



SAFETY AND JUSTICE

Women in NSW
Report Series 2016

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- NSW Department of Justice
- NSW Police Force

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MINISTER'S FOREWORD

The *Women in NSW Safety and Justice Report 2016* is the second in the series of four themed reports on women's progress towards equality in NSW. Women need to feel safe and be able to access justice and service responses that support their safety and wellbeing. This report provides an overview of women's experiences of safety in NSW in different contexts: in families and households, in the community and in workplaces. The report also presents data about the criminal justice system, women offenders and women in prison.

This year's data show that women continue to be at risk in a number of areas. Women are more likely than men to experience domestic and family violence, sexual assault and harassment, be victims of domestic homicide, and face discrimination and sexual harassment in workplaces. The report shows that women who are particularly at risk of being victims and repeat victims of domestic assault are those who are in their 20s, Aboriginal, and living in remote or very remote locations and the most socioeconomically disadvantaged areas of NSW. The NSW Government is serious about taking action and reducing domestic violence reoffending is a NSW Premier's Priority. The *NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016-2021: Safer Lives for Women, Men and Children* sets out the directions and actions to reform the domestic violence system in NSW over the next five years.

In other areas, women are tracking better than men. Women have lower rates of offending and imprisonment and are less likely than men to be victims of physical assault and non-domestic homicides. However, it is concerning that even though women are much less likely than men to offend, their imprisonment rate has increased significantly since 2012. In particular, Aboriginal women are vastly over-represented in prison and their imprisonment has increased at a greater rate than the rest of the NSW female population.

I hope that the statistics in this report will be useful in informing the debate about where changes are needed and how we might achieve them, in order to ensure that both women and men feel equally safe and have confidence that justice and service systems will provide them with the support they need.



Pru Goward MP
Minister for Women

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A profile of women in NSW

How many are we?



3,865,198

50.4%



3,805,544

49.6%

Where do we live?



Major cities
74.6%



Regional
24.9%



Remote
0.5%



Major cities
74.4%



Regional
25.1%



Remote
0.5%

What is the Aboriginal population in NSW?



112,434

2.9%



112,915

3.0%

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Women's experience of safety and justice in comparison to men, NSW

Safety from domestic and family violence



Reports of domestic assault were made for 17,931 women in 2015. The offending rate for reported domestic assaults has increased over the last 10 years

Victims Perpetrators

69.3%



81.4%

Most domestic assault victims are women, and most domestic assault perpetrators are men



Women account for the **majority of victims of domestic homicide**

Safety from sexual violence



Women and girls are 4 times more likely to be a victim of sexual assault than men and boys, **making up 80.4% of sexual assault victims**

Safety from other personal violence



Women are less likely than men to be victims of non-domestic assault, robbery and non-domestic homicide

Safety at work



Most employment-related sex discrimination and **sexual harassment complaints are lodged by women**

The criminal justice system



Less than half of female physical assault victims (44.0%) reported their victimisation to police, compared to 65.7% of men



Women account for the majority of the persons being protected by an **Apprehended Domestic Violence Order**

Offending and imprisonment



Women are 3.8 times less likely than men to commit a criminal offence. **Since 2012, women's imprisonment rate has increased by an average of 7.2% per year**



Aboriginal women account for **more than one-third of all women prisoners**, and are 16.2 times more likely than non-Aboriginal women to be in prison

SAFETY FROM DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Domestic assault

Women account for the majority of victims of domestic violence

In Australia, while men (49.0%) are more likely than women (40.8%) to have experienced violence since the age of 15, the majority of victims of domestic and family violence are women.¹ For partner violence alone, nearly 1.5 million women aged 18 years or over in Australia were estimated to have experienced physical or sexual violence by a current or former partner (16.9% of women, compared to 5.3% of men).² This figure more than doubled to almost 3.2 million women when violence by a boyfriend/girlfriend, date, parent, child, sibling or other relative was included (36.6% of women, compared to 13.2% of men).

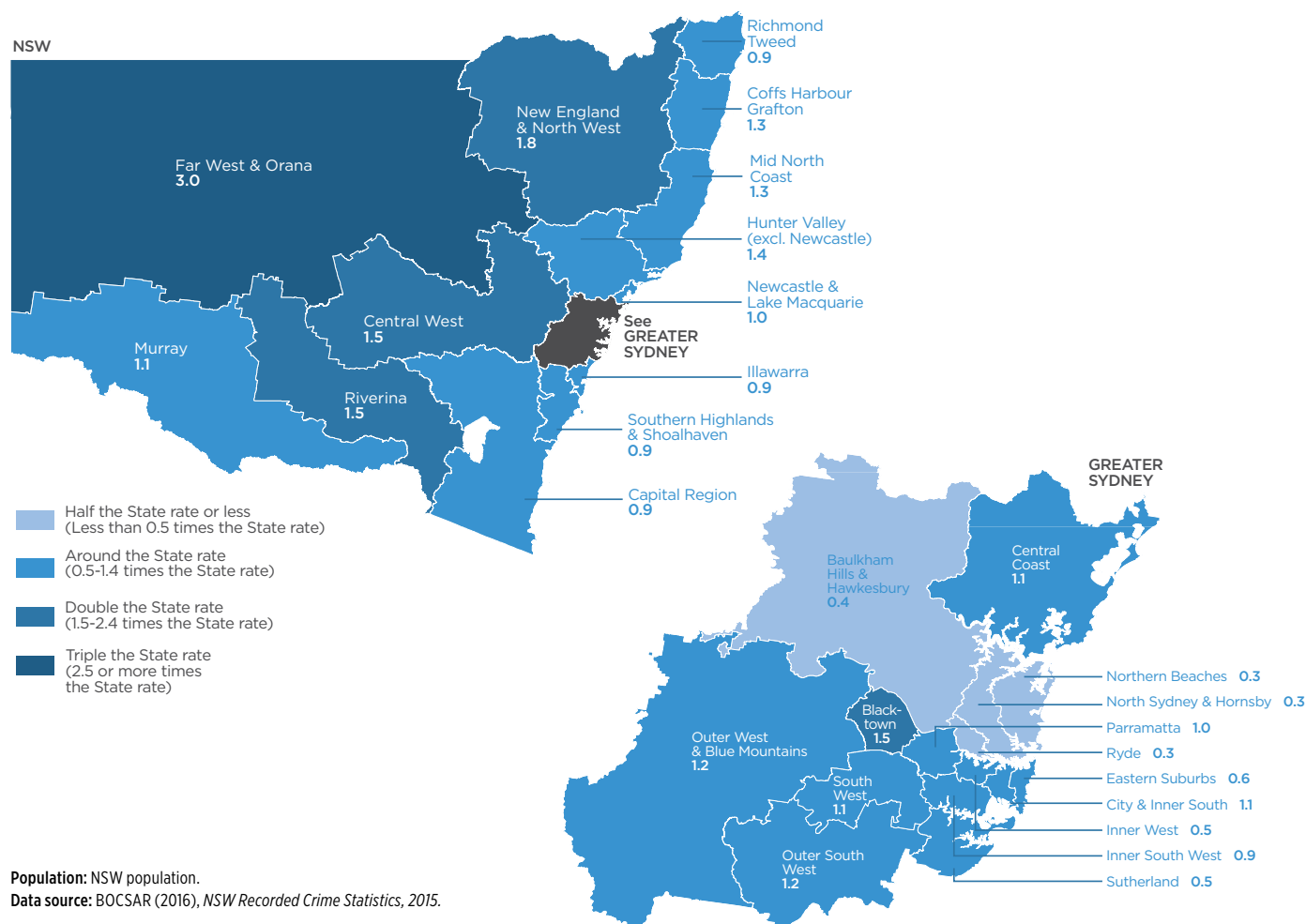
Domestic and family violence is under-reported. Of those women who have experienced current

partner violence (237,100) or previous partner violence (1,267,200) in Australia, only 19.8% and 42.4% (respectively) contacted police.³ A NSW study indicated that about half of domestic and family violence victims (51.8%) had reported their most recent incident to the police.

Locations of domestic assault

In NSW, the Far West and Orana region has the highest reported rate of domestic violence (DV)-related assault, at three times greater than the NSW rate (Figure 1).⁴ Of the 64 Local Government Areas (LGAs) with a DV-related assault rate that was higher than the NSW average, all but 10 were in regional and remote areas.

Figure 1. Ratio to NSW rate of DV-related assault incidents per 100,000 population by Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Statistical Areas Level 4, NSW, 2015



¹ The term 'domestic and family violence' here refers to national statistics reporting those who have ever experienced violence by a current or previous partner, boyfriend/girlfriend or date, father or mother, son or daughter, brother or sister, or other relative or in-law.

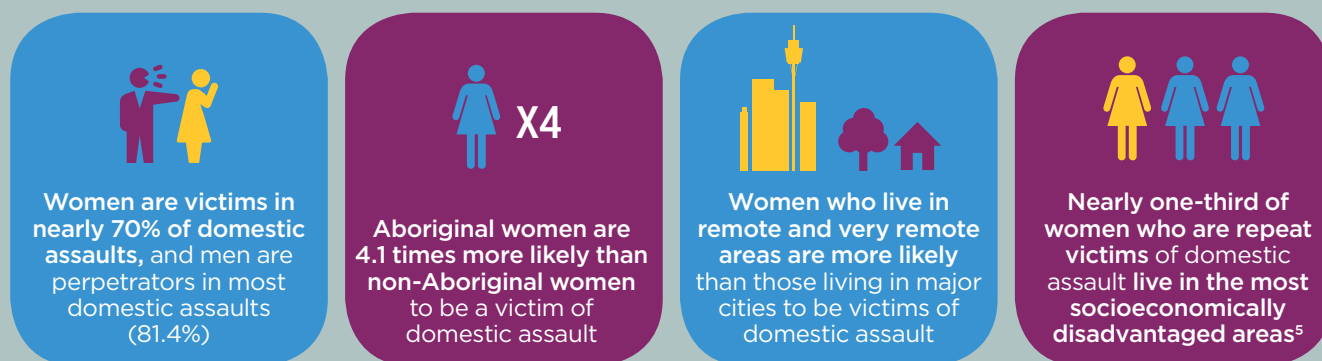
² The term 'partner' here refers to current or former cohabiting partner in a married or de facto relationship.

³ Includes where the police were contacted by the women or by someone else.

