

Recorded crime – offenders, Queensland, 2014–15

Source: ABS 4519.0, released 24 February 2016, 10:30 a.m. AEST

At a glance^(a)

All offenders (aged 10 years and over)	2013–14	2014–15	% change
Number of offenders	95,038	100,294	5.5 ↑
Offender rate ^(b)	2,343.5	2,438.9	4.1 ↑
Median age (years)	26.0	27.0	3.8 ↑
Repeat offenders (%)	30.3	31.4	3.6 ↑

Youth offenders (aged 10 to 19 years)

Number of offenders	22,146	22,139	0.0 -
Offender rate ^(c)	3,636.0	3,613.7	-0.6 ↓
Repeat offenders (%)	35.2	35.0	-0.6 ↓

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders^(d) (aged 10 years and over)

Number of offenders	16,790	17,158	2.2 ↑
Age-standardised offender rate ^(e)	9,481.4	9,496.9	0.2 ↑
Median age (years)	26.0	26.0	0.0 -
Repeat offenders (%)	48.5	48.5	0.0 -

(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.

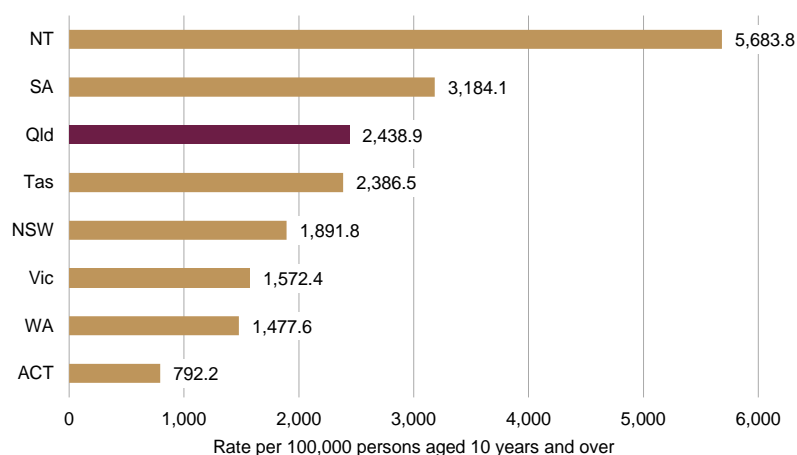
State and territory comparison

Offender characteristics

Queensland accounted for nearly 1 in 4 offenders nationally (24.4%), and recorded the third highest offender rate in 2014–15 (2,438.9 offenders per 100,000 persons aged 10 years and over), behind Northern Territory and South Australia (5,683.8 and 3,184.1 respectively) (Figure 1).

In 2014–15, the offender rate for offenders with a principal offence of Unlawful entry with intent was highest in Queensland (87.8 per 100,000 persons aged 10 years and over), and more than double the rates recorded in most other states and territories, with the exception of Western Australia (76.9) and Tasmania (65.7).

Figure 1 Offender rate by state/territory, 2014–15



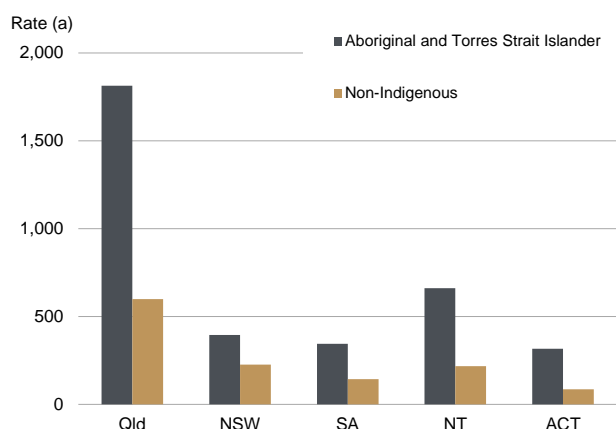
In 2014–15, 1 in 3 Australian offenders proceeded against by police for illicit drug offences were in Queensland.

In 2014–15:

- 1 in 3 Australian offenders with a principal offence of Illicit drug offences, Unlawful entry with intent, or Dangerous/negligent acts, were proceeded against in Queensland.
- Queensland's offender rate for Motor vehicle theft (42.6 per 100,000 persons aged 10 years and over) was the highest in Australia, more than double the rates recorded in the larger states of New South Wales and Victoria (10.0 and 20.6 respectively).

Nearly 1 in 3 (31.4%) Queensland offenders were proceeded against on more than one occasion, a proportion second only to Northern Territory (33.5%). The mean number of times that Queensland offenders were proceeded against by police was 1.7, equal with New South Wales and slightly lower than in Northern Territory (1.8). All states and territories reported a similar pattern of declining mean number of times proceeded against with increasing age.

Figure 2 Offender rate of Illicit drug offences by Indigenous status and selected state/territory, 2014–15



(a) Rate per 100,000 persons aged 10 years and over for the respective reference population.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons in Queensland recorded the second highest age standardised offending rate (9,496.9 offenders per 100,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 10 years and over), behind South Australia (10,360.2).

The rate ratio of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander to non-Indigenous offending rates in Queensland was 5.0 in 2014–15, well below the highest of 8.8 reported in Northern Territory and the second lowest reported for a state or territory behind New South Wales (3.6).

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offender rate for the principal offence of Illicit drug offences in Queensland (1,813.6) was the highest in Australia in 2014–15, and more than 2.5 times higher than the rate of any other jurisdiction (Figure 2).

Queensland offender¹ characteristics

Offender counts and rates by sex

The number of offenders proceeded against by police in Queensland increased by 5,256 (5.5%) to 100,294 offenders in 2014–15, up from 95,038 offenders in 2013–14.

Male offender numbers increased by 4.7% (3,450) from 2013–14, to 76,266 offenders, which was the highest number reported during the period from 2009–10.

