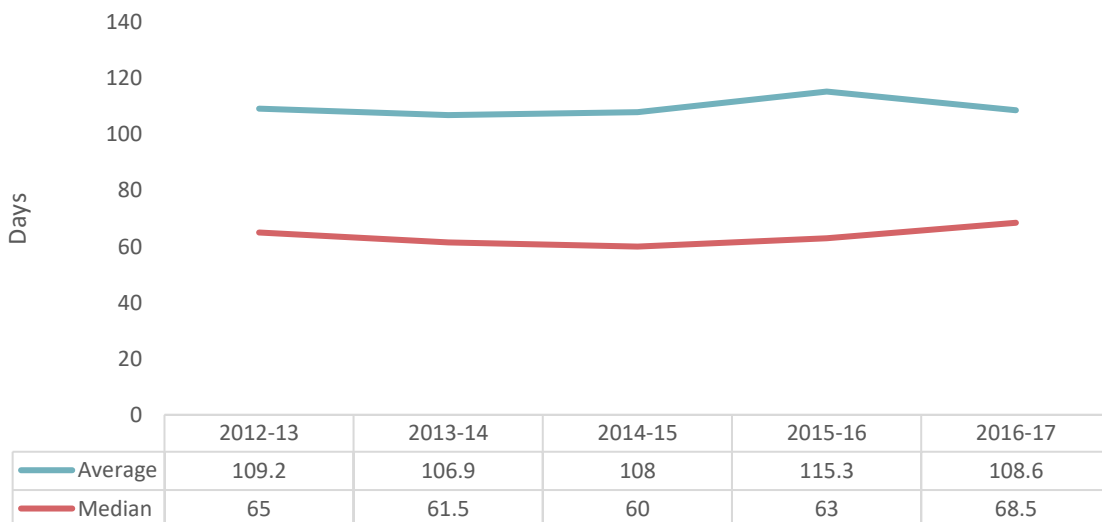
Figure 47: Length of stay (in days) for NSW young people in custody on remand, 2016–17



*As at 1 July 2017. Source: NSW Government Juvenile Justice, [Young people in custody, 2016-17](#)

This counts all remand discharges in the counting period and calculates the length of stay in days from admission date. For remand stays that become control stays the sentence date is used as the end date of the remand period.

Figure 48: Length of stay (in days) for NSW young people in custody subject to control orders, 2016–17



*As at 1 July 2017. Source: NSW Government Juvenile Justice, [Young people in custody, 2016-17](#)

This counts all control discharges in the counting period and calculates the length of stay in days from admission date. For remand stays that become control stays the sentence date is used as the start date of the control period.

7.5 Escapes

Based on the latest data available from NSW Justice, there have been no escapes from secure perimeter juvenile detention over the period 2011–12 to 2015–16.⁹⁶

Sources

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, [Youth Justice in Australia 2016-17](#), 25 May 2018

NSW Government Juvenile Justice, [Young people in custody, 2016-17](#)

NSW Justice, [Juvenile Justice Year in Review 2015-16](#)

⁹⁶ NSW Justice, [Juvenile Justice Year in Review 2015-16](#), p.25.

8. PRISONER EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING

8.1 Prisoner employment

The Commonwealth Steering Committee for the Review of Government Services states:

‘Employment’ is an indicator of governments’ objective of providing programs and services that address the causes of offending, maximise the chances of successful reintegration into the community, and encourage offenders to adopt a law abiding way of life.⁹⁷

Prisoner employment is defined as the number of prisoners employed as a percentage of those eligible to work. It excludes those prisoners who are unable to participate in work programs because of full-time education and/or training, ill health, age, relatively short period of incarceration or another reason.

