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Corrective Services New South Wales
Corporate Research, Evaluation and Statistics

Women convicted of a violent offence in NSW: 2000 to 2009

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There is a general perception that violent behaviour perpetrated by women is increasing. This is supported by research in Australia and overseas that reveals a growth in the number of women convicted of violent crimes. As a result there is a developing interest in the characteristics of this offender population within Corrective Services New South Wales (CSNSW). This report presents a profile of women convicted of a violent offence under custodial and community supervision in New South Wales (NSW) between 2000 and 2009. Results revealed that the number and proportion of female offenders convicted of violent offences in NSW increased during this time. The majority of women were convicted for one violent offence. The proportion of women convicted of more than one violent offence increased over this time. The sentence length given to the majority of women convicted of a violent offence in custody increased from 3 months or less in 2000 to greater than 6 months but less than or equal to 1 year in 2009. Indigenous women represented a significant section of the total female population serving a custodial and community-based sentence for a violent offence. This profile will serve as a foundation for further investigations into the patterns and trends in women convicted of violent offences. Implications for specific policy development and program implementation are also discussed.

KEY FINDINGS

Female offenders convicted of a violent offence in custody

- The number of women sentenced to full time custody for a violent offence increased from 249 of a total of 882 (28.2%) in 2000 to 381 of a total of 988 female prisoners (38.6%) in 2009.
- The number of women incarcerated for a violent offence compared with the total female population in custody increased on average by 10.4% per year between 2000 and 2009.

Female offenders serving a community-based sentence for a violent offence

- The number of women serving a community based sentence for a violent offence increased from 629 of a total of 2696 (23.3%) in 2000 to 1208 of a total of 3250 female offenders (37.2%) in 2009.
- The number of women serving a community based sentence for a violent offence compared with the total female population increased on average by 11.8% per year between 2000 and 2009.

Indigenous female offenders convicted of a violent offence

- The number of Indigenous women sentenced to full time custody for a violent offence increased on average by 5.9% per year between 2000 and 2009.
- The proportion of Indigenous women convicted of a violent offence to the total population of women convicted for a violent offence in custody and in the community varied between 2000 and 2009. In custody the proportion peaked at 50% in 2003 and for community based orders peaked at 39.7% in 2007.

Offences

- The number of women in custody convicted of more than one violent offence increased from 83 of 249 (33.3%) in 2000 to 164 of 381 (43%) in 2009. The average annual increase was 9.5%.
- The most common sentence length in custody imposed for the most serious violent offence increased from 3 months or less in 2000 (28.5%) to more than 6 months but less than or equal to 1 year in 2009 (34.1%).

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

Violence: This study adopted a broad meaning of violence as defined by Corporate Research, Evaluation and Statistics (CRES). A violent offence was defined as causing physical injury towards people and damage to property and psychological or emotional harm through threats, coercion or intimidation. The nature and level of violence was also considered including whether a weapon was used, whether abduction or deprivation of liberty was involved, whether the violence was sexual in nature and the outcome of the violence (e.g. whether life was taken, threatened or endangered).

Violent Offender: a sentenced offender held in full-time custody or under the authority of Community Offender Services for a violent offence.

Most Serious Violent Offence (MSVO): In custody the most serious violent offence was based on the sentence length. If there was more than one offence with the same sentence length, the ASOC Division with the lowest number was used. In the community, the most serious violent offence was based on the type of sentence/order. If there was more than one offence with the same type of sentence/order, the ASOC Division with the lowest number was used.

ASOC Division: This refers to the Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC). ASOC provides a systematic ordering of criminal offences defined in the criminal laws of the Australian state and territories jurisdictions.

The classification makes distinctions based on the most fundamental elements of legal and behaviour criteria. This includes:

- whether the offence involved violence, and
- whether the offence compromised the safety or well-being of persons or was solely directed at the acquisition or damage of property.

The divisions identify a limited number of categories that provide a broad overall picture of offence types.

Limitations

This report presents findings for female populations convicted of a violent offence in NSW in custody and those serving community-based orders between 2000 and 2009. It consists of flow data for each year relating to convictions for violent offences. It does not report on offending in general.

Interpretations of the data should be made with caution. The violent female population comprises relatively small numbers (compared to male offenders) and therefore the size of changes represented as percentages is likely to be magnified. Therefore the findings presented as proportions can lead to an overestimation of changing rates due to the small base numbers of violent female offenders.

It was decided that the findings from this study would not be compared to male data. This is because the common approach, which uses a comparison of gender differences as the framework to view female offending, has been criticised as reinforcing women's subordination to men (White and Kowlaski 1994). In addition, the smaller population sizes and magnified proportions support the decision to present only female data.

Lastly, there were large proportions of unknown data pertaining to ethnicity and marital status for the female populations in both custody and in the community. Thus no meaningful results could be reported for these variables.

Future Studies

The current report is a preliminary analysis to establish the profile of women convicted of a violent offence under the authority of CSNSW. It is intended that a future report will be developed to extend on this data to provide a qualitative analysis of the characteristics of women who commit violent offences and the context of the offending in order to inform a violence program specifically designed for women.

Acknowledgements

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Background

Women committing crime is not a recent phenomenon. Traditionally however, men dominate crime statistics and are associated with popular views of violent crime. Women who engage in violent behaviour usually attract much attention and censure (Koons-Witt and Schram 2003; Zweirsen 2007) within the community.

The subject of violence is viewed through gender stereotypes; aggression and violence are used as markers to identify differences between masculinity and femininity (Gilbert 2002). Conventional beliefs promote the idea that girls have been socialised not to express anger and aggression (Campbell 1993). Aggression and violence is therefore associated with masculinity; femininity is viewed as the antithesis of violent behaviour.

This gendered framework has been used to understand the features of the violence perpetrated by women. Women who exhibit violent behaviour are viewed as abandoning their femininity (Chesney-Lind 2006). Female aggression and violent behaviour have been pathologised and deemed abnormal (Zweirsen 2007). The underlying belief is that when women are violent it is different, both in intent and form. The common approach to distinguish the difference has been to use the dichotomy of instrumental and expressive violence. Instrumental violence has been defined as violent behaviour that is deliberate and goal-directed whereas expressive (or reactive) violence reflects behaviour that is impulsive and is associated with provocation and interpersonal conflict. That is, instrumental violence is considered a masculine characteristic and expressive violence as feminine (Ben-David 1993; Campbell 1993). Furthermore, expressive violence, in being more emotional in nature, signifies women as 'out of control' or hysterical (Wesely, 2006). Alternatively, when women use violence and aggression to exercise control or power, they do so through indirect means (Eatough et al. 2008). These views illustrate that the understanding of violence perpetrated by women is not a straightforward issue.

The reasons underlying women's offending and involvement in violence have been explored through various theoretical perspectives. The emancipation theory suggests that the origin of female offending lies in the context of the changing status and roles of women in society over the past few decades (Forsyth et al. 2001). The erosion of gender stereotypes and a greater equality with men has increased opportunities to commit crime. This shift has also provided increased opportunities for women to engage in different behaviours outside of traditional roles (Simpson 1991). That is, less clear divisions between gender roles have allowed for freedom of choice, and one consequence of this freedom is that violence has increasingly become a possible option in a woman's behavioural repertoire. This perspective provides a social context for the change in frequency and nature

of female offending, including the involvement in violent behaviours.

