

Recorded crime – offenders, Queensland, 2013–14

Source: ABS 4519.0, released 25 February 2015, 10:30 am AEST

Key data^(a)

	2012–13	2013–14
All offenders (aged 10 years and over)		
Number of offenders	86,807	95,038
Offender rate ^(b)	2,173.2	2,341.8
Median age (years)	25.0	26.0
Repeat offenders	29.3%	30.3%
Youth offenders (aged 10 to 19 years)		
Number of offenders	22,145	22,148
Offender rate ^(c)	3,664.3	3,636.5
Repeat offenders	34.3%	35.2%
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders^(d) (aged 10 years and over)		
Number of offenders	15,365	16,790
Offender rate ^(e)	8,618.5	9,367.7
Median age (years)	25.0	26.0
Repeat offenders	47.0%	48.5%

n.a. = not available

(a) See notes at end of brief.

(b) Offenders per 100,000 persons aged 10 years and over.

(c) Youth offenders per 100,000 persons aged 10 to 19 years.

(d) Excludes those proceeded against by a penalty/infringement notice.

(e) Age-standardised rate. Offenders per 100,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 10 years and over.

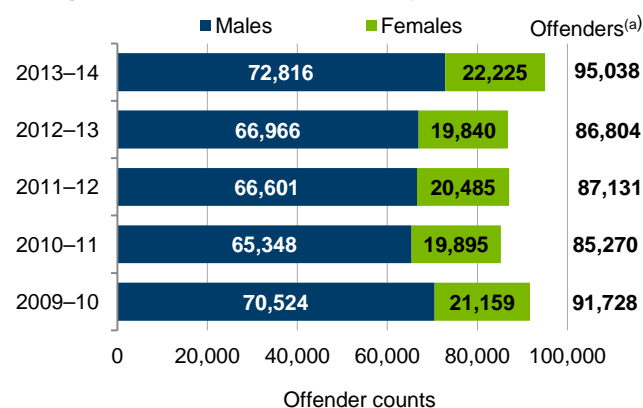
Offender characteristics

Offender counts and rates by sex

The number of unique offenders proceeded against by police in Queensland increased by 8,234 in 2013–14, to 95,038 from 86,804 in 2012–13. This increase followed three years of relative stability in offender counts from 2010–11 to 2012–13 (Figure 1).

There were 22,225 female offenders in 2013–14, up by 2,385 (12.0%) on the previous year. This was the highest number of female offenders recorded over the five years to 2013–14. In comparison, there were 72,816 male offenders in 2013–14, up by 5,850 (8.7%) on the previous year (Figure 1). During the five year period from 2009–10, males have consistently accounted for more than three in four offenders (76.6% in 2013–14).

Figure 1: Number of offenders by sex, Queensland

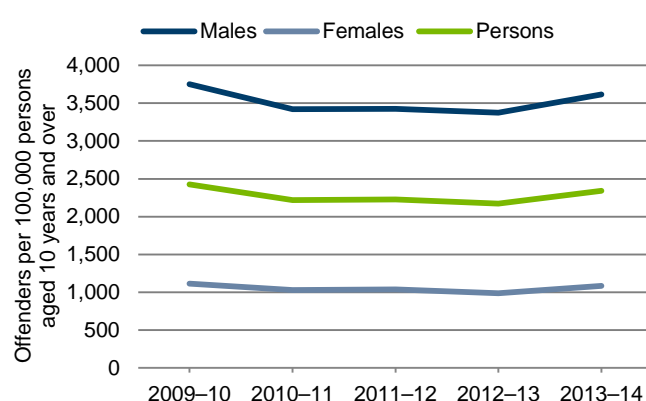


(a) Includes offenders with unknown sex.

The offender rate increased from 2,173.2 per 100,000 persons aged 10 years and over in 2012–13 to 2,341.8 per 100,000 persons aged 10 years and over in 2013–14 (Figure 2). This was the highest offender rate recorded since 2009–10 when the rate was 2,425.7 per 100,000 persons aged 10 years and over.

Similarly, both male and female offender rates in 2013–14 were the highest recorded since 2009–10. The male offender rate in 2013–14 was 3,617.6 per 100,000 males aged 10 years and over. This was more than three times higher than the female offender rate of 1,086.6 per 100,000 females aged 10 years and over and consistent with the sex ratios recorded in the previous four years.

