

# YOUTH MURDER/MANSLAUGHTER CONVICTIONS IN NEW ZEALAND

2002 – 2009

This report presents information on the Youth (people aged under 17) convicted of Murder or Manslaughter since 2002. Analysis shows that there have been very few of these convictions in recent times. Over the period analysed there were 14 youth convicted for murder, and 27 youth convicted of manslaughter and imprisoned. Each of the 10 youngest people were convicted of manslaughter.

## Key facts

- The youngest person to have been convicted of manslaughter between 2002 and 2009<sup>1</sup> was 12 years and 4 months old at the date of offence<sup>2</sup>.
- Of the ten youngest youths to have been convicted of manslaughter between 2002 and 2009, nine were aged 14 at the date of offence.
- In total there were 271 convictions for manslaughter between 2002 and 2009, and 32 of these convictions were for youth (11.8%) - note five youth offenders were not imprisoned.

## Summary

Between 2002 and 2009, youth (people aged under 17) made up 11.8 percent of those convicted of manslaughter. This is slightly higher than the youth share of the total population of NZ (9.8%)<sup>3</sup>.

The highest number of youth manslaughter convictions was in 2002. That year also saw the highest average imprisonment sentence given out.

The average length of imprisonment given to youth for manslaughter convictions was very similar to adults.

The youngest person convicted was 12 years old at the date of offence (Bailey Junior Kurariki). The next 9 youngest people were all 14 at date of offence.

Of all the youths convicted for manslaughter, 84 percent were male. Auckland held the most trials resulting in Manslaughter convictions for youth, with 13 convictions over this period, followed by Rotorua with 6 and Whangarei with 3.

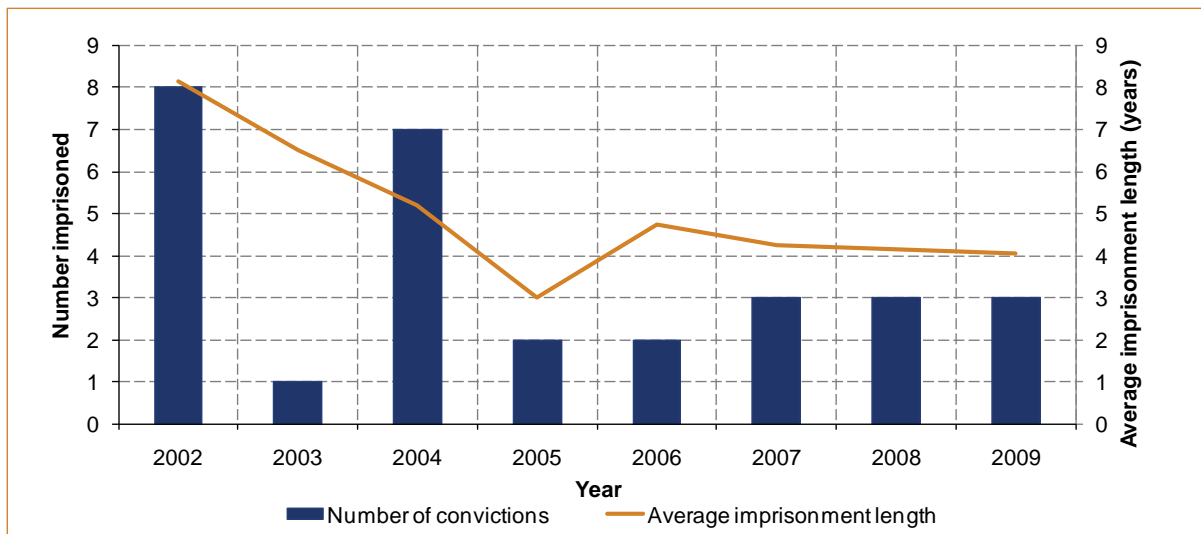
**Table 1: Imprisonment sentences for manslaughter between 2002 and 2009**

	Average sentence (years)	Minimum sentence (years)	Maximum sentence (years)	Number of Offences
Youth (10-16) <sup>4</sup>	5.55	2.0	12.0	29
Adult (17+)	5.77	1.5	13.0	222
All	5.75	1.5	13.0	251

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**Figure 1: Number of youths imprisoned for manslaughter and average sentence length, 2002 - 2009**



**Table 2: The 10 youngest youths sentenced for manslaughter between 2002 and 2009**

Gender	Sentencing court	Age at date of offence	Year of offence	Sentence type	Sentence given	Age at date of sentence
Male	Auckland	12 years 4 months	2001	Imprisonment	7 years	13 years 4 months
Male	Auckland	14 years 2 months	2005	Imprisonment	4 years	14 years 11 months
Male	Rotorua	14 years 2 months	2001	Imprisonment	4 years	15 years 2 months
Male	Hamilton	14 years 3 months	2008	Imprisonment	5 years	16 years
Female	New Plymouth	14 years 3 months	2002	Imprisonment	8 years 9 months	14 years 9 months
Female	New Plymouth	14 years 5 months	2002	Imprisonment	6 years 6 months	15 years 6 months
Male	Auckland	14 years 7 months	2006	Imprisonment	5 years	17 years
Female	Auckland	14 years 9 months	2002	Imprisonment	11 years	15 years 5 months
Male	Auckland	14 years 11 months	2001	Imprisonment	8 years 6 months	15 years 11 months
Male	Whangarei	14 years 11 months	2001	Supervision by Community Corrections	2 years	15 years 11 months

## Technical Notes

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<sup>1</sup> The figures shown are for convictions since the start of 2002 because of the implementation of the Sentencing Act in 2002 which introduced significant changes to sentences handed out for indictable offences. It is difficult to compare sentences between these two periods.

<sup>2</sup> Bailey Junior Kurariki committed the offence in 2001 and was convicted in 2002.

<sup>3</sup> National population estimate for 2009 taken from the National population projections on the Statistics NZ website ([www.statistics.govt.nz](http://www.statistics.govt.nz)).

<sup>4</sup> This is age at date of offence. For some the offence was committed before 2002 but conviction was during or after 2002.