

Sentencing in Victoria

2014–15 to 2023–24

This statistical report presents data on sentencing practices in Victoria in the decade to 30 June 2024. The data includes the number and gender of people sentenced each year, the types of offences people were sentenced for, the types of sentences people received, and the imprisonment or detention lengths and fine amounts imposed in the Supreme Court, County Court, Magistrates' Court and Children's Court.

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Sentencing Advisory Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters on which we live and work, and we pay our respects to them, their culture and their Elders past and present.

Authored by Zsombor Bathy

Published by the Sentencing Advisory Council, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

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ISBN 978-1-925071-87-0 (Online)

Authorised by the Sentencing Advisory Council,
Level 3, 333 Queen Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

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Key events influencing sentencing practices in Victoria

Sentencing in Victoria is governed by a combination of legislation and common law.¹ The following are some of the important changes to sentencing legislation and common law in the decade to June 2024. These are likely to have contributed to some of the changes in sentencing practices in Victoria during the 10-year period:

2014: suspended prison sentences are no longer available for offences committed on or after 1 September²

2014: the Court of Appeal delivers a guideline judgment in *Boulton* in relation to community correction orders (CCOs)³

2017: the High Court says that current sentencing practices should be just one factor to take into account in sentencing, not a controlling factor⁴

2017: some offences are classified as category 1 or category 2 offences, making a prison sentence presumptive or mandatory⁵

2017: the Children's Court Youth Diversion Service is rolled out across Victoria⁶

2018: some offences are classified as standard sentence offences, requiring courts to consider a numerical sentence that represents the middle of the range of objective seriousness for the offence⁷

2018: the maximum length of a youth justice centre order is increased from 3 years to 4 years⁸

2020–2023: COVID-19 significantly affects court operations, resulting in fewer cases being sentenced, more serious cases being prioritised, greater sentencing discounts being given to reflect the harsher conditions of prison, and enhanced guilty plea discounts being given to reflect the value of guilty pleas in clearing court backlogs.⁹

1 For example, the sentencing of adults is governed by the *Sentencing Act 1991* (Vic) while the sentencing of children is governed by the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* (Vic).

2 *Sentencing Amendment (Abolition of Suspended Sentences and Other Matters) Act 2013* (Vic).

3 *Boulton & Ors v The Queen* [2014] VSCA 342.

4 *DPP v Dalgliesh (a pseudonym)* [2017] HCA 41.

5 *Sentencing (Community Correction Order) and Other Acts Amendment Act 2016* (Vic).

6 *Children and Justice Legislation Amendment (Youth Justice Reform) Act 2017* (Vic).

7 *Sentencing Amendment (Sentencing Standards) Act 2017* (Vic).

8 *Children and Justice Legislation Amendment (Youth Justice Reform) Act 2017* (Vic) s 52(2).

9 *Worboyes v The Queen* [2021] VSCA 169.

Offence classification in this report

In late 2023, the Australian Bureau of Statistics published an update to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC). The new offence classification is applied to *all* data presented in this report. As a result, certain offences in this report may be categorised and labelled differently from offences in *Sentencing in Victoria 2012–13 to 2021–22* and *Sentencing in Victoria 2013–14 to 2022–23*.¹⁰

Terminology in this report

Principal offence: the *principal offence* is the most serious offence in a case. Offence seriousness is measured by the offence that received the most severe sentence or, alternatively, according to the National Offence Index.¹¹

Principal offence type: *principal offence types* are categories of offences according to the offence types in the Australian Bureau of Statistics' standard offence classification. For example, if a principal offence is murder, the *principal offence type* is a homicide offence (ANZSOC Division 1).¹²

Principal sentence type: the *principal sentence type* is the most severe sentence type in a case according to the sentencing hierarchy in sections 5(4)–(7) of the *Sentencing Act 1991* (Vic). If a court imposes one sentence type in a case (for example, imprisonment), that sentence type is the principal sentence type. When a court imposes more than one sentence type in the same case (for example, both imprisonment and a fine), the principal sentence type is imprisonment. The one exception is combined orders of imprisonment with a CCO, which in this report are represented separately from imprisonment without a CCO, due to their increasing prevalence.

Total effective sentence: the *total effective sentence* is the sentence length imposed for all charges in a case and applies at a case level. Where a case involves multiple charges that receive imprisonment, the total effective sentence will be either the same as or longer than the imprisonment length for the principal offence.

10 See 'Principal offence types' under 'Reading the data' below.

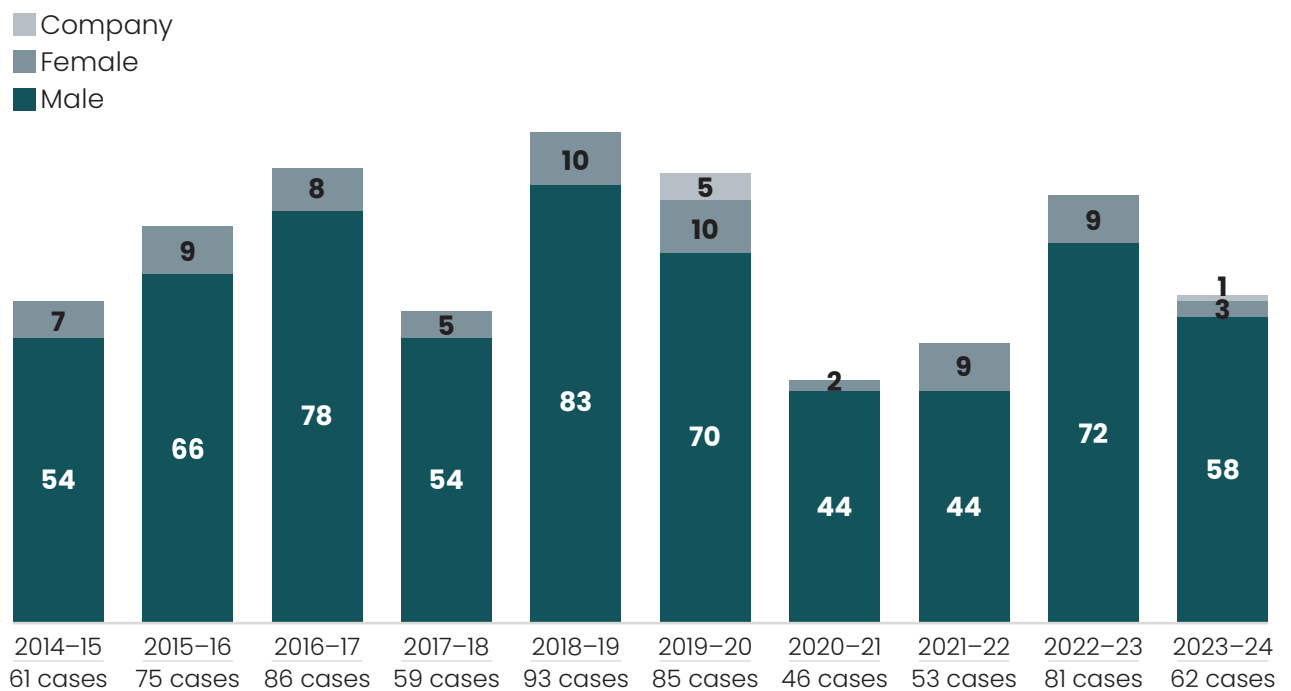
11 Australian Bureau of Statistics, *National Offence Index (NOI)* (abs.gov.au, 2024).

12 Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Classification Structure* (abs.gov.au, 2023).

Supreme Court

In the 10 years to June 2024, there were 701 cases sentenced in the Supreme Court (Figure 1). The offender was male in 623 of those cases (88.9%), the offender was female in 72 cases (10.3%), and the offender was a company in 6 cases (0.9%).

Figure 1: Number of cases sentenced in the Supreme Court, by financial year and whether the offender was male, female or a company (701 cases)

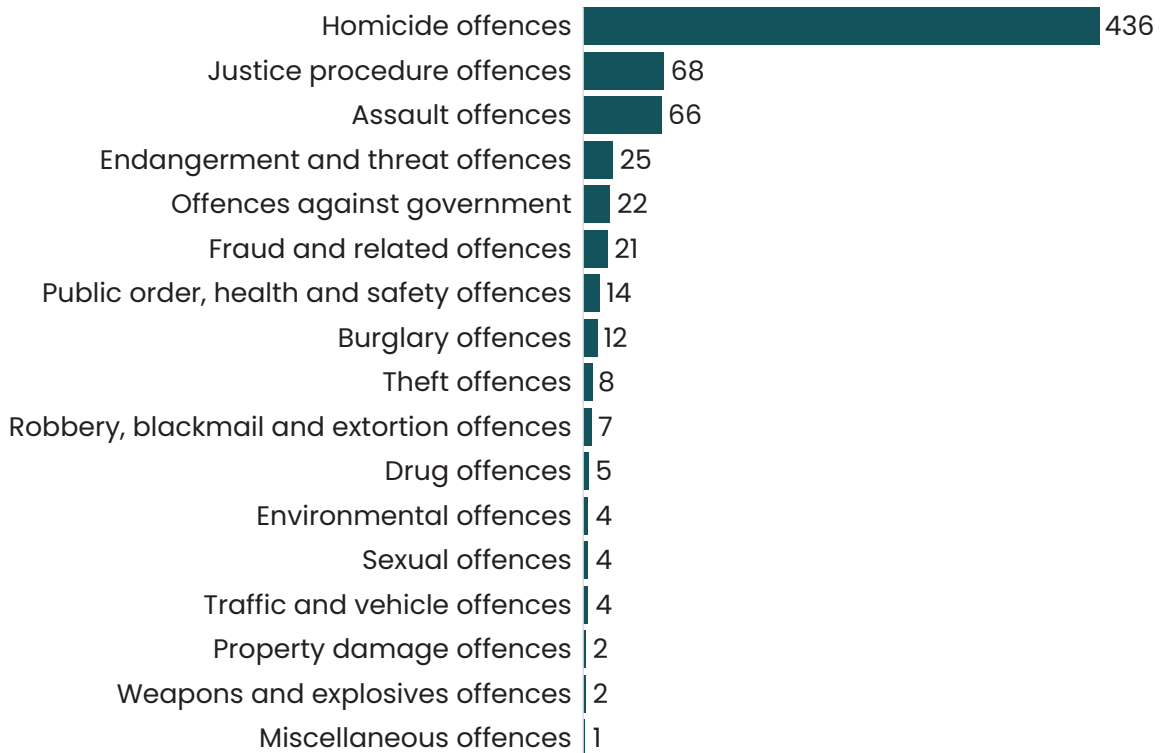


A homicide offence was the most common principal offence type sentenced in the Supreme Court (62.2% of cases) (Figure 2, page 4). Of the 436 cases of homicide offences, the most common principal offence was murder (209 cases).¹³

Murder was the most common homicide offence sentenced in the Supreme Court (209 cases)

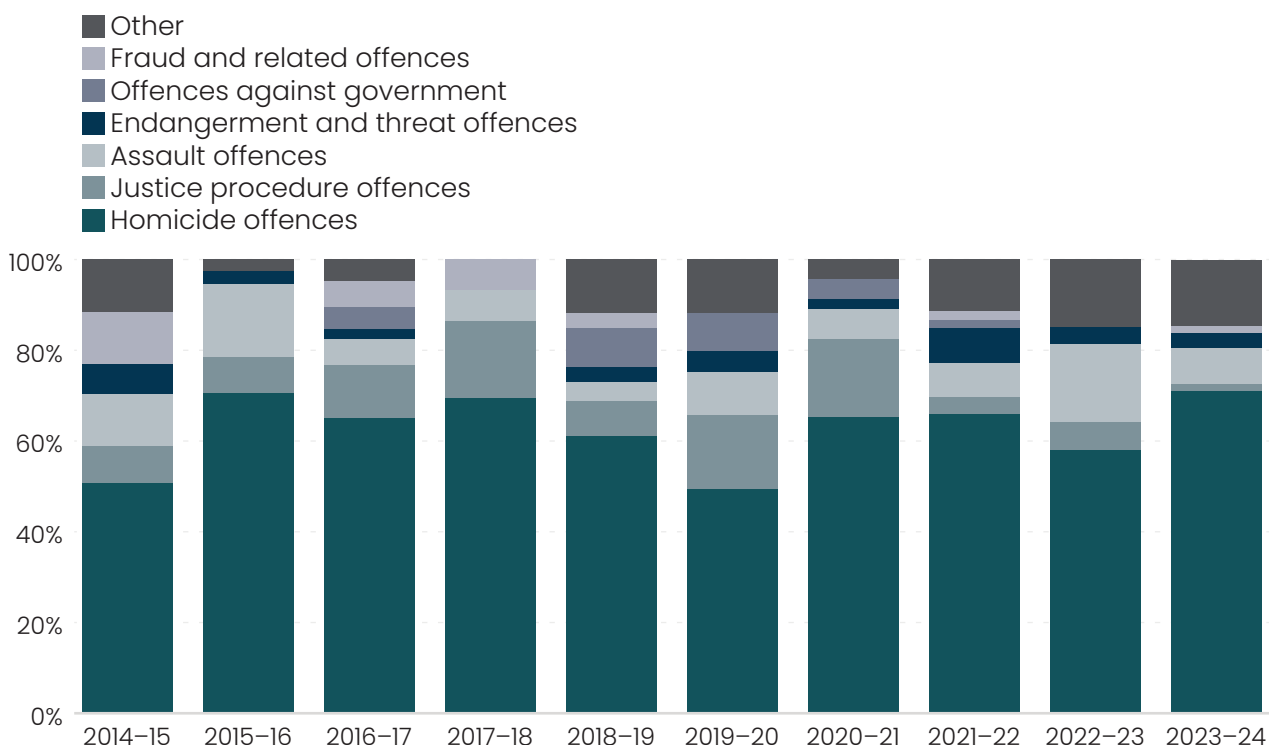
¹³ Murder is a common law offence with a maximum penalty of life imprisonment: *Crimes Act 1958* (Vic) s 3.

