

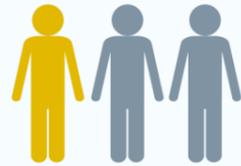
Most crime is committed by young adults

THE OFFENDING PATTERNS OF BABIES BORN IN NZ IN 1978: EXPLORATORY ANALYSIS

Of babies born in 1978:



One in four now have a criminal conviction

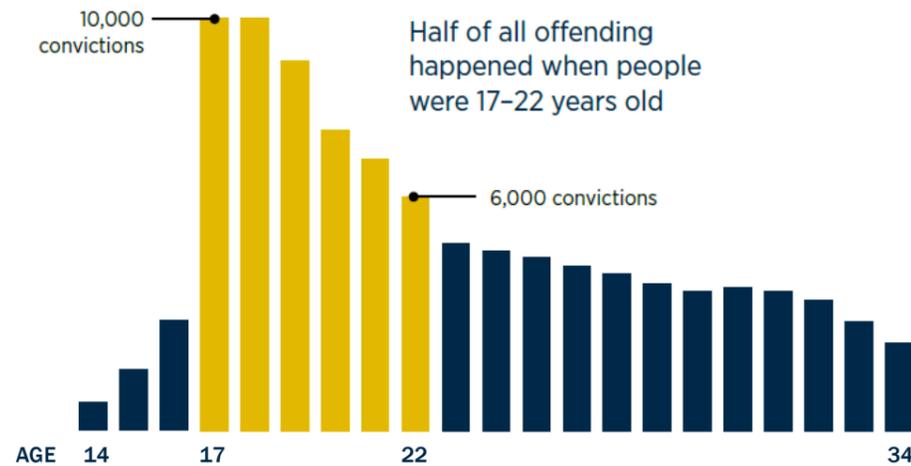
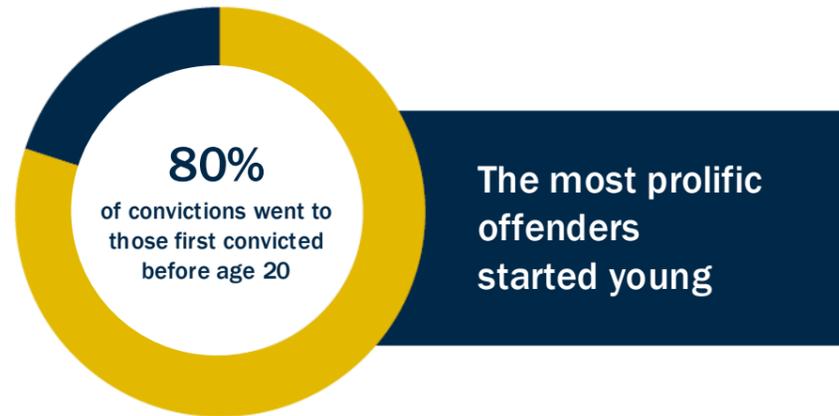


One in three men have a criminal conviction



One in two Māori and Pacific men have a criminal conviction

Many of these convictions are for minor crimes like shoplifting and careless driving, but show many New Zealanders are involved with the Justice Sector at some point



Most offending occurred while the cohort was still young

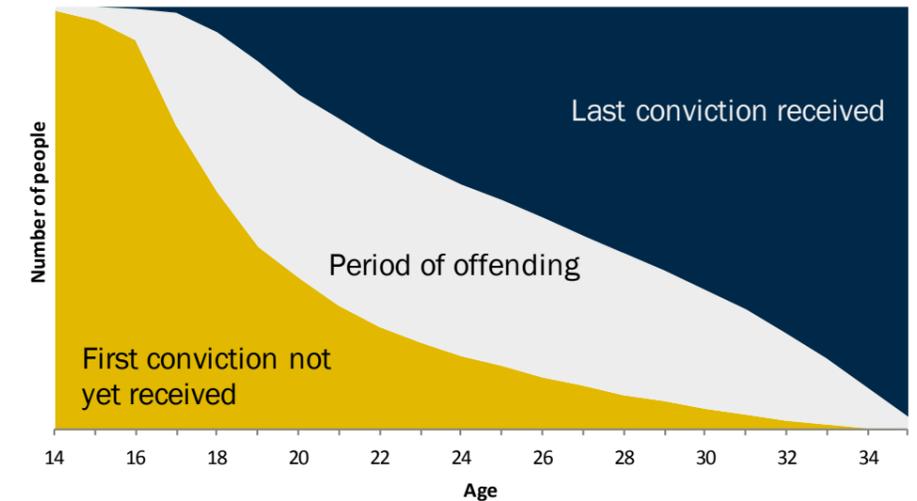
Crime prevention implications

The window for Justice sector intervention is narrow

- after the age of 22, most of the opportunity to prevent a birth cohort's offending is lost
- most offenders are known to the Justice sector for only a few years before desisting
- good risk assessment is crucial to focus on the vital few who will have long offending periods

