

Criminal Courts Queensland, 2021–22

Source: ABS, *Criminal Courts, Australia*, released 3 March 2023, 10:30 am AEST

Higher Courts

- During 2021–22, there were 6,402 defendants finalised in Queensland Higher Courts, accounting for 37.9% of the total number of finalised defendants in Australian Higher Courts. In Queensland, 5,289 finalised defendants were adjudicated, which made up 36.6% of the total number of adjudicated defendants in Australia (Table 1).
- In 2021–22, 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 115,767 defendants finalised in Magistrates' Courts in 2021–22, which accounted for 25.0% of the total number of defendants finalised in Magistrates' Courts in Australia (Table 1).
- In 2021–22, the highest percentage of adjudicated defendants by offence type in Queensland Magistrates' Courts was for traffic, (offences against) justice or miscellaneous offences (45.7%) as their principal offence (Figure 2).

Children's Courts

- Queensland had 8,992 minors finalised in Children's Courts in 2021–22, which accounted for 34.9% of the total number of minors finalised in Children's Courts in Australia (Table 1).
- In 2021–22, the highest percentage of adjudicated defendants by offence type in the Queensland Children's Courts was for robbery, unlawful entry, theft or deception (48.8%) as their principal offence (Figure 3).

Table 1 Finalised defendants, 2021–22

	Qld Aust.		Qld as % of Aust.
	— number —		
			per cent
Higher Courts			
Finalised defendants	6,402	16,885	37.9
Other	1,094	2,310	47.4
Adjudicated	5,289	14,447	36.6
Magistrates Courts			
Finalised defendants	115,767	463,527	25.0
Other	16,722	54,634	30.6
Adjudicated	98,885	408,299	24.2
Children's Courts			
Finalised defendants	8,992	25,800	34.9
Other	1,649	4,849	34.0
Adjudicated	7,324	19,922	36.8

Other includes *Transfer to other court levels* and *Withdrawn by prosecution*.

Figure 1 Defendants finalised^(a) in Queensland Higher Courts, by offence type, 2021–22

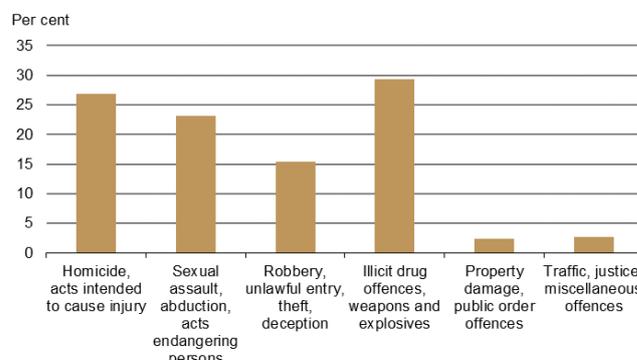


Figure 2 Defendants finalised^(a) in Queensland Magistrates' Courts, by offence type, 2021–22

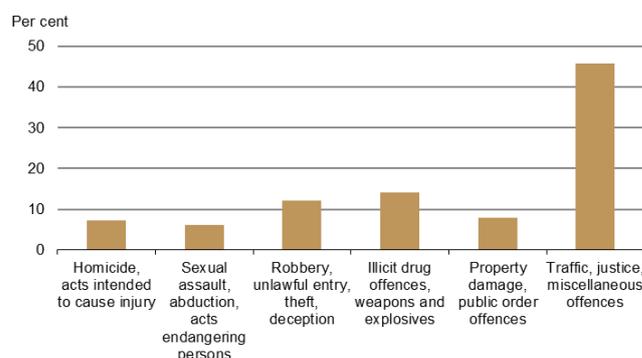
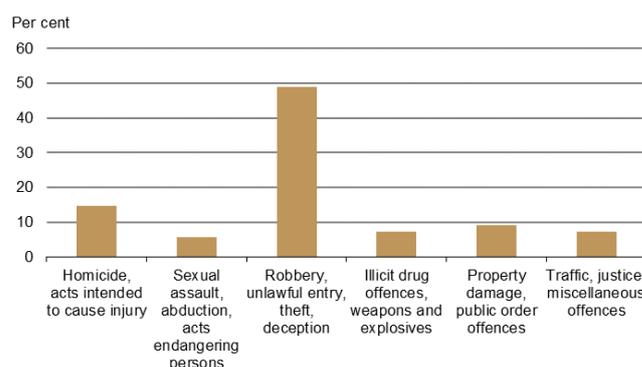


Figure 3 Defendants finalised^(a) in Queensland Children's Courts, by offence type, 2021–22



(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.