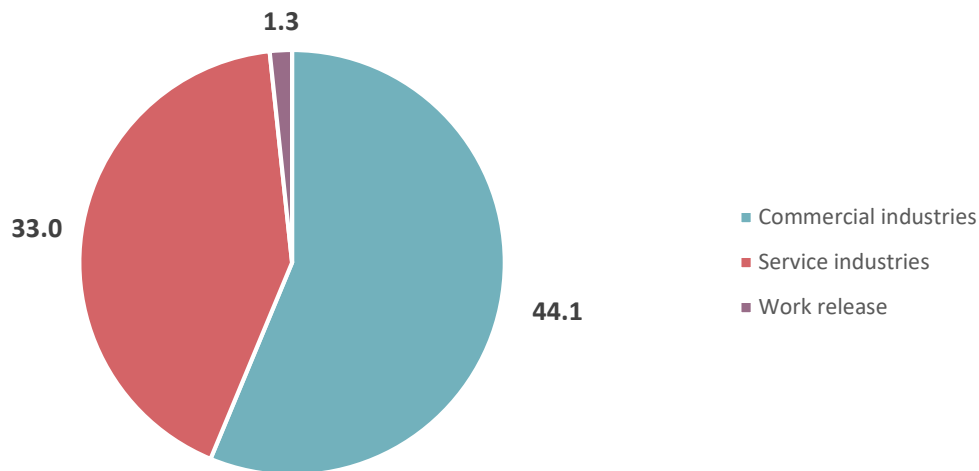
As Figure 49 reveals, nationally 74.7% of the eligible prisoner population was employed in 2016–17; in NSW over the same period, 78.4% of the eligible prisoner population was employed. Figure 50 depicts prisoner employment by type in NSW during 2016–17.

Figure 49: Prisoner employment (% of eligible prisoner population), 2016–17



Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, [Report on Government Services 2018. Volume C: Justice](#), 25 January 2018, Productivity Commission, Table 8A.11.

⁹⁷ Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, [Report on Government Services 2018. Volume C: Justice](#), Productivity Commission, 25 January 2018, p 8.11.

Figure 50: NSW Prisoner employment (% of employed prisoners) by type, 2016–17

Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, [Report on Government Services 2018. Volume C: Justice](#), 25 January 2018, Productivity Commission, Table 8A.11.

8.2 Prisoner education and training

According to [Corrective Services NSW](#) (CSNSW), research shows that participation in education while in custody can significantly increase employment opportunities and reduce the risk of re-offending following an inmate's release from custody. Prisoners are provided with education, training and employment opportunities to improve their post-release employment prospects in the community.

Education programs and services offered to inmates help them address their barriers to education and in many instances gain nationally recognised qualifications.

Education and training are provided to inmates based on their vocational and core skills assessments. These assessed needs area factor in their case plans.

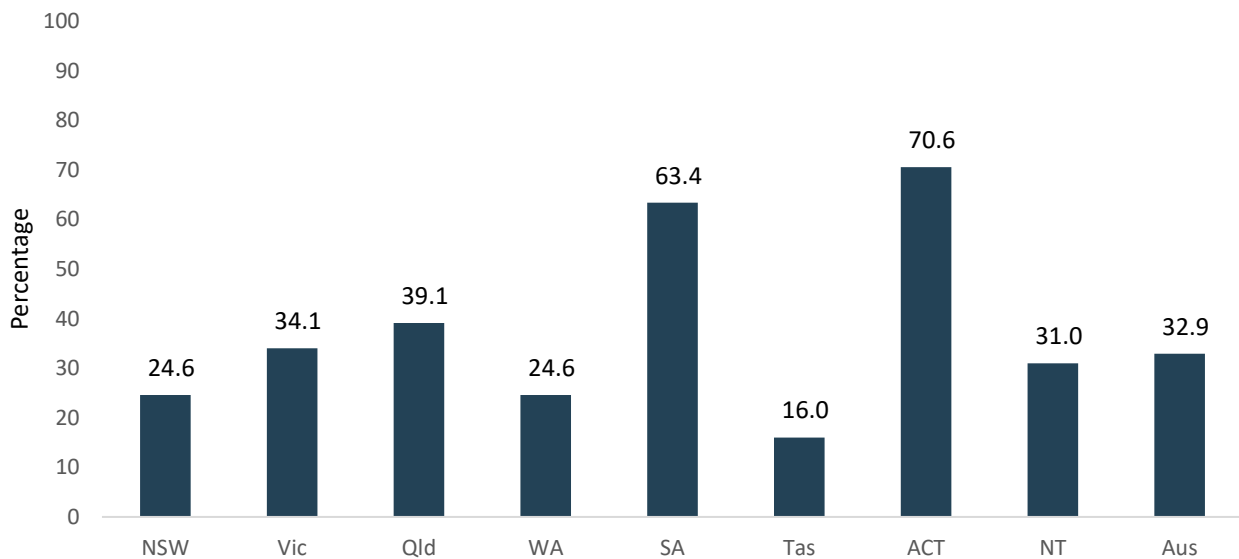
Inmates can participate in part-time basic education classes which are offered at all correctional centres. Inmates studying part-time also engage in employment with the Corrective Services Industries (CSI).⁹⁸