Effective social sector partnerships are crucial

- many of the crime prevention opportunities are before the first offence (pre-14)
- after the first offence, partnerships with schools and other youth-focussed service providers are very important



Most offending ended shortly after they began

Offenders slow down and diversify as they age

THE OFFENDING PATTERNS OF BABIES BORN IN NZ IN 1978: EXPLORATORY ANALYSIS

The most prolific offenders had early offending 4 times more serious on average as the least prolific offenders

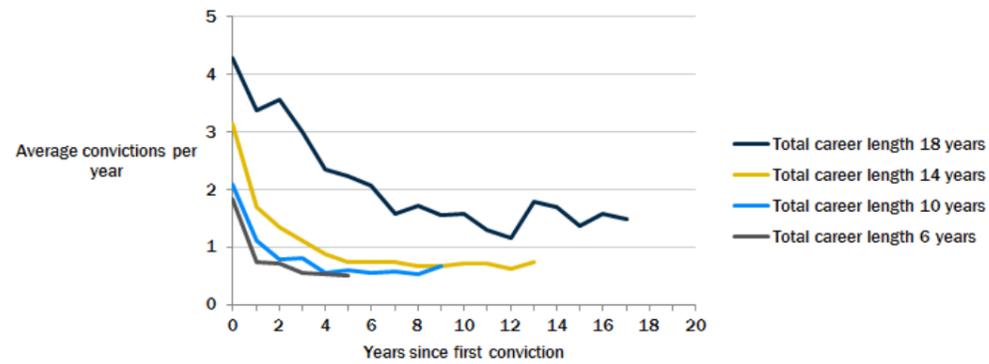
Eg Assault with intent

Offenders with 51+ lifetime convictions

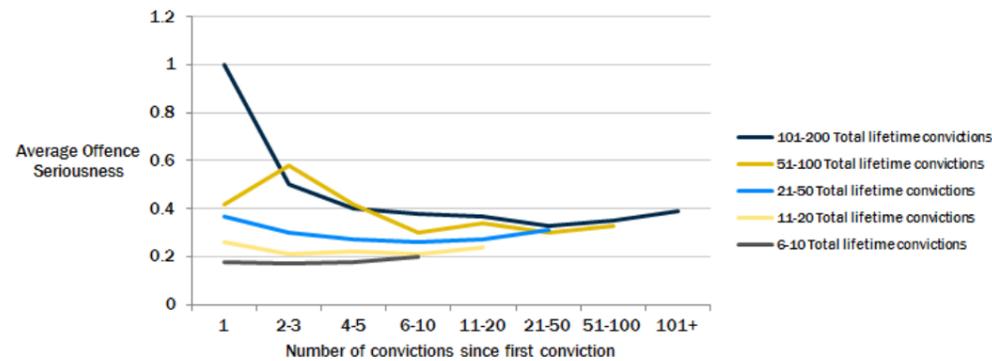


Eg Theft

Offenders with 1 lifetime conviction



After the first conviction, offenders tended to commit fewer offences each year



After the first conviction, offence seriousness tended to decline or stay stable

Of offenders with this many lifetime convictions Half committed at least this many different offence types



2-3	→	2
4-5	→	3
6-10	→	4
11-20	→	6
21-50	→	8
51-100	→	10

Offenders with many convictions tend to have committed many types of offence

Crime prevention implications

The early criminal offending is the most important time to intervene

- offenders tend to be the most prolific and serious early in their period of offending
- young people committing serious offences should be a particular focus for intervention

Focusing on offenders may be better than focusing on offence types

- most prolific offenders commit multiple types of crime
- the role for specific interventions for specific offence types may be relatively limited

