

Results

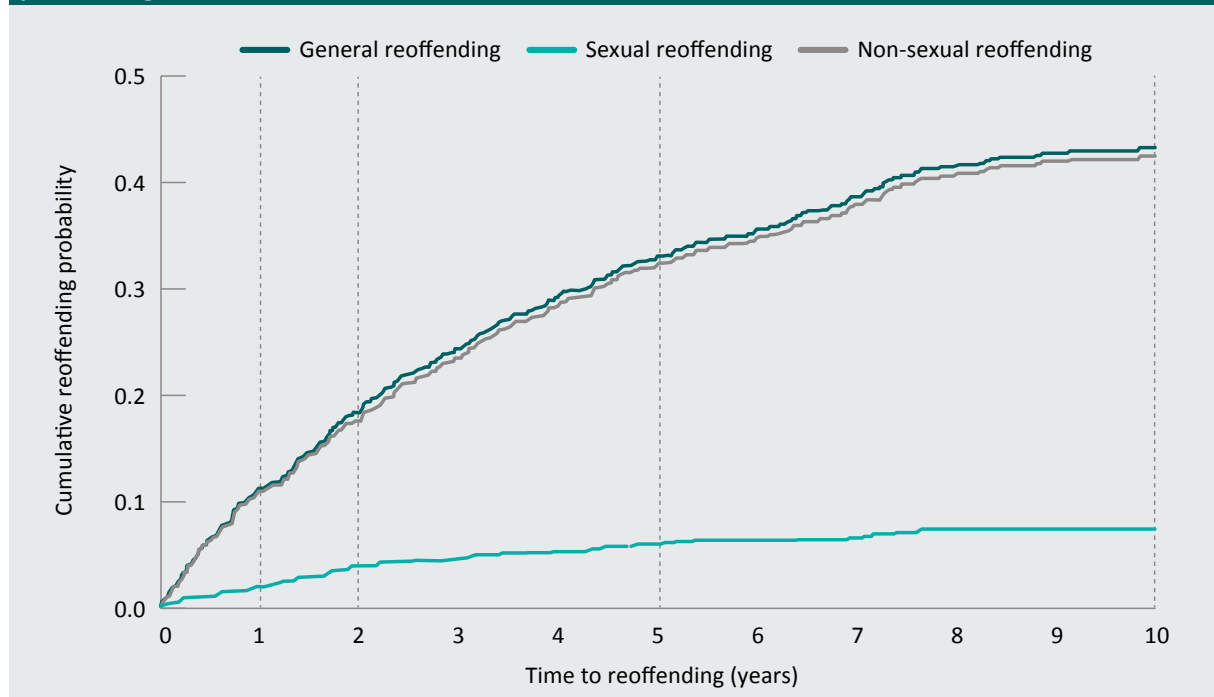
What proportion of child sexual offenders reoffend after their first police proceeding for child sexual offences?

Figure 1 plots the cumulative sexual and non-sexual reoffending probabilities (ie failure curves) for child sexual offenders over the entire follow-up period. Cumulative probabilities at one year, two years, five years and 10 years are reported in Table 1. Overall, 43 percent (95% CI=40%–46%) of offenders reoffended either sexually or non-sexually within 10 years of their first police proceeding for child sexual offences. Seven percent (95% CI=6%–9%) reoffended sexually in this period, and 42 percent (95% CI=39%–46%) reoffended non-sexually.

Sexual and non-sexual reoffending rates were compared using Cox regression run on a duplicated dataset with a single merged reoffending variable. A variable distinguishing reoffending types (sexual or non-sexual) was entered into the model, and standard errors were adjusted to account for clustering within offender ID. The difference observed was significant (HR=8.42, 95% CI=6.60–10.73, $p<0.001$). At any given point in time during the follow-up period, child sexual offenders were over eight times more likely to reoffend non-sexually than sexually.

There was also some evidence of offence transition among child sexual offenders who reoffended. More than half the offenders who sexually reoffended committed an offence type different to their offence at the first police proceeding (56%, $n=42$). Transitions were most often to CSAM offending or sexual offending against non-child victims. Of those who sexually reoffended, 25 percent went on to commit either or both of these types of sexual offences ($n=19$ each). Fewer transitioned to committing child sexual assault (11%, $n=8$) or child procurement/grooming offences (8%, $n=6$).

Figure 1: Cumulative reoffending probabilities for child sex offenders, by years from first police proceeding



Note: Vertical lines denote 1, 2, 5 and 10 year intervals

Source: NSW BOCSAR 2020 [dataset]

Table 1: Cumulative reoffending probabilities for child sex offenders, by principal offence type, with confidence intervals

	1 year (95% CI)	2 years (95% CI)	5 years (95% CI)	10 years (95% CI)
Sexual reoffending				
Child sexual assault offenders	0.01 (0.01–0.02)	0.03 (0.02–0.05)	0.05 (0.04–0.07)	0.06 (0.05–0.08)
Child procurement/grooming offenders	0.12 (0.05–0.30)	0.12 (0.05–0.30)	0.19 (0.09–0.37)	0.28 (0.13–0.54)
CSAM offenders	0.01 (0.00–0.05)	0.04 (0.02–0.08)	0.08 (0.05–0.12)	0.09 (0.06–0.15)
All child sex offenders	0.02 (0.01–0.03)	0.04 (0.03–0.05)	0.06 (0.05–0.07)	0.07 (0.06–0.09)
Non-sexual reoffending				
Child sexual assault offenders	0.11 (0.09–0.13)	0.19 (0.16–0.22)	0.33 (0.30–0.37)	0.44 (0.40–0.48)
Child procurement/grooming offenders	0.16 (0.07–0.33)	0.16 (0.07–0.33)	0.31 (0.18–0.50)	0.40 (0.22–0.64)
CSAM offenders	0.09 (0.05–0.14)	0.12 (0.08–0.17)	0.28 (0.22–0.34)	0.36 (0.29–0.43)
All child sex offenders	0.11 (0.09–0.13)	0.17 (0.15–0.20)	0.32 (0.30–0.35)	0.42 (0.39–0.46)

