

Sentencing Snapshot

Sentencing trends
in the higher courts
of Victoria
2004–05 to 2008–09

March 2010
No. 92

Armed robbery

Introduction

This Sentencing Snapshot describes sentencing outcomes¹ for the offence of armed robbery and details the age and gender² of people sentenced for this offence in the County and Supreme Courts of Victoria between 2004–05 and 2008–09.³

A person who uses, or threatens to use, force in order to steal, and at the time has with them a firearm, imitation firearm, offensive weapon, explosive or imitation explosive is guilty of armed robbery.⁴ Armed robbery is an indictable offence that carries a maximum penalty of 25 years' imprisonment and/or a fine of up to 3000 penalty units.⁵ Indictable offences are more serious offences triable before a judge and jury in the County or Supreme Court of Victoria.

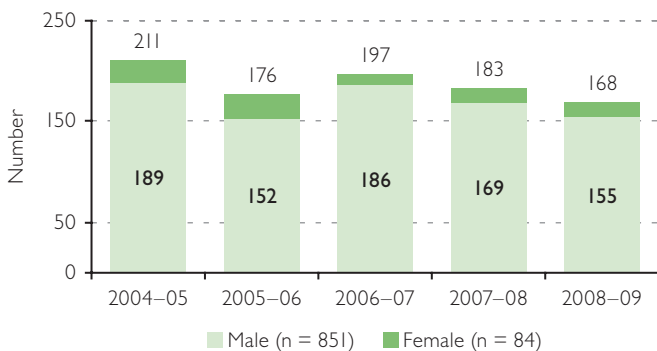
Armed robbery was the principal offence in 9.1% of cases sentenced in the higher courts between 2004–05 and 2008–09.

People sentenced

Figure 1 shows the number of people sentenced for the principal offence of armed robbery for the period 2004–05 to 2008–09. As shown, 935 people were sentenced for armed robbery over the five-year period. There were 168 people sentenced for this offence in 2008–09, down by 15 people from the previous year.

Over the five years depicted, the majority of those sentenced were men (91.0% or 851 of the 935 people), including 155 of the 168 people sentenced in 2008–09.

Figure 1: The number of people sentenced for armed robbery by gender, 2004–05 to 2008–09



Sentence types and trends

Figure 2 shows the total number of people sentenced for armed robbery and the number who received an immediate custodial sentence. An immediate custodial sentence is one that involves at least some element of immediate (as opposed to wholly suspended) imprisonment or detention.⁶ Over the five-year period, 75% of people were given an immediate custodial sentence. This peaked at 79% (133 of 168) in 2008–09 after a low of 71% (150 of 211) in 2004–05.

Figure 2: The number of people sentenced for armed robbery and the number who received an immediate custodial sentence, 2004–05 to 2008–09



Table 1 shows the number of people sentenced for armed robbery from 2004–05 to 2008–09 by the types of sentences imposed.

Over the five-year period, the majority of the people sentenced for armed robbery received a period of imprisonment (61% or 569 of 935 people), while 10% received a community-based order, 10% received a wholly suspended sentence of imprisonment and 9% received a youth justice centre order.

The number of people imprisoned peaked at 124 people (63%) in 2006–07 before being followed by a five-year low of 109 people (60%) in 2007–08, then slightly increasing to 111 people (66%) in 2008–09. In terms of percentage, imprisonment was lowest in 2004–05 (115 of 211 people, or 55%) and highest during 2008–09 (111 of 168 people, or 66%).

Community-based orders were highest during 2004–05 (25 of 211 people, or 12%) and 2006–07 (24 of 197 people, or 12%), but declined to their lowest levels in the five-year period during 2008–09 (13 of 168 people, or 8%).

Wholly suspended sentences were highest during 2004–05 (23 of 211 people, or 11%) and 2007–08 (22 of 183 people, or 12%) and lowest during 2008–09 (16 of 168 people, or 10%).⁷

Age and gender of people sentenced

Figure 3 shows the gender of people sentenced for armed robbery grouped by their age⁸ between 2004–05 and 2008–09. The average age of people sentenced for armed robbery was 26 years and 10 months. Women sentenced over this period were slightly older than men (an average age of 27 years and 3 months for women compared to 26 years and 10 months for men). There were 11 male juveniles and 1 female juvenile sentenced over this period.⁹

Figure 3: The number of people sentenced for armed robbery by gender and age, 2004–05 to 2008–09

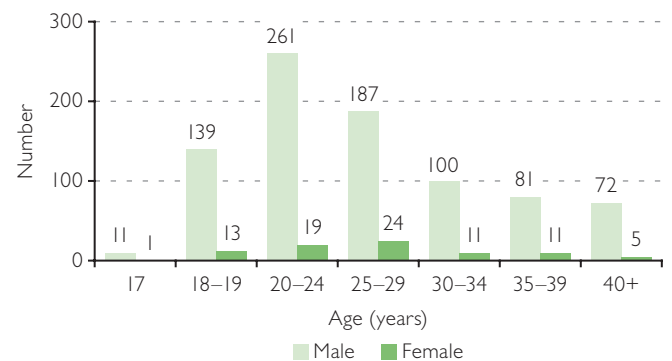


Table 1: The number and percentage of people sentenced for armed robbery by sentence type, 2004–05 to 2008–09