Data on prisoner education and training participation are determined by the number of prisoners participating in one or more accredited education and training courses, as a percentage of those eligible to participate. It excludes those prisoners whose incarceration situation renders them ineligible to participate in education and training (eg, prison hospital patients, fine defaulters and those prisoners who are held at centres where education programs are not provided as a matter of policy and remandees for whom access to education is not available).

⁹⁸ NSW Government, Corrective Services, [Education Training and Employment](#), no date [website—accessed 21 August 2018].

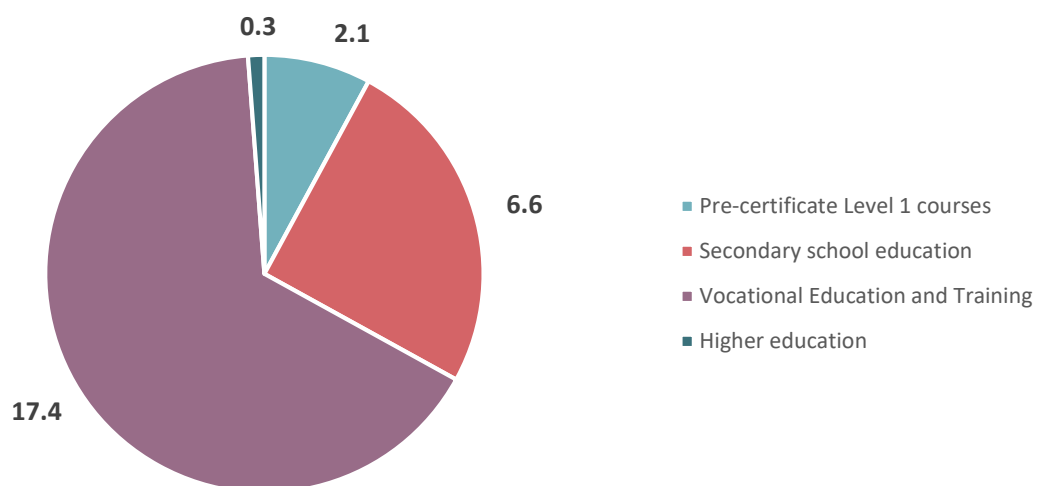
As Figure 51 reveals, nationally 32.9% of eligible prisoners participated in accredited education and training courses in 2016–17; while, in NSW, 24.6% of eligible prisoners participated in accredited education and training courses during the same period. In 2012–13, this proportion was higher with 36.1% of eligible prisoners participating in these types of courses. Figure 52 details the type of prisoner education and training engaged in NSW.

Figure 51: Percentage of eligible prisoners in education and training, 2016-17



Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, *Report on Government Services 2018. Volume C: Justice*, 25 January 2018, Productivity Commission, Table 8A.10.

Figure 52: Percentage of eligible NSW prisoners in education and training by type, 2016-17



Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, *Report on Government Services 2018. Volume C: Justice*, 25 January 2018, Productivity Commission, Table 8A.10. The percentage of total eligible prisoners in education may not equal the sum of percentages for each education category, as an individual may be participating in more than one type of education course.