Figure 2: Principal offence types in the Supreme Court (701 cases)



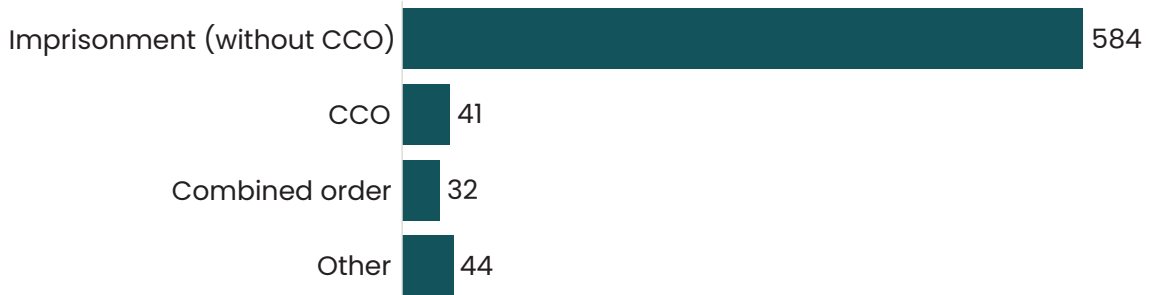
Homicide offences were the most common principal offence type each year, ranging from 49.4% of cases in 2019–20 to 71.0% in 2023–24 (Figure 3). Justice procedure offences were the second most common principal offence type overall though their prevalence varied considerably, ranging from 1.6% of cases in 2023–24 to 17.4% in 2020–21.

Figure 3: Principal offence types in the Supreme Court, by financial year



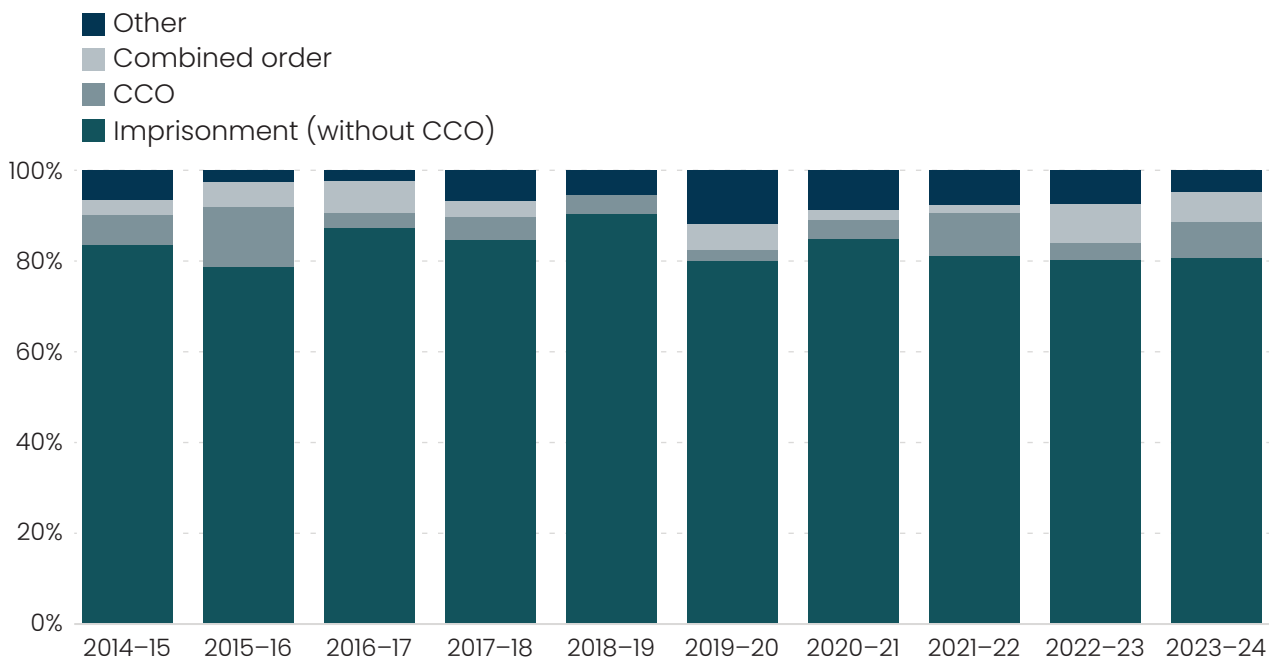
Imprisonment (without a CCO) was the most common principal sentence type in the Supreme Court (584 cases or 83.3%) (Figure 4). The remaining principal sentence types were CCOs (5.8% of cases), combined orders of imprisonment with a CCO (4.6%) and *other* sentence types (6.3%).¹⁴

Figure 4: Principal sentence types in the Supreme Court (701 cases)



During the 10-year period, the proportion of cases receiving imprisonment (without a CCO) ranged from 78.7% in 2015–16 to 90.3% in 2018–19 (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Principal sentence types in the Supreme Court, by financial year

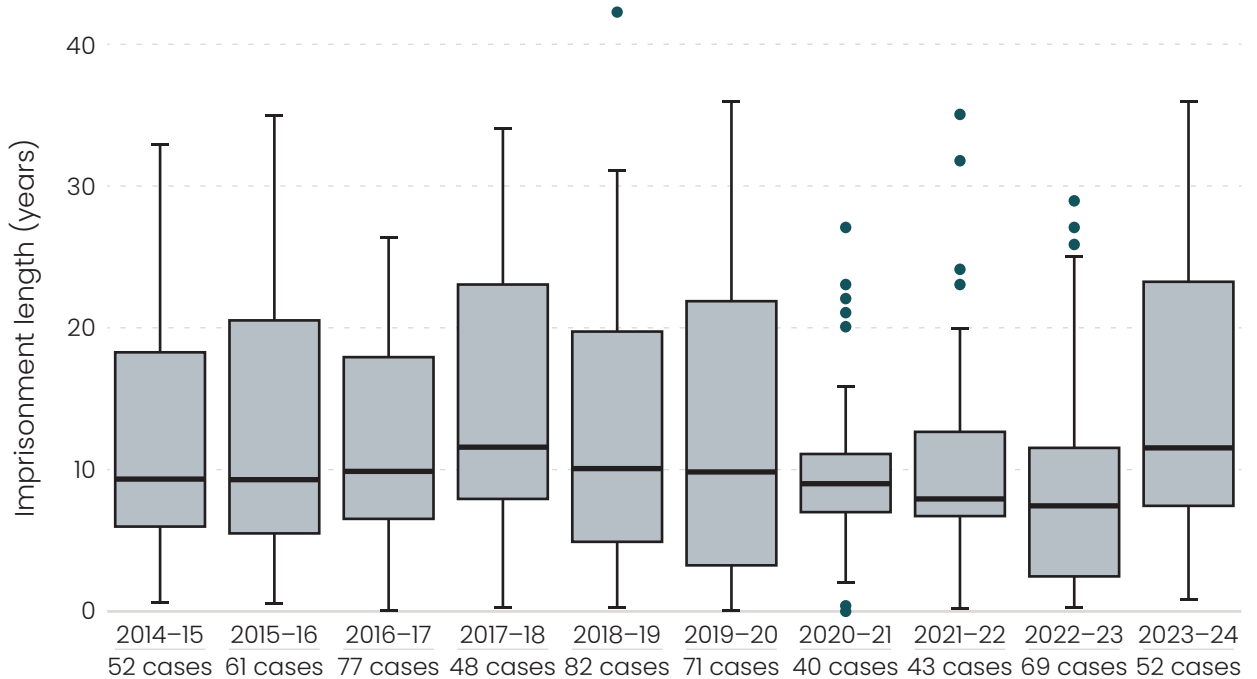


¹⁴ The 44 *other* sentence types were 12 youth justice centre orders/youth residential centre orders, 11 fines, 11 adjourned undertakings, 4 suspended sentences, 4 Commonwealth orders, 1 youth supervision order, and 1 probation order.

Imprisonment (with and without a CCO) was imposed in 616 cases in the Supreme Court during the 10-year period. Figure 6 uses box plots to present the range of total effective sentences in the 595 cases that received imprisonment lengths that were not life sentences.¹⁵

Total effective sentences ranged from 10 days to life imprisonment.¹⁶ Overall, the median length (excluding life sentences) was 9 years and 2 months, and the average length (excluding life sentences) was 12 years and 1 month. The median length ranged from 7.5 years in 2022–23 to 11.5 years in 2017–18 and 2023–24.

Figure 6: Box plots of imprisonment lengths (excluding life sentences) in the Supreme Court, by financial year (595 cases)



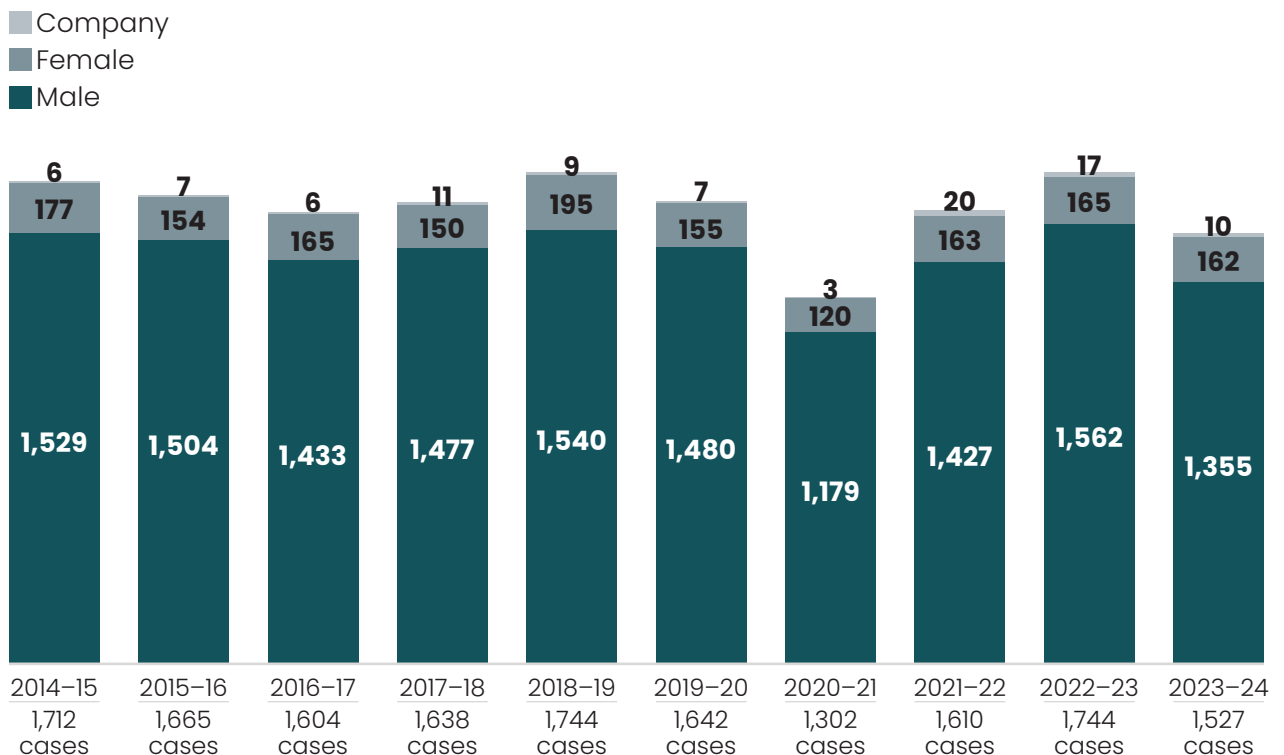
¹⁵ For an explanation of box plots, see 'Reading the data' below.

