

Before & Beyond:

Gender Crime Convergence over Twenty Years: Evidence from Australia

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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

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DRUG CHARGES

Female offence rates up 8pc

THE number of South Australian females falling foul of the law is growing at twice the rate of males due to drug offences.

Australian Bureau of Statistics latest figures show the rate of female offenders increased by 8 per cent between 2015 and 2016 compared to a 4 per cent growth in male offender rates.

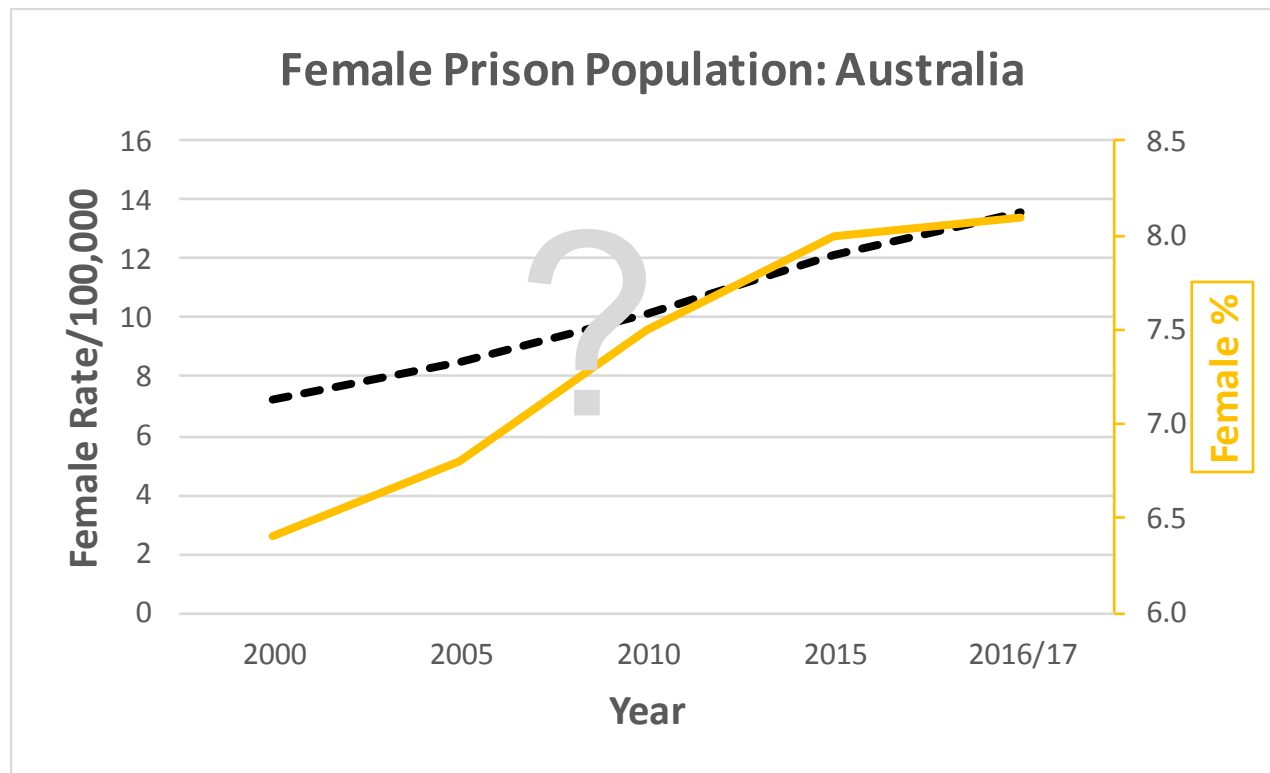
Since 2008 the number of female offenders has grown by 43 per cent, from 7748 to 11,089.

**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-THE-S-ABOUT-8-TOO-MANY](https://www.sbs.com.au/news/the-feed/opinion-8-of-prisoners-are-women-that-s-about-8-too-many))

Australia: Incarceration of Females IS increasing?

Recent increases in female incarceration: USA: 20th century 20 per 100,000 to ~120/100,000



* From World Prison Brief, <http://www.prisonstudies.org/>. The years the numbers correspond to for each country are:
Australia – 2016; Sweden – 2016; United States – 2014.

