

# Reported victims of offences against the person, Queensland, 2014–15

Source: Queensland Police Service, unpublished data, extracted 20 October 2015 and 11 April 2016

This report presents summary statistics about victims of criminal offences against the person, as reported to, or detected by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) during the year ending 30 June 2015. Offences against the person include the offence categories of assault, sexual offences, homicide, robbery, and other offences against the person.

Data presented in this report were sourced from unpublished QPS records and collated by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO).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. Victimization rates for total population by Indigenous status have been subject to age-standardisation.

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

## Terms used in this report

**Victim:** for most offences against the person 'the victim' is an individual person. In some cases, such as robbery and extortion, the victim may be an individual person or an organisation. Offences where the victim was an organisation have not been included in this report.

**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 within an incident. They would be counted once for each most serious offence per offence subdivision. Unless otherwise specified, data presented in this report are for reported victims.

**Unique victim:** provides an estimate of the actual number of victims and therefore is lower than the number of reported 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.

## Key data<sup>(a)</sup>

<b>All victims<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>2013–14</b>	<b>2014–15</b>	<b>% change</b>	
Number of reported victims	26,394	25,460	-3.5	↓
➔ <i>Number of unique victims</i>	23,245	22,280	-4.2	↓
Reported victimisation rate <sup>(c)</sup>	567	539	-4.9	↓
<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims</b>				
Number of reported victims	3,357	3,465	3.2	↑
➔ <i>Number of unique victims</i>	2,844	2,976	4.6	↑
Reported victimisation rate <sup>(d)</sup>	1,605	1,646	2.6	↑
<b>Non-Indigenous victims</b>				
Number of reported victims	20,719	20,085	-3.1	↓
➔ <i>Number of unique victims</i>	18,266	17,549	-3.9	↓
Reported victimisation rate <sup>(e)</sup>	483	464	-3.9	↓

(a) See breakout box on terminology, and Glossary and Notes at the end of this report.

(b) Includes reported victims where the Indigenous status was not stated.

(c) Reported victims per 100,000 persons.

(d) Age-standardised rate. Reported victims per 100,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons.

(e) Age-standardised rate. Reported victims per 100,000 non-Indigenous persons.

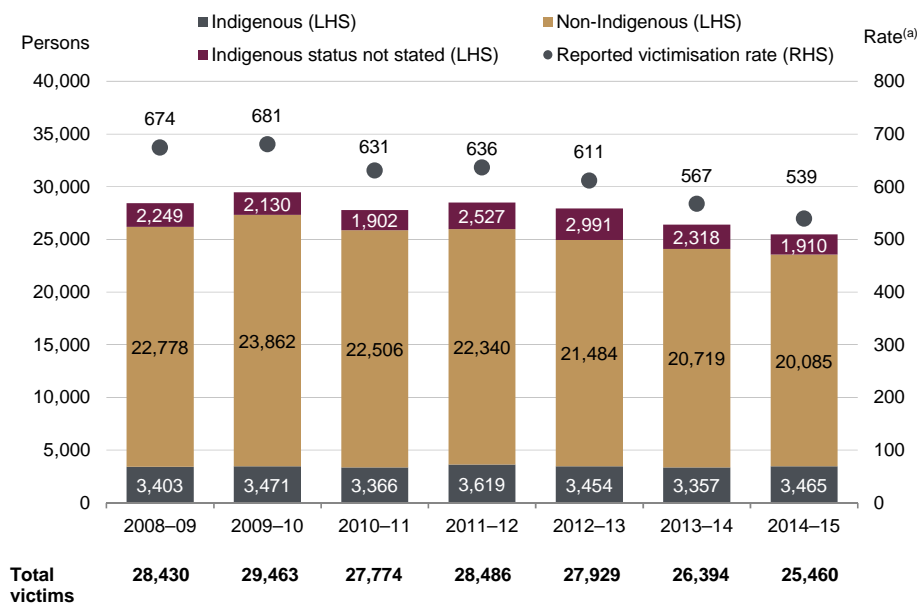
## Reported victims

### Victim counts by Indigenous status

In 2014–15, there were 25,460 reported victims of offences against the person recorded by QPS, the lowest count of reported victims over the seven-year time series (Figure 1). This was the third year in a row the count of reported victims declined, with the number of victims in 2014–15 down 10.6% from 2011–12 (28,486 reported victims).

The reported victimisation rate has trended downwards over time in Queensland, from 681 victims per 100,000 persons in 2009–10 to 539 victims per 100,000 persons in 2014–15.

**Figure 1** Reported victims by Indigenous status and overall rate of reported victims, offences against the person, Queensland



14.7% of reported victims in 2014–15 were Indigenous

While there has been a steady decline in the number of non-Indigenous reported victims in Queensland since 2009–10, the annual number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reported victims has remained relatively stable over this period.

In 2014–15, persons identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander comprised 14.7% of all reported victims (where Indigenous status was stated), the highest proportion over the seven-year time series.