Figure 2: Offender rate by sex, Queensland



<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au>

(Queensland Treasury and Trade) 2015

© The State of Queensland

Offender counts and rates by age

In 2013–14, persons aged 20–24 years comprised the largest proportion of offenders in Queensland (20.9%), followed by persons aged 15–19 years (19.1%) (Table 1). Over the five-year period there was a decline in the proportion of offenders aged 10–14 and 15–19 years and an increase in the proportion of offenders in older age groups, particularly those aged 40–44 years (Figure 3). The median age of offenders increased from 24.0 years in 2009–10 to 26.0 years in 2013–14.

Table 1: Offenders by age group, Queensland

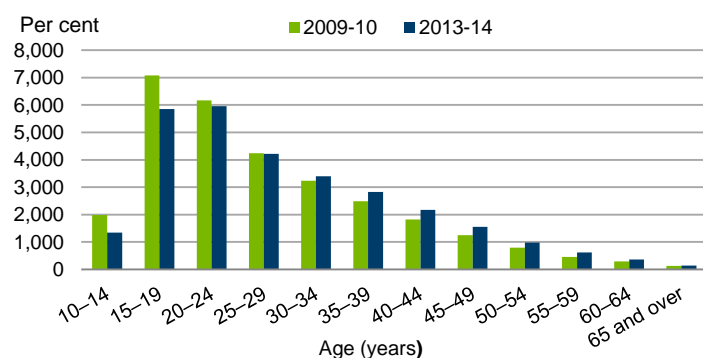
Age (years)	2009–10		2013–14	
	number	%	number	%
10–14	5,788	6.3	4,032	4.2
15–19	21,322	23.2	18,116	19.1
20–24	19,475	21.2	19,886	20.9
25–29	13,447	14.7	14,363	15.1
30–34	9,457	10.3	11,133	11.7
35–39	8,024	8.7	8,767	9.2
40–44	5,565	6.1	7,383	7.8
45–49	3,885	4.2	4,800	5.1
50–54	2,246	2.4	3,058	3.2
55–59	1,157	1.3	1,701	1.8
60–64	676	0.7	909	1.0
65 and over	671	0.7	890	0.9
Total^(a)	91,728	100.0	95,038	100.0

(a) Includes offenders with unknown age.

Offender rates in 2013–14 were highest in the 20–24 year age group, at 5,955.5 per 100,000 persons aged 20–24 years (Figure 3). After the age of 24 years, offender rates decreased with increasing age to 137.6 per 100,000 persons aged 65 years and over.

From 2009–10 to 2013–14, offenders aged 10–14 years and 15–19 years recorded a decline in offender rate, with offenders aged 15–19 years experiencing the largest decline (down from 7,077.3 in 2009–10 to 5,856.8 in 2013–14). Offender rates in each 5-year age group for persons aged 30 years and over increased annually from 2010–11 to 2013–14 with the largest increase being in the 35–39 years age group (up to 2,827.5 in 2013–14 from 2,308.1 in 2010–11).

Figure 3: Age distribution of offenders by offender rate, Queensland



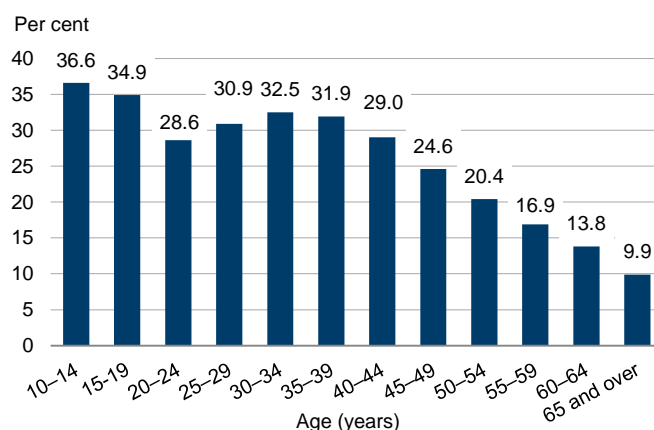
Repeat offender counts

Almost seven in ten offenders (69.7% or 66,225 offenders) were proceeded against by police only once during 2013–14. A further 16.1% (15,338 offenders) were proceeded against on two occasions and the remaining 14.2% (13,469 offenders) on three or more occasions. The average number of proceedings in 2013–14 was 1.7, slightly higher than the 2012–13 figure of 1.6.