¹⁶ Life imprisonment was imposed in 21 cases, all of which involved a principal offence of murder.

County Court

In the 10 years to June 2024, there were 16,293 cases sentenced in the County Court. The gender of the offender (or whether the offender was a company) could be determined for 16,188 cases (Figure 7). Of those, the offender was male in 14,486 cases (89.5%), the offender was female in 1,606 cases (9.9%), and the offender was a company in 96 cases (0.6%).

Figure 7: Number of cases sentenced in the County Court, by financial year and whether the offender was male, female or a company (16,188 cases)¹⁷



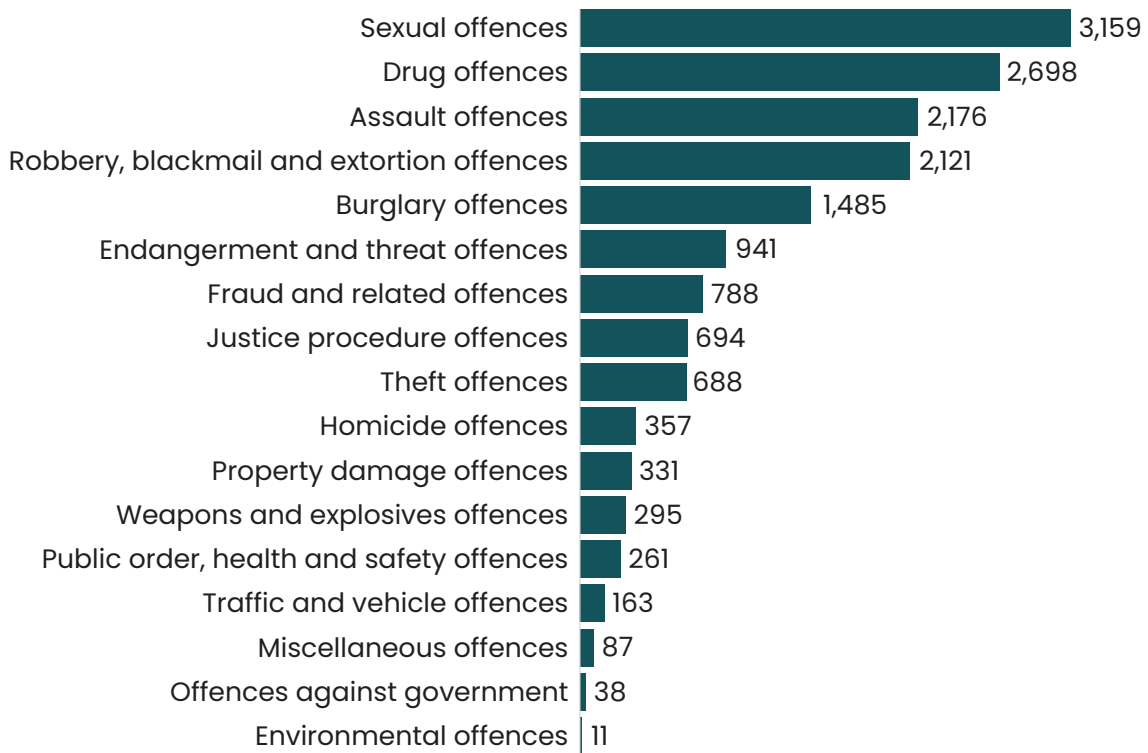
Sexual offences were the most common principal offence type in the County Court (19.4% of 16,293 cases), followed by drug offences (16.6%) and assault offences (13.4%) (Figure 8, page 8). Of the 3,159 cases of sexual offences, the most common principal offence was sexual penetration of a child aged 12 to under 16 (565 cases).¹⁸

Sexual penetration of a child aged 12 to under 16 was the most common sexual offence in the County Court (565 cases)

¹⁷ The gender of the offender was unknown in 3 cases in 2015–16, 2 cases in 2017–18, 20 cases in 2018–19, 7 cases in 2019–20, 2020–21 and 2021–22, 35 cases in 2022–23 and 34 cases in 2023–24. These 105 individuals are not shown in Figure 7.

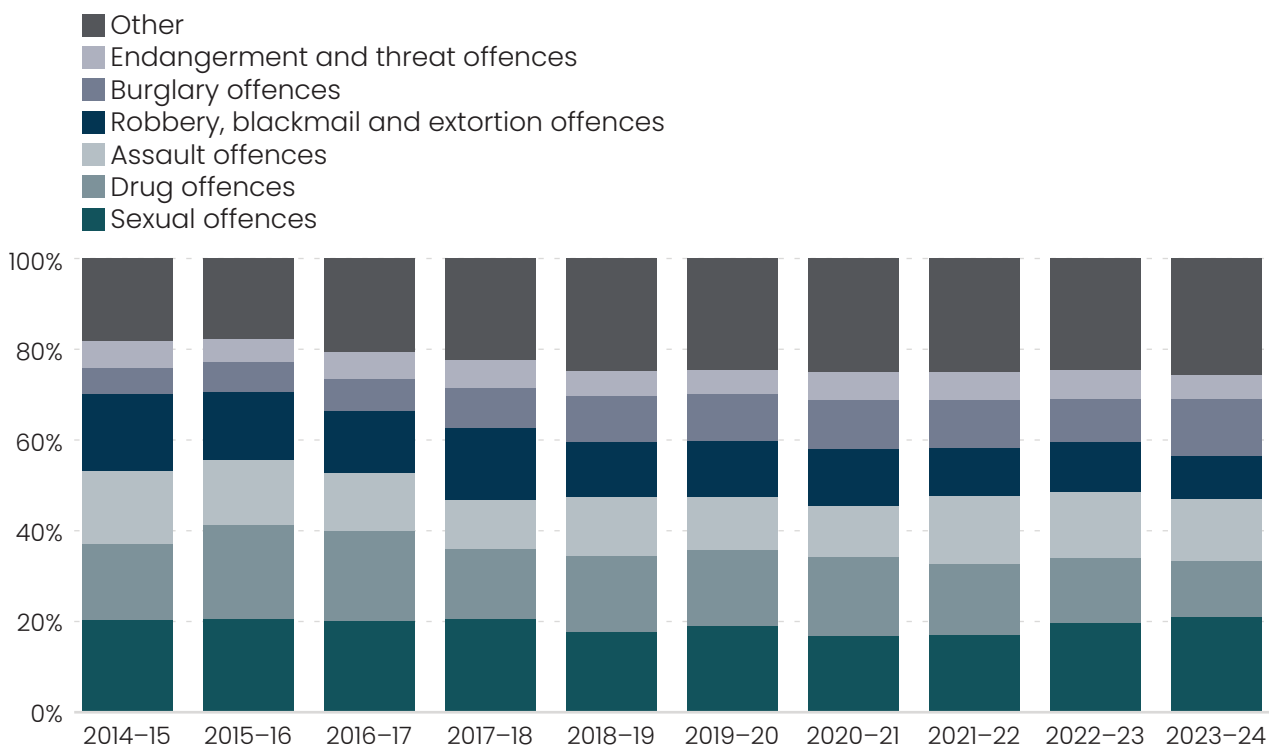
¹⁸ In this report, the offence of sexual penetration of a child aged 12 to under 16 includes the offence of sexual penetration of a child aged 10 to under 16 (*Crimes Act 1958* (Vic) s 49(b), repealed), sexual penetration of a child aged 12 to under 16 (*Crimes Act 1958* (Vic) s 49(b)), and sexual penetration of a child aged 12 to under 16 under care, supervision or authority (*Crimes Act 1958* (Vic) s 45(2)(c), repealed).

Figure 8: Principal offence types in the County Court (16,293 cases)



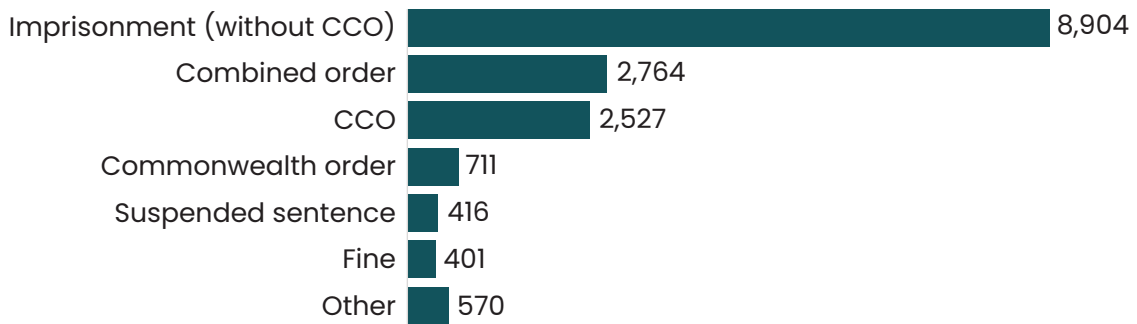
Sexual offences were the most common principal offence type in all but two of the 10 years, ranging from 16.8% of cases in 2020–21 to 21.1% of cases in 2023–24 (Figure 9). Drug offences were the most common principal offence type in 2020–21 (17.5%) and 2015–16 (20.7%).

Figure 9: Principal offence types in the County Court, by financial year



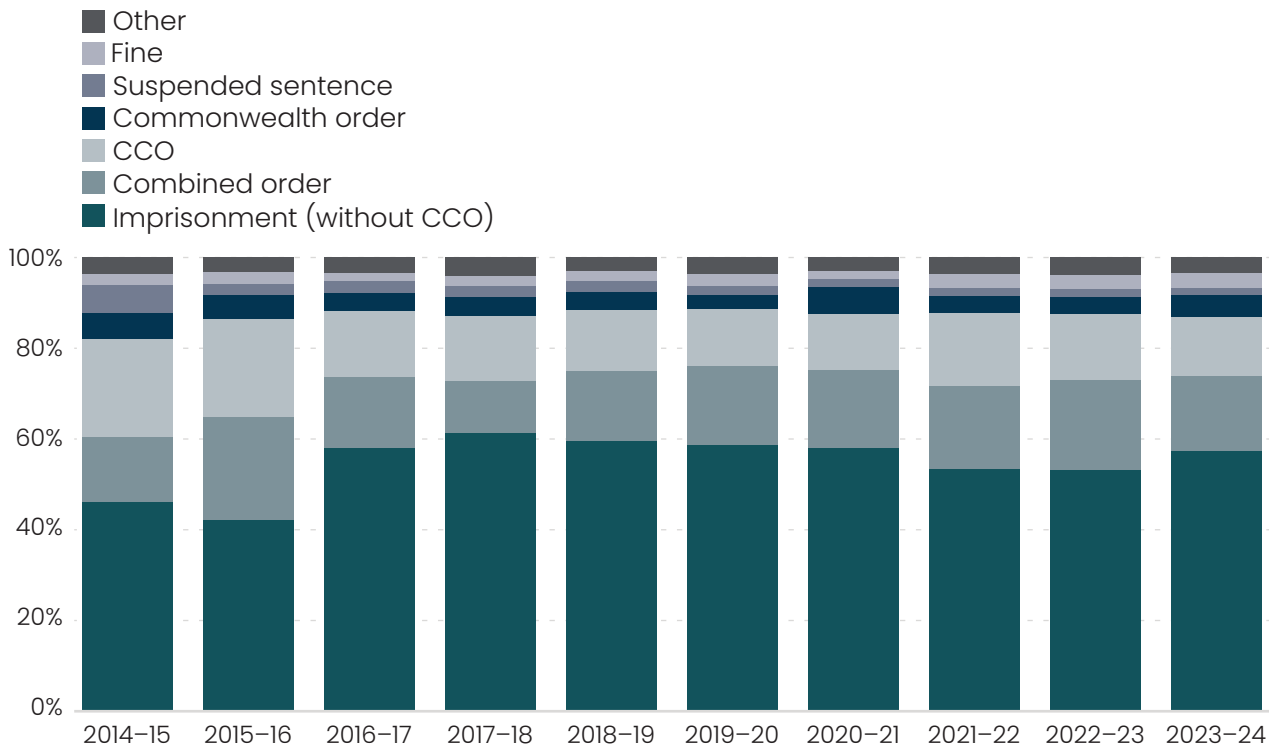
Imprisonment (without a CCO) was the most common principal sentence type in the County Court (54.6% of cases) (Figure 10). The remaining principal sentence types were combined orders of imprisonment with a CCO (17.0% of cases), CCOs (15.5%), Commonwealth orders (4.4%), suspended sentences (2.6%), fines (2.5%), and other sentence types (3.5%).¹⁹

Figure 10: Principal sentence types in the County Court (16,293 cases)



The proportion of cases receiving imprisonment (without a CCO) ranged from 42.1% in 2015–16 to 61.3% in 2017–18 (Figure 11).