(a) Reported victims per 100,000 persons

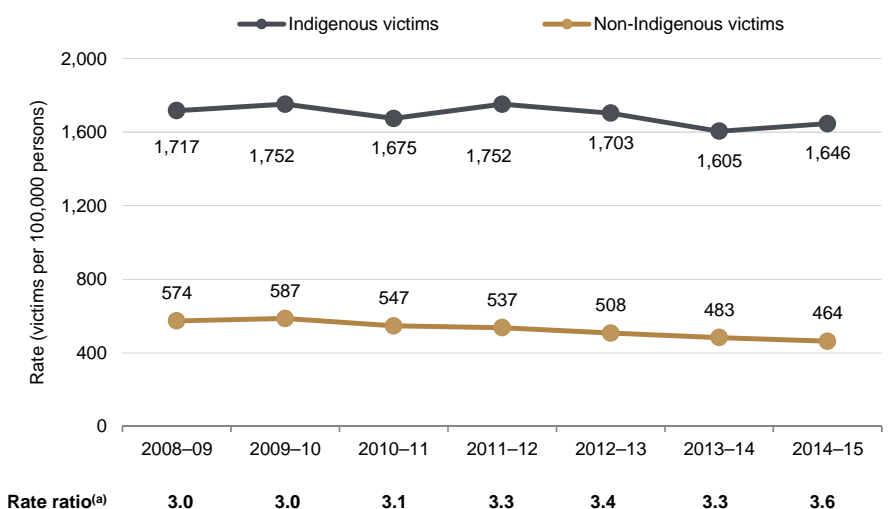
Note: LHS = left hand side RHS = right hand side

### Rate of victims by Indigenous status

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders have consistently recorded higher reported victimisation rates than non-Indigenous Queenslanders over the time series (Figure 2). While the victimisation rate for non-Indigenous persons has been steadily declining since 2009–10, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victimisation rates have remained largely unchanged over the seven years.

In 2014–15, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders were 3.6 times more likely than non-Indigenous Queenslanders to be a reported victim of an offence against the person, the largest rate ratio recorded over the time series.

**Figure 2** Age-standardised rate of reported victims by Indigenous status, offences against the person, Queensland



(a) The age-standardised rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons divided by the age-standardised rate for the equivalent non-Indigenous population. Rate ratios have been calculated on unrounded rates.

## Victim counts by Indigenous status, sex and offence type

The offence category of assault accounted for seven in ten (70.1%) of all reported victims in Queensland in 2014–15. Assault is 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. Assault accounted for a considerably greater proportion of male victims than female victims (80.5% and 59.4% respectively).

This offence category is further disaggregated on the basis of whether or not the assault involved injury, or other circumstances. In 2014–15, serious assault and common assault were the most common types of assault experienced by victims in Queensland (Table 1).

While assault victims accounted for a greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims than non-Indigenous victims (80.1% and 70.6% respectively), the gender profile was also notably different between these victim cohorts. Females accounted for 66.9% of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander assault victims, with more female victims recorded than males across all assault offence types, with the exception of grievous assault. In comparison, females accounted for a much lower proportion (36.9%) of all non-Indigenous assault victims.

Assault  
accounted for  
7 in 10  
reported victims  
in 2014–15

**Table 1 Reported victims by Indigenous status, sex and offence type, offences against the person, Queensland, 2014–15**

Offence category	Indigenous victims			Non-Indigenous victims			All victims <sup>(a)</sup>		
	Male	Female	Total <sup>(b)</sup>	Male	Female	Total <sup>(b)</sup>	Male	Female	Total <sup>(b)</sup>
Assault	919	1,855	2,775	8,942	5,225	14,190	10,367	7,452	17,845
Grievous assault <sup>(c)</sup>	111	105	216	429	81	511	590	206	797
Serious assault <sup>(d)</sup>	471	1,075	1,547	3,984	2,505	6,499	4,645	3,759	8,417
Serious assault (other) <sup>(e)</sup>	119	146	265	1,536	695	2,233	1,738	888	2,628
Common assault <sup>(f)</sup>	218	529	747	2,993	1,944	4,947	3,394	2,599	6,003
Sexual offences	100	388	489	590	2,835	3,430	791	3,601	4,399
Rape and attempted rape	24	127	151	137	947	1,085	177	1,164	1,342
Other sexual offences	76	261	338	453	1,888	2,345	614	2,437	3,057
Homicide	1	5	6	44	16	60	77	45	122
Homicide (murder)	0	4	4	10	5	15	32	20	52
Other homicide	1	1	2	34	11	45	45	25	70
Robbery	18	8	26	551	268	822	655	307	965
Armed robbery	5	5	10	238	100	338	290	119	409
Unarmed robbery	13	3	16	313	168	484	365	188	556
Other offences against the person <sup>(g)</sup>	73	96	169	736	846	1,583	982	1,144	2,129
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>2,352</b>	<b>3,465</b>	<b>10,863</b>	<b>9,190</b>	<b>20,085</b>	<b>12,872</b>	<b>12,549</b>	<b>25,460</b>

(a) Includes reported victims where the Indigenous status was not stated.

(b) Includes reported victims where sex was not stated.

(c) 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.

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

(e) Serious assault not resulting in injury.

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

(g) Includes extortion, kidnapping and abduction, life-endangering acts, and stalking.