⁴ The term 'domestic violence-related' refers to offences which the NSW Police Force flagged as 'domestic violence related', which includes violence perpetrated by current or former family or household members. See the 'Important caveats and data limitations' section for further details.

Victims of domestic assault

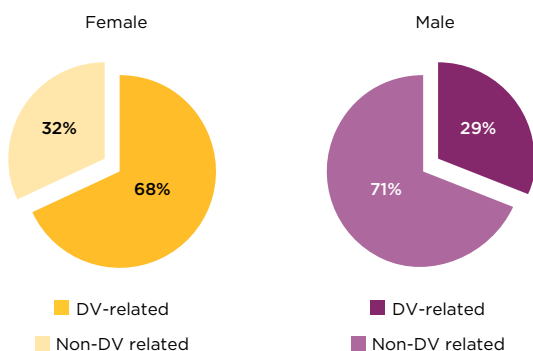
Most domestic assault victims are women
and most domestic assault perpetrators are men



Demographic profile

In NSW in 2015, there were 32,039 assault incidents in which the victim was female and 33,597 incidents in which the victim was male.⁶ In the majority of incidents in which the victim was female, the victims were assaulted by someone with whom they are, or were, in a domestic relationship (Figure 2). Reports of domestic assault were made for 21,928 women, compared to 9,692 men.⁷ Of these reports, there were 17,931 distinct female victims and 8,710 distinct male victims of DV-related assault.

Figure 2. Victims of DV-related and non-DV related assault by sex, NSW, 2015



NOTE: Where an individual has experienced multiple criminal incidents throughout the year, they are counted as a victim multiple times.

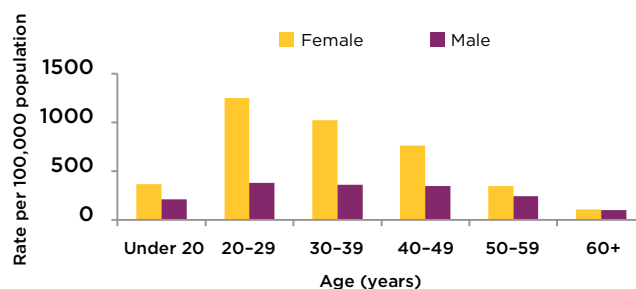
Population: NSW victims of DV-related and non-DV related assault.

Data source: BOCSAR (2016), *NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, 2006 to 2015*, unpublished data (ref: kr16-14194).

The rate for female victims (571.0 per 100,000) of DV-related assault was 2.2 times higher than for male victims (256.4 per 100,000). This rate has remained relatively stable since 2006.

Women aged 20–29 years had the highest rate of DV-related assault (1,246.8 per 100,000), and were 3.3 times more likely than men in the same age group (at a rate of 380.3 per 100,000) to be a victim of DV-related assault (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Victims of DV-related assault by age and sex, NSW, 2015



NOTE: Where an individual has experienced multiple criminal incidents throughout the year, they are counted as a victim multiple times.

Population: NSW population.

Data source: BOCSAR (2016), *NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, 2006 to 2015*, unpublished data (ref: kr16-14194).

Aboriginal women were 4.1 times more likely than non-Aboriginal women to have experienced DV-related assault (2,139.0 per 100,000 for Aboriginal women, compared to 523.7 per 100,000 for non-Aboriginal women).

While the majority of DV-related assault victims live in major cities (20,926 or 66.1%) and regional areas (9,457 or 29.9%), people living in remote and very remote areas of NSW are at greatest risk.⁸

Compared to female DV-related assault victims who live in major cities (500.3 per 100,000), women who live in:

- Remote areas were 4 times more likely to be the victims of DV-related assaults (2,009.8 per 100,000)

⁵ Refers to victims of domestic violence-related assault who have previously been assaulted in a domestic context within the last two years.

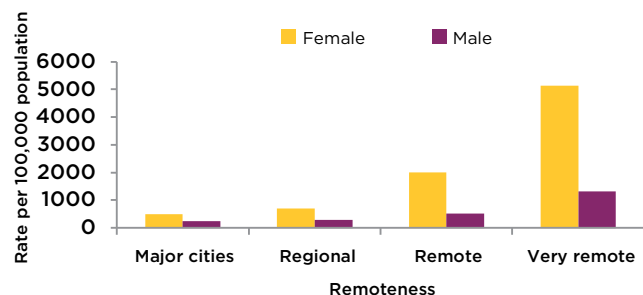
⁶ Refers to victims of DV-related and non-DV related assaults. Excludes the offence of 'assault police'.

⁷ These are not counts of unique individuals. Where an individual has experienced multiple criminal incidents throughout the year, they are counted as a victim multiple times.

⁸ Relative to the estimated population distribution in NSW: 74.5% reside in major cities, 25.0% reside in regional (inner and outer) areas, 0.4% reside in remote areas, and 0.1% reside in very remote areas.

- Very remote areas were 10.3 times more likely to be the victims of DV-related assaults (5,128.2 per 100,000) (Figure 4).

Figure 4. DV-related assault by victim's residential remoteness area and sex, NSW, 2015



NOTE: Remoteness area classified as unknown has been excluded from this analysis. Where an individual has experienced multiple criminal incidents throughout the year, they are counted as a victim multiple times.

Population: NSW population.

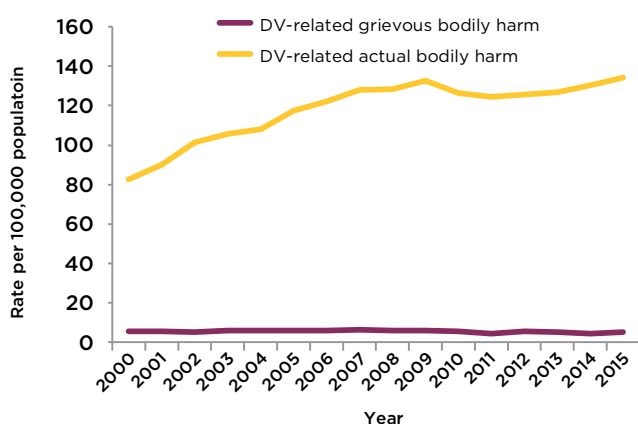
Data source: BOCSAR (2016), *NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, 2015*, unpublished data (ref: 16-14346).

One in four people who experience DV-related assault resided in the most socioeconomically disadvantaged areas, compared with only one in 10 victims who resided in the least socioeconomically disadvantaged areas. A similar pattern is observed for both women and men.⁹

Seriousness of physical harm

DV-related assaults involving actual bodily harm and grievous bodily harm result in more serious physical harm to victims than incidents of common assault. Since 2000, the combined rate for DV-related actual bodily harm and grievous bodily harm incidents has increased by an average of 3.4% per year, compared to an average increase of 0.8% per year for DV-related common assault. In 2015, the combined rate of DV-related actual bodily harm and grievous bodily harm was 1.9 times higher for women than for men.

Figure 5. Female victims of DV-related actual bodily harm and grievous bodily harm, NSW, 2000–2015



NOTE: Where an individual has experienced multiple criminal incidents throughout the year, they are counted as a victim multiple times.

Population: NSW female population.

Data source: BOCSAR (2016), *NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, 2000 to 2015*, unpublished data (ref: kr16-14194).

In 2015, women were twice as likely as men to experience DV-related actual bodily harm (134.1 per 100,000 for female victims (Figure 5), compared to 67.0 per 100,000 for male victims), whereas men were 1.4 times more likely than women to be victims of DV-related grievous bodily harm. The number of incidents of DV-related grievous bodily harm involving a victim is very small (449) compared to 7,690 incidents of DV-related actual bodily harm involving a victim.

Repeat assaults

In 2015, police received reports of DV-related assault in relation to 26,668 individuals in NSW. Of these individuals, 12.4% had been the victim of an earlier DV-related assault within the previous two years, and 32.3% were repeat victims who had been previously DV-assaulted since 1995.

Women were more likely to be repeat victims of DV-related assault than men. Aboriginal women represent 2.9% of the NSW female population, yet accounted for 21.0% of all female DV-related assault victims in 2015 who had been DV-assaulted in the previous two years (Figure 6).¹⁰

The majority of female DV-related assault victims who have been DV-assaulted in the previous two years live in major cities (1,554 or 59.3% of victims) and regional areas (938 or 35.8% of victims). However, relative to the proportion of the NSW population residing in these areas, female DV-related assault victims living in regional (35.8%), remote (2.6%) and very remote (2.4%) areas of NSW were more likely than those living in major cities (59.3%) to have been DV-assaulted in the previous two years (Figure 6).

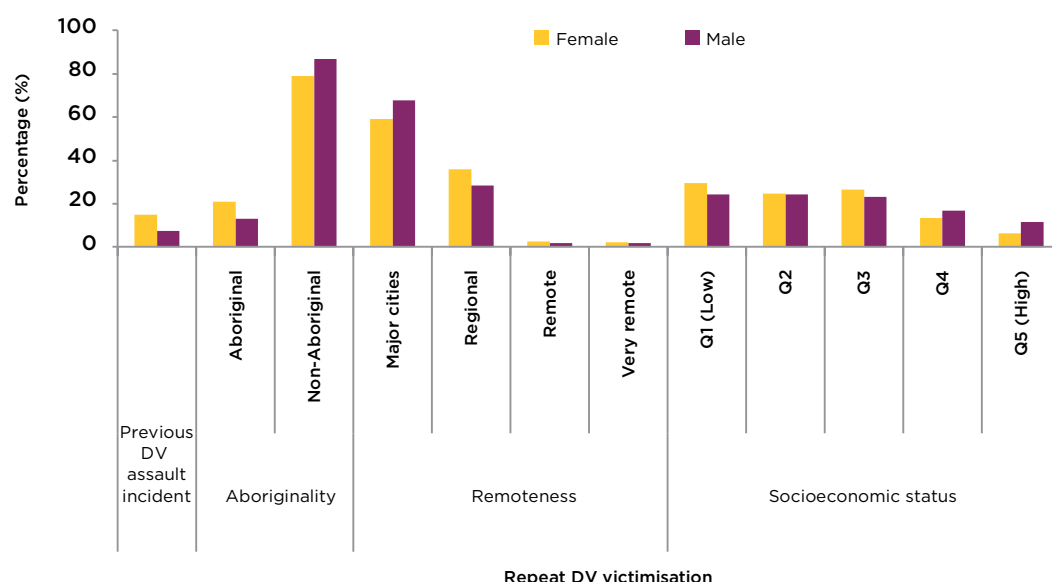
Nearly one-third of female DV-related assault victims who have been DV-assaulted in the previous two years resided in the most socioeconomically disadvantaged areas, compared with only 6.2% of repeat female victims of DV-related assault who resided in the least socioeconomically disadvantaged areas (Figure 6).

