

Reported victims of offences against the person, Queensland, 2013–14

Source: Queensland Police Service, unpublished data

Introduction

This report presents summary statistics about victims of criminal offences against the person, as reported to or detected by Queensland Police Service (QPS) during the year ending 30 June 2014. Data presented in this report were sourced from unpublished QPS records and collated by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO). QPS data were current at the time of extraction and are subject to change.

Along with summary data on the number of reported victims and victimisation rates, this report provides specific analysis of victims of crime according to sex, Indigenous status, relationship to the offender and age.

Terms used in this report

Victim — for all offences against the person (excluding robbery), 'the victim' is an individual person. For some instances of robbery, the victim may be an individual or an organisation.

Reported victim — these data show one victim for each counted offence. However, a person may be counted multiple times if they were the victim of multiple offences belonging to different offence subdivisions. Most data presented in this report are for reported victims.

Unique victim — provides an estimate of the actual number of victims. Each person is counted once only in the reference period, regardless of how many times they have been reported as a victim of an offence.

Summary data

- There were 26,398 reported victims of crimes against the person in Queensland in 2013–14 (1,482 fewer than for 2012–13), representing a victimisation rate of 567 victims per 100,000 persons.
- Since 2009–10, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders have consistently recorded higher victimisation rates than non-Indigenous Queenslanders, with victimisation rates of 1,600 and 482 per 100,000 persons respectively in 2013–14 (Figure 1). Overall, victimisation rates for both groups have declined since 2009–10.
- Victims of assault (18,397 victims) made up 69.7% of all reported victims in 2013–14, with serious assault (8,320 victims) and common assault (6,368 victims) accounting for the bulk of these. While non-Indigenous males made up the largest number of reported victims of assault, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females had the highest victimisation rates across all but one sub-category of assault.
- There were 4,326 reported victims of sexual offences in 2013–14, most of whom were female (3,601 victims, or 83.2%). Females aged 10–19 years (1,976 victims) accounted for almost half (46%) of all reported victims.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were close to ten times more likely to be the victim of a serious assault, five times more likely to be the victim of a common assault, and twice as likely to be the victim of a sexual offence as non-Indigenous females.
- Female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims of assault and sexual offences were more likely than non-Indigenous females to be in a family or domestic relationship with their offender.

Figure 1: Reported victims and victimisation rate by Indigenous status^(a), Queensland

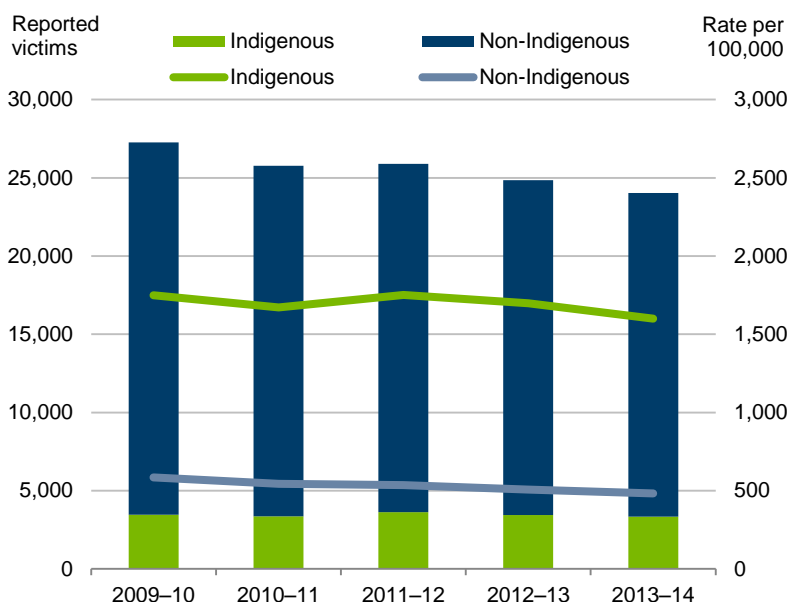


Table 1: Reported victims of crime by offence, sex and Indigenous status, Queensland, 2013–14