Sexual offences accounted for 17.3% of all reported victims in 2014–15, although this proportion was notably higher for female victims than male victims (28.7% and 6.1% respectively).

Other sexual offences made up the majority of reported victims under this offence category (69.5% compared with 30.5% for rape and attempted rape). Females comprised around four in five (82.0%) of all reported victims of sexual offences, a proportion which was consistent across both the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous victim cohorts.

Robbery and homicide accounted for 3.8% and 0.5% respectively of all reported victims in 2014–15, with males recording a higher number of reported victims across both of these offence categories.

### Rate of victims by Indigenous status, sex and selected offence

Reported victimisation rates in 2014–15 varied markedly according to the Indigenous status and sex of the victim, as well as offence type. Figure 3 demonstrates this variability for the offence category of sexual offences and the subcategories of assault offences.

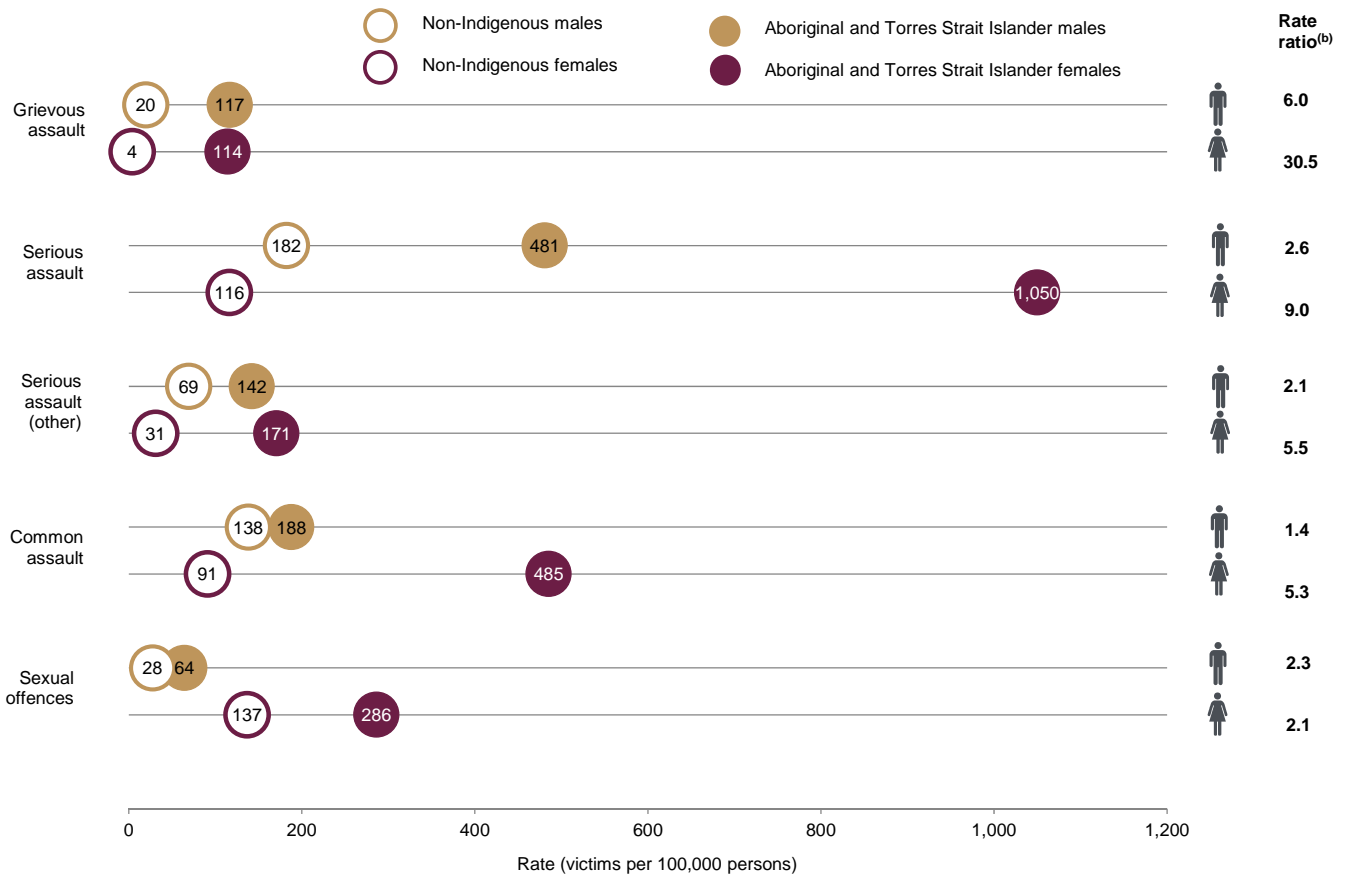
Across each of the offences shown, both male and female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons recorded higher victimisation rates than their respective non-Indigenous counterparts.

The victimisation rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons were consistently higher for females than males across all of the offences shown, with the exception of grievous assault.

Comparatively, non-Indigenous victims were more likely to be males, with this cohort experiencing higher victimisation rates than non-Indigenous females, with the exception of sexual offences.