The Educational Scaffold to Lifecourse Success

- 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

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

Females ~ 3% better

More Females Graduate University



MISS BELLA GUERIN, FIRST LADY GRADUATE AT THE MELBOURNE 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

Deterrence and the criminal justice system

Legal alternatives to crime

(Gavrilova & Campaniello, 2015)

- Criminal earnings
- Value of loot
- Security responses

- Policing/enforcement
- Sentencing/sanctions

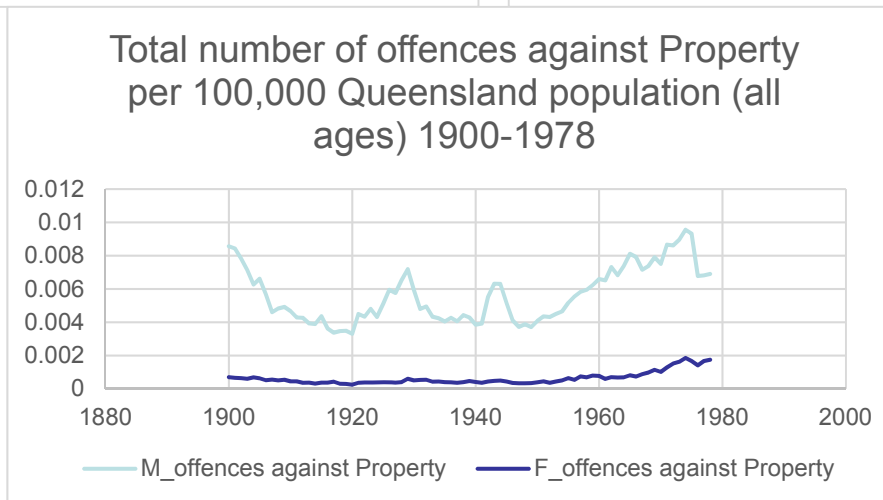
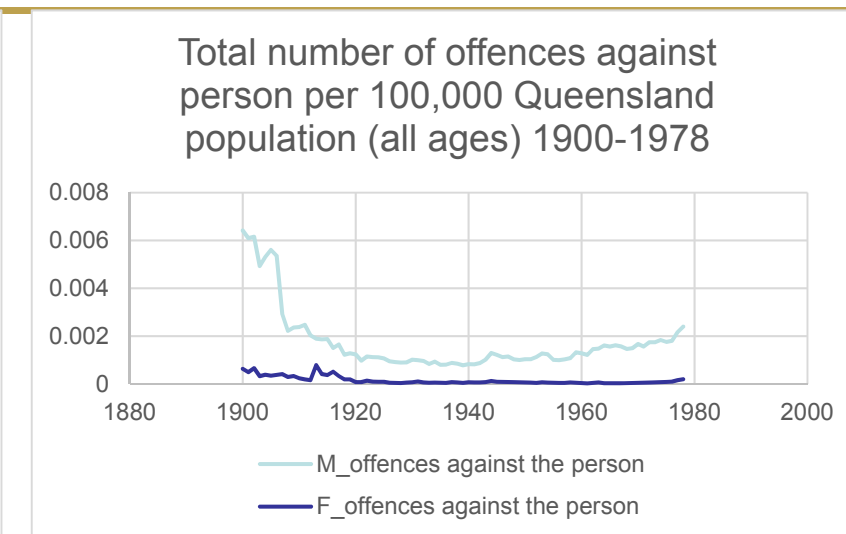
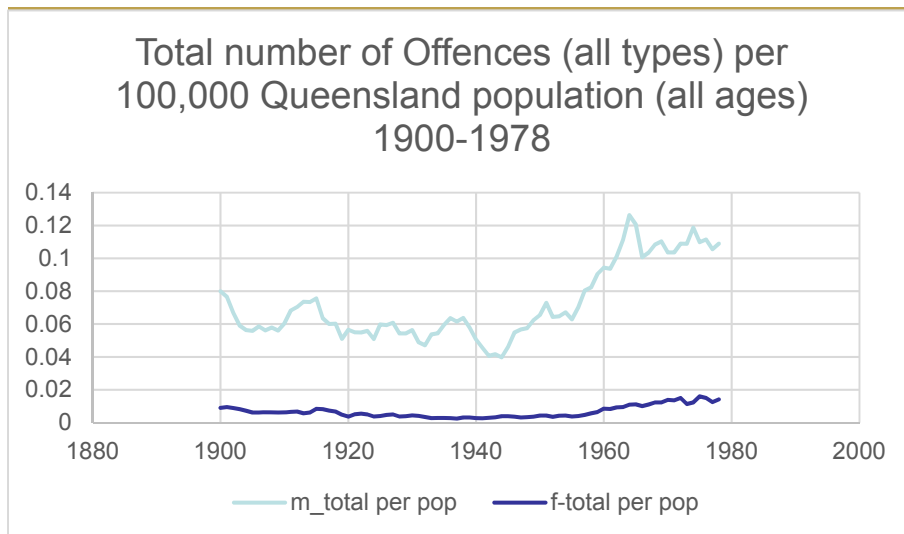
- Labour market
- Education/skills
- Careers

(Becker, 1968)

