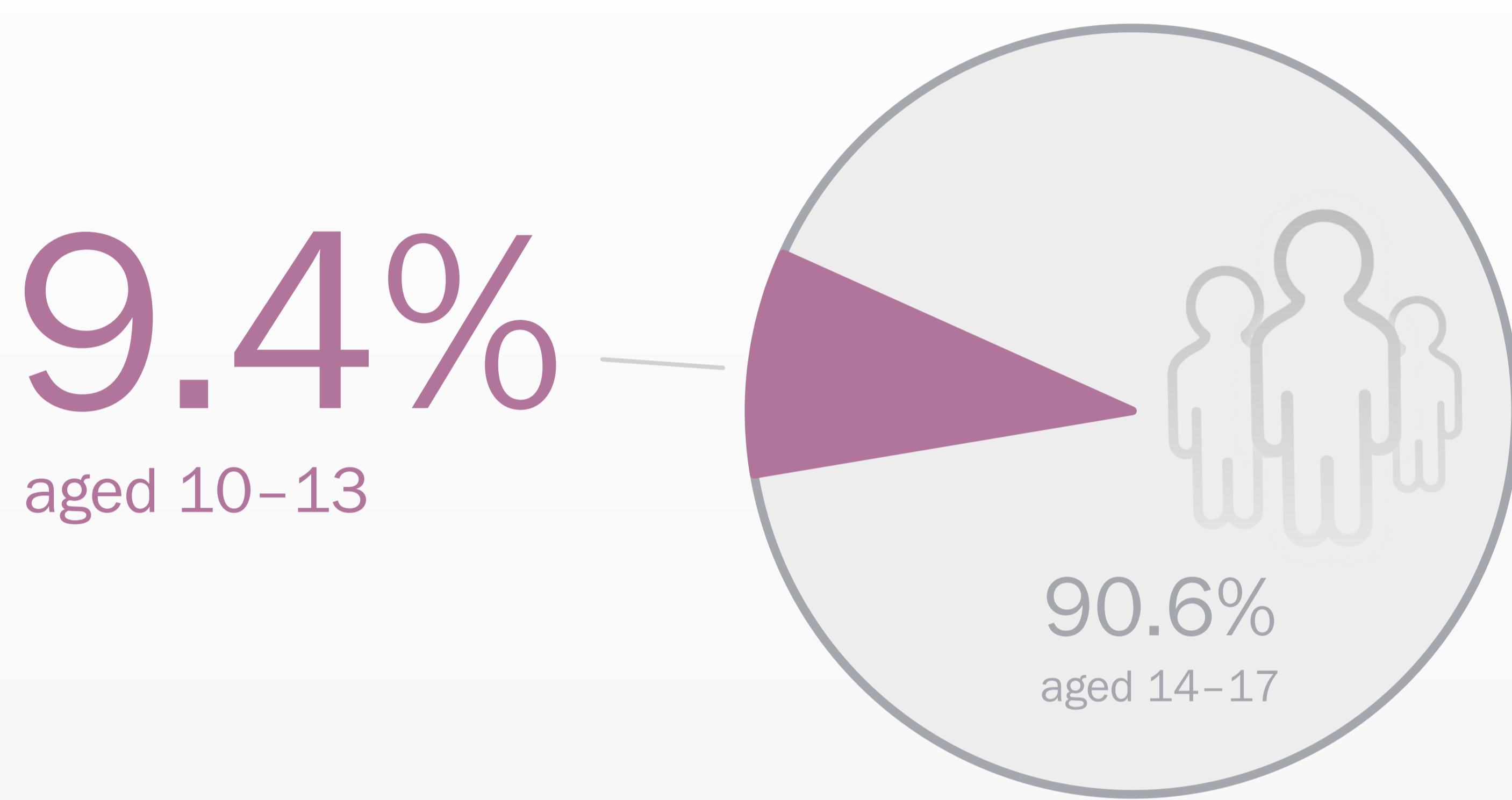




# Key findings: Children aged 10 to 13 years

## Proportion of all sentenced children in Queensland



# 7,207

10-13 year olds were sentenced **over a 17-year period**

