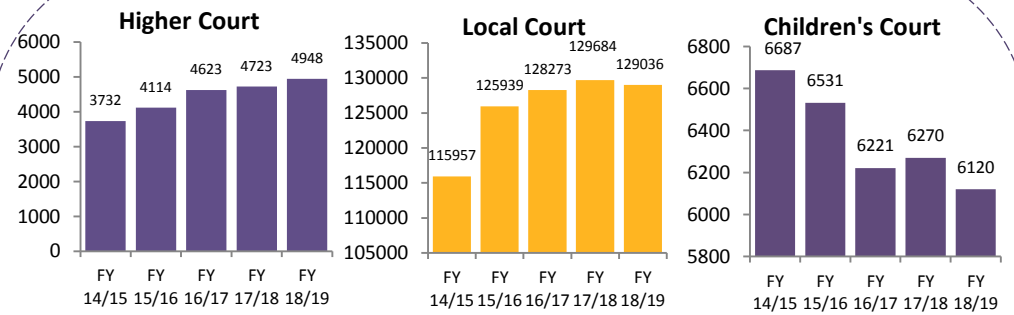
NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

NSW CRIMINAL COURTS SNAPSHOT

Court workload

Court finalisations by jurisdiction



- In the year to June 2019, NSW criminal courts finalised 347,563 charges against 140,104 defendants. That is 13,728 more defendants than in the year to June 2015 (up 10.9%) but 573 fewer than in the year to June 2018.
- In the year to June 2019, 90.6% of defendants were found guilty of at least one charge.

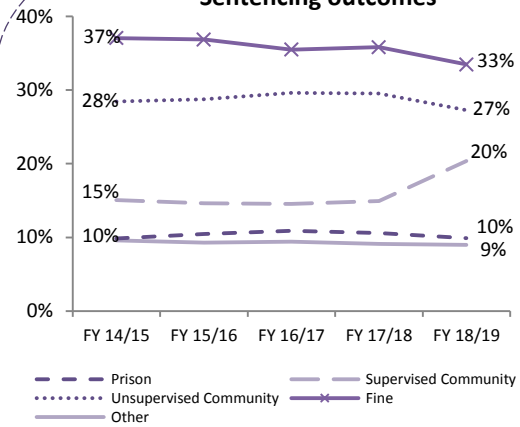
By offence type

Principal offence	Jul 2014 - Jun 2015	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	Jul 2016 - Jun 2017	Jul 2017 - Jun 2018	Jul 2018 - Jun 2019	2 Year Trend	5 Year Trend
Homicide and related	148	116	135	135	150	Stable	Stable
Acts intended to cause injury	17346	18037	19030	19080	19466	Stable	2.9%
Sexual assault	882	995	1202	1233	1330	Stable	10.8%
Dangerous or negligent acts	3059	2948	2939	3009	2843	Stable	Stable
Abduction/harassment	910	928	982	910	868	Stable	Stable
Robbery & extortion	733	791	660	721	718	Stable	Stable
Break and enter	2117	2249	2331	2285	2209	Stable	Stable
Theft and related offences	6800	7566	8024	7531	8002	Stable	4.2%
Fraud and deception	2849	3059	3563	3552	3400	Stable	4.5%
Illicit drug offences	12533	13696	14158	14484	14871	Stable	4.4%
Weapons/explosives	2101	2361	2456	2488	2902	16.6%	8.4%
Property damage	4058	4152	4206	4124	4059	Stable	Stable
Public order offences	4221	4357	4408	4393	4404	Stable	Stable
Traffic/vehicle offences	39123	45697	43818	45461	43403	Stable	2.6%
Against justice procedures	14181	15060	16431	16503	16833	Stable	4.4%
Miscellaneous offences	1602	1445	1477	1396	1470	Stable	Stable

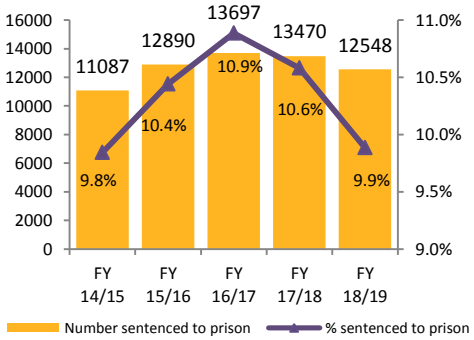
- Most of the growth since June 2015 has come from the categories of:
  - Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences (an additional 4,281 persons convicted)
  - Offences against justice procedures (e.g. breaches of court orders) (an additional 2,652 persons convicted)
  - Illicit drug offences (an additional 2,338 persons convicted)
  - Acts intended to cause injury (an additional 2,120 persons convicted)

Sentencing

Sentencing outcomes



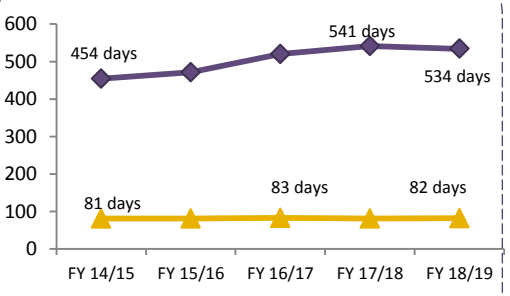
Number and % sentenced to prison



- The most common penalty imposed by the NSW Criminal Courts in the year to June 2019 was a fine (33% received this penalty), followed by a non-custodial community based order, such as a community corrections order or a conditional release order with conviction (27%).
- The number of offenders sentenced to supervision in the community has increased by 35.9% between July 2018 and June 2019, up 6,832 to 25,847.
- Between July 2014 and June 2019, the annual number of convicted offenders receiving a custodial penalty (prison or juvenile detention) rose from 11,087 to 12,548, an increase of 13 per cent.

Court delay

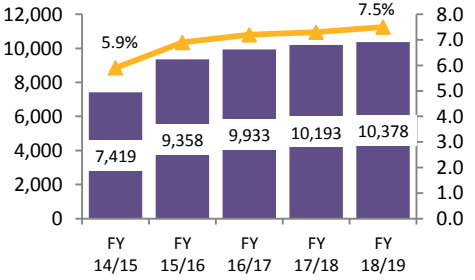
Median delay in the District and Local Courts - arrest to finalisation



- In the NSW District Court, median days from arrest to finalisation rose 18% from 454 days in June 2015 to 534 days in June 2019.
- In the NSW Local Court, the median days from arrest to finalisation rose 1% from 81 days in June 2015 to 82 days in June 2019.

Bail refusal rates

Number and % refused bail



- Since June 2015 the proportion of defendants bail refused when they appeared in court increased by 40%, from 5.9% in June 2015 (or 7,419 defendants) to 7.5% in June 2019 (10,378)).