

QUEENSLAND TREASURY

Justice report, Queensland, 2019–20

Criminal justice statistics

Queensland Government Statistician's Office

Queensland Treasury

<http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au>

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1.0 Introduction

The *Justice report, Queensland, 2019–20* provides an overview of the volume of criminal justice matters in Queensland, and includes statistics relating to criminal courts, youth justice, and adult corrective services. The report contains information on persons who were alleged, and those who were proven, to have committed an offence in Queensland during the reference period. It is compiled using data extracted from the administrative systems of the Queensland Government departments responsible for administering criminal justice. The Justice report is a companion to the *Crime report, Queensland, 2019–20*, which provides an overview of the volume and nature of crime in Queensland, as reported to (by victims, witnesses or other persons) or detected by the Queensland Police Service (QPS).

This 2019–20 edition is the third annual report by Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO) on the state's criminal justice system. Detailed statistics relating to finalised appearances and charges in the higher and lower criminal courts are included in this report, as well as statistics on youth detention and supervised youth justice orders, and imprisonment and community-based corrections for adult offenders.

The reference period of the report is the 2019–20 financial year, from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, and time series for up to 10 years to that date.

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. The statistics presented should be read in conjunction with the explanatory notes and glossary at the end of this report, where counting methodologies and other supporting information are provided to aid in the interpretation of rates and numbers presented.

1.1. COVID-19 pandemic

Queensland declared a public health emergency under the *Public Health Act 2005* on 29 January 2020. From 11 March 2020, when the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic in response to the global spread of COVID-19, Australian and State and Territory Governments implemented border closures, travel restrictions, mandatory quarantine, business closures and social-distancing measures in efforts to contain the spread of the virus.

By the end of March, non-essential services, including pubs, clubs and restaurants were shut down and the Queensland border closed to all but local residents, essential travellers and freight. Queenslanders faced dramatically tighter restrictions, schools were closed, pupils were home-schooled and people not working in front-line essential services were directed to work from home wherever possible. Travel outside the home was banned except for four essential reasons, and breaches punishable by fines issued by police. Travel into remote Indigenous communities was banned under federal law. The highest level of restrictions was maintained throughout April. A staged easing of restrictions commenced in May 2020, and hospitality venues permitted to reopen in a limited capacity from mid-May. From 31 May, Queenslanders were again allowed to travel unrestricted within the state, but the state's border remained closed as at 30 June.

While the border continued to be strictly controlled and social distancing enforced, restrictions within Queensland continued to ease from June onwards, allowing freedom of movement for the most part, and gathering of groups in greater numbers (albeit still capped). Shops and other businesses began to re-open; people were urged to split their work between home and their usual workplace; children were called back to school; and places of worship were allowed to re-open.

Once the pandemic was declared and the Queensland border closed, police were deployed to manage border control and assist with managing quarantine facilities. Containment measures within the criminal justice system from mid-March to mid-June included: police suspending roadside drink and drug driving tests; the Magistrates (including Childrens) Court heavily scaling back their operations; and new jury trials in the higher courts ceasing.

The imposed restrictions and containment measures had an immediate impact on levels of criminal activity and justice system processes in the last quarter of 2019–20, resulting in lower than expected numbers and rates of reported offences, fewer finalised appearances in the courts, and consequently also a reduction in the flow of offenders into and out of custody and community corrections during that time. The COVID-19 pandemic is a significant and ongoing event, both globally and nationally, which has impacted crime and justice statistics. Therefore, comparisons with figures in periods before the pandemic was declared must be made with caution.

While this report presents annual statistics only, where possible it will also provide some insights into measures in the months prior to the declaration of the pandemic and the level to which the containment measures are likely to have impacted the annual counts and rates for the 2019–20 reference period.

1.2. Youth justice legislation

In February 2018, the *Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Act 2016* and the Youth Justice (Transitional) Regulation 2018 commenced. From that date on, 17-year-old offenders in Queensland are dealt with in the youth justice system (previously, the age range was 10–16 years), in line with other Australian states and territories. The 2017–18 financial year represents a **break in time series**, and therefore comparisons with figures in periods before and after this transition period must be made with caution.

Terms used in this report (see Glossary for more)

Adult: in this report, refers to persons dealt with as an adult in Queensland courts and corrective services.

ANZSOC: the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification, is a uniform national statistical framework for classifying criminal behaviour.

Charge: a formal accusation of an offence.

Child: in this report, refers to persons dealt with as a child in Queensland courts and by Youth Justice. From 12 February 2018, when changes to youth justice legislation were implemented, an offender aged 10–17 years is deemed to be a child for the purposes of the Queensland justice system. Prior to that date, the age range was 10–16 years.

Defendant: a person appearing in a criminal court charged with a criminal offence.

Child defendant/offender: an offender dealt with by the courts system / youth justice system for offences committed as a child.

Unique child defendant: a young person with at least one finalised appearance as a child in a Queensland criminal court during the reference period. An individual is counted only once in a reference year, irrespective of whether they had one or multiple finalised appearances in the year.

Finalised appearance: a single offence or collection of offences for a single defendant, that are finalised on the same day, at the same court level and court location (for instance by a guilty finding and sentence, discharge or withdrawal, but not by committal or transfer to another court).

Offence: Any act or omission by a person or persons for which a penalty could be imposed by the Australian legal system.

Offender: in this report, a person aged 10 years or over who has been found guilty of an offence in a finalised court appearance.

Sentenced (relating to custody): a legal status indicating that a person (adult or child) is confined to custody following a determination by a court to impose a term of detention/imprisonment.

Unsentenced (relating to custody): a legal status indicating that a person (adult or child) is confined to custody while awaiting trial (pre-court custody), or the outcome of their trial.

Youth justice orders: penalties which may be imposed on child offenders only.

Vertical dotted lines in line graphs throughout this report denote the following:

- 2017–18 Break in time series due to the transition of 17-year-old offenders to youth justice from 12 February 2018 (red line)
- 2019–20 Declaration on 11 March 2020 of the COVID-19 global pandemic (blue line)

Please be aware
when comparing the contents of figures
within this report that
different scales have been used as
appropriate.

2.0 Criminal justice, Queensland, 2019–20 and compared with 2018–19



Finalised court appearances

count

Total 124,790 ▼ -21.2%



92,408 ▼ -21.3%



31,742 ▼ -20.8%

Monthly comparison with 2018–19

April ▼ -70.5%

May ▼ -78.2%

June ▼ -49.7%



Finalised charges

3.1 ▲ 10.7%

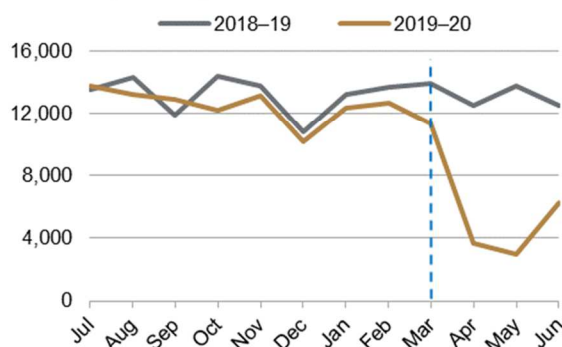
charges per appearance on average

Charges proven

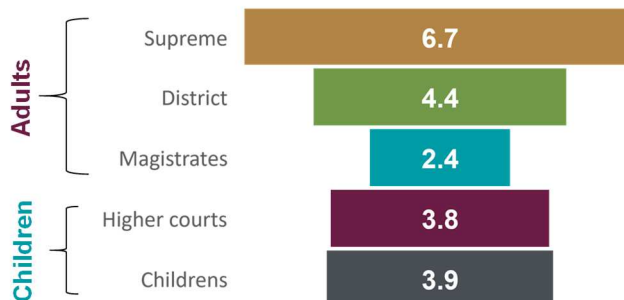
329,491 ▼ -14.3%

Finalised appearances two-year monthly comparison

count



Average proven charges per appearance by court type



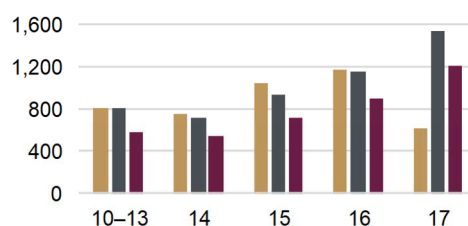
Convicted appearances

rate per 100,000 persons aged 10 years and over



Unique child defendants by age at offence

■ 2017–18 ■ 2018–19 ■ 2019–20

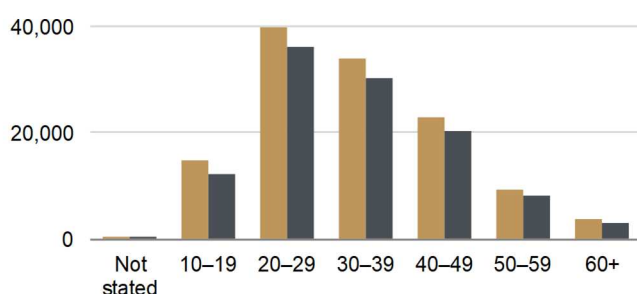


17-year-old offenders transitioned to the children's courts from 12 February 2018.

Appearances by age

count

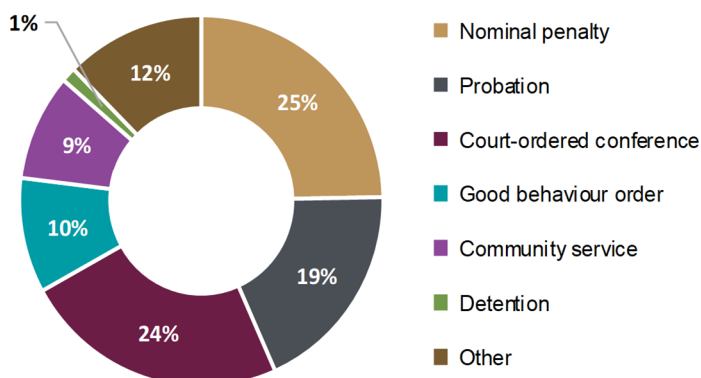
■ Finalised appearances ■ Convicted appearances



3 in 4
unique child defendants
were male



Child sentencing outcomes

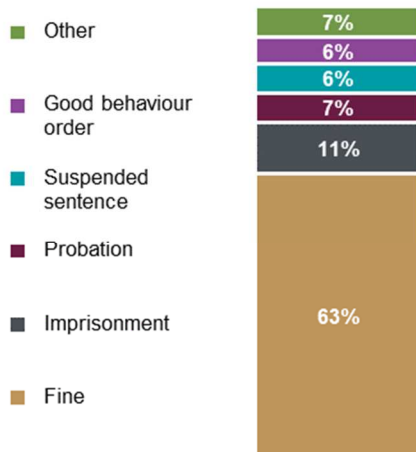


Admissions to youth justice orders



99%
of admissions to
youth detention centres
were **unsentenced**

Adult sentencing outcomes



Probation

accounted for **over half** of

53%

all adults serving
community-based
orders at 1 June

and
all admissions to
supervised

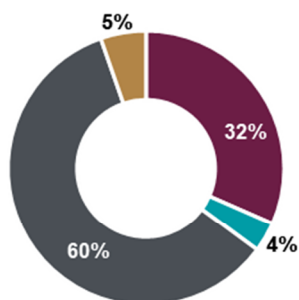
community-based
youth justice orders
in 2019–20

52%

Of the 8,660 adults in prison

at 30 June 2020

- Indigenous male
- Indigenous female
- Other male
- Other female



*Numbers have been rounded

70%
were
sentenced

2 in 3
were aged
20–39 years

1 in 11
prisoners
were **female**

10%
were aged **50+** years

Of the 200 young people in youth detention centres

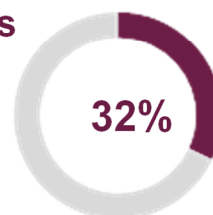
daily in 2019–20 on average

7 in 10
were **Aboriginal and/or**
Torres Strait Islander

1 in 9 were
female

15%
were
sentenced

17-yr-old offenders
comprised
nearly a third



3.0 Criminal courts

Source: QGSO Courts Database (from unpublished data supplied by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General).

This should be read in conjunction with the Explanatory notes and Glossary at the end of the report.

Finalised appearances – All courts	2018–19	2019–20^(a)	% change
Total finalised appearances	158,322	124,790	–21.2 ↓
Adults ¹	147,485	116,769	–20.8 ↓
Appearances resulting in conviction (%)	90.7	89.7	–1.0ppt ↓
Children ²	10,837	8,021	–26.0 ↓
Appearances resulting in conviction (%)	76.8	73.8	–3.0ppt ↓
by defendant characteristics³			
Male	117,468	92,408	–21.3 ↓
Female	40,093	31,742	–20.8 ↓
Company	359	266	–25.9 ↓
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (% of total person defendants)	18.8	19.1	0.3ppt ↔
Finalised charges – All courts			
Total charges proven	384,296	329,491	–14.3 ↓
Adults ¹	347,108	298,347	–14.0 ↓
Children ²	37,188	31,144	–16.3 ↓

(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

ppt = percentage point

In 2019–20:



Finalised person appearances and charges⁴

- In three-quarters of person appearances the defendant was male (74.2%).
- In 19.1% of all person appearances, the defendant identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- *Robbery, extortion and related offences* was the only MSO with an increased in convicted appearances (+142 appearances or +18.8%) compared with 2018–19.

Finalised person appearances – Adults⁴

- In 17.3% of appearances, the defendant identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- Nine in ten finalised appearances had at least one proven charge (89.8%).
- *Imprisonment* comprised a greater proportion of convicted outcomes (11.2%) than in 2018–19 (9.5%).
- In 104,573 convicted appearances, *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* continued to be the most prevalent MSO⁵ (30.7% or 32,089), with the majority receiving a *fine* as most serious penalty.

Finalised person appearances – Children

- In 45.2% of appearances, the defendant identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- Almost three-quarters of finalised appearances resulted in conviction (73.8%).
- Of all convicted appearances, *theft and related offences* was the most prevalent MSO (22.6% or 1,338), with more than one-third of those (35.1% or 470) receiving a *nominal penalty*.⁶

¹ Represents appearances/charges in the adult courts system. Includes appearances and charges where the defendant was a company or organisation.

² Represents appearances/charges in the children's courts system. Offenders aged 10–17 years (formerly 10–16 years) are dealt with as children in the courts and youth justice systems.

³ Figures relating to sex of defendant exclude appearances where the defendant's sex is not stated.

⁴ Excludes appearances and charges where the defendant was a company or organisation.

⁵ MSO = most serious offence (see Explanatory notes and Glossary).

⁶ Nominal penalty includes penalties such as reprimand; convicted not punished.

3.1. Overview

This section presents summary statistics about finalised appearances and charges in Queensland criminal courts, and the characteristics of adult (including company) and child defendants related to those appearances. Time series data are also included for the 10 years from 2010–11 to 2019–20. Finalised matters only are presented, therefore those resulting in committal to a higher court for trial or sentence, or transfer to another jurisdiction, are excluded.

COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, containment measures and restrictions were introduced in Queensland from March 2020. These restrictions had an impact on levels of criminal activity and justice system processes in the last quarter of 2019–20, resulting in lower than usual numbers and rates of people dealt with in the courts during that time.

Containment measures within the justice system included the Magistrates Court heavily scaling back their operations from mid-March and new jury trials in the higher courts ceasing until the courts system returned to near-normal operations in mid-June.

The pandemic is a significant and ongoing event, and comparisons with earlier periods must be made with caution.

Youth Justice legislation

Implementation of the *Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Act 2016* and the Youth Justice (Transitional) Regulation 2018 in February 2018 meant that, from that date onwards, 17-year-old offenders are dealt with as children in Queensland courts. Statistically, this means a **break in the time series** in 2017–18, and comparisons with figures in periods before and after this transition period must be made with caution.

In Queensland, child defendants may be dealt with in the Childrens Court (Magistrates Court), the Childrens Court of Queensland (District Court), the District Court or the Supreme Court. For the purposes of this report, due to small numbers in the Supreme and District Courts, appearances and charges for children will be grouped with the Childrens Court of Queensland and reported collectively as 'higher courts'.

It should also be noted that the Queensland Courts use different terms and counting rules from Youth Justice to explain volume counts in relation to child defendants. In this section, the principal counting unit is *finalised appearance*, and an individual may have one or more finalised appearances during the reference period.

Rates in this section are presented per 100,000 persons, for both adults and children. (See *Counting methodology* in Explanatory notes.)

3.1.1. COVID-19 impact on courts operations

The impact of COVID containment measures on courts statistics is best illustrated by comparing monthly data for 2019–20 with that of the previous year. Seasonality is also evident in the monthly data. It is clear that there was a much bigger COVID impact on finalised appearances in the Magistrates and Childrens Courts than in higher courts for both adults and children in 2019–20. In the Magistrates Court, finalised appearances in 2019–20 were tracking close to the 2018–19 level before declining after the pandemic was declared in March (–73.7% in April and –81.5% in May). In the Children's Court, monthly finalised appearances followed the 2018–19 seasonality pattern but were already tracking well below the trend before dipping further from March 2020. An upswing was seen in finalised appearances in most courts in June as normal court operations resumed.

Figure 1 Finalised adult appearances, higher courts – monthly comparison

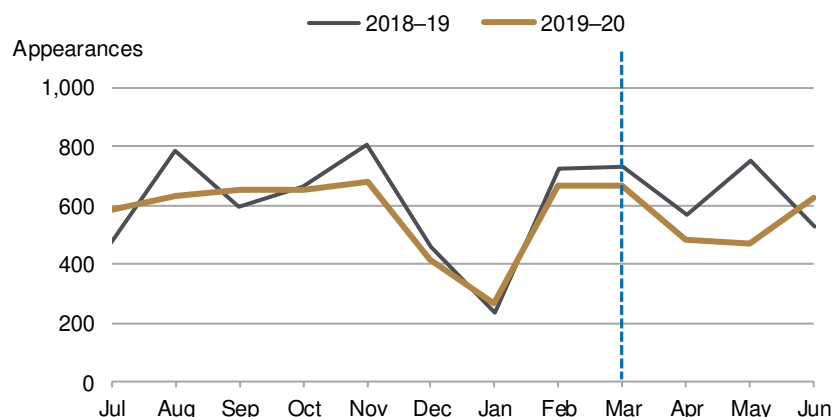


Figure 2 Finalised adult appearances, Magistrates Court – monthly comparison

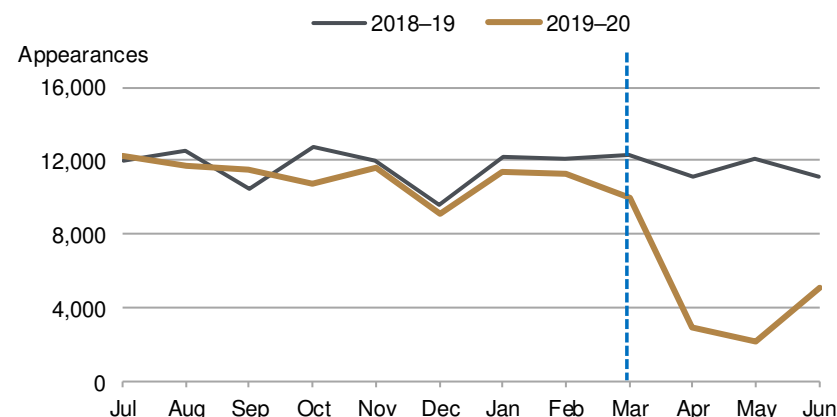


Figure 3 Finalised child appearances, higher courts – monthly comparison

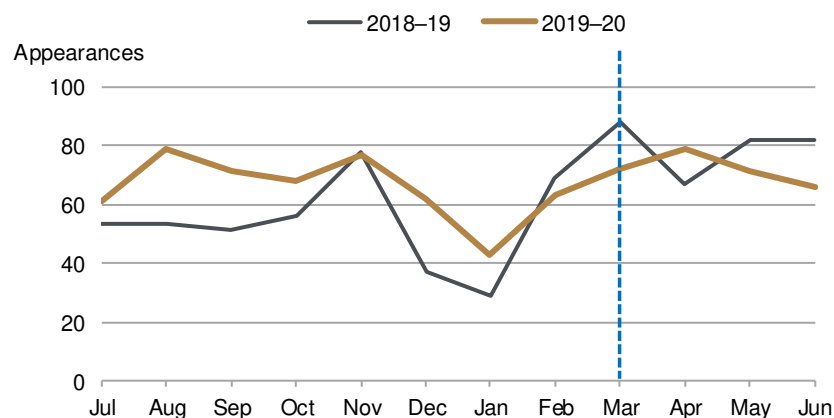
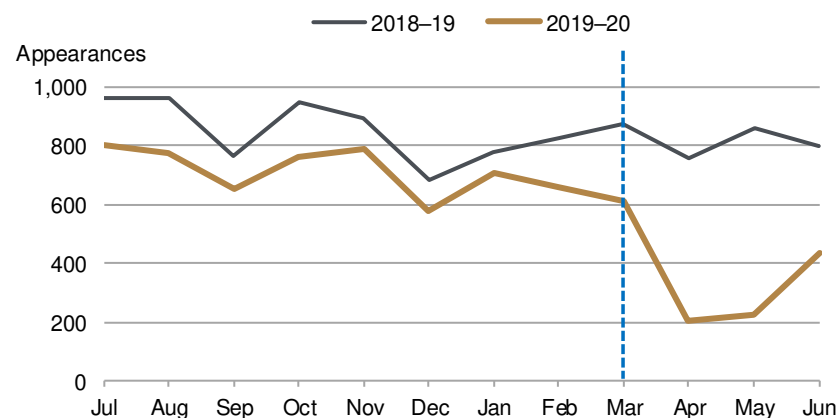


Figure 4 Finalised child appearances, Childrens Court – monthly comparison



The monthly pattern in finalised appearances can also be seen in finalised charges. In the Childrens Court, even though monthly finalised appearances decreased seasonally (around –15% across the months before March) compared with the 2018–19 trend, finalised charges in that court in 2019–20 stayed relatively close to the trend before the pandemic, only dropping away in April and catching up during the last two months of 2019–20 (Figure 8).

Figure 5 Finalised adult charges, higher courts – monthly comparison

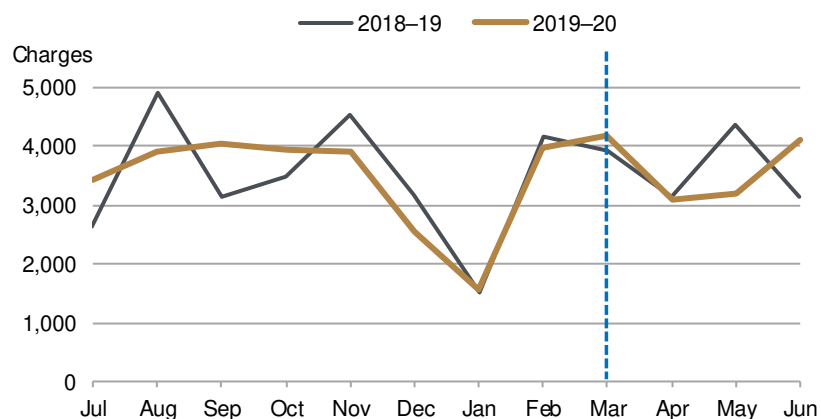


Figure 6 Finalised adult charges, Magistrates Court – monthly comparison

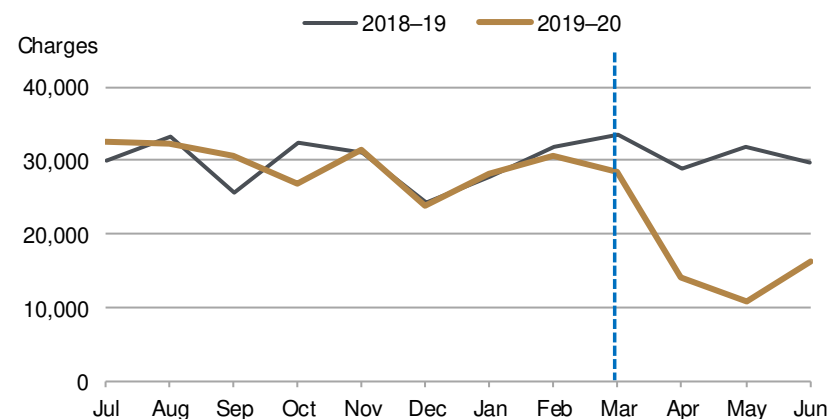


Figure 7 Finalised charges against children, higher courts – monthly comparison

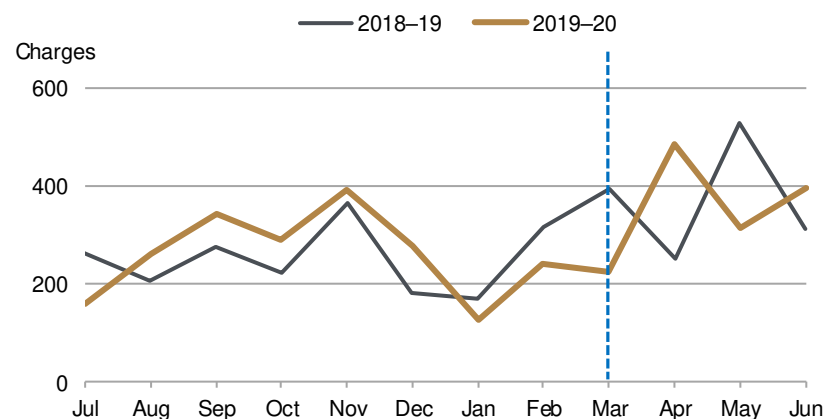
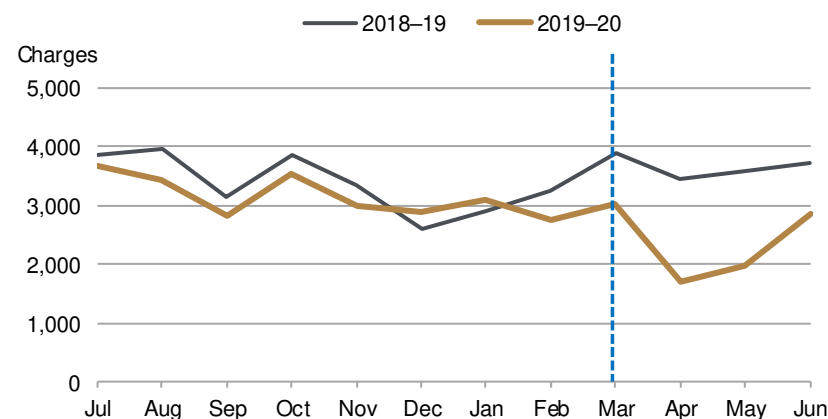


Figure 8 Finalised charges against children, Childrens Court – monthly comparison



3.1.2. All courts summary

While there were fewer finalised appearances and charges overall in 2019–20 compared with 2018–19, and fewer resulting in conviction, the number of charges per appearance increased in the same period (Table 1). However, in both the Supreme Court and children's higher courts the average number of charges per appearance fell.

Table 1 Summary of finalised appearances and charges, all courts

	2018–19				2019–20 ^(a)			
	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance (average)	Appearances resulting in conviction	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance (average)	Appearances resulting in conviction
Court system/type	— number —			%	— number —			%
Adult^(b)	147,485	402,144	2.7	90.7	116,769	348,350	3.0	89.7
Supreme	1,426	11,522	8.1	83.9	1,377	10,495	7.6	85.7
District	5,880	30,509	5.2	75.6	5,417	31,310	5.8	77.2
Magistrates	140,179	360,113	2.6	91.5	109,975	306,545	2.8	90.4
Child	10,837	44,979	4.2	76.8	8,021	38,219	4.8	73.8
Higher courts ^(c)	745	3,481	4.7	76.8	812	3,508	4.3	83.9
Childrens (Mag.)	10,092	41,498	4.1	76.8	7,209	34,711	4.8	72.6
Total	158,322	447,123	2.8	89.8	124,790	386,569	3.1	88.7

(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

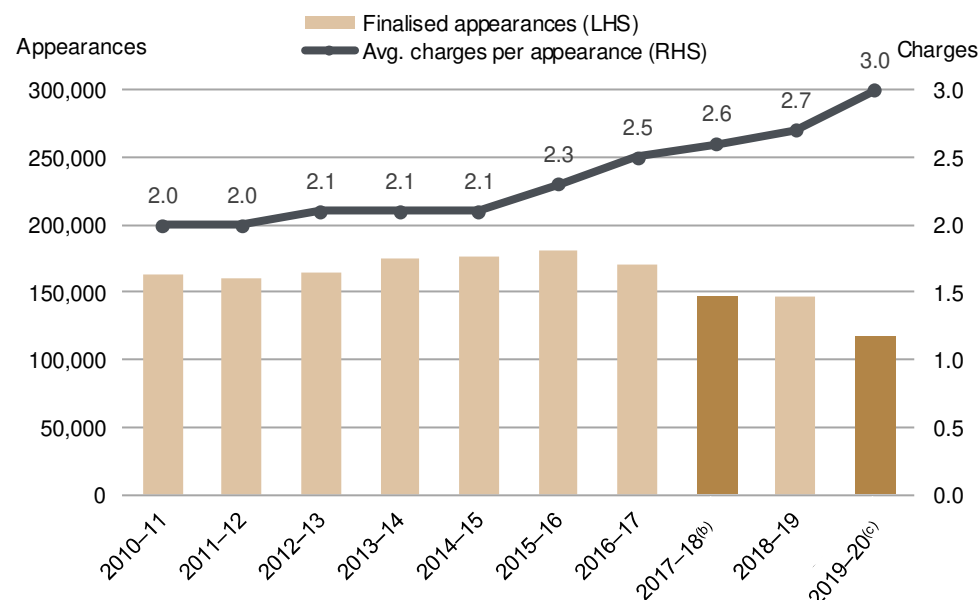
(b) Includes appearances and charges relating to companies (or organisations), which are dealt with in the adult court system.

(c) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.

There has been a clear downward trend in the number of finalised appearances across all adult courts since reaching the time-series peak in 2015–16, falling to a 10-year low of 116,769 in 2019–20. Conversely, the average number of charges per appearance continued its upward trend, increasing to 3.0 per finalised appearance in 2019–20, the highest level in the time series (Figure 9).

An upward trend has also been evident in the average number of charges per finalised child appearance since 2015–16, increasing to a series high of 4.8 charges per appearance in 2019–20 after plateauing at 4.2 charges per appearance in the previous year (Figure 10). Similar to adult courts, the number of appearances decreased dramatically in children's courts over the year (–2,816 or –26.0% compared with 2018–19).

Figure 9 Finalised appearances^(a) and average charges per appearance, all adult courts – time series



(a) Includes appearances of company defendants.

(b) Break in time series in 2017-18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(c) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

With the exception of children's higher courts, the number of finalised appearances in all courts dropped to a 10-year low in 2019-20 (Table 2). Appearances in all but two of the months preceding the COVID pandemic were lower than in 2018-19, but Magistrates Courts in particular saw a sudden and dramatic decline in appearances when operations were heavily scaled back in the March-June period. Overall, the number of finalised appearances in Magistrates Courts (including the Childrens Court) fell by 33,087 (or -22.0%) compared with the previous year. The overall drop was also evident across all variables including age, sex and Indigenous status of defendant (Table 3).

The ratio of male to female appearances has trended very slowly downwards over the 10-year time series, while the ratio of non-Indigenous to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander appearances has remained static over the most recent three years.

In terms of age, while 43.8% of all appearances in 2019-20 were of defendants aged 29 years and under, this represents the smallest proportion in the time series and follows a steady downward trend from the peak of 54.0% in 2010-11. This trend is reversed for defendants aged 30 years and over, who are accounting for an increasing proportion of appearances, with a high of 55.7% in 2019-20 compared with 43.2% in 2010-11.

Finalised company appearances dropped to a time-series low of 266 in 2019-20 (-25.9% compared with 2018-19) after trending downwards since 2015-16.

Figure 10 Finalised child appearances and average charges per appearance, all courts – time series

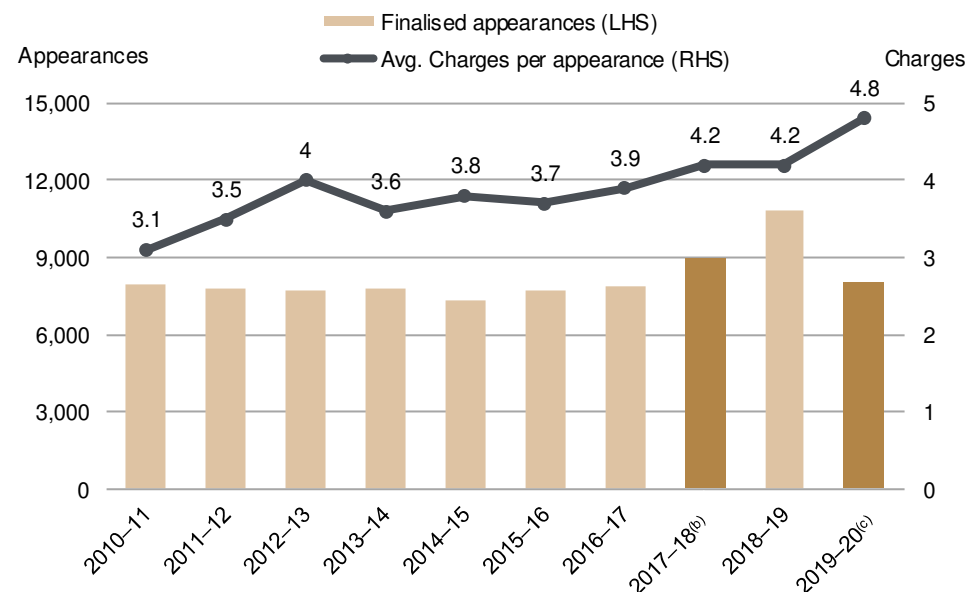


Table 2 Summary of finalised appearances by court type and outcome – time series

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
Court system / type	— number —									
Adult^(c)	163,784	160,189	164,526	175,455	177,080	181,206	170,542	146,589	147,485	116,769
Supreme Court	1,100	844	739	639	761	967	1,340	1,587	1,426	1,377
District Court	4,854	4,548	4,138	4,169	4,394	4,558	5,091	5,354	5,880	5,417
Magistrates Court	157,830	154,797	159,649	170,647	171,925	175,681	164,111	139,648	140,179	109,975
Child	7,937	7,762	7,727	7,822	7,339	7,732	7,878	8,950	10,837	8,021
Higher courts ^(d)	511	439	465	467	374	381	443	452	745	812
Childrens Court (Magistrates)	7,426	7,323	7,262	7,355	6,965	7,351	7,435	8,498	10,092	7,209
Total	171,721	167,951	172,253	183,277	184,419	188,938	178,420	155,539	158,322	124,790
Person appearances	170,919	167,086	171,520	182,606	183,827	188,295	177,801	155,140	157,963	124,524
Convicted	156,920	153,215	157,857	168,074	167,997	171,647	160,863	140,342	141,888	110,490
Not convicted	13,999	13,871	13,663	14,532	15,830	16,648	16,938	14,798	16,075	14,034
Company appearances	802	865	733	671	592	643	619	399	359	266
Convicted	503	543	423	370	358	414	409	279	276	172
Not convicted	299	322	310	301	234	229	210	120	83	94

Table 3 Summary of finalised appearances in all courts by defendant characteristics – time series

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
	— number —									
Company appearances	802	865	733	671	592	643	619	399	359	266
Person appearances	170,919	167,086	171,520	182,606	183,827	188,295	177,801	155,140	157,963	124,524
Sex										
Male	130,710	126,930	130,312	138,038	138,132	139,944	131,112	115,471	117,468	92,408
Female	39,449	39,529	40,583	43,681	44,808	47,694	46,058	39,294	40,093	31,742
Not stated	760	627	625	887	887	657	631	375	402	374
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	26,546	26,398	29,247	31,610	30,858	31,875	31,448	29,391	29,631	23,827
Non-Indigenous	116,492	117,074	124,996	134,125	136,902	142,392	133,927	119,365	122,295	96,663
Not stated	27,881	23,614	17,277	16,871	16,067	14,028	12,426	6,384	6,037	4,034
Age at finalised appearance										
19 yrs & under	29,101	27,044	26,876	26,310	24,610	23,755	22,862	20,681	19,880	14,848
20–29 yrs	63,703	60,616	62,811	66,141	65,770	65,274	59,038	50,990	51,386	39,690
30–39 yrs	37,728	37,846	39,683	43,231	45,617	47,914	46,943	41,223	42,505	33,963
40–49 yrs	22,539	23,467	24,518	26,984	27,789	29,912	29,124	26,525	27,798	22,770
50–59 yrs	9,607	9,872	10,104	11,317	11,716	12,256	11,751	10,682	11,277	9,171
60 yrs & over	4,000	4,081	4,144	4,663	4,849	4,954	4,868	4,420	4,675	3,738
Not stated	4,241	4,160	3,384	3,960	3,476	4,230	3,215	619	442	344
Total	171,721	167,951	172,253	183,277	184,419	188,938	178,420	155,539	158,322	124,790

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) Includes appearances of company defendants, which are dealt with in the adult court system.