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

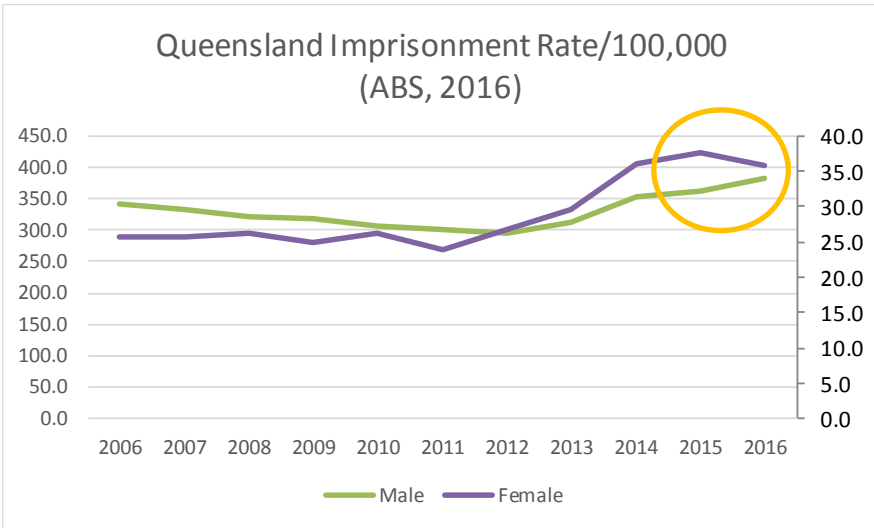
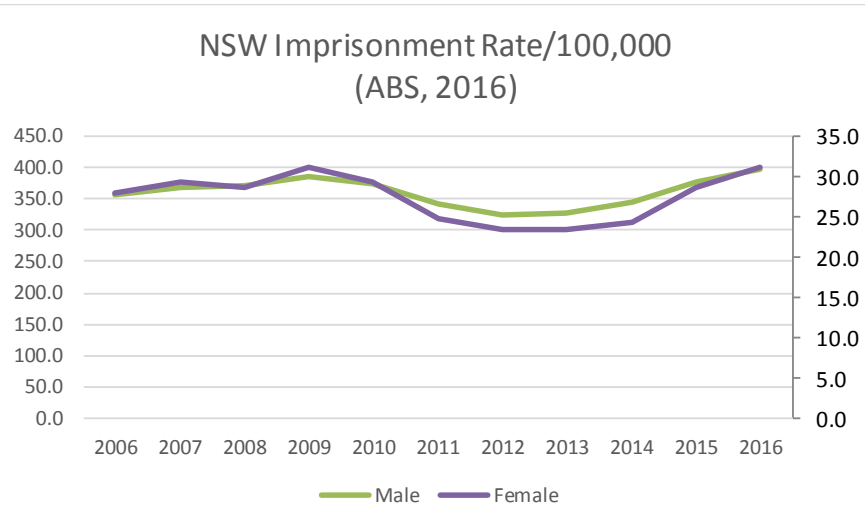
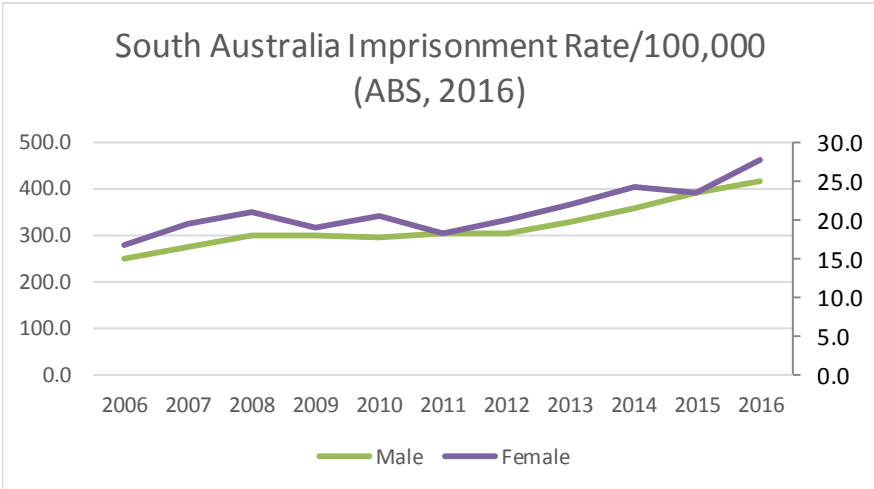
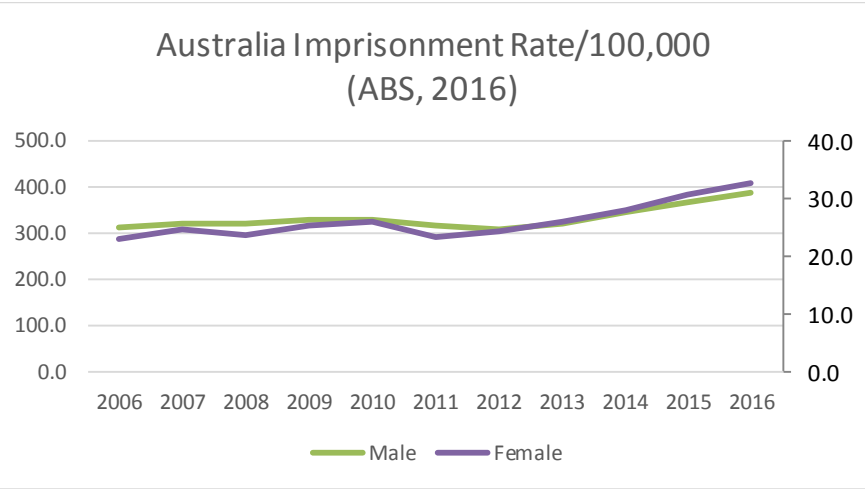
Crime reduction?