Changing gender roles have also had an impact on society's attitude towards violence in general and the relationship between women and violence. It has been suggested that there has been a transformation in societal definitions of violence, rather than an increase in female violence (Steffensmeier et al. 2006). Similarly, there has been a shift in thinking towards crime, with a preoccupation with risk and risk-management emerging in late modern society. This focus has resulted in society becoming less tolerant of violence and more likely to report and prosecute this type of behaviour (Deakin and Spencer 2003). Therefore, it is misleading to establish a singular understanding of the origin in changing patterns of offending. That is, changes can indicate an increase in violent behaviour in the community. On the other hand they may also reflect an increase in the willingness to report such behaviours, changes in justice legislation or the treatment of women by the criminal justice system, either through policing strategies, conviction or sentencing (Steffensmeier et al. 2006; Bricknell 2008).

The concern regarding women and violent crime has been fuelled by the perception that this behaviour is increasing in frequency and seriousness. This perception has partly been shaped from reports in the media that have increased the visibility of this type of offending. Media accounts inflate the problem of female violence (Bricknell 2008) by focusing on serious or extreme examples which in turn fail to capture the diversity of this type of offending. It has also been influenced by studies that reveal an increase in female imprisonment which has been rising at a rate greater than that of males, reported in Australia (Ross and Foster 2000; Gelb 2003) and internationally (Chernoff and Simon 2000; Deakin and Spencer 2003).

Research into women and violent crime focuses on two key areas: establishing the prevalence of violent crime and examining the relationship between women and the nature of violent offending. In terms of the former point, the picture that has emerged is that the incidence of female offending is rising, and that the growth is disproportionate when compared to crime committed by men. However a closer examination of findings and conclusions about female offending reveals mixed support for the notion that the incidence of violent crimes perpetrated by women is growing (Bricknell 2008; Lauritsen et al. 2009; Zweirsen 2007). In Australia, in the final decade of last century, the incarceration of women increased at a rapid rate (Ross and Foster 2000). These same authors however note that the sharp rise in the proportion of women serving a prison sentence for assault from 1987 to 1999 was established from a low base rate and that the proportional increase was only slightly higher than the increase for men.

Violent offending encompasses a number of different offence types and this point needs to be recognised

when drawing conclusions concerning the involvement of women in violent behaviour. Findings indicate that there have been increases in only some offence types. In Australia, Bricknell (2008) reveals that the rates for homicide committed by women have remained stable but the rates of assaults and robbery have increased and that the recorded rates of assault show a greater increase for women than men (Bricknell 2008). International studies question the extent of increases in the incidence of violent crime perpetrated by women, only noting rises in certain offence categories (Rudolph 1996; Forsyth et al. 2001; Pollock and Davis 2005).

Understanding the relationship between women and violent offending is not a straightforward issue (Pollock and Davis 2005); interpretations of research findings should be mindful of a number of points. Firstly studies differ in the measure used to determine offending: arrest, conviction or incarceration. Associated with this point is that imprisonment rates represent one gauge of violent offending. It remains an area of empirical interest whether such figures reveal an actual increase in violent crime or changes in legislation or policing practices.

Given this backdrop it is important to establish a quantitative picture of women who receive a custodial or community-based sentence for a violent offence in NSW. A quantitative profile offers a valuable contribution to this broader criminal justice issue and provides a starting point to inform further qualitative investigations and proactive policies and strategies.

Aims of the current study

This report will investigate the rate of violent offending by women over a ten-year period to determine if there has been an increase in the numbers and proportion of women convicted of a violent offence in New South Wales. It also aims to provide a preliminary profile of women convicted of violent offences. To date there has been no formal examination of the rates of violent offending by women and the demographics of violent female offenders managed by CSNSW.

The profile will include the following characteristics:

- Age of offenders
- Offence category
- Most serious offence and sentence type
- Number of violent offences
- Indigenous status

The findings in this study are based on data extracted from the CSNSW Offender Integrated Management System (OIMS). Flow data were used for the calendar years 2000 through to 2009 (inclusive).

This study adopted a broad meaning of violence to reflect the approach by international research, which conceptualises violence as encompassing a complex range of behaviours (Pollock and Davis 2005).

A violent offence was defined by CRES as causing physical injury towards people and damage to property and psychological or emotional harm through threats, coercion or intimidation. The nature and level of violence was also considered including whether a weapon was used, whether abduction or deprivation of liberty was involved, whether the violence was sexual in nature and the outcome of the violence (e.g. whether a life was taken, threatened or endangered).

Results

Changes in the population of women convicted of a violent offence

Results from the current study identify the frequency and pattern of violent offending and basic characteristics of violent female offenders managed by CSNSW. Over the last ten years there has been an increase in numbers of women convicted of violent offences under the care of CSNSW. The findings in this report are presented as both raw numbers (of women convicted of a violent offence) and percentages (the proportion of the total female populations). Therefore it should be noted that a change in numbers do not necessarily reflect corresponding changes to the size of the proportion.

Custody

The number of women incarcerated for a violent offence increased from 249 of a total of 882 (28.2%) female prisoners in 2000 to 381 of a total of 988 (38.6%) female prisoners in 2009. As shown in **Table 1**, from 2000 to 2009, apart from a decline in numbers in 2001 and 2003, the numbers of women incarcerated for a violent offence steadily increased. The increase in the proportion of violent female offenders in full time custody to the total female population in full time custody over this time however has not been uniform, and reached a low in 2001 of 27.3% (209 of 766) and a peak in 2008 of 39.0% (355 of 910). During this time, the number of violent female prisoners to the total female population in custody increased on average by 5.4% per year. Results from the linear regression model indicated a strong association between year and the number of violent female offenders in custody ($b = 0.94$, standard error = 2.06, p -value < 0.001).

Community - based orders

In 2000 the number of women convicted of a violent offence serving community based orders was 629 of a total of 2696 (23.3%) female offenders. In 2009 this number increased to 1208 violent female offenders of a total female offender population of 3250 (37.2%). As shown in **Table 1**, the number of offenders steadily increased during this time. Further, the proportion of violent female offenders to the total female offender population has steadily increased, except in 2005 when the figure decreased by 0.7% from the previous year. During this time, the number of women convicted of a violent offence increased on average by 7.6% per

Table 1: Number and proportion of women convicted of violent offences in custody and in the community (2000 to 2009)*

| Year | Custody | | Community | |
|------|--|--|--|--|
| | Number of women convicted of a violent offence | Proportion of total female offender population | Number of women convicted of a violent offence | Proportion of total female offender population |
| 2000 | 249 | 28.2% | 629 | 23.3% |
| 2001 | 209 | 27.3% | 668 | 26.2% |
| 2002 | 264 | 33.8% | 790 | 28.7% |
| 2003 | 262 | 35.4% | 841 | 30.3% |
| 2004 | 271 | 32.8% | 877 | 30.3% |
| 2005 | 279 | 34.7% | 915 | 29.6% |
| 2006 | 313 | 37.1% | 1018 | 33.3% |
| 2007 | 321 | 37.9% | 1094 | 34.5% |
| 2008 | 355 | 39.0% | 1127 | 35.8% |
| 2009 | 381 | 38.6% | 1208 | 37.2% |

