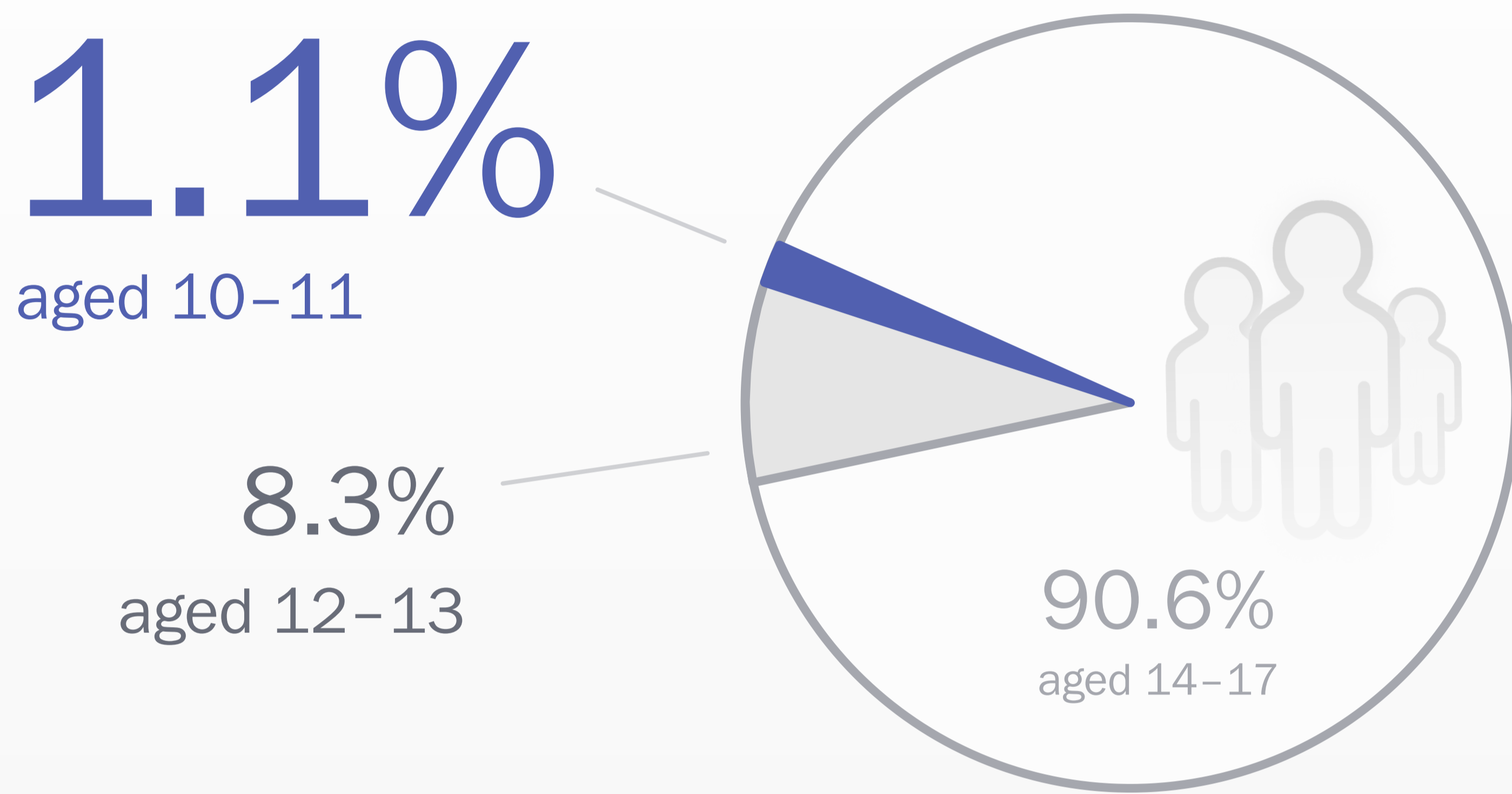




Key findings: Children aged 10 to 11 years

Proportion of all sentenced children in Queensland