The overall proportion of repeat offenders rose from 27.4% in 2009–10 to 30.3% in 2013–14. Proportionally more male offenders than female offenders were proceeded against on two or more occasions during 2013–14 (30.6% and 29.1% respectively). Over the five-year period, female offenders recorded a greater increase in repeat offenders than male offenders (4.1% and 2.5% respectively).

The highest incidence of repeat offending in 2013–14 was among 10–14 and 15–19 year old offenders, with more than one in three offenders proceeded against at least twice (36.6% and 34.9% respectively) (Figure 4). After the age of 30–34 years, the proportion of repeat offenders decreased with increasing age to 9.9% for offenders aged 65 years and over.

Figure 4: Offenders proceeded against on two or more occasions by age group, Queensland, 2013–14



Offender counts and rates by principal offence

The predominant principal offences in 2013–14 were illicit drug offences (24.4%), public order offences (20.7%), and theft (13.0%) (Table 2). A total of 55,301 offenders were proceeded against for these three principal offences in 2013–14, representing more than half (58.2%) of all offenders. These three principal offences were also the top three recorded in 2009–10, although public order offences were the most prevalent in that year (23.3%). Apart from public order offences, there was minimal change in the distribution of the principal offence types across the offender population in Queensland between 2009–10 and 2013–14. The least prevalent principal offence in 2013–14 was abduction/harassment, with 56 offenders proceeded against.

Table 2: Offenders by principal offence, Queensland

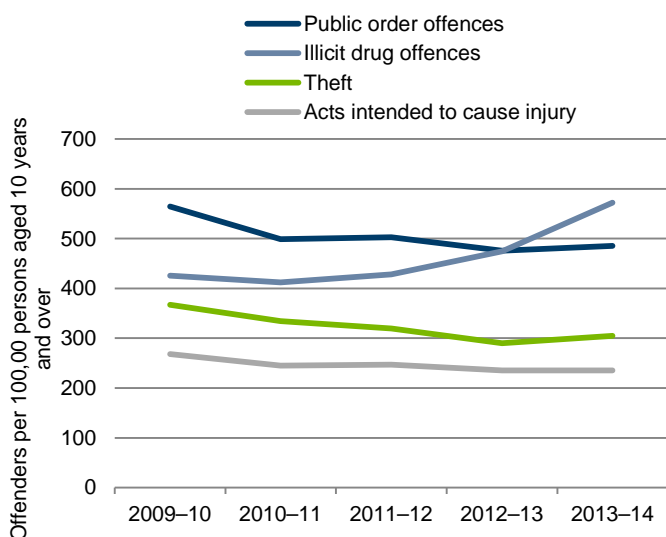
Principal offence	2009–10		2013–14	
	number	%	number	%
Illicit drug offences	16,111	17.6	23,221	24.4
Public order offences	21,345	23.3	19,699	20.7
Theft	13,879	15.1	12,381	13.0
Acts intended to cause injury	10,150	11.1	9,545	10.0
Offences against justice	8,373	9.1	9,238	9.7
Property damage	4,628	5.0	4,115	4.3
Unlawful entry with intent	4,309	4.7	4,000	4.2
Fraud/deception	1,895	2.1	2,377	2.5
Sexual assault	1,746	1.9	1,998	2.1
Prohibited/regulated weapons	1,821	2.0	1,691	1.8
Robbery/extortion	757	0.8	697	0.7
Dangerous/negligent acts	675	0.7	677	0.7
Miscellaneous offences	426	0.5	381	0.4
Homicide	154	0.2	117	0.1
Abduction/harassment	40	0.0	56	0.1
Total (a)	91,728	100.0	95,038	100.0

(a) Includes offenders with an unknown principal offence.

Illicit drug offences were the main principal offence to record a notable increase in offender rates over the five-year period 2009–10 to 2013–14 (an increase of 146 offenders per 100,000 persons aged 10 years and over) (Figure 5).

Over the same period, there was a notable decline in offender rates recorded for public order offences, theft and acts intended to cause injury (a decline of 79, 62 and 33 offenders respectively per 100,000 persons aged 10 years and over)(Figure 5).