Do women look more like men in terms of crime participation?

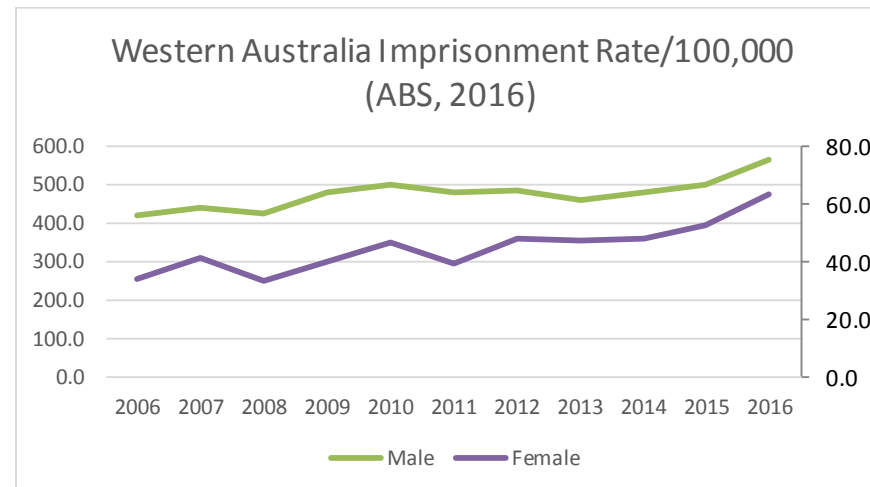
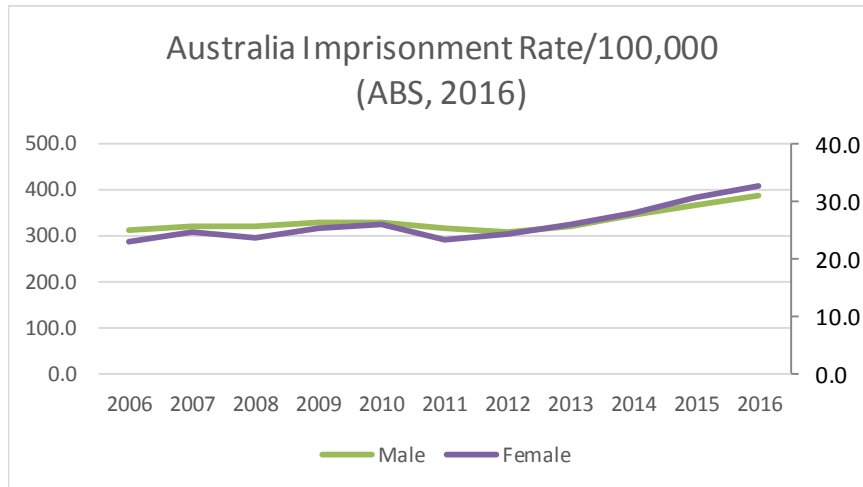


Mukherjee, S. K., Jacobsen, E. N. & Walker, J. R. (1981) Source Book of Australian Criminal & Social Statistics. Australian Institute of Criminology. Australian Government. Canberra, Australia.