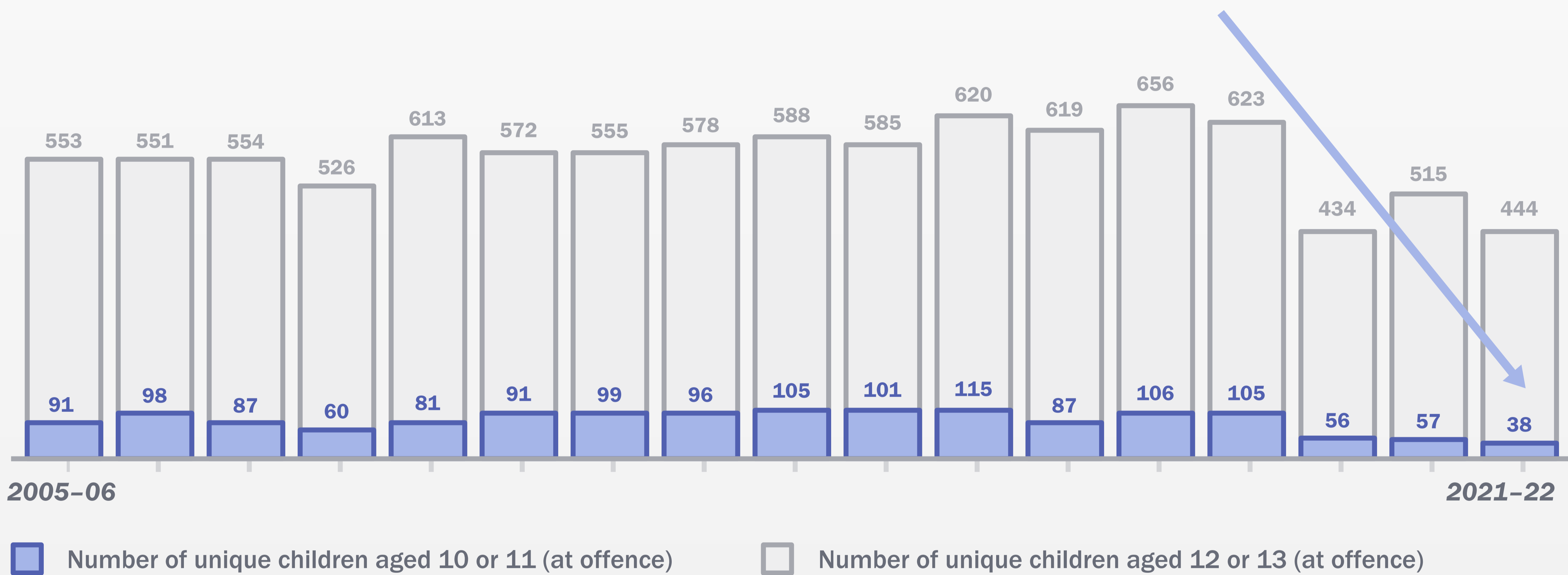


1,087

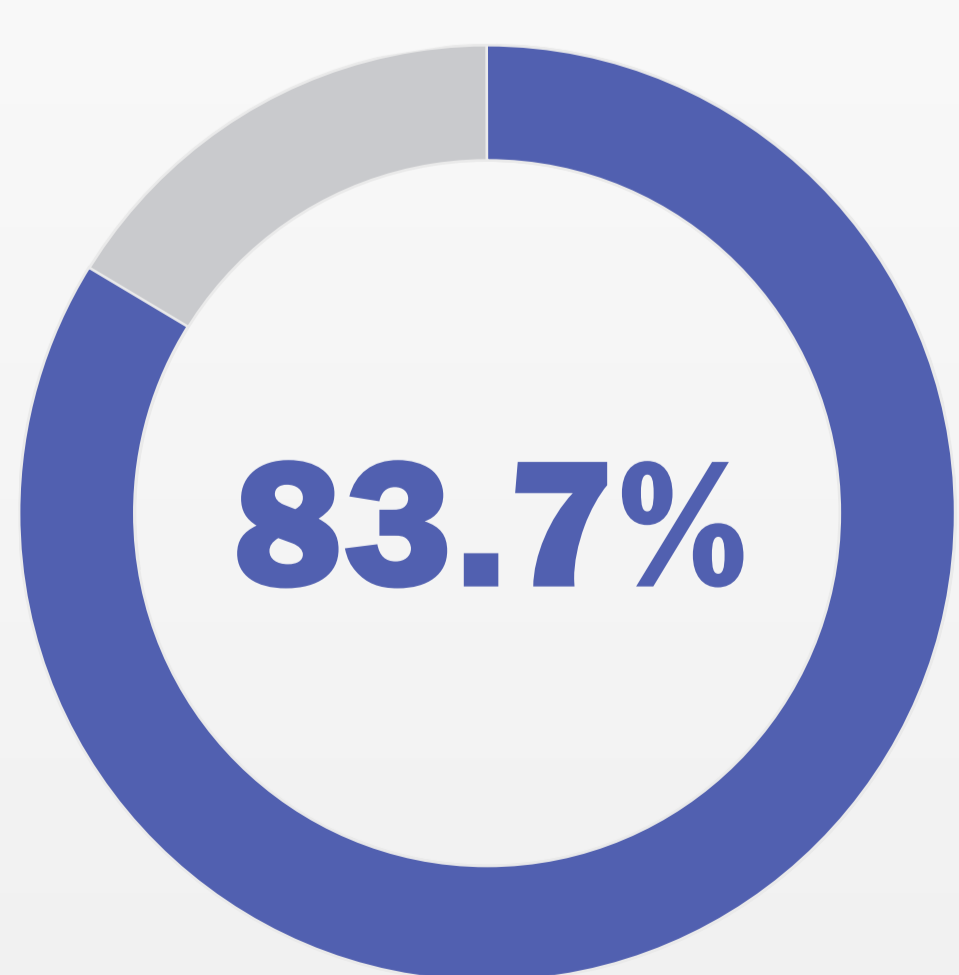
10-11 year olds were sentenced **over a 17-year period**

38