Indigenous females generally experienced higher rates of victimisation overall

**Figure 3 Age-standardised rate of reported victims by Indigenous status and sex<sup>(a)</sup>, selected offences against the person, Queensland, 2014–15**



(a) Chart excludes records for reported victims for whom Indigenous status and/or sex was not stated.

(b) The age-standardised rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons divided by the age-standardised rate for the equivalent non-Indigenous population. Rate ratios have been calculated on unrounded rates.

Across the offences shown, female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims of serious assault recorded the highest victimisation rate in 2014–15, at a rate of 1,050 victims per 100,000 persons. This rate was equivalent to a rate ratio of nine times that of the rate for non-Indigenous females.

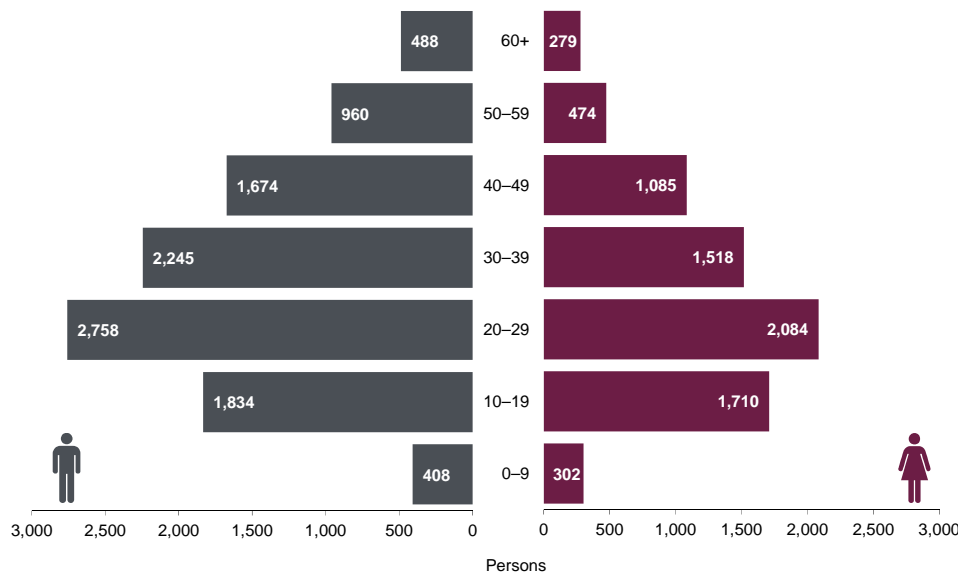
However, the largest rate ratio in 2014–15 was observed for female victims of grievous assault, where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were around 30 times more likely than non-Indigenous females to be a victim of this offence (114 persons and 4 persons per 100,000 persons respectively).

### Victim counts by age, sex and selected offence

The age and sex profiles of reported victims can differ significantly depending on the offence type, as demonstrated below for the selected offence categories of assault and sexual offences. Age data presented here refer to the victim's age on the date the offence was reported/detected, rather than their age on the date the offence occurred.

1 in 6 assault victims in 2014–15 were males aged 20–29 years

**Figure 4** Reported victims of assault by age group and sex<sup>(a)</sup>, Queensland, 2014–15



Males aged 20–29 years represented the largest single cohort of all reported assault victims in 2014–15 (2,758 reported victims or 15.5%) (Figure 4). This age group was also the largest cohort for female victims in 2014–15 (2,084 reported victims). The number of both male and female assault victims steadily declined with each successive age group after 20–29 years.

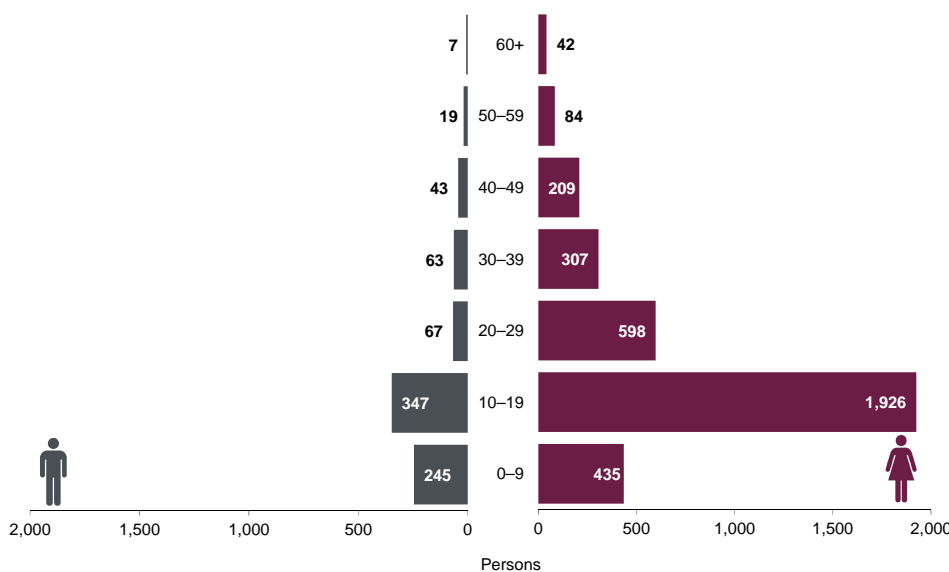
While males outnumbered females across all age categories for reported assault victims, the proportional age distribution differed, with female victims more likely to be aged 10–19 years (22.9%) compared with male victims (17.7%).