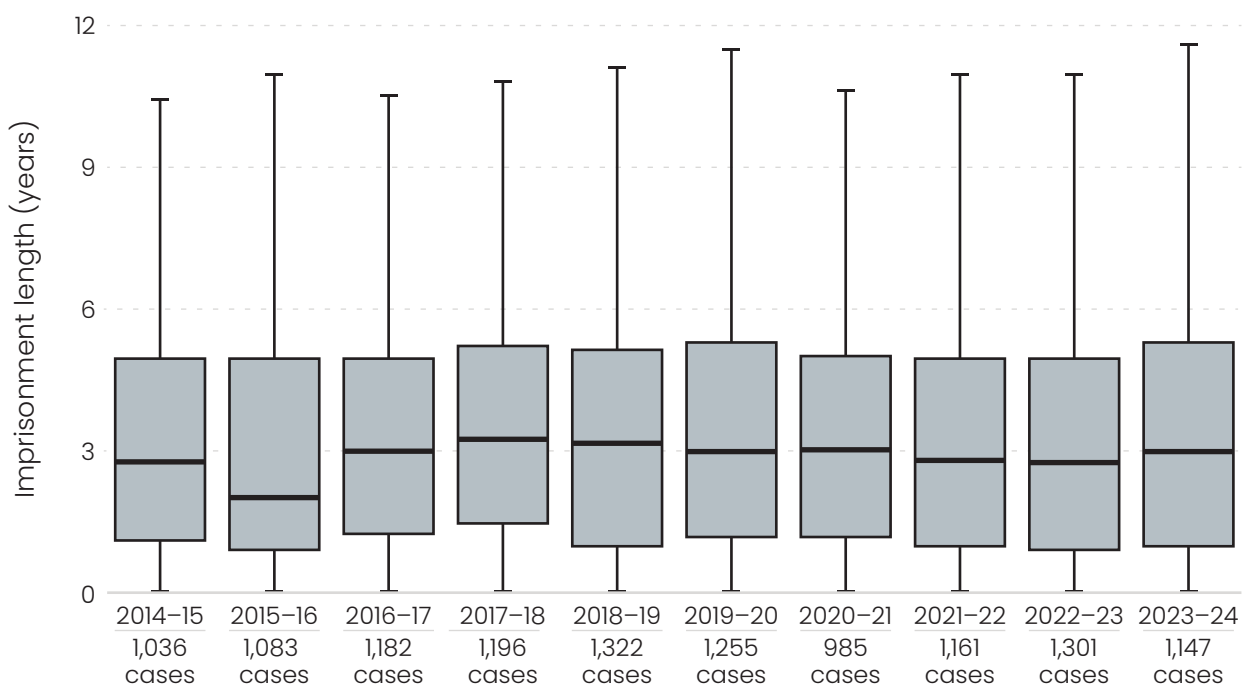
Figure 11: Principal sentence types in the County Court, by financial year



¹⁹ The 570 *other* sentence types were 290 youth justice centre orders/youth residential centre orders, 209 adjourned undertakings, 51 drug and alcohol treatment orders, 13 discharges with conviction, 2 residential treatment orders, 2 probation orders, 2 good behaviour bonds, and 1 hospital security order.

Imprisonment (with and without a CCO) was imposed in 11,668 cases in the County Court during the 10-year period. Figure 12 uses box plots to present the range of imprisonment lengths in those cases, including the minimum, median and maximum lengths imposed.²⁰ Imprisonment lengths ranged from 1 day to 29 years²¹ (Figure 12). Overall, the median length was 3 years, and the average length was 3 years and 8 months. Imprisonment lengths were less than or equal to 5 years in 72.2% of cases (8,430 of the 11,668 cases that received imprisonment).

Figure 12: Box plots of imprisonment lengths in the County Court, by financial year (11,668 cases)²²



A fine was the principal sentence type in 401 cases in the County Court during the 10-year period. In 306 of those cases, the offender was an individual, and in 95 cases, the offender was a company.²³ Fine amounts for individuals and companies are considered separately because maximum penalties for companies are typically five times greater than the maximum penalties for individuals.²⁴

²⁰ For an explanation of box plots, see 'Reading the data' below.

²¹ A sentence of 29 years' imprisonment was imposed in *DPP v Hu* [2023] VCC 739 for rape and a number of other offences. The second longest sentence was 28 years' imprisonment, which was imposed in *DPP v Henderson (a pseudonym)* [2021] VCC 17 for various child sex offences.

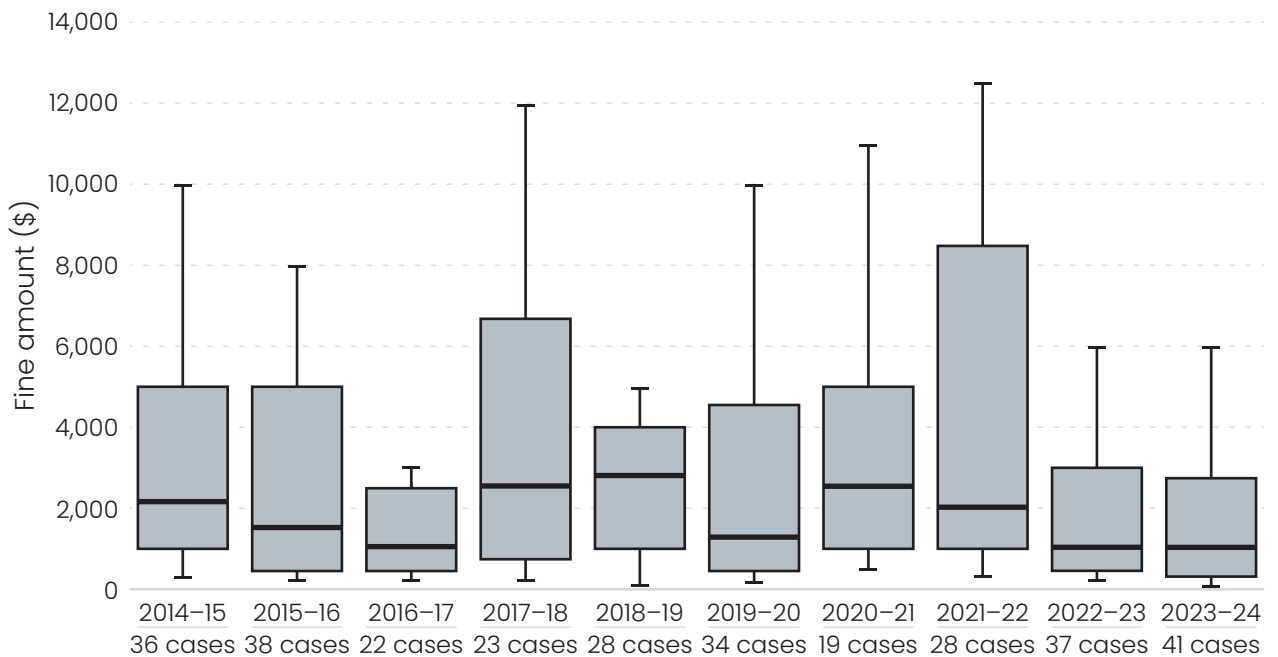
²² Statistical outliers have been removed from Figure 12 to improve readability.

²³ Fines were imposed in 435 cases in total, including alongside other sentence types. In 401 cases, a fine was the principal sentence type in the case.

²⁴ *Sentencing Act 1991* (Vic) s 113D(1).

The fines imposed on individuals ranged from \$50 to \$180,000.²⁵ The median fine for individuals was \$1,550, and the average fine was \$6,992. The median fine ranged from \$1,000 in 2016–17, 2022–23 and 2023–24 to \$2,750 in 2018–19 (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Box plots of fine amounts for individuals in the County Court, by financial year (306 cases)²⁶



The fines imposed on companies ranged from \$8,000 to \$2,980,000.²⁷ The median fine was \$300,000, and the average fine was \$384,305.²⁸

25 A fine of \$180,000 was imposed on one offender in *DPP v Fergusson* [2017] VCC 1276 (the offender was sentenced for a workplace health and safety offence that had resulted in a workplace fatality).

26 Statistical outliers have been removed from Figure 13 to improve readability.

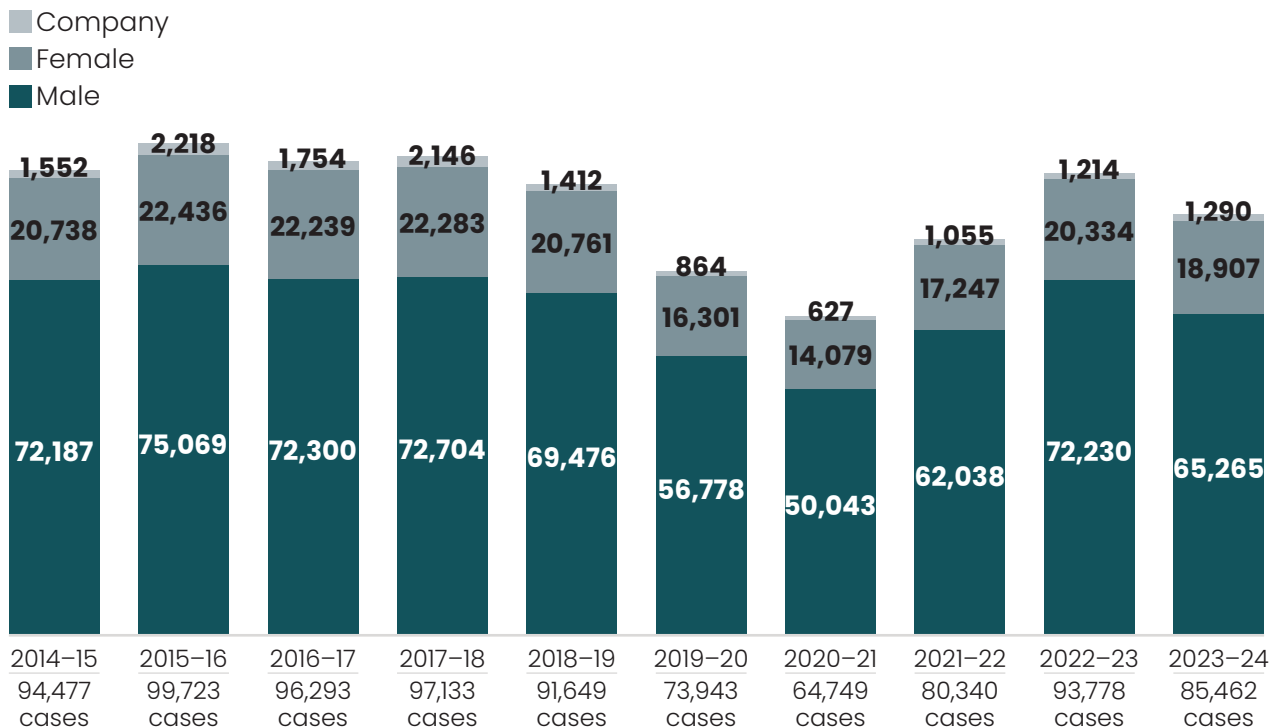
27 In *DPP v Bradbury Industrial Services Pty Ltd* [2023] VCC 1029, a company received a combination of fines totalling \$2,980,000 for offences contrary to the *Dangerous Goods Act 1985* (Vic), the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* (Vic), and the *Environmental Protection Act 1970* (Vic). The second highest fine received by a company was \$2,100,000, which was imposed in *DPP v Jones & Anor* [2023] VCC 2054 for a single charge of recklessly endangering a person at a workplace contrary to section 32 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* (Vic).

28 Box plots were not provided for companies as there was an insufficient number of fines each year to present a meaningful trend.

Magistrates' Court

In the 10 years to 30 June 2024, there were 877,547 cases sentenced in the Magistrates' Court (Figure 14). The offender was male in 668,090 cases (76.1%), the offender was female in 195,325 cases (22.3%), and the offender was a company in 14,132 cases (1.6%).