A similar level of over-representation of Aboriginal women, women in regional and remote areas and women from the most socioeconomically disadvantaged areas also exists for female DV-related assault victims who have previously been DV-assaulted since 1995.

⁹ 20% of the NSW population reside in each socioeconomic quintile.

¹⁰ Of the NSW female population, 74.6% reside in major cities, 24.9% reside in regional (inner and outer) areas, 0.4% reside in remote areas and 0.1% reside in very remote areas.

Figure 6. Repeat victims of DV-related assault in the previous two years, NSW, 2015



NOTE: The category 'socioeconomic status' makes comparisons based on Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) quintiles, denoted by Q1–Q5 above. When analysing remoteness and socioeconomic status, remoteness and SEIFA quintile classified as unknown have been excluded from the respective analyses. The category 'non-Aboriginal' includes persons whose Aboriginality was classified as unknown.

Population: NSW victims of domestic violence-related assault.

Data source: BOCSAR (2016), *NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, 2006 to 2015*, unpublished data (ref: 16-14196); BOCSAR (2016), *NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, 2015*, unpublished data (ref: 16-14256).

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

The NSW Premier's Priorities include:

- Reducing domestic violence by reducing the proportion of domestic violence perpetrators reoffending within 12 months by 5%.
- Reducing the percentage of children and young people re-reported at risk of significant harm by 15%.

Visit <https://www.nsw.gov.au/premiers-priorities>.

The NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016–2021: Safer Lives for Women, Men and Children (the Blueprint) sets out the directions and actions to reform the domestic violence system in NSW over the next five years, including:

- \$20 million over four years for an Innovation Fund for prevention, early intervention and crisis responses.
- \$40 million over four years for the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program.
- \$13 million over four years to improve risk assessment and services for male victims such as gay men, or fathers and sons suffering family violence. Visit <http://domesticviolence.nsw.gov.au/publications/blueprint>.

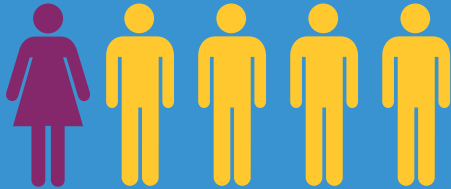
The NSW Health Domestic Violence Routine Screening program was developed under the *NSW Health Domestic Violence – Identifying and Responding* policy. The program involves the routine screening for domestic violence in antenatal, early childhood health, mental health, and alcohol and other drug services. Visit <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/kidsfamilies/protection/Pages/DVRS.aspx>.

A combination of victim-focused and perpetrator-focused activities (within the Justice Cluster and projects led by Women NSW) have been established to meet the Premier's Priorities, including:

- Legislation introduced in 2015 now enables domestic violence victims to give their evidence in chief through a recorded video or audio statement.
- Rollout of the Safer Pathway program and an expansion in the number of Safety Action Meetings (chaired by a senior police officer). Safer Pathway is an assessment, referral and support framework which aims to ensure that every domestic violence victim across NSW receives a consistent and effective response. Visit http://www.women.nsw.gov.au/violence_prevention.

Perpetrators of domestic assault

The offending rate for domestic assault has increased over the last 10 years



In most domestic assaults, the perpetrators (81.4%) are men



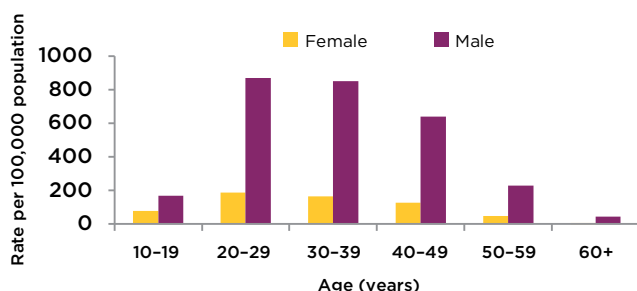
More than one-third of domestic assault perpetrators (36.0%) are repeat offenders who have committed one or more domestic assaults since 1995

In NSW in 2015, there were 18,959 incidents of DV-related assault in which a person of interest (perpetrator) was proceeded against by police,¹¹ at a rate of 292.9 per 100,000. The majority of these incidents involved male perpetrators.

Over the last 10 years, there has been an increase in the offending rate for reported DV-related assault in NSW (from 264.1 per 100,000 in 2006 to 292.9 per 100,000 in 2015). The DV-related assault offending rates have increased from 2006 to 2015 for nearly all age groups, except those aged 30–39 years.

Of all age groups, the highest rate of DV-related assault was by men aged 20–29 years (869.7 per 100,000), followed by men aged 30–39 years (850.0 per 100,000). Men in these two age groups were 1.8 times more likely to be a perpetrator of DV-related assault than all male DV-related assault perpetrators (483.6 per 100,000) (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Persons of interest proceeded against by NSW police for DV-related assault by age and sex, NSW, 2015



NOTE: Age classified as missing/unknown has been excluded from this analysis. Where an individual has been proceeded against by police in multiple criminal incidents throughout the year, they are counted as a person of interest (POI) multiple times.

Population: NSW population aged 10 years and over.

Data source: BOCSAR (2016), *NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, 2006 to 2015*, unpublished data (ref: kr16-14194).

Relationship between victims and offenders

In NSW in 2015, for female victims of DV-related assault, the most common alleged offenders were their:

- Current or ex spouses/partners: 43.0% (of these, 91.7% were male)
- Current or former boy/girlfriends: 24.5% (of these, 91.1% were male).

For male victims of DV-related assault, the most common alleged offenders were their:

- Current or ex spouses/partners: 23.6% (of these, 66.3% were female)
- Current or former boy/girlfriends: 13.5% (of these, 66.2% were female)
- Other family members: 13.4% (of these, 72.6% were male)
- Parents or guardians: 13.3% (of these, 66.6% were male).¹²

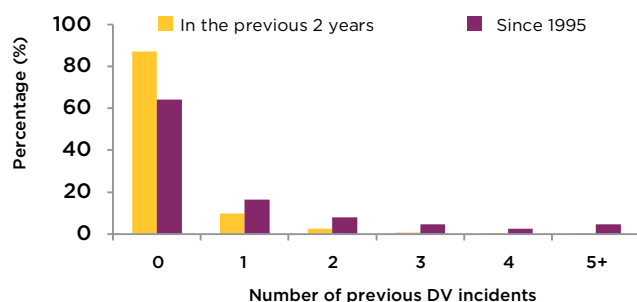
Repeat offending

Of the 14,954 distinct alleged offenders (persons of interest) who were proceeded against by police for DV-related assault in 2015, 13.0% were repeat offenders who had previously offended one (9.7% of offenders) or more (3.3% of offenders) times in the previous two years. Looking over a longer timeframe, more than one-third of DV-related assault offenders (36.0%) had committed a previous DV-related assault since 1995 and more than half of these repeat offenders (54.2%) had committed more than one previous DV-related assault (Figure 8).

¹¹ Police may initiate proceedings against an alleged offender through legal or other processes.

¹² The variable 'person of interest's relationship to victim' is subject to high recording error and should be treated with caution.

Figure 8. DV-related assault alleged offenders, by number of previously recorded DV-related assault incidents in the previous two years and since 1995, NSW, 2015



Population: Alleged offenders who were proceeded against by NSW police for DV-related assault.

Data source: BOCSAR (2016), *NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, 2006 to 2015*, unpublished data (ref: 16-14351).

Over the last 10 years, the percentage of offenders who had recorded incidents of DV-related assault in the previous two years remained relatively stable (from 13.8% to 13.0%), while the percentage of offenders who had committed a previous DV-related assault since 1995 increased by 5.0% (from 31.0% to 36.0%).

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

The NSW Premier's Priorities include:

- Reducing domestic violence by reducing the proportion of domestic violence perpetrators reoffending within 12 months by 5%. This means a decrease in the proportion of persons of interest with legal proceedings commenced against them by police for a recorded incident of domestic violence-related assault within 12 months.

To inform future work under the Premier's Priorities, demonstration sites were established in four locations in NSW through which new interventions are reviewed and measured to determine their operational feasibility.

A range of perpetrator-focused activities have been established to meet the Premier's Priorities, including:

- Piloting of four new men's behaviour change programs to develop the capacity of the sector and help offenders change their behaviour.
- State-wide rollout of NSW Police Force automatic referrals of male perpetrators to the Men's Referral Service.

Corrective Services NSW are responsible for a range of services and programs that manage offenders in custody and in the community.

- Corrective Services NSW have enhanced the Community Corrections supervision model resulting in an increase in the number of domestic violence offenders being supervised and accessing programs.
- EQUIPS Programs: A suite of therapeutic programs to reduce the risk of reoffending for medium and high-risk offenders. The programs are designed to increase participation opportunities for offenders in custodial and community settings. The EQUIPS programs include Domestic abuse, Addiction, Aggression and Foundation.¹³
- Extra Offender Management Service: An evidence-based service targeting adult offenders with a high-risk of reoffending (including domestic violence offenders) being implemented in four locations in NSW in 2017. The program provides one-on-one intervention targeting criminogenic needs at touch points in the criminal justice system (i.e. between the commencement of criminal proceedings and sentencing and following custodial release).
- Local Coordinated Multiagency Offender Management Service: Aimed at assisting the most persistent reoffenders to address factors associated with reoffending (such as drug or alcohol use, gambling and anti-social peers). Police, Community Corrections and local government and non-government organisations will work together to select priority offenders for intensive inter-agency management, targeted rehabilitation and law enforcement. This service will commence in a staged roll-out in early 2017 in three metropolitan and regional areas of NSW.

¹³ EQUIPS stands for Explore, Question, Understand, Investigate, Practise to Succeed.

