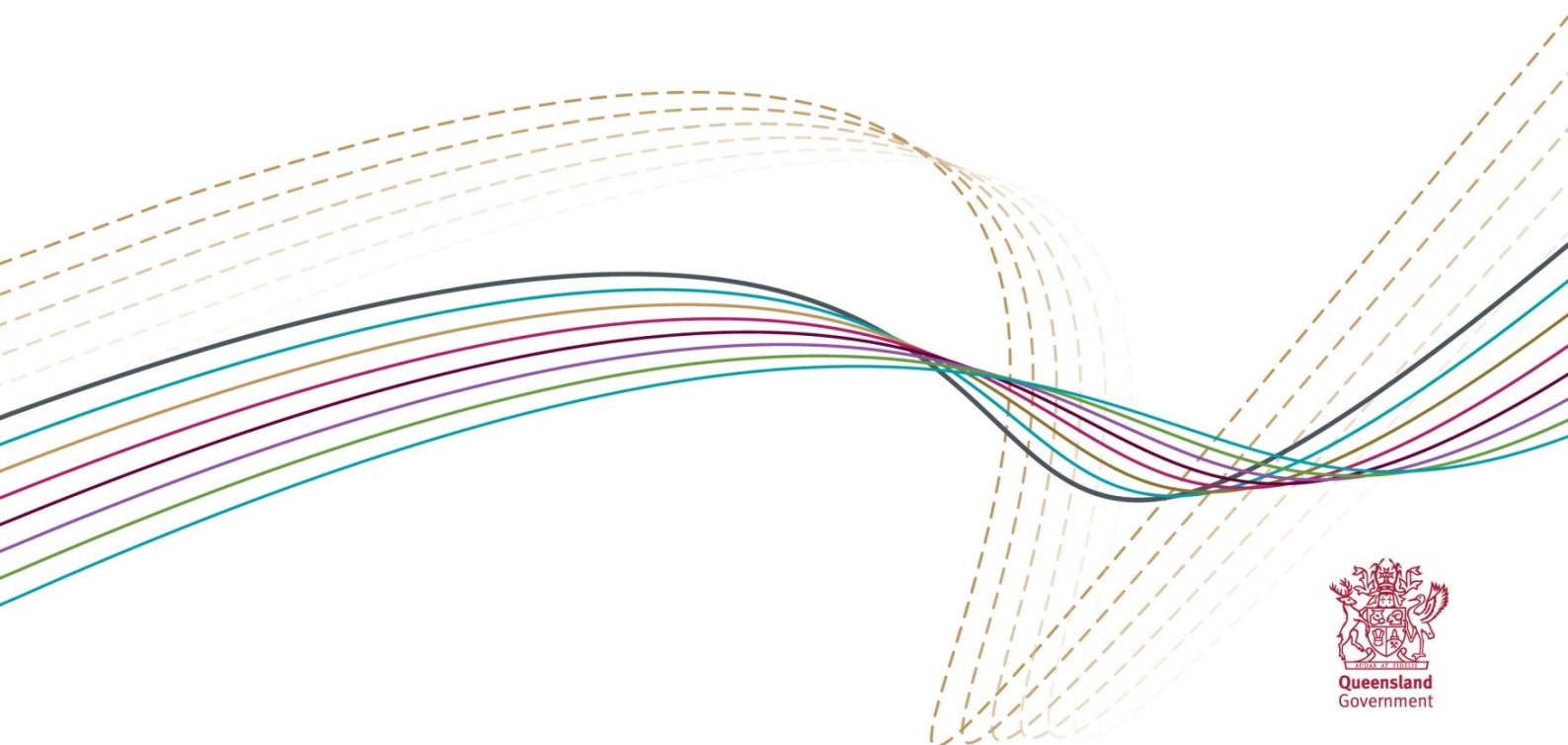


QUEENSLAND TREASURY

Justice report, Queensland, 2022–23

Criminal justice statistics





Acknowledgement of Country

Queensland Government Statistician's Office acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners and custodians of this country and recognises their connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Queensland Government Statistician's Office

Queensland Treasury

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1.0 Introduction

The *Justice report, Queensland, 2022–23* provides an overview of the volume of criminal justice matters in Queensland, and includes statistics relating to criminal courts, youth justice, and adult corrective services. The report contains information on persons who were alleged, and those who were proven, to have committed an offence in Queensland during the reference period. It is compiled using data extracted from the administrative systems of the Queensland Government departments responsible for criminal justice services. The report is a companion to the *Crime report, Queensland, 2022–23*, which provides an overview of the volume and nature of crime in Queensland, as reported (by victims, witnesses or other persons) to, or detected by, the Queensland Police Service (QPS).

This 2022–23 edition is the sixth annual report by Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO) on the state's criminal justice system. Detailed statistics relating to finalised appearances and charges in the higher and lower criminal courts are featured in this report, as well as statistics on youth detention and supervised youth justice orders, and imprisonment and community-based corrections for adult offenders.

The reference period of this report is the 2022–23 financial year and time series for up to 10 years to that date. As 2022–23 is the first full reference year following the disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic, readers are advised, when considering the statistics in this report, that comparisons with figures in periods during the pandemic (2019–20 through 2021–22) must be made with caution.

The information presented in this report may vary from data published elsewhere by QGSO and others, due to differences in the dates administrative data were extracted and frequency of revision, or in counting rules or statistical standards applied. The statistics presented should be read in conjunction with the explanatory notes and glossary at the end of this report, where counting methodologies and other supporting information are provided to aid in the interpretation of rates and numbers presented.

2.0 Statistical impacts of legislative and policy changes

2.1. Change to police recording of offences in Queensland

From 1 July 2021, a change in recording practices was implemented by the Queensland Police Service, requiring police officers to record all criminal offences associated with domestic and family violence (DFV) investigations. A flow-on effect to courts, and subsequently corrective services, is likely due to this change, although its specific contribution to any increases is difficult to quantify.

Several other factors which may contribute to an increase in persons in the criminal justice system due to domestic and family violence include: increased public awareness of DFV, including through reports such as *Hear her voice*; improved mechanisms for reporting DFV; media coverage; cultural changes; population growth; natural variation; and the delivery of the *Queensland Government's DFV prevention strategy 2016–2026*.

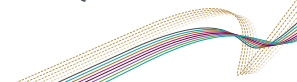
It should be noted, however, that not all DFV-related offences recorded by police proceed to prosecution in court or contact with corrective services. Indeed, in many instances and for a variety of reasons, alleged victims decline to support prosecution and the charge is subsequently withdrawn.

2.2. Changes to youth justice legislation

- In February 2018, the *Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Act 2016* and the Youth Justice (Transitional) Regulation 2018 commenced. Since then, 17-year-old offenders in Queensland are dealt with in the youth justice system (previously, the age range was 10–16 years), in line with other Australian states and territories.

The 2017–18 financial year represents a **break in time series**, and therefore comparisons with figures in periods before and after this transition period must be made with caution.

- In March 2023, amendments to the *Youth Justice Act 1992*, the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, and the *Bail Act 1980* were enacted via the *Strengthening Community Safety Act 2023*. These changes included:
 - the introduction of 'breach of bail condition' as a new criminal offence for children, meaning a defendant must not break any condition of the undertaking on which the defendant was granted bail requiring the defendant's appearance before a court.



- an increase in the maximum sentence for unlawful use of motor vehicle from 10 to 12 years (s408A(1A)) and introduction of new circumstances of aggravation, including when an offender has published material advertising their involvement in, or of, their offending on social media (s408(1B)). Additional circumstances of aggravation involve violence or being armed (s408(1C)).
- extension of the maximum operational period of a conditional release order from three to six months. Conditional release order length, however, remains at discretion of the court.

Given that these changes were not implemented until the last quarter of 2022–23, their effect on courts and youth justice order statistics may not yet be apparent for the 2022–23 reference year.

Terms used in this report (see *Glossary* for more)

Adult: in this report, refers to persons dealt with as an adult in Queensland courts and corrective services. Unless otherwise stated, Adult court statistics represent all appearances/charges in the adult courts system, both persons and companies/organisations.

Adjudicated: criminal proceedings resulting in a judgement or decision made by the court – convicted (guilty) or not convicted (acquitted). Conversely, 'not adjudicated' refers to matters which are considered to have been finalised (where all matters were withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication) even though a judgement has not been handed down by the court.

ANZSOC: the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification, is a uniform national statistical framework for classifying criminal behaviour.

Charge: a formal accusation of an offence.

Child: in this report, refers to persons dealt with as a child in Queensland courts and by Youth Justice for offences committed when the offender was of child age. From 12 February 2018, when changes to youth justice legislation were implemented, an offender aged 10–17 years is deemed to be a child for the purposes of the Queensland justice system. Prior to that date, the age range was 10–16 years.

Defendant: a person appearing in a criminal court charged with a criminal offence.

Child defendant/offender: an offender dealt with by the courts system / youth justice system for offences committed as a child.

Unique child defendant: a young person with at least one finalised appearance as a child in a Queensland criminal court during the reference period. An individual is counted only once in a reference year, irrespective of whether they had one or multiple finalised appearances in the year.

Finalised appearance: a single offence or collection of offences for a single defendant, that are finalised on the same day, at the same court level and court location (for instance by adjudication, or by discharge or withdrawal, but not by committal or transfer to another court).

Offence: any act or omission by a person or persons for which a penalty could be imposed by the Australian legal system.

Offender: in this report, a person aged 10 years or over who has been found guilty of an offence in a finalised court appearance.

Sentenced (relating to custody): a legal status indicating that a person (adult or child) is confined to custody following a determination by a court to impose a term of detention/imprisonment.

Unsentenced (relating to custody): a legal status indicating that a person (adult or child) is confined to custody while awaiting trial (pre-court custody), or the outcome of their trial.

Youth justice orders: penalties which may be imposed on child offenders only.

Vertical dotted lines in line graphs throughout this report denote the following where applicable:

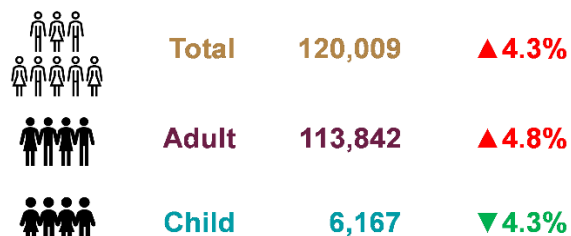
2017–18 The transition of 17-year-old offenders to youth justice from 12 February 2018 (red line)

2019–20 Declaration on 11 March 2020 of the COVID-19 global pandemic (blue line).

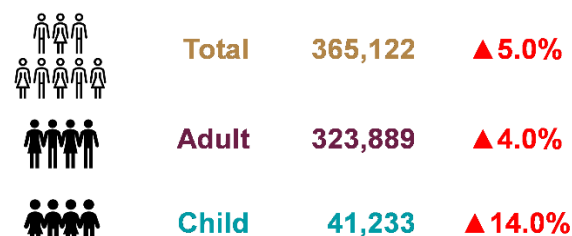
Please be aware
when comparing the contents of
figures within this report, that
different scales have been used
as appropriate.

3.0 Criminal justice, Queensland, 2022–23 and compared with 2021–22

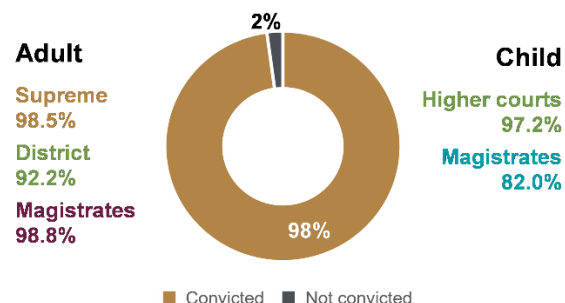
Convicted court appearances



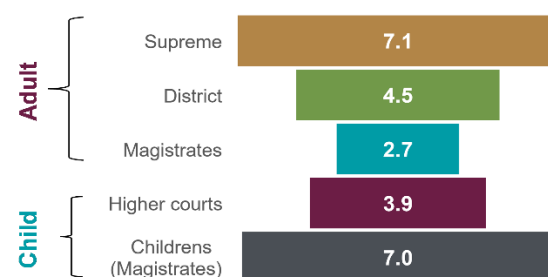
Convicted charges



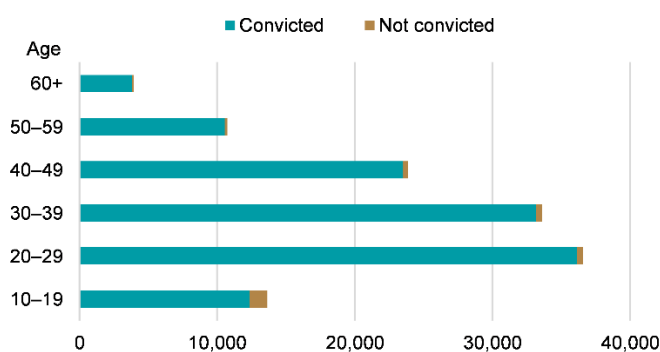
Adjudicated appearance outcomes *% convicted*



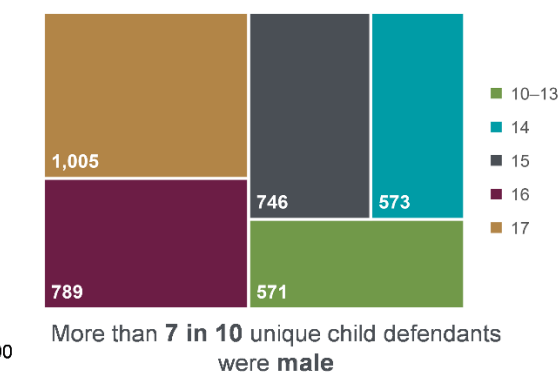
Average convicted charges per appearance



Adjudicated person appearances *by age at appearance*

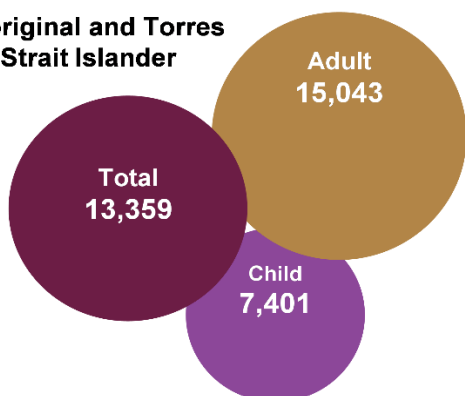


Unique child defendants *by age at offence*

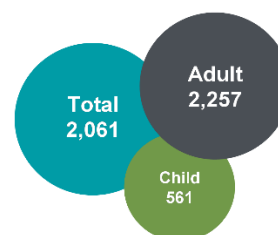


Convicted person appearances *rate per 100,000 persons*

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



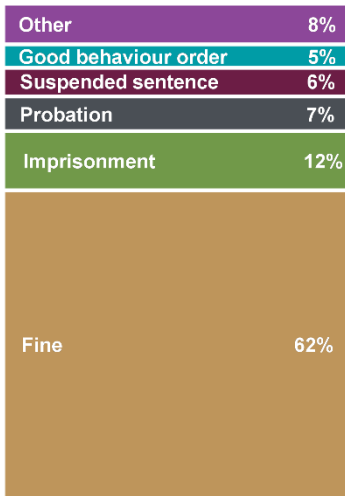
Other



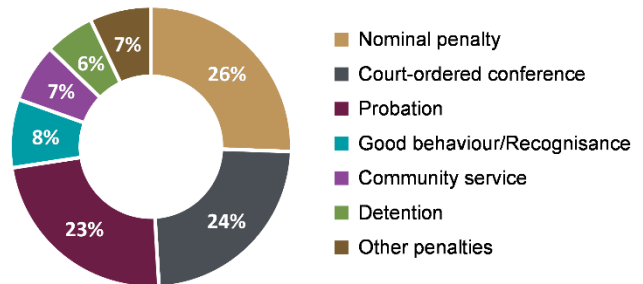
Note: Unless otherwise stated, Adult court statistics represent all appearances/charges in the adult courts system, both persons and companies/organisations.



Adult sentencing outcomes



Child sentencing outcomes



Prisons

Of the 10,225 adults in prisons at 30 June 2023

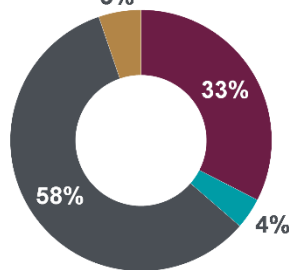
12% were aged 50+ years

1 in 10 prisoners were female

- Indigenous male
- Indigenous female
- Other male
- Other female

Nearly 2 in 3 were aged 20–39 years

36% were unsentenced



Youth detention centres

Of the 283 young people in youth detention centres daily, on average

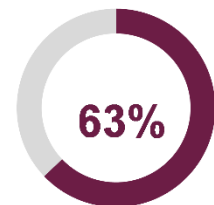
7 in 10 were

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander



More than 6 in 10 were aged 16 years and over

12% were female



88% were Unsentenced



Community corrections

Probation

54%

accounted for **over half** of all adults in supervised-based community corrections at 1 June 2023...

... and **over half** of all admissions to supervised community-based youth justice orders in 2022–23

59%



55 nights spent in detention on remand, on average

Sentenced spent



61 nights in detention, on average

4.0 Criminal courts

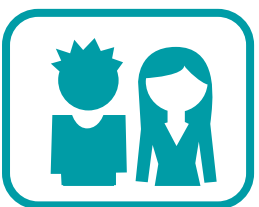
Source: QGSO Courts Database (from unpublished data supplied by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General).

This chapter should be read in conjunction with the Explanatory notes and Glossary at the end of this report.

Finalised appearances¹ – All courts	2021–22	2022–23	% change	
Total appearances	129,719	135,022	4.1	↑
Adult courts ²	121,053	126,423	4.4	↑
Appearances resulting in conviction (%)	89.7	90.0	0.3ppt	↑
Children's courts ³	8,666	8,599	-0.8	↓
Appearances resulting in conviction (%)	74.4	71.7	-2.7ppt	↓
by defendant characteristics⁴				
Male	96,729	100,275	3.7	↑
Female	32,471	34,084	5.0	↑
Company	233	263	12.9	↑
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (%)				
Adult	19.6	20.1	0.5 ppt	↑
Child	47.1	49.8	2.7 ppt	↑
Finalised charges – All courts				
Total convicted charges	347,592	365,122	5.0	↑
Adult courts ²	311,410	323,889	4.0	↑
Children's courts ³	36,182	41,233	14.0	↑

ppt = percentage point

In 2022–23:



Finalised person appearances

- In 134,759 finalised person appearances, three in four defendants were male (74.4%), and more than one in five defendants identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (22.0%).
- *Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* and *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* showed the greatest increases as most serious offence (MSO) in convicted appearances, compared with 2021–22 (+4,478 and +1,831 respectively).

Finalised person appearances – Adults

- In 90.1% of finalised adult appearances, the defendant was found guilty of at least one charge.
- More than one in six convicted appearances (17.8%) resulted in a custodial sentence (imprisonment or wholly suspended sentence).
- More than three in five convicted appearances (62.2%) received *fine* as most serious penalty.
- The number of convicted appearances with *illicit drug offences* as MSO decreased by more than 10 per cent in every court type compared with 2021–22.

Finalised person appearances – Children

- There was a small decrease (-67 or -0.8%) in the number of finalised child appearances in Queensland courts.
- In half (49.8%) of all finalised child appearances, the defendant identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- In 71.7% of finalised child appearances, the defendant was found guilty of at least one charge.
- There were more convicted appearances for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander than other defendants in the Childrens Court, among both males and females.

1 Finalised appearances include both those which have been adjudicated in court and those not adjudicated. Excludes those committed to a higher court for trial/sentence or transferred to another jurisdiction.

2 Represents all appearances/charges in the adult courts system, both persons and companies/organisations.

3 Represents appearances/charges finalised in the Childrens courts. From February 2018, offenders aged 10–17 years (previously 10–16 years) are dealt with as children in Queensland's criminal justice system.

4 For finalised appearances by defendant characteristics, person defendants whose sex is not stated are not included here, except in calculation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (total) appearances as % of total finalised appearances.

4.1. Overview

This chapter presents summary statistics about finalised appearances and charges in Queensland criminal courts, and the characteristics of adult (including company) and child defendants related to those appearances. Time series data are also included for the 10 years from 2013–14 to 2022–23.

Method of finalisation

In this report, and going forward, **finalised appearances and charges are presented by their method of finalisation and outcome**, i.e. whether they were adjudicated (resulting in a judgement or decision made by the court as to whether or not the defendant is guilty) or not adjudicated (including where the prosecution has discontinued proceedings). Such cases may, in some instances, be replaced by a new case with amended charges.

Matters which are committed to a higher court for trial/sentence or transferred to another jurisdiction are not considered finalised at that point. Those which are finalised in another or higher court during the reference period are presented in the relevant statistics.

Figure 1 Appearances by outcome, all courts, 2022–23

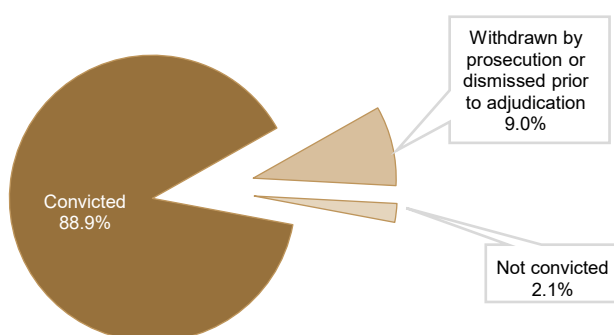
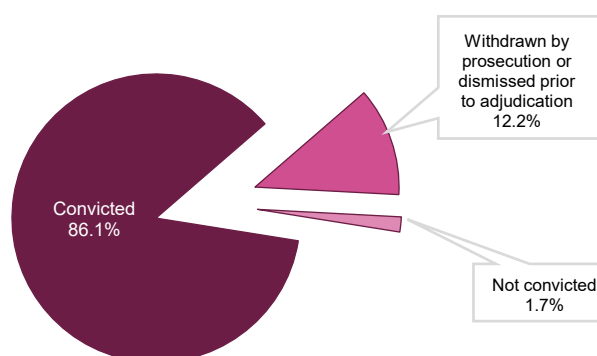


Figure 2 Charges by outcome, all courts, 2022–23



Youth justice legislation

Implementation of the *Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Act 2016* and the Youth Justice (Transitional) Regulation 2018 in February 2018 meant that, from that date onwards, 17-year-old offenders are dealt with as children in Queensland courts, meaning a **break in the time series** in 2017–18, and comparisons with figures in periods before and after this transition period must be made with caution.

In Queensland, child defendants may be dealt with in the Childrens Court (Magistrates), the Childrens Court of Queensland (District Court), the District Court or the Supreme Court. For the purposes of this report, due to small numbers in the Supreme and District Courts, appearances and charges for children dealt with in these courts have been grouped with the Childrens Court of Queensland and reported collectively as 'higher courts'.

It should also be noted that the Queensland courts use different terms and counting rules from Youth Justice to explain volume counts in relation to child defendants. In this section, the principal counting unit is *finalised appearance*, and an individual may have one or more finalised appearances during the reference period.

Rates in this section are presented per 100,000 persons, for both adults and children. (See *Counting methodology* in Explanatory notes).

4.1.1. All courts summary

Finalised appearances and charges include both those which were finalised by adjudication and those which were withdrawn by prosecution or dismissed prior to adjudication (i.e. not adjudicated).

Figure 3 and Figure 4 show the number of finalised appearances each year for adults and children, including the respective average number of finalised charges per appearance for 10 years. The number of finalised appearances has remained relatively stable since 2020–21 for both adults and children in Queensland courts. The average number of charges per appearance have been higher for children than for adults throughout the time series, and has been trending upwards throughout the series, with a steep upswing in 2022–23 to a high of 5.8 finalised charges per finalised appearance. This increase could be attributed to large year-on-year increases in charges for *theft and related offences* (+2,493 or 16.1%) and *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* (+2,802 or 30.6%). For adults, the average number of finalised charges per finalised appearance increased steadily, from 2.1 in 2013–14 to 3.0 in 2019–20, where it has remained stable.

Figure 3 Finalised adult appearances^(a) and average charges per appearance, all courts – time series

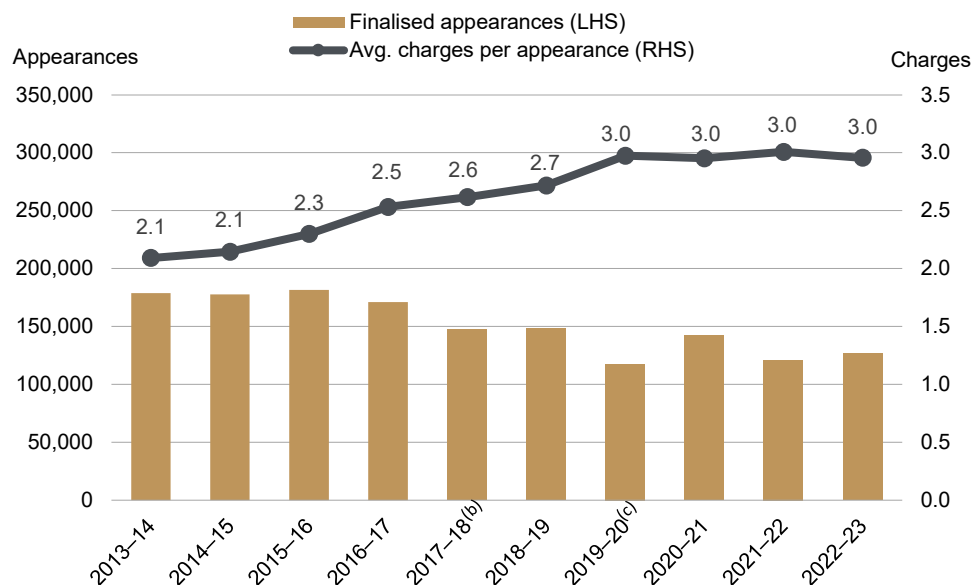
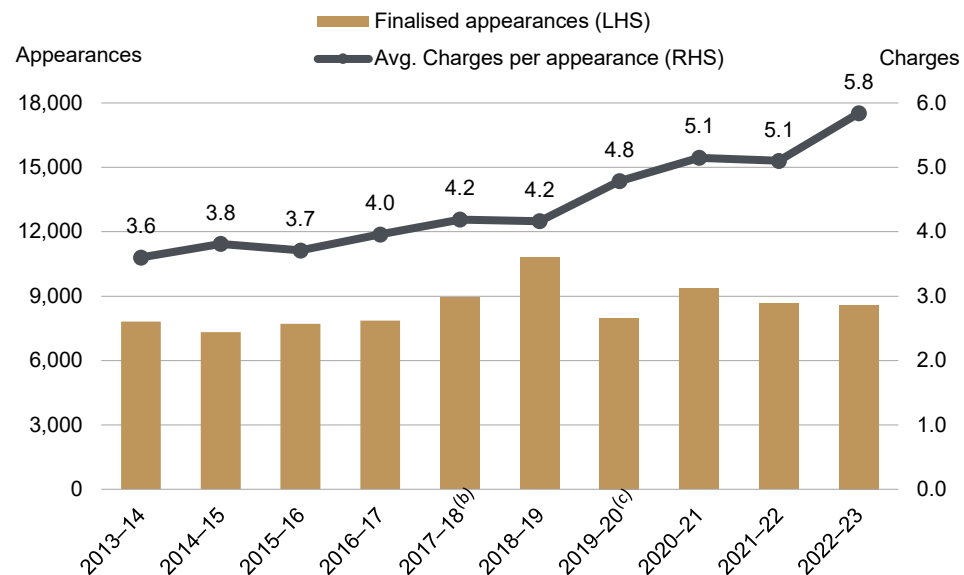


Figure 4 Finalised child appearances and average charges per appearance, all courts – time series



(a) Includes appearances of company defendants.

(b) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

**Table 1 Finalised appearances by method of finalisation and outcome, by court type – time series**

Court system / type	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	— number —									
Adult^(c)										
Supreme Court	639	761	967	1,340	1,587	1,426	1,379	1,369	1,314	1,193
Adjudicated	512	620	775	1,110	1,371	1,209	1,197	1,177	1,152	1,036
Convicted	492	603	757	1,084	1,342	1,197	1,180	1,158	1,138	1,020
Not convicted ^(d)	20	17	18	26	29	12	17	19	14	16
Not adjudicated ^(e)	127	141	192	230	216	217	182	192	162	157
District Court	4,169	4,396	4,558	5,091	5,355	5,882	5,422	5,104	5,397	5,176
Adjudicated	3,436	3,606	3,669	4,169	4,455	4,807	4,478	4,183	4,436	4,178
Convicted	3,159	3,355	3,378	3,853	4,128	4,443	4,188	3,810	4,148	3,851
Not convicted ^(d)	277	251	291	316	327	364	290	373	288	327
Not adjudicated ^(e)	733	790	889	922	900	1,075	944	921	961	998
Magistrates Court	174,073	172,543	176,069	164,587	140,627	141,040	110,555	135,808	114,342	120,054
Adjudicated	163,205	160,532	163,658	152,048	130,551	130,459	101,112	124,462	104,453	110,240
Convicted	161,775	159,042	162,096	150,619	129,221	129,212	100,092	123,223	103,297	108,971
Not convicted ^(d)	1,430	1,490	1,562	1,429	1,330	1,247	1,020	1,239	1,156	1,269
Not adjudicated ^(e)	10,868	12,011	12,411	12,539	10,076	10,581	9,443	11,346	9,889	9,814
Child										
Higher courts^(f)	467	374	381	444	451	745	812	631	646	719
Adjudicated	393	300	318	346	367	585	707	556	564	611
Convicted	375	285	304	328	351	572	681	543	539	594
Not convicted ^(d)	18	15	14	18	16	13	26	13	25	17
Not adjudicated ^(e)	74	74	63	98	84	160	105	75	82	108
Childrens Court (Magistrates)	7,344	6,945	7,332	7,415	8,483	10,055	7,177	8,735	8,020	7,880
Adjudicated	6,664	6,262	6,561	6,717	7,500	8,932	6,220	7,577	6,983	6,799
Convicted	6,313	5,943	6,143	6,075	6,702	7,755	5,238	6,485	5,908	5,573
Not convicted ^(d)	351	319	418	642	798	1,177	982	1,092	1,075	1,226
Not adjudicated ^(e)	680	683	771	698	983	1,123	957	1,158	1,037	1,081
Total	186,692	185,019	189,307	178,877	156,503	159,148	125,345	151,647	129,719	135,022
Person appearances	186,021	184,427	188,664	178,258	156,104	158,789	125,078	151,380	129,486	134,759
Adjudicated	173,825	170,945	174,548	163,978	143,949	145,708	113,532	137,761	117,421	122,678
Convicted	171,744	168,870	172,264	161,550	141,465	142,903	111,207	135,029	114,871	119,832
Not convicted ^(d)	2,081	2,075	2,284	2,428	2,484	2,805	2,325	2,732	2,550	2,846
Not adjudicated ^(e)	12,196	13,482	14,116	14,280	12,155	13,081	11,546	13,619	12,065	12,081
Company appearances^(g)	671	592	643	619	399	359	267	267	233	263
Adjudicated	385	375	433	412	295	284	182	194	168	186
Convicted	370	358	414	409	279	276	172	190	159	177
Not convicted ^(d)	15	17	19	3	16	8	10	4	9	9
Not adjudicated ^(e)	286	217	210	207	104	75	85	73	65	77

(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(c) Includes appearances of company defendants, which are dealt with in the adult court system.

(d) Excludes appearances which were not adjudicated.

(e) 'Not adjudicated' includes cases where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, these cases may be replaced by a new case with amended charges.

(f) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.

(g) Companies (or organisations) are dealt with in the adult court system.


Table 2 Rates of finalised person appearances by method of finalisation and outcome, by court type— time series

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Court system / type	— rate per 100,000 persons ^(c) —									
Adult^(d)										
Supreme Court	17.6	20.6	25.9	35.2	41.2	36.7	34.9	34.1	32.2	28.7
Adjudicated	14.1	16.8	20.7	29.2	35.6	31.2	30.3	29.4	28.3	24.9
Convicted	13.5	16.3	20.2	28.5	34.9	30.8	29.9	28.9	27.9	24.5
Not convicted ^(e)	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4
Not adjudicated ^(f)	3.5	3.8	5.1	6.0	5.6	5.6	4.6	4.8	4.0	3.8
District Court	114.6	119.1	121.8	133.8	139.1	151.5	137.1	127.3	132.4	124.4
Adjudicated	94.4	97.7	98.1	109.6	115.7	123.8	113.2	104.3	108.8	100.4
Convicted	86.8	90.9	90.3	101.3	107.2	114.4	105.9	95.0	101.7	92.5
Not convicted ^(e)	7.6	6.8	7.8	8.3	8.5	9.4	7.3	9.3	7.1	7.9
Not adjudicated ^(f)	20.2	21.4	23.8	24.2	23.4	27.6	23.9	23.0	23.6	24.0
Magistrates Court	4,769.0	4,662.2	4,690.3	4,312.1	3,643.6	3,625.1	2,791.2	3,381.0	2,800.4	2,879.4
Adjudicated	4,478.0	4,342.5	4,364.1	3,987.8	3,384.5	3,354.4	2,554.3	3,099.8	2,559.3	2,645.3
Convicted	4,439.1	4,302.5	4,322.9	3,950.3	3,350.3	3,322.4	2,528.7	3,069.0	2,531.2	2,615.0
Not convicted ^(e)	38.9	40.0	41.3	37.5	34.1	31.9	25.6	30.8	28.2	30.3
Not adjudicated ^(f)	291.0	319.8	326.2	324.3	259.1	270.8	236.8	281.2	241.1	234.0
Child										
Higher courts^(g)	111.6	88.8	89.4	102.3	96.5	144.3	153.8	116.8	117.0	127.0
Adjudicated	93.9	71.3	74.6	79.7	78.5	113.3	133.9	103.0	102.1	108.0
Convicted	89.6	67.7	71.3	75.5	75.1	110.8	129.0	100.6	97.6	105.0
Not convicted ^(e)	4.3	3.6	3.3	4.1	3.4	2.5	4.9	2.4	4.5	3.0
Not adjudicated ^(f)	17.7	17.6	14.8	22.6	18.0	31.0	19.9	13.9	14.8	19.1
Childrens Court (Magistrates)	1,755.3	1,649.5	1,720.5	1,707.7	1,815.6	1,947.2	1,359.0	1,617.5	1,452.0	1,392.4
Adjudicated	1,592.8	1,487.3	1,539.6	1,546.9	1,605.2	1,729.7	1,177.8	1,403.1	1,264.2	1,201.4
Convicted	1,508.9	1,411.5	1,441.5	1,399.1	1,434.4	1,501.8	991.9	1,200.9	1,069.6	984.7
Not convicted ^(e)	83.9	75.8	98.1	147.9	170.8	227.9	186.0	202.2	194.6	216.6
Not adjudicated ^(f)	162.5	162.2	180.9	160.7	210.4	217.5	181.2	214.4	187.7	191.0
Total	4,588.1	4,488.1	4,528.3	4,207.4	3,616.9	3,611.1	2,792.2	3,327.8	2,798.4	2,851.2
Person appearances										
Adjudicated	4,287.3	4,160.0	4,189.5	3,870.3	3,335.3	3,313.6	2,534.4	3,028.4	2,537.6	2,595.6
Convicted	4,235.9	4,109.5	4,134.7	3,813.0	3,277.7	3,249.8	2,482.5	2,968.3	2,482.5	2,535.4
Not convicted ^(e)	51.3	50.5	54.8	57.3	57.6	63.8	51.9	60.1	55.1	60.2
Not adjudicated ^(f)	300.8	328.1	338.8	337.0	281.6	297.5	257.7	299.4	260.7	255.6

(a) 17-year-old offenders transitioned to the youth justice system in February 2018. Since then, the age range for adult offenders has been 18 years and over.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(c) Rate calculation is based on relevant population subgroup. Rates for children from 2012–13 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.

(d) Excludes appearances of company defendants.

(e) Excludes appearances which were not adjudicated.

(f) 'Not adjudicated' includes cases where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, these cases may be replaced by a new case with amended charges.

(g) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.


Table 3 Finalised charges by method of finalisation and outcome, by court type – time series

Court system / type	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 (a)	2018–19	2019–20 (b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	— number —									
Adult^(c)										
Supreme Court	3,802	5,595	7,359	10,384	11,906	11,522	10,497	9,762	10,662	8,625
Adjudicated	2,880	4,421	5,573	8,443	10,137	9,845	9,347	8,450	8,831	7,335
Convicted	2,812	4,379	5,531	8,360	10,060	9,798	9,273	8,384	8,801	7,292
Not convicted ^(d)	68	42	42	83	77	47	74	66	30	43
Not adjudicated ^(e)	922	1,174	1,786	1,941	1,769	1,677	1,150	1,312	1,831	1,290
District Court	20,167	21,422	23,778	26,980	29,182	30,512	31,317	26,862	28,146	24,750
Adjudicated	15,728	16,606	18,190	21,245	23,207	24,265	24,502	21,024	21,649	18,505
Convicted	14,999	15,752	17,365	20,360	22,341	23,283	23,600	19,868	20,763	17,478
Not convicted ^(d)	729	854	825	885	866	982	902	1,156	886	1,027
Not adjudicated ^(e)	4,439	4,816	5,588	5,735	5,975	6,247	6,815	5,838	6,497	6,245
Magistrates Court	350,079	354,282	386,274	395,715	344,938	361,162	307,297	383,341	325,265	340,325
Adjudicated	316,639	319,657	346,047	349,977	308,631	318,291	268,600	338,226	284,669	302,190
Convicted	313,723	316,342	342,584	346,788	304,986	315,072	266,225	335,051	281,846	299,119
Not convicted ^(d)	2,916	3,315	3,463	3,189	3,645	3,219	2,375	3,175	2,822	3,071
Not adjudicated ^(e)	33,440	34,625	40,227	45,738	36,307	42,871	38,697	45,115	40,597	38,135
Child										
Higher courts^(f)	2,970	2,109	1,904	2,208	2,214	3,481	3,508	2,925	2,475	2,834
Adjudicated	2,394	1,773	1,666	1,802	1,885	2,919	3,123	2,627	2,174	2,385
Convicted	2,339	1,746	1,636	1,758	1,847	2,893	3,057	2,588	2,120	2,340
Not convicted ^(d)	55	27	30	44	38	26	66	39	54	45
Not adjudicated ^(e)	576	336	238	406	329	562	385	298	301	449
Childrens Court (Magistrates)	25,161	25,789	26,708	28,902	35,217	41,499	34,719	45,295	41,724	47,375
Adjudicated	22,921	23,226	23,521	25,299	30,117	36,378	30,219	39,414	36,469	41,848
Convicted	22,281	22,711	22,762	23,940	28,615	34,296	28,098	37,003	34,062	38,893
Not convicted ^(d)	640	515	759	1,359	1,502	2,082	2,121	2,411	2,407	2,955
Not adjudicated ^(e)	2,240	2,563	3,187	3,603	5,100	5,121	4,500	5,881	5,255	5,527
Total	402,179	409,197	446,023	464,189	423,457	448,176	387,338	468,185	408,272	423,909
Person charges	399,543	407,497	443,820	461,727	421,470	445,841	386,565	467,266	407,583	423,051
Adjudicated	358,733	364,465	393,289	404,800	372,433	389,913	335,260	409,055	353,299	371,665
Convicted	354,359	359,843	388,256	399,248	366,434	383,818	329,732	402,214	347,113	364,538
Not convicted ^(d)	4,374	4,622	5,033	5,552	5,999	6,095	5,528	6,841	6,187	7,127
Not adjudicated ^(e)	40,810	43,032	50,531	56,927	49,037	55,928	51,305	58,211	54,284	51,386
Company charges^(g)	2,636	1,700	2,203	2,462	1,987	2,335	773	919	689	858
Adjudicated	1,829	1,218	1,708	1,966	1,544	1,785	531	686	492	598
Convicted	1,795	1,087	1,622	1,958	1,415	1,524	521	680	479	584
Not convicted ^(d)	34	131	86	8	129	261	10	6	13	14
Not adjudicated ^(e)	807	482	495	496	443	550	242	233	197	260

(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(c) Represents charges against company defendants, which are dealt with in the adult court system.

(d) Excludes charges which were not adjudicated.

(e) 'Not adjudicated' includes those where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, the charge may be replaced by an amended charge.

(f) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.

(g) Companies (or organisations) are dealt with in the adult court system.

Table 4 Rates of finalised charges against persons, by method of finalisation and outcome, by court type – time series

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 (a)	2018–19	2019–20 (b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Court system / type	— rate per 100,000 persons ^(c) —									
Adult^(d)										
Supreme Court	104.6	151.7	196.8	273.1	309.4	296.9	265.6	243.5	261.7	207.3
Adjudicated	79.2	119.9	149.0	222.0	263.4	253.7	236.5	210.8	216.7	176.3
Convicted	77.3	118.7	147.9	219.8	261.4	252.5	234.7	209.1	216.0	175.3
Not convicted ^(e)	1.9	1.1	1.1	2.2	2.0	1.2	1.9	1.6	0.7	1.0
Not adjudicated ^(f)	25.4	31.8	47.8	51.0	46.0	43.2	29.1	32.7	44.9	31.0
District Court	554.5	577.2	633.9	709.4	758.1	784.2	791.6	670.0	689.8	594.9
Adjudicated	432.4	446.6	484.5	558.6	602.8	623.3	619.2	524.4	530.4	444.8
Convicted	412.4	426.2	462.5	535.3	580.3	598.0	596.4	495.6	508.6	420.1
Not convicted ^(e)	20.0	20.3	22.1	23.3	22.5	25.3	22.8	28.8	21.7	24.7
Not adjudicated ^(f)	122.1	130.6	149.4	150.8	155.2	160.9	172.4	145.6	159.4	150.1
Magistrates Court	9,555.6	9,563.3	10,270.6	10,341.9	8,911.0	9,248.2	7,758.1	9,539.2	7,966.2	8,159.6
Adjudicated	8,658.1	8,637.6	9,208.3	9,152.1	7,979.2	8,157.6	6,784.9	8,419.6	6,974.8	7,249.2
Convicted	8,578.9	8,548.4	9,118.0	9,068.5	7,887.8	8,081.4	6,725.1	8,340.6	6,905.8	7,175.7
Not convicted ^(e)	79.3	89.1	90.3	83.7	91.4	76.2	59.9	79.0	69.0	73.5
Not adjudicated ^(f)	897.5	925.7	1,062.3	1,189.8	931.9	1,090.6	973.2	1,119.5	991.4	910.4
Child										
Higher courts^(g)	709.9	500.9	446.8	508.5	473.8	674.1	664.3	541.6	448.1	500.8
Adjudicated	572.2	421.1	390.9	415.0	403.4	565.3	591.4	486.5	393.6	421.4
Convicted	559.0	414.7	383.9	404.9	395.3	560.2	578.9	479.2	383.8	413.5
Not convicted ^(e)	13.1	6.4	7.0	10.1	8.1	5.0	12.5	7.2	9.8	8.0
Not adjudicated ^(f)	137.7	79.8	55.8	93.5	70.4	108.8	72.9	55.2	54.5	79.3
Childrens Court (Magistrates)	6,013.8	6,125.1	6,267.3	6,656.1	7,537.2	8,036.5	6,574.4	8,387.6	7,553.9	8,371.0
Adjudicated	5,478.4	5,516.4	5,519.5	5,826.3	6,445.7	7,044.8	5,722.2	7,298.6	6,602.5	7,394.4
Convicted	5,325.4	5,394.0	5,341.4	5,513.3	6,124.3	6,641.6	5,320.6	6,852.1	6,166.7	6,872.2
Not convicted ^(e)	153.0	122.3	178.1	313.0	321.5	403.2	401.6	446.5	435.8	522.1
Not adjudicated ^(f)	535.4	608.7	747.9	829.8	1,091.5	991.7	852.1	1,089.0	951.4	976.6
Total	9,854.4	9,916.5	10,652.6	10,898.0	9,765.5	10,139.2	8,629.5	10,271.8	8,808.3	8,951.0
Charges against person defendants										
Adjudicated	8,847.9	8,869.3	9,439.7	9,554.4	8,629.3	8,867.3	7,484.2	8,992.2	7,635.2	7,863.7
Convicted	8,740.0	8,756.8	9,318.9	9,423.4	8,490.3	8,728.7	7,360.8	8,841.8	7,501.5	7,712.9
Not convicted ^(e)	107.9	112.5	120.8	131.0	139.0	138.6	123.4	150.4	133.7	150.8
Not adjudicated ^(f)	1,006.5	1,047.2	1,212.8	1,343.6	1,136.2	1,271.9	1,145.3	1,279.6	1,173.1	1,087.2

(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(c) Rate calculation is based on relevant population subgroup. Rates for children from 2012–13 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.

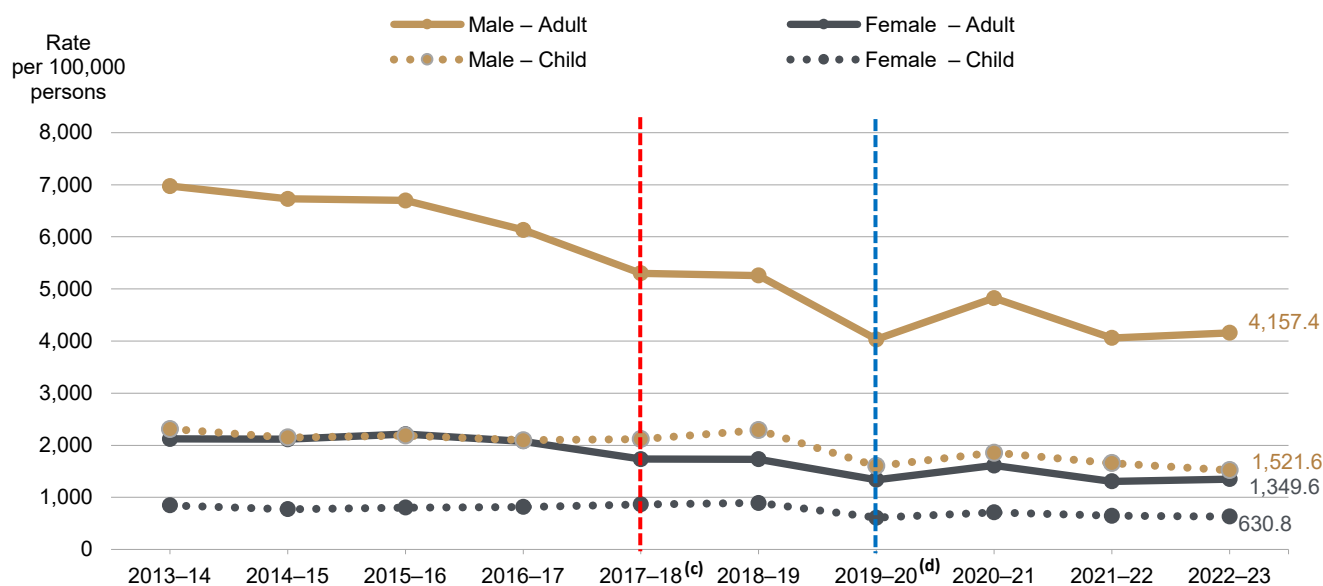
(d) Excludes charges against company defendants.

(e) Excludes charges which were not adjudicated.

(f) 'Not adjudicated' includes those where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, the charge may be replaced by an amended charge.

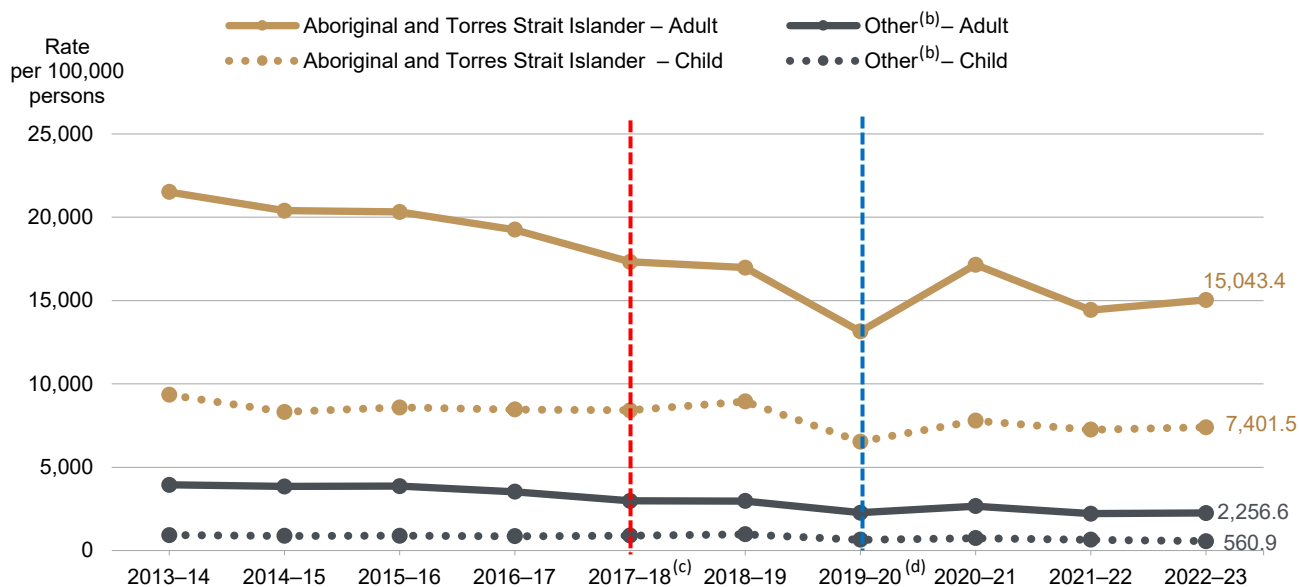
(g) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.

