

APPREHENDED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORDERS IN NSW

Data to December 2025

An Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO) is a legally enforceable order that protects a person from violence, intimidation or stalking by a current or former partner, family member or carer. An ADVO sets out conditions that restrict what the defendant can do. It is not a criminal offence to be served with an ADVO, but breaching an ADVO condition is a criminal offence.

Typically, police apply for an ADVO. The defendant is first served with a temporary order called a Provisional ADVO. The application is then heard in court, where a judge decides whether to make a Final ADVO. If the application is not made by police, it can be made directly by a member of the public to the court. In these cases, the court can make an Interim order to provide immediate protection until the Final ADVO is decided.

For more information about ADVOs and definitions, see the Glossary page.



1.1 Number of ADVOs commenced in NSW

Ten years to December 2025

52,757

ADVOs commenced in NSW between
Jan. 2025 and Dec. 2025

Stable

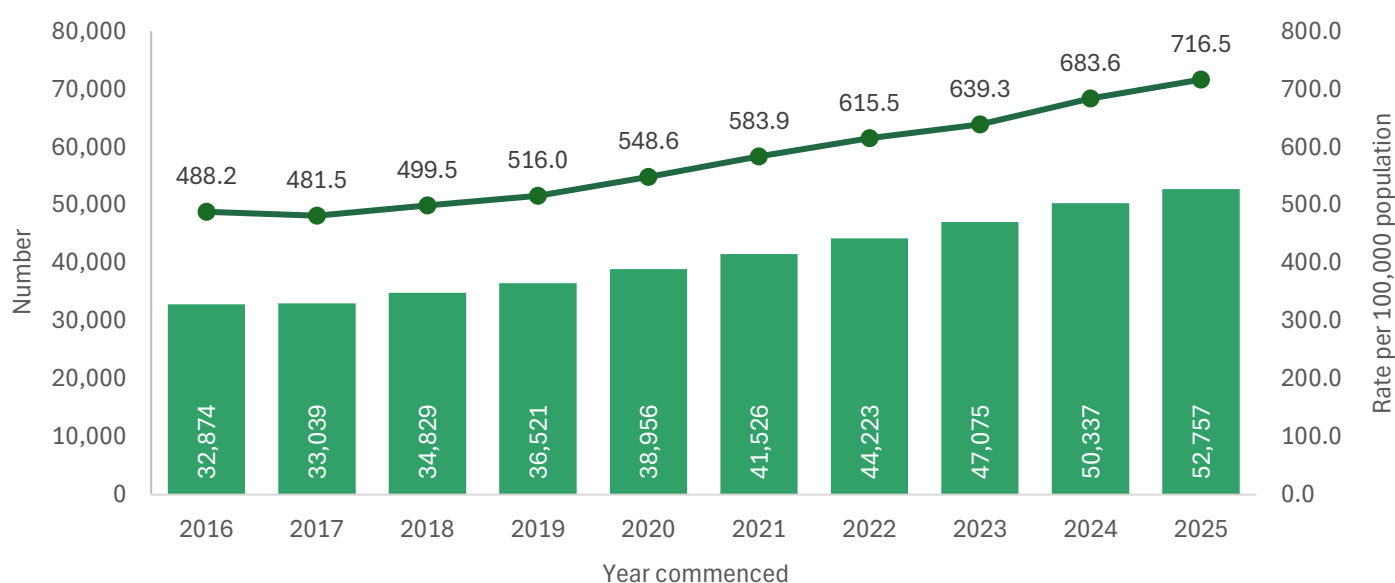
2-year trend to Dec 25



Up 5.4%

10-year trend to Dec 25
Annual average % change

ADVOs commenced in NSW: Number and rate per 100,000 population*