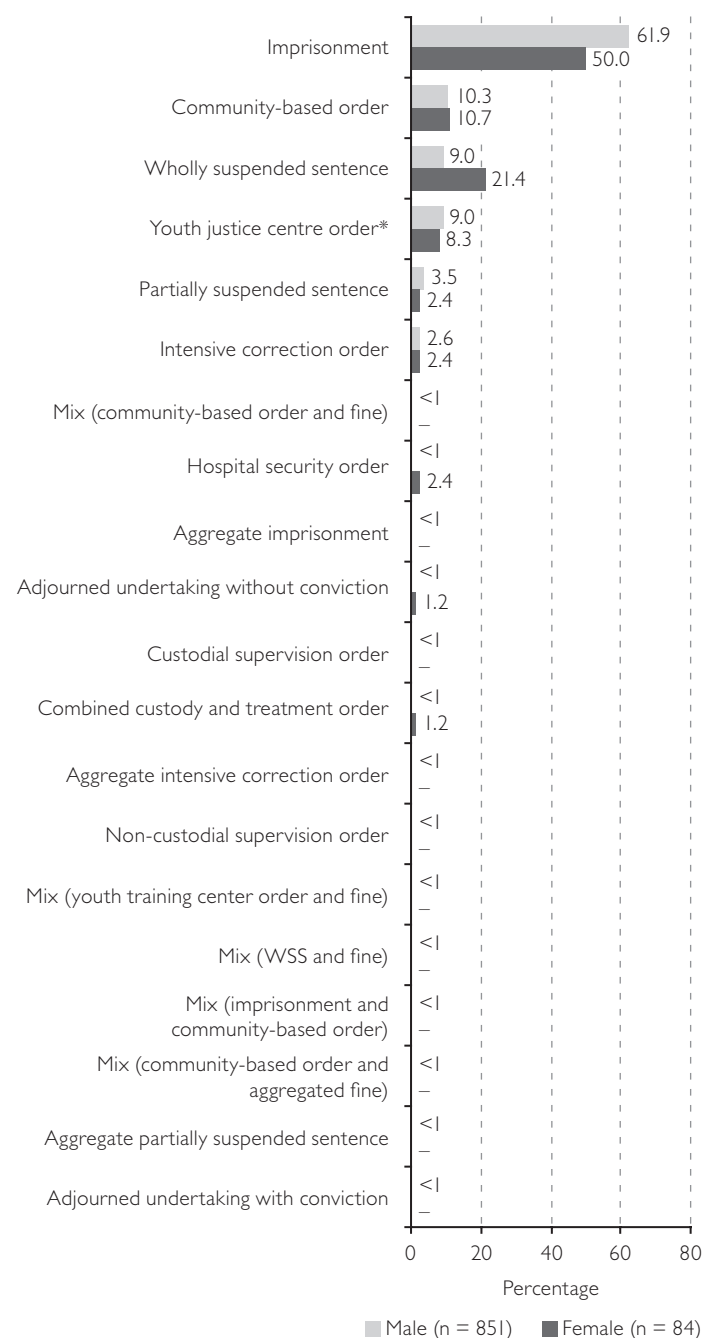
Sentence type	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09
Imprisonment	115 (55%)	110 (63%)	124 (63%)	109 (60%)	111 (66%)
Community-based order	25 (12%)	16 (9%)	24 (12%)	19 (10%)	13 (8%)
Wholly suspended sentence	23 (11%)	17 (10%)	17 (9%)	22 (12%)	16 (10%)
Youth justice centre order*	26 (12%)	13 (7%)	17 (9%)	13 (7%)	15 (9%)
Partially suspended sentence	8 (4%)	8 (5%)	4 (2%)	7 (4%)	5 (3%)
Intensive correction order	4 (2%)	6 (3%)	5 (3%)	5 (3%)	4 (2%)
Mix (community-based order and fine)	6 (3%)	0 (–)	0 (–)	0 (–)	1 (<1%)
Hospital security order	0 (–)	2 (1%)	3 (2%)	0 (–)	0 (–)
Aggregate imprisonment	0 (–)	0 (–)	1 (<1%)	2 (1%)	1 (<1%)
Adjourned undertaking without conviction	3 (1%)	0 (–)	0 (–)	1 (<1%)	0 (–)
Custodial supervision order	0 (–)	3 (2%)	0 (–)	0 (–)	0 (–)
Combined custody and treatment order	0 (–)	1 (<1%)	0 (–)	1 (<1%)	0 (–)
Aggregate intensive correction order	0 (–)	0 (–)	1 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	0 (–)
Non-custodial supervision order	0 (–)	0 (–)	0 (–)	1 (<1%)	0 (–)
Mix (youth training centre order and fine)	0 (–)	0 (–)	0 (–)	1 (<1%)	0 (–)
Mix (wholly suspended sentence and fine)	0 (–)	0 (–)	0 (–)	1 (<1%)	0 (–)
Mix (imprisonment and community-based order)	1 (<1%)	0 (–)	0 (–)	0 (–)	0 (–)
Mix (community-based order and aggregated fine)	0 (–)	0 (–)	0 (–)	0 (–)	1 (<1%)
Aggregate partially suspended sentence	0 (–)	0 (–)	0 (–)	0 (–)	1 (<1%)
Adjourned undertaking with conviction	0 (–)	0 (–)	1 (<1%)	0 (–)	0 (–)
People sentenced	211	176	197	183	168

*Prior to 23 April 2007, a 'youth justice centre order' was referred to as a 'youth training centre order'.

Sentence types by gender

Figure 4 and Table 2 show the types of sentence imposed for armed robbery grouped by gender. As shown, a higher percentage of men received a period of imprisonment (61.9% compared to 50.0% of women). Conversely, a higher percentage of women received a wholly suspended sentence of imprisonment (21.4% compared to 9.0% of men). A similar percentage of males and females were given a community-based order (10.3% of men compared to 10.7% of women), as well as a youth justice centre order (9.0% of men compared to 8.3% of women).

Figure 4: The percentage of people sentenced for armed robbery by sentence type and gender, 2004–05 to 2008–09



*Prior to 23 April 2007, a 'youth justice centre order' was referred to as a 'youth training centre order'.