Figure 5: Offender rates by selected principal offences, Queensland

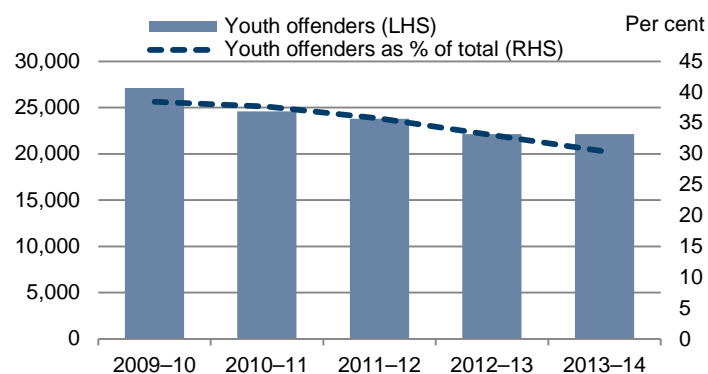


Youth offenders¹

Offender counts and rates

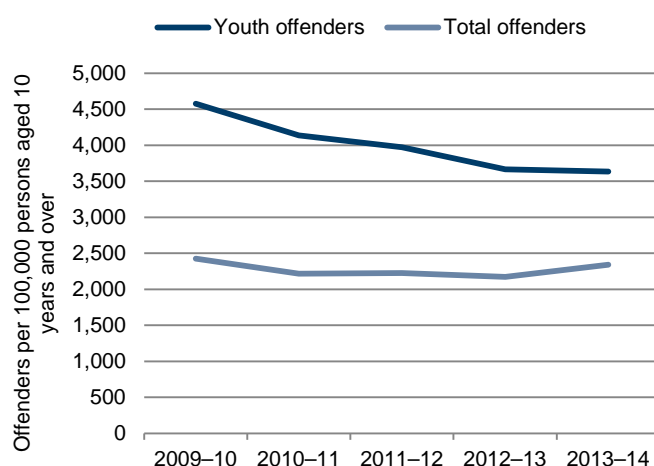
There were 22,146 youth offenders proceeded against by police in 2013–14, almost equal to the number in 2012–13 (22,141). However, the number of youth offenders in 2013–14 was 18.3% lower than the number proceeded against in 2009–10. The number of youth offenders as a proportion of all offenders decreased annually over the five-year period from 38.4% in 2009–10 to 30.4% in 2013–14 (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Number of youth offenders, Queensland



The youth offender rate decreased from 3,664.3 to 3,636.5 per 100,000 persons aged 10 to 19 years between 2012–13 and 2013–14, continuing the downward trend observed since 2009–10. However, annual youth offender rates were significantly higher than total offender rates over the five-year period. In 2013–14, the youth offender rate was at least 1.5 times higher than the overall offender rate (2,341.8) (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Youth offenders and total offenders by offender rates, Queensland



Offender counts and rates by principal offence

The predominant principal offences for youth offenders in 2013–14 were illicit drug offences (22.0%) and theft (17.6%), followed by public order offences (17.5%). The proportion of illicit drug offences as the principal offence almost doubled from 2009–10 (11.6%) to 2013–14 (22.0%), while theft offenders decreased from 24.4% of all youth offenders to 17.6% over the five-year period. Public order offenders also decreased. The relative share of other principal offences by youth offenders was similar in 2009–10 and 2013–14 (Table 3).

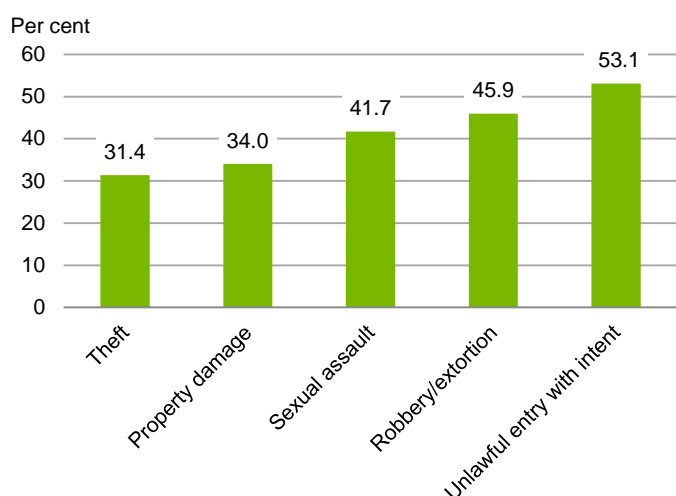
Table 3: Youth offenders^(a) by principal offence, Queensland