# 482

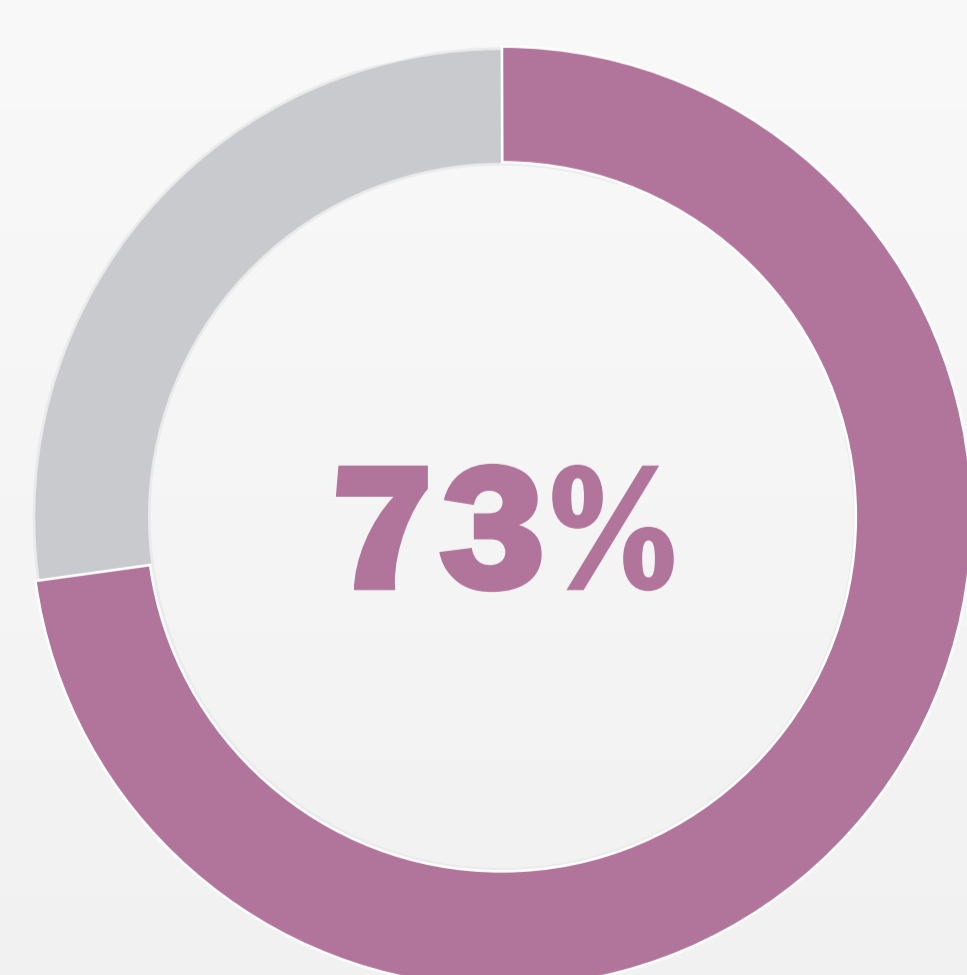
were sentenced in **2021-22**



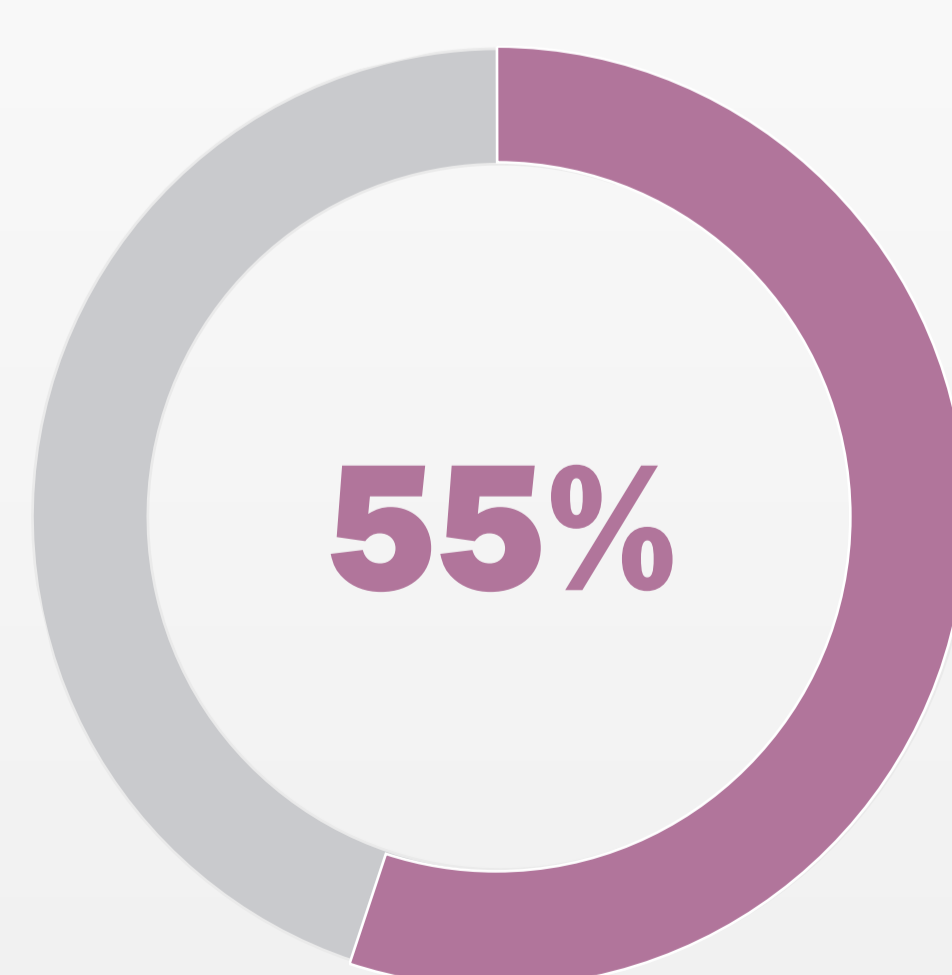
⏴ The proportion of boys being sentenced has decreased

⏵ The proportion of girls being sentenced has increased