(d) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.

The proportion of appearances resulting in conviction has been trending downwards since an equal high of 91.9% in 2012–13 and 2013–14 to a low of 88.7% in 2019–20. Both the number and rate of convicted appearances were at their lowest in the time series, and the rate decreased by at least 19 per cent for every person defendant characteristic since 2018–19.

Table 4 Convicted appearances by defendant characteristics, all courts – time series

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)
	— number —									
Company appearances	503	543	423	370	358	414	409	279	276	172
Person appearances	156,920	153,215	157,857	168,074	167,997	171,647	160,863	140,342	141,888	110,490
Sex										
Male	119,925	116,244	119,998	126,960	126,246	127,476	118,613	104,322	105,256	81,855
Female	36,363	36,447	37,340	40,339	41,025	43,631	41,750	35,702	36,316	28,349
Not stated	632	524	519	775	726	540	500	318	316	286
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	24,642	24,357	26,992	29,278	28,475	29,286	28,644	26,373	26,603	21,094
Non-Indigenous	108,255	108,937	116,538	124,608	126,227	130,809	122,251	108,620	110,335	86,397
Not stated	24,023	19,921	14,327	14,188	13,295	11,552	9,968	5,349	4,950	2,999
Age at finalised appearance										
19 yrs & under	26,909	24,921	24,660	24,162	22,529	21,557	20,423	18,015	16,781	12,302
20–29 yrs	59,624	56,924	58,897	61,891	61,170	60,595	54,529	47,022	47,248	36,103
30–39 yrs	34,799	34,841	36,722	39,963	41,802	43,922	42,789	37,518	38,560	30,345
40–49 yrs	20,492	21,344	22,499	24,818	25,212	27,167	26,303	24,000	25,120	20,411
50–59 yrs	8,593	8,811	9,206	10,330	10,535	11,015	10,481	9,531	9,983	8,071
60 yrs & over	3,467	3,491	3,620	4,094	4,282	4,287	4,107	3,777	3,873	3,036
Not stated	3,036	2,883	2,253	2,816	2,467	3,104	2,231	479	323	222
Total	157,423	153,758	158,280	168,444	168,355	172,061	161,272	140,621	142,164	110,662

Table 5 Convicted person appearance rate by defendant characteristics, all courts – time series

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)
Person appearances	— rate per 100,000 persons ^(b) —									
Sex^(c)										
Male	6,275.6	5,975.9	6,059.1	6,316.8	6,207.7	6,194.4	5,675.6	4,905.6	4,863.8	3,715.1
Female	1,879.1	1,848.4	1,857.6	1,973.0	1,976.6	2,069.4	1,944.4	1,630.2	1,625.3	1,243.7
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	17,136.8	16,457.0	17,739.1	18,731.7	17,743.4	17,772.8	16,919.3	15,153.5	14,878.8	11,494.6
Other ^(d)	3,572.9	3,418.8	3,409.4	3,560.6	3,533.3	3,557.7	3,250.4	2,751.2	2,732.1	2,079.3
Age at finalised appearance^(b)										
19 yrs & under	4,522.9	4,161.9	4,091.1	3,989.1	3,709.5	3,529.0	3,293.9	2,847.2	2,596.6	1,862.9
20–29 yrs	9,251.6	8,679.9	8,821.1	9,159.0	8,975.9	8,824.3	7,857.2	6,700.3	6,662.7	5,032.4
30–39 yrs	5,633.5	5,606.5	5,840.9	6,286.2	6,511.4	6,755.2	6,465.8	5,546.1	5,572.7	4,290.3
40–49 yrs	3,282.0	3,362.8	3,495.7	3,823.6	3,864.5	4,141.7	3,983.4	3,612.6	3,765.1	3,048.5
50–59 yrs	1,551.6	1,553.7	1,587.8	1,748.5	1,758.0	1,819.9	1,714.8	1,543.4	1,599.6	1,278.7
60 yrs & over	427.6	416.0	417.0	456.2	462.0	447.8	414.9	368.9	365.4	276.8
Total^(e)	4,080.0	3,911.5	3,955.7	4,145.4	4,088.2	4,119.9	3,796.6	3,251.2	3,225.9	2,464.8

(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(b) Rate calculation is based on relevant population subgroup aged 10 years and over.

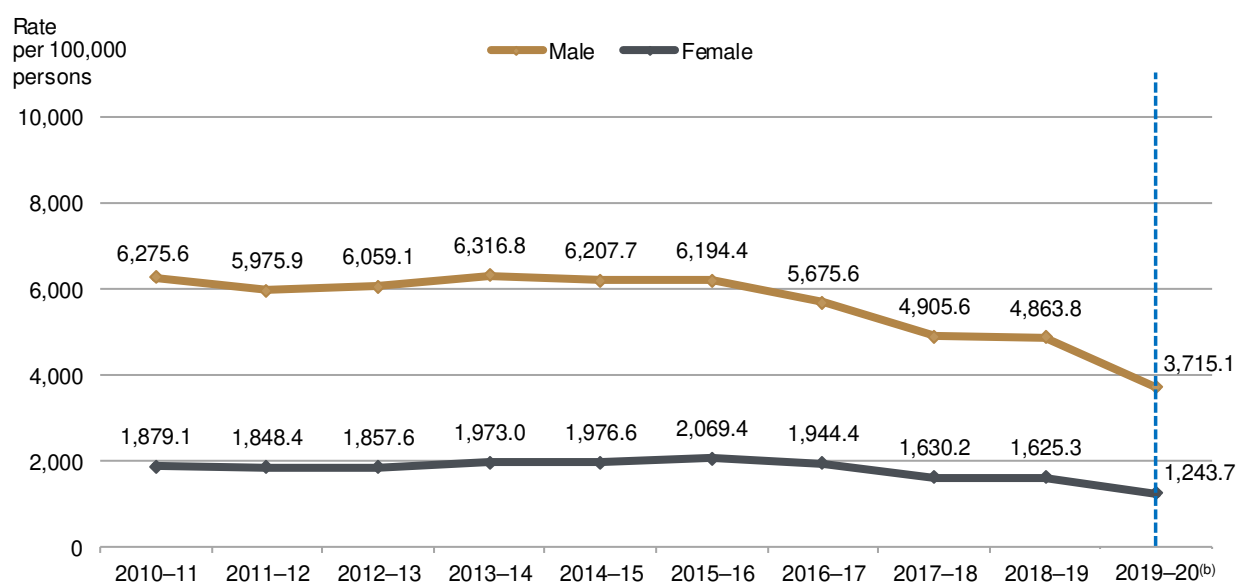
(c) Rates by sex and by age are calculated only where sex/age is stated.

(d) Other includes defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.

(e) Total includes appearances where defendant age and/or sex is not stated.

As indicated in Figure 11 and Figure 12, with the dip in the number of court finalisations in 2019–20, convicted rates for all defendant characteristics reached their lowest in the 10-year time series. The gap between male and female conviction rates is closing over the years as the drop in conviction rate for males (from 6,275.6 per 100,000 persons aged 10 years and over in 2010–11 to 3,715.1 in 2019–20) is more pronounced than for females. The conviction rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants has been declining steadily (–38.6% overall) since reaching its highest point in the time series (at 18,731.7) in 2013–14, while for other defendants the peak occurred in 2010–11 (at 3,572.9).

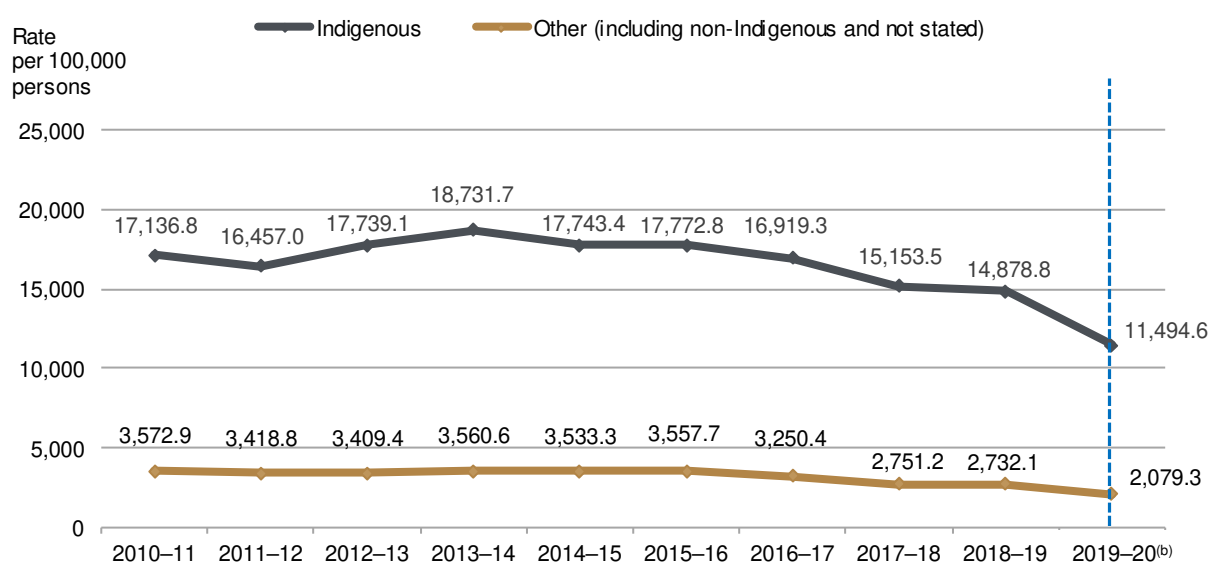
Figure 11 Convicted person appearance rate by sex^(a), all courts – time series



(a) Rates are calculated only for appearances where defendant sex is stated. Rate calculation is based on relevant population subgroup aged 10 years and over.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

Figure 12 Convicted person appearance rate by Indigenous status, all courts – time series

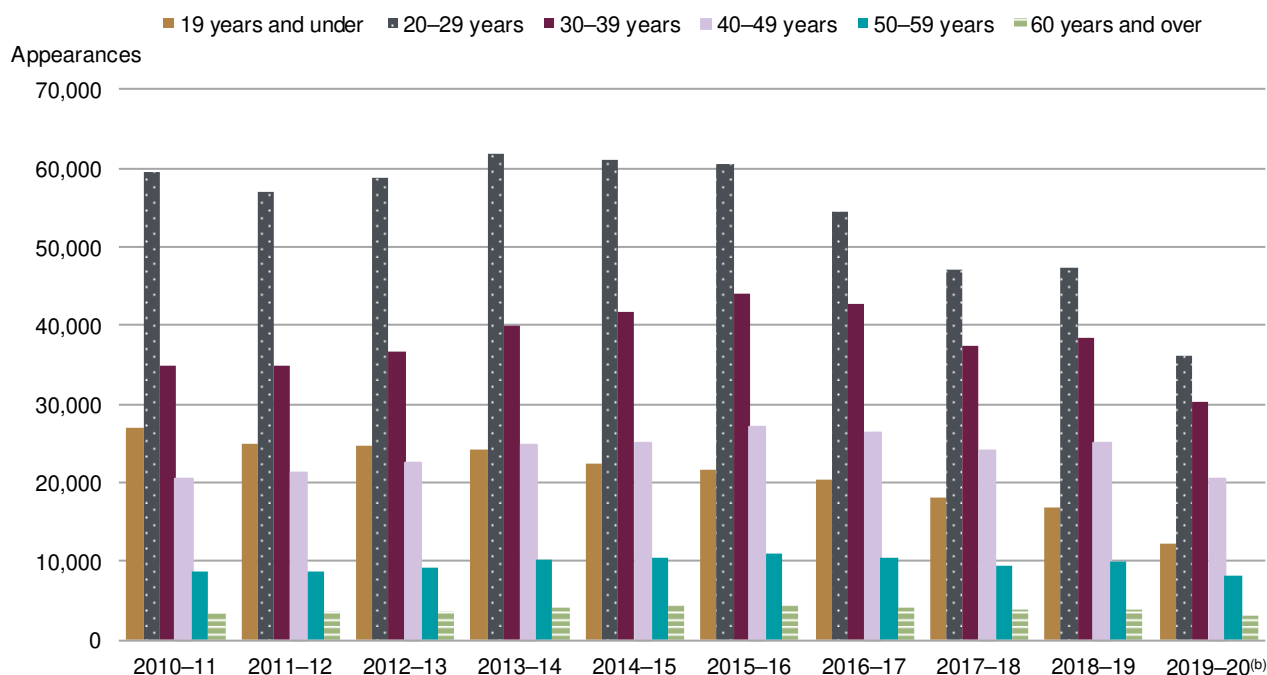


(a) Rate calculation is based on relevant population subgroup aged 10 years and over.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

In 2019–20, the number of convicted appearances for all age groups reached a record low in the ten-year time series. While defendants aged 20–29 years old continue to account for more convicted appearances than any other age group, their share of all convicted appearances has decreased steadily over the 10-year time series (from 38.0 per cent to 32.7 per cent) (Figure 14). The distribution across age groups has continued unchanged, in terms of order. The proportion of convicted appearances of 40–49-year-old defendants overtook that of defendants aged 19 years and under in 2013–14, with the gap continuing to grow.

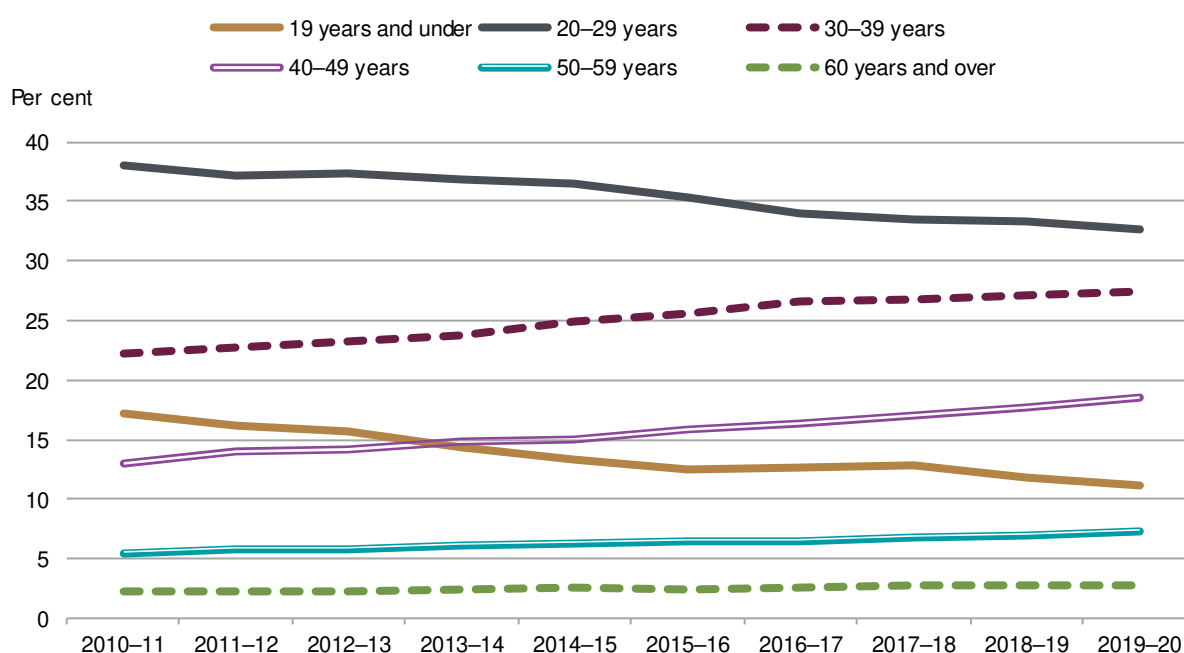
Figure 13 Convicted appearances by age at appearance^(a), all courts – time series



(a) Excludes appearances of defendants whose age was not stated.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

Figure 14 Proportion of convicted appearances by age at appearance^(a), all courts – time series



(a) Excludes appearances of defendants whose age was not stated.

3.2. Adults

This section presents statistics relating to the adult court system, which deals with persons aged 18 years and over at time of offence (or 17 years and over, prior to February 2018) as well as companies/organisations.

In this section, statistics relating to company/organisation defendants have been separated from person defendants and are presented in section 3.2.8 Companies.

All other statistics in section 3.2 relate to person defendants only.

3.2.1. Finalised appearances

A finalised appearance represents an offence, or collection of offences, for a single defendant that are finalised on the same day, at the same court level and court location. (For instance, by a guilty finding and sentence – convicted; discharge or withdrawal – not convicted.) Matters which are committed or transferred to another court are not finalised at that point, and therefore have not been presented in this report.

A defendant may have one or multiple charges (offences) finalised in a single appearance, however only the most serious offence (MSO), i.e. the offence with the most serious outcome, is presented here (see Explanatory notes for more detail).

In 2019–20, there was a decline in numbers, to varying degrees, across both higher and lower courts in Queensland. However, the composition of finalised appearances stayed similar to previous years. Of all 124,524 adult appearances finalised in 2019–20, the majority (109,713 or 88.1%) were dealt with in the Magistrates Court. Appearances in the Magistrates Court also have the highest conviction rate, at 90.4% compared with the Supreme and District Courts at 85.7% and 77.2% respectively.

Table 6 Finalised adult appearances, all courts, 2019–20

Most serious offence (MSO)	2019–20								
	Supreme Court			District Court			Magistrates Court		
	Convicted	Not convicted	Appearances resulting in conviction	Convicted	Not convicted	Appearances resulting in conviction	Convicted	Not convicted	Appearances resulting in conviction
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —		%	— number —		%	— number —		%
Homicide and related offences	46	30	60.5	5	0	100.0	0	17	0.0
Acts intended to cause injury	22	4	84.6	1,136	390	74.4	4,552	1,287	78.0
Sexual assault and related offences	8	5	61.5	674	476	58.6	144	183	44.0
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	6	1	85.7	112	15	88.2	4,550	310	93.6
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	0	0	..	36	25	59.0	245	102	70.6
Robbery, extortion and related offences	4	1	80.0	512	93	84.6	12	118	9.2
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	7	0	100.0	218	16	93.2	2,246	653	77.5
Theft and related offences	6	4	60.0	101	14	87.8	9,840	1,298	88.3
Fraud, deception and related offences	1	1	50.0	123	50	71.1	2,058	437	82.5
Illicit drug offences	974	131	88.1	795	71	91.8	13,874	1,200	92.0
Weapons and explosives offences	8	8	50.0	9	4	69.2	2,846	351	89.0
Property damage and environmental pollution	1	0	100.0	92	18	83.6	2,004	279	87.8
Public order offences	0	0	..	14	5	73.7	5,651	491	92.0
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	..	2	0	100.0	32,087	1,784	94.7
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	97	12	89.0	342	52	86.8	18,161	1,853	90.7
Miscellaneous offences	0	0	..	10	3	76.9	942	138	87.2
Total	1,180	197	85.7	4,181	1,232	77.2	99,212	10,501	90.4

.. = not applicable

3.2.2. Convicted appearances

A convicted appearance is a finalised appearance in which the defendant is found guilty of an offence and a sentence is imposed. This section examines the number of convicted adult appearances in the Supreme, District and Magistrates Courts over the past 10 years.

In 2019–20, the Supreme Court recorded the third-highest number of convicted appearances in the time series, only 17 fewer than the previous year. Of all convicted appearances in the Supreme Court, *illicit drug offences* has consistently been the most serious offence (MSO) in over 73% of appearances in every year in the time series. It accounted for 82.5% of convicted appearances in 2019–20.

Table 7 Convicted adult appearances, Supreme Court – time series

Most serious offence (MSO)	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	56	43	47	53	45	37	50	60	52	46
Acts intended to cause injury	9	11	19	19	9	11	21	20	25	22
Sexual assault and related offences	11	13	7	3	4	3	5	6	4	8
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	2	3	0	0	5	5	2	2	7	6
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Robbery, extortion and related offences	3	3	2	1	0	1	3	9	3	4
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	8	6	0	1	3	9	4	5	12	7
Theft and related offences	3	8	4	3	2	2	5	7	3	6
Fraud, deception and related offences	7	1	1	2	1	0	4	1	0	1
Illicit drug offences	770	523	435	362	511	637	919	1,150	1,004	974
Weapons and explosives offences	4	0	3	1	1	5	5	4	7	8
Property damage and environmental pollution	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	1
Public order offences	5	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	60	68	42	46	21	45	63	74	77	97
Total	940	683	566	492	603	757	1,083	1,342	1,197	1,180

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

Appearances in the District Court resulting in conviction had been steadily increasing since the 10-year time series low in 2012–13. However, 2019–20 saw a decrease of 260 appearances (–5.9 %) compared with 2018–19.

The overall decrease was mainly driven by the drop in convicted appearances with MSO of *acts intended to cause injury* (–125 appearances or –9.9%) and *sexual assault* (–108 appearances or –13.8%). *Illicit drug offences* continued to account for the second-highest number of convicted appearances after acts intended to cause injury and declined by only 13 appearances (–1.6%). Conversely, convicted appearances with MSO of *robbery, extortion and related offences* rose by 63 appearances (+14.0%).

Table 8 Convicted adult appearances, District Court – time series

Most serious offence (MSO)	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	7	5	11	7	4	2	2	6	4	5
Acts intended to cause injury	990	859	782	732	777	713	875	1,179	1,261	1,136
Sexual assault and related offences	574	626	534	493	585	600	722	697	782	674
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	265	139	104	120	103	123	102	99	115	112
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	72	49	30	25	28	32	59	61	51	36
Robbery, extortion and related offences	415	416	449	441	403	367	411	406	449	512
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	383	227	193	183	228	199	200	223	232	218
Theft and related offences	132	83	45	50	64	72	71	68	103	101
Fraud, deception and related offences	298	194	144	115	119	144	149	126	155	123
Illicit drug offences	17	297	386	598	642	726	858	820	808	795
Weapons and explosives offences	6	7	8	5	8	9	16	16	11	9
Property damage and environmental pollution	142	119	99	105	97	93	89	85	96	92
Public order offences	24	27	8	8	14	15	9	17	21	14
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	1	1	3	0	1	1	1	2	1	2
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	332	314	303	270	273	276	279	314	344	342
Miscellaneous offences	13	7	6	5	7	5	8	6	8	10
Total	3,671	3,370	3,105	3,157	3,353	3,377	3,851	4,125	4,441	4,181

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

The decrease in convicted appearances in 2019–20 was most evident in the Magistrates Court, due to operations being severely scaled back from mid–March to June as a COVID-19 containment measure. This resulted in a reduction of 28,712 (or –22.4%) convicted appearances in the Magistrates Court compared with 2018–19. Numbers dropped markedly across all offence divisions compared with the previous year, except for *sexual assault and related offences* which remained stable. Convicted appearances in the Magistrate Court reached a ten–year time series low for 11 of the 15 applicable offence divisions in 2019–20.

Table 9 Convicted adult appearances, Magistrates Court – time series

Most serious offence (MSO)	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —									
Acts intended to cause injury	4,967	5,138	4,962	5,145	5,134	5,414	5,625	5,578	5,644	4,552
Sexual assault and related offences	161	122	126	116	134	106	105	155	143	144
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	9,534	9,184	8,552	8,752	8,148	7,432	6,556	6,042	5,408	4,550
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	278	346	355	346	359	442	435	427	354	245
Robbery, extortion and related offences	13	8	18	17	21	16	9	16	20	12
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	2,350	2,538	2,573	2,581	2,397	2,464	2,547	2,361	2,398	2,246
Theft and related offences	10,479	10,696	10,546	11,719	12,519	13,360	13,529	12,140	12,434	9,840
Fraud, deception and related offences	2,888	2,597	2,687	3,005	3,041	2,910	2,940	2,817	2,689	2,058
Illicit drug offences	11,276	11,999	13,761	16,968	20,598	21,383	19,412	17,294	17,442	13,874
Weapons and explosives offences	1,797	1,899	2,233	2,713	3,384	3,540	3,545	3,148	3,562	2,846
Property damage and environmental pollution	3,452	3,251	3,159	3,303	3,136	3,247	3,224	2,964	2,744	2,004
Public order offences	20,712	16,189	17,024	18,357	17,356	12,867	11,068	8,678	7,816	5,651
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	56,798	58,111	59,672	59,453	53,726	57,711	50,643	40,132	42,369	32,087
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	19,399	19,160	20,899	23,825	26,115	28,112	28,270	24,902	23,676	18,161
Miscellaneous offences	1,386	1,311	1,057	1,437	1,745	2,062	1,618	1,167	1,225	942
Total	145,490	142,549	147,624	157,737	157,813	161,066	149,526	127,821	127,924	99,212

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

3.2.3. Finalised charges

A charge is finalised when the defendant is found guilty (charge is proven), or the charge is withdrawn by the prosecution, dismissed, or the defendant is found not guilty (charge is not proven). If a charge against a defendant is proven, a conviction will result.

Table 10 Finalised charges against adults, all courts, 2019–20

	2019–20								
	Supreme Court			District Court			Magistrates Court		
	Proven	Not proven	Charges resulting in conviction	Proven	Not proven	Charges resulting in conviction	Proven	Not proven	Charges resulting in conviction
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —		%	— number —		%	— number —		%
Homicide and related offences	49	54	47.6	5	0	100.0	0	27	0.0
Acts intended to cause injury	105	37	73.9	2,857	1,916	59.9	6,529	2,532	72.1
Sexual assault and related offences	65	22	74.7	2,742	2,821	49.3	202	552	26.8
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	64	5	92.8	394	69	85.1	5,814	717	89.0
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	8	3	72.7	271	226	54.5	580	360	61.7
Robbery, extortion and related offences	21	3	87.5	763	265	74.2	31	280	10.0
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	58	3	95.1	1,292	369	77.8	6,212	3,704	62.6
Theft and related offences	875	45	95.1	2,671	315	89.5	35,056	6,071	85.2
Fraud, deception and related offences	159	3	98.1	1,093	268	80.3	11,576	5,254	68.8
Illicit drug offences	5,884	949	86.1	5,599	491	91.9	51,674	5,172	90.9
Weapons and explosives offences	553	50	91.7	450	49	90.2	6,220	721	89.6
Property damage and environmental pollution	25	5	83.3	801	660	54.8	5,572	1,700	76.6
Public order offences	31	2	93.9	326	19	94.5	13,824	1,715	89.0
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	378	4	99.0	949	4	99.6	57,667	3,553	94.2
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	799	29	96.5	3,172	222	93.5	60,572	7,341	89.2
Miscellaneous offences	199	8	96.1	176	19	90.3	3,463	1,118	75.6
Total	9,273	1,222	88.4	23,561	7,713	75.3	264,992	40,817	86.7

3.2.4. Proven charges

While proven charges in the Supreme Court decreased by 525 overall in 2019–20 (–5.4%) compared with the previous year, the total was still third-highest in the 10-year time series. Proven charges for *illicit drug offences* decreased (–385 charges or –6.1%) for the second year running, after a time-series peak of 6,792 in 2017–18. The number of proven charges for *weapons and explosives offences* (553) reached a time-series peak in 2019–20, representing an increase of 66 proven charges (+13.6%) compared with 2018–19 and over seven times the series low in 2011–12.

Table 11 Proven charges against adults, Supreme Court – time series

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	63	48	55	55	48	41	55	64	57	49
Acts intended to cause injury	40	38	41	37	39	35	71	135	91	105
Sexual assault and related offences	74	124	60	26	24	57	41	49	17	65
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	20	13	11	15	28	27	46	69	58	64
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	6	6	3	27	6	5	17	14	12	8
Robbery, extortion and related offences	8	3	16	7	2	18	7	32	23	21
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	121	97	31	34	47	81	111	76	103	58
Theft and related offences	252	191	185	210	326	439	753	825	918	875
Fraud, deception and related offences	62	46	26	68	33	72	168	92	292	159
Illicit drug offences	2,873	2,130	1,985	1,940	3,172	3,891	5,582	6,792	6,269	5,884
Weapons and explosives offences	111	65	90	77	249	242	401	497	487	553
Property damage and environmental pollution	13	25	9	5	22	12	30	48	40	25
Public order offences	21	16	14	12	16	24	29	33	31	31
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	42	40	52	60	102	166	266	379	389	378
Offences against justice procedures, government security and operations	196	166	157	223	236	368	687	847	845	799
Miscellaneous offences	14	4	6	16	29	53	95	108	166	199
Total	3,916	3,012	2,741	2,812	4,379	5,531	8,359	10,060	9,798	9,273

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

In 2019–20, proven charges against adults in the District Court reached a total of 23,561, the highest in the ten-year time series. Throughout the time series, *illicit drug offences* is the only offence type to have shown a continuous year-on-year increase from 2010–11 to 2017–18 when it decreased in 2018–19. However, in 2019–20, the proven charges for this offence type increased again, by 388 charges (+7.4%). Illicit drug offences remained the most prevalent offence division in the District Court since 2013–14, accounting for 23.8 per cent of all proven charges, compared with 2.3 per cent in 2010–11. Increases in proven charges were seen for all but three offence divisions in 2019–20, with two recording a notable decrease—*sexual assault and related offences* (–574 charges or –17.3%) and *acts intended to cause injury* (–246 charges or –7.9%).

Table 12 Proven charges against adults, District Court – time series

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	8	5	11	7	4	2	2	6	4	5
Acts intended to cause injury	1,827	1,558	1,510	1,430	1,596	1,519	2,001	2,841	3,103	2,857
Sexual assault and related offences	2,717	2,458	1,952	2,396	2,485	2,671	3,047	2,686	3,316	2,742
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	488	294	291	277	289	290	272	322	368	394
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	252	199	155	151	178	178	275	284	252	271
Robbery, extortion and related offences	663	658	689	704	617	606	631	600	653	763
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	2,586	1,578	1,391	1,423	1,332	1,368	1,306	1,259	1,264	1,292
Theft and related offences	1,971	1,483	1,393	1,767	1,754	1,874	1,804	1,924	2,408	2,671
Fraud, deception and related offences	1,187	866	785	946	875	1,146	1,151	893	1,012	1,093
Illicit drug offences	352	1232	1,785	2,840	3,516	4,114	5,295	5,483	5,211	5,599
Weapons and explosives offences	111	107	151	192	235	268	311	398	341	450
Property damage and environmental pollution	772	599	439	495	452	475	1,000	698	692	801
Public order offences	280	171	212	177	183	203	325	330	304	326
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	450	357	388	552	519	529	570	809	822	949
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	1,574	1,272	1,414	1,450	1,601	1,895	2,148	3,581	3,145	3,172
Miscellaneous offences	100	55	52	187	85	159	217	188	310	176
Total	15,338	12,892	12,618	14,994	15,721	17,297	20,355	22,302	23,205	23,561

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

In the Magistrates Court in 2019–20, proven charges decreased by 47,589 or 15.2% overall compared with 2018–19, likely due to COVID containment measures in place during the final quarter of 2019–20. A noticeable decline (between 5 and 23 per cent) over the year is evident in every offence division except *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter*, which increased by 246 proven charges (+4.1%), and *robbery, extortion and related offences*, which saw no change compared with the previous year.

Table 13 Proven charges against adults, Magistrates Court – time series

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —									
Acts intended to cause injury	6,325	6,517	6,464	6,750	6,657	7,148	7,466	7,515	7,684	6,529
Sexual assault and related offences	268	189	187	213	228	193	176	266	222	202
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	10,557	10,246	9,713	9,955	9,400	8,780	7,975	7,419	6,781	5,814
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	413	555	634	694	649	900	851	812	707	580
Robbery, extortion and related offences	17	17	27	31	29	32	26	21	31	31
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	5,979	6,323	6,849	5,836	5,673	6,058	6,595	6,227	5,966	6,212
Theft and related offences	23,456	24,304	26,116	28,076	29,357	32,063	36,295	34,437	37,062	35,056
Fraud, deception and related offences	10,310	10,130	10,647	12,823	12,570	13,185	14,885	14,267	13,983	11,576
Illicit drug offences	27,302	29,785	34,894	44,234	55,288	63,330	62,509	56,103	59,868	51,674
Weapons and explosives offences	2,863	3,173	3,804	4,718	5,965	6,478	6,937	6,221	7,133	6,220
Property damage and environmental pollution	7,022	7,491	7,295	7,410	6,823	7,944	8,482	7,565	6,587	5,572
Public order offences	28,911	24,166	25,303	27,570	26,938	22,488	21,004	17,911	17,189	13,824
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	94,613	96,774	98,178	95,347	84,834	92,443	84,441	68,160	72,702	57,667
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	44,765	45,907	50,808	61,243	66,340	74,667	82,598	71,798	72,164	60,572
Miscellaneous offences	2,808	2,676	2,529	3,315	3,646	4,701	3,899	3,702	4,502	3,463
Total	265,609	268,253	283,448	308,215	314,397	340,410	344,139	302,424	312,581	264,992

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

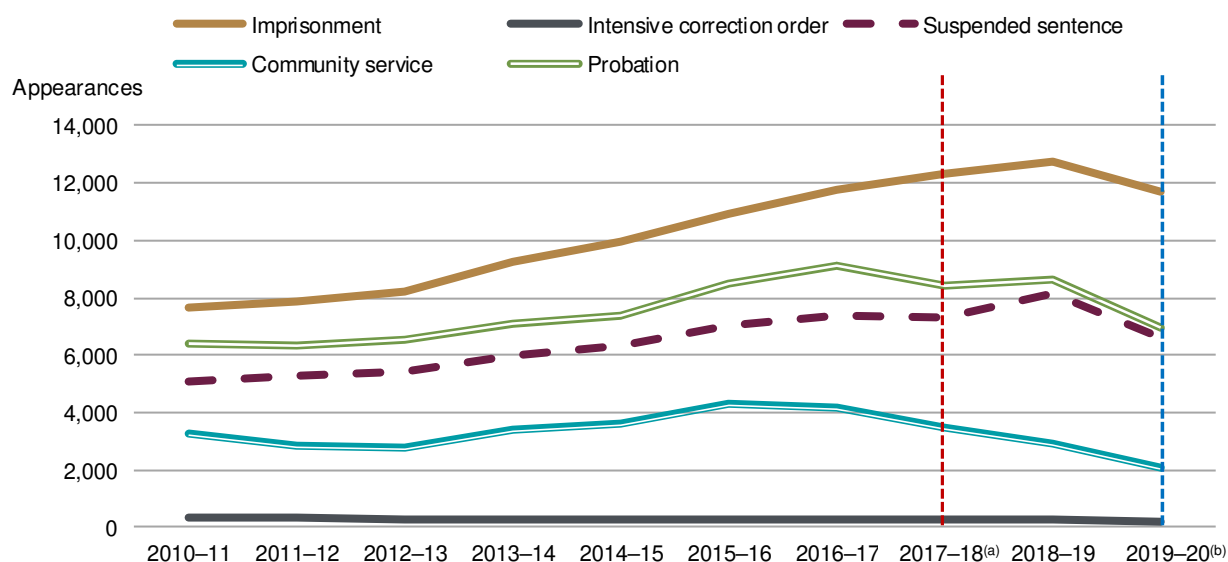
(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

3.2.5. Penalties

This section presents the most serious penalty imposed in appearances with a guilty outcome. A defendant may receive more than one penalty in a convicted appearance, but only the most serious penalty is presented here.

The five most serious penalties in the adult courts, in order of seriousness, are *imprisonment*, *intensive correction order*, *suspended sentence*, *community service* and *probation*. Until 2019–20, when both penalty types experienced a sudden decline, suspended sentence as most serious penalty was on track to overtake probation in number of appearances.