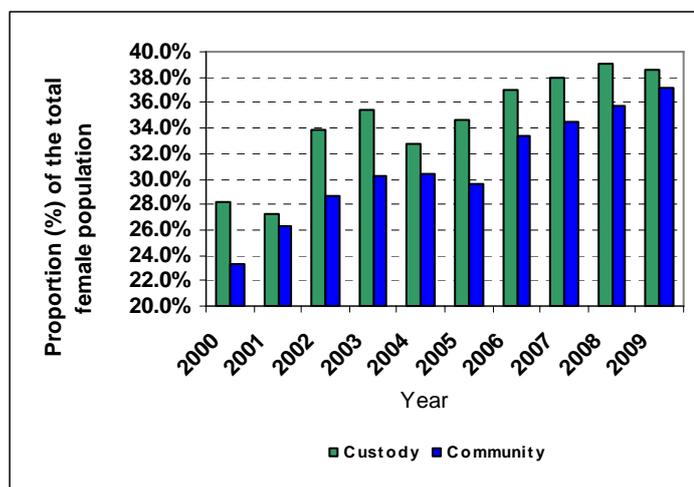
* Source: CSNSW Offender Integrated Management System (OIMS).

year. Results from the linear regression model indicated a strong association between year and the number of violent female offenders in custody ($b = 0.994$, standard error = 2.414, p -value < 0.001).

From 2000 to 2009 the proportion of women convicted of violent offences has been consistently greater in custody than for those serving community-based orders (Figure 1). It is also noted that from 2000 to 2009 there were a total of 268 individuals convicted of a violent offence in the community with unknown gender.

The age group with the largest increase in numbers over this period was 35-44 years, from 29 women in 2000 to 83 women in 2009, an increase of 185%. The age group with the largest average annual percent increase from 2000 to 2009 was 45 and over, with 36.4% per year. There were 4 women convicted of a violent offence in custody under the age of 18 from 2000 to 2009.

Figure 1: Proportion of women convicted of a violent offence to the total female offender population by sentence-type and year (2000 to 2009)*.



* Source: CSNSW Offender Integrated Management System (OIMS).

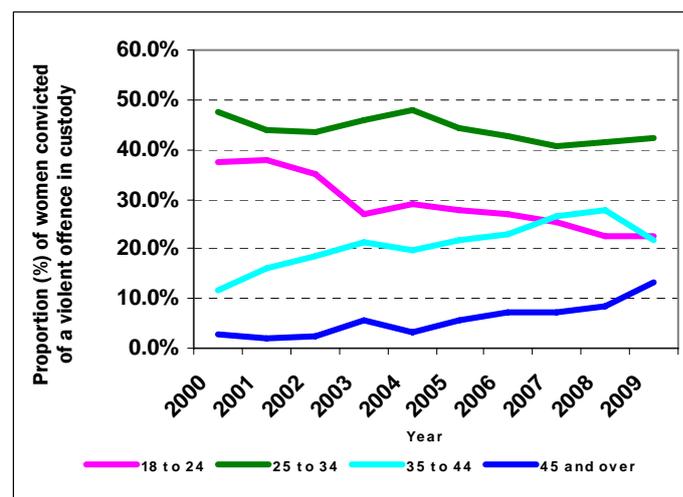
Age of offenders

Custody

From 2000 to 2009, the age group with the highest number of women incarcerated for a violent offence was 25-34 years. In 2000 there were 118 of a total of 249 (47.4%) women in this age group, increasing in 2009 to 161 of a total of 381 (42.3%). The proportion of women in this age group fluctuated over this time, reaching a peak of 48% in 2004 (130 of a total of 877 women convicted of a violent offence). There was an average annual increase of 13.5% in the number of women in this age group (Figure 2).

The age group with the largest increase in numbers over this period was 35-44 years, from 29 women in 2000 to 83 women in 2009, an increase of 185%. The age group with the largest average annual percent increase from 2000 to 2009 was 45 and over, with 36.4% per year. There were 4 women convicted of a violent offence in custody under the age of 18 from 2000 to 2009.

Figure 2: Proportion of women convicted of a violent offence by age group and year (2000 to 2009)*



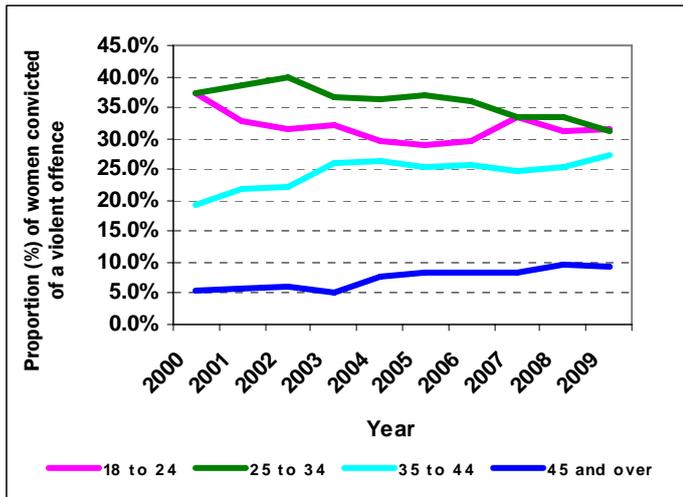
* Source: CSNSW Offender Integrated Management System (OIMS).

Community-based orders

In the community in 2000, both age groups 18-24 and 25-34 years recorded 235 of a total of 629 (37.4%) women convicted of a violent offence. In 2009, there were 381 of a total of 1208 (31.5%) women in the former age group and 377 women in the 25-34 years age group (31.2%). The proportion of women in these age groups fluctuated between 2000 and 2009, with an average annual increase of 5.9% and 5.6%, respectively.

Over this time period, except for the final year of 2009, the age group with the highest proportion of women was 25-34 years of age (Figure 3), with a peak of 39.9% in 2002 (315 of 2749). The age group with the largest average percent increase between 2000 and 2009 was 45+, with an average annual increase of 15.9%.

Figure 3: Proportion of women convicted of a violent offence by age group and year (2000 to 2009)*



* Source: CSNSW Offender Integrated Management System (OIMS).

From 2000 to 2009, there were 4 violent female offenders in the community with missing or anomalous ages. Missing ages were ages that were not indicated and anomalous ages were ages recorded over the age of 100 years or under 16 years of age. There were 34 violent female offenders under the age of 18 and older than 16 years.

Figure 4 shows a comparison of the average annual percent changes in age groups between 2000 and 2009 in the community and in custody.

Offence category

From 2000 to 2009, the majority of women convicted of a violent offence were convicted of offences in the category of Acts Intended to Cause Injury.

Custody

In the year 2000 the number of violent women in custody with the Most Serious Violent Offence (MSVO) in this offence category was 129 of 249 (51.8%). In 2009, this number increased to 232 of 381 (60.9%), with an average annual percent increase since 2000 of 7.3%.

In 2000 the most common offence was 'Assault', with 39 of 249 (15.7%) women convicted of this offence. From 2000 to 2009 the numbers decreased on average by 1.3% per year. In 2009 the most common offence was 'Common Assault' with 100 of 381 (26.2%) women convicted of this offence. The average annual percent increase was 2.4%. Over this ten year period the most common offences in this category varied between 'Assault', 'Common Assault', 'Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm' and offences related to assaults on Police Officers.

Of note, an increase was found in the number and proportion of women in custody convicted of an offence related to a breach or contravention of a domestic or apprehended violence order between

2000 and 2009. In 2000 there were 13 of 249 (5.2%) women incarcerated for this type of offence. In 2009 the number increased to 52 of 381 (13.6%). It should be noted that over this time there were changes in the wording and number of offences that reflect this type of offending.