(a) Chart excludes records for 26 reported assault victims for whom sex was not stated.

Comparatively, the age and sex profile of reported victims of sexual offences was considerably more disproportionate (Figure 5). Although the most common age group for male and female victims of sexual offences was 10–19 years, the number of females in this age cohort significantly outnumbered males, resulting in the single largest group of reported victims in this offence category in 2014–15 (1,926 reported victims or 43.9%). The number of both male and female victims declined with each successive age group after 10–19 years.

**Figure 5** Reported victims of sexual offences by age group and sex<sup>(a)</sup>, Queensland, 2014–15

Females aged 10–19 years were over-represented as victims of sexual offences



(a) Chart excludes records for 7 reported sexual offences victims for whom sex was not stated.

### Relationship between reported victims and offenders by Indigenous status, sex and selected offence

QPS uses data describing the relationship of offender to victim<sup>1</sup> as one of the sources for identifying domestic and family violence (DFV)-related offences<sup>2</sup>. However, a proportion of offences against the person have no information recorded about the relationship between the offender and victim—for example, 6.4% of all such offences in 2014–15<sup>3</sup>. As a result of this, and the counting rules used by QPS to record assault incidents<sup>4</sup>, DFV-related offences against the person data in this report are likely to substantially under-represent the number of these offences in Queensland.

Across all offences against the person in 2014–15, where relationship data were recorded, 58.9% of reported victims in Queensland knew their offender<sup>5</sup>. The nature of the relationship between the offender and the victim varied markedly according to the sex and Indigenous status of the victim, as well as the offence type. Figure 6 demonstrates this divergence for the selected offence categories of assault and sexual offences.

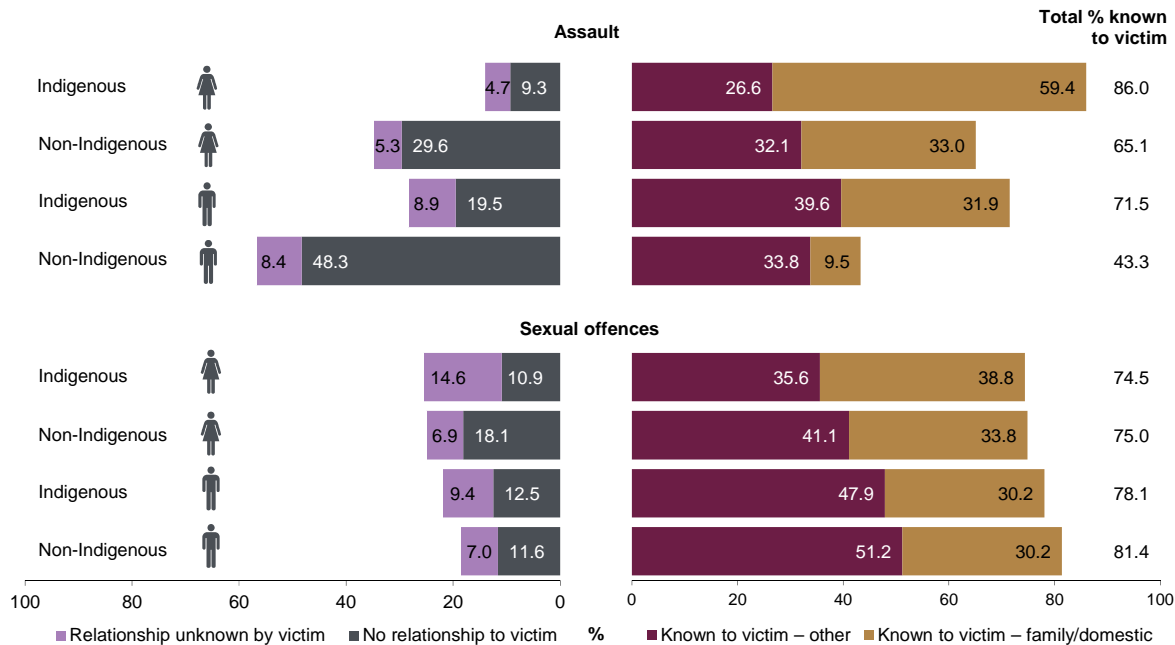
Notably, almost nine in ten (86.0%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female victims of assault knew their offender, with the majority (59.4%) in a family or domestic relationship with the offender. Comparatively, non-Indigenous female assault victims were less likely than their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander counterparts to have known their offender (65.1%) and much less likely to have been in a family or domestic relationship with the offender (33.0%).

In 2014–15  
3 in 5  
reported  
victims knew  
their offender

Non-Indigenous male victims of assault were more likely than other assault victims to have no relationship with their offender (48.3%), and the least likely to be in a family or domestic relationship with their offender (9.5%).