Figure 5 Convicted person appearance rates^(a) by court system and sex^(b) – time series



- (a) Rate calculation is based on relevant population subgroup. Rates for children from 2012–13 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.
- (b) Rates are calculated only for appearances where defendant's sex was stated. Rate calculation is based on relevant population subgroup.
- (c) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

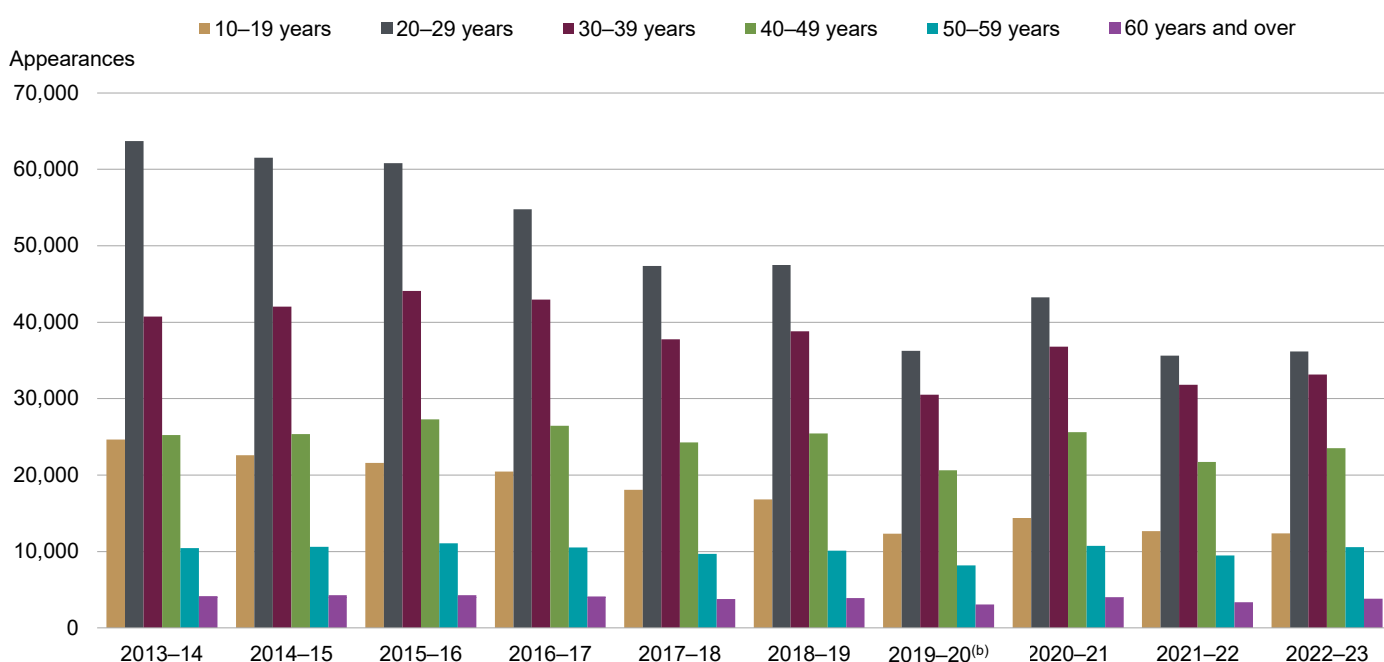
Figure 6 Convicted person appearance rates^(a) by court system and Indigenous status – time series



- (a) Rate calculation is based on relevant population subgroup. Rates for children from 2012–13 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.
- (b) 'Other' includes defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.
- (c) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

When focusing on all court appearances which lead to a conviction, the annual ranking of the ten-year age groups has remained unchanged since 2013–14. Defendants aged 20–29 years represented the most prevalent age group each year, although their number was much lower since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared in 2019–20 than in the first six years of the time series (Figure 7). While in 2013–14 over half (52.3%) of all convicted appearances were of defendants under 30 years old, this cohort accounted for only 40.6% in 2022–23, as the proportions for age groups from 30 to 59 years have steadily increased over the series (Figure 8). Those aged 60 years and older consistently represent the smallest group of convicted person appearances.

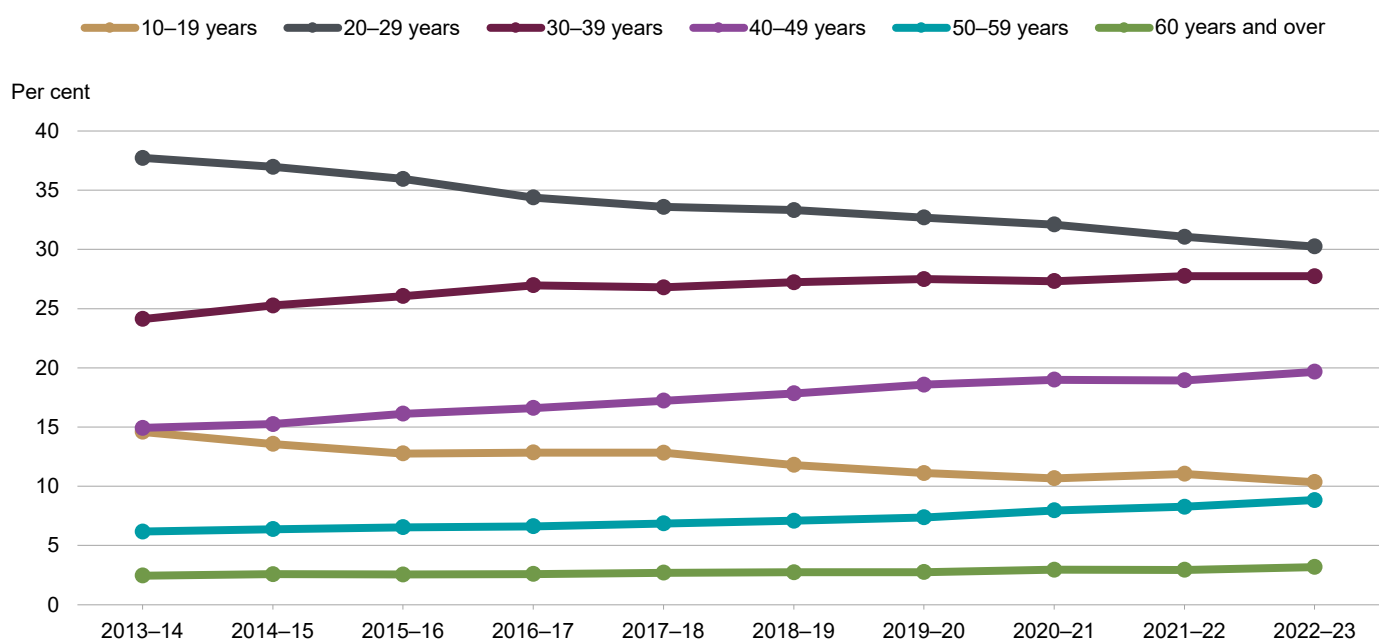
Figure 7 Convicted person appearances by age at appearance^(a), all courts – time series



(a) Excludes appearances of defendants whose age was not stated.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

Figure 8 Proportion of convicted person appearances by age at appearance^(a), all courts – time series



(a) Excludes appearances of defendants whose age was not stated.


Table 5 Convicted appearances by defendant characteristics, all courts – time series

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	— number —									
Company appearances	370	358	414	409	279	276	172	190	159	177
Person appearances	171,744	168,870	172,264	161,550	141,465	142,903	111,207	135,029	114,872	119,832
Sex										
Male	130,200	126,979	127,966	119,184	105,194	106,063	82,397	99,932	85,736	89,104
Female	40,768	41,167	43,758	41,866	35,953	36,527	28,520	34,844	28,921	30,394
Not stated	776	724	540	500	318	313	290	253	215	334
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	29,552	28,614	29,411	28,798	26,817	27,079	21,410	28,386	24,849	26,509
Other ^(d)	142,192	140,256	142,853	132,752	114,648	115,824	89,797	106,643	90,023	93,323
Age at finalised appearance										
10–19 years	24,647	22,591	21,605	20,467	18,087	16,822	12,334	14,378	12,661	12,375
20–29 years	63,715	61,510	60,818	54,776	47,353	47,507	36,274	43,236	35,624	36,163
30–39 years	40,759	42,032	44,086	42,958	37,783	38,816	30,519	36,793	31,816	33,162
40–49 years	25,222	25,365	27,281	26,449	24,285	25,429	20,618	25,595	21,716	23,523
50–59 years	10,438	10,607	11,066	10,550	9,675	10,101	8,179	10,725	9,482	10,557
60 years & over	4,147	4,298	4,308	4,119	3,803	3,905	3,059	3,985	3,368	3,810
Not stated	2,816	2,467	3,100	2,231	479	323	224	317	205	242
Total	172,114	169,228	172,678	161,959	141,744	143,179	111,379	135,219	115,031	120,009

Table 6 Convicted person appearance rates by defendant characteristics, all courts – time series

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	— rate per 100,000 persons ^(b) —									
Person appearances										
Sex^(c)										
Male	6,478.0	6,243.7	6,218.2	5,701.5	4,942.5	4,893.7	3,733.0	4,457.4	3,759.3	3,827.7
Female	1,994.0	1,983.4	2,075.4	1,950.5	1,643.5	1,638.1	1,255.1	1,510.3	1,232.5	1,267.2
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	18,907.0	17,830.0	17,848.7	17,002.7	15,388.3	15,112.0	11,631.3	15,028.0	12,830.6	13,358.7
Other ^(d)	3,647.7	3,551.9	3,569.9	3,263.8	2,768.2	2,745.9	2,090.5	2,445.9	2,030.5	2,061.1
Age at finalised appearance^(c)										
10–19 years	4,069.2	3,719.7	3,536.9	3,301.6	2,861.4	2,609.1	1,878.2	2,159.9	1,868.5	1,782.3
20–29 years	9,428.9	9,025.7	8,856.7	7,905.8	6,776.1	6,747.5	5,142.7	6,205.6	5,142.3	5,171.8
30–39 years	6,411.4	6,547.2	6,780.4	6,488.9	5,579.4	5,603.2	4,311.1	5,104.4	4,336.9	4,429.4
40–49 years	3,885.8	3,888.0	4,159.1	4,004.4	3,652.3	3,803.8	3,066.0	3,788.7	3,191.9	3,418.1
50–59 years	1,766.7	1,770.0	1,828.3	1,724.8	1,563.3	1,612.1	1,285.0	1,656.1	1,438.9	1,574.0
60 years & over	462.1	463.7	450.0	416.1	371.4	368.2	277.9	348.8	284.5	311.0
Total^(e)	4,235.9	4,109.5	4,134.7	3,813.0	3,277.7	3,249.8	2,482.5	2,968.3	2,482.5	2,535.4

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(b) Rate calculation is based on relevant population subgroup aged 10 years and over.

(c) Rates by sex and by age are calculated only where sex/age was stated.

(d) 'Other' includes defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.

(e) Total includes appearances where defendant age and/or sex is not stated.



4.2. Adults

This section presents statistics relating to person defendants in the adult court system, which deals with persons aged 18 years and over at time of offence (or 17 years and over, prior to February 2018). Note that 2017–18 represents a **break in time series** due to the transition of 17-year-old offenders transitioning to the youth justice system from February 2018.

Statistics relating to company/organisation defendants have been separated from person defendants and are presented in section 4.4 Companies.

4.2.1. Finalised appearances

A defendant may have one or multiple charges (offences) finalised in a single appearance, however only the most serious offence (MSO), i.e. the offence with the most serious outcome, is presented here (see Explanatory notes for more detail).

A total of 126,160 person appearances were finalised in the adult court system in 2022–23, and 10,892 (8.6%) of those were non-adjudicated cases (Table 7). Of all adjudicated person appearances (115,268), those finalised in the Magistrates Court had the highest conviction rate (98.9%), followed closely by the Supreme Court (98.5%). The lowest overall conviction rate was in the District Court (92.2%).

Of particular note:

- Among the 1,318 appearances finalised in the District Court with *sexual assault and related offences* as most serious offence (MSO), three in four adjudicated resulted in conviction (75.6%), while 30.3% were not adjudicated. Of the 402 appearances finalised in the Magistrates Court for this offence type, 39.3% were not adjudicated, while 92.6% of those adjudicated resulted in conviction (Table 7).
- In the Magistrates Court, of the 110 finalised appearances where the MSO was *robbery, extortion and related offences*, 85.5% were not adjudicated, while 81.3% of those adjudicated resulted in conviction (Table 7).

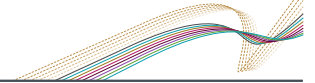
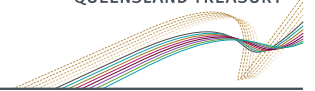


Table 7 Finalised adult appearances by method of finalisation and outcome, by most serious offence, by court type, 2022–23

Method of finalisation / Outcome	2022–23								
	Supreme Court			District Court			Magistrates Court		
	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(b)	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(b)	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(b)
	Convicted	Not convicted ^(a)		Convicted	Not convicted ^(a)		Convicted	Not convicted ^(a)	
Most serious offence (MSO)	— number —		— number —		— number —		— number —		
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —		— number —		— number —		— number —		
Homicide and related offences	57	5	23	7	0	1	0	5	15
Acts intended to cause injury	13	0	1	1,149	60	294	7,428	202	1,603
Sexual assault and related offences	6	0	7	695	224	399	226	18	158
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	3	1	1	86	1	20	5,556	40	311
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	0	0	0	59	2	9	601	9	144
Robbery, extortion and related offences	7	0	0	418	3	68	13	3	94
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	2	0	0	208	1	21	2,355	23	435
Theft and related offences	5	0	4	106	1	14	8,450	83	1,185
Fraud, deception and related offences	1	0	0	114	5	73	1,677	20	370
Illicit drug offences	846	6	114	567	1	52	10,594	56	983
Weapons and explosives offences	3	0	1	9	0	1	2,585	28	253
Property damage and environmental pollution	4	0	0	108	4	15	2,566	36	285
Public order offences	1	0	0	11	0	0	5,255	47	458
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	0	3	0	0	37,152	142	1,337
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	72	4	6	301	25	26	23,519	526	1,961
Miscellaneous offences	0	0	0	9	0	5	818	22	145
Total	1,020	16	157	3,850	327	998	108,795	1,260	9,737

(a) Excludes appearances which were not adjudicated.

(b) 'Not adjudicated' includes cases where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, these cases may be replaced by a new case with amended charges.



4.2.2. Convicted appearances

A convicted appearance is a finalised appearance in which the defendant is found guilty of an offence and a sentence is imposed. This section examines the number of adjudicated adult appearances resulting in conviction in the Supreme, District and Magistrates Courts over last 10 years.

The number of convicted appearances in the Supreme Court steadily increased to a peak in 2017–18, after which there was a steady decline to 2022–23 when it reached its lowest level since 2016–17. This peak and decline is driven entirely by the number of appearances with *illicit drug offences* as MSO, as it has been the most prevalent MSO in the Supreme Court throughout the decade, consistently for more than 8 in 10 convicted appearances in the Supreme Court annually.

Table 8 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, Supreme Court – time series

Most serious offence (MSO)	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	53	45	37	50	60	52	46	39	43	57
Acts intended to cause injury	18	9	11	20	20	24	22	22	13	13
Sexual assault and related offences	3	5	4	7	6	5	10	8	19	6
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	0	4	5	2	2	6	6	2	4	3
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0
Robbery, extortion and related offences	1	0	0	3	11	3	6	6	5	7
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	0	2	7	3	5	12	6	2	5	2
Theft and related offences	2	2	0	2	6	3	5	6	7	5
Fraud, deception and related offences	2	1	0	4	1	0	0	1	2	1
Illicit drug offences	365	512	643	924	1,152	1,008	974	987	948	846
Weapons and explosives offences	1	1	2	3	2	5	7	1	8	3
Property damage and environmental pollution	0	0	2	1	3	0	1	2	0	4
Public order offences	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	46	21	45	63	74	77	97	80	82	72
Total	492	603	757	1,083	1,342	1,197	1,180	1,158	1,138	1,020

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.



Convicted appearances in the District Court have fluctuated since the pandemic was declared in 2019–20. As presented in Table 9, the decrease in 2022–23 was driven by a drop in convicted appearances where the MSO was *acts intended to cause injury* (–98) and, in particular, *illicit drug offences* (–161), which reached a series low of 567 (or –22.1% compared with the previous year). Despite the decrease (–7.9%) in 2022–23, *acts intended to cause injury* has been the most prevalent MSO for convicted appearances in the District Court since 2016–17.

Table 9 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, District Court – time series

Most serious offence (MSO)	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	7	4	2	2	6	4	5	6	4	7
Acts intended to cause injury	730	778	714	874	1,180	1,257	1,134	1,082	1,247	1,149
Sexual assault and related offences	495	590	605	729	694	785	678	707	744	695
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	117	102	122	101	99	113	107	78	102	86
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	23	28	31	57	61	52	35	34	63	59
Robbery, extortion and related offences	447	412	374	413	409	457	520	461	350	418
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	184	228	197	203	232	235	219	198	235	208
Theft and related offences	48	60	68	69	64	98	98	95	87	106
Fraud, deception and related offences	115	117	144	149	126	154	122	123	117	114
Illicit drug offences	595	641	727	859	820	810	797	600	728	567
Weapons and explosives offences	5	6	9	14	14	8	9	9	17	9
Property damage and environmental pollution	108	96	93	87	85	95	93	95	115	108
Public order offences	8	14	15	9	18	21	13	6	20	11
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	3
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	270	269	273	274	312	341	343	300	300	301
Miscellaneous offences	5	7	3	10	6	10	10	15	15	9
Total	3,157	3,353	3,377	3,851	4,126	4,441	4,185	3,809	4,145	3,850

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.



In 2022–23, there was a small increase (+5,654 or 5.5%) in the number of convicted appearances in the Magistrates Court compared with 2021–22, although the number remained well below the series peak of 161,683 in 2015–16. The top two offence divisions behind the year-on-year increase in 2022–23 were *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* (+4,374 or +13.3%) and *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* (+1,713 or +7.9%). Combined, these two offence divisions accounted for 55.8% of the total number of convicted appearances in the Magistrates, a series high, while *acts intended to cause injury* (+848 or +12.9%) and *theft and related offences* (+584 or +7.4%) also saw notable increases. Despite a marked drop in convicted adult appearances for *illicit drug offences* (–1,308 or –11.0% compared with 2021–22), they continued to be the third–most prevalent offence division in the Magistrates Court.

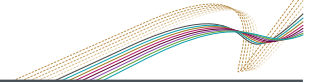
Table 10 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, Magistrates Court – time series

Most serious offence (MSO)	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —									
Acts intended to cause injury	5,158	5,135	5,416	5,630	5,580	5,645	4,558	6,603	6,580	7,428
Sexual assault and related offences	117	135	107	106	156	144	144	195	213	226
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	8,757	8,150	7,430	6,564	6,045	5,410	4,555	6,665	5,762	5,556
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	364	379	480	470	456	373	263	456	441	601
Robbery, extortion and related offences	18	21	16	9	15	20	12	15	15	13
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	2,587	2,401	2,471	2,551	2,369	2,392	2,246	2,171	2,117	2,355
Theft and related offences	11,711	12,524	13,369	13,551	12,157	12,464	9,854	9,563	7,866	8,450
Fraud, deception and related offences	3,017	3,050	2,918	2,948	2,824	2,706	2,067	2,238	1,696	1,677
Illicit drug offences	16,966	20,593	21,372	19,408	17,291	17,439	13,875	17,927	11,902	10,594
Weapons and explosives offences	2,712	3,385	3,539	3,545	3,144	3,559	2,849	3,716	2,554	2,585
Property damage and environmental pollution	3,306	3,142	3,249	3,226	2,963	2,746	2,005	3,112	2,686	2,566
Public order offences	21,981	18,225	13,478	11,744	9,796	8,823	6,356	7,720	5,858	5,255
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	59,448	53,726	57,713	50,633	40,127	42,363	32,083	37,818	32,778	37,152
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	23,829	26,075	28,063	28,211	24,855	23,628	18,113	23,497	21,806	23,519
Miscellaneous offences	1,436	1,745	2,062	1,617	1,166	1,226	943	1,338	867	818
Total	161,407	158,686	161,683	150,213	128,944	128,938	99,923	123,034	103,141	108,795

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.



4.2.3. Finalised charges

Of the 372,842 charges finalised in adult courts in Queensland in 2022–23, almost nine in ten (87.8%) were adjudicated. The highest proportion of non-adjudicated charges was recorded in the District Court (25.2% or 6,245 charges).

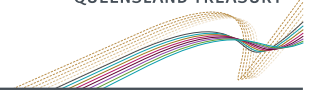
Among adjudicated charges, 98.7% (or 323,305 charges) resulted in conviction. At the offence division level, *sexual assault and related offences* had the lowest overall conviction rate 81.4% (81.3% in District Court and 76.8% in Magistrates Court).

Table 11 Finalised charges against adults, by method of finalisation and outcome, by court type, 2022–23

Method of finalisation / Outcome	2022–23								
	Supreme Court			District Court			Magistrates Court		
	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(b)	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(b)	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(b)
Convicted	Not convicted ^(a)	Convicted		Not convicted ^(a)	Convicted		Not convicted ^(a)		
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —			— number —			— number —		
Homicide and related offences	60	7	48	7	0	1	0	5	37
Acts intended to cause injury	87	0	44	3,232	245	1,689	11,026	357	3,625
Sexual assault and related offences	119	0	93	2,811	646	2,215	341	103	763
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	34	2	5	249	4	57	7,353	70	799
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	8	0	4	363	15	165	1,251	33	437
Robbery, extortion and related offences	21	0	13	565	7	215	26	10	255
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	20	0	6	898	11	315	7,578	63	3,319
Theft and related offences	519	1	59	1,214	5	316	34,911	300	5,082
Fraud, deception and related offences	37	0	7	630	28	453	9,719	80	3,589
Illicit drug offences	5,084	19	889	3,817	4	399	47,061	179	4,458
Weapons and explosives offences	488	1	67	218	2	19	6,356	52	685
Property damage and environmental pollution	30	0	7	538	9	161	7,088	102	1,215
Public order offences	21	0	0	126	0	4	14,868	179	1,392
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	129	0	0	286	0	0	65,791	256	2,967
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	443	13	41	2,436	50	200	82,027	1,222	8,569
Miscellaneous offences	192	0	7	87	1	36	3,140	46	683
Total	7,292	43	1,290	17,477	1,027	6,245	298,536	3,057	37,875

(a) Excludes charges which were not adjudicated.

(b) 'Not adjudicated' includes those where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, the charge may be replaced by an amended charge.



4.2.4. Convicted charges

Compared with 2021–22, the number of convicted charges in the Supreme Court decreased by 1,509 (or –17.1%) in 2022–23, and declined further from the level seen prior to the pandemic in 2019–20. The year-on-year decrease was mainly driven by fewer convicted charges for *illicit drug offences* (–728 or –12.5%), *sexual assault and related offences* (–333 or –73.7%) and *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* (–179 or –89.9%). Note that the extraordinary number of convicted charges for *sexual assault and related offences* (452) and, to a lesser extent, *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* (199) in 2021–22 were for a very small number of offenders, and therefore there was no corresponding increase in convicted appearances for either in the Supreme Court at that time.

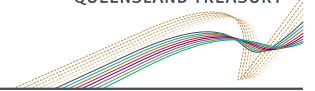
Due to a decrease in convicted charges for *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* (–135 or –23.4%), *weapons and explosives offences* replaced that offence division as third–most prevalent in the Supreme Court in 2022–23.

Table 12 Convicted charges against adults, Supreme Court – time series

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	55	48	41	55	64	57	49	46	46	60
Acts intended to cause injury	37	39	35	71	135	91	105	111	115	87
Sexual assault and related offences	26	24	57	41	49	17	65	58	452	119
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	15	28	27	46	69	58	64	47	45	34
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	27	6	5	17	14	12	8	7	12	8
Robbery, extortion and related offences	7	2	18	7	32	23	21	17	21	21
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	34	47	81	111	76	103	58	53	199	20
Theft and related offences	210	326	439	753	825	918	875	630	597	519
Fraud, deception and related offences	68	33	72	168	92	292	159	43	62	37
Illicit drug offences	1,940	3,172	3,891	5,582	6,792	6,269	5,884	5,791	5,812	5,084
Weapons and explosives offences	77	249	242	401	497	487	553	499	488	488
Property damage and environmental pollution	5	22	12	30	48	40	25	38	29	30
Public order offences	12	16	24	29	33	31	31	34	13	21
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	60	102	166	266	379	389	378	267	158	129
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	223	236	368	687	847	845	799	542	578	443
Miscellaneous offences	16	29	53	95	108	166	199	201	174	192
Total	2,812	4,379	5,531	8,359	10,060	9,798	9,273	8,384	8,801	7,292

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.



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The total number of convicted charges in the District Court in 2022–23 was at its lowest level since 2015–16. At the offence division level, there were decreases to varying degrees for 12 of 16 offence divisions in 2022–23 compared with the previous financial year. In particular, convicted charges for *illicit drug offences* declined to fewer than 4,000 for the first time since 2014–15.

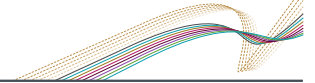
Four offence divisions — *acts intended to cause injury, sexual assault and related offences, illicit drug offences* and *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* — accounted for more than 70 per cent of all convicted charges in the District Court in 2022–23.

Table 13 Convicted charges against adults, District Court – time series

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	7	4	2	2	6	4	5	6	4	7
Acts intended to cause injury	1,430	1,596	1,519	2,001	2,841	3,103	2,857	2,794	3,094	3,232
Sexual assault and related offences	2,396	2,485	2,671	3,047	2,686	3,316	2,742	3,030	3,199	2,811
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	277	289	290	272	323	368	394	276	286	249
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	151	178	178	275	284	252	271	257	293	363
Robbery, extortion and related offences	704	617	606	631	600	653	763	690	521	565
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	1,423	1,332	1,368	1,306	1,276	1,264	1,292	1,068	1,125	898
Theft and related offences	1,767	1,754	1,874	1,804	1,932	2,408	2,671	1,958	1,556	1,214
Fraud, deception and related offences	946	875	1,146	1,151	893	1,012	1,093	807	732	630
Illicit drug offences	2,840	3,516	4,114	5,295	5,484	5,211	5,599	4,378	5,205	3,817
Weapons and explosives offences	192	235	268	311	400	341	450	311	290	218
Property damage and environmental pollution	495	452	475	1,000	698	692	801	542	604	538
Public order offences	177	183	203	325	330	304	326	247	199	126
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	552	519	529	570	809	822	949	518	387	286
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	1,450	1,601	1,895	2,148	3,585	3,146	3,176	2,761	2,837	2,436
Miscellaneous offences	187	85	159	217	188	310	176	224	394	87
Total	14,994	15,721	17,297	20,355	22,335	23,206	23,565	19,867	20,726	17,477

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.



The number of convicted charges against adults in the Magistrates Court in 2022–23 increased by 6.1% (+17,132 charges) compared with 2021–22, which was second-lowest in the series at 281,404.

Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations was the most common offence division for convicted charges in the Magistrates Court for the fourth consecutive year, accounting for more than a quarter of the total (27.5%) in 2022–23, the largest proportion for this offence division in the time series.

Table 14 Convicted charges against adults, Magistrates Court – time series

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —									
Acts intended to cause injury	6,750	6,657	7,148	7,466	7,515	7,684	6,530	9,481	9,697	11,026
Sexual assault and related offences	213	228	193	176	266	222	202	307	323	341
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	9,955	9,400	8,780	7,975	7,419	6,781	5,814	8,561	7,564	7,353
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	694	649	900	851	812	707	580	922	1,029	1,251
Robbery, extortion and related offences	31	29	32	26	21	31	31	29	26	26
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	5,836	5,673	6,058	6,595	6,227	5,966	6,212	5,679	5,988	7,578
Theft and related offences	28,076	29,357	32,063	36,295	34,437	37,062	35,056	34,108	30,581	34,911
Fraud, deception and related offences	12,823	12,570	13,185	14,885	14,267	13,983	11,576	13,209	10,323	9,719
Illicit drug offences	44,234	55,288	63,330	62,509	56,103	59,870	51,677	69,726	49,858	47,061
Weapons and explosives offences	4,718	5,965	6,478	6,937	6,221	7,133	6,220	8,224	6,049	6,356
Property damage and environmental pollution	7,410	6,823	7,944	8,482	7,566	6,587	5,572	8,197	7,349	7,088
Public order offences	31,227	27,823	23,108	21,699	19,061	18,229	14,564	19,082	15,338	14,868
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	95,347	84,834	92,443	84,441	68,160	72,702	57,667	71,627	59,685	65,791
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	61,304	66,344	74,667	82,600	71,800	72,166	60,574	79,809	74,261	82,027
Miscellaneous offences	3,315	3,646	4,701	3,899	3,702	4,502	3,464	5,411	3,333	3,140
Total	311,933	315,286	341,030	344,836	303,577	313,625	265,739	334,372	281,404	298,536

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

4.2.5. Penalties

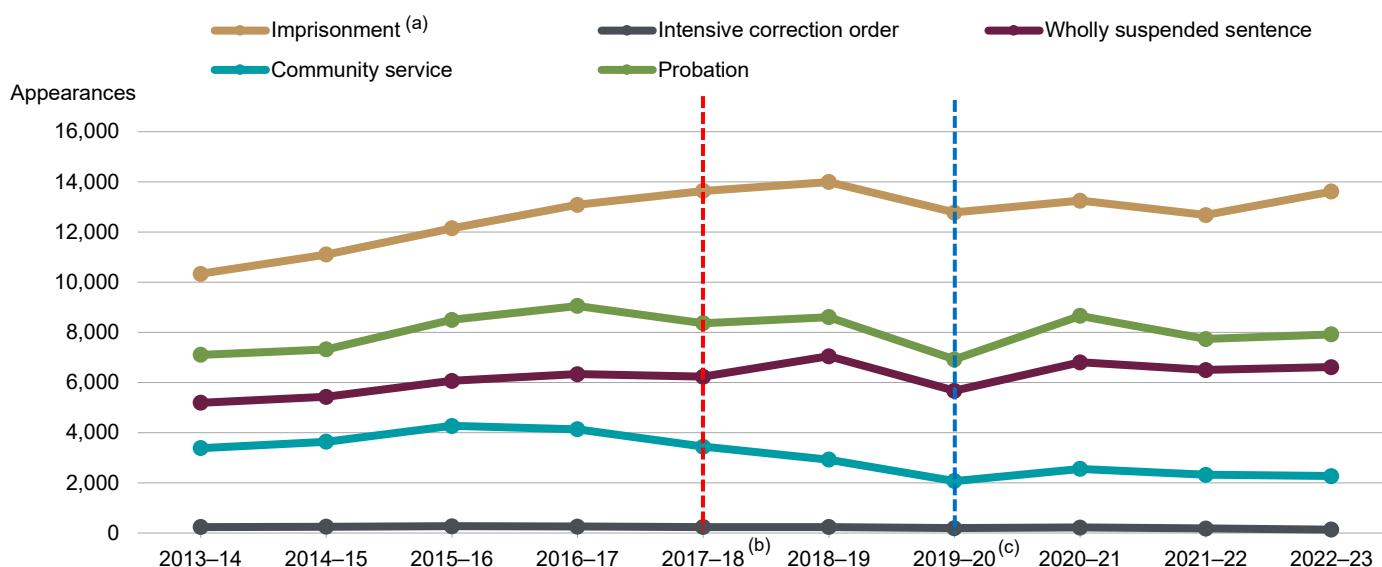
This section presents the most serious penalty imposed in convicted appearances. A defendant may receive more than one penalty when convicted, but only the most serious penalty imposed is presented here.

A custodial sentence is one that involves a term of **imprisonment**, and collectively can include sentences which are either partially or wholly suspended. In earlier editions of this report, partially suspended sentences were grouped with those that were wholly suspended and reported as 'suspended sentence'. Going forward, **partially suspended sentences are grouped with imprisonment**, based on the premise they each involve a period of sentenced incarceration. Wholly suspended sentences are reported separately (see Glossary).

Of the range of penalties that can be imposed on adult offenders, the top 5, in order of seriousness, are *imprisonment*, *intensive correction order*, *wholly suspended sentence*, *community service* and *probation*. These five penalties accounted for 30,545 convicted appearances in 2022–23. This was 1,133 more than in 2021–22, with the overall increase driven by increases in the Magistrates Court.

Following an overall decline in the numbers for each of the top 5 penalties in 2021–22, increases were seen in three penalties in 2022–23. The greatest increase was in the overall number resulting in *imprisonment* (+935 or +7.4%), and the increase occurred only in the Magistrates Court (+1,223 or +13.6%) (Table 17), while decreases occurred in both the Supreme (-117) and District Courts (-171). There was a smaller overall increase in *wholly suspended sentence* (+114 or +1.8%) and *probation* (+186 or +2.4%). A small overall decrease occurred for those with most serious penalty of *intensive correction order* (-46 or -25.4%) and *community service* (-56 or -2.4%).

Figure 9 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, by the 5 most serious, all courts – time series



(a) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(b) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.



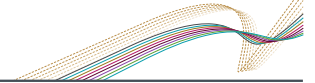
In 2022–23, and consistently over the 10–year time series, 90% or more of convicted appearances in the Supreme Court have resulted in a custodial sentence of either *imprisonment* or *wholly suspended sentence*. However, among those, the proportion whose sentence was wholly suspended has steadily increased over the most recent three years and in 2022–23 was at its greatest since 2016–17 (12.1% of custodial sentences).

Nominal penalty has typically been the third–most prevalent most serious penalty in the Supreme Court throughout the time series.

Table 15 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, Supreme Court – time series

Most serious penalty	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Penalty ^(c)	— number —									
Imprisonment ^(d)	413	504	612	856	1,125	990	987	958	926	809
Intensive correction order	3	3	9	3	1	5	4	0	1	2
Wholly suspended sentence	30	67	84	122	107	89	80	90	103	111
Community service	0	2	4	6	5	3	2	3	6	6
Probation	5	7	11	24	21	28	21	24	18	28
Fine	5	2	4	16	9	6	2	7	3	5
Good behaviour order	1	2	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nominal penalty ^(e)	35	16	30	54	73	74	84	76	81	59
Total	492	603	757	1,083	1,342	1,197	1,180	1,158	1,138	1,020

- (a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
- (c) In descending order of seriousness.
- (d) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.
- (e) Includes convicted not punished.



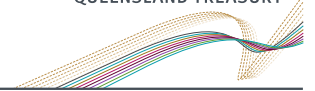
Compared with 2021–22, the number of convicted appearances have declined for all penalty types except for *good behaviour orders* (+1). *Imprisonment* (–171), *wholly suspended sentence* (–47) and *probation* (–44) were the top 3 contributors to the overall decline.

Three community–based penalty types were the most serious penalty in fewer appearances in the District Court in each year since 2019–20, when the pandemic was declared, compared with the years prior. They were *intensive correction order*, *community service*, and *good behaviour order*.

Table 16 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, District Court – time series

Most serious penalty	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Penalty ^(c)	— number —									
Imprisonment ^(d)	2,123	2,210	2,130	2,479	2,783	2,928	2,762	2,649	2,750	2,579
Intensive correction order	33	38	25	26	24	36	36	25	22	7
Wholly suspended sentence	435	442	563	544	545	628	615	541	623	576
Community service	109	120	96	132	81	88	73	50	62	60
Probation	140	207	204	309	287	332	300	194	283	239
Fine	95	123	134	118	128	135	109	106	133	127
Compensation/restitution	3	1	4	11	10	11	6	6	7	6
Good behaviour order	22	30	30	33	55	38	31	22	28	29
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Nominal penalty ^(e)	197	182	191	199	212	245	252	216	236	227
Total	3,157	3,353	3,377	3,851	4,126	4,441	4,185	3,809	4,145	3,850

- (a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
- (c) In descending order of seriousness.
- (d) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.
- (e) Includes convicted not punished.



In contrast to the higher courts, the number of convicted appearances in the Magistrates Court increased in 2022–23 compared with 2021–22 (+5,654 or +5.5%). Notwithstanding this year-on-year increase, overall numbers have not returned to pre-pandemic levels.

The increase was driven by a greater number of appearances with most serious penalty of *fine* (+3,378 or +5.0%) and *imprisonment* (+1,223 or +13.6%). The number sentenced to *imprisonment* reached a high in 2022–23, as did *driver licence disqualification*, increasing by 53.6% compared with 2021–22 and overtaking the number sentenced to *compensation/restitution*.

As the number of convicted appearances in the Magistrates Court declined over the time series, so too has *fine* declined as most serious penalty. This is because an increasing number of traffic and related offences are now dealt with by the State Penalties Enforcement Registry (SPER) rather than by the courts.

Table 17 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, Magistrates Court – time series

Most serious penalty	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Penalty ^(c)	— number —									
Imprisonment ^(d)	7,795	8,388	9,408	9,749	9,732	10,079	9,029	9,640	9,003	10,226
Intensive correction order	199	206	236	225	209	198	151	191	158	126
Wholly suspended sentence	4,729	4,917	5,415	5,669	5,577	6,326	4,976	6,172	5,771	5,924
Community service	3,271	3,516	4,171	3,997	3,357	2,832	1,998	2,501	2,254	2,200
Probation	6,956	7,108	8,284	8,717	8,055	8,244	6,597	8,439	7,432	7,652
Other penalty ^(e)	0	0	1	0	4	3	1	2	1	0
Fine	118,596	115,986	116,827	105,635	87,796	86,969	65,920	82,831	67,243	70,621
Compensation/restitution	1,002	1,007	959	922	818	936	758	879	844	786
Good behaviour order	8,864	9,888	9,655	8,842	7,689	7,729	6,065	7,094	5,376	5,338
Driver licence disqualification	472	642	773	670	449	505	464	551	590	906
Nominal penalty ^(f)	9,523	7,028	5,954	5,787	5,258	5,117	3,964	4,734	4,469	5,016
Total	161,407	158,686	161,683	150,213	128,944	128,938	99,923	123,034	103,141	108,795

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

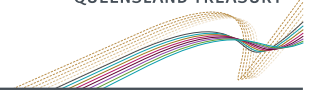
(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(c) In descending order of seriousness.

(d) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(e) Includes drug and alcohol treatment orders; licence disqualification orders (other than driver licence).

(f) Includes convicted not punished.



A defendant may have one or multiple charges (offences) finalised in a single appearance, and they may also receive more than one penalty. However, only the most serious offence and most serious penalty per finalised appearance are presented below. (See Explanatory notes for more detail.)

In 2022–23, more than four in five (82.9%) convicted adult appearances in the Supreme Court were for *illicit drug offences* as MSO, and 83.1% of those received *imprisonment* as their most serious penalty, followed by *wholly suspended sentence* (12.3%). Second–most prevalent MSO was *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations*, for which *nominal penalty* was the predominant outcome (80.6%), followed by *imprisonment* (13.9%).

Table 18 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, by most serious penalty, Supreme Court, 2022–23

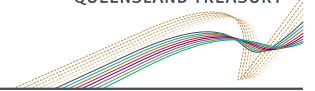
Most serious penalty ^(a)	2022–23							Total
	Imprisonment ^(b)	Intensive correction order	Wholly suspended sentence	Community service	Probation	Fine	Nominal penalty ^(c)	
Most serious offence (MSO)	— number —							
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(d)								
Homicide and related offences	55	0	2	0	0	0	0	57
Acts intended to cause injury	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Sexual assault and related offences	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Robbery, extortion and related offences	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	7
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Theft and related offences	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
Fraud, deception and related offences	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Illicit drug offences	703	2	104	6	27	3	1	846
Weapons and explosives offences	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	3
Property damage and environmental pollution	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Public order offences	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	10	0	3	0	0	1	58	72
Total	809	2	111	6	28	5	59	1,020

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(c) Includes convicted not punished.

(d) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.



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In the District Court, *acts intended to cause injury* (29.8%) was the most prevalent MSO among convicted appearances, and three in four of those (75.3%) received *imprisonment* as most serious penalty. Second-most prevalent MSO was *sexual assault and related offences* (18.1%), with 68.2% sentenced to *imprisonment*; followed by *illicit drug offences* (14.7%), for which half were sentenced to *imprisonment* (49.2%) and over 1 in 4 to *wholly suspended sentence* (29.1%).

Table 19 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, by most serious penalty, District Court, 2022–23

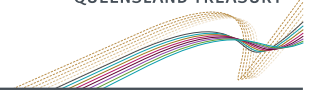
Most serious offence (MSO)	2022–23									
	Imprisonment ^(b)	Intensive correction order	Wholly suspended sentence	Community service	Probation	Fine	Compensation / restitution	Good behaviour	Nominal penalty ^(c)	Total
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(d)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Acts intended to cause injury	865	4	153	25	55	24	3	11	9	1,149
Sexual assault and related offences	474	3	120	6	70	10	2	6	4	695
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	69	0	13	0	2	1	0	0	1	86
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	40	0	6	0	11	0	0	2	0	59
Robbery, extortion and related offences	367	0	27	3	18	1	0	0	2	418
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	183	0	15	2	8	0	0	0	0	208
Theft and related offences	59	0	24	0	13	4	1	1	4	106
Fraud, deception and related offences	84	0	23	2	1	3	0	1	0	114
Illicit drug offences	279	0	165	13	45	56	0	5	4	567
Weapons and explosives offences	4	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	9
Property damage and environmental pollution	82	0	13	0	7	3	0	2	1	108
Public order offences	2	0	1	0	3	3	0	1	1	11
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	60	0	13	7	5	16	0	0	200	301
Miscellaneous offences	3	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	9
Total	2,579	7	576	60	239	127	6	29	227	3,850

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(c) Includes convicted not punished.

(d) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.



Queensland Government Statistician's Office

The MSO in more than a third (34.1%) of convicted appearances in the Magistrates Court in 2022–23 was *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences*, and of those, 91.3% received a *fine* as most serious penalty. *Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* comprised a further 21.6%, with more than half (51.6%) also receiving a *fine*. In total, almost two-thirds (64.9%) of all convicted appearances in the Magistrates Court had *fine* as their most serious penalty, followed by *imprisonment* (9.4%) and *probation* (7.0%). Half of all *imprisonment* sentences (50.8%) in the Magistrates Court in 2022–23 were for two offence divisions (*offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* (27.9%) and *acts intended to cause injury* (22.9%).

Table 20 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, by most serious penalty, Magistrates Court, 2022–23

Most serious penalty ^(a)	2022–23										
	Imprisonment ^(b)	Intensive correction order	Wholly suspended sentence	Community service	Probation	Fine	Compensation / restitution	Good behaviour	Driver licence disqual.	Nominal penalty ^(c)	Total
Most serious offence (MSO)	— number —										
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(d)											
Acts intended to cause injury	2,340	35	870	540	1,454	1,632	111	332	0	114	7,428
Sexual assault and related offences	57	0	38	12	49	57	2	9	0	2	226
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	504	3	333	109	581	3,892	2	59	42	31	5,556
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	132	0	31	10	120	173	3	121	0	11	601
Robbery, extortion and related offences	11	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	1,353	16	308	80	299	185	15	32	0	67	2,355
Theft and related offences	1,264	20	674	232	769	4,292	303	419	0	477	8,450
Fraud, deception and related offences	260	5	165	102	256	698	86	56	0	49	1,677
Illicit drug offences	383	5	401	100	665	6,667	0	1,940	0	433	10,594
Weapons and explosives offences	142	8	84	56	338	1,582	0	181	0	194	2,585
Property damage and environmental pollution	220	2	160	173	314	1,207	236	164	0	90	2,566
Public order offences	135	2	135	212	123	3,550	8	385	0	705	5,255
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	568	10	716	139	606	33,912	1	167	863	170	37,152
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	2,851	20	1,997	430	2,059	12,134	19	1,401	1	2,607	23,519
Miscellaneous offences	6	0	10	5	19	640	0	72	0	66	818
Total	10,226	126	5,924	2,200	7,652	70,621	786	5,338	906	5,016	108,795

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(c) Includes convicted not punished.

(d) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

4.2.5.1. Imprisonment

In 2022–23 compared with the previous year, the number of appearances resulting in *imprisonment* increased for both males (+8.4%) and females (+1.9%). When compared with 10 years prior, the proportion of convicted appearances almost doubled for both males (from 7.0% to 13.6%) and females (from 3.9% to 7.4%) (Figure 10 and Figure 11 – please note the difference in scale for these figures).

Both the count and proportion of *imprisonment* as most serious penalty were trending steadily upwards for both males and females prior to 2019–20, when the pandemic was declared. While the number of convicted appearances fell in that year, *imprisonment* as a proportion of all outcomes increased due to finalisation of less serious matters being postponed until normal court operations resumed following closure, which resulted in a spike for males in particular. While the numbers of appearances resulting in *imprisonment* have remained close to pre-pandemic levels over the three most recent years, its proportion of all most serious penalties imposed has matched or exceeded pre-pandemic levels for both males and females (with 2020–21 the only exception, for females only).