Note: CI=confidence interval

Source: NSW BOCSAR 2020 [dataset]

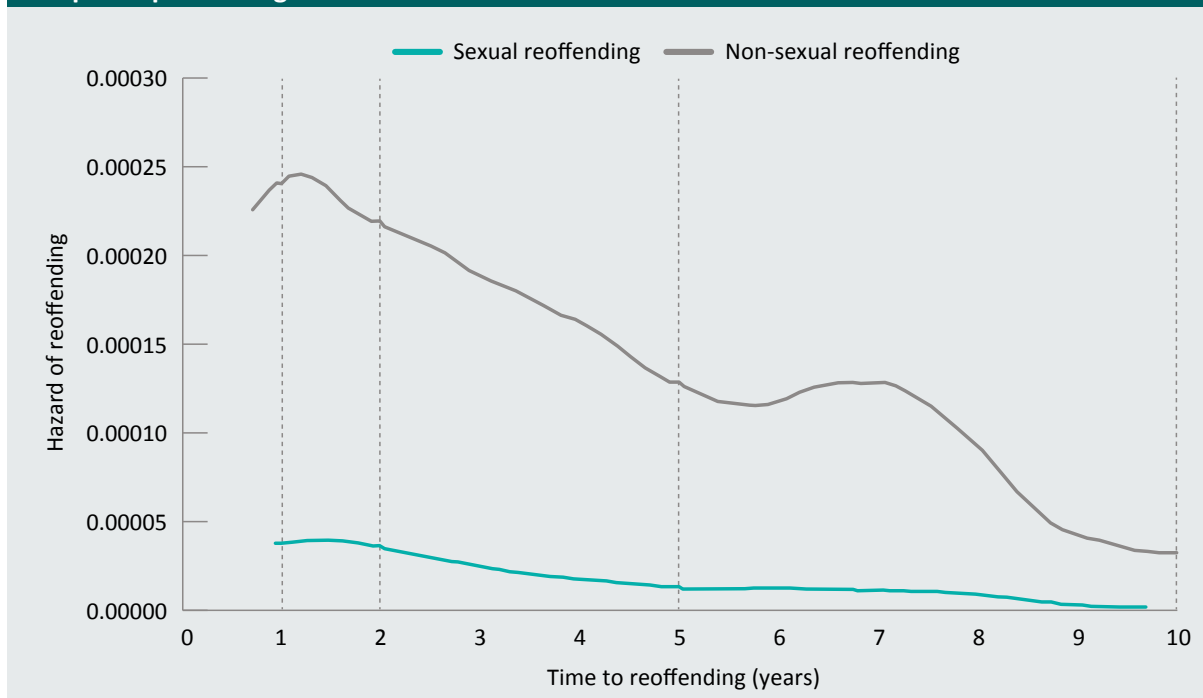
How long after their first police proceeding for child sexual offences do offenders commit further sexual and non-sexual offences?

The failure curve in Figure 1 and cumulative probabilities in Table 1 reveal a number of important findings about how long it takes child sexual offenders to reoffend. An estimated two percent of child sex offenders sexually reoffended within one year of their first police proceeding, and four percent within two years. The rate of failure (sexual reoffending) slowed after this period, with six percent reoffending within five years and seven percent within 10 years.

Similar results emerged in relation to non-sexual offences. An estimated 11 percent of child sexual offenders reoffended non-sexually within one year of their first police proceeding for child sexual offences, 17 percent within two years, 32 percent within five years and 42 percent within 10 years.

Taken together, these results show that the highest risk period for reoffending, both sexually and non-sexually, is the two-year period following their first police proceeding. This is further illustrated by the hazard curve for sexual and non-sexual reoffending, presented in Figure 2. This shows the hazard (risk) of reoffending at each time point, and clearly shows a peak in the relative short-term.

Figure 2: Hazard of sexual and non-sexual reoffending for child sexual offenders, by years from first police proceeding



Note: Vertical lines denote 1, 2, 5 and 10 year intervals

Source: NSW BOCSAR 2020 [dataset]

Differences in the likelihood and types of reoffending between child sexual assault offenders, child procurement/grooming offenders, and CSAM offenders

Differences in reoffending between child sexual assault, child procurement/grooming offenders and CSAM offenders were analysed next. Survival analysis revealed that more than one-quarter (28%) of child procurement/grooming offenders sexually reoffended in the 10 years following their first police proceeding for child sexual offences, compared with nine percent of CSAM offenders and six percent of child sexual assault offenders (Table 1 and Figure 3). Cox regression, run as an extension of this survival analysis, was used to further analyse differences in the risk of sexual reoffending between these offender groups. Child procurement/grooming offenders were assigned as the reference category. There was a significant difference between child procurement/grooming offenders, and both child sexual assault offenders (HR=0.23, 95% CI=0.10–0.51, $p<0.001$) and CSAM offenders (HR=0.34, 95% CI=0.14–0.83, $p<0.05$). At any given point in time during the follow-up period, child procurement/grooming offenders were more than four times as likely as child sexual assault offenders ($1/0.23=4.34$), and around three times as likely as CSAM offenders ($1/0.34=2.94$) to sexually reoffend.