



Recidivism trends in Western Australia with comparisons to national trends

16 October 2014

Commissioner's Foreword

Recidivism rates in Western Australia have bucked national trends and dropped significantly over the last five years. I would like to think that this is because of the hard work that the Department of Corrective Services has undertaken to rehabilitate the men and women, and young people, who have come under its responsibility. In truth, however, I am not sure that this is the case. The reasons why recidivism rates are reducing among both adults and young people in Western Australia are unclear. There is no doubt that some of what we are doing is highly effective, but without reliable evidence to the contrary, I must assume that some of the measures we currently undertake in an effort to reduce recidivism do not work. To find out for certain will require a robust framework of reliable data collection and monitoring, along with independent evaluation.


The Inspector of Custodial Services, Mr Neil Morgan, was correct when he recently noted that high recidivism rates have a massive impact on the finances of this State. But the real cost of recidivism runs much deeper than that. It is more than the economic calculations of costs per day or estimates of annual averages. The real cost of failing to support offenders in their efforts to turn their lives around, is human. It is the people of Western Australia not feeling safe and it is the individuals who never live up to their full potential.

I have set an ambitious goal for the Department of Corrective Services, to reduce recidivism rates by six percent a year. To achieve this we must become a learning organisation. We must identify the characteristics of effective practice and use this knowledge to pursue a culture of continual improvement. In support of this goal I have embarked on an ambitious reform program that aims to radically change the way we do business. The Department is now working to build the evidence base needed to design and deliver programs that are tailored to, and proven to be effective for, different offender groups and offence types. This evidence has already told us the programs need to be delivered within an integrated, individualised, case management framework that extends beyond the structural confines of the Department and provides greater support for offenders upon release. This is a role that the Department can only undertake in partnership with the community and with the involvement of all sectors.

The reform process has also placed a particular emphasis on youth justice as this is where efforts to reduce recidivism are most likely to have lasting effects. The Youth Justice Board was established early in 2014 to seek out innovative ways of helping young people turn their lives around before they become entrenched in the cycle of offending, particularly young Aboriginal people.

The Department recognises that the circumstances which lead women to offend are often dramatically different to their male counterparts and that their treatment needs are quite distinct. Work has recently commenced to identify the most effective ways to manage and address the increasing rates of female imprisonment in Western Australia, with a particular emphasis on finding ways to address mental health and other treatment needs in the community.

It is within this context that I am particularly pleased to release this report on *Recidivism Trends in Western Australia*. The information that is presented here provides a sound baseline from which we can all measure our progress. It is a start in the right direction.



James McMahon
Commissioner

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Recidivism Measures and Definitions

Current recidivism measures follow standard National definitions set out by the National Corrections Advisory Group - National Corrective Services Statistics Unit

<p>Rate of Return (%) Corrective Services to Corrective Services</p> <p>Corrective Services = Custody and Community</p>	<p>The rate of return to Corrective Services is the percentage of prisoners discharged from custody after serving a sentence and offenders whose community corrections order ceased, who return to Corrective Services (either community corrections or custody) under sentence within two years of their release / discharge.</p> <p>Counts distinct people exiting and returning in the reporting period, not total movements.</p> <p>Includes all returns to prison for breach of early release orders.</p> <p>Excludes returns to Work and Development Orders and Bail orders in the community, and excludes exits from and returns to fine default only prison sentences.</p>
<p>Rate of Return (%) Prison to Corrective Services</p> <p>Corrective Services = Custody and Community</p>	<p>The rate of return from prison to corrective services is the percentage of prisoners discharged from custody after serving a sentence who return to Corrective Services under sentence within two years of their release.</p> <p>Counts total movements, including multiple exits and returns by distinct persons in the reporting period.</p> <p>Includes returns to prison on account of cancellation of early release order only.</p> <p>Excludes exits from and returns to fine default only prison sentences.</p> <p>Excludes returns to prison on account of suspension of early release order only.</p> <p>Excludes returns to community correction Work and Development Orders and Bail Orders.</p>
<p>Rate of Return (%) Community Justice Services to Corrective Services</p> <p>Corrective Services = Custody and Community</p>	<p>The rate of return to Corrective Services is the percentage of prisoners discharged from community corrections upon successful completion of their orders, who return to Corrective Services under sentence within two years of their discharge.</p> <p>Counts total movements, including multiple exits and returns by distinct persons in the reporting period.</p> <p>Excludes returns to community correction Work and Development Orders and Bail Orders.</p> <p>Excludes exits from and returns to fine default only prison sentences.</p>
<p>Rate of Return (%) Program Completers Prison to Corrective Services</p> <p>Corrective Services = Custody and Community</p>	<p>The rate of return from prison to corrective services for program completers is the percentage of prisoners discharged from custody after serving a sentence, having completed at least one treatment program prior to exit, who return to Corrective Services under sentence within two years of their release.</p> <p>Counts total movements, including multiple exits and returns by distinct persons in the reporting period.</p> <p>Includes returns to prison on account of cancellation of early release order only.</p> <p>Excludes exits from and returns to fine default only prison sentences.</p> <p>Excludes returns to prison on account of suspension of early release order only.</p> <p>Excludes returns to community correction Work and Development Orders and Bail Orders.</p>
<p>Proportion of Prisoners who Return to Prison on a Less Serious Offence Prison to Prison</p>	<p>This indicator looks at the group of ex-prisoners who return within 2 years of release, and measures the percentage of them where the most serious offence associated with their return is less serious than the most serious offence associated with the prison stay they previously exited from. This is based on the standard national definitions for rate of return from prison to corrective services. Returns from prison back to community corrections are always considered to be less serious for this purpose.</p>
<p>Youth Rate of Return (%) Detention to Detention</p>	<p>The youth rate of return to detention is the percentage of youth detainees discharged from detention, who return to detention under sentence within two years of their discharge.</p> <p>Counts distinct persons exiting and returning.</p> <p>Includes returns to detention on account of cancellation of early release order only.</p> <p>Includes returns to detention on account of suspension of early release order only.</p>

Adult recidivism measures - Rate of return

There are a range of factors which impact on recidivism. Factors relating to service provision via the relevant justice agency that impact on re-offending rates include supervision practices, program delivery and standards set for compliance and breaching. External influences on recidivism include factors such as the release of offenders on parole, policing practices, the prevailing economic climate, changes in drug use patterns and drug availabilities as well as changes in personal circumstances.

Table 1 and Figure 1: Between 2004-2005 and 2008-2009, the rates of return were relatively stable. From 2009-2010, there has been a significant reduction in the proportion of offenders returning to Corrective Services (both Custody and Community Corrections).

Between 2009-2010 and 2013-2014¹:

- The rate of return for those offenders who exited Corrective Services and returned to Corrective Services within two years has fallen 5.6 percentage points² from 38.5% to 32.9%. This represents a proportionate³ reduction of 14.7%.
- The rate of return for those offenders who exited prison and returned to Corrective Services within two years has fallen 8.5 percentage points from 53.7% to 45.2%. This represents a proportionate reduction of 15.9%;
- The rate of return for those offenders who exited Community Corrections and returned to Corrective Services within two years has fallen 10.6 percentage points from 23.4% to 12.8%. This represents a proportionate reduction of 45.2%.

Table 1: WA Adult recidivism measures – Rate of return to Corrective Services

Year	Rate of Return (%)		
	Corrective Services = Custody and Community		
	Corrective Services to Corrective Services	Prison to Corrective Services	Community Corrections to Corrective Services
2004-2005	37.0%	52.4%	24.5%
2005-2006	37.5%	53.4%	24.2%
2006-2007	36.4%	52.1%	24.2%
2007-2008	35.4%	49.5%	24.4%
2008-2009	38.2%	52.2%	24.9%
2009-2010	38.5%	53.7%	23.4%
2010-2011	35.6%	51.5%	21.7%
2011-2012	32.9%	44.2%	17.2%
2012-2013	31.1%	43.2%	13.0%
2013-2014	32.9%	45.2%	12.8%