Figure 10 Convicted adult male appearances with a sentence of imprisonment, all courts – time series

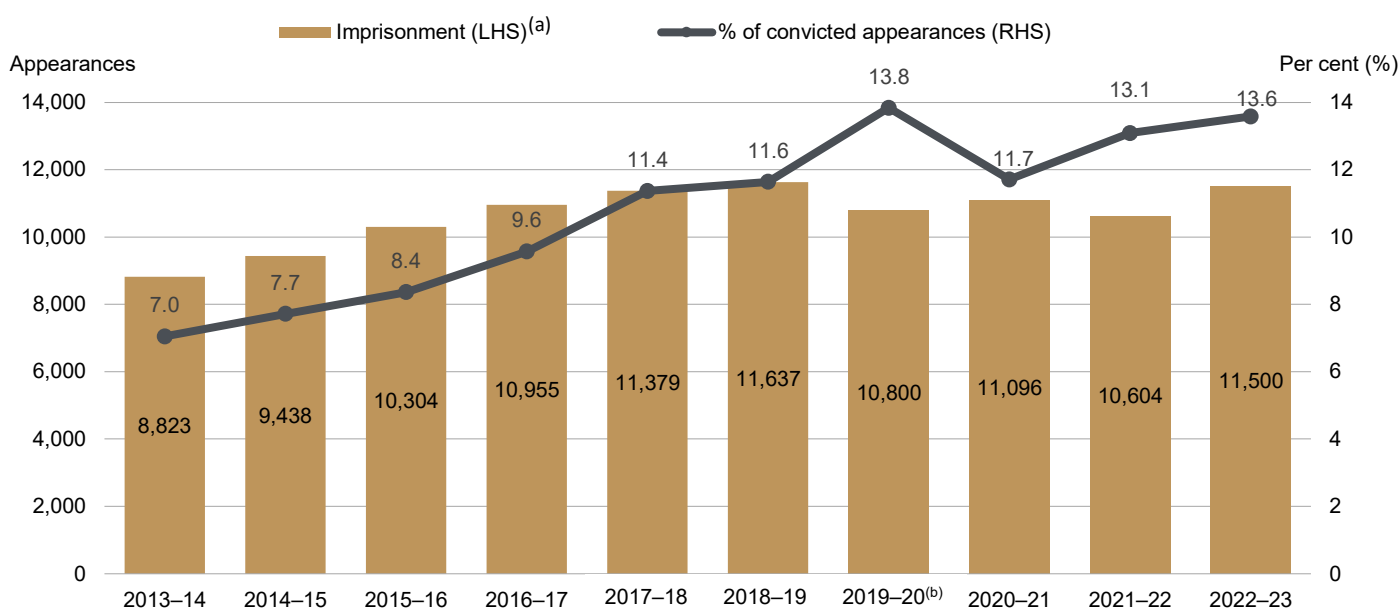
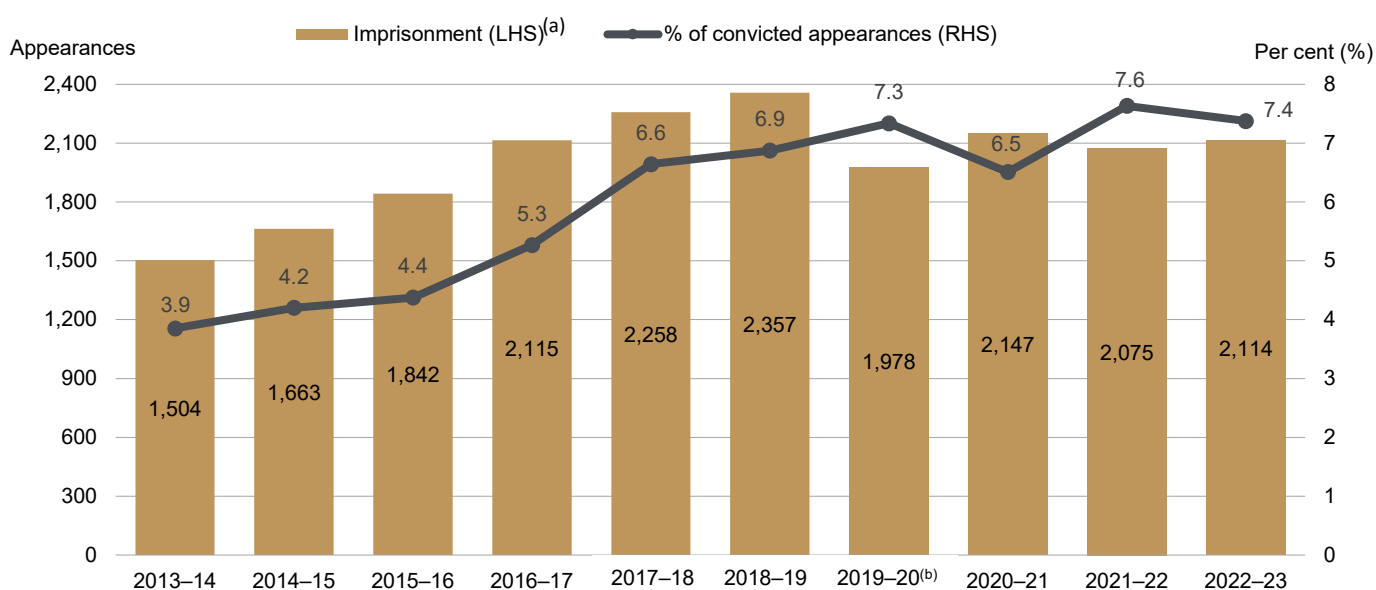


Figure 11 Convicted adult female appearances with a sentence of imprisonment, all courts – time series



(a) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.
 (b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

Figure 12 and Figure 13 show 10-year trends for the top 5 MSOs in 2022–23 with *imprisonment* as most serious penalty for both males and females. As can be seen in the figures, the top five MSOs were the same for both males and females although the order and volume varied by gender.

For both males and females, the number of appearances resulting in imprisonment for *acts intended to cause injury* has been trending steadily upwards since 2019–20, when the pandemic was declared, overtaking *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* for the second consecutive year for males, to become the most prevalent MSO with *imprisonment* for both males and females in 2022–23.

Convicted appearances for *illicit drug offences* have declined for both males and females since peaking in 2017–18 and 2018–19 respectively. This MSO declined to fourth-ranked for both males and females in 2022–23 after consistently being the most prevalent MSO in female imprisonment since 2015–16.

Figure 12 Male imprisonment^(a) by the five most prevalent MSOs of 2022–23, all courts – time series

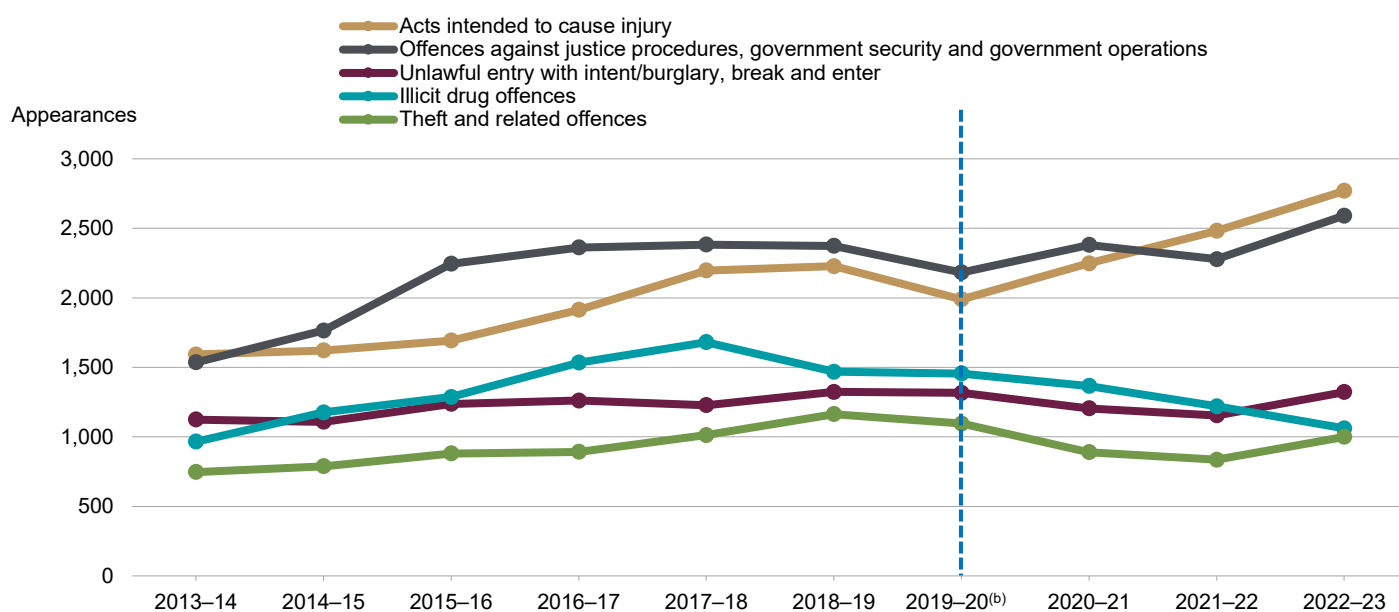
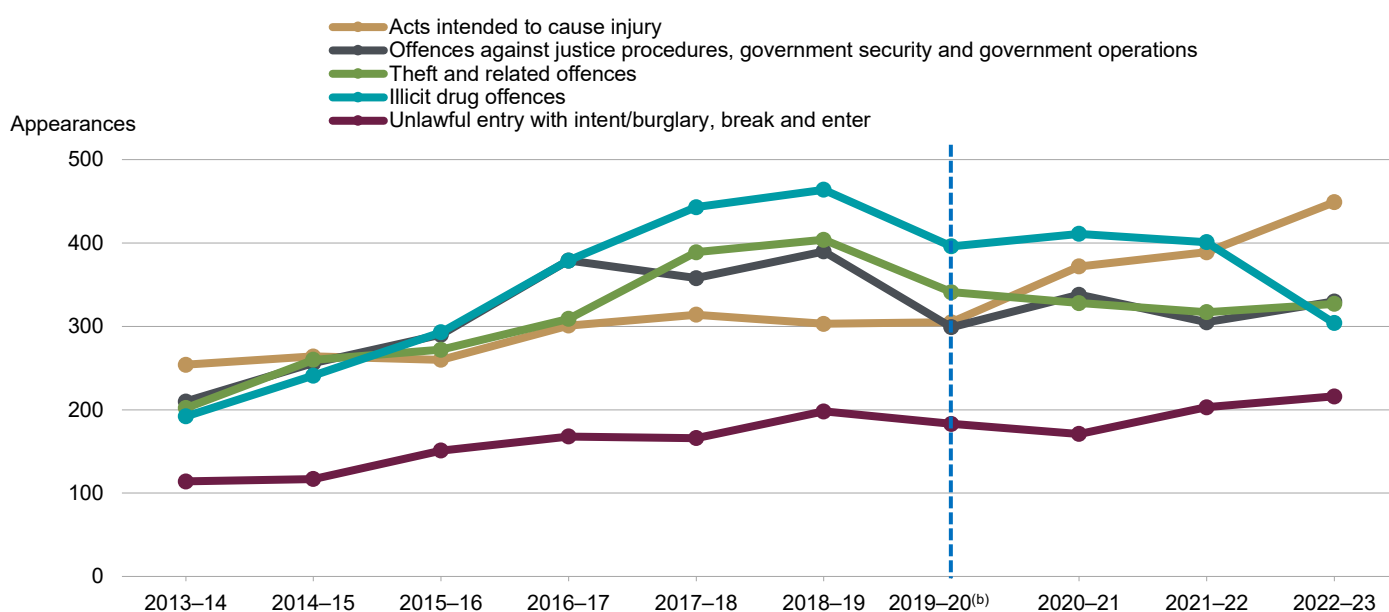


Figure 13 Female imprisonment^(a) by the five most prevalent MSOs of 2022–23, all courts – time series



(a) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

Table 21 presents a time series for the number of convicted adult appearances in the Supreme Court by most serious penalty and sex. The female proportion of convicted adult appearances in the Supreme Court has been steadily increasing in the three years since the pandemic was declared, reaching a high in 2022–23, where females accounted for one in four (25.0%) convicted appearances, compared with less than one in six (17.1%) in 2013–14.

Imprisonment was the most serious penalty in three in four (74.5%) female and four in five (80.9%) male convicted appearances in 2022–23, the smallest proportion for both since 2016–17 (73.8% and 80.3% respectively).

Table 21 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, by sex, Supreme Court – time series

Most serious penalty	2013–14		2014–15		2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 ^(d)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Penalty ^(a)	— number —									
Imprisonment ^(b)	347	66	430	74	517	95	698	158	911	214
Intensive correction order	1	2	2	1	6	3	1	2	0	1
Wholly suspended sentence	18	12	49	18	66	18	93	29	73	34
Community service	0	0	2	0	2	2	6	0	4	1
Probation	2	3	4	3	6	5	15	9	16	5
Fine	5	0	1	1	3	1	13	3	6	3
Good behaviour order	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	1
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Nominal penalty ^(c)	34	1	8	8	24	6	42	12	60	13
Total	408	84	496	107	627	130	869	214	1,070	272

Table 21 continued.

Most serious penalty	2018–19		2019–20 ^(e)		2020–21		2021–22		2022–23	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Penalty ^(a)	— number —									
Imprisonment ^(b)	770	220	790	197	756	202	715	211	619	190
Intensive correction order	1	4	2	2	0	0	0	1	2	0
Wholly suspended sentence	62	27	56	24	56	34	77	26	72	39
Community service	2	1	0	2	1	2	2	4	6	0
Probation	13	15	10	11	14	10	14	4	16	12
Fine	4	2	1	1	6	1	2	1	3	2
Good behaviour order	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nominal penalty ^(c)	56	18	64	20	64	12	61	20	47	12
Total	909	288	923	257	897	261	871	267	765	255

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(c) Includes convicted not punished.

(d) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(e) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

4 in 5 males and 3 in 4 females with a convicted appearance in the Supreme Court in 2022–23 were sentenced to *imprisonment*, the smallest proportion for both since 2016–17.

In the District Court, *imprisonment* and *wholly suspended sentence* were consistently the two most common penalties imposed throughout the time series for both males and females (Table 22). In 2022–23, *imprisonment* was the most serious penalty in 69.1% of male and 54.8% of female convicted appearances, while *wholly suspended sentence* was the most serious penalty in 20.3% of female, the series high, and in 14.1% of male convicted appearances.

Table 22 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, by sex, District Court – time series

Most serious penalty	2013–14		2014–15		2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 ^(d)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Penalty ^(a)	— number —									
Imprisonment ^(b)	1,860	261	1,938	272	1,856	273	2,121	357	2,437	345
Intensive correction order	27	6	33	5	16	9	21	5	20	4
Wholly suspended sentence	358	77	354	88	450	113	453	91	435	110
Community service	96	13	90	30	84	12	109	23	69	12
Probation	103	37	149	58	147	57	226	83	208	79
Fine	78	17	105	18	115	19	100	18	112	16
Compensation/restitution	3	0	0	1	4	0	9	2	8	2
Good behaviour order	17	5	21	9	16	14	21	12	37	18
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Nominal penalty ^(c)	175	22	156	26	166	25	169	30	187	25
Total	2,717	438	2,846	507	2,854	522	3,229	621	3,514	611

Table 22 continued.

Most serious penalty	2018–19		2019–20 ^(e)		2020–21		2021–22		2022–23	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Penalty ^(a)	— number —									
Imprisonment ^(b)	2,547	379	2,423	339	2,319	327	2,378	372	2,271	308
Intensive correction order	25	11	24	12	19	6	16	6	6	1
Wholly suspended sentence	510	118	499	116	430	111	498	125	462	114
Community service	73	15	55	18	38	12	52	10	46	14
Probation	249	83	194	106	142	52	197	86	176	63
Fine	118	17	96	13	87	19	111	22	109	18
Compensation/restitution	9	2	5	1	6	0	5	2	6	0
Good behaviour order	25	13	25	6	18	4	23	5	19	10
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Nominal penalty ^(c)	210	35	214	38	188	27	200	36	193	34
Total^(f)	3,766	673	3,536	649	3,247	558	3,481	664	3,288	562

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

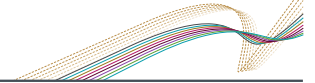
(b) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(c) Includes convicted not punished.

(d) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(e) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(f) Totals exclude a total of 11 convicted appearances where defendant's sex was not stated.



In the Magistrates Court, the proportion of convicted appearances resulting in *imprisonment* almost doubled over the decade to reach a series high for both male (10.7%) and female (5.8%) defendants (Table 23).

Fine is consistently the most serious penalty in the majority of convicted appearances in the Magistrates Court, irrespective of gender, although its proportion of the total has decreased over the 10-year period to a series low of 64.9% overall. In 2022–23, 64.6% of male and 65.5% of female convicted appearances received *fine* as most serious penalty, the smallest proportion in the time series for both.

Table 23 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, by sex, Magistrates Court – time series

Most serious penalty	2013–14			2014–15			2015–16			2016–17			2017–18 ^(a)		
	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated
Penalty ^(b)	— number —														
Imprisonment ^(c)	6,616	1,177	2	7,070	1,317	1	7,931	1,474	3	8,136	1,600	13	8,031	1,699	2
Intensive correction order	150	49	0	152	54	0	160	76	0	166	59	0	160	49	0
Wholly suspended sentence	3,853	876	0	3,970	947	0	4,394	1,021	0	4,493	1,176	0	4,450	1,124	3
Community service	2,550	719	2	2,750	763	3	3,252	918	1	3,080	917	0	2,542	813	2
Probation	5,006	1,949	1	5,003	2,105	0	5,785	2,499	0	5,996	2,721	0	5,514	2,541	0
Other penalty ^(c)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0
Fine	89,202	28,662	732	86,739	28,559	688	86,136	30,177	514	77,311	27,858	466	64,899	22,606	291
Compensation/restitution	664	338	0	658	349	0	591	367	1	597	324	1	525	293	0
Good behaviour order	6,109	2,741	14	6,793	3,085	10	6,437	3,215	3	5,868	2,969	5	5,207	2,474	8
Driver licence disqualification	322	149	1	457	185	0	548	225	0	490	180	0	324	125	0
Nominal penalty ^(d)	7,647	1,857	19	5,403	1,604	21	4,468	1,470	16	4,272	1,502	13	3,863	1,386	9
Total	122,119	38,517	771	118,995	38,968	723	119,703	41,442	538	110,409	39,306	498	95,518	33,111	315

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

(c) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(d) Includes drug and alcohol treatment orders; licence disqualification orders (other than driver licence)

(e) Includes convicted not punished.

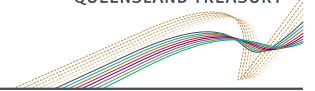


Table 23 continued.

Most serious penalty	2018–19			2019–20 ^(a)			2020–21			2021–22			2022–23		
	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated
Penalty ^(b)	— number —														
Imprisonment ^(c)	8,320	1,758	1	7,587	1,442	0	8,021	1,618	1	7,511	1,492	0	8,610	1,616	0
Intensive correction order	145	53	0	111	40	0	146	45	0	118	40	0	95	31	0
Wholly suspended sentence	5,020	1,303	3	3,930	1,044	2	4,846	1,323	3	4,545	1,226	0	4,714	1,210	0
Community service	2,117	715	0	1,535	461	2	1,864	635	2	1,662	590	2	1,620	580	0
Probation	5,592	2,651	1	4,431	2,165	1	5,648	2,788	3	5,123	2,309	0	5,188	2,463	1
Other penalty ^(d)	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Fine	64,212	22,459	298	48,283	17,371	266	60,975	21,637	219	49,810	17,236	197	52,059	18,246	316
Compensation/restitution	587	348	1	498	258	2	550	328	1	562	282	0	512	274	0
Good behaviour order	5,150	2,576	3	4,007	2,054	4	4,680	2,409	5	3,563	1,806	7	3,435	1,897	6
Driver licence disqualification	347	158	0	328	136	0	421	130	0	449	141	0	670	236	0
Nominal penalty ^(e)	3,803	1,311	3	2,872	1,082	10	3,471	1,249	14	3,325	1,137	7	3,717	1,291	8
Total	95,295	33,333	310	73,582	26,054	287	90,623	32,163	248	76,669	26,259	213	80,620	27,844	331

- (a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
- (b) In descending order of seriousness.
- (c) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.
- (d) Includes drug and alcohol treatment orders; licence disqualification orders (other than driver licence).
- (e) Includes convicted not punished.

The proportion of convicted appearances in the Magistrates Court resulting in *imprisonment* almost doubled over the decade for both males (to 10.7%) and females (to 5.8%).

4.2.6. Age and sex

Overall, in 2022–23, there were more convicted appearances in adult courts for every age group except 18–19 years compared with 2021–22, driven by increases in the Magistrates Court (Table 24). However, there were fewer convicted appearances overall for every age group than in 2020–21, when court operations resumed fully and backlogs were cleared following disruptions at the commencement of the pandemic.

Defendants aged 20–29 years, male and female alike, had the greatest number of convicted appearances in both the District and Magistrates Courts in all three years, while those aged 30–39 years, both male and female, outnumbered all other age groups in the Supreme Court.

In 2022–23, convicted appearances for defendants aged 18–19 years decreased in every court type for the second consecutive year, the only age group to do so. For defendants aged 20–29 years, convicted appearances declined in the Supreme Court for both males and females for the second year running, while increasing for females and decreasing for males aged 40–49 years.

Table 24 Convicted adult appearances by court type, by age and sex

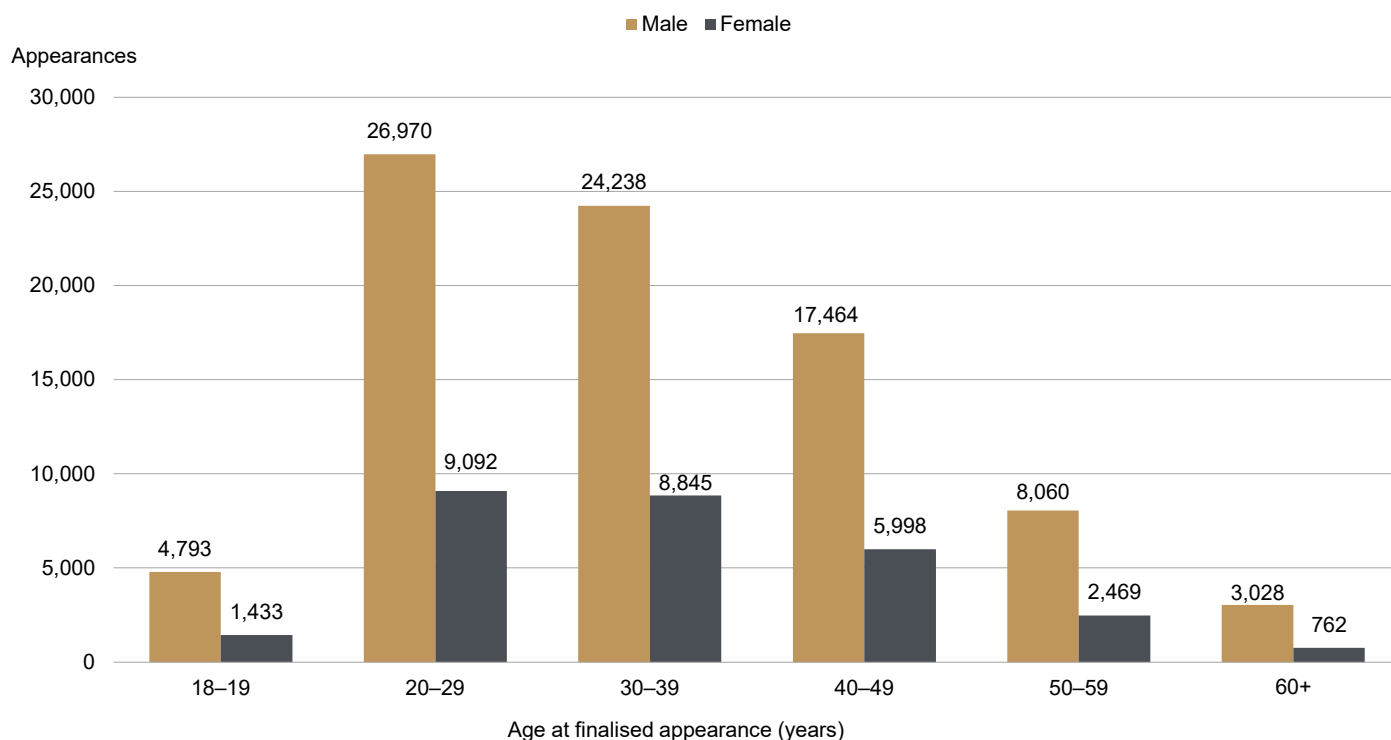
Court type	Year	2020–21 ^(a)				2021–22				2022–23			
		Sex	Male	Female	Not stated	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total
	Age at finalised appearance	— number —				— number —				— number —			
Supreme	18–19 yrs	11	0	0	11	7	3	0	10	5	2	0	7
	20–29 yrs	307	97	0	404	280	83	0	363	226	66	0	292
	30–39 yrs	343	106	0	449	351	107	0	458	314	103	0	417
	40–49 yrs	167	43	0	210	158	55	0	213	150	64	0	214
	50–59 yrs	59	13	0	72	64	13	0	77	49	14	0	63
	60 and over	10	2	0	12	9	6	0	15	21	6	0	27
	Not stated	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
District	18–19 yrs	117	13	0	130	97	26	0	123	103	15	0	118
	20–29 yrs	1,158	205	3	1,366	1,207	206	0	1,413	1,129	186	0	1,315
	30–39 yrs	912	159	0	1,071	1,025	199	0	1,224	958	178	0	1,136
	40–49 yrs	591	117	0	708	643	139	0	782	635	111	0	746
	50–59 yrs	280	48	1	329	319	67	0	386	312	51	0	363
	60 and over	188	16	0	204	189	27	0	216	150	21	0	171
	Not stated	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
Magistrates	18–19 yrs	5,567	1,665	4	7,236	4,685	1,423	2	6,110	4,685	1,416	8	6,109
	20–29 yrs	30,392	10,993	63	41,448	25,265	8,517	42	33,824	25,615	8,840	79	34,534
	30–39 yrs	25,561	9,651	57	35,269	21,911	8,159	64	30,134	22,966	8,564	79	31,609
	40–49 yrs	18,070	6,575	32	24,677	15,291	5,401	29	20,721	16,679	5,823	61	22,563
	50–59 yrs	7,836	2,464	24	10,324	6,885	2,106	27	9,018	7,699	2,404	28	10,131
	60 and over	3,026	728	15	3,769	2,532	595	10	3,137	2,857	735	20	3,612
	Not stated	171	87	53	311	100	58	39	197	119	62	56	237
All courts (total)	18–19 yrs	5,695	1,678	4	7,377	4,789	1,452	2	6,243	4,793	1,433	8	6,234
	20–29 yrs	31,857	11,295	66	43,218	26,752	8,806	42	35,600	26,970	9,092	79	36,141
	30–39 yrs	26,816	9,916	57	36,789	23,287	8,465	64	31,816	24,238	8,845	79	33,162
	40–49 yrs	18,828	6,735	32	25,595	16,092	5,595	29	21,716	17,464	5,998	61	23,523
	50–59 yrs	8,175	2,525	25	10,725	7,268	2,186	27	9,481	8,060	2,469	28	10,557
	60 and over	3,224	746	15	3,985	2,730	628	10	3,368	3,028	762	20	3,810
	Not stated	172	87	53	312	103	58	39	200	120	62	56	238

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

Figure 14 represents convicted adult appearances of males and females by age group, where both age and sex of defendants were known. The ratios of male to female convicted appearances in 2022–23 varied across age groups, ranging from 2.7 for the 30–39 years cohort and 4.0 for the 60 years and older cohort.

The 20–29 year age group was the most prevalent for both males and females, accounting for almost a third of convicted appearances for each (31.9% and 31.8% respectively) in 2022–23, where age and sex were known. They were closely followed by those aged 30–39 years, who accounted for 28.7% of male and 30.9 % of female convicted appearances. These two age groups comprised more than 60% of convicted appearances in adult courts for each sex, where age and sex were known.

Figure 14 Convicted adult appearances^(a) by age^(b) and sex^(c), all courts, 2022–23



- (a) Among these were 56 appearances where both age and sex of the defendant were not stated.
- (b) Excludes 238 convicted adult appearances of defendants whose age was not stated.
- (c) Excludes 331 convicted adult appearances of defendants whose sex was not stated.



In 2022–23, convicted charges increased overall for every age group compared with 2021–22, when all experienced a decrease compared with 2020–21. Overall, the largest increases were for the 40–49 years age group (+3,688 or +6.0%) followed by those aged 20–29 years (+2,530 or +2.5%). The greatest increases for males were seen for those aged 40–49 years (+3,307 or +7.1%), followed by those aged 30–39 years (+2,146 or +2.9%), while for females, convicted charges for the 20–29 years age group increased by 808 (+3.2%), and for those aged 50–59 years by 530 (+11.5%).

Convicted charges increased for every age group in the Magistrates Court in 2022–23, while decreasing for every age group in the District Court. There were increases for the 40–49 years and 60 years and over age groups in the Supreme Court, while decreasing for all other age groups.

Table 25 Convicted charges against adults by court type, by age and sex

Court type	Year	2020–21 ^(a)				2021–22				2022–23			
		Sex	Male	Female	Not stated	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total
	Age at finalised appearance	— number —				— number —				— number —			
Supreme	18–19 yrs	47	0	0	47	55	22	0	77	43	7	0	50
	20–29 yrs	2,316	661	0	2,977	2,382	554	0	2,936	1,665	390	0	2,055
	30–39 yrs	2,737	717	0	3,454	2,773	806	0	3,579	2,312	744	0	3,056
	40–49 yrs	1,158	305	0	1,463	1,143	441	0	1,584	1,154	442	0	1,596
	50–59 yrs	323	69	0	392	403	127	0	530	302	58	0	360
	60 and over	46	5	0	51	74	16	0	90	145	30	0	175
	Not stated	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
District	18–19 yrs	491	128	0	619	563	98	0	661	489	44	0	533
	20–29 yrs	6,191	1,100	3	7,294	5,779	904	0	6,683	5,149	778	0	5,927
	30–39 yrs	5,005	738	0	5,743	5,712	1,041	0	6,753	4,719	797	0	5,516
	40–49 yrs	3,304	432	0	3,736	3,078	619	0	3,697	2,893	351	0	3,244
	50–59 yrs	1,227	147	1	1,375	1,736	256	0	1,992	1,311	190	0	1,501
	60 and over	1,058	41	0	1,099	868	71	0	939	702	53	0	755
	Not stated	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
Magistrates	18–19 yrs	14,582	4,192	6	18,780	12,961	3,483	3	16,447	14,113	3,643	9	17,765
	20–29 yrs	85,133	30,141	84	115,358	69,210	24,182	54	93,446	72,231	25,280	102	97,613
	30–39 yrs	77,281	28,115	96	105,492	65,514	24,635	78	90,227	69,114	25,071	99	94,284
	40–49 yrs	47,651	16,412	57	64,120	42,213	13,887	32	56,132	45,694	14,483	84	60,261
	50–59 yrs	17,168	5,178	45	22,391	14,900	4,207	39	19,146	16,968	4,872	42	21,882
	60 and over	5,914	1,341	17	7,272	4,509	1,071	20	5,600	4,954	1,212	22	6,188
	Not stated	510	177	272	959	158	86	162	406	243	105	195	543
All courts (total)	18–19 yrs	15,120	4,320	6	19,446	13,579	3,603	3	17,185	14,645	3,694	9	18,348
	20–29 yrs	93,640	31,902	87	125,629	77,371	25,640	54	103,065	79,045	26,448	102	105,595
	30–39 yrs	85,023	29,570	96	114,689	73,999	26,482	78	100,559	76,145	26,612	99	102,856
	40–49 yrs	52,113	17,149	57	69,319	46,434	14,947	32	61,413	49,741	15,276	84	65,101
	50–59 yrs	18,718	5,394	46	24,158	17,039	4,590	39	21,668	18,581	5,120	42	23,743
	60 and over	7,018	1,387	17	8,422	5,451	1,158	20	6,629	5,801	1,295	22	7,118
	Not stated	511	177	272	960	164	86	162	412	244	105	195	544

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

4.2.7. Indigenous status

A defendant's Indigenous status is based on self-identification by the individual as one of the following four options: Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, or neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander (non-Indigenous).

Figure 15 shows that the numbers of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other convicted adult appearances in all courts increased slightly in 2022–23 compared with the previous year. Apart from 2019–20, the number of convicted appearances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants showed little fluctuation across the time series. Convicted appearances of other defendants have trended noticeably downwards since the high in 2015–16, with the series low in 2019–20, ending the time series slightly higher than in 2021–22. As a result, the convicted appearances rate ratio between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous defendants reached 6.7, the highest in 10 years (Figure 16).

Figure 15 Convicted adult appearances by Indigenous status, all courts – time series

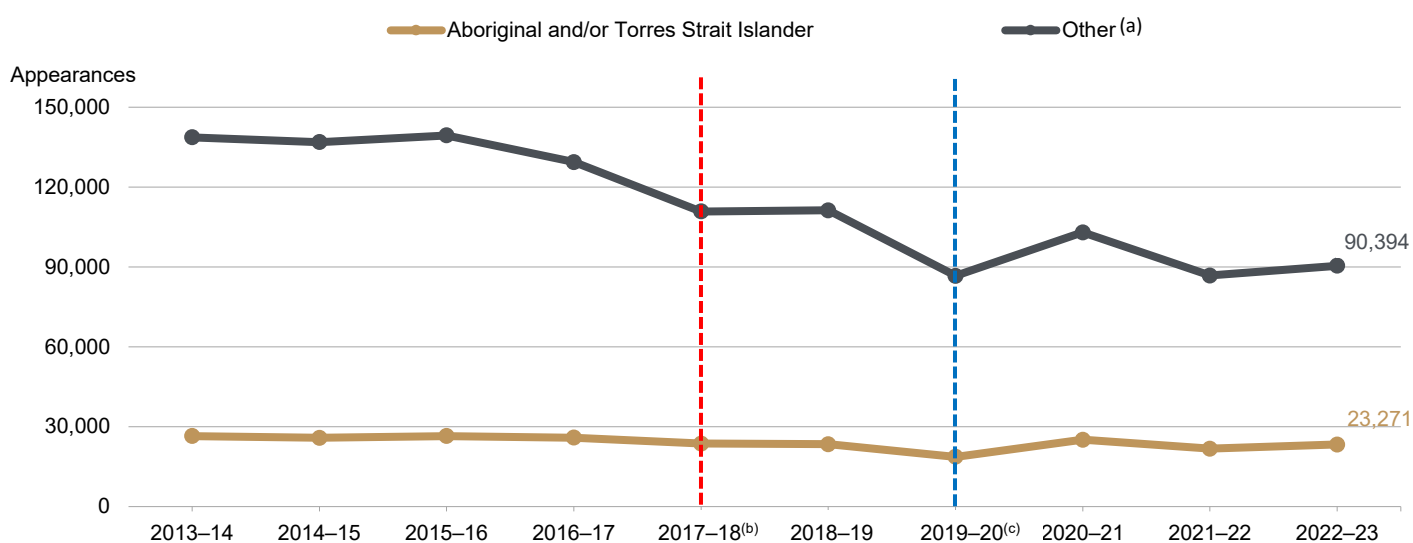
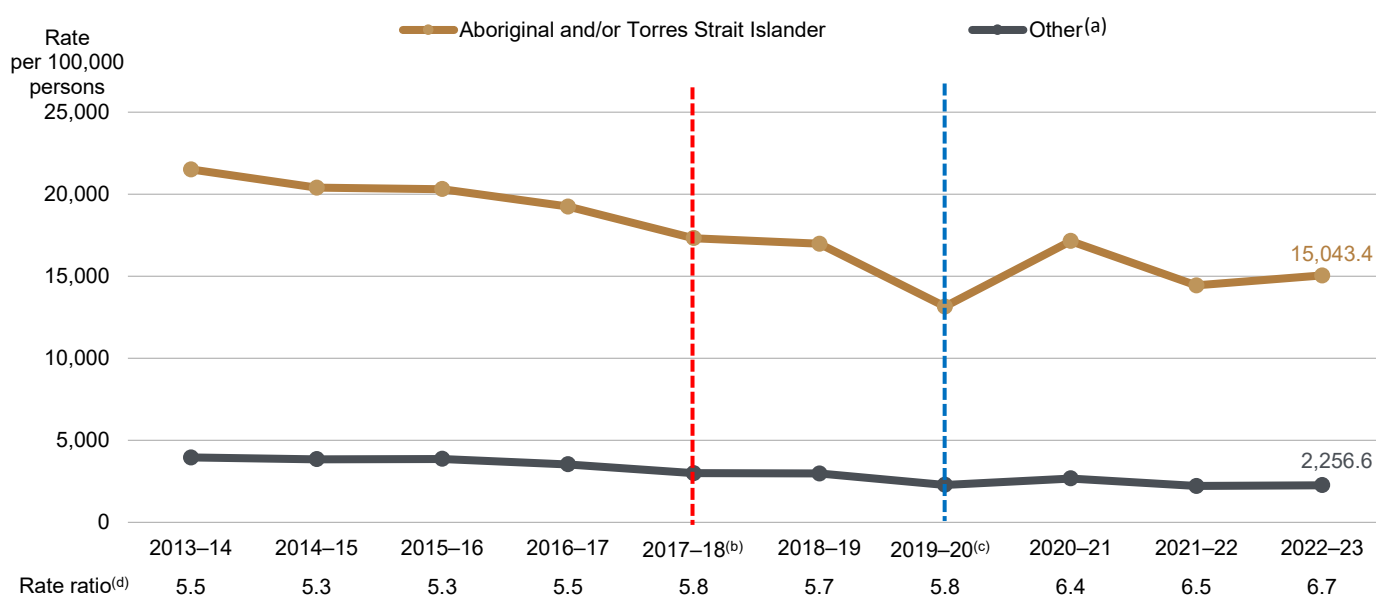
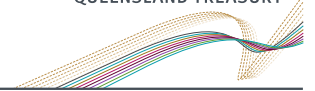


Figure 16 Convicted adult appearance rate by Indigenous status, all courts – time series



- (a) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.
- (b) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
- (d) Rate ratio presented in this figure is the rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants divided by the rate for other defendants. Rate ratios have been calculated on unrounded rates.



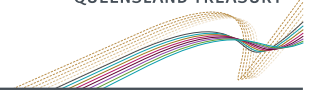
Queensland Government Statistician's Office

Table 26 Convicted adult appearances by court type, sex and Indigenous status – time series

Year	Court type	Supreme			District				Magistrates				All courts (total)			
		Sex	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total
	Indigenous status	— number —			— number —				— number —				— number —			
2013–14	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	31	6	37	474	120	0	594	17,773	8,014	2	25,789	18,278	8,140	2	26,420
	Other ^(a)	377	78	455	2,243	318	2	2,563	104,346	30,503	769	135,618	106,966	30,899	771	138,636
	Total	408	84	492	2,717	438	2	3,157	122,119	38,517	771	161,407	125,244	39,039	773	165,056
2014–15	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	30	8	38	497	118	0	615	17,170	7,956	0	25,126	17,697	8,082	0	25,779
	Other ^(a)	466	99	565	2,349	389	0	2,738	101,825	31,012	723	133,560	104,640	31,500	723	136,863
	Total	496	107	603	2,846	507	0	3,353	118,995	38,968	723	158,686	122,337	39,582	723	162,642
2015–16	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	37	11	48	468	112	0	580	17,685	8,118	2	25,805	18,190	8,241	2	26,433
	Other ^(a)	590	119	709	2,386	410	1	2,797	102,018	33,324	536	135,878	104,994	33,853	537	139,384
	Total	627	130	757	2,854	522	1	3,377	119,703	41,442	538	161,683	123,184	42,094	539	165,817
2016–17	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	54	10	64	512	127	0	639	17,060	8,046	0	25,106	17,626	8,183	0	25,809
	Other ^(a)	815	204	1,019	2,717	494	1	3,212	93,349	31,260	498	125,107	96,881	31,958	499	129,338
	Total	869	214	1,083	3,229	621	1	3,851	110,409	39,306	498	150,213	114,507	40,141	499	155,147
2017–18 ^(b)	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	46	12	58	646	141	0	787	15,427	7,360	0	22,787	16,119	7,513	0	23,632
	Other ^(a)	1,024	260	1,284	2,868	470	1	3,339	80,091	25,751	315	106,157	83,983	26,481	316	110,780
	Total	1,070	272	1,342	3,514	611	1	4,126	95,518	33,111	315	128,944	100,102	33,994	316	134,412

(a) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.

(b) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

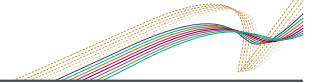


Queensland Government Statistician's Office

Table 26 continued.

Year	Court type	Supreme			District				Magistrates				All courts (total)			
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total
	Sex	— number —			— number —				— number —				— number —			
	Indigenous status	— number —			— number —				— number —				— number —			
2018–19	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	50	26	76	641	139	0	780	15,300	7,205	0	22,505	15,991	7,370	0	23,361
	Other ^(a)	859	262	1,121	3,125	534	2	3,661	79,995	26,128	310	106,433	83,979	26,924	312	111,215
	Total	909	288	1,197	3,766	673	2	4,441	95,295	33,333	310	128,938	99,970	34,294	312	134,576
2019–20 ^(c)	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	54	18	72	673	140	0	813	12,238	5,528	1	17,767	12,965	5,686	1	18,652
	Other ^(a)	869	239	1,108	2,863	509	0	3,372	61,344	20,526	286	82,156	65,076	21,274	286	86,636
	Total	923	257	1,180	3,536	649	0	4,185	73,582	26,054	287	99,923	78,041	26,960	287	105,288
2020–21	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	65	28	93	640	154	0	794	16,369	7,795	2	24,166	17,074	7,977	2	25,053
	Other ^(a)	832	233	1,065	2,607	404	4	3,015	74,254	24,368	246	98,868	77,693	25,005	250	102,948
	Total	897	261	1,158	3,247	558	4	3,809	90,623	32,163	248	123,034	94,767	32,982	252	128,001
2021–22	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	66	30	96	671	150	0	821	14,302	6,492	0	20,794	15,039	6,672	0	21,711
	Other ^(a)	805	237	1,042	2,810	514	0	3,324	62,367	19,767	213	82,347	65,982	20,518	213	86,713
	Total	871	267	1,138	3,481	664	0	4,145	76,669	26,259	213	103,141	81,021	27,190	213	108,424
2022–23	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	60	18	78	720	139	0	859	15,350	6,983	1	22,334	16,130	7,140	1	23,271
	Other ^(a)	705	237	942	2,568	423	0	2,991	65,270	20,861	330	86,461	68,543	21,521	330	90,394
	Total	765	255	1,020	3,288	562	0	3,850	80,620	27,844	331	108,795	84,673	28,661	331	113,665

- (a) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.
- (b) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

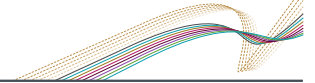


Overall, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander convicted appearances comprised 19.2% of all convicted appearances in the District and Supreme Courts in 2022–23. For the past three financial years, *acts intended to cause injury* has consistently been the predominant MSO for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander convicted appearances in the adult higher courts, accounting for between 35.1 and 40.7 per cent. For other defendants, the most common MSO over the same period was *illicit drug offences*, which accounted for a slightly smaller proportion of convicted appearances (between 33.2 and 35.5 per cent) in the higher courts.

Table 27 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, by Indigenous status, Supreme and District Courts

Indigenous status of defendant Most serious offence (MSO)	2020–21			2021–22			2022–23		
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(a)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(a)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(a)	Total
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —								
Homicide and related offences	12	33	45	19	28	47	11	53	64
Acts intended to cause injury	311	793	1,104	373	887	1,260	331	831	1,162
Sexual assault and related offences	86	629	715	89	674	763	100	601	701
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	7	73	80	14	92	106	18	71	89
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	9	26	35	14	51	65	16	43	59
Robbery, extortion and related offences	141	326	467	105	250	355	160	265	425
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	46	154	200	52	188	240	62	148	210
Theft and related offences	17	84	101	12	82	94	15	96	111
Fraud, deception and related offences	5	119	124	7	112	119	2	113	115
Illicit drug offences	149	1,438	1,587	128	1,548	1,676	106	1,307	1,413
Weapons and explosives offences	0	10	10	1	24	25	1	11	12
Property damage and environmental pollution	17	80	97	27	88	115	32	80	112
Public order offences	2	5	7	9	11	20	3	9	12
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	3
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	85	295	380	66	316	382	79	294	373
Miscellaneous Offences	0	15	15	1	14	15	0	9	9
Total	887	4,080	4,967	917	4,366	5,283	937	3,933	4,870

(a) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.



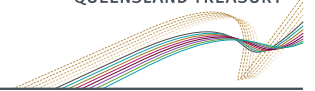
In one in five convicted appearances in the Magistrates Court in each of the past three years, the defendant identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. *Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations*, which is consistently the most common MSO for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander convicted appearances, has become steadily more prevalent since 2020–21, and accounted for almost three in 10 convicted appearances in 2022–23. For convicted appearances of other defendants, *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* was consistently the most common MSO, and also became steadily more prevalent over the same period, accounting for over a third of their convicted appearances in the Magistrates Court in each of the past three years (38.5% in 2022–23).

Table 28 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, by Indigenous status, Magistrates Court

Indigenous status of defendant Most serious offence (MSO)	2020–21			2021–22			2022–23		
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(a)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(a)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(a)	Total
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(b)	— number —								
Acts intended to cause injury	2,340	4,263	6,603	2,426	4,154	6,580	2,945	4,483	7,428
Sexual assault and related offences	49	146	195	48	165	213	53	173	226
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	1,002	5,663	6,665	762	5,000	5,762	706	4,850	5,556
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	72	384	456	79	362	441	134	467	601
Robbery, extortion and related offences	4	11	15	8	7	15	2	11	13
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	589	1,582	2,171	659	1,458	2,117	852	1,503	2,355
Theft and related offences	1,731	7,832	9,563	1,653	6,213	7,866	1,954	6,496	8,450
Fraud, deception and related offences	291	1,947	2,238	267	1,429	1,696	259	1,418	1,677
Illicit drug offences	2,680	15,247	17,927	1,750	10,152	11,902	1,584	9,010	10,594
Weapons and explosives offences	557	3,159	3,716	344	2,210	2,554	377	2,208	2,585
Property damage and environmental pollution	874	2,238	3,112	811	1,875	2,686	789	1,777	2,566
Public order offences	3,336	4,384	7,720	2,352	3,506	5,858	2,170	3,085	5,255
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	4,403	33,415	37,818	3,720	29,058	32,778	3,859	33,293	37,152
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	6,119	17,378	23,497	5,848	15,958	21,806	6,580	16,939	23,519
Miscellaneous offences	119	1,219	1,338	67	800	867	70	748	818
Total	24,166	98,868	123,034	20,794	82,347	103,141	22,334	86,461	108,795

(a) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.

(b) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.



While the total number of convicted appearances in the higher courts declined to its lowest in three years, those for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants steadily increased over the same period. Around 80% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander convicted appearances resulted in a sentence of *imprisonment*, compared with over two-thirds for other convicted appearances in each year since 2019–20.

Table 29 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, by Indigenous status, Supreme and District Courts

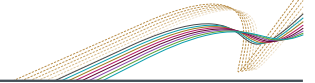
Indigenous status of defendant	2020–21			2021–22			2022–23		
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(a)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(a)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(a)	Total
Most serious penalty									
Penalty ^(b)	— number —								
Imprisonment ^(c)	689	2,918	3,607	738	2,938	3,676	737	2,651	3,388
Intensive correction order	3	22	25	4	19	23	1	8	9
Wholly suspended sentence	76	555	631	64	662	726	84	603	687
Community service	6	47	53	8	60	68	9	57	66
Probation	35	183	218	36	265	301	27	240	267
Fine	8	105	113	5	131	136	11	121	132
Compensation/restitution	0	6	6	0	7	7	0	6	6
Good behaviour order	3	19	22	4	24	28	2	27	29
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Nominal penalty ^(d)	67	225	292	58	259	317	66	220	286
Total	887	4,080	4,967	917	4,366	5,283	937	3,933	4,870

(a) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

(c) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(d) Includes convicted not punished.



Overall, *fine* was the most common penalty in the Magistrates Court for all convicted appearances. The proportion with *fine* as most serious penalty steadily declined from 67.3% in 2020–21 to 64.9% in 2022–23, while the proportion sentenced to *imprisonment* steadily increased over the same period from 7.8% to 9.4%. This varied by Indigenous status, with the imprisonment proportion for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants increasing from 14.1% to 17.4%, and for other defendants from 6.3% to 7.3% over the three years. Likewise, the fine proportion for other defendants remained stable from 69.6% to 68.5%, while for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants it decreased from 58.0% to 50.9% over the last three years.

Table 30 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, by Indigenous status, Magistrates Court

Indigenous status of defendant	2020–21			2021–22			2022–23		
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(a)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(a)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(a)	Total
Most serious penalty									
Penalty ^(b)	— number —								
Imprisonment ^(c)	3,412	6,228	9,640	3,306	5,697	9,003	3,894	6,332	10,226
Intensive correction order	33	158	191	37	121	158	36	90	126
Wholly suspended sentence	1,601	4,571	6,172	1,630	4,141	5,771	1,760	4,164	5,924
Community service	771	1,730	2,501	764	1,490	2,254	748	1,452	2,200
Probation	2,029	6,410	8,439	1,850	5,582	7,432	1,996	5,656	7,652
Other penalty ^(d)	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
Fine	14,007	68,824	82,831	11,007	56,236	67,243	11,377	59,244	70,621
Compensation/restitution	122	757	879	181	663	844	192	594	786
Good behaviour order	819	6,275	7,094	758	4,618	5,376	738	4,600	5,338
Driver licence disqualification	66	485	551	98	492	590	155	751	906
Nominal penalty ^(e)	1,306	3,428	4,734	1,163	3,306	4,469	1,438	3,578	5,016
Total	24,166	98,868	123,034	20,794	82,347	103,141	22,334	86,461	108,795

- (a) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.
- (b) In descending order of seriousness.
- (c) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.
- (d) Includes drug and alcohol treatment orders; licence disqualification orders (other than driver licence).
- (e) Includes convicted not punished.

4.3. Children

4.3.1. Finalised appearances

A defendant may have one or multiple charges (offences) finalised in a single appearance, however only the most serious offence (MSO), i.e. the offence with the most serious outcome, is presented here (see Explanatory notes for more detail).

In 2022–23, over four in five (86.2%) of the 8,599 finalised child appearances in Queensland courts were adjudicated, 85.0% in higher courts and 86.3% in the Childrens Court (Magistrates). Of all those adjudicated, 97.2% of appearances in the higher courts resulted in conviction, compared with 82.0% in the Childrens Court.

Robbery, extortion and related offences was the most prevalent MSO in appearances in the higher courts, accounting for more than half of all convicted appearances (53.4%). In the Childrens Court, the two most prevalent MSOs were *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* and *theft and related offences*, together comprising over half (51.1%) of all convicted appearances in the Childrens Court, with *acts intended to cause injury* accounting for a further 17.8%.