Female Prison Population is increasing like the Males

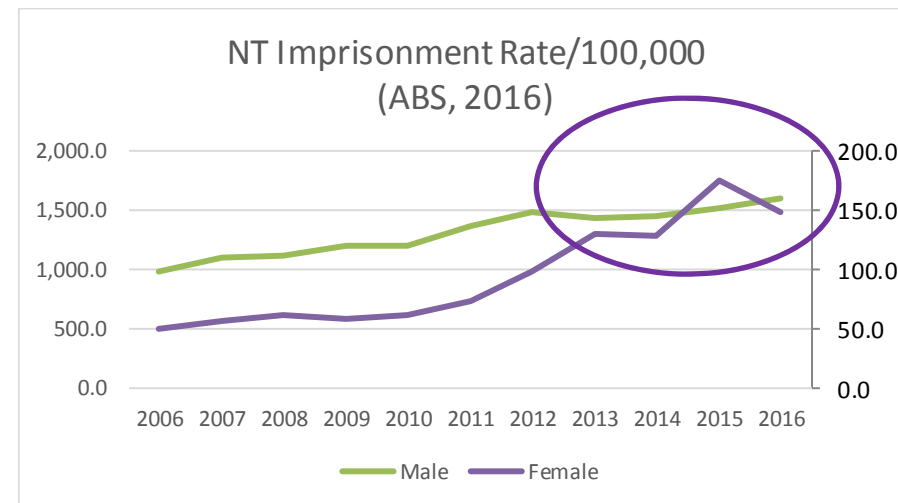


Female Prison Population is increasing more:

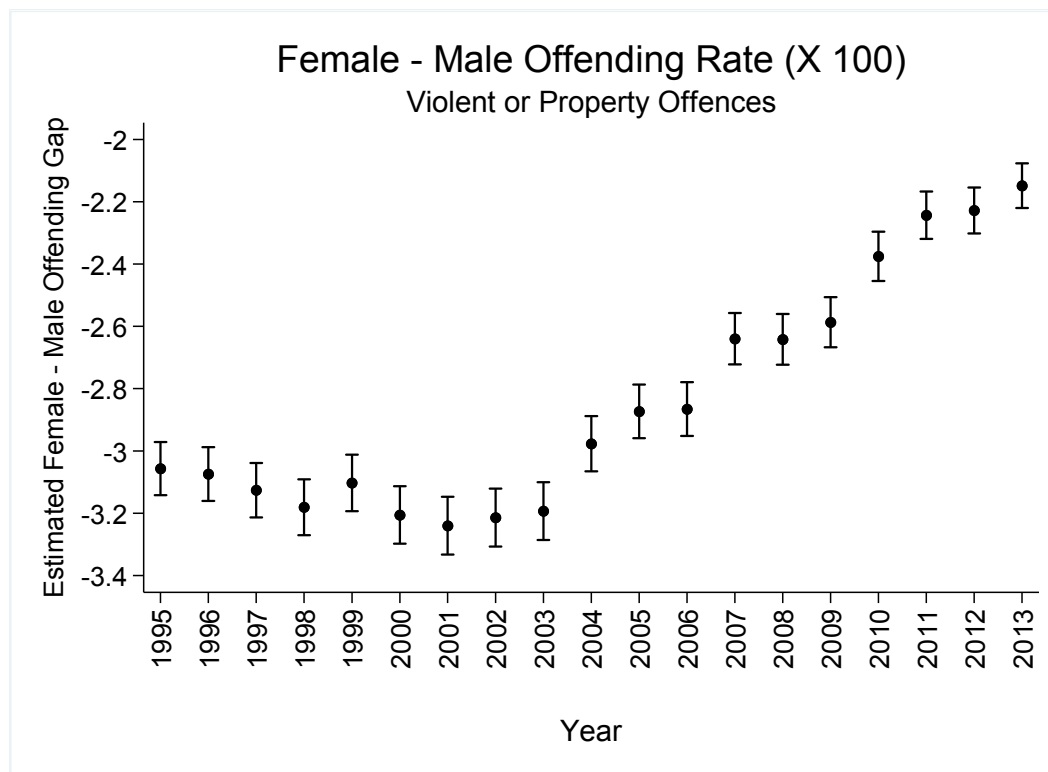


WA is increasing slightly more

NT; 83.6% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders; a recent turnaround for females