Offence	Sex ^(a)		Indigenous status			Total
	Male	Female	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	
Assault	10,968	7,404	2,659	14,494	1,244	18,397
Grievous assault ^(b)	717	172	195	601	95	891
Serious assault ^(c)	4,713	3,597	1,457	6,304	559	8,320
Serious assault (other) ^(d)	1,904	911	284	2,371	163	2,818
Common assault ^(e)	3,634	2,724	723	5,218	427	6,368
Sexual offences	716	3,601	444	3,248	634	4,326
Rape and attempted rape	124	1,103	121	1,000	106	1,227
Other sexual offences	592	2,498	323	2,248	528	3,099
Homicide	77	41	11	56	51	118
Homicide (murder)	24	17	5	13	23	41
Other homicide	53	24	6	43	28	77
Robbery	767	315	35	936	111	1,082
Armed robbery	341	111	10	399	43	452
Unarmed robbery	426	204	25	537	68	630
Other offences against the person ^(f)	1,185	1,288	196	1,952	327	2,475
Total	13,713	12,649	3,345	20,686	2,367	26,398

(a) Males and females may not add to total, due to a small number of records where sex was not stated.

(b) An assault which causes serious bodily injury, i.e. loss of a body part, serious disfigurement, endangerment of life or threat of permanent injury, if it were untreated.

(c) Serious assault resulting in injury (excluding grievous assault).

(d) Serious assault not resulting in injury.

(e) An assault not involving any aggravating circumstances as defined above.

(f) Includes extortion, kidnapping and abduction, deprivation of liberty, life endangering acts, and stalking.

Reported victims by offence type

There were 26,398 reported victims of offences against the person in Queensland in 2013–14 (Table 1), representing a victimisation rate of 567 per 100,000 persons. Although the overall distribution of victims was slightly toward males (13,713 persons, or 51.9%) over females (12,649 persons, 47.9%), females were more likely to be victims of sexual offences than males. More than one in ten reported victims were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, accounting for 3,345 or 12.7% of total victims.

Assault

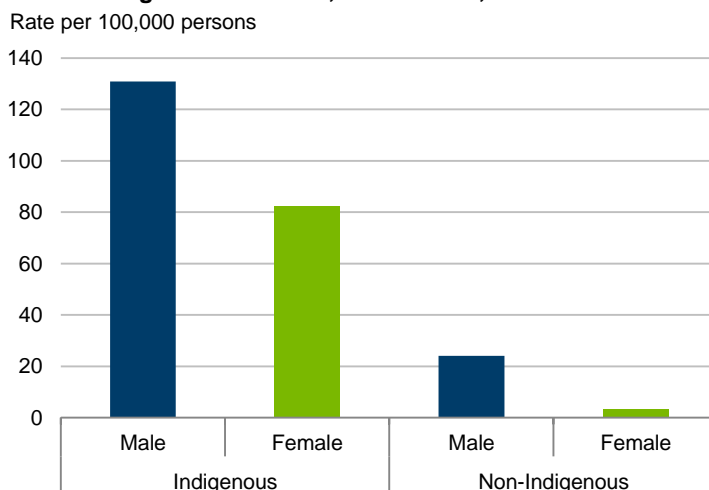
Assaults comprised approximately seven out of ten reported victims of offences against the person in Queensland in 2013–14, with 18,397 victims accounting for 69.7% of total. Around six in ten reported victims of assault were male (10,968 victims, or 59.6%), while 2,659 (14.5%) were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons. Due to the relatively small size of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, the victimisation rate for that group considerably exceeds that for the non-Indigenous population in all categories of assault and sexual offences.

Grievous assault

There were 891 reported victims of grievous assault in Queensland in 2013–14. Victims were predominantly males (717 victims, or 80.5%). Just over two in ten were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons (195 victims, or 21.9%).