For reported victims of sexual offences, at least three in four victims across all victim cohorts knew their offender. However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female victims were more likely than other cohorts to be in a family or domestic relationship with their offender (38.8%). Across all sexual offence victims, non-Indigenous females were the most likely to have no relationship with their offender (18.1%). The relationship profile between offenders and male victims of sexual offences was similar for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and non-Indigenous males.

**Figure 6 Relationship of offender to reported victim by Indigenous status and sex, selected offences against the person, Queensland, 2014–15**



<sup>1</sup> See Notes at the end of this report for details of relationship classifications used in this section.

<sup>2</sup> Note that DFV-related offences here relate only to offences against the person, and do not take into account DFV-related offences that may occur for offences against property or other offences.

<sup>3</sup> Relationship coded as 'Not applicable' or 'Not stated'. Note the proportion of offences against the person where the relationship between the offender and victim was not recorded in 2014–15 varied by the Indigenous status of the victim (3.4% for Indigenous victims, 5.7% for Non-Indigenous victims and 18.8% for victims where the Indigenous status was not stated), but not by sex of the victim (6.8% for male victims and 6.0% for female victims).

<sup>4</sup> See Notes at the end of this report for more information.

<sup>5</sup> Proportions reported in this section are based on only those records where a victim to offender relationship was provided to, or recorded by, police (i.e. exclude records for 'Not applicable' and 'Not stated').



## Rate of victims of DFV-related offences<sup>6</sup> by Indigenous status, sex and age group

Across all offences against the person in 2014–15, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims were more than twice as likely as non-Indigenous victims to be offended against by someone with whom they had a family or domestic relationship (47.9% compared with 20.6%)<sup>7</sup>. In particular, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims were three times more likely than non-Indigenous victims to be offended against by a partner or ex-partner in 2014–15 (23.1% compared with 7.6%).

However, examination of victimisation rates for DFV-related offences by age and sex reveals the substantial variation in experiences within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous reported victim cohorts.

In 2014–15, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female victimisation rates for DFV-related offences increased with age, peaking at 2,530 victims per 100,000 persons for females aged 20–29 years, before declining steadily with each successive age group (Figure 7). This was the highest age-specific victimisation rate for DFV-related offences across all victims of offences against the person.

In contrast, victimisation rates for non-Indigenous females peaked earlier at 10–17 years of age (352 victims per 100,000 persons) and declined with each successive age group.

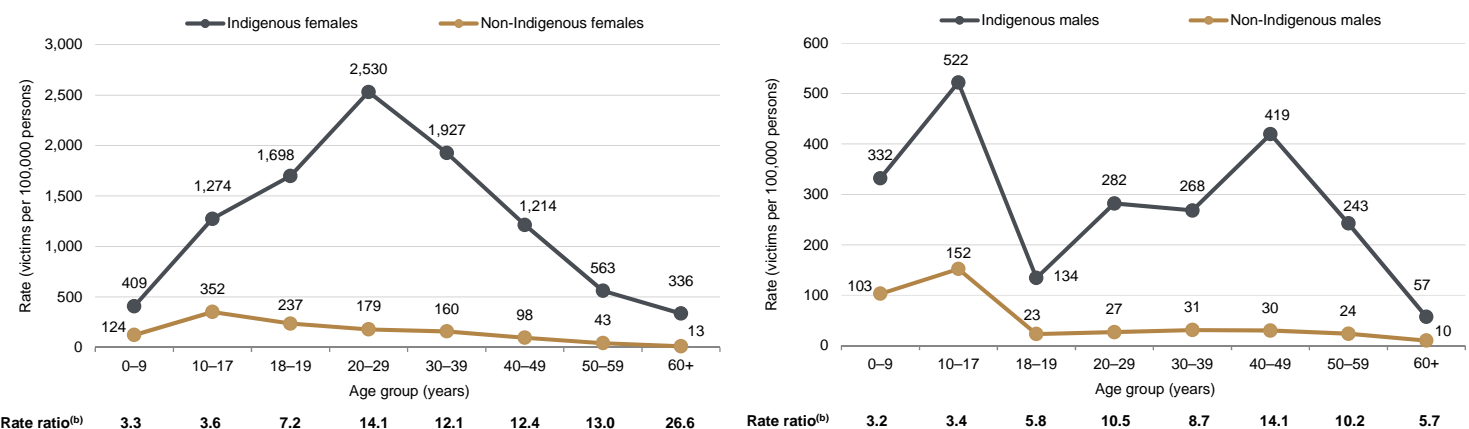
Within the two youngest age cohorts, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females experienced victimisation rates for DFV-related offences more than three times that of non-Indigenous females. This differential in rates was larger among older female victims, with rates for those cohorts aged between 20 and 59 years ranging between 12.1 and 14.1 times those of non-Indigenous female victims. However, the largest rate ratio was for women aged 60 years and over, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women 26.6 times more likely to be a victim of a DFV-related offence than non-Indigenous women in 2014–15.

Victimisation rates for DFV-related offences among both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous males peaked at 10–17 years of age, at 522 victims and 152 victims respectively per 100,000 persons (Figure 7).