Community - based orders

In 2000, there were 450 of 629 (71.5%) women in the community convicted with their MSVO in this offence category. In 2009, this figure increased to 925 of 1208 (79.5%). Over this ten year period, the average increase was 8.4% per year.

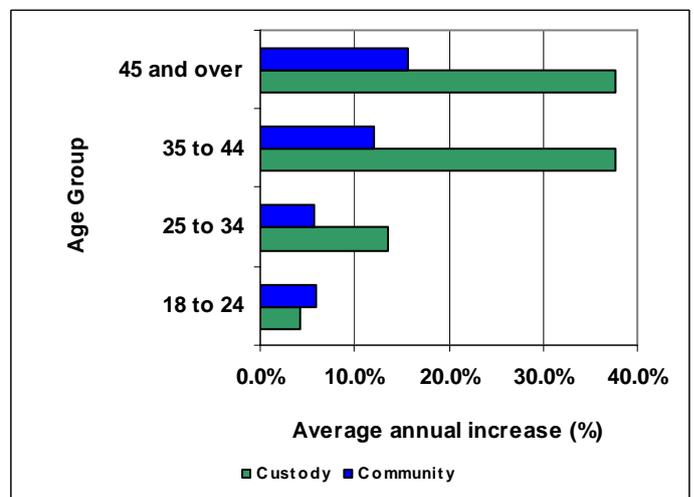
In 2000, the most common offence in this category was 'Assault'. The number of women convicted of this offence was 124 of 629 (19.7%) in the year 2000. From 2000 to 2009 the numbers convicted of 'Assault' decreased on average by 19.9%. In 2009 the most common offence was 'Common Assault' with 418 of 1208 (34.6%) women convicted of this offence. The numbers convicted of 'Common Assault' increased on average by 18.3% per year.

Over this ten year period the most common offences in this category varied between 'Assault', 'Common Assault', 'Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm' and offences related to assaults on Police Officers.

There was also an increase in the number of women serving a community based sentence for an offence related to a breach or contravention of a domestic or apprehended violence order between 2000 and 2009. However, the proportion to the total violent female population remained relatively stable. In 2000 there were 83 of 629 (13.2%) women in the community convicted of this type of offence. In 2009 the number increased to 169 of 1208 (14%).

Appendix 1 shows both MSVO and total numbers of women convicted of a violent offence in custody and

Figure 4: Average annual percent increase in the total population of women convicted of a violent offence by age and sentence-type from the year 2000 to 2009*



* Source: CSNSW Offender Integrated Management System (OIMS).

the proportions of the total violent female offender population in custody for each offence category.

Appendix 2 shows both MSVO and total numbers of women convicted of a violent offence in the community and the proportions of the total violent female offender population in the community for each offence category.

Most serious violent offence (MSVO) and sentence-type

Custody

In 2000, 71 of 249 (28.5%) women convicted of a violent offence received a custodial sentence of less than 3 months for the MSVO. In 2009, 130 of 381 (34.1%) women convicted of a violent offence received a sentence length of greater than 6 months but less than or equal to 1 year. **Appendix 3** shows the changes in sentence lengths imposed for violent offences between the years 2000 and 2009.

Community - based orders

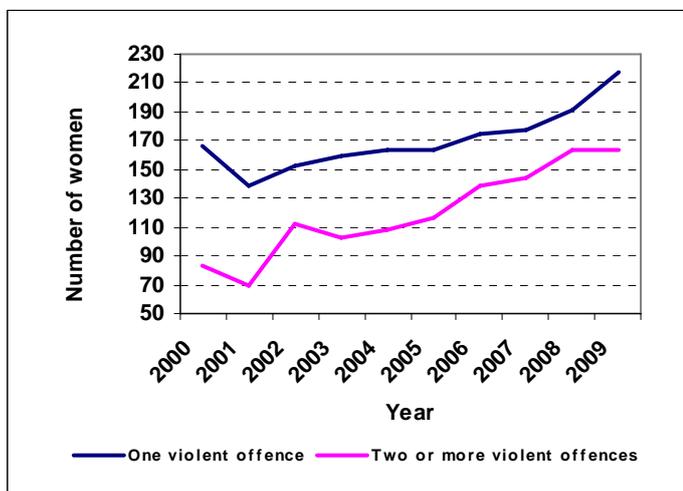
In the community, the majority of women were given an order of supervision for their most serious violent offence. In 2000, 500 of 629 (79.5%) women convicted of a violent offence were given supervision. In this year 129 women served a Community Service Order. In 2009 the number of women given a supervision order for a violent offence increased to 1036 of 1208 (85.8%); 168 of 1036 (13.9%) were given a Community Service Order and 4 of 1208 (0.3%) were given a Home Detention Order. **Appendix 4** shows the order types imposed between the years 2000 and 2009.

Number of violent offences per offender

Custody

Between the years 2000 and 2009 the majority of women convicted of a violent offence were convicted of

Figure 5: Number of women convicted of a violent offence (custody) in NSW by offence count and year (2000 to 2009)*



* Source: CSNSW Offender Integrated Management System (OIMS).

only one violent offence. In 2000 there were 166 of 249 (66.7%) women incarcerated for one violent offence. The number increased for all years, except for 2001, when the number decreased to 139 (-16.3%). The number in 2009 increased to 217 of 381 (57%), which represented a decline in the proportion of the total violent female prisoner population. The average annual increase between 2000 and 2009 was 3.4%. Results from the linear regression model indicated a strong association between year and the number of violent female offenders in custody convicted of one violent offence ($b = 0.842$, standard error = 1.369, p -value < 0.002).

The numbers of women incarcerated for multiple violent offences fluctuated between the years 2000 and 2009. From 2000 to 2009 the number of women convicted of two violent offences increased from 59 of 249 (29.3%) to 88 of 381 (23.1%), with an average annual increase of 7.3%. For the same period, the number of women convicted of three or more violent offences increased from 24 (9.1%) to 76 (19.9%), with an average annual increase of 20.1%. The number of women convicted of more than one violent offence (these two groups combined) increased from 83 of 249 (33.3%) in 2000 to 164 of 381 (43%) in 2009. The average annual increase was 9.5%. Results from the linear regression model indicated a strong association between year and the number of violent female offenders in custody convicted of two or more violent offences ($b = 0.995$, standard error = 1.103, p -value < 0.001).

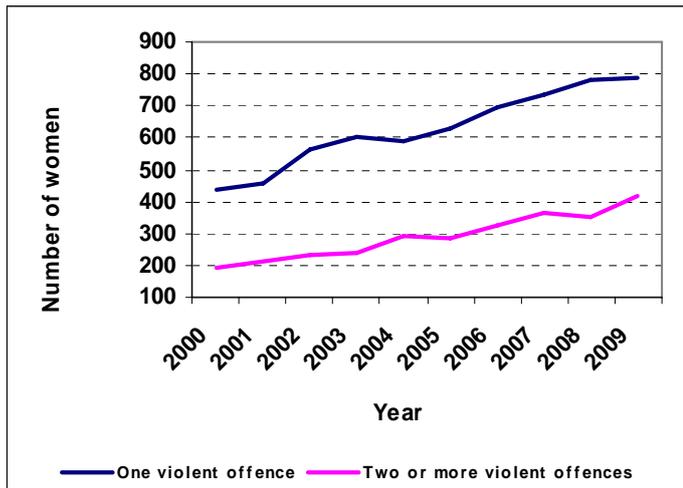
Figure 5 shows the number of women incarcerated for a violent offence in NSW by offence count and year.

