

# Prisoners in Queensland, 2020

Source: ABS 4517.0, released 3 December 2020, 10:30 am AEST

## Key data

### Number of prisoners (annual change):

Queensland .....	↓ 1.3%
Australia .....	↓ 4.6%

### Crude imprisonment rate (annual change):

Queensland .....	↓ 4.6%
Australia .....	↓ 7.4%

## 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 2020, Queensland prisons held 8,657 prisoners. This was 21.1% of the 41,060 prisoners in Australian prisons.
- The crude imprisonment rate in Queensland for 2020 was 214.5 prisoners per 100,000 adult persons down from 224.8 per 100,000 in 2019. The imprisonment rate in Australia was 202.4 prisoners per 100,000 adult population (Figure 1).
- Approximately 1 in 11 prisoners in Queensland in 2020 were female (8.8% of the total, compared with 9.7% in 2019). The proportion of female prisoners in Australia in 2020 was 7.7%, down from 8.1% in 2019.
- The age-standardised rate of imprisonment for Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners was 1,896.7 per 100,000 adult Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, compared with 157.3 per 100,000 non-Indigenous adults, making Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples 12 times more likely than non-Indigenous persons to be in prison at 30 June 2020 (Figure 2). The age-standardised Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander imprisonment rate was lower than for Australia as a whole (2,081.0 per 100,000).
- In Queensland, 29.3% of prisoners were unsentenced (on remand, awaiting sentence or awaiting deportation) at 30 June 2020, compared with 31.9% for Australia.
- Of the sentenced prisoners (those sentenced to a specified term), the median aggregate sentence length for prisoners in Queensland in 2020 was 3.4 years, an increase from 3.0 in 2019. The median aggregate sentence in Australia as a whole was 3.5 years, an increase from 3.2 years in 2019.
- In 2020, 68.8% of prisoners in Queensland had a known episode of prior adult imprisonment, an increase from 64.8% in 2019. For Australia, there was an increase from 57.9% in 2019 to 59.5% in 2020.

Figure 1: Crude<sup>1</sup> imprisonment rate

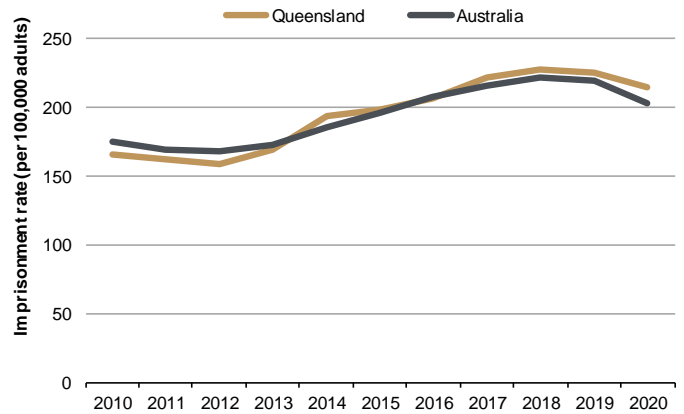
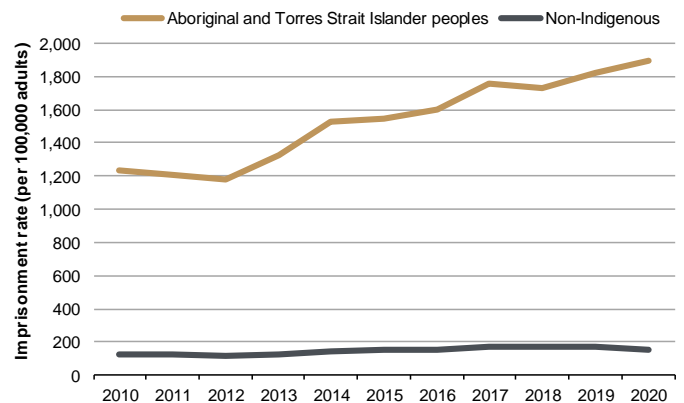


Figure 2: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous age standardised<sup>2</sup> imprisonment rates, Queensland



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

<sup>1</sup> Crude rates measure the actual rates of imprisonment and are not adjusted for any differences in population structures that may influence the rates.

<sup>2</sup> Age standardisation is a statistical method that adjusts crude rates to account for age differences between study populations.