Sources

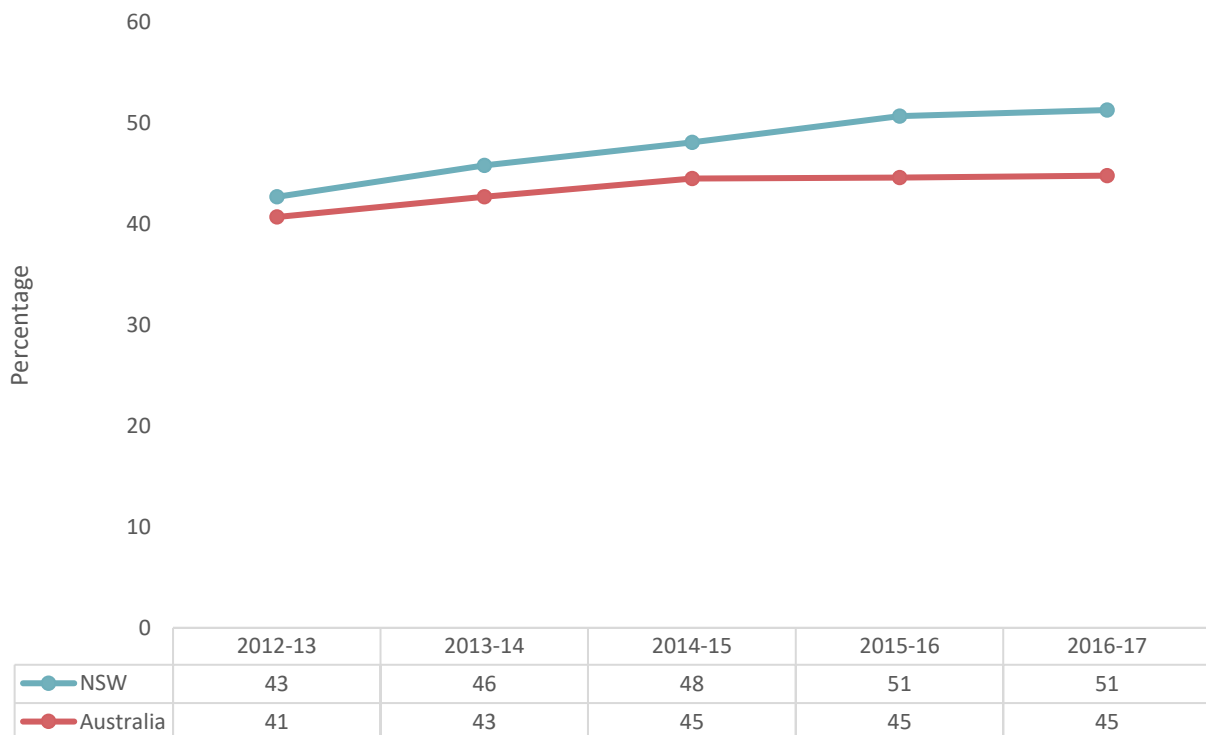
[Corrective Services NSW](#) website

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, [Report on Government Services 2018. Volume C: Justice](#), 25 January 2018, Productivity Commission.

9. RECIDIVISM

Recidivism refers to the continuation of criminal behaviour following contact with the criminal justice system. It is measurable at various points on the criminal justice spectrum, most notably: arrest, conviction, return to community corrections and re-imprisonment. Recidivism imposes personal, social and economic costs on victims of crime, the community and government. Accordingly, the reduction of recidivism through the rehabilitation of offenders is a legislated purpose of sentences imposed by the courts and their administration by Corrective Services NSW.⁹⁹ As Figures 53—55 indicate, recidivism remains a significant issue in NSW; for instance, in NSW in 2016-17, 51% of adults released from prison returned to prison within two years.

Figure 53: Percentage of adults released from prison who returned to prison within two years, 2012-13 to 2016-17*