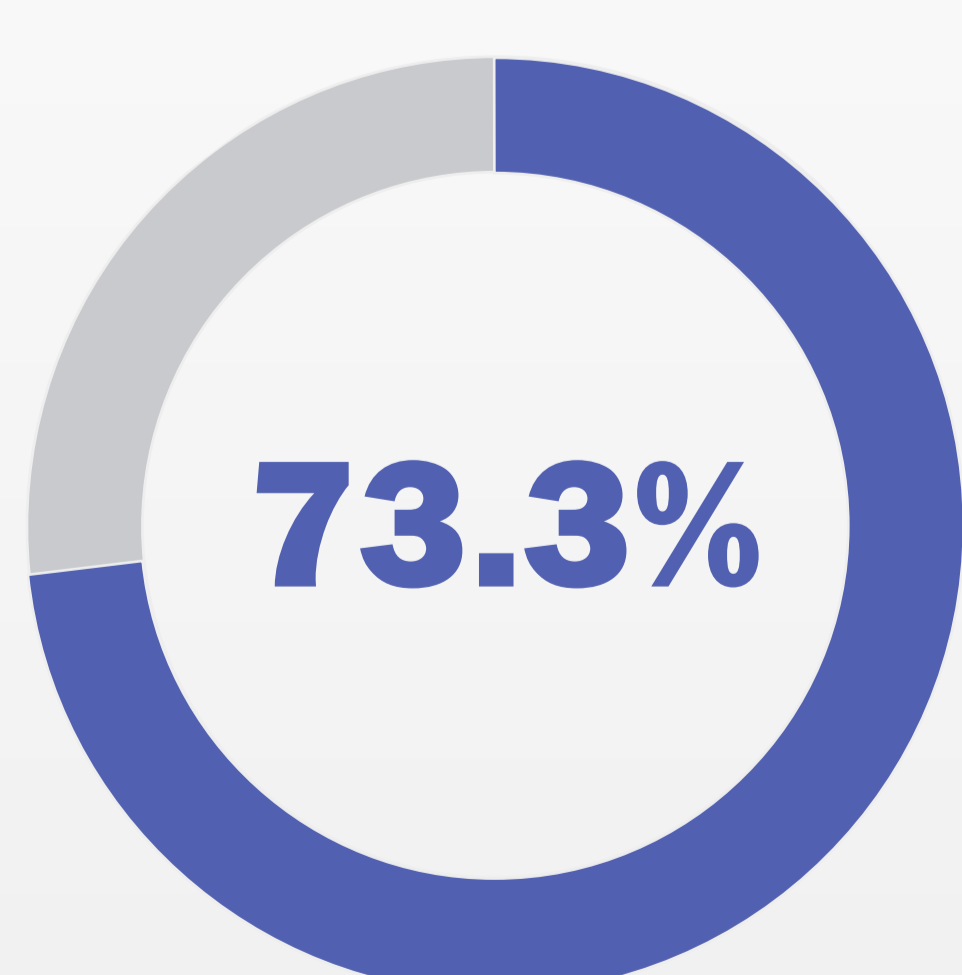
were sentenced in **2021-22**



Boys and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were disproportionately represented



