



# 2022 Women's Report Card

An indicator report of Western Australian women's progress



## Priority area: Safety and justice



**Goal: Women live safely and have appropriate access to adequate legal protections.**

### Introduction and scope

This briefing note addresses women's experiences and perceptions of safety in their families, communities and workplaces in Western Australia, a key priority area identified in the Western Australian Government's 'Stronger Together: WA's Plan for Gender Equality' report which is a coordinated approach to addressing gender inequality in WA over the long term.<sup>i</sup>

The indicators in this report cover different dimensions of safety and justice as they relate to women in WA, including the risk of threat to life, domestic and family violence

(or the threat of such violence), discrimination and sexual harassment. The impacts of these experiences on women are profound and extensive, and can be life-threatening. They also have social, emotional, economic, and financial implications for women and the overall economy. Women's interactions and experience with the legal and justice system in WA either as victims, offenders or professionals are also tracked through a series of indicators related to imprisonment, and the share of women working in different roles within the justice system.

This note should be read in conjunction with the WA Women's Data Insights Platform, which provides a detailed set of metrics for various indicators relating to safety and justice over time.

<sup>i</sup> Government of Western Australia, Department of Communities. (2021). *Stronger Together: WA's Plan for Gender Equality*. Government of Western Australia. <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/stronger-together-was-plan-gender-equality>



## Outcomes

Desired outcomes in the area of safety and justice include:

- WA women are safe and free from violence, discrimination and harassment in their homes, at work and in the community
- Perpetrators change their behaviour and are held accountable for their actions
- WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's imprisonment and involvement in the criminal justice system are reduced
- WA women fully participate in positions of influence and leadership in the justice system.

## Indicators

The indicators in this chapter contribute to understanding how WA is progressing towards achieving these outcomes:

- Safety in families and households
- Safety in the community, including perceptions of safety
- Workplace safety and discrimination
- Offending and imprisonment
- Women working in the legal/justice system.

## Safety in families and households

Key insight	Description	Change over time																																								
<p>WA has the highest rate of reported family and domestic violence-related assault offences against females<sup>ii</sup> reported across the states, with 1,254 assaults reported to police per 100,000 females in 2021.<sup>ii</sup></p>	<p>The reported rate of rate of family and domestic violence-related assaults against females increased from 1,048 to 1,254 per 100,000 between 2018 and 2021.</p> <p>Northern Territory reported the highest rates in 2021 sitting at 3,727 per 100,000 females.</p> <p>Reports of family and domestic violence-related sexual assaults against females also increased in WA in recent years. Such rates are up from 47.5 reports per 100,000 females in 2018 to 61.6 reported per 100,000 in 2021. This is the third lowest rate across the states and territories.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Assault rate, per 100,000 women</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Rate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2017</td> <td>1,050</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>1,048</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>1,100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>1,200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021</td> <td>1,254</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Rate	2017	1,050	2018	1,048	2019	1,100	2020	1,200	2021	1,254																												
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<p>The hospitalisation rate of adult women with injuries related to family and domestic violence in WA in 2021 was 11.1 per 10,000 (a count of 1,158).<sup>iii</sup></p>	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women account for 68 per cent of hospitalisations the highest since 2005 (72.1%).</p> <p>Intimate partners are responsible for almost 80 per cent of the hospitalisations of women from domestic violence in WA, with 20 per cent of perpetrators being other family members.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Victimization rate (per 10,000)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Rate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2003</td> <td>8.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2004</td> <td>9.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2005</td> <td>7.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2006</td> <td>7.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2007</td> <td>7.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008</td> <td>8.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>8.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>9.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>9.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>9.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>9.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>9.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td>9.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016</td> <td>9.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017</td> <td>9.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>9.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>10.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>10.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021</td> <td>11.1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Rate	2003	8.5	2004	9.0	2005	7.5	2006	7.0	2007	7.5	2008	8.0	2009	8.5	2010	9.5	2011	9.0	2012	9.5	2013	9.0	2014	9.5	2015	9.5	2016	9.5	2017	9.5	2018	9.5	2019	10.0	2020	10.5	2021	11.1
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<p>Women were victims of 3,957 cases of a breach of violence restraining order reported to WA Police in 2020-21.<sup>iv</sup></p>	<p>This is up by a count of 255 on 2018-19 figures, and up 2,123 female victims on 2010-11.</p> <p>There were 4,678 reports of a breach of violence restraining order to WA Police in 2020-21. Some 85 per cent of adult victims were women.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Breach of violence restraining order</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2008-09</td> <td>1,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010-11</td> <td>1,800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012-13</td> <td>2,200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014-15</td> <td>2,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016-17</td> <td>3,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018-19</td> <td>3,800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-21</td> <td>4,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Count	2008-09	1,500	2010-11	1,800	2012-13	2,200	2014-15	2,500	2016-17	3,500	2018-19	3,800	2020-21	4,000																								
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<p>Of the 15,486 women supported by specialist homelessness services in WA, 51.5 per cent sought assistance because of experiences of domestic violence.<sup>v</sup></p>	<p>The share of homelessness support for women related to experiences of domestic violence has decreased in recent years from a peak of 55.8 per cent in 2017-18 to 51.5 per cent in 2020-21.</p> <p>The number of women assisted by specialist homelessness services in WA has increased from 12,595 in 2011-12 to 15,486 in 2020-21 (a 23% increase, compared to a 20% increase nationally over the same period), and has averaged 15,400 over the last five years.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Related to domestic violence (%)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2011-12</td> <td>51.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014-15</td> <td>54.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017-18</td> <td>55.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-21</td> <td>51.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Percentage	2011-12	51.5	2014-15	54.0	2017-18	55.8	2020-21	51.5																														
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Notes: Based on most recent data available as of July 2022. Please refer to <http://www.womensreportcard.communities.wa.gov.au/> for the most current data available on various metrics relating to this indicator. <sup>ii</sup>Rate per 100,000 persons for the sex and state/territory of interest.

