Main Features

Imprisonment rate annual change:
Queensland  ↓  2.4%
Australia  ↓  3.4%

Proportion of unsentenced prisoners annual change:
Queensland  ↑  1.3 percentage points
Australia  ↑  1.7 percentage points

Proportion of female prisoners annual change:
Queensland  ↓  0.5 percentage point
Australia  ↓  0.5 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 2011, Queensland prisons held 5,574 prisoners. This was 19.2% of the 29,106 prisoners in Australian prisons.

- The crude imprisonment rate in Queensland for 2011 was 157.8 prisoners per 100,000 adult persons. This rate was a decrease of 2.4% from 161.6 prisoners per 100,000 adult population in 2010. The imprisonment rate in Australia was 166.6 prisoners per 100,000 adult population, a 3.4% decrease from 172.4 in 2010 (Figure 1).

- Approximately 1 in 13 prisoners in Queensland in 2011 were female (7.5% of the total, compared with 8.0% in 2010). The proportion of female prisoners in Australia as a whole decreased from 7.5% in 2010 to 7.0% in 2011.

- The age-standardised rate of imprisonment for Queensland Indigenous prisoners was 1,397.0 per 100,000 adult Indigenous population, compared with 118.6 per 100,000 for non-Indigenous, making Indigenous persons 11.8 times more likely than non-Indigenous persons to be in prison at 30 June 2011 (Figure 2). The age-standardised Queensland Indigenous imprisonment rate was lower than for Australia as a whole (1,867.6 per 100,000).

- In Queensland, 21.9% of prisoners were unsentenced (on remand, awaiting sentence or awaiting deportation), compared with 23.1% for Australia in 2011.

- 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 2010. The median aggregate sentence in Australia as a whole was 3.2 years, which was higher than the 2010 figure (3.0 years). (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 2011, 60.7% of prisoners in Queensland had an episode of prior known adult imprisonment. This proportion has decreased from 61.3% in 2010. The proportion for Australia was 54.6% in 2011, remaining unchanged over the year.

Figure 1: Imprisonment rate

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

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