Community - based orders

Between 2000 and 2009, approximately two-thirds of the total numbers of women convicted of a violent offence were serving a community-based order for one violent offence. The number rose from 439 of 629 (69.8%) women convicted of a violent offence in 2000 to 790 of 1208 (65.3%) in 2009, with an average annual increase of 6.9%. Results from the linear regression model showed a strong association between year and the number of violent female offenders serving a community based order for two or more violent offences ($b = 0.983$, standard error = 2.645, p -value < 0.001).

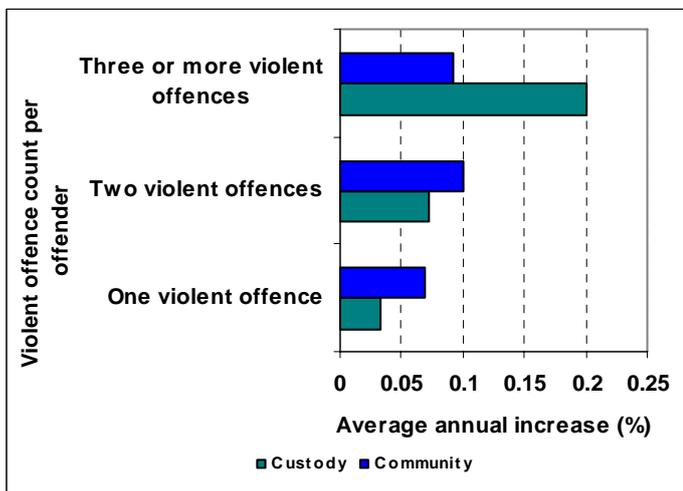
The numbers of women convicted of multiple violent offences increased over this time; however as a proportion of the total population of violent female offenders remained relatively stable (**Figure 6**). There were 123 of 629 (19.7%) women convicted of two violent offences in 2000. This number increased to 277 of 1208 (23.1%) in 2009. The average annual increase between 2000 and 2009 was 10.1%. In 2000, there were 67 (10.7%) women convicted of three or more violent offences. This increased to 143 (11.8%) in 2009. The average annual increase between 2000 and 2009 was 9.2%. The number of women convicted of two or more violent offences

Figure 6: Number of women convicted of a violent offence (community) in NSW by offence count and year (2000 to 2009)*



* Source: CSNSW Offender Integrated Management System (OIMS).

Figure 7: Average annual percent change in the violent female population by offence count, sentence-type and year (2000 to 2009)*



* Source: CSNSW Offender Integrated Management System (OIMS).

(these two groups combined) increased from 190 of 629 (30.2%) in 2000 to 420 of 1208 (34.8%) in 2009. The average annual increase was 2.9%. Results from the linear regression model indicated a strong association between year and the number of violent female offenders serving a community based order for two or more violent offences ($b=0.980$, standard error= 1.715 , p -value < 0.001).

Figure 6 shows the number of women serving a community based order for a violent offence in NSW by offence count and year.

Figure 7 shows the average annual percent change in the violent female population by offence count, sentence-type and year.

Indigenous status

Custody

The number of Indigenous women incarcerated for violent offences increased between 2000 and 2009. These numbers represented as a proportion of the total violent female prisoner population have varied over this time, however in 2009 returned to a figure similar to that in 2000 (Figure 8). In 2000, there were 100 of 249 Indigenous women in custody for a violent offence (40.2%). In 2009, this figure increased to 155 of 381 (40.7%). On average there has been an increase of 5.9% per year. Results from the linear regression model indicated a strong association between year and the number of Indigenous violent female offenders convicted of a violent offence in custody ($b = 0.937$, standard error = 1.115 , p -value < 0.001).

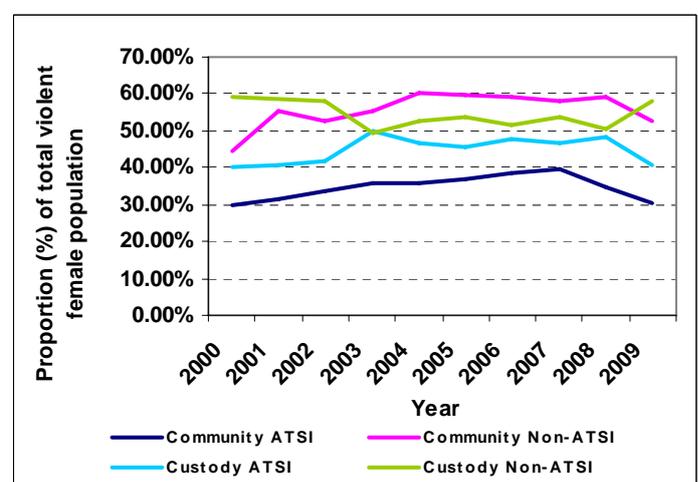
The number of non-Indigenous violent female prisoners increased from 147 of 249 in 2000 (59%) to 221 of 381 in 2009 (58%). The proportion of non-Indigenous violent female prisoners to the total violent female population has varied over this period (Figure 8), with an average annual increase of 5.6%.

Of note, the number of Indigenous women in custody convicted of a violent offence has generally been lower compared to the numbers of their non-Indigenous counterparts. The exception was in 2003, when there were 131 of 262 Indigenous women (50%) and 129 non-Indigenous women in custody (49.2%). As a proportion this represented a difference of 0.8% (with an unknown number of 2 or 0.8%).

Community - based orders

In 2000, there were 189 of 629 (30%) women of Indigenous status serving a community-based order for a violent offence. In 2009, the number increased to 367 of 1208 (30.4%). The numbers between 2000 and

Figure 8: Proportions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous women convicted of a violent offence in NSW by sentence-type and year (2000 to 2009)*



* Source: CSNSW Offender Integrated Management System (OIMS).

2009 did not increase consistently and do not fit well with the linear regression model. The proportion of the total violent female population steadily increased from 2000 to 2007, however has decreased since 2008 (**Figure 8**). On average, the number of Indigenous women serving a community-based sentence for a violent offence increased by 8.1% per year.

In 2000, there were 280 of 629 (44.5%) women convicted of a violent offence from a non-Indigenous background serving a community-based order. In 2009, the number increased to 645 of 1208 (53.4%). There has been a constant increase in numbers from the year 2000 to 2008, with a decline of 30 (-2.7%) in 2009. The proportion of non-Indigenous women convicted of a violent offence to the total violent female population has varied over this time (**Figure 8**), with a peak of 60.3% in 2004. From 2000 to 2009 on average the numbers have increase by 10.1% per year.

It is important to note that the proportion of women serving a community-based order with unknown Indigenous status decreased from 25.4% (160 of 629) in 2000 to 16.2% (196 of 1208) in 2009.

Discussion

Women convicted of a violent offence comprise a considerable proportion of the total female offender population in NSW. The current study found that between 2000 and 2009 there was an increase in the number of women sentenced to custody and a community-based order for a violent offence. The proportions of women convicted of a violent offence to the total offender populations also increased over this ten year period. In terms of those in custody, this finding is consistent with previous research that reveals an increase in the rate of female incarceration in Australia (Ross and Foster 2000; Gelb 2003).

