

PROGRESSION THROUGH THE NSW CRIMINAL COURT SYSTEM

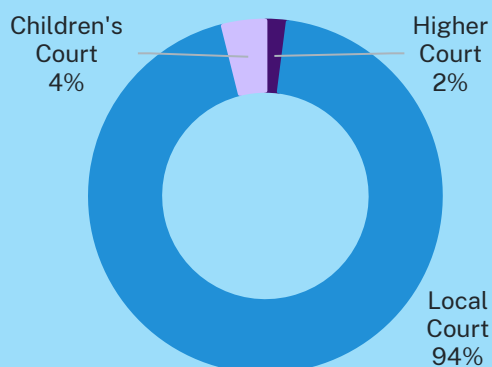
January 2021 to December 2025



Trends in court finalisations

156,256

defendants with a finalised court appearance in the 12 months to December 2025



94%

of all criminal court finalisations are in the **Local Court**



Aboriginal defendants

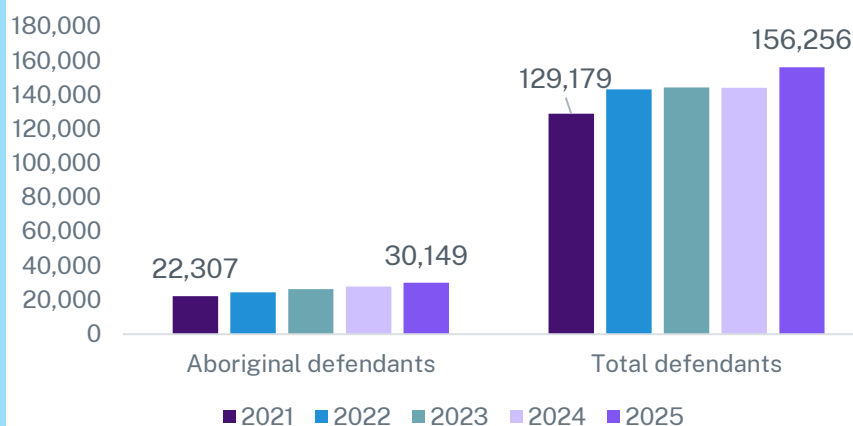
Up **7.8%** average annual 5 Yr % change



Total defendants

Up **4.9%** average annual 5 Yr % change

Trends in court finalisations by Aboriginality



Bail refusal

8.9%

of defendants are bail refused at finalisation

The number of defendants bail refused at time of finalisation increased slightly in the last 2 years to December 2025, while the proportion fell slightly.

Past 2 years

Number



613

Rate

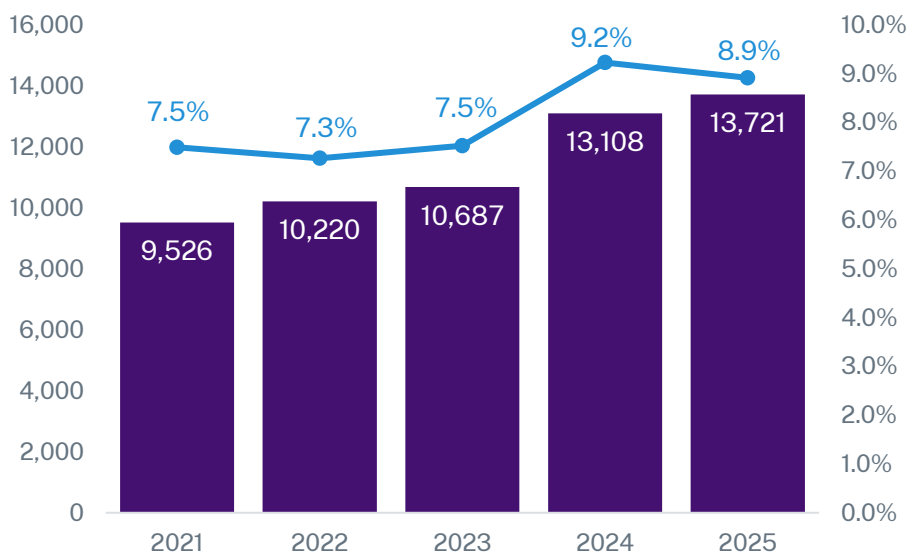


0.3 pp.