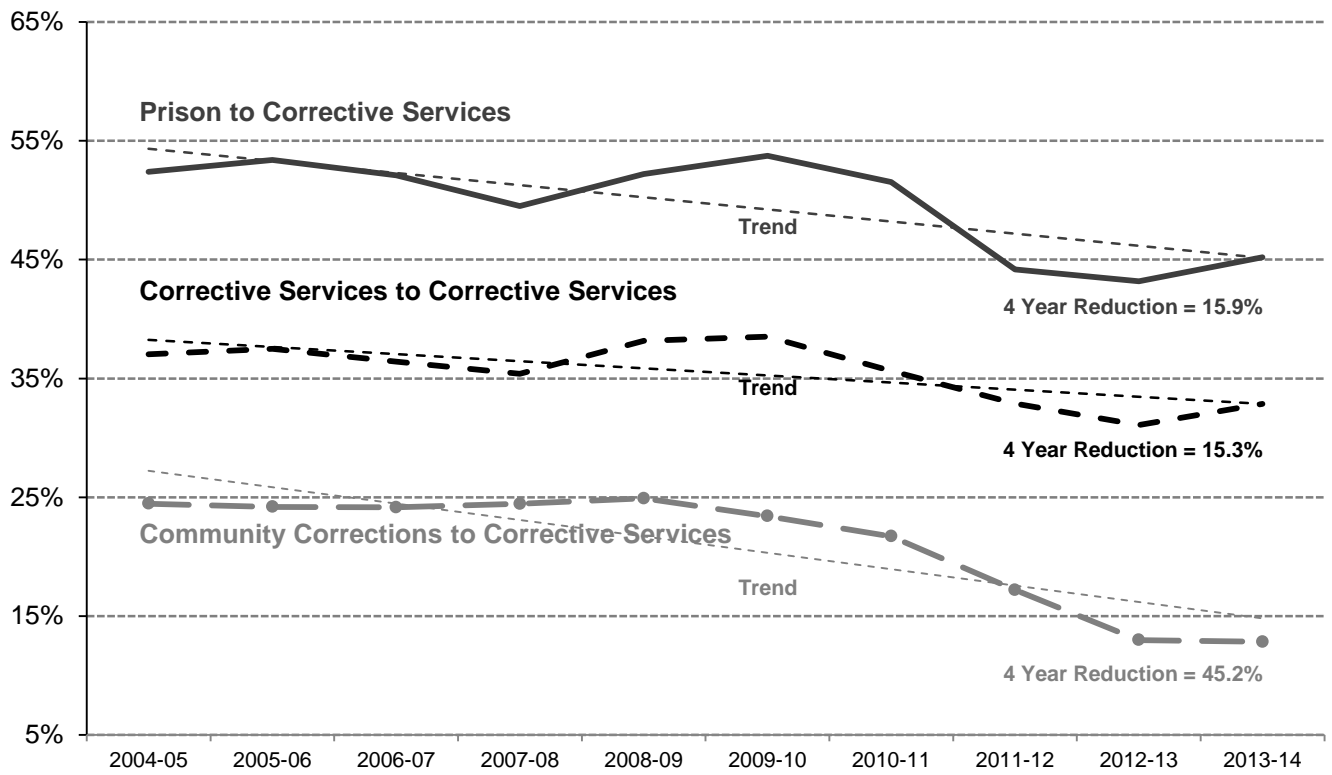
Source: WA Corrective Services TOMS and CBIS data systems

¹ Table data has been rounded to one decimal place. Percentage point and proportionate percentage changes shown may not exactly match data from the tables as they were calculated using several decimal places.

² The change in percentage points quantifies the difference between percentages for two points in time.

³ The proportionate change is the percentage point change divided by the percentage figure at the beginning of the nominated time period. It indicates the extent of the movement.

Figure 1: WA Adult recidivism measures – Rate of return to Corrective Services



Source: WA Corrective Services TOMS and CBIS data systems

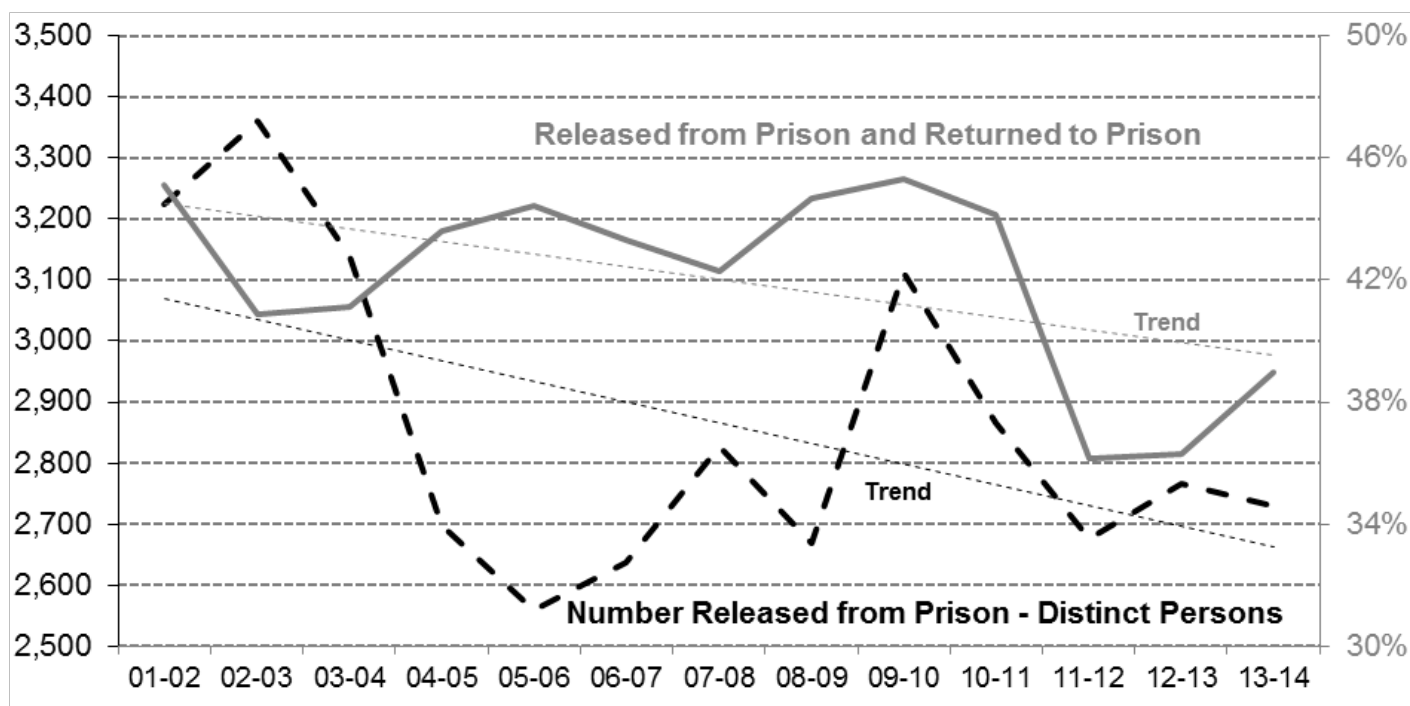
Adult recidivism measures - Rate of return - Offenders returning to prison within two years of their release from prison

Figure 2: Since 2001-2002 there has been a downward trend for offenders returning to prison within two years of their release from prison. Similarly, the number of distinct persons released from prison is trending downward.

Between 2009-2010 and 2013-2014:

- The rate of return for offenders who exited prison and returned to prison within two years has fallen 6.3 percentage points from 45.3% to 39.0%. This represents a proportionate reduction of 14.0%.
- The number of distinct persons released from prison has fallen from 3,111 to 2,730.

Figure 2: WA Adult recidivism measures – Rate of return to prison – The number of distinct persons released from prison and the proportion of offenders returning to prison within two years of their release from prison



Source: WA Corrective Services TOMS data system

Adult recidivism measures - Comparison of rates of return for WA with rates of return for Australia

Table 2, Figure 3 and Figure 4: Up until 2010-2011, Western Australia's prison to Corrective Services recidivism rate was higher than the Australian average. Since 2011-2012, WA's adult recidivism rates for *Prison to Corrective Services* and *Community Corrections to Corrective Services* have been lower than recidivism rates for Australia as a whole.

Between 2009-2010 and 2012-2013⁴ WA recidivism rates show a downward trend in the rate of return for offenders who exited prison and returned to Corrective Services (both Custody and Community Corrections) within two years, decreasing 10.5 percentage points from 53.7% to 43.2%. Australia as a whole demonstrated an upward movement in this category, increasing 2.4 percentage points from 44.0% to 46.4%.

Between 2009-2010 and 2012-2013 the rate of return for offenders who exited community corrections and returned to Corrective Services within two years fell more sharply in WA, decreasing by 10.4 percentage points from 23.4% to 13.0%, compared to a decrease of 2.6 percentage points from 27.4% to 24.8% for Australia as a whole.

