

Criminal Courts Queensland, 2019–20

Source: ABS 4513.0, released 25 March 2021, 10:30 am AEST

Higher Courts

- During 2019–20, there were 6,453 defendants finalised in Queensland Higher Courts, accounting for 37.2% of the total number of finalised defendants in Australian Higher Courts. In Queensland, 5,313 finalised defendants were adjudicated, which made up 35.3% of the total number of adjudicated defendants in Australia (Table 1).
- In 2019–20, the highest percentage of adjudicated defendants by offence type in Queensland Higher Courts was for illicit drug offences or weapons and explosives (30.5%) as their principal offence (Figure 1).

Magistrates' Courts

- Queensland had 111,732 defendants finalised in Magistrates' Courts in 2019–20, which accounted for 25.2% of the total number of defendants finalised in Magistrates' Courts in Australia (Table 1).
- In 2019–20, the highest percentage of adjudicated defendants by offence type in Queensland Magistrates' Courts was for traffic, (offences against) justice or miscellaneous offences (42.4%) as their principal offence (Figure 2).

Children's Courts

- Queensland had 8,192 minors finalised in Children's Courts in 2019–20, which accounted for 32.4% of the total number of minors finalised in Children's Courts in Australia (Table 1).
- In 2019–20, the highest percentage of adjudicated defendants by offence type in the Queensland Children's Courts was for robbery, unlawful entry, theft or deception (47.4%) as their principal offence (Figure 3).

Table 1 Finalised defendants, 2019–20

	Qld		Qld as % of Aust.
	— number —	Aust.	
			per cent
Higher Courts			
Finalised defendants	6,453	17,364	37.2
Other	1,101	2,118	52.0
Adjudicated	5,313	15,060	35.3
Magistrates Courts			
Finalised defendants	111,732	443,777	25.2
Other	16,324	49,581	32.9
Adjudicated	95,221	393,628	24.2
Children's Courts			
Finalised defendants	8,192	25,279	32.4
Other	1,514	4,221	35.9
Adjudicated	6,657	20,073	33.2

Other includes *Transfer to other court levels* and *Withdrawn by prosecution*.

Figure 1 Defendants finalised^(a) in Queensland Higher Courts, by offence type, 2019–20

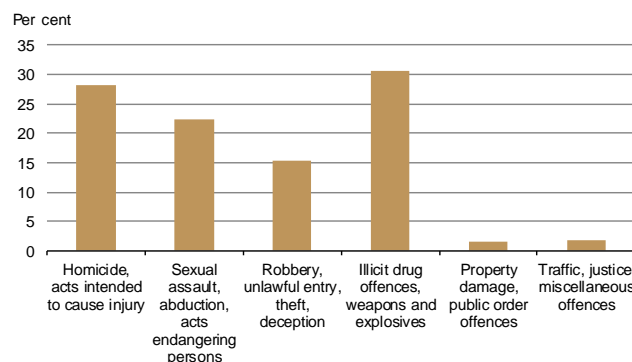


Figure 2 Defendants finalised^(a) in Queensland Magistrates' Courts, by offence type, 2019–20

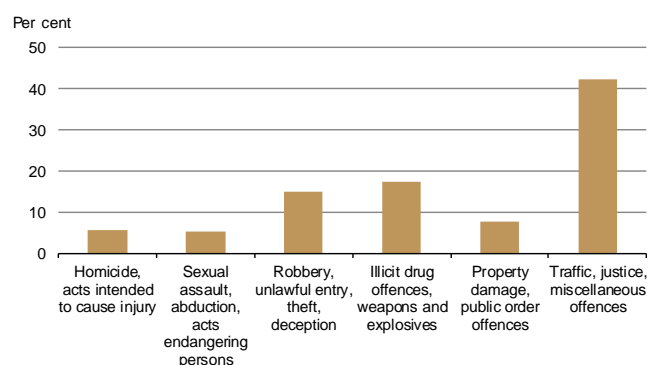
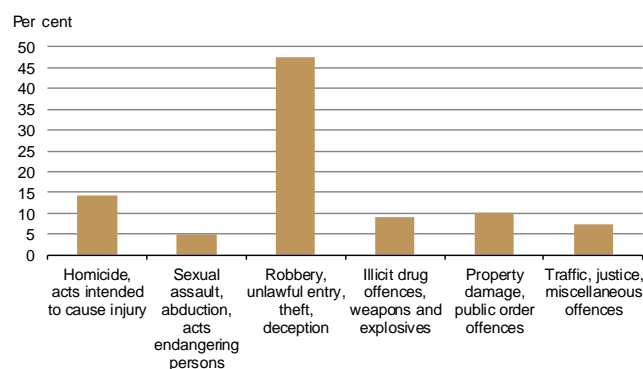


Figure 3 Defendants finalised^(a) in Queensland Children's Courts, by offence type, 2019–20



(a) Excluding transfer to other court levels.

Definitions

Defendant: A person/organisation against whom one or more criminal charges have been laid and which are heard together as the one unit of work by a court level. The Criminal Courts collection does not enumerate unique persons. For further details please refer to the ABS methodology.

Finalised defendant: A defendant for whom all charges have been formally completed and so cease to be dealt with by the court.

Adjudicated: Method of finalisation based on judgement/decision by the court as to whether the defendant is guilty of the charge(s) laid against them.

Notes

The information presented in this report may vary from data published elsewhere by QGSO and others, due to differences in the dates data were extracted and frequency of revision, or in counting rules or statistical standards applied.