Figure 15 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, by the 5 most serious penalties, all courts – time series

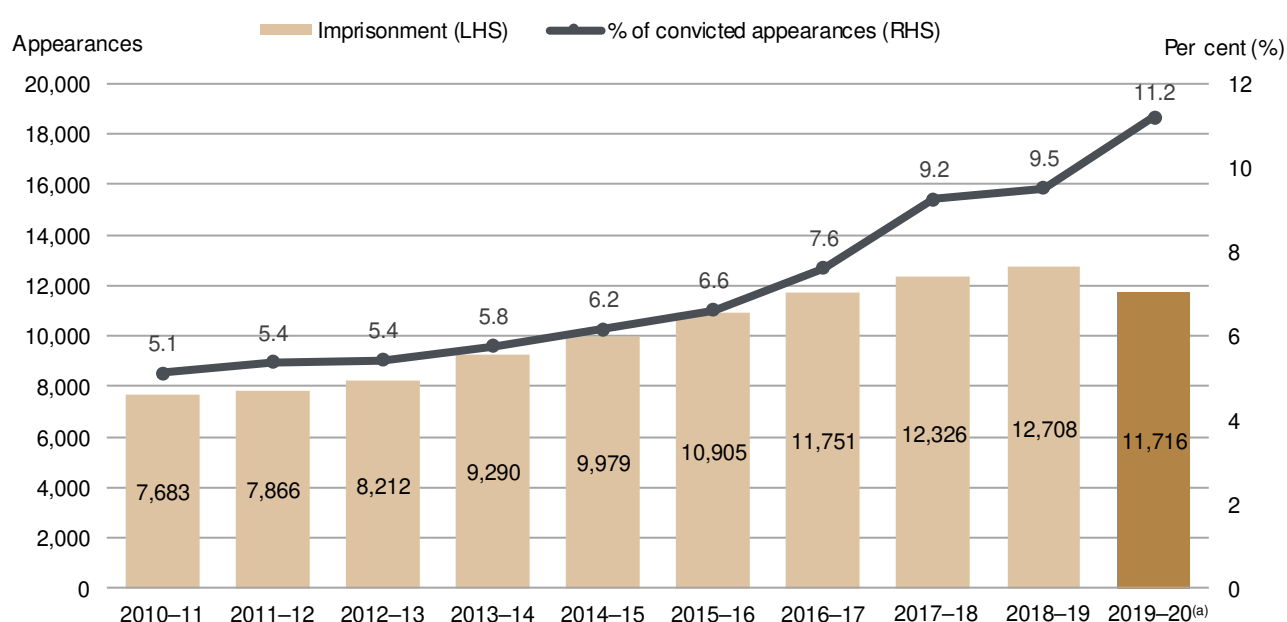


(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

The number of convicted adult appearances resulting in *imprisonment* grew continually over the time series until 2018–19, before declining in 2019–20 by 7.8% (–992) (Figure 16). Conversely, imprisonment as a proportion of all penalties imposed in the courts grew over the same period, from 9.5% to 11.2% of the total.

Figure 16 Adult appearances with imprisonment as most serious penalty and as % of all penalties, all courts – time series



(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

The proportion of appearances in the Supreme Court with *imprisonment* as most serious penalty has increased substantially across the time series, from a series low of 52.0% in 2010–11 to a series high of 78.6% in 2019–20, with some fluctuation in the intervening years. The number of appearances resulting in imprisonment was 928 in 2019–20, second only to 2017–18 with 1,015.

Appearances receiving a *suspended sentence*, the second-most prevalent penalty in the Supreme Court, have been steadily decreasing in proportion since a high of 26.6% in 2015–16, to the series low of 11.7%, in 2019–20.

Table 14 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, Supreme Court – time series

Most serious penalty	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
Penalty ^(c)	— number —									
Imprisonment	489	402	392	369	423	494	725	1,015	908	928
Intensive correction order	13	7	3	3	3	9	5	1	5	4
Suspended sentence ^(d)	251	168	106	72	145	201	248	212	166	138
Community service	45	9	2	0	2	4	6	5	3	2
Probation	40	24	16	5	7	11	26	21	30	22
Fine	57	25	7	5	2	4	16	9	6	2
Good behaviour order	6	5	7	3	5	2	3	6	5	0
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Nominal penalty ^(e)	39	43	33	35	16	30	54	73	74	84
Total	940	683	566	492	603	757	1,083	1,342	1,197	1,180

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) In descending order of seriousness.

(d) Includes both fully and partially suspended imprisonment.

(e) Includes convicted not punished.

Convicted appearances in the District Court have been increasing each year from a low of 3,105 in 2012–13 to the time series high of 4,441 in 2018–19. The number decreased by 260 appearances in 2019–20 to 4,181, the second-highest in 10 years.

As in the Supreme Court, *imprisonment* has consistently been the most-commonly imposed penalty in the District Court throughout the time series, followed by *suspended sentence*. The proportion of appearances resulting in imprisonment has fluctuated somewhat, from a low of 45.2 per cent in 2010–11 to 53.6 per cent in 2019–20, the highest proportion in 10 years.

The proportion receiving a suspended sentence as most serious penalty has been a little more consistent, ranging from 25.8 to 30.0 per cent across the time series. In 2019–20, there were 1,082 appearances which resulted in a suspended sentence, 25.9% of the total.

Table 15 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, District Court – time series

Most serious penalty	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
Penalty ^(c)	— number —									
Imprisonment	1,660	1,557	1,597	1,662	1,713	1,626	1,916	2,202	2,289	2,242
Intensive correction order	65	62	41	36	42	27	26	28	40	39
Suspended sentence ^(d)	984	1,003	805	854	887	1,013	1,058	1,064	1,203	1,082
Community service	227	160	107	110	120	97	134	81	88	73
Probation	294	179	155	145	221	214	327	307	349	319
Fine	143	137	99	96	126	134	119	128	136	106
Compensation/restitution	15	10	14	9	13	18	19	17	23	13
Good behaviour order	69	64	76	48	49	57	53	85	68	54
Driver licence disqualification	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Nominal penalty ^(e)	214	197	211	197	182	191	199	212	245	252
Total	3,671	3,370	3,105	3,157	3,353	3,377	3,851	4,125	4,441	4,181

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) In descending order of seriousness.

(d) Includes both fully and partially suspended imprisonment.

(e) Includes convicted not punished.

In the Magistrates Court, convicted appearances decreased around 20 to 30 per cent in 2019–20 for almost every penalty type. Those with *imprisonment* and *driver licence disqualification* as most serious penalty had the lowest rate of decline compared with the previous year, at –10.1% and –8.1% respectively. The penalty most commonly imposed in the Magistrates Court is a *fine*. Appearances with fine as most serious penalty dropped significantly in 2019–20 after declining over the previous three years. This is largely due to traffic and vehicle regulatory offences being increasingly diverted from the courts system in recent years.

Conversely, the number of convicted appearances resulting in imprisonment has been steadily increasing throughout the time series (except in 2017–18 where it remained stable), with the proportion continuously increasing from 3.8 per cent in 2010–11 to the high of 8.6 per cent in 2019–20.

While the number of convicted appearances experienced the greatest drop in the time series in 2019–20 (–28,712 or –22.4%), the spread of appearances across all penalty types stayed almost identical to 2018–19, with an upswing of 1.2 percentage points for imprisonment offset by a downswing of 1.5 percentage points for fine. (Table 16).

Table 16 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, Magistrates Court – time series

Most serious penalty	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
Penalty ^(c)	— number —									
Imprisonment	5,534	5,907	6,223	7,259	7,843	8,785	9,110	9,109	9,511	8,546
Intensive correction order	290	241	200	202	212	243	233	221	209	157
Suspended sentence ^(d)	3,846	4,131	4,524	5,087	5,279	5,788	6,081	6,006	6,770	5,395
Community service	2,973	2,705	2,660	3,275	3,518	4,177	3,999	3,361	2,832	1,998
Probation	6,057	6,144	6,362	6,966	7,121	8,300	8,737	8,073	8,259	6,603
Other penalty ^(e)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	3	1
Fine	113,645	110,159	112,202	118,609	115,996	116,845	105,650	87,805	86,974	65,927
Compensation/restitution	1,196	1,157	1,159	1,107	1,125	1,117	1,038	937	997	778
Good behaviour order	8,001	7,915	8,273	8,907	9,922	9,700	8,908	7,721	7,761	6,088
Driver licence disqualification	278	399	497	472	642	773	670	449	505	464
Nominal penalty ^(f)	3,670	3,791	5,524	5,853	6,155	5,337	5,100	4,135	4,103	3,255
Total	145,490	142,549	147,624	157,737	157,813	161,066	149,526	127,821	127,924	99,212

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) In descending order of seriousness.

(d) Includes both fully and partially suspended imprisonment.

(e) Includes drug and alcohol treatment orders; licence disqualification orders (other than driver licence).

(f) Includes convicted not punished.

A defendant may have one or multiple charges (offences) finalised in a single appearance, and they may also receive more than one penalty. However, only the most serious offence and most serious penalty per finalised appearance are presented below. (See Explanatory notes for more detail.)

Consistent with every other year in the time series, *illicit drug offences* as MSO accounted for the majority (82.5%) of convicted adult appearances in the Supreme Court in 2019–20, and 84.4% of those resulted in *imprisonment*.

Table 17 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence and most serious penalty, Supreme Court, 2019–20

	2019–20							
Most serious penalty ^(a)	Imprisonment	Intensive correction order	Suspended sentence ^(b)	Community service	Probation	Fine	Nominal penalty ^(c)	Total
Most serious offence (MSO)								
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(d)	— number —							
Homicide and related offences	45	0	1	0	0	0	0	46
Acts intended to cause injury	18	0	4	0	0	0	0	22
Sexual assault and related offences	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	8
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Robbery, extortion and related offences	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	7
Theft and related offences	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	6
Fraud, deception and related offences	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Illicit drug offences	822	3	124	1	21	2	1	974
Weapons and explosives offences	5	0	1	1	0	0	1	8
Property damage and environmental pollution	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	10	0	5	0	0	0	82	97
Total	928	4	138	2	22	2	84	1,180

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) Includes both fully and partially suspended imprisonment.

(c) Includes convicted not punished.

(d) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

In the District Court in 2019–20, *acts intended to cause injury* as most serious offence accounted for 27.2% of all convicted adult appearances, followed by *illicit drug offences* at 19.0% and *sexual assault and related offences* at 16.1%. Of all convicted appearances in the District Court, 53.6% resulted in *imprisonment*, with a further 25.9% receiving a fully or partially *suspended sentence*.

Table 18 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence and most serious penalty, District Court, 2019–20

	2019–20										
Most serious penalty ^(a)	Imprisonment	Intensive correction order	Suspended sentence ^(b)	Community service	Probation	Fine	Compensation / restitution	Good behaviour	Driver licence disqual.	Nominal penalty ^(c)	Total
Most serious offence (MSO)											
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —										
Homicide and related offences	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Acts intended to cause injury	733	9	263	22	70	18	4	10	0	7	1,136
Sexual assault and related offences	242	11	319	10	72	2	2	15	0	1	674
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	74	0	31	2	4	0	0	1	0	0	112
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	19	0	7	2	5	1	0	2	0	0	36
Robbery, extortion and related offences	411	4	82	2	11	0	0	2	0	0	512
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	180	0	35	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	218
Theft and related offences	57	1	17	5	12	2	1	3	0	3	101
Fraud, deception and related offences	47	1	52	1	4	3	6	9	0	0	123
Illicit drug offences	352	10	221	22	116	59	0	11	0	4	795
Weapons and explosives offences	4	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	9
Property damage and environmental pollution	57	0	20	3	10	1	0	1	0	0	92
Public order offences	2	1	2	2	2	4	0	0	0	1	14
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	56	2	25	2	8	13	0	0	0	236	342
Miscellaneous offences	4	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	10
Total	2,242	39	1,082	73	319	106	13	54	1	252	4,181

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) Includes both fully and partially suspended imprisonment.

(c) Includes convicted not punished.

Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences as MSO accounted for 32.3% of all convicted adult appearances in the Magistrates Court in 2019–20, followed by *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* at 18.3%. In 66.5% of all convicted appearances, the most serious penalty was a *fine*, followed by *imprisonment* at 8.6% and *probation* at 6.7%.

Table 19 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence and most serious penalty, Magistrates Court, 2019–20

	2019–20											
Most serious penalty ^(a) Most serious offence (MSO)	Imprisonment	Intensive correction order	Suspended sentence ^(b)	Community service	Probation	Other penalty ^(c)	Fine	Compensation / restitution	Good behaviour	Driver licence disq.	Nominal penalty ^(d)	Total
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(e)	— number —											
Acts intended to cause injury	1,344	26	675	313	729	0	1,080	53	294	0	38	4,552
Sexual assault and related offences	29	1	36	15	29	0	27	1	4	0	2	144
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	519	10	243	87	502	0	3,103	4	51	17	14	4,550
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	37	0	13	6	34	0	81	1	72	0	1	245
Robbery, extortion and related offences	7	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	12
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	1,265	19	321	108	308	0	141	11	35	0	38	2,246
Theft and related offences	1,298	29	703	273	843	0	5,247	377	676	0	394	9,840
Fraud, deception and related offences	266	15	236	112	315	0	862	115	104	0	33	2,058
Illicit drug offences	562	11	544	187	1,065	1	8,395	0	2,802	0	307	13,874
Weapons and explosives offences	132	9	81	84	379	0	1,784	0	235	0	142	2,846
Property damage and environmental pollution	162	4	106	188	205	0	963	190	139	0	47	2,004
Public order offences	169	0	147	203	185	0	4,069	12	477	0	389	5,651
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	432	9	604	125	596	0	29,545	1	156	446	173	32,087
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	2,317	24	1,670	294	1,380	0	9,892	12	941	1	1,630	18,161
Miscellaneous offences	7	0	14	3	31	0	738	1	101	0	47	942
Total	8,546	157	5,395	1,998	6,603	1	65,927	778	6,088	464	3,255	99,212

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) Includes both fully and partially suspended imprisonment.

(c) Includes drug and alcohol treatment orders; licence disqualification orders (other than driver licence).

(d) Includes convicted not punished.

(e) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

Table 20 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, by sex, Supreme Court – time series

Most serious penalty	2010–11		2011–12		2012–13		2013–14		2014–15	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Penalty ^(a)	— number —									
Imprisonment	429	59	349	53	325	67	309	60	358	65
Intensive correction order	11	2	4	3	3	0	1	2	2	1
Suspended sentence ^(b)	208	43	134	34	87	19	54	18	118	27
Community service	37	8	8	1	1	1	0	0	2	0
Probation	31	9	13	11	7	9	2	3	4	3
Fine	51	6	21	4	6	1	5	0	1	1
Good behaviour order	5	1	3	2	6	1	3	0	3	2
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nominal penalty ^(c)	34	5	40	3	29	4	34	1	8	8
Total^(d)	806	133	572	111	464	102	408	84	496	107

Table 20 continued.

Most serious penalty	2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 ^(e)		2018–19		2019–20 ^(f)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Penalty ^(a)	— number —									
Imprisonment	418	76	593	132	818	197	703	205	744	184
Intensive correction order	6	3	2	3	0	1	1	4	2	2
Suspended sentence ^(b)	164	37	195	53	162	50	125	41	101	37
Community service	2	2	6	0	4	1	2	1	0	2
Probation	6	5	16	10	16	5	15	15	11	11
Fine	3	1	13	3	6	3	4	2	1	1
Good behaviour order	2	0	2	1	4	2	3	2	0	0
Driver licence disqualification	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nominal penalty ^(c)	24	6	42	12	60	13	56	18	64	20
Total	627	130	869	214	1,070	272	909	288	923	257

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) Includes both fully and partially suspended imprisonment.

(c) Includes convicted not punished.

(d) Total excludes 1 appearance in 2010–11 where defendant's sex was not stated.

(e) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(f) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

Female defendants accounted for more than 1 in 5 convicted appearances in the Supreme Court in 2019–20, the second-highest proportion in ten years.

Table 21 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, by sex, District Court – time series

Most serious penalty	2010–11		2011–12		2012–13		2013–14		2014–15	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Penalty ^(a)	— number —									
Imprisonment	1,462	198	1,376	181	1,392	205	1,462	200	1,507	206
Intensive correction order	57	8	56	6	32	9	30	6	37	5
Suspended sentence ^(b)	843	141	871	131	680	125	719	135	745	142
Community service	186	41	132	28	83	24	97	13	90	30
Probation	206	88	128	51	116	39	108	37	162	59
Fine	127	16	122	15	80	19	79	17	108	18
Compensation/restitution	11	4	6	4	8	6	6	2	6	7
Good behaviour order	42	26	51	13	62	12	41	6	35	14
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nominal penalty ^(c)	180	34	165	32	185	26	175	22	156	26
Total	3,114	556	2,908	461	2,638	465	2,717	438	2,846	507

Table 21 continued.

Most serious penalty	2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 ^(d)		2018–19		2019–20 ^(e)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Penalty ^(a)	— number —									
Imprisonment	1,415	210	1,644	272	1,917	285	1,985	304	1,962	280
Intensive correction order	18	9	21	5	24	4	29	11	26	13
Suspended sentence ^(b)	853	160	892	165	906	158	1,022	181	918	164
Community service	85	12	111	23	69	12	73	15	55	18
Probation	156	58	244	83	226	81	264	85	212	107
Fine	115	19	101	18	112	16	119	17	95	11
Compensation/restitution	11	7	10	9	10	7	14	9	7	6
Good behaviour order	35	22	37	16	61	23	50	16	43	11
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Nominal penalty ^(c)	166	25	169	30	187	25	210	35	214	38
Total^(f)	2,854	522	3,229	621	3,513	611	3,766	673	3,533	648

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) Includes both fully and partially suspended imprisonment.

(c) Includes convicted not punished.

(d) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(e) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(f) Totals exclude a total of 11 convicted appearances where defendant's sex was not stated.

Female defendants accounted for 15.5% of all convictions in the District Court in 2019–20, second-highest across the time series.

Table 22 **Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, by sex, Magistrates Court – time series**

Most serious penalty	2010–11			2011–12			2012–13			2013–14			2014–15		
	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated
Penalty ^(a)	— number —														
Imprisonment	4,896	638	0	5,160	747	0	5,409	814	0	6,215	1,044	0	6,661	1,182	0
Intensive correction order	231	59	0	192	49	0	155	45	0	152	50	0	158	54	0
Suspended sentence ^(b)	3,186	658	2	3,401	728	2	3,818	705	1	4,160	927	0	4,283	996	0
Community service	2,350	620	3	2,167	536	2	2,132	527	1	2,554	719	2	2,751	763	4
Probation	4,411	1,646	0	4,431	1,713	0	4,637	1,725	0	5,013	1,952	1	5,006	2,115	0
Fine	86,600	26,437	608	83,111	26,544	504	84,827	26,879	496	89,206	28,670	733	86,746	28,562	688
Compensation/restitution	731	461	4	742	414	1	723	436	0	709	396	2	709	415	1
Good behaviour order	5,517	2,483	1	5,438	2,472	5	5,780	2,485	8	6,138	2,755	14	6,820	3,092	10
Driver licence disqualification	191	87	0	268	131	0	332	165	0	322	149	1	457	185	0
Nominal penalty ^(c)	2,780	880	10	2,852	932	7	4,101	1,412	11	4,410	1,426	17	4,673	1,461	21
Total	110,893	33,969	628	107,762	34,266	521	111,914	35,193	517	118,879	38,088	770	118,264	38,825	724

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) Includes both fully and partially suspended imprisonment.

(c) Includes convicted not punished.

Table 22 continued.

Most serious penalty	2015–16			2016–17			2017–18 ^(d)			2018–19			2019–20 ^(e)		
	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated
Penalty ^(a)	— number —														
Imprisonment	7,495	1,290	0	7,662	1,448	0	7,592	1,516	1	7,885	1,626	0	7,204	1,342	0
Intensive correction order	167	76	0	171	62	0	170	51	0	155	54	0	115	42	0
Suspended sentence ^(b)	4,721	1,067	0	4,849	1,232	0	4,802	1,201	3	5,391	1,376	3	4,279	1,114	2
Community service	3,256	919	2	3,082	917	0	2,545	814	2	2,117	715	0	1,535	461	2
Probation	5,796	2,504	0	6,007	2,730	0	5,525	2,548	0	5,601	2,657	1	4,434	2,168	1
Other penalty ^(c)	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0
Fine	86,148	30,183	514	77,325	27,859	466	64,905	22,609	291	64,215	22,458	301	48,292	17,370	265
Compensation/restitution	631	483	3	638	395	5	559	377	1	606	390	1	504	272	2
Good behaviour order	6,469	3,228	3	5,913	2,981	14	5,227	2,486	8	5,172	2,585	4	4,022	2,062	4
Driver licence disqualification	548	225	0	491	179	0	324	125	0	347	158	0	328	136	0
Nominal penalty ^(f)	3,981	1,340	16	3,700	1,387	13	2,994	1,132	9	2,998	1,102	3	2,333	915	7
Total	119,213	41,315	538	109,838	39,190	498	94,646	32,860	315	94,489	33,122	313	73,046	25,883	283

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) Includes both fully and partially suspended imprisonment.

(c) Includes drug and alcohol treatment orders; licence disqualification orders (other than driver licence).

(d) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(e) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(f) Includes convicted not punished.

In 2019–20, in the Magistrates Court,
male defendants accounted for
84.3% of those sentenced to *imprisonment*
but
73.6% of convicted appearances overall.

3.2.6. Age and sex

Statistics in this section relate to people dealt with as adults in Queensland courts. Prior to legislative changes implemented in February 2018, this included persons aged 17 years and over at time of offence, but these offenders are now dealt with as children.

The number of convicted appearances decreased between 2018–19 and 2019–20 for defendants in every identified age group, to varying degrees. This significant change is mainly reflected in the Magistrates Courts where its operations were scaled back considerably from March to June 2020 in response to COVID-19 containment measures. Despite the overall number of appearances decreasing by 21.7% (or –28,989) in 2019–20 compared with 2018–19, male offenders accounted for 2.9 times the number of convicted appearances as female offenders in both years. The spread of convicted appearances across the age groups also remained consistent with 2018–19.

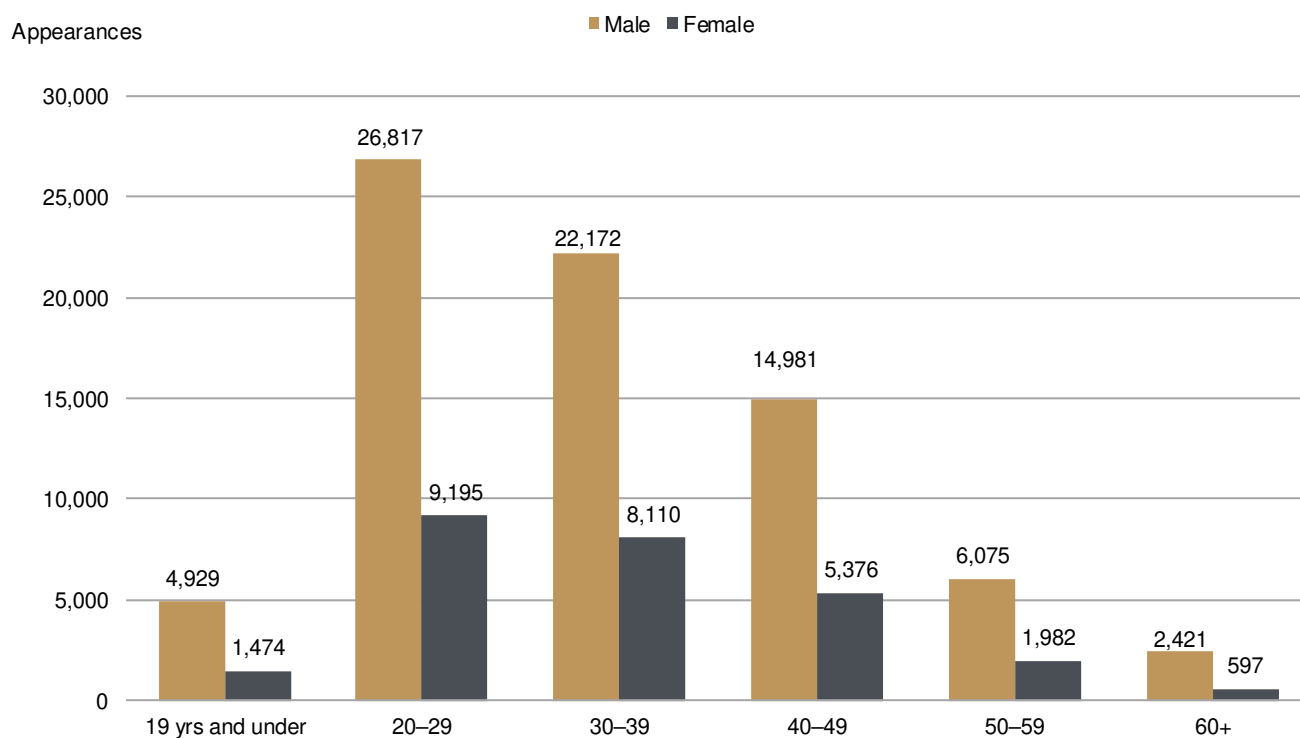
Table 23 Convicted adult appearances by court type, by age and sex

	2018–19								2019–20 ^(a)							
Age at finalised appearance	19 yrs & under	20–29 years	30–39 years	40–49 years	50–59 years	60 yrs & over	Not stated	Total	19 yrs & under	20–29 years	30–39 years	40–49 years	50–59 years	60 yrs & over	Not stated	Total
Court type / Sex	— number —								— number —							
Supreme	16	454	434	208	69	16	0	1,197	19	443	444	204	50	20	0	1,180
Male	10	347	320	163	54	15	0	909	16	348	352	148	42	17	0	923
Female	6	107	114	45	15	1	0	288	3	95	92	56	8	3	0	257
District	202	1,666	1,231	789	344	208	1	4,441	157	1,587	1,203	710	334	185	5	4,181
Male	175	1,417	1,029	659	299	187	0	3,766	131	1,347	999	603	283	167	3	3,533
Female	27	249	201	129	45	21	1	673	26	240	204	107	51	18	2	648
Not stated	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Magistrates	8,266	45,114	36,893	24,123	9,570	3,649	309	127,924	6,231	34,063	28,696	19,497	7,687	2,831	207	99,212
Male	6,350	33,366	26,682	17,689	7,276	2,966	160	94,489	4,782	25,122	20,821	14,230	5,750	2,237	104	73,046
Female	1,910	11,660	10,152	6,394	2,263	670	73	33,122	1,445	8,860	7,814	5,213	1,923	576	52	25,883
Not stated	6	88	59	40	31	13	76	313	4	81	61	54	14	18	51	283
All courts (total)	8,484	47,234	38,558	25,120	9,983	3,873	310	133,562	6,407	36,093	30,343	20,411	8,071	3,036	212	104,573
Male	6,535	35,130	28,031	18,511	7,629	3,168	160	99,164	4,929	26,817	22,172	14,981	6,075	2,421	107	77,502
Female	1,943	12,016	10,467	6,568	2,323	692	74	34,083	1,474	9,195	8,110	5,376	1,982	597	54	26,788
Not stated	6	88	60	41	31	13	76	315	4	81	61	54	14	18	51	283

(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

Figure 17 shows the comparison of convicted adult appearances for male and female offenders across six different age groups. In 2019–20, male offenders had substantially more convicted appearances than female offenders across all age groups. However, the convicted appearance trends for males and females were similar, with both peaking at the 20–29 year age group, with 26,817 and 9,195 appearances respectively. The numbers for both sexes then progressively decreased for older age groups.

Figure 17 Convicted adult appearances by age^(a) and sex^{(b)(c)}, all courts, 2019–20



(a) Excludes 212 convicted adult appearances of defendants whose age was not stated.

(b) Excludes 283 convicted adult appearances of defendants whose sex was not stated.

(c) Among these were 51 appearances where both age and sex of defendants were unknown.

As with convicted appearances, the number of proven charges for adult defendants overall has decreased for all age groups, mainly due to the decline in the Magistrates Court. However, this is not the case in the District Court, where proven charges increased to varying extents for defendants in the 30–39, 40–49 and 50–59 years age groups. In the Supreme Court, the number of proven charges decreased for defendants in all but the 19 years and under and 40–49 years age groups, with an overall decline of –5.4%, compared with a much greater drop of –15.2% overall in the Magistrates Court.

Table 24 Proven charges against adults by court type, by age and sex

	2018–19								2019–20 ^(a)							
Age at finalised appearance	19 yrs & under	20–29 years	30–39 years	40–49 years	50–59 years	60 yrs & over	Not stated	Total	19 yrs & under	20–29 years	30–39 years	40–49 years	50–59 years	60 yrs & over	Not stated	Total
Court type / Sex	— number —								— number —							
Supreme	135	3,502	3,899	1,484	583	195	0	9,798	189	3,438	3,707	1,510	368	61	0	9,273
Male	55	2,627	2,883	1,203	482	193	0	7,443	156	2,738	2,827	1,165	353	57	0	7,296
Female	80	875	1,016	281	101	2	0	2,355	33	700	880	345	15	4	0	1,977
District	1,178	9,604	6,625	3,450	1,391	956	1	23,205	886	9,409	7,497	3,549	1,479	718	23	23,561
Male	1,105	8,483	5,659	2,951	1,254	913	0	20,365	759	8,019	6,432	3,069	1,304	668	21	20,272
Female	73	1,121	965	494	137	43	1	2,834	127	1,390	1,065	480	175	50	2	3,289
Not stated	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Magistrates	19,841	112,611	97,490	55,587	19,211	6,428	1,413	312,581	16,427	93,472	83,541	49,882	16,226	4,903	541	264,992
Male	15,509	84,082	71,453	41,001	14,928	5,262	630	232,865	12,603	68,940	62,226	37,726	12,544	3,928	243	198,210
Female	4,324	28,408	25,934	14,523	4,205	1,145	230	78,769	3,819	24,434	21,225	12,092	3,666	937	90	66,263
Not stated	8	121	103	63	78	21	553	947	5	98	90	64	16	38	208	519
Total	21,154	125,717	108,014	60,521	21,185	7,579	1,414	345,584	17,502	106,319	94,745	54,941	18,073	5,682	564	297,826

(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

3.2.7. Indigenous status

A defendant's Indigenous status is based on self-identification by the individual as one of the following four options:

- Aboriginal
- Torres Strait Islander
- Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander (non-Indigenous).

Over the 10-year time series, there has been an ever-decreasing number of adult appearances overall where the defendant's Indigenous status is not stated—from 15.5% in 2010–11 to 2.8% in 2019–20. Despite some minor fluctuations in the higher courts over the series, 2010–11 was the series high for every court type, and 2019–20 the series low. This reduction in the “not stated” status has resulted in an increase in both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous proportions of the total across the series. In 2010–11, defendants identifying as non-Indigenous accounted for 69.7% of all convicted appearances and those identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander accounted for 14.8%, while in 2019–20 they accounted for 79.7% and 17.5% respectively. (Table 25).

Table 25 Convicted adult appearances by court type, by Indigenous status – time series

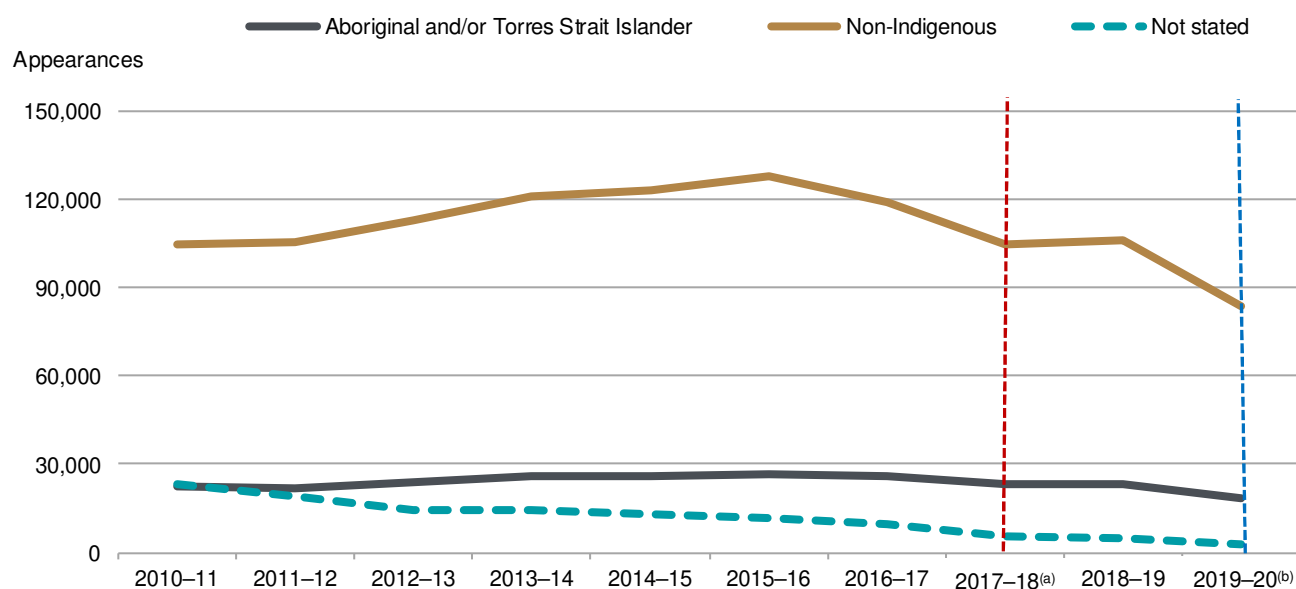
	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
Court type / Indigenous status	— number —									
Supreme Court	940	683	566	492	603	757	1,083	1,342	1,197	1,180
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	36	33	41	37	38	48	64	58	76	72
Non-Indigenous	773	541	443	419	545	664	983	1,243	1,089	1,094
Not stated	131	109	82	36	20	45	36	41	32	14
District Court	3,671	3,370	3,105	3,157	3,353	3,377	3,851	4,125	4,441	4,181
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	609	596	553	594	615	580	639	786	780	813
Non-Indigenous	2,532	2,298	2,190	2,382	2,556	2,636	3,079	3,220	3,524	3,267
Not stated	530	476	362	181	182	161	133	119	137	101
Magistrates Court	145,490	142,549	147,624	157,737	157,813	161,066	149,526	127,821	127,924	99,212
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	21,515	21,047	23,526	25,515	24,987	25,680	24,952	22,343	22,029	17,447
Non-Indigenous	101,330	102,683	110,435	118,426	119,886	124,161	114,889	100,416	101,216	78,948
Not stated	22,645	18,819	13,663	13,796	12,940	11,225	9,685	5,062	4,679	2,817
All courts (total)	150,101	146,602	151,295	161,386	161,769	165,200	154,460	133,288	133,562	104,573
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	22,160	21,676	24,120	26,146	25,640	26,308	25,655	23,187	22,885	18,332
Non-Indigenous	104,635	105,522	113,068	121,227	122,987	127,461	118,951	104,879	105,829	83,309
Not stated	23,306	19,404	14,107	14,013	13,142	11,431	9,854	5,222	4,848	2,932

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

Convicted appearances of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous adult defendants declined around 20% in 2019–20 compared with the previous year. COVID containment measures likely further accelerated the downward trend which followed the time-series high for both in 2015–16, but which appeared to stabilise in 2018–19. Monthly comparison figures show that numbers in 2019–20 were tracking close to the 2018–19 level before heavily declining from March. (Data not shown.)

Figure 18 Convicted adult appearances by Indigenous status, all courts – time series



- (a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
 (b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

Contrary to the overall decrease (–4.9%) in the number of convicted appearances in the higher courts in 2019–20 compared with the previous year, those with *robbery, extortion and related offences* as MSO saw a 14.2% increase. Convicted appearances of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous offenders for this offence type increased by 11.1% and 13.9% respectively. *Illicit drug offences* as MSO continued to dominate in the higher courts in 2019–20, accounting for 33.0% of convicted appearances overall and 37.3% for non-Indigenous defendants, compared with 13.4% for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants. Second-highest, *acts intended to cause injury* accounted for 21.6% of convicted appearances overall but 36.7% for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants, compared with 18.7% for non-Indigenous offenders.

Table 26 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, by Indigenous status, Supreme and District Courts

Most serious offence (MSO)	2018–19				2019–20 ^(a)			
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —							
Homicide and related offences	7	48	1	56	8	43	0	51
Acts intended to cause injury	313	950	23	1,286	325	817	16	1,158
Sexual assault and related offences	100	654	32	786	87	568	27	682
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	18	100	4	122	17	100	1	118
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	10	38	3	51	7	28	1	36
Robbery, extortion and related offences	126	324	2	452	140	369	7	516
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	60	178	6	244	61	161	3	225
Theft and related offences	7	94	5	106	22	84	1	107
Fraud, deception and related offences	4	122	29	155	1	101	22	124
Illicit drug offences	113	1,654	45	1,812	119	1,628	22	1,769
Weapons and explosives offences	0	17	1	18	1	15	1	17
Property damage and environmental pollution	22	73	1	96	21	71	1	93
Public order offences	0	22	1	23	5	8	1	14
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	2	0	2	1	1	0	2
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	75	332	14	421	70	358	11	439
Miscellaneous offences	1	5	2	8	0	9	1	10
Total	856	4,613	169	5,638	885	4,361	115	5,361

(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants in 2019–20, the most common MSO for convicted appearances in the Magistrates Court was *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* (26.2%), followed by *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* (16.4%) and *public order offences* (12.5%). For non-Indigenous defendants, the most common MSO was traffic and vehicle regulatory offences (34.7%), followed by offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations (16.8%) and illicit drug offences (15.2%). This also follows the same pattern as 2018–19. The scaled-back operations during the pandemic resulted in a lower number of convicted appearances overall. However, the distribution of convictions in the Magistrate Courts appeared not to have been impacted by this measure.