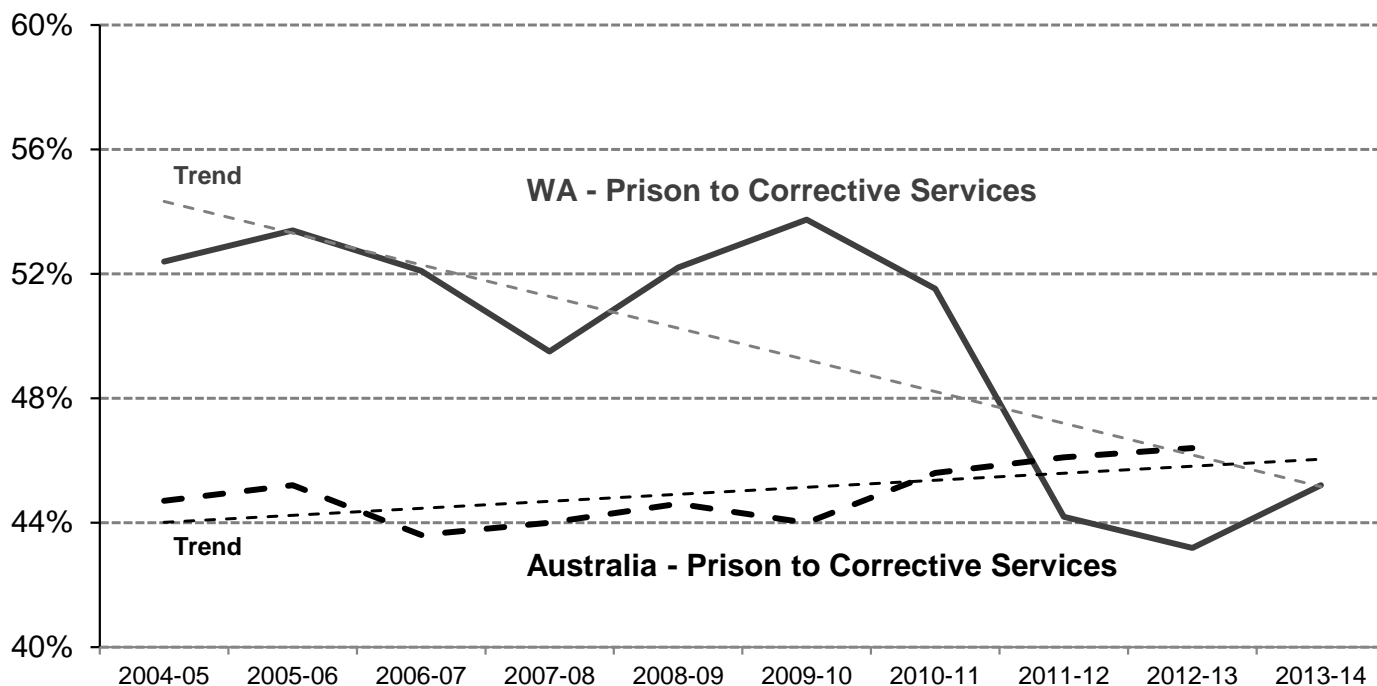
Table 2: Comparison of rates of return for WA with rates of return for Australia

Year	WA Prison to Corrective Services	Australia Prison to Corrective Services	WA Community Corrections to Corrective Services	Australia Community Corrections to Corrective Services
2004-2005	52.4%	44.7%	24.5%	25.1%
2005-2006	53.4%	45.2%	24.2%	29.1%
2006-2007	52.1%	43.6%	24.2%	27.6%
2007-2008	49.5%	44.0%	24.4%	27.9%
2008-2009	52.2%	44.6%	24.9%	27.8%
2009-2010	53.7%	44.0%	23.4%	27.4%
2010-2011	51.5%	45.6%	21.7%	25.1%
2011-2012	44.2%	46.1%	17.2%	24.1%
2012-2013	43.2%	46.4%	13.0%	24.8%
2013-2014	45.2%		12.8%	

Source: WA Corrective Services TOMS and CBIS data systems and Report on Government Services published data (2013-14 data not yet published)

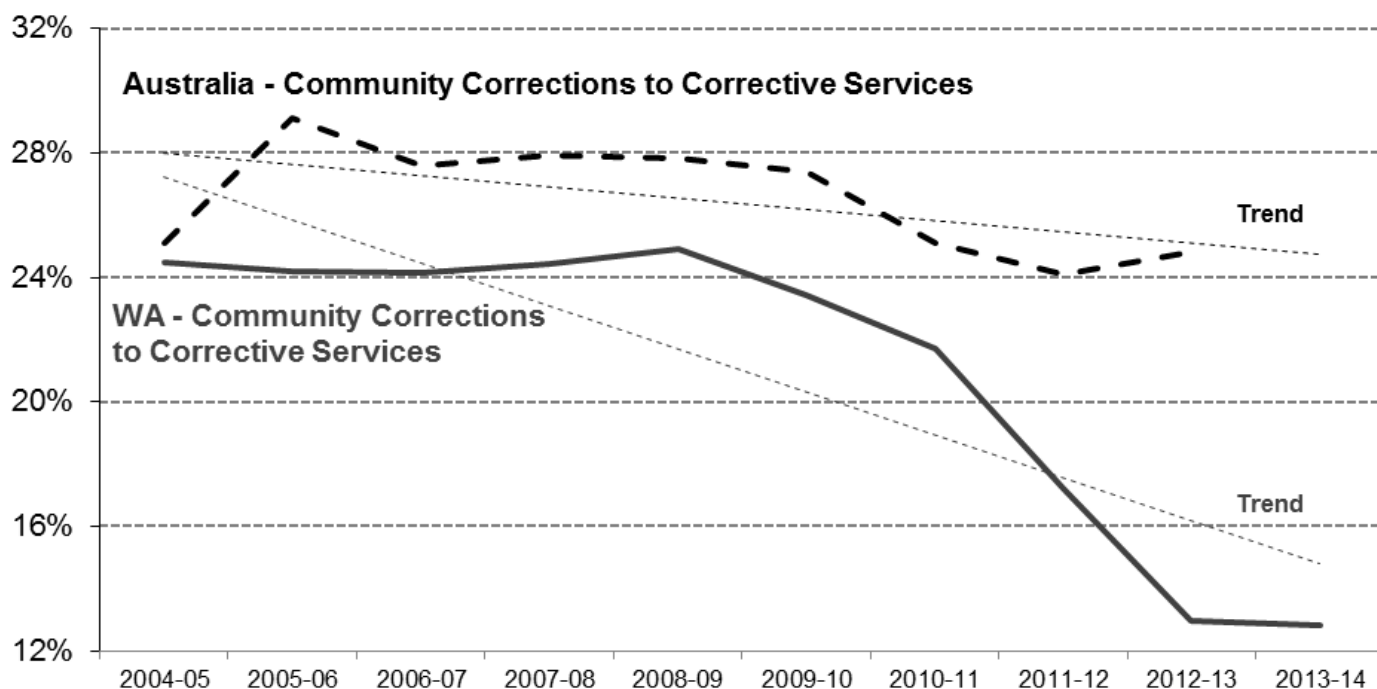
⁴ Data for Australia is only available to 2012-2013.

Figure 3: Comparison of rates of return for WA with rates of return for Australia - The proportion of offenders returning to Corrective Services within two years of their release from prison



Source: WA Corrective Services TOMS and CBIS data systems and Report on Government Services published data (2013-14 data not yet published)

Figure 4: Comparison of rates of return for WA with rates of return for Australia - The proportion of offenders returning to Corrective Services within two years of their release from community corrections



Source: WA Corrective Services TOMS and CBIS data systems and Report on Government Services published data (2013-2014 data not yet published)

Adult recidivism measures - Rate of return - Offenders returning to Corrective Services within two years of their release from Corrective Services, by gender

(Corrective Services = Custody and Community Corrections)

Female offenders are a smaller cohort of the offender population than male offenders. As of 30 June 2014, female offenders comprised 9.0% of the prisoner population and 22.1% of offenders under the supervision of community corrections⁵.

Table 3 and Figure 5: The trend in the rate of return to Corrective Services for both male and female offenders has been decreasing over time.

Between 2009-2010 and 2013-2014:

- The rate of return for male offenders who exited Corrective Services and returned to Corrective Services within two years has fallen 5.9 percentage points from 40.6% to 34.7%. This represents a proportionate reduction of 14.7%.
- The rate of return for female offenders who exited Corrective Services and returned to Corrective Services within two years has fallen 5.5 percentage points from 30.7% to 25.2%. This represents a proportionate reduction of 17.8%.

