

Criminal Courts Queensland, 2020–21

Source: ABS 4513.0, released 24 February 2022, 10:30 am AEST

Higher Courts

- During 2020–21, there were 6,145 defendants finalised in Queensland Higher Courts, accounting for 38.1% of the total number of finalised defendants in Australian Higher Courts. In Queensland, 5,035 finalised defendants were adjudicated, which made up 36.5% of the total number of adjudicated defendants in Australia (Table 1).
- In 2020–21, the highest percentage of adjudicated defendants by offence type in Queensland Higher Courts was for illicit drug offences or weapons and explosives (29.4%) as their principal offence (Figure 1).

Magistrates' Courts

- Queensland had 136,319 defendants finalised in Magistrates' Courts in 2020–21, which accounted for 28.1% of the total number of defendants finalised in Magistrates' Courts in Australia (Table 1).
- In 2020–21, the highest percentage of adjudicated defendants by offence type in Queensland Magistrates' Courts was for traffic, (offences against) justice or miscellaneous offences (43.4%) as their principal offence (Figure 2).

Children's Courts

- Queensland had 9,749 minors finalised in Children's Courts in 2020–21, which accounted for 37.9% of the total number of minors finalised in Children's Courts in Australia (Table 1).
- In 2020–21, the highest percentage of adjudicated defendants by offence type in the Queensland Children's Courts was for robbery, unlawful entry, theft or deception (45.8%) as their principal offence (Figure 3).

Table 1 Finalised defendants, 2020–21

	Qld		Qld as % of Aust.
	— number —	Aust.	
Higher Courts			
Finalised defendants	6,145	16,108	38.1
Other	1,084	2,186	49.6
Adjudicated	5,035	13,801	36.5
Magistrates Courts			
Finalised defendants	136,319	485,624	28.1
Other	18,676	55,549	33.6
Adjudicated	117,444	429,447	27.3
Children's Courts			
Finalised defendants	9,749	25,742	37.9
Other	1,830	4,712	38.8
Adjudicated	7,887	20,200	39.0

Other includes *Transfer to other court levels* and *Withdrawn by prosecution*.

Figure 1 Defendants finalised^(a) in Queensland Higher Courts, by offence type, 2020–21

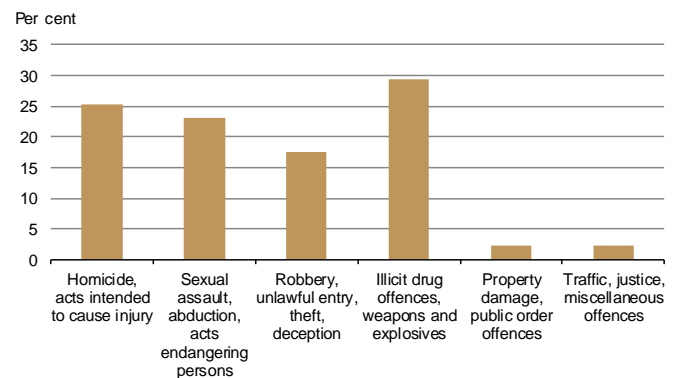


Figure 2 Defendants finalised^(a) in Queensland Magistrates' Courts, by offence type, 2020–21

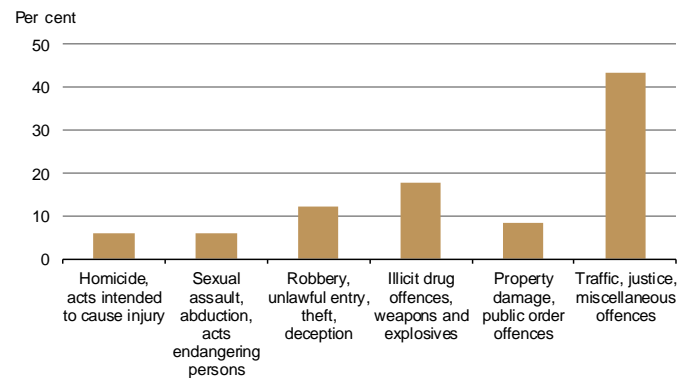
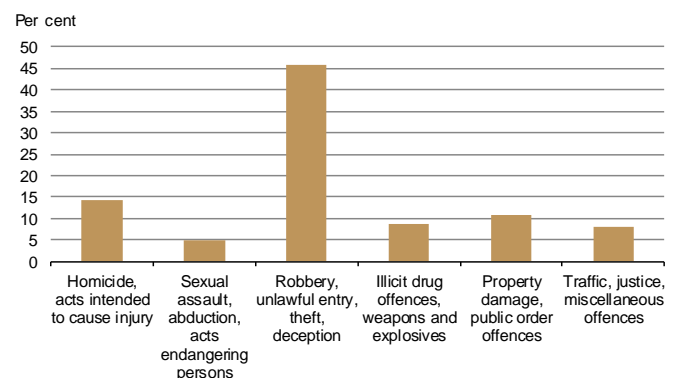


Figure 3 Defendants finalised^(a) in Queensland Children's Courts, by offence type, 2020–21



(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.