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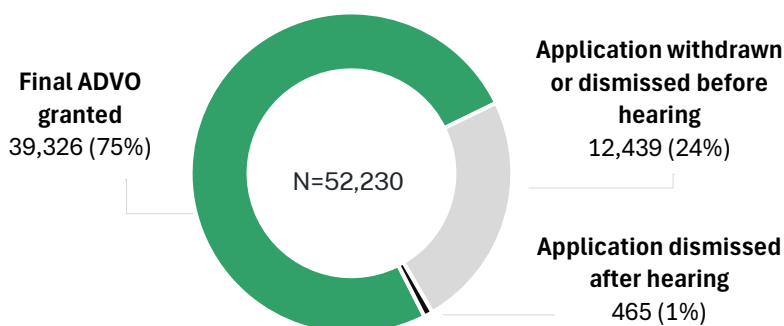
2.1 Number of ADVO applications finalised by applicant type and outcome

12 months to December 2025

52,230 ADVO applications were made in NSW between January 2025 and December 2025

- **98%** or 51,393 applications were initiated by **NSW Police**
- **1%** or 445 applications were initiated by a **judicial officer**
- **1%** or 392 applications were initiated by a **member of the public**

Outcome of ADVO applications finalised in 2025



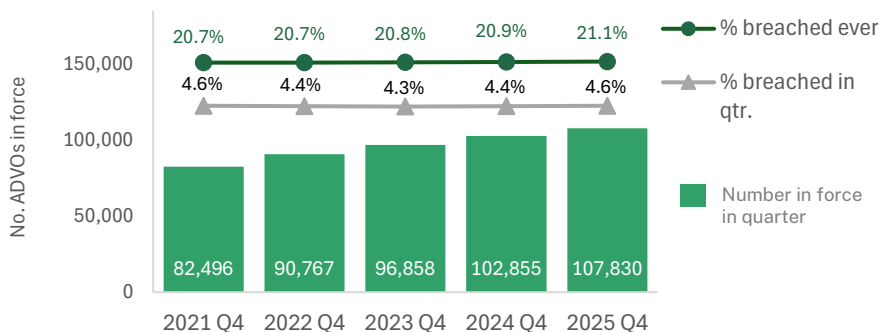
3.1 Number of ADVOs in force and proportion which are breached

Orders in force during October to December (Qtr. 4)

107,830 ADVOs were in force at some point in the three months to December 2025. Of these ADVOs:

- **4.6%** or 4,952 were breached within the quarter
- **21.1%** or 22,700 had been breached at least once since commencing

Number of ADVOs in force in each quarter and proportion which are breached



3.2 Time to first breach for ADVOs in force for at least 12 months

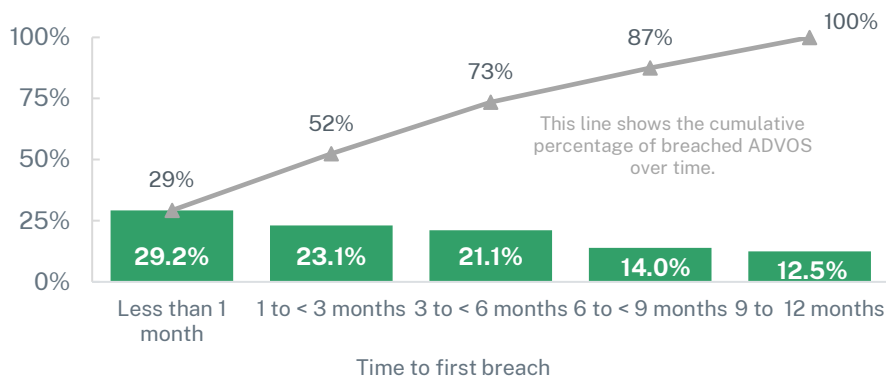
Orders commenced in the 12 months to December 2024 (n=39,355)

21.4% or 8,411 of the 39,335 ADVOs which commenced in 2024 and were in force for at least 12 months, were breached in the first 12 months.