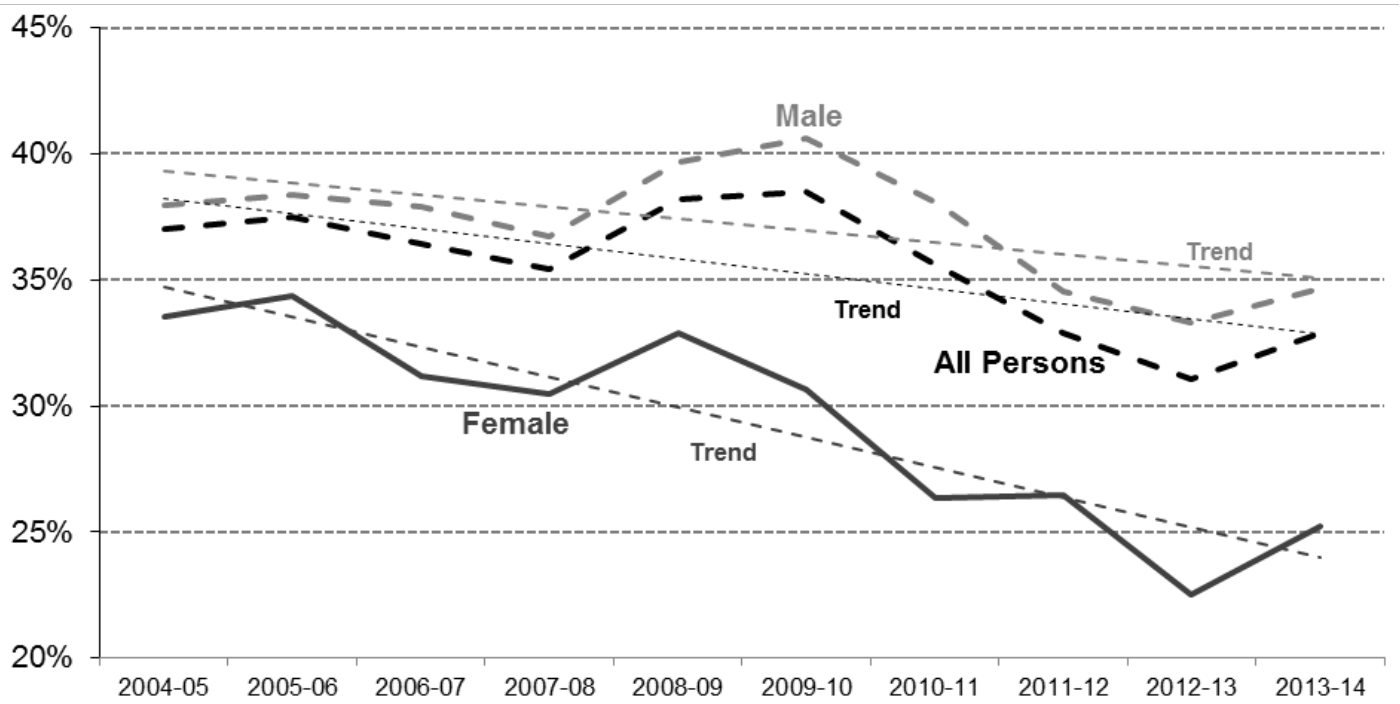
Table 3: Rate of return from Corrective Services to Corrective Services, by gender

Year	Rate of Return (%)		
	Male	Female	All Persons
2004-2005	38.0%	33.6%	37.0%
2005-2006	38.4%	34.4%	37.5%
2006-2007	37.9%	31.2%	36.4%
2007-2008	36.7%	30.5%	35.4%
2008-2009	39.7%	32.9%	38.2%
2009-2010	40.6%	30.7%	38.5%
2010-2011	38.1%	26.4%	35.6%
2011-2012	34.5%	26.5%	32.9%
2012-2013	33.3%	22.5%	31.1%
2013-2014	34.7%	25.2%	32.9%

Source: WA Corrective Services TOMS and CBIS data systems

⁵ WA Corrective Services TOMS and CBIS data systems

Figure 5: The proportion of offenders returning to Corrective Services within two years of their release from Corrective Services, by gender



Source: WA Corrective Services TOMS and CBIS data systems

Adult recidivism measures - Rate of return - Offenders returning to Corrective Services within two years of their release from prison, by gender

(Corrective Services = Custody and Community Corrections)

As of 30 June 2014 female offenders comprised 9.0% of the total prisoner population. The smaller number of female prisoners can result in greater fluctuations from year to year. In these cases, observing the long-term trend is a more robust way of interpreting change.

Table 4 and Figure 6: The long-term trend reflects a reduction in the rate of return for female offenders who return to Corrective Services within two years of their exit from prison. This is consistent with the trend for males.

Between 2009-2010 and 2013-2014:

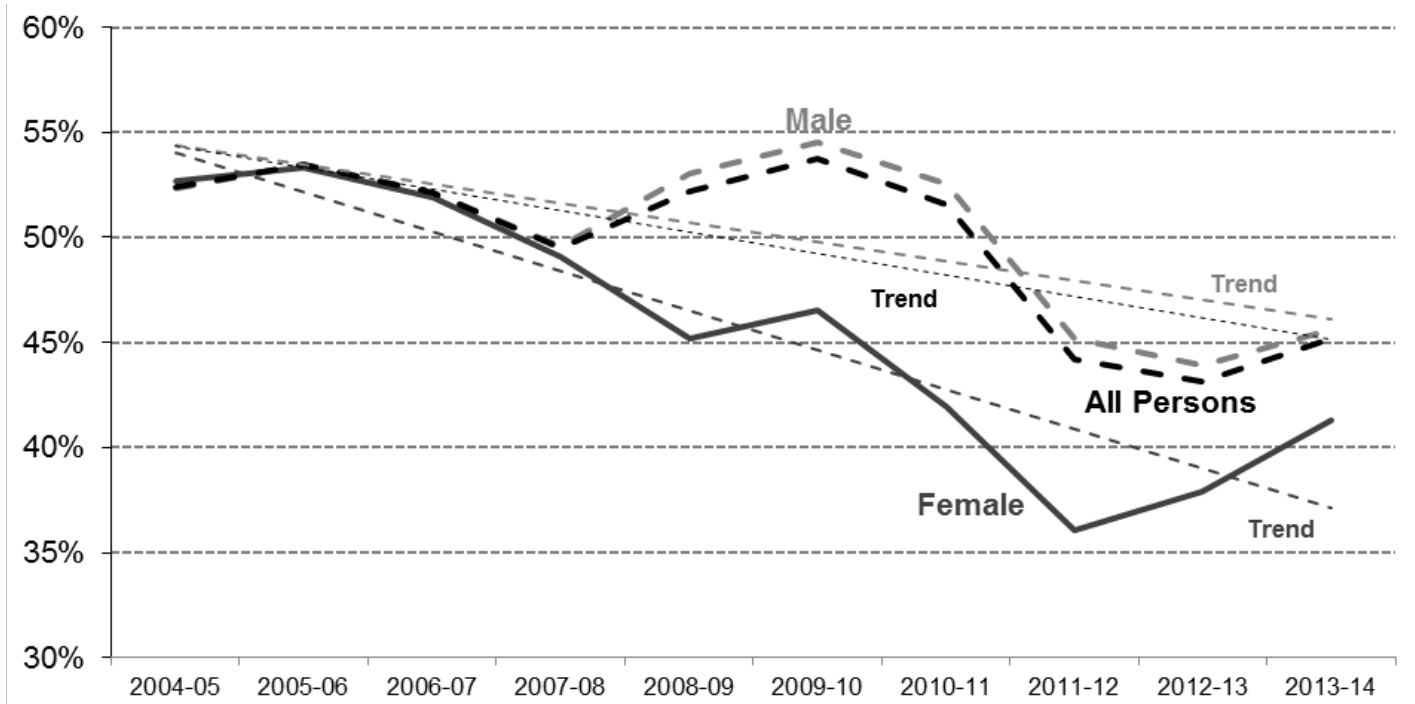
- The rate of return for male offenders who exited prison and returned to Corrective Services within two years has fallen 8.9 percentage points from 54.5% to 45.6%. This represents a proportionate reduction of 16.3%.
- The rate of return for female offenders who exited prison and returned to Corrective Services within two years has fallen 5.2 percentage points from 46.5% to 41.3%. This represents a proportionate reduction of 11.3%.

Table 4: Rate of return from prison to Corrective Services, by gender

Year	Rate of Return (%)		
	Male	Female	All Persons
2004-2005	52.3%	52.7%	52.4%
2005-2006	53.4%	53.3%	53.4%
2006-2007	52.2%	51.9%	52.1%
2007-2008	49.6%	49.1%	49.5%
2008-2009	53.1%	45.2%	52.2%
2009-2010	54.5%	46.5%	53.7%
2010-2011	52.6%	41.9%	51.5%
2011-2012	45.2%	36.1%	44.2%
2012-2013	43.9%	37.9%	43.2%
2013-2014	45.6%	41.3%	45.2%

Source: WA Corrective Services TOMS and CBIS data systems

Figure 6: The proportion of offenders returning to Corrective Services within two years of their release from prison, by gender



Source: WA Corrective Services TOMS and CBIS data systems

Adult recidivism measures - Rate of return - Offenders returning to Corrective Services within two years of their release from community corrections, by gender

(Corrective Services = Custody and Community Corrections)

Table 5 and Figure 7: Between 2004-2005 and 2013-2014 the rate of return for offenders who exited community corrections and returned to Corrective Services within two years has shown a significant downward trend. The rate of return for both male and female offenders is consistent with this overall trend.