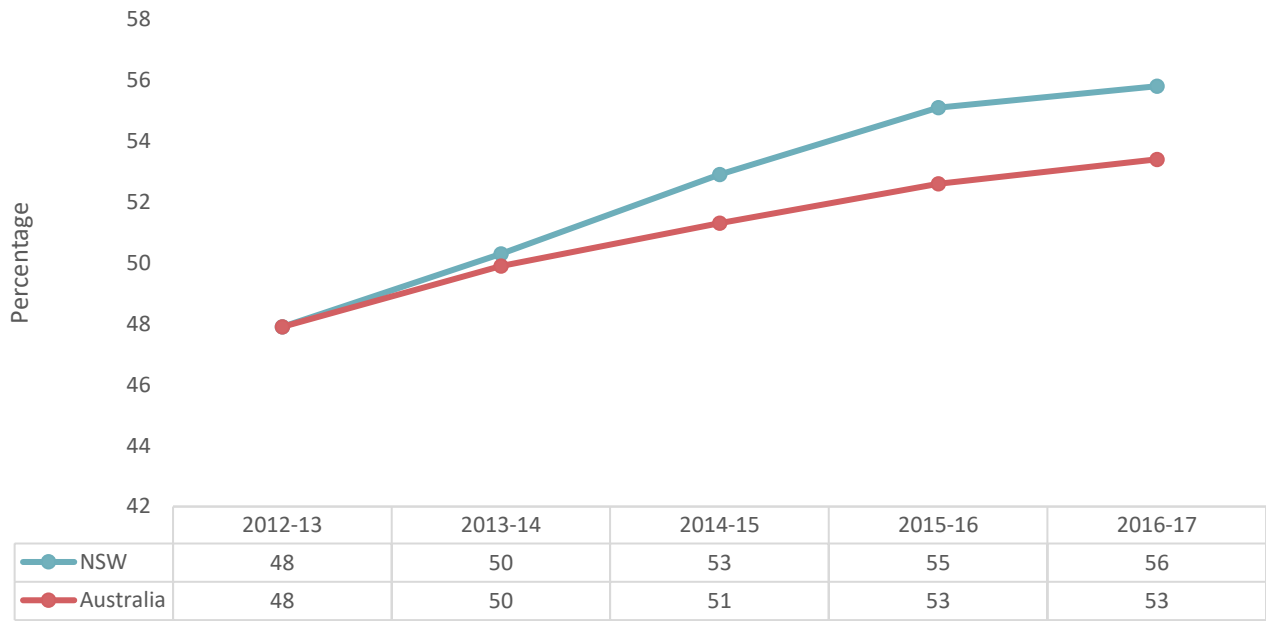


Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, *Report on Government Services 2018. Volume C: Justice*, 25 January 2018, Productivity Commission, Table CA.4.

* Refers to all prisoners released following a term of sentenced imprisonment including prisoners subject to correctional supervision following release, that is, offenders released on parole or other community corrections orders. Data include returns to prison resulting from the cancellation of a parole order.

⁹⁹ [Section 3A\(d\)](#) of the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999* and [section 2A\(1\)\(d\)](#) of the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999*. For a discussion of the use of Social Impact Bonds to reduce recidivism, see: Gotsis T, *Social Impact Bonds and Recidivism: A new solution to an old problem?*, NSW Parliamentary Research Service, 2017.

Figure 54: Percentage of adults released from prison who returned to corrective services within two years, 2012-13 to 2016-17*[^]