Domestic violence-related stalking and intimidation

Women account for the majority of victims of stalking and intimidation in the domestic context



Women are **3.6 times more likely** than men to be a victim of domestic violence-related stalking or intimidation (78.7%)

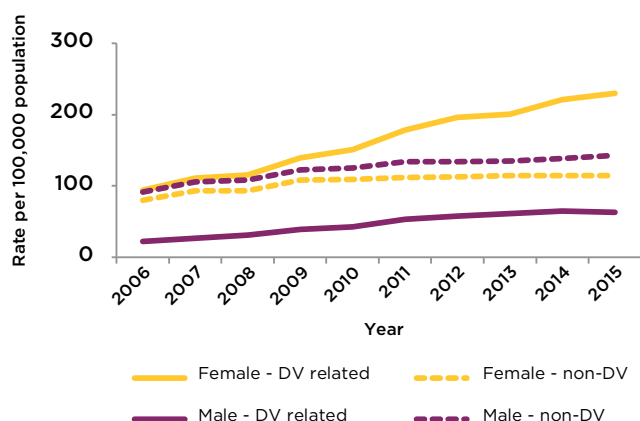


Since 2006, domestic violence-related stalking or intimidation has increased by an average of **10.4% a year for women** and **12.5% a year for men**

Stalking and intimidation involve making, or attempting to make, unwanted contacts with or approaches to another person with the intent to cause them to fear harm. In NSW in 2015, there were 21,008 incidents of stalking or intimidation in which police recorded a victim, more than half of which (53.3%) were DV-related. Two-thirds of the stalking or intimidation incidents involving female victims were DV-related, while less than one-third of stalking or intimidation incidents involving male victims (30.6%) were DV-related.

Over the last 10 years, while there were increases in both DV-related and non-DV related stalking or intimidation recorded by police, the rate of increase was greatest for DV-related stalking or intimidation (an average annual increase of 10.4% for women and 12.5% for men) (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Victims of domestic and non-domestic stalking or intimidation by sex, NSW, 2006–2015



NOTE: Where an individual has experienced multiple criminal incidents throughout the year, they are counted as a victim multiple times.

Population: NSW population.

Source: BOCSAR (2016), *NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, 2006 to 2015*, unpublished data (ref: kr16-14194).

In 2015, women were 3.6 times more likely to be a victim of DV-related stalking or intimidation than men in NSW, making up 78.7% of victims (8,820 incidents involving a female victim, compared with 2,380 incidents involving a male victim). Aboriginal women were 3.3 times more likely than non-Aboriginal women to be a victim of DV-related stalking or intimidation, and Aboriginal men were 2.5 times more likely than non-Aboriginal men to be a victim of DV-related stalking or intimidation.

Of those incidents in 2015 in which a domestic relationship between the victim and the offender was identified:

- For female victims, the alleged offenders were most commonly their current or ex spouses/partners (48.1%) or boy/girlfriends (19.8%). The majority of these offenders were male (95.1% of spouse/partner offenders, and 95.7% of boy/girlfriend offenders).
- For male victims, the alleged offenders were most commonly other family members (24.5%), or current or ex spouses/partners (18.0%). The majority of other family member offenders were male (82.7%), while the majority of spouse/partner offenders were female (67.0%).¹⁴

¹⁴ The variable 'person of interest's relationship to victim' is subject to high recording error and should be treated with caution.

Domestic violence-related homicide

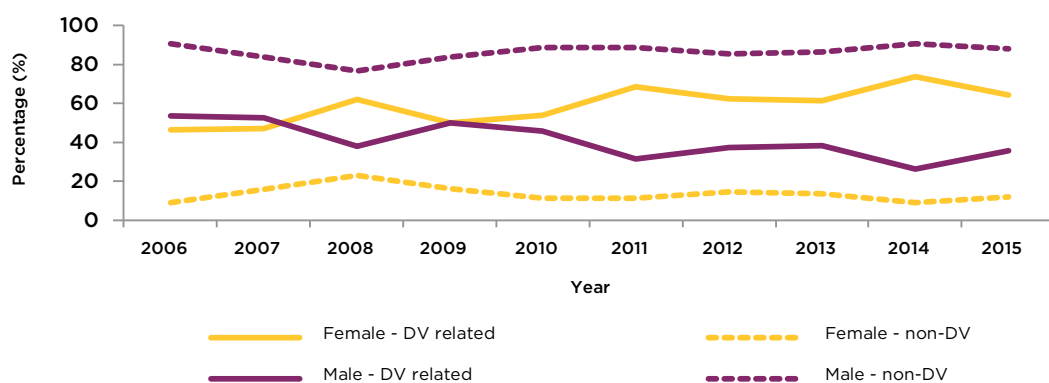
Almost 80% of female homicide victims were killed by someone they were in a domestic relationship with

In NSW in 2015, there were 70 recorded victims of homicide (including murder and manslaughter); 40.0% (28 out of 70) of these victims were killed by someone with whom they were in a domestic relationship. While most homicide victims were men (47 out of 70, or 67.1%), two-thirds of DV-related homicide victims were women (18 out of 28, or 64.3%).¹⁵

The majority (78.3%) of female homicide victims were killed by someone with whom they were in a domestic relationship (18 out of 23), compared to 21.3% of male homicide victims (10 out of 47). This pattern has been consistent over time (Figure 10).

On average in NSW, approximately 1 woman is killed every 3 weeks by someone with whom they were in a domestic relationship.

Figure 10. Victims of domestic and non-domestic homicides by sex, NSW, 2006–2015



Population: NSW victims of homicide.

Source: BOCSAR (2016), *NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, 2006 to 2015*, unpublished data (ref: kr16-14194).

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

Established in 2010, the Domestic Violence Death Review Team systematically review deaths occurring in the context of domestic violence in NSW. Convened by the NSW State Coroner, members of the Team include representatives from key government agencies and non-government service providers as well as sector experts. The functions of the Team are to:

- Review closed cases of deaths (including homicides, suicides and fatal accidents) that occurred in a domestic violence context in NSW
- Analyse data to identify patterns and trends relating to such deaths
- Make recommendations for implementation by government and non-government agencies and the community to prevent or reduce the likelihood of such deaths
- Establish and maintain a database about such deaths
- Conduct research that is aimed at preventing or reducing the likelihood of such deaths.

The Team is currently developing a methodology for the review of DV-related suicide. Visit http://www.coroners.justice.nsw.gov.au/Pages/Publications/dv_annual_reports.aspx.

¹⁵ For victims of homicide, references to 'women' includes 'girls' and references to 'men' includes 'boys'. The term DV-related homicide is consistent with terminology used by the NSW Police Force when collecting information about domestic violence offences. A domestic relationship includes spouses, people in de facto or other intimate personal relationships, people who live or have lived in the same household, carers, parents or step-parents, children or step-children, siblings, and other relatives.

SAFETY FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Women are more likely to be a victim of sexual assault than men

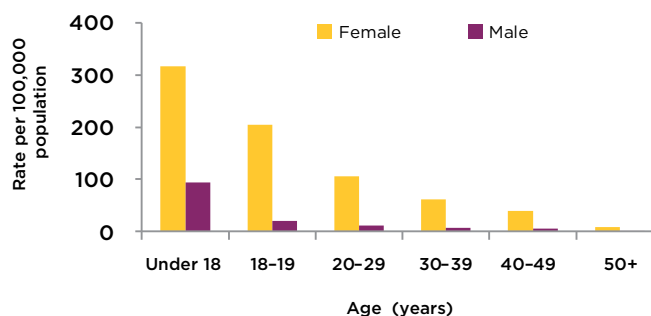
Sexual assault

In NSW in 2015, there were 5,035 incidents of sexual assault in which police recorded a victim. Women (and girls) were 4 times more likely to be a victim of sexual assault than men (and boys), making up 80.4% of sexual assault victims in NSW in 2015. This disparity has remained consistent over time.

Girls aged under 18 years had the highest rate of sexual assault, followed by women aged 18–19 years (Figure 11). Girls aged under 18 years accounted for 64.7% of female sexual assault victims, while boys aged under 18 years made up 82.8% of male sexual assault victims.

The rate of recorded sexual assault for Aboriginal women was 2.4 times greater than for the non-Aboriginal female population in NSW in 2015. Sexual assault can overlap and occur within a domestic and family violence context. In 2015, 38.9% of female sexual assault victims, and 33.5% of male victims, were sexually assaulted by someone with whom they are or were in a domestic relationship.¹⁶

Figure 11. Victims of sexual assault, by age and sex, NSW, 2015



NOTE: Age classified as missing/unknown has been excluded from this analysis. Where an individual has experienced multiple criminal incidents throughout the year, they are counted as a victim multiple times.

Population: NSW population.

Source: BOCSAR (2016), *NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, 2006 to 2015*, unpublished data (ref: kr16-14194).

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

Women NSW, in partnership with the NSW Government and the non-government sector, is leading the development of a NSW Sexual Assault Strategy. The Strategy will provide a framework for the prevention of sexual assault, supporting victims, holding perpetrators accountable, and improving the system as a whole.

Child Sexual Offence Evidence Pilot

In 2015, the NSW Government established the Child Sexual Offence Evidence Pilot under the *Criminal Procedure Amendment (Child Sexual Offence Evidence Pilot) Act 2015* (NSW). The Pilot aims to reduce traumatisation of child witnesses and the stress of giving evidence. In March 2016, the three-year pilot commenced in Newcastle and Sydney District Courts. Visit <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/bills/Pages/Profiles/criminal-procedure-amendment-child-sexual-offenc.aspx>.

Appointment of two specialist judges

Two child sexual assault specialist judges were appointed to the District Court of NSW in August 2015. The experience and expertise of the new judges will help to increase access to justice and reduce the stress and trauma for victims. The specialist judges have undergone intensive training for their new roles.

Child Sexual Offences Review

In 2016–2017 the NSW Department of Justice is conducting a review of legislation relating to child sexual offences in NSW. The review is being undertaken in response to recommendations made by the Joint Select Committee on Sentencing of Child Sexual Assault Offenders. The review involves the publication of a discussion paper and consultation with stakeholders and the community. The review will also consider the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, where relevant, before making its recommendations.

¹⁶ A domestic relationship includes an alleged offender who is the victim's current or ex spouse/partner, current or ex boy/girlfriend, parent/guardian, sibling, child, other family member or carer.