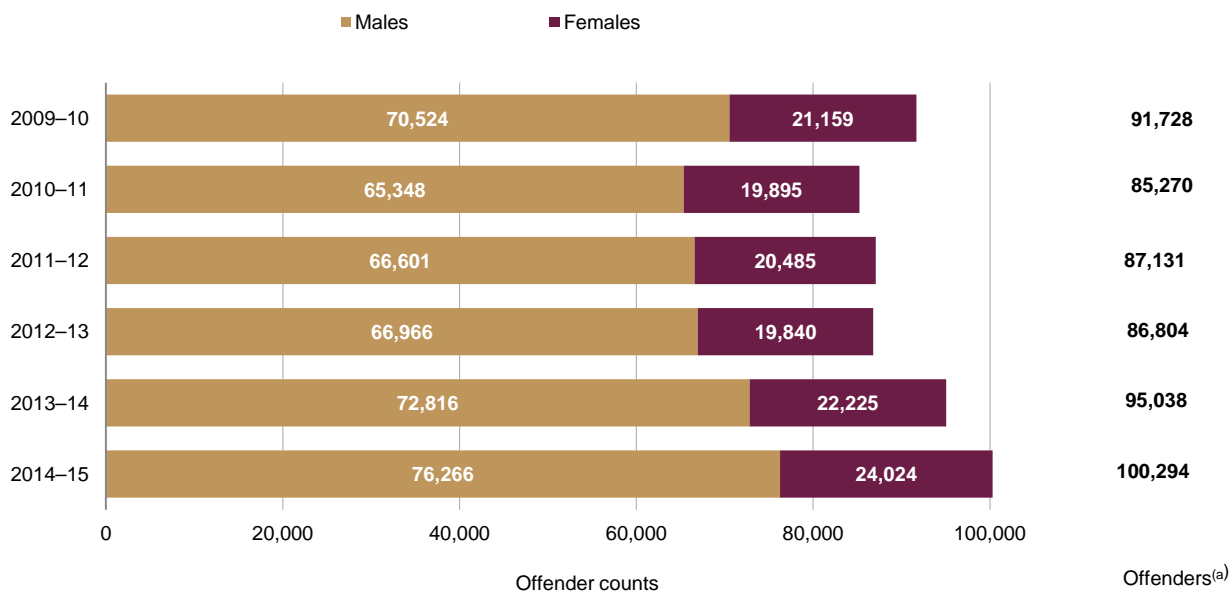
In contrast, female offender numbers increased by 8.1% (1,799) to 24,024 in 2014–15. This was the highest number of female offenders recorded during the period from 2009–10.

In 2014–15, 3 in 4 offenders were male.

¹ Offenders are persons aged 10 years or over who are 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.

The overall increase in 2014–15 followed a 9.5% increase (8,234 offenders) in the previous year (Figure 3).

Figure 3 Offenders by sex, Queensland



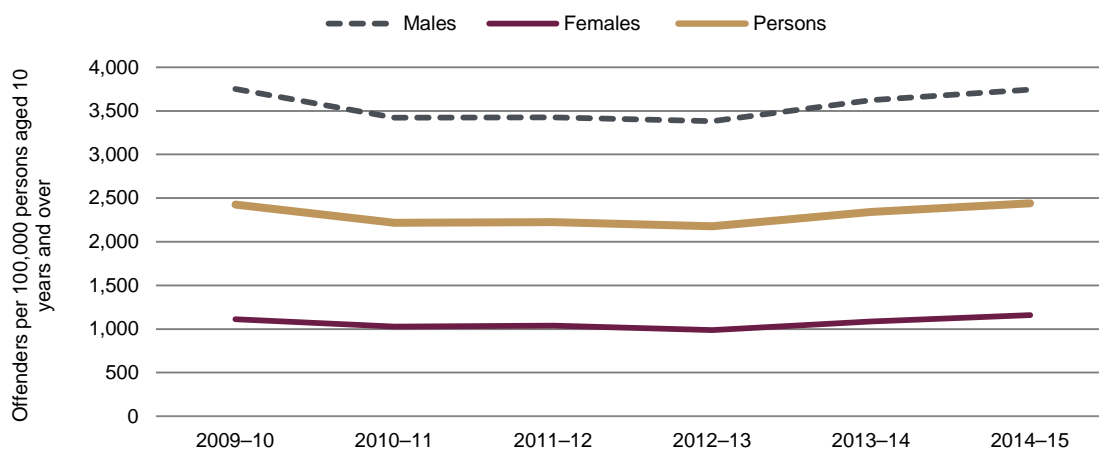
(a) Total includes offenders with an unknown sex.

Offenders were primarily male, accounting for 76.0% of all offenders in 2014–15 and more than three-quarters of all offenders throughout the time series (Figure 3). The offender rate² increased from 2,343.5 in 2013–14 to 2,438.9 in 2014–15 (Figure 4). This was similar to the level reported in 2009–10.

Offender rates for both males and female increased over the two years to 2014–15, however, male offender rates have consistently been more than three times the female rate over the reporting period.

The 2014–15 female offender rate was the highest rate recorded during the period from 2009–10 at 1,158.1 per 100,000 females. The male offender rate in 2014–15 returned to levels observed in 2009–10 (3,742.6 and 3,751.1 per 100,000 males respectively).

Figure 4 Offender rate by sex, Queensland



² Offender rates are offenders per 100,000 persons aged 10 years and over. Where rates are presented for a sex or age group, the ERP used in the calculation of the rates refers to the relevant sex or age group.

Repeat offenders

In 2014–15, 31.4% of offenders (31,503 offenders) were proceeded against by police more than once:

- up slightly from 30.3% (28,813 offenders) in 2013–14
- 16.4% (16,469 offenders) were proceeded against by police on two occasions, similar to 2013–14 (16.1%)
- 15.0% (15,026 offenders) were proceeded against by police on three or more occasions.

The average number of proceedings in 2014–15 was 1.7, the same as in 2013–14.

Over the period 2009–10 to 2014–15, the proportion of repeat offenders rose from 27.4% in 2009–10 to 31.4% in 2014–15. Proportionally more male offenders were proceeded against more than once (31.7%) than females (30.5%) in 2014–15.