Figure 14: Number of cases sentenced in the Magistrates' Court, by financial year and whether the offender was male, female or a company (877,547 cases)



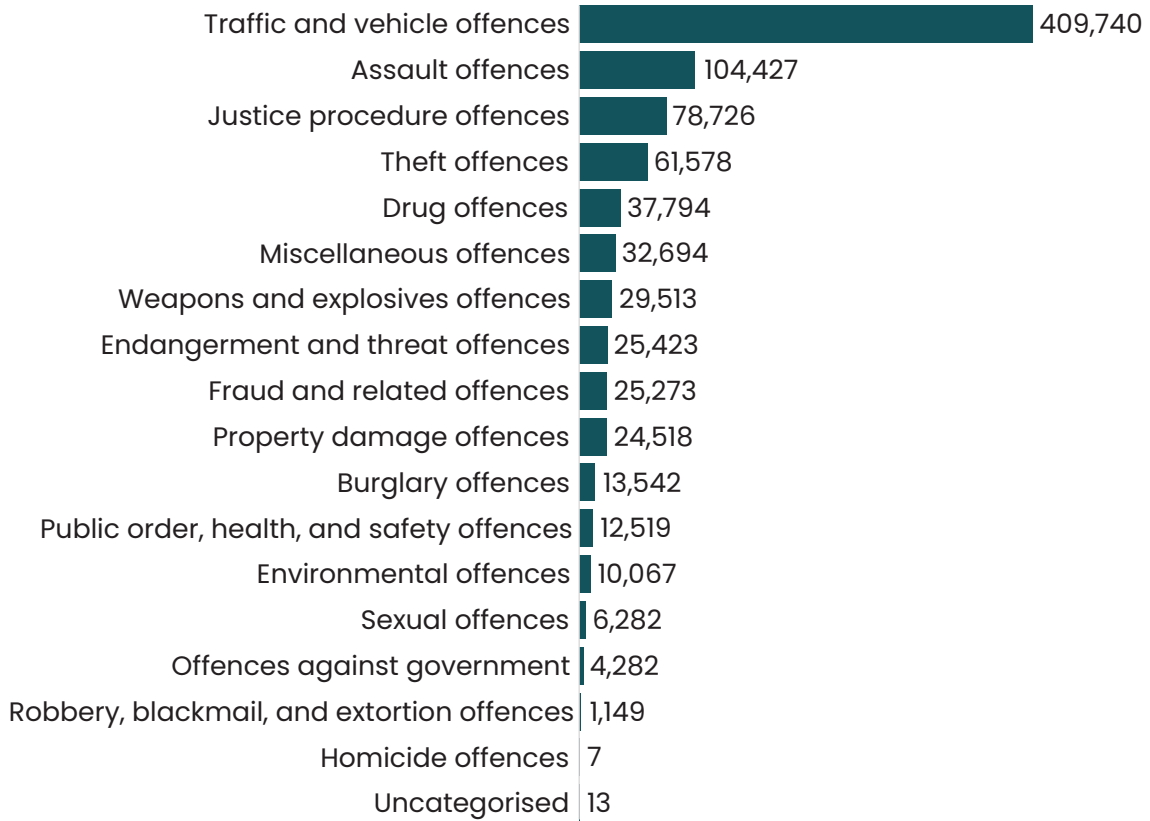
Traffic and vehicle offences were the most common principal offence type sentenced in the Magistrates' Court (46.7% of cases) (Figure 15, page 13). Of the 409,740 cases of traffic and vehicle offences, the most common principal offence was driving while suspended (65,806 cases).²⁹

Driving while suspended was the most common traffic and vehicle offence in the Magistrates' Court (65,806 cases)

²⁹ *Road Safety Act 1986* (Vic) s 30. The maximum penalty for driving while suspended is 240 penalty units or 2 years' imprisonment.

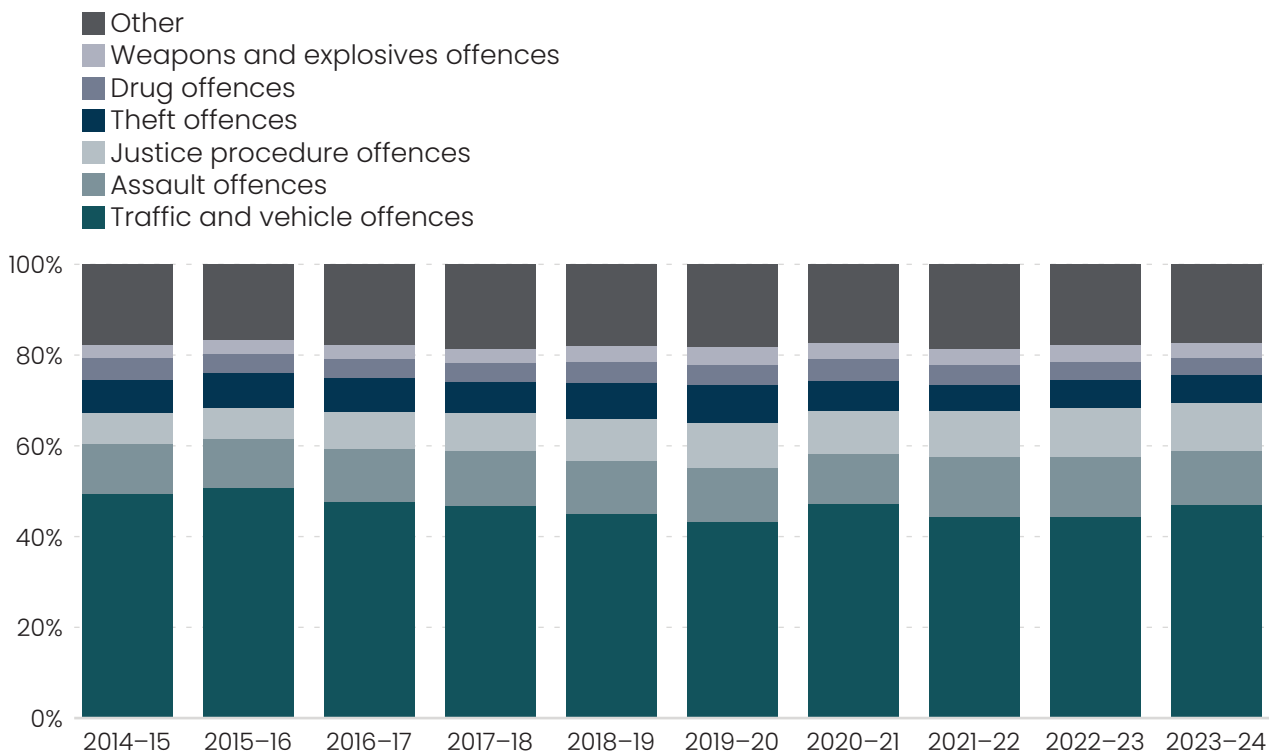
³⁰ In Figure 15, 13 principal offence types were not able to be sufficiently classified. The 7 homicide offences sentenced in the Magistrates' Court were inciting suicide (3 cases), dangerous driving causing death (3 cases), and aiding and abetting suicide (1 case).

Figure 15: Principal offence types in the Magistrates’ Court (877,547 cases)³⁰



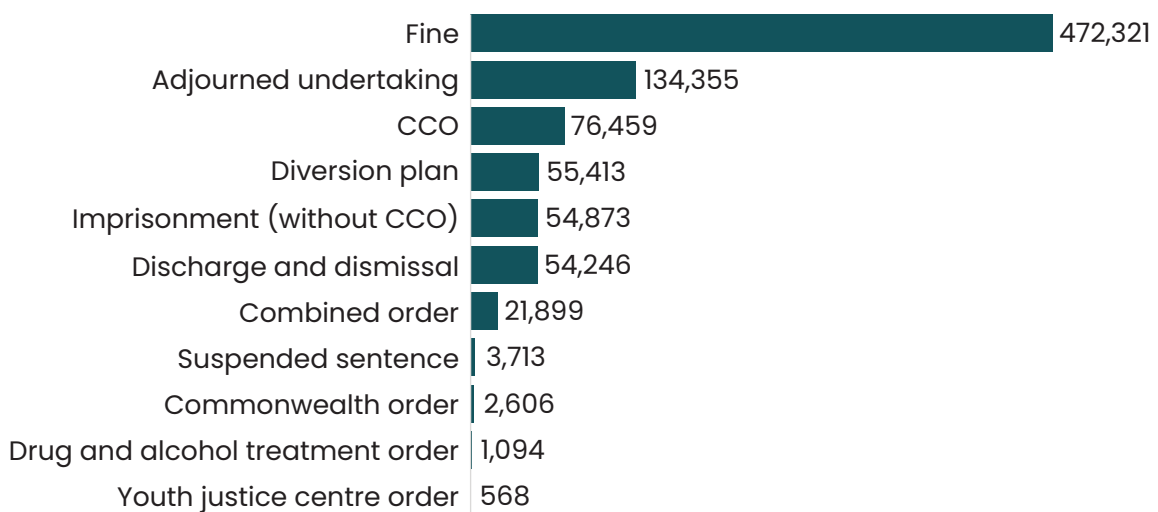
Traffic and vehicle offences were the most common principal offence type each year, ranging from 43.3% of cases in 2019–20 to 50.7% of cases in 2015–16 (Figure 16). Assault offences were the second most common principal offence type, varying between 10.9% and 13.4% of cases each year.

Figure 16: Principal offence types in the Magistrates’ Court, by financial year



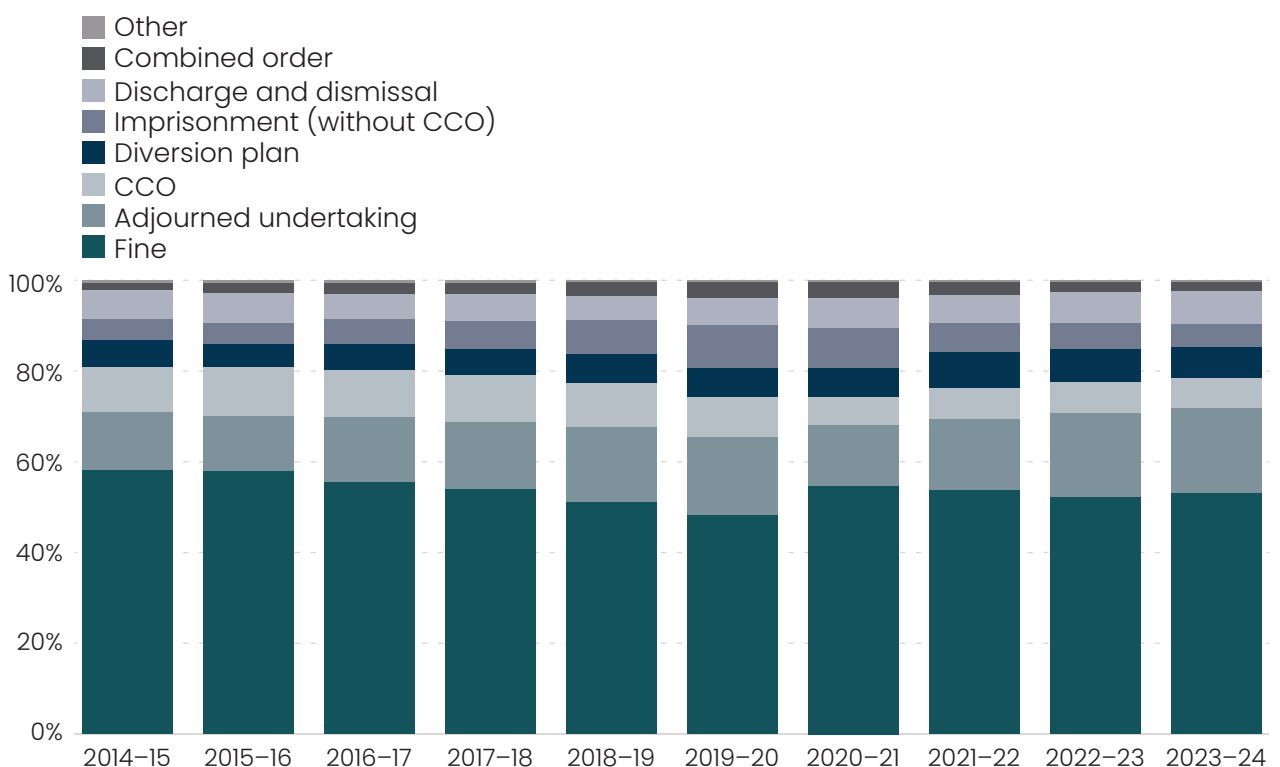
A fine was the most common principal sentence type in the Magistrates' Court (53.8% of cases) (Figure 17). The remaining principal sentence types were adjourned undertakings (15.3% of cases), CCOs (8.7%), diversion plans (6.3%), imprisonment (without a CCO) (6.3%), discharge and dismissal (6.2%), combined orders of imprisonment with a CCO (2.5%), suspended sentences (0.4%), Commonwealth orders (0.3%), drug and alcohol treatment orders (0.1%), and youth justice centre orders (0.1%).