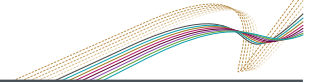
Table 31 Finalised child appearances by method of finalisation and outcome, by MSO, by court type, 2022–23

Method of finalisation / Outcome Most serious offence (MSO) Offence division (ANZSOC)	2022–23					
	Higher courts ^(a)			Childrens Court (Magistrates)		
	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(c)	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(c)
	Convicted	Not convicted ^(b)		Convicted	Not convicted ^(b)	
— number —			— number —			
Homicide and related offences	5	0	5	0	1	1
Acts intended to cause injury	129	2	24	994	94	117
Sexual assault and related offences	31	9	23	10	1	11
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	14	0	2	301	35	41
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	4	0	2	24	4	6
Robbery, extortion and related offences	317	1	40	14	10	63
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	16	1	4	1,481	85	392
Theft and related offences	23	0	4	1,367	346	196
Fraud, deception and related offences	3	0	0	72	21	10
Illicit drug offences	7	0	0	157	85	29
Weapons and explosives offences	0	0	0	211	58	11
Property damage and environmental pollution	27	0	4	254	81	48
Public order offences	1	0	0	199	91	37
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	0	192	212	28
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	17	4	0	294	101	91
Miscellaneous offences	0	0	0	3	1	0
Total	594	17	108	5,573	1,226	1,081

(a) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.

(b) Excludes appearances which were not adjudicated.

(c) 'Not adjudicated' includes cases where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, these cases may be replaced by a new case with amended charges.



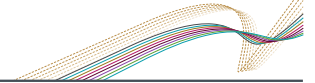
4.3.2. Convicted appearances

The number of convicted child appearances in higher courts in 2022–23 was at its second-highest in ten years. This was driven mainly by an increasing number of appearances with MSO of *robbery, extortion and related offences*, which rose sharply following the transition of 17-year-old offenders to the youth justice system in 2017–18 (+94.7% or +124 convicted appearances in 2018–19 compared with 2016–17, prior to the transition), and of *acts intended to cause injury*, which more than doubled (+123.7%) from 59 to 132 over the same period. These two offence divisions together comprised three-quarters of all convicted appearances (75.1%) in the higher courts in 2022–23, the highest proportion in the time series.

Table 32 Convicted child appearances by most serious offence, all higher courts^(a) – time series

Most serious offence (MSO)	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(c)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(d)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	5
Acts intended to cause injury	69	57	57	59	68	132	127	106	101	129
Sexual assault and related offences	32	40	29	46	36	42	54	41	34	31
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	11	5	6	4	4	9	11	9	11	14
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	2	2	1	3	2	3	3	9	1	4
Robbery, extortion and related offences	151	96	132	133	133	257	344	287	288	317
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	33	23	25	21	18	25	33	14	24	16
Theft and related offences	16	6	6	10	13	18	33	17	18	23
Fraud, deception and related offences	1	0	1	0	1	1	2	4	2	3
Illicit drug offences	6	5	3	12	13	30	23	17	15	7
Weapons and explosives offences	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Property damage and environmental pollution	30	21	18	25	27	34	32	19	25	27
Public order offences	2	0	1	1	21	2	0	1	1	1
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Offences against justice procedures, government security and govt. operations	19	27	24	13	14	17	17	16	18	17
Total	375	285	304	328	351	572	681	543	539	594

(a) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.
 (b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
 (c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
 (d) Excludes offence divisions with zero value.



In contrast with higher courts, the number of convicted appearances in the Childrens Court in 2022–23 was at its second-lowest in 10 years. However, similar to higher courts, the number of convicted appearances for *acts intended to cause injury* and *dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons* both increased markedly following the transition of 17-year-old offenders (+50.4% and +74.5% respectively in 2018–19 compared with 2016–17, prior to the transition), and have remained higher. Convicted appearances decreased for all MSO offence divisions, except for *sexual assault and related offences* which remained steady, compared with 2021–22. The two most prevalent MSOs in the Childrens Court, *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* and *theft and related offences*, accounted for half of all convicted appearances (50.1%) in this court in 2022–23.

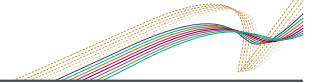
Table 33 Convicted child appearances by most serious offence, Childrens Court (Magistrates) – time series

Most serious offence (MSO)	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —									
Acts intended to cause injury	667	639	629	643	760	967	767	1,063	1,022	994
Sexual assault and related offences	14	10	11	10	13	6	9	8	10	10
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	150	165	144	161	210	281	189	305	314	301
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	27	27	27	25	25	40	32	22	30	24
Robbery, extortion and related offences	5	6	6	11	20	26	25	41	18	14
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	1,277	1,099	1,228	1,266	1,400	1,504	1,057	1,402	1,391	1,481
Theft and related offences	1,701	1,534	1,748	1,798	1,826	1,997	1,305	1,448	1,465	1,367
Fraud, deception and related offences	66	68	79	93	120	144	85	115	100	72
Illicit drug offences	268	328	337	312	369	462	282	351	208	157
Weapons and explosives offences	104	150	136	146	204	287	231	292	261	211
Property damage and environmental pollution	533	533	472	478	551	545	328	369	284	254
Public order offences	737	694	632	562	566	561	296	364	242	199
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	233	209	208	143	229	416	297	356	256	192
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	521	467	479	417	399	509	326	345	303	294
Miscellaneous offences	10	14	7	10	10	10	9	4	4	3
Total	6,313	5,943	6,143	6,075	6,702	7,755	5,238	6,485	5,908	5,573

(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.



4.3.3. Finalised charges

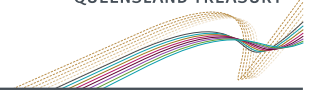
Table 34 Finalised charges against children, by method of finalisation and outcome, by court type, 2022–23

Method of finalisation / Outcome	2022–23					
	Higher courts ^(a)			Childrens Court (Magistrates)		
	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(c)	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(c)
	Convicted	Not convicted ^(b)		Convicted	Not convicted ^(b)	
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —			— number —		
Homicide and related offences	5	0	5	0	4	2
Acts intended to cause injury	309	11	75	1,957	137	358
Sexual assault and related offences	81	25	82	19	4	32
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	38	0	6	539	59	109
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	18	0	12	149	10	17
Robbery, extortion and related offences	602	1	116	46	17	200
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	332	1	51	9,315	190	2,073
Theft and related offences	575	0	73	15,085	780	1,419
Fraud, deception and related offences	36	0	2	1,027	36	158
Illicit drug offences	50	0	1	1,637	277	181
Weapons and explosives offences	6	0	0	499	72	35
Property damage and environmental pollution	110	0	24	2,001	181	284
Public order offences	26	0	1	2,121	303	182
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	24	2	0	1,841	533	116
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	127	5	1	2,620	346	358
Miscellaneous offences	1	0	0	37	6	3
Total	2,340	45	449	38,893	2,955	5,527

In 2022–23, almost 2 in 5 (38.8%) convicted charges in the Childrens Court were for *theft and related offences*.

In higher courts, *robbery, extortion and related offences*, and *theft and related offences* together accounted for half (50.3%) of all convicted charges.

(a) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.
 (b) Excludes charges which were not adjudicated.
 (c) 'Not adjudicated' includes those where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, the charge may be replaced by an amended charge.



4.3.4. Convicted charges

The total number of convicted charges against children in the higher courts showed a steady increase with the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders until 2019–20, when the pandemic was declared, and then declined for two years before increasing again in 2022–23. In terms of offence division, an upward shift can be seen in *robbery, extortion and related offences* in particular. Notable is the sharp drop in convicted charges for *illicit drug offences* in 2022–23 (–62.4% or –83 charges), one of only two offence divisions to decrease in 2022–23.

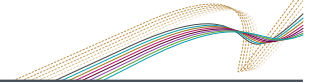
Table 35 Convicted charges against children, all higher courts^(a) – time series

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(c)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	2	2	0	0	2	0	2	2	2	5
Acts intended to cause injury	221	142	131	188	219	271	316	280	245	309
Sexual assault and related offences	112	129	137	112	124	96	135	123	77	81
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	33	21	26	21	20	25	42	28	32	38
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	20	10	5	26	16	18	24	33	16	18
Robbery, extortion and related offences	279	171	208	192	250	534	608	583	515	602
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	485	395	252	334	299	479	489	393	275	332
Theft and related offences	589	378	424	433	450	739	764	597	517	575
Fraud, deception and related offences	18	25	43	39	42	80	46	34	34	36
Illicit drug offences	45	93	47	74	72	226	204	132	133	50
Weapons and explosives offences	9	9	5	11	5	10	13	10	9	6
Property damage and environmental pollution	243	150	137	170	135	176	142	166	110	110
Public order offences	63	36	40	33	57	52	64	37	22	26
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	90	25	41	40	51	56	55	32	31	24
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	125	160	140	85	104	131	151	137	102	127
Miscellaneous offences	5	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	1
Total	2,339	1,746	1,636	1,758	1,847	2,893	3,057	2,588	2,120	2,340

(a) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.

(b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.



The number of convicted charges in the Childrens Court reached a high in 2022–23. Since 2014–15, the number of convicted charges has steadily increased for the two most prevalent offence divisions: *theft and related offences* and *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter*, with 2019–20 being the only exception, likely due to the disruption to court operations following the declaration of the pandemic. In 2022–23, these two offence divisions collectively accounted for nearly two-thirds (62.7%) of all convicted charges in the Childrens Court.

Table 36 Convicted charges, Childrens Court (Magistrates) – time series

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(c)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —									
Acts intended to cause injury	1,086	1,032	952	1,052	1,361	1,678	1,413	2,177	1,958	1,957
Sexual assault and related offences	31	14	13	13	24	6	9	12	13	19
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	230	257	228	245	339	459	349	508	543	539
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	60	66	78	70	60	121	93	98	99	149
Robbery, extortion and related offences	11	10	15	30	47	59	56	68	49	46
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	3,788	3,468	3,778	4,172	5,169	5,579	4,952	6,733	6,932	9,315
Theft and related offences	6,151	5,796	6,480	7,433	8,667	10,509	9,546	12,370	12,728	15,085
Fraud, deception and related offences	479	764	805	1,086	1,217	1,325	973	1,451	1,093	1,027
Illicit drug offences	863	1,107	1,220	1,311	1,512	2,316	1,817	2,459	1,853	1,637
Weapons and explosives offences	189	212	202	237	320	460	445	589	507	499
Property damage and environmental pollution	2,906	3,443	2,302	2,123	2,638	3,070	1,838	2,316	1,920	2,001
Public order offences	2,590	2,795	2,702	2,585	3,090	3,331	2,464	2,974	2,145	2,121
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	1,562	1,306	1,442	1,390	1,515	2,206	1,663	2,262	1,772	1,841
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	2,296	2,396	2,511	2,164	2,612	3,110	2,432	2,829	2,365	2,620
Miscellaneous offences	39	45	34	29	44	67	48	157	85	37
Total	22,281	22,711	22,762	23,940	28,615	34,296	28,098	37,003	34,062	38,893

- (a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
- (c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.



4.3.5. Penalties

This section presents the most serious penalty imposed. A defendant may receive more than one penalty when convicted, but only the most serious penalty is presented here.

Detention includes sentences which are partially suspended, based on the premise they each involve a period of sentenced incarceration. In the editions prior to 2021–22, partially suspended detention was grouped with conditional release order, which is wholly suspended detention. Conditional release orders are now reported separately. (See Glossary.)

Nominal penalty, court-ordered conference and *probation* were the top 3 most common most serious penalties in the Childrens courts for the past five years. Together they accounted for more than 70% of all convicted child appearances in each of the past two years (72.3% and 72.6% respectively). Conversely, convicted appearances with *community service* or *good behaviour order* as most serious penalty both declined in 2022–23 to their lowest level in the series.

Table 37 Convicted child appearances by most serious penalty, all courts – time series

Most serious penalty	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Penalty ^(c)	— number —									
Detention ^(d)	343	328	340	268	283	364	295	273	301	351
Intensive supervision	12	14	9	2	12	5	5	3	8	1
Conditional release order	256	223	230	220	210	313	237	296	300	279
Community service ^(e)	1,163	1,140	1,034	833	878	983	555	536	453	417
Probation	1,271	1,095	1,207	1,153	1,356	1,476	1,102	1,500	1,486	1,449
Treatment order ^(f)	32	49	72	46	71	107	62	64	22	17
Court-ordered conference ^(g)	0	0	0	731	898	1,340	1,398	1,676	1,602	1,451
Fine	65	88	72	59	73	154	73	60	52	26
Compensation/restitution	56	38	19	25	26	26	6	10	9	11
Good behaviour order	1,183	1,063	1,083	946	970	1,154	591	761	528	487
Driver licence disqualification	11	20	29	11	45	126	132	162	110	102
Nominal penalty ^(h)	2,296	2,170	2,352	2,109	2,231	2,279	1,463	1,687	1,576	1,576
Total	6,688	6,228	6,447	6,403	7,053	8,327	5,919	7,028	6,447	6,167

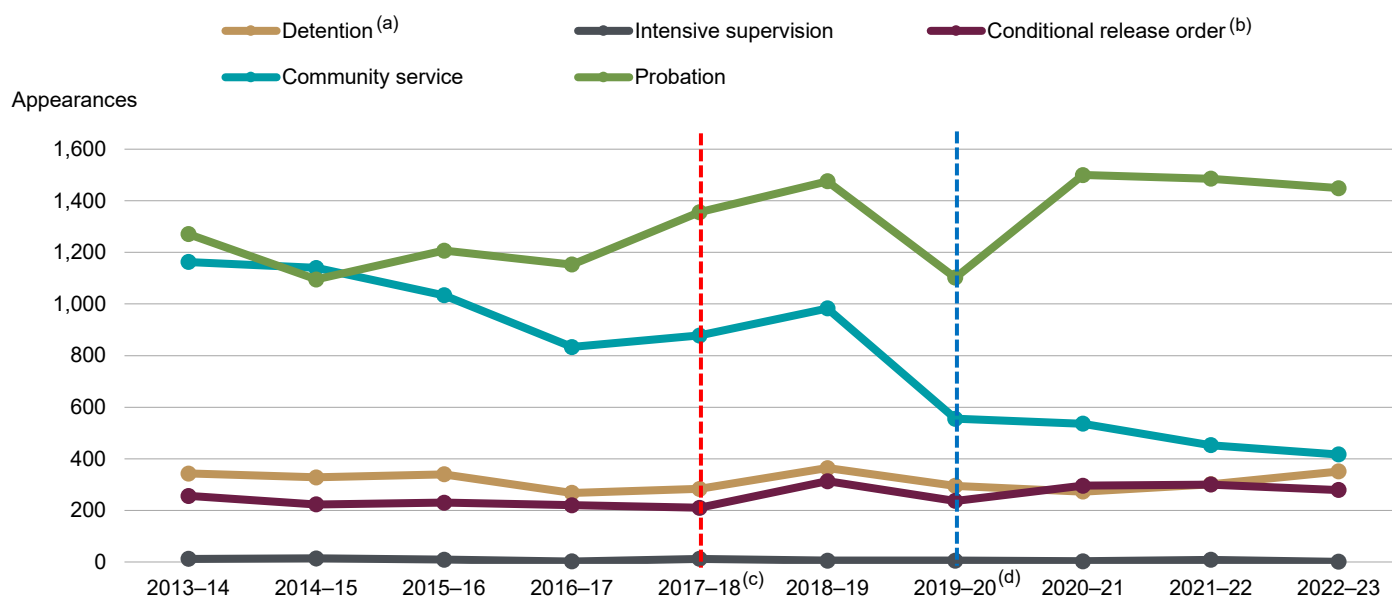
- (a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
- (c) In descending order of seriousness.
- (d) Includes detention, imprisonment and boot camp. Boot camp orders were introduced in January 2013 and repealed in July 2015.
- (e) Includes graffiti-removal orders, which were introduced in September 2013.
- (f) Involves offender participating in a drug assessment and education session.
- (g) Court-ordered conferences were discontinued in January 2013 and re-introduced on 1 July 2016.
- (h) Includes reprimand; convicted not punished.

The top 5 most serious penalties for child defendants, in order of seriousness, are *detention*, *intensive supervision*, *conditional release order*, *community service* and *probation*.

Figure 17 shows the 10-year time series of convicted child appearances with these five most serious penalties as outcome. As shown, *probation* was the most prevalent most serious penalty in 2022–23, as it has been since 2015–16, when it overtook *community service*. Convicted child appearances with *community service* as most serious penalty have been declining steadily throughout the time series, except for increases immediately following the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system in 2017–18.

In 2022–23, *detention* regained third position in the top 5 most serious penalties, after a 2-year period behind *conditional release order*.

Figure 17 Convicted child appearances by most serious penalty, by the five most serious, all courts – time series



- (a) Includes detention, imprisonment and boot camp. Boot camp orders were introduced in January 2013 and were repealed in July 2015.
- (b) Includes graffiti-removal orders, which were introduced in September 2013.
- (c) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.



Of the 351 convicted child appearances resulting in *detention* in 2022–23, 137 (or 39.0%) were for *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* as most serious offence. *Court-ordered conference* was the most serious penalty for a total of 1,451 convicted appearances, with three-quarters (73.3%) of those having MSO of *theft and related offences, unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter, or acts intended to cause injury*. Furthermore, over half (56.6%) of convicted appearances resulting in a sentence of *probation* were also for *theft and related offences* or *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* offences.

Table 38 Convicted child appearances by most serious offence, by most serious penalty, all courts, 2022–23

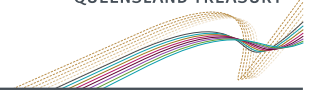
Most serious penalty ^(a)	2022–23												
	Detention	Intensive supervision	Conditional release order	Community service ^(b)	Probation	Treatment order ^(c)	Court-ordered conference	Fine	Compensation / restitution	Good behaviour order	Driver licence disqual.	Nominal penalty ^(d)	Total
Most serious offence (MSO)	— number —												
Offence division (ANZSOC)													
Homicide and related offences	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Acts intended to cause injury	62	0	60	50	408	0	287	0	2	101	0	153	1,123
Sexual assault and related offences	5	0	1	1	23	0	5	0	0	3	0	3	41
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	41	0	43	19	91	0	62	2	0	14	11	32	315
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	0	1	1	1	8	0	7	0	0	4	0	6	28
Robbery, extortion and related offences	41	0	30	11	176	0	53	0	0	9	0	11	331
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	137	0	104	128	412	0	363	1	0	100	0	252	1,497
Theft and related offences	47	0	23	106	192	0	413	3	9	131	0	466	1,390
Fraud, deception and related offences	1	0	1	3	10	0	31	0	0	9	0	20	75
Illicit drug offences	0	0	1	2	20	17	37	0	0	13	0	74	164
Weapons and explosives offences	7	0	11	7	54	0	45	1	0	25	0	61	211
Property damage and environmental pollution	4	0	2	75	31	0	56	2	0	23	0	88	281
Public order offences	0	0	0	12	3	0	39	0	0	25	0	121	200
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	0	0	5	0	38	12	0	7	91	39	192
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	1	0	2	2	16	0	15	5	0	23	0	247	311
Miscellaneous offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Total	351	1	279	417	1,449	17	1,451	26	11	487	102	1,576	6,167

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) Includes graffiti-removal orders.

(c) Involves offender participating in a drug assessment and education session.

(d) Includes reprimand; convicted not punished.



Overall, male defendants outnumbered females 2.6 to 1 among convicted child defendants in 2022–23, the lowest ratio in the time series (Table 39). However, the number of convicted appearances resulting in a sentence of *detention* showed a greater imbalance, with males outnumbering females 10.3 to 1 in 2022–23, the second-highest behind 2020–21, when the male-to-female ratio was 16.1 to 1.

For the two most prevalent child penalties (*nominal penalty* and *court-ordered conference*) in 2022–23, the male-to-female ratio was just above 2 for both penalties.

Table 39 Convicted child appearances by most serious penalty, by sex, all courts – time series

Sex of defendant Most serious penalty	2013–14			2014–15			2015–16			2016–17			2017–18 ^(a)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)
Penalty ^(c)	— number —														
Detention ^(d)	290	53	343	275	53	328	277	63	340	231	37	268	249	34	283
Intensive supervision	11	1	12	13	1	14	9	0	9	2	0	2	12	0	12
Conditional release order	202	54	256	183	40	223	198	32	230	173	47	220	172	38	210
Community service ^(e)	941	222	1,163	943	197	1,140	845	188	1,034	627	206	833	703	175	878
Probation	921	350	1,271	789	306	1,095	887	320	1,207	854	299	1,153	997	359	1,356
Treatment order ^(f)	23	9	32	47	2	49	57	15	72	32	14	46	55	16	71
Court-ordered conference ^(g)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	547	184	731	651	247	898
Fine	54	9	65	69	19	88	64	8	72	53	6	59	64	9	73
Compensation/restitution	37	19	56	30	8	38	15	4	19	15	10	25	21	5	26
Good behaviour order	851	332	1,183	789	274	1,063	772	311	1,083	691	255	946	643	327	970
Driver licence disqualification	10	1	11	17	3	20	23	6	29	10	1	11	36	9	45
Nominal penalty ^(h)	1,616	679	2,296	1,487	682	2,170	1,635	717	2,352	1,442	666	2,109	1,489	740	2,231
Total	4,956	1,729	6,688	4,642	1,585	6,228	4,782	1,664	6,447	4,677	1,725	6,403	5,092	1,959	7,053

- (a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (b) Total includes a very small number of appearances where the defendant's sex was not stated.
- (c) In descending order of seriousness.
- (d) Includes detention, imprisonment and boot camp. Boot camp orders were introduced in January 2013 and were repealed in July 2015.
- (e) Includes graffiti-removal orders, which were introduced in September 2013.
- (f) Involves offender participating in a drug assessment and education session.
- (g) Court-ordered conferences were discontinued in January 2013 and re-introduced on 1 July 2016.
- (h) Includes reprimand; convicted not punished.

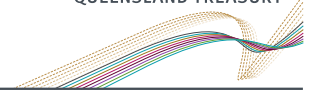


Table 39 continued.

	2018–19			2019–20 ^(a)			2020–21			2021–22			2022–23		
Sex of defendant	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)
Most serious penalty	— number —														
Penalty ^(c)															
Detention ^(d)	328	36	364	266	29	295	257	16	273	270	31	301	320	31	351
Intensive supervision	4	1	5	4	1	5	3	0	3	8	0	8	0	1	1
Conditional release order	272	41	313	207	30	237	239	57	296	250	50	300	232	47	279
Community service ^(e)	746	237	983	440	115	555	411	125	536	339	114	453	313	104	417
Probation	1,046	430	1,476	817	285	1,102	1,109	391	1,500	1,109	377	1,486	1,080	369	1,449
Treatment order ^(f)	82	25	107	46	16	62	48	16	64	17	5	22	13	4	17
Court-ordered conference ^(g)	967	373	1,340	977	421	1,398	1,191	484	1,676	1,112	489	1,602	994	455	1,451
Fine	123	31	154	61	12	73	49	11	60	44	7	52	26	0	26
Compensation/restitution	24	2	26	4	2	6	8	2	10	6	3	9	10	1	11
Good behaviour order	811	343	1,154	401	190	591	526	235	761	349	179	528	295	192	487
Driver licence disqualification	100	26	126	100	32	132	127	35	162	89	21	110	88	14	102
Nominal penalty ^(h)	1,590	688	2,279	1,033	427	1,463	1,197	490	1,687	1,122	454	1,576	1,060	515	1,576
Total	6,093	2,233	8,327	4,356	1,560	5,919	5,165	1,862	7,028	4,715	1,730	6,447	4,431	1,733	6,167

- (a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
- (b) Total includes a very small number of appearances where the defendant's sex was not stated.
- (c) In descending order of seriousness.
- (d) Includes detention and imprisonment.
- (e) Includes graffiti-removal orders, which were introduced in September 2013.
- (f) Involves offender participating in a drug assessment and education session.
- (g) Court-ordered conferences were discontinued in January 2013 and re-introduced on 1 July 2016.
- (h) Includes reprimand; convicted not punished.

4.3.6. Age and sex

There were fewer convicted child appearances in 2022–23 compared with the two previous years, mainly due to a decline in the number of males convicted in the Childrens Court (from 4,732 to 3,987), in all age groups except those aged 13 and 16 years. In contrast, the number of convicted child appearances in higher courts increased in 2022–23 compared with 2021–22, in nearly every age group and for both sexes, except for female defendants aged 13 years and 17 years and over.

Table 40 Convicted child appearances by court type, by age and sex

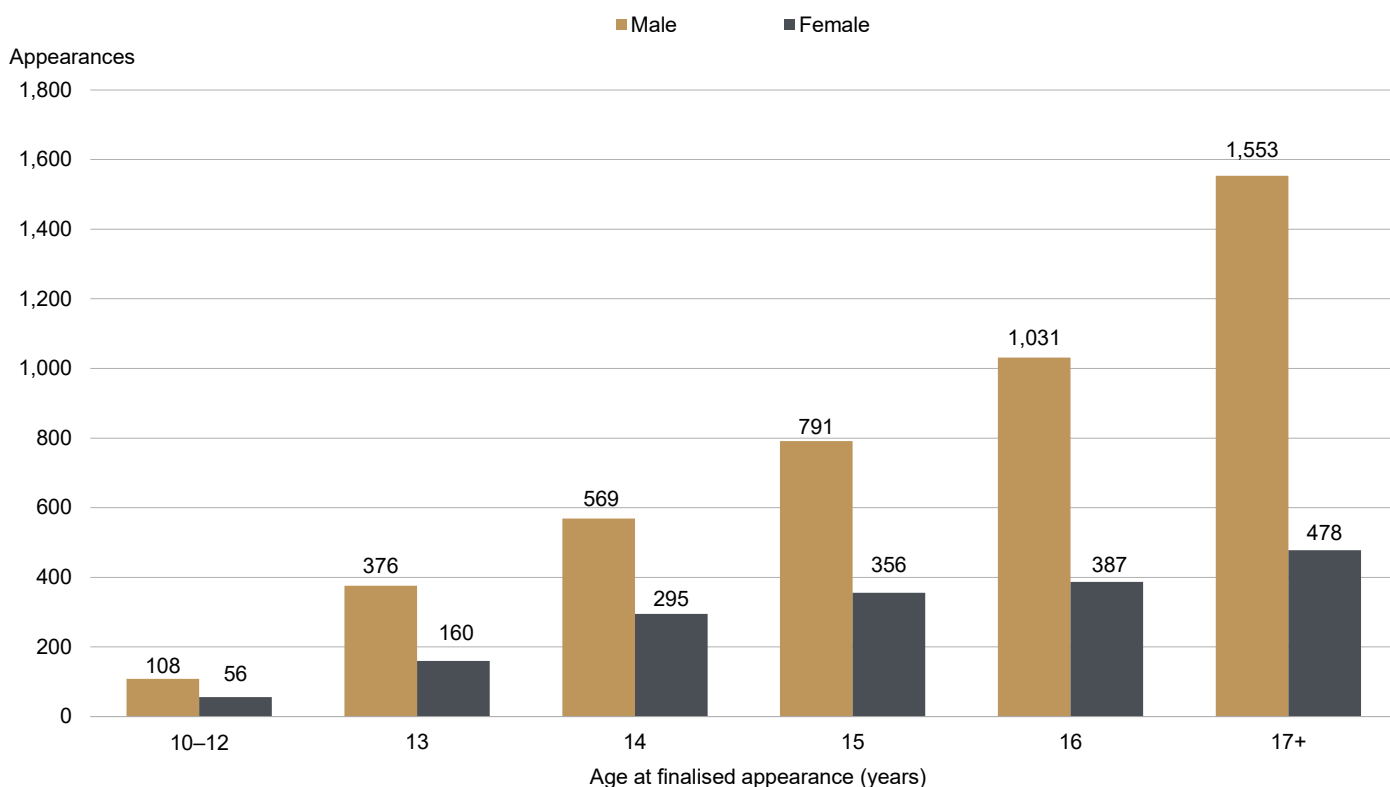
Court type	Year	2020–21			2021–22			2022–23		
		Sex	Male	Female	Total ^(a)	Male	Female	Total ^(a)	Male	Female	Total^{(a)}
Age at finalised appearance	— number —	— number —			— number —			— number —		
Higher courts ^(b)	10–12 years	5	2	7	3	2	5	3	2	5
	13 years	18	2	20	15	10	25	19	8	27
	14 years	45	20	65	36	17	53	36	29	65
	15 years	50	19	69	63	27	90	63	34	97
	16 years	91	31	122	95	23	118	96	35	131
	17 and over	224	35	259	200	48	248	227	41	268
	Not stated	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Total	433	110	543	412	127	539	444	150	594
Childrens Court (Magistrates)	10–12 years	150	52	202	121	48	169	105	54	159
	13 years	320	143	463	310	150	460	357	152	509
	14 years	592	281	874	588	250	838	533	266	799
	15 years	905	361	1,266	902	363	1,266	728	322	1,051
	16 years	992	370	1,362	925	333	1,258	935	352	1,289
	17 and over	1,771	543	2,314	1,453	458	1,912	1,326	437	1,763
	Not stated	2	2	4	4	1	5	3	0	3
	Total	4,732	1,752	6,485	4,303	1,603	5,908	3,987	1,583	5,573
All courts (total)	10–12 years	155	54	209	124	50	174	108	56	164
	13 years	338	145	483	325	160	485	376	160	536
	14 years	637	301	939	624	267	891	569	295	864
	15 years	955	380	1,335	965	390	1,356	791	356	1,148
	16 years	1,083	401	1,484	1,020	356	1,376	1,031	387	1,420
	17 and over	1,995	578	2,573	1,653	506	2,160	1,553	478	2,031
	Not stated	2	3	5	4	1	5	3	1	4
	Total	5,165	1,862	7,028	4,715	1,730	6,447	4,431	1,733	6,167

(a) Total includes a very small number of appearances in the Childrens Court where the defendant's sex was not stated.

(b) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.

In 2022–23, the number of convicted child appearances increased with defendant age, irrespective of sex. Similar to the adult court system, male defendants represented a substantially larger proportion of convicted appearances than females in all age groups. From 14 years, the sex gap widened with age, from a ratio of 1.9 males to 1 female convicted defendant to 3.2 males to 1 female for defendants aged 17 years and over.

Figure 18 Convicted child appearances^(a) by age^(b) and sex, all courts, 2022–23



(a) Excludes a small number of appearances of defendants whose age and/or sex were not stated.

(b) Age of defendant is reported as at date of finalised appearance, not at date of offence.



Although the total number of convicted appearances in the Childrens Court in 2022–23 was at its lowest in three years, the number of convicted charges was at its highest for the same period. For male defendants, there was a noticeable increase for all except in the 10–12 and 15 years age groups, while a substantial increase was evident for female defendants in the 13, 15 and 16 years age groups.

Table 41 Convicted charges against children by court type, by age and sex

	Year	2020–21			2021–22			2022–23		
	Sex	Male	Female	Total ^(a)	Male	Female	Total ^(a)	Male	Female	Total ^(a)
Court type	Age at finalised appearance	— number —			— number —			— number —		
Higher courts^(b)	10–12 years	19	4	23	6	5	11	6	8	14
	13 years	31	16	47	29	21	50	58	29	87
	14 years	229	83	312	127	49	176	161	88	249
	15 years	342	69	411	325	97	422	227	122	349
	16 years	531	163	694	439	62	501	471	121	592
	17 and over	994	106	1,100	848	112	960	902	145	1,047
	Not stated	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2
	Total	2,146	442	2,588	1,774	346	2,120	1,825	515	2,340
Childrens Court (Magistrates)	10–12 years	982	252	1,234	891	302	1,193	795	290	1,085
	13 years	2,289	783	3,072	2,052	798	2,850	2,924	845	3,769
	14 years	4,284	1,671	5,958	3,711	1,458	5,169	4,440	1,465	5,905
	15 years	5,968	1,989	7,957	6,203	1,829	8,033	5,847	2,118	7,966
	16 years	6,017	1,961	7,978	5,668	1,599	7,267	7,342	2,095	9,442
	17 and over	8,577	2,210	10,787	7,303	2,237	9,541	8,519	2,200	10,719
	Not stated	2	15	17	8	1	9	7	0	7
	Total	28,119	8,881	37,000	25,836	8,224	34,060	29,874	9,013	38,887
All courts (total)	10–12 years	1,001	256	1,257	897	307	1,204	801	298	1,099
	13 years	2,320	799	3,119	2,081	819	2,900	2,982	874	3,856
	14 years	4,513	1,754	6,270	3,838	1,507	5,345	4,601	1,553	6,154
	15 years	6,310	2,058	8,368	6,528	1,926	8,455	6,074	2,240	8,315
	16 years	6,548	2,124	8,672	6,107	1,661	7,768	7,813	2,216	10,034
	17 and over	9,571	2,316	11,887	8,151	2,349	10,501	9,421	2,345	11,766
	Not stated	2	16	18	8	1	9	7	2	9
	Total	30,265	9,323	39,591	27,610	8,570	36,182	31,699	9,528	41,233

(a) Total includes a very small number of convicted charges in the Childrens Court where the defendant's sex was not stated.

(b) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.

4.3.7. Indigenous status

For the first time over the period 2013–14 to 2022–23, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander convicted child appearances outnumbered other convicted child appearances (Figure 19). This also meant the convicted appearance rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child defendants exceeded that of other child defendants by 13.2 to 1 in 2022–23, a time series high (Figure 20).

Figure 19 Convicted child appearances by Indigenous status, all courts – time series

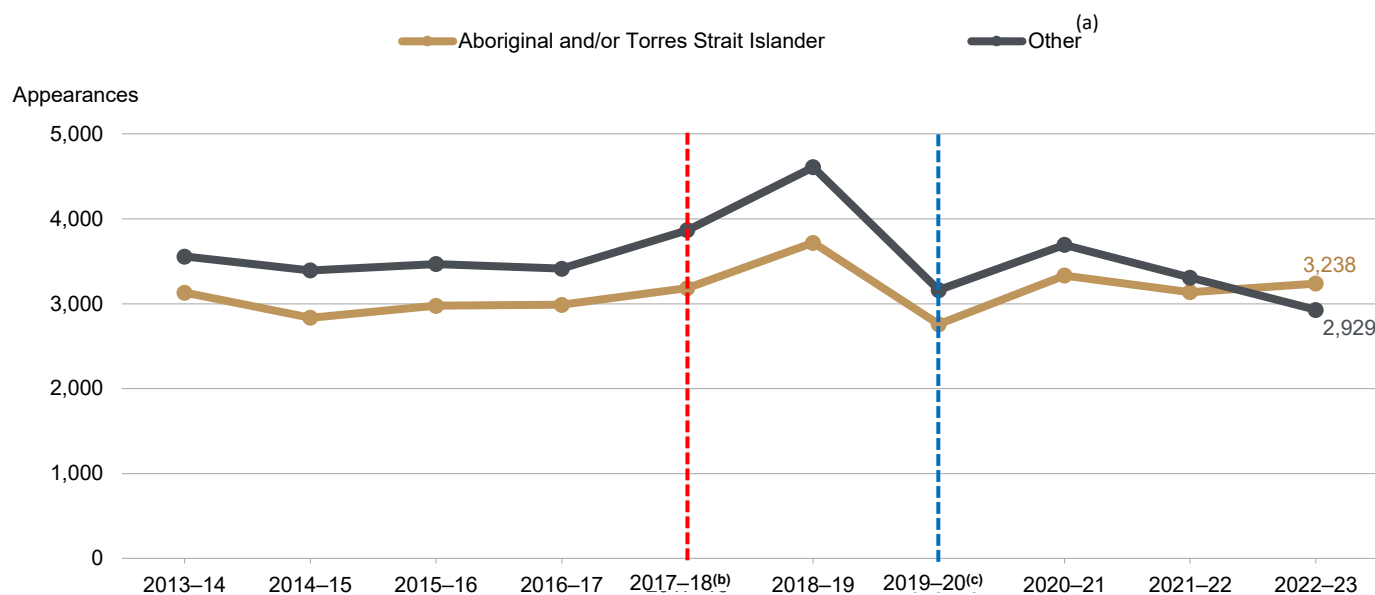
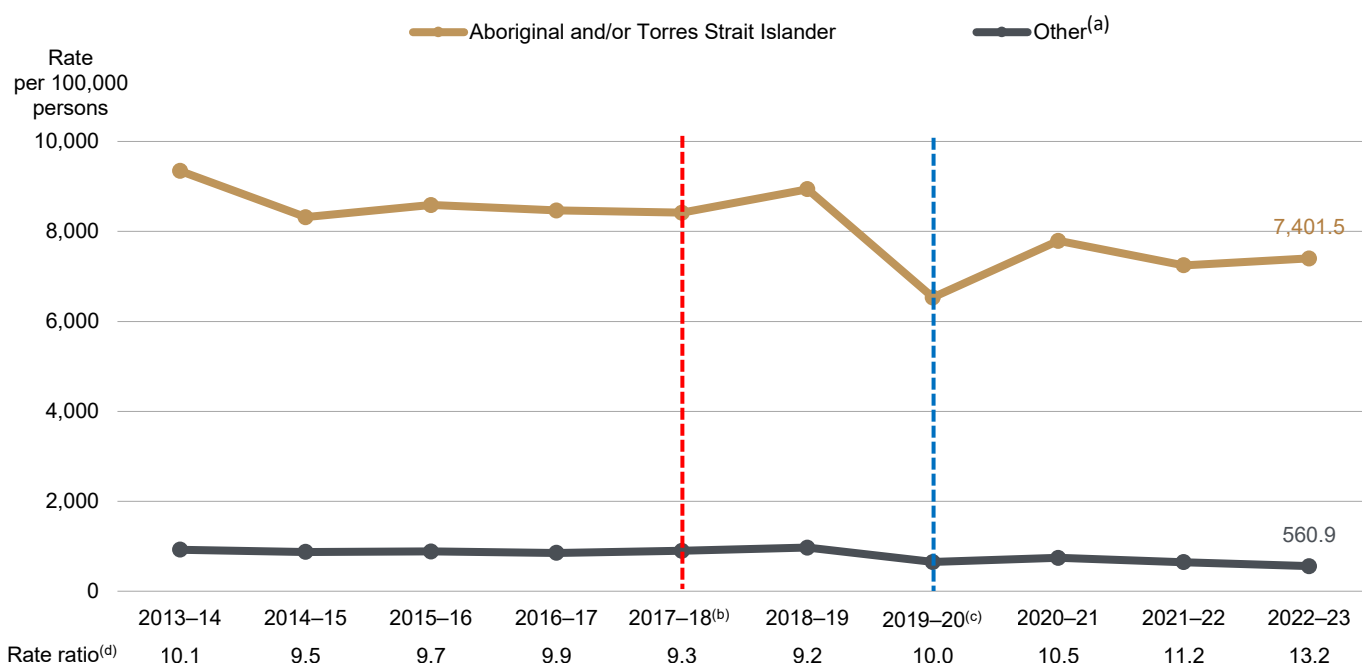


Figure 20 Convicted child appearance rate by indigenous status, all court – time series



- (a) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.
- (b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018. Rates from 2012–13 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years; for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years; for 2017–18 on a combination.
- (c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
- (d) Rate ratio is the rate for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander defendants divided by the rate for other defendants. Rate ratios have been calculated on unrounded rates.



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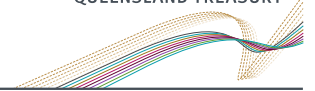
The number of convicted appearances of female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants reached a series high of 984 in 2022–23, the only cohort to exceed its pre-pandemic high (982 in 2018–19).

The lower number of convicted child appearances overall in 2022–23 was driven by the reducing number of convicted appearances of other defendants, which reached a time-series low for both males and females.

Table 42 Convicted child appearances by court type, by Indigenous status and sex – time series

	Year	2013–14			2014–15			2015–16			2016–17			2017–18 ^(a)		
		Sex	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total^{(b)}
Court type	Indigenous status	— number —			— number —			— number —			— number —			— number —		
Higher courts ^(c)	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	108	49	157	80	32	112	90	38	128	81	24	105	119	31	150
	Other ^(d)	169	49	218	150	23	173	139	37	176	188	35	223	147	54	201
	Total	277	98	375	230	55	285	229	75	304	269	59	328	266	85	351
Childrens (Magistrates)	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	2,162	813	2,975	1,972	751	2,723	2,110	740	2,850	2,122	762	2,884	2,260	775	3,035
	Other ^(d)	2,517	818	3,335	2,440	779	3,219	2,443	849	3,292	2,286	904	3,190	2,566	1,099	3,665
	Total	4,679	1,631	6,310	4,412	1,530	5,942	4,553	1,589	6,142	4,408	1,666	6,074	4,826	1,874	6,700
All courts (total)	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	2,270	862	3,132	2,052	783	2,835	2,200	778	2,978	2,203	786	2,989	2,379	806	3,185
	Other ^(d)	2,686	867	3,553	2,590	802	3,392	2,582	886	3,468	2,474	939	3,413	2,713	1,153	3,866
	Total	4,956	1,729	6,685	4,642	1,585	6,227	4,782	1,664	6,446	4,677	1,725	6,402	5,092	1,959	7,051

- (a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (b) Total includes a very small number of appearances where the defendant's sex was not stated.
- (c) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.
- (d) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.



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Table 42 continued.

	Year	2018–19			2019–20 ^(a)			2020–21			2021–22			2022–23		
	Sex	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)
Court type	Indigenous status	— number —			— number —			— number —			— number —			— number —		
Higher courts ^(c)	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	181	51	232	218	71	289	182	61	243	170	68	238	202	77	279
	Other ^(d)	268	72	340	308	84	392	251	49	300	242	59	301	242	73	315
	Total	449	123	572	526	155	681	433	110	543	412	127	539	444	150	594
Childrens (Magistrates)	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	2,555	931	3,486	1,777	691	2,468	2,211	879	3,090	2,065	835	2,900	2,050	907	2,957
	Other ^(d)	3,089	1,179	4,268	2,053	714	2,767	2,521	873	3,394	2,238	768	3,006	1,937	676	2,613
	Total	5,644	2,110	7,754	3,830	1,405	5,235	4,732	1,752	6,484	4,303	1,603	5,906	3,987	1,583	5,570
All courts (total)	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	2,736	982	3,718	1,995	762	2,757	2,393	940	3,333	2,235	903	3,138	2,252	984	3,236
	Other ^(d)	3,357	1,251	4,608	2,361	798	3,159	2,772	922	3,694	2,480	827	3,307	2,179	749	2,928
	Total	6,093	2,233	8,326	4,356	1,560	5,916	5,165	1,862	7,027	4,715	1,730	6,445	4,431	1,733	6,164

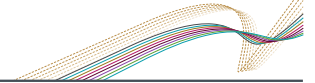
(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(b) Total includes a very small number of appearances where the defendant's sex was not stated.

(c) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.

(d) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.

In 2022–23, for the first time, there were more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander convicted appearances for both males and females than for other child defendants.



In the higher courts in 2022–23, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants accounted for more convicted appearances than other child defendants for both *robbery, extortion and related offences*, and for *acts intended to cause injury* (the two most prevalent MSOs in these courts). Together, these two offence divisions comprised more than 80% of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander convicted child appearances in 2022–23.

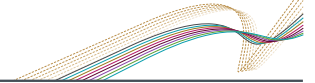
Table 43 Convicted child appearances by most serious offence, by Indigenous status, all higher courts^(a)

Indigenous status of defendant Most serious offence (MSO)	2020–21			2021–22			2022–23		
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —								
Homicide and related offences	1	1	2	0	1	1	2	3	5
Acts intended to cause injury	49	57	106	46	55	101	65	64	129
Sexual assault and related offences	13	28	41	16	18	34	12	19	31
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	1	8	9	7	4	11	2	12	14
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	2	7	9	1	0	1	3	1	4
Robbery, extortion and related offences	145	142	287	131	157	288	160	157	317
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	7	7	14	9	15	24	5	11	16
Theft and related offences	5	12	17	5	13	18	8	15	23
Fraud, deception and related offences	2	2	4	0	2	2	0	3	3
Illicit drug offences	2	15	17	1	14	15	0	7	7
Weapons and explosives offences	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Property damage and environmental pollution	9	10	19	14	11	25	15	12	27
Public order offences	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	7	9	16	7	11	18	7	10	17
Total	243	300	543	238	301	539	279	315	594

(a) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.

(b) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.



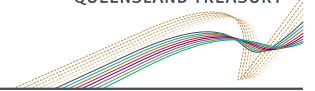
Continuing the pattern of previous years, *probation* was the most prevalent most serious penalty imposed in the higher courts in 2022–23, for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other defendants.

However, the number of appearances resulting in a sentence of *detention* increased from 43 in 2021–22 to 48 in 2022–23 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants and more than doubled for other defendants (from 17 to 40) over the same period.

Table 44 Convicted child appearances by most serious penalty, by Indigenous status, all higher courts^(a)

Indigenous status of defendant	2020–21			2021–22			2022–23		
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(c)	Total
Most serious penalty									
Penalty ^(c)	— number —								
Detention ^(d)	51	34	85	43	17	60	48	40	88
Conditional release order	33	34	67	29	27	56	27	21	48
Community service ^(e)	5	14	19	4	12	16	12	5	17
Probation	120	144	264	116	158	274	131	160	291
Court-ordered conference	19	52	71	30	58	88	25	61	86
Fine	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
Compensation/Restitution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Good behaviour order	5	7	12	4	10	14	5	6	11
Nominal penalty ^(f)	10	15	25	12	18	30	31	20	51
Total	243	300	543	238	301	539	279	315	594

- (a) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.
- (b) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.
- (c) In descending order of seriousness.
- (d) Includes detention and imprisonment.
- (e) Includes graffiti-removal orders.
- (f) Includes reprimand; convicted not punished.



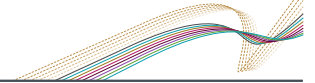
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander convicted appearances outnumbered those for other defendants in the Childrens Court in each of the top six most prevalent MSOs in 2022–23.

Table 45 Convicted appearances by most serious offence, by Indigenous status, Childrens Court (Magistrates)

Indigenous status of defendant Most serious offence (MSO)	2020–21			2021–22			2022–23		
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(a)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(a)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(a)	Total
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(b)	— number —								
Acts intended to cause injury	549	514	1,063	535	487	1,022	558	436	994
Sexual assault and related offences	6	2	8	6	4	10	7	3	10
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	132	173	305	154	160	314	157	144	301
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	8	14	22	13	17	30	13	11	24
Robbery, extortion and related offences	13	28	41	6	12	18	3	11	14
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	931	471	1,402	851	540	1,391	950	531	1,481
Theft and related offences	641	807	1,448	717	748	1,465	698	669	1,367
Fraud, deception and related offences	27	88	115	26	74	100	28	44	72
Illicit drug offences	93	258	351	50	158	208	46	111	157
Weapons and explosives offences	92	200	292	79	182	261	72	139	211
Property damage and environmental pollution	203	166	369	151	133	284	129	125	254
Public order offences	161	203	364	106	136	242	109	90	199
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	65	291	356	40	216	256	34	158	192
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	169	176	345	165	138	303	154	140	294
Miscellaneous offences	0	4	4	1	3	4	1	2	3
Total	3,090	3,395	6,485	2,900	3,008	5,908	2,959	2,614	5,573

(a) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.

(b) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

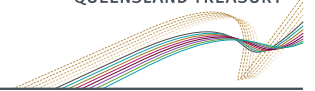


Nominal penalty continued to be the most prevalent penalty, and accounted for just over a quarter (26.1%) of convicted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander appearances in the Childrens Court in 2022–23. Although the overall number receiving *court-ordered conference* as most serious penalty continued to decline, it remained the most prevalent for other child defendants (29.8%) in 2022–23.

Table 46 Convicted appearances by most serious penalty, by Indigenous status, Childrens Court (Magistrates)

Indigenous status of defendant	2020–21			2021–22			2022–23		
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total
Most serious penalty									
Penalty ^(c)	— number —								
Detention ^(d)	143	45	188	180	61	241	211	52	263
Intensive supervision	2	1	3	7	1	8	1	0	1
Conditional release order	161	68	229	170	74	244	154	77	231
Community service ^(e)	360	157	517	289	148	437	265	135	400
Probation	709	527	1,236	693	519	1,212	698	460	1,158
Treatment order ^(f)	11	53	64	4	18	22	3	14	17
Court-ordered conference	609	996	1,605	558	956	1,514	586	779	1,365
Fine	10	50	60	7	44	51	7	18	25
Compensation/restitution	3	7	10	3	6	9	3	7	10
Good behaviour order	306	443	749	220	294	514	241	235	476
Driver licence disqualification	26	136	162	18	92	110	19	83	102
Nominal penalty ^(g)	750	912	1,662	751	795	1,546	771	754	1,525
Total	3,090	3,395	6,485	2,900	3,008	5,908	2,959	2,614	5,573

- (a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
- (b) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.
- (c) In descending order of seriousness.
- (d) Includes detention and imprisonment.
- (e) Includes graffiti-removal orders.
- (f) Involves offender participating in a drug assessment and education session.
- (g) Includes reprimand; convicted not punished.