However, the growth in female repeat offenders over that period has been faster than for males:

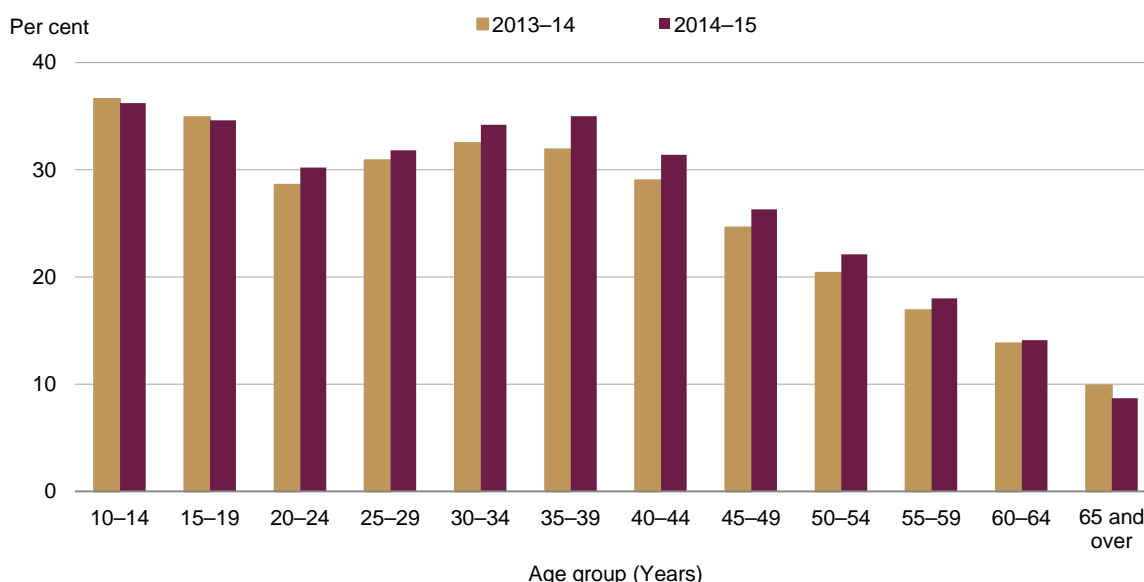
- female repeat offenders increased by 5.5 percentage points from 25.0% to 30.5%
- male repeat offenders increased by 3.6 percentage points from 28.1% to 31.7%.

Female repeat offender numbers grew faster than that of males.

Generally, in 2014–15, there was an increase in the percentage of older offenders reoffending. Every group except youth offenders and the 65+ age group exhibited a higher percentage of reoffending in that year (Figure 5).

However, the highest reoffending group both in 2013–14 and in 2014–15 was still the 10–14 year age group with 36.6% and 36.2% of offenders respectively offending more than once. Consistent with the increasing age of reoffenders noted above, in 2014–15 the 35–39 year age group (35.0%) replaced the 15–19 year age group (34.6%) as the second highest repeat offending group, with the 15–19 age group dropping to third.

Figure 5 Offenders proceeded against on two or more occasions by age group, Queensland



Offenders by principal offence

The three predominant principal offences in 2014–15 were Illicit drug offences (26.9%), Public order offences (19.2%), and Theft (13.2%) (Table 1) (Figure 6). A total of 59,529 offenders were proceeded against for these three principal offences in 2014–15, representing more than half (59.4%) of all offenders.

Table 1 Offenders by principal offence, Queensland

Principal offence	2009–10		2013–14		2014–15		Change in offender numbers	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	1 year	5 years
Illicit drug offences	16,111	17.6	23,221	24.4	27,015	26.9	16.3	67.7
Public order offences	21,345	23.3	19,699	20.7	19,298	19.2	-2.0	-9.6
Theft	13,879	15.1	12,381	13.0	13,216	13.2	6.7	-4.8
Offences against justice	8,373	9.1	9,238	9.7	9,772	9.7	5.8	16.7
Acts intended to cause injury	10,150	11.1	9,545	10.0	9,455	9.4	-0.9	-6.8
Property damage	4,628	5.0	4,115	4.3	4,171	4.2	1.4	-9.9
Unlawful entry with intent	4,309	4.7	4,000	4.2	3,611	3.6	-9.7	-16.2
Fraud/deception	1,895	2.1	2,377	2.5	2,509	2.5	5.6	32.4
Sexual assault	1,746	1.9	1,998	2.1	2,244	2.2	12.3	28.5
Prohibited/regulated weapons	1,821	2.0	1,691	1.8	1,925	1.9	13.8	5.7
Dangerous/negligent acts	675	0.7	677	0.7	676	0.7	-0.1	0.1
Robbery/extortion	757	0.8	697	0.7	662	0.7	-5.0	-12.5
Miscellaneous offences	426	0.5	381	0.4	352	0.4	-7.6	-17.4
Homicide	154	0.2	117	0.1	138	0.1	17.9	-10.4
Abduction/harassment	40	0.0	56	0.1	37	0.0	-33.9	-7.5
<i>Identified principal offence</i>	<i>86,309</i>	<i>94.1</i>	<i>90,193</i>	<i>94.9</i>	<i>95,081</i>	<i>94.8</i>	<i>5.4</i>	<i>10.2</i>
Unknown principal offence	5,419	5.9	4,845	5.1	5,213	5.2	7.6	-3.8
Total	91,728	100.0	95,038	100.0	100,294	100.0	5.5	9.3

Illicit drug offences had the largest increase in offender numbers between 2013–14 and 2014–15 (up 3,794 or 16.3%) and accounted for 77.6% of the total increase in identified principal offence numbers (4,888) between those two years.

Over the longer period between 2009–10 and 2014–15, the number of illicit drug offenders has increased in number by more than two-thirds. These offences represented 26.9% of all offences in 2014–15 and was the leading principal offence type in Queensland in that year.

Other than Illicit drug offences, the other offence types where numbers increased significantly between 2009–10 and 2014–15 were Offences against justice, Fraud and Sexual assault. They increased by 1,399, 614 and 498 respectively.

The order of magnitude of principal offences changed little between 2013–14 and 2014–15, with the exception of Illicit drug offences, and is also relatively unchanged since 2009–10. Offences against justice and Acts intended to cause injury are the notable exceptions.

