

# Threat offences in Victoria Factsheet

## Threat offences in Victoria

There are five main types of threat offences in Victoria:

- threats to kill
- threats to inflict serious injury
- threats to commit a sexual offence
- threats to destroy or damage property
- threats to assault an emergency worker

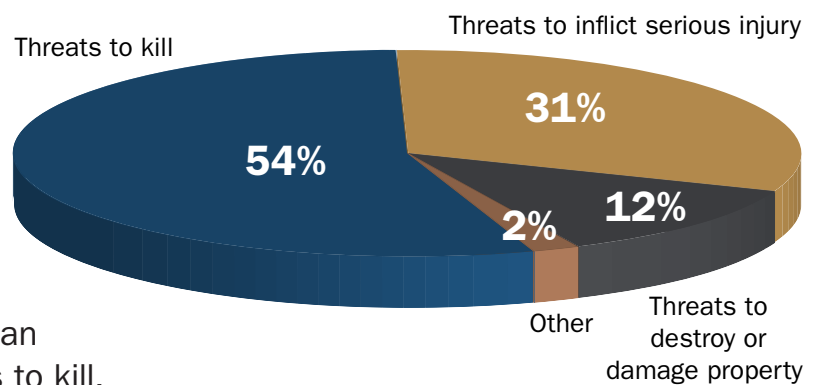
## Why do threat offences matter?

Threat offences can:

- cause **fear**
- affect the victim's **choices**
- indicate a risk of **future harm** to the victim or to others

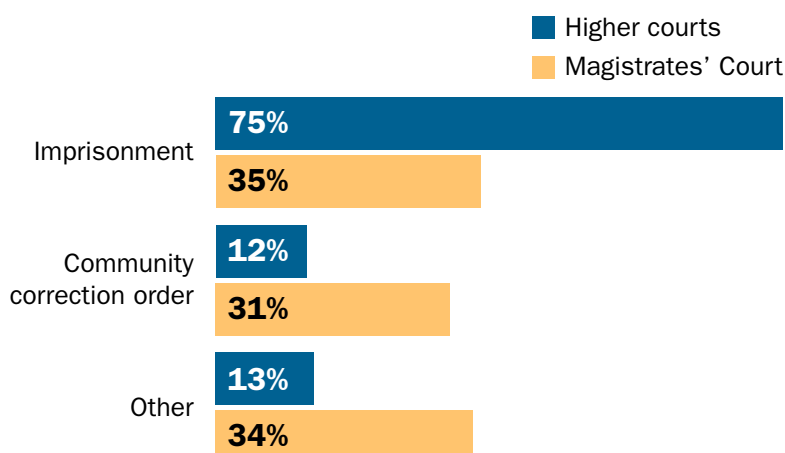
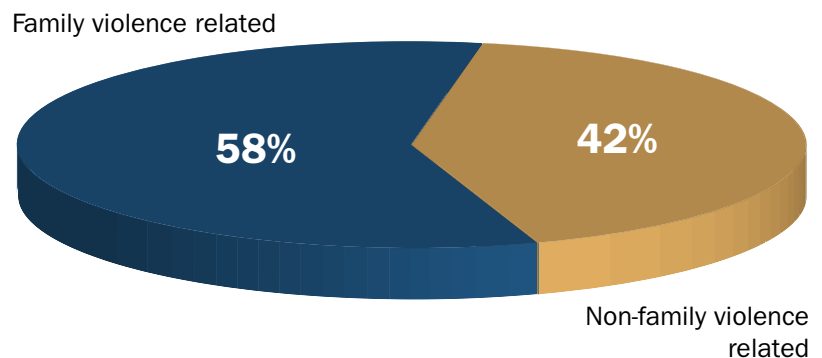
## How many threat offences are sentenced in Victoria?

In the 5 years from 2015 to 2019, courts sentenced 18,775 threat offences in Victoria. More than half of these offences were threats to kill.



## Threats and family violence

Most sentenced threat offences are linked to family violence.

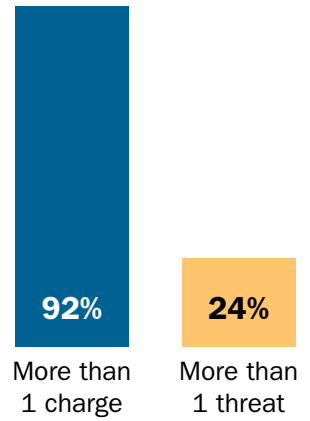


## Sentencing outcomes

Imprisonment was the most common sentence imposed for threat offences in the Magistrates' Court and the higher courts. Community correction orders were also common.

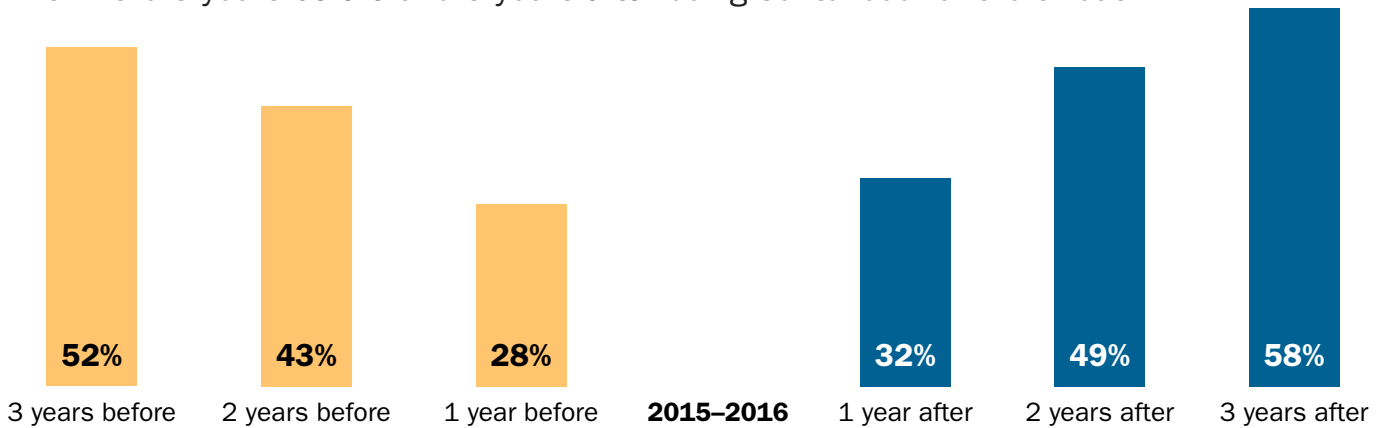
## Co-sentenced offences

On average, 7.6 offences were sentenced in each threat case, and most threat cases involved non-threat offences as well as threat offences. Only 8% of threat cases consisted of a single threat offence only.



## Threats and reoffending

People sentenced for threat offences had very high rates of prior and subsequent offences. More than half of all people sentenced for a threat offence in 2015 or 2016 were sentenced on another occasion within the 3 years before and 3 years after being sentenced for the threat.



## Who reoffended?

People with a recent criminal history, especially a history of violent offending, were far more likely than people without a recent criminal history to be sentenced for other offending in the next 3 years.

Men were also more likely than women to reoffend, and children were more likely than adults to reoffend. There was little difference in reoffending rates between family violence offenders and non-family violence offenders.