While non-Indigenous males comprised the greatest number of reported victims of grievous assault (523 victims), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males were more than five times as likely to be the victim of a grievous assault than non-Indigenous males (a rate of 131 and 24 per 100,000 persons respectively) (Figure 2). Victimization rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (82 per 100,000 persons) were also substantially higher than those for non-Indigenous males and non-Indigenous females.

Figure 2: Victimization rates by sex and Indigenous status, grievous assault, Queensland, 2013–14



Serious assault

There were 8,320 reported victims of serious assault in Queensland in 2013–14. The majority of these were males (4,713 victims, or 56.6%). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons accounted for 1,457 or 17.5% of reported victims of serious assault.

Despite recording a lower number of reported victims than both non-Indigenous males and females, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females recorded the highest victimisation rate for serious assault (1,038 per 100,000 persons), close to ten times the victimisation rate recorded for non-Indigenous females (109 per 100,000 persons) (Figure 3).

Serious assault (other)

There were 2,818 reported victims of serious assault (other) in Queensland in 2013–14. Around two-thirds (1,904 victims, or 67.6%) were male, and 10.1% (284 victims) were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons.

As with serious assault, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females had the highest victimisation rate (210 per 100,000 persons), followed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (132 per 100,000 persons).

Common assault

There were 6,368 reported victims of common assault in Queensland in 2013–14, including 3,634 males (57.1%) and 723 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons (11.4%).

While non-Indigenous males and females accounted for the largest numbers of reported victims for common assault, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females recorded the highest victimisation rate for common assault (458 per 100,000 persons), close to five times the victimisation rate recorded for non-Indigenous females (96 per 100,000 persons) (Figure 4).

Sexual offences

There were 4,326 reported victims of sexual offences in Queensland in 2013–14, comprising 1,227 victims of rape and attempted rape and 3,099 victims of other sexual offences. Reported victims of sexual offences were predominantly female, with 3,601 victims accounting for 83.2% of the total. Around one in ten sexual offence victims were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons (444 victims, or 10.3%).

While non-Indigenous females made up the largest number of reported victims of sexual offences (2,739 victims), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were twice as likely as non-Indigenous females to be the victim of a sexual offence (victimisation rates of 270 and 133 per 100,000 persons respectively) (Figure 5).

Figure 3: Victimisation rates by sex and indigenous status, serious assault, Queensland, 2013–14

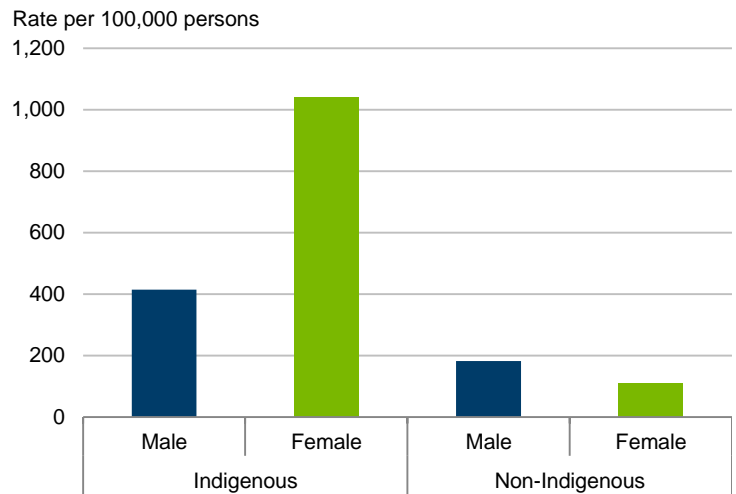


Figure 4: Victimisation rates by sex and Indigenous status, common assault, Queensland, 2013–14