Of the 8,411 ADVOs breached in the first 12 months:

- **29.2%** were first breached within a month of commencing
- **53.5%** were first breached within three months of commencing

Time to first breach for ADVOs breached within 12 months of commencing



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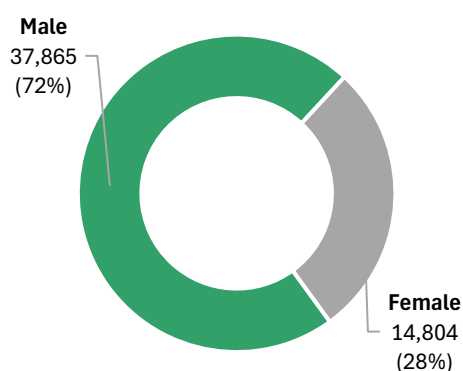
Characteristics of ADVO defendants

Orders commenced in the 12 months to December 2025 (n=52,757)

4.1 Defendants by gender

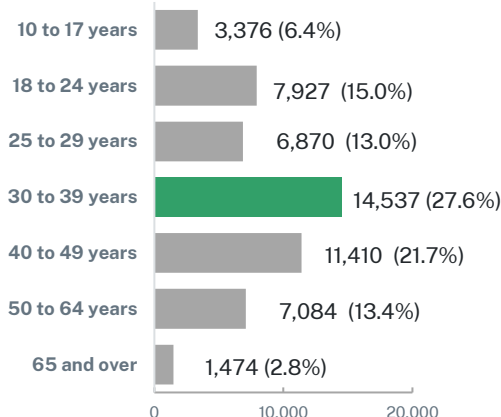


71.9% of ADVO defendants were male*



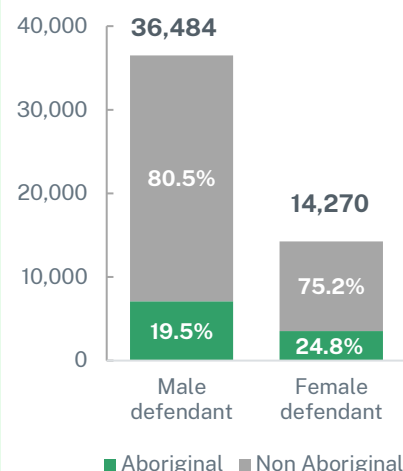
4.2 Defendants by age

27.6% of ADVO defendants were aged 30 to 39 years^



4.3 Defendants by Aboriginality

21.0% of ADVO defendants identified as Aboriginal~



4.4 Trends in the number of ADVOs commenced by defendant age and gender

Ten years to December 2025

Adult male defendant

Up 4% per year
10-year trend

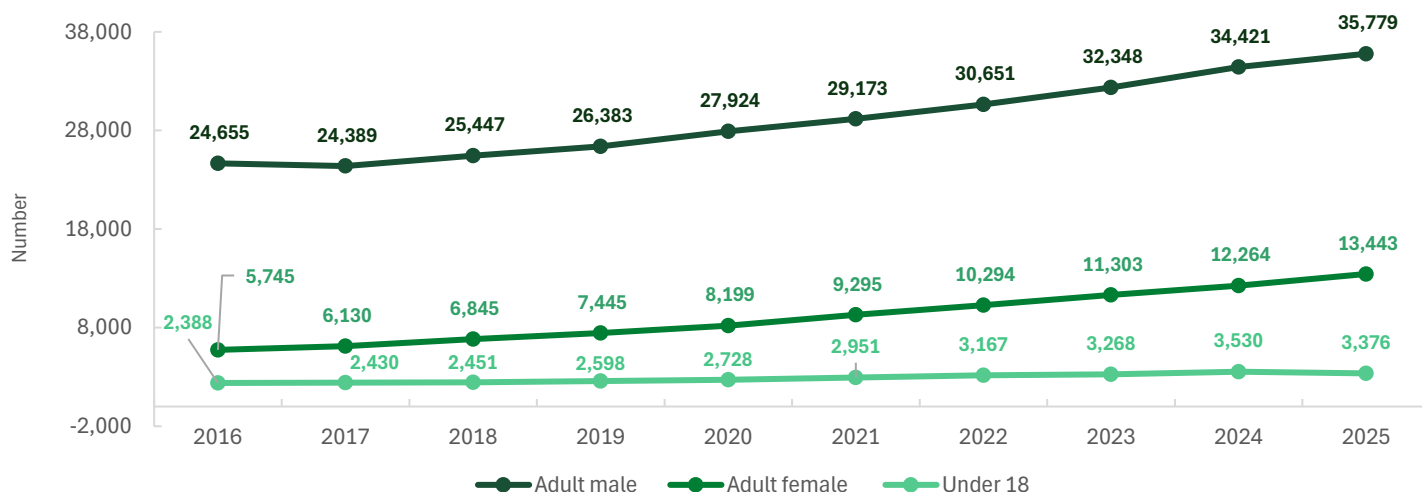
Adult female defendant

Up 10% per year
10-year trend

Young defendant (10 – 17 years)