Figure 17: Principal sentence types in the Magistrates' Court (877,547 cases)



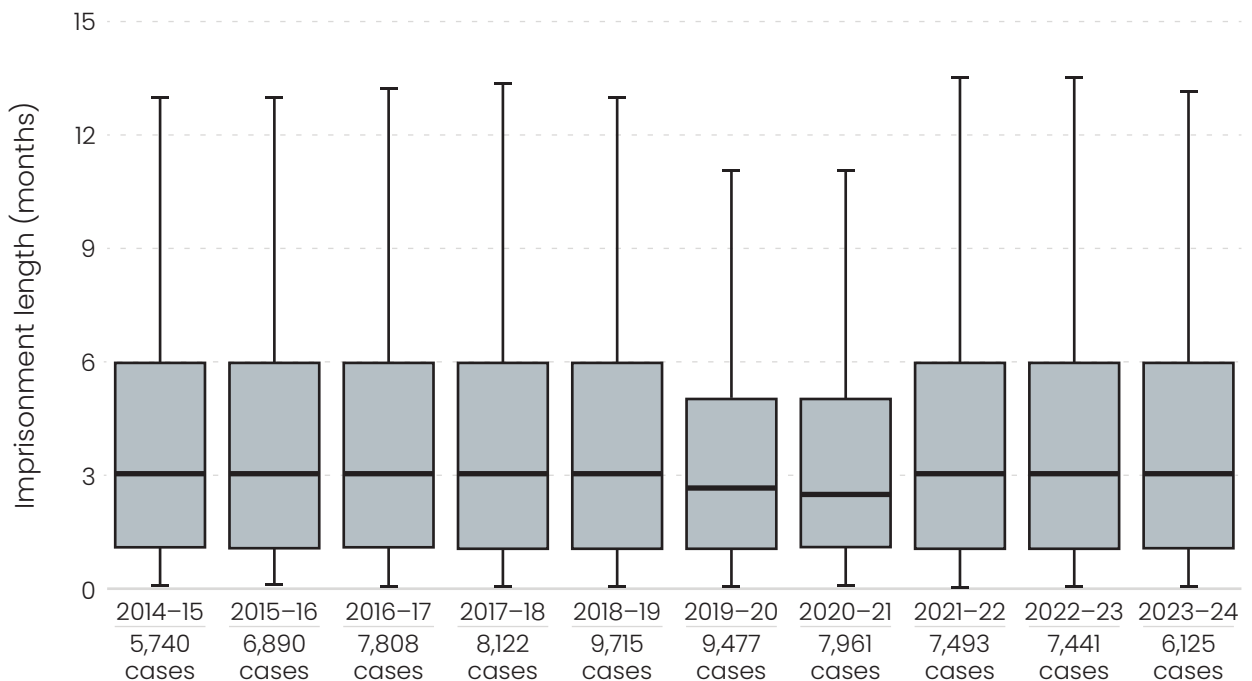
The proportion of cases receiving a fine ranged from 48.4% in 2019–20 to 57.6% in 2015–16 (Figure 18). The prevalence of adjourned undertakings varied, but it was generally higher in recent years, increasing from 12.2% in 2014–15 to a high of 18.9% in 2023–24.

Figure 18: Principal sentence types in the Magistrates' Court, by financial year



Imprisonment (with and without a CCO) was the principal sentence type in 76,772 cases in the Magistrates' Court during the 10-year period. Figure 19 uses box plots to represent the range of imprisonment lengths for the total effective sentence in those cases, including the minimum, median and maximum imprisonment lengths imposed.³¹ Imprisonment lengths ranged from 1 day to 5 years.³² Overall, the median length was 3 months, and the average length was 4.4 months. The median length was 3 months in all years except 2019–20 and 2020–21, when it was 2.6 months and 2.5 months respectively.

Figure 19: Box plots of imprisonment lengths in the Magistrates' Court, by financial year (76,772 cases)³³



31 For an explanation of box plots, see 'Reading the data' below.

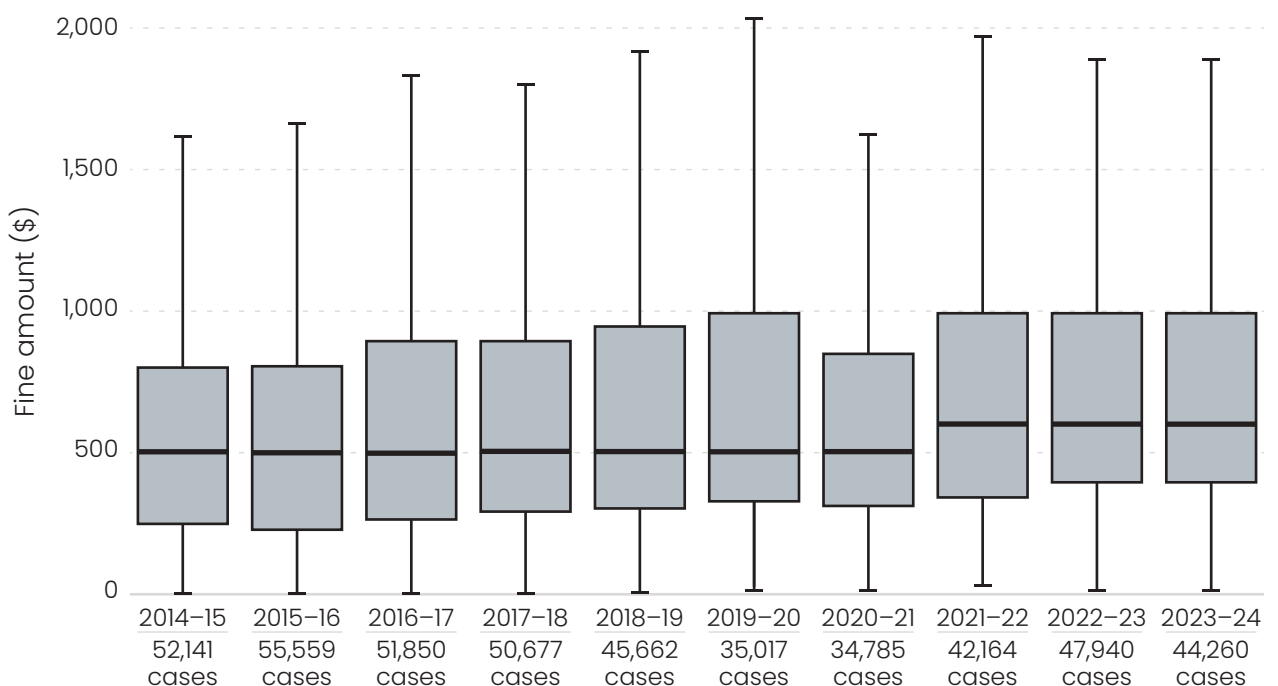
32 The jurisdictional limit in the Magistrates' Court is 5 years' imprisonment: *Sentencing Act 1991 (Vic)* s 113B. A sentence of 5 years' imprisonment was imposed in 1 case in the Magistrates' Court.

33 Statistical outliers have been removed from Figure 19 to improve readability.

A fine was the principal sentence type in 472,321 cases in the Magistrates' Court during the 10-year period. These fines were imposed on 460,055 individuals and 12,266 companies. Maximum penalties for companies are typically five times greater than the maximum penalties for individuals.³⁴ In the Magistrates' Court, the jurisdictional limit for fines also varies by whether the offender is an individual or a company: fines can be up to 500 penalty units for an individual (\$98,795 in 2024–25) and 2,500 penalty units for a company (\$493,975 in 2024–25).³⁵

The fines imposed on individuals ranged from 30 cents to \$255,000.³⁶ The median fine was \$500, and the average fine was \$755. The median fine for individuals was \$500 each year until 2021–22, when it rose to \$600, remaining at that amount for the two most recent years (Figure 20).

Figure 20: Box plots of fine amounts for individuals in the Magistrates' Court, by financial year (460,055 cases)³⁷



34 *Sentencing Act 1991* (Vic) s 113D(1).

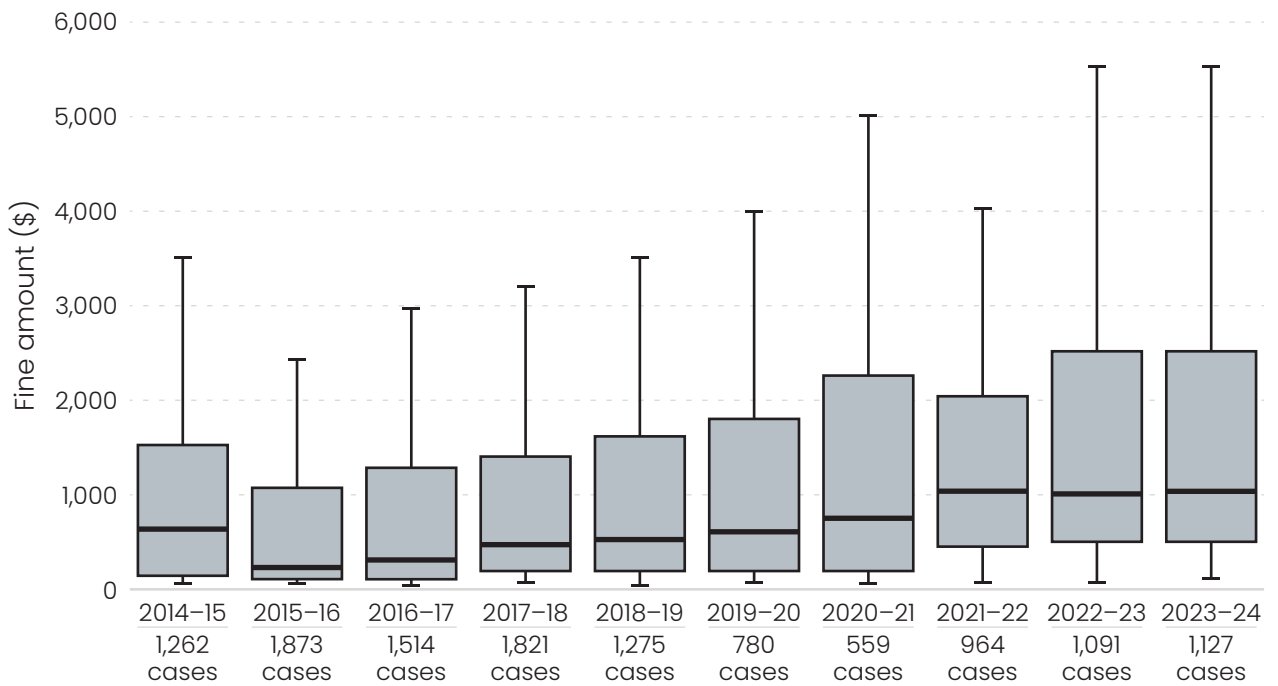
35 *Sentencing Act 1991* (Vic) ss 112A, 113D(1A).

36 Fines for individuals were less than \$10 in 23 cases. These cases all included significant 'statutory costs orders' pursuant to section 85K of the *Sentencing Act 1991* (Vic), which the offenders must pay.

37 Statistical outliers have been removed from Figure 20 to improve readability.

The fines imposed on companies ranged from \$5 to \$2,100,000.³⁸ The median fine for companies was \$500, and the average fine was \$4,832. The median fine ranged from \$200 in 2015–16 to \$1,000 in each of the three most recent years (Figure 21).

Figure 21: Box plots of fine amounts for companies in the Magistrates' Court, by financial year (12,266 cases)³⁹



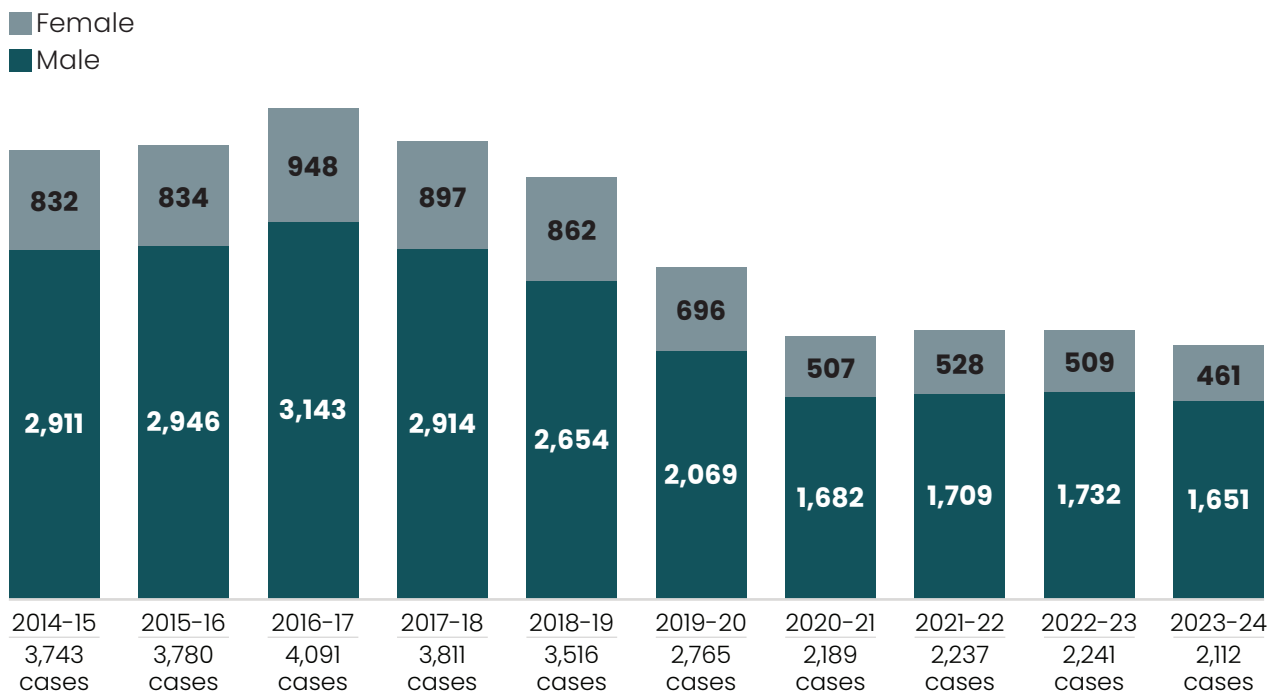
³⁸ The \$2.1 million fine was imposed in 2023–24 for numerous breaches of the *Electricity Safety Act 1998* (Act). The second largest fine (\$1,227,000) was also imposed in 2023–24 for over 1,000 charges of failing to pay employee entitlements.