Table 2: The number and percentage of people sentenced for armed robbery by gender, 2004–05 to 2008–09

Sentence type	Male	Female	Total
Imprisonment	527 (62%)	42 (50%)	569 (61%)
Community-based order	88 (10%)	9 (11%)	97 (10%)
Wholly suspended sentence	77 (9%)	18 (21%)	95 (10%)
Youth justice centre order*	77 (9%)	7 (8%)	84 (9%)
Partially suspended sentence	30 (4%)	2 (2%)	32 (3%)
Intensive correction order	22 (3%)	2 (2%)	24 (3%)
Mix (community-based order and fine)	7 (<1%)	0 (-)	7 (<1%)
Hospital security order	3 (<1%)	2 (2%)	5 (<1%)
Aggregate imprisonment	4 (<1%)	0 (-)	4 (<1%)
Adjourned undertaking without conviction	3 (<1%)	1 (1%)	4 (<1%)
Custodial supervision order	3 (<1%)	0 (-)	3 (<1%)
Combined custody and treatment order	1 (<1%)	1 (1%)	2 (<1%)
Aggregate intensive correction order	2 (<1%)	0 (-)	2 (<1%)
Non-custodial supervision order	1 (<1%)	0 (-)	1 (<1%)
Mix (youth training centre order and fine)	1 (<1%)	0 (-)	1 (<1%)
Mix (wholly suspended sentence and fine)	1 (<1%)	0 (-)	1 (<1%)
Mix (imprisonment and community-based order)	1 (<1%)	0 (-)	1 (<1%)
Mix (community-based order and aggregated fine)	1 (<1%)	0 (-)	1 (<1%)
Aggregate partially suspended sentence	1 (<1%)	0 (-)	1 (<1%)
Adjourned undertaking with conviction	1 (<1%)	0 (-)	1 (<1%)
People sentenced	851	84	935

*Prior to 23 April 2007, a 'youth justice centre order' was referred to as a 'youth training centre order'.

Sentence types by age

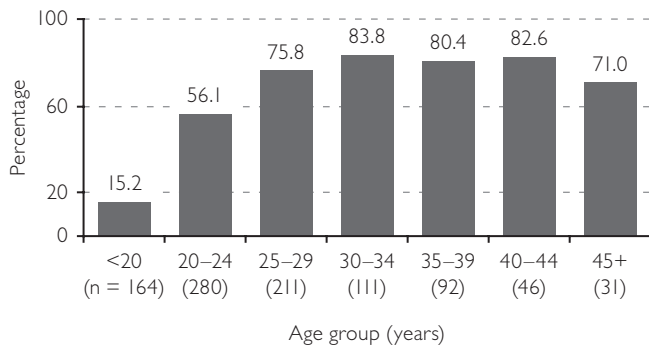
As shown in Table 2, the three most common sentence types were imprisonment, community-based orders and wholly suspended sentences of imprisonment. The following analysis examines these sentence types by the offender's age group.

Imprisonment

Sentences of imprisonment were most likely to be given to people aged 30–34 years (84% or 93 of the 111 people in this age group).

Conversely, sentences of imprisonment were least common for those aged under 20 years (15% or 25 of the 164 people in this age group).

Figure 5: The percentage of people who received a period of imprisonment for armed robbery by age group, 2004–05 to 2008–09

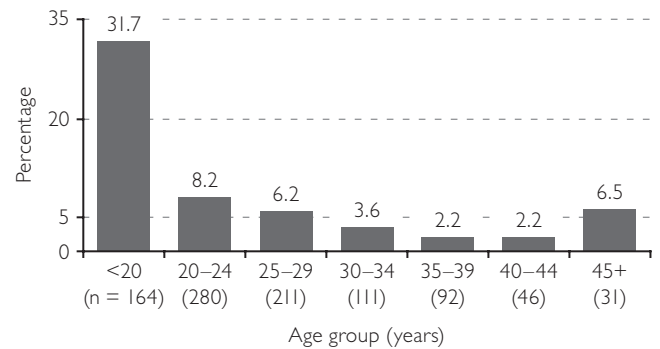


Community-based orders

Community-based orders were most likely to be given to people aged under 20 years (32% or 52 of the 164 people in this age group).

Conversely, community-based orders were least common for those aged 35–39 years and 40–44 years (2% each).

Figure 6: The percentage of people who received a community-based order for armed robbery by age group, 2004–05 to 2008–09

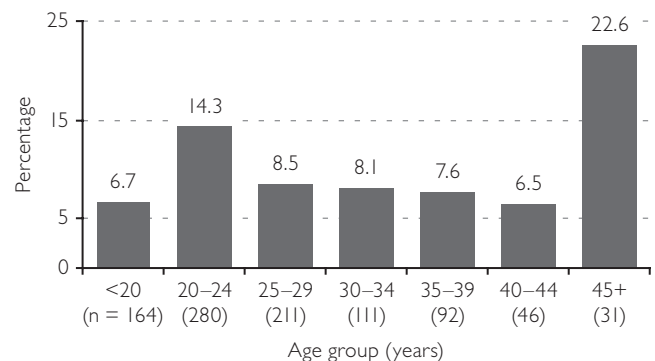


Wholly suspended sentences of imprisonment

Wholly suspended sentences of imprisonment were most likely to be given to people aged 45 years and older (23% or 7 of the 31 people in this age group).

Conversely, wholly suspended sentences of imprisonment were least common for those aged 40–44 years (7% or 3 of the 46 people in this age group).

Figure 7: The percentage of people who received a wholly suspended sentence of imprisonment for armed robbery by age group, 2004–05 to 2008–09



Principal and total effective sentences

There are two methods for describing sentence types and lengths – the principal sentence and the total effective sentence.

The *principal sentence* is the individual sentence imposed for a single charge. When imposing a sentence for multiple charges, the court imposes a *total effective sentence*. The total effective sentence aggregates the principal sentence handed down for each charge and takes into account whether sentences are ordered by the court to be served concurrently (at the same time) or cumulatively.