SAFETY FROM OTHER PERSONAL VIOLENCE

Women are more likely than men to be victims of sexual offences, harassment, threatening behaviour and private nuisance



Women are less likely than men to be victims of non-domestic assault, robbery and non-domestic homicide



Three-quarters of female victims experienced physical assault and face-to-face threatened assault by someone known to them

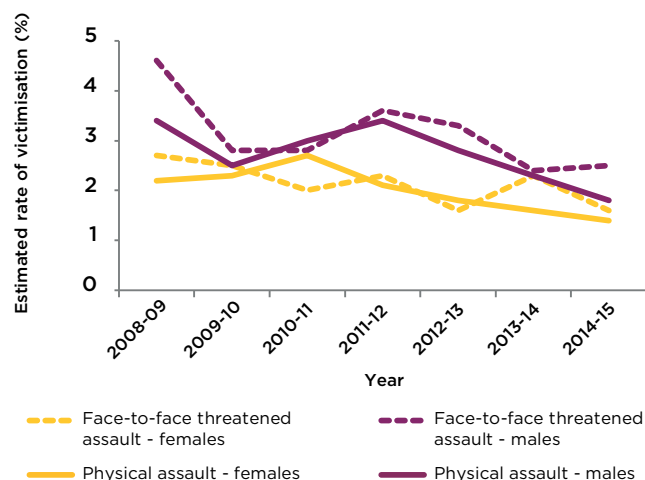
Non-DV related stalking or intimidation

In NSW in 2015, men were 1.2 times more likely than women to be victims of non-DV related stalking or intimidation (142.6 per 100,000 for men, compared to 114.7 per 100,000 for women). However, Aboriginal women had the highest rate of being victims of non-DV related stalking or intimidation, compared to non-Aboriginal women and men, and Aboriginal men.

Self-reported assault victimisation

It is estimated that 41,800 women and 54,900 men experienced a physical assault in NSW in 2014–15, and 49,800 women and 72,800 men experienced a face-to-face threatened assault during this period (Figure 12). Women consistently accounted for less than 50.0% of physical assault and face-to-face assault victims over this period.

Figure 12. Victims of physical assault and face-to-face threatened assault by sex, NSW, 2008–09 to 2014–15



Population: Persons aged 15 years and over in NSW.

Sample: Respondents to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) Multipurpose Household Survey, 2014–15 and previous years.

Data source: ABS (2016), *Crime Victimisation, Australia, 2014–15*, Cat. No. 4530.0, unpublished data.

Compared to men, women were more likely to experience physical assault (76.3%) and face-to-face threatened assault (71.2%) by someone known to them (Figure 13).

Figure 13. Victims of physical assault and face-to-face threatened assault, by whether offender known to the victim and sex, NSW, 2014–15



Population: Persons aged 15 years and over in NSW.

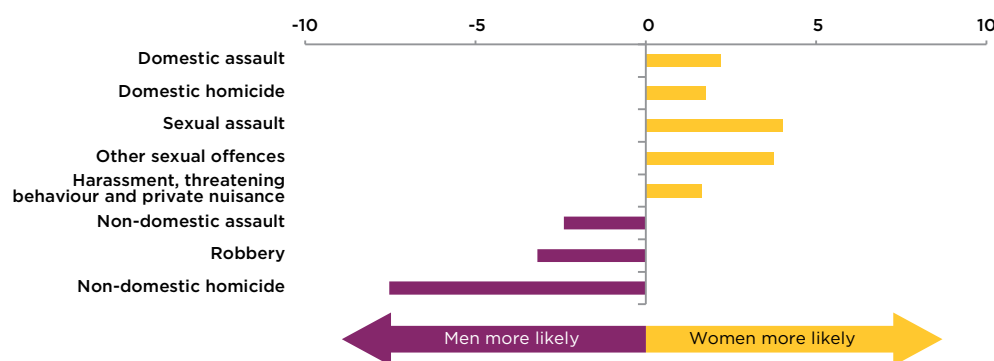
Sample: Respondents to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) Multipurpose Household Survey, 2014–15.

Data source: ABS (2016), *Crime Victimisation, Australia, 2014–15*, Cat. No. 4530.0, unpublished data.

Victims of other types of personal violence

In relation to other personal violence incidents recorded by NSW police, women were more likely than men to be victims of other sexual offences (e.g. indecent assault, act of indecency), harassment, threatening behaviour and private nuisance, but are less likely than men to be victims of robbery, non-DV related assault and non-DV related homicide (murder and manslaughter) (Figure 14).

Figure 14. Women's experience of domestic violence, sexual violence and other types of personal violence in comparison to men, NSW, 2015



NOTE: Where an individual has experienced multiple criminal incidents throughout the year, they are counted as a victim multiple times.

Population: NSW population.

Source: BOCSAR (2016), *NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, 2006 to 2015*, unpublished data (ref: kr16-14194).

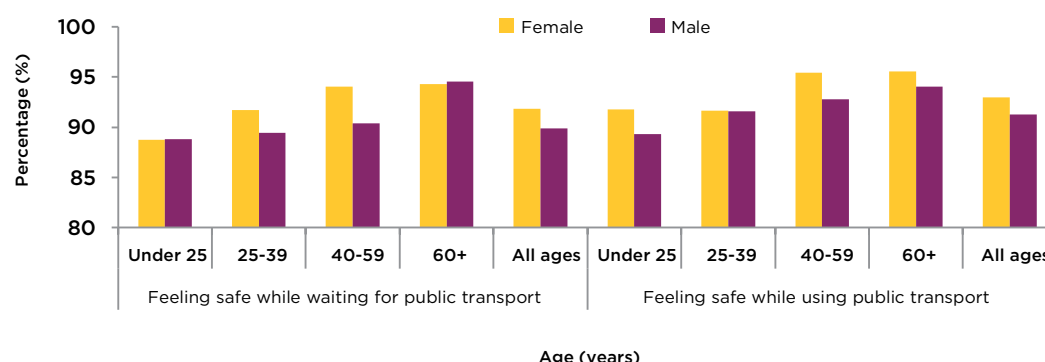
Safety while waiting for or using public transport

Women were more likely than men to feel safe while waiting for or using public transport. In 2015, women felt slightly safer than men while waiting for public transport (91.8% of women, compared to

89.9% of men) and while using public transport (92.9% of women, compared to 91.3% of men).

For both women and men, feelings of safety while waiting for or using public transport increased with age, with those aged under 25 years the least likely to feel safe and those aged 60 years and over most likely to feel safe (Figure 15).

Figure 15. Self-reported satisfaction with safety while waiting for or using public transport by age and sex, NSW, 2015



NOTE: Train, bus and ferry survey samples have been aggregated to indicate overall levels of satisfaction with safety while on or waiting for public transport. These survey samples have been weighted by patronage.

Population: Customers of bus, train and ferry services in NSW.

Sample: 16,449 respondents to Transport for NSW surveys conducted on board bus, train and ferry services in November 2015.

Data source: Transport for NSW, Customer surveys, November 2015, unpublished data.

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

Under the NSW State Priorities, the Government is working on reducing violent crime and adult reoffending, with targets of stable or falling reported violent crime rates in Local Government Areas, and a 5% reduction of adult reoffending by 2019. See <https://www.nsw.gov.au/premiers-priorities>.

Customer and staff safety is a priority for Transport for NSW. Transport officers regularly patrol trains, train stations, bus and ferry services in NSW, and on Friday and Saturday nights, Police Transport Command officers patrol services to improve security and reduce crime. Crime hotspots are monitored through an extensive network of more than 10,000 CCTV cameras and a security control centre operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with communication links to transport officers, police and emergency services. Visit <http://www.transportnsw.info/en/travelling-with-us/using-public-transport/your-safety/index.page>.

Personal Safety Survey

The Australian Bureau of Statistics conducted the second Personal Safety Survey in 2012. The survey provides information about the nature and extent of violence experienced by women and men aged 18 years and over and their experiences since the age of 15. Detailed information relates to their experience of sexual assault, physical assault and physical threat and information about experiences of violence by different types of female and male perpetrators. Visit <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4906.0>.

SAFETY AT WORK

Women account for the majority of employment-related sex discrimination and sexual harassment complaints



More than three-quarters of employment-related sex discrimination complaints are lodged by women

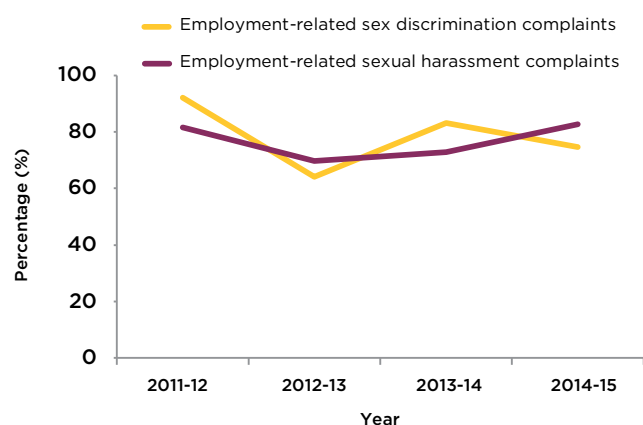


More than 80% of employment-related sexual harassment complaints are lodged by women

Safety from sex discrimination and sexual harassment at work

The majority of employment-related sex discrimination and sexual harassment complaints in NSW were lodged by women. In 2014-15, of all employment-related sex discrimination complaints made in NSW, women accounted for 74.5% of the complaints made to the Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW (ADB) and 84.1% of the complaints made to the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC). Of all employment-related sexual harassment complaints made in 2014-15 in NSW, women made up 82.7% of the complaints made to the ADB and 85.7% of the complaints made to the AHRC. The proportions of women who made employment-related sex discrimination and sexual harassment complaints to the ADB have remained relatively unchanged over the last four years (Figure 16).

Figure 16. Employment-related sex discrimination and sexual harassment complaints made by women to the Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW, NSW, 2011-12 to 2014-15



NOTE: As one complainant may allege multiple grounds of discrimination, numbers provided are not a count of unique complaints. Sex discrimination complaints include complaints made on the grounds of pregnancy.

Population: Persons who made employment-related sex discrimination or sexual harassment complaints to the ADB.

Data source: ADB, complaints data, 2014-15 and previous years. Unpublished data, obtained April 2016 and previous years.

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

The NSW Premier's Priorities aim to drive public sector diversity by:

- Increasing the proportion of women in senior leadership roles in the NSW government sector from 33% to 50% by 2025
- Doubling the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in senior leadership roles in the NSW government sector, from 57 to 114 by 2025.

Visit <https://www.nsw.gov.au/premiers-priorities-list/driving-public-sector-diversity>.