Up 4% per year
10-year trend

Number of ADVOs commenced each year by defendant age and gender

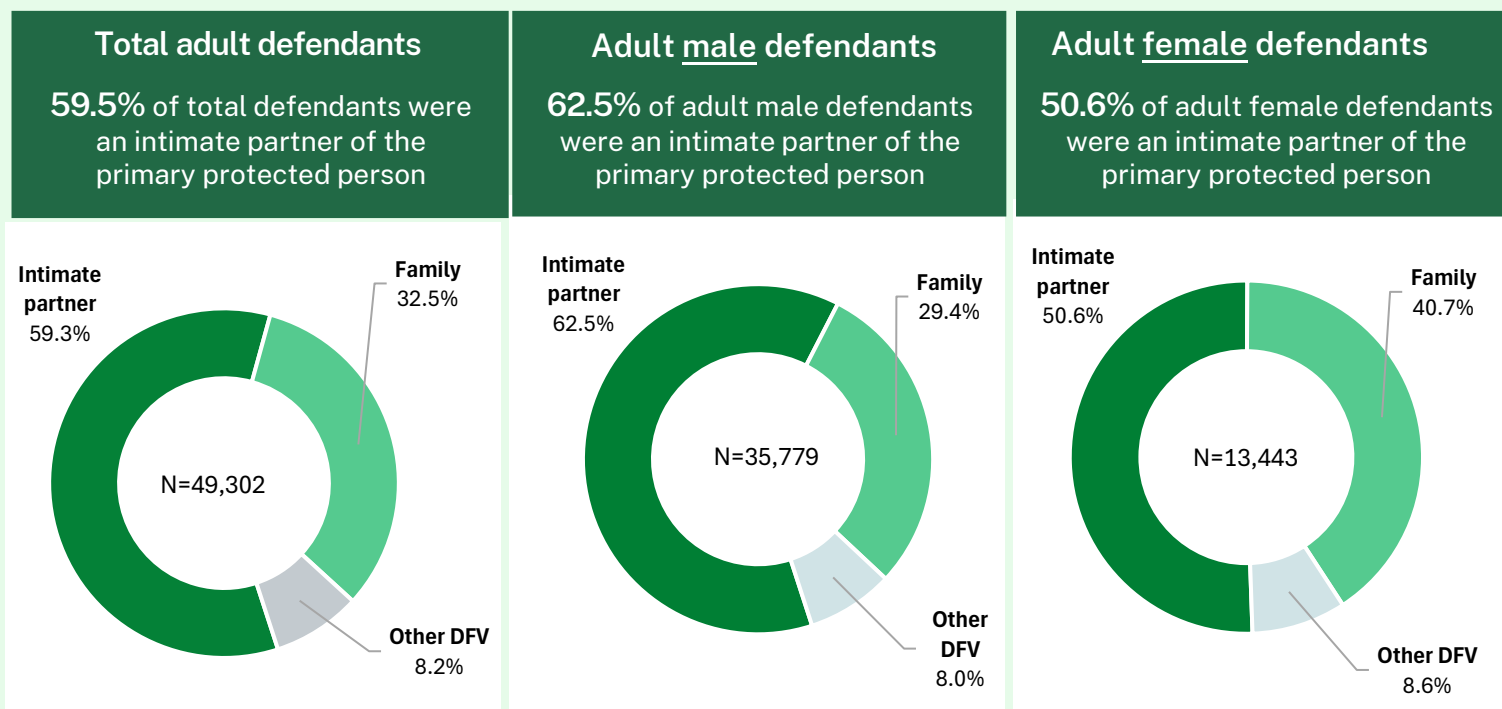


