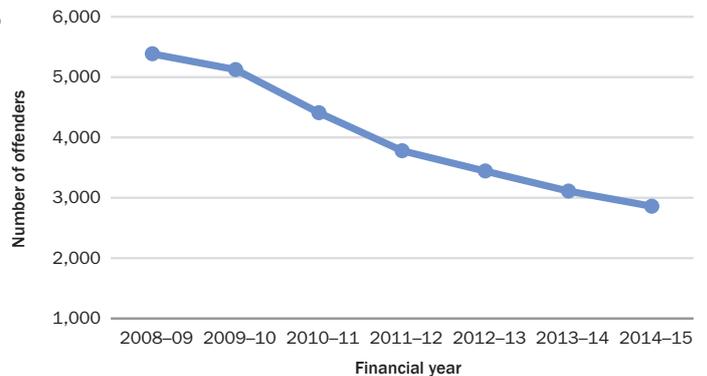
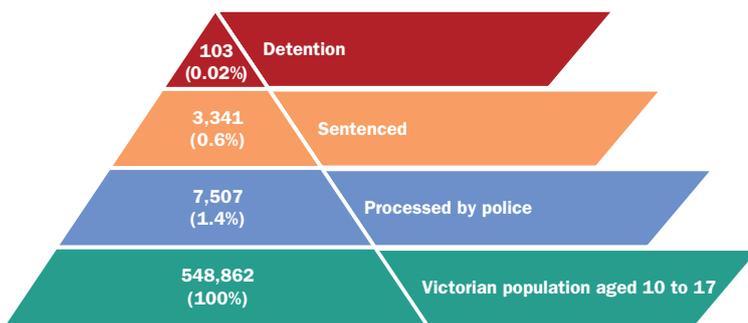


Reoffending by children and young people in Victoria

This factsheet contains data from *Reoffending by Children and Young People in Victoria*, available from www.sentencingcouncil.vic.gov.au

Offending by children and young people is rare

Of the state's 10 to 17 year olds in 2015, less than 1% are sentenced for criminal offences...

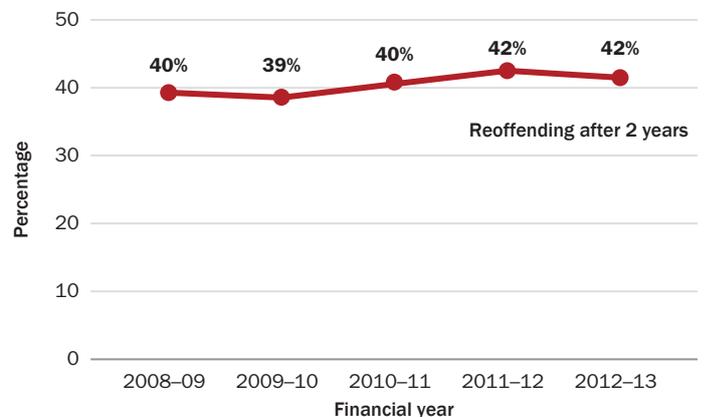
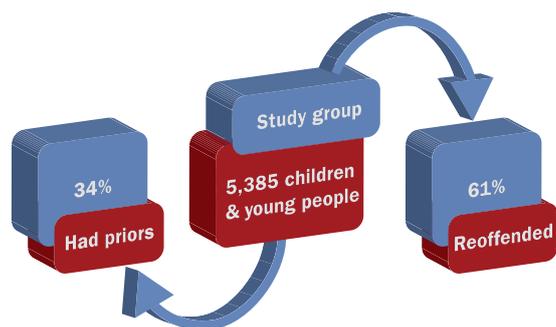


...the number of children and young people sentenced has declined each year

But once children are in the youth justice system, their reoffending rates are high

40% of children reoffended within 2 years

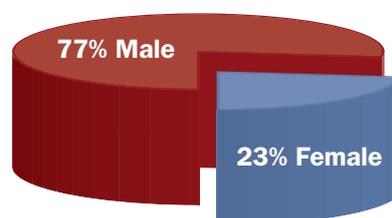
61% of children reoffended within 6 years



Their 2-year reoffending rate is not changing

Males have higher reoffending rates than females across all age groups

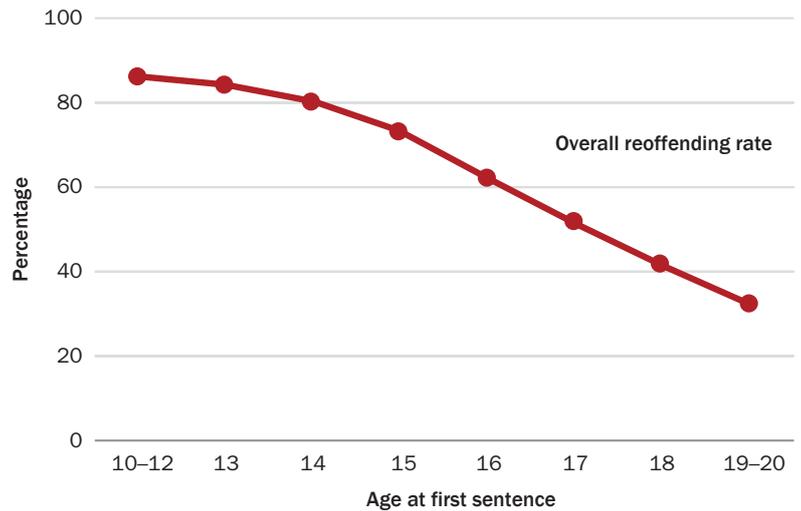
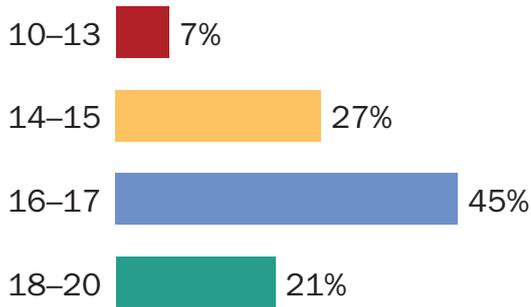
Over three-quarters (77%) of sentenced offenders were male...



Within 6 years:
67% of males reoffended
39% of females reoffended

The earlier children start offending, the more likely they are to reoffend

Most offenders were sentenced for the first time in their late teens



Children who enter the criminal justice system early:

- commit a wider range of offences
- are more likely to reoffend violently
- are more likely to continue reoffending into adulthood
- are more likely to end up in an adult prison before their 22nd birthday

Offenders with prior convictions are far more likely to reoffend

These offenders are more likely to reoffend with violent offences

Offenders with prior convictions 79% reoffended

Offenders without prior convictions 51% reoffended

‘This study suggests that sentencing alone cannot address the root causes of offending by young people. The best way to protect the community is to invest in measures that prevent or interrupt the criminal pathways of children who would otherwise go on to commit a disproportionately high volume of youth crime. Measures such as enhanced early intervention and resources to rehabilitate young offenders are the best way to steer at-risk children away from a life of crime and protect the community in the long term.’

Arie Freiberg
Chair, Sentencing Advisory Council