Source: Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre | Based on various data sources.

ii Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2022). Recorded Crime – Victims, 2021. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/recorded-crime-victims/latest-release>

iii Government of Australia, Department of Health. (2022). Unpublished and Customised Data.

iv Western Australia Police Force (2022). Unpublished and Customised Data. Government of Western Australia.

v Government of Australia, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2019). *Specialist Homelessness Services annual report 2020-21*. Government of Australia <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/homelessness-services/specialist-homelessness-services-annual-report/data>



## Safety in the community

Key insight	Description	Change over time																
<p>Women were the victims in 93 per cent of sexual assaults reported to the WA Police Force in 2020-21, with a total of 935 victim reports by women.<sup>vi</sup></p>	<p>The number of sexual assaults against women reported to the WA Police in 2020-21 increased by 21.6 per cent on the previous high of 769 sexual assaults reported by women in 2018-19. The number of male victims of recent sexual assault also increased in 2020-21 (68 victims), up by 19.3 per cent on 2018-19.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Share of female victims (%)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Share of female victims (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2008-09</td><td>87</td></tr> <tr><td>2010-11</td><td>91</td></tr> <tr><td>2012-13</td><td>89</td></tr> <tr><td>2014-15</td><td>91</td></tr> <tr><td>2016-17</td><td>92</td></tr> <tr><td>2018-19</td><td>92</td></tr> <tr><td>2020-21</td><td>93</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Share of female victims (%)	2008-09	87	2010-11	91	2012-13	89	2014-15	91	2016-17	92	2018-19	92	2020-21	93
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<p>16.1 per cent of sexual assault investigations initiated in WA in 2020 resulted in offenders being proceeded against.<sup>vii</sup></p>	<p>The share of sexual assault investigations in 2020 that led to proceedings against the offender is in line with the five year average in WA. The rate is higher than that reported for NSW in 2020 (8.1%) but below that reported for Victoria (16.7%) and Queensland (25.6%).</p> <p>The total number of investigations into sexual assault cases reached 3,048 in 2020 compared to an average of 2,813 over the previous two years. In 2020, 47 per cent of sexual assault investigations were finalised, slightly above the five year average of 45.1 per cent.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Proceeded against (%)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Proceeded against (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2016</td><td>15.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2017</td><td>14.8</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>18.8</td></tr> <tr><td>2019</td><td>14.2</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>16.1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Proceeded against (%)	2016	15.5	2017	14.8	2018	18.8	2019	14.2	2020	16.1				
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<p>In 2020-21, 45 per cent of women (40% of men) reported feeling concerned about being a victim of physical assault in a public place in the next 12 months.<sup>viii</sup></p>	<p>The fear of physical assault in a public place has risen slightly to 45 per cent among women in 2020-21, following a fall over the previous year. This compares to an average of 43 per cent of women over the last ten years (41.5% of men).</p> <p>Concern regarding physical assault was reported by 43.3 per cent of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in 2020-21. However, data was not broken down further by gender among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Concerned women (%)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Concerned women (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2008-09</td><td>53</td></tr> <tr><td>2010-11</td><td>38</td></tr> <tr><td>2012-13</td><td>43</td></tr> <tr><td>2014-15</td><td>38</td></tr> <tr><td>2016-17</td><td>45</td></tr> <tr><td>2018-19</td><td>48</td></tr> <tr><td>2020-21</td><td>45</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Concerned women (%)	2008-09	53	2010-11	38	2012-13	43	2014-15	38	2016-17	45	2018-19	48	2020-21	45
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<p>In 2020-21, 65 per cent of women (66% of men) reported feeling concerned about becoming a victim of housebreaking in the next 12 months.<sup>ix</sup></p>	<p>The share of women reporting feelings of concern about homes being broken into fell from over 70 per cent in 2019-20 to 65 per cent in 2020-21.</p> <p>Concerns over housebreaking were reported by 79 per cent of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but again there is no available data broken down by gender.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Concerned women (%)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Concerned women (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2008-09</td><td>71</td></tr> <tr><td>2010-11</td><td>58</td></tr> <tr><td>2012-13</td><td>69</td></tr> <tr><td>2014-15</td><td>65</td></tr> <tr><td>2016-17</td><td>73</td></tr> <tr><td>2018-19</td><td>69</td></tr> <tr><td>2020-21</td><td>65</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Concerned women (%)	2008-09	71	2010-11	58	2012-13	69	2014-15	65	2016-17	73	2018-19	69	2020-21	65
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Source: Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre | Based on various data sources.