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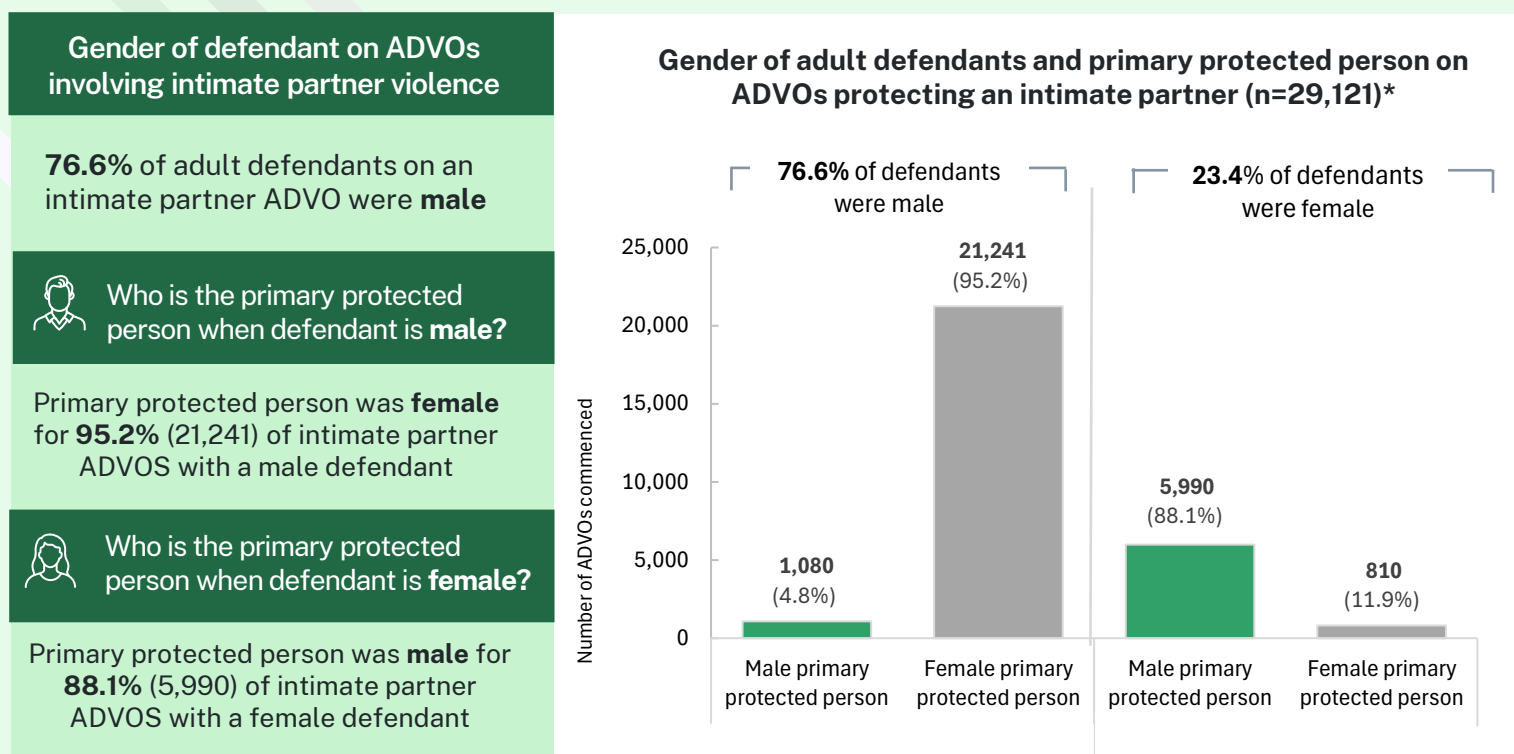
4.5 Relationship type between adult defendant and primary protected person*