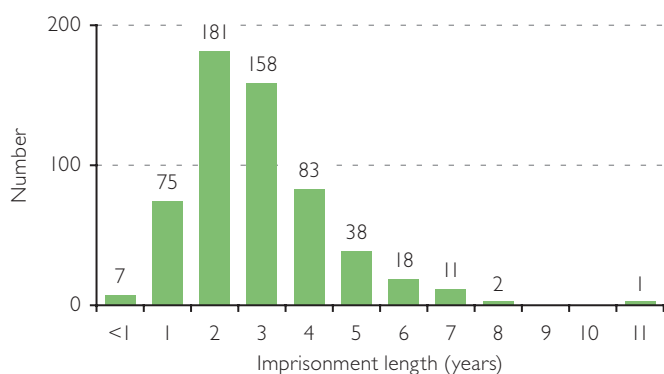
In many cases, the total effective sentence imposed on a person will be longer than individual principal sentences. Principal sentences for armed robbery must be considered in this broader context. The following sections analyse the use of imprisonment for armed robbery over 2004–05 to 2008–09.

Principal sentence of imprisonment

Figure 8 shows the number of people sentenced to imprisonment for armed robbery between 2004–05 and 2008–09 by the length of the imprisonment term. Imprisonment terms ranged from 7 days to 11 years,¹⁰ while the median length of imprisonment was 3 years (meaning that half of the imprisonment terms were shorter than 3 years and half were longer).

The most common length of imprisonment imposed was 2 years (181 people).

Figure 8: The number of people sentenced to imprisonment for armed robbery by length of imprisonment term, 2004–05 to 2008–09



As shown in Figure 9, the average length of imprisonment term imposed on people sentenced for armed robbery ranged from 2 years and 11 months in 2005–06 and 2007–08 to 3 years and 2 months in 2006–07.

Figure 9: The average length of imprisonment term imposed on people sentenced for armed robbery, 2004–05 to 2008–09



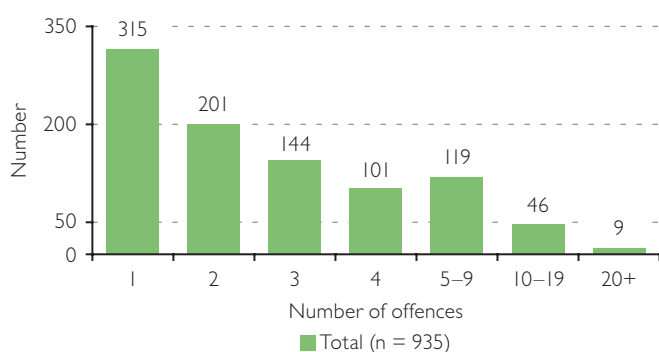
From 2004–05 to 2008–09, the majority of people who received a term of imprisonment for armed robbery were men (532 people or 92.7%). Over the five-year period, men received a longer average term of imprisonment (3 years and 1 month compared to 2 years and 5 months for women).

Other offences finalised at the same hearing

Often people prosecuted for armed robbery face multiple charges, which are finalised at the same hearing. This section looks at the range of offences for which offenders have been sentenced at the same time as being sentenced for the principal offence of armed robbery.

Figure 10 shows the number of people sentenced for the principal offence of armed robbery by the total number of offences for which sentences were set. The number of sentenced offences per person ranged from 1 to 40, while the median was 2 offences. There were 315 people (33.7%) sentenced for the single offence of armed robbery alone. The average number of offences per person sentenced for armed robbery was 3.32.

Figure 10: The number of people sentenced for the principal offence of armed robbery by the number of sentenced offences per person, 2004–05 to 2008–09



While Figure 10 presents the number of sentenced offences for those sentenced for armed robbery, Table 3 shows what the accompanying offences were. It shows the number and percentage of people sentenced for the 10 most common offences. The last column sets out the average number of offences sentenced per person. For example, 180 of the total 935 people (19.3%) also received sentences for theft. On average, they were sentenced for 1.97 counts of theft.

Table 3: The number and percentage of people sentenced for the principal offence of armed robbery by the most common offences that were sentenced and the average number of those offences that were sentenced, 2004–05 to 2008–09

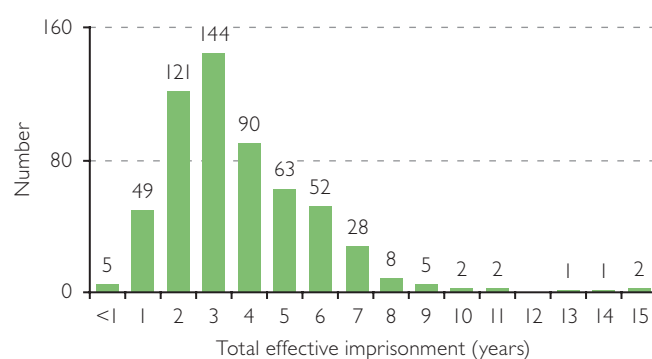
Offence	No.	%	Avg.
1 Armed robbery	935	100.0	1.59
2 Theft	180	19.3	1.97
3 Attempted armed robbery	104	11.1	1.35
4 Causing injury	88	9.4	1.22
5 Common law assault	63	6.7	1.33
6 False imprisonment	51	5.5	2.00
7 Possess a drug of dependence	51	5.5	1.18
8 Aggravated burglary	50	5.3	1.20
9 Robbery	48	5.1	1.83
10 Burglary	34	3.6	2.18
People sentenced	935	100.0	3.32

Total effective sentence of imprisonment

There were 573 people given a total effective sentence of imprisonment.¹¹ Figure 11 shows the number of people sentenced to imprisonment for armed robbery between 2004–05 and 2008–09 by the length of their total effective sentence. The length of total effective sentences ranged from 7 days to 15 years, while the median total effective length of imprisonment was 3 years and 6 months (meaning that half of the total effective sentence lengths were below 3 years and 6 months and half were above).