In terms of offender rates, Illicit drug offences was the only principal offence type to record notable increases in offender rates since 2013–14 (up by 84.3 per 100,000 persons), and also over the longer period from 2009–10 to 2014–15 (up by 230.9).

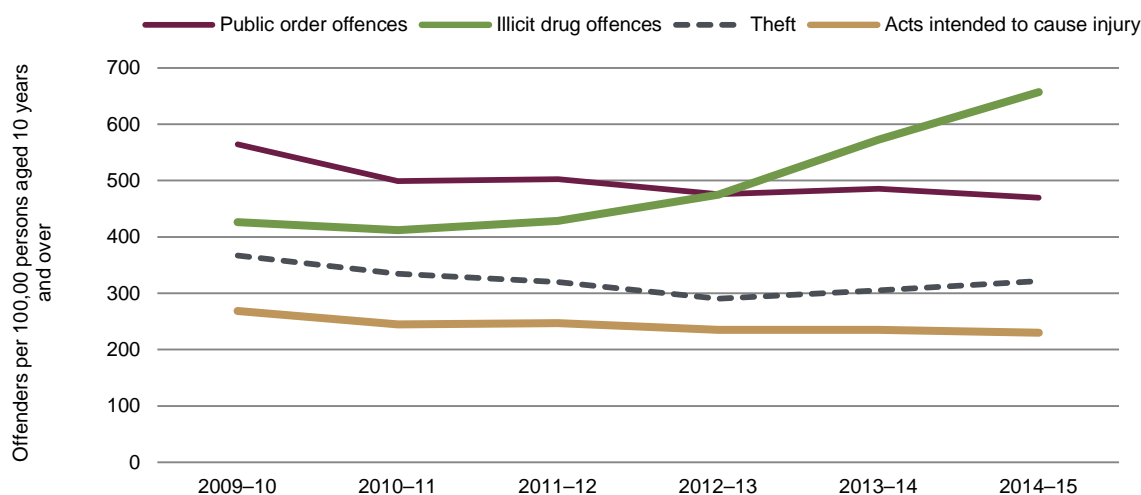
**Illicit drug offences
fastest growing
principal offence,
up by 68%
in 5 years.**

The second largest increase in offender rate between 2013–14 and 2014–15 was for Theft, increasing by 16.1, and over the longer period since 2009–10, Offences against justice, which increased by 16.2.

Since 2009–10 there were notable declines in offender rates recorded for Public order offences and Acts intended to cause injury (declines of 95.2 and 38.5 respectively).

Although there has been an overall decline in offender rates for Theft since 2009–10, the rate reached a low of 290.6 in 2012–13 and has been slowly increasing since, reaching 321.4 in 2014–15 (Figure 66).

Figure 6 Offender rates by selected principal offences, Queensland



Offender counts and rates by age

Generally, over the period since 2009–10, there has been a gradual shift in the age distribution of offender numbers and the offender rate towards older age groups. In 2009–10:

- 15–19 year olds represented the largest proportion of offenders
- youth offenders (10–19 years) accounted for nearly 3 in 10 offenders (29.6%).

Median age of offenders increased from 24 to 27 years.

However, representation of 15–19 year olds had decreased to just over 2 in 10 offenders (22.1%) by 2014–15. Note that this cohort had aged to 20–24 years by 2014–15, and 20–24 year olds were, by then, the predominant group for both offender numbers (20,729) and the offender rate (6,152.5 per 100,000) (Figure 7).

The change in the offender age distribution to older age groups has been a consistent trend since 2009–10 with the proportion of offenders aged 25 years and over growing from 49.2% in 2009–10 to 57.3% in 2014–15.

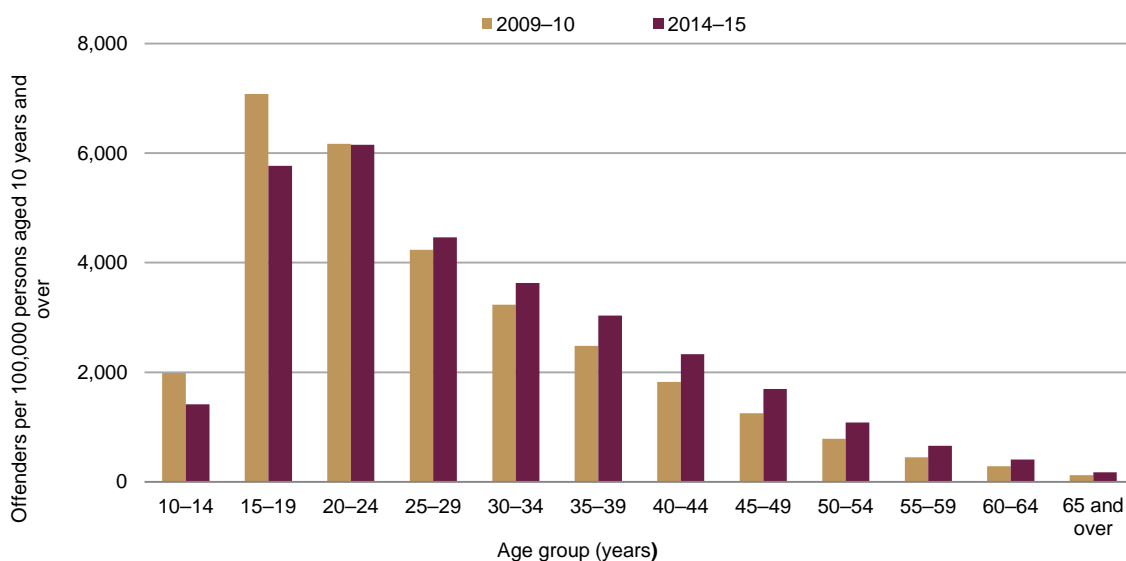
Offending rates in every age cohort aged 25 years and over were higher in 2014–15 than in 2009–10. In particular, the offender rate for offenders:

- aged 60–64 years grew from 286.8 to 405.8
- aged 65 years and over grew from 122.9 to 172.5.

In contrast, offending rates among 10–14 and 15–19 year olds in 2014–15 were significantly lower than in 2009–10. Note however, that there was little change in the number of young offenders over time.

Not surprisingly, the median age of offenders increased from 24 to 27 years over the same period.