Table 27 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, by Indigenous status, Magistrates Court

Most serious offence (MSO)	2018–19				2019–20 ^(a)			
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(b)	— number —							
Acts intended to cause injury	1,887	3,696	61	5,644	1,559	2,977	16	4,552
Sexual assault and related offences	28	110	5	143	30	112	2	144
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	691	4,625	92	5,408	634	3,861	55	4,550
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	46	303	5	354	39	203	3	245
Robbery, extortion and related offences	3	17	0	20	1	11	0	12
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	714	1,671	13	2,398	698	1,534	14	2,246
Theft and related offences	2,148	10,187	99	12,434	1,829	7,957	54	9,840
Fraud, deception and related offences	327	2,171	191	2,689	270	1,671	117	2,058
Illicit drug offences	2,302	15,001	139	17,442	1,833	11,998	43	13,874
Weapons and explosives offences	414	3,127	21	3,562	345	2,488	13	2,846
Property damage and environmental pollution	842	1,873	29	2,744	551	1,438	15	2,004
Public order offences	3,029	4,595	192	7,816	2,179	3,340	132	5,651
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	3,753	35,653	2,963	42,369	2,853	27,389	1,845	32,087
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	5,741	17,329	606	23,676	4,567	13,267	327	18,161
Miscellaneous offences	104	858	263	1,225	59	702	181	942
Total	22,029	101,216	4,679	127,924	17,447	78,948	2,817	99,212

(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(b) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

While the number of convicted appearances in the Supreme and District Courts declined for non-Indigenous defendants (–5.5%) from 2018–19 to 2019–20, there was an increase in appearances for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants (+3.4%) over the same period, resulting in a corresponding 4.2% increase in *imprisonment* for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants.

In contrast, the decrease in convicted appearances for non-Indigenous defendants resulted in decreases in almost all penalty types except *nominal penalty* which saw a 9.9% increase and *driver licence disqualification* which increased by one appearance.

Table 28 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, by Indigenous status, Supreme and District Courts

Most serious penalty	2018–19				2019–20 ^(a)			
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total
Penalty ^(b)	— number —							
Imprisonment	612	2,531	54	3,197	638	2,481	51	3,170
Intensive correction order	5	40	0	45	11	32	0	43
Suspended sentence ^(c)	127	1,183	59	1,369	129	1,059	32	1,220
Community service	10	78	3	91	10	62	3	75
Probation	35	330	14	379	37	296	8	341
Fine	4	135	3	142	5	99	4	108
Compensation/restitution	3	9	11	23	0	6	7	13
Good behaviour order	3	54	16	73	3	47	4	54
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Nominal penalty ^(d)	57	253	9	319	52	278	6	336
Total	856	4,613	169	5,638	885	4,361	115	5,361

(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

(c) Includes both fully and partially suspended imprisonment.

(d) Includes convicted not punished.

In the Magistrates Court in 2019–20 compared with 2018–19, the number of appearances resulting in conviction decreased by 20.8% for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and 22.0% for non-Indigenous offenders. With the exception of *intensive correction order*, which saw a small increase (6.4%) for appearances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders only, all penalties decreased over this period. Of these, *fine* showed the biggest decrease (–21,047 or –24.2%) when compared with 2018–19, followed by *good behaviour order* (–1,673 or –21.6%) and *probation* (–1,656 or –20.1%).

In terms of the distribution of penalties in 2019–20, fine remained by far the most common penalty in convicted appearances of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (54.5%) and non-Indigenous (68.3%) offenders. *Imprisonment* was imposed in 17.4% (3,033) of convicted appearances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders, compared with 6.9% (5,472) of non-Indigenous offenders.

Table 29 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, by Indigenous status, Magistrates Court

Most serious penalty	2018–19				2019–20 ^(a)			
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total
Penalty ^(b)	— number —							
Imprisonment	3,141	6,311	59	9,511	3,033	5,472	41	8,546
Intensive correction order	47	158	4	209	50	106	1	157
Suspended sentence ^(c)	1,690	5,021	59	6,770	1,451	3,896	48	5,395
Community service	1,020	1,781	31	2,832	649	1,327	22	1,998
Probation	1,681	6,496	82	8,259	1,318	5,239	46	6,603
Other penalty ^(d)	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	1
Fine	12,753	70,166	4,055	86,974	9,512	53,956	2,459	65,927
Compensation/restitution	112	824	61	997	95	654	29	778
Good behaviour order	726	6,838	197	7,761	605	5,395	88	6,088
Driver licence disqualification	55	447	3	505	45	418	1	464
Nominal penalty ^(e)	804	3,171	128	4,103	689	2,484	82	3,255
Total	22,029	101,216	4,679	127,924	17,447	78,948	2,817	99,212

(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

(c) Includes both fully and partially suspended imprisonment.

(d) Includes drug and alcohol treatment orders; licence disqualification orders (other than driver licence).

(e) Includes convicted not punished.

3.2.8. Companies

Company defendants accounted for only 0.2% of all finalised appearances in adult courts in 2019–20, and 64.7% of company appearances resulted in a conviction. The vast majority of charges against companies are dealt with in the Magistrates Court, with only a very small number proceeding to a higher court for trial or sentence.

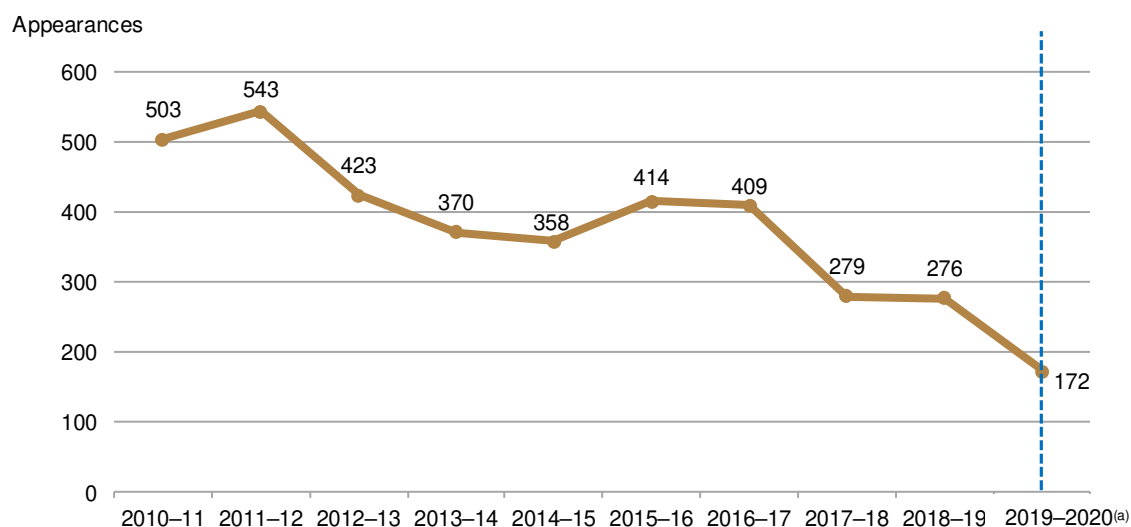
The number of convicted company appearances dropped off significantly and hit a time-series low of 172 in 2019–20, which is a 37.7% decrease since 2018–19. This is mainly due to fewer convicted appearances with MSO of *miscellaneous offences* (–50), *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* (–32) and *traffic and regulatory offences* (–24). These three MSOs are also the most prevalent, accounting for more than eight in ten convicted company appearances in 2019–20.

Table 30 Convicted company appearances, all courts – time series

Most serious offence (MSO)	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(b)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	1	0	0	1	2	0	4	2	1	2
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Theft and related offences	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fraud, deception and related offences	13	13	14	8	9	14	9	6	11	11
Illicit drug offences	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
Weapons and explosives offences	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Property damage and environmental pollution	7	8	7	8	9	5	8	8	9	4
Public order offences	12	13	6	5	8	11	6	7	6	10
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	268	259	192	169	188	195	168	93	84	60
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	59	125	92	98	65	109	130	69	55	23
Miscellaneous offences	142	123	110	81	75	79	84	94	110	60
Total	503	543	423	370	358	414	409	279	276	172

(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(b) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

Figure 19 Convicted company appearances, all courts – time series

(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

2019–20 saw
Queensland's first conviction for
industrial manslaughter.

In 2019–20, *miscellaneous offences* accounted for 33 out of 35 proven charges in the higher courts. The one proven charge for *homicide and related offences* was Queensland's first conviction for industrial manslaughter. In the Magistrates Court, more than half of all proven charges against companies were for miscellaneous offences.

Table 31 Finalised charges against companies, all courts, 2019–20

	2019–20					
	Higher courts ^(a)			Magistrates Court		
	Proven	Not proven	Charges resulting in conviction	Proven	Not proven	Charges resulting in conviction
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(b)	—	number —	%	—	number —	%
Homicide and related offences	1	1	50.0	0	0	..
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	0	0	..	3	0	100.0
Fraud, deception and related offences	0	0	..	41	1	97.6
Illicit drug offences	0	0	..	5	0	100.0
Property damage and environmental pollution	0	0	..	5	6	45.5
Public order offences	0	0	..	45	26	63.4
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	..	73	65	52.9
Offences against justice procedures, government security and operations	1	0	100.0	60	68	46.9
Miscellaneous offences	33	0	100.0	254	84	75.1
Total	35	1	97.2	486	250	66.0

(a) Includes Supreme and District Courts

(b) Excludes offence divisions with zero values

3.3. Children

3.3.1. Finalised appearances

A defendant may have one or multiple charges (offences) finalised in a single appearance, however only the most serious offence (MSO), i.e. the offence with the most serious outcome, is presented here (see Explanatory notes for more detail.)

In 2019–20, nine in ten of the 8,021 child appearances finalised were dealt with in the Childrens Court (Magistrates), and 72.6% of those resulted in conviction.

Table 32 Finalised child appearances, all courts, 2019–20

Most serious offence (MSO)	2019–20					
	Higher courts ^(a)			Childrens Court (Magistrates)		
	Convicted	Not convicted	Appearances resulting in conviction	Convicted	Not convicted	Appearances resulting in conviction
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —		%	— number —		%
Homicide and related offences	1	0	100.0	0	1	0.0
Acts intended to cause injury	127	28	81.9	767	188	80.3
Sexual assault and related offences	54	38	58.7	9	10	47.4
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	11	0	100.0	187	39	82.7
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	3	2	60.0	32	2	94.1
Robbery, extortion and related offences	344	41	89.4	25	63	28.4
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	33	4	89.2	1,058	369	74.1
Theft and related offences	33	6	84.6	1,305	539	70.8
Fraud, deception and related offences	2	0	100.0	84	21	80.0
Illicit drug offences	23	5	82.1	282	118	70.5
Weapons and explosives offences	1	0	100.0	231	58	79.9
Property damage and environmental pollution	32	3	91.4	328	83	79.8
Public order offences	0	0	..	296	169	63.7
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	..	297	127	70.0
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	17	4	81.0	326	182	64.2
Miscellaneous offences	0	0	..	9	4	69.2
Total	681	131	83.9	5,236	1,973	72.6

.. = not applicable

(a) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.

3.3.2. Convicted appearances

This section examines the number of convicted child appearances in Queensland courts over the last 10 years.

In contrast to all other court types, which showed a decrease in convicted appearances in 2019–20 for both adults and children, the number of convicted child appearances in higher courts was the highest in the 10-year time series. Marked increases have been seen in convicted appearances in the two full years since the transition of 17-year-old offenders to the youth justice system, 62.5% and 19.1% overall, driven by large increases in *robbery, extortion and related offences* and *acts intended to cause injury*.

Table 33 Convicted child appearances, all higher courts^(a) – time series

Most serious offence (MSO)	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(c)
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(d)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	6	1	1	2	2	0	0	1	0	1
Acts intended to cause injury	96	81	90	70	57	57	59	66	132	127
Sexual assault and related offences	34	47	46	31	40	29	46	36	42	54
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	5	3	8	11	5	6	5	4	10	11
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	2	0	2	2	2	1	3	2	3	3
Robbery, extortion and related offences	138	111	137	150	96	131	133	135	257	344
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	35	34	31	35	23	26	20	18	25	33
Theft and related offences	15	7	9	16	6	6	10	14	17	33
Fraud, deception and related offences	2	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	2
Illicit drug offences	1	4	3	6	5	3	12	13	30	23
Weapons and explosives offences	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Property damage and environmental pollution	38	28	29	29	21	18	25	27	34	32
Public order offences	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	21	2	0
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	0
Offences against justice procedures, government security and operations	28	13	13	19	27	24	13	14	17	17
Total	400	332	370	375	285	304	328	352	572	681

(a) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.

(b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(c) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(d) Excludes offence divisions with zero value.

In the Childrens Court in 2019–20, convicted appearances were 32.5% (–2,518) lower overall compared with the previous year. Every offence division, except *sexual assault and related offences* which increased by 3 appearances, decreased by varying amounts. The two most prevalent MSOs, *theft and related offences* and *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter*, which together comprised almost half of all convicted appearances in 2019–20, saw declines of –34.7% and –29.7% respectively compared with the previous year.

Table 34 Convicted appearances, Childrens Court (Magistrates) – time series

Most serious offence (MSO)	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —									
Acts intended to cause injury	661	697	692	667	639	630	642	760	967	767
Sexual assault and related offences	9	9	12	14	10	11	10	13	6	9
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	119	143	160	150	165	144	161	210	281	187
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	20	18	17	27	27	27	26	25	40	32
Robbery, extortion and related offences	6	13	17	5	6	6	11	20	26	25
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	1,236	1,324	1,371	1,277	1,099	1,228	1,266	1,400	1,504	1,058
Theft and related offences	1,846	1,668	1,609	1,700	1,534	1,748	1,798	1,826	1,997	1,305
Fraud, deception and related offences	30	35	51	66	68	79	93	120	144	84
Illicit drug offences	214	220	265	268	328	337	312	369	462	282
Weapons and explosives offences	110	120	107	104	150	136	146	204	287	231
Property damage and environmental pollution	507	515	473	533	533	472	478	551	545	328
Public order offences	845	776	676	737	694	632	562	566	560	296
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	412	349	300	233	209	208	143	229	416	297
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	395	388	435	522	467	478	417	399	509	326
Miscellaneous offences	9	6	7	10	14	7	10	10	10	9
Total	6,419	6,281	6,192	6,313	5,943	6,143	6,075	6,702	7,754	5,236

(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

3.3.3. Finalised charges

A charge is finalised when proven, or the charge is withdrawn by the prosecution, dismissed, or defendant is found not guilty. If a charge against a defendant is proven, a conviction will result. An offender may receive one or multiple charges in an appearance. For more detailed counting rules, refer to the Explanatory notes at the end of this report.

Table 35 Finalised charges against children, all courts, 2019–20

	2019–20					
	Higher courts ^(a)			Childrens Court (Magistrates)		
	Proven	Not proven	Charges resulting in conviction	Proven	Not proven	Charges resulting in conviction
Offence division (ANZSOC)	—	number —	%	—	number —	%
Homicide and related offences	2	4	33.3	0	1	0.0
Acts intended to cause injury	316	75	80.8	1,413	346	80.3
Sexual assault and related offences	135	122	52.5	9	21	30.0
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	42	1	97.7	348	73	82.7
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	24	11	68.6	93	16	85.3
Robbery, extortion and related offences	608	95	86.5	56	195	22.3
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	489	43	91.9	4,949	1,526	76.4
Theft and related offences	764	52	93.6	9,544	1,956	83.0
Fraud, deception and related offences	46	1	97.9	971	289	77.1
Illicit drug offences	204	17	92.3	1,816	360	83.5
Weapons and explosives offences	13	1	92.9	445	77	85.2
Property damage and environmental pollution	142	21	87.1	1,838	379	82.9
Public order offences	64	1	98.5	2,463	460	84.3
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	55	1	98.2	1,663	389	81.0
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	151	6	96.2	2,431	525	82.2
Miscellaneous offences	2	0	100.0	48	11	81.4
Total	3,057	451	87.1	28,087	6,624	80.9

. . = not applicable

(a) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.

In 2019–20, *theft and related offences* was the most prevalent finalised charge against children in both higher and lower courts, accounting for 23.3% and 33.1% respectively.

3.3.4. Proven charges

Proven charges against children rose by 164 (or 5.7%) in the higher courts, despite decreasing for all others in 2019–20, except for adults in the District Court. Indeed, proven charges in seven offence divisions were at their peak for the time series. *Theft and related offences* overtook *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* in 2015–16 and continued to be the most prevalent of all proven charges against children in the higher courts, with 764 or 25.0% of all proven charges in 2019–20. For the second consecutive year, *robbery, extortion and related offences* was second-most prevalent, and represented the greatest increase compared with 2018–19. Proven charges for *sexual assault and related offences* grew more than 40% since the previous year. For *illicit drug offences* the number remained relatively high after more than trebling from 2017–18 to 2018–19.

Table 36 Proven charges against children, all higher courts^(a) – time series

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(c)
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	6	1	1	2	2	0	0	2	0	2
Acts intended to cause injury	199	192	258	221	142	131	188	219	271	316
Sexual assault and related offences	111	119	109	112	129	137	112	124	96	135
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	13	13	30	33	21	26	21	21	25	42
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	6	2	10	20	10	5	26	16	18	24
Robbery, extortion and related offences	230	220	231	279	171	208	192	250	534	608
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	367	339	559	485	395	252	334	316	479	489
Theft and related offences	310	374	520	589	378	424	433	458	739	764
Fraud, deception and related offences	24	6	21	18	25	43	39	42	80	46
Illicit drug offences	14	25	34	45	93	47	74	73	226	204
Weapons and explosives offences	3	8	5	9	9	5	11	7	10	13
Property damage and environmental pollution	143	242	173	243	150	137	170	135	176	142
Public order offences	34	36	50	63	36	40	33	57	52	64
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	23	19	55	90	25	41	40	51	56	55
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	87	63	115	125	160	140	85	108	131	151
Miscellaneous offences	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	1	0	2
Total	1,570	1,659	2,173	2,339	1,746	1,636	1,758	1,880	2,893	3,057

(a) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.

(b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(c) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

After reaching a peak in the previous year, the number of charges proven in the Childrens Court in 2019–20 dropped to below the level recorded in 2017–18, representing a decrease of 6,208 (–18.1%) overall. Proven charges decreased for every offence division except *sexual assault and related offences*, which saw an increase of three charges. It should be noted that charges for every offence division had seen an annual increase for two to seven years prior to the decrease in 2019–20, and all but two peaked in 2018–19. In the Childrens Court, similar to the higher courts, *theft and related offences* has consistently been the most prevalent offence type, accounting for one-third of all proven charges in 2019–20, the highest proportion in the 10-year time series. *Property damage and environmental pollution* saw the largest decrease in both number and proportion in 2019–20, falling by 1,232 proven charges (–40.1%) compared with the previous year.

Table 37 Proven charges, Childrens Court (Magistrates) – time series

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —									
Acts intended to cause injury	1,005	1,056	1,109	1,086	1,032	952	1,052	1,361	1,678	1,413
Sexual assault and related offences	14	27	20	31	14	13	13	24	6	9
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	163	217	280	230	257	228	245	339	459	348
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	39	60	49	60	66	78	70	60	121	93
Robbery, extortion and related offences	8	22	27	11	10	15	30	47	59	56
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	3,275	4,019	4,650	3,788	3,468	3,778	4,172	5,168	5,579	4,949
Theft and related offences	6,309	7,116	7,216	6,151	5,796	6,480	7,433	8,666	10,509	9,544
Fraud, deception and related offences	109	106	420	479	764	805	1,086	1,217	1,325	971
Illicit drug offences	574	674	923	863	1,107	1,220	1,311	1,512	2,316	1,816
Weapons and explosives offences	155	162	180	189	212	202	237	320	460	445
Property damage and environmental pollution	2,152	2,597	3,485	2,906	3,443	2,302	2,123	2,638	3,070	1,838
Public order offences	2,359	2,444	2,265	2,590	2,795	2,702	2,585	3,088	3,330	2,463
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	1,890	1,609	1,773	1,562	1,306	1,442	1,390	1,515	2,206	1,663
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	1,712	1,944	2,013	2,296	2,396	2,511	2,164	2,612	3,110	2,431
Miscellaneous offences	26	37	51	39	45	34	29	44	67	48
Total	19,790	22,090	24,461	22,281	22,711	22,762	23,940	28,611	34,295	28,087

(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

3.3.5. Penalties

Nominal penalty was consistently the most serious penalty imposed in the majority of convicted child appearances throughout the time series, despite a 35.8% decrease in 2019–20 compared with the previous year. Appearances with *court-ordered conference* as most serious penalty rose to a high of 1,396 in 2019–20, even as convicted appearances overall dropped to below 6,000 for the first time in ten years. As a result, it overtook *probation* to become the second-most prevalent penalty (1,396 or 23.6%) for the year.

The total number of convicted child appearances fell by 2,409 or 28.9% in 2019–20 compared with the previous year. The biggest decreases were seen in convicted appearances with *nominal penalty*, *good behaviour order* and *community service* as most serious penalty, together accounting for 75.0% of the overall decrease.

Table 38 Convicted child appearances by most serious penalty, all courts – time series

Most serious penalty	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
Penalty ^(c)	— number —									
Detention ^(d)	134	90	100	121	159	119	96	97	85	76
Intensive supervision	5	3	6	12	14	9	2	12	5	5
Immediate/conditional release (IRO/CRO)	333	387	363	478	392	450	392	397	592	456
Community service ^(e)	987	786	951	1,163	1,140	1,034	833	878	983	555
Probation	1,014	906	1,132	1,271	1,095	1,207	1,153	1,356	1,476	1,102
Treatment order ^(f)	38	37	38	32	49	72	46	71	107	62
Court-ordered conference ^(g)	1,099	1,256	387	0	0	0	731	898	1,340	1,396
Fine	151	121	102	65	88	72	59	73	154	73
Compensation/restitution	59	50	52	56	38	19	25	26	26	6
Good behaviour order	914	833	1,163	1,183	1,063	1,084	946	970	1,154	591
Driver licence disqualification	21	15	20	11	20	29	11	45	126	132
Nominal penalty ^(h)	2,064	2,129	2,248	2,296	2,170	2,352	2,109	2,231	2,278	1,463
Total	6,819	6,613	6,562	6,688	6,228	6,447	6,403	7,054	8,326	5,917

. . = not applicable

(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) In descending order of seriousness.

(d) Includes detention, imprisonment and boot camp. Boot camp orders were introduced in January 2013 and were repealed in July 2015.

(e) Also includes graffiti-removal orders, which were introduced in September 2013.

(f) Involves offender participating in a drug assessment and education session.

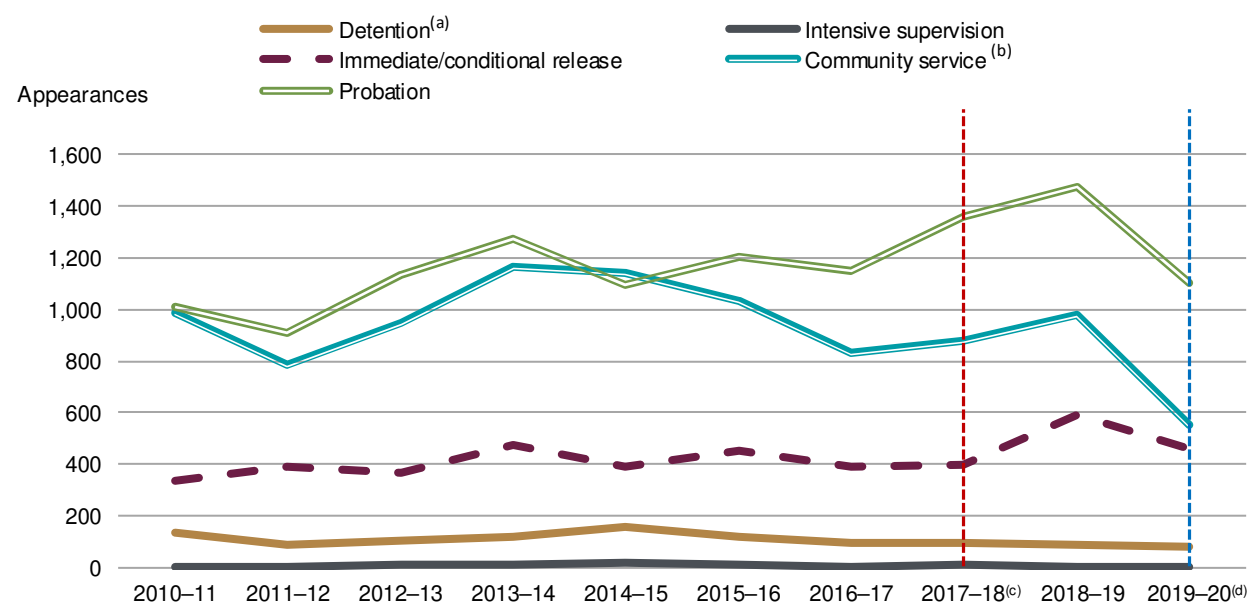
(g) Court-ordered conferences were discontinued in January 2013 and re-introduced on 1 July 2016.

(h) Includes reprimand; convicted not punished.

The five most serious penalties imposed on children, in order of seriousness, are *detention*, *intensive supervision*, *immediate/conditional release*, *community service* and *probation*. Figure 20 shows the number of convicted child appearances over the 10-year time series which incurred these penalties as their most serious.

All of these penalties except *intensive supervision* experienced varying degrees of decline in 2019–20. *Probation* was the most prevalent (1,102 in 2019–20) of these five penalties imposed over the time series (except in 2014–15). *Community service* and *immediate/conditional release* remained second and third–most prevalent (555 and 456 respectively in 2019–20) although the gap between the two continued to converge. This was due to the number of convicted appearances with community service as most serious penalty declining by more than 40% in 2019–20 after climbing steadily for the previous two years.

Figure 20 Convicted child appearances by the five most serious penalties, all courts – time series



(a) Includes detention, imprisonment and boot camp. Boot camp orders were introduced in January 2013 and were repealed in July 2015.

(b) Also includes graffiti-removal orders, which were introduced in September 2013.

(c) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(d) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

Nominal penalty was the most serious penalty imposed in 24.7% of all convicted child appearances in Queensland courts, closely followed by *court-ordered conference* (23.6%) and then *probation* (18.6%). In over one-third of all convicted child appearances where *theft and related offences* was the most serious offence, nominal penalty was the most serious penalty imposed.

Table 39 Convicted child appearances by most serious offence and most serious penalty, all courts, 2019–20

Most serious penalty ^(a) Most serious offence (MSO)	2019–20												Total
	Detention	Intensive supervision	IRO/CRO	Community service ^(b)	Probation	Treatment order ^(c)	Court-ordered conference	Fine	Compensation / restitution	Good behaviour order	Driver licence disqual.	Nominal penalty ^(d)	
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —												
Homicide and related offences	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Acts intended to cause injury	20	3	101	58	287	0	268	1	0	87	0	69	894
Sexual assault and related offences	4	0	13	4	32	0	5	0	0	3	0	2	63
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	0	0	40	11	54	1	46	6	0	16	7	17	198
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	0	0	4	2	14	0	8	0	0	5	0	2	35
Robbery, extortion and related offences	12	0	75	19	191	0	58	1	0	8	0	5	369
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	33	1	158	151	253	0	293	4	0	84	0	114	1,091
Theft and related offences	4	1	42	119	109	1	396	1	6	189	0	470	1,338
Fraud, deception and related offences	0	0	2	6	15	1	26	0	0	11	0	25	86
Illicit drug offences	0	0	2	7	46	59	53	4	0	33	0	101	305
Weapons and explosives offences	2	0	11	17	38	0	60	0	0	37	0	67	232
Property damage and environmental pollution	1	0	2	141	34	0	72	2	0	23	0	85	360
Public order offences	0	0	0	13	10	0	51	1	0	48	0	173	296
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	0	5	2	0	33	48	0	24	125	60	297
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	0	0	5	2	16	0	24	5	0	22	0	269	343
Miscellaneous offences	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	4	9
Total	76	5	456	555	1,102	62	1,396	73	6	591	132	1,463	5,917

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) Also includes graffiti-removal orders.

(c) Involves offender participating in a drug assessment and education session.

(d) Includes reprimand; convicted not punished.

Since 2012–13, when convicted child appearances of males outnumbered those of females by 3.2 to one, the ratio slowly declined to 2.6 to one in 2017–18 before rising again to 2.8 to one in 2019–20. Despite the number of convicted appearances being the lowest in the 10-year time series (and –28.9% overall compared with 2018–19), male defendants still accounted for 73.6% of all convicted child appearances, and female defendants 26.4% in 2019–20.

Table 40 Convicted child appearances by most serious penalty, by sex, all courts – time series

	2010–11			2011–12			2012–13			2013–14			2014–15		
Most serious penalty	Male	Female	Total^(a)	Male	Female	Total^(a)	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total^(a)	Male	Female	Total^(a)
Penalty ^(b)	— number —														
Detention ^(c)	127	7	134	83	7	90	87	13	100	105	16	121	130	29	159
Intensive supervision	5	0	5	3	0	3	6	0	6	11	1	12	13	1	14
Immediate/conditional release	291	42	333	351	36	387	317	46	363	387	91	478	328	64	392
Community service ^(d)	821	166	987	660	126	786	775	176	951	941	222	1,163	943	197	1,140
Probation	748	266	1,014	673	233	906	836	296	1,132	921	350	1,271	789	306	1,095
Treatment order ^(e)	31	7	38	25	12	37	32	6	38	23	9	32	47	2	49
Court-ordered conference ^(f)	784	315	1,099	941	314	1,256	293	94	387	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fine	127	24	151	102	19	121	89	13	102	54	9	65	68	20	88
Compensation/restitution	49	10	59	37	13	50	32	20	52	37	19	56	30	8	38
Good behaviour order	679	235	914	619	214	833	860	303	1,163	851	332	1,183	788	274	1,063
Driver licence disqualification	16	5	21	11	4	15	16	4	20	10	1	11	17	3	20
Nominal penalty ^(g)	1,434	628	2,064	1,497	631	2,129	1,639	609	2,248	1,616	679	2,296	1,487	682	2,170
Total	5,112	1,705	6,819	5,002	1,609	6,613	4,982	1,580	6,562	4,956	1,729	6,688	4,640	1,586	6,228

. . = not applicable

(a) Total includes a very small number of appearances where the defendant's sex was not stated.

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

(c) Includes detention, imprisonment and boot camp. Boot camp orders were introduced in January 2013 and were repealed in July 2015.

(d) Also includes graffiti-removal orders, which were introduced in September 2013.

(e) Involves offender participating in a drug assessment and education session.

(f) Court-ordered conferences were discontinued in January 2013 and re-introduced on 1 July 2016.

(g) Includes reprimand; convicted not punished.

Table 40 continued.

	2015–16			2016–17			2017–18 ^(a)			2018–19			2019–20 ^(b)		
Most serious penalty	Male	Female	Total ^(c)	Male	Female	Total ^(c)	Male	Female	Total ^(c)	Male	Female	Total ^(c)	Male	Female	Total ^(c)
Penalty ^(d)	— number —														
Detention ^(e)	96	23	119	83	13	96	83	14	97	79	6	85	70	6	76
Intensive supervision	9	0	9	2	0	2	12	0	12	4	1	5	4	1	5
Immediate/conditional release	378	72	450	321	71	392	339	58	397	521	71	592	403	53	456
Community service ^(f)	845	188	1,034	627	206	833	703	175	878	746	237	983	440	115	555
Probation	887	320	1,207	854	299	1,153	997	359	1,356	1,046	430	1,476	815	287	1,102
Treatment order ^(g)	57	15	72	32	14	46	55	16	71	82	25	107	46	16	62
Court-ordered conference ^(h)	0	0	0	547	184	731	651	247	898	967	373	1,340	976	420	1,396
Fine	64	8	72	53	6	59	64	9	73	123	31	154	61	12	73
Compensation	15	4	19	15	10	25	21	5	26	24	2	26	4	2	6
Good behaviour order	773	311	1,084	691	255	946	643	327	970	811	343	1,154	401	190	591
Driver licence disqualification	23	6	29	10	1	11	36	9	45	100	26	126	100	32	132
Nominal penalty ⁽ⁱ⁾	1,635	717	2,352	1,442	666	2,109	1,489	740	2,231	1,589	688	2,278	1,033	427	1,463
Total	4,782	1,664	6,447	4,677	1,725	6,403	5,093	1,959	7,054	6,092	2,233	8,326	4,353	1,561	5,917

. . = not applicable

(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) Total includes a very small number of appearances where the defendant's sex was not stated.

(d) In descending order of seriousness.

(e) Includes detention, imprisonment and boot camp. Boot camp orders were introduced in January 2013 and were repealed in July 2015.

(f) Also includes graffiti-removal orders, which were introduced in September 2013.

(g) Involves offender participating in a drug assessment and education session.

(h) Court-ordered conferences were discontinued in January 2013 and re-introduced on 1 July 2016.

(i) Includes reprimand; convicted not punished.

3.3.6. Age and sex

Statistics in this section relate to persons dealt with by the courts for offences committed while the defendant was a child. Previously, this was young people aged 10–16 years at time of offence. Since legislative changes were implemented in February 2018, 17-year-old offenders are now dealt with as children. Age of defendant is their age as at date of finalised appearance, not at date of offence.

In 2019–20, the number of convicted child appearances in the higher courts increased for every age group, for both males and females, compared with 2018–19. In contrast, the numbers in both the Childrens Court and overall decreased for every age group for both males and females. The largest drop in convicted appearances of male defendants was in the 17 years and over age group (–614), while for female defendants both the 15 years and 17 years and over age groups each saw an overall decrease of –170.

Table 41 Convicted child appearances by court type, by age and sex

	2018–19								2019–20 ^(a)							
Age at finalised appearance	12 yrs and under	13 years	14 years	15 years	16 years	17 yrs and over	Not stated	Total	12 yrs and under	13 years	14 years	15 years	16 years	17 yrs and over	Not stated	Total
Court type / Sex	— number —								— number —							
Higher courts^(b)	3	15	43	94	108	308	1	572	9	37	56	110	136	333	0	681
Male	2	13	25	65	82	261	1	449	6	30	37	70	101	281	0	525
Female	1	2	18	29	26	47	0	123	3	7	19	40	35	52	0	156
Childrens (Magistrates)	352	617	1,050	1,421	1,661	2,641	12	7,754	211	427	696	917	1,141	1,834	10	5,236
Male	285	445	698	957	1,200	2,048	10	5,643	157	281	501	634	834	1,414	7	3,828
Female	67	172	352	464	460	593	2	2,110	54	146	195	283	307	418	2	1,405
Not stated	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
All courts (total)	355	632	1,093	1,515	1,769	2,949	13	8,326	220	464	752	1,027	1,277	2,167	10	5,917
Male	287	458	723	1,022	1,282	2,309	11	6,092	163	311	538	704	935	1,695	7	4,353
Female	68	174	370	493	486	640	2	2,233	57	153	214	323	342	470	2	1,561
Not stated	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3

(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

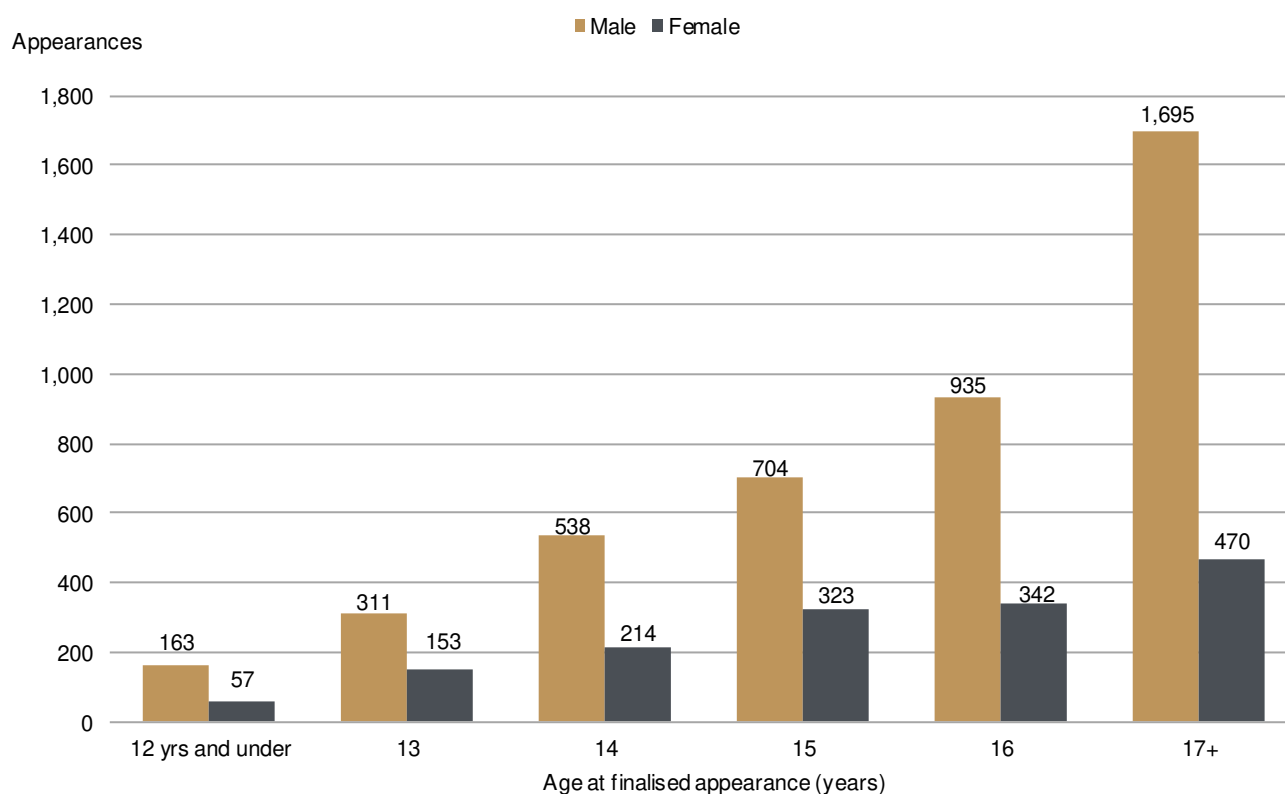
(b) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.