The most common total effective imprisonment length was 3 years (144 people).

Figure 11: The number of people sentenced to imprisonment for armed robbery by total effective length of imprisonment term, 2004–05 to 2008–09



Non-parole period

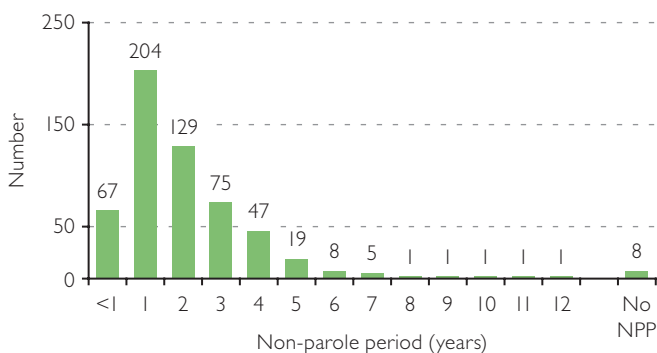
When a person is sentenced to a term of immediate imprisonment of one year or more, the court has the discretion to fix a non-parole period. Where a non-parole period is fixed, the person must serve that period before becoming eligible for parole. Where no non-parole period is set by the court, the person must serve the entirety of the imprisonment term.

Under section 11(4) of the *Sentencing Act 1991 (Vic)*, if a court sentences an offender to imprisonment in respect of more than one offence, the non-parole period set by the court must be in respect of the total effective sentence of imprisonment that the offender is liable to serve under all the sentences imposed. In many cases, the non-parole period will be longer than the individual principal sentence for armed robbery. Sentences and non-parole periods must be considered in this broader context.

Of the 573 people who were sentenced to imprisonment for armed robbery, 568 were eligible to have a non-parole period fixed.¹² Of these people, 559 were given a non-parole period (98%).¹³ Figure 12 shows the number of people sentenced to imprisonment for armed robbery between 2004–05 and 2008–09 by the length of their non-parole period. Non-parole periods ranged from 3 months to 12 years, while the median length of the non-parole period was 2 years (meaning that half of the non-parole periods were below 2 years and half were above).

The most common non-parole period imposed was 1 year (204 people).

Figure 12: The number of people sentenced to imprisonment for armed robbery by length of non-parole period, 2004–05 to 2008–09



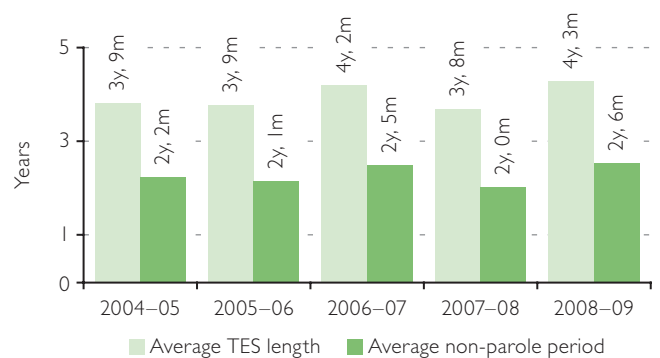
Note: No NPP refers to sentences of imprisonment that had no non-parole period fixed.

Total effective sentences of imprisonment and non-parole periods

Figure 13 presents the average length of total effective sentences of imprisonment compared to the average length of non-parole periods for all people.

From 2004–05 to 2008–09, the average length of total effective sentences ranged from 3 years and 8 months in 2007–08 to 4 years and 3 months in 2008–09. Over the same period, the average length of non-parole periods ranged from 2 years in 2007–08 to 2 years and 6 months in 2008–09.

Figure 13: The average total effective sentence and the average non-parole period imposed on people sentenced to imprisonment for armed robbery, 2004–05 to 2008–09