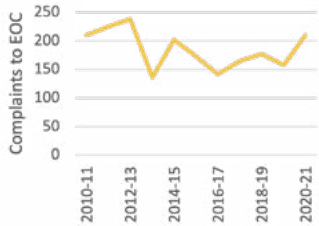
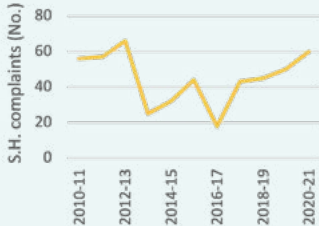
vi Western Australia Police Force (2022). Unpublished and Customised Data. Government of Western Australia.

vii Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2021). *Recorded Crime - Victims*. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/recorded-crime-victims/latest-release#data-download>

viii Western Australia Police Force (2022). Unpublished and Customised Data. Government of Western Australia.

ix Western Australia Police Force (2022). Unpublished and Customised Data. Government of Western Australia.

## Workplace safety and discrimination

Key insight	Description	Change over time														
<p>In 2020-21, there were a total of 353 complaints in the area of employment to the Equal Opportunity Commission WA. Of these, 210 (59.4%) were made by women.<sup>x</sup></p>	<p>The number of complaints to the Equal Opportunity Commission WA in the area of employment by women in 2020-21 (210) is the highest count since 2012-13 (238 complaints by women).</p> <p>The share of women reporting complaints to the Equal Opportunity Commission WA in the area of employment has fallen slightly from a high of 62.5 per cent in 2017-18 to 59.4 per cent in 2020-21.</p>	 <table border="1"> <caption>Complaints to EOC</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Complaints</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2010-11</td> <td>210</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012-13</td> <td>238</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014-15</td> <td>190</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016-17</td> <td>160</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018-19</td> <td>170</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-21</td> <td>210</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Complaints	2010-11	210	2012-13	238	2014-15	190	2016-17	160	2018-19	170	2020-21	210
Year	Complaints															
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<p>The most common grounds for complaint in the area of employment by women to the Equal Opportunity Commission WA in 2020-21 was sexual harassment, with 60 out of 72 (83.3%) complaints made by women.<sup>xi</sup></p>	<p>The share of sexual harassment complaints in the area of employment reported to the Equal Opportunity Commission WA in 2020-21 by women (83.3%) ranks only slightly lower than the historic high of 89.6 per cent in 2017-18.</p> <p>The next most common grounds for complaint in the area of employment to the Equal Opportunity Commission WA in 2020-21 for women were impairment (29 complaints, of which 56 per cent were reported by women) and victimisation (26 complaints, 57 per cent of which were made by women).</p>	 <table border="1"> <caption>S.H. complaints (No.)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Complaints</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2010-11</td> <td>55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012-13</td> <td>65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014-15</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016-17</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018-19</td> <td>45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-21</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Complaints	2010-11	55	2012-13	65	2014-15	30	2016-17	20	2018-19	45	2020-21	60
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Notes: Based on most recent data available as of July 2022. Please refer to <http://www.womensreportcard.communities.wa.gov.au/> for the most current data available on various metrics relating to this indicator.  
 Source: Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre | Based on various data sources.