Figure 7 Age distribution of offenders by offender rate^(a), Queensland, 2009–10 and 2014–15



(a) Offender rates are expressed as the number of offenders per 100,000 of the estimated resident population.

Youth offenders

Offender counts and rates by sex

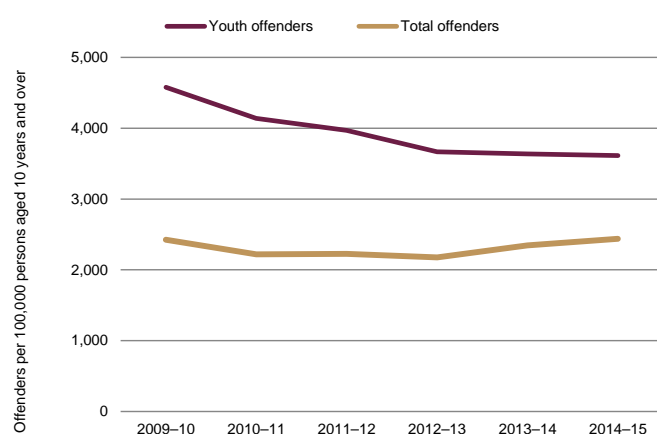
There were 22,139 youth offenders proceeded against by police in 2014–15, a number very similar to those recorded in the two previous years (22,144 in 2012–13 and 22,146 in 2013–14). The number of youth offenders as a proportion of all offenders decreased from 29.6% in 2009–10 to 22.1% in 2014–15.

There was also little change in youth offender rates between 2013–14 and 2014–15. The youth offender rate decreased slightly between these two years, from 3,636.0 to 3,613.7 per 100,000 persons aged 10 to 19 years. This was a continuation of the downward trend observed since 2009–10, when the rate was 4,577.8.

Historically, youth offender rates have been significantly higher than overall offender rates. However, over the period 2009–10 to 2014–15 youth offender rates have decreased notably relative to overall offender rates.

In 2009–10, the youth offender rate was 4,577.8, 1.9 times the overall offender rate of 2,425.7. However by 2014–15 the youth offender rate had dropped to 3,613.7 to be 1.5 times the overall offender rate of 2,438.9 (Figure 8).

Figure 8 Youth offender rate^(a) and total offender rate^(b), Queensland



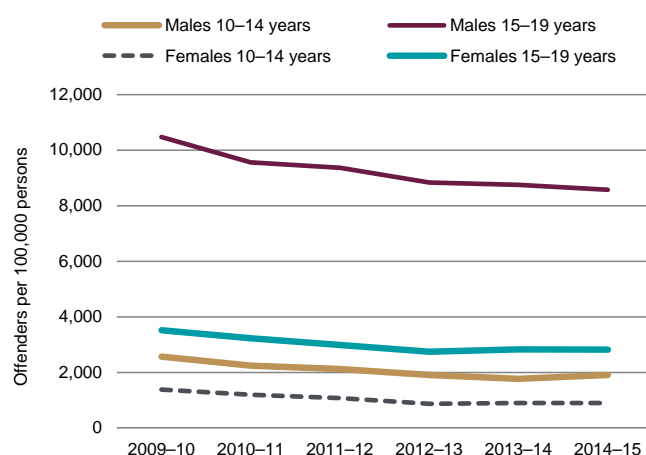
- (a) Youth offenders (aged 10 to 19) per 100,000 persons aged 10–19 years
- (b) All offenders per 100,000 persons aged 10 years and over

When youth offender rates are examined by age and sex (Figure 9) it becomes clear that the offender rate for males aged 15–19 years is well above the rate in all other youth offender categories.

The offender rates for both female categories and males aged 10–14 years were less than 3,000 in 2014–15, which is a rate similar in magnitude to the adult offender rate. The extremely high offender rate for 15–19 year old males drives the overall youth offender rates up.

Notably though, over the period since 2009–10 there has been a strong downward trend in the male 15–19 years youth offender rate which has seen it decrease from 10,474.1 in 2009–10 to 8,572.4 in 2014–15. It is this decrease which has been the major factor contributing to the downward trend in overall youth offender rates mentioned above.

Figure 9 Youth offender rates^(a) by age group and sex, Queensland



(a) Offenders per 100,000 persons of persons in the respective age group

Offender counts and rates by principal offence

Illicit drug offences were the most prevalent principal offence among youth offenders

The leading principal offence for youth offenders in 2014–15 was Illicit drug offences (25.7%), followed by Theft (17.9%) then Public order offences (15.5%).

The incidence of youth offenders with Illicit drug offences as their principal offence has more than doubled between 2009–10 (11.6%) and 2014–15 (25.7%)(Table 2).

In terms of the offender rate, the offender rate for Illicit drug offences has similarly increased from 529.8 to 927.3 per 100,000, an increase of 397.5 since 2009–10 (Figure 10).

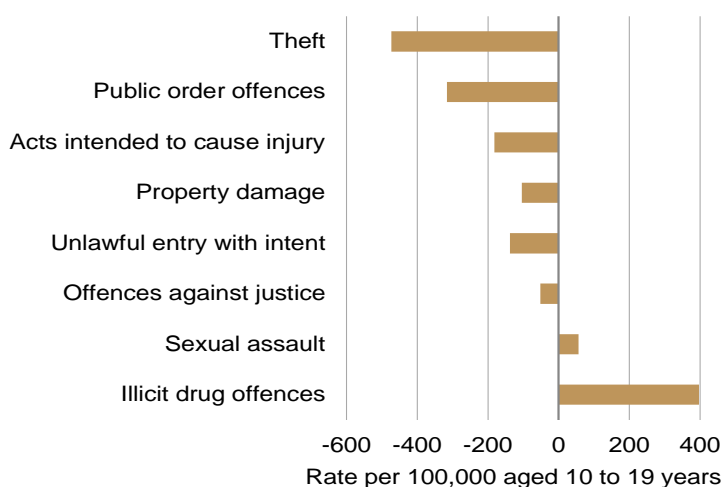
Theft, the second most prevalent principal offence among youth offenders, decreased by 2,674 offences between 2009–10 and 2014–15, from 24.4% of youth offences to 17.9%.