Principal offence	2009–10		2013–14	
	number	%	number	%
Illicit drug offences	3,138	11.6	4,874	22.0
Theft	6,626	24.4	3,887	17.6
Public order offences	5,195	19.2	3,867	17.5
Acts intended to cause injury	3,259	12.0	2,386	10.8
Unlawful entry with intent	2,571	9.5	2,122	9.6
Property damage	1,910	7.0	1,400	6.3
Sexual assault	587	2.2	833	3.8
Offences against justice	1,001	3.7	802	3.6
Prohibited/regulated weapons	554	2.0	364	1.6
Fraud/deception	324	1.2	336	1.5
Robbery/extortion	410	1.5	320	1.4
Dangerous/negligent acts	218	0.8	156	0.7
Homicide	22	0.1	11	0.0
Abduction/harassment	9	0.0	8	0.0
Miscellaneous offences	4	0.0	0	0.0
Total^(b)	27,114	100.0	22,146	100.0

(a) Youth offenders per 100,000 persons aged 10 to 19 years.

(b) Includes youth offenders with an unknown principal offence.

Figure 8: Proportion of youth offenders by selected principal offence^(a), Queensland, 2013–14



(a) Offences where the share of youth offenders was 30% or higher.

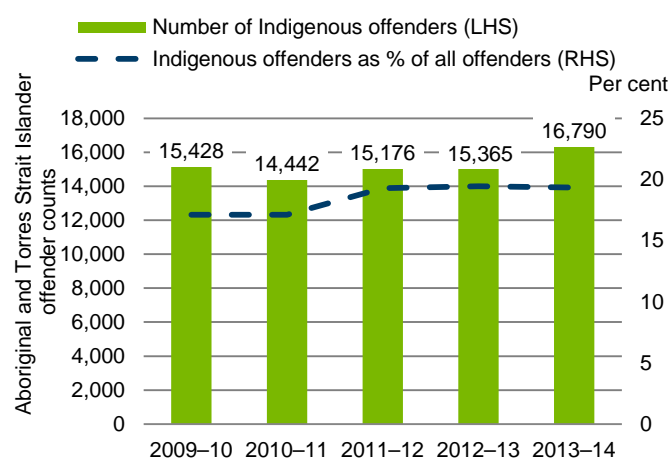
Youth offenders accounted for more than half (53.1%) of all principal offences of unlawful entry with intent recorded in Queensland in 2013–14. Youth offenders also accounted for a substantial proportion of principal offences of robbery/extortion (45.9%) and more than thirty per cent of principal offences of sexual assault, property damage and theft (Figure 8).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders¹

Offender counts and rates by sex and age

There were 16,790 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders proceeded against by police in Queensland in 2013–14. This represented a 9.3% increase over the 15,365 offenders proceeded against in 2012–13, and the highest annual offender count recorded over the five years since 2009–10. In contrast to the increase in offender numbers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders represented a steady 19% of all offenders between 2011–12 and 2013–14. The corresponding proportions in 2009–10 and 2010–11 were slightly lower at 17% (Figure 9)². The propensity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to self-identify may contribute to the year-to-year movements in offender numbers.

Figure 9: Number and proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders, Queensland

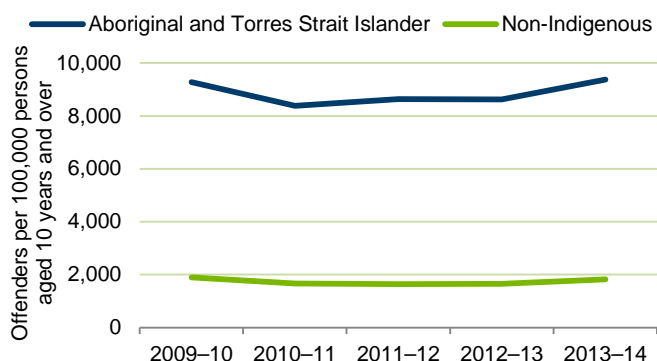


The age-standardised rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders dealt with by police in 2013–14 was 9,367.7 per 100,000 persons aged 10 years and over (Figure 11). This was 5.1 times the age-standardised rate of non-Indigenous offenders (1,820.0 in 2013–14), and similar to the ratio of 4.9 times observed in 2009–10.