Boys



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Reasons proposed for the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples include:

- effects of intergenerational trauma and structural disadvantage (e.g. a higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children known to the child protection system)
- ongoing experiences of racism and discriminatory treatment

Types of offences

Children aged 10–11 were most commonly sentenced for property-related offences, however a small number were sentenced for serious offences against the person.

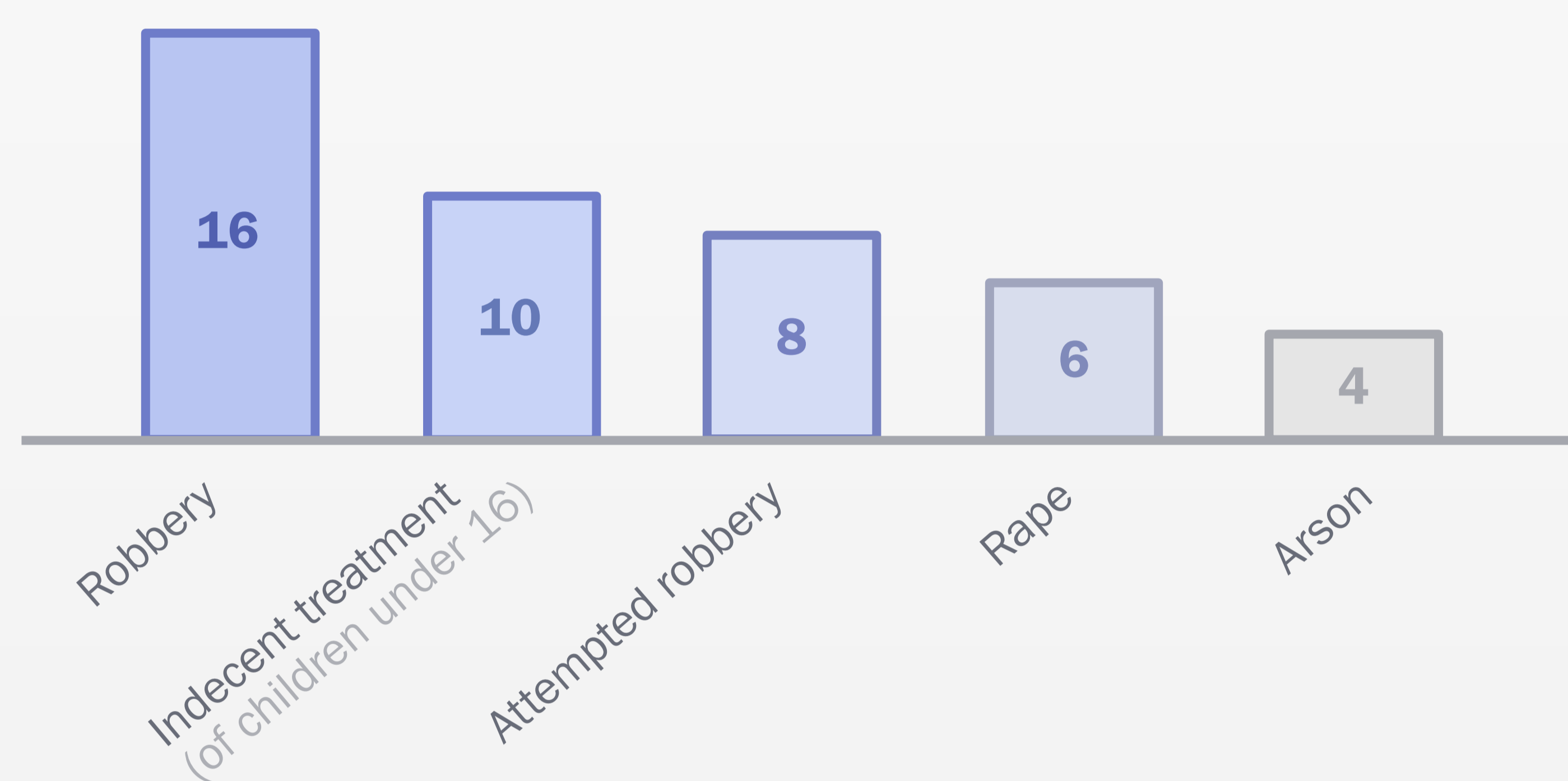


None were sentenced for homicide or drug trafficking offences

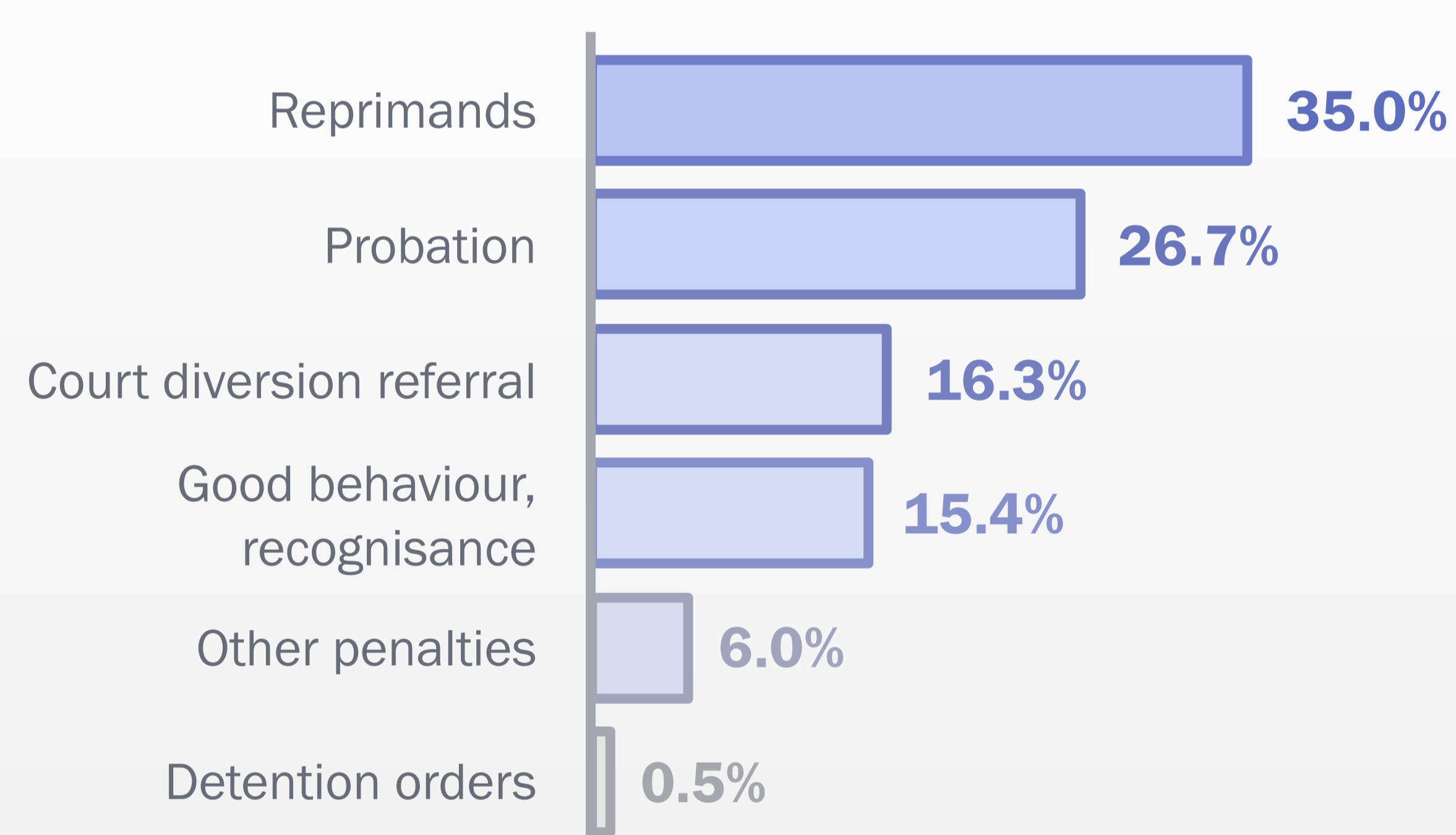


75 cases

involved **more serious offences** sentenced in the higher courts. These were the top offences:



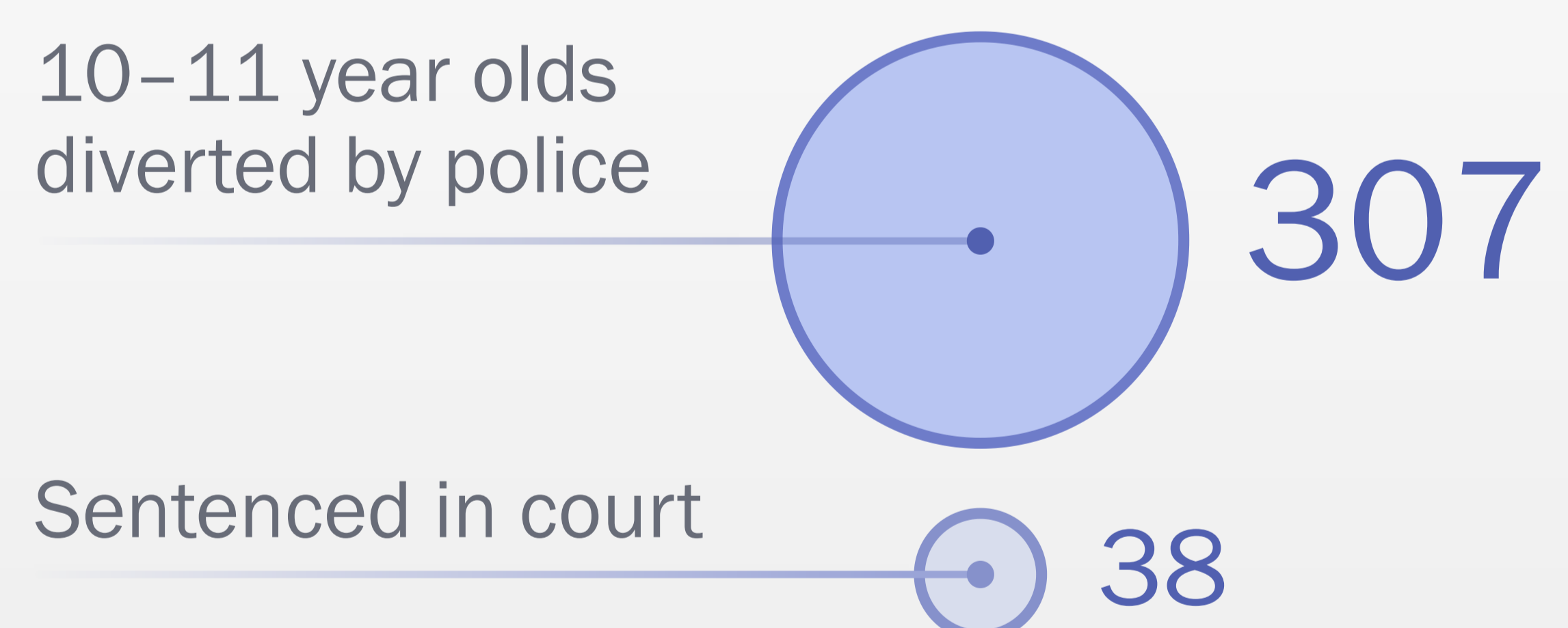
Types of penalties



11 detention orders made for 11 year olds and none for 10 year olds over the 17-year period

Diversion

Police diverted more children in this cohort than the courts sentenced and they were most commonly diverted for property-related offences



(Number of unique children in 2021-22)

What does this mean for raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 12?

- Alternatives to a criminal justice response for children aged 10 or 11 only need to cater to a small group of children who offend
- The very small number of serious offences committed by 10 and 11 year olds may reduce the need to consider 'carve outs' for this age group
- Raising the age is likely to help to combat the problem identified in research that early involvement with the criminal justice system can increase the chance of future offending
- Raising the age is likely to reduce the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the criminal justice system