**Main Features**

**Imprisonment rate annual change:**
- Queensland: 3.8%
- Australia: 1.3%

**Proportion of unsentenced prisoners annual change:**
- Queensland: 0.2 percentage point
- Australia: 0.4 percentage point

**Proportion of female prisoners annual change:**
- Queensland: 0.7 percentage point
- Australia: 0.3 percentage point

**Commentary**

Note: data contained in this brief should be read with reference to the explanatory notes provided in ABS 4517.0

- On the night of the Prison Census, 30 June 2010, Queensland prisons held 5,615 prisoners. This was 18.9% of the 29,700 prisoners in Australian prisons.

- The crude imprisonment rate in Queensland for 2010 was 161.6 prisoners per 100,000 adult persons. This rate was a decrease of 3.8% from 167.9 prisoners per 100,000 adult population in 2009. The imprisonment rate in Australia was 172.4 prisoners per 100,000 adult population, a 1.3% decrease from 174.7 in 2009 (Figure 1).

- Approximately 1 in 13 prisoners in Queensland in 2010 were female (8.0% of the total, compared with 7.3% in 2009). The proportion of female prisoners in Australia as a whole increased from 7.2% in 2009 to 7.5% in 2010.

- The age-standardised rate of imprisonment for Queensland Indigenous prisoners was 1,442.5 per 100,000 adult Indigenous population, compared with 120.8 per 100,000 for non-Indigenous, making Indigenous persons 11.9 times more likely than non-Indigenous persons to be in prison at 30 June 2010 (Figure 2). The age-standardised Queensland Indigenous imprisonment rate was lower than for Australia as a whole (1,891.5 per 100,000).

- Of the prisoners with a sentence (those sentenced to a specified term), the median aggregate sentence length for prisoners in Queensland was 3.0 years, the same as in 2009. The median aggregate sentence in Australia as a whole was 3.0 years, which was also the same as in 2009. (Note: if indeterminate sentences were included in calculating the median, it would be higher, particularly in Queensland, where the proportion of indeterminate sentences was higher.)

- In 2010, 61.3% of prisoners in Queensland had an episode of prior known adult imprisonment. This proportion has increased from 59.9% in 2009. The proportion for Australia has decreased from 55.5% in 2009 to 54.6% in 2010.

**Figure 1: Imprisonment rate**

![Imprisonment rate graph](image1)

**Figure 2: Indigenous and non-Indigenous age standardised (a) imprisonment rates, Queensland**

![Indigenous and non-Indigenous graph](image2)

(a) Age standardisation is a statistical method that adjusts crude rates to account for age differences between study populations.