

Prisoners in Queensland, 2016

Source: ABS 4517.0, released 8 December 2016, 10:30 am AEST

Key data

Number of prisoners (annual change):

Queensland ↑ 5.8%
 Australia ↑ 7.5%

Crude imprisonment rate (annual change):

Queensland ↑ 4.4%
 Australia ↑ 6.0%

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 2016, Queensland prisons held 7,746 prisoners. This was 19.9% of the 38,845 prisoners in Australian prisons.
- The crude imprisonment rate in Queensland for 2016 was 206.3 prisoners per 100,000 adult persons up from 197.7 per 100,000 in 2015. The imprisonment rate in Australia was 207.5 prisoners per 100,000 adult population (Figure 1).
- Approximately 1 in 11 prisoners in Queensland in 2016 was female (8.8% of the total, compared with 9.7% in 2015). The proportion of female prisoners in Australia as a whole in 2016 was 8.0%, remaining the same as 2015.
- The age-standardised rate of imprisonment for Queensland Indigenous prisoners was 1,625.5 per 100,000 adult Indigenous population, compared with 155.5 per 100,000 for non-Indigenous adults, making Indigenous persons over 10 times more likely than non-Indigenous persons to be in prison at 30 June 2016 (Figure 2). The age-standardised Queensland Indigenous imprisonment rate was lower than for Australia as a whole (2,038.6 per 100,000).
- In Queensland, 29.3% of prisoners were unsentenced (on remand, awaiting sentence or awaiting deportation) at 30 June 2016, compared with 31.2% for Australia.
- Of the prisoners with a sentence (those sentenced to a specified term), the median aggregate sentence length for prisoners in Queensland in 2016 was 2.8 years, unchanged from the 2015 figure. The median aggregate sentence in Australia as a whole was 3.0 years, the same as in 2015.
- In 2016, 63.9% of prisoners in Queensland had an episode of prior known adult imprisonment. This proportion has decreased from 65.9% in 2015. The proportion for Australia decreased from 57.7% in 2015 to 56.2% in 2016.

Figure 1: Crude imprisonment rate

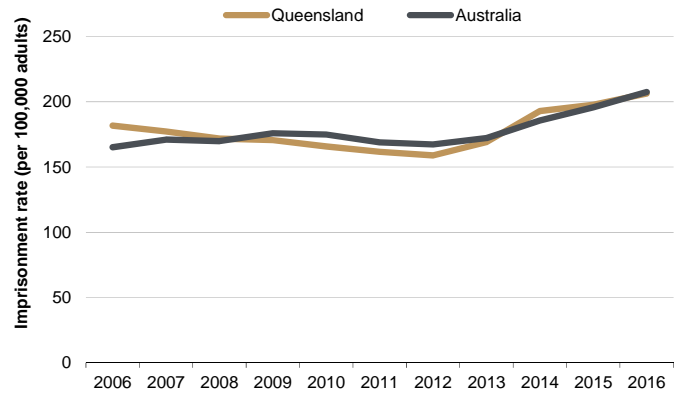
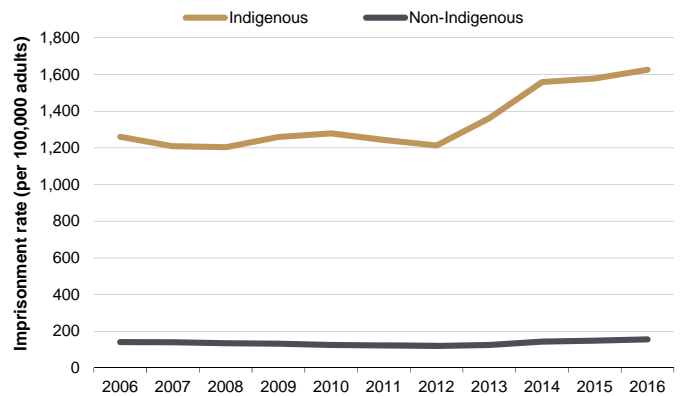


Figure 2: Indigenous and non-Indigenous age standardised¹ imprisonment rates, Queensland



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.