4.4. Companies

The number of convicted company appearances declined steadily from 2016–17 until 2019–20, and appears to have stabilised below 200 in the three years since. *Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* and *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* (–66.9% and –78.6% respectively over the decade) are the two MSOs which have driven the overall decline in the number of convicted appearances.

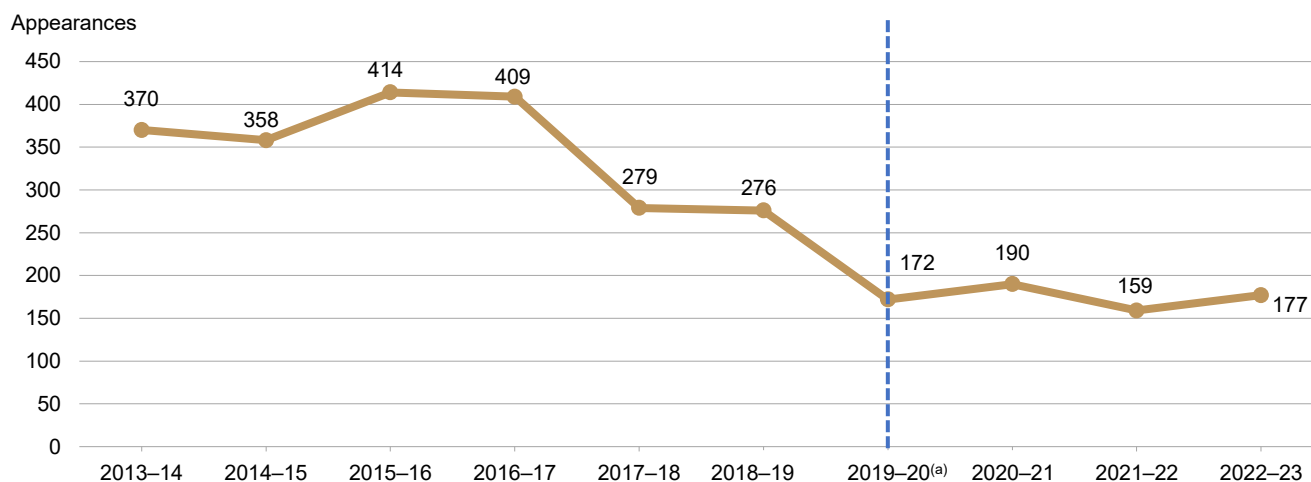
Miscellaneous offences has been the most prevalent MSO for convicted company appearances each year since 2017–18.

Table 47 Convicted company appearances by most serious offence, all courts – time series

Most serious offence (MSO)	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(b)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	1	2	0	4	2	1	2	1	4	2
Fraud, deception and related offences	8	9	14	9	6	11	11	8	10	8
Illicit drug offences	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Weapons and explosives offences	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Property damage and environmental pollution	8	9	5	8	8	9	4	7	3	5
Public order offences	5	8	11	6	7	6	10	3	4	1
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	169	188	195	168	93	84	60	52	43	56
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	98	65	109	130	69	55	23	18	19	21
Miscellaneous offences	81	75	79	84	94	110	60	101	76	84
Total	370	358	414	409	279	276	172	190	159	177

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(b) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

Figure 21 Convicted company appearances, all courts – time series


(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021-22.

Convicted company appearances have declined over the 10-year period, and have stabilised since the pandemic in 2019-20.

There was only one finalised charge (for *miscellaneous offences*) against companies in the higher courts in 2022-23, and it resulted in conviction. Over half (50.3%) of all convicted company charges in the Magistrates Court were for *miscellaneous offences*.

Table 48 Finalised charges against companies, Magistrates Court, 2022-23

Method of finalisation / Outcome	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(b)
	Convicted	Not convicted ^(a)	
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —		
Homicide and related offences	0	1	0
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	3	0	16
Fraud, deception and related offences	105	0	4
Property damage and environmental pollution	13	0	4
Public order offences	3	0	2
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	83	0	25
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	83	4	54
Miscellaneous offences	293	9	155
Total	583	14	260

(a) Excludes charges which were not adjudicated.

(b) 'Not adjudicated' includes those where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, the charge may be replaced by an amended charge.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

5.0 Youth Justice

Source: Unpublished data supplied by the Department of Youth Justice.

This chapter should be read in conjunction with the Explanatory notes and glossary at the end of this report.

<u>Unique⁵ young persons</u>	2021–22	2022–23	% change	
... with a finalised court appearance ⁶	3,816	3,684	-3.5%	↓
Male	2,729	2,589	-5.1%	↓
Female	1,086	1,093	0.6%	↑
... commencing a supervised youth justice order	1,527	1,573	3.0%	↑
Male	1,155	1,194	3.4%	↑
Female	371	379	2.2%	↑
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)	62.4%	66.9%	4.5 ppt	↑
... admitted to youth detention centres	919	884	-3.8%	↓
Male	719	703	-2.2%	↓
Female	200	181	-9.5%	↓
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)	63.0%	70.8%	7.8 ppt	↑
<u>Average daily number</u>				
... under Youth Justice supervision in the community	1,257	1,205	-4.1%	↓
... in youth detention centres	276	283	2.5%	↑

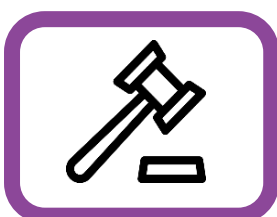
ppt = percentage point

In 2022–23:



Unique defendants with a convicted charge

- The rate of unique child defendants with at least one convicted charge was at its lowest in ten years (57.9 per 10,000 persons aged 10–17 years), due to both the 10–16 years offender cohort (48.5) and 17-year-old offenders (127.9) each experiencing their lowest rates.
- 17-year-old offenders accounted for 26.1% of unique child defendants with a convicted charge.



Admissions to supervised youth justice orders

- The total number of admissions to supervised orders was marginally lower than in 2021–22 (-71 or 2.2%), although admissions by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young offenders increased slightly over the same period(+44 or 2.1%).
- The number of admissions to every type of *community-based* order decreased to varying extents compared with 2021–22, while admissions to *detention-based* orders increased noticeably (+47 or 15.6%).



Admissions to youth detention centres

- The total number of admissions to youth detention centres decreased by 5.9% (-113) compared with 2021–22, while admissions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people increased noticeably by 5.6% (+72).
- Overall, there were 117 fewer *unsentenced* admissions than in the previous year, although *remand* admissions increased 6.4% to 1,537 while *pre-court custody* admissions decreased 46.2% to 245, the lowest on record.

⁵ 'Unique' refers to the counting of an individual only once in a reference year, irrespective of how many times they appeared in court, commenced a supervised youth justice order, or were admitted to a detention centre in that period.

⁶ Total includes a small number whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.



5.1. Overview

This chapter presents summary statistics about the number and characteristics of unique child defendants with at least one finalised appearance in Queensland's criminal courts, and young people under the supervision of Youth Justice. The report presents time series data for up to 10 years to 2022–23, and includes a profile of these young people, including their age, sex, and Indigenous status (where known).

Rates were calculated using the most current estimated resident population data available for the reference years, for persons aged 10–16 years for periods up to and including 2016–17, and persons aged 10–17 years from 2018–19 onwards, and on a combination for 2017–18. (See *Rates* in Explanatory notes at the end of this report for further details.)

Information displayed in this publication may vary from data published elsewhere by QGSO and others, due to differences in the dates data were extracted and frequency of revision, and/or in counting rules or statistical standards applied. Readers are urged to exercise caution when making comparison between publications.

It should be noted that Youth Justice uses different terms and counting rules from the Queensland Courts to explain volume counts in relation to children appearing in courts. In this section, the principal counting unit is *unique child defendant*, and an individual is counted only once in a reference year, irrespective of whether they had one or multiple finalised appearances in the year.

Please note that rates in this section are presented per 10,000 persons (see *Counting methodology* in the Explanatory notes), which is consistent with national statistics published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) in *Youth Justice in Australia*.

5.2. Children in court

5.2.1. Unique defendants

A unique defendant in the youth justice context is a young person with at least one finalised appearance in a Queensland criminal court during a reference year, and an individual is counted only once in a reference year.

The tables and figures in this section present unique child defendants by their age at time of offence, irrespective of their age at finalised appearance in court.

There is generally a delay, of variable length, between when an offence occurs and when the matter is finalised in court. Such delays may be due, for example, to time taken to clear the offence (including identifying the alleged offender(s)), and/or time taken to finalise matters which may span more than one court level.

There were 3,684 unique young people aged 10–17 years at time of offence (–132 fewer than in 2021–22), who had at least one finalised appearance in a Queensland criminal court in 2022–23. This was the lowest for the time series, including before 17-year-old offenders were included in the youth justice system from 2017–18. Males accounted for 7 in 10 (70.3%) unique child defendants in 2022–23, the lowest proportion for the time series, due to a slow but steady rise in the female proportion of unique defendants over the series.

Table 49 Unique child defendants by age and sex – time series

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	— persons —									
Sex										
Male	2,890	2,746	2,780	2,680	3,153	3,734	2,821	3,103	2,729	2,589
Female	1,029	1,006	1,020	1,038	1,217	1,410	1,107	1,235	1,086	1,093
Age at time of offence^(c) (years)										
10	27	36	29	26	35	42	24	30	11	14
11	85	69	95	76	84	86	55	52	47	43
12	170	185	204	208	219	211	165	166	144	145
13	423	419	448	445	463	461	323	384	340	369
14	722	727	752	780	758	723	540	611	594	573
15	1,092	964	999	977	1,041	942	717	806	726	746
16	1,401	1,353	1,273	1,208	1,174	1,156	897	1,000	844	789
17	..	..	..	..	600	1,526	1,209	1,292	1,110	1,005
Total^(d)	3,920	3,753	3,800	3,720	4,374	5,147	3,930	4,341	3,816	3,684

.. = not applicable

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

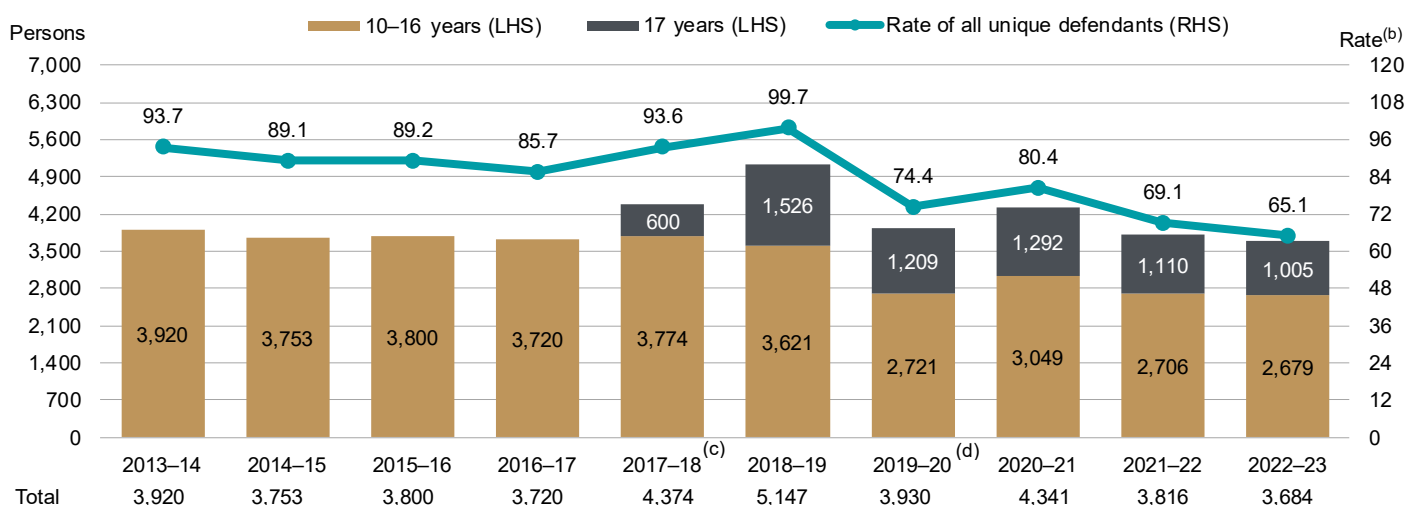
(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(c) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first finalised appearance date in the reporting period.

(d) Total includes defendants whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

The legislative change in February 2018 resulted in an increase in the number of defendants in children's courts, apparent from 2017–18 (Figure 22). A noticeable decrease occurred in 2019–20, due to Covid-related disruptions to court operations, which then corrected in 2020–21. However, numbers have not returned to the levels seen prior to the pandemic and have in fact decreased for two consecutive years since 2020–21. Figure 22 shows both the total count and rate of unique child defendants reached their lowest level for the time series in 2022–23. The 17-years cohort proportion was also at its smallest (27.3%) since 2018–19, the first full year following their transition to the youth justice system.

Figure 22 Count and rate of unique child defendants, by offender age cohort^(a) – time series



(a) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first finalised appearance date in the reporting period.

(b) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2012–13 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.

(c) 17-year-old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018. Previously, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

Continuing the pattern of previous years, unique defendant rates in 2022–23 increased with each successive year of offender age and peaked at 17 years with 150.4 per 10,000 persons. For the older age cohorts (14 to 17 years), as well as those aged 11 and 12 years, unique defendant rates declined for the second consecutive year to reach their lowest level in the time series. The 10 and 13 years age groups were the only two which experienced an increase in the unique defendant rate compared with the previous year (at 2.0 and 51.0 per 10,000 persons respectively).

Table 50 Unique child defendant rate by sex and age at time of offence – time series

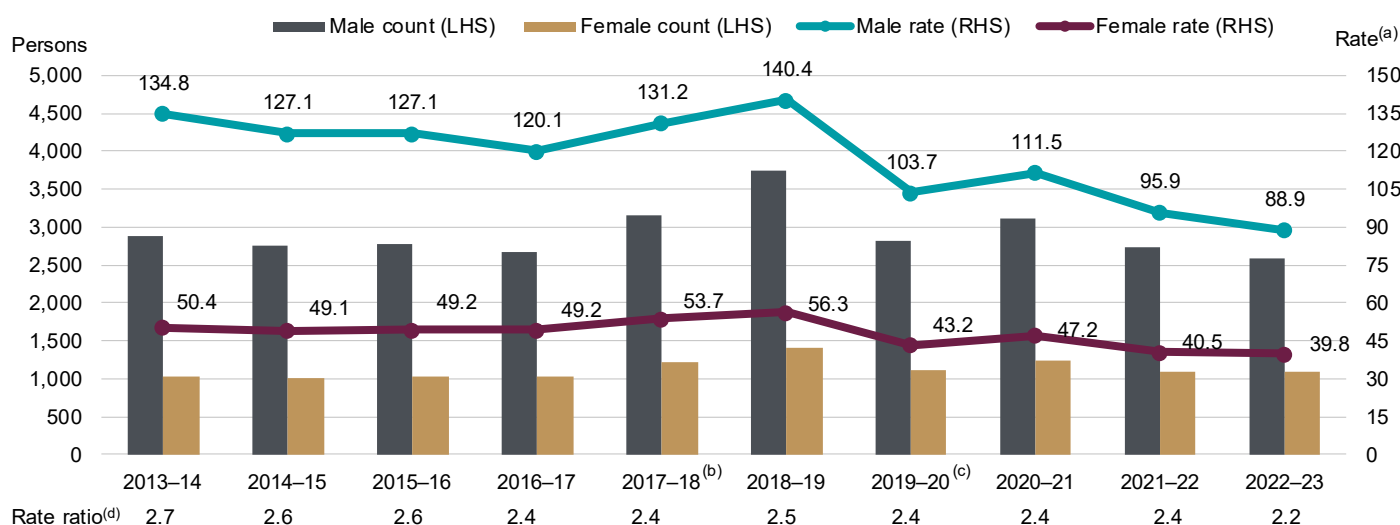
	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	— rate per 10,000 persons ^(c) —									
Sex										
Male	134.8	127.1	127.1	120.1	131.2	140.4	103.7	111.5	95.9	88.9
Female	50.4	49.1	49.2	49.2	53.7	56.3	43.2	47.2	40.5	39.8
Age at time of offence^(d)(yrs)										
10	4.6	5.9	4.6	4.0	5.2	6.1	3.4	4.3	1.6	2.0
11	14.4	11.6	15.6	12.0	12.7	12.6	7.9	7.4	6.7	6.1
12	28.3	31.1	34.0	33.8	34.2	31.5	23.8	23.6	20.2	20.1
13	70.3	69.4	75.0	73.6	74.4	71.3	47.7	55.0	47.8	51.0
14	120.9	119.8	123.8	129.7	124.6	115.3	82.7	89.6	84.2	79.1
15	182.4	160.3	163.2	159.2	171.6	153.6	113.2	122.5	105.5	103.6
16	232.2	224.8	209.9	195.1	189.3	188.9	145.2	157.0	127.2	113.3
17	..	..	..	..	252.2	244.5	196.7	208.7	173.2	150.4
Total^(e)	93.7	89.1	89.2	85.7	93.6	99.7	74.4	80.4	69.1	65.1

.. = not applicable

- (a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
- (b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
- (c) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2011–12 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.
- (d) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first finalised appearance date in the reporting period.
- (e) Total includes defendants whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

Both male and female unique child defendant rates reached historical lows in 2022–23 (88.9 and 39.8 per 10,000 persons respectively). The two rates also converged slightly in 2022–23, and the ratio between males and females (2.2) was at its lowest in 10 years.

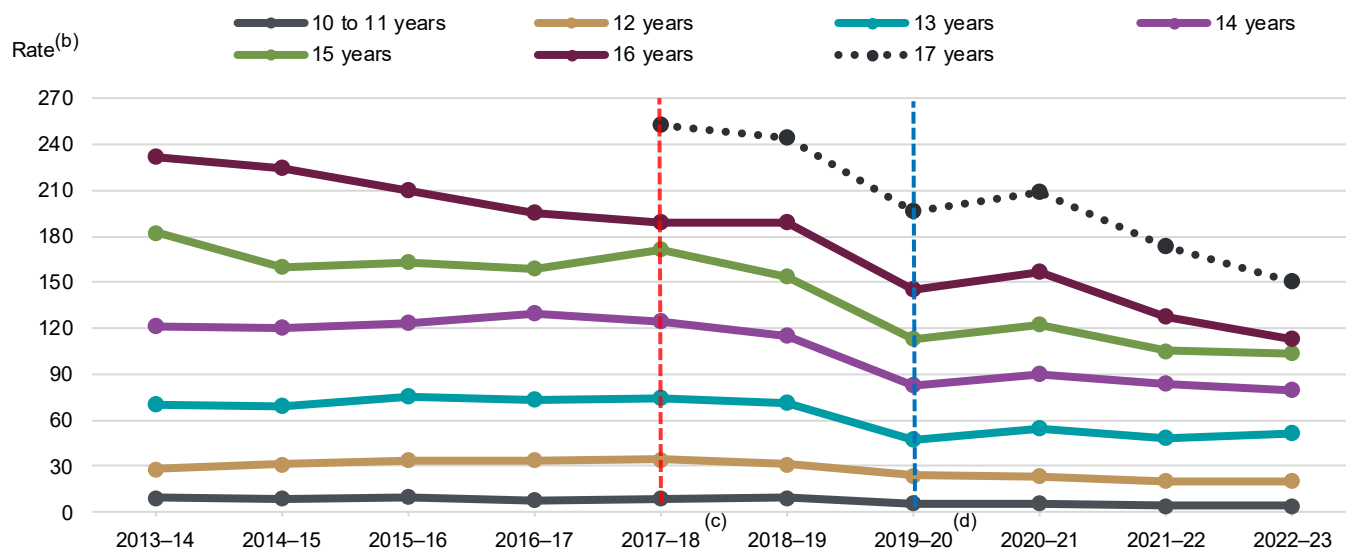
Figure 23 Count and rate of unique child defendants by sex – time series



- (a) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2012–13 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.
- (b) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
- (c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
- (d) Rate ratio is the rate for male defendants divided by the rate for female defendants. Rate ratios have been calculated on unrounded rates.

Figure 24 shows the time series for the unique child defendant rate, by age at time of offence. The rates sharply decreased for all age groups in 2019–20, when the pandemic was declared and court operations were disrupted, and have either stabilised or decreased even further in the period since. The only exception is the 13 years age group, with the unique defendant rate rising from 47.7 in 2019–20 to 51.0 per 10,000 persons in 2022–23. The decline in rates was particularly apparent among older age groups. The steepest decline was for unique defendants aged 16 years, whose rate in 2022–23 (113.3 per 10,000 persons) was less than half of what it was in 2013–14 (232.2).

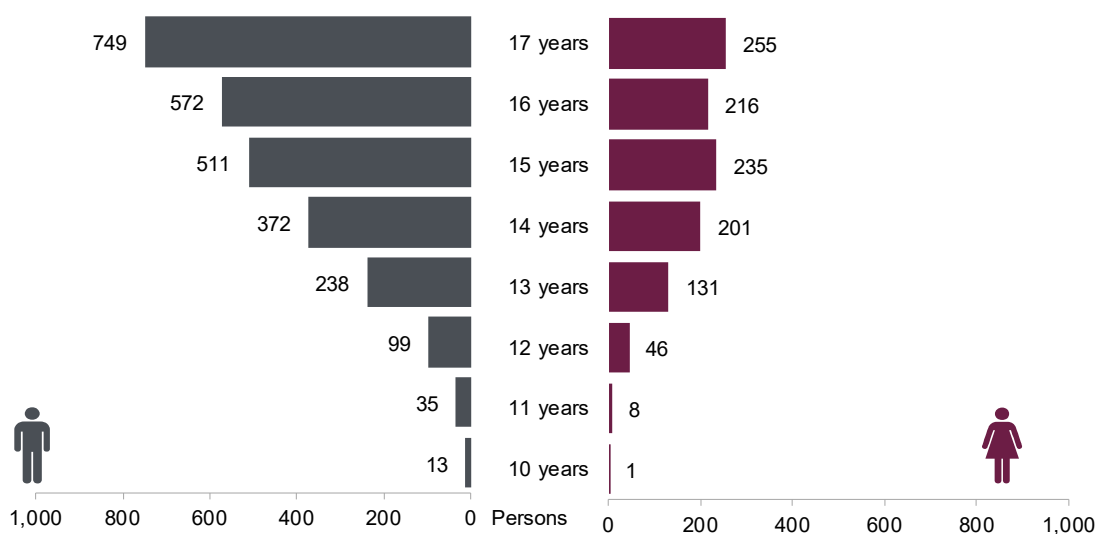
Figure 24 Unique child defendant rate, by age at time of offence^(a) – time series



- (a) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first finalised appearance date in the reporting period.
- (b) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2011–12 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.
- (c) 17-year-old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
- (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

In 2022–23, unique male defendants outnumbered female defendants across all offender age groups. The peak offending age was 17 years for both male and female unique defendants, comprising 28.9% and 23.3% of the total respectively.

Figure 25 Unique child defendants, by sex^(a) and age at time of offence^(b), 2022–23



- (a) Excludes 2 persons whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.
- (b) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a defendant's first finalised appearance date in the reporting period.

5.2.2. Unique defendants convicted of a charge

Data in this section represent unique child defendants convicted of one or more charges (i.e. offence(s) proven) in a criminal court, regardless of whether or not conviction is recorded. An individual is counted only once in a reference year, irrespective of the number of charges convicted in the year.

Among the 3,684 unique child defendants with at least one finalised appearance in 2022–23, almost nine in 10 (88.9% or 3,275 unique child defendants) were convicted of at least one criminal charge. As shown in Table 51 and Figure 26, both the total number (3,275) and rate (57.9 per 10,000 persons) of convicted unique child defendants in 2022–23 were at their lowest for the time series.

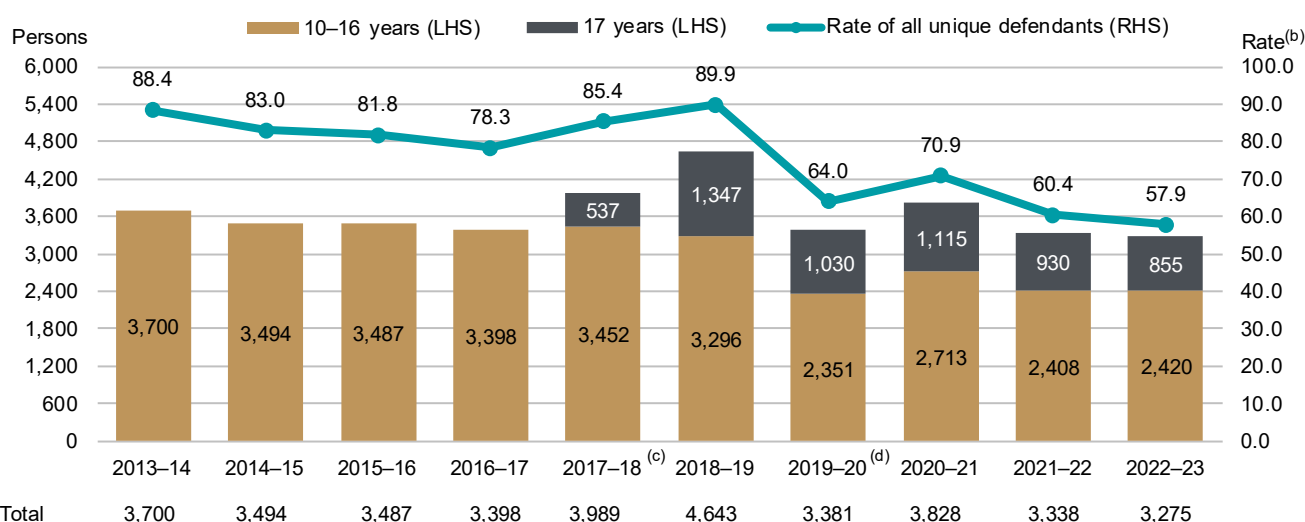
Table 51 Unique child defendants convicted of a charge – time series

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	— persons —									
Sex										
Male	2,716	2,568	2,554	2,449	2,864	3,377	2,442	2,755	2,397	2,302
Female	983	925	933	947	1,122	1,263	937	1,071	940	971
Age at time of offence (yrs)^(c)										
10	20	31	24	22	26	25	11	15	3	11
11	77	64	82	58	77	72	38	40	28	29
12	165	170	186	175	194	181	139	141	110	128
13	402	388	414	416	446	420	273	351	310	318
14	693	677	690	717	684	661	480	562	536	541
15	1,025	911	931	904	969	889	632	706	662	686
16	1,318	1,253	1,160	1,106	1,056	1,048	778	898	759	707
17	..	..	..	..	537	1,347	1,030	1,115	930	855
Total^(d)	3,700	3,494	3,487	3,398	3,989	4,643	3,381	3,828	3,338	3,275

.. = not applicable

- (a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
- (b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
- (c) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first convicted charge in the reporting period.
- (d) Total includes defendants whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

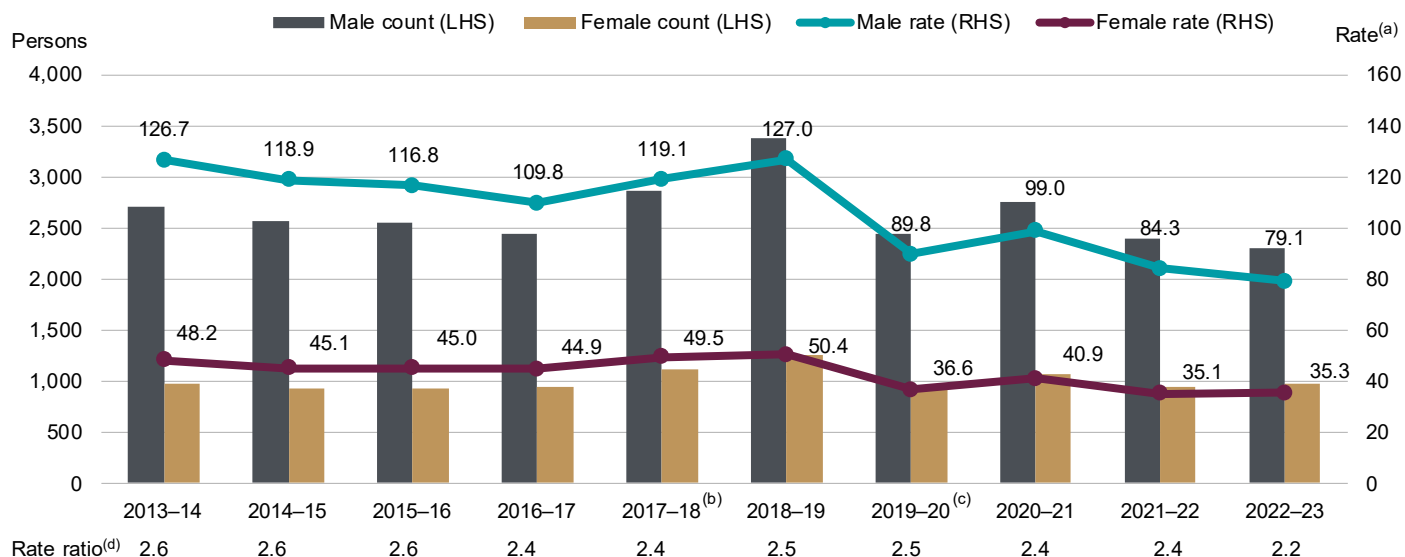
Figure 26 Count and rate of unique child defendants convicted of a charge, by offender age cohort^(a) – time series



- (a) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first convicted charge in the reporting period.
- (b) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2012–13 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.
- (c) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
- (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

In 2022–23, the rate of male unique defendants convicted of a charge fell to 79.1 per 10,000 persons, the lowest in the time series and a 37.7% decline from the peak in 2018–19. The rate of convicted female unique defendants also declined in 2019–20 due to disruptions to court operations during the pandemic. However, in contrast to those of convicted male defendants, female rates have remained relatively stable since. As a result, the male-to-female rate ratio was at its lowest (at 2.2 to 1) in 2022–23.

Figure 27 Count and rate of unique child defendants convicted of a charge, by sex – time series



- (a) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2011–12 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.
- (b) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
- (c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
- (d) Rate ratio is the rate for male defendants divided by the rate for female defendants. Rate ratios have been calculated on unrounded rates.

Table 52 Rate of unique child defendants convicted of a charge by sex and age – time series

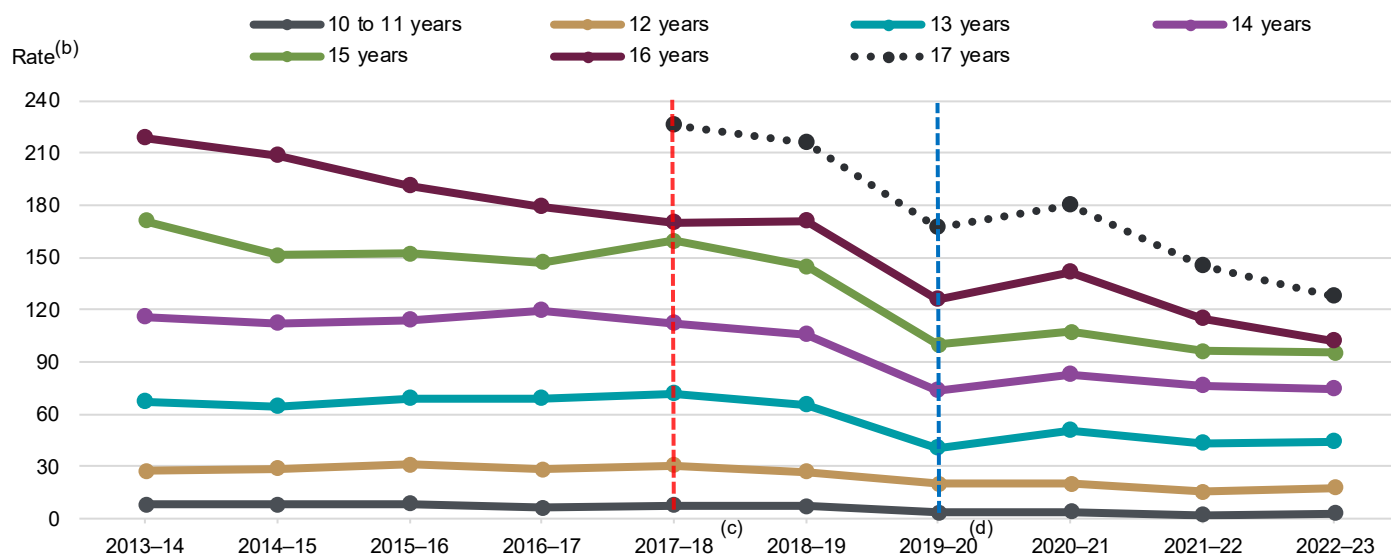
	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	— rate per 10,000 persons ^(c) —									
Sex										
Male	126.7	118.9	116.8	109.8	119.1	127.0	89.8	99.0	84.3	79.1
Female	48.2	45.1	45.0	44.9	49.5	50.4	36.6	40.9	35.1	35.3
Age at time of offence (years)^(d)										
10	3.4	5.1	3.8	3.4	3.9	3.6	1.6	2.2	0.4	1.6
11	13.0	10.7	13.4	9.2	11.6	10.5	5.5	5.7	4.0	4.1
12	27.5	28.6	31.0	28.4	30.3	27.0	20.1	20.0	15.4	17.8
13	66.8	64.3	69.3	68.8	71.7	65.0	40.3	50.2	43.5	43.9
14	116.0	111.6	113.6	119.2	112.5	105.4	73.5	82.4	76.0	74.7
15	171.2	151.5	152.1	147.3	159.7	145.0	99.8	107.3	96.2	95.2
16	218.4	208.1	191.2	178.7	170.3	171.3	125.9	141.0	114.4	101.5
17	..	..	..	..	225.7	215.9	167.6	180.1	145.1	127.9
Total^(e)	88.4	83.0	81.8	78.3	85.4	89.9	64.0	70.9	60.4	57.9

.. = not applicable

- (a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
- (b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
- (c) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2011–12 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.
- (d) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first convicted charge in the reporting period.
- (e) Total includes defendants whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

Similar to the pattern in the rate of unique child defendants in Figure 24, the overall rate of convicted unique child defendants decreased to the lowest point in the time series (57.9 per 10,000 persons)(not shown). Again, the drop in rates was particularly evident in the older age cohorts. Notably, the rate for the 16 years age group declined from 218.4 per 10,000 persons in 2013–14 to 101.5 per 10,000 persons in 2022–23.

Figure 28 Rate of unique child defendants convicted of a charge, by age at time of offence^(a) – time series

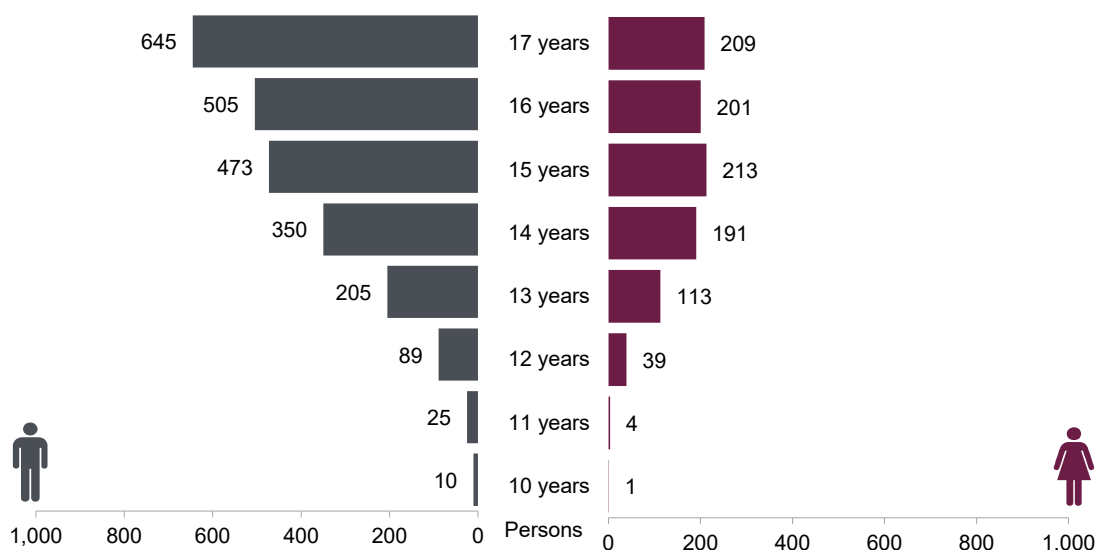


- (a) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first convicted charge in the reporting period.
- (b) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2011–12 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.
- (c) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
- (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

The number of male unique defendants convicted of a charge outnumbered females by a considerable margin in every age group.

While the number of convicted male unique defendants increased with each successive year of age and peaked at 17 years, the numbers of convicted unique female defendants were similar for each age group from 14 to 17 years.

Figure 29 Unique child defendants convicted of a charge, by sex^(a) and age at time of offence^(b), 2022–23



- (a) Does not include 2 persons whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate
- (b) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first convicted charge in the reporting period.

5.3. Youth justice orders

5.3.1. Admissions to youth justice orders

Data in this section are a count of admissions to youth justice orders, not of persons, where the order commenced during the reference year. An individual may be admitted to one or multiple of the same or different orders in a single reference year and will be counted for each admission. (See Glossary for further details about *youth justice orders*.)

The following supervised community-based orders commenced or were repealed at various times during the time series (See Explanatory notes for more detail):

- court-ordered graffiti removal (commenced 27 Sep 2013)
- boot camp (repealed in July 2015)
- restorative justice (commenced 1 July 2016)

There are three different categories of admissions to youth justice orders: supervised, unsupervised and other orders. *Unsupervised order* has been the most prevalent youth justice order type throughout the time series, although its proportion steadily declined from 2015–16 and has stabilised at around 35% of the total since 2019–20. *Supervised orders* comprise a similar proportion of the total, at 34.6% in 2022–23. Among supervised orders, *detention-based orders* represent 11.0% of all admissions to supervised orders in 2022–23, a high for the time series. Additionally, the number of admissions to *other orders* nearly quadrupled over the 10-year period, with its proportion stabilising at around 29% since 2019–20.

Table 53 Admissions to youth justice orders – time series

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Order type	— number —									
Supervised order	3,693	3,448	3,392	3,200	3,788	4,014	2,993	3,452	3,252	3,181
<i>Detention-based</i> ^(c)	314	287	343	272	306	360	298	275	302	349
<i>Community-based</i>	3,379	3,161	3,049	2,928	3,482	3,654	2,695	3,177	2,950	2,832
Boot camp	16	63	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Community service	1,130	1,009	925	731	871	859	467	440	392	367
Conditional release	278	233	251	226	230	317	238	300	308	285
Graffiti removal ^(d)	107	252	198	186	214	224	139	137	94	74
Intensive supervision ^(e)	12	13	10	2	13	6	4	3	8	1
Probation	1,836	1,591	1,653	1,511	1,953	1,963	1,403	1,794	1,704	1,663
Restorative justice	..	..	..	272	201	285	444	503	444	442
Unsupervised order	4,110	3,866	3,990	3,706	4,198	4,629	3,007	3,682	3,302	3,315
Other orders^(f)	697	721	662	1,396	2,144	2,919	2,513	2,769	2,686	2,685
Total	8,500	8,035	8,044	8,302	10,130	11,562	8,513	9,903	9,240	9,181

.. = not applicable

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(c) Detention-based order counts exclude suspended detention orders associated with a conditional release order.

(d) Court-ordered graffiti removal orders exclude graffiti removal program referrals by police and as a result of youth justice conference agreements.

(e) Intensive supervision orders (ISOs) are a sentencing option for offenders aged between 10 and 12 years where the court considers that the child, unless subject to an intensive period of supervision and support in the community, is likely to commit further offences. ISOs can only be ordered in cases where the young person has been found guilty of an offence that if committed by an adult would make the adult liable to imprisonment.

(f) Other orders include ancillary orders such as compensation and restitution (see Glossary for further details).

5.3.1.1. Supervised orders

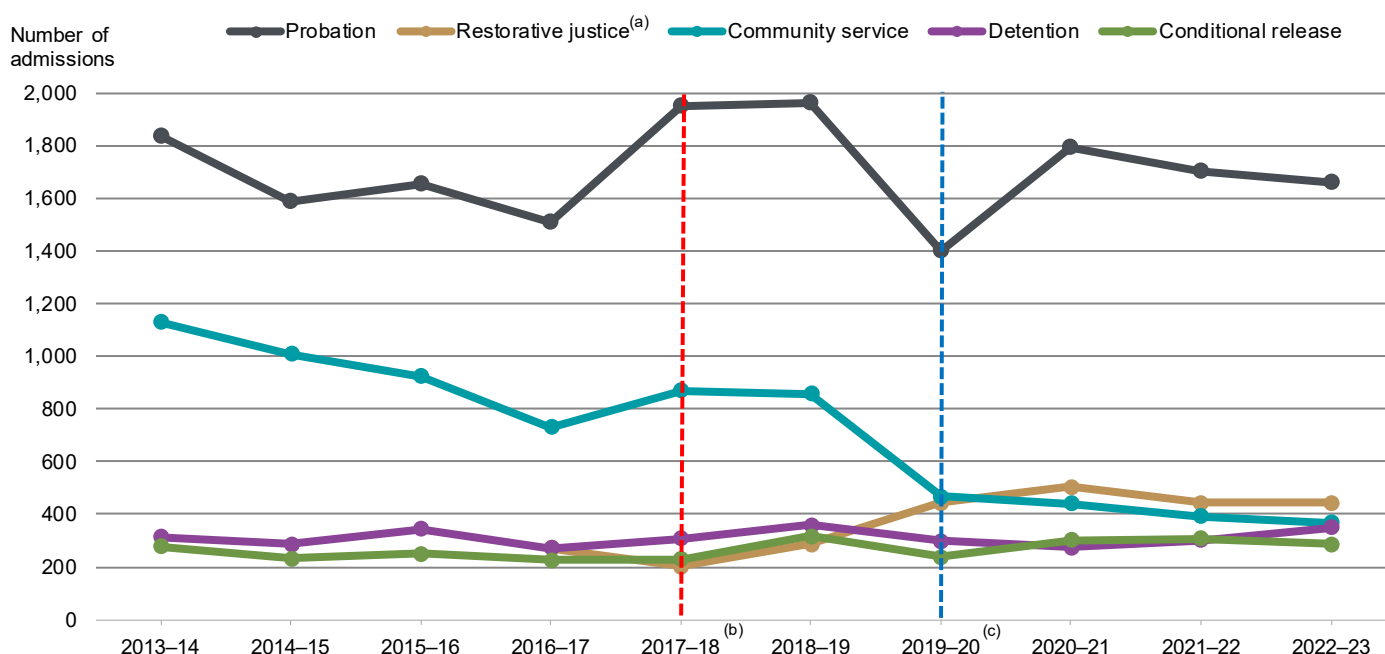
Data in this section relate to supervised youth justice orders. These include both detention-based orders and orders requiring community-based supervision, such as probation, community service, intensive supervision, conditional release, restorative justice, graffiti removal and boot camp (for a limited period).

The five most prevalent supervised youth justice orders in 2022–23 were *probation*, *restorative justice*, *community service*, *detention* and *conditional release*. As illustrated in Figure 30, *probation* was the most prevalent supervised youth justice order by a large margin for ten consecutive years despite yearly fluctuations. In 2022–23, *probation* accounted for over half (52.3%) of admissions to supervised youth justice orders in Queensland, while admissions to *restorative justice* (at 13.9% of all admissions) remained the second-most prevalent supervised order since 2020–21.

Admissions to *detention* have overtaken admissions to *conditional release* orders to become the fourth-most prevalent supervised youth justice order in 2022–23.

The number of admissions to *community service* orders fell sharply with the arrival of the pandemic in 2019–20, and has continued a steady decline. In 2022–23, the number of admissions to this order type was less than a third of the number at the beginning of the series.

Figure 30 Admissions to the five most prevalent supervised youth justice orders – time series



(a) Restorative justice orders commenced in 2016–17.

(b) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

The total number of admissions to supervised orders in 2022–23 decreased slightly from the previous year (–2.2%) and was at its second-lowest level in the 10-year time series after 2019–20. As in previous years, males accounted for more than three in four (77.1%) admissions to supervised youth justice orders (Table 54).

Despite the overall decrease, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander admissions increased in 2022–23, and comprised more than two-thirds (68.6%) of all admissions to supervised orders, their highest proportion in the time series.

The number of admissions increased with each year of age, peaking at 16 years and then declining, in all reporting periods except for 2020–21 when the peak was at 17 years.

Table 54 Admissions to supervised youth justice orders by Indigenous status, age and sex – time series

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	— number —									
Sex										
Male	2,874	2,714	2,680	2,442	2,978	3,091	2,360	2,670	2,495	2,451
Female	819	733	712	758	809	922	633	782	754	730
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	2,219	2,096	2,081	1,955	2,443	2,590	1,966	2,310	2,139	2,183
Other ^(c)	1,474	1,352	1,311	1,245	1,345	1,424	1,027	1,142	1,113	998
Age on admission (years)^(d)										
10–11	32	38	39	32	54	28	14	20	9	12
12	132	126	123	87	95	98	81	61	77	35
13	369	391	344	352	332	291	269	227	228	253
14	701	562	689	608	605	536	400	495	456	439
15	1,009	891	866	858	853	805	558	738	756	670
16	1,087	1,080	974	927	966	975	702	779	760	797
17	352	336	331	312	802	938	655	797	728	727
18 & over	11	24	26	24	81	343	314	335	238	248
Total^(e)	3,693	3,448	3,392	3,200	3,788	4,014	2,993	3,452	3,252	3,181

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(c) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.

(d) Age is as at commencement of a supervised order within the reference year. An individual young person may appear in more than one age category in a single year.

(e) Total includes admissions of those whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

5.3.1.2. Unsupervised orders

Data in this section relate to unsupervised youth justice orders which include *fine*, *good behaviour* and *reprimand*.

In 2022–23, the total number of admissions to unsupervised youth justice orders was similar to 2021–22.

Although the number of *reprimand* admissions did not vary greatly throughout the 10-year time series, except when 17-year-old offenders transitioned to youth justice and again when the pandemic was declared, its proportion of all unsupervised orders increased relatively steadily, from 65.1% in 2013–14 to a high of 81.4% in 2022–23.

Both the number and proportion of admissions for both *good behaviour* and *fine* have reduced to new lows in 2022–23.

Table 55 Admissions to unsupervised youth justice orders – time series

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	— number —									
Order type										
Fine	74	97	70	62	74	154	70	55	54	30
Good behaviour	1,359	1,211	1,218	1,106	1,145	1,381	731	936	615	586
Reprimand	2,677	2,558	2,702	2,538	2,979	3,094	2,206	2,691	2,633	2,699
Total	4,110	3,866	3,990	3,706	4,198	4,629	3,007	3,682	3,302	3,315

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

5.3.1.3. Other orders

Most of the admissions to other youth justice orders in 2022–23 were either to *court diversion referral* (48.0%) or to *conditional bail program* (38.9%).

The introduction of *court diversion referral* in 2016–17 and the noticeable increase in *conditional bail program* and *licence disqualification* since 17-year-old offenders transitioned to youth justice in 2017–18 have accounted for much of the increase in the total number of admissions to other youth justice orders during the second half of the time series.

Table 56 Admissions to other youth justice orders – time series

Other orders ^(a)	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(c)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Order type	— number —									
Compensation	22	15	6	5	16	21	8	9	3	10
Conditional bail program	372	379	323	450	768	870	770	688	826	1,044
Court diversion referral	..	..	..	650	940	1,272	1,253	1,504	1,454	1,288
Drug diversion	122	152	175	160	190	260	166	138	54	48
Licence disqualification	111	126	129	104	203	465	307	422	338	288
Restitution	70	49	29	27	27	31	9	8	11	7
Total	697	721	662	1,396	2,144	2,919	2,513	2,769	2,686	2,685

.. = not applicable, as the order did not yet exist or had been repealed. Court diversion referral orders were introduced on 1 July 2016, and indefinite referral orders were discontinued from 1 January 2013.

(a) 'Other' includes ancillary orders (see Glossary for further details).

(b) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

5.3.2. Unique offenders admitted to youth justice orders

Data in this section are a count of unique young people admitted to a supervised or unsupervised youth justice order for a proven offence (convicted charge). As a young person may be subject to both a supervised and unsupervised youth justice order at any one time, the same young person may appear in both the supervised and unsupervised order admission counts.

