Before & Beyond:

Gender Crime Convergence over Twenty Years: Evidence from Australia

Tony Beatton ¹, Michael Kidd ², & Stephen Machin ³,

Institute for Social Science Research, The University of Queensland ¹
School of Economics, Finance and Marketing, , Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology ²
Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics ³
Agenda

- Do females look more like males in terms of crime participation?
  - Cognitive Development
  - School Achievement
  - High School Completion
  - Female Male Crime Rate
  - Are Females going to court more often?
  - Are Females being treated differently by the courts?

- Conclusion:
  - Males are looking more like Females in terms of crime participation
MARCH 2018: OPINION: 8% OF PRISONERS ARE WOMEN. THAT’S ABOUT 8% TOO MANY

( THE FEED HTTPS://WWW.SBS.COM.AU/NEWS/THE- FEED/OPINION-8-OF-PRISONERS-ARE-WOMEN-THAT-S- ABOUT-8-TOO-MANY )
Recent increases in female incarceration: USA: 20th century 20 per 100,000 to ~120/100,000

Australia: Incarceration of Females IS increasing?

• Educational outcomes from adolescence and beyond can be traced back to academic skills at school entry (Chen et al., 1996; Cunningham and Stanovich, 1997; Luster & McAdoo, 1996; Weller et al., 1992).

• Academic skills at school entry can be traced back to capabilities at preschool years; experiences in kindergarten & the home (Hess and Hahn, 1974; Stevenson and Newman, 1986).

• Children’s cognitive skills before they enter school predict high school completion (Brooks-Gunn et al., 1993).
## High School Completers with OP

### Female vs. Male

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Female OP</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Female OP%</th>
<th>Male OP</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Male OP%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>12.45</td>
<td>355,372</td>
<td>49.21%</td>
<td>12.98</td>
<td>366,779</td>
<td>50.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>12.14</td>
<td>380,237</td>
<td>49.18%</td>
<td>12.81</td>
<td>392,871</td>
<td>50.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>12.07</td>
<td>401,457</td>
<td>49.17%</td>
<td>12.48</td>
<td>414,977</td>
<td>50.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>11.88</td>
<td>427,397</td>
<td>49.06%</td>
<td>12.33</td>
<td>443,699</td>
<td>50.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>11.31</td>
<td>438,782</td>
<td>49.01%</td>
<td>11.83</td>
<td>456,551</td>
<td>50.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>11.19</td>
<td>448,277</td>
<td>48.99%</td>
<td>11.91</td>
<td>466,751</td>
<td>51.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>11.12</td>
<td>455,693</td>
<td>48.95%</td>
<td>11.90</td>
<td>475,184</td>
<td>51.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,907,215</strong></td>
<td><strong>49.07%</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,016,812</strong></td>
<td><strong>50.93%</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average OP:</strong></td>
<td><strong>11.74</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>12.32</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
More Females Graduate University

Julia Margaret Guerin (Bella) was the first woman to graduate from a university in Australia:
(Melbourne University)

- Women's participation in higher education is expanding in Australia;
- Women now outnumber men in overall enrolments;
- In 2016, women represented 55.9% of enrolled domestic students across all universities or other institutions that award some but not all of these degrees: Diplomas, Bachelors, Masters
Becker/Ehrlick Utility Model of Crime

SUCCESS PROBABILITY: GAINS FROM ILLEGAL WORK

DETECTION: SANCTIONS

GAINS FROM LEGAL WORK OR ACTIVITY

\[(1 - \pi)U(W_c) - \pi U(S) > U(W_L)\]

- Economic returns to crime
  - Criminal earnings
  - Value of loot
  - Security responses

- Deterrence and the criminal justice system
  - Policing/enforcement
  - Sentencing/sanctions

- Legal alternatives to crime
  - Labour market
  - Education/skills
  - Careers

Females > education & social skills; > human capital; > labour market value; > wages

Crime reduction?

(Gavrilova & Campaniello, 2015) (Becker, 1968)
Do women look more like men in terms of crime participation?

Female Prison Population is increasing like the Males

Australia Imprisonment Rate/100,000 (ABS, 2016)

South Australia Imprisonment Rate/100,000 (ABS, 2016)

NSW Imprisonment Rate/100,000 (ABS, 2016)

Queensland Imprisonment Rate/100,000 (ABS, 2016)
Female Prison Population is increasing more:

Australia Imprisonment Rate/100,000 (ABS, 2016)

Western Australia Imprisonment Rate/100,000 (ABS, 2016)

WA is increasing slightly more

NT; 83.6% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders; a recent turnaround for females
QLD: Female - Male Offending Gap is decreasing

Female - Male Offending Rate (X 100)
Violent or Property Offences

Queensland Police Administration data

(Beatton, Kidd & Machin, 2018b)
QLD: Female - Male Offending Gap is decreasing

Female - Male Offending Rate (X 100), Ages 15 to 16
Violent or Property Offences

Female - Male Offending Rate (X 100), Age 17 to 24
Violent or Property Offences

Incapacitated
Non-incapacitated

(Beatton, Kidd & Machin, 2018b)
Men are looking more like Women in terms of crime participation

Female and Male Offending Rates (QLD), Ages 15 to 24, 1995 to 2013

(Beatton, Kidd & Machin, 2018a; 2018b)
QLD: Are Females going to court more often?

- Proportion of charges leading to arrest by broad crime (property/violent)
- Fraud
- Theft: Alleged Offenders Queensland
- Drug: Alleged Offenders Queensland

JAG (QLD) Administration data

CRICOS Provider No 00025B

ISSR Institute for Social Science Research
QLD: Are Females treated differently by the courts?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Property Arrest</th>
<th>Violent Arrest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Caution</td>
<td>Bar to Prosecution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>3491</td>
<td>86.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1828</td>
<td>77.92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statutory bar to prosecution
The occurrence status type ‘**statutory bar to prosecution**’ is to be used when the **investigating officer** has determined and documented in the occurrence that there **is sufficient evidence the offender committed the offence but will not be charged** as there is a bar to prosecution.

e.g. s. 16: ‘Person **not to be punished twice for same offence**’ of the Criminal Code and **defences and exculpations** under the Criminal Code or other Queensland statutes. (QPS Operational Management, Chapter1, 25 January 2019)
Males are looking more like Females in terms of crime participation; at least in Queensland

But maybe not so much in other States?

The number of women held in NSW prisons increased by 50 per cent (from 682 to 1,021) between 2011 and 2017.

Focus: NT & WA female alleged offenders

References


References


References


# Imprisonment Rates and Female Shares in Three Selected Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>Sweden</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Imprisonment rate (per 100,000 population)</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female share (percent)</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>