Between 2009-2010 and 2013-2014:

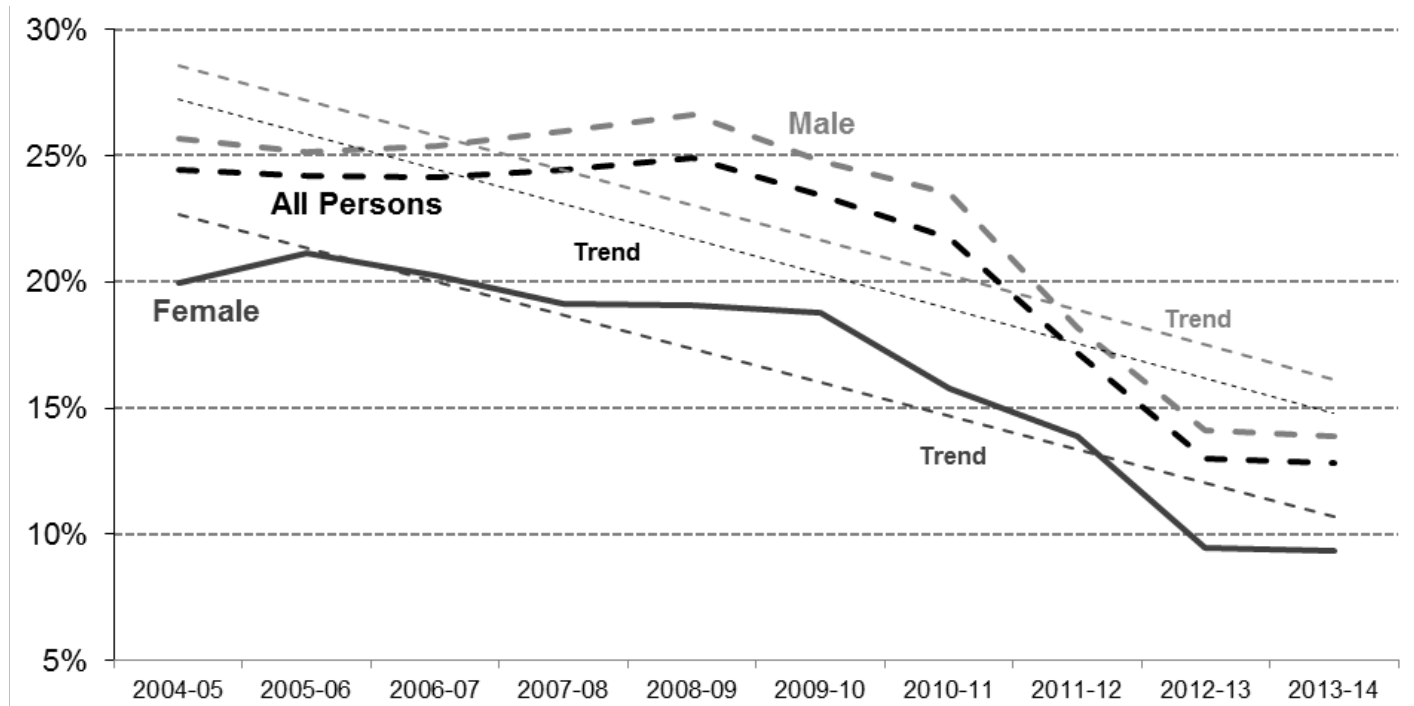
- The rate of return for male offenders who exited community corrections and returned to Corrective Services within two years has fallen 10.9 percentage points from 24.8% to 13.9%. This represents a proportionate reduction of 44.0%.
- The rate of return for female offenders who exited community corrections and returned to Corrective Services within two years has fallen 9.5 percentage points from 18.8% to 9.3%. This represents a proportionate reduction of 50.4%.

Table 5: Rate of return from community corrections to Corrective Services, by gender

Year	Rate of Return (%)		
	Male	Female	All Persons
2004-2005	25.7%	20.0%	24.5%
2005-2006	25.1%	21.1%	24.2%
2006-2007	25.4%	20.3%	24.2%
2007-2008	26.0%	19.1%	24.4%
2008-2009	26.6%	19.1%	24.9%
2009-2010	24.8%	18.8%	23.4%
2010-2011	23.5%	15.8%	21.7%
2011-2012	18.2%	13.9%	17.2%
2012-2013	14.1%	9.5%	13.0%
2013-2014	13.9%	9.3%	12.8%

Source: WA Corrective Services TOMS and CBIS data systems

Figure 7: The proportion of offenders returning to Corrective Services within two years of their release from community corrections, by gender



Source: WA Corrective Services TOMS and CBIS data systems

Sentenced prisoners with prior imprisonment - Comparison of WA with Australia

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) collects prior imprisonment information from all correctional jurisdictions in Australia. The prior imprisonment measure used by the ABS is fundamentally different to the rate of return measures reported by DCS. The prior imprisonment measure counts sentenced prisoners with any history of prior imprisonment with no time limitations, whereas rate of return measures are based on offenders re-offending within two years of release⁶.

Table 6 and Figure 8: The proportion of sentenced prisoners with a history of prior imprisonment in WA has increased from 53.3% in 2010 to 61.8% in 2013. During the same period, prior imprisonment in Australia increased at a lower rate, from 54.6% in 2010 to 57.8% in 2013.

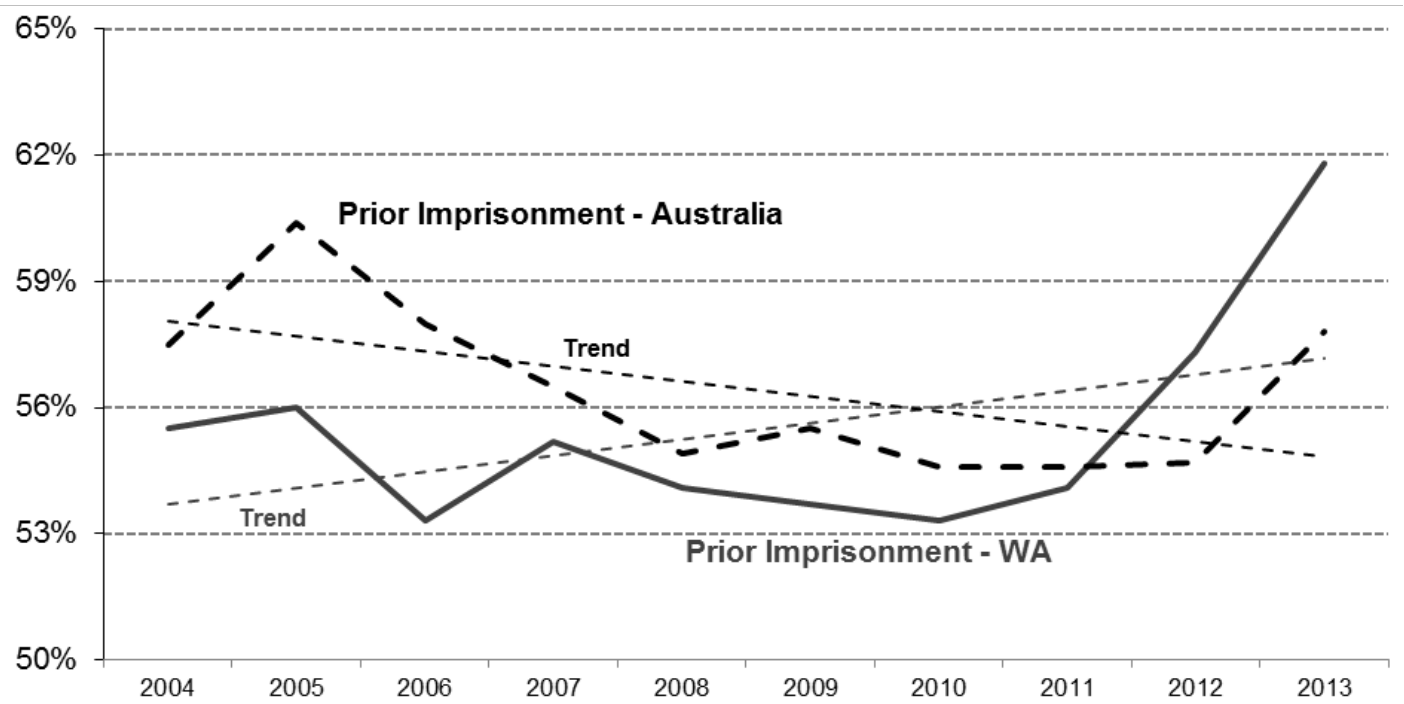
Table 6: ABS – The proportion of sentenced prisoners with prior Imprisonment – Comparison of WA with Australia