¹ Excludes those proceeded against by a penalty/infringement notice.

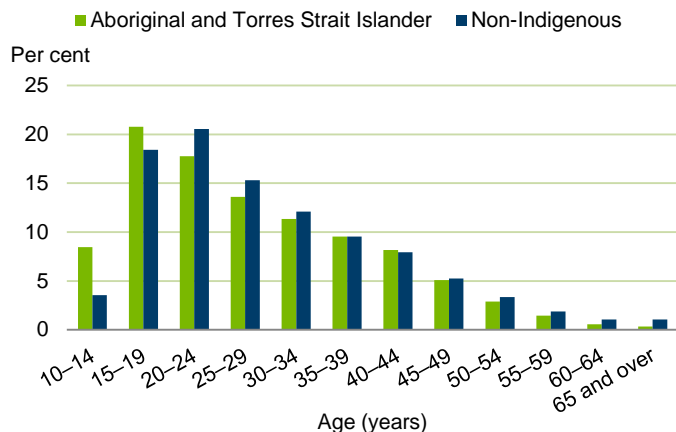
² In 2012–13, improvements in the coding of offenders with an unknown Indigenous status resulted in increases in the number of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders and non-Indigenous offenders. Hence, caution should be used when analysing year-to-year movements in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statistics. Offenders with Indigenous status not stated have been excluded from charts and analysis.

Figure 10: Age-standardised offender rates by Indigenous status, Queensland



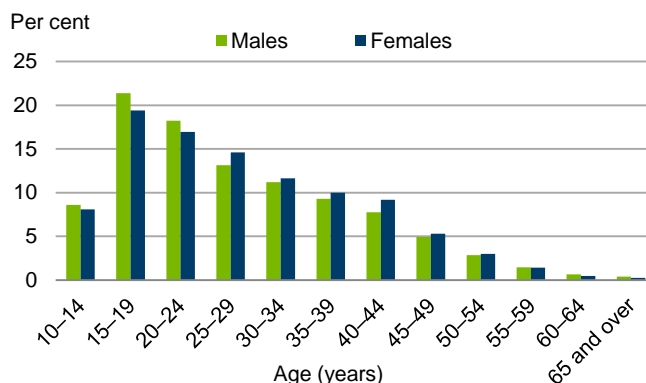
In 2013-14, the most prevalent age group for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders was 15-19 years (20.8%) compared with 20-24 years for non-Indigenous offenders (20.5%)(Figure 11). A greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders was aged 10-14 years (8.5%) compared with non-Indigenous offenders (3.6%), whereas non-Indigenous offenders had a higher representation of offenders aged 20-24 years (20.5% compared with 17.8% for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders).

Figure 11: Age distribution of offenders by Indigenous status, Queensland, 2013-14



The median age of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders was 26.0 years in 2013-14, slightly lower than the median age (27.0 years) of non-Indigenous offenders for the same period. Further, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male offenders were slightly younger than their female peers, with median offender ages of 25.0 and 26.0 respectively (Figure 12).

Figure 12: Age distribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders by sex, Queensland, 2013-14



Repeat offenders counts

The average number of proceedings for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders in 2013-14 was higher than those for non-Indigenous offenders at 2.3 and 1.6 respectively. Just over half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders were proceeded against by police only once during 2013-14 (51.4% or 8,630 offenders). A further 21.2% (3,565 offenders) were proceeded against on two occasions and the remaining 27.3% (4,586 offenders) on three or more occasions.

The overall proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander repeat offenders has increased notably over the five-year period from 44.9% in 2009-10 to 48.5% in 2013-14, a trend which is also reflected in the proportion of non-Indigenous repeat offenders (from 24.3% to 29.4%).

Offender counts by principal offence

Public order offences were the most prevalent principal offence for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders in Queensland over the five years to 2013-14. However this principal offence type decreased from 25.9% in 2009-10 to 20.3% in 2013-14. The second most common principal offence in 2013-14 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders was acts intended to cause injury (17.3%)(Table 4). Public order offences and acts intended to cause injury were comparatively less prevalent for non-Indigenous offenders in 2013-14 (13.0% and 9.5% respectively). The most common principal offence for non-Indigenous offenders in 2013-14 was illicit drug offences at 29.9%, more than double the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders proceeded against for this offence (13.8%).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders were also more than twice as likely as non-Indigenous offenders to have unlawful entry with intent as their principal offence in 2013-14 (9.7% and 3.4% respectively).