In 2019–20, in a similar pattern to convicted adult appearances, young male offenders had a substantially higher number of convicted appearances than females across all age groups. The number for both sexes generally increased with the age of defendants.

As a proportion of all convicted appearances by age group in 2019–20, young female defendants had the lowest proportion at age 17 years and over (21.7%). In all other age groups, female defendants accounted for more than a quarter of the total, with 13 and 15-year-olds accounting for 33.0% and 31.5%.

Unlike 2018–19, young male defendants accounted for less than 80% in every age group in 2019–20, with the highest proportion at 78.2% for those aged 17 years and over (Table 42).

Figure 21 Convicted child appearances by age^(a) and sex^(b), all courts, 2019–20



(a) Age of defendant is reported as at date of finalised appearance, not at date of offence.

(b) Excludes a small number of appearances of defendants whose age and/or sex were not stated.

As with convicted appearances, the number of proven charges against children overall rose for every age group in the higher courts and conversely dipped for every age group in the Childrens Court in 2019–20 compared with the previous year. However, this pattern is not evident when proven charges are examined by sex.

In the higher courts, there were fewer charges proven against 15-year-old male defendants (–142) and against female defendants aged 13, 14 and 17 years and over (–9, –44 and –42 respectively), while males and females in all other age groups saw an increase compared with 2018–19. In the Childrens Court, male and female defendants of every year of age saw a clear decrease in proven charges, with the exception of 13-year-old female defendants, who had 375 (or 51.0%) more charges proven than in the previous year.

The average number of proven charges per convicted appearance in the higher courts decreased to 4.5 in 2019–20 compared with 5.1 in 2018–19, while in the Childrens Court the average rose to 5.4 per convicted appearance from 4.4 in the previous year. Female defendants aged 13 years had the highest number of proven charges per appearance in all courts, at 7.4, compared with 4.4 in 2018–19, a direct result of the decrease in appearances and increase in proven charges for this group. Both male and female defendants aged 17 years and over continued to have the lowest average number of all age groups, at 4.6 and 3.7 proven charges per appearance respectively in 2019–20 despite the average for males increasing from 4.2 in the previous year.

Table 42 Proven charges against children by court type, by age and sex

	2018–19								2019–20 ^(a)							
Age at finalised appearance	12 yrs and under	13 years	14 years	15 years	16 years	17 yrs and over	Not stated	Total	12 yrs and under	13 years	14 years	15 years	16 years	17 yrs and over	Not stated	Total
Court type / sex	— number —								— number —							
Higher courts^(b)	5	105	206	530	483	1,563	1	2,893	35	119	171	471	550	1,711	0	3,057
Male	3	78	111	447	388	1,336	1	2,364	10	101	120	305	436	1,526	0	2,498
Female	2	27	95	83	95	227	0	529	25	18	51	166	114	185	0	559
Childrens (Magistrates)	2,158	3,153	4,943	6,373	7,096	10,524	48	34,295	1,334	3,005	4,429	5,580	5,980	7,748	11	28,087
Male	1,799	2,418	3,439	4,670	5,308	8,370	46	26,050	1,063	1,895	3,336	4,068	4,796	6,179	8	21,345
Female	359	735	1,504	1,703	1,787	2,154	2	8,244	271	1,110	1,093	1,512	1,184	1,567	2	6,739
Not stated	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
All courts (total)	2,163	3,258	5,149	6,903	7,579	12,087	49	37,188	1,369	3,124	4,600	6,051	6,530	9,459	11	31,144
Male	1,802	2,496	3,550	5,117	5,696	9,706	47	28,414	1,073	1,996	3,456	4,373	5,232	7,705	8	23,843
Female	361	762	1,599	1,786	1,882	2,381	2	8,773	296	1,128	1,144	1,678	1,298	1,752	2	7,298
Not stated	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3

(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(b) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.

3.3.7. Indigenous status

Defendants identified as non-Indigenous accounted for 56.1% of all convicted child appearances in the higher courts and 51.7% in the Childrens Court in 2019–20, compared with 42.4% and 47.2% in the same period for those who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. The number and proportion of appearances with defendants whose Indigenous status was unknown were at their lowest in the time series at 1.1% (or 67) of the total, compared with the high of 10.5% (717) in 2010–11.

Table 43 Convicted child appearances by court type, by Indigenous status – time series

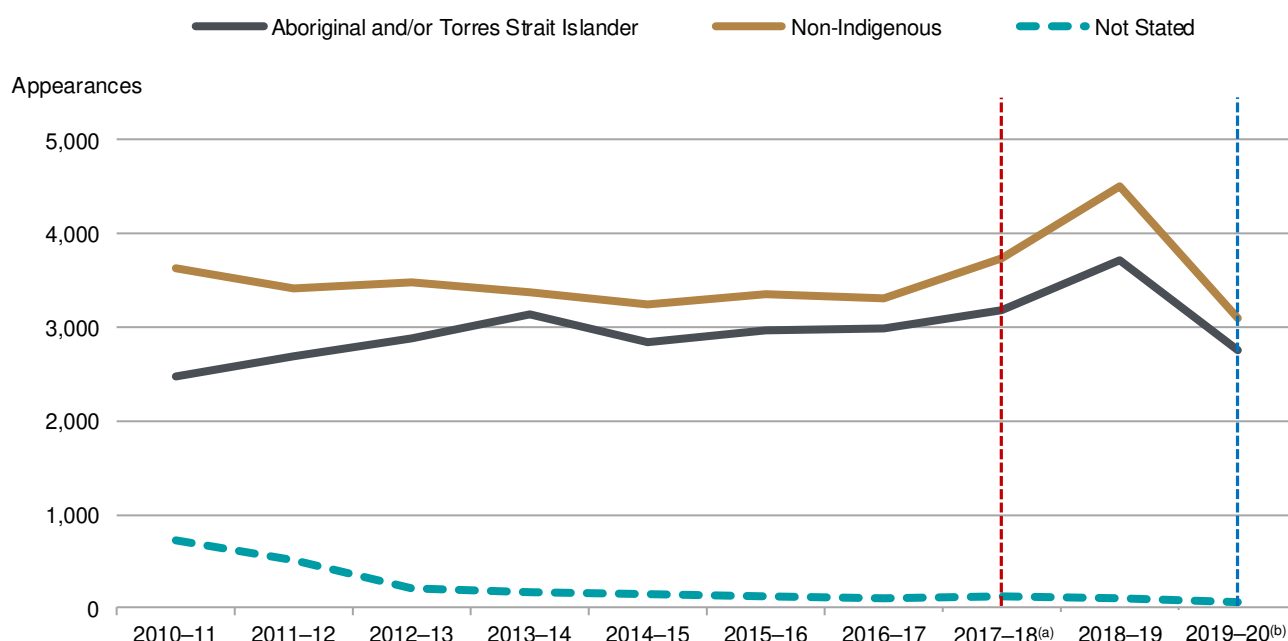
	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
Court type / Indigenous status	— number —									
Higher courts^(c)	400	332	370	375	285	304	328	352	572	681
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	97	95	144	157	112	128	105	151	232	289
Non-Indigenous	248	185	203	207	168	164	213	189	329	382
Not stated	55	52	23	11	5	12	10	12	11	10
Childrens Court (Magistrates)	6,419	6,281	6,192	6,313	5,943	6,143	6,075	6,702	7,754	5,236
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	2,385	2,586	2,728	2,975	2,723	2,850	2,884	3,035	3,486	2,473
Non-Indigenous	3,372	3,230	3,267	3,174	3,072	3,184	3,087	3,552	4,177	2,706
Not stated	662	465	197	164	148	109	104	115	91	57
All courts (total)	6,819	6,613	6,562	6,688	6,228	6,447	6,403	7,054	8,326	5,917
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	2,482	2,681	2,872	3,132	2,835	2,978	2,989	3,186	3,718	2,762
Non-Indigenous	3,620	3,415	3,470	3,381	3,240	3,348	3,300	3,741	4,506	3,088
Not stated	717	517	220	175	153	121	114	127	102	67

(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.

Figure 22 Convicted child appearances by Indigenous status, all courts – time series



(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

In higher courts in 2019–20, *robbery, extortion and related offences* was the most serious offence in 54.3% (or 157) of all convicted child appearances for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants and 48.2% (or 184) for non-Indigenous defendants, compared with 42.7% and 47.1% respectively in 2018–19. Second-most prevalent for all defendants was *acts intended to cause injury*, which saw a small decrease overall compared with the previous year. Convicted appearances with *sexual assault and related offences* as MSO saw a decrease of 3 appearances (–17.6%) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants, but an increase of 12 (48.0%) for non-Indigenous defendants.

Table 44 Convicted child appearances by most serious offence, by Indigenous status, all higher courts^(a)

Most serious offence (MSO)	2018–19				2019–20 ^(b)			
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —							
Homicide and related offences	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Acts intended to cause injury	59	70	3	132	55	70	2	127
Sexual assault and related offences	17	25	0	42	14	37	3	54
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	6	4	0	10	5	6	0	11
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	1	2	0	3	1	2	0	3
Robbery, extortion and related offences	99	155	3	257	157	184	3	344
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	13	12	0	25	20	12	1	33
Theft and related offences	8	9	0	17	15	18	0	33
Fraud, deception and related offences	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	2
Illicit drug offences	1	28	1	30	0	23	0	23
Weapons and explosive offences	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Property damage and environmental pollution	18	16	0	34	13	18	1	32
Public order offences	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	6	7	4	17	8	9	0	17
Total	232	329	11	572	289	382	10	681

(a) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

Probation continued to be the most serious penalty in 45.3% of all convicted child appearances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants in 2019–20, followed by *immediate/conditional release* orders, which accounted for 27.0%. These were also the two most prevalent penalties for non-Indigenous child defendants, comprising 52.6% and 16.5% respectively.

Table 45 Convicted child appearances by most serious penalty, by Indigenous status, all higher courts^(a)

Most serious penalty	2018–19				2019–20 ^(b)			
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total
Penalty ^(c)	— number —							
Detention ^(d)	15	9	0	24	18	8	1	27
Intensive supervision	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Immediate/conditional release	71	72	1	144	78	63	3	144
Community service ^(e)	19	22	0	41	16	27	0	43
Probation	104	183	3	290	131	201	3	335
Court-ordered conference	11	20	3	34	30	45	1	76
Fine	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Compensation/restitution	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Good behaviour order	3	6	0	9	2	15	1	18
Nominal penalty ^(f)	9	16	4	29	13	22	0	35
Total	232	329	11	572	289	382	10	681

(a) Includes the Childrens Court of Queensland and Supreme and District Courts.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) In descending order of seriousness.

(d) Includes detention, imprisonment and boot camp. Boot camp orders were introduced in January 2013 and were repealed in July 2015.

(e) Also includes graffiti-removal orders, which were introduced in September 2013.

(f) Includes reprimand and convicted not punished.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants in 2019–20, convicted appearances in the Childrens court followed the same pattern as in 2018–19. *Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* (27.5%) was the most prevalent MSO, followed by *theft and related offences* (25.2%) and *acts intended to cause injury* (15.5%).

For non-Indigenous defendants in 2019–20, the most prevalent MSO was *theft and related offences* (24.9%). *Acts intended to cause injury* (13.9%) overtook *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* (13.7%) as second-most prevalent.

Table 46 Convicted appearances by Indigenous status, Childrens Court (Magistrates)

Most serious offence (MSO)	2018–19				2019–20 ^(a)			
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(b)	— number —							
Acts intended to cause injury	453	505	9	967	384	377	6	767
Sexual assault and related offences	2	3	1	6	5	3	1	9
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	101	177	3	281	66	120	1	187
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	12	27	1	40	11	21	0	32
Robbery, extortion and related offences	4	20	2	26	4	19	2	25
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	975	518	11	1,504	681	372	5	1,058
Theft and related offences	855	1,125	17	1,997	623	675	7	1,305
Fraud, deception and related offences	36	107	1	144	24	59	1	84
Illicit drug offences	91	365	6	462	55	227	0	282
Weapons and explosives offences	96	187	4	287	78	151	2	231
Property damage and environmental pollution	299	242	4	545	175	152	1	328
Public order offences	259	296	5	560	159	136	1	296
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	65	341	10	416	50	237	10	297
Offences against justice procedures, government security and operations	236	257	16	509	154	152	20	326
Miscellaneous offences	2	7	1	10	4	5	0	9
Total	3,486	4,177	91	7,754	2,473	2,706	57	5,236

(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(b) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

Nominal penalty was the most prevalent penalty (25.6%) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants in the Childrens Court, and second-most prevalent (28.6%) for non-Indigenous child defendants after *court-ordered conference* (29.2%).

While there were more convicted appearances of non-Indigenous than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants in the Childrens Court in 2019–20, each of the five most serious penalties (*detention, intensive supervision, immediate/conditional release, community service* and *probation*) were imposed in more appearances where the defendant was Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander than where the defendant was non-Indigenous.

Table 47 Convicted appearances by most serious penalty, by Indigenous status, Childrens Court (Magistrates)

Most serious penalty	2018–19				2019–20 ^(a)			
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total
Penalty ^(b)	— number —							
Detention ^(c)	42	18	1	61	38	11	0	49
Intensive supervision	3	1	1	5	4	0	0	4
Immediate/conditional release	330	116	2	448	236	75	1	312
Community service ^(d)	622	316	4	942	367	141	4	512
Probation	627	552	7	1,186	403	362	2	767
Treatment order ^(e)	14	91	2	107	6	56	0	62
Court-ordered conference	456	835	15	1,306	519	789	12	1,320
Fine	26	124	4	154	12	51	8	71
Compensation/restitution	6	19	0	25	0	5	1	6
Good behaviour order	421	713	11	1,145	243	326	4	573
Driver licence disqualification	15	110	1	126	13	117	2	132
Nominal penalty ^(f)	924	1,282	43	2,249	632	773	23	1,428
Total	3,486	4,177	91	7,754	2,473	2,706	57	5,236

(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

(c) Includes detention, imprisonment and boot camp. Boot camp orders were introduced in January 2013 and were repealed in July 2015.

(d) Also includes graffiti-removal orders, which were introduced in September 2013.

(e) Involves offender participating in a drug assessment and education session.

(f) Includes reprimand, convicted not punished.

4.0 Youth justice

Source: Unpublished data supplied by the Department of Youth Justice.

This should be read in conjunction with the Explanatory notes and Glossary at the end of the report.

Unique⁷ young persons	2018–19	2019–20^(a)	% change	
... with a finalised court appearance⁸	5,148	3,933	–23.6	↓
Male	3,735	2,823	–24.4	↓
Female	1,412	1,108	–21.5	↓
... commencing a supervised youth justice order	2,064	1,571	–23.9	↓
Male	1,549	1,191	–23.1	↓
Female	515	380	–26.2	↓
<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)</i>	<i>60.2</i>	<i>60.5</i>	<i>0.3ppt</i>	↔
... admitted to youth detention centre	806	881	9.3	↑
Male	622	696	11.9	↑
Female	184	185	0.5	↔
<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)</i>	<i>68.1</i>	<i>60.7</i>	<i>–7.4ppt</i>	↓
Average daily number				
... on community-based supervised orders	1,643	1,514	–7.9	↓
... in custody⁹ (including police watchhouses)	252	208	–17.5	↓
... in youth detention centre	213	200	–6.1	↓

(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

ppt = percentage point

In 2019–20:



Unique defendants with a finalised court appearance

- 71.8% of all unique child defendants were male.
- 17-year-old offenders accounted for 30.8% of unique child defendants.
- The rates of unique child defendants were at their lowest in ten years for every age between 10 to 17 years (except for 12-year-olds, which was marginally lower in 2012–13).

Admissions to youth justice orders

- 64.5% of admissions to supervised youth justice orders were for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders, the largest proportion in the 10-year time series.
- Admissions to unsupervised youth justice orders were at their lowest level in the 10-year time series.

Admissions to youth detention

- Almost all admissions to youth detention centres in 2019–20 were unsentenced (99.0%).
- Unsentenced admissions increased 34.1% in 2019–20 compared with 2010–11 while sentenced admissions decreased 80.6% over the same period.



⁷ 'Unique' refers to the counting of an individual only once in a reference year, irrespective of how many times they appeared in court; commenced a supervised youth justice order; or were admitted to a detention centre in that period.

⁸ Total includes a small number whose sex is identified as intersex or indeterminate.

⁹ In custody includes young people in youth detention centres on pre-court custody, remand or sentence; young people in police watchhouses on post-court remand or sentence; but excludes pre-court custody in police watchhouses.

4.1. Overview

This section presents summary statistics about the number and characteristics of unique child defendants with one or more finalised appearances in Queensland's criminal courts, and young people under the supervision of Youth Justice. The report presents time series data for up to 10 years to 2019–20, and includes a profile of these young people, including their age, sex, and Indigenous status (where known).

Rates were calculated using the most current estimated resident population data available for the reference years, for persons aged 10–16 years for any period prior to 12 February 2018, and persons aged 10–17 years from 12 February 2018 onwards. (See *Rates* in Explanatory notes at the end of this report for further details.)

COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, containment measures and restrictions were introduced in Queensland from March 2020. These restrictions had an impact on levels of criminal activity and justice system processes in the last quarter of 2019–20 and resulted in lower than usual numbers and rates of unique young people dealt with in the courts and admitted to youth justice orders. Containment measures within the justice system included the Magistrates (including Childrens) Court heavily scaling back their operations from mid-March until the courts system returned to near-normal operations in mid-June. This reduction in court appearances and finalisations had a flow-on effect on youth justice order admissions and discharges during that period. (See section 4.2.1 for more detail.)

The pandemic is a significant and ongoing event, and comparisons with earlier periods must be made with caution.

Youth Justice legislation

Implementation in February 2018 of the *Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Act 2016* and the Youth Justice (Transitional) Regulation 2018 meant that, from that date onwards, 17-year-old offenders are dealt with in the youth justice system.

Statistically, this means a **break in the time series** in 2017–18, and comparisons with figures in periods before and after this transition period must be made with caution.

Legislative changes implemented in February 2018 began to show a definite impact on youth justice statistics for 2017–18, however the full extent of the impact became clearer in 2018–19 figures. To illustrate the impact of the changes, this chapter includes some statistics based on offender age or age cohort at time of offence, to show the number of 17-year-old offenders who otherwise would have been dealt with in the adult justice system.

Information displayed in this publication may vary from data published elsewhere by QGSO and others, due to differences in the dates data were extracted and frequency of revision, and/or in counting rules or statistical standards applied. Readers are urged to exercise caution when making comparison between publications.

It should be noted that Youth Justice uses different terms and counting rules from the Queensland Courts to explain volume counts in relation to child offenders in courts. In this section, the principal counting unit is *unique child defendant*, and an individual is counted only once in a reference year, irrespective of whether they had one or multiple finalised appearances in the year.

Please note that rates in this section are presented per 10,000 persons (see *Counting methodology* in the Explanatory notes), which is consistent with national reporting by the AIHW in *Youth Justice in Australia*.

4.1.1. Unique defendants

A unique defendant in the youth justice context is a young person with at least one finalised appearance as a child in a Queensland criminal court during a reference year, and an individual is counted only once in a reference year.

The tables and figures in this section present unique child defendants by their age at time of offence, irrespective of their age at finalised appearance in court.

There is generally a delay, of variable length, between when an offence occurs and when the matter is finalised in court. Such delays may be due, for example, to time taken to clear the offence (including identifying the alleged offender(s)), and/or time taken to finalise matters which may span more than one court level.

In 2019–20, there were 3,933 unique young people aged 10–17 years at time of offence, who had at least one finalised child appearance in a Queensland criminal court (Table 48). This was 1,215 fewer unique defendants (– 23.6%) than the peak count of 5,148 in 2018–19.

Nearly three-quarters of unique defendants were male, in all years of the time series. However, the proportion of male unique defendants has been slowly decreasing from 73.9% in 2010–11 to 71.8% in 2019–20, the lowest proportion in the time series.

Table 48 Unique child defendants by age and sex – time series

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
	— persons —									
Sex										
Male	3,223	3,143	2,943	2,891	2,746	2,780	2,685	3,158	3,735	2,823
Female	1,136	1,043	971	1,027	1,007	1,020	1,040	1,219	1,412	1,108
Age at time of offence^(c) (years)										
10	25	32	28	27	36	30	26	35	42	23
11	69	68	79	85	68	92	76	84	87	56
12	175	183	140	170	184	206	208	220	211	165
13	426	402	434	423	421	446	443	464	462	325
14	770	783	771	721	725	753	782	757	722	538
15	1,201	1,169	998	1,091	965	999	979	1,042	942	719
16	1,693	1,549	1,465	1,402	1,355	1,274	1,212	1,175	1,154	897
17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	603	1,528	1,210
Total^(d)	4,359	4,186	3,915	3,919	3,754	3,800	3,726	4,380	5,148	3,933

.. = not applicable

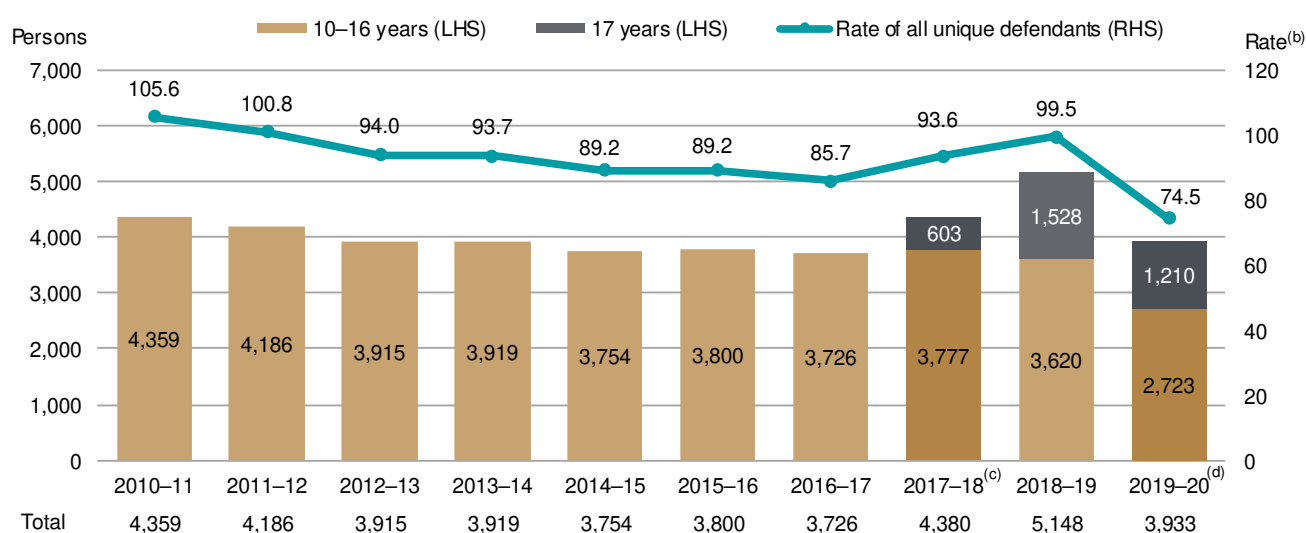
(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first finalised appearance date in the reporting period. For a very small number of defendants in 2010–11 and 2011–12, where offence date was unknown, defendant's age was calculated as at the date of first finalised appearance in the reporting period.

(d) Total includes defendants whose sex is identified as intersex or indeterminate.

The legislative change in February 2018 caused a significant increase in the number of people dealt with in the youth justice system in 2018–19. Figure 23 demonstrates that 17-year-olds accounted for nearly a third of unique child defendants in 2018–19 and 2019–20, the two full years since this age group transitioned from the adult to the youth justice system.

Figure 23 Count and rate of unique child defendants, by offender age cohort^(a) – time series

(a) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first finalised appearance date in the reporting period.

(b) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2010–11 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.

(c) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(d) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

Following the pattern of previous years, the rate of unique defendants increased with each successive year of age and peaked at 17 years in 2019–20 (Table 49).

Table 49 Rate of unique child defendants by sex and age at time of offence – time series

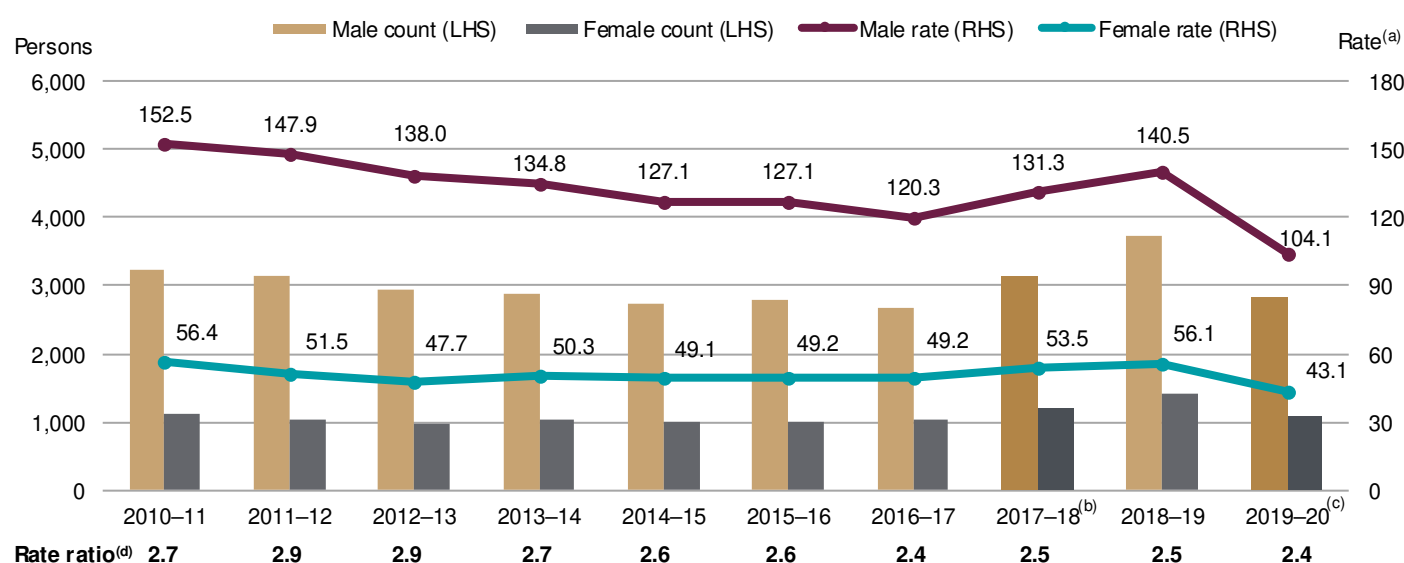
	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
	— rate per 10,000 persons —									
Sex										
Male	152.5	147.9	138.0	134.8	127.1	127.1	120.3	131.3	140.5	104.1
Female	56.4	51.5	47.7	50.3	49.1	49.2	49.2	53.5	56.1	43.1
Age at time of offence^(c) (years)										
10	4.3	5.4	4.8	4.6	5.9	4.8	4.0	5.2	6.1	3.3
11	11.9	11.5	13.3	14.4	11.4	15.1	12.0	12.7	12.8	8.1
12	30.0	31.2	23.4	28.3	31.0	34.3	33.8	34.4	31.5	23.7
13	72.5	68.2	73.3	70.3	69.7	74.6	73.2	74.5	71.4	47.8
14	130.3	131.9	129.7	120.7	119.5	123.9	129.7	123.7	114.8	83.5
15	200.3	195.9	166.7	182.3	160.4	163.2	159.3	170.7	152.2	113.0
16	280.8	255.4	242.6	232.4	225.1	210.0	195.6	188.8	186.8	145.1
17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	252.8	243.3	195.5
Total^(d)	105.6	100.8	94.0	93.7	89.2	89.2	85.7	93.6	99.5	74.5

.. = not applicable

- (a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the legislative change implemented on 12 February 2018. Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2010–11 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.
- (b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.
- (c) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first finalised appearance date in the reporting period. For a very small number of defendants in 2010–11 and 2011–12, where offence date was unknown, defendant's age was calculated as at the date of first finalised appearance in the reporting period.
- (d) Total includes defendants whose sex is identified as intersex or indeterminate.

Throughout the time series, the rate of male unique child defendants has been more than double that of females (Figure 24).

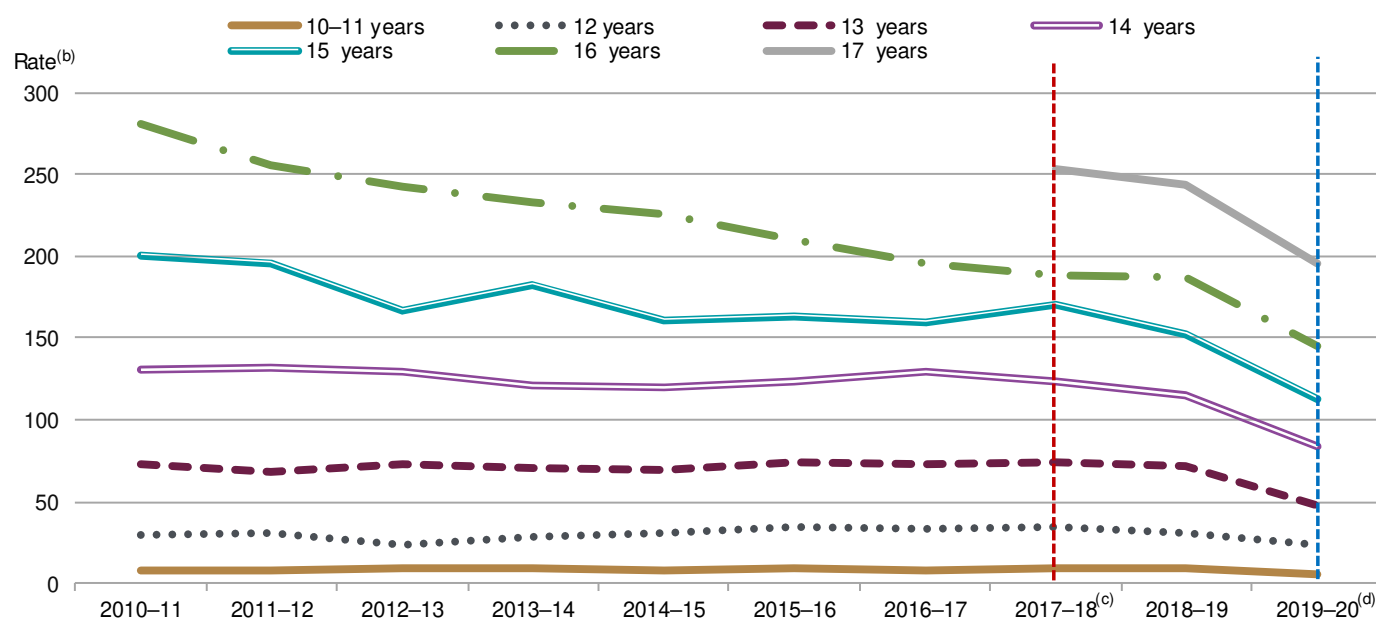
Figure 24 Count and rate of unique child defendants by sex – time series



- (a) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2010–11 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.
- (b) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (c) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.
- (d) Rate ratio is the rate for male defendants divided by the rate for female defendants. Rate ratios have been calculated on unrounded rates.

The rate of unique defendants increases with each successive age group from 10 to 17 years (Figure 25). While the rate of all age groups has decreased over the 10-year time series, the most substantial decreases were evident in those aged 15 and 16-years (down 43.6% and 48.3% respectively when comparing 2019–20 with 2010–11).

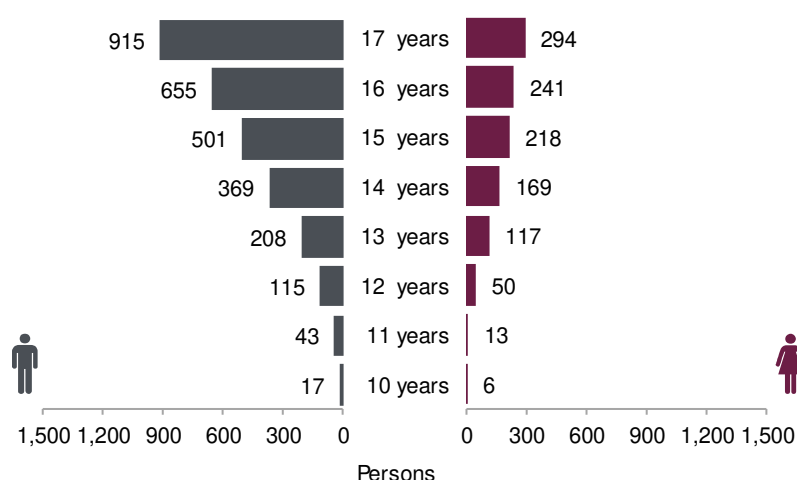
Figure 25 Rate of unique child defendants, by age at time of offence^(a) – time series



- (a) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first finalised appearance date in the reporting period.
- (b) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2010–11 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.
- (c) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (d) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

In 2019–20, male defendants outnumbered female defendants across all offender age categories. For both female and male unique child defendants, the peak offending age was 17 years, at 32.4% and 26.5% of their respective sex cohorts.

Figure 26 Unique child defendants, by sex^(a) and age at time of offence^(b), 2019–20



- (a) Excludes 2 defendants whose sex is identified as intersex or indeterminate.
- (b) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first finalised appearance date in the reporting period.

4.1.2. Unique defendants with a proven offence (charge)

Data in this section represent unique child defendants with one or more proven offences (charges) in a criminal court. An individual is counted only once in a reference year, irrespective of the number of proven offences in the year.