The findings described in this report lend support to the assertion that understanding violence perpetrated by women is not a straightforward issue (Kruttschnitt and Carbone-Lopez 2006). Violent offending committed by women needs to be understood in a social, political and cultural context. Results showed that the majority of women convicted of a violent offence are young. Between 2000 and 2009 the majority of women in custody and in the community were aged between 25-34 years. This supports findings from other sources that note the prevalence of young women committing acts of violence (Zwierson 2007). Of note, there are a growing number of women in custody aged between 35-44 years. These results support the need for future in-depth investigations to explore the reasons for such findings, including the social and political factors that may be impacting on this trend. Also, an examination of the history of violent offending and recidivism amongst women may assist in uncovering possible reasons for this growth.

One noteworthy finding is the proportion of Indigenous women serving a sentence for a violent offence in NSW. In custody this group constitutes forty percent of

the total female offender population whereas they comprise approximately one third of the total female offender population serving a community-based order. The numbers of Indigenous women convicted of a violent offence in custody and in the community increased between the years 2000 to 2009. The proportions to the total violent female offender populations varied over this time; however the levels recorded in 2009 in both custody and in the community returned to similar levels evident in 2000. Research examining the connection between Indigenous women and violence focuses on their marginalisation in society and their victimisation, rather than understanding their role as perpetrators of violent crime (Stubbs and Tolmie 2008). Experiences of disadvantage and abuse are relevant factors when exploring the context of violent crime committed by Indigenous women. Future investigations would be valuable in understanding the nature of the connection between these factors and violent offending behaviour. The substantial size of this sub-group within the violent female offender population suggests that it is important to investigate further the characteristics of this group in order to address the underlying needs and factors surrounding their offending behaviour.

Outcomes from this study reveal important features of violent offences perpetrated by women. Between 2000 and 2009 the majority of women receiving custodial and community-based sentences for a violent offence were in the offence category Acts intended to cause injury. The most common offences were 'Assault', 'Common Assault', 'Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm' and offences related to assaults on Police Officers. This findings offers support to the literature noted in the introduction (Bricknell 2008; Rudolph 1996; Forsyth et al 2001; Pollock and Davis 2005) that reports increases in certain offences. The type of violent offences committed by women is an area warranting further analysis.

In custody, the sentence length imposed for a MSVO increased from 3 months or less in 2000 to greater than 6 months but less than or equal to 1 year in 2009. Possible reasons for this shift may be attributed to the imposition of longer sentences in NSW and the growing intolerance within society for this type of crime (Deakin and Spencer 2003). From 2000 to 2009 the most common sentence-type imposed for MSVO in the community remained as a supervision order. The numbers reveal that community sanctions remain the most common type of penalty for women convicted of a violent offence.

The majority of women were convicted of one violent offence in both custody and in the community. The number of women incarcerated for one violent offence increased between 2000 and 2009, however the proportion of the total violent female population in custody decreased over this time. The number and proportion of women incarcerated for more than one violent offence increased over this time. These findings were also reflected in community-based sentences. This study did not establish whether these results were

due to an increase in women committing violent crime or because of changes in social conditions, legislation, policing practices or the treatment of women by the criminal justice system (Ross and Foster 2000). Future research would be valuable to consider possible reasons for these changes and to explore the presence of a history of violent offending and recidivism amongst women. The fact that more women are being convicted of multiple violent offences is relevant in the development of management policies for women and also the design of programs that address violent offending behaviour.

Interpretations of these findings should be mindful of the limitations of this report. Firstly, the findings represent only one aspect of violence perpetrated by women: violent behaviour that reaches the end point of the criminal justice system. That is, the types of violent crime that receive a community or custodial sanction represent the behaviours that are reported, prosecuted and convicted. Arguably, these behaviours lie at one end of a violence continuum. A comparison of data from CSNSW with data from the broader criminal justice system would allow for a more comprehensive picture of women and violent crime.

Secondly, interpretations of these findings should be mindful of the aim of this report: to establish a preliminary profile of violent offending by women. A broad definition of violence was adopted and there was no analysis of the nature of the offending. Violent offending comprises a constellation of behaviours and the context of the offending behaviour is an important aspect in understanding the relationship between women and violent crime (Koons-Witt and Schram 2003). This report did not explore the context of the offending, including whether the offence was indicative of instrumental or aggressive violence or if behaviours occurred in self-defence. Similarly, this report did not offer conclusions as to the broader context and meaning of the offending, including explanations for increases in certain offence types.

Additionally, there was no examination of the interaction between the characteristics of the offenders and the nature of the offence. To do justice to the spectrum of issues that are associated with women who commit violent crime, it would be valuable for future studies to explore the characteristics of the offender, such as alcohol and other drug use and mental illness (Simpson 1991) in order to gain an understanding of the background and motivations to violent offending. These findings provide a background for future qualitative investigations into the circumstances surrounding violent offending by women, including the nature of the violent act, the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim and the characteristics and motivations of the offender.

Summary

Results indicated an increase in the numbers and proportions of women serving custodial and community based sentences for a violent offence between 2000 and 2009. The majority of these women were young and convicted of one violent offence, with an overrepresentation of Indigenous women. However, the characteristics of this population have not remained static during this 10 year period, with the age group 35-44 years presenting the largest increase in numbers and an increase in the proportion of women convicted for more than one violent offence. In custody, the most common sentence length increased from 3 months or less to greater than 6 months but less than or equal to 1 year.

In conclusion, the findings from this report offer a foundation from which to explore the circumstances surrounding violent offending committed by women and the characteristics of the perpetrators of these offences. This is valuable information in the development of policy to manage female offenders in custody and in the community. These findings also represent a significant starting point to guide the types of services and rehabilitation programs designed to address violent offending perpetrated by women.

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Appendix 1: Number and proportion of women convicted of a violent offence - custody - by offence category and year (2000 to 2009)*.