A high victimisation rate was also recorded for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males aged 40–49 years of age, resulting in the largest rate ratio of all age groups, at 14.1 times the rate of non-Indigenous men. In contrast to female victims, male victims aged 60 years and over had a much smaller rate differential between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous persons (5.7 times).

Indigenous females aged 20–29 years were most likely to be offended against by a family member

**Figure 7 Rate of reported victims of DFV-related offences against the person by Indigenous status, sex<sup>(a)</sup> and age group, Queensland, 2014–15**



(a) Charts exclude records for reported victims for whom Indigenous status and/or sex was not stated.

(b) The rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons divided by the rate for the equivalent non-Indigenous population. Rate ratios have been calculated on unrounded rates.

<sup>6</sup> Represented in this report as those offences where reported victims of offences against the person indicated to QPS they were in a domestic or family relationship with the offender.

<sup>7</sup> Proportions reported in this section are based on only those records where a victim to offender relationship was provided to, or recorded by, police (i.e. exclude records for 'Not applicable' and 'Not stated').

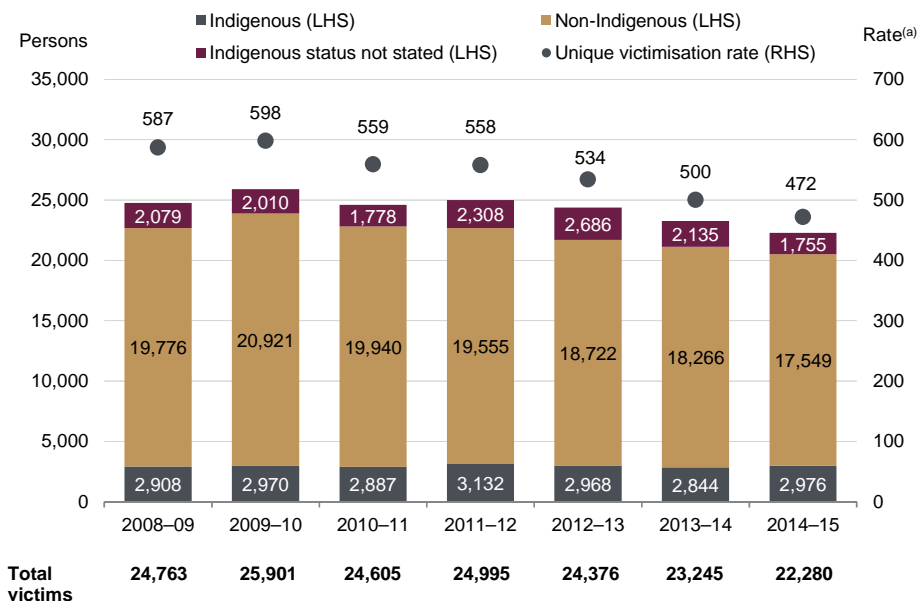
## Unique victims

### Victim counts by Indigenous status

In 2014–15, there were 22,280 unique victims of offences against the person recorded by QPS, the lowest count of unique victims over the seven-year time series (Figure 8). This was the third year in a row the count of unique victims has declined, with the number of unique victims in 2014–15 down 10.9% from 2011–12 (24,995 unique victims).

The Queensland unique victimisation rate has trended downwards over time, from a peak of 598 victims per 100,000 persons in 2009–10 to a low of 472 victims per 100,000 persons in 2014–15.

**Figure 8 Unique victims by Indigenous status and rate of unique victims, offences against the person, Queensland**



Number of unique victims continued to decline in 2014–15

While there has been a steady decline in the number of non-Indigenous unique victims in Queensland since 2009–10, the annual number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique victims has remained similar over this period.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons represented 14.5% of all unique victims in 2014–15 (where Indigenous status was stated), the highest proportion over the seven-year time series. This is disproportionate to the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons in Queensland's overall population (4.3% at 30 June 2014<sup>8</sup>).

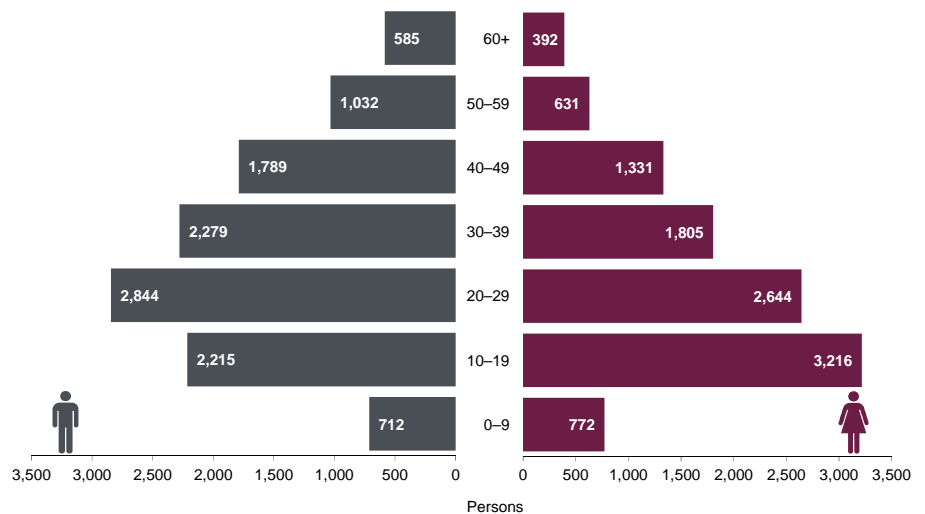
(a) Unique victims per 100,000 persons.  
Note: LHS = left hand side RHS = right hand side

### Victim counts by age and sex

Young people aged 10–19 years and young adults aged 20–29 years represented the largest age cohorts of unique victims (24.4% and 24.7% respectively), with the number of victims decreasing with each successive age group (Figure 9).

