Prisoners in Queensland, 2019

Source: ABS 4517.0, released 5 December 2019, 10:30 am AEST

Key data

Number of prisoners (annual change):
Queensland .................................................... 0.8%
Australia .................................................... 0.1%

Crude imprisonment rate (annual change):
Queensland ................................................ 1.1%
Australia .................................................. 1.3%

Main findings

Note: data contained in this brief should be read with reference to the explanatory notes provided in ABS 4517.0

• On the night of the National Prisoner Census, 30 June 2019, Queensland prisons held 8,771 prisoners. This was 20.4% of the 43,028 prisoners in Australian prisons.

• The crude imprisonment rate in Queensland for 2019 was 224.8 prisoners per 100,000 adult persons down from 227.2 per 100,000 in 2018. The imprisonment rate in Australia was 218.6 prisoners per 100,000 adult population (Figure 1).

• Approximately 1 in 10 prisoners in Queensland in 2019 were female (9.7% of the total, compared with 9.5% in 2018). The proportion of female prisoners in Australia in 2019 was 8.1%, down from 8.4% in 2018.

• The age–standardised rate of imprisonment for Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners was 1,824.6 per 100,000 adult Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, compared with 170.1 per 100,000 non-Indigenous adults, making Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples 11 times more likely than non-Indigenous persons to be in prison at 30 June 2019 (Figure 2). The age-standardised Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander imprisonment rate was lower than for Australia as a whole (2,087.5 per 100,000).

• In Queensland, 30.9% of prisoners were unsentenced (on remand, awaiting sentence or awaiting deportation) at 30 June 2019, compared with 33.0% for Australia.

• Of the sentenced prisoners (those sentenced to a specified term), the median aggregate sentence length for prisoners in Queensland in 2019 was 3.0 years, the same as in 2018. The median aggregate sentence in Australia as a whole was 3.2 years, an increase from 3.0 years in 2018.

• In 2019, 64.8% of prisoners in Queensland had a known episode of prior adult imprisonment, an increase from 63.6% in 2018. The per cent for Australia increased from 56.7% in 2018 to 57.9% in 2019.

Note: Calculations in this brief are based on pre-rounded figures.

1 Age standardisation is a statistical method that adjusts crude rates to account for age differences between study populations.