## Boys and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were disproportionately represented



Boys



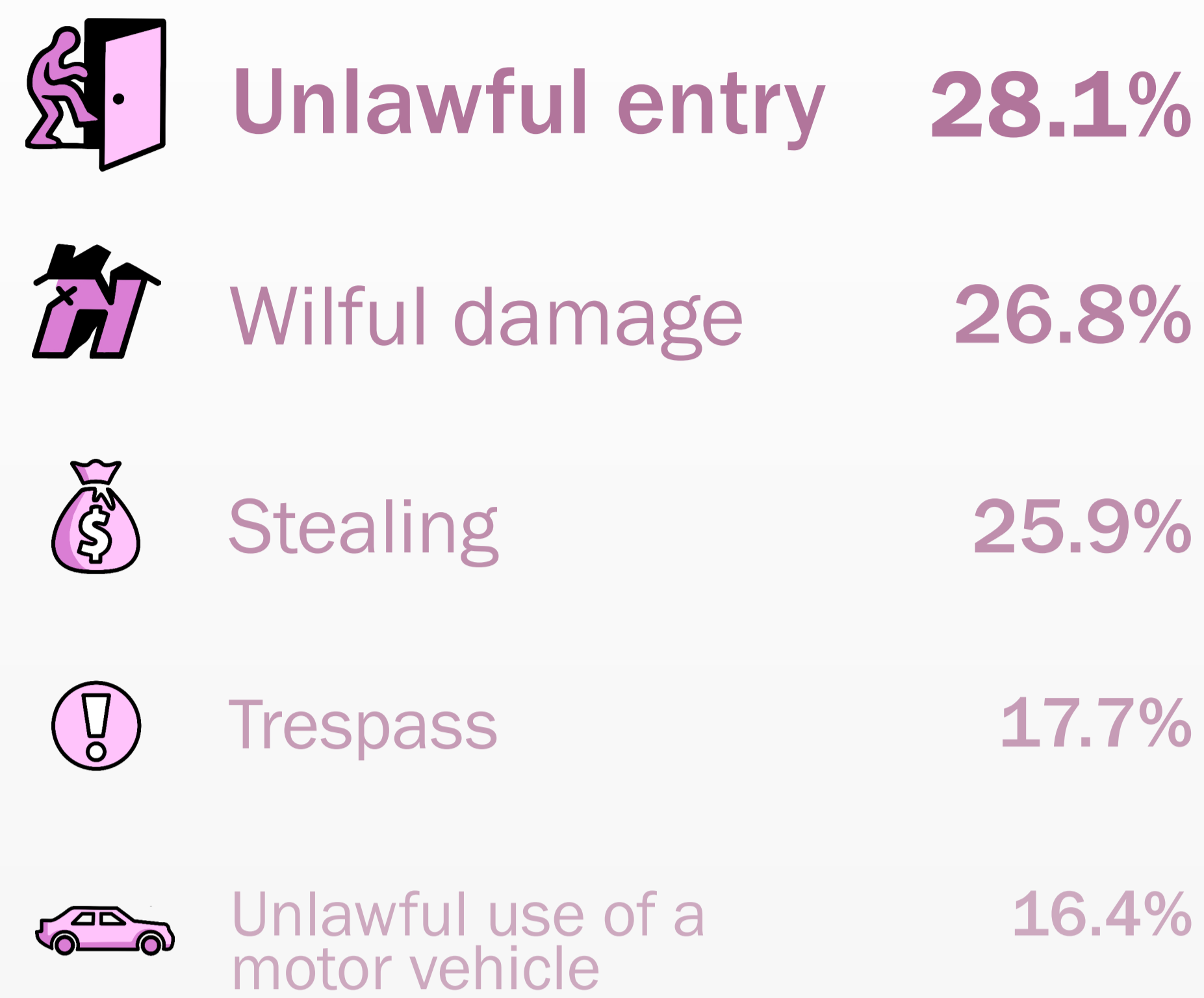
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