Additionally, in this section, if an individual offender is subject to more than one order or type of supervised or unsupervised order during a reference year, they are counted once for each relevant order type in that year.

Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first admission to the relevant order type in the reporting period. For example, if offences associated with the first order are a mix of those committed while the offender was aged 10–16 years and again at age 17 years, the unique offender is included only within the cohort aged 10–16 years. The offender cohort aged 17 years represents those who offended only as a 17-year-old from 2017–18 onwards.



Queensland Government Statistician's Office

5.3.2.1. Supervised orders

Table 57 shows the demographic breakdown for the number of unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders. The total number in 2022–23 had increased slightly (+3.0%) since the previous year, although remained well below the peak of 2,061 unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders in 2018–19, following the transition of 17-year-old offenders to the youth justice system.

The gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other unique offender admissions remained relatively steady, at around 1.3 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique offender admissions to 1 for others, from 2013–14 until it started to widen (to 1.5) with the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in 2017–18, and widening further from 2021–22 (1.7) to a high of 1.9 in 2022–23. In contrast, the gender gap has remained more stable, at around 3.3 prior to the transition of 17-year-old offenders to consistently just below 3.2 since 2018–19.

The number of unique offenders admitted to supervised orders increased with each successive year of age on admission and peaked at 17 years in every financial year since 2018–19, following the transition.

Table 57 Unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders by Indigenous status, age and sex – time series

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	— persons —									
Sex										
Male	1,437	1,361	1,331	1,236	1,499	1,547	1,190	1,291	1,155	1,194
Female	450	407	402	384	449	513	378	409	371	379
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	1,084	1,011	1,000	926	1,174	1,253	964	1,044	953	1,023
Other ^(c)	803	758	733	694	775	808	604	656	574	550
Age (years) on admission^(d)										
10–11	20	23	24	18	26	19	9	10	4	4
12	73	72	72	49	40	48	38	27	30	19
13	166	169	163	166	175	140	104	100	92	111
14	334	291	330	277	264	250	177	229	202	216
15	492	430	433	416	426	395	285	310	307	311
16	575	557	500	488	492	484	357	391	360	369
17	216	213	196	188	480	499	389	416	390	375
18+	11	14	15	18	46	226	209	217	142	168
Total^(e)	1,887	1,769	1,733	1,620	1,949	2,061	1,568	1,700	1,527	1,573

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

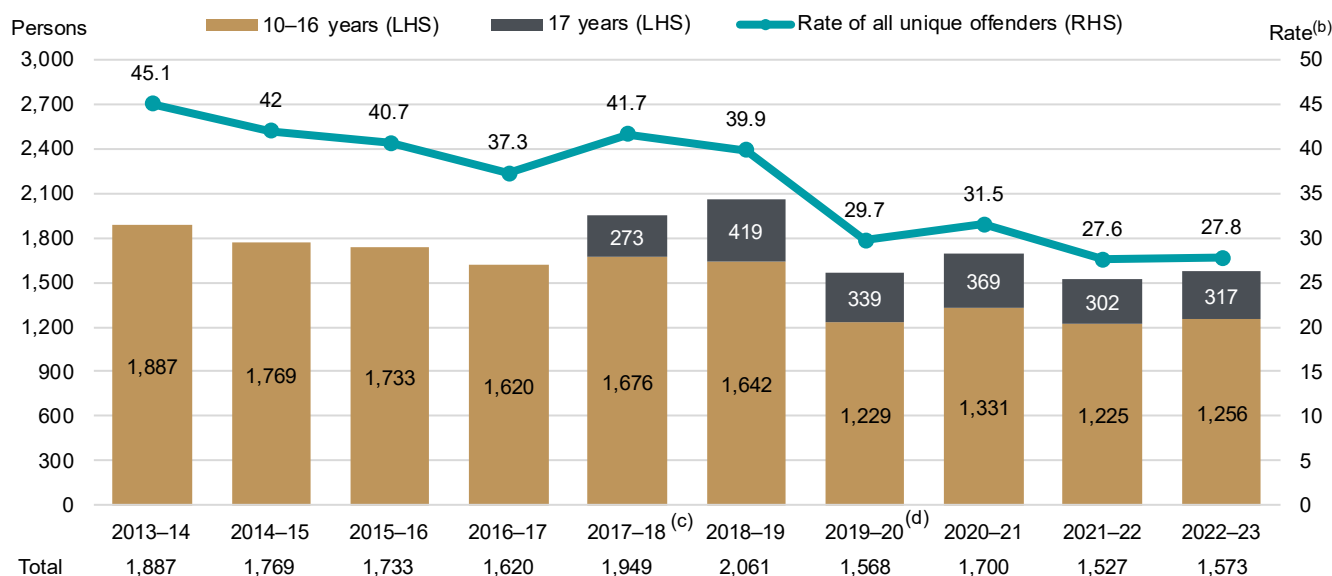
(c) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.

(d) Age is as at earliest commencement of a supervised order within the reference year.

(e) Total includes those whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

Figure 31 shows the 10-year time series for the number of unique offenders admitted to supervised orders according to offender age cohort, and the overall rate. The overall rate has declined 38.4% from the series peak of 45.1 per 10,000 persons at the beginning of the time series to 27.8 in 2022–23. After the sharp decline in both the count and rate when the pandemic was declared in 2019–20, the numbers of unique offenders admitted to supervised orders for both the 10–16 years and 17 years age cohorts have remained relatively stable.

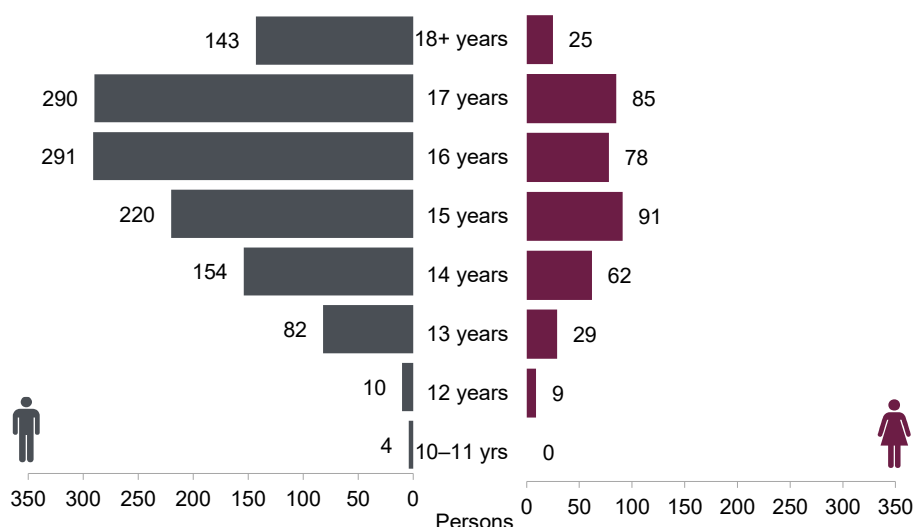
Figure 31 Count and rate of unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders, by offender age cohort^(a) – time series



- (a) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's earliest commencement of a supervised order within the reference year.
- (b) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2012–13 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.
- (c) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
- (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

The total number of unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders increased with each year of age on admission, peaking at 16 years for males and 15 years for females in 2022–23. More than two-thirds of the unique offenders for both sexes were aged between 15 and 17 years when they were admitted to supervised youth justice orders.

Figure 32 Unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders, by age on admission^(a) and sex, 2022–23



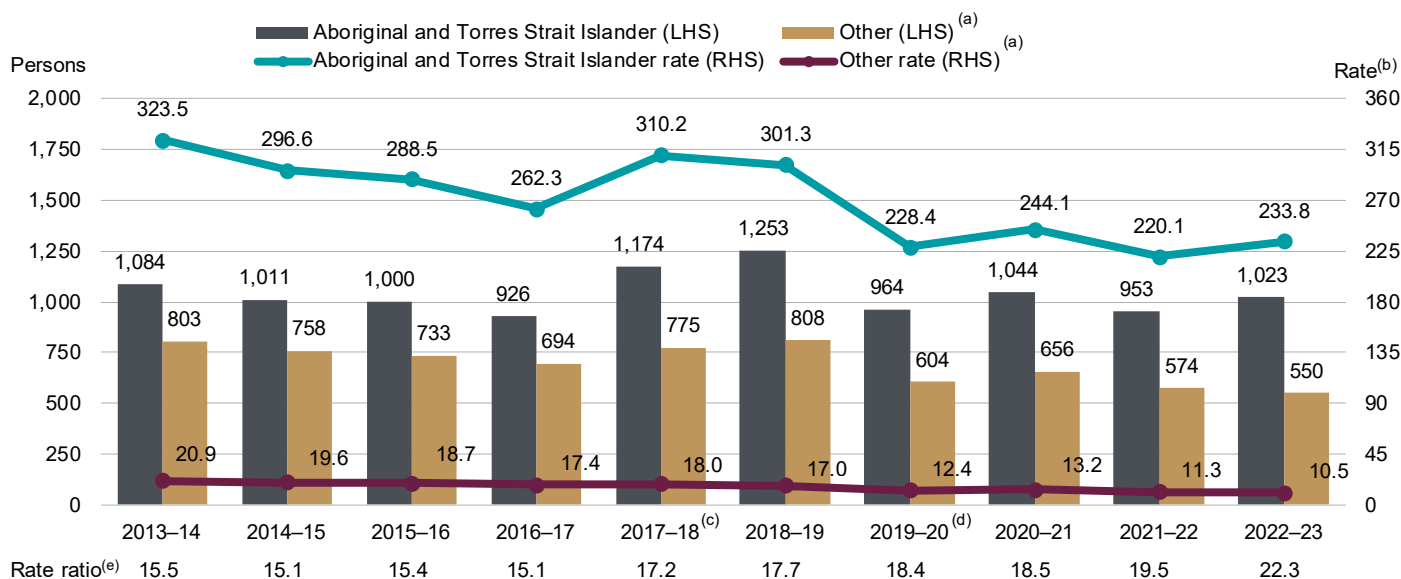
- (a) Age is as at earliest commencement of a supervised order within the reference year.

In 2022–23, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders increased compared with the previous year to 233.8 per 10,000 persons, while that of other unique offenders declined further, to its lowest level for the series (10.5 per 10,000 persons) (Figure 33). This meant that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique offenders were around 22 times more likely than other unique offenders to be admitted to a supervised youth justice order in 2022–23, the widest gap in the time series

The rates of admission per 10,000 persons for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other unique offenders were at their highest at the beginning of the time series in 2013–14. There was then a steady decline in both rates until 2017–18, when 17-year-old offenders were included in the youth justice system, and admission rates increased steeply for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique offenders. Sharp rate decreases were seen for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other unique offenders in 2019–20, due to the pandemic. Since then, while admission rates for both cohorts have experienced minor fluctuations, neither has returned to its pre-pandemic level of 2018–19.

In terms of numbers, the total number of unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders in 2022–23 increased 3.0% compared with 2021–22, to 1,573 persons. This is 314 fewer overall than at the beginning of the time series, and 488 fewer than at the series peak in 2018–19. However, while the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique offenders admitted increased by 7.3% in 2022–23 compared with the previous year, the number of other unique offenders admitted decreased by 4.2%.

Figure 33 Count and rate of unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders by Indigenous status – time series

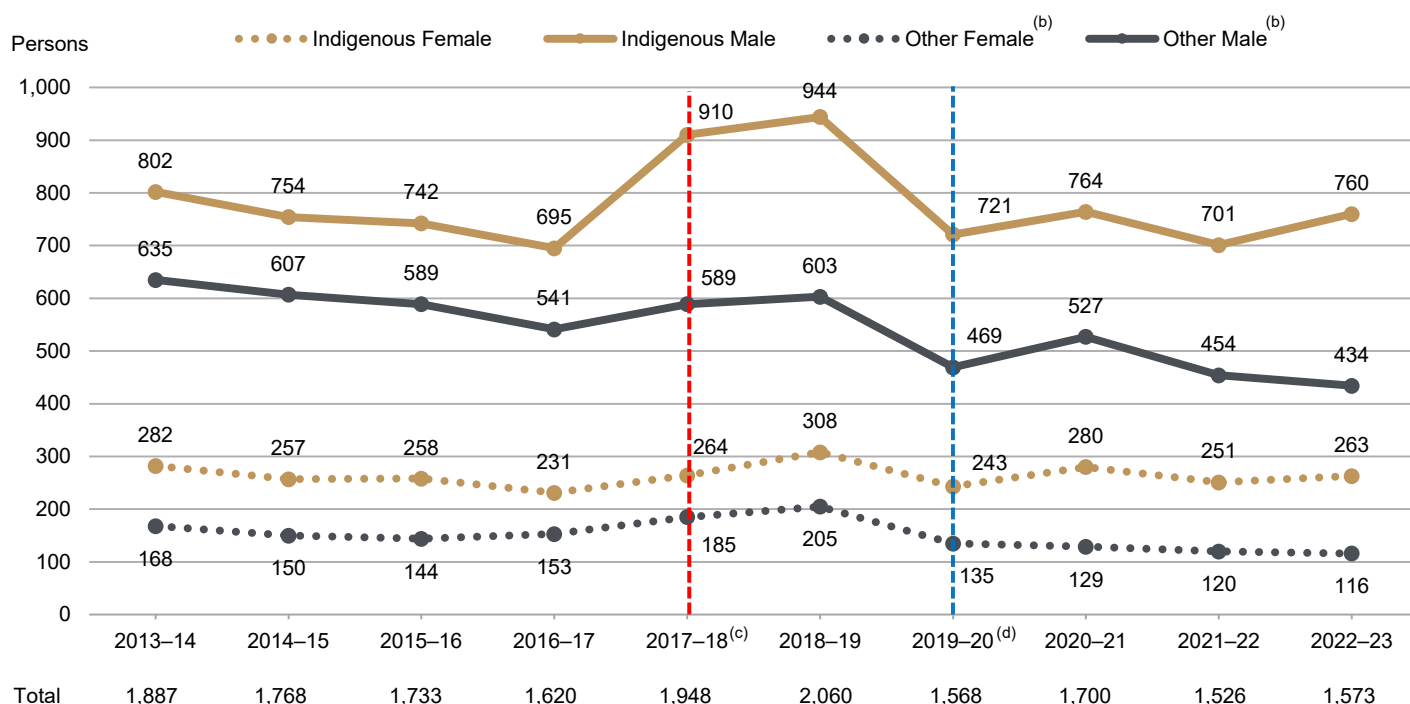


- (a) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.
- (b) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2012–13 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.
- (c) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
- (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
- (e) Rate ratio is the rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people divided by the rate for other young people and is calculated on unrounded rates.

Figure 34 shows a 10-year time series of unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders by Indigenous status and sex. Prior to 2017–18 when 17-year-old offenders transitioned to the youth justice system, the numbers of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other unique offenders were trending downwards for both males and females before an upward swing for all in 2017–18 and the following year. Since the pandemic was declared in 2019–20 and numbers fell for all cohorts, they appear to be stabilising for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique offenders admitted to supervised orders, while the downward trend continued for other unique offenders.

In 2022–23, the number of other unique offenders admitted to supervised orders, both male and female, were at their lowest (–169 or –28.0% for males and –89 or –43.4% for females, compared with 2018–19).

Figure 34 Unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders by Indigenous status and sex^(a) – time series



- (a) Excludes a small number whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.
- (b) 'Other' represents those offenders who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.
- (c) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
- (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

In every year of the time series, around half of all unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders had only one admission (ranging from 46.4% to 53.4%). While the number of unique offenders with four or more admissions remained relatively stable over the series, there were fewer offenders with 1–3 admissions in the most recent two years, resulting in the decline in the overall number compared with the years prior to the pandemic.

Table 58 Unique offenders with one or more admissions to supervised youth justice orders in a reference year – time series

Supervised orders	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Number of admissions per year	— persons —									
1 admission	944	868	854	820	1,015	1,048	838	838	708	790
2 or 3 admissions	729	693	674	609	694	770	550	637	580	563
4 or 5 admissions	165	171	166	140	192	195	139	169	180	173
6 or more admissions	49	37	39	51	48	48	41	56	59	47
Total	1,887	1,769	1,733	1,620	1,949	2,061	1,568	1,700	1,527	1,573

- (a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
- (b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

5.3.2.2. Unsupervised orders

The total number of unique offenders admitted to unsupervised youth justice orders reached a series low in 2022–23. There were 130 fewer offenders with only one admission in 2022–23 compared with 2021–22, and 1,021 fewer (–42.6%) than the series peak in 2018–19. Notably, the numbers of unique offenders with 4 or 5 and 6 or more admissions to unsupervised orders both reached their time-series peak in 2022–23.

Table 59 Unique offenders with one or more admissions to unsupervised youth justice orders in a reference year – time series

Unsupervised orders	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 (a)	2018–19	2019–20 (b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Number of admissions per year	— persons —									
1 admission	2,123	1,984	1,938	1,696	1,895	2,398	1,632	1,829	1,507	1,377
2 or 3 admissions	742	674	733	698	782	799	490	654	570	599
4 or 5 admissions	65	75	84	73	97	86	60	65	86	101
6 or more admissions	9	8	8	18	17	12	4	15	17	23
Total	2,939	2,741	2,763	2,485	2,791	3,295	2,186	2,563	2,180	2,100

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

5.3.3. Average daily number under youth justice supervision in the community

The average daily number under youth justice supervision in the community is calculated based on the number of young people under youth justice supervision who, as at 11:59pm on the relevant date, were subject to a sentenced supervised order (Boot camp; Community service; Conditional release; Graffiti removal; Intensive supervision; Probation; Restorative justice; Supervised release), and/or participating in the Conditional Bail Program. It does not include those held in youth justice custody.

The number of persons under youth justice supervision in the community each day, on average, has been steadily declining, from the series peak of 1,642 persons in 2018–19 to 1,205 in 2022–23. It must be noted, the series peak was reached following the full inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system.

The demographic characteristics of young offenders under supervision in the community have changed slightly over the decade. In 2022–23, just over one in four (26.6%) young offenders under supervision in the community was aged 18 years or older, 3.6 percentage points lower than their peak in 2020–21. From 2013–14 to 2022–23, the proportion who were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander increased a total of 7.3 percentage points (to 60.7% of the total average daily number, the largest proportion for this cohort in the time series). The female proportion of the total increased by 2.0 percentage points (to 24.8%).

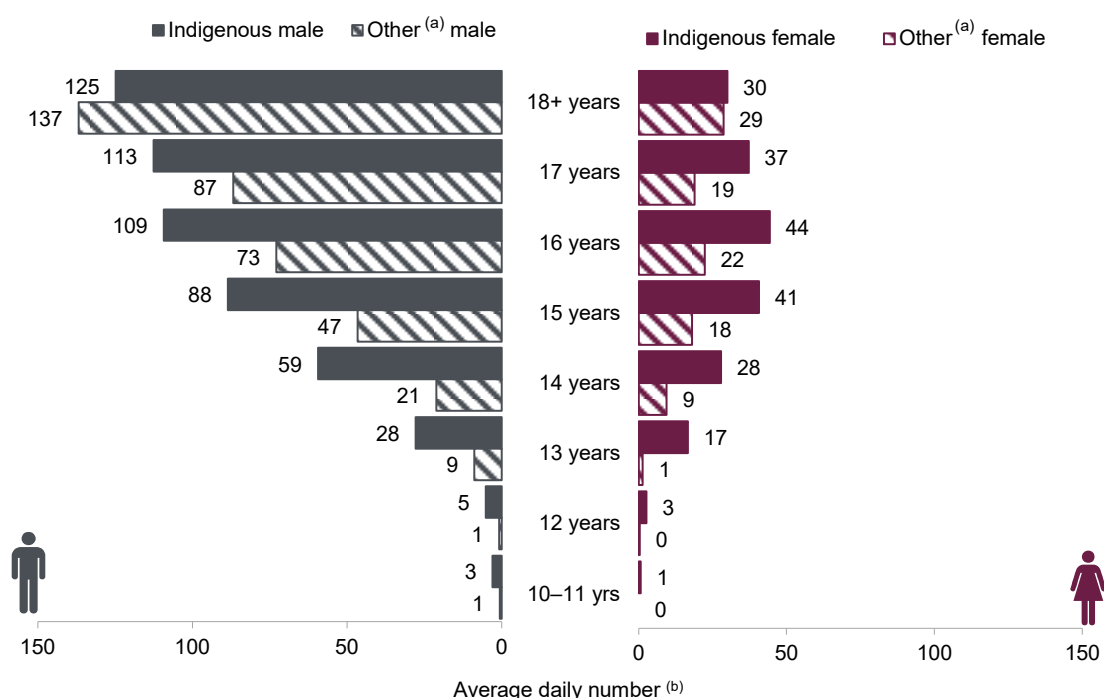
Table 60 Average daily number of persons under youth justice supervision in the community – time series

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	— average daily number ^(c) —									
Sex										
Male	1,051	1,016	953	897	1,045	1,240	1,129	993	940	904
Female	310	324	281	294	332	402	378	312	316	299
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	726	752	665	651	764	946	874	781	754	731
Other ^(d)	634	589	568	540	614	696	633	523	503	473
Age (years)										
10–11	8	10	9	7	8	8	6	7	2	4
12	30	29	29	26	20	28	19	15	15	9
13	70	84	74	76	73	71	62	43	49	55
14	164	166	164	163	156	150	128	112	111	118
15	283	258	254	252	264	263	221	186	191	194
16	373	355	318	318	346	349	297	255	247	249
17	280	310	258	250	362	389	340	293	291	256
18+	152	126	127	100	147	384	436	394	350	320
Total^(e)	1,360	1,341	1,233	1,191	1,377	1,642	1,508	1,305	1,257	1,205

- (a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
- (b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
- (c) Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number, however total is based on unrounded components.
- (d) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.
- (e) Total includes those whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

In 2022–23, the average daily number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders under youth justice supervision in the community exceeded that of other offenders for every age and sex cohort, except males aged 18 years and older.

Figure 35 Average daily number of persons under youth justice supervision in the community, by Indigenous status, age and sex, 2022–23



- (a) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.
- (b) Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

5.4. Youth detention centres

5.4.1. Admissions to detention centres

This section relates to physical admission to a stay in a youth detention centre, whether in pre-court custody, on remand (unsentenced) or sentenced, where the admission date occurs in the reference year. An individual may have one or more admissions in a single reference year and is counted for each admission in this section. A return from a short absence from detention (e.g. to attend any place for medical examination or treatment) is not counted as a new admission.

In 2022–23, the total number of admissions to youth detention centres decreased for the second year in a row, to 1,806, while *sentenced admissions* (24) increased for a second year. Among *unsentenced admissions*, the number of *remand admissions* reached a new high, and accounted for 85.1% of all admissions to youth detention centres in 2022–23. Admissions to *pre-court custody* in detention centres in 2022–23 declined heavily for the second year (–210 or –46.2%) to reach its second-lowest level in the series.

Table 61 Admissions to youth detention centres by legal status – time series

Legal status	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	— number —									
Unsentenced	1,939	1,823	1,626	1,972	2,183	1,481	1,890	1,999	1,899	1,782
Pre-court custody	957	903	776	963	878	187	789	914	455	245
Remand	982	920	850	1,009	1,305	1,294	1,101	1,085	1,444	1,537
Sentenced	84	59	54	54	31	49	18	13	20	24
Total	2,023	1,882	1,680	2,026	2,214	1,530	1,908	2,012	1,919	1,806

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

There were fewer admissions to detention centres in 2022–23 than in the previous year (–113 or –5.9%). Three in four admissions (74.6%) were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders, their largest proportion for the time series. Similarly, more than four in five (81.8%) of all admitted to detention centres were male, representing a series high.

Following the transition of 17-year-old offenders to youth justice in 2017–18, there were noticeably fewer admissions to youth detention for all age groups from 10 to 16 years on admission, while the number of admissions for those aged 17 years and older remained relatively stable since the pandemic was declared in 2019–20.


Table 62 Admissions to youth detention centres by Indigenous status, age and sex – time series

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 (a)	2018–19	2019–20 (b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	— number —									
Sex										
Male	1,601	1,483	1,321	1,588	1,732	1,212	1,546	1,634	1,515	1,477
Female	421	399	359	438	482	318	362	378	404	329
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	1,169	1,150	1,083	1,305	1,533	1,099	1,226	1,271	1,275	1,347
Other ^(c)	854	732	597	721	681	431	682	741	644	459
Age (years) on admission^(d) (years)										
10–11	24	50	31	74	83	22	28	35	12	18
12	116	85	82	99	163	105	95	75	80	72
13	243	249	224	219	279	186	226	195	189	210
14	440	403	376	438	452	249	356	383	351	298
15	550	515	458	598	555	304	430	493	451	397
16	603	527	476	564	545	330	381	439	453	423
17	46	50	29	33	133	318	379	381	366	378
18+	1	3	4	1	4	16	13	11	17	10
Total^(e)	2,023	1,882	1,680	2,026	2,214	1,530	1,908	2,012	1,919	1,806

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(c) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.

(d) Age is as at the date of admission to a youth detention centre. An individual may have one or multiple admissions in one reference year.

(e) Total includes those whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

5.4.2. Unique persons admitted to a youth detention centre

Data in this section are a count of unique young people admitted to a youth detention centre. While an individual may have one or multiple admissions in a single reference year, they are counted only once in the reference year.

There were 884 unique young people admitted to a youth detention centre in 2022–23, a 3.8% decrease (35 fewer individuals) from the previous year and 9.1% lower (88 fewer individuals) than at the peak in 2017–18 (Table 63).

In 2022–23, almost 4 in 5 unique persons admitted to a youth detention centre were male (79.5%); 7 in 10 total individuals were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (70.8%); and almost 1 in 4 were 15 years old (23.5%).

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander proportion of unique young people admitted (70.8%) marked a 10-year high, as their increase in unique person admissions (to 626) coincided with a near time-series low in the number of other unique young people admitted (258) in 2022–23.

The age profile of those admitted to youth detention centres changed with the transition of 17-year-old offenders to youth justice in 2017–18. Since their full inclusion in 2018–19, the proportion of young people aged 15 years and younger has remained relatively stable, comprising around half of those admitted (ranging between 52.2% and 54.0%).

Table 63 Unique persons admitted to a youth detention centre – time series

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 (a)	2018–19	2019–20 (b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	— persons —									
Sex										
Male	731	692	647	710	764	622	698	727	719	703
Female	207	203	167	221	208	184	184	187	200	181
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	557	532	506	567	631	551	546	553	579	626
Other ^(c)	382	363	308	364	341	255	336	361	340	258
Age (years) on admission^(d)										
10–11	15	14	14	24	17	8	8	12	4	7
12	45	51	39	39	50	40	44	27	33	37
13	93	91	98	91	110	90	74	82	76	97
14	195	182	156	197	196	118	153	158	165	127
15	271	248	241	270	260	165	191	215	203	208
16	289	275	245	290	262	194	189	200	221	202
17	30	32	18	19	73	184	213	212	207	197
18+	1	2	3	1	4	7	10	8	10	9
Total^(e)	939	895	814	931	972	806	882	914	919	884

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

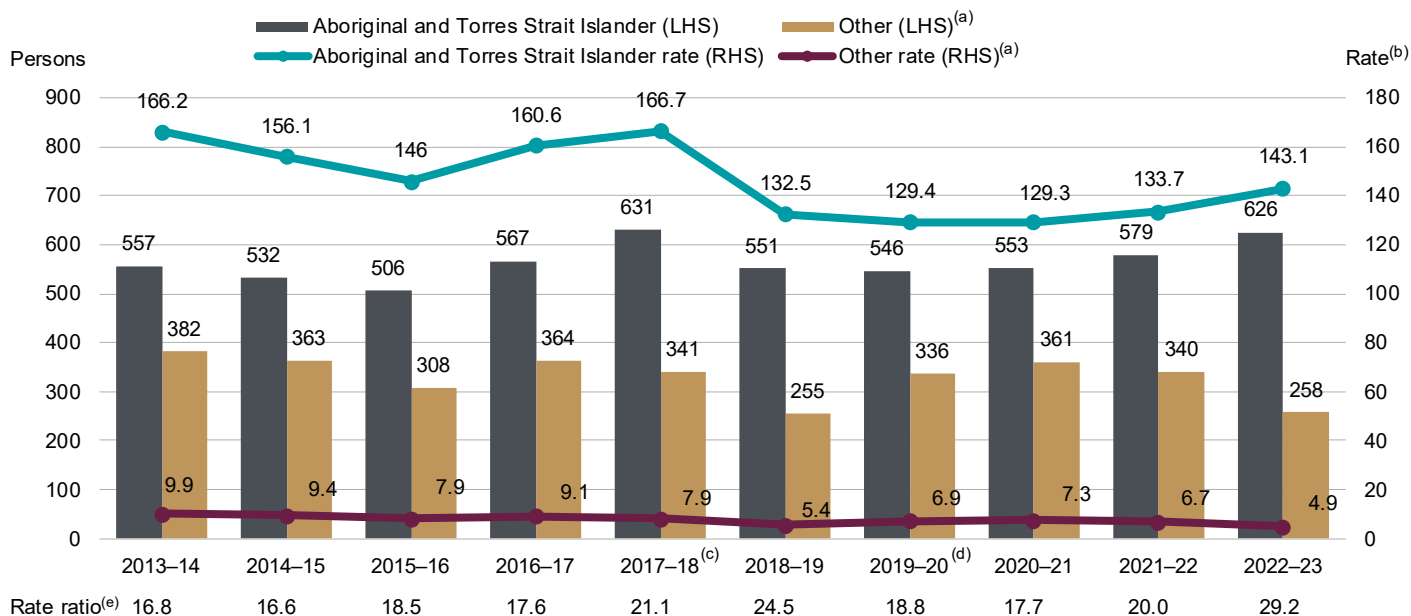
(c) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.

(d) Age as at the earliest admission to a youth detention centre within the reference year.

(e) Total includes those whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

In 2022–23, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique young people admitted to a detention centre increased for the second consecutive year and reached its highest level since peaking in 2017–18. The rate of other unique persons admitted to a detention centre was at its lowest in the time series, resulting in a series high of 29.2 in the rate ratio between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other young people admitted to youth detention.

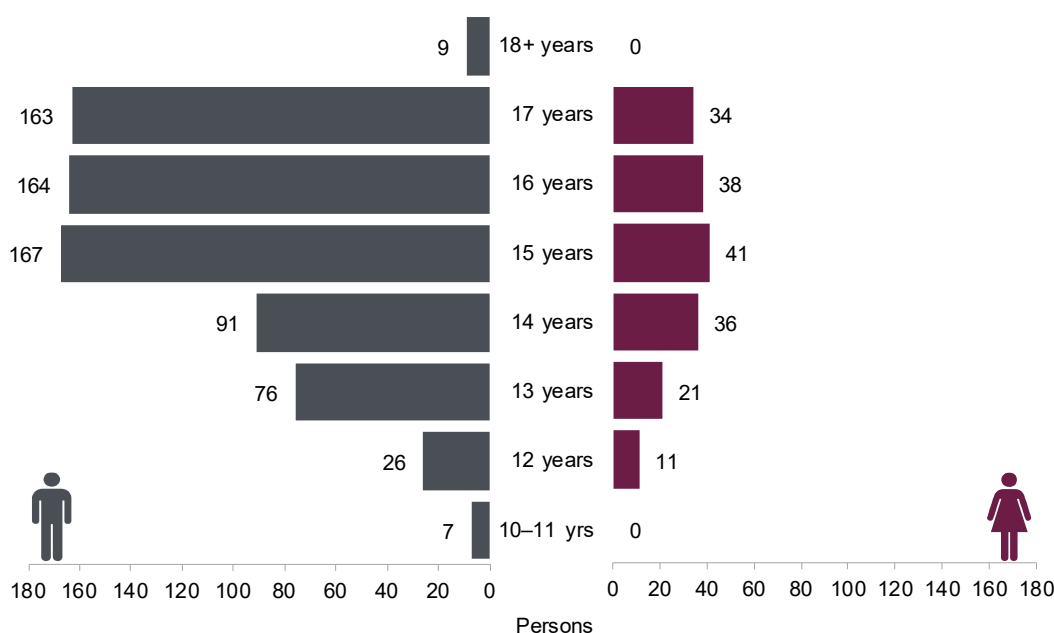
Figure 36 Count and rate of unique persons admitted to a youth detention centre by Indigenous status – time series



- (a) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.
- (b) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2012–13 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.
- (c) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
- (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
- (e) Rate ratio is the rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people divided by the rate for other young people, calculated on unrounded rates.

In 2022–23, the number of unique young persons admitted to a youth detention centre peaked at 15 years for both males and females (167 and 41 respectively), followed very closely by those aged 16 years (Figure 37).

Figure 37 Unique persons admitted to a youth detention centre, by age on admission^(a) and sex, 2022–23



- (a) Age as at the earliest admission to a youth detention centre within the reference year.

In 2022–23, half (49.8%) of all unique young offenders admitted to a youth detention centre were admitted only once. The proportion of unique offenders per number of admissions in a reference year has remained stable over the 10-year series. Around half (ranging from 46.1% to 52.7%) were admitted once; around a third (ranging from 31.6% to 38.6%) were admitted two or three times; with the remainder admitted four times or more (ranging from 9.9% to 18.0%).

Table 64 Unique persons by number of admissions to a Queensland youth detention centre – time series

No. admissions per year	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 (a)	2018–19	2019–20 (b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	— persons —									
1 admission	489	443	429	450	479	415	442	421	446	440
2 or 3 admissions	297	326	265	342	318	311	293	337	338	320
4 or 5 admissions	104	87	85	89	115	65	103	109	98	98
6+ admissions	49	39	35	50	60	15	44	47	37	26
Total	939	895	814	931	972	806	882	914	919	884

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

In every year since 17-year-old offenders transitioned to youth justice in 2017–18, the number of unique offenders admitted to a youth detention centre with a previous history of admissions has consistently exceeded those admitted for the first time, with the only exception being 2019–20, when the pandemic was declared.

In 2022–23, the number of unique offenders admitted for the first time was at its second-lowest in 10 years, and for those with a prior admission(s) at its second-highest.

Table 65 Unique persons by history of admission to a Queensland youth detention centre – time series

Admission history	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 (a)	2018–19	2019–20 (b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	— persons —									
First-ever admission	509	479	394	517	472	300	443	419	382	369
Prior admission to detention	430	416	420	414	500	506	439	495	537	515
Total	939	895	814	931	972	806	882	914	919	884

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

5.4.3. Average daily number in youth detention centres

The average daily number of persons in youth detention is calculated based on the number who were physically located in a youth detention centre at 11.59 pm on each day during the period.

In 2022–23, the average daily number of persons in youth detention centres in Queensland reached a new high, after 2021–22, at 283 persons, while the average daily rate remained at 5.0 per 10,000 persons aged 10–17 years (Table 66 and Figure 38).

As shown in Table 66, there was a record number of male, female and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in youth detention centres daily on average in 2022–23. For the second year in a row, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander proportion of all young people in detention also reached its highest level since the pandemic was declared in 2019–20. As in every year since 17-year-old offenders were fully included in youth justice (2018–19), the majority of the young people in Queensland youth detention centres daily on average in 2022–23 were aged 16 years or older (62.9%).

Table 66 Average daily number of persons in youth detention centres – time series

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	— average daily number ^(c) —									
Sex										
Male	149	139	152	153	172	183	178	206	247	249
Female	31	29	32	25	29	30	23	24	29	34
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	121	111	128	128	146	154	143	149	180	196
Other ^(d)	59	58	56	51	55	60	58	80	96	87
Age (years)										
10–11	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	0
12	3	4	4	4	6	5	5	4	5	3
13	12	12	13	9	13	12	12	13	13	15
14	34	27	30	29	30	24	24	31	32	33
15	45	48	46	53	50	37	36	48	58	53
16	61	58	68	61	64	55	44	54	71	73
17	22	17	20	18	34	64	58	62	76	80
18+	2	1	2	1	2	16	21	17	20	25
Total^(e)	180	168	184	178	201	213	200	229	276	283

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

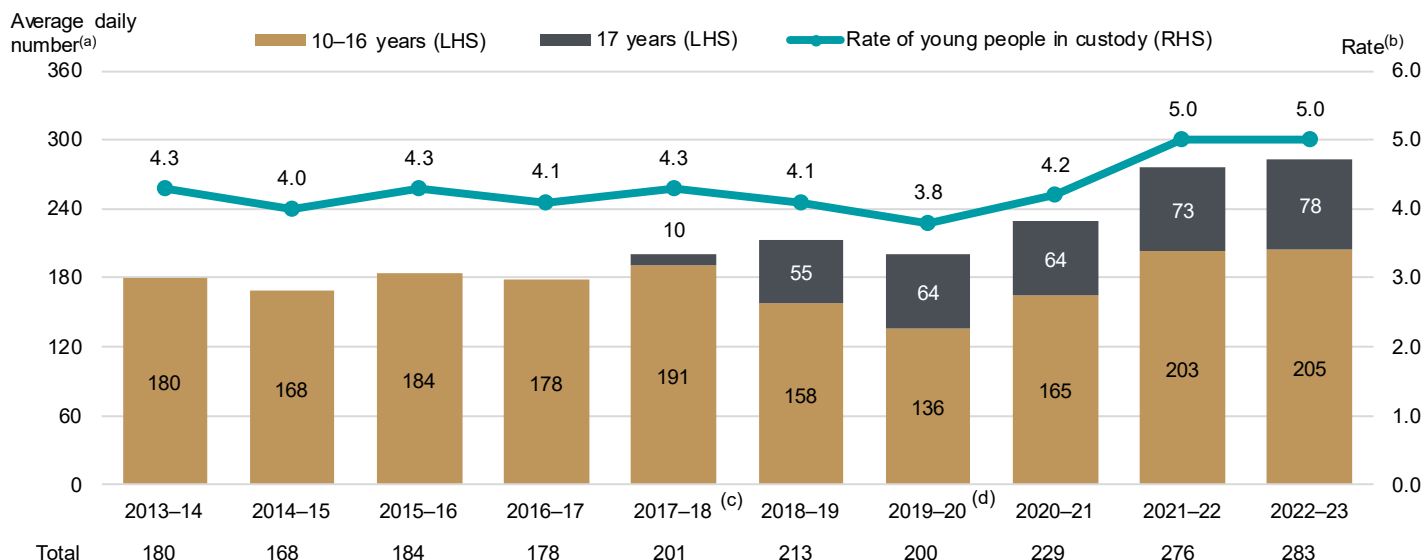
(c) Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number, however total is based on unrounded components.

(d) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.

(e) Total includes those whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

Figure 38 compares the average daily number of young people in detention in the last ten years by their age at the time of offence (i.e. 10–16 years or 17 years). The average daily number in detention of young offenders aged 17 years at the time of offence has increased since their inclusion in the youth justice system from February 2018. For those aged 10–16 years at the time of offence, the average daily number in detention has also increased in each of the past three years to a high of 205 in 2022–23, despite a decline in numbers in 2018–19 and 2019–20.

Figure 38 Average daily number and rate of young people in youth detention centres by offender's age at the time of offence – time series



- (a) Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
- (b) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2012–13 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.
- (c) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
- (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

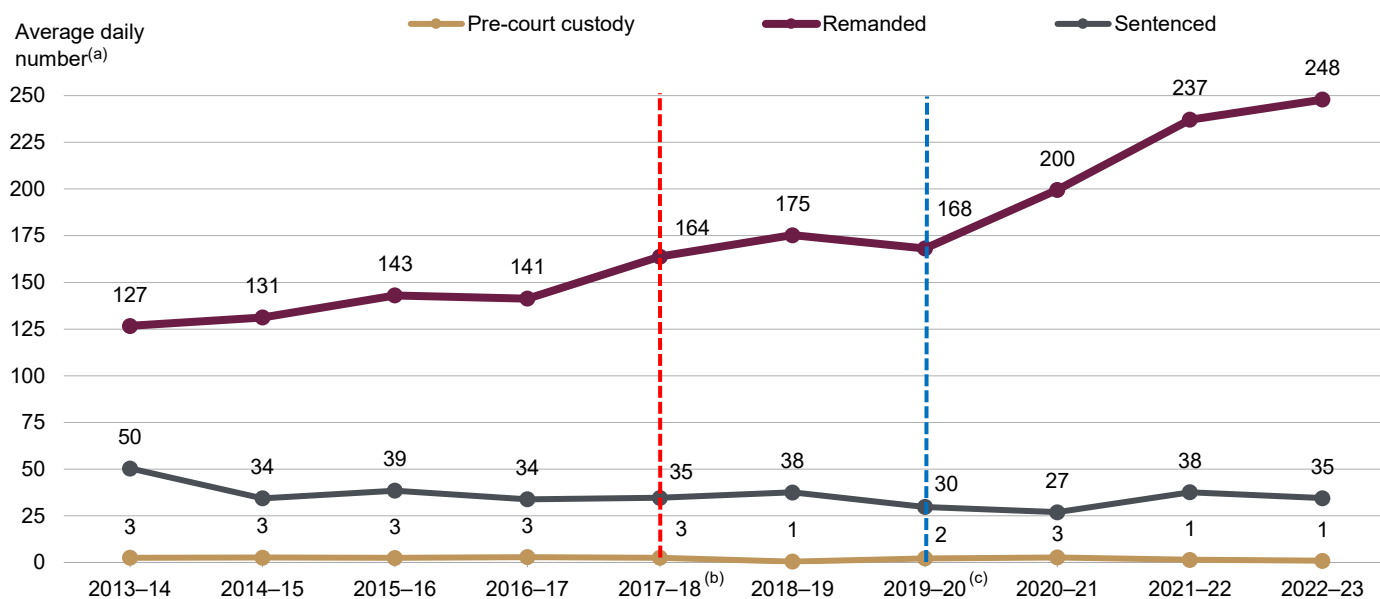
Table 67 and Figure 39 present the distribution of the average daily number of young people in detention centres by legal status over the last decade. Data reveals a marked growth in the average daily number of *unsentenced* youth in detention since 2019–20 when the pandemic was declared, driven entirely by an increasing number of young people in *remand*. The average daily number of young people in remand has increased substantially (+41.7%) since 17-year-old offenders fully transitioned to youth justice, from 175 in 2018–19 to 248 young persons in 2022–23, when detainees on remand represented 87.5% of the total average daily number in youth detention. Conversely, the proportion of *sentenced* young people has declined over the same period, from 17.4% in 2018–19 to 12.4% in detention each day on average in 2022–23.

Table 67 Average daily number of young people in youth detention centres by legal status – time series

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Legal status	— average daily number ^(c) —									
Unsentenced	129	134	146	144	166	176	170	202	239	249
Pre-court custody	3	3	3	3	3	1	2	3	1	1
Remand	127	131	143	141	164	175	168	200	237	248
Sentenced	50	34	39	34	35	38	30	27	38	35
Total	180	168	184	178	201	213	200	229	276	283

- (a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
- (b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
- (c) Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number, however total is based on unrounded components.

Figure 39 Average daily number of young people in youth detention centres by legal status – time series



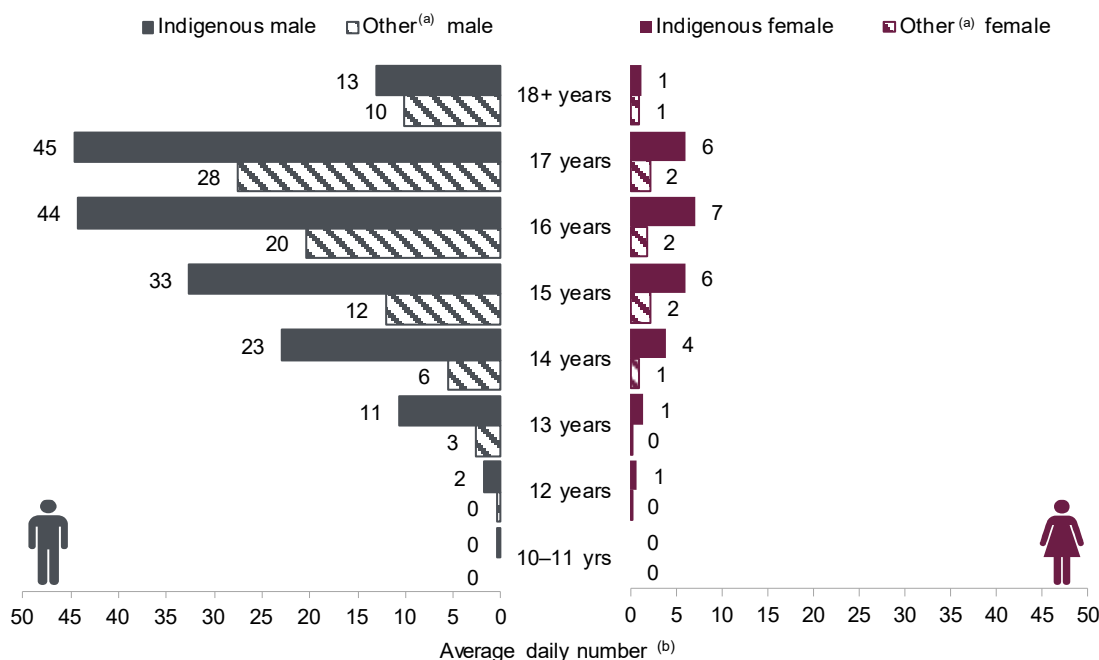
(a) Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

(b) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

In 2022–23, in youth detention centres on an average day, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people outnumbered others in almost every age group for both males and females (Figure 40). For both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other males, 17 years was the most common age of those in detention, closely followed by 16 years.

Figure 40 Average daily number of persons in youth detention centres by Indigenous status, age and sex, 2022–23



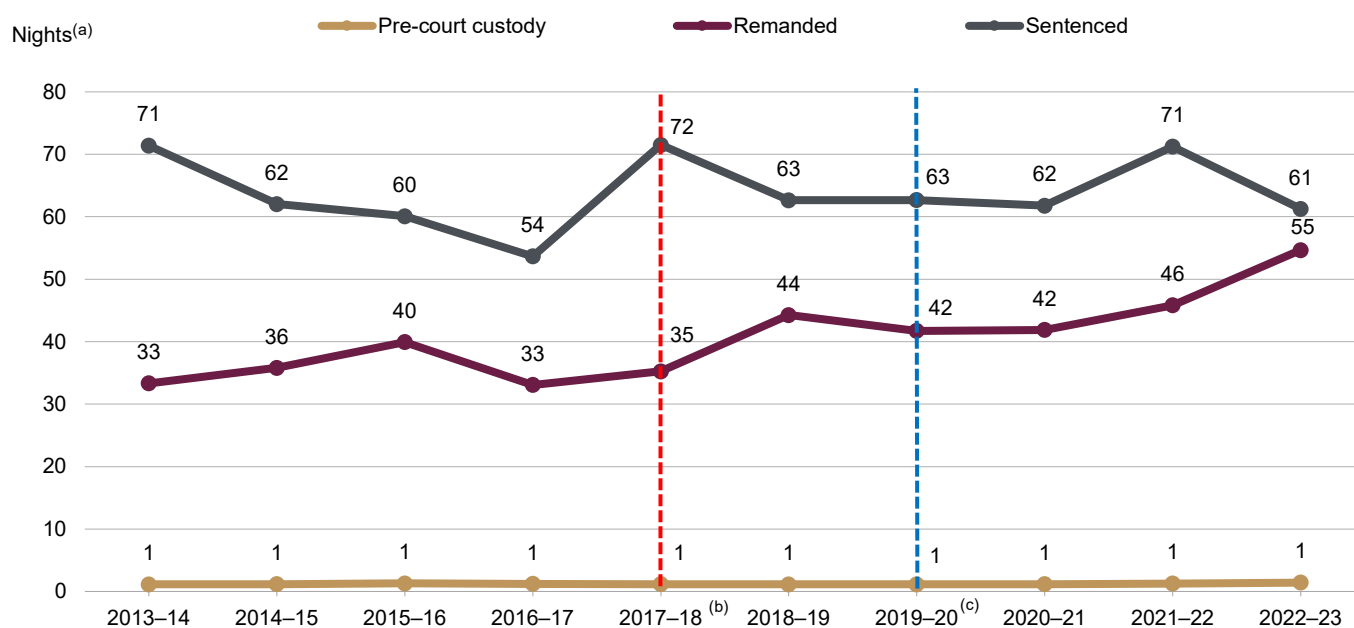
(a) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.

(b) Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

5.4.4. Average length of stay

The average length of stay (in nights) for a young person in a youth detention centre varies depending on their legal status, as shown in the 10-year time series in Figure 41. While young people in *pre-court custody* normally spend one night in a detention centre, on average, *sentenced* young people spend around two months in detention, on average. There has been a clear upswing in the average length of stay for young people on *remand* in detention centres, from 46 nights in 2021–22 to 55 nights in 2022–23, representing an increase of nine nights (+19.2%).