Number bail refused

Bail status at finalisation

% bail refused



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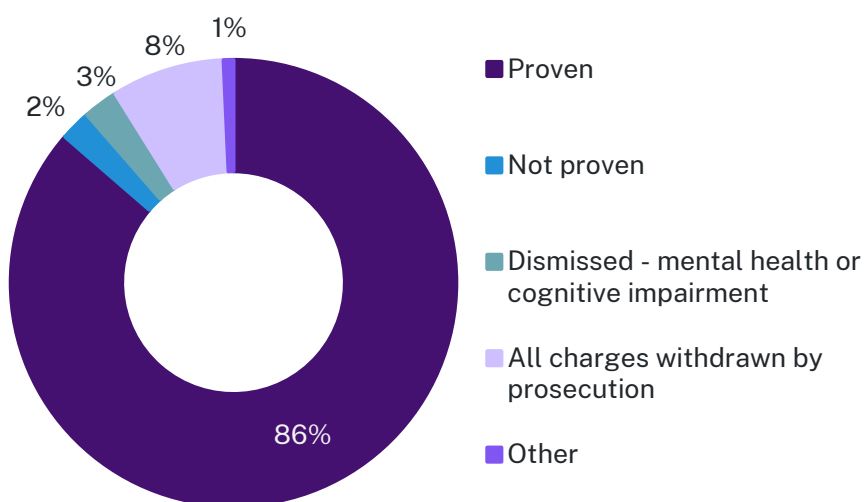
Court outcomes

156,256

defendants with a finalised court appearance in the 12 months to December 2025

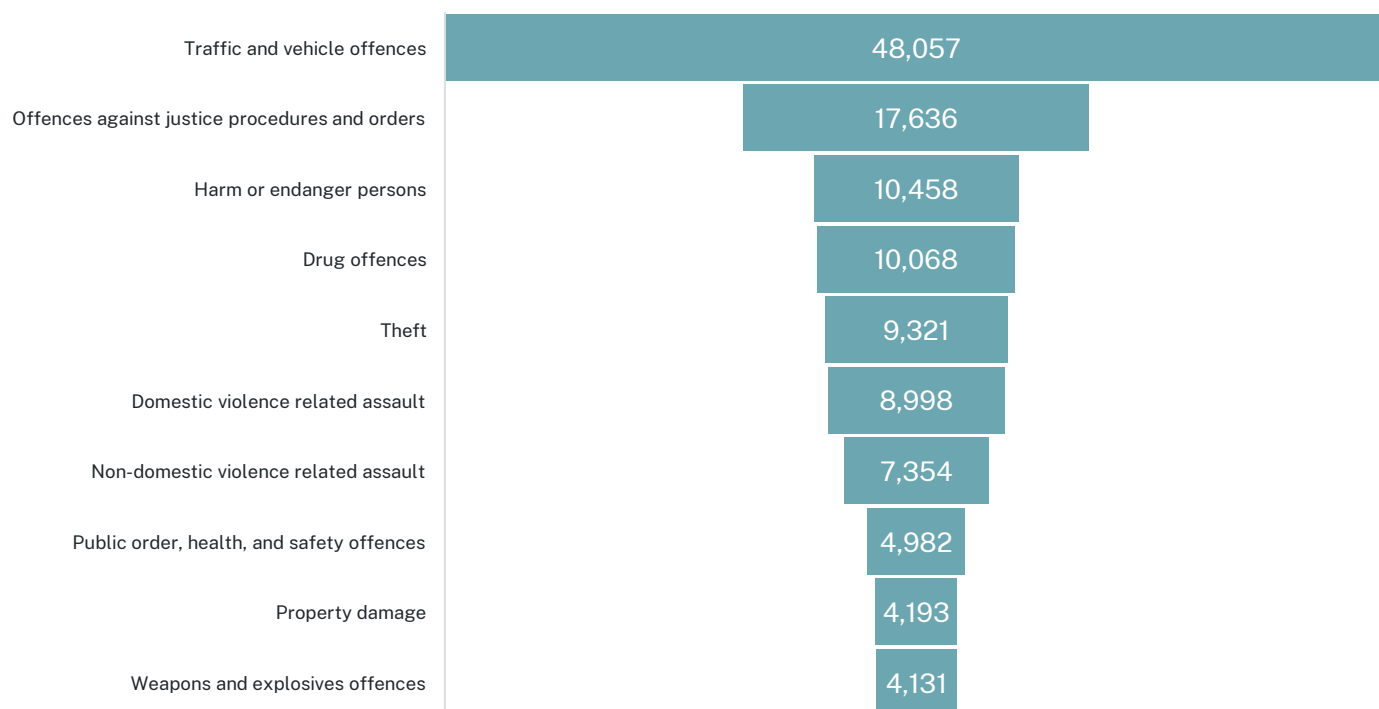
- **86%**
had a proven charge
- **8%**
were withdrawn by the prosecution

Court outcome, January to December 2025



Offence types

Top 10 offence types*, January to December 2025



*Defendants found guilty by principal offence.