| Offence Category | | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Homicide and related offences | MSVO | 15 | 11 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 21 | 16 | 19 | 16 | 28 |
| | % | 6.0% | 5.3% | 3.8% | 2.3% | 3.3% | 7.5% | 5.1% | 5.9% | 4.5% | 7.3% |
| | Total | 15 | 11 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 26 | 21 | 20 | 17 | 28 |
| | % | 6.0% | 5.3% | 3.8% | 2.3% | 3.3% | 9.3% | 6.7% | 6.2% | 4.8% | 7.3% |
| Acts intended to cause injury | MSVO | 129 | 112 | 141 | 159 | 177 | 177 | 203 | 210 | 233 | 232 |
| | % | 51.8% | 53.6% | 53.4% | 60.7% | 65.3% | 63.4% | 64.9% | 65.4% | 65.6% | 60.9% |
| | Total | 140 | 118 | 161 | 171 | 190 | 201 | 215 | 234 | 254 | 256 |
| | % | 56.2% | 56.5% | 61.0% | 65.3% | 70.1% | 72.0% | 68.7% | 72.9% | 71.5% | 67.2% |
| Sexual assault and related offences | MSVO | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 4 |
| | % | 0.4% | 1.0% | 0.4% | 1.9% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.6% | 1.6% | 0.6% | 1.0% |
| | Total | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 4 |
| | % | 0.4% | 1.0% | 0.4% | 1.9% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.6% | 1.6% | 0.6% | 1.0% |
| Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons | MSVO | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| | % | 1.6% | 1.0% | 1.1% | 1.9% | 2.2% | 1.1% | 1.3% | 1.6% | 0.6% | 1.8% |
| | Total | 6 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 9 |
| | % | 2.4% | 1.4% | 1.9% | 1.9% | 2.6% | 1.1% | 1.9% | 1.6% | 0.6% | 2.4% |
| Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person | MSVO | 3 | 2 | 14 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | % | 1.2% | 1.0% | 5.3% | 1.5% | 1.8% | 2.2% | 1.6% | 0.6% | 0.8% | 1.0% |
| | Total | 5 | 5 | 14 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 6 |
| | % | 2.0% | 2.4% | 5.3% | 2.3% | 2.6% | 3.2% | 2.9% | 2.2% | 2.5% | 1.6% |
| Robbery, extortion and related offences | MSVO | 54 | 44 | 62 | 46 | 26 | 30 | 40 | 36 | 32 | 32 |
| | % | 21.7% | 21.1% | 23.5% | 17.6% | 9.6% | 10.8% | 12.8% | 11.2% | 9.0% | 8.4% |
| | Total | 59 | 45 | 64 | 47 | 29 | 31 | 45 | 39 | 34 | 35 |
| | % | 23.7% | 21.5% | 24.2% | 17.9% | 10.7% | 11.1% | 14.4% | 12.1% | 9.6% | 9.2% |
| Unlawful entry with intent/ Burglary, Break and enter | MSVO | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| | % | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.7% | 1.8% | 0.0% | 0.9% | 0.8% | 1.0% |
| | Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | % | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.7% | 1.8% | 0.0% | 0.9% | 1.1% | 1.3% |
| Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences | MSVO | 4 | 12 | 8 | 7 | 13 | 13 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 10 |
| | % | 1.6% | 5.7% | 3.0% | 2.7% | 4.8% | 4.7% | 3.5% | 3.7% | 3.4% | 2.6% |
| | Total | 11 | 14 | 14 | 12 | 17 | 17 | 16 | 18 | 19 | 15 |
| | % | 4.4% | 6.7% | 5.3% | 4.6% | 6.3% | 6.1% | 5.1% | 5.6% | 5.4% | 3.9% |
| Property damage and environmental pollution | MSVO | 18 | 18 | 17 | 17 | 19 | 10 | 16 | 16 | 24 | 21 |
| | % | 7.2% | 8.6% | 6.4% | 6.5% | 7.0% | 3.6% | 5.1% | 5.0% | 6.8% | 5.5% |
| | Total | 42 | 35 | 47 | 44 | 46 | 39 | 49 | 52 | 60 | 62 |
| | % | 16.9% | 16.7% | 17.8% | 16.8% | 17.0% | 14.0% | 15.7% | 16.2% | 16.9% | 16.3% |
| Public order offences | MSVO | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 19 |
| | % | 0.8% | 1.4% | 0.8% | 0.4% | 2.2% | 2.5% | 2.2% | 1.6% | 3.1% | 5.0% |
| | Total | 3 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 11 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 21 | 31 |
| | % | 1.2% | 1.9% | 1.9% | 1.5% | 4.1% | 5.4% | 3.2% | 3.1% | 5.9% | 8.1% |
| Offences against justice procedures, government security and operations | MSVO | 19 | 3 | 6 | 12 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 17 | 20 |
| | % | 7.6% | 1.4% | 2.3% | 4.6% | 2.6% | 2.2% | 2.9% | 2.5% | 4.8% | 5.2% |
| | Total | 32 | 18 | 28 | 30 | 34 | 37 | 43 | 35 | 50 | 49 |
| | % | 12.9% | 8.6% | 10.6% | 11.5% | 12.5% | 13.3% | 13.7% | 10.9% | 14.1% | 12.9% |

* Source: CSNSW Offender Integrated Management System (OIMS).

Appendix 2: Number and proportion of women convicted of a violent offence **community based orders - by offence category and year (2000 to 2009)*.**

| Offence Category | | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Homicide and related offences | MSVO | 8 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 17 | 28 | 38 | 33 | 33 | 9 |
| | % | 1.3% | 1.0% | 0.9% | 0.7% | 1.9% | 3.1% | 3.7% | 3.0% | 2.9% | 0.7% |
| | Total | 8 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 17 | 28 | 38 | 33 | 33 | 9 |
| | % | 1.3% | 1.0% | 0.9% | 0.7% | 1.9% | 3.1% | 3.7% | 3.0% | 2.9% | 0.7% |
| Acts intended to cause injury | MSVO | 450 | 494 | 589 | 621 | 651 | 689 | 786 | 851 | 881 | 925 |
| | % | 71.5% | 74.0% | 74.6% | 73.8% | 74.2% | 75.3% | 77.2% | 77.8% | 78.2% | 76.6% |
| | Total | 450 | 497 | 590 | 623 | 657 | 699 | 807 | 868 | 900 | 929 |
| | % | 71.5% | 74.4% | 74.7% | 74.1% | 74.9% | 76.4% | 79.3% | 79.3% | 79.9% | 76.9% |
| Sexual assault and related offences | MSVO | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| | % | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.5% | 1.0% | 0.3% | 0.1% | 0.4% | 0.1% | 0.4% | 0.4% |
| | Total | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| | % | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.5% | 1.0% | 0.3% | 0.1% | 0.4% | 0.1% | 0.4% | 0.4% |
| Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons | MSVO | 14 | 14 | 16 | 13 | 7 | 13 | 16 | 10 | 16 | 16 |
| | % | 2.2% | 2.1% | 2.0% | 1.5% | 0.8% | 1.4% | 1.6% | 0.9% | 1.4% | 1.3% |
| | Total | 15 | 15 | 16 | 14 | 9 | 15 | 16 | 13 | 19 | 18 |
| | % | 2.4% | 2.2% | 2.0% | 1.7% | 1.0% | 1.6% | 1.6% | 1.2% | 1.7% | 1.5% |
| Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person | MSVO | 0 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 11 | 14 | 11 | 20 |
| | % | 0.0% | 0.9% | 0.9% | 0.8% | 0.9% | 0.7% | 1.1% | 1.3% | 1.0% | 1.7% |
| | Total | 3 | 7 | 12 | 8 | 14 | 10 | 17 | 22 | 19 | 26 |
| | % | 0.5% | 1.0% | 1.5% | 1.0% | 1.6% | 1.1% | 1.7% | 2.0% | 1.7% | 2.2% |
| Robbery, extortion and related offences | MSVO | 30 | 28 | 24 | 20 | 20 | 14 | 19 | 10 | 21 | 21 |
| | % | 4.8% | 4.2% | 3.0% | 2.4% | 2.3% | 1.5% | 1.9% | 0.9% | 1.9% | 1.7% |
| | Total | 35 | 28 | 27 | 21 | 20 | 15 | 19 | 13 | 24 | 22 |
| | % | 5.6% | 4.2% | 3.4% | 2.5% | 2.3% | 1.6% | 1.9% | 1.2% | 2.1% | 1.8% |
| Unlawful entry with intent/ Burglary, Break and enter | MSVO | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| | % | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.3% | 0.2% |
| | Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| | % | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.1% | 0.5% | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.3% | 0.2% |
| Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences | MSVO | 17 | 20 | 15 | 22 | 26 | 19 | 11 | 17 | 15 | 12 |
| | % | 2.7% | 3.0% | 1.9% | 2.6% | 3.0% | 2.1% | 1.1% | 1.6% | 1.3% | 1.0% |
| | Total | 22 | 26 | 18 | 31 | 34 | 24 | 14 | 25 | 21 | 18 |
| | % | 3.5% | 3.9% | 2.3% | 3.7% | 3.9% | 2.6% | 1.4% | 2.3% | 1.9% | 1.5% |
| Property damage and environmental pollution | MSVO | 55 | 49 | 76 | 78 | 85 | 55 | 61 | 91 | 70 | 85 |
| | % | 8.7% | 7.3% | 9.6% | 9.3% | 9.7% | 6.0% | 6.0% | 8.3% | 6.2% | 7.0% |
| | Total | 88 | 101 | 149 | 140 | 158 | 127 | 144 | 194 | 153 | 179 |
| | % | 14.0% | 15.1% | 18.9% | 16.6% | 18.0% | 13.9% | 14.1% | 17.7% | 13.6% | 14.8% |
| Public order offences | MSVO | 3 | 4 | 5 | 14 | 8 | 31 | 13 | 25 | 31 | 52 |
| | % | 0.5% | 0.6% | 0.6% | 1.7% | 0.9% | 3.4% | 1.3% | 2.3% | 2.8% | 4.3% |
| | Total | 9 | 12 | 11 | 23 | 17 | 43 | 31 | 58 | 65 | 97 |
| | % | 1.4% | 1.8% | 1.4% | 2.7% | 1.9% | 4.7% | 3.0% | 5.3% | 5.8% | 8.0% |
| Offences against justice procedures, government security and operations | MSVO | 50 | 44 | 47 | 51 | 50 | 58 | 58 | 41 | 42 | 61 |
| | % | 7.9% | 6.6% | 5.9% | 6.1% | 5.7% | 6.3% | 5.7% | 3.7% | 3.7% | 5.0% |
| | Total | 98 | 88 | 93 | 112 | 113 | 140 | 135 | 108 | 97 | 170 |
| | % | 15.6% | 13.2% | 11.8% | 13.3% | 12.9% | 15.3% | 13.3% | 9.9% | 8.6% | 14.1% |