30 June	Western Australia	Australia
2004	55.5%	57.5%
2005	56.0%	60.4%
2006	53.3%	58.0%
2007	55.2%	56.5%
2008	54.1%	54.9%
2009	53.7%	55.5%
2010	53.3%	54.6%
2011	54.1%	54.6%
2012	57.3%	54.7%
2013	61.8%	57.8%

Source: ABS Catalogue 4517.0 - Prisoners in Australia, 2013 (Released 13 June 2014)

⁶ ABS data only available to 30 June 2013

Figure 8: ABS - The proportion of sentenced prisoners with prior imprisonment - Comparison of WA with Australia



Source: ABS Catalogue 4517.0 - Prisoners in Australia, 2013 (Released 13 June 2014)

Sentenced prisoners with prior imprisonment - Comparison of WA with Australia, by Aboriginality

Table 7, Figure 9 and Figure 10: The proportion of Aboriginal prisoners in WA with a history of prior imprisonment has overtaken the proportion for Aboriginal prisoners with a history of prior imprisonment across Australia.

Between 30 June 2010 and 30 June 2013⁷:

- The proportion of Aboriginal prisoners with a history of prior imprisonment has increased in WA from 71.3% to 79.8%. Across Australia, the proportion of Aboriginal prisoners with a history of prior imprisonment has increased from 73.7% to 77.0%.
- The proportion of non-Aboriginal prisoners with a history of prior imprisonment has increased in WA from 41.7% to 49.7%. Across Australia, the proportion of non-Aboriginal prisoners with a history of prior imprisonment has increased from 48.6% to 50.9%.

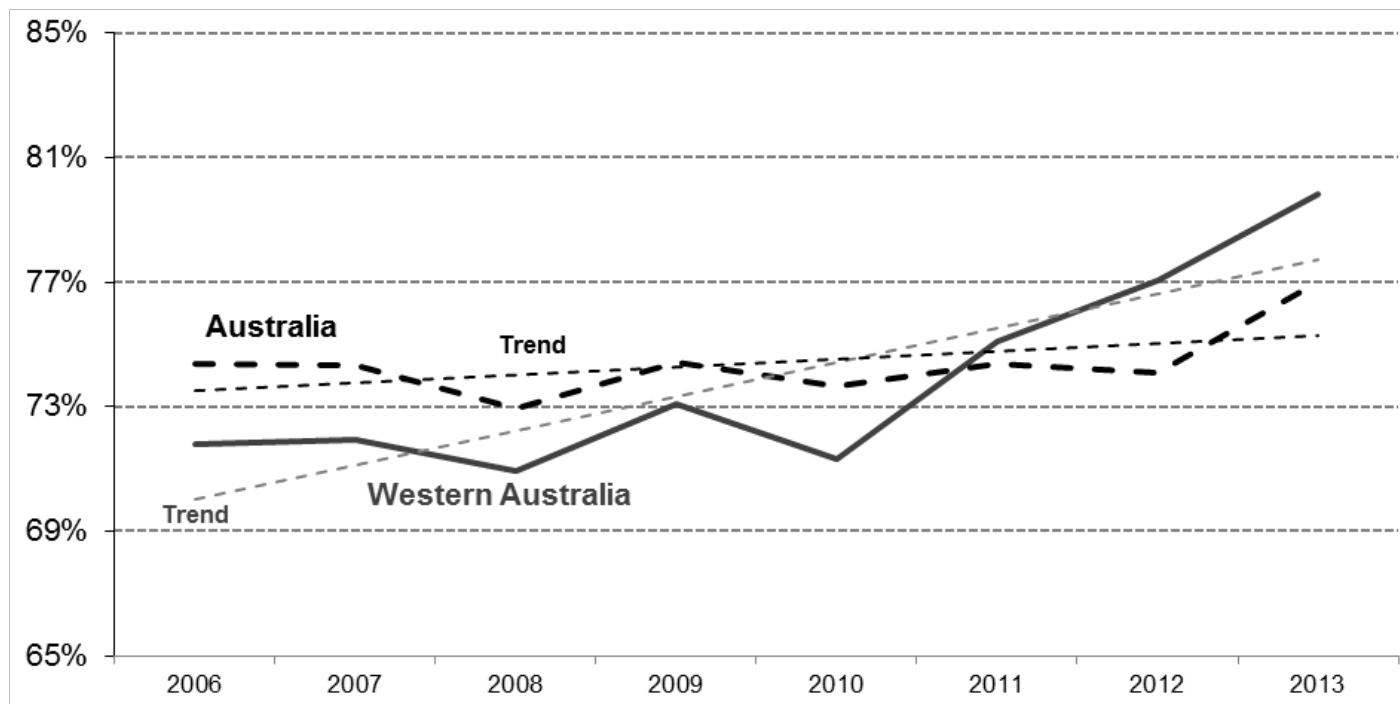
Table 7: ABS – The proportion of sentenced prisoners with prior imprisonment by Aboriginality – Comparison of WA with Australia

Year	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
	Western Australia	Australia	Western Australia	Australia
2006	71.8%	74.4%	41.2%	52.0%
2007	71.9%	74.3%	42.7%	51.3%
2008	70.9%	73.0%	42.3%	49.6%
2009	73.1%	74.4%	40.5%	49.9%
2010	71.3%	73.7%	41.7%	48.6%
2011	75.1%	74.4%	41.2%	47.6%
2012	77.0%	74.1%	44.3%	47.7%
2013	79.8%	77.0%	49.7%	50.9%

Source: ABS Catalogue 4517.0 - Prisoners in Australia, 2013 (Released 13 June 2014)

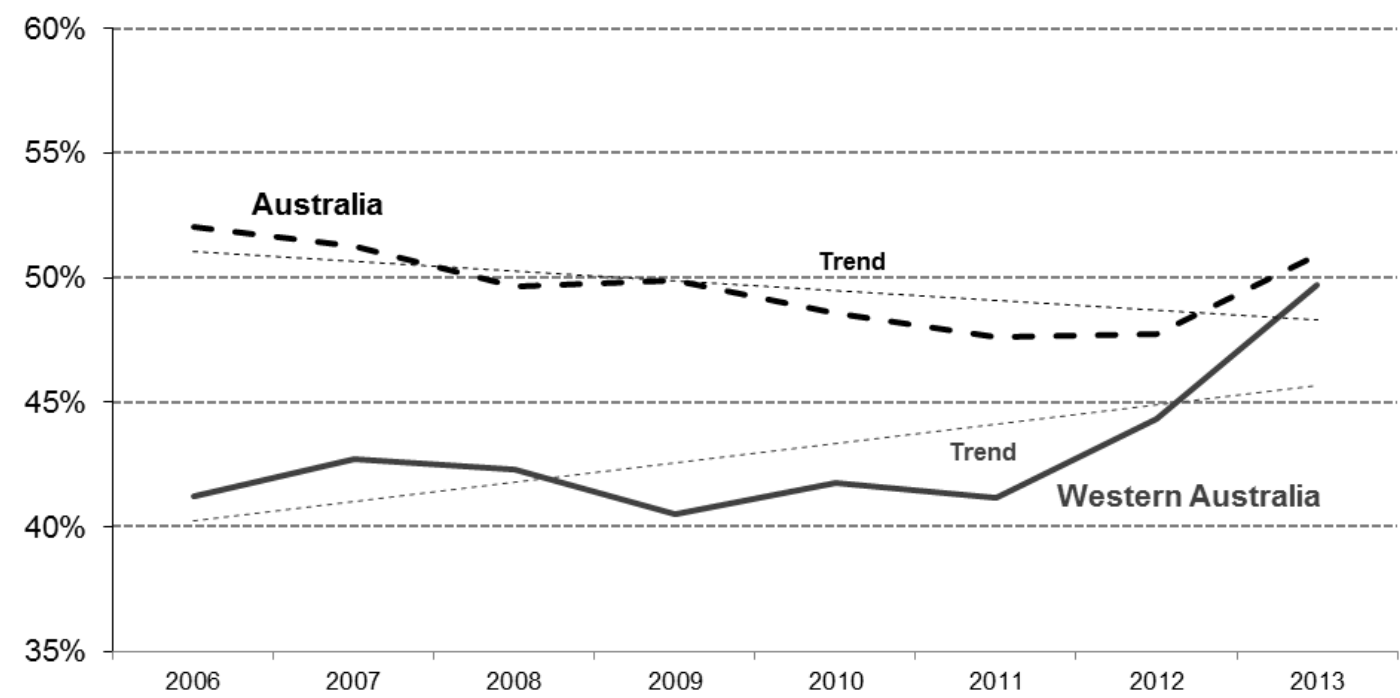
⁷ ABS data only available to 30 June 2013

Figure 9: ABS - The proportion of sentenced Aboriginal prisoners with prior imprisonment – Comparison of WA with Australia



Source: ABS Catalogue 4517.0 - Prisoners in Australia, 2013 (Released 13 June 2014)

Figure 10: ABS - The proportion of sentenced non-Aboriginal prisoners with prior imprisonment – Comparison of WA with Australia



Source: ABS Catalogue 4517.0 - Prisoners in Australia, 2013 (Released 13 June 2014)

Adult recidivism measures - Offenders returning to Corrective Services within two years of their release from prison on a less serious offence⁸, by Aboriginality

(Corrective Services = Custody and Community Corrections)

Table 8 and Figure 11: There has been a trend amongst both Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal re-offenders who exit prison and return to Corrective Services, to return on a less serious offence than their previous conviction.