Figure 41 Average length of stay^(a) in a youth detention centre by legal status – time series



- (a) Length of stay in detention is based on the total duration of the admission, where the end date of that admission is in the reference year, irrespective of when the admission to detention commenced. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
- (b) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
- (c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

6.0 Corrective Services

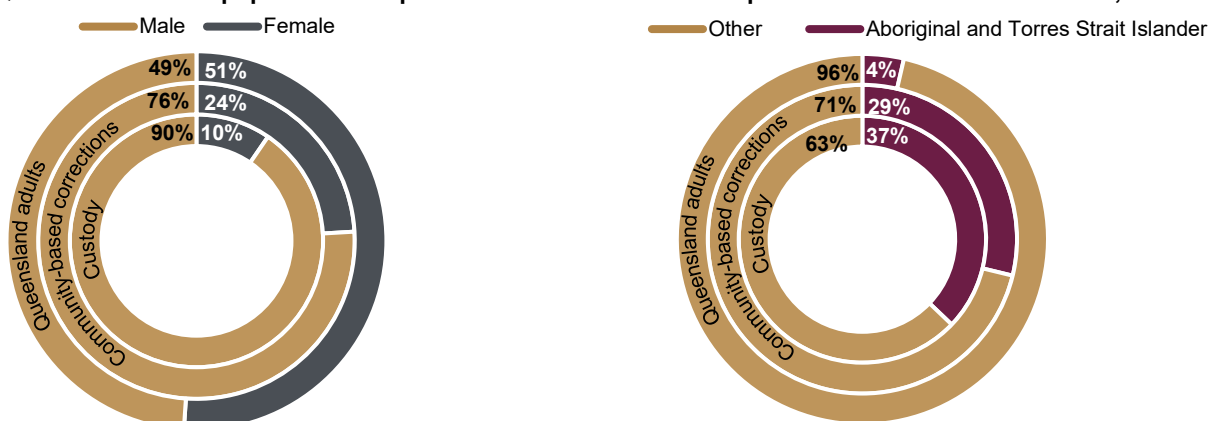
Source: Unpublished data supplied by Queensland Corrective Services.

This chapter should be read in conjunction with the Explanatory notes and glossary at the end of this report.

<u>Adults in prison as at 30 June</u>	June 2022	June 2023	% change	
Total persons	9,374	10,225	9.1	↑
Males	8,522	9,247	8.5	↑
Females	852	978	14.8	↑
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)	36.4	37.2	0.8ppt	↑
<u>Adults in supervised community-based corrections as at 1 June</u>				
Total persons	19,380	18,686	-3.6	↓
Males	14,823	14,188	-4.3	↓
Females	4,557	4,498	-1.3	↓
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)	27.8%	28.8%	1.0ppt	↑

ppt = percentage point

Figure 42 Queensland's adult population compared with adults under the supervision of Corrective Services, June 2023



As at June 2023:

Adults in prison



- The number of adults in prison increased to 10,225 (+9.2% compared with 30 June 2022).
- The male imprisonment rate was 9.9 times that of females, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rate 15.2 times that of other adults.
- The median age of prisoners was 32 years for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners and 36 for others.
- The median sentence length for prisoners was 3 years and 6 months.
- Seven out of ten prisoners released in 2022–23 spent six months or less in custody.

Adults in supervised community-based corrections



- The number of adults in supervised community-based corrections decreased to 18,686 (-3.6% compared with 1 June 2022).
- Males were 3.3 times more likely than females to be serving a supervised community-based corrections order, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults were 10.4 times more likely than other adults.
- Over half of adults serving a supervised community-based corrections order were in *probation* (53.5%) and over two in five were in *parole* (41.9%).

6.1. Overview

This chapter presents summary statistics about adult corrective services in Queensland as at June 2023, prison data time series for 10 years and supervised community-based corrections for 10 years.

Two different populations are presented: adults in full-time prison custody and adults in supervised community-based corrections. Data for adults in prison are presented as at 30 June, while data for community-based corrections are presented as at 1 June. Length of stay data are also presented for adults in prison custody.

Each dataset was prepared separately using different methodologies and extracted at different times. Numbers reported here may differ from those reported elsewhere.

Rates in this section are presented per 100,000 persons. (See Explanatory notes for more details on counting methodology applied.)

Youth justice legislation

Implementation in February 2018 of the *Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Act 2016* and the Youth Justice (Transitional) Regulation 2018 meant that, from that date onwards, 17-year-old offenders are dealt with in the youth justice system. Statistically, this means a **break in the time series** in 2017–18. These legislative changes resulted in an initial small decrease in the adult corrections data for 2018. It should be noted that the impact of the change is less apparent in numbers relating to adult corrections than it is in the youth justice system, because of the small number of 17-year-old offenders relative to the number of adult offenders. Readers are nevertheless urged to exercise caution when making comparisons between 2018 and periods before and after.

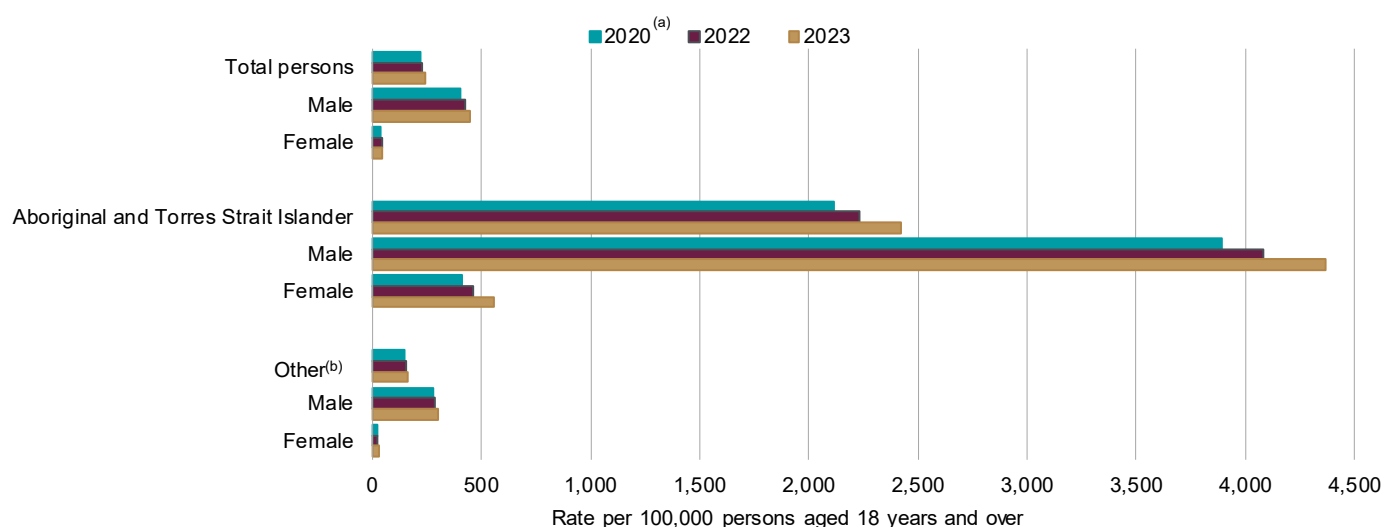
6.2. Adults in prison as at 30 June

6.2.1. Prisoner characteristics

As at 30 June 2023, there was a total of 10,225 adults in prison in Queensland, 9.1% or 851 more prisoners compared with the same time in 2022. Males and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were over-represented among the prisoner population in 2023. While nine in ten prisoners were male, and well over a third (37%) of prisoners identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, both proportions were larger than Queensland's estimated resident population for each cohort aged 18 years and over (49% and 4% respectively) (Figure 42).

In terms of imprisonment rates, the rate for adult males was 9.9 times that for females in 2023, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rate was 15.2 times the rate for others (Figure 43). The male imprisonment rate was 449.6 per 100,000 adult males, while the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rate was 2,421.5 per 100,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults. Among cohorts of adult prisoners in Queensland by sex and Indigenous status, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males had the largest imprisonment rate of all, at 4,368.8 per 100,000 persons, an increase of 6.9% from 2022.

Figure 43 Adult imprisonment rates by Indigenous status and sex, as at 30 June



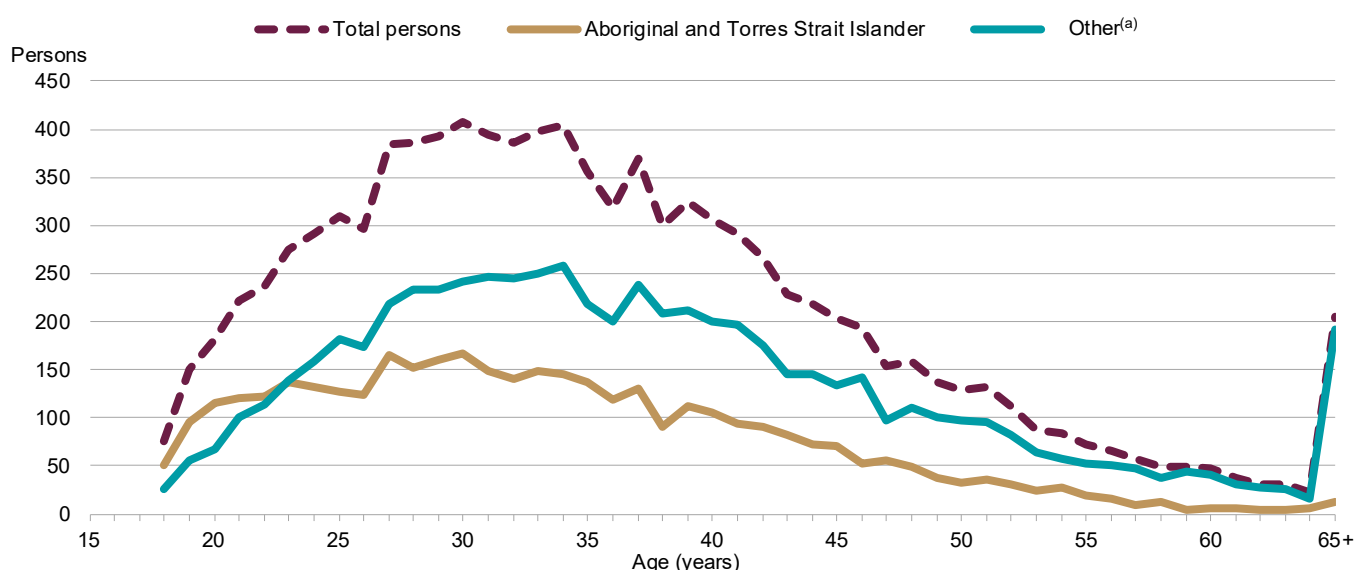
(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(b) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Figure 44 shows the age distribution of adults in prison by Indigenous status. The overall Queensland prison population breakdown by age shows a sharp increase in the number of adult prisoners between 18 and 26 years of age, reaching a stable level, in terms of prisoner numbers, between 27 and 37 years. Numbers then decline steeply after 39 years of age. In fact, one in five adult prisoners (19.9%) are aged 25 years or younger, two in five (41.1%) are aged between 27 and 37 years, and only 11.9% are aged 50 years or older. The peak in the number of prisoners was those aged 30 years (408 prisoners).

The age distribution of adult prisoners varies by Indigenous status, with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cohort younger than the cohort of other prisoners. The median age of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners was 32 years, four years younger than that of other prisoners (36 years). Furthermore, almost 6 in 10 prisoners aged 18 to 22 years (58.1% or 503 of 866 prisoners) as at 30 June 2023 were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

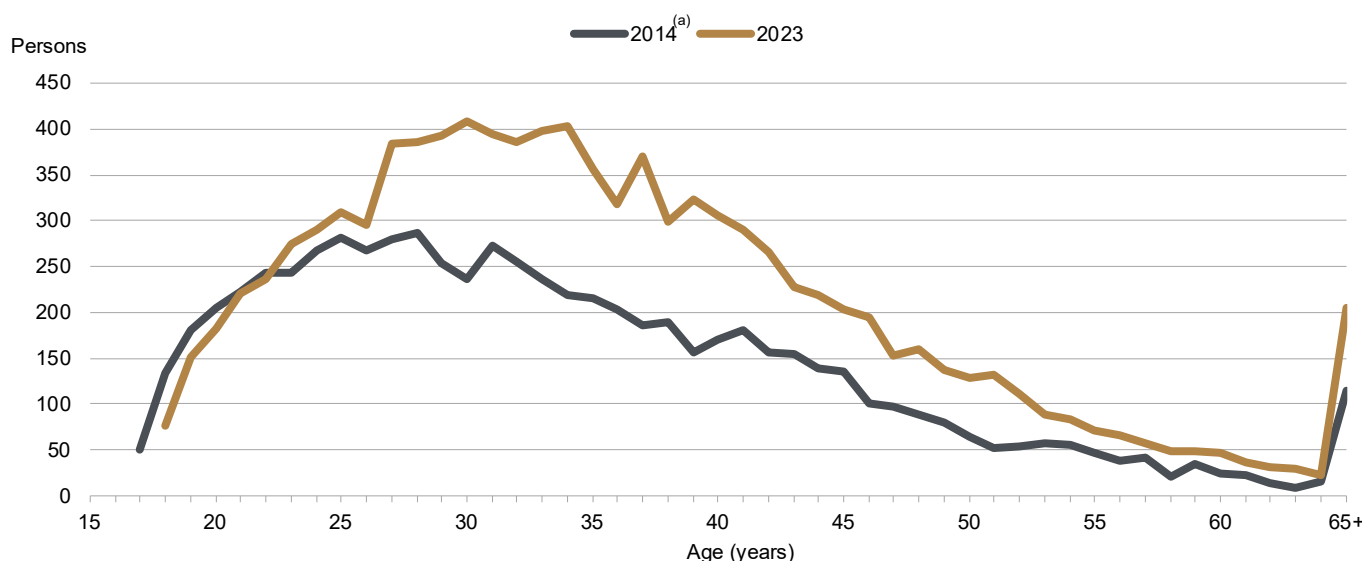
Figure 44 Adults in prison by Indigenous status, as at 30 June 2023



(a) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Compared with 2014, the number of adults in prison in Queensland at 30 June 2023 has increased by 45.1% or +3,177 prisoners. As illustrated in Figure 45, the age distribution has also changed over the last ten years, with the prisoner population noticeably older in 2023. With prisoner numbers peaking between 22 and 32 years of age; the median age of prisoners in 2014 was 32 years, rising to 34 years in 2023. While it could be assumed that the exclusion of 17-year-old offenders may have contributed to the older median age in 2023, it is important to note that 17-year-olds only represented 0.7% of the total prisoner population in 2014.

Figure 45 Adults in prison by age, as at 30 June



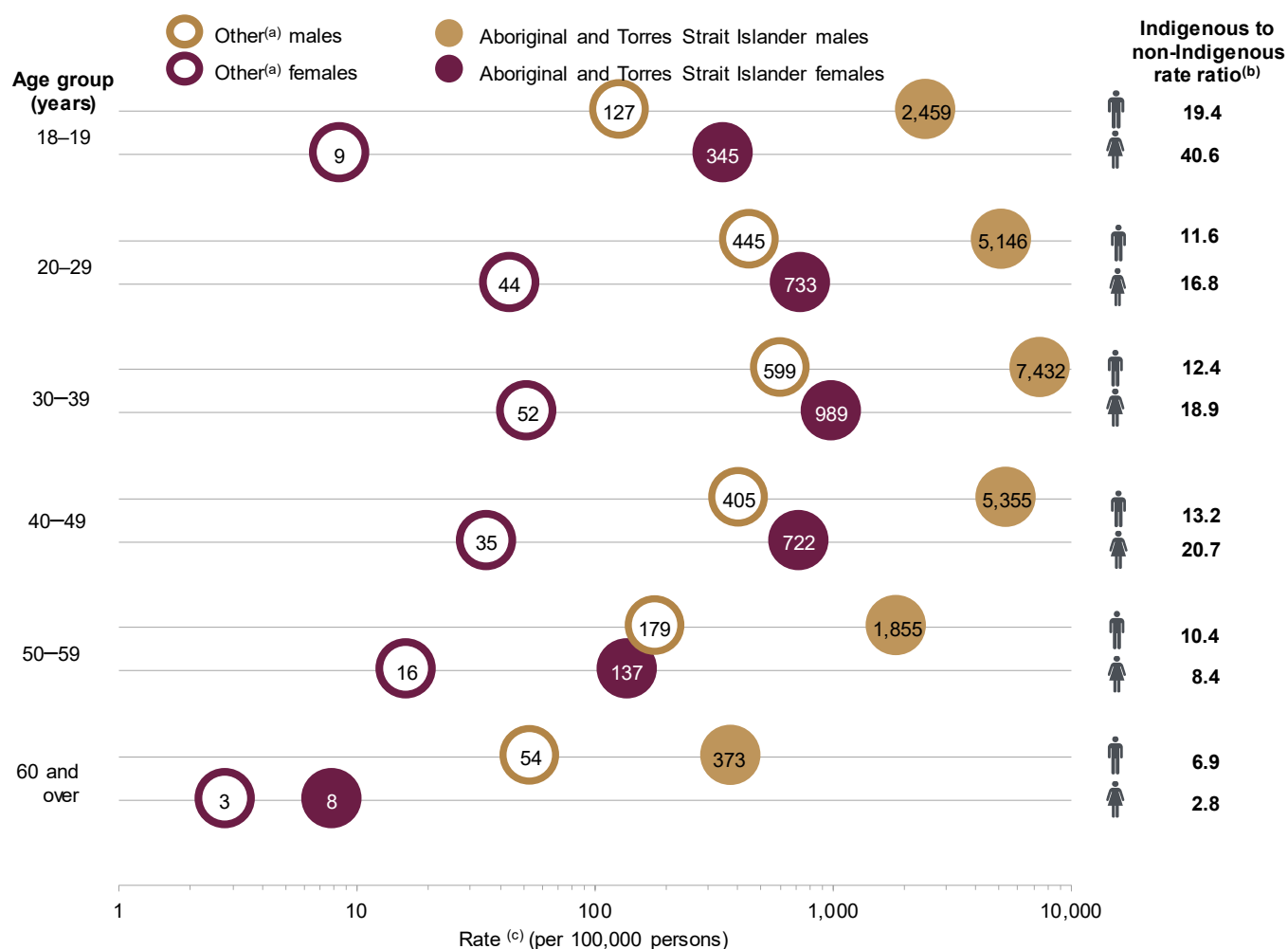
(a) In 2014, the age range for adult offenders was 17 years and over. From February 2018, 17-year-old offenders transitioned to the youth justice system, and since then the age range for adult offenders has been 18 years and over.

Table 68 and Figure 46 present the adult imprisonment rates by prisoner demographic characteristics (i.e. Indigenous status, sex and age) as at 30 June 2023.

For all cohorts, an increase in the imprisonment rate can be seen as the age of prisoners rises, until peaking at the 30–39 year age group. This peak is followed by a decline in the imprisonment rate for older age groups, with the 60 years and over age group having the lowest imprisonment rate of all age cohorts.

Notwithstanding this similarity among cohorts, the imprisonment rates were higher for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cohorts, irrespective of sex or age. Notably, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults had imprisonment rates ranging from 2.8 to 40.6 times higher than other cohorts. For the 30–39 years age group, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males had an imprisonment rate of 7,431.5 per 100,000 persons, which is 12.4 times the rate for other males; and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females had a rate of 988.6 prisoners per 100,000 persons, which is 18.9 times the imprisonment rate for other females.

Figure 46 Adult imprisonment rates by Indigenous status, sex and age, as at 30 June 2023



(a) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

(b) Rate ratio is the imprisonment rate for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population subgroup divided by the rate for the equivalent other population subgroup. Rate ratios have been calculated on unrounded rates.

(c) Untransformed rate values are presented using logarithmic scale to overcome large numeric differences in rates.

Table 68 Count and rate of adults in prison by Indigenous status, sex and age, as at 30 June 2023

Age at 30 June	18–19 yrs	20–29 yrs	30–39 yrs	40–49 yrs	50–59 yrs	60 yrs & over	18–19 years	20–29 yrs	30–39 yrs	40–49 yrs	50–59 yrs	60 yrs & over
	— persons —						— rate per 100,000 persons —					
Total persons	227	2,973	3,658	2,157	838	372	174.7	423.2	483.7	311.6	123.9	29.9
Male	205	2,668	3,305	1,948	768	353	310.4	751.5	891.7	574.8	231.3	59.4
Female	22	305	353	209	70	19	34.4	87.8	91.5	59.2	20.3	2.9
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	145	1,354	1,339	711	210	40	1,430.7	2,984.0	4,178.0	2,955.8	947.4	173.1
Male	128	1,191	1,179	621	194	39	2,459.2	5,146.3	7,431.5	5,355.3	1,855.0	372.9
Female	17	163	160	90	16	1	344.8	733.1	988.6	722.4	136.6	7.9
Other^(a)	82	1,619	2,319	1,446	628	332	68.5	246.4	320.2	216.4	96.0	27.2
Male	77	1,477	2,126	1,327	574	314	126.6	445.1	599.3	405.4	178.5	53.8
Female	5	142	193	119	54	18	8.5	43.7	52.2	34.9	16.2	2.8

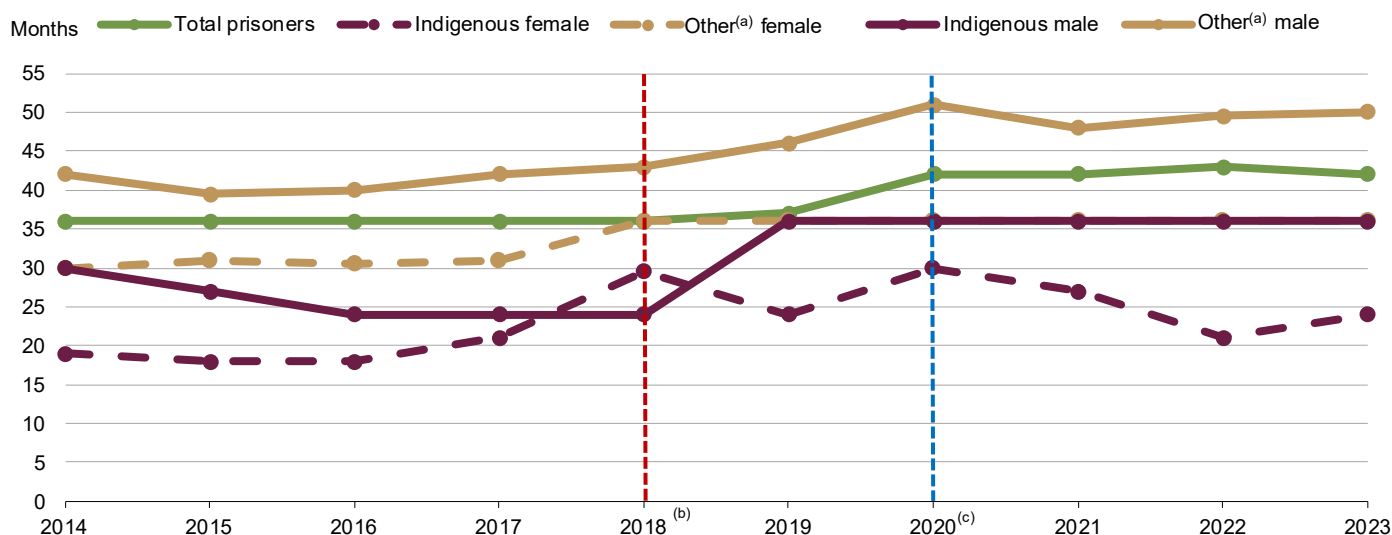
(a) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

6.2.2. Median length of sentence

The median sentence length of all sentenced adults in prison custody in Queensland as at 30 June 2023 was 3 years and 6 months (42 months). This is six months more than at 30 June 2014, and one month less than at 30 June 2022 (Figure 47). In 2023, one in three prisoners (31.2% or 2,022) had been sentenced to a period of between two years and less than five years (Table 69).

The median length of sentence in Queensland had its largest year-on-year increase in June 2020 (from 37 to 42 months) and has remained relatively stable since. Figure 47 shows the progression of median sentence length for total prisoners, and for four cohorts of prisoners divided by Indigenous status and sex. Numbers have remained stable for two of the four prisoner cohorts since June 2020, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and other females each receiving a median sentence length of three years (36 months). In those four years, the median sentence length fluctuated somewhat for other males, between 48 and 51 months. The cohort with greatest variation in the median sentence length over the same period is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females, whose median sentence fluctuated between 21 and 30 months.

Figure 47 Median sentence length of adult prisoners by Indigenous status and sex, as at 30 June – time series



(a) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

(b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

6.2.2.1. Length of sentence by Indigenous status and sex

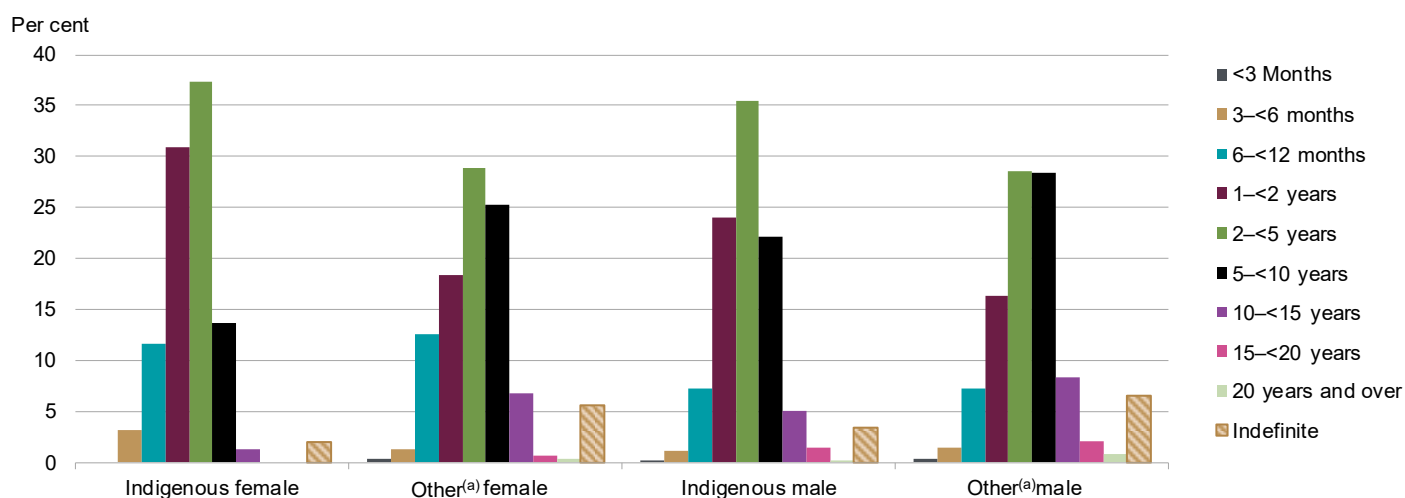
When examining sentenced prisoners by Indigenous status and sex at 30 June 2023, median sentence lengths vary (Table 69). The median length of sentence for males was longer than for females (43 months vs 30 months), and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners had a shorter median sentence length than other prisoners (36 months vs 48 months). Among the four prisoner cohorts, other male prisoners had the longest median sentence (50 months), followed by other females and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males, each with a median sentence of 36 months. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females had the shortest median sentence length of all the cohorts, with 24 months.

Figure 48 illustrates the distribution of the four cohorts of sentenced prisoners in custody as at 30 June 2023 from across 10 different sentence length categories, including indefinite sentence. A sentence length of two years to less than five years was the most prevalent category for all cohorts of sentenced prisoners. There was a smaller proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male (3.3%) and female prisoners (2.0%) serving an indefinite sentence than for other male (6.5%) and female prisoners (5.5%) as at 30 June 2023.

Indefinite sentence is a sentence of imprisonment with no fixed end date, that is to continue until a court orders that it be discharged or parole board approves release of the prisoner.

It can only be ordered for some offences (e.g., murder), and only when the court is satisfied an offender is considered a serious danger to the community.

Figure 48 Proportion of sentenced prisoners by length of sentence, by Indigenous status and sex, as at 30 June 2023



(a) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 69 Sentenced adult prisoners by length of sentence, as at 30 June 2023

Sentence length	<3 months	3 to <6 months	6 to <12 months	1 to <2 years	2 to <5 years	5 to <10 years	10 to <15 years	15 to <20 years	20 years and over	Indefinite
	— persons —									
Total persons	15	88	498	1,269	2,022	1,664	446	111	37	337
Male	14	76	430	1,135	1,840	1,552	422	109	36	315
Female	1	12	68	134	182	112	24	2	1	22
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	3	31	184	592	856	511	111	29	5	75
Male	3	23	155	515	763	477	108	29	5	70
Female	0	8	29	77	93	34	3	0	0	5
Other(a)	12	57	314	677	1,166	1,153	335	82	32	262
Male	11	53	275	620	1,077	1,075	314	80	31	245
Female	1	4	39	57	89	78	21	2	1	17

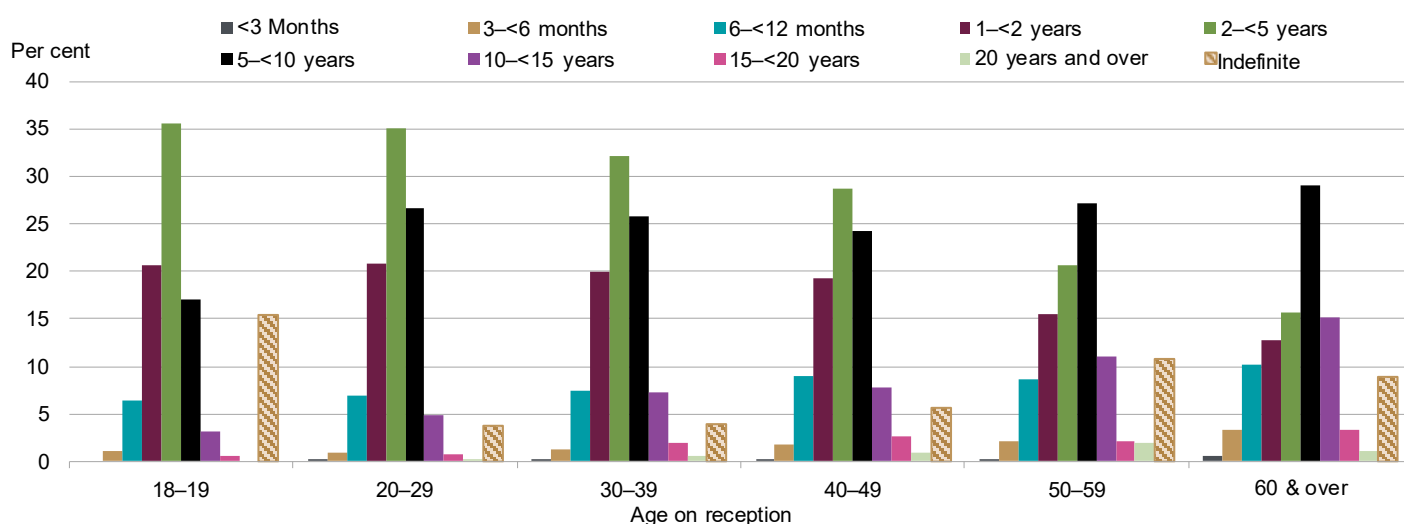
(a) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

6.2.2.2. Length of sentence by prisoner's age on reception

When examining sentenced prisoners as at 30 June 2023 by their age on reception (to prison), Figure 49 and Table 70 illustrate how the length of sentence varies depending on prisoner age. Overall, older adults were serving longer sentences compared with younger adults, and the median length of sentence increased with prisoner age on reception. The median sentence length for adults aged 50 to 59 years was five years (60 months), and for those aged 60 and older was 72 months (six years). In contrast, the median sentence length was 36 months (three years) for prisoners aged 18–19 years, 39 months for those aged 20–29, and 42 months for those aged 30–39 and 40–49 years.

Figure 49 shows the proportional distribution of periods of sentence within each age cohort of sentenced prisoners as at 30 June 2023, including indefinite sentences. The most prevalent period of sentence for prisoners aged 18 to 49 years on reception was between two years and less than five years, while for prisoners aged 50 years and older on reception was between five and less than ten years. There is a high proportion of prisoners with an indefinite sentence among three of the age cohorts, namely those aged 18–19 years, 50–59 years, and 60 years and over. While these three age cohorts represented just 12.9% of all prisoners in custody as at 30 June 2023, they accounted for 28.4% of all prisoners serving an indefinite sentence (Table 70). Most of the indefinite sentences in these age cohorts have been for *murder* (28 prisoners in the 18–19 years age cohort, 47 in the 50–59 years, and 13 in the 60 years and over cohort).

Figure 49 Proportion of sentenced prisoners by length of sentence^(a), by age on reception^(b), as at 30 June 2023



- (a) Aggregate sentence length as at 30 June 2023.
- (b) Excluded from calculations were 3 prisoners aged 17 years on reception, two of whom had an indefinite sentence, the third with a sentence of between 5 and less than 10 years.

Table 70 Sentenced adult prisoners by length of sentence^(a), by age on reception^(b), as at 30 June 2023

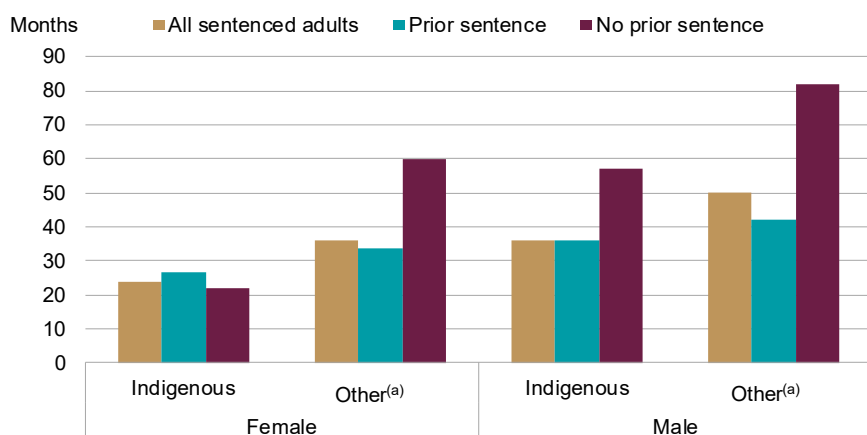
Age on reception	18–19 yrs	20–29 yrs	30–39 yrs	40–49 yrs	50–59 yrs	60 yrs & over
Sentence length	— persons —					
<3 months	0	4	6	3	1	1
3 to <6 months	2	20	29	21	10	6
6 to <12 months	12	144	171	113	40	18
1 to <2 years	39	436	459	240	72	23
2 to <5 yrs	67	732	740	359	96	28
5 to <10 years	32	558	592	303	126	52
10 to <15 years	6	100	166	96	51	27
15 to <20 years	1	17	43	34	10	6
20 years and over	0	3	11	12	9	2
Indefinite	29	80	90	70	50	16
Total	188	2,094	2,307	1,251	465	179

- (a) Aggregate sentence length as at 30 June 2023.
- (b) Excluded from calculations were 3 prisoners aged 17 years on reception, two of whom had an indefinite sentence, the third with a sentence of between 5 and less than 10 years.

6.2.2.3. Length of sentence by prisoner's known prior custodial sentence in Queensland

Figure 50 shows the median sentence length for all sentenced prisoners at 30 June 2023, along with cohorts of prisoners with and without prior known sentence, by sex and Indigenous status. As at 30 June 2023, the median sentence length for prisoners who were known to have served a previous custodial sentence was shorter than for those without a prior prison sentence(s) (36 months versus 72 months). This illustrates the relatively longer sentences for those prisoners who had not served a prison sentence in Queensland compared with individuals who had, in all prisoner cohorts except for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females. Other males is the cohort with the largest difference in median sentence length between prisoners with and without prior prison sentences (42 months vs 82 months).

Figure 50 Median sentence length of adult prisoners by known prior custodial sentence in Queensland, as at 30 June 2023

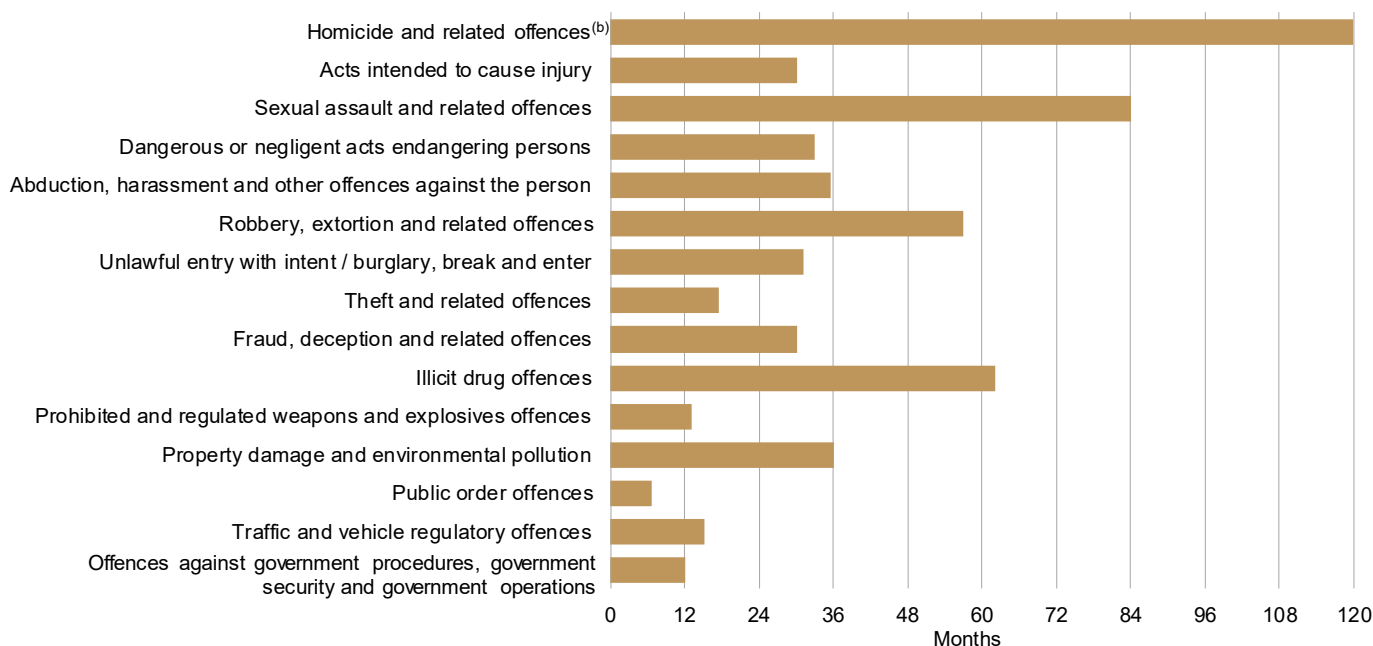


(a) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

6.2.2.4. Length of sentence by prisoner's most serious offence

Excluding prisoners serving indefinite sentences in Queensland, the median length of sentence varied by the most serious offence for which prisoners had been sentenced, with *homicide and related offences*, and *sexual offences* receiving longer sentences (Figure 51). These two offence divisions also accounted for almost all prisoners serving an indefinite sentence (98.5%) as at 30 June 2023 (excluded from figure). In fact, almost a third of all sentenced adult prisoners whose most serious offence was *homicide and related offences* were serving an indefinite sentence (62.5% or 317 prisoners). Table 71 provides an overview of the median length of sentence and the number of prisoners serving indefinite sentences in Queensland.

Figure 51 Median length of adult sentence by most serious offence^(a), as at 30 June 2023



(a) *Miscellaneous offences* excluded due to low numbers.

(b) Indefinite sentence has been excluded from median sentence calculations. Note that, as at 30 June 2023, the majority of adults serving an indefinite sentence were sentenced with *homicide and related offences* as their most serious offence (94.0% or 317 prisoners).

Table 71 Median length of adult sentence by most serious offence, as at 30 June 2023

Most serious offence by ANZSOC division	All imprisonment sentences of sentenced adult prisoners in custody as at 30 June 2023		
	Median sentence length ^(a)	Total sentenced prisoners	Prisoners serving an indefinite sentence
	Months (rounded down)	—persons—	
Homicide and related offences	120	507	317
Acts intended to cause injury	30	1,428	2
Sexual assault and related offences	84	922	15
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	33	257	0
Abduction, harassment, other offences against the person	35	34	0
Robbery, extortion and related offences	57	601	0
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	31	845	0
Theft and related offences	17	298	0
Fraud, deception and related offences	30	91	0
Illicit drug offences	62	917	3
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	13	22	0
Property damage and environmental pollution	36	84	0
Public order offences	6	18	0
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	15	63	0
Offences against government procedures, government security and government operations	12	398	0
Miscellaneous offences ^(b)	..	2	0

(a) Indefinite sentence has been excluded from median sentence calculations.

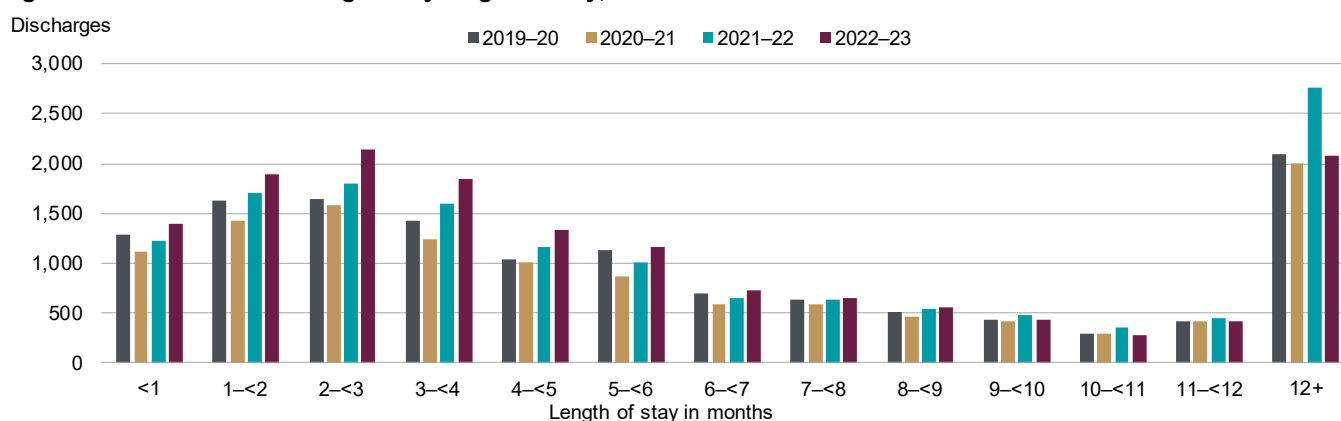
(b) The median sentence for *miscellaneous offences* was excluded from the table due to low count.

6.2.3. Length of stay

A prisoner's length of stay is calculated using the amount of time a person spends in a Queensland prison from their date of admission to their date of discharge (i.e. release) for each period they were in custody. The numbers in this section include all adults who were discharged from prison in a financial year, irrespective of their legal status or when they were admitted. This includes prisoners who were *sentenced* for an offence, those held in *remand*, and those in custody under a *post-sentence* DPSOA continuing detention order⁷. Note that this section refers to prisoner discharges, as a person can be counted multiple times in a reference year if discharged from custody more than once in that year.

Figure 52 illustrates changes in the number of prisoner discharges by length of stay in the last four financial years. There was a total of 14,908 discharges from Queensland prisons in 2022–23, an increase of 3.8% (or +539 discharges) on the previous year. The median length of stay for those released was four months, with durations ranging from less than one month to over 33 years. Two out of three prisoner discharges from Queensland prisons in 2022–23 followed a period of six months or less spent in custody (65.5%), compared with six in ten discharges in 2021–22 (59.1%). In contrast, only 13.9% of prisoner discharges in 2022–23 were of prisoners who spent one year or more in custody, compared with 19.2% in the previous year.

Figure 52 Prisoner discharges^(a) by length of stay, 2022–23



(a) An individual may be discharged more than once in a reference year if they served more than one period in custody in that year.

⁷ 'DPSOA continuing detention order' refers to an order under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003* to provide for the continued detention in custody of a particular class of prisoner to ensure adequate protection of the community; and/or to provide continuing control, care or treatment of a particular class of prisoner to facilitate their rehabilitation.

6.3. Adults in prison as at 30 June – time series

6.3.1. Prisoner characteristics

From 2014 to 2023, as at 30 June, the number of adults in Queensland prisons has increased by 45.1% (or +3,177) to 10,225, and 1,452 more prisoners (or +16.6%) than at the same date in 2019, prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. Table 72 and Figure 53 present the number of prisoners by Indigenous status and sex for the 10-year period. Overall, the number of prisoners at 30 June 2023 represents a new high, driven by a high in the numbers for male, female, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners.

Over the 10-year period, the numbers of male and female prisoners have increased proportionally with the overall growth in prisoner population. Males represented 90.5% of the prisoner population at 30 June 2014 and 90.4% in 2023. In contrast, the proportion of prisoners identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander increased by 5.3 percentage points over the same period, from 31.8% of the total prisoner population at 30 June 2014 to 37.2% in 2023. This was driven by a 4.2 percentage point increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male prisoners, while the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female proportion increased by 1.1 percentage point.

Table 72 Adults in prison as at 30 June – time series

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^(a)	2019	2020 ^(b)	2021	2022	2023
	— persons —									
Total persons^(c)	7,048	7,319	7,744	8,478	8,838	8,773	8,660	9,952	9,365	10,225
Male	6,379	6,612	7,062	7,780	8,000	7,917	7,895	9,027	8,515	9,247
Female	669	707	682	698	838	856	765	925	850	978
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	2,243	2,309	2,463	2,723	2,744	2,872	3,040	3,477	3,406	3,799
Male	2,013	2,071	2,226	2,469	2,452	2,561	2,736	3,100	3,046	3,352
Female	230	238	237	254	292	311	304	377	360	447
Other^(d)	4,805	5,010	5,281	5,755	6,094	5,901	5,620	6,475	5,959	6,426
Male	4,366	4,541	4,836	5,311	5,548	5,356	5,159	5,927	5,469	5,895
Female	439	469	445	444	546	545	461	548	490	531

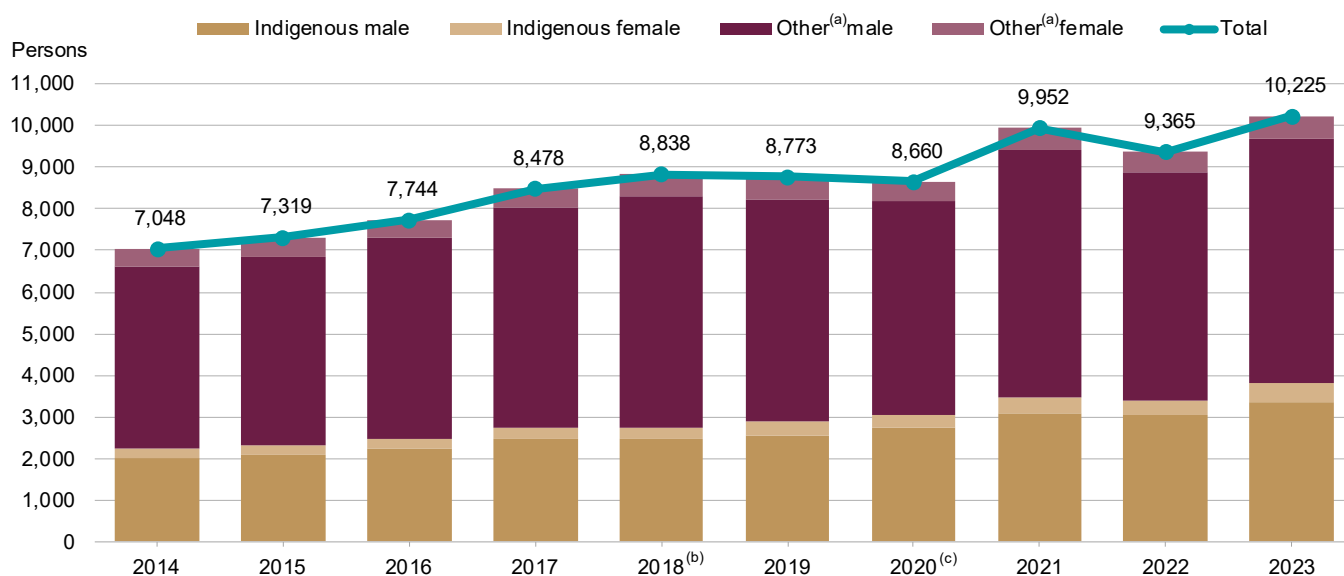
(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(c) Includes all adults in prison irrespective of legal status.