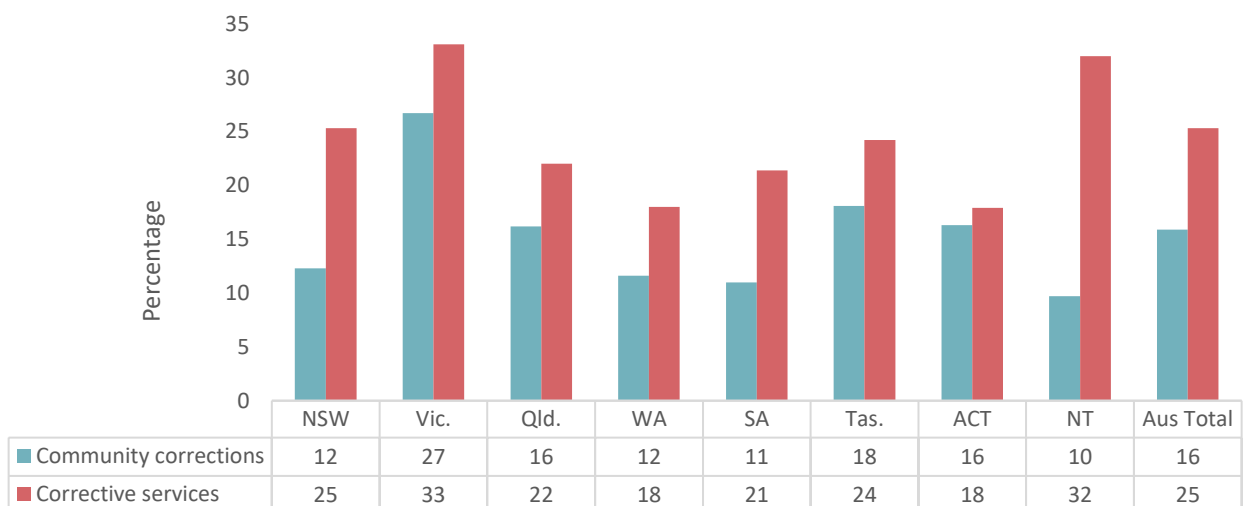


Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, *Report on Government Services 2018. Volume C: Justice*, 25 January 2018, Productivity Commission, Table CA.4.

* Refers to all prisoners released following a term of sentenced imprisonment including prisoners subject to correctional supervision following release, that is, offenders released on parole or other community corrections orders. Data include returns to prison resulting from the cancellation of a parole order.

[^] Includes a prison sentence or a community corrections order.

Figure 55: Percentage of adults discharged from community corrections orders during 2014-15 who returned to corrective services with a new correctional sanction within two years



Note: "Corrective services" includes a prison sentence or a community corrections order. Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, *Report on Government Services 2018. Volume C: Justice*, 25 January 2018, Productivity Commission, Table CA.5.

An April 2018 study by Don Weatherburn and Stephanie Ramsey, of the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, indicates that efforts to reduce recidivism could benefit from a renewed focus on young people making their first contact with the criminal justice system before the age of 15.¹⁰⁰ As Weatherburn and Ramsey state:

... the fact that contact with the criminal justice system before the age of 15 is a powerful signal of later persistent contact with the court and custodial systems underscores the importance of early intervention to reduce the number of people who appear repeatedly in our court and prison systems and reduce the level of demand on the criminal justice system. Efforts to reduce the number of persistent offenders in adulthood clearly need to focus on young people at risk of involvement in crime or coming to police attention under 15 years of age. Identifying these young people and delivering an effective response is a task requiring coordinated action on the part of agencies in and outside of the criminal justice system, especially those responsible for education, health and child welfare.¹⁰¹

Sources

Gotsis T, [*Social Impact Bonds and Recidivism: A new solution to an old problem?*](#), NSW Parliamentary Research Service, e-brief 1/2017, February 2017.

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, [*Report on Government Services 2018. Volume C: Justice*](#), Productivity Commission, 25 January 2018.

Weatherburn D and Ramsey S, [*Offending over the life course: Contact with the NSW criminal justice system between age 10 and age 33*](#), NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, April 2018.

¹⁰⁰ Weatherburn D and Ramsey S, [*Offending over the life course: Contact with the NSW criminal justice system between age 10 and age 33*](#), NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, April 2018, p 1.

¹⁰¹ *ibid*, p 8.

10 EXPENDITURE

Table 32 sets out total expenditure on justice services by Australian, State and Territory governments for 2016–17.

| Table 32: Real recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources) on justice services by Australian, State and Territory governments (2016-17 dollars)* | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | Average annual growth rate % |
| | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m | % |
| Police services | 9,123 | 9,771 | 10,124 | 10,563 | 10,519 | 3.6 |
| Courts - criminal | 823 | 808 | 835 | 832 | 860 | 1.1 |
| Courts - civil | 658 | 643 | 645 | 625 | 648 | -0.4 |
| Corrective services | 3,266 | 3,432 | 3,686 | 3,790 | 4,061 | 5.6 |
| Total Justice sector | 13,871 | 14,654 | 15,289 | 15,810 | 16,087 | 3.8 |
| | % | % | % | % | % | |
| Police services | 65.8 | 66.7 | 66.2 | 66.8 | 65.4 | - |
| Courts - criminal | 5.9 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 5.3 | - |
| Courts - civil | 4.7 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 4 | 4 | - |
| Corrective services | 23.5 | 23.4 | 24.1 | 23.9 | 25.3 | - |
| Total Justice sector | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

*Totals may not sum as a result of rounding. Expenditure data include depreciation, but exclude payroll tax and user cost of capital. Excludes real net recurrent expenditure on probate matters.