Between 2000-2001 and 2013-2014:

- The proportion of Aboriginal prisoners who exited prison and returned to Corrective Services within two years on a less serious offence has increased from 52.3% to 59.8%.
- The proportion of non-Aboriginal prisoners who exited prison and returned to Corrective Services within two years on a less serious offence has increased from 57.4% to 68.1%.

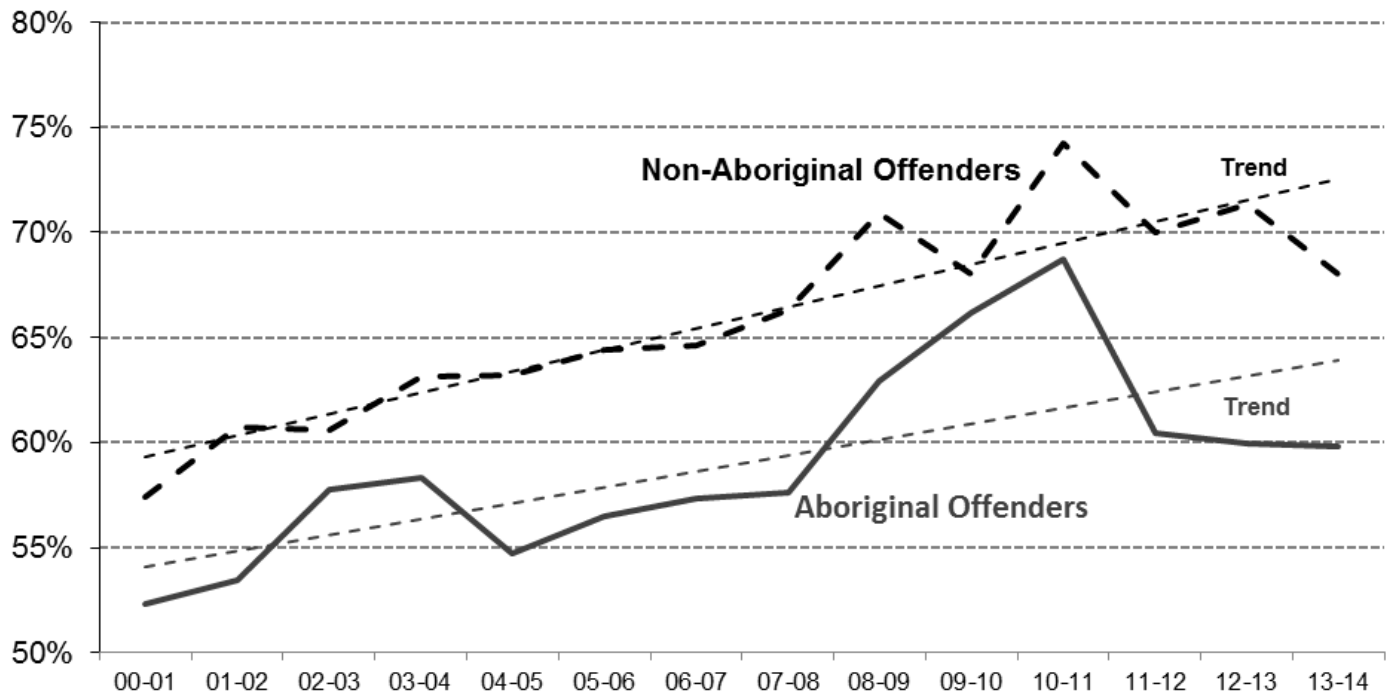
Table 8: Rate of return from prison to Corrective Services on a less serious offence, by Aboriginality

Year	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
2000-2001	52.3%	57.4%
2001-2002	53.4%	60.7%
2002-2003	57.7%	60.6%
2003-2004	58.3%	63.1%
2004-2005	54.7%	63.2%
2005-2006	56.5%	64.4%
2006-2007	57.4%	64.6%
2007-2008	57.7%	66.4%
2008-2009	62.9%	70.9%
2009-2010	66.2%	68.0%
2010-2011	68.7%	74.3%
2011-2012	60.4%	70.0%
2012-2013	59.9%	71.3%
2013-2014	59.8%	68.1%

Source: WA Corrective Services TOMS and CBIS data systems

⁸ Less serious offence percentages are based only on offenders who returned to Corrective Services

Figure 11: The proportion of offenders returning to Corrective Services within two years of their release from prison on a less serious offence, by Aboriginality



Source: WA Corrective Services TOMS and CBIS data systems

Adult recidivism measures - Rate of return - Offenders returning to Corrective Services within two years of their release from prison after completing at least one prison program, compared to all sentenced prisoners

(Corrective Services = Custody and Community Corrections)

This is a measure of the Department's progress towards its goal of reducing reoffending through the provision of effective treatment programs.

Table 9 and Figure 12: The long-term trend reflects a reduction in the rate of return for offenders returning to Corrective Services within two years of their release from prison after completing at least one prison program during their sentence. The rate of return for program completers is lower than that of all sentenced prisoners⁹. All Prisoners includes both program completers and those who have not completed a program.

Between 2009-2010 and 2013-2014:

- The rate of return for offenders who completed at least one prison program and returned to Corrective Services within two years of their release from prison has fallen by 12.0 percentage points from 52.2% to 40.2%. This represents a proportionate reduction of 23.0%.
- The rate of return for all sentenced prisoners who returned to Corrective Services within two years of their release from prison has fallen 8.5 percentage points from 53.7% to 45.2%. This represents a proportionate reduction of 15.9%.

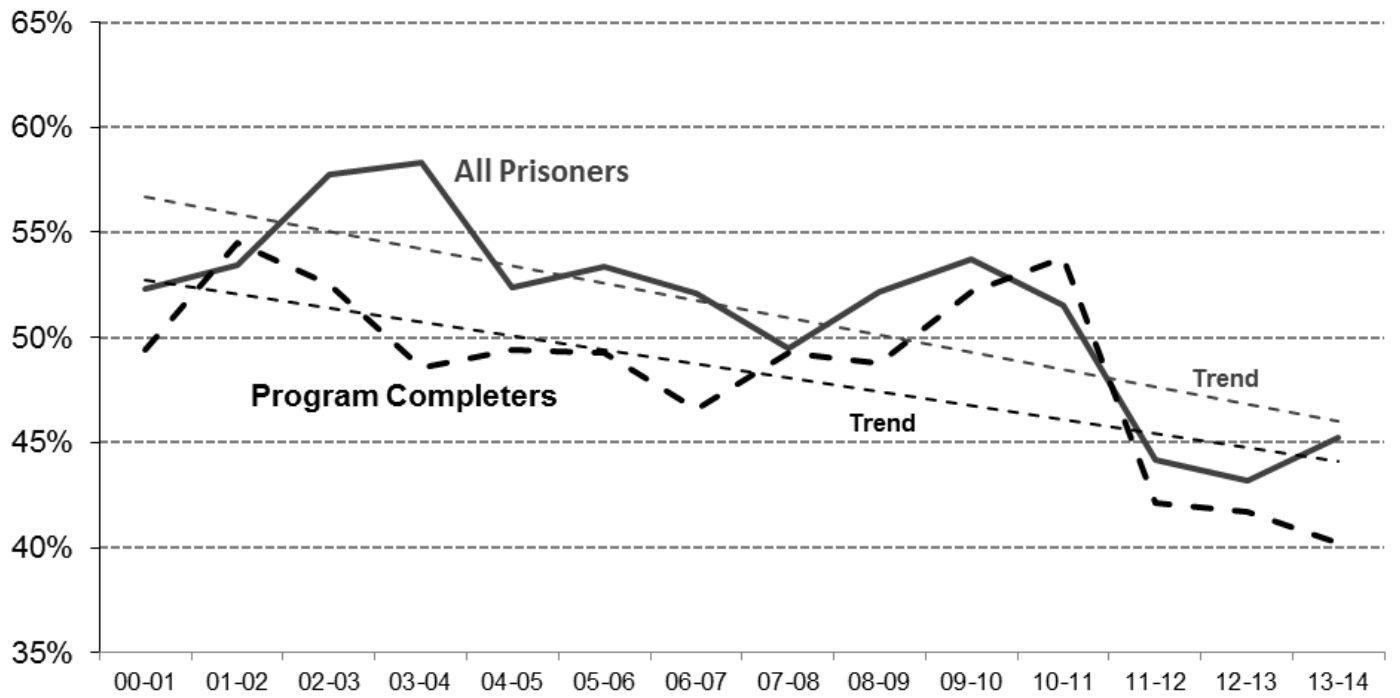
Table 9: Rate of return from prison to Corrective Services, by program completion