In June 2016, the ADB and Legal Aid NSW signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Legal Aid NSW to provide regular free legal advice to socially and economically disadvantaged members of the community on complaints and proceedings arising from the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977* (NSW). The service is now running monthly at the ADB's office. Visit <http://www.antidiscrimination.justice.nsw.gov.au/Pages/news%20articles/adb-mou-with-legal-aid-nsw.aspx>.

THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Women account for the majority of the persons being protected by an Apprehended Domestic Violence Order



Less than half the female physical assault victims (44.0%) reported their victimisation to police, compared to 65.7% of men



The rate of women being protected by an Apprehended Domestic Violence Order is 2.4 times the rate of men

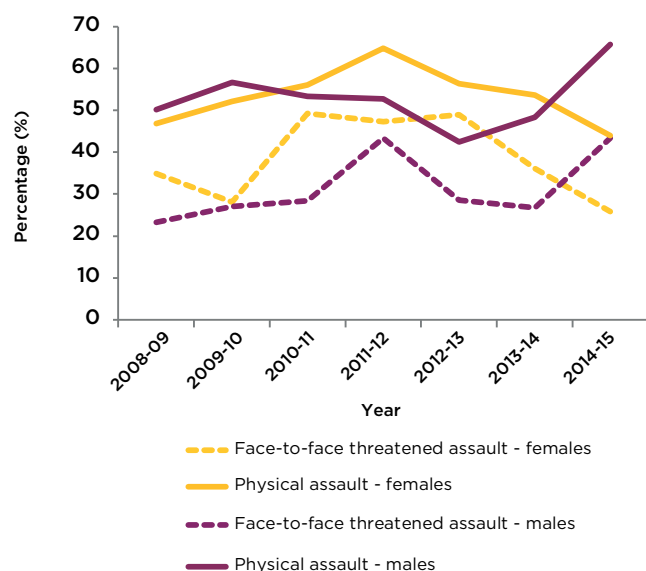


One in three alleged offenders who breached an Apprehended Domestic Violence Order breached the order repeatedly

Reporting rates among victims of assault

It is estimated that less than half of the female physical assault victims (44.0%) in NSW in 2014–15 reported their victimisation to police, compared to 65.7% for men. Reporting rates for face-to-face threatened assault are generally lower than for physical assault. In 2014–15, only one-quarter of women (25.8%) and less than half the number of men (43.3%) experiencing face-to-face threatened assault reported their victimisation to police (Figure 17).

Figure 17. Reporting rates for physical assault and face-to-face threatened assault by sex, NSW, 2008–09 to 2014–15



Population: Persons aged 15 years and over in NSW.

Sample: Respondents to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) Multipurpose Household Survey, 2014–15 and previous years.

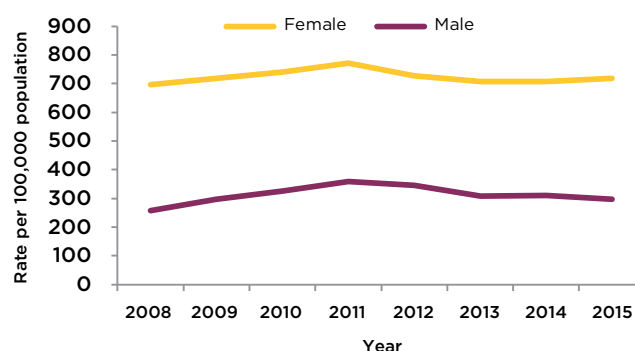
Data source: ABS (2016), *Crime Victimisation, Australia, 2014–15*, Cat. No. 4530.0, unpublished data.

Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders

ADVOs granted

Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders (ADVOs) are court orders aimed at protecting people who have experienced, or are fearful of experiencing, domestic violence by prohibiting an alleged offender from harassing, threatening, or being violent towards a specific person or people with whom they are or were in a domestic relationship. In NSW in 2015, there were 38,853 persons protected by ADVOs, 71.0% of whom were women.¹⁷ Rates for both women and men protected by ADVOs appear to have decreased slightly over the period 2011–2015 (Figure 18).

Figure 18. Persons protected by an Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO), NSW, 2008–2015



NOTE: Where an individual was protected by multiple ADVOs throughout the year, they are counted as a person protected by an ADVO multiple times.

Population: NSW population.

Data source: BOCSAR (2016), *NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, 2006 to 2015*, unpublished data (ref: kr16-14194).

¹⁷ This is not a count of unique individuals. Where an individual was protected by multiple ADVOs throughout the year, they are counted as a person protected by an ADVO multiple times.

The LGAs in NSW with the highest rates of persons of interest (POIs) with an ADVO granted against them per 100,000 population in 2015 were all in remote and very remote areas (Figure 19). These rates were at least four to nine times the NSW rate of 416.5 per 100,000. In Sydney, the LGAs with the highest rate of ADVOs granted were Campbelltown (601.0 per 100,000), Blacktown (581.5 per 100,000), and Liverpool (479.1 per 100,000).

Figure 19. Local Government Areas (LGAs) with the highest rates of POIs with an ADVO granted against them per 100,000 population, NSW, 2015

| LGAs | Rate per 100,000 population |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Brewarrina | 3,828.7 |
| Bourke | 3,591.0 |
| Central Darling | 3,220.4 |
| Walgett | 3,041.7 |
| Coonamble | 1,786.7 |
| Moree Plains | 1,778.4 |

Note: Where an individual had multiple ADVOs granted against them throughout the year, they are counted as a POI multiple times.

Population: NSW population aged 10 years and over.

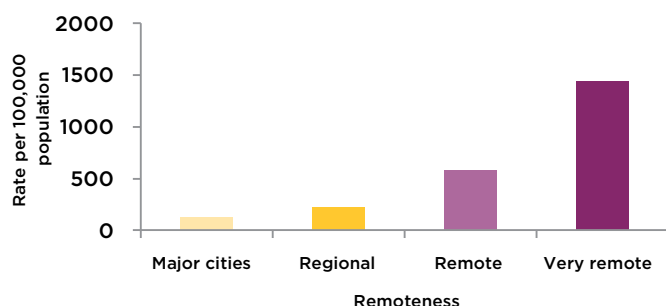
Data source: BOCSAR (2016), *NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, 2006 to 2015*, unpublished data (ref: kr16-14194).

Breach of ADVOs

In NSW in 2015, there were 8,169 individual POIs who were proceeded against by police for breach of an ADVO one or more times. Two-thirds of the POIs (66.7%) breached the ADVO once and one in three POIs breached an ADVO two or more times. Of those who have breached the ADVO more than once, 40.1% had breached an ADVO three or more times.

While the largest number of victims who experienced an ADVO breach live in major cities (7,532, or 60.9%) and regional areas (4,421, or 35.8%), those who live in remote and very remote areas were more likely to experience an ADVO breach (Figure 20).¹⁸

Figure 20. ADVO breach by victim's residential remoteness area, NSW, 2015



NOTE: Remoteness area classified as unknown has been excluded from this analysis. Where an individual has experienced multiple criminal incidents throughout the year, they are counted as a victim multiple times.

Population: NSW population.

Data source: BOCSAR (2016), *NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, 2015*, unpublished data (ref: 16-14346).

¹⁸ These are not counts of unique individuals. Where an individual has experienced multiple criminal incidents throughout the year, they are counted as a victim multiple times.

¹⁹ These data need to be treated with caution as the number of persons whose Aboriginality was classified as unknown was very high.

Over the last 10 years, the rates of single ADVO breach and repeat ADVO breaches have both increased. The rate of single ADVO breaches increased by an average of 1.3% per year (from 63.5 per 100,000 in 2006 to 71.6 per 100,000 in 2015), while the rate of two or more ADVO breaches increased by an average of 2.5% per year (from 28.5 per 100,000 in 2006 to 35.7 per 100,000 in 2015).

The majority of victims of ADVO beaches were women (83.4%). Of the victims of ADVO breaches whose Aboriginality status was recorded, Aboriginal victims represented 16.8% of female victims and 11.6% of male victims (even though they only represented 2.9% the NSW female population and 3.0% of the NSW male population respectively).¹⁹

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

Suspect Target Management Program II

Under this Program implemented by the NSW Police Force, a target plan is developed for each serious repeat offender identified and a team monitors their behaviour and compliance with ADVOs. Domestic Violence High Risk Offender Teams have also been established to target recidivist offenders and investigate complex domestic and family violence incidents.

Review of the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007 (NSW)*

A review of this Act in 2016 resulted in numerous legislative amendments, including:

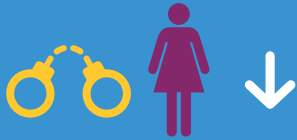
- Inclusion of additional offences that, when committed in the context of a domestic relationship, are defined as 'domestic violence offences' (broadens the circumstances where the protection of an ADVO is available).
- Extension of the definition of 'domestic relationship' to include where two people have each had a domestic relationship with the same person (expands the category of people that can seek the protection of an ADVO).
- Where an application is made to vary or revoke a police-initiated Apprehended Violence Order (AVO), the court must decline to hear the application unless it is made by a police officer or the application has been served by the Commissioner of Police. It aims to prevent defendants coercing the victims into consenting to inappropriate applications for variation or revocation of an ADVO.

In 2016/17, the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet's Behavioural Insights Unit and the NSW Department of Justice are trialling innovative measures to reduce ADVO breaches and reoffending and support behaviour change amongst DV perpetrators, including:

- Domestic Violence SMS Trial: Defendants are sent an SMS reminding them of their next court appearance.
- Replacing the current ADVO with a simplified, personalised ADVO form with behavioural messages.
- 'Make a Plan' Brief Intervention: Aiming to reduce the rate of offenders breaching ADVOs.