* Source: CSNSW Offender Integrated Management System (OIMS).

Appendix 3: Number and proportion of women convicted of a violent offence **community based orders** - by offence category and year (2000 to 2009)*.

| Year | < 3 m | 3 m > and <= 6 m | 6 months > and <= 1 year | 1 yr > & <= 2 yrs | 2 yrs < & >= 3 yrs | 3 yrs > & <= 4 yrs | 4 yrs > & <= 5 yrs | >5 yrs | Forensic Patient** | Life Sent*** |
|------|------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------|
| 2000 | 71 (28.5%) | 43 (17.3%) | 52 (20.9%) | 17 (6.8%) | 27 (10.8%) | 22 (8.8%) | 4 (1.6%) | 12 (4.8%) | 1 (0.4%) | 0 (0.0%) |
| 2001 | 68 (32.5%) | 33 (15.8%) | 41 (19.6%) | 19 (9.1%) | 18 (8.6%) | 15 (7.2%) | 7 (3.3%) | 8 (3.8%) | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) |
| 2002 | 71 (26.9%) | 37 (14.0%) | 54 (20.5%) | 29 (11.0%) | 32 (12.1%) | 24 (9.1%) | 8 (3.0%) | 8 (3.0%) | 1 (0.4%) | 0 (0.0%) |
| 2003 | 66 (25.2%) | 44 (16.8%) | 65 (24.8%) | 38 (14.5%) | 24 (9.2%) | 14 (5.3%) | 6 (2.3%) | 4 (1.5%) | 1 (0.4%) | 0 (0.0%) |
| 2004 | 70 (25.8%) | 53 (19.6%) | 69 (25.5%) | 31 (11.4%) | 24 (8.9%) | 8 (3.0%) | 5 (1.8%) | 10 (3.7%) | 1 (0.4%) | 0 (0.0%) |
| 2005 | 57 (20.4%) | 52 (18.6%) | 79 (28.3%) | 34 (12.2%) | 19 (6.8%) | 12 (4.3%) | 8 (2.9%) | 16 (5.7%) | 2 (0.7%) | 0 (0.0%) |
| 2006 | 71 (22.7%) | 59 (18.8%) | 96 (30.7%) | 40 (12.8%) | 17 (5.4%) | 11 (3.5%) | 8 (2.6%) | 9 (2.9%) | 1 (0.3%) | 1 (0.3%) |
| 2007 | 80 (24.9%) | 44 (13.7%) | 103 (32.1%) | 41 (12.8%) | 19 (5.9%) | 11 (3.4%) | 8 (2.5%) | 13 (4.0%) | 2 (0.6%) | 0 (0.0%) |
| 2008 | 82 (23.1%) | 74 (20.8%) | 114 (32.1%) | 48 (13.5%) | 13 (3.7%) | 4 (1.1%) | 8 (2.3%) | 11 (3.1%) | 1 (0.3%) | 0 (0.0%) |
| 2009 | 64 (16.8%) | 59 (15.5%) | 130 (34.1%) | 54 (14.2%) | 30 (7.9%) | 15 (3.9%) | 8 (2.1%) | 17 (4.5%) | 3 (0.8%) | 1 (0.3%) |

* Source: CSNSW Offender Integrated Management System (OIMS).

** The category 'Forensic Patient' is comprised of those persons identified as 'forensic patients' under s42 of the *Mental Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1990*. This incorporates persons found not guilty by reason of mental illness, persons found unfit to be tried and persons certified to be mentally ill.

*** The category 'Life Sentence' is comprised of (a) persons sentenced to an 'existing life sentence' (as defined in Schedule 1 of the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999*) who have either yet to have that sentence redetermined by the Supreme Court or have been prohibited from making further application (b) persons sentenced to an 'existing life sentence' who have has that sentence redetermined by the Supreme Court and the Court has declined to set a specific term for the sentence but has set a non-parole period of a term of years (c) persons sentenced to 'natural life' following proclamation of the *Life Sentences Amendment Act, 1989* and (d) persons sentenced to 'Life' with/without a non-parole period under federal/interstate legislation.

Appendix 4: Number and proportion of women convicted of a violent offence in the **community** by order type for MSVO and year (2000 to 2009)*.

| Year | Community Service Order | Fine Default Order | Home Detention Order | Supervision |
|------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 2000 | 129 (20.5%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 500 (79.5%) |
| 2001 | 102 (15.3%) | 0(0%) | 0 (0%) | 566 (84.7%) |
| 2002 | 101 (12.8%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 689 (87.2%) |
| 2003 | 117 (13.9%) | 0 (0%) | 2 (0.2%) | 722 (85.9%) |
| 2004 | 123 (14.0%) | 9 (1.0%) | 4 (0.5%) | 741 (84.5%) |
| 2005 | 147 (16.1%) | 3 (0.3%) | 4 (0.4%) | 761 (83.2%) |
| 2006 | 116 (11.4%) | 1 (0.1%) | 7 (0.7%) | 894 (87.8%) |
| 2007 | 137 (12.5%) | 4 (0.4%) | 3 (0.3%) | 950 (86.8%) |
| 2008 | 155 (13.8%) | 1 (0.1%) | 2 (0.2%) | 969 (86.0%) |
| 2009 | 168 (13.9%) | 0 (0%) | 4 (0.3%) | 1036 (85.8%) |

* Source: CSNSW Offender Integrated Management System (OIMS).

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