Prisoners in Queensland, 2015

Source: ABS 4517.0, released 11 December 2015, 10:30 am AEST

Key data

Number of prisoners (annual change):
Queensland .......................................................
Australia .....................................................

Crude imprisonment rate (annual change):
Queensland .....................................................
Australia .....................................................

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 2015, Queensland prisons held 7,318 prisoners. This was 20.3% of the 36,134 prisoners in Australian prisons.

• The crude imprisonment rate in Queensland for 2015 was 197.7 prisoners per 100,000 adult persons up from 192.9.0 per 100,000 in 2014. The imprisonment rate in Australia was 195.8 prisoners per 100,000 adult population (Figure 1).

• Approximately 1 in 10 prisoners in Queensland in 2015 was female (9.7% of the total, compared with 9.5% in 2014). The proportion of female prisoners in Australia as a whole increased from 7.7% in 2014 to 8.0% in 2015.

• The age–standardised rate of imprisonment for Queensland Indigenous prisoners was 1,577.8 per 100,000 adult Indigenous population, compared with 148.5 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 2015 (Figure 2). The age-standardised Queensland Indigenous imprisonment rate was lower than for Australia as a whole (1,951.0 per 100,000).

• In Queensland, 24.5% of prisoners were unsentenced (on remand, awaiting sentence or awaiting deportation) at 30 June 2015, compared with 27.4% for Australia.

• Of the prisoners with a sentence (those sentenced to a specified term), the median aggregate sentence length for prisoners in Queensland in 2015 was 2.8 years, lower than the 2014 figure of 3.0 years. The median aggregate sentence in Australia as a whole was 3.0 years, the same as in 2014.

• In 2015, 65.9% of prisoners in Queensland had an episode of prior known adult imprisonment. This proportion has decreased from 66.3% in 2014. The proportion for Australia decreased from 58.5% in 2014 to 57.7% in 2015.

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.