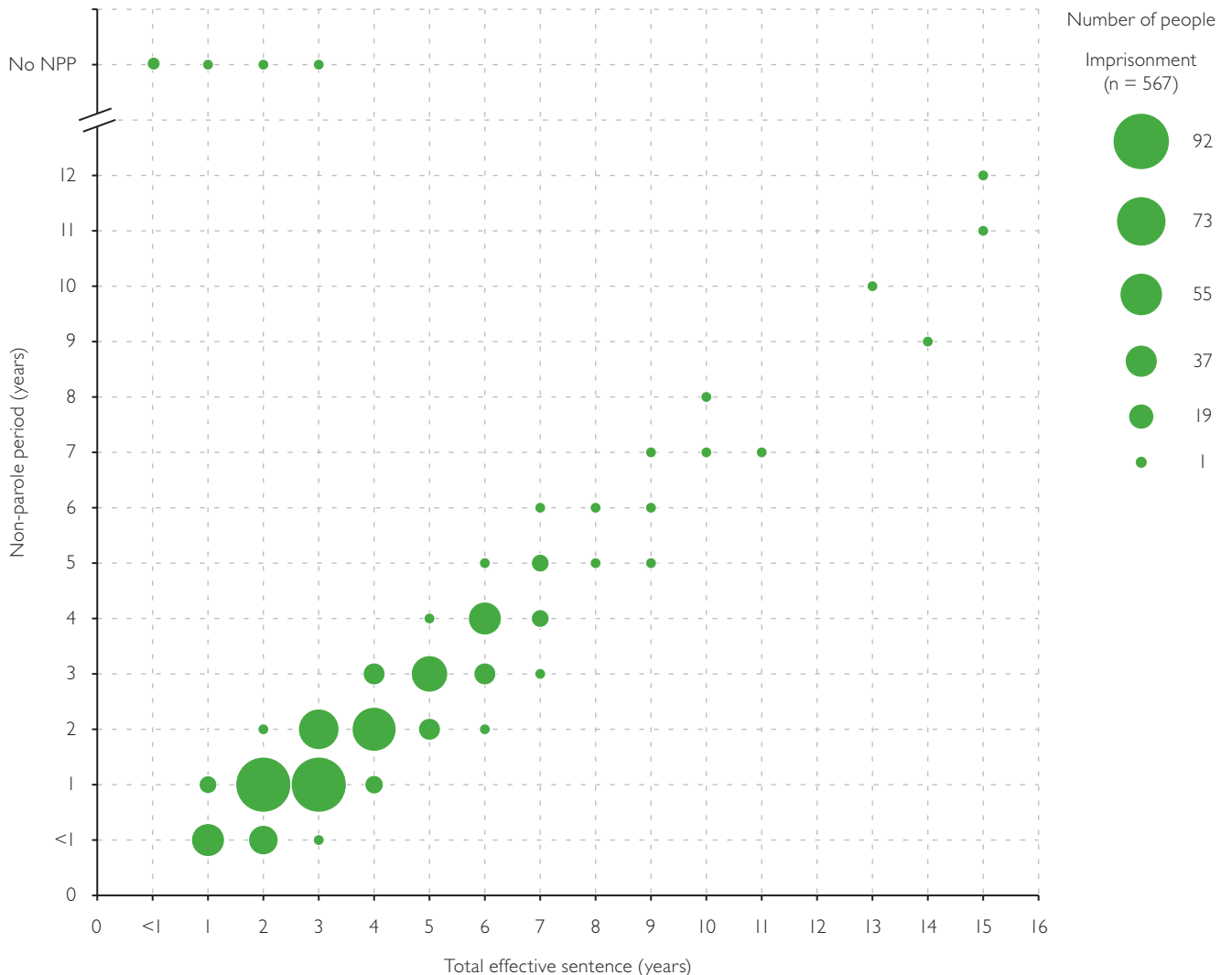


Total effective sentence of imprisonment by non-parole period

While Figures 11 and 12 present the lengths of the total effective sentences and non-parole periods separately, Figure 14 combines the two methods of describing sentence lengths in the one diagram. It shows the total effective sentence and non-parole period for armed robbery for each individual person.

The centre of each 'bubble' on the chart represents a combination of imprisonment length and non-parole period, while the size of the 'bubble' reflects the number of people who received that particular combination.¹⁴ As shown, the most common combination of imprisonment length and non-parole period imposed was 3 years with a non-parole period of 1 year (92 people – as represented by the largest 'bubble' on the chart). The length of imprisonment ranged from 7 days with no non-parole period to 15 years with a non-parole period of 12 years.

Figure 14: The number of people sentenced to imprisonment for armed robbery by the total effective sentence and the non-parole period imposed, 2004–05 to 2008–09



Note: No NPP refers to no non-parole period.