Table 50 Unique child defendants with a proven offence – time series

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
	— persons —									
Sex										
Male	3,039	2,962	2,809	2,717	2,567	2,554	2,455	2,869	3,379	2,454
Female	1,089	984	917	981	926	933	949	1,124	1,266	939
Age at time of offence^(c) (years)										
10	20	31	22	20	31	25	22	26	25	11
11	65	64	70	77	63	80	58	77	73	38
12	168	166	141	165	169	188	175	194	180	138
13	395	373	405	402	389	411	414	448	422	277
14	738	748	743	692	676	691	719	683	661	479
15	1,146	1,093	972	1,025	912	931	907	969	890	636
16	1,596	1,471	1,374	1,318	1,254	1,161	1,110	1,058	1,044	777
17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	540	1,351	1,039
Total^(d)	4,128	3,946	3,727	3,699	3,494	3,487	3,405	3,995	4,646	3,395

.. = not applicable

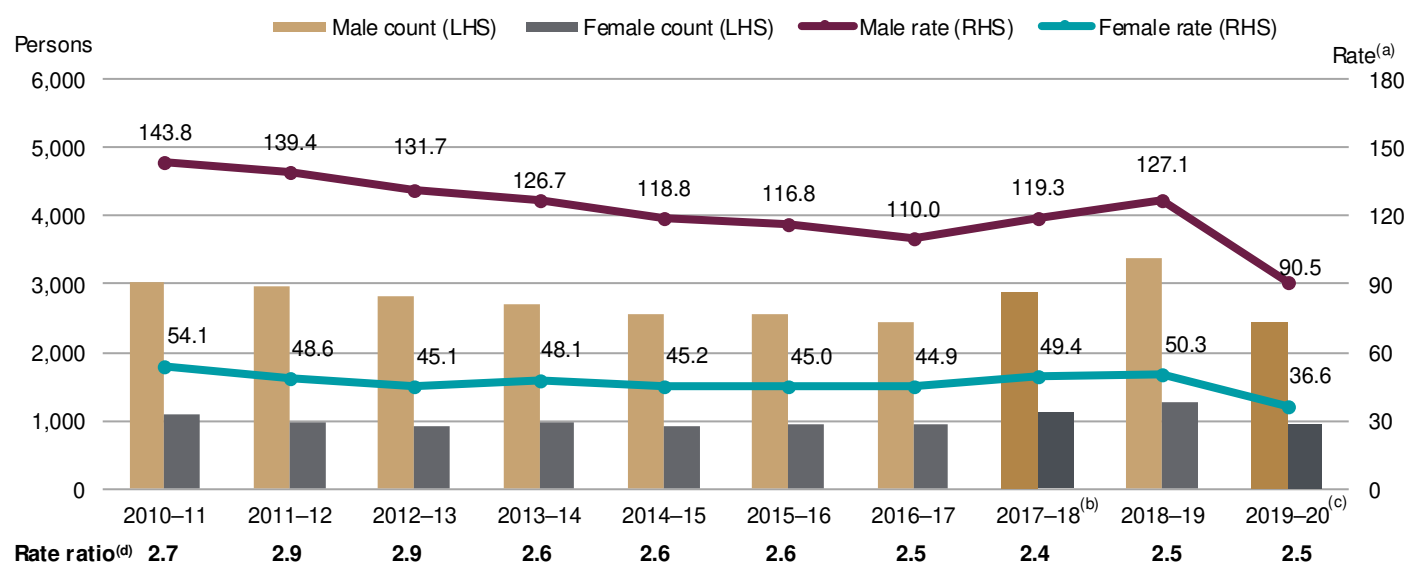
(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the legislative change implemented on 12 February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first finalised appearance date in the reporting period. For a very small number of defendants in 2010–11 and 2011–12, where offence date was unknown, defendant's age was calculated as at the date of first finalised appearance in the reporting period.

(d) Total includes defendants whose sex was identified as intersex or indeterminate.

Since reaching a low of 110.0 per 10,000 persons in 2016–17, the rate of convicted male unique child defendants increased for two consecutive years and rose to 127.1 per 10,000 persons in 2018–19 (Figure 27). The same trend can be seen in the rate of convicted female unique child defendants, where a low of 44.9 per 10,000 persons was recorded in 2016–17 before steadily increasing to 50.3 in 2018–19. However, during 2019–20, the rates of both male and female unique child defendants reached a time-series low of 90.5 and 36.6 per 10,000 persons respectively.

Figure 27 Count and rate of unique child defendants with a proven offence, by sex – time series

- (a) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2010–11 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.
- (b) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (c) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.
- (d) Rate ratio is the rate for male defendants divided by the rate for female defendants. Rate ratios have been calculated on unrounded rates.

Similar to the counts of unique child defendants with a proven offence (Table 50), the rates steadily increase with each successive age group (Table 51). This trend is evident in 2019–20, where the rate of convicted 11-year-old offenders was 3.4 times the rate of those aged 10 years but was around one-third the rate of those aged 12 years. Likewise, the rate of convicted 16-year-old offenders was 25.8% higher than those aged 15 years, and 25.1% lower than 17-year-old offenders.

Table 51 Rate of unique child defendants with a proven offence – time series

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
	— rate per 10,000 persons ^(c) —									
Sex										
Male	143.8	139.4	131.7	126.7	118.8	116.8	110.0	119.3	127.1	90.5
Female	54.1	48.6	45.1	48.1	45.2	45.0	44.9	49.4	50.3	36.6
Age at time of offence^(d) (years)										
10	3.4	5.3	3.8	3.4	5.1	4.0	3.4	3.9	3.7	1.6
11	11.2	10.8	11.8	13.0	10.6	13.1	9.2	11.6	10.7	5.5
12	28.8	28.3	23.6	27.5	28.5	31.3	28.4	30.3	26.9	19.8
13	67.2	63.3	68.4	66.8	64.4	68.8	68.4	72.0	65.2	40.7
14	124.9	126.0	125.0	115.9	111.4	113.7	119.3	111.7	105.1	74.3
15	191.1	183.1	162.4	171.2	151.6	152.1	147.6	158.8	143.8	99.9
16	264.7	242.5	227.5	218.4	208.3	191.4	179.1	170.0	169.0	125.7
17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	226.4	215.2	167.9
Total^(e)	100.0	95.1	89.4	88.4	83.0	81.8	78.4	85.3	89.8	64.3

.. = not applicable

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the legislative change implemented on 12 February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

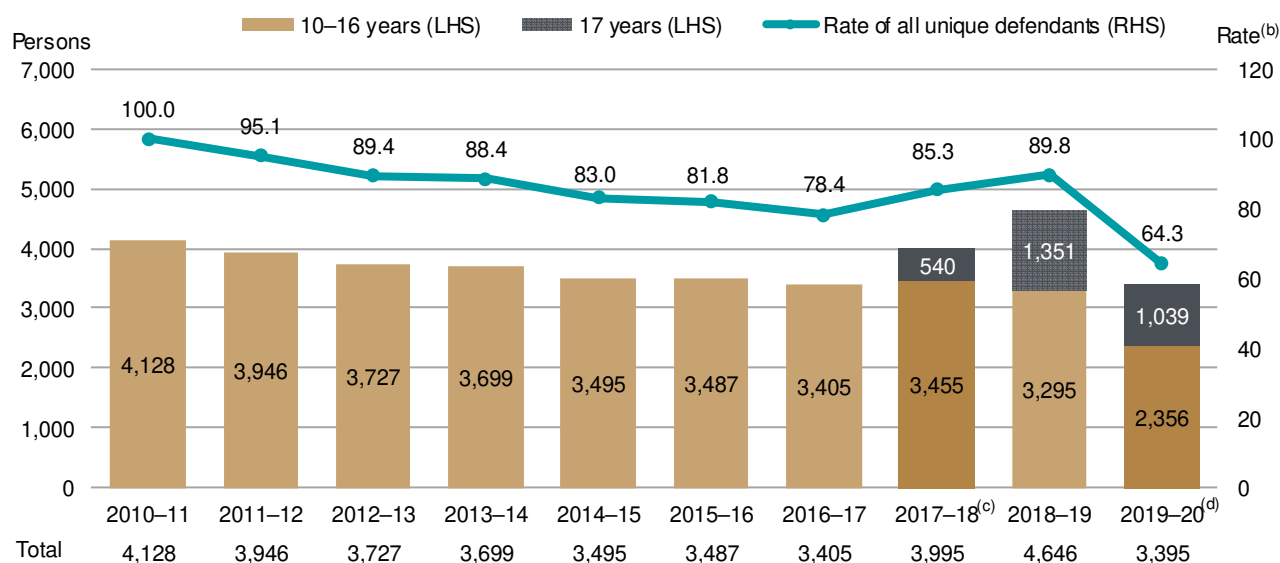
(c) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2010–11 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.

(d) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first finalised appearance date in the reporting period. For a very small number of defendants in 2010–11 and 2011–12, where offence date was unknown, defendant's age was calculated as at the date of first finalised appearance in the reporting period.

(e) Total includes defendants whose sex is identified as intersex or indeterminate.

Seventeen-year-old offenders accounted for 30.6% of unique child defendants with a proven offence in 2019–20, slightly higher than the proportion in 2018–19 (29.1%) (Figure 28).

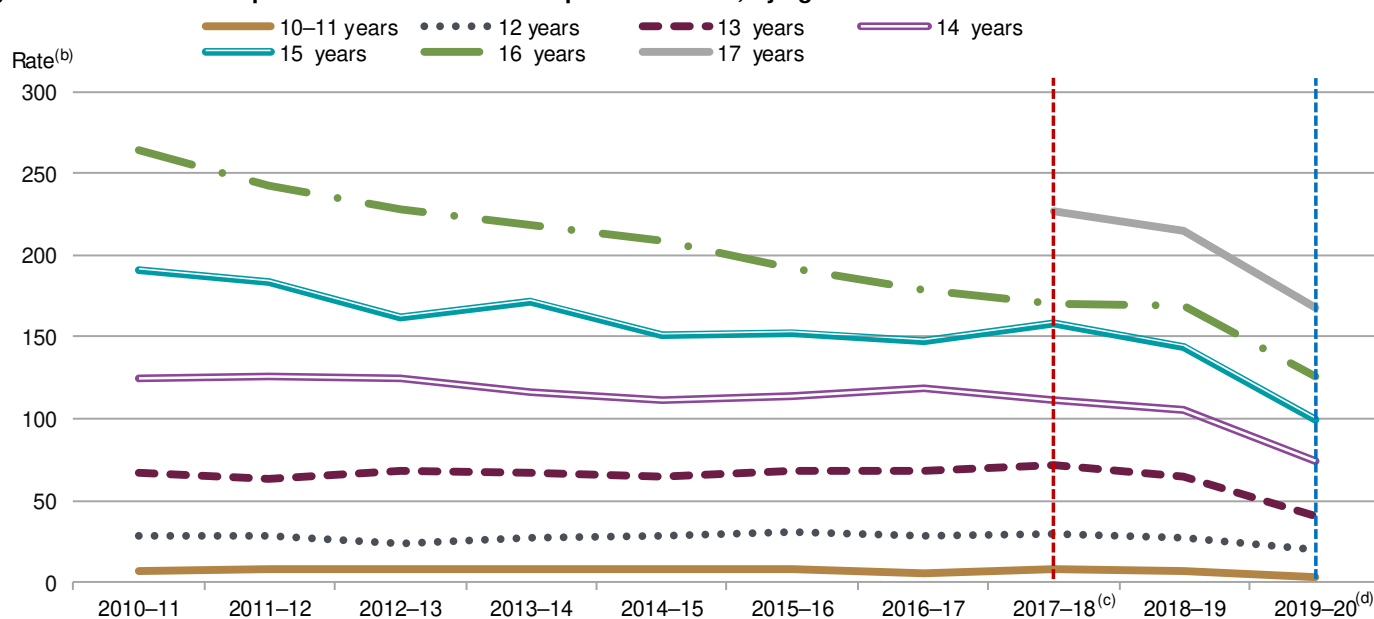
Figure 28 Count and rate of unique child defendants with a proven offence, by offender age cohort^(a) – time series



- (a) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first finalised appearance date in the reporting period.
- (b) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2010–11 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.
- (c) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (d) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

Across the 10-year time series for each age group, the rate of unique defendants with a proven offence was lowest in 2019–20 (Figure 29). Although the rates for most ages fluctuated a little during the downward trend, rates for those aged 16 years at time of offence declined steadily from 264.5 per 10,000 persons in 2010–11 to 125.7 in 2019–20.

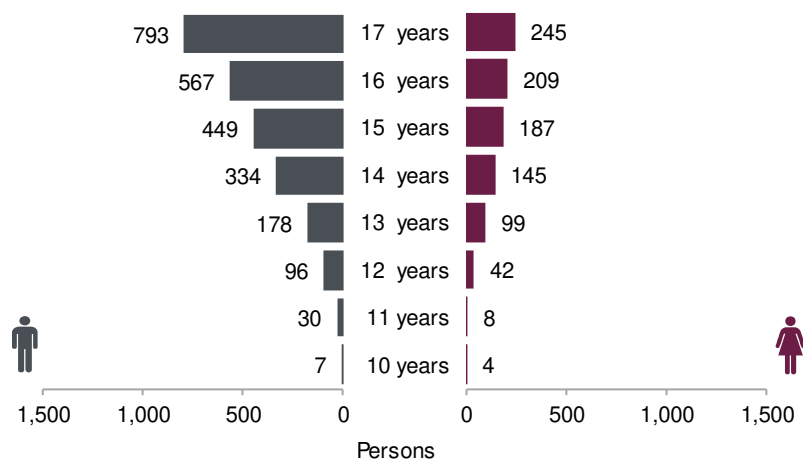
Figure 29 Rate of unique child defendants with a proven offence, by age at time of offence^(a) – time series



- (a) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first finalised appearance date in the reporting period.
- (b) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2010–11 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.
- (c) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (d) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

The numbers of male unique offenders with a proven offence in 2019–20 increased with each successive year of age and peaked at 17 years (Figure 30). Female unique offenders with a proven offence also peaked at 17 years. However, 17-year-old female offenders numbered less than a third of their male counterparts.

Figure 30 Unique child defendants with a proven offence, by sex^(a) and age at time of offence^(b), 2019–20



(a) Excludes 2 persons whose sex was identified as intersex or indeterminate

(b) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first finalised appearance date in the reporting period. For a very small number of defendants in 2010–11 and 2011–12, where offence date was unknown, defendant's age was calculated as at the date of first finalised appearance in the reporting period.

4.2. Youth justice orders

4.2.1. COVID-19 impact on youth justice orders

The impact of COVID containment measures on court operations had flow-on effects on the number of admissions to youth justice orders, which is best illustrated by comparing monthly data for 2019–20 with that of the previous year. In the months before COVID, admissions to youth justice orders overall were tracking below the 2018–19 level and the discrepancy widened markedly during the three months when court operations were scaled back.

Figure 31 Admissions to total youth justice orders – monthly comparison

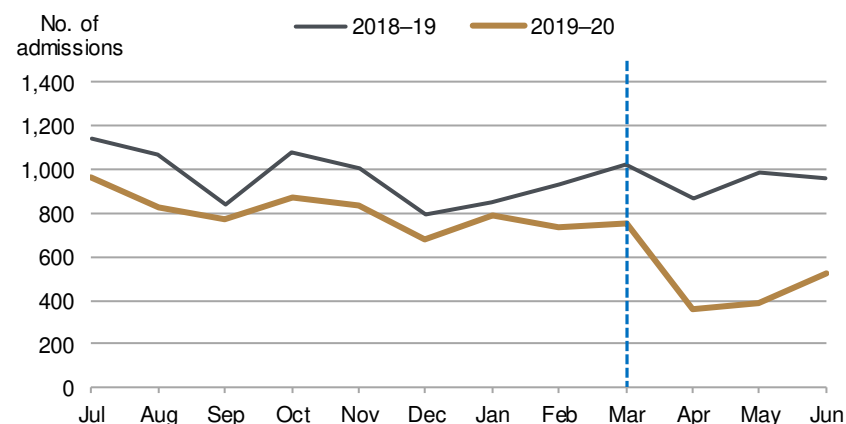


Figure 32 Admissions to supervised youth justice orders – monthly comparison

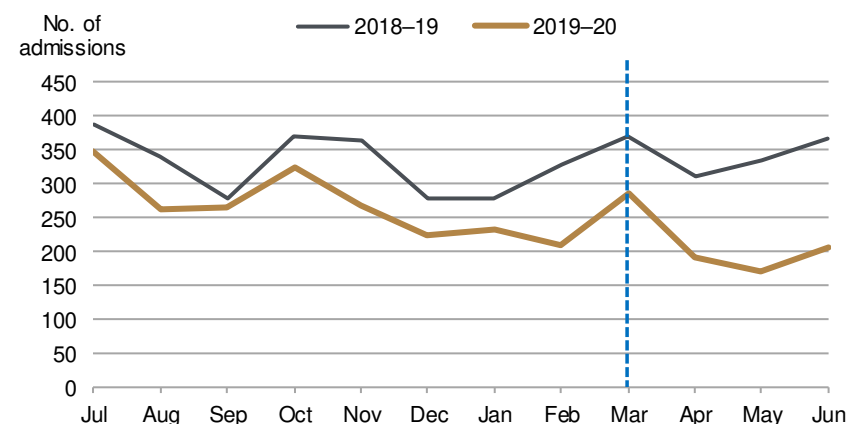


Figure 33 Admissions to unsupervised youth justice orders – monthly comparison

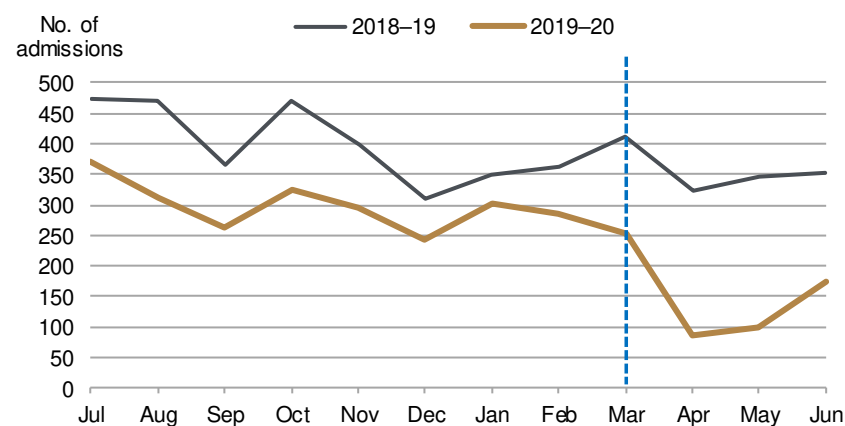
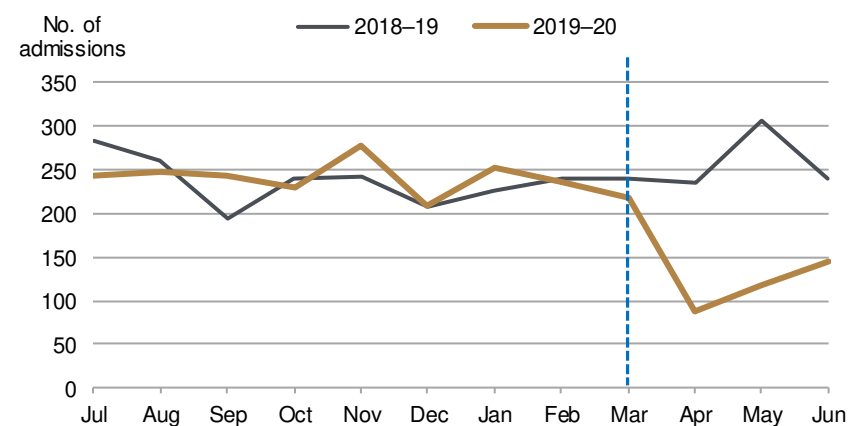


Figure 34 Admissions to other youth justice orders – monthly comparison



4.2.2. Admissions to youth justice orders

Data in this section are a count of admissions to youth justice orders, not of persons, where the order commenced during the reference year. An individual may be admitted to one or multiple of the same or different orders in a single reference year and will be counted for each admission. (See Glossary for further details about *youth justice orders*.)

To allow for direct comparison between financial years, the most recent three years have been split into two offender cohorts – those aged 10–16 years at time of offence, and those aged 17 years.

Some types of orders presented in this section either commenced or were repealed at various times during the time series (See Explanatory notes for more detail).

Table 52 Admissions to youth justice orders by offender age cohort – time series

Youth justice orders	Offender cohort aged 10–16 years at time of offence										Offender cohort aged 17 years			All offenders		
	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^{(b)(c)}
Order type	— number —										— number —			— number —		
Supervised order	3,160	2,718	3,153	3,693	3,448	3,392	3,200	3,308	3,258	2,425	480	757	569	3,788	4,015	2,994
<i>Detention-based</i>	<i>245</i>	<i>237</i>	<i>235</i>	<i>314</i>	<i>287</i>	<i>343</i>	<i>272</i>	<i>279</i>	<i>273</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>305</i>	<i>359</i>	<i>298</i>
<i>Community-based</i>	<i>2,915</i>	<i>2,481</i>	<i>2,918</i>	<i>3,379</i>	<i>3,161</i>	<i>3,049</i>	<i>2,928</i>	<i>3,029</i>	<i>2,985</i>	<i>2,218</i>	<i>454</i>	<i>671</i>	<i>478</i>	<i>3,483</i>	<i>3,656</i>	<i>2,696</i>
Boot camp	..	..	3	11	15	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Boot camp (vehicle offences)	..	..	..	5	48	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Community service	1,047	839	982	1,130	1,009	925	731	715	686	375	156	173	91	871	859	466
Conditional release	249	247	238	278	233	251	226	213	251	190	17	66	52	230	317	242
Graffiti removal	..	..	..	107	252	198	186	203	188	126	11	36	14	214	224	140
Intensive supervision	5	4	6	12	13	10	2	13	6	4	..	..	..	13	6	4
Probation	1,614	1,391	1,689	1,836	1,591	1,653	1,511	1,698	1,617	1,167	256	347	233	1,954	1,964	1,400
Restorative justice	..	..	..	..	..	..	272	187	237	356	14	49	88	201	286	444
Unsupervised order	3,761	3,700	4,068	4,110	3,866	3,989	3,707	3,626	3,239	2,090	572	1,389	917	4,198	4,628	3,008
Other orders^(d)	1,842	2,068	1,215	697	721	662	1,396	1,819	2,087	1,825	325	832	686	2,144	2,919	2,511
Total	8,763	8,486	8,436	8,500	8,035	8,043	8,303	8,753	8,584	6,340	1,377	2,978	2,172	10,130	11,562	8,513

.. = not applicable, as the order did not yet exist or had been repealed.

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to legislative changes.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) Includes one admission to an unsupervised order in 2019–20 of a young offender whose age is unknown.

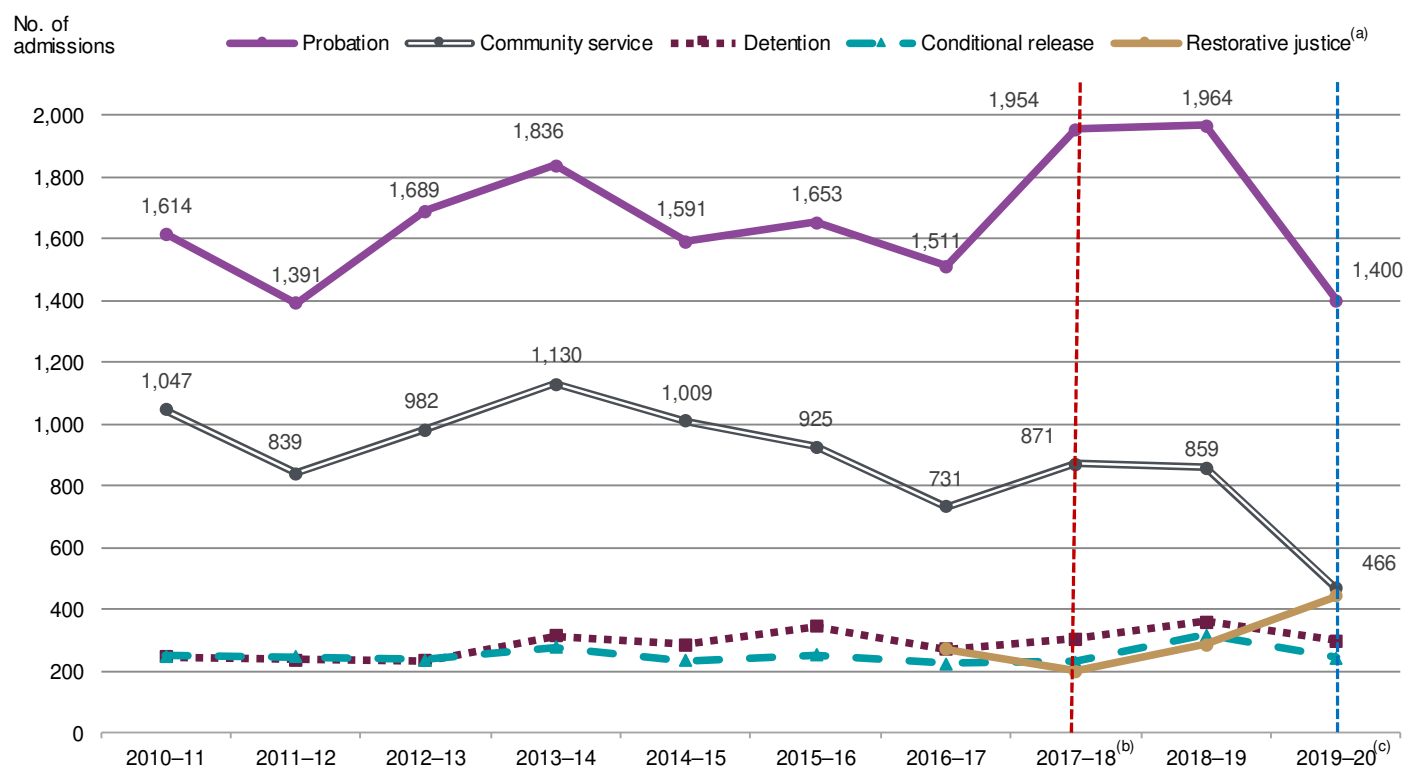
(d) Other orders include ancillary orders such as compensation and restitution (see Glossary for further details).

4.2.2.1 Supervised orders

Data in this section relate to supervised youth justice orders. These include both detention-based orders and orders requiring community-based supervision, such as probation, community service, intensive supervision, conditional release, restorative justice, graffiti removal and boot camp.

Over the 10-year time series from 2009–10 to 2019–20, *probation* and *community service* have consistently been the most prevalent among admissions to supervised youth justice orders, although the proportion of these two orders combined has decreased from 84.2% in 2010–11 to 62.3% in 2019–20. From 2018–19 to 2019–20, *restorative justice* was the only supervised youth justice order with increased admissions (up 55.2% from 286 to 444).

Figure 35 Admissions to the five most prevalent supervised youth justice orders – time series



- (a) Restorative justice orders commenced in 2016–17.
 (b) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
 (c) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

In 2019–20, males comprised 78.8% of all offenders aged 10–17 years admitted to supervised orders, compared with 76.3% of all offenders aged 10–16 years in 2016–17, before 17-year-old offenders transitioned to youth justice. By contrast, the male proportion of admissions for 17-year-old offenders in 2019–20 was 83.1%, compared with females at 16.9% (Table 53).

The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders has increased steadily since 2010–11 and was at its highest level in the time series in 2019–20 (64.5% of all admissions to supervised orders).

Table 53 Admissions to supervised youth justice orders by Indigenous status, age and sex – time series

	Offender cohort aged 10–16 years at time of offence										Offender cohort aged 17 years			All offenders		
	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
	— number —										— number —			— number —		
Sex																
Male	2,580	2,221	2,518	2,874	2,714	2,680	2,442	2,604	2,461	1,886	376	630	473	2,980	3,091	2,359
Female	580	497	635	819	733	712	758	704	797	539	104	127	96	808	924	635
Indigenous status																
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	1,729	1,575	1,854	2,203	2,073	2,061	1,947	2,190	2,179	1,618	229	386	314	2,419	2,565	1,932
Non-Indigenous	1,420	1,125	1,265	1,446	1,343	1,317	1,246	1,111	1,072	803	241	363	245	1,352	1,435	1,048
Not stated	11	18	34	44	32	14	7	7	7	4	10	8	10	17	15	14
Age (years)^(c)																
10–11	29	27	38	32	38	39	32	54	28	14	..	..	..	54	28	14
12	90	52	76	132	125	124	87	95	98	81	..	..	..	95	98	81
13	261	217	307	369	392	343	353	332	291	269	..	..	..	332	291	269
14	583	431	567	701	562	689	607	605	537	399	..	..	..	605	537	399
15	823	684	854	1,010	891	866	858	853	807	560	..	..	..	853	807	560
16	961	951	880	1,086	1,081	974	927	966	973	706	..	..	..	966	973	706
17	381	322	404	352	335	331	312	382	450	317	421	488	334	803	938	651
18+	32	34	27	11	24	26	24	21	74	79	59	269	235	80	343	314
Total^(d)	3,160	2,718	3,153	3,693	3,448	3,392	3,200	3,308	3,258	2,425	480	757	569	3,788	4,015	2,994

.. not applicable

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) Age is as at commencement of a supervised order within the reference year. An individual young person may appear in more than one age category in a single year.

(d) Total includes admissions of those whose sex was identified as intersex or indeterminate.

4.2.2.2 Unsupervised orders

Unsupervised orders include *fine, good behaviour and reprimand*.

In 2019–20, there were 3,008 admissions to unsupervised youth justice orders, a 35.0% decrease on the previous year (4,628 admissions) (Table 54) and the lowest number in the time series. Reprimand and good behavior accounted for 73.4% and 24.3% of all admissions to unsupervised orders respectively in 2019–20, with *fine* being the least prevalent with 2.3%.

Table 54 Admissions to unsupervised youth justice orders by offender age cohort – time series

Unsupervised orders	Offender cohort aged 10–16 years at time of offence										Offender cohort aged 17 years			All offenders		
	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^{(b)(c)}
Order type	— number —										— number —			— number —		
Fine	185	129	121	74	97	69	62	25	32	7	49	121	62	74	153	70
Good behaviour	1,123	1,037	1,323	1,359	1,211	1,218	1,107	993	964	524	152	417	207	1,145	1,381	731
Reprimand	2,453	2,534	2,624	2,677	2,558	2,702	2,538	2,608	2,243	1,559	371	851	648	2,979	3,094	2,207
Total	3,761	3,700	4,068	4,110	3,866	3,989	3,707	3,626	3,239	2,090	572	1,389	917	4,198	4,628	3,008

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) Includes one fine in 2019–20 for a young offender whose age is unknown.

4.2.2.3 Other orders

In 2019–20, across all other youth justice orders, 80.5% were either to *conditional bail program* or *court diversion referral*, compared with 73.4% to these orders in 2018–19.

Table 55 Admissions to other^(a) youth justice orders by offender age cohort^(b) – time series

Other orders	Offender cohort aged 10–16 years at time of offence										Offender cohort aged 17 years			All offenders		
	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2017–18 ^(c)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(d)
Order type	— number —										— number —			— number —		
Compensation	4	24	22	22	15	6	5	9	14	3	7	7	5	16	21	8
Compensation–pers. injury	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Compensation–property	18	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Conditional bail program	429	429	471	372	379	323	450	715	773	673	53	97	95	768	870	768
Court diversion referral	..	..	..	..	..	..	650	843	1,037	992	97	235	261	940	1,272	1,253
Drug diversion	5	76	95	122	152	175	160	144	147	93	46	113	73	190	260	166
Indefinite referral	1,161	1,344	420	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Licence disqualification	139	117	131	111	126	129	104	84	106	59	119	359	248	203	465	307
Restitution	83	72	74	70	49	29	27	24	10	5	3	21	4	27	31	9
Transfer to prison	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	1,842	2,068	1,215	697	721	662	1,396	1,819	2,087	1,825	325	832	686	2,144	2,919	2,511

.. = not applicable, as the order did not yet exist or had been repealed. Court diversion referral orders were introduced on 1 July 2016, and indefinite referral orders were discontinued from 1 January 2013.

(a) 'Other' includes ancillary orders (see Glossary for further details).

(b) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's commencement of a supervised order within the reference year.

(c) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(d) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

4.2.3. Unique offenders admitted to youth justice orders

Data in this section are a count of unique young people admitted to a supervised or unsupervised youth justice order for a proven offence(s). As a young person may be subject to a supervised and unsupervised youth justice order at one time, the same young person may appear in both the supervised and unsupervised order counts.

In this section, if an individual offender is subject to more than one order or type of supervised or unsupervised order during a reference year, they are counted once for each relevant order type in that year. Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first admission to the relevant order type in the reporting period. For example, if offences associated with the first order are a mix of those committed while offender was aged 10 to 16 years and again at age 17 years, the unique offender is included within the cohort aged 10–16 years. The offender cohort aged 17 years represents those who offended only as a 17-year-old from 2017–18 onwards.

4.2.3.1 Supervised orders

Female offenders comprised 24.2% of all unique offenders admitted to supervised orders in 2019–20, 25.3% of those aged 10–16 years at time of offence and 20.3% of those aged 17 years (Table 56). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique offenders accounted for 60.5% of all offenders admitted to supervised orders. For the 17-year-old offender cohort, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander share of all unique offenders admitted to supervised orders increased from 45.1% in 2018–19 to 55.0% in 2019–20, corresponding with a much larger decrease of non-Indigenous 17-year-old offenders admitted over the same period.

Table 56 Unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders by Indigenous status, age and sex – time series

	Offender cohort aged 10–16 years at time of offence										Offender cohort aged 17 years			All offenders		
	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
	— persons —										— persons —			— persons —		
Sex																
Male	1,317	1,205	1,363	1,437	1,361	1,331	1,236	1,287	1,212	920	215	337	271	1,502	1,549	1,191
Female	347	302	354	450	407	402	384	390	433	311	58	82	69	448	515	380
Indigenous status																
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	852	833	951	1,073	1,000	991	921	1,037	1,054	763	128	189	187	1,165	1,243	950
Non-Indigenous	805	657	738	776	743	729	692	634	585	464	136	222	145	770	807	609
Not stated	7	17	28	38	26	13	7	6	6	4	9	8	8	15	14	12
Age on admission (years)^(c)																
10–11	16	19	27	20	23	24	18	26	19	9	..	..	..	26	19	9
12	49	36	45	73	71	73	49	40	48	38	..	..	..	40	48	38
13	129	113	158	166	170	162	166	175	140	104	..	..	..	175	140	104
14	263	235	272	334	291	330	277	264	251	176	..	..	..	264	251	176
15	419	363	444	493	430	433	416	426	397	286	..	..	..	426	397	286
16	510	510	487	574	558	500	488	492	482	359	..	..	..	492	482	359
17	253	205	268	216	212	196	188	241	259	203	240	242	186	481	501	389
18+	25	26	16	11	14	15	18	13	49	56	33	177	154	46	226	210
Total^(d)	1,664	1,507	1,717	1,887	1,769	1,733	1,620	1,677	1,645	1,231	273	419	340	1,950	2,064	1,571

.. not applicable

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

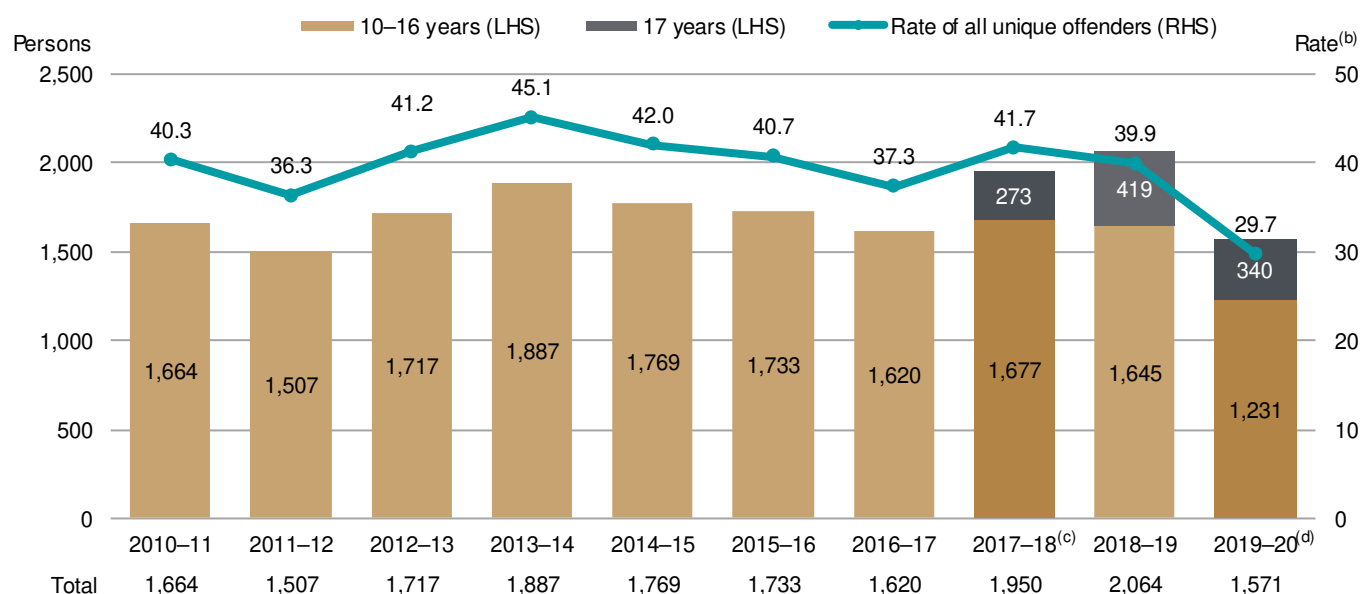
(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) Age is as at earliest commencement of a supervised order within the reference year.

