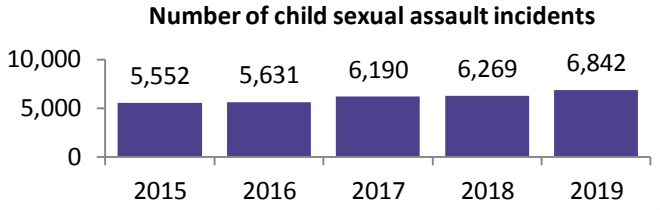
NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

The progress of sexual assault offences through the NSW Criminal Justice System – Child victims

Investigation phase: Police report to commencement of criminal proceedings

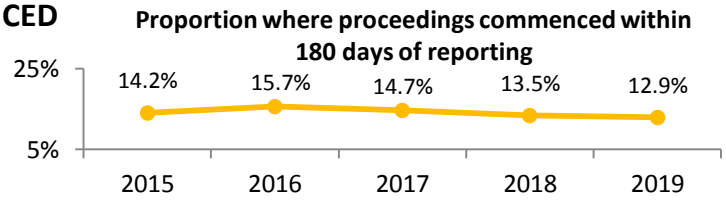
INCIDENTS

In 2019, **6,842** child sexual assault incidents were recorded by the NSW Police



CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED

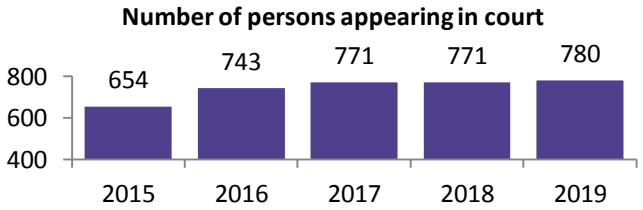
Criminal proceedings were commenced in **885** (12.9%) of incidents cleared within 180 days of reporting in 2019



Court phase: Court referral to court outcomes and sentencing

COURT APPEARANCES

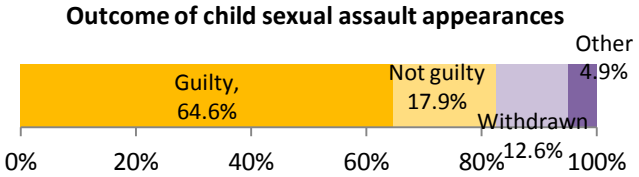
In 2019, **780** people appeared in court whose most serious charge was a child sexual assault offence



COURT OUTCOMES

Of the 780 people charged in 2019:

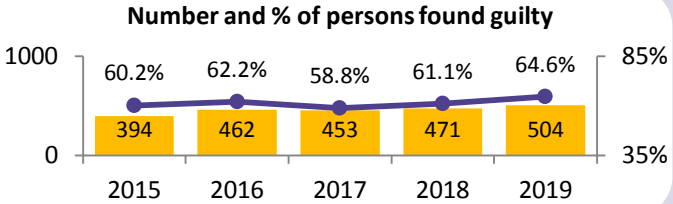
- **504** (65%) were found guilty
- **140** (18%) were found not guilty
- **98** (13%) had all charges withdrawn



*Outcome of the entire court appearance, not just the sexual assault matter

PROVEN APPEARANCES

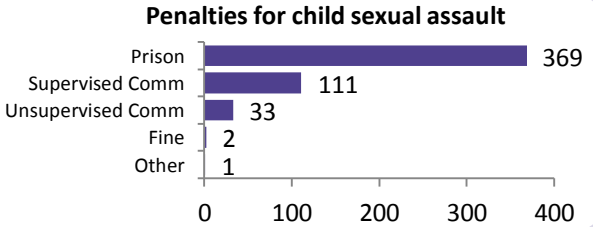
The number of people found guilty of child sexual assault increased by **28%** between 2015 to 2019.
The percentage found guilty is steady.



PENALTIES

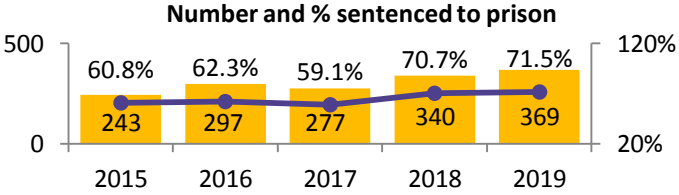
Of those found guilty in 2019:

- **369** (72%) were sentenced to prison (average prison sentence = 34 mths)
- **111** (22%) received a supervised community sentence



PRISON SENTENCES

The number of people sentenced to prison for child sexual assault increased **52%** from 2015 to 2019.
The percentage imprisoned also rose.



Note: court appearances in a given year do not directly relate to the incidents recorded by police in that year. Sexual assault = sexual assault + indecent assault