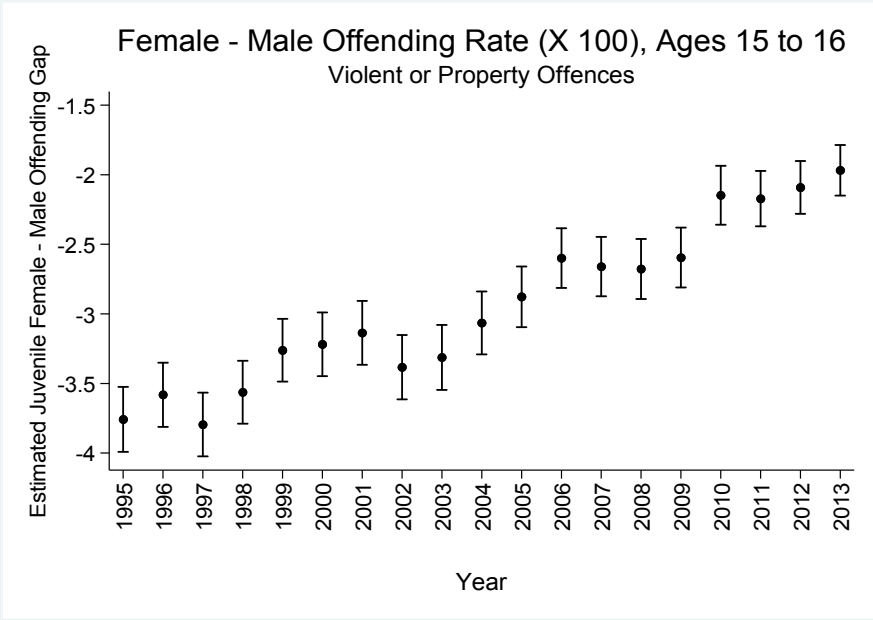
QLD: Female - Male Offending Gap is decreasing



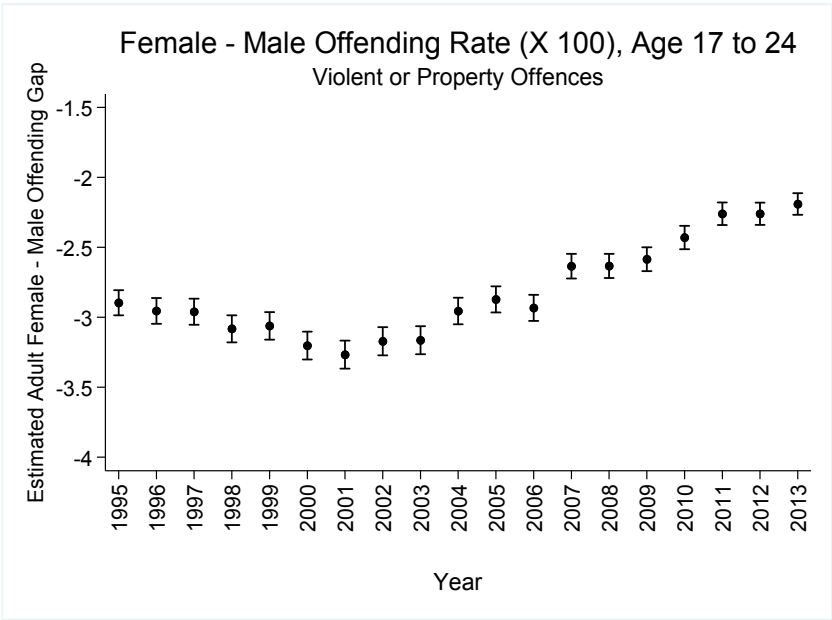
Queensland Police Administration data

(Beatton, Kidd & Machin, 2018b)