OFFENDING AND IMPRISONMENT

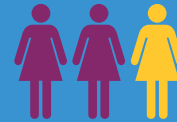
Women's imprisonment rate has increased significantly since 2012



Women are 3.8 times less likely than men to commit a criminal offence



Women's imprisonment rate increased by an average of 7.2% per year since 2012

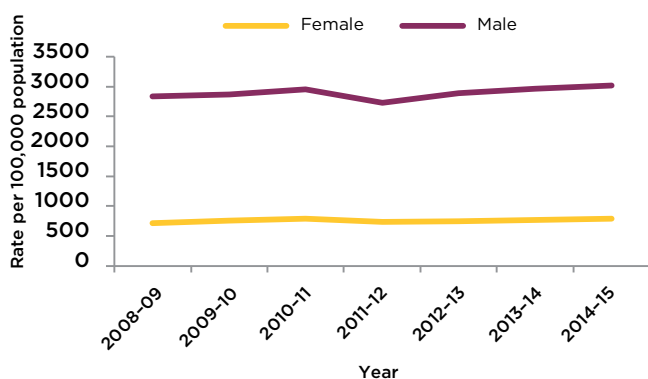


Aboriginal women account for more than one-third of all women prisoners, and are 16.2 times more likely than non-Aboriginal women to be in prison

Offenders proceeded against by NSW police

In NSW in 2014-15, females were 3.8 times less likely than males to offend. Since 2008-09, this ratio has remained relatively unchanged. In 2014-15, there were 26,303 women and 98,233 men proceeded against by police in NSW. This represented an offending rate for women of 787.1 per 100,000, compared to 3,017.8 per 100,000 for men, which was an average annual increase of 1.5% for women and 1.1% for men from 2008-09 (Figure 21).

Figure 21. Offenders proceeded against by NSW police by sex, NSW, 2008-09 to 2014-15



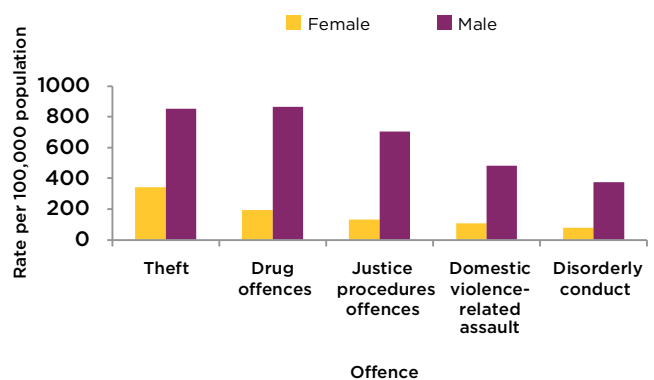
Population: NSW population aged 10 years and over.

Data source: ABS (2016), *Recorded Crime - Offenders, 2014-15*, Cat. No. 4519.0.

The majority of offenders were proceeded against by NSW police only once in 2014-15, with women more likely than men to be proceeded against only once (74.6% of women, compared to 71.8% of men). However, the proportions of both women and men who were proceeded against more than once have increased since 2008-09 (25.3% of women and 28.2% of men in 2014-15, compared to 18.4% of women and 23.0% of men in 2008-09).

In 2015, both women and men were most commonly proceeded against by police for theft, drug offences, offences against justice procedures, DV-related assault, and disorderly conduct (Figure 22).

Figure 22. Alleged offenders proceeded against by police by most common offence and sex, NSW, 2015



NOTE: Where an individual has been proceeded against by police in multiple criminal incidents throughout the year, they are counted as an alleged offender multiple times.

Population: NSW population aged 10 years and over.

Data source: BOCSAR (2016), *NSW Recorded Crime Statistics, 2006 to 2015*, unpublished data (ref: kr16-14194).

Juveniles in custody

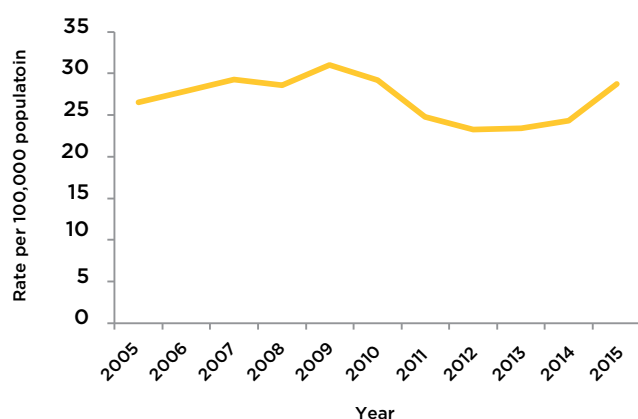
In NSW, as at June 2015, there were 18 girls and 289 boys in custody. Of girls in custody,²⁰ 72.2% were Aboriginal, compared with 54.0% of boys. In the period 2011–2014, the total number of juveniles in custody decreased by 30.4%. In the period 2014–2015, the number increased by 8.9%.

Women in prison

In NSW, as at June 2015, the number of adults in prison increased by 11.6% from 2014. The imprisonment rate for NSW women in 2015 (28.7 per 100,000) was 13.1 times lower than for men (377.2 per 100,000). Women made up 7.3% of inmates in NSW adult correctional centres. Of all adult prisoners, 54.7% were recorded as having had prior adult imprisonment under sentence.

In the period 2005–2015, both women's and men's imprisonment rates reached their highest points in 2009, before falling to their lowest levels in 2012. In the period 2012–2015, women's imprisonment rate increased by an average of 7.2% per year (Figure 23), while men's imprisonment rate increased by an average of 5.2% per year (Figure 24).

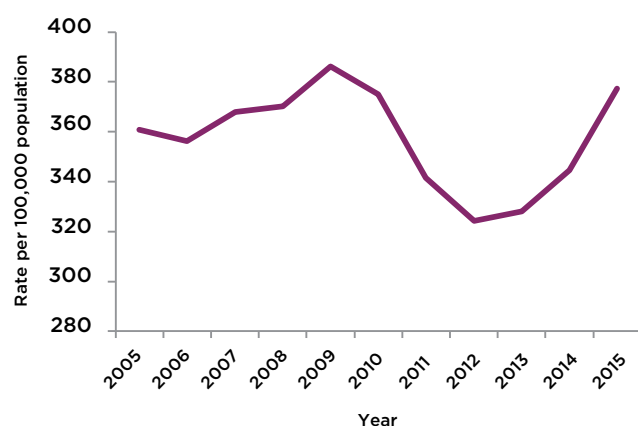
Figure 23. Female imprisonment rate, NSW, 2005–2015



Population: NSW adult female population.

Data source: ABS (2015), *Prisoners in Australia, 2015*, Cat. No. 4517.0, Table 14.

Figure 24. Male imprisonment rate, NSW, 2005–2015

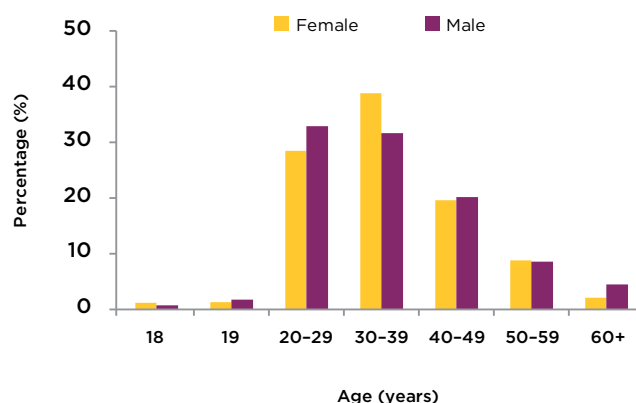


Population: NSW adult male population.

Data source: ABS (2015), *Prisoners in Australia, 2015*, Cat. No. 4517.0, Table 14.

As at 30 June 2015, the highest proportion of female inmates was aged 30–39 years, followed by those aged 20–29 years (Figure 25).

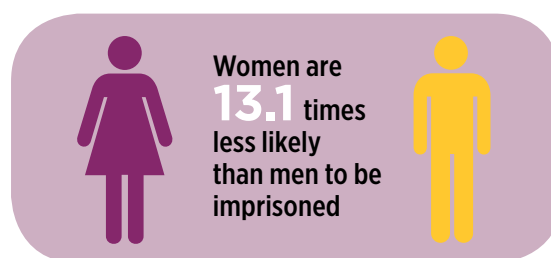
Figure 25. Prison population by age and sex, NSW, 30 June 2015



Population: NSW adult prison population.

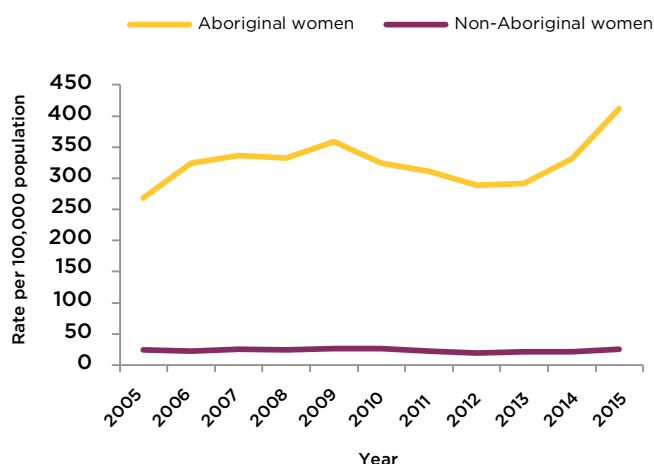
Data source: ABS (2015), *Prisoners in Australia, 2015*, Cat. No. 4517.0, Table 20.

Women and men in prison



²⁰ Total persons in juvenile custody include those for whom police bail or court bail was refused, and those sentenced.

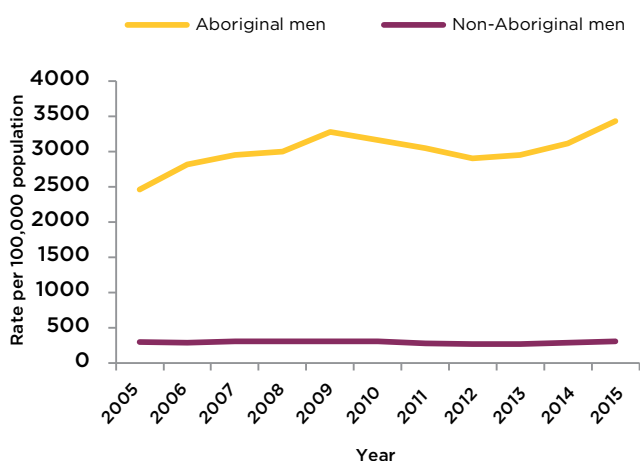
Figure 26. Age-standardised imprisonment rate for NSW women by Aboriginality, 2005–2015



Population: NSW adult female population.

Data source: ABS (2015), *Prisoners in Australia, 2015*, Cat. No. 4517.0, Table 20.

Figure 27. Age-standardised imprisonment rate for NSW men by Aboriginality, 2005–2015



Population: NSW adult male population.

Data source: ABS (2015), *Prisoners in Australia, 2015*, Cat. No. 4517.0, unpublished data.