(d) Total includes those whose sex was identified as intersex or indeterminate.

Over the 10-year time series from 2010–11 to 2019–20, the rate of unique young offenders admitted to supervised orders peaked in 2013–14 and decreased each year until 2017–18 (Figure 36). The downward trend again in the last two years has seen the rate drop to a time-series low of 29.7 per 10,000 persons in 2019–20. In 2019–20, while the number of both offender cohorts decreased, the 17-year-old offender cohort as a proportion of the total increased slightly to 21.6% of all unique child offenders admitted to supervised orders.

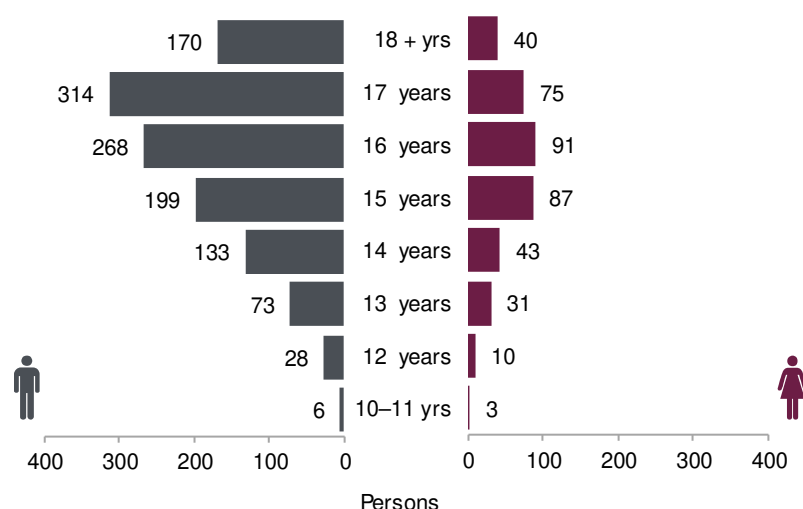
Figure 36 Count and rate of unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders, by offender age cohort^(a) – time series



- (a) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's earliest commencement of a supervised order within the reference year
- (b) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2010–11 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.
- (c) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (d) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

During 2019–20, the number of unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders increased with age, peaking at 17 years of age for males and 16 years for females. Unique males comprised two to four times the number of unique females in each age group in 2019–20 (Figure 37).

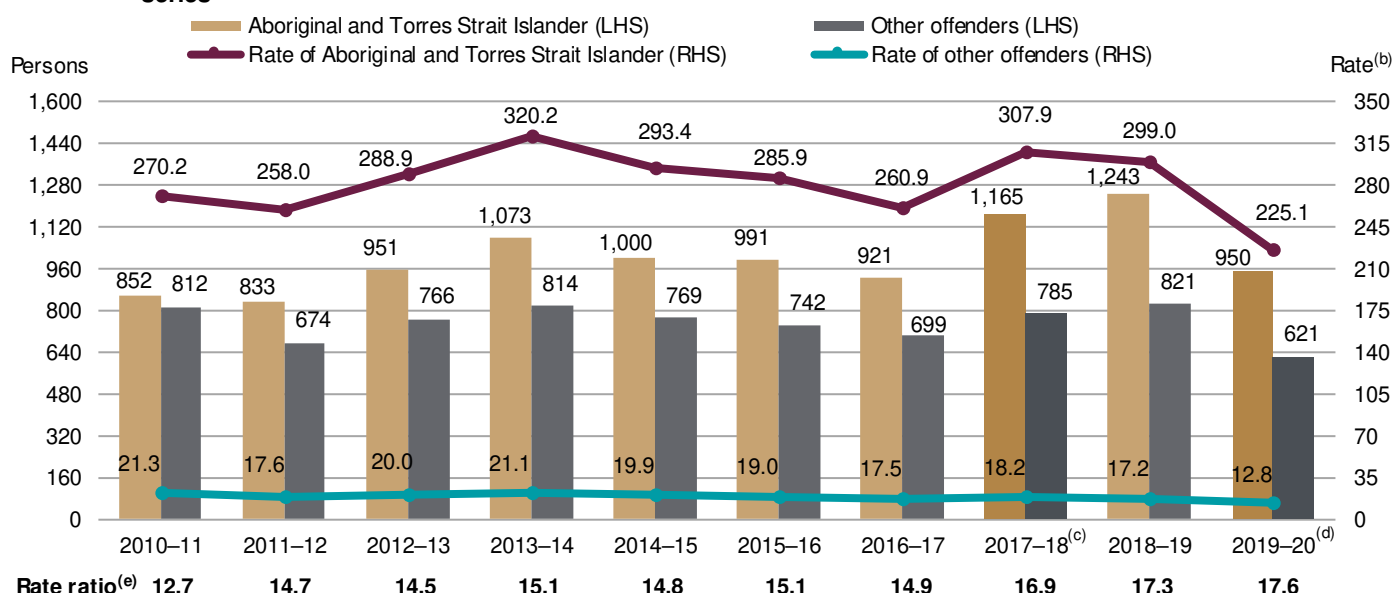
Figure 37 Unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders, by age on admission^(a) and sex, 2019–20



- (a) Age is as at earliest commencement of a supervised order within the reference year.

The rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique offenders admitted to supervised orders has fluctuated over the 10-year time series. From a peak in 2013–14, there was a steady decline until 2017–18, when 17-year-old offenders transitioned to youth justice, followed by a slight decrease in 2018–19 and a further 24.7% decrease to 225.1 per 10,000 persons in 2019–20. Despite the rate being at its lowest in 2019–20, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were 17.6 times as likely as other young people to be admitted to supervised youth justice orders, compared with 12.7 times in 2010–11.

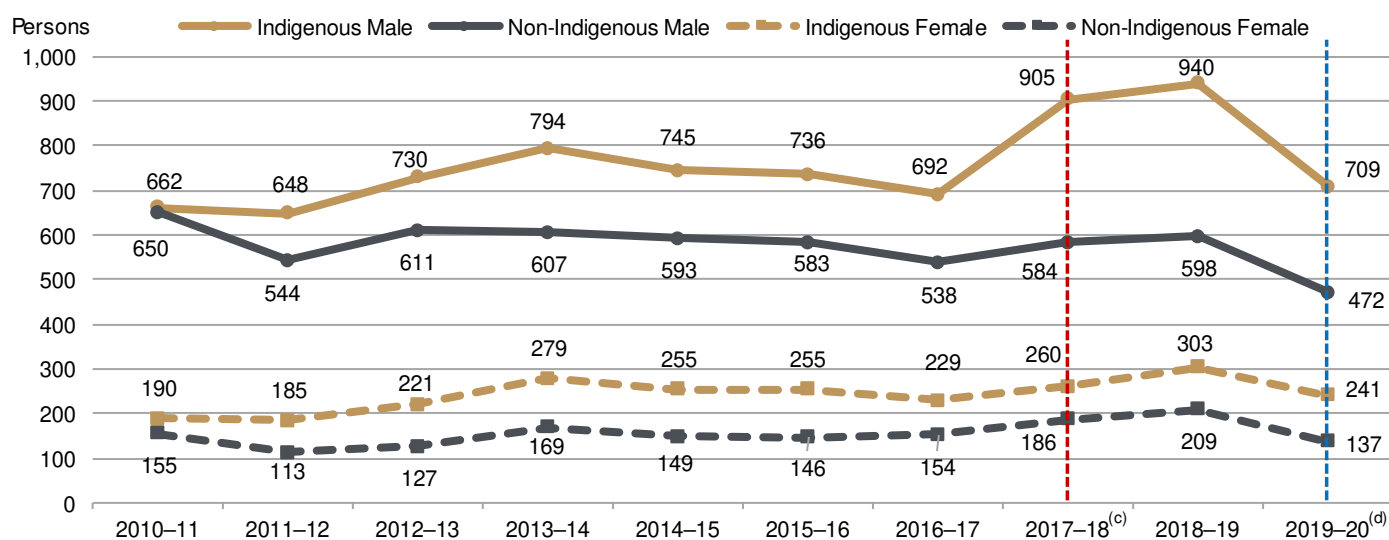
Figure 38 Count and rate of unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders by Indigenous status^(a) – time series



- (a) Other offenders represent those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.
 (b) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2010–11 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.
 (c) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
 (d) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.
 (e) Rate ratio is the rate for Indigenous young people divided by the rate for other young people and is calculated on unrounded rates.

Of all unique offenders admitted to supervised orders over the 10-year time series, non-Indigenous males and females ended the series with fewer admissions than at the start of the series, with decreases of 27.4% and 11.6% respectively. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique offenders, admissions increased by 7.1% for males) and 26.8% for females in 2019–20 compared with 2010–11 (Figure 39).

Figure 39 Unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders by Indigenous status^(a) and sex^(b) – time series



- (a) Excludes the small number whose Indigenous status was not stated.
 (b) Excludes those whose sex was identified as intersex or indeterminate.
 (c) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
 (d) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

Throughout the time series, around half of all unique young offenders on supervised orders had just one admission during the year (Table 57). In 2019–20, 53.5% had just one admission, the highest proportion in the time series. Meanwhile, 35.3% of unique young offenders had two or three admissions to supervised orders, the lowest proportion in the time series.

Table 57 Unique offenders with one or more admissions to supervised youth justice orders in a reference year – time series

Supervised orders	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
No. admissions per year	— persons —									
1 admission	809	767	894	944	868	854	820	1,017	1,052	840
2 or 3 admissions	693	621	659	729	693	674	609	693	769	554
4 or 5 admissions	131	111	143	165	171	166	140	192	195	135
6 or more admissions	31	8	21	49	37	39	51	48	48	42
Total	1,664	1,507	1,717	1,887	1,769	1,733	1,620	1,950	2,064	1,571

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

4.2.3.2 Unsupervised orders

Unsupervised orders include *fine*, *good behaviour* and *reprimand*.

The number of unique young offenders with admissions to unsupervised orders decreased from 2,724 in 2010–11 to 2,186 in 2019–20 (–19.8%) (Table 58).

Compared with 2010–11, unique offenders in 2019–20 were more likely to have only one admission to unsupervised orders (increased from 73.3% in 2010–11 to 74.7% in 2019–20, the highest proportion in the time series), and less likely to have two or three admissions (decreased from 24.6% in 2010–11 to 22.4% in 2019–20, the lowest proportion in the time series).

Table 58 Unique offenders with one or more admissions to unsupervised youth justice orders in a reference year – time series

Supervised orders	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
No. admissions per year	— persons —									
1 admission	1,998	2,036	2,102	2,123	1,984	1,937	1,696	1,895	2,399	1,632
2 or 3 admissions	669	637	729	742	674	733	698	782	798	490
4 or 5 admissions	52	53	60	65	75	84	73	97	86	60
6 or more admissions	5	6	12	9	8	8	18	17	12	4
Total	2,724	2,732	2,903	2,939	2,741	2,762	2,485	2,791	3,295	2,186

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

4.3. Youth detention centres

4.3.1. Admissions to detention centres

This section relates to physical admission to a stay in a youth detention centre, whether on remand (unsentenced) or sentenced, where the admission date occurs in the reference year. An individual may have one or multiple admissions in a single reference year and is counted each time in these data. A return from a short absence from detention (e.g. to attend any place for medical examination or treatment) is not counted as a new admission.

The data in this section exclude children held in pre-court custody in police watchhouses.

The number of admissions of young people to detention centres was highest in 2017–18 when 17-year-old offenders first transitioned from the adult to the youth justice system. However, there has been a visible decline in sentenced admissions throughout the 10-year time series.

During 2018–19, the constraint on detention centre capacity caused by the transition saw the majority of young people in pre-court custody held in police watchhouses instead of detention centres. As they were not under the supervision of

Youth Justice, accordingly they were excluded from the data, resulting in a reduction in total admissions in 2018–19 (Table 59).

During 2019–20, sentenced admissions to detention reached their lowest in the series with only 19 admissions, whereas remand admissions were around the same level as in 2016–17, the year before transition occurred. In contrast, pre-court custody in detention centres increased more than three-fold in 2019–20 from the unusual low in 2018–19.

Analysis of monthly data shows no obvious impact from COVID measures, as the total number of admissions to youth detention was highest in March 2020 and, despite a small dip in April, back to usual levels in May and June.

Table 59 Admissions to youth detention centres by legal status – time series

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
Legal status	— number —									
Unsentenced	1,396	1,575	1,899	1,939	1,823	1,626	1,972	2,183	1,477	1,872
Pre-court custody	476	720	955	957	903	776	963	878	187	778
Remand	920	855	944	982	920	850	1,009	1,305	1,290	1,094
Sentenced	98	88	56	84	59	54	54	31	49	19
Total	1,494	1,663	1,955	2,023	1,882	1,680	2,026	2,214	1,526	1,891

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

The ratio of male-to-female admissions was lowest in 2017–18 (ratio of 3.6) and increased to 4.3 in 2019–20 (Table 60).

The decrease in admissions from 2017–18 to 2019–20 was contributed solely by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander admissions, with a decrease of 21.8% or 333. However, when compared with 2010–11, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander admissions has increased by 399 whereas the number of non-Indigenous admissions has decreased by 15.

The age groups of 15 and 16 years old together accounted for 42.4% (or 801) of all admissions to detention centres in 2019–20, compared with 41.3% in 2018–19. The proportion of 17-year-olds admitted decreased from 20.8% in 2018–19 to 19.8% in 2019–20. In contrast, the proportion of those aged 13 and 14 years increased from 28.6% to 30.6% over the same period.

Table 60 Admissions to youth detention centres by Indigenous status, age and sex – time series

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
	— number —									
Sex										
Male	1,253	1,408	1,583	1,601	1,483	1,321	1,588	1,732	1,209	1,532
Female	241	255	371	421	399	359	438	482	317	359
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	795	1,040	1,182	1,153	1,144	1,072	1,306	1,527	1,095	1,194
Non-Indigenous	698	613	762	853	732	605	717	683	429	683
Not stated	1	10	11	17	6	3	3	4	2	14
Age on admission^(c) (years)										
10–11	31	27	50	24	50	31	74	83	22	28
12	56	87	100	116	85	82	99	163	103	95
13	144	194	225	243	249	224	219	279	188	225
14	308	343	415	440	403	376	440	452	249	354
15	452	432	578	550	515	458	596	555	304	423
16	453	533	533	603	527	476	564	545	327	378
17	46	45	53	46	50	29	33	133	317	375
18+	4	2	1	1	3	4	1	4	16	13
Total^(d)	1,494	1,663	1,955	2,023	1,882	1,680	2,026	2,214	1,526	1,891

(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) Age is as at the date of admission to a youth detention centre. An individual may have one or multiple admissions in one reference year.

(d) Total includes those whose sex was identified as intersex or indeterminate.

4.3.2. Unique persons admitted to a youth detention centre

Data in this section are a count of unique young people admitted to a youth detention centre. An individual may have one or multiple admissions in a single reference year, only the earliest admission to a youth detention centre within the reference year was counted. The data exclude children held in custody in police watchhouses.

Over three-quarters of all unique persons admitted to youth detention centres were male, in every year of the time series including 2019–20 when they accounted for 79.0% of the total (Table 61). The number of unique males admitted to detention during the time series peaked at 764 in 2017–18, while the number of unique females peaked at 221 a year earlier. Admissions of unique males and females to detention in 2019–20 both remained lower than in 2016–17.

In 2019–20, the number of non-Indigenous unique persons admitted to detention increased by 31.8% (81 persons) compared with 2018–19, but this was 43 fewer than the high in 2013–14. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique persons decreased in both number (–14) and proportion of the total admitted to detention, from the time-series high of 68.1% in 2018–19 to 60.7% in 2019–20.

Thirteen and 16-year-old unique persons were the only two age groups with a decreasing number admitted to youth detention in both 2018–19 and 2019–20. This was the lowest number in the 10-year time series for 16-year-olds, and the second-lowest for 13-year-olds.

Table 61 Unique persons admitted to youth detention centres, by age on admission – time series

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
	— persons —									
Sex										
Male	652	644	682	731	692	647	710	764	622	696
Female	144	129	180	207	203	167	221	208	184	185
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	424	451	483	549	527	503	568	627	549	535
Non-Indigenous	371	314	372	379	362	308	360	342	255	336
Not stated	1	8	8	11	6	3	3	3	2	10
Age on admission^(c) (years)										
10–11	11	8	14	15	14	14	24	17	8	8
12	28	35	30	45	51	39	39	50	40	44
13	78	68	87	93	91	98	91	110	90	76
14	157	170	190	195	182	156	198	196	118	152
15	238	193	239	271	248	241	269	260	165	191
16	246	266	267	289	275	245	290	262	194	189
17	34	31	35	30	32	18	19	73	184	211
18+	4	2	1	1	2	3	1	4	7	10
Total^(d)	796	773	863	939	895	814	931	972	806	881

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

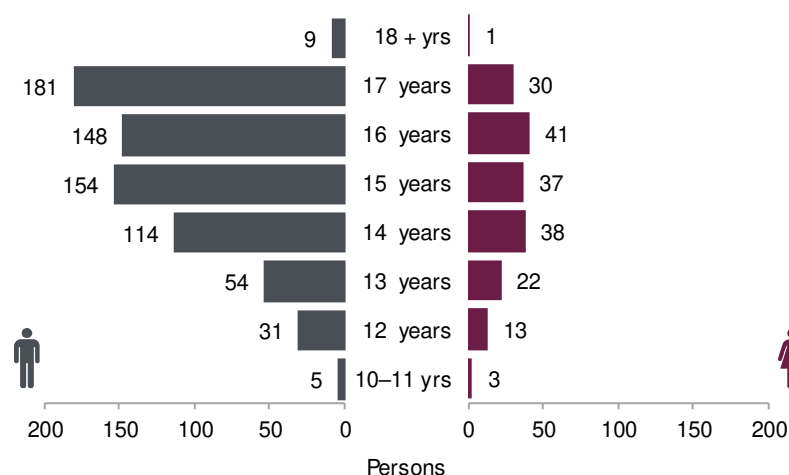
(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) Age as at the earliest admission to a youth detention centre within the reference year.

(d) Total includes those whose sex was identified as intersex or indeterminate.

During 2019–20, the number of unique males admitted to youth detention centres peaked at 17 years of age, followed by 15 and 16 years. For unique females, 16 years was the most prevalent age of admission (Figure 40).

Figure 40 Unique persons admitted to youth detention centres, by age on admission^(a) and sex, 2019–20

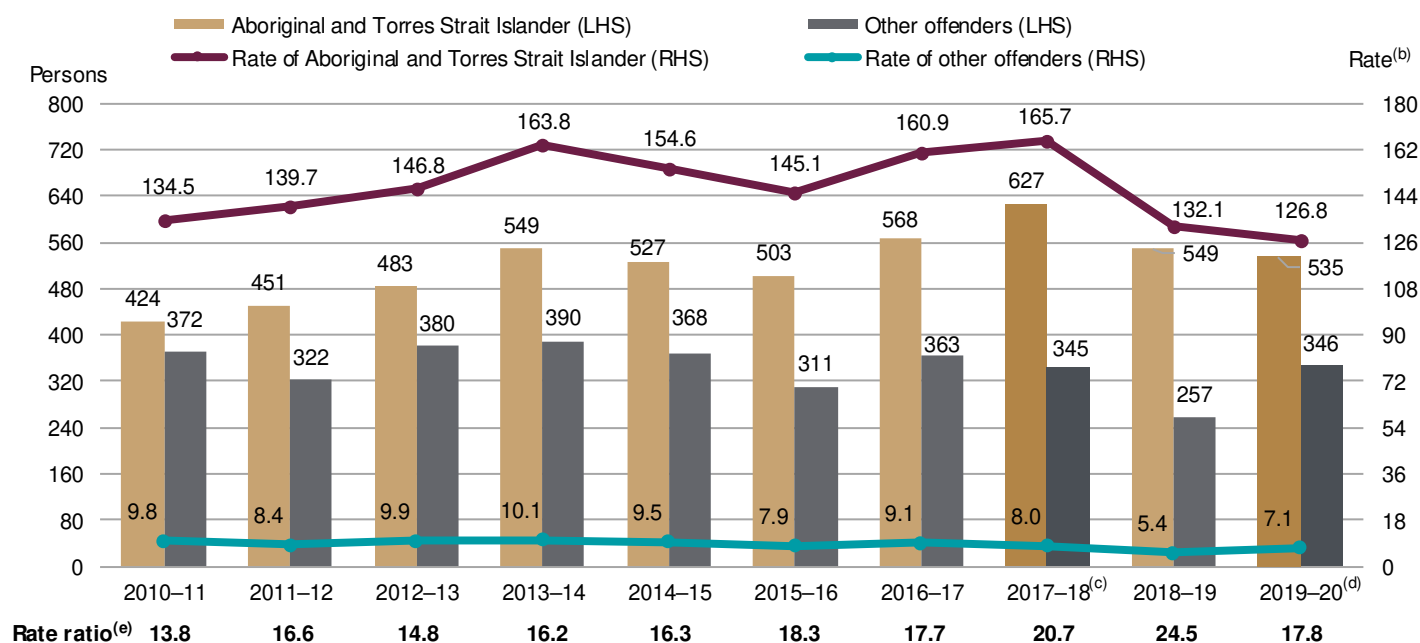


(a) Age as at the earliest admission to a youth detention centre within the reference year.

From 2010–11, both the count and rate of unique persons admitted to youth detention centres reached a high in 2013–14 for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other young people, before declining over the next two years (Figure 41). Then for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, the count increased to a new peak in 2017–18, while for other young people both the count and rate have remained below the 2013–14 peak.

During 2019–20, while the admission rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique young people was at the lowest level in the time series, they were 17.8 times as likely as other young people to be admitted to a youth detention centre. In 2010–11, this comparative rate ratio was 13.8.

Figure 41 Count and rate of unique persons admitted to youth detention centres by Indigenous status^(a) – time series



- (a) Other offenders represent those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.
 (b) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2010–11 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.
 (c) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
 (d) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.
 (e) Rate ratio is the rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people divided by the rate for other young people, calculated on unrounded rates.

Around half of all unique young people admitted to a youth detention centre had only one admission during a reference year. The number of unique young people admitted to a youth detention centre with four or more admissions during 2019–20 increased 82.3% from the time-series low of 2018–19. (Table 62). In contrast, the number of unique persons with 2 or 3 admissions in 2019–20 decreased 6.5% over the year.

Table 62 Unique persons by number of admissions to a youth detention centre per reference year – time series

No. admissions per year	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
— persons —										
1 admission	436	396	422	490	443	429	451	480	417	447
2 or 3 admissions	276	258	299	296	326	265	341	317	310	290
4 or 5 admissions	67	78	93	104	87	85	89	115	64	100
6 or more admissions	17	41	49	49	39	35	50	60	15	44
Total	796	773	863	939	895	814	931	972	806	881

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

The number of unique young people who had their first-ever admission to a youth detention centre during 2019–20 increased 47.3% from the time-series low of 2018–19. By comparison, the number of those with a prior admission to detention decreased 13.2% over the year and was lower than those admitted for the first time.

Table 63 Unique persons by history of admission to a youth detention centre – time series

Admission history ^(c)	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
— persons —										
First-ever admission	446	435	481	509	479	394	517	472	300	442
Prior admission to detention	350	338	382	430	416	420	414	500	506	439
Total	796	773	863	939	895	814	931	972	806	881

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018

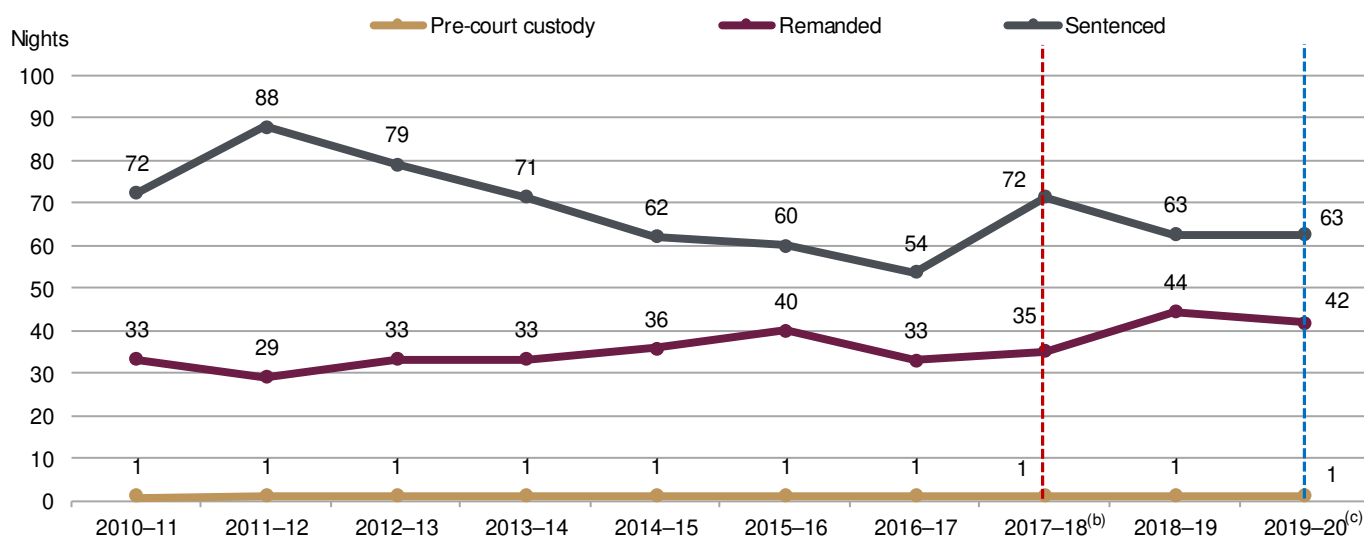
(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) Includes admissions to a Queensland detention centre only.

4.3.3. Average length of stay

In 2019–20, the average length of stay of sentenced young people in youth detention was 63 nights, the same as in the previous year, and 28.7% shorter than the time-series high of 88 nights in 2011–12. Of those on remand in 2019–20, the average length of stay decreased slightly to 42 nights from the time-series high of 44 nights in 2018–19.

Figure 42 Average length of stay^(a) in a youth detention centre by legal status – time series



(a) Length of stay in detention is based on the total duration of the admission, where the end date of that admission is in the reference year, irrespective of when the admission to detention commenced.

(b) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(c) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

4.4. Average daily number

4.4.1. Average daily number on supervised community-based orders

In 2019–20, on an average day, there were 1,514 young people on a supervised community-based youth justice order (Table 64). Females accounted for 25.2% of the total average daily number of young people supervised in the community in 2019–20, the highest proportion in the time series.

Table 64 Average daily number of persons on supervised youth justice orders in the community – time series

	Offender cohort aged 10–16 years at time of offence										Offender cohort aged 17 years			All offenders		
	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
	— average daily number ^(c) —										— average daily number ^(c) —			— average daily number ^(c) —		
Sex																
Male	1,106	1,052	1,034	1,050	1,016	952	896	958	1,014	907	88	226	226	1,046	1,241	1,133
Female	278	261	257	310	324	281	294	309	349	328	22	54	53	331	403	381
Indigenous status																
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	679	645	671	716	742	658	647	709	818	735	51	121	130	760	939	864
Non-Indigenous	699	659	609	623	586	567	538	553	542	498	57	156	146	610	698	644
Not stated	6	10	11	21	12	8	5	5	4	3	3	3	4	8	7	6
Age (years)																
10–11	6	6	11	8	10	9	7	8	8	6	..	..	..	8	8	6
12	24	18	24	30	29	29	26	20	28	19	..	..	..	20	28	19
13	64	58	73	70	84	74	76	73	71	62	..	..	..	73	71	62
14	156	136	146	163	166	164	162	156	150	128	..	..	..	156	150	128
15	269	234	257	284	258	254	253	264	262	221	..	..	..	264	262	221
16	392	357	313	372	356	317	317	347	349	298	..	..	..	347	349	298
17	309	320	303	281	309	258	250	282	315	290	81	75	52	362	390	341
18+	164	183	166	152	126	127	100	118	179	213	30	205	228	148	385	440
Total^(d)	1,384	1,313	1,291	1,360	1,340	1,233	1,190	1,267	1,363	1,235	111	280	279	1,378	1,643	1,514

.. not applicable

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

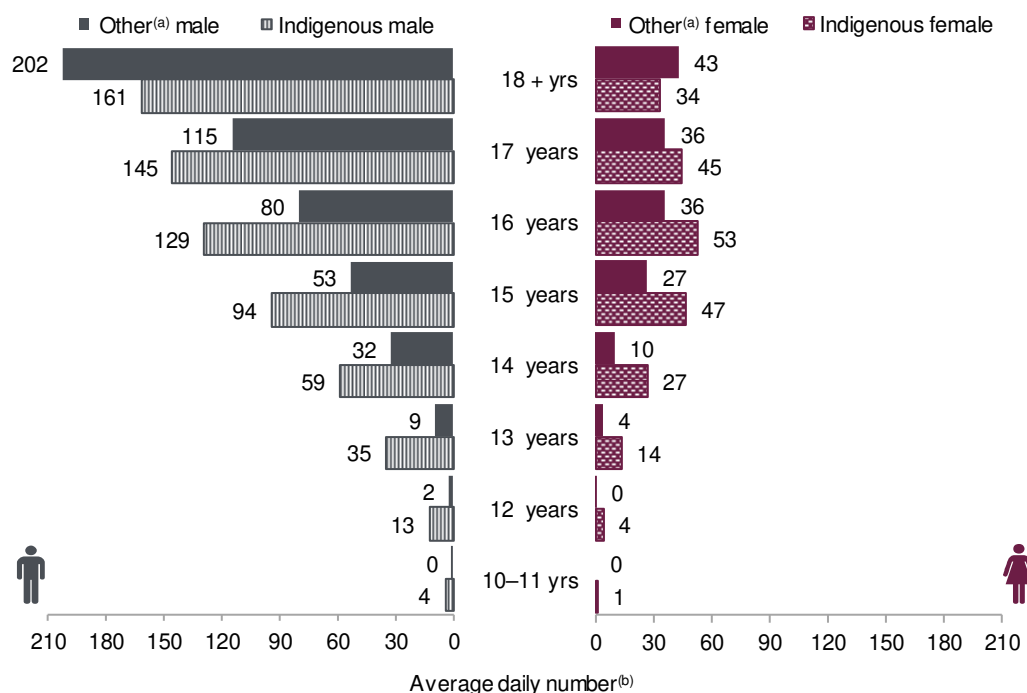
(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number, however total is based on unrounded components.

(d) Total includes those whose sex was identified as intersex or indeterminate.

In 2019–20, the average daily number of males on a supervised community-based youth justice order increased with age for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and other males (Figure 43). For all ages under 18 years and for both males and females, the average daily numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people outnumbered others on a supervised community-based youth justice order.

Figure 43 Average daily number of persons on supervised youth justice orders in the community, by Indigenous status, age and sex, 2019–20



(a) 'Other' represents those who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

(b) Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

4.4.2. Average daily number in custody (including police watchhouses)

In this section, 'in custody' refers to young people held in youth detention centres on pre-court custody, remand or sentence; young people held in police watchhouses on post-court remand or sentence; or young people in other locations (such as in police transit, Brisbane court cells, or in hospital) on remand or sentence.

It excludes those in pre-court custody in police watchhouses.

The average daily number of young people in custody is calculated based on the number who were physically located in a detention centre or a police watchhouse (or other) at 11.59 pm on each day during the reference period.

Table 65 shows that most young people held in custody on an average day are held in a youth detention centre, except in 2018–19 when capacity constraints in detention centres saw an increase in young people held in locations other than youth detention centres.

While the average daily number of 17-year-old offenders in youth detention centres increased slightly from 55 in the previous year to 64 in 2019–20, the number from the 10–16 years offender cohort dropped for the second year running, reaching its second-lowest level in the time series.

Table 65 Average daily number of young people in custody, by custody location and legal status – time series

Custody location	Offender cohort aged 10–16 years at time of offence										Offender cohort aged 17 years			All offenders		
	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
	— average daily number ^(c) —										— average daily number ^(c) —			— average daily number ^(c) —		
Detention centre	134	137	159	180	168	184	178	191	158	136	10	55	64	201	213	200
Pre-court custody	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	2	0	0	0	3	1	2
Remanded	88	88	122	127	131	143	141	155	129	114	9	47	54	164	175	168
Sentenced	45	47	35	50	34	39	34	34	29	20	1	9	10	35	38	30
Police watchhouses / other	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	5	27	6	1	12	2	6	38	8
Remanded	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	5	26	6	1	11	2	6	37	8
Sentenced	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	138	140	162	182	170	186	181	196	185	142	11	67	66	207	252	208

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number, however total is based on unrounded components.

In 2019–20, of the average daily number of 208 young people in custody, 31.7% were aged 17 years at date of offence, and the majority were male. On an average day, the 17-year-old offender cohort accounted for over a quarter of the 146 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in custody, and over a third of the 62 non-Indigenous young people in custody (Table 66).

Table 66 Average daily number of young people in custody – time series

	Offender cohort aged 10–16 years at time of offence										Offender cohort aged 17 years			All offenders		
	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
	— average daily number ^(c) —										— average daily number ^(c) —			— average daily number ^(c) —		
Sex																
Male	125	128	137	151	141	153	155	168	159	125	10	59	60	178	218	185
Female	13	12	25	31	30	33	26	28	26	18	1	8	6	30	34	24
Indigenous status																
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	81	90	108	122	112	129	129	144	135	104	7	44	42	150	179	146
Non-Indigenous	56	50	53	59	59	56	52	53	50	38	4	23	24	57	73	62
Not stated	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age (years)																
10–11	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	..	..	..	2	1	1
12	3	2	3	3	4	4	4	7	6	5	..	..	..	7	6	5
13	8	7	12	12	12	14	10	14	15	12	..	..	..	14	15	12
14	20	17	26	34	28	31	30	31	28	25	..	..	..	31	28	25
15	39	38	40	46	48	47	54	51	45	37	..	..	..	51	45	37
16	41	52	55	62	59	69	61	65	65	46	..	..	..	65	65	46
17	22	18	24	22	17	20	18	25	23	13	10	53	47	35	76	60
18+	3	4	2	2	1	2	1	0	2	2	1	14	19	2	16	21
Total^(d)	138	140	162	182	170	186	181	196	185	142	11	67	66	207	252	208

.. not applicable

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

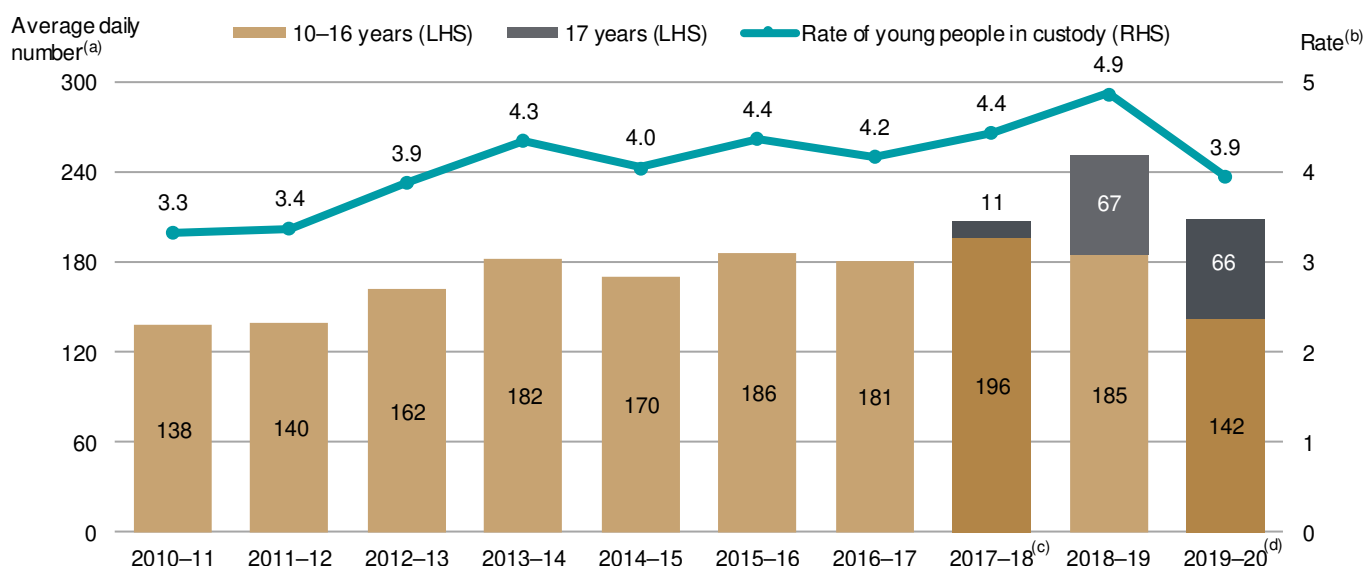
(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number, however total is based on unrounded components.