QLD: Female - Male Offending Gap is decreasing



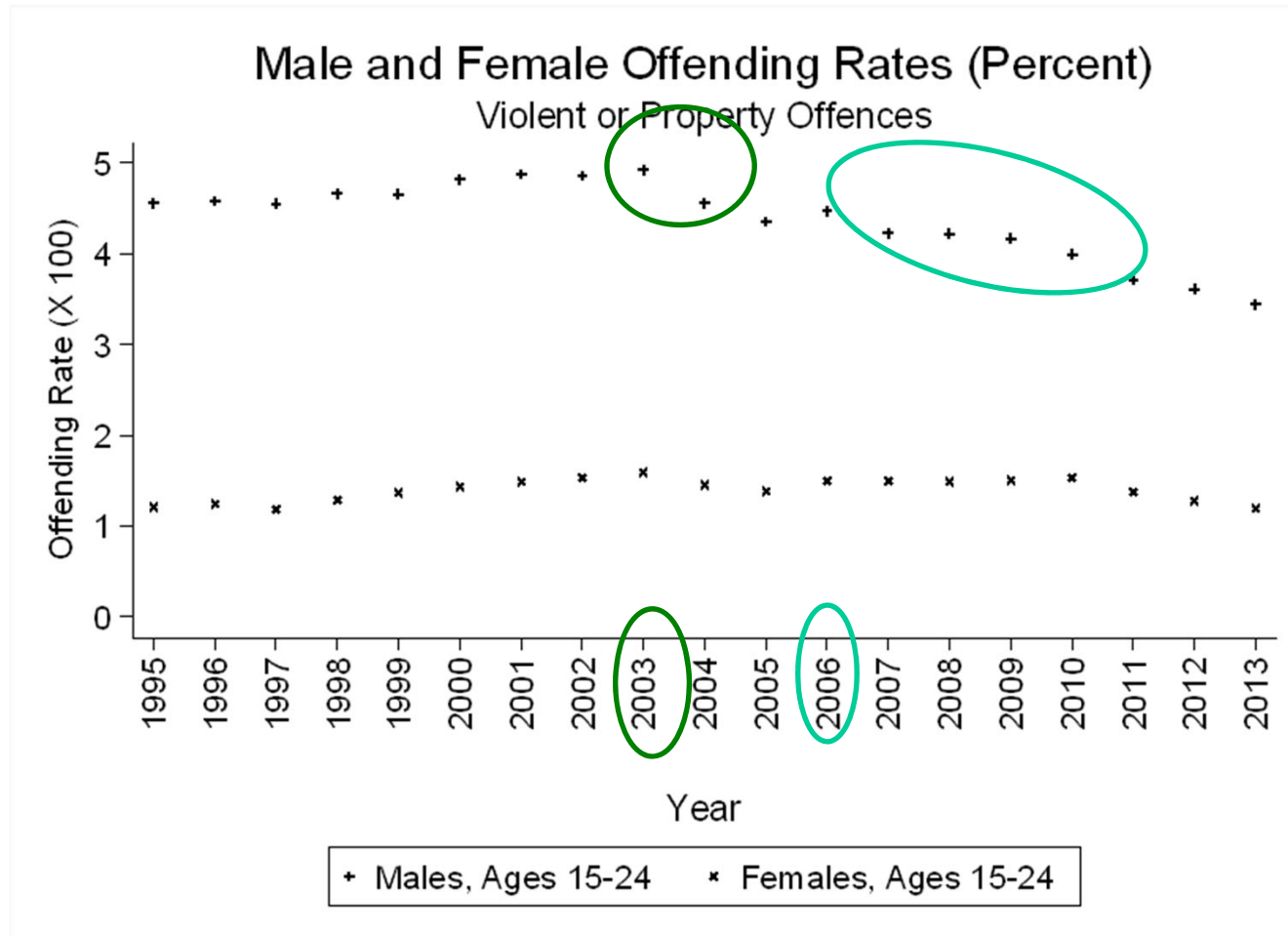
Incapacitated



Non-incapacitated

(Beatton, Kidd & Machin, 2018b)

