

Prisoners in Queensland, 2021

Source: ABS 4517.0, released 9 December 2021, 10:30 am AEST

Key data

Number of prisoners (annual change):

Queensland ↑ 15.0%
 Australia ↑ 4.7%

Crude imprisonment rate (annual change):

Queensland ↑ 13.9%
 Australia ↑ 4.5%

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 2021, Queensland prisons held 9,952 prisoners. This was 23.2% of the 42,970 prisoners in Australian prisons.
- The crude imprisonment rate in Queensland for 2021 was 248.0 prisoners per 100,000 adult persons up from 217.8 per 100,000 in 2020. The imprisonment rate in Australia was 214.4 prisoners per 100,000 adult population (Figure 1).
- Approximately 1 in 11 prisoners in Queensland in 2021 were female (9.3% of the total, compared with 8.8% in 2020). The proportion of female prisoners in Australia remained the same in 2021 at 7.7%.
- The age-standardised rate of imprisonment for Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners was 2,144.2 per 100,000 adult Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, compared with 184.5 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 2021 (Figure 2). The age-standardised Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander imprisonment rate was lower than for Australia as a whole (2,222.7 per 100,000).
- In Queensland, 30.4% of prisoners were unsentenced (on remand, awaiting sentence or awaiting deportation) at 30 June 2021, compared with 35.3% for Australia.
- Of the sentenced prisoners (those sentenced to a specified term), the median aggregate sentence length for prisoners in Queensland in 2021 was 3.3 years, a decrease from 3.4 in 2020. The median aggregate sentence in Australia as a whole was 3.5 years, unchanged from the 2020 figure.
- In 2021, 68.3% of prisoners in Queensland had a known episode of prior adult imprisonment, a decrease from 68.8% in 2020. For Australia, there was an increase from 59.5% in 2020 to 59.9% in 2021.

Figure 1: Crude¹ imprisonment rate

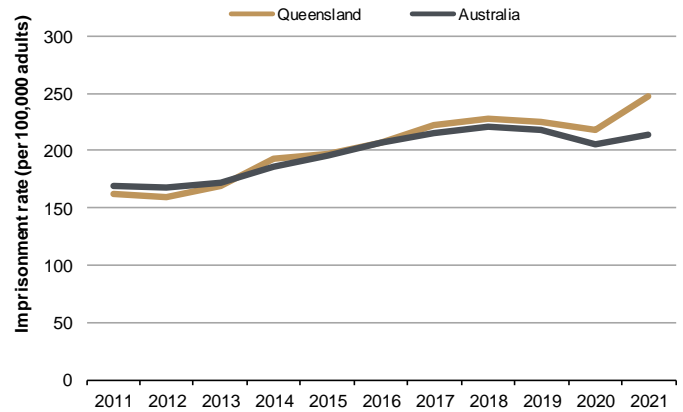
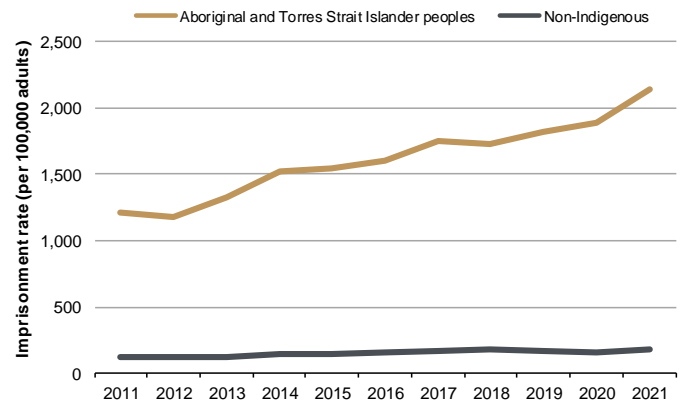


Figure 2: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous age standardised² imprisonment rates, Queensland



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

¹ Crude rates measure the actual rates of imprisonment and are not adjusted for any differences in population structures that may influence the rates.
² Age standardisation is a statistical method that adjusts crude rates to account for age differences between study populations.