³⁹ Statistical outliers have been removed from Figure 21 to improve readability.

Children's Court

In the 10 years to June 2024, there were 30,485 cases sentenced in the Children's Court (Figure 22). In 23,411 of those cases (76.8%), the children and young people were male, and in 7,074 cases (23.2%), the children and young people were female.

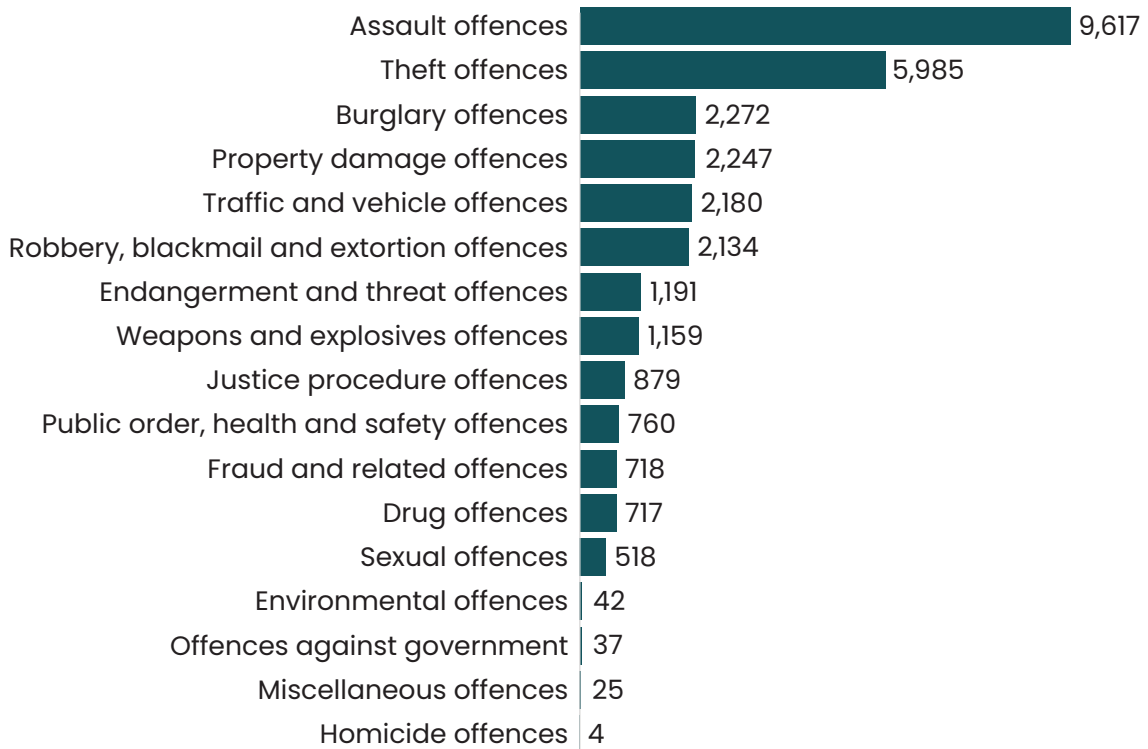
Figure 22: Number of cases sentenced in the Children's Court (30,485 cases)



Assault offences were the most common principal offence type in the Children's Court (31.5% of cases), followed by theft offences (19.6%) (Figure 23, page 19). Of the 9,617 cases of assault offences, the most common principal offence was unlawful assault (3,931 cases).

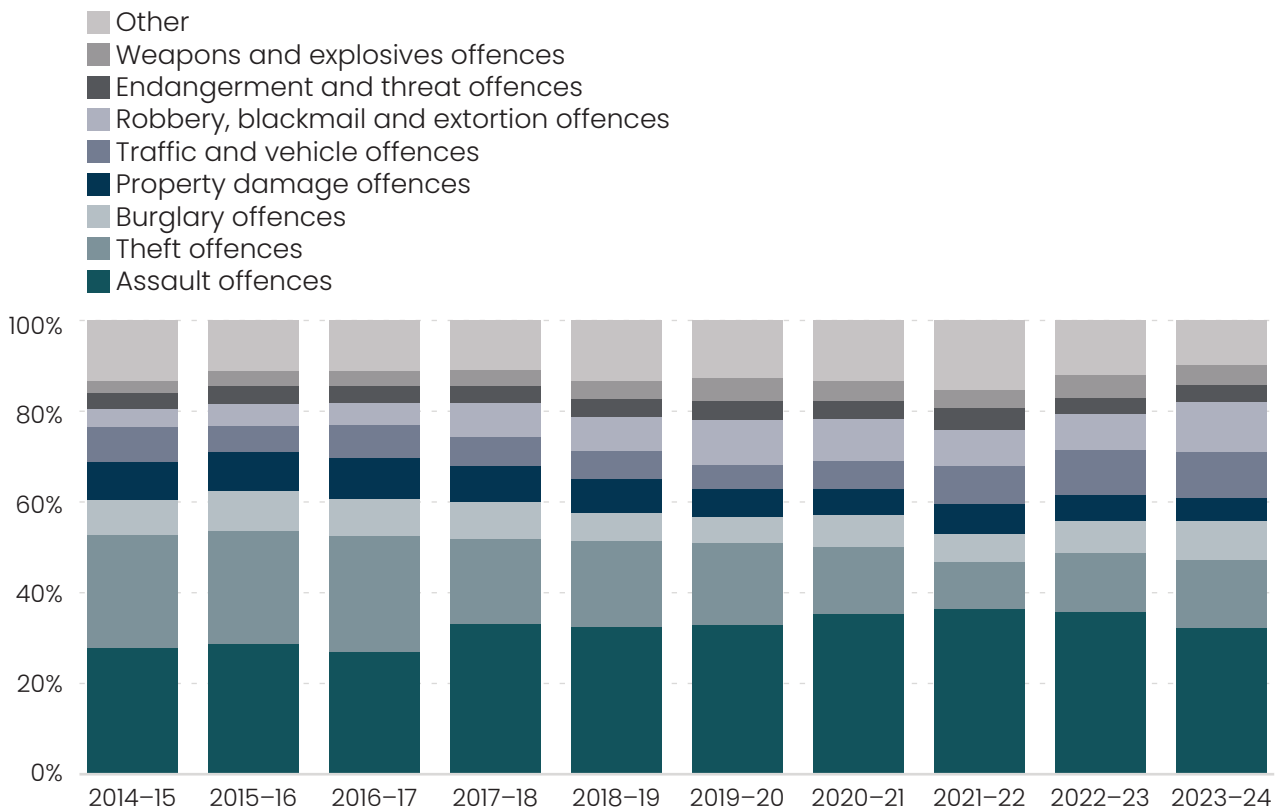
Unlawful assault was the most common assault offence in the Children's Court (3,931 cases)

Figure 23: Principal offence types in the Children’s Court (30,485 cases)⁴⁰



Assault offences were the most common principal offence type each year, ranging from 27.0% of cases in 2016–17 to 36.4% in 2021–22 (Figure 24).

Figure 24: Principal offence types in the Children’s Court, by financial year

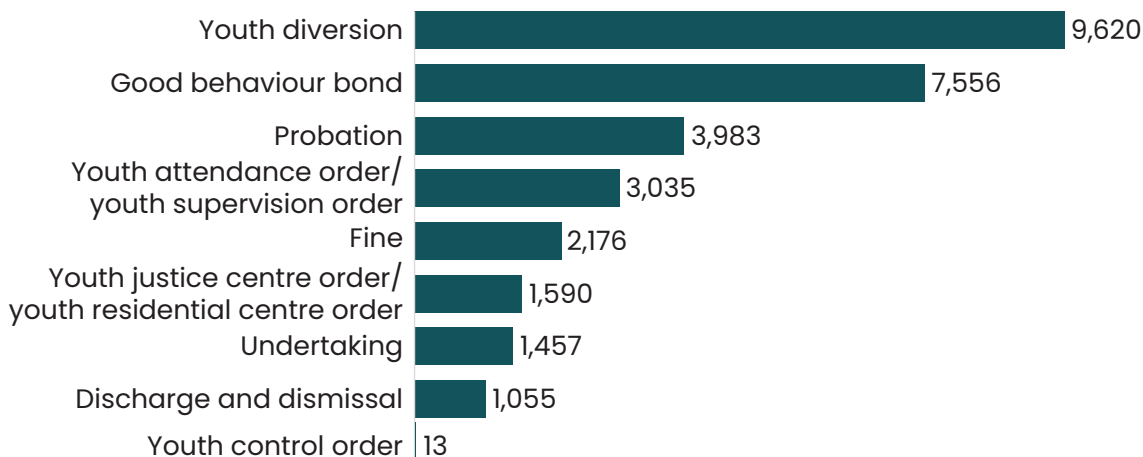


40 The principal offence in the 4 cases of homicide offences was dangerous driving causing death, contrary to section 319 of the *Crimes Act 1958* (Vic).

Theft offences were the second most common principal offence type each year, though their prevalence generally decreased over the 10-year period, from 25.1% in 2014–15 to 14.9% in 2023–24.

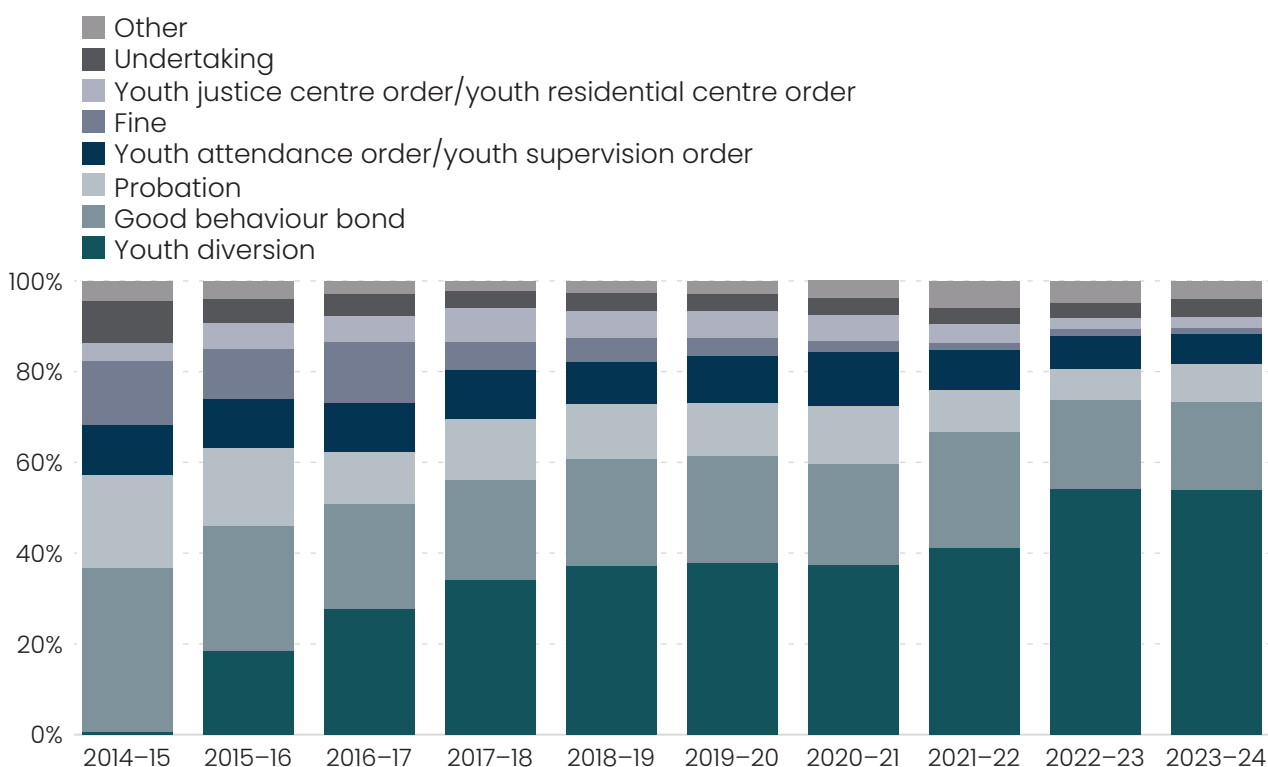
Youth diversion was the most common principal sentence type in the Children’s Court (9,620 cases or 31.6%) (Figure 25).