Orders commenced in the 12 months to December 2025



4.6 ADVOs involving intimate partner violence: Gender of adult defendant and primary protected person*

Orders commenced in the 12 months to December 2025



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Data to December 2025

4.7 ADVOs involving family violence: Age of defendant and primary protected person at the time the order commenced*

Orders commenced in the 12 months to December 2025

Age of defendant on ADVOs involving family violence

12.0% of family violence ADVO defendants were young people (under 18 years of age)



Who is the primary protected person when defendant is **between 10 and 17 years?**

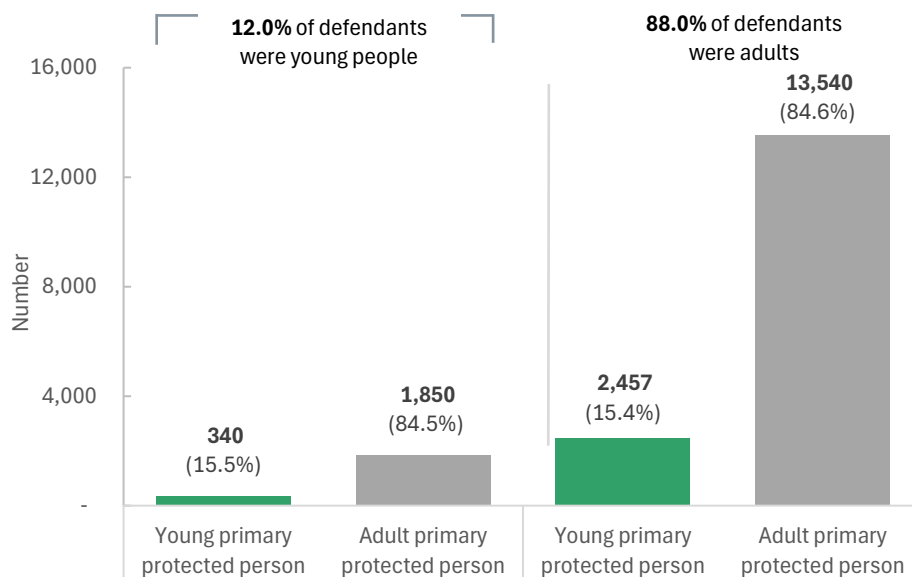
Primary protected person was an **adult** for **84.5% (1,850)** of family violence ADVOs with a young defendant



Who is the primary protected person when defendant is **18 years or older?**

Primary protected person was a **young person** for **15.4% (2,457)** of family violence ADVOs with an adult defendant

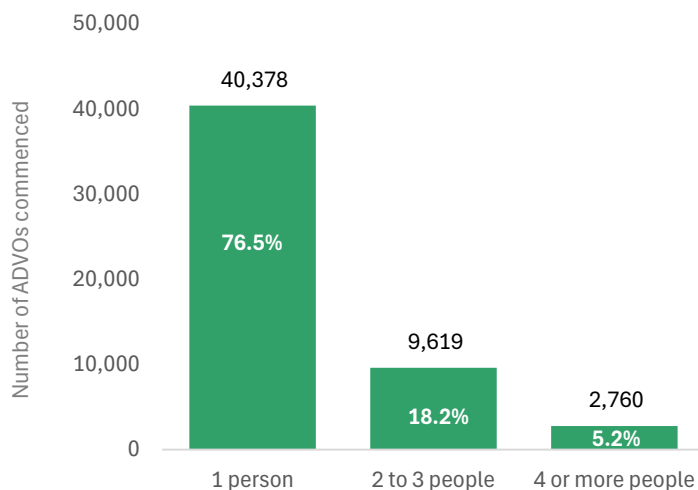
Age of the defendant and primary protected person on ADVOs involving family violence (n=18,187)*