(d) Total includes those whose sex was identified as intersex or indeterminate.

There were 208 young people on average in custody daily during 2019–20, which represents a decrease of 22.9% from 2018–19 or 42 fewer persons on an average day. This significant decrease was mainly attributable to those aged 10–16 years at time of offence, as the average daily number of the 17-year-old offender cohort had decreased by only 1 person over the year (Figure 44).

Figure 44 Average daily number and rate of young people in custody by offender age cohort



(a) Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

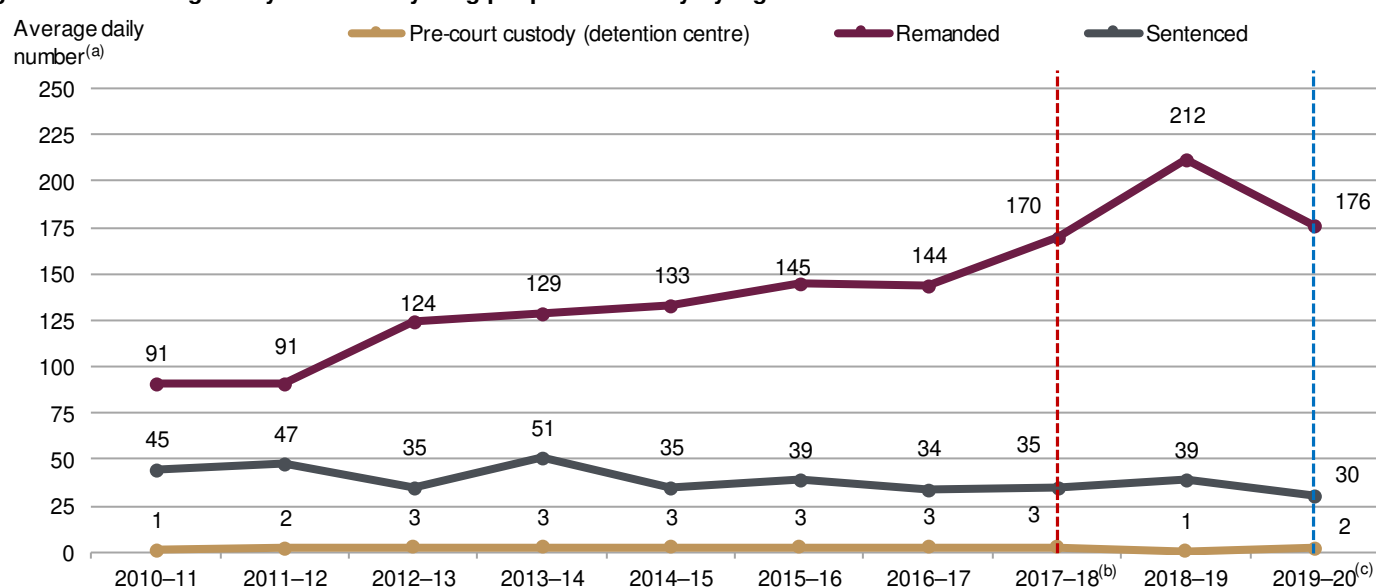
(b) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2010–11 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.

(c) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(d) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

Across the 10-year time series, the majority of young people in custody were on remand (unsentenced) on an average day, however, as a proportion this has steadily increased from 66.4% in 2010–11 to the peak of 84.5% in 2019–20. The average daily number of persons in unsentenced custody was at its highest in 2018–19 (at 212), the first full year after 17-year-old offenders transitioned to the youth justice system. The average daily number of persons in sentenced custody (including police watchhouses) was relatively small and fluctuated around 30 to 51 (Figure 45).

Figure 45 Average daily number of young people in custody by legal status



(a) Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

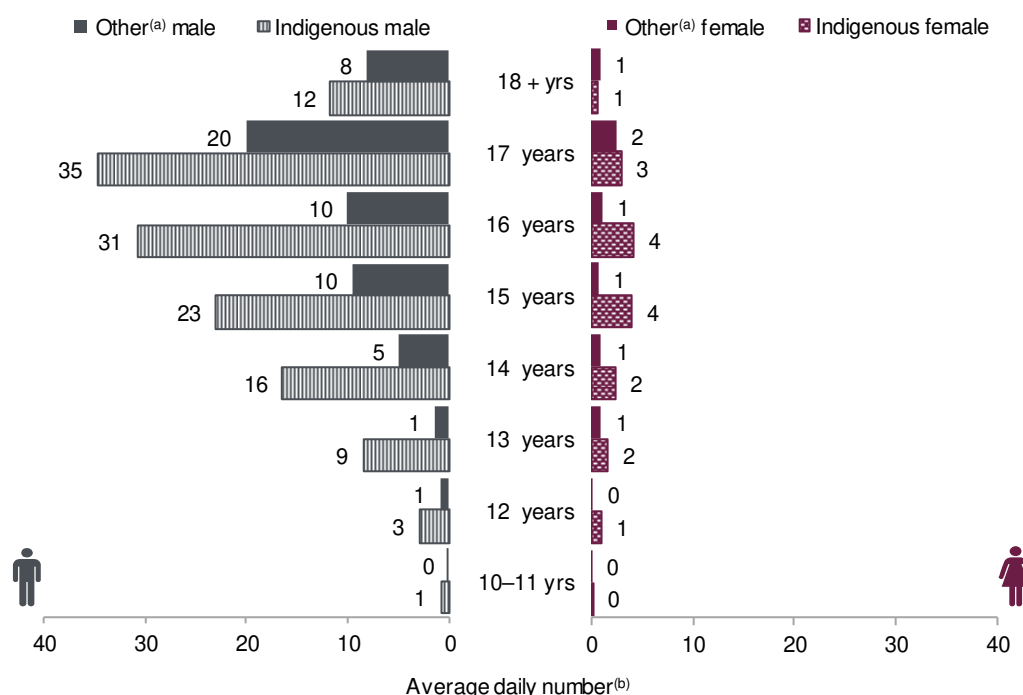
(b) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(c) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

During 2019–20, the average daily number of young males in custody increased with age, peaking at 17 years, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males more than double the number of other males in each age group except for 17 years and over (Figure 46).

The average daily numbers of females in custody were substantially lower, with relatively higher numbers for those aged between 15 and 17 years.

Figure 46 Average daily number of young people in custody by Indigenous status, age and sex, 2019–20



(a) 'Other' represents those who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

(b) Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

4.4.3. Average daily number in youth detention centres

The average daily number of persons in youth detention is calculated based on the number who were physically located in a youth detention centre at 11.59 pm on each day during the period, and excludes young people held in police watchhouses.

In 2019–20, among the 200 persons held in youth detention centres on an average day, 64 were aged 17 years at the time of offence (Table 67). Compared with 2018–19, the average daily number of young people aged from 15 to 17 years held in youth detention decreased in 2019–20.

The majority of young people in detention centres on an average day are male, with males comprising more than 85% of all young people in detention since 17-year-old offenders transitioned to youth justice.

Table 67 Average daily number of persons in youth detention centres

	Offender cohort aged 10–16 years at time of offence			Offender cohort aged 17 years			All offenders		
	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)
	— average daily number ^(c) —			— average daily number ^(c) —			— average daily number ^(c) —		
Sex									
Male	163	135	120	9	48	58	172	183	178
Female	28	23	17	1	7	6	29	30	23
Indigenous status									
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	140	117	100	6	37	41	146	154	140
Non-Indigenous	51	41	36	4	19	23	55	60	60
Age (years)									
10–11	2	1	1	..	..	..	2	1	1
12	6	5	5	..	..	..	6	5	5
13	13	12	12	..	..	..	13	12	12
14	30	24	24	..	..	..	30	24	24
15	50	37	36	..	..	..	50	37	36
16	64	55	44	..	..	..	64	55	44
17	25	22	13	9	42	45	34	64	58
18+	0	2	2	1	13	19	2	16	21
Total^(d)	191	158	136	10	55	64	201	213	200

.. not applicable

(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

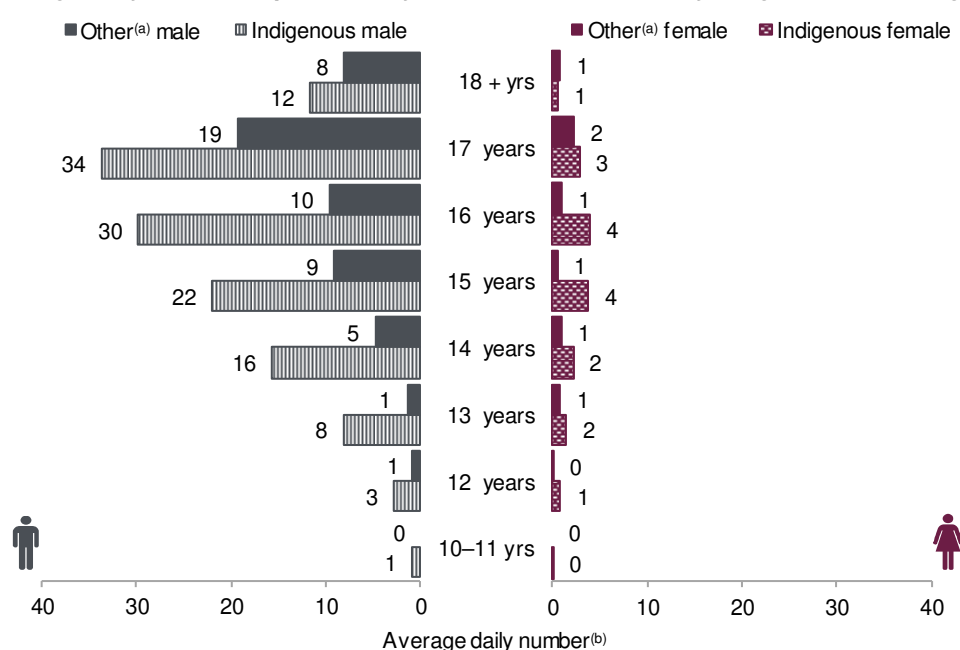
(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number, however total is based on unrounded components.

(d) Total includes those whose sex was identified as intersex or indeterminate.

During 2019–20, for both males and females in detention centres on an average day, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people outnumbered other young people in every age group from 12 to 17 years (Figure 47). For both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other males, 17 years was the most common age of all males in detention centres.

Figure 47 Average daily number of persons in youth detention centres by Indigenous status, age and sex, 2019–20



(a) 'Other' represents those who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

(b) Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

5.0 Corrective services

Source: Unpublished data supplied by Queensland Corrective Services.

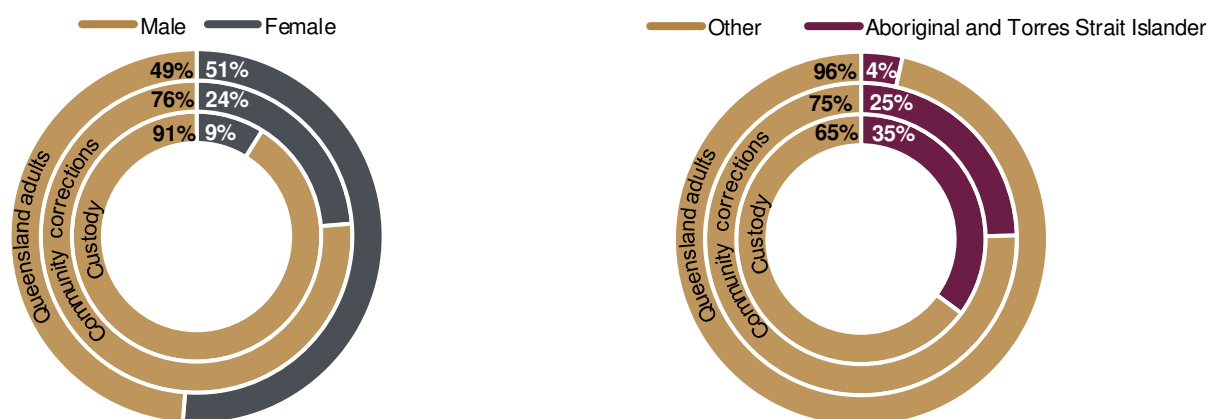
This should be read in conjunction with the Explanatory notes and Glossary at the end of the report.

Adults in custody as at 30 June		2019	2020^(a)	% change
Total persons		8,773	8,660	-1.3 ↓
Males		7,917	7,895	-0.3 ↔
Females		856	765	-10.6 ↓
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)		32.7	35.1	2.4ppt ↑
Adults in community corrections as at 1 June		2019	2020^(a)	% change
Total persons		21,347	18,389	-13.9 ↓
Males		16,297	14,033	-13.9 ↓
Females		5,050	4,356	-13.7 ↓
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)		23.6	24.6	1.0ppt ↑

(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

ppt = percentage point

Figure 48 Queensland's adult population compared with adults under the supervision of corrective services, June 2020



As at June 2020:



Adults in custody

- The number of adults in custody decreased for the second consecutive year.
- One in 3 adults in custody were unsentenced.
- There were 10 times as many males as females in the prison population overall, and 9 times as many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males as females in custody.
- Over one-third (35.1%) of all adults in custody identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander imprisonment rate (2,121.1 per 100,000 persons aged 18 years and over) was 14.5 times the imprisonment rate for others (146.0).

Adults in community corrections



- There were 3.2 times as many males (14,033) in community corrections as females (4,356).
- One in four adults in community corrections identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- The rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults in community corrections (3,160.6 per 100,000 persons aged 18 years and over) was 8.8 times the rate for others (360.1).

5.1. Overview

This report presents summary statistics about adult corrective services in Queensland as at June 2020, custody data time series for nine years and community corrections for 10 years.

Two different populations are presented: adults in full-time custody (excluding police watchhouses) and adults in community-based corrections. Data for adults in custody are presented as at 30 June, while data for community corrections are presented as at 1 June. Length of stay data are also presented for adults in custody.

Each dataset was prepared separately using different methodologies and extracted at different times. Numbers reported here may differ from those reported elsewhere.

Rates in this section are presented per 100,000 persons. (See Explanatory notes for more details on counting methodology applied.)

COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, containment measures and restrictions were introduced in Queensland from March 2020. These restrictions had an impact on levels of criminal activity and justice system processes in the last quarter of 2019–20 and resulted in lower than usual numbers of adults dealt with in the courts.

Containment measures within the justice system included the Magistrates Court heavily scaling back their operations and new jury trials ceasing in the higher courts from mid-March until the courts system returned to near-normal operations in mid-June. The reduction in court appearances and finalisations will have had a flow-on effect on corrective services admissions and discharges, and even the distribution of legal status of those in custody, during that period. Adult custody data used for this report are primarily annual point-in-time measures relating to persons in custody as at 30 June, and do not reveal the specific impact of COVID restrictions.

However, monthly community corrections data were able to be explored for evidence of the COVID impact, and these are presented in section 5.4.1.

The pandemic is a significant and ongoing event, and comparisons with earlier periods must be made with caution.

Youth Justice legislation

Implementation in February 2018 of the *Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Act 2016* and the Youth Justice (Transitional) Regulation 2018 meant that, from that date onwards, 17-year-old offenders are dealt with in the youth justice system. Statistically, this means a **break in the time series** in 2017–18. These legislative changes resulted in an initial small decrease in the adult corrections data for 2018. It should be noted that the impact of the change is less apparent in numbers relating to adult corrections than it is in the youth justice system, because of the small number of 17-year-old offenders relative to the number of adult offenders. Readers are nevertheless urged to exercise caution when making comparisons between 2018 and periods before and after.

5.2. Adults in custody

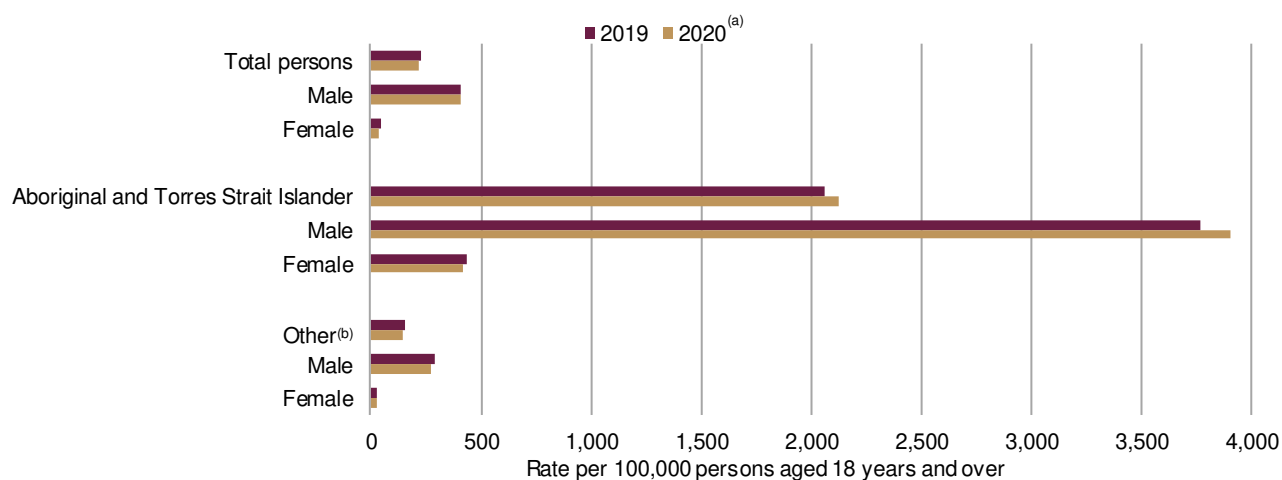
As at 30 June 2020, there were 8,660 adults in custody in Queensland, and the majority of these were male (7,895 or 91.2%). The rate of males in custody (405.1 per 100,000 persons aged 18 years and over) was substantially higher than that of females (37.5) (Figure 49).

Almost one-third (29.2%) of adults in custody were unsentenced (on remand), with 57 adults being detained in custody under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003* (DPSOA). Females (33.3%) were more likely than males (28.8%) to be unsentenced.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults continued to be over-represented in custody in 2020, with a rate of imprisonment (2,121.1 per 100,000 persons) that is much higher than the rate for others (146.0). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males were 14.2 times as likely as other males to be in custody, while Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were 17.7 times as likely as other females to be in custody.

5.2.1. Prisoner characteristics

Figure 49 Adult imprisonment rates by Indigenous status and sex, as at 30 June



(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

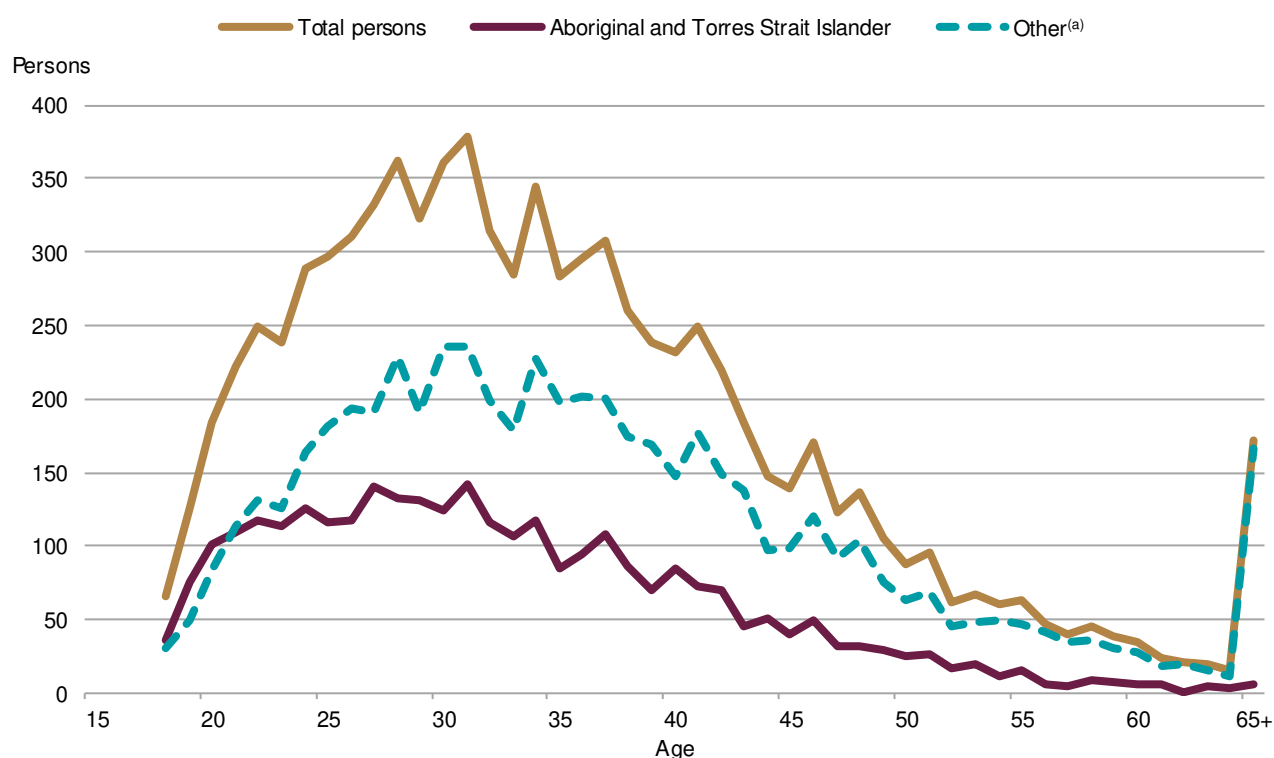
(b) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

The age curve of all adults in custody at 30 June 2020 increases sharply with age to 28 years, and peaks at 31 years (378 persons), before decreasing to less than 100 adults in custody per year of age by 50 years (Figure 50).

While the peaks for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults (31 years, with 142 adults) and other adults (30 and 31 years, each with 236) were at the same age, the age curves were different. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults below 20 years of age outnumbered other adults in custody in the same age group. However, at 20 years of age, the number for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults (101) was over two-thirds of the Indigenous peak, while the number for other adults at 20 years of age (83) was one-third of the peak for other adults.

At the other end of the age spectrum, 3.0% of all other adults in custody were aged 65 years and over, compared with only 0.2% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults.

Figure 50 Adults in custody by Indigenous status, as at 30 June 2020

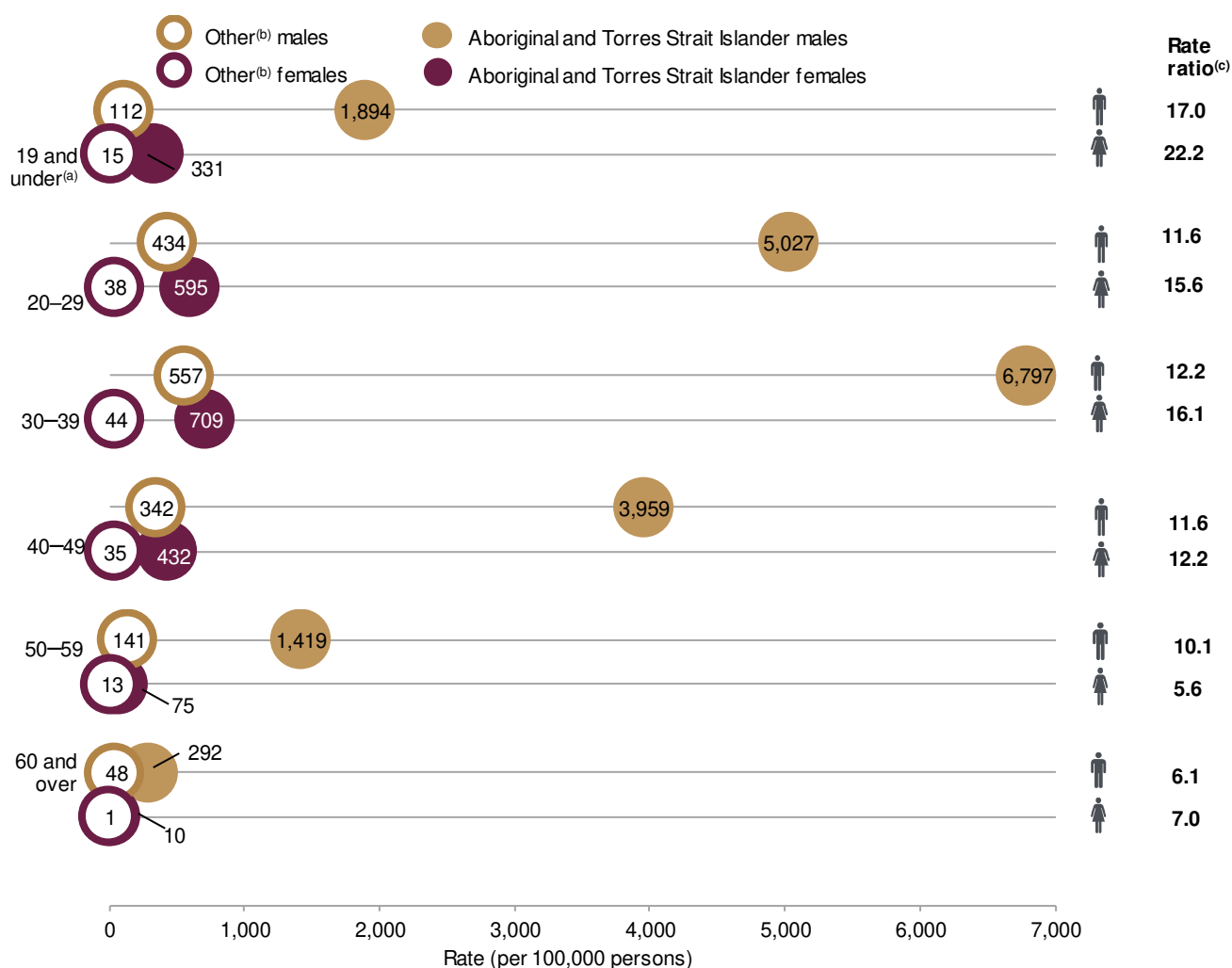


(a) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Figure 51 shows that, when the imprisonment rate is separated into categories of sex and Indigenous status and into age groups, all categories have an increasing imprisonment rate as they age, with a peak rate in the 30–39 year age group followed by a swift decline in imprisonment rate. This is particularly evident for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males. Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females had a substantially lower imprisonment rate by 50–59 years than they did aged 19 years and under, while for other males and females the imprisonment rate for 50–59 years was very similar to the rate for the 19 years and under age group.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults had imprisonment rates eleven or more times that of other adults for all age groups up to 49 years. Other females had the lowest imprisonment rates across all age groups.

Figure 51 Adult imprisonment rates by Indigenous status, sex and age, as at 30 June 2020



(a) Rate for the 19 years and under age group is calculated per 100,000 persons aged 18–19 years.

(b) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

(c) Rate ratio is the imprisonment rate for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population subgroup divided by the rate for the equivalent other population subgroup. Rate ratios have been calculated on unrounded rates.

Table 68 Count and rate of adults in custody by Indigenous status, sex and age, as at 30 June 2020

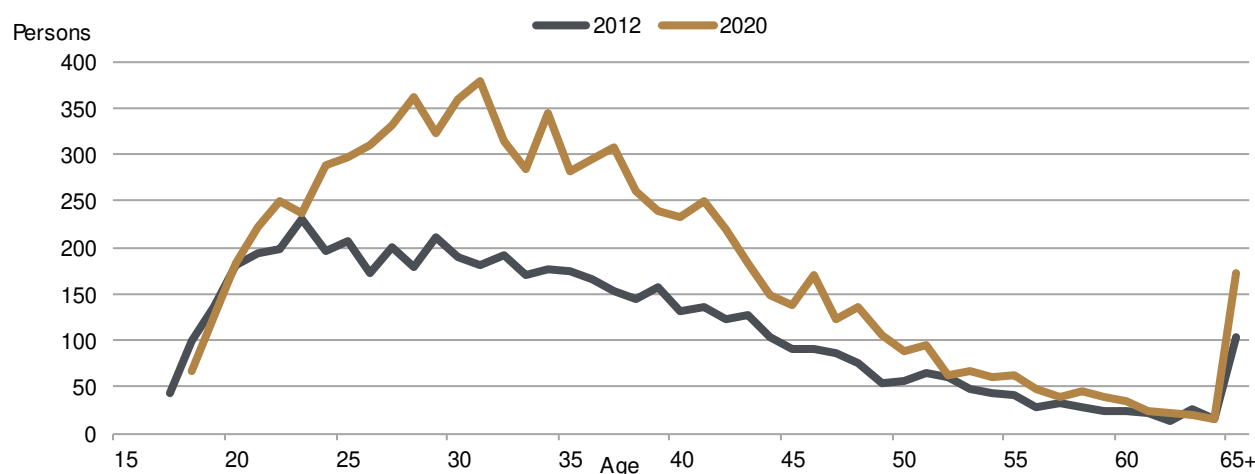
Age at 30 June	19 yrs & under	20–29 yrs	30–39 yrs	40–49 yrs	50–59 yrs	60 yrs & over	19 yrs & under ^(a)	20–29 yrs	30–39 yrs	40–49 yrs	50–59 yrs	60 yrs & over
	— persons —						— rate per 100,000 persons —					
Total persons	192	2,804	3,067	1,705	606	286	143.3	388.6	429.0	254.2	95.5	25.6
Male	167	2,551	2,810	1,534	556	277	243.0	707.6	805.8	467.8	179.8	51.9
Female	25	253	257	171	50	9	38.3	70.1	70.2	49.9	15.4	1.5
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	112	1,204	1,048	507	143	26	1,131.5	2,854.4	3,703.6	2,116.9	708.3	138.2
Male	96	1,081	946	453	135	25	1,893.5	5,027.0	6,797.4	3,958.8	1,419.0	291.8
Female	16	123	102	54	8	1	331.4	594.9	709.3	431.8	74.9	9.8
Other^(b)	80	1,600	2,019	1,198	463	260	64.4	235.5	294.0	185.2	75.3	23.7
Male	71	1,470	1,864	1,081	421	252	111.6	433.6	556.8	341.6	140.5	48.0
Female	9	130	155	117	42	8	14.9	38.2	44.0	35.4	13.3	1.4

(a) This age group comprises 18–19-year-olds, and rates are calculated per 100,000 persons aged 18–19 years.

(b) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

While the number of adults in custody has increased by 54.8% (or 3,067) from 5,593 in June 2012 to 8,660 in June 2020, this increase has not been equally shared across all ages (Figure 52).

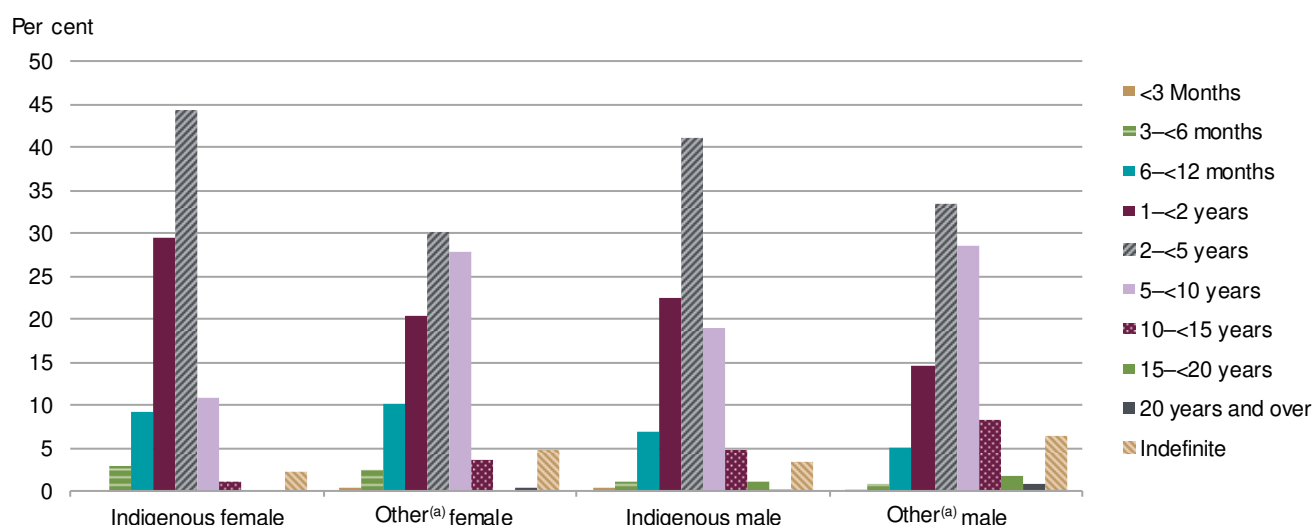
Numbers were similar between 2012 and 2020 for adults in custody up to age 23, which was the most prevalent age in 2012 (230). In 2012, numbers began to decrease from age 23 whereas in 2020 they continued to rise to a peak at 31 years (378), with more than double the number of 31-year-olds in custody in 2020 than there was in 2012 (180).

Figure 52 Adults in custody by age, as at 30 June

5.2.2. Sentenced prisoners

A sentence length of two years to less than five years was the most prevalent category for sentenced prisoners, irrespective of Indigenous status and sex. One year to less than two years was the second-most prevalent for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners, while for other prisoners, five to less than ten years was second-most prevalent (Figure 53).

There was also a greater proportion of other males and females serving an indefinite sentence (6.5% and 4.8% respectively) than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (3.3%) and females (2.3%).

Figure 53 Proportion of sentenced prisoners by length of sentence, as at 30 June 2020

(a) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 69 Sentenced adult prisoners by length of sentence, as at 30 June 2020

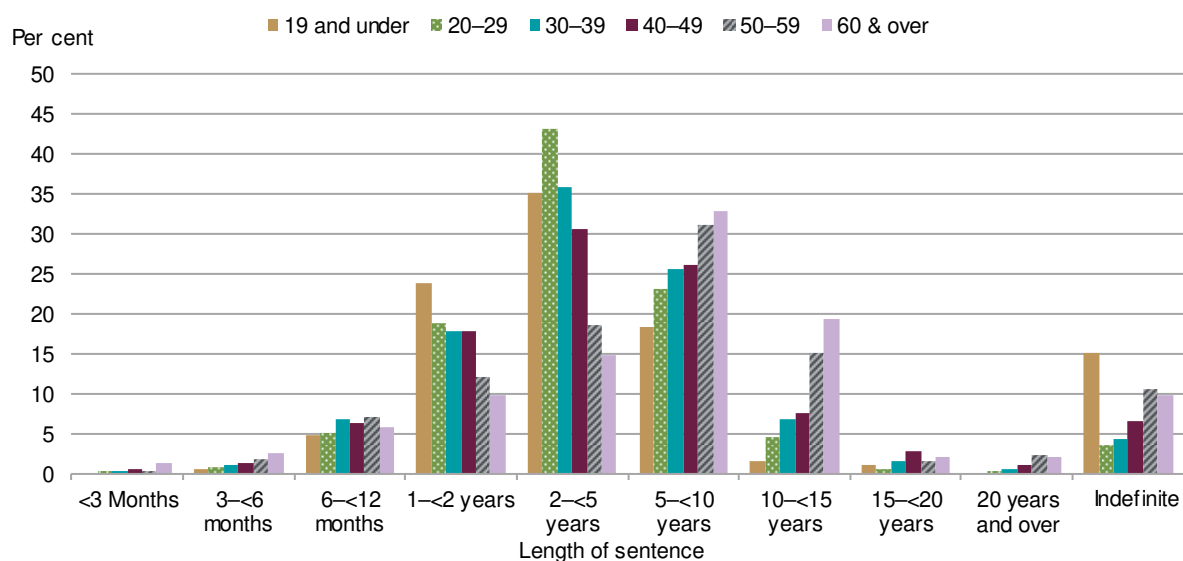
Sentence length	<3 months	3 to <6 months	6 to <12 months	1 to <2 years	2 to <5 years	5 to <10 years	10 to <15 years	15 to <20 years	20 years and over	Indefinite
— persons —										
Total persons	16	67	361	1,080	2,181	1,519	404	84	38	321
Male	15	54	311	960	2,002	1,407	390	84	37	301
Female	1	13	50	120	179	112	14	0	1	20
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	6	25	147	484	864	383	94	19	4	68
Male	6	20	131	432	786	364	92	19	4	64
Female	0	5	16	52	78	19	2	0	0	4
Other(a)	10	42	214	596	1,317	1,136	310	65	34	253