Year	Program completers	All Sentenced Prisoners
2000-2001	49.4%	52.3%
2001-2002	54.5%	53.4%
2002-2003	52.5%	57.7%
2003-2004	48.6%	58.3%
2004-2005	49.4%	52.4%
2005-2006	49.3%	53.4%
2006-2007	46.6%	52.1%
2007-2008	49.3%	49.5%
2008-2009	48.8%	52.2%
2009-2010	52.2%	53.7%
2010-2011	53.8%	51.5%
2011-2012	42.2%	44.2%
2012-2013	41.7%	43.2%
2013-2014	40.2%	45.2%

Source: WA Corrective Services TOMS and CBIS data systems

⁹ All sentenced prisoners include program completers

Figure 12: The proportion of offenders returning to Corrective Services within two years of their release from prison after completing at least one prison program



Source: WA Corrective Services TOMS and CBIS data systems

Adult recidivism measures - Rate of return - Offenders returning to Corrective Services within two years of their release from prison on a less serious offence¹⁰ after completing at least one prison program, compared to all sentenced prisoners

(Corrective Services = Custody and Community Corrections)

Table 10 and Figure 13: This table shows offenders who completed at least one prison program during their sentence and who return to Corrective Services on a less serious offence compared to all sentenced prisoners who returned to Corrective Services. Both cohorts show an improving trend.

The proportion of prison program completers returning to Corrective Services on a less serious offence for 2013-2014 was 73.9%. This compares well with the proportion of all sentenced prisoners¹¹ returning to Corrective Services on a less serious offence for 2013-2014, which was 63.2%.

Table 10: Rate of return from prison to Corrective Services on a less serious offence, by program completion

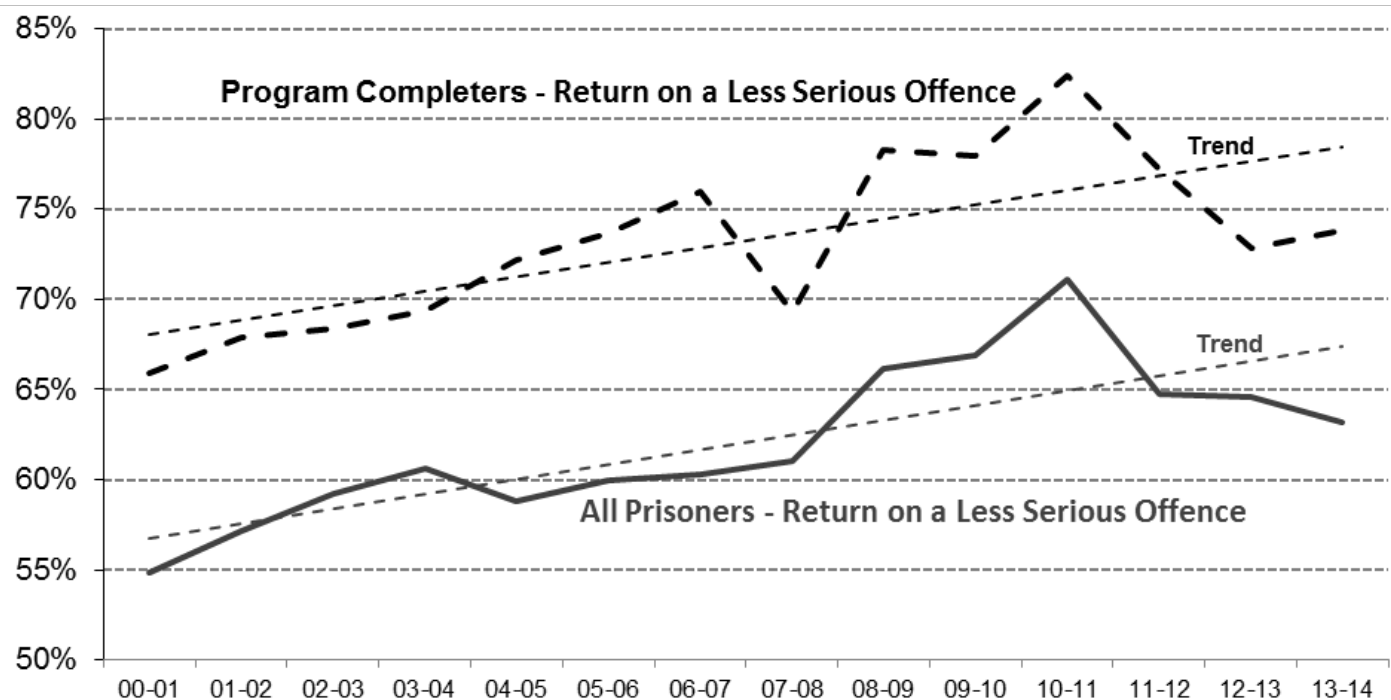
Year	Program completers	All Sentenced Prisoners
2000-2001	65.9%	54.9%
2001-2002	67.9%	57.1%
2002-2003	68.4%	59.2%
2003-2004	69.4%	60.7%
2004-2005	72.1%	58.8%
2005-2006	73.6%	59.9%
2006-2007	76.0%	60.3%
2007-2008	69.3%	61.0%
2008-2009	78.3%	66.1%
2009-2010	78.0%	66.9%
2010-2011	82.4%	71.1%
2011-2012	77.2%	64.7%
2012-2013	72.8%	64.6%
2013-2014	73.9%	63.2%

Source: WA Corrective Services TOMS and CBIS data systems

¹⁰ Less serious offence percentages are based only on offenders who returned to Corrective Services

¹¹ All sentenced prisoners include program completers

Figure 13: The proportion of offenders returning to Corrective Services within two years of their release from prison on a less serious offence after completing at least one prison program



Source: WA Corrective Services TOMS and CBIS data systems

Youth recidivism measures - Rate of return – Young offenders returning to detention within two years of their release from detention

Recidivism figures for young offenders are impacted by the size of the young offender cohort and the age of the offenders in that cohort. Many young offenders grow out of their offending behaviour as they mature. Lack of maturity, propensity for risk taking, peer influences, intellectual disability and mental health issues, in addition to social welfare issues, can all impact on a young offender's risk of repeat contact with the juvenile justice system.

There is no Australian standard for measuring recidivism for young offenders; consequently, comparison data is unavailable.

Youth recidivism data is limited and currently DCS only reports on the rate of return from detention to detention using the adult recidivism methodology.

In line with its focus on rehabilitation, DCS is currently developing a set of youth recidivism measures similar to those used for adults.

The majority of young people in detention in WA are of Aboriginal ethnicity. Aboriginal youth currently make up 79.7% of the young offender detainee population.¹²

Table 11 and Figure 14: There is a high degree of volatility in the rate of return from year to year for young offenders due to the small number of young offenders in detention.

Overall there is an increasing trend in the rate of return to detention amongst young offenders. However, between 2009-2010 and 2013-2014 the rate of return to detention has fallen from 58.4% to 49.0%.

Table 11: WA youth recidivism measures – Rate of return from detention to detention

Year	Released from Detention Distinct Persons	Returned to Detention Distinct Persons	Rate of Return Detention to Detention
2004-2005	159	71	44.7%
2005-2006	175	72	41.1%
2006-2007	198	97	49.0%
2007-2008	184	92	50.0%
2008-2009	187	90	48.1%
2009-2010	197	115	58.4%
2010-2011	228	117	51.3%
2011-2012	224	125	55.8%
2012-2013	243	129	53.1%
2013-2014	259	127	49.0%

Source: WA Corrective Services TOMS data system

¹² Weekly Offender Statistics Report 30 June 2014.

Figure 14: The proportion of young offenders returning to detention within two years of their release from detention



Source: WA Corrective Services TOMS data system