5.0 Number of protected persons listed on ADVOs

Orders commenced in the 12 months to December 2025

Number of ADVOs commenced by the number of protected persons listed on each order (n=52,757)



An ADVO can protect more than one person from the same defendant. All children under 16 years of age should also be named as a protected person on the ADVO if they live with, or are in a domestic relationship with, any adult protected person on that order.

Of the 52,757 orders commencing in the 12 months to December 2025:

- **76.5%** named only **one** protected person
- **23.5%** named **two or more** protected people
- **5.2%** named **four or more** protected people

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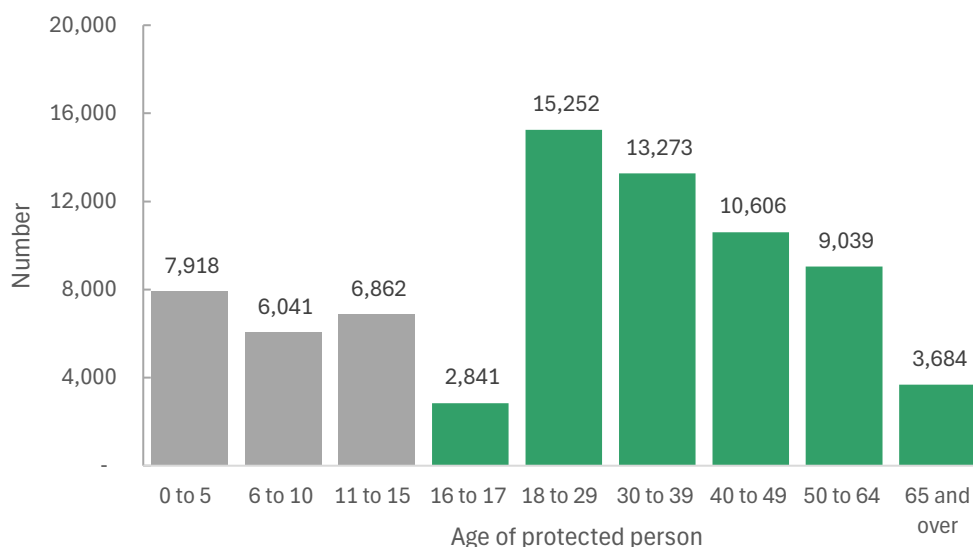
6.0 Number of protected persons by age

People protected by an order commencing in the 12 months to December 2025

75,828 protected persons were named on an ADVO which commenced in the 12 months to December.

- **27.6%** or 20,821 protected persons were children **under 16 years of age**. 79.9% or 16,630 of these children were on an ADVO with at least one adult.
- **37.7%** or 28,525 protected persons were **adults aged between 18 and 39**.
- **4.9%** or 3,684 protected persons were **aged 65 years or older**

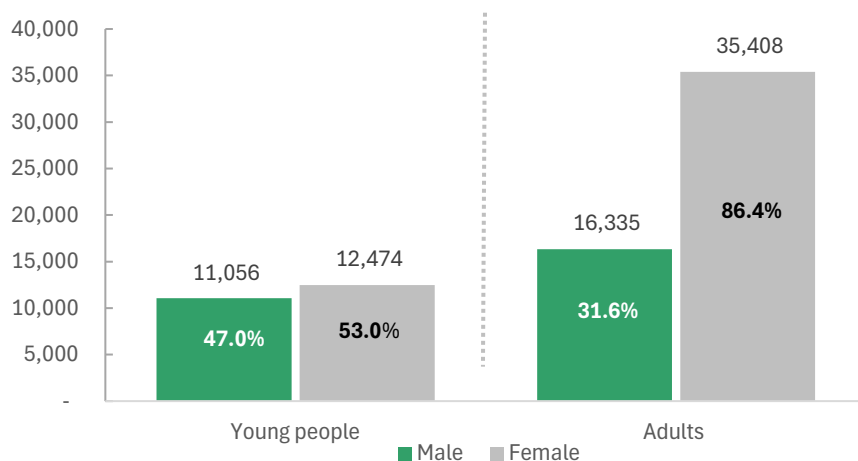
Number of protected persons listed on ADVOs by their age at time order commenced (n=75,516)



