

# Profile of Aboriginal People in Prison

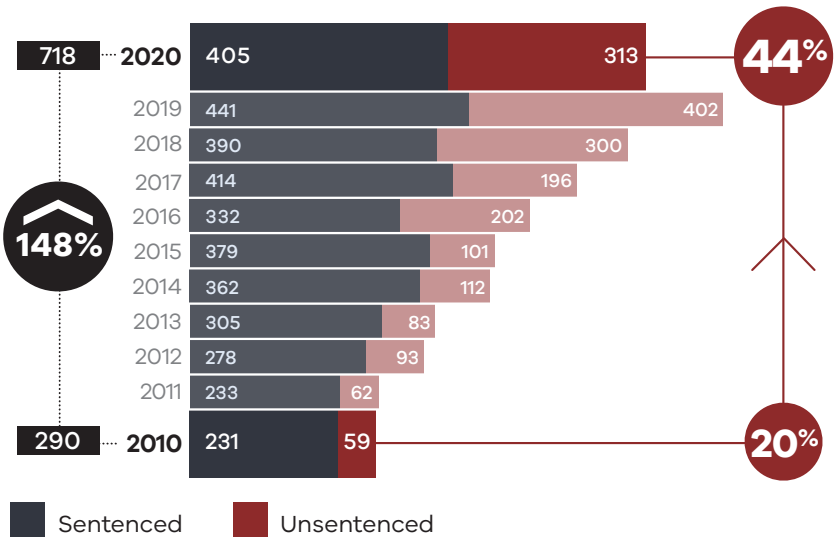
Figures as at 30 June (each year)

Over the last 10 years the number of Aboriginal\* people in prison has increased by 148 per cent, however numbers have decreased for the first time in 2020 by 15 per cent compared with 2019.

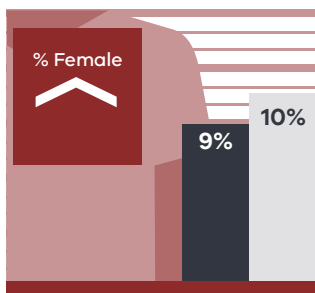
The number of Aboriginal people in prison on remand has increased significantly since 2010 (431 per cent). In 2020, 44 per cent of Aboriginal people in prison were on remand compared with 20 per cent in 2010. The proportion of Aboriginal people in prison increased from six per cent in 2010 to 10 per cent in 2020.

Aboriginal people continue to be over-represented in the prison population when compared with the imprisonment rate for all prisoners. Over the last 10 years the Aboriginal imprisonment rate has increased from 1,106.4 to 1,837.7 per 100,000 Victorian adult Aboriginal population.

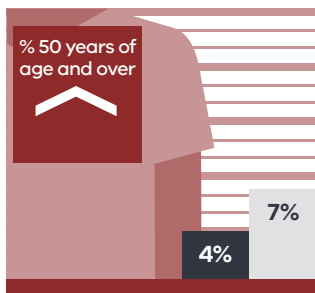
\*Aboriginal refers to people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and who are accepted as such by the community in which they live.



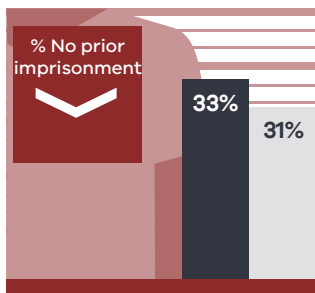
## Changes in characteristics of Aboriginal people in prison over the last 10 years



The number of Aboriginal women in prison increased significantly, peaking at 80 in 2019, representing 14 per cent of the female prisoner population. In 2020 the number reduced to 41 Aboriginal women in prison representing 10 per cent of the female prison population.



The average age of Aboriginal people in prison has increased from 32.4 years to 34.5 years (compared with 37.6 years for all people in prison in 2020). In 2020, seven per cent of Aboriginal people in prison were aged 50 years and over (up from four per cent in 2010).



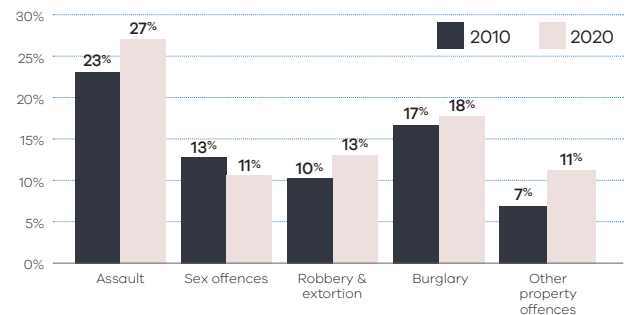
The proportion of Aboriginal people in prison who had not previously served a term of imprisonment decreased two percentage points from 33 per cent to 31 per cent. In comparison, 51 per cent of all prisoners in 2020 had no prior terms of imprisonment.

2010 2020

## Proportion of Aboriginal people in prison by most serious offence or charge

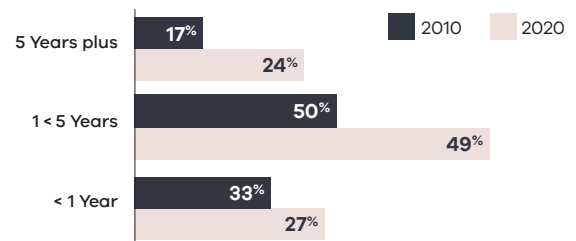
There have been changes in the offence profile of Aboriginal people in prison, with an increase in the proportion with a most serious offence or charge of Assault, Robbery & Extortion, Burglary and Other property offences over the past 10 years.

The number of Aboriginal people in prison for Assault saw the biggest growth in numbers over the last 10 years (increasing by 128 prisoners), followed by Burglary (increasing by 80 prisoners) and Robbery and Extortion (increasing by 64 prisoners).



## Proportion of Aboriginal people in prison by effective sentence length\*\*

The proportion of sentenced Aboriginal people in prison with an effective sentence length of five years or over has increased between 2010 and 2020 from 17 per cent to 24 per cent respectively. In 2020, 27 per cent of sentenced Aboriginal people in prison were serving a sentence of less than one year, compared with 33 per cent in 2010.



\*\*Effective sentence length represents the minimum period of imprisonment which a sentenced prisoner is expected to serve.