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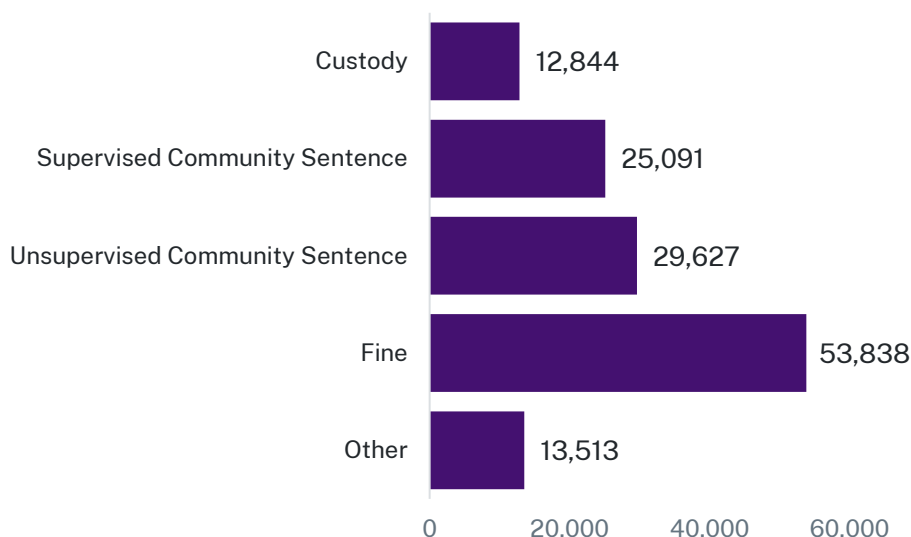


Sentencing outcomes

134,913

defendants found guilty in the 12 months to December 2025

- **40%** received a fine
- **22%** received an unsupervised community sentence
- **19%** received a supervised community sentence



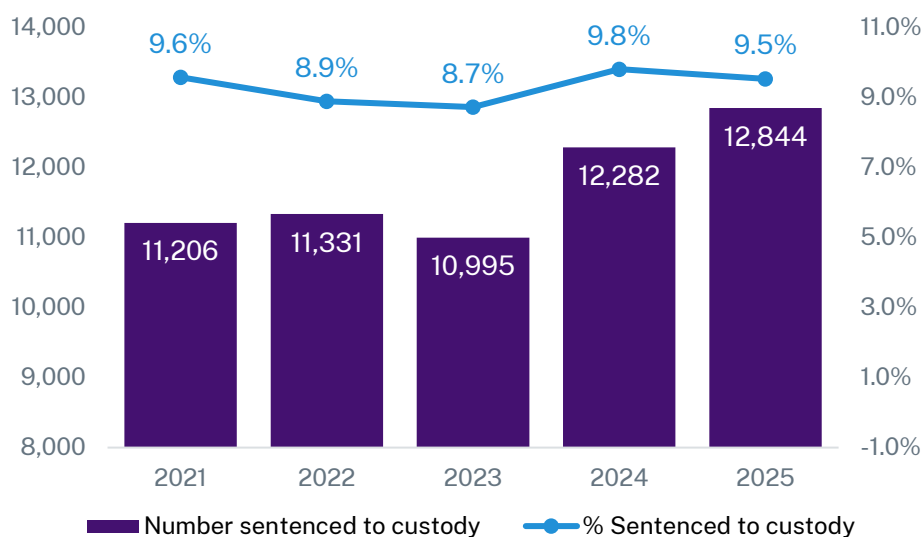
Custodial sentences

9.5%

of defendants found guilty received a custodial sentence in the 12 months to December 2025 (12,844)

The proportion of defendants receiving custody increased by **0.4p.p** in the past 5 yrs

Number and proportion of proven court appearances where the defendant received a custodial sentence



COVID Impact

At various points between 2020 and 2021, routine court operations were suspended or interrupted to protect the safety of court users. These changes reduced the number of matters that were able to be finalised in 2020 and 2021, particularly in the Local Court. Court operations were largely uninterrupted in 2022.