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 10–13 were most commonly sentenced for property-related offences, however a small number were sentenced for serious offences against the person.

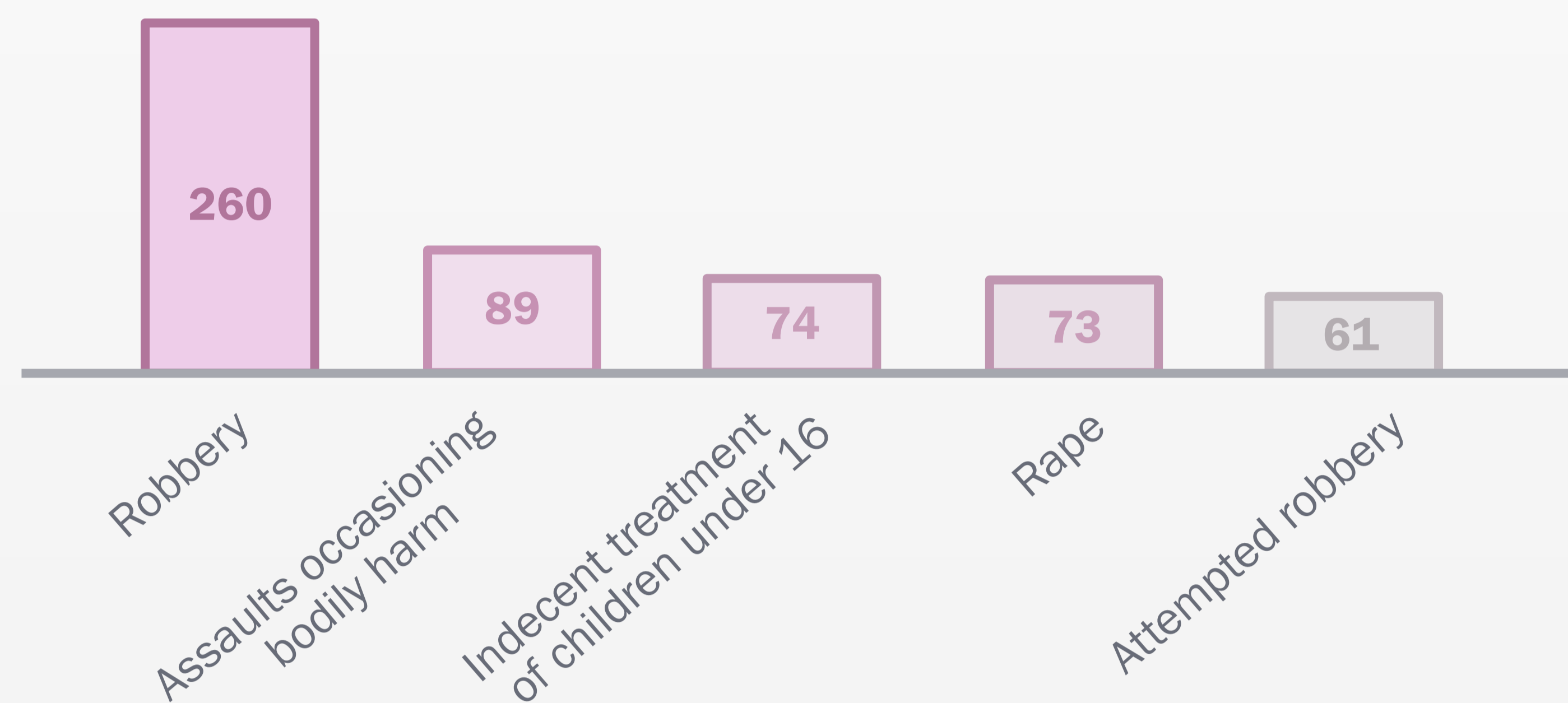


None were sentenced for homicide or drug trafficking offences

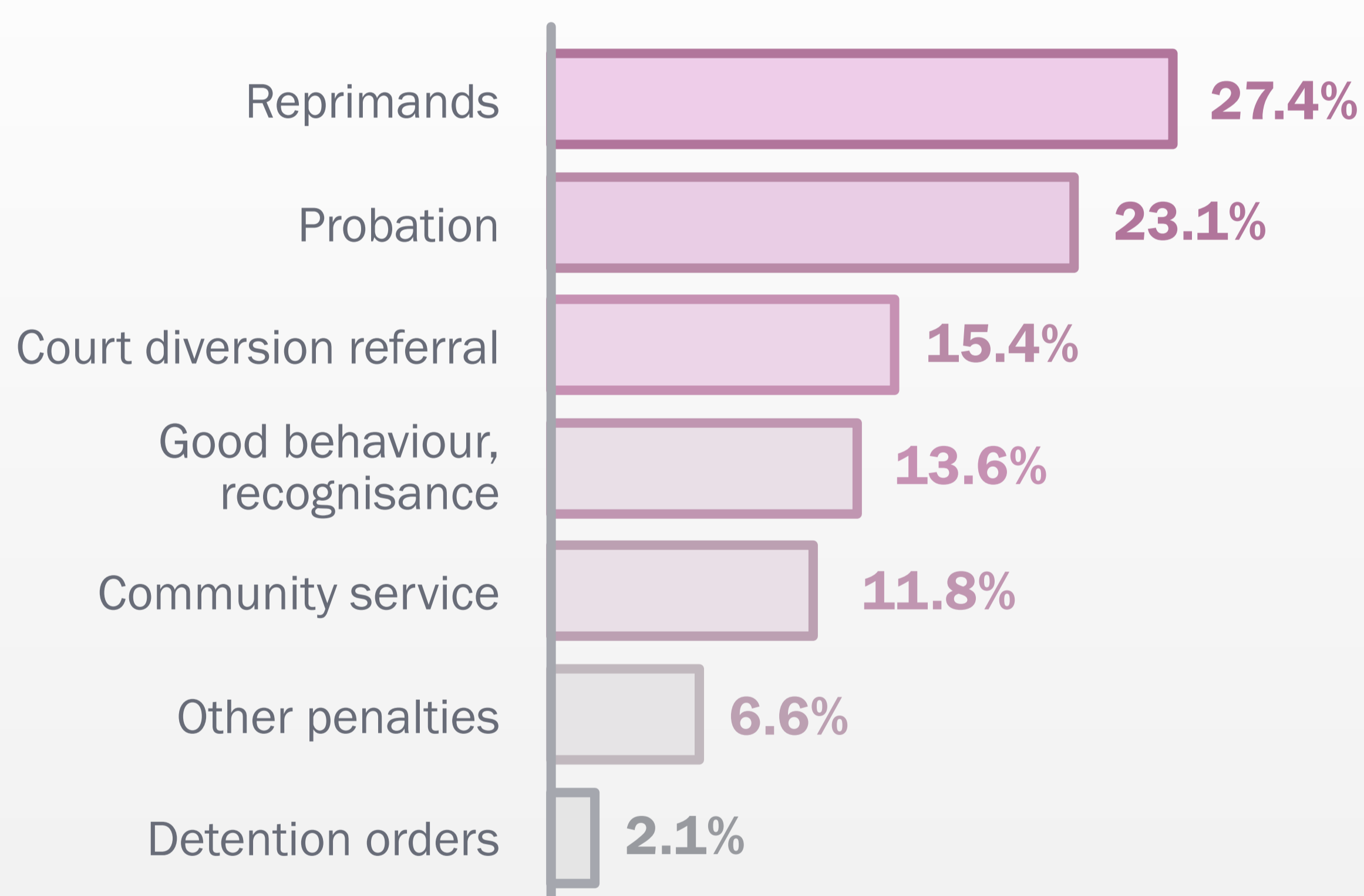