Table 4: Principal offence by Indigenous status, Queensland, 2013–14

Principal offence	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander		Non-Indigenous	
	number	%	number	%
Public order offences	3,411	20.3	8,837	13.0
Acts intended to cause injury	2,905	17.3	6,480	9.5
Illicit drug offences	2,315	13.8	20,413	29.9
Theft	2,133	12.7	9,898	14.5
Offences against justice	1,866	11.1	7,197	10.6
Unlawful entry with intent	1,622	9.7	2,317	3.4
Property damage	922	5.5	2,869	4.2
Fraud/deception	318	1.9	1,991	2.9
Sexual assault	300	1.8	1,595	2.3
Robbery/extortion	240	1.4	457	0.7
Prohibited/regulated	223	1.3	1,441	2.1
Dangerous/negligent acts	141	0.8	512	0.8
Homicide	18	0.1	96	0.1
Abduction/harassment	13	0.1	43	0.1
Miscellaneous offences	5	0.0	260	0.4
Total^(a)	16,790	100.0	68,161	100.0

(a) Includes offenders with an unknown principal offence.

Note: Ranked in order of offence for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders.

Glossary

Offence — Any act or omission by a person or persons for which a penalty could be imposed by the Australian legal system.

Offender — A person aged 10 years or over who is proceeded against and recorded by police for one or more criminal offences. An offender is only counted once during the reference period, irrespective of the number of offences committed or the number of separate occasions that police proceeded against that offender.

Offender rates — Offender rates are expressed as the number of offenders per 100,000 of the Estimated Resident Population (ERP) at the mid-point of the reference period (i.e. 31 December). This method results in what is known as “crude rates”. Rates for the offender population are calculated using the ERP as at the midpoint of the reference period (e.g. 31 December 2013 for the 2013–14 reference period). The ERP used in the calculation of these rates is for persons aged 10 years and over.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offender rates are expressed per 100,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population aged 10 years and over. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offender rates presented in this publication for reference periods 2009–10 to 2013–14 are derived from Series B projections of the publication *Estimates and projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians 2001 to 2026* (ABS 3238.0). These projections are based on data from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing and

supersede the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander projections data used for the calculation of offender rates in the 2012–13 issue of this publication.

Rates for the non-Indigenous population are calculated using the total ERP of persons aged 10 years and over for each state or territory minus the projected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population aged 10 years and over.

To allow comparison of offending rates between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous populations, offender rates for these two populations have been presented as age-standardised rates in this publication. Age standardisation is a statistical method that adjusts crude rates to account for age differences between study populations.

Principal offence — The offence category that describes the most serious offence type that a person has been proceeded against by police during the reference period. The principal offence is determined by the rankings in the National Offence Index.

Proceeding — A proceeding is a legal action initiated against an alleged offender for an offence(s). Police proceedings represent a count for each separate occasion on which police initiate a legal action against an offender. Each proceeding is classified to a principal offence and principal method of proceeding. It does not represent a count of offences.

Notes

This publication presents statistics about the characteristics of alleged offenders who were proceeded against by police in Queensland using available time series data from ABS 4519.0. Note that data for 2009–10 to 2012–13 are revised data and supersede previous data published for these reference years. The scope of the collection includes all alleged offenders, aged 10 years and over, who have been proceeded against by police during the reference period.

In April 2014, the ABS published backcast historical population estimates, and updated population projections for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons for the period 2001–2026. This was based on the 2011 Census of Population and Housing, and published in *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026* (cat. no. 3238.0). As a result, the offender rates presented for both the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population and the non-Indigenous population for the years 2008–09 to 2012–13 in this publication have been revised.

These statistics have been derived from administrative systems maintained by state and territory police and compiled according to national standards and classifications.

The date the offender was proceeded against by police may not be the date when the offence occurred, or the date when the offender came to the attention of police.

Principal offence data are not designed to provide a count of the total number of individual offences that come to the attention of police.

Note that data presented in this brief have not been tested to determine whether changes over time are statistically significant.