

Question on Notice

No. 1773

Asked on Thursday, 13 November 2008

Mr KNUTH asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister Assisting the Premier in Western Queensland (Mr Shine) -

QUESTION:

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 1530 of 2007 and in relation to 2007-08 and 2008-09 to date (each year reported separately)—

- (1) How many people have been sentenced in the higher courts (reported in total for all higher courts in Queensland and separate totals for each of the higher courts in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville and Rockhampton) for rape, attempted rape, armed robbery, unarmed robbery and serious assault?
- (2) For each of the above categories of offence (reported separately), how many people sentenced in the higher courts have received the maximum jail term prescribed in the Criminal Code (reported in total for all higher courts in Queensland and separate totals for each of the higher courts in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville and Rockhampton)?
- (3) For each of the above sentences in (1), how many have received some term of imprisonment as part of their sentence (not including suspended custodial sentences) (reported in total for all higher courts in Queensland and separate totals for each of the higher courts in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville and Rockhampton)?
- (4) For each of the above sentences in (1), how many have received a suspended custodial sentence (reported in total for all higher courts in Queensland and separate totals for each of the higher courts in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville and Rockhampton)?

ANSWER:

The figures below are extracted from the Queensland Wide Integrated Courts (QWIC) database and rely on the accuracy of the data that is updated into the system.

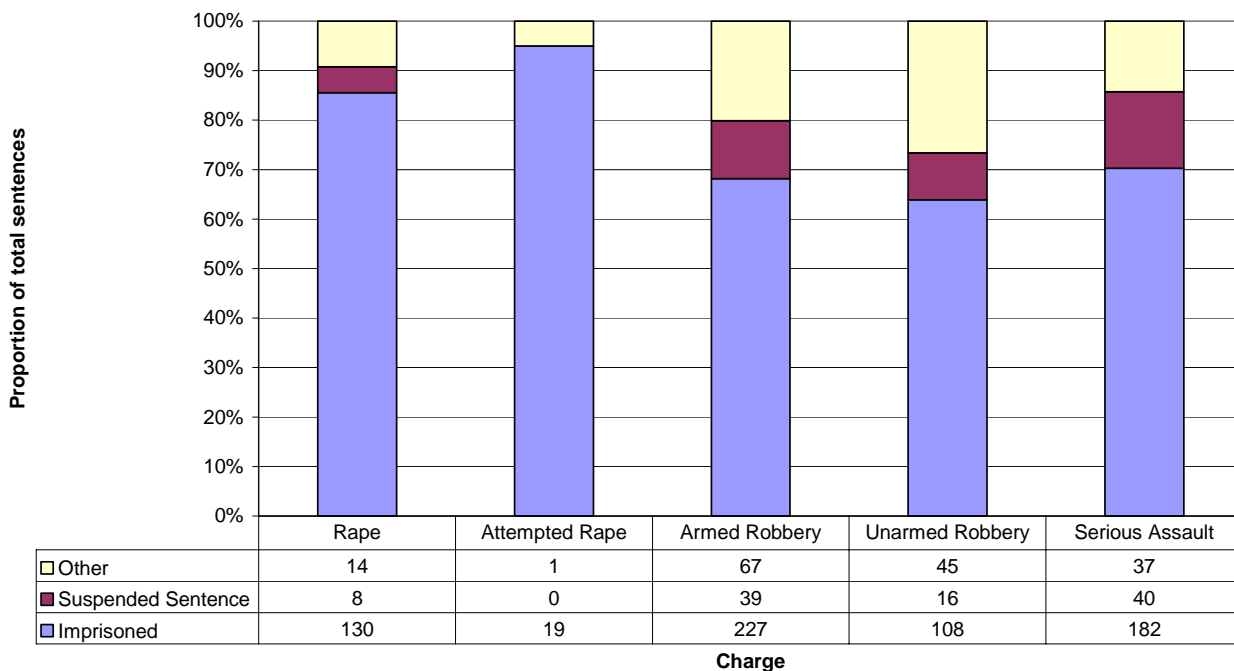
To ensure data integrity, the courts scrutinise the accuracy of the data on a continual basis. As a result, it is possible that the figures will vary over time as input errors are detected and corrected retrospectively or offenders are re-sentenced by the Court of Appeal.