x Equal Opportunity Commission WA. (2022). Unpublished and customised data.  
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## Offending and imprisonment

Key insight	Description	Change over time																											
<p>In 2021, imprisonment rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in WA (830.8 per 100,000 of the population) were 13.7 times the overall rate of female imprisonment in WA (60.6 per 100,000 of the population).<sup>xii</sup></p>	<p>Imprisonment rates per 100,000 of the adult Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female population in WA stood at 830.8 in 2021 (442.6 nationally). This is lower than the 5 year average of 971.4 (and 22 per cent below the recent maximum of 1,066.3 in 2018).</p> <p>Rates of imprisonment among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men have fallen from 7,352.3 per 100,000 in 2018 to 6,715 per 100,000 in 2021. The current rate of imprisonment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men is 11.5 times the rate of total male imprisonment rates in WA (586.3 per 100,000).</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Imprisonment rate per 100,000</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Aboriginal Women</th> <th>Non-Aboriginal Women</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2014</td><td>900</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>2015</td><td>950</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>1000</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>2017</td><td>1050</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>1066.3</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>2019</td><td>950</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>850</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>2021</td><td>830.8</td><td>60.6</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Aboriginal Women	Non-Aboriginal Women	2014	900	60	2015	950	60	2016	1000	60	2017	1050	60	2018	1066.3	60	2019	950	60	2020	850	60	2021	830.8	60.6
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<p>In 2021, women comprised 27 per cent of drug related arrests (3,336) in WA.<sup>xiii</sup></p>	<p>In 2020, the count of drug related arrests sat at 4,400 for women, comprising 28 per cent of total drug related arrests.</p> <p>In 2020-21, there were 12,399 arrests of adults made against the <i>Misuse of Drugs Act 1981</i> (WA), a 20 per cent decrease on 2019-20 (15,567 arrests). This is also well below the height of 18,289 drug related arrests in 2016-17.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Women (%) of drug related arrests</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Women (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2008-09</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>2010-11</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>2012-13</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>2014-15</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>2016-17</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>2018-19</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>2020-21</td><td>28</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Women (%)	2008-09	22	2010-11	21	2012-13	23	2014-15	22	2016-17	26	2018-19	27	2020-21	28											
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<p>Since 2017-18, the rate of female offenders per 100,000 women in WA has steadily fallen from 1,006 offenders to 812 in 2020-21, amounting to a 19 per cent decrease.<sup>xiv</sup></p>	<p>In 2020-21, the rate of female offenders in WA (812 per 100,000 women) exceeded the national rate (782 per 100,000 women), and has done so for the last six years.</p> <p>Males continue to have a much higher rate of offence than women in WA, with the rate sitting at 2,240 offenders per 100,000 males in 2021.</p> <p>In WA, the ratio of male offenders to female offenders increased from 2.66 in 2017-18 to 2.75 in 2020-21. This is lower than the national ratio, which sat at 3.12 in 2020-21.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Offender rate per 100,000 women</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Offender rate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2008-09</td><td>1100</td></tr> <tr><td>2010-11</td><td>1000</td></tr> <tr><td>2012-13</td><td>900</td></tr> <tr><td>2014-15</td><td>850</td></tr> <tr><td>2016-17</td><td>1000</td></tr> <tr><td>2018-19</td><td>950</td></tr> <tr><td>2020-21</td><td>812</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Offender rate	2008-09	1100	2010-11	1000	2012-13	900	2014-15	850	2016-17	1000	2018-19	950	2020-21	812											
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xii Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2022). *Corrective Services – Australia*. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/corrective-services-australia/latest-release#data-downloads>  
 xiii Western Australia Police Force (2022). Unpublished and Customised Data. Government of Western Australia.  
 xiv Western Australia Police Force (2022). Unpublished and Customised Data. Government of Western Australia.

