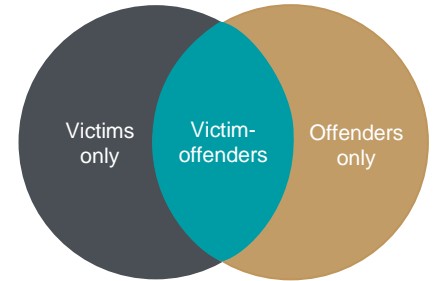


Report summary: The victim-offender overlap among young people in Queensland

The research project described in this report examined the victim-offender overlap among young people, given the relative higher prevalence of both victimisation and offending among this group established by other studies. The project used police administrative data to investigate differences in the victimisation and offending profiles between groups of young people. Exploratory analyses were conducted also, to better understand the circumstances when more severe victimisation and offending outcomes were observed among groups. The project builds on previous Queensland Government Statistician's Office research which explored the victim-offender overlap within the broader population.



Key findings of the project

Prevalence of police contact among young people in Queensland by 17 years of age



1 in 12
had been the **victim** of personal crime

1 in 9
had been charged as an **offender** (any type of offence)


1 in 6
had **police contact** (as victim or offender)




The prevalence of contact with police **differs across socio-demographic groups** of young people

The victim-offender overlap differed across socio-demographic groups within the cohort of young people


Legend: ■ Victim (dark grey), ■ Victim-offender (teal), ■ Offender (brown)




young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males



young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females



young non-Indigenous males



young non-Indigenous females

Examining young victim-offenders in terms of first contact with police and all police contacts

Legend: ■ Victim (dark grey), ■ Offender (brown)

Most young victim-offenders had their **first contact with police as the victim of a personal crime, not as an offender**



Legend: ■ Predominant victim (dark red), ■ Equal victim-offender (teal), ■ Predominant offender (green)

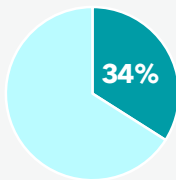
Most young victim-offenders had **more contact as an offender than as a victim**. Very few had more contact as a victim than as an offender




Different victimisation profiles were observed between groups of young victims

Legend: ■ Victim-offender (teal), ■ Victim (dark grey)

A greater proportion of victim-offenders were **revictimised** than those who only experienced victimisation

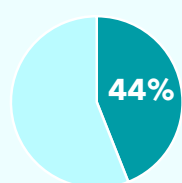


Victim-offenders **averaged more victimisation events** than those who only experienced victimisation

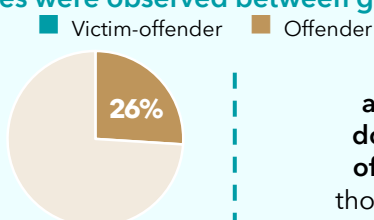


Note: In this report, the terms *charged as an offender* or *charged for an offence* mean a person is held criminally responsible for committing an offence.

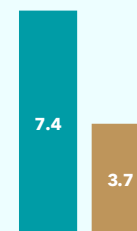
Different offence profiles were observed between groups of young offenders



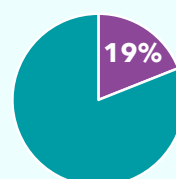
A greater proportion of victim-offenders were **charged with a personal offence** than those who only offended



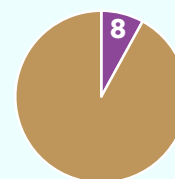
Victim-offenders **averaged more than double the number of offending events** than those who only offended



Victim-offenders were **younger at their first recorded offence** than those who only offended



A greater proportion of victim-offenders were **persistent offenders (had 10+ offending events)** than those who only offended



Early contact with the criminal justice system



Experiencing victimisation before 10 years of age was associated with **later offending**

Experiencing victimisation before 10 years of age was associated with **revictimisation**

Being a **persistent offender** (10+ offending events) was associated with early onset offending (before 13 years of age).

Overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people

Higher prevalence of police contact by 17 years



Later offending was more common among young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims than non-Indigenous victims, **regardless of the age** at which they experienced victimisation, **or the type of first victimisation** they experienced

A greater proportion of **persistent offenders** (10+ offending events)



A greater proportion of victims experienced **revictimisation**

Conclusion and implications

The findings highlight the potential impact of victimisation from personal crime on young people in terms of the level of contact they have with the criminal justice system, including an increased probability of experiencing revictimisation and an increased probability of offending (personal, property and/or other offence). These findings underscore the potential benefits that may be obtained from using a trauma-informed approach in the development and implementation of criminal justice responses for young people, and the possible benefits of targeting resources towards young victim-offenders. The relatively high prevalence of victim-offender overlap among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, females in particular, points to the importance of culturally-sensitive, community-based criminal justice responses to help support a reduction in criminal justice system demand and a decrease in the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the youth justice system.