In addition, changes in legislation and additional offence codes require updating of queries used to obtain data from the system.

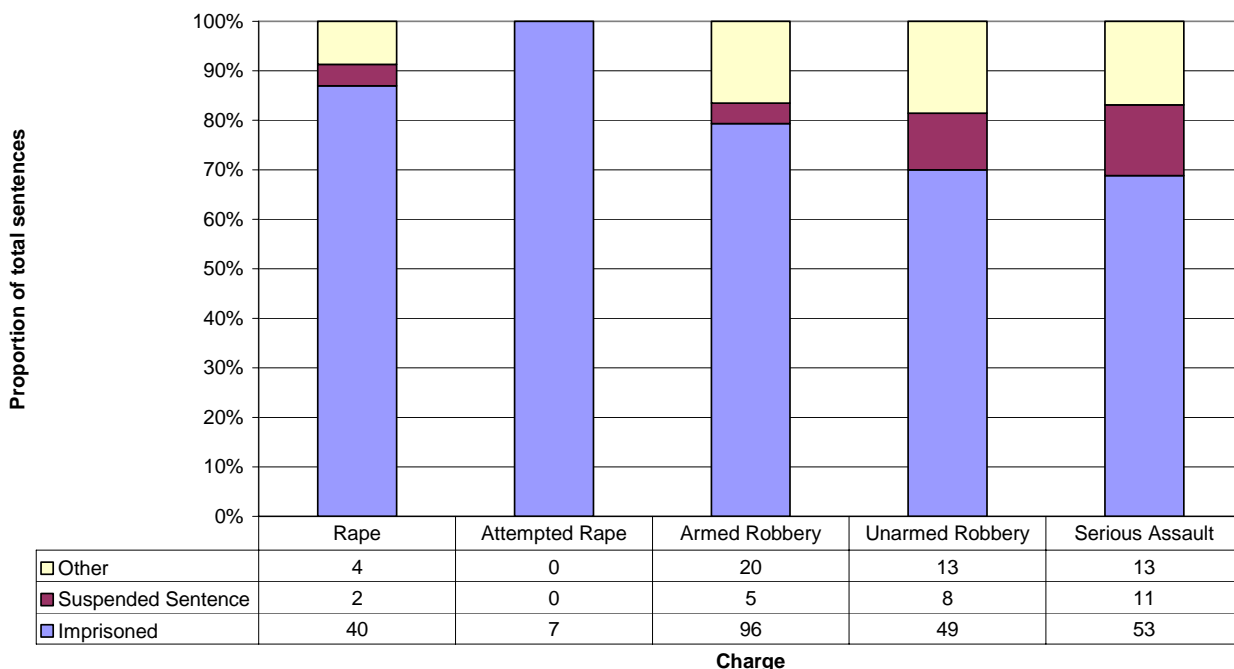
As there is no unique identifier enabling the identification and subsequent reporting of unique persons/defendants, defendants in the answer have been identified based on the national *Report on Government Services* counting methodology i.e. same surname, first name, date of birth, court location and date the offence was registered within the courts criminal information system.

The two tables below are an overview of sentencing of offenders in the requested categories during 2007-08 and 2008-09 to date. In all but one category, more than 80% of offenders receive sentences of imprisonment, suspended sentences of imprisonment and intensive correction orders.

2007-08 Sentences (Whole of State)



2008-09 Sentencing (Whole of state as at 13 November 2008)



- (1) The numbers of defendants sentenced in 2007-08 and 2008-09, as at 13 November 2008, on the specific type of offences stated in the question, in the Supreme and District Courts are set out below.

Supreme and District Courts

Rape

2007-08: Brisbane 34, Cairns 31, Townsville 14, Rockhampton 10, Whole of State 152.
2008-09 (as at 13 November 2008): Brisbane 15, Cairns 6, Townsville 5, Rockhampton -, Whole of State 46.

Attempted Rape

2007-08: Brisbane 4, Cairns 4, Townsville 2, Rockhampton 2, Whole of State 20.
2008-09 (as at 13 November 2008): Brisbane 2, Cairns 2, Townsville -, Rockhampton -, Whole of State 7.

