Prisoners in Queensland: 2012
Source: ABS 4517.0, released 6 December 2012, 10.30 am AEST

Key data

Imprisonment rate (annual change):
Queensland ........................................ ..............↑ 0.7%
Australia ......................................... ..................↑ 0.5%

Proportion of unsentenced prisoners (annual change):
Queensland ............................ ↑ 0.4 percentage point
Australia .................................. ↑ 0.3 percentage point

Proportion of female prisoners (annual change):
Queensland ............................ ↑ 1.0 percentage point
Australia .................................. ↑ 0.5 percentage point

Main findings

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 2012, Queensland prisons held 5,593 prisoners. This was 19.0% of the 29,381 prisoners in Australian prisons.
- The crude imprisonment rate in Queensland for 2012 was 158.9 prisoners per 100,000 adult persons. This rate was an increase of 0.7% from 157.8 prisoners per 100,000 adult population in 2011. The imprisonment rate in Australia was 167.5 prisoners per 100,000 adult population, a 0.5% increase from 166.6 in 2011 (Figure 1).
- Approximately 1 in 12 prisoners in Queensland in 2012 were female (8.5% of the total, compared with 7.5% in 2011). The proportion of female prisoners in Australia as a whole increased from 7.0% in 2011 to 7.5% in 2012.
- The age-standardised rate of imprisonment for Queensland Indigenous prisoners was 1,358.7 per 100,000 adult Indigenous population, compared with 119.9 per 100,000 for non-Indigenous, making Indigenous persons 11.3 times more likely than non-Indigenous persons to be in prison at 30 June 2012 (Figure 2). The age-standardised Queensland Indigenous imprisonment rate was lower than for Australia as a whole (1,913.7 per 100,000).
- In Queensland, 22.3% of prisoners were unsentenced (on remand, awaiting sentence or awaiting deportation), compared with 23.4% for Australia in 2012.
- Of the prisoners with a sentence (those sentenced to a specified term), the median aggregate sentence length for prisoners in Queensland in 2012 was 3.0 years, the same as in 2011. The median aggregate sentence in Australia as a whole was also unchanged over the period at 3.2 years. (Note: if indeterminate sentences were included calculating the median, it would be higher, particularly in Queensland where the proportion of indeterminate sentences was higher.)
- In 2012, 60.2% of prisoners in Queensland had an episode of prior known adult imprisonment. This proportion has decreased from 60.7% in 2011. The proportion for Australia increased from 54.6% in 2011 to 54.7% in 2012.