Figure 25: Principal sentence types in the Children’s Court (30,485 cases)



Good behaviour bonds were the most common sentence in 2014–15 and 2015–16. However, since then, youth diversion was consistently the most prevalent sentence type, accounting for 1,139 (53.9%) of the 2,112 cases sentenced in 2023–24 (Figure 26).

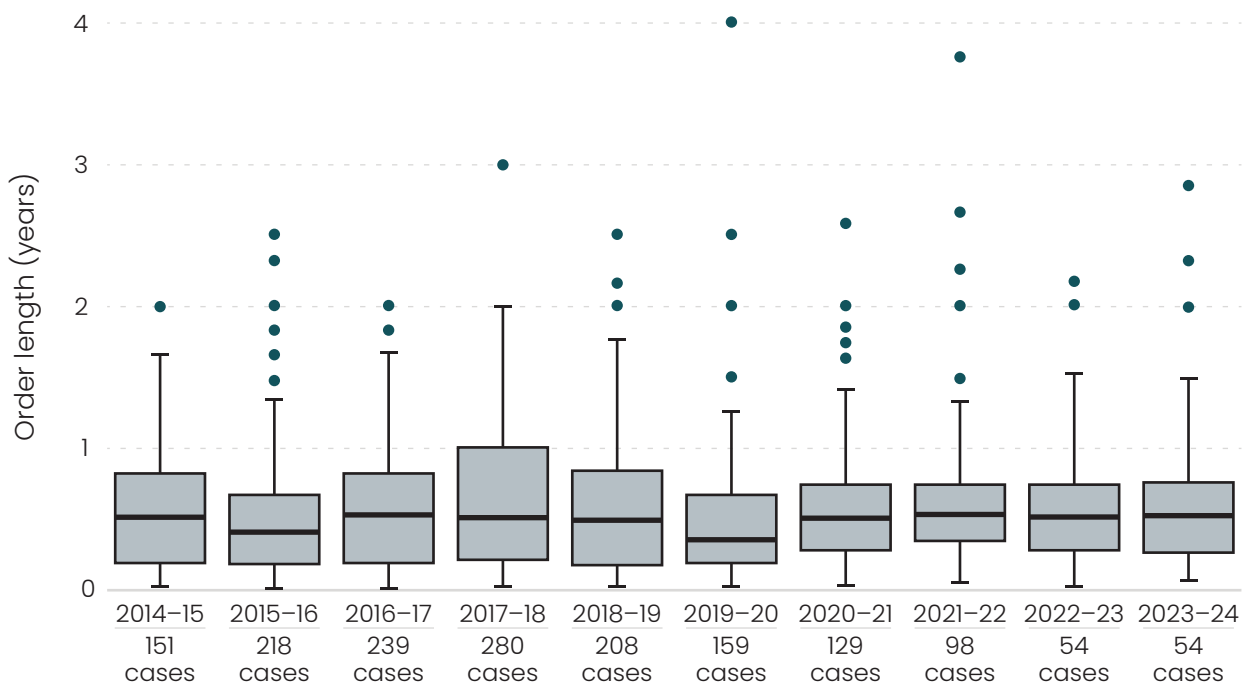
Figure 26: Principal sentence types in the Children’s Court, by financial year⁴¹



⁴¹ Other sentence types include 1,055 discharges and dismissals, and 13 youth control orders, in total accounting for 3.5% of all cases in the 10-year period.

A youth justice centre order or youth residential centre order was imposed in 1,590 cases in the Children’s Court during the 10-year period. Figure 27 uses box plots to represent the lengths of youth justice centre orders and youth residential centre orders in those cases, including the minimum, median and maximum lengths imposed.⁴² Lengths ranged from 1 day to 4 years.⁴³ The median length was 6 months, and the average length was 6.9 months. The lowest median length was 4 months in 2019–20; the median has remained at 6 months since 2020–21.

Figure 27: Box plots of youth justice centre order lengths and youth residential centre order lengths in the Children’s Court, by financial year (1,590 cases)

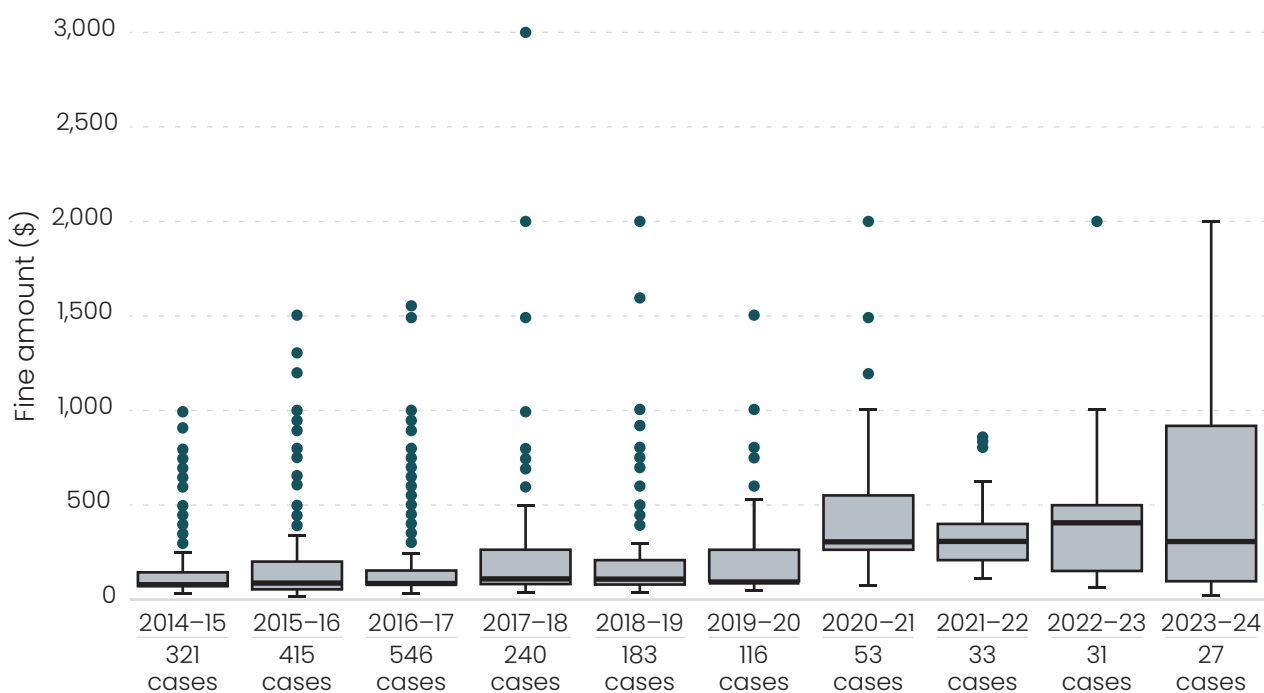


42 For an explanation of box plots, see ‘Reading the data’ below.

43 The maximum period of a youth justice centre order is 4 years: *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* (Vic) s 413(3)(b). A 4-year youth justice centre order was imposed in just 1 case in the Children’s Court.

A fine was the principal sentence type in 2,176 cases in the Children’s Court over the 10-year period.⁴⁴ Fines decreased significantly as a proportion of sentences each year, from 14.2% of cases in 2014–15 to 1.3% in 2023–24. The maximum fine that can be imposed in the Children’s Court is 5 penalty units per offence (or the maximum fine that an adult can receive for the same offence if that amount is less than 5 penalty units).⁴⁵ Fine amounts ranged from \$5 to \$3,000.⁴⁶ The median fine was \$79, and the average fine was \$200. The median fine ranged from \$72 in 2014–15 to \$400 in 2022–23 (Figure 28).

Figure 28: Box plots of fine amounts in the Children’s Court, by financial year (1,965 cases)



44 The fine amount could not be determined for 211 cases. These cases are omitted from Figure 28.

45 *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* (Vic) s 373(a).

46 One child or young person was sentenced to an aggregate fine of \$3,000 for 7 charges.

Reading the data

Data sources

The Council receives data on sentencing outcomes from Court Services Victoria. The Council regularly undertakes extensive quality control measures for current and historical data. While every effort is made to ensure that the data in this report is accurate, the data is subject to revision, including in response to publicly available sentencing remarks. The data in this report may differ slightly from the data in previous *Sentencing in Victoria* reports.

Counting rules

This report presents data on the number of cases sentenced in Victorian courts. For case data, the counting rule for principal proven offences counts just one charge per case: the offence that received the most severe sentence within a case (or the most serious offence according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' *National Offence Index* if multiple offences received an equally severe sentence). This counting rule is useful for understanding the number of people sentenced and how their most serious offence is usually sentenced. The Council's SACStat database includes the prevalence of different offences at a charge level (i.e. SACStat includes all principal and non-principal offences).

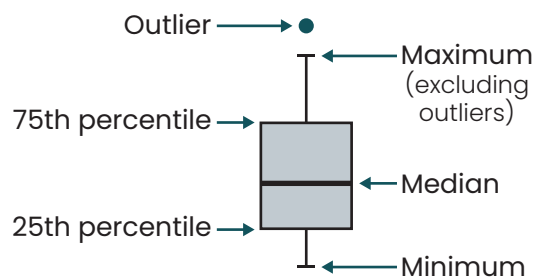
This report excludes outcomes under the *Crimes (Mental Impairment and Unfitness to Be Tried) Act 1997* (Vic), including custodial or non-custodial supervision orders imposed for people who have been found not guilty because of mental impairment or found guilty at a special hearing, and orders for unconditional release.

Although not classified as a 'sentence', diversion plans have been included in this report due to the critical role they play as an outcome for people who become involved in the criminal justice system.

Box plots

A box plot (also known as a box-and-whisker plot) shows key points in the distribution of a series of numbers, including:

- the median, represented by the horizontal line within each box. Half of all values in that distribution are above the median, and half are below
- the 25th percentile, represented by the bottom line of the box. This is the value that 25% of the values in the distribution fall below
- the 75th percentile, represented by the top line of the box. This is the value that 75% of the values in the distribution fall below
- the interquartile range, represented by the rectangle between the 25th and 75th percentiles. Half of all values in the distribution are within this range.



Apart from some values, which are statistical outliers,⁴⁷ the full range of the data (from the smallest to the largest value) is represented by the tips of the vertical lines ('whiskers') extending from the box.

Principal offence types

The framework used to classify principal offence types is ANZSOC 2023, which was released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2023 and is the latest edition of ANZSOC. ANZSOC 2023 is 'built on the same principles' as ANZSOC 2011 but 'has been updated to reflect the evolution of criminal offence legislation, language, and social change'.⁴⁸ Updates include renaming and reordering groups as well as moving some offences from their old group into a new group.

ANZSOC 2011 was used in *Sentencing in Victoria: 2012–13 to 2021–22* and *Sentencing in Victoria: 2013–14 to 2022–23*; therefore, the prevalence rates of principal offence types in those reports are not directly comparable to the prevalence rates in this report.

⁴⁷ Outliers are based on a standard measure: a value beyond the 75th percentile by more than 1.5 times the interquartile range for moderate outliers or three times the interquartile range for extreme outliers. See John Tukey, *Exploratory Data Analysis* (1977) 43–44.

⁴⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Classification Structure* (abs.gov.au, 2023).

Fine amounts

In this report, fine data is presented in dollar amounts. Maximum fines for offences are, however, set by reference to a particular number of penalty units. Penalty units in Victoria are indexed annually by the Victorian Treasurer, increasing from \$100 in 2003–04 to \$197.69 in 2024–25.⁴⁹

⁴⁹ Sentencing Advisory Council, 'Fine' (sentencingcouncil.vic.gov.au, 2024).

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