### 919 cases

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



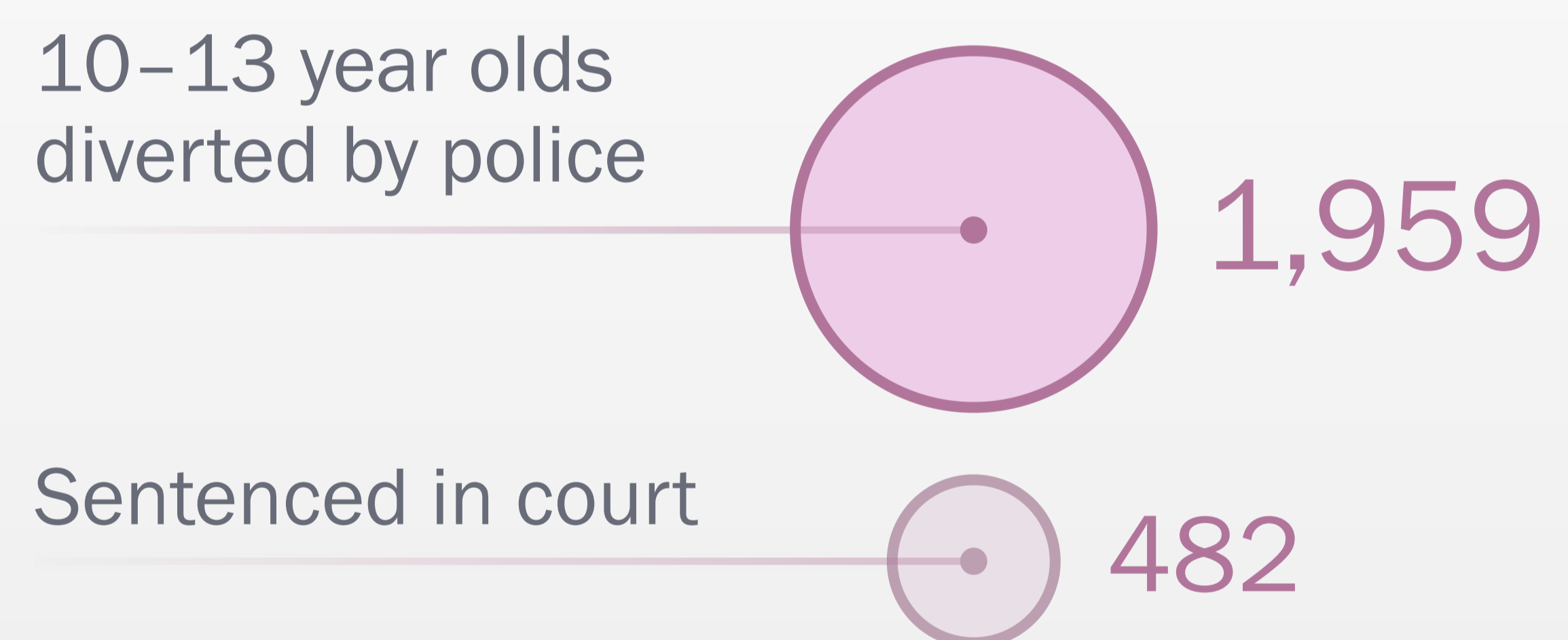
## Types of penalties



379 detention orders made. 297 of these orders were for children aged 13 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 14?

- Alternatives to a criminal justice response for children aged 10 to 13 only need to cater to a small group of children who offend
- Raising the age without exception would mean that offences would not be able to be prosecuted, so consideration would need to be given to ways to ensure victims are not without recourse, particularly for very serious offences
- 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