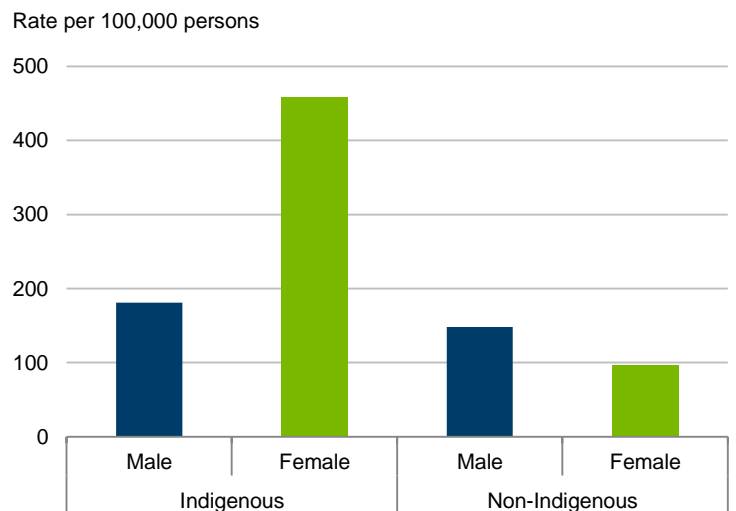
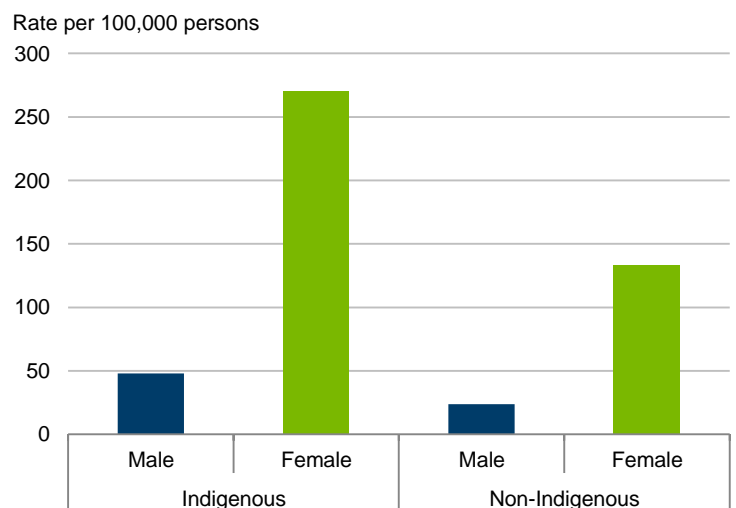


Figure 5: Victimisation rates by sex and Indigenous status, sexual offences, Queensland, 2013–14



Homicide

There were 118 reported victims of homicide in Queensland in 2013–14, accounting for 0.4% of total reported victims of crimes against the person in the state over this period. Around two-thirds of reported victims of homicide were males (77 victims, or 65.3%) and 9.3% (11 victims) were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons.

Robbery

There were 1,082 reported victims of robbery in Queensland in 2013–14, comprising 452 victims of armed robbery and 630 victims of unarmed robbery. Males (767 victims, or 70.9%) were more likely to be victims of robbery than females, while 35 victims (3.2%) were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons.

Other offences against the person

Of the 2,475 reported victims of other offences against the person recorded in Queensland in 2013–14, just over half (1,288 victims, or 52.0%) were females. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons made up 196 victims (or 7.9%).

Relationship between victim and offender

Overall, 67.6% of reported victims of crime in Queensland in 2013–14 knew their offender¹. The incidence and characteristics of the relationship between victim and offender vary markedly according to the sex and Indigenous status of the victim, as well as the offence committed.

More than half (57.5%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females who were victims of assault were in a family or domestic relationship with the offender, while a further 35.0% were assaulted by a person who was known to them outside of that relationship (Figure 6)². Only 7.5% of female victims in this group were assaulted by strangers. In contrast, non-Indigenous female victims were more likely to know their assailant outside of a family or domestic relationship (44.5%), or to be assaulted by a stranger (26.0%).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males who were victims of assault were also more likely to be in a family or domestic relationship with their assailant than non-Indigenous male victims (37.0% and 8.5% respectively), although both groups had a similar incidence of assault by persons known to them (45.5% and 46.2% respectively). Around 45.4% of non-Indigenous male victims were assaulted by strangers, compared with just 17.5% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male victims.