(d) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Figure 53 Adults in prison by Indigenous status and sex, as at 30 June – time series



(a) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

(b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

6.3.2. Legal status

A prisoner may have a legal status of either *sentenced* or *unsentenced* depending on the warrant(s) or court order(s) that provide the legal basis for the administration of the person through the criminal justice system, or they may be kept in prison custody post-sentence under a *DPSOA* continuing detention order (see Glossary for more detail).

In line with the increase in the total number of prisoners in Queensland (45.1%), the number of prisoners who are sentenced, unsentenced or serving a DPSOA order have all increased in the last ten years. However, the extent of increase varied depending on legal status (Table 73).

From 2014 to 2023, as at 30 June, the number of *sentenced* prisoners increased by 21.7% to 6,487; *unsentenced* prisoners more than doubled (+119.8%) to 3,684; and those serving a *DPSOA order* increased by 31.7% to 54. However, while the number of sentenced prisoners has increased, the sentenced proportion of the total prisoner population has progressively declined over the 10-year period, from 75.6% to a low of 63.4% as at 30 June 2023. Data show disparity in this decrease by sex. While the sentenced proportion of prisoners was similar for males and females in 2014, at 75.7% and 74.6% respectively, only 57.1% of female prisoners were sentenced compared with 64.1% of males as at 30 June 2023 (Figure 54).

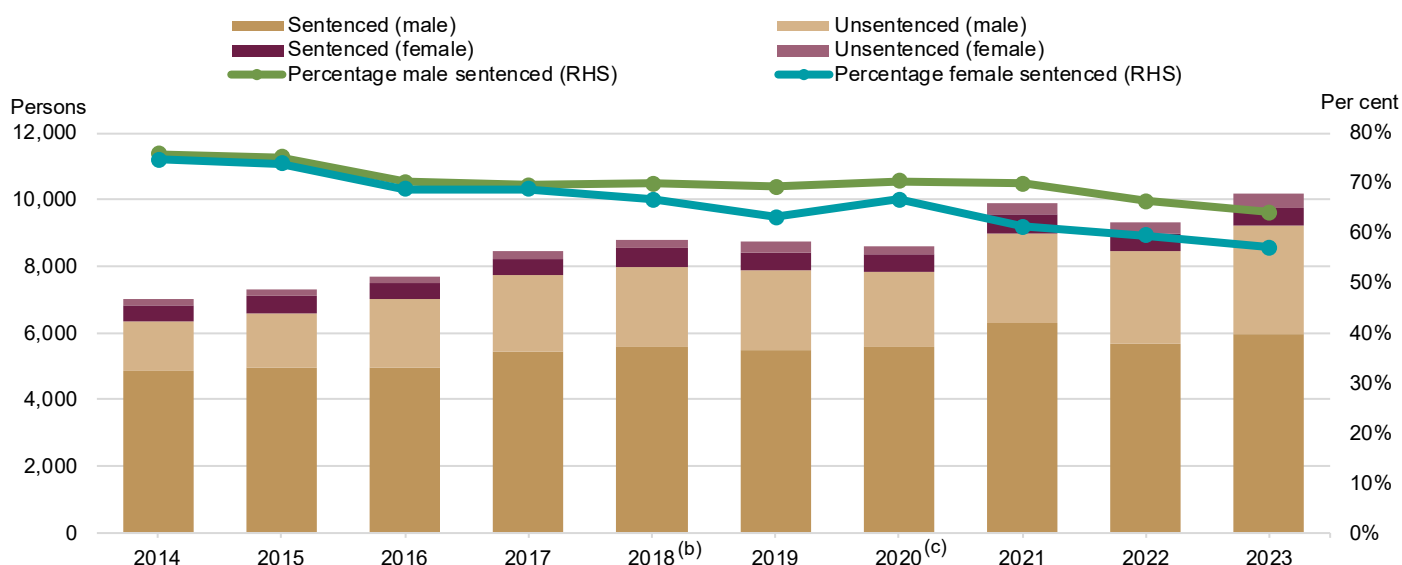
Table 73 Adults in prison by legal status and sex of prisoner, as at 30 June – time series

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^(a)	2019	2020 ^(b)	2021	2022	2023
	— persons —									
Total persons	7,048	7,319	7,744	8,478	8,838	8,773	8,660	9,952	9,365	10,225
Sentenced	5,331	5,488	5,430	5,894	6,149	6,017	6,071	6,870	6,158	6,487
Unsentenced	1,676	1,793	2,266	2,547	2,652	2,710	2,532	3,028	3,147	3,684
DPSOA	41	38	48	37	37	46	57	54	60	54
Male	6,379	6,612	7,062	7,780	8,000	7,917	7,895	9,027	8,515	9,247
Sentenced	4,832	4,966	4,961	5,414	5,590	5,477	5,561	6,304	5,653	5,929
Unsentenced	1,506	1,608	2,053	2,329	2,373	2,394	2,277	2,669	2,802	3,264
DPSOA	41	38	48	37	37	46	57	54	60	54
Female	669	707	682	698	838	856	765	925	850	978
Sentenced	499	522	469	480	559	540	510	566	505	558
Unsentenced	170	185	213	218	279	316	255	359	345	420
DPSOA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

Figure 54 Adults in prison by legal status^(a) of prisoner and sex, as at 30 June – time series



(a) Due to low numbers, prisoners serving a DPSOA order are not shown in the person count, but are included in the percentage calculations.

(b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

6.3.3. Imprisonment rate

From 2014 to 2023, as at 30 June, the total imprisonment rate in Queensland increased by 26.5% to 243.3 prisoners per 100,000 adult population (Table 74). The overall imprisonment rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults increased more over the 10-year period (+34.5%) than for other prisoners (+16.9%), with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females being the cohort with the largest rate increase (+54.8%), to 557.6 per 100,000 persons. Over the same period, the imprisonment rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males increased (+31.8%) to 4,368.8 per 100,000 persons. In contrast, imprisonment rates for other males and females increased to a much lesser degree (+19.1% and +4.9% respectively), and well below the overall growth rate of 26.5%.

As shown in Figure 55, the gap in imprisonment rates between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other adults in Queensland has been widening since 2019, before the pandemic was declared, except for a slight narrowing in 2021. At 30 June 2023, the overall Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander imprisonment rate was 15.2 times the rate for other adults overall. The gap between the female cohorts is even wider, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females 21.7 times more likely to be imprisoned than other females.

Table 74 Adult imprisonment rate by Indigenous status, as at 30 June – time series

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^(a)	2019	2020 ^(b)	2021	2022	2023
	— rate per 100,000 persons ^(c) —									
Total persons	192.4	197.1	205.5	220.9	227.6	224.0	217.3	246.8	227.4	243.3
Male	352.9	361.7	381.6	412.9	420.2	412.6	404.6	456.8	422.3	449.6
Female	36.0	37.5	35.6	35.7	42.3	42.8	37.6	45.0	40.5	45.6
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	1,800.5	1,800.9	1,865.8	2,000.3	1,980.4	2,054.8	2,111.7	2,345.1	2,233.5	2,421.5
Male	3,314.5	3,308.9	3,451.6	3,709.2	3,620.5	3,751.4	3,889.6	4,278.0	4,085.0	4,368.8
Female	360.3	362.7	351.0	365.1	412.2	434.9	412.9	497.4	461.9	557.6
Other^(d)	135.8	139.8	145.3	155.5	162.7	156.2	146.3	166.7	150.3	158.8
Male	249.9	257.2	270.8	292.2	302.1	289.4	274.3	311.4	281.6	297.7
Female	24.5	25.8	24.1	23.6	28.6	28.3	23.5	27.7	24.2	25.7

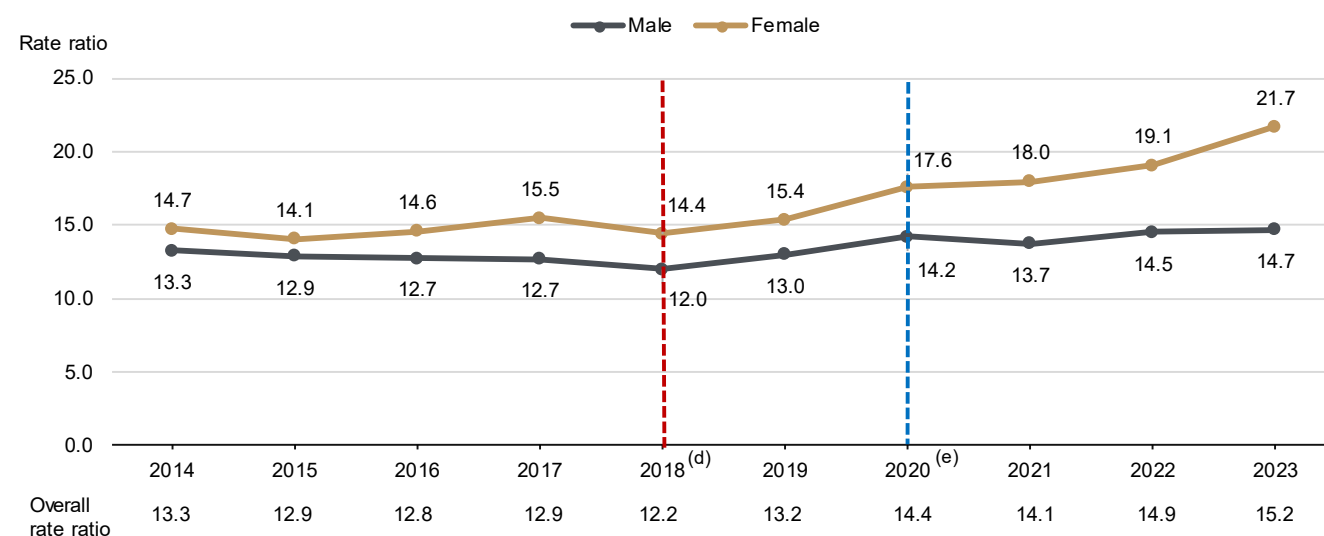
(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(c) Imprisonment rate is calculated per 100,000 persons aged 17 years and over for 2013–2017, and 18 years and over for 2018–2022, and includes all prisoners as at 30 June, irrespective of their legal status.

(d) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Figure 55 Difference in imprisonment rates^{(a)(b)} between Indigenous and other^(c) adults by sex, as at 30 June – time series



(a) Imprisonment rate is calculated per 100,000 persons (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other) aged 17 years and over for 2013–2017; 18 years and over for 2018–2022; and includes all adults in custody, irrespective their legal status.

(b) *Rate ratio* is calculated by dividing the imprisonment rate for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population subgroup by the rate for the equivalent Other population subgroup. Rate ratios have been calculated on unrounded rates. Overall rate ratio relates to the imprisonment rates for each of the total (male and female) adult populations.

(c) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

(d) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(e) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

6.4. Adults in supervised community-based corrections

Each adult serving a supervised community-based corrections order can potentially be serving multiple orders of the same or different order types simultaneously.

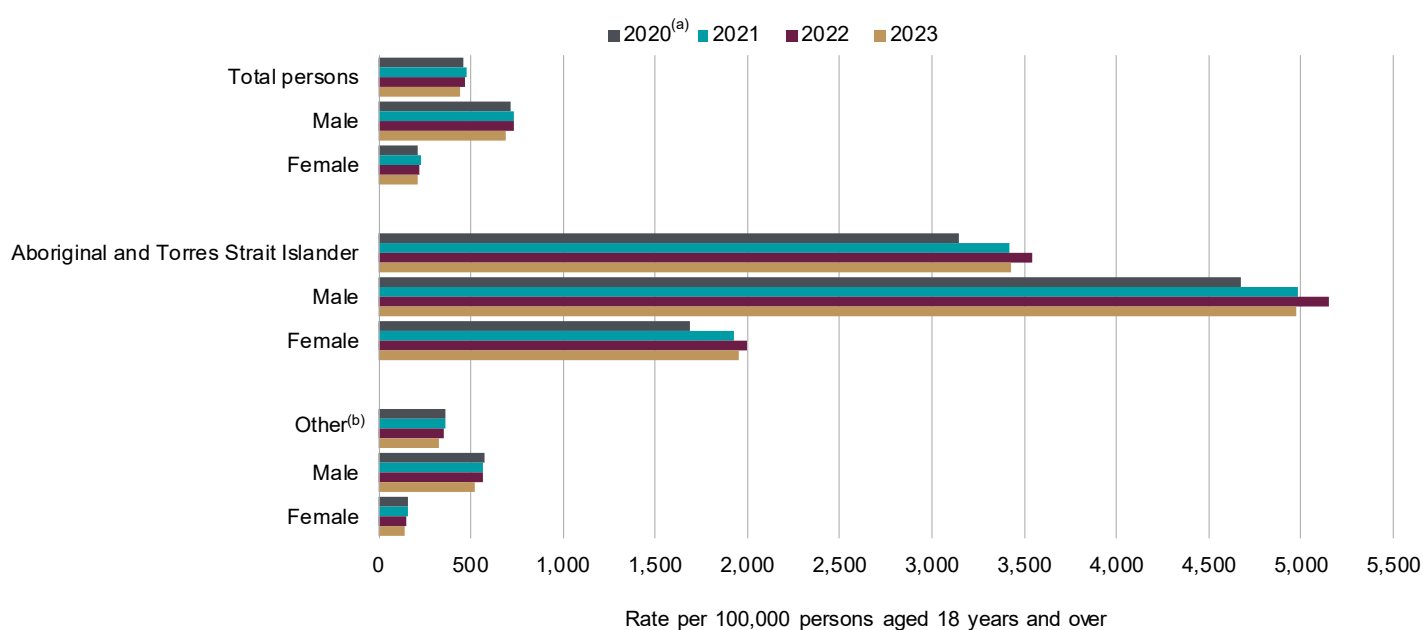
There were 18,686 adults serving one or more supervised community-based corrections orders as at 1 June 2023, a decrease of 3.6% compared with the previous year. The total rate of adults under community-based supervision also decreased (-5.5%) to a four-year low of 444.6 per 100,000 persons aged 18 years and over (Figure 56).

6.4.1. Offender characteristics

As at 1 June 2023, the majority of adults in supervised community-based corrections were male (75.9%), and three in 10 (29.8%) identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

As with imprisonment rates, the rate of adults in supervised community-based corrections is higher for males than for females, and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander than for other adults (Figure 56). Adult males (at 689.8 per 100,000 persons aged 18 years and over) were 3.3 times more likely than females (209.6) to serve a supervised community-based corrections order, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults (at 3,429.9 per 100,000 persons) were 10.4 times more likely than other adults (328.8). While the rate difference between males and females has remained relatively stable in the last four years (ranging from 3.2 to 3.4 times), the rate difference between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other adults at 1 June has progressively increased from 8.7 times in 2020 to 10.4 times in 2023.

Figure 56 Rate of adults in supervised community-based corrections as at 1 June



(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(b) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

6.4.2. Order types

Table 75 presents the number of adults that were serving each type of supervised community-based corrections order as at 1 June 2023, by Indigenous status and sex. An individual may be counted in more than one order type if they were serving multiple orders simultaneously at 1 June.

Over half of all adults in supervised community-based corrections were serving *probation* orders (53.5%) and two out of five were serving *parole* (41.9%). A higher proportion of females (63.2%) than males (49.9%) was serving *probation*, while a higher proportion of males (44.6%) than females (31.9%) was serving *parole*. A similar proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other adults served *parole* (42.5 and 41.6% respectively), while other adults were more likely than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults to be serving *probation* (55.2% and 49.5% respectively).

Table 75 Adults^(a) serving supervised community-based corrections orders, by Indigenous status and sex, at 1 June 2023

	Community service – fine option	Community service – other	Parole	Post-sentence supervision	Probation	Total persons on supervised community-based orders ^(b)
— persons —						
Total persons	27	1,776	7,828	138	10,004	18,686
Male	19	1,306	6,373	138	7,160	14,188
Female	8	470	1,455	0	2,844	4,498
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	19	762	2,289	54	2,662	5,381
Male	14	526	1,779	54	1,735	3,815
Female	5	236	510	0	927	1,566
Other^(c)	8	1,014	5,539	84	7,342	13,305
Male	5	780	4,594	84	5,425	10,373
Female	3	234	945	0	1,917	2,932

(a) Table presents a count of adults per order type as at 1 June 2023, and an individual is counted once for each order type being served at that date.

(b) Total is the sum of individuals serving one or more community-based corrections order(s) as at 1 June 2023.

(c) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

6.5. Adults in supervised community-based corrections – time series

6.5.1. Offender characteristics

Please be aware that, due to the change in legislation relating to youth justice, counts for 2013 to 2017 include those who offended aged 17 years, while those for 2018 to 2023 represent only offenders aged 18 years and over.

As at 1 June 2023, there were 18,686 adults serving supervised community-based corrections orders in Queensland, 2,783 more than in 2014, although 2,661 fewer (or –12.5%) than in 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The social restrictions implemented in 2020 as response to the COVID-19 pandemic had a direct impact on the number of adults in supervised community-based corrections as at 1 June (Table 76 and Figure 57). When examined by Indigenous status and sex, the numbers for each of the four cohorts increased consistently year-on-year from 2014 to 2019, and then sharply declined in 2020. Since 2020, the numbers in every cohort have fluctuated, with the exception of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females, whose number has increased for three years running (+26.2% over the period). The numbers of both male and female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults in supervised community-corrections at 1 June 2023 exceeded pre-pandemic levels (+3.6% and +15.2% respectively). In contrast, for both male and female other adults the numbers were lower in 2023 than in 2019 (–17.8% and –20.6% respectively).

As a proportion of all adults in supervised community-based corrections as at 1 June, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander proportion has grown from 23.1% in 2014 to a high of 28.8% in 2023. Within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cohort, females have increased their proportion by 4.3 percentage points, from 24.8% in 2014 to 29.1% in 2023.

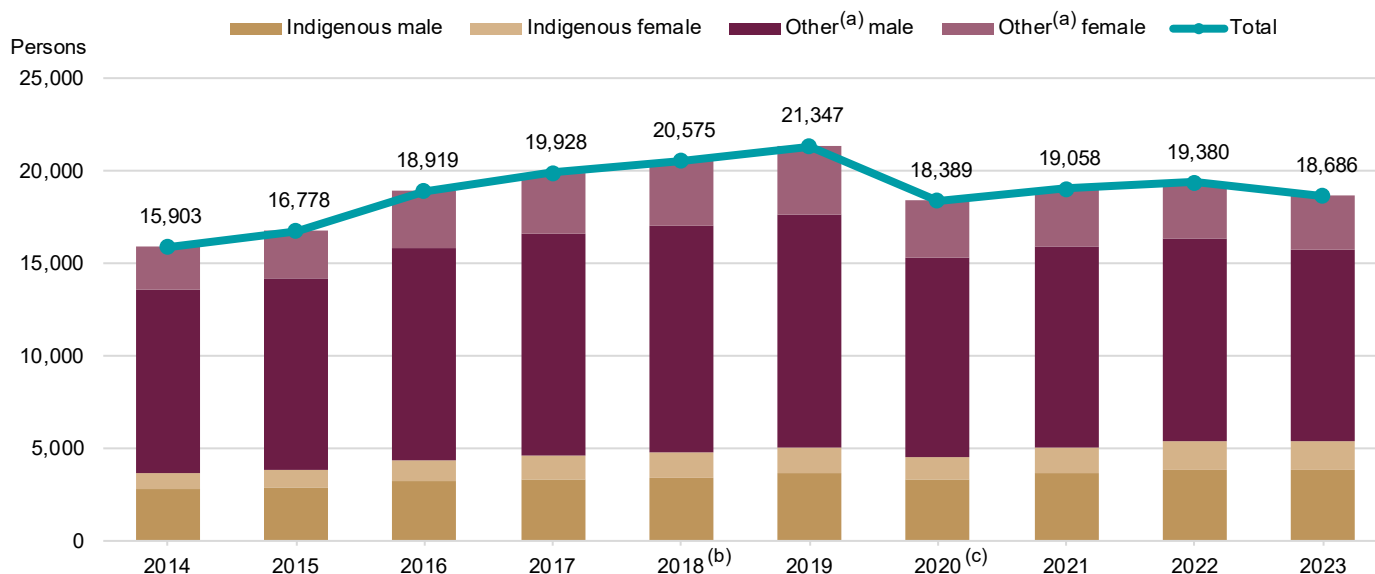
Table 76 Adults in supervised community-based corrections by Indigenous status and sex, as at 1 June – time series

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^(a)	2019	2020 ^(b)	2021	2022	2023
— persons —										
Total persons	15,903	16,778	18,919	19,928	20,575	21,347	18,389	19,058	19,380	18,686
Male	12,638	13,211	14,734	15,316	15,758	16,297	14,033	14,422	14,823	14,188
Female	3,265	3,567	4,185	4,612	4,817	5,050	4,356	4,636	4,557	4,498
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	3,673	3,853	4,332	4,568	4,745	5,042	4,530	5,071	5,397	5,381
Male	2,761	2,906	3,200	3,308	3,427	3,683	3,289	3,609	3,840	3,815
Female	912	947	1,132	1,260	1,318	1,359	1,241	1,462	1,557	1,566
Other^(c)	12,230	12,925	14,587	15,360	15,830	16,305	13,859	13,987	13,983	13,305
Male	9,877	10,305	11,534	12,008	12,331	12,614	10,744	10,813	10,983	10,373
Female	2,353	2,620	3,053	3,352	3,499	3,691	3,115	3,174	3,000	2,932

(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(c) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Figure 57 Adults in supervised community-based corrections by Indigenous status and sex, as at 1 June – time series


(a) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

(b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

6.5.2. Rate of adults in supervised community-based corrections

As at 1 June, the rate of adults serving supervised community-based corrections orders declined for the second consecutive year and reached its second-lowest in the time series at 444.6 per 100,000 persons (–5.9% since 2020), with the series low being 434.1 per 100,000 persons in 2014 (Table 77).

The overall rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults in supervised community-based corrections as at 1 June 2023 (at 3,429.9 per 100,000 persons) was higher than in 2014 (2,948.4 per 100,000 persons) and lower than the series peak in 2019 (3,607.3 per 100,000 persons). For other adults, the overall rate was at its lowest for the series in 2023, at 328.8 per 100,000 persons.

When examined by Indigenous status and sex, the rate of adults in supervised community-based corrections at 1 June was higher in 2023 than in 2014 for all cohorts except for other males, whose rate was at a series low in 2023 at 523.8 per 100,000 persons, representing a decline of 7.4% over the 10-year period.

Table 77 Rate of adults in supervised community-based corrections as at 1 June – time series

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^(a)	2019	2020 ^(b)	2021	2022	2023
	— rate per 100,000 persons ^(c) —									
Total persons	434.1	451.9	502.1	519.3	529.8	545.0	461.4	472.6	470.7	444.6
Male	699.2	722.7	796.2	812.9	827.6	849.3	719.1	729.9	735.1	689.8
Female	175.9	189.3	218.3	236.1	243.3	252.7	214.1	225.5	216.9	209.6
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	2,948.4	3,005.1	3,281.6	3,355.6	3,424.6	3,607.3	3,146.7	3,420.3	3,539.1	3,429.9
Male	4,546.1	4,643.0	4,961.9	4,969.6	5,060.1	5,395.0	4,675.7	4,980.4	5,149.8	4,972.2
Female	1,428.5	1,443.0	1,676.6	1,811.3	1,860.7	1,900.6	1,685.7	1,928.8	1,997.9	1,953.6
Other^(d)	345.6	360.6	401.2	415.0	422.7	431.6	360.7	360.1	352.6	328.8
Male	565.4	583.7	645.8	660.7	671.5	681.6	571.2	568.1	565.6	523.8
Female	131.3	144.0	165.1	177.9	183.3	191.6	158.9	160.3	148.3	141.9

(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

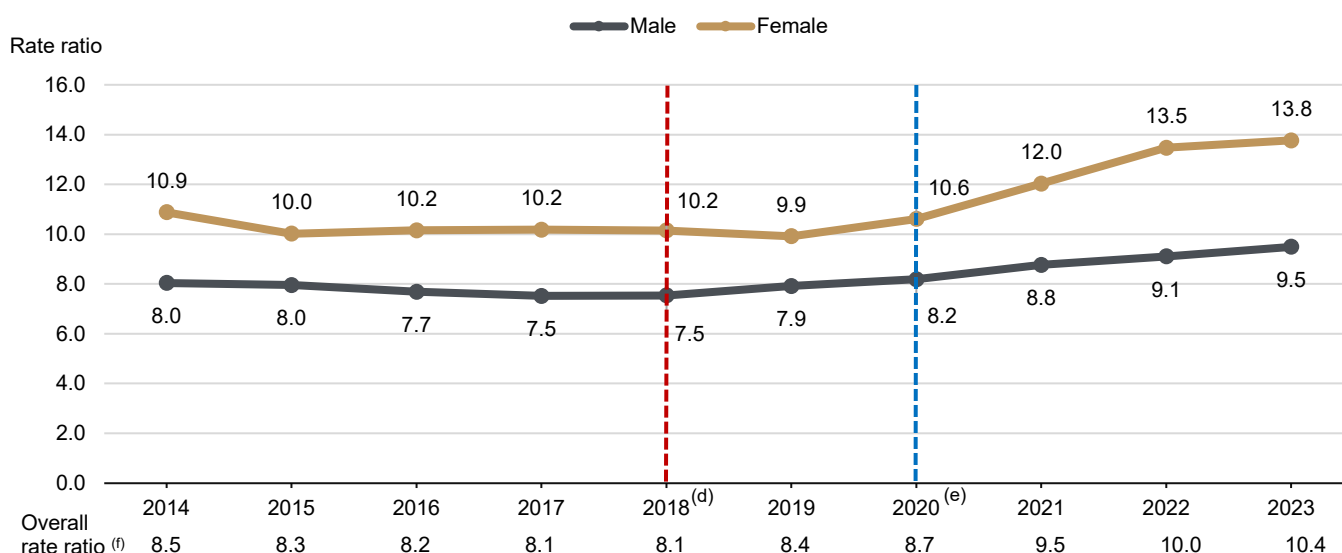
(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(c) Rates have been calculated per 100,000 persons aged 17 years and over for 2013–2017, and 18 years and over for 2018–2023.

(d) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

As shown in Figure 58, the gap in the rates between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other adults in supervised community-based corrections at 1 June has been steadily widening since 2019, before the pandemic was declared, and in 2023, the overall Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rate was 10.4 times the rate for other adults overall. Between the two female cohorts the gap is even wider, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females 13.8 times more likely to be serving a supervised community-based corrections order than other females at 1 June 2023. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males were 9.5 times more likely to be in supervised community-based corrections than other males.

Figure 58 Difference in rates^{(a)(b)} between Indigenous and other^(c) adults serving supervised community-based corrections orders by sex as at 30 June – time series



- (a) Rates have been calculated per 100,000 persons aged 17 years and over for 2013–2017, and 18 years and over for 2018–2023.
- (b) Rate ratio is calculated dividing the rate for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population subgroup by the rate for the equivalent *other* population subgroup. Rate differences have been calculated on unrounded rates. Overall rate ratio relates to the imprisonment rates for each of the total (male and female) adult populations.
- (c) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- (d) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (e) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
- (f) Overall rate ratio is calculated dividing the rate for the combined Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population subgroups by the rate for the equivalent *other* population subgroups.

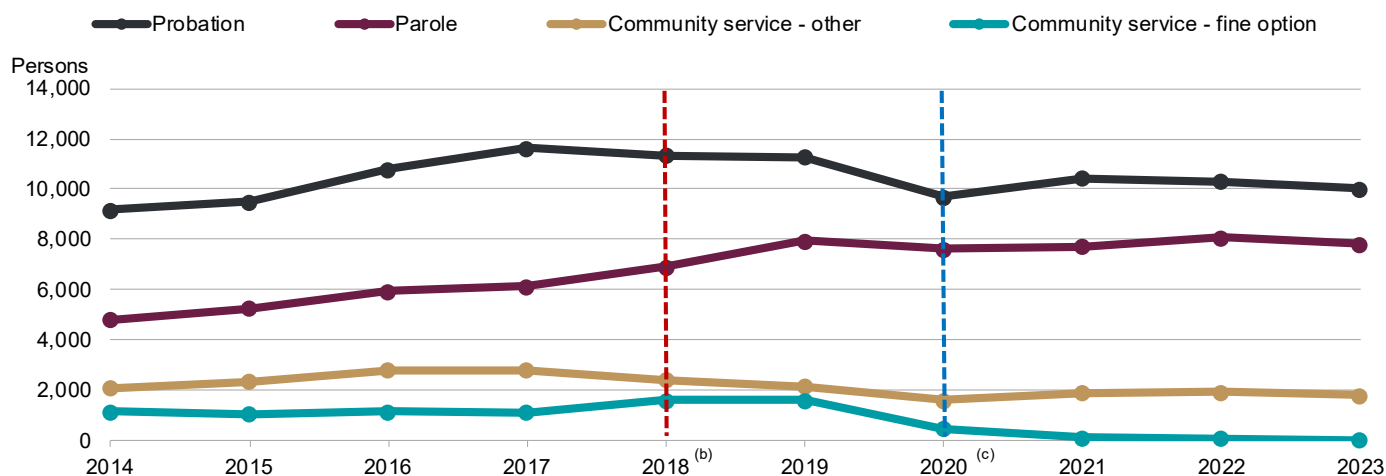
6.5.3. Order types

Table 78 presents the number of adults that were serving each type of supervised community-based corrections order as at 1 June for the 10 years to 2023. Note that individuals can potentially be counted multiple times in a year as they can serve more than one different order type simultaneously.

As at 1 June, from 2014 to 2023, the number of adults serving supervised community-based corrections orders in Queensland has increased by 17.5%. Most of that growth is due to a steady increase in the number of persons on *parole* from 2014 (4,796 persons) to 2019 (7,934 persons), with only minor fluctuations between 2020 (7,622 persons) and 2023 (7,828 persons), resulting in a 63.2% increase over the 10-year time series, or +3,032 persons serving parole. The number on parole was at a peak in 2022, at 8,056 persons.

Despite volume fluctuations throughout the 10-year period and a downward trend since a peak in 2017 (11,620 persons), *probation* has consistently been the most prevalent type of supervised community-based order, followed by *parole*, and *community service - other* (Figure 59). The number of adults serving *community service - fine option* as at 1 June 2023 was just a small fraction (1.7% or 27 persons) of its series high in 2018 (1,609 persons), driven by the phased discontinuation of Queensland Corrective Services' supervision of State Penalties Enforcement Registry (SPER) work development orders.

Figure 59 Adults serving supervised community-based corrections orders by order type^(a), as at 1 June – time series



- (a) Those being managed under DPSOA supervision orders are excluded due to low numbers.
- (b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

Table 78 Adults^(a) serving supervised community-based corrections orders by order type, as at 1 June – time series

Order type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^(a)	2019	2020 ^(b)	2021	2022	2023
	— persons —									
Community service – fine option	1,148	1,047	1,156	1,110	1,609	1,604	468	109	91	27
Community service – other	2,093	2,336	2,787	2,785	2,401	2,155	1,605	1,876	1,927	1,776
Parole	4,796	5,242	5,922	6,128	6,908	7,934	7,622	7,728	8,056	7,828
DPSOA ^(d)	99	94	101	114	129	138	127	133	138	138
Probation	9,181	9,486	10,783	11,620	11,327	11,276	9,692	10,425	10,297	10,004
Total persons on supervised community-based orders ^(e)	15,903	16,778	18,919	19,928	20,575	21,347	18,389	19,058	19,380	18,686

- (a) Table presents a count of unique adults per order type, irrespective of whether an individual was serving one or more orders of that type as at 1 June 2023.
- (b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
- (d) A *DPSOA supervision order* is a post-sentence order. Prior to June 2013, data for offenders being managed under such orders were included in the probation category.
- (e) Total is a count of unique adults serving one or more community-based corrections order(s) as at 1 June, and does not equal the sum of unique adults on each order type.

7.0 Explanatory notes and glossary

Abbreviations and symbols

..	not applicable
n.a.	not available
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ANZSOC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification, 2011
DJAG	Department of Justice and Attorney-General
DPSOA	<i>Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003</i>
DYJ	Department of Youth Justice
ERP	estimated resident population
MSO	most serious offence
QCS	Queensland Corrective Services
QGSO	Queensland Government Statistician's Office

Glossary

Many of the terms listed below relate to both adult and child, except where otherwise specified.

Adjudicated: criminal proceedings resulting in a judgement or decision made by the court as to whether or not the defendant is guilty of a criminal charge(s). Adjudication may lead to conviction if guilty or acquittal if not. Non-adjudicated matters are those considered to have been completed prior to adjudication (e.g. withdrawn by the prosecution, defendant deceased, unfit to plead).

Admission to order: when a corrections/youth justice order commences.

Admission to custody: when a period of custody commences.

Adult: in this report, refers to persons dealt with as an adult in Queensland courts and corrective services.

Charge: a formal accusation of an offence.

Child: in this report, refers to persons dealt with as a child in Queensland courts and by Youth Justice for offences committed when the offender was of child age. (see *Children and young people* in Notes).

(Supervised) community-based corrections (adult): refers to the supervised community-based management of court-ordered sanctions, post-prison administrative arrangements and fine conversions, which principally involve the provision of one or more of the following activities: supervision, programs or community work.

Community-based supervision (child): a legal arrangement that requires a young person to be supervised by a youth justice agency within the community. Community-based supervision may be unsentenced or sentenced. Unsentenced community-based orders include conditional bail; sentenced community-based orders include probation, community service, conditional release, sentenced boot camp (*introduced in January 2013 and discontinued from July 2015*), court-ordered graffiti removal (*introduced in September 2013*), intensive supervision.

Company: includes all non-person defendants, such as organisations, dealt with in the adult court system.

Concurrent (imprisonment): individual sentences of imprisonment for different offences, ordered to be served at the same time. This means any shorter sentence is included in the longest (or 'head') sentence.

Continuing detention order: an order which subjects an offender to extended detention in prison following the completion of a custodial sentence. Such orders are made by a court where an offender has a history of serious offending, usually involving sexual or violent offences, and it determines that there is a serious danger to the community if the offender is released from prison (see *DPSOA orders*).

Convicted appearance: an adjudicated appearance resulting in a guilty finding.

Convicted charge: an offence for which a defendant is found guilty in a court of law.

Court-ordered conference: (see *restorative justice*)

Courts:

Childrens Court: a special court which deals with Magistrates Court matters involving child defendants. It is presided over by a Childrens Court magistrate.

Childrens Court of Queensland: an intermediate court which deals with children charged with indictable criminal offences (serious crimes). It is presided over by a Childrens Court judge, who is also a judge of the District Court of Queensland.

Higher courts: include the Supreme Court, District Court and Childrens Court of Queensland.

Magistrates Court: is the first level of the Queensland Courts system and includes the specialist Murri Court and Drug and Alcohol Court. It is a court of summary jurisdiction constituted by a magistrate and has no jury, and criminal cases are first heard in this court in some form. The Magistrates Court deals with summary offences, such as traffic infringements; minor offences, such as shoplifting or disorderly behaviour; more serious offences, such as burglary, assault, fraud and drugs. Where the offence is more serious, the magistrate may commit the case to the District Court or Supreme Court for sentence or trial.

District Court: is the second tier of the court system after the Magistrates Court and is constituted by a District Court judge. This court deals with serious criminal offences such as rape, armed robbery and fraud. Criminal trials in the District Court will generally involve a jury. Matters involving child defendants may be heard in the District Court if a Childrens Court Judge is not available.

Supreme Court: the highest court in the Queensland judicial system, with unlimited jurisdiction and dealing with murder, attempted murder, manslaughter and the most serious drug offences. Matters are presided over by a judge and may involve a jury. Matters involving child defendants may also be heard in the Supreme Court.

Cumulative (imprisonment): individual sentences, given for each offence, that are ordered to be served one after the other, rather than at the same time.

Custodial sentence: an order that involves a term of imprisonment/detention being imposed on the offender, including sentences which are either partially or wholly suspended.

Custody: refers to confinement in a place intended primarily for the purpose of confining prisoners, such as a prison or prison farm (for adults) or youth detention centre.

Defendant: a person appearing in a criminal court charged with a criminal offence.



Child defendant: an alleged offender dealt with by the criminal courts system as a child, for offences committed as a child (see *Child offenders* in Notes).

Unique child defendant: a child or young person with at least one finalised appearance as a child in a Queensland criminal court during the reference period. An individual is counted only once in a reference year, irrespective of whether they had one or multiple finalised appearances in the year.

Detention: A legal arrangement that requires a young person to be detained in a youth justice facility. This includes both sentenced and unsentenced detention.

Discharge from custody: the release of a prisoner at the end of a period of custody, whether sentenced or unsentenced.

DPSOA order: under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003*, if the court is satisfied a prisoner is a serious danger to the community, the court may order that the prisoner be detained in custody on a *continuing (or interim) detention order* or released into the community on a *supervision (or interim supervision) order*.

Finalised appearance: in this report, an offence or collection of offences for a single defendant that are adjudicated on the same day, at the same court level and court location (resulting in a guilty finding and sentence, or acquittal).

Head sentence: the total period of imprisonment imposed taking into account, if more than one prison sentence is imposed, whether they are ordered to be served concurrently or cumulatively.

Legal status (of those in custody): A person may be either *sentenced* or *unsentenced* depending on the warrant(s) or court order(s) that provide the legal basis for the administration of the person through the criminal justice system, or they may be detained post-sentence on a DPSOA detention order.

Length of stay: the time elapsed between admission and discharge for a person in custody.

Most serious offence (MSO) is based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification, 2011 (ANZSOC) and is determined according to its ranking in the *National Offence Index*, 2018 (ABS). (See *Counting methodology* in Notes.)

Offence: any act or omission by a person or persons for which a penalty could be imposed by the Australian legal system.

Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations include breach of custodial order offences; breach of community-based order; breach of violence and non-violence order; as well as offences against government operations, government security and justice procedures.

Offender: a person aged 10 years or over who has been found guilty of an offence.

Child offender: an offender dealt with by the youth justice system as a child, for offences committed as a child (see *Children and young people* in Notes).

Parole: the supervised release of a prisoner to serve all or the remainder of their term of imprisonment in the community, subject to conditions and supervision (e.g. offenders sentenced to a life sentence will remain on parole for life).

Penalty: a punishment of an offender ordered by the court after a guilty finding.

Population subgroup: in this report, this term is used where counts/rates are calculated by demographic variables such as age, Indigenous status and/or sex. It refers to the portion of the population to which a statistic pertains, e.g. non-Indigenous females aged 10–17 years.

Post-sentence detention/supervision: (see *DPSOA order*)

Reception: the event of entering a prison/detention centre from the community to begin an unsentenced or sentenced imprisonment/detention order, i.e. excludes transfers from another custodial facility.

Release: when a person leaves prison/detention and is not detained immediately after.

Remand: to place an accused person in custody awaiting trial/sentence for the charges against them. A person who has been denied bail, or not sought it, will be placed on remand. A person may be referred to unsentenced imprisonment/detention either by police (pre-court custody) or by a court (remand). (See *Unsentenced*).

Segment: part of a period in detention, a segment is defined by its legal status (within the larger detention episode). When the legal status changes, and/or a new episode begins, a new segment is commenced.

Sentence: the determination by a court of the penalty to be imposed on a person who has been found guilty of an offence. The following penalties generally relate to both adult and child offenders, with a few exceptions as noted:

absolute discharge release without a conviction being recorded and without any further penalty.

community service order an order to do unpaid community service for a specified number of hours, usually within 12 months, and to comply with reporting and other conditions.

driver licence disqualification an order disqualifying a person from holding or obtaining a Queensland driver licence absolutely or for a specified period of time.

fine a monetary penalty requiring an offender to make a payment of a specified sum to the Crown.

good behaviour bond is a requirement to appear before a court if called to do so and to be of good behaviour (not break the law) for a set period (up to three years), which requires the person and anyone acting as a 'surety' to pay an amount of money if the offender breaks the law or does not comply with other conditions of the order.

Imprisonment a type of custody where an adult offender is required to be held in custody on a full-time basis. Includes partially-suspended sentence.

intensive correction order is an adult sentence of imprisonment of one year or less ordered to be served in the community and including intensive supervision, community service and treatment programs.

nominal penalty includes penalties such as convicted not punished; reprimand; imprisonment for a period of "rise", which means the (adult) offender is detained at the court from when they appear until the court rises for the day.

probation a penalty allowing an offender freedom under supervision for a specified period, conditional upon compliance with the terms of the order.

suspended sentence an adult sentence of imprisonment of five years or less, suspended in full (wholly suspended) or in part (partially suspended) for a period of time (called the operational period). A partially suspended sentence requires the offender to spend part of their sentence in prison, with the remainder suspended. A suspended sentence does not involve supervision, but if the offender commits further offences punishable by imprisonment during the operational period of the suspended sentence, the court must order the offender to serve the period of imprisonment suspended.



treatment order involves offender participating in a drug and alcohol treatment program.

Sentence length: in this report, refers only to imprisonment sentences. For adults, the term of imprisonment can either be a specified length, in years, months and/or days, or it can be indefinite. Sentence lengths reported are the aggregate of any sentences being served concurrently, as at 30 June 2023.

Aggregate sentence length includes both custodial and non-custodial components of a sentence of imprisonment.

Sentenced (in relation to custody): a legal status indicating that a person is confined to custody following a determination by a court to impose a term of imprisonment / youth detention.

Supervised youth justice orders: include both detention-based orders and community-based orders, such as probation, community service, intensive supervision, conditional release, restorative justice, graffiti removal and boot camp. (See *Community-based supervision (child offenders)*)

Supervision order: an order which subjects an offender to extended supervision in the community by corrective services following the completion of a custodial sentence (see *DPSOA order*).

Unsentenced (in relation to custody): a legal status indicating that a person is confined to custody while awaiting trial (pre-court custody), or the outcome of their trial (see *Remand*).

Unsupervised youth justice orders include fine, good behaviour and reprimand, and require no supervision after sentencing by the court.

Youth justice orders: penalties which may be imposed on child offenders only, including:

ancillary orders include compensation, compensation – personal – injury; compensation – property; restitution

boot camp an order suspending a detention order upon a child, aged 13 years or older, entering a boot camp program for a period of 3–6 months. This order was introduced in 2013 and discontinued on 30 September 2015.

boot camp (vehicle offences) an order made in relation to a child, aged 13 years or older, who usually resides in an area prescribed by regulation and who is a recidivist vehicle offender. This order was introduced in 2013 and discontinued on 30 September 2015.

conditional release suspension by the sentencing court of a detention order against a child offender, conditional on participation in a program of up to three months.

detention a custodial penalty placing a child offender in a youth detention centre.

good behaviour a penalty where an offender is ordered to be of good behaviour for a specified period and where a breach thereof may be taken into account if the offender re-offends during the period of the order.

graffiti removal an order made against a child offender aged 12 years or older who is found guilty of a graffiti offence, to perform graffiti removal service for a specified number of hours.

intensive supervision usually involves a period of intensive supervision in the community with the possibility of detention if the young person breaches the community supervision. It is a sentencing option for a child offender who has been found guilty of an offence that if committed by an adult would make them liable to imprisonment.

other orders include conditional bail program; court diversion referral; drug diversion; indefinite referral; licence disqualification; transfer to prison.

reprimand a formal reproof given by the court to a child offender upon a guilty finding.

restorative justice an order made under the *Youth Justice Act 1992* that a child found guilty of an offence participate in a restorative justice process.

supervised release the component of a detention order which is served in the community.

Notes

The information displayed in this report may vary from data published elsewhere by QGSO and others, due to differences in the dates data were extracted and frequency of revision, or in counting rules or statistical standards applied. Readers are urged to exercise caution when making comparison between publications

Data in this report have not been tested to determine whether changes over time are statistically significant.

Data sources:

Finalised court appearances and charges data have been sourced from the Courts Database – unpublished operational data sourced from DJAG. Data were current at the time of extraction, and are subject to change.

Youth justice data, including unique child defendants and offenders, and supervised youth justice orders have been sourced from DYJ unpublished data.

Data were current at the time of extraction, and are subject to change.

Corrective services data, including prison and community-based corrections, have been sourced from QCS unpublished data, including those collected for the National Prisoner Census. Data were current at the time of extraction, and are subject to change.

Children and young people: In February 2018, the *Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Act 2016* and the Youth Justice (Transitional) Regulation 2018 commenced. Implementation of the Act mean that, from that date on, young people aged 17 years at the time of offence are dealt with in the youth justice system.

Counting methodology: Data presented in this report may have been subject to counting rules that are different to data from the same agency/ies published elsewhere. It is important to understand the counting rules applied before making comparisons between publications.

The following counting rules have been applied in this report:

Corrective services data: Corrective services data are presented using counting rules as developed by the ABS, with the exception of length of stay data, for which counting rules were developed by QGSO in consultation with QCS.

Adults in custody:

- an annual count of prisoners taken at midnight on 30 June, over a ten-year time series
- counts from administrative data recording prisoners being admitted to and discharged from custody
- calculation of the length of stay of those prisoners who were released during the 2022–23 financial year.

Adults in community-based corrections: counts from administrative data of adults serving supervised community-based corrections on 1 June, and of orders being served, over a 10-year time series.



Courts data:

Count of finalised **appearances** is based on the offence with the most serious outcome only, as an offender may have multiple charges finalised and receive multiple outcomes in a single appearance. Count of finalised **charges** is also based on the most serious outcome only (whether convicted or not), as some charges may attract multiple penalties.

The **most serious offence (MSO)** is based primarily on the offence with the most serious outcome (whether convicted or not). Where the outcome/penalty is the same as or shared with other charge(s) finalised in the same appearance, the most serious offence is determined according to its ranking in ABS' *National Offence Index*, 2018.

Youth justice data:

Unique child defendants: Each defendant with a finalised appearance is counted only once per reference year, whether they had one or multiple finalised appearances in the year

Admissions to orders is a count of every admission to a youth justice order within a reference year. An individual may be admitted to one or multiple of the same or different orders or detention in a single year.

Unique offenders admitted to orders is a count of individuals admitted to a supervised or unsupervised youth justice order for a proven offence(s). An individual is counted once for each relevant order type they are admitted to in a reference year.

Admissions to detention is a count of every admission to detention within a reference year. An individual may have one or multiple admissions in a single year.

Unique offenders admitted to detention is a count of individuals admitted to detention within a reference year. An individual with one or multiple admissions to detention is counted only once per reference year.

Geography: all data in this report are presented at state (Queensland) level only.

Indigenous status is based on self-identification by the individual as one of the following standard options:

Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander (non-Indigenous); Aboriginal; Torres Strait Islander; Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; refused/not stated.

In this publication, the term:

- 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander' refers to any person who identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- 'Non-Indigenous' refers to those who positively identify as such.
- 'Other' represents non-Indigenous persons *plus* those whose Indigenous status was not supplied (not stated).

Median sentence length: the middle value in an ordered group of imprisonment sentences, expressed in full months (see *Sentence length*). For example, the median of the group 1, 19, 20, 21, 22 would be 20 (whereas the average would be 16.6). The aggregate sentence length includes both custodial and non-custodial components. In this report, the length of sentence has been calculated in full months (rounded down). For example, 1 month and 20 days would be reported as 1 month. (For this report a month is deemed to be 30.4375 days.)

Offence classification: Offences presented in this report are coded and grouped according the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification, 2011 (ANZSOC). (See

<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1234.0> for a full breakdown of the offence divisions and their inclusions.)

Rates: are calculated using the most recent data available at time of production, and are generally calculated per 100,000 persons, using the appropriate estimated resident population (ERP) of the specified region. Rate calculation for mid-point ERP is:

$$\frac{\text{number of xxxxxxxx}}{\text{ERP}} * 100,000$$

using the average ERP for the reference year (e.g. average of [ERP as at 30 June 2022 plus ERP as at 30 June 2023] for the 2022–23 reference year).

- Note that rates in the Youth Justice chapter are calculated per 10,000 persons, consistent with national reporting of youth justice statistics by the Australia Institute of Health and Welfare.

For **courts** and **youth justice** rates, the data present counts for the whole financial year, therefore an average (mid-point) ERP for the reference year is created.

For **adult corrective services**, as the data present counts as at June only, the June ERP figure for the reference year was used.

Denominators were drawn from the following populations:

- 10 years and over for finalised appearances (Courts chapter)
- As 17-year-old offenders did not transition to the youth justice system until late 2017–18, the population used as the denominator in calculating youth justice rates is persons aged 10–16 years for any date prior to 12 February 2018. From that date onwards, the denominator used to calculate rates was persons aged 10–17 years.
- 18 years and over for adult corrections (Corrective Services chapter), except where specified.

Rates enable comparison to be made over time, since the size of the population is taken into account in the calculation.

Reference year: Years quoted in this report are financial year (i.e. from 1 July to 30 June), unless otherwise stated.

Time series data are presented for 10 years from 2013–14 to 2022–23.