Similarly, Public order offences, the third most prevalent principal offence type among youth offenders, decreased by 1,762 from 19.2% to 15.5% over the same period.

Other than Illicit drug offences, the only offence type that has increased significantly among youth offenders since 2009–10 was Sexual assault, which increased by 368 offenders.

The offender rate (per 100,000 persons aged 10 to 19 years) for Theft and Public order offences decreased by 473.6 and 316.6 respectively since 2009–10, while notable increases in offender rates were only reported for Illicit drug offences (397.5) and Sexual assault (56.8).

Figure 10 Change in rates for principal offences of youth offenders, between 2009–10 and 2014–15



Over the shorter period, 2013–14 to 2014–15, the only significant increases in offender rates were again for Illicit drug offences (127.1) and Sexual assault (19.1).

Table 2 Youth offenders^(a) by principal offence, Queensland

Principal offence	2009–10		2014–15		Change in offender numbers 2009–10 to 2014–15	Offender rate ^(c) 2014–15
	number	%	number	%	%	rate
Illicit drug offences	3,138	11.6	5,681	25.7	81.0	927.3
Theft	6,626	24.4	3,952	17.9	-40.4	645.1
Public order offences	5,195	19.2	3,433	15.5	-33.9	560.5
Acts intended to cause injury	3,259	12.0	2,258	10.2	-30.7	368.6
Unlawful entry with intent	2,571	9.5	1,817	8.2	-29.3	296.6
Property damage	1,910	7.0	1,335	6.0	-30.1	217.9
Sexual assault	587	2.2	955	4.3	62.7	155.9
Offences against justice	1,001	3.7	718	3.2	-28.3	117.2
Fraud/deception	324	1.2	399	1.8	23.1	65.1
Prohibited/regulated weapons	554	2.0	352	1.6	-36.5	57.5
Robbery/extortion	410	1.5	297	1.3	-27.6	48.5
Dangerous/negligent acts	218	0.8	157	0.7	-28.0	25.6
Homicide	22	0.1	13	0.1	-40.9	2.1
Abduction/harassment	9	0.0	10	0.0	11.1	1.6
Miscellaneous offences	4	0.0	7	0.0	75.0	1.1
Total^(b)	27,114	100.0	22,139	100.0	-18.3	3,613.7

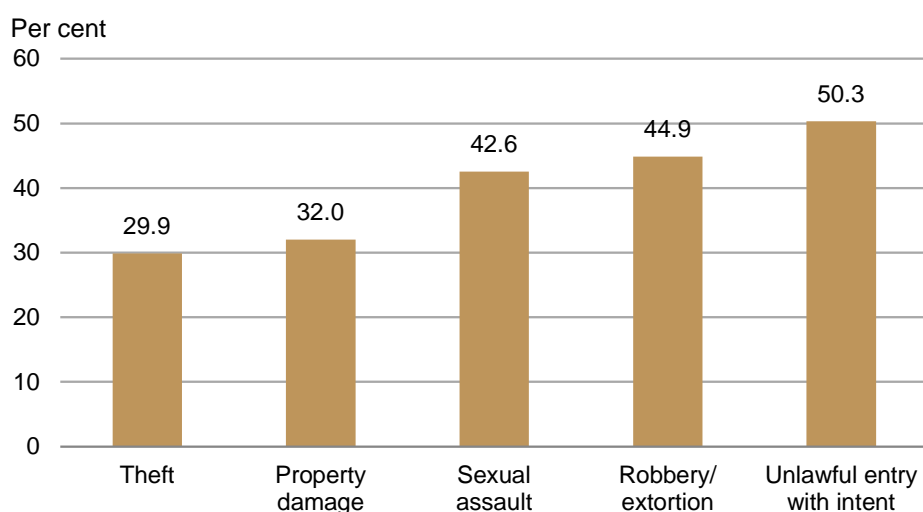
(a) Persons aged 10 to 19 years.

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

(c) Rate per 100,000 persons aged 10–19 years.

Youth offenders accounted for about half (50.3%) of all principal offences of Unlawful entry with intent recorded in Queensland in 2014–15. Youth offenders also accounted for a substantial proportion of the principal offences of Robbery/extortion (44.9%) and Sexual assault (42.6%). They also accounted for a large proportion of Property damage and Theft offences, with 32.0% and 29.9% of all principal offences respectively (Figure 11).

Figure 11 Youth offenders as a proportion of total offenders, by selected principal offence^(a), Queensland, 2014–15



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

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders^{3,4}

Offender counts and rate by sex and age

In 2014–15, 17,158 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders were proceeded against by police in Queensland. This represented a 2.2% increase over the 16,790 offenders proceeded against in 2013–14, considerably less than the 9.3% increase that occurred in the preceding year.

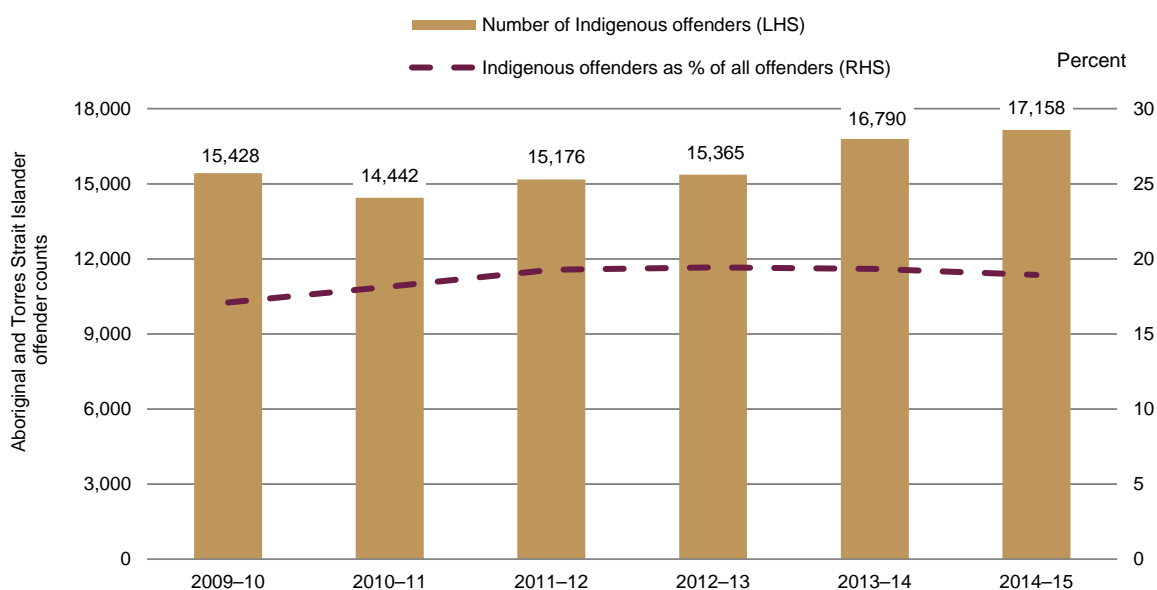
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders accounted for more than 1 in 6 total offenders in Queensland in 2014–15