Similarly, for reported victims of sexual offences, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were more likely to be in a family or domestic relationship with their offender (47.2%) than non-Indigenous females (33.1%) (Figure 7). Non-Indigenous female victims of sexual offences were almost twice as likely to have no relationship with the offender than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (21.5% and 11.3% respectively). The relationship between victim and offender for male victims of sexual assault was relatively similar for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous persons.

Figure 6: Relationship between reported victim and offender, assaults, Queensland, 2013–14

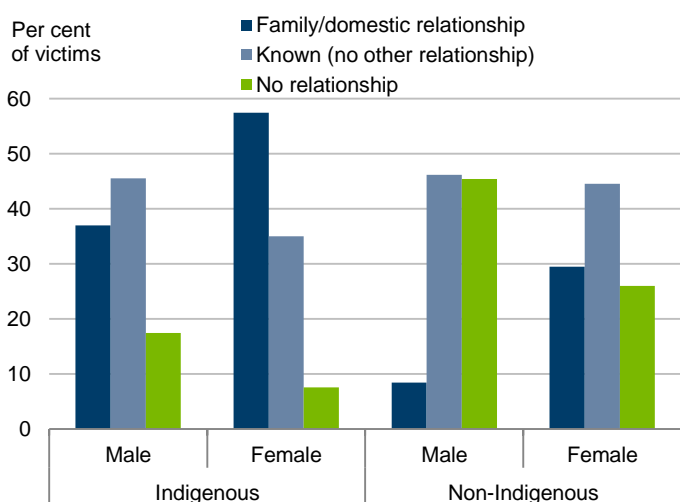
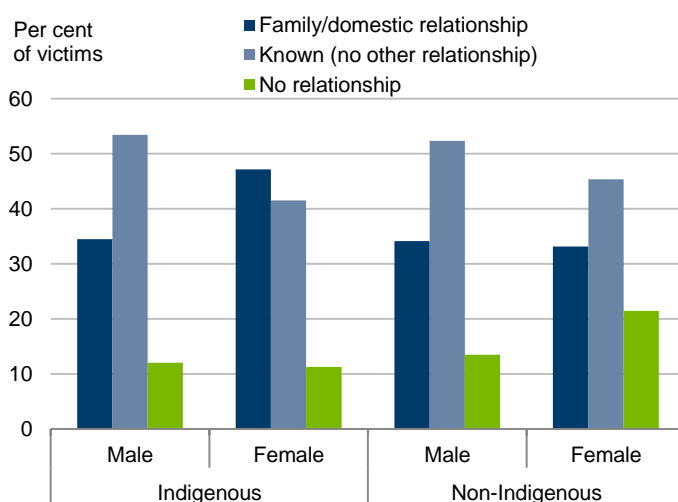


Figure 7: Relationship between reported victim and offender, sexual offences, Queensland, 2013–14



¹ See endnotes for details of the relationship classification used in this section.

² Excludes 1,268 offender records (or 6.9% of the total) where Indigenous status of victim was not identified, and 261 Indigenous and 1,810 non-Indigenous offender records where the relationship between victim and offender could not be established (9.8% and 12.5% of categories respectively).

Reported victims by age and sex

The age/sex profiles of reported victims of assault and sexual offences in Queensland in 2013–14 differed markedly. Male victims of assault (10,968 victims, or 59.6%) outnumbered females (7,404 victims, or 40.2%) in all age groups, while victims of sexual offences were predominantly female (3,601 victims, or 83.2%) across all age groups.

Males in the 20–29 year age category were the single largest group of assault victims (2,940 victims) followed by males aged 30–39 years (2,375 victims) (Figure 8). Female victims of assault had a younger age profile than males, with the largest grouping in the 20–29 year age category (2,033 victims) and the 10–19 year age category (1,894 victims).