Offenders peak early and in waves

THE OFFENDING PATTERNS OF BABIES BORN IN NZ IN 1978: EXPLORATORY ANALYSIS

Crime prevention implications

Intervention after the peak has less scope to prevent harm

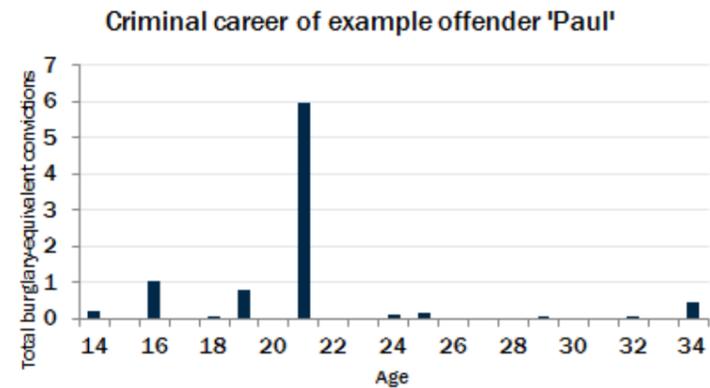
- a minority of harm occurs after the peak, so intervening before the peak leaves much more scope to reduce the harm from crime

- given many prisoners are likely serving sentences relating to the peak, reducing reoffending may often be less effective than earlier intervention

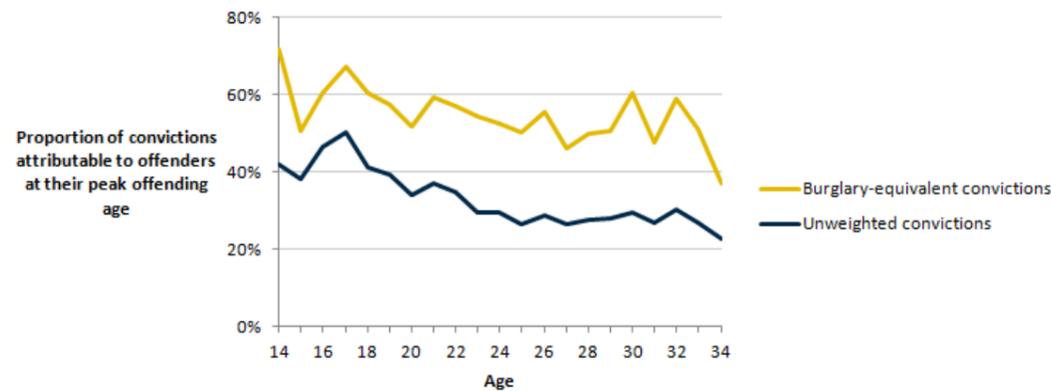
Predicting the peak is important

- after the age of 21, it is increasingly likely the peak offending age is in the past

- predictors of peak offending will be explored in subsequent work

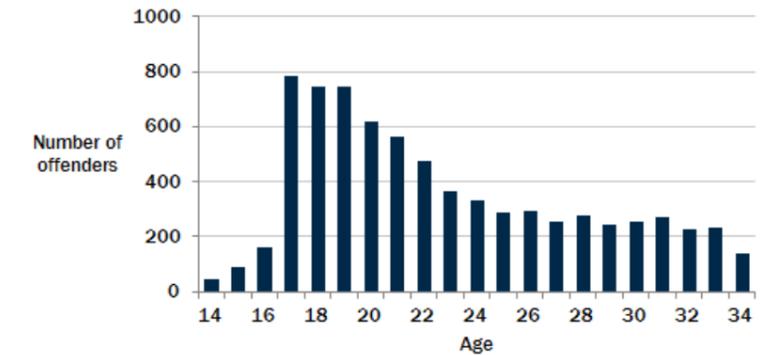


Most offenders have a single 'peak' year in which they offend more seriously than normal

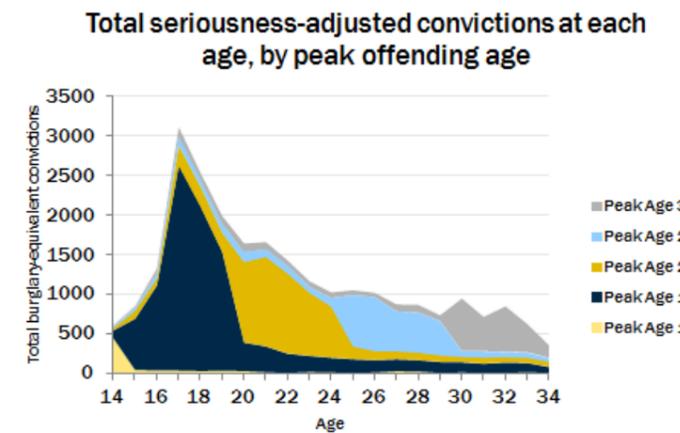


Each year, peaking offenders were responsible for most seriousness-adjusted offending

Peak offending age of offenders born in 1978



Most offenders peaked before age 21



As a result, the cohort's offending came in a series of waves of different people peaking at different ages