6.1 Number of protected persons by age and gender

53.0% of young people listed as a protected person on an ADVO were female compared with **86.4%** of adults.

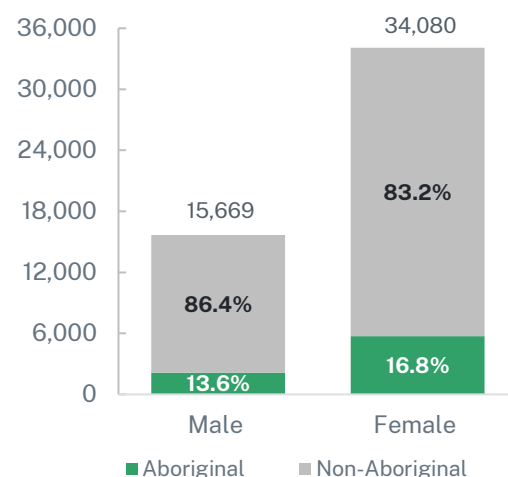
Number of protected persons listed on ADVOs by their age and gender at time order commenced (n=75,273)



6.2 Adult protected persons by Aboriginality

15.8% of adult protected persons listed on an ADVO identified as Aboriginal

Number of adult protected persons listed on ADVOs by Aboriginality and gender (n=49,749)



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Glossary

Age (of defendant or protected person): Age at time the order commenced.

ADVO (Apprehended Domestic Violence Order): Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders (ADVOs) are made by the court to protect individuals from violence, threats and harassment from a spouse, de facto partner, ex-partner, family member, carer or person living in the same household. The *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007* is the legislation covering ADVOs in NSW. Orders counted in this report capture final orders as well as provisional and/or interim orders which do not result in a final order.

ADVO applications: Includes all applications for an ADVO regardless of whether or not a provision, interim or final order was made.

ADVO breach rate: The ADVO breach rate is based on persons legally proceeded against by NSW Police for breach ADVO who are matched to an ADVO in force at the time of the breach, and the number of enforceable ADVOs during the same period.

ADVO in force: An ADVO is counted as 'in force' from the time it commences at the start of the earliest provisional, interim or final order, until the time the order ends when the AVO application is dismissed by the court or withdrawn by the applicant, or any final order expires or is revoked.

Defendant: The defendant is the person against whom the order is made or sought. They are the individual alleged to have used violence, threats, or harassment against another person. There is a one-to-one relationship between the number of orders and the number of defendants.

Protected person: Protected person (also referred to as 'Person In Need of Protection') is the individual for whose safety the order is sought. A single ADVO can list more than one protected person on the order. Since 2008, children under 16 years of age having a domestic relationship with an adult protected by an ADVO must also be named as a protected person on the order.

Relationship type: This is the type of relationship between the defendant and the primary protected person on the order. 'Intimate partner' includes spouse/partner, ex-spouse/ex-partner, boy/girlfriend (including ex-boy/girlfriend); 'family' includes parent/guardian/child/step-child/foster child, sibling, other family member; 'Other' includes carer, household member (including former household member), person in authority, other known person – no relationship, not known to victim; and 'Unknown'.

Data source

ADVO application records are sourced from the NSW Courts' Justicelink system and ADVO breach records are sourced from the NSW Police Force's Computerised Operational Policing System (COPS)

Quick links to other ADVO resources

[Apprehended Violence Order Statistics file](#)

[BOCSAR's Apprehended Domestic Violence Order web page](#)