Female victims of sexual offences outnumbered males across all age groups (Figure 9). Almost half (1,976 victims, or 45.7%) of all victims of sexual offences were females aged 10–19 years, while females aged 20–29 years and 0–9 years were the second and third largest groups (562 and 448 victims respectively).

Male victims of sexual offences were largely concentrated in the 0–9 year and 10–19 year age categories (226 and 333 victims respectively, or 78% of total male victims).

The number of reported victims of assault and sexual offences declined steadily in the older age categories.

Unique victim characteristics

There were 23,301 unique victims of crime against the person recorded in Queensland in 2013–14. This total comprised 12,376 males (53.2%) and 10,888 females (46.8%). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons accounted for 2,930 (or 12.6%) unique victims of crime, with 18,119 non-Indigenous (77.8%) and the remainder not stated (2,252 persons, 9.7%).

Females aged 10–19 years were the single largest group of unique victims (3,462 persons), outnumbering males in this age group (2,467 persons) (Figure 10). This reflects the large number of reported victims of sexual offences, as well as the relatively large number of assault victims, in this category. There were similar numbers of unique victims recorded for females and males in the 0–9 year age group (765 and 784 persons respectively). Males were more likely than females to be counted as a unique victim in all other age groups.

Young people aged 10–19 years and young adults aged 20–29 years were most likely to be unique victims. Around one-quarter of unique victims were aged 10–19 years (5,935 persons, or 25.5% of unique victims), with a similar proportion aged 20–29 years (5,750 persons, or 24.7% of unique victims). The number and proportion of unique victims diminish in the older age groups, from 4,174 persons (17.9%) in the 30–39 age bracket to 929 persons (4.0%) of those aged 60 and over.

Figure 8: Reported victims of assault by age and sex, Queensland, 2013–14

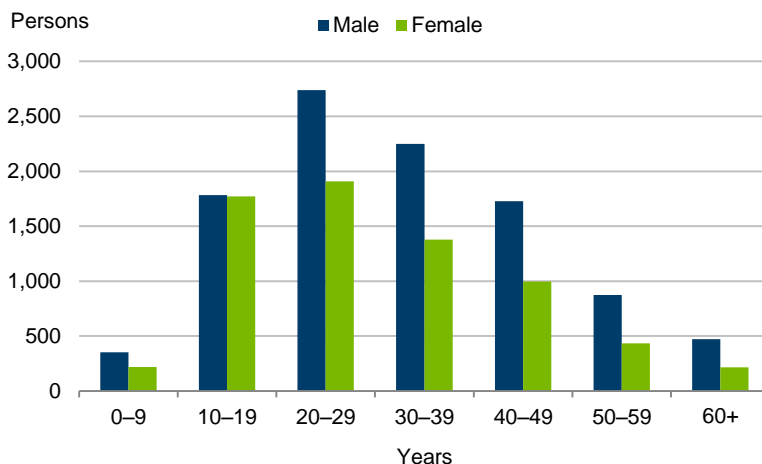


Figure 9: Reported victims of sexual offences by age and sex, Queensland, 2013–14