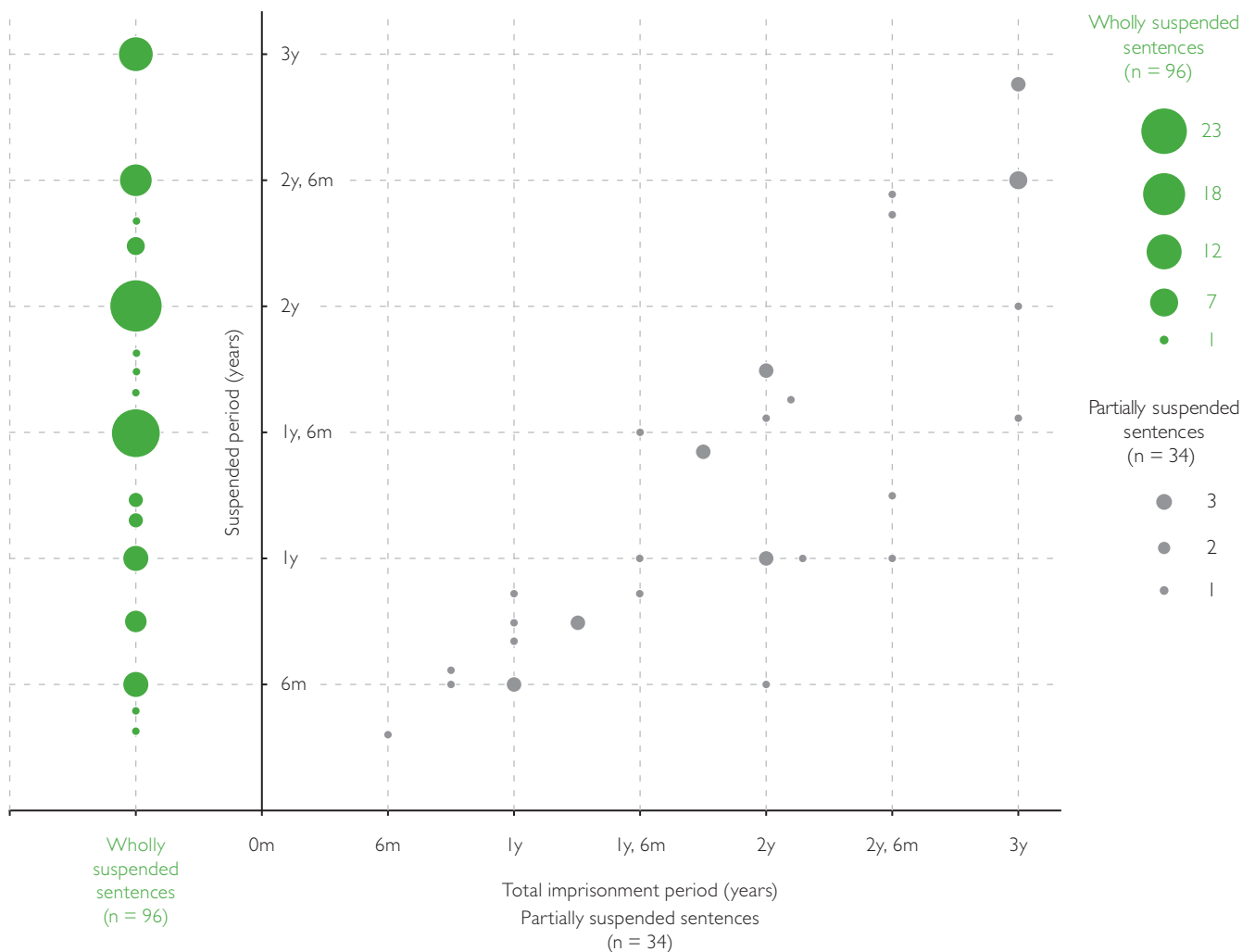
Suspended sentences of imprisonment

There were 130 people given a suspended sentence of imprisonment as their total effective sentence. Of these, 96 people had their prison sentence wholly suspended and 34 received a partially suspended sentence of imprisonment. Figure 15 shows the number of people with a suspended sentence of imprisonment as their total effective sentence by the suspended sentence type and length of sentence. The green 'bubbles' to the left of the vertical axis show the lengths of the wholly suspended sentences, while the grey 'bubbles' to the right of the vertical axis show the combination of total imprisonment length and the suspended period for those sentenced to a partially suspended sentence. The size of the bubble reflects the number of people who received either the wholly or partially suspended prison term.

Wholly suspended sentence lengths ranged from 4 months to 3 years. The most common wholly suspended sentence length was 2 years (23 people – as represented by the largest green 'bubble' on the chart).

The most common partially suspended sentence combination was 3 years with 2 years and 6 months suspended (3 people – as represented by the largest grey 'bubble' on the chart).

Figure 15: The number of people given a wholly or partially suspended sentence of imprisonment for armed robbery by sentence type and length, 2004–05 to 2008–09

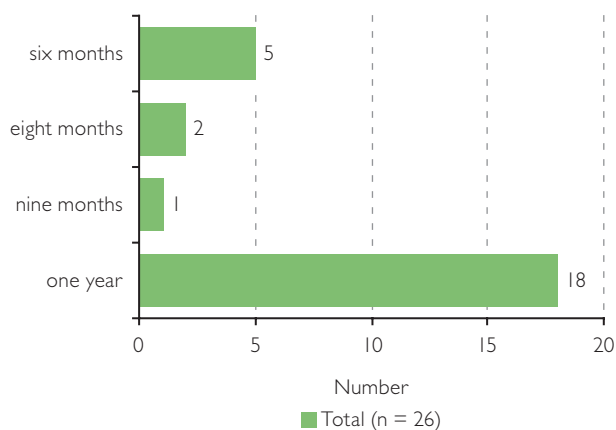


Intensive correction orders

There were 26 people given an intensive correction order as their total effective sentence.

The length of intensive correction orders for armed robbery ranged from 6 months to 1 year, while the most common length was 1 year (18 people).

Figure 16: The number of people sentenced to an intensive correction order for armed robbery by length of order imposed, 2004–05 to 2008–09

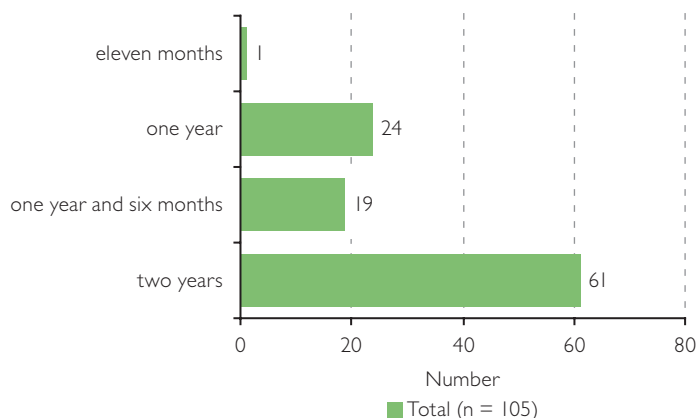


Community-based orders

There were 105 people given a community-based order as their total effective sentence.

The length of community-based orders for armed robbery ranged from 11 months to 2 years, while the most common length was 2 years (61 people).

Figure 17: The number of people sentenced to a community-based order for armed robbery by length of order imposed, 2004–05 to 2008–09



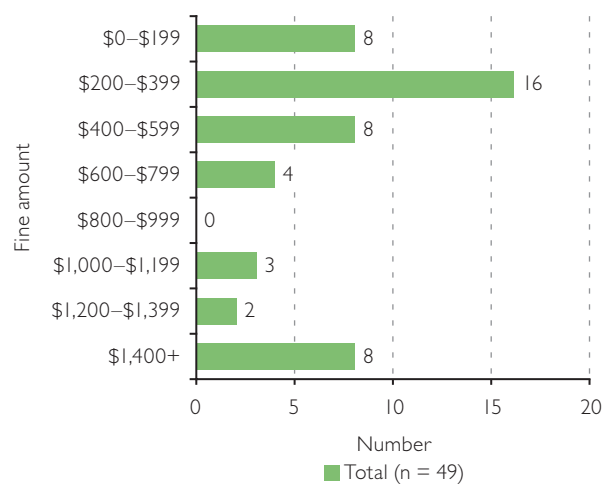
Fines

This analysis includes all fines that were imposed for cases where armed robbery was the principal offence. Fines were imposed on 49 people.

The fine amount imposed ranged from \$50 to \$3,500, with a median of \$400 (meaning that half of the values fell below \$400 and half of the values were above \$400).

The average fine amount was \$656. The average fine amount imposed against the 48 males was \$668. One female received a fine of \$100.