Source: [Report on Government Services 2018. Volume C: Justice](#), Table CA.1

Table 33 details expenditure on justice services per person across all jurisdictions for 2016–17.

| Table 33: Real recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources) per person on justice services, 2016-17*# | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust |
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Police services | 375 | 428 | 430 | 527 | 450 | 421 | 401 | 1,297 | 431 |
| Courts - criminal | 28 | 35 | 34 | 48 | 41 | 32 | 43 | 118 | 35 |
| Courts - civil | 12 | 21 | 11 | 38 | 13 | 13 | 25 | 46 | 27 |
| Corrective services | 135 | 157 | 157 | 261 | 168 | 148 | 169 | 640 | 167 |
| Total Justice sector | 550 | 641 | 632 | 874 | 672 | 614 | 639 | 2,100 | 660 |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Police services | 68.2 | 66.7 | 68 | 60.3 | 67 | 68.5 | 62.9 | 61.7 | 65.4 |
| Courts - criminal | 5.0 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 6.1 | 5.3 | 6.7 | 5.6 | 5.3 |
| Courts - civil | 2.3 | 3.3 | 1.8 | 4.4 | 1.9 | 2.2 | 3.9 | 2.2 | 4.0 |
| Corrective services | 24.5 | 24.5 | 24.9 | 29.8 | 25.0 | 24.0 | 26.5 | 30.5 | 25.2 |
| Total Justice sector | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

*Totals may not sum as a result of rounding. Expenditure data include depreciation, but exclude payroll tax and user cost of capital. Excludes real net recurrent expenditure on probate matters.

#To aid comparability in this table, population data are calculated based on the total population (all ages) within each state and territory and across Australia at 31 December 2016 (mid point estimate for the financial year). This may differ from the treatment used in tables within individual chapters. The December 2016 estimated residential population (ERP) is based on the 2016 census and also includes Norfolk Island in the Australian total (in addition to the other territories).

Source: [Report on Government Services 2018. Volume C: Justice](#)

The NSW Government [2018–19 Budget Statement](#) outlined the following expenditure for 2018–19:

Recurrent expenditure on public order and safety in 2018-19 is expected to be \$8.0 billion, making up 10.1 per cent of total recurrent expenditure.

Spending on police services and law courts is expected to be \$4.9 billion in 2018-19. This expenditure contributes towards reducing violent crime, breaking the cycle of reoffending, improving road safety, as well the effective administration of law courts, tribunals and the delivery of legal services.

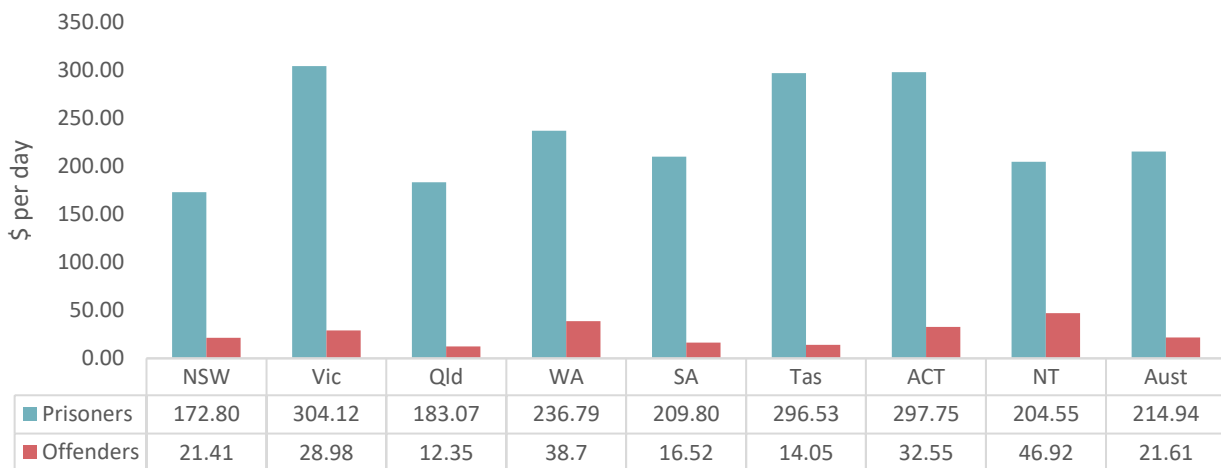
This includes \$288.2 million over four years to support the re-engineering of the NSW Police Force, providing greater flexibility and resources to effectively address and respond to crime.