## Women working in the legal/justice system

Key insight	Description	Change over time																		
<p><b>Women comprised 25.2 per cent of barristers and 18.5 per cent of equity partners in WA in 2020-21.</b><sup>xv</sup></p>	<p>The share of women working in the legal profession has risen from 49.7 per cent in 2016-17 to 53 per cent in 2020-21.</p> <p>There has been some acceleration of progress for senior legal practitioners since 2016-17. The share of women working as equity partners increased from 15.8 per cent in 2016-17 to 18.5 per cent in 2020-21, with the share of women working as barristers rising from 19.3 per cent to 25.2 per cent over the same time period.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Women practitioners (%)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Barristers (%)</th> <th>Equity partners (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2007-08</td> <td>19.3</td> <td>11.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010-11</td> <td>17.5</td> <td>13.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013-14</td> <td>16.5</td> <td>13.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016-17</td> <td>19.3</td> <td>15.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-21</td> <td>25.2</td> <td>18.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Barristers (%)	Equity partners (%)	2007-08	19.3	11.5	2010-11	17.5	13.0	2013-14	16.5	13.0	2016-17	19.3	15.8	2020-21	25.2	18.5
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<p><b>Women comprise 62 per cent of persons studying law at an institution in WA.</b><sup>xvi</sup></p>	<p>The share of women studying law in WA has risen gradually, but consistently, over much of the last decade, from 58 per cent in 2011 to 62 per cent in 2020.</p> <p>However, these positive trends need to be set against an overall reduction in the number of people enrolling in law courses compared to a decade ago. There were 2,260 women studying law at an institution in WA in 2020. This is up from 2,123 in 2019, but well below the height of 2,612 observed in 2011.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Women (%) studying law</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Women (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2005</td> <td>58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>62</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Women (%)	2005	58	2010	58	2015	60	2020	62								
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xv Legal Practice Board of Western Australia. (2022). Annual Report, 2020-2021. *Legal Practice Board of Western Australia*. <https://www.lpbwa.org.au/For-The-Public/Annual-Reports>

xvi Government of Western Australia, Department of Education. (2022). Unpublished and Customized Data. Government of Western Australia.



## Women working in the legal/justice system (continued)

Key insight	Description	Change over time																								
<p>In WA, the District Court level has the highest amount of female judicial representation in 2021, at 48 per cent. This was followed by the Magistrates Court at 44 per cent, and finally the Supreme Court at 19 per cent - the lowest out of any state.<sup>xvii</sup></p>	<p>Female judicial representation is also low in the Commonwealth, with the High Court of Australia comprised of 43 per cent female judges.</p> <p>The share of female judges in the Federal Court increased by 1 percentage point to 27 per cent representation between 2018 and 2020. The rate of change in the Federal Family Court has been far stronger, with the share of female judges increasing by 11 percentage points to 47 per cent in 2020, remaining at such levels in 2021.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Women (%) in the legal/justice system</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Court Level</th> <th>Percentage (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Supreme Court</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>District Court</td> <td>48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Magistrates Court</td> <td>44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>40</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Court Level	Percentage (%)	Supreme Court	19	District Court	48	Magistrates Court	44	Total	40														
Court Level	Percentage (%)																									
Supreme Court	19																									
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<p>The total share of female police in WA increased from 23.8 per cent in 2018 to 25.1 per cent in 2021.<sup>xviii</sup></p>	<p>The share of female police officers in WA has been rising gradually and consistently over the last decade, from 19.7 per cent in 2008 to 24.2 per cent in 2021.</p> <p>Three of the 12 senior police officers in WA are women, up from 1 in 10 in 2008, with zero reported from 2010 and 2012.</p> <p>The proportion of female police auxiliary officers dropped to 39.8 per cent in 2020, but has since recovered to 42.1 per cent in 2021.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Female police (%) from 2008 to 2020</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Female police officers (%)</th> <th>Female senior police (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2008</td> <td>19.7</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>20.5</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>21.5</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>22.5</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016</td> <td>23.5</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>24.5</td> <td>23.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>25.1</td> <td>24.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Female police officers (%)	Female senior police (%)	2008	19.7	10	2010	20.5	0	2012	21.5	0	2014	22.5	15	2016	23.5	18	2018	24.5	23.8	2020	25.1	24.2
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 Source: Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre | Based on various data sources.

xvii Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration. (2020). *AIJA Judicial Gender Statistics*. Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration. <https://aija.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020-JUDICIAL-GENDER-STATISTICS-v3.pdf>

xviii Western Australia Police Force. (2021). *Annual Report, 2021*. Government of Western Australia. <https://www.police.wa.gov.au/About-Us/Our-agency/Annual-report>



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**Department of Communities**

5 Newman Court, Fremantle WA 6160  
Postal address: Locked Bag 5000, Fremantle WA 6959  
Telephone: 08 6217 6888  
Country callers: 1800 176 888  
Email: [enquiries@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@communities.wa.gov.au)  
Website: [www.communities.wa.gov.au](http://www.communities.wa.gov.au)

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**Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre**

Level 4, Building 408, Curtin University  
Kent Street, Bentley 6102  
Postal Address: GPO Box U1987, Perth WA 6845  
Telephone: +61 8 9266 2873  
Email: [bcec@curtin.edu.au](mailto:bcec@curtin.edu.au)  
Web: [bcec.edu.au](http://bcec.edu.au)

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