Females aged 10–19 years represented the largest single cohort of unique victims in 2014–15, reflecting the large number of victims of sexual offences and (to a lesser degree) assault for this cohort. Unique victims were more likely to be males than females for all other age categories, with the exception of children aged 0–9 years.

**Figure 9 Unique victims by age group and sex<sup>(a)</sup>, offences against the person, Queensland, 2014–15**



(a) Chart excludes records for 33 unique victims for whom sex was not stated.

<sup>8</sup> Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, *Population estimates by Indigenous status, statistical area level 2 (SA2), age, sex, 2006 to 2014*



## Glossary

**Indigenous status:** based on self-identification by the individual who comes into contact with police as one of the following four options: Not Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, Identifies as Aboriginal, Identifies as Torres Strait Islander, Identifies as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

**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 victims/estimated resident population (ERP))\*100,000, using the ERP at the beginning of the reference period. Victimisation rates enable direct comparison of crime to be made over time and between population subgroups, since the size of the population is taken into account in the calculation. Victimisation rates for both reported victims and unique victims have been presented.

## Notes

### QPRIME

All QPS crime statistics presented in this report are derived from data recorded in the Queensland Police Records and Information Management Exchange (QPRIME) as at 20 October 2015 (reported victims) and 11 April 2016 (unique victims). The offence categories used by QPS for crime statistics are based on the Australian National Classification of Offences prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Data are compiled on the basis of the date an offence is reported to police and recorded within the reference period. This corresponds to either the date the offence was reported to QPS by a member of the public or when it was detected by QPS, and was recorded on QPRIME. The report date may not necessarily be the date when the offence occurred. This is particularly the case for homicide and sexual offences, where in some instances there may be a large time difference between when the offence(s) occurred and the report/detection date.

Accordingly, age data presented in this report refer to the victim's age on the date the offence was reported/detected, rather than their age on the date the offence occurred. In particular, care should be exercised when interpreting age data for sexual assault victims.

Relationship between the victim and the alleged offender, as perceived by the victim at the time of the offence, is recorded by QPS officers where possible. Relationships have been grouped in this report as follows:

- **Known to victim (family/domestic relationship):** includes records where the offender's relationship to the victim has been coded as child, parent, couple, spouse, divorced, or relative (not elsewhere classified).
- **Known to victim (other relationship):** includes records where the offender's relationship to the victim has been coded as friend, acquaintance, work or professional.
- **No relationship to victim:** includes records where no relationship exists between the victim and offender i.e. the offender was a stranger.
- **Relationship unknown by victim:** includes records where the relationship is not known by the victim as the offender is unable to be identified.

- **Relationship not stated/not applicable:** where no relationship information was provided to, or recorded by, police at the time of the report.

It should be noted that relationships of girlfriend or boyfriend are not included in family/domestic relationship as these are coded by QPS to the broader category of "friend".

It should also be noted that, where an incident involving assault is reported to QPS, it is not simply taken at face value and recorded on QPRIME. Accordingly, where a domestic violence incident occurs which involves an alleged assault and the victim does not consent to proceeding with an assault charge, the assault matter is not recorded on QPRIME. As such, assault statistics presented in this report are likely to under-represent the number of assault offences actually reported to QPS.

QPRIME data represent only those offences that come to the attention of QPS. It is important to note that the propensity to report an offence can vary dramatically according to the victim's age and sex and the offence type; relying on reported offences only can lead to an underestimation of the true rate of victimisation. For more information on analysis of QPRIME data please see the [explanatory notes](#) from the QPS 2014–15 *Annual statistical review*.

### Data notes

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

Time series data are presented from 2008–09 onwards as data produced prior to this reference year are considered to not be strictly comparable.

In 2014–15 there were:

- 1,910 reported victims for whom Indigenous status was not stated and 39 reported victims for whom sex was not stated (including five reported victims who had not stated for both items)
- 1,755 unique victims for whom Indigenous status was not stated and 33 unique victims for whom sex was not stated (including seven persons who had not stated for both items).

These records have been excluded from any percentage calculations in this report. All data comparisons presented by Indigenous status exclude records where Indigenous status was not stated.

Victimisation rates have been calculated using QGSO's *Population estimates by Indigenous status, statistical area level 2 (SA2), age, sex, 2006 to 2014*. Victimisation rates by Indigenous status have been subject to age-standardisation, a statistical method that adjusts crude rates to account for differences in the age profiles of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous populations. Victimisation rates have been rounded to the closest whole number and are subject to change when ERPs are revised and finalised.

Data in this report have not been tested to determine whether changes over time are statistically significant.