As at 30 June 2015, there were 302 Aboriginal women in NSW adult correctional centres, accounting for just over one-third of all female inmates in NSW. Aboriginal women were 16.2 times more likely than non-Aboriginal women to be in NSW adult correctional centres (the age-standardised imprisonment rate for Aboriginal women in 2015 was 411.7 per 100,000, compared to 25.4 per 100,000 for non-Aboriginal women). The over-representation of Aboriginal women in NSW prisons is even higher than that of Aboriginal men—in 2015, Aboriginal men were 11 times more likely to be in prison than non-Aboriginal men of the same age in NSW.

In the period 2005–2015, the age-standardised imprisonment rate for Aboriginal women increased by an annual average of 4.4%, compared to 0.5% for non-Aboriginal women (Figure 26). The imprisonment rate for Aboriginal men increased by an average of 3.4% per year during the same period, compared to 0.4% for non-Aboriginal men of the same age in NSW (Figure 27).

Comparing the most common offences or charges for which women and men were imprisoned, the top three most common offences or charges for female inmates were: illicit drug offences (20.0% of female inmates); acts intended to cause injury (17.8% of female inmates); and offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations (12.0% of female inmates) (Figure 28).

Aboriginal women and men in prison

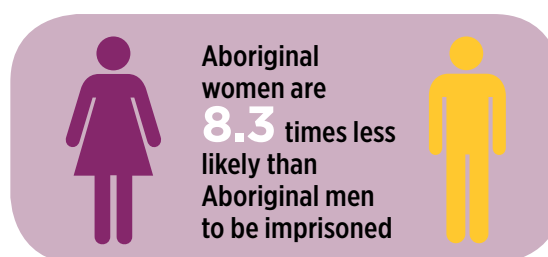
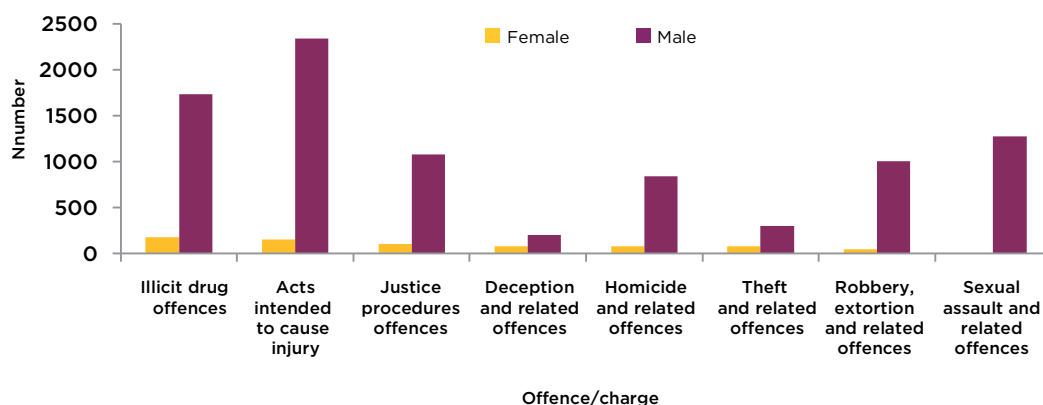


Figure 28. Most common offences or charges for adult prisoners by sex, 30 June 2015



NOTE: Where multiple offences/charges occur for the same prisoner, the most serious offence or charge (i.e. the offence or charge for which the prisoner has received the longest sentence) is used to represent that prisoner's offending. Where the most serious offence or charge is unknown, this has been excluded from the analysis.

Population: NSW adult prison population.

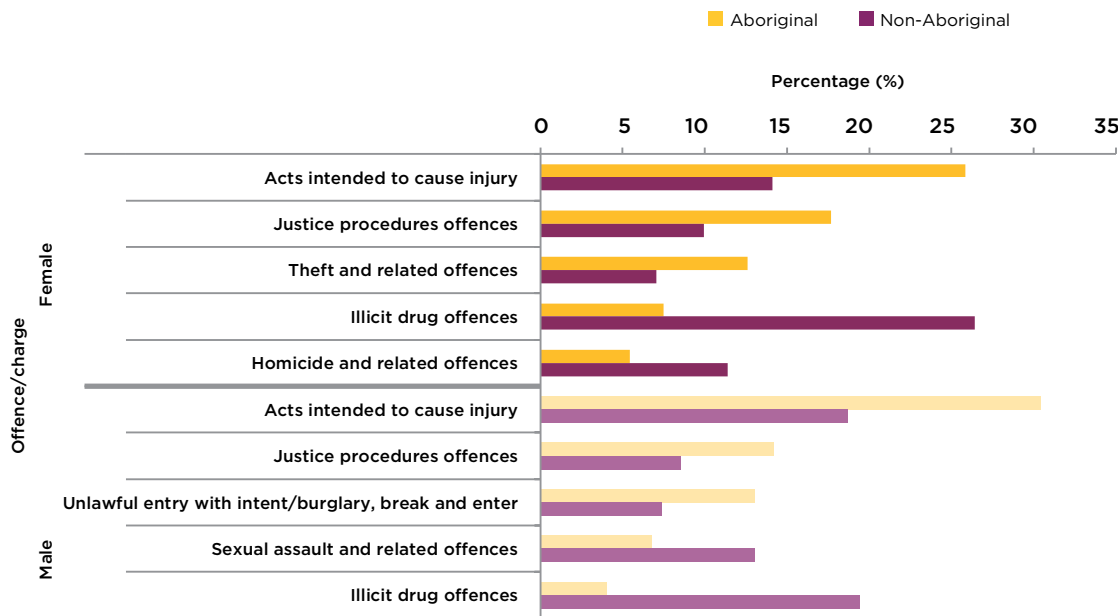
Data source: ABS (2015), *Prisoners in Australia, 2015*, Cat. No. 4517.0, unpublished data.

The top three most common offences or charges for which Aboriginal women were imprisoned in NSW were: acts intended to cause injury; offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations; and theft and related offences (Figure 29).

The top three most common offences or charges for which Aboriginal men were imprisoned in NSW

were: acts intended to cause injury; offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations; and unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter. In comparison, the most common offences or charges for non-Aboriginal male prisoners in NSW were: illicit drug offences, acts intended to cause injury, and sexual assault and related offences (Figure 29).

Figure 29. Most common offences or charges for prisoners by Aboriginality and sex, NSW, 30 June 2015



NOTE: Where multiple offences/charges occur for the same prisoner, the most serious offence or charge (i.e. the offence or charge for which the prisoner has received the longest sentence) is used to represent that prisoner's offending. Where the most serious offence or charge is unknown, this has been excluded from the analysis.

Population: NSW adult prison population.

Data source: ABS (2015), *Prisoners in Australia, 2015*, Cat. No. 4517.0, unpublished data.

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

The Corrective Services NSW strategy, *Recognising gender difference – A strategy for the program and service provision to women offenders*, recognises the need for a gendered approach to women offenders in relation to services and programs across NSW both in custody and in the community.

Corrective Services NSW and Victims Services NSW work in partnership on key initiatives to assist women offenders who have been victims of crime and have experienced trauma:

- Trauma Informed Practice Training: Training staff at Silverwater Women's Correctional Centre and the Brush Farm Corrective Services Academy, particularly targeting front line staff in custodial and community locations.
- Counselling services for inmates (delivered by Victims Services NSW) are being rolled out across the metropolitan women's correctional centres and some regional sites (with a strategy to eventually roll out across all sites). Counsellors can address histories of trauma for inmates who have been victims of crime and the therapy can continue in the community.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|----------------|---|
| ABS | Australian Bureau of Statistics: Australia's national statistical agency |
| ADB | Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW: Promotes anti-discrimination, equal opportunity principles and policies throughout NSW |
| AVO | Apprehended Violence Order: An AVO is an order made by the court to protect people from violence, intimidation, harassment and stalking |
| ADVO | Apprehended Domestic Violence Order: An AVO that is made where the people involved are related, or have or had a domestic or intimate relationship |
| AHRC | Australian Human Rights Commission: Australia's national human rights commission. It is a statutory body funded by, but operating independently of, the Australian Government |
| BOCSAR | NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research: NSW's crime statistics and research agency |
| CCTV | Closed-circuit television: A television system that transmits signals from one or more cameras to a limited number of screens, used for the purpose of monitoring activities |
| DV | Domestic Violence: Violent, abusive or intimidating behaviour by a partner, carer or family member to control, dominate or cause fear. It does not have to be physical abuse. It can be emotional, psychological, financial, sexual or other types of abuse |
| DVHROTs | Domestic Violence High Risk Offender Teams: Police teams set up to target recidivist offenders and investigate domestic and family violence matters |
| EQUIPS | Explore, Question, Understand, Investigate, Practise to Succeed. EQUIPS is a suite of offender behaviour change programs run by Corrective Services NSW |
| LGA | Local Government Area: The lowest tier of government in Australia administered under the states and territories |
| NSW | New South Wales, Australia |
| POI | Person of Interest: A suspected offender recorded by police in connection with a criminal incident |
| SEIFA | Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas: Ranks areas in Australia according to relative socioeconomic advantage and disadvantage |
| SMS | Short Message Service: A service that enables the sending of short text messages |

Important caveats and data limitations

Data used in this report are from a variety of sources, including administrative data collections and surveys. Where available, disparities have been reported across demographic groups such as age, Aboriginality, socioeconomic status and remoteness. Data are not routinely collected about people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. Similarly, there is no standard national data collection relating to the experiences of violence or abuse among people with a disability.

When reporting on NSW data, the term 'domestic violence' rather than 'domestic and family violence' is used throughout the report. This is consistent with terminology used by the NSW Police Force when collecting information about domestic violence offences. A domestic violence offence, defined under the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007* (NSW), encompasses acts of personal violence against someone with whom the perpetrator has, or has had, a domestic relationship. This includes spouses, people in de facto or other intimate personal relationships, people who live or have lived in the same household, carers, parents or step-parents, children or step-children, siblings, and other relatives (including kin).

In this report, references to 'women' include girls, and references to 'men' include boys. Unless otherwise indicated, for ease of reference the terms 'female victim' and 'male victim' refer to 'an incident involving a female victim' and 'an incident involving a male victim' respectively.

A description of each indicator and further information and links to relevant data sources are available in the Explanatory Notes (available at www.women.nsw.gov.au).

To make an enquiry or access datasets, please email: womennsw@moh.health.nsw.gov.au.

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