Armed Robbery

2007-08: Brisbane 134, Cairns 22, Townsville 17, Rockhampton 9, Whole of State 333.
2008-09 (as at 13 November 2008): Brisbane 42, Cairns 1, Townsville 15, Rockhampton 3, Whole of State 121.

Unarmed Robbery

2007-08: Brisbane 84, Cairns 18, Townsville 6, Rockhampton 1, Whole of State 169.
2008-09 (as at 13 November 2008): Brisbane 38, Cairns 2, Townsville 3, Rockhampton 2, Whole of State 70.

Serious Assault

2007-08: Brisbane 84, Cairns 39, Townsville 30, Rockhampton 4, Whole of State 259.
2008-09 (as at 13 November 2008): Brisbane 26, Cairns 9, Townsville 8, Rockhampton 5, Whole of State 77.

- (2) 2007-08: One offender was sentenced to the maximum term of imprisonment as prescribed by legislation for an offence of attempted rape.
2008-09 (as at 13 November 2008): Nil
- (3) Below is the number of defendants referred to in (1) in 2007-08 and 2008-09, as at 13 November 2008, who received some term of imprisonment as part of their sentence (not including wholly suspended custodial sentences or intensive correction orders).

Supreme and District Courts

Rape

2007-08: Brisbane 33, Cairns 20, Townsville 10, Rockhampton 10, Whole of State 130.
2008-09 (as at 13 November 2008): Brisbane 12, Cairns 6, Townsville 3, Rockhampton -, Whole of State 40.

Attempted Rape

2007-08: Brisbane 4, Cairns 3, Townsville 2, Rockhampton 2, Whole of State 19.
2008-09 (as at 13 November 2008): Brisbane 2, Cairns 2, Townsville -, Rockhampton -, Whole of State 7.

Armed Robbery

2007-08: Brisbane 97, Cairns 17, Townsville 8, Rockhampton 6, Whole of State 227.
2008-09 (as at 13 November 2008): Brisbane 34, Cairns 1, Townsville 12, Rockhampton 3, Whole of State 96.

Unarmed Robbery

2007-08: Brisbane 45, Cairns 15, Townsville 5, Rockhampton 1, Whole of State 108.
2008-09 (as at 13 November 2008): Brisbane 26, Cairns 1, Townsville 3, Rockhampton 2, Whole of State 49.

Serious Assault

2007-08: Brisbane 56, Cairns 32, Townsville 21, Rockhampton 3, Whole of State 182.
2008-09 (as at 13 November 2008): Brisbane 18, Cairns 7, Townsville 5, Rockhampton 3, Whole of State 53.

- (4) Below is the number of defendants referred to in (1) in 2007-08 and 2008-09, as at 13 November 2008, who received a totally suspended sentence including an intensive correction order.

Supreme and District Courts

Rape

2007-08: Brisbane 1, Cairns 3, Townsville 2, Rockhampton -, Whole of State 8.
2008-09 (as at 13 November 2008): Brisbane 1, Cairns -, Townsville -, Rockhampton -, Whole of State 2.

Attempted Rape

2007-08: Brisbane-, Cairns -, Townsville -, Rockhampton -, Whole of State -.
2008-09 (as at 13 November 2008): Brisbane -, Cairns -, Townsville -, Rockhampton -, Whole of State -.

Armed Robbery

2007-08: Brisbane 13, Cairns 3, Townsville 4, Rockhampton 2, Whole of State 39.
2008-09 (as at 13 November 2008): Brisbane 1, Cairns -, Townsville -, Rockhampton -, Whole of State 5.

Unarmed Robbery

2007-08: Brisbane 12, Cairns -, Townsville 1, Rockhampton -, Whole of State 16.
2008-09 (as at 13 November 2008): Brisbane 4, Cairns -, Townsville -, Rockhampton -, Whole of State 8.

Serious Assault

2007-08: Brisbane 16, Cairns 3, Townsville 5, Rockhampton -, Whole of State 40.
2008-09 (as at 13 November 2008): Brisbane 3, Cairns -, Townsville -, Rockhampton -, Whole of State 11.