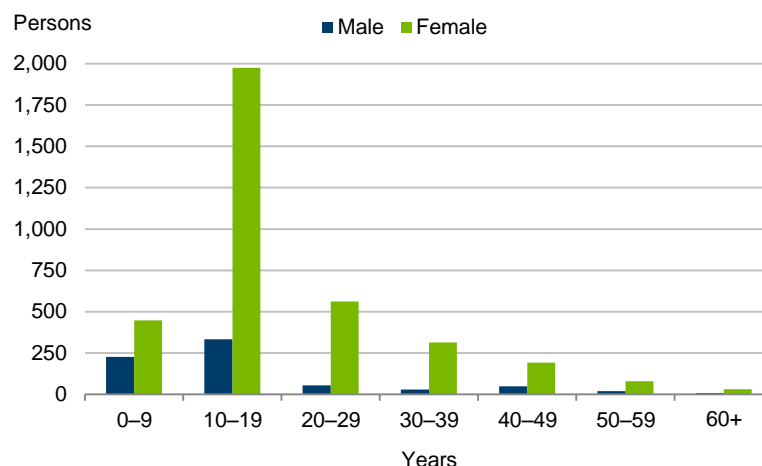
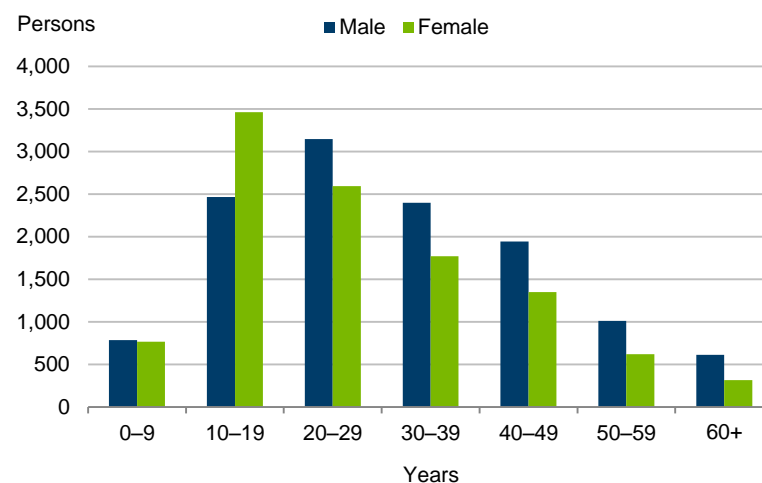


Figure 10: Unique victims by age and sex, Queensland, 2013–14



Glossary

Assault — The direct (and immediate/confrontational) infliction of force, injury or violence upon a person or persons or the direct (and immediate/confrontational) threat of force, injury or violence where there is an apprehension that the threat could be enacted. This subdivision is further disaggregated on the basis of whether or not the assault involved injury, or other circumstances.

Indigenous person — a person who has self-identified, or has been identified in specific circumstances, as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

Indigenous status not stated — a person who has not self-identified as being of either Indigenous or non-Indigenous origin.

Non-Indigenous person — a person who has self-identified as not being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.

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

Victimisation rates — calculated as (number of reported offences/estimated resident population)*100,000, using the ABS estimated resident population (ERP) at the beginning of the reference period. Victimisation rates for the Indigenous population are based on *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026* (ABS 3238.0).

Notes

All Queensland Police Service crime statistics presented in this report are derived from data recorded in the Queensland Police Records and Information Management Exchange (QPRIME) as at February 2015. Reported victims of crime statistics are compiled on the basis of one victim per counted offence, and do not provide a unique victim count. Where the same victim is subjected to multiple offences belonging to different offence subdivisions within an incident, that victim would be recorded for each most serious offence per subdivision.

In data presented for 2013–14 there were 2,367 reported victims for whom Indigenous status was not stated, equating to 9.0% of total reported victims. These victims have been excluded from Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparative analysis.

Years used in this report are financial year (i.e. from 1 July to 30 June). Statistics produced on the basis of data reported may be affected over time by lags in processing some crime reports. Where offences reported in the reference year are not processed for inclusion until the following year revised data are presented in subsequent publications.

Age data presented refers to the victim's age on the date the offence was reported to police, rather than their age on the date the offence occurred.

Victimisation rates have been age-standardised to account for differences in the age profiles of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. Rates are calculated as $(\text{Number of reported offences}/\text{ERP}) \times 100$.

Relationships between victim and offender have been grouped in this publication as follows:

- Family/domestic relationship — includes offenders who are spouses, partners, parents, children, or members of the same family as the victim.
- Known (no other relationship) — includes offenders who are friends, acquaintances, neighbours, ex-partners, or known to the victim via work or professional circumstances, but who are not otherwise related.
- No relationship — includes persons who are unknown to the victim, and persons where no relationship exists between the victim and offender.
- Relationship not known/not stated — where it is unknown by Police whether any relationship exists between the offender and victim, or is otherwise not stated by the victim.