The 2014–15 result was also the highest annual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offender count recorded during the period 2009–10 to 2014–15.

Over that period, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders increased as a share of all offenders, from 17.1% in 2009–10 to 19.4% in 2012–13, however their share decreased slightly to 18.9% in 2014–15 (Figure 12)⁴.

By comparison, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders accounted for only 4.2% of the total Queensland estimated resident population at 30 June 2011⁵, and by 30 June 2026 the proportion is projected to increase only slightly to between 4.5% and 4.7% of the state population.

Figure 12 Number and proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders, Queensland



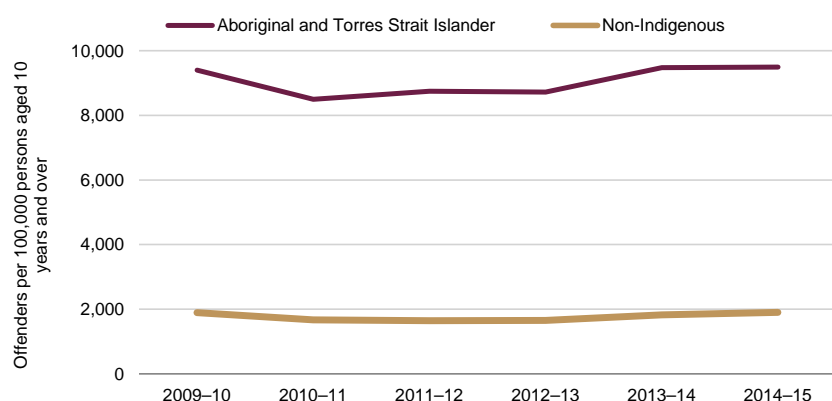
The age-standardised rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders dealt with by police in 2014–15 was 9,496.9 per 100,000 persons aged 10 years and over, which was 5.0 times the age-standardised rate of non-Indigenous offenders (1,904.6 in 2014–15) (Figure 13). The difference in the age-standardised rates between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders and non-Indigenous offenders has been of similar magnitude over the period 2009–10 to 2014–15.

³ Excludes those proceeded against by a penalty/infringement notice.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Data from ABS 3238.0 *Estimates and projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026*. Released 30 April 2014.

Figure 13 Age-standardised offender rate by Indigenous status, Queensland

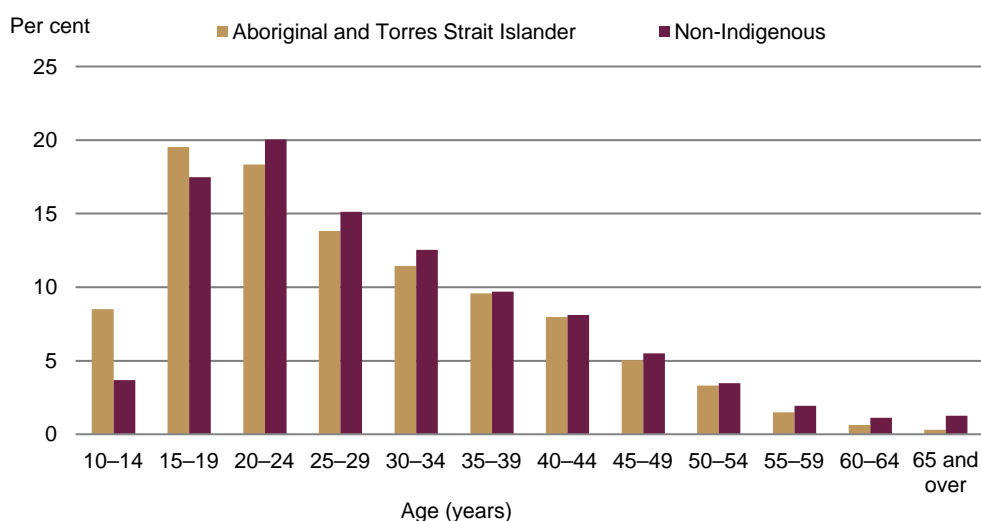


Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offender rates were 5 times higher than those of non-Indigenous offenders in 2014–15.

In 2014–15, the most prevalent age group for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders was 15–19 years (19.5%) compared with 20–24 years for non-Indigenous offenders (20.0%) (Figure 14).