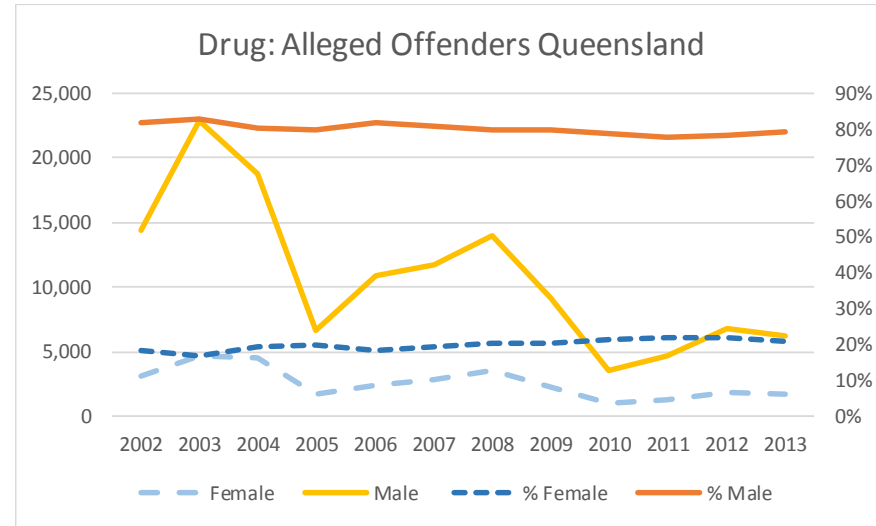
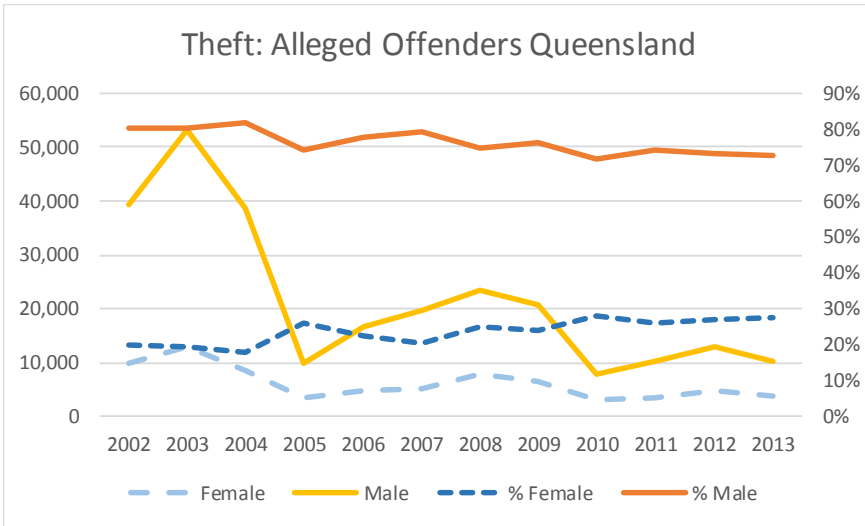
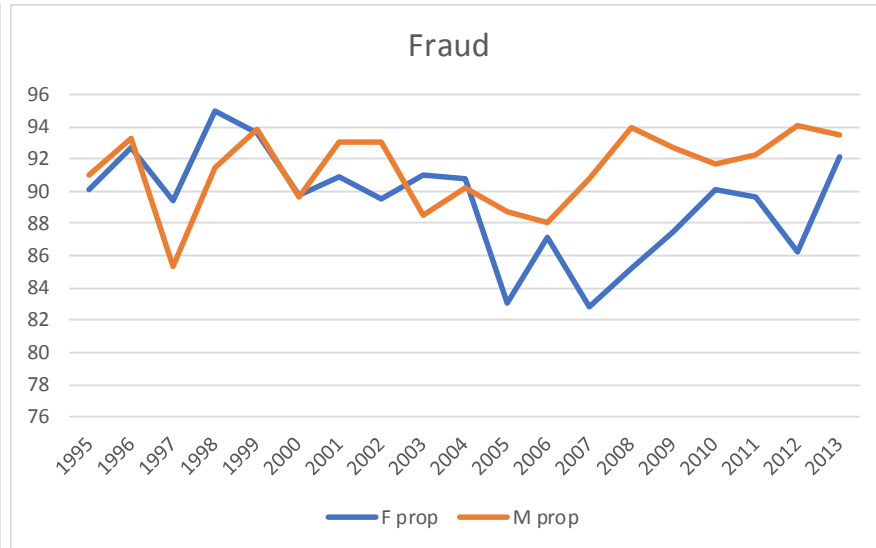
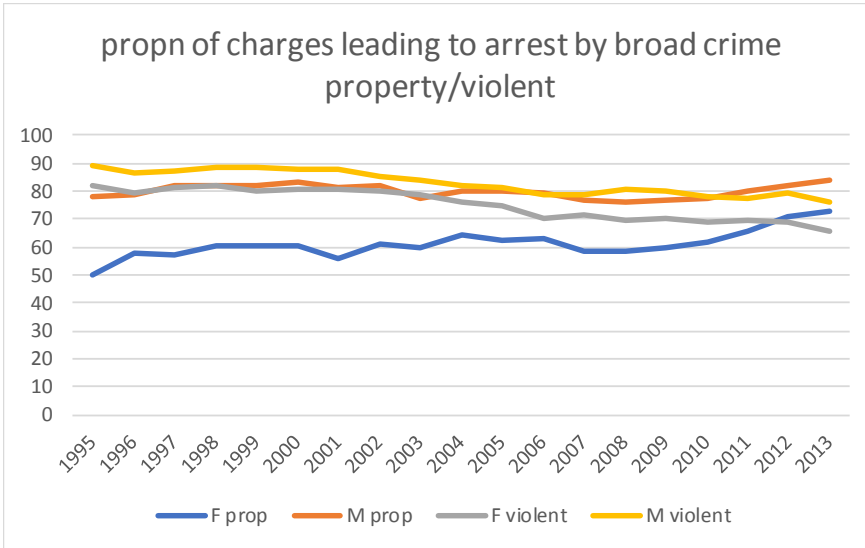
Men are looking more like Women in terms of crime participation



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?



CRICOS Provider No 00025B

QLD: Are Females treated differently by the courts?

Property Arrest				
		Caution	Bar to Prosecution	Community Conference
2007	3491	86.28	0.22	11.3
2013	1828	77.92	4.94	14.9

Violent Arrest		
	Caution	Bar to Prosecution
2004	73.18	
2013	68.15	14.1

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)

Conclusion

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

https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Pages/bocsar_media_releases/2018/mr-Recent-trends-in%20AD%20AD%20AD-the-NSW-female-prison-population.aspx

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Imprisonment Rates and Female Shares in Three Selected Countries

	Australia	Sweden	United States
Imprisonment rate (per 100,000 population)	162	53	693
Female share (percent)	8.0	5.8	9.7

Notes: From World Prison Brief, <http://www.prisonstudies.org/>. The years the numbers correspond to for each country are: Australia – 2016; Sweden – 2016; United States – 2014.