Figure 18: The number of people who received a fine for armed robbery by fine amount, 2004–05 to 2008–09



Summary

Between 2004–05 and 2008–09, 935 people were sentenced for armed robbery in the higher courts. Over this period, the majority of those sentenced were men (91%), while 53% were between the ages of 20 to 30 years.

The majority of the people sentenced for armed robbery received a period of imprisonment (61%), while 10% received a community-based order, 10% received a wholly suspended sentence of imprisonment and 9% received a youth justice centre order.

Men were more likely than women to be sentenced to a period of imprisonment. Conversely, women were more likely to be sentenced to a wholly suspended sentence of imprisonment. Similar percentages of men and women received a community-based order or a youth justice centre order.

Imprisonment was more common for those aged between 25 and 45 years of age, community-based orders were more common for those younger than 20 years of age and wholly suspended sentences of imprisonment were more common for those older than 45 years of age.

Each of the 935 people was sentenced for an average of 3.32 offences, including 1.59 offences of armed robbery. The most common offence finalised in conjunction with armed robbery was theft (19.3% of all cases). The number and range of offences for which people with a principal offence of armed robbery were sentenced help explain why imprisonment sentence lengths were longer for the total effective sentence than for the principal sentence. The median total effective imprisonment length was 3 years and 6 months, while the median principal imprisonment length was 3 years.

Total effective imprisonment lengths ranged from 7 days with no non-parole period to 15 years with a non-parole period of 12 years. The most common sentence of imprisonment was 3 years with a non-parole period of 1 year.

The most common wholly suspended sentence length was 2 years.

Endnotes

1. This report presents sentencing outcomes for people sentenced for the principal offence of armed robbery in the County and Supreme Courts of Victoria. The principal offence describes the offence proven that attracted the most serious sentence according to the sentencing hierarchy. The analysis will therefore exclude people sentenced for armed robbery who received a more serious sentence for another offence forming part of the same presentment. There were 1,007 people sentenced from 2004–05 to 2008–09 for 1,623 offences of armed robbery. Armed robbery was the principal proven offence for 935 of these people.

This series of reports includes custodial and non-custodial supervision orders imposed under Part 5 of the *Crimes (Mental Impairment and Unfitness to be Tried) Act 1997* (Vic) as sentencing orders and in the count of people sentenced. These orders are not sentencing orders, as they are imposed in cases where the defendant is not guilty because of mental impairment. However, they are included in this report as they are an important form of disposition of criminal charges.

This Sentencing Snapshot is an update of Sentencing Snapshot No. 35, which described sentencing trends for armed robbery between 2002–03 and 2006–07.

2. The information source for sentencing outcomes for armed robbery only contains information on age and gender characteristics. No other demographic analysis is possible.
3. The source data for the statistical information presented in this snapshot were provided by Court Statistical Services, Department of Justice (Vic). The Sentencing Advisory Council regularly undertakes extensive quality control measures for current and historical data. While every effort is made to ensure that the data analysed in this report are accurate, the data are subject to revision.
4. *Crimes Act 1958* s 75A.
5. The value of a penalty unit changes each year and can be found in the Victorian Government Gazette and on the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel website <www.ocpc.vic.gov.au>.
6. Immediate custodial sentences include imprisonment, youth justice centre order, partially suspended sentence, hospital security order, aggregate imprisonment, custodial supervision order, combined custody and treatment order, mix (youth training centre order and fine), mix (imprisonment and community-based order) and aggregate partially suspended sentence.
7. For offences committed on or after 1 November 2006, a court may impose a wholly suspended sentence only if the court is satisfied that it is appropriate because of the existence of exceptional circumstances and that it is in the interests of justice (*Sentencing Act 1991* (Vic) s 27 (2B)).
8. Age is as at the time of sentencing.
9. Defendants who were under the age of 18 at the time of committing the alleged offence and who were not 19 years or older at the time proceedings commenced may be dealt with in the Children's Court of Victoria.
10. In 2006–07, a 36 year old man received an aggregate sentence of imprisonment of 11 years for a presentment that included 6 charges of armed robbery among a total of 23 charges. The judge noted that the offender had previously 'acquired at least 126 convictions from 17 court appearances...convictions for armed robbery, many assault convictions including intentionally causing serious injury, 16 convictions for burglary and 25 for theft'.
11. Of the 574 people who were given a principal sentence of imprisonment, 573 were also given a total effective sentence of imprisonment. There was one person who was given imprisonment as the principal sentence for armed robbery and a partially suspended sentence as a total effective sentence.
12. A total of 5 people were not eligible for parole because they were given a total effective sentence length of less than 1 year.
13. Six people were not given a non-parole period relating to that case alone, but a non-parole period that also related to other cases. It is not possible to determine the length of the non-parole period that relates to these cases. The non-parole periods for these people are excluded from the analysis. A non-parole period was not set for 3 people who were eligible for a non-parole period.
14. Sentence lengths that are longer than 1 year are rounded down to the nearest year of imprisonment, while sentence lengths of less than 1 year are grouped into the '<1 year' category.

Sentencing Snapshots is a series presenting summary information on sentencing trends in Victoria

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- 66 Possessing ecstasy
- 65 Possessing cannabis
- 64 Possessing amphetamines
- 63 Causing injury recklessly
- 62 Causing injury intentionally
- 61 Causing serious injury recklessly
- 60 Going equipped to steal
- 59 Handling stolen goods
- 58 Aggravated burglary
- 57 Burglary
- 56 Other theft
- 55 Theft of a bicycle
- 54 Theft from a shop
- 53 Theft from a motor vehicle
- 52 Theft of a motor vehicle

Sentencing trends in the Magistrates' Court, 2004–05 to 2006–07

- 51 Knowingly possess child pornography
- 50 Indecent act with a child under 16
- 49 Indecent Assault

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