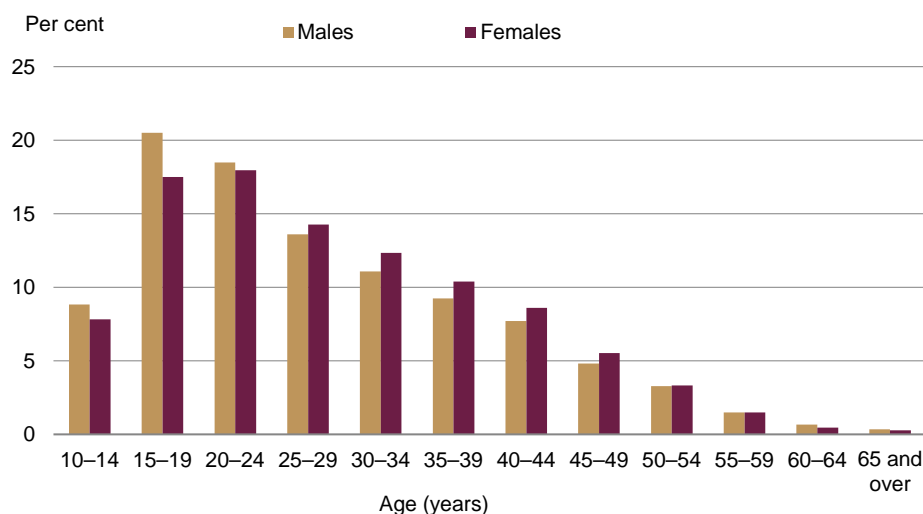
In 2014–15 there was a greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders aged 10–14 years (8.5%) compared with non-Indigenous offenders (3.7%), whereas Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples had a lower representation of offenders aged 20–24 years (18.3% compared with 20.0% for non-Indigenous offenders). The median age of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders was 26 years in 2014–15, lower than the median age of non-Indigenous offenders (27 years).

Figure 14 Age distribution of offenders by Indigenous status, Queensland, 2014–15



Further, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male offenders were younger than their female peers, with median offender ages of 25 and 27 years respectively (Figure 15). There was no change in the gender composition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders between 2013–14 and 2014–15, with the percentage of female offenders remaining constant at 31.5%.

Figure 15 Age distribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders by sex, Queensland, 2014–15

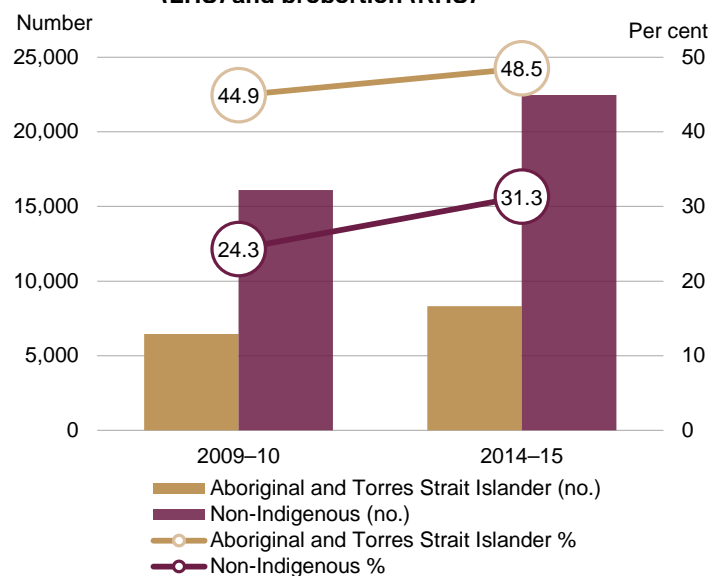


Repeat offender counts

The average number of proceedings for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders in 2014–15 was higher than that for non-Indigenous offenders (2.2 and 1.6 respectively). Just over half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders were proceeded against by police once (51.5% or 8,840 offenders), a further 21.3% (3,663 offenders) on two occasions, and the remaining 27.2% (4,659 offenders) on three or more occasions.

The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander repeat offenders increased notably over the period 2009–10 to 2014–15, from 44.9% to 48.5%. But as mentioned above, the upward trend was also evident for non-Indigenous repeat offenders, increasing from 24.3% to 31.3% over the same period (Figure 16).

Figure 16 Repeat offenders by indigenous status, number (LHS) and proportion (RHS)



Offender counts by principal offence

Public order offences was the most prevalent principal offence type for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders in Queensland over the period 2009–10 to 2014–15. However, this principal offence type decreased as a proportion of total offences for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders from 25.9% in 2009–10 to 18.8% in 2014–15. The second most common principal offence in 2014–15 was Acts intended to cause injury (16.7%) (Table 3).

Illicit drug offences was the third most prevalent principal offence among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders in 2014–15, accounting for 16.4% of offenders. This was less than half the percentage for this offence among non-Indigenous offenders, where illicit drug offences accounted for 33.0% of offenders in that year and was the most prevalent offence type.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander illicit drug offenders — around 3 times the rate of non-Indigenous offenders since 2009–10.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offender rate for Illicit drug offences in 2014–15 was about three times the non-Indigenous offender rate (1,813.6 and 598.6 respectively). This ratio has remained at about this level since 2009–10. However, illicit drug offences are growing faster among the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. The growth in the rate of Illicit drug offences among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders since 2009–10 has been 74% (1,042.2 to 1,813.6), compared with 63% (367.2 to 598.6) growth for non-Indigenous offenders.

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 2014–15 (8.1% and 3.0% respectively).

Table 3 Principal offence by Indigenous status, Queensland, 2014–15

Principal offence	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander		Non-Indigenous	
	number	%	number	%
Public order offences	3,224	18.8	7,939	11.1
Acts intended to cause injury	2,863	16.7	6,461	9.0
Illicit drug offences	2,809	16.4	23,690	33.0
Theft	2,254	13.1	10,618	14.8
Offences against justice	1,999	11.7	7,540	10.5
Unlawful entry with intent	1,384	8.1	2,188	3.0
Property damage	935	5.4	2,749	3.8
Fraud/deception	345	2.0	2,122	3.0
Sexual assault	320	1.9	1,801	2.5
Prohibited/regulated weapons	256	1.5	1,655	2.3
Robbery/extortion	203	1.2	450	0.6
Dangerous/negligent acts	127	0.7	534	0.7
Homicide	21	0.1	113	0.2
Abduction/harassment	8	0.0	30	0.0
Miscellaneous offences	4	0.0	276	0.4
Total^(a)	17,158	100.0	71,808	100.0

(a) Includes offenders with an unknown principal offence.



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, irrespective of the number of offences committed within the same incident or the number of times they were dealt with by police during the reference period. An offender may be counted more than once if proceeded against on separate occasions by police during the reference period.

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 2014 for the 2014–15 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 2014–15 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 2014–15 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 2014–15 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 back cast 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 2009–10 to 2014–15 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.