Prisoners in Queensland: 2014

Source: ABS 4517.0, released 11 December 2014, 10:30 am AEST

Key data

Number of prisoners (annual change):
Queensland ................................................... ↑ 16.0%
Australia...................................................... ↑ 9.8%

Crude imprisonment rate (annual change):
Queensland ................................................... ↑ 14.2%
Australia...................................................... ↑ 7.8%

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 2014, Queensland prisons held 7,049 prisoners. This was 20.9% of the 33,791 prisoners in Australian prisons.

- The crude imprisonment rate in Queensland for 2014 was 192.9 prisoners per 100,000 adult persons up from 169.0 per 100,000 in 2013. The imprisonment rate in Australia was 185.6 prisoners per 100,000 adult population (Figure 1).

- Approximately 1 in 11 prisoners in Queensland in 2014 was female (9.5% of the total, compared with 8.8% in 2013). The proportion of female prisoners in Australia as a whole increased from 7.6% in 2013 to 7.7% in 2014.

- The age–standardised rate of imprisonment for Queensland Indigenous prisoners was 1,557.9 per 100,000 adult Indigenous population, compared with 143.1 per 100,000 for non-Indigenous adults, making Indigenous persons almost 11 times more likely than non-Indigenous persons to be in prison at 30 June 2014 (Figure 2). The age-standardised Queensland Indigenous imprisonment rate was lower than for Australia as a whole (1,857.2 per 100,000).

- In Queensland, 23.8% of prisoners were unsentenced (on remand, awaiting sentence or awaiting deportation) at 30 June 2014, compared with 24.3% for Australia.

- Of the prisoners with a sentence (those sentenced to a specified term), the median aggregate sentence length for prisoners in Queensland in 2014 was 3.0 years, the same as in 2013. The median aggregate sentence in Australia as a whole was also 3.0 years, the same as in 2013.

- In 2014, 66.3% of prisoners in Queensland had an episode of prior known adult imprisonment. This proportion has increased from 64.5% in 2013. The proportion for Australia increased from 57.8% in 2013 to 58.5% in 2014.

Note: Calculations in this brief are based on pre-rounded figures.

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