Capital spending on public order and safety is forecast to be \$1.4 billion, or 8.0 per cent of total 2018-19 capital expenditure. This expenditure ... primarily relates to the ongoing implementation of the Prison Bed Capacity Program and police station redevelopments across regional and metropolitan New South Wales.¹⁰²

¹⁰² NSW Government, [Budget Statement 2018-19](#), p 6-15.

As Figure 56 reveals, in NSW in 2016–17 it cost \$172.80 a day to keep a prisoner in prison (which is lower than the national daily cost of \$214.94) and \$21.41 a day to keep an offender in a community corrections program (slightly below the national daily cost of \$21.61).

Figure 56: Real net operating expenditure per prisoner and offender per day, 2016-17*

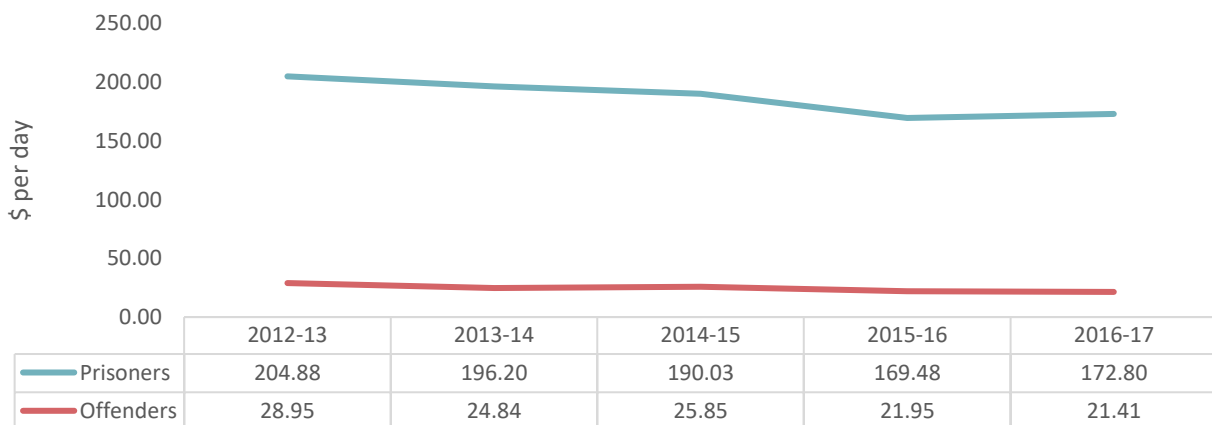


*Calculated from net operating expenditure, which excludes operating revenues, payroll tax and expenditure on prisoner health and on transport and escort services where able to be disaggregated by jurisdictions.

Source: [Report on Government Services 2018. Volume C: Justice](#)

Figure 57 reveals that in NSW, over 2012–13 to 2016–17, the daily cost of keeping a prisoner in prison decreased from \$204.88 to \$172.80. Over the same period, the daily cost of keeping an offender in a community corrections program also decreased from \$28.95 to \$21.41.

Figure 57 Real net operating expenditure per prisoner and offender (community corrections) per day, NSW 2012-13 to 2016-17*



*Calculated from net operating expenditure, which excludes operating revenues, payroll tax and expenditure on prisoner health and on transport and escort services where able to be disaggregated by jurisdictions.

Source: [Report on Government Services 2018. Volume C: Justice](#)

Sources

NSW Government, [Budget Statement 2018–19](#)

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, [Report on Government Services 2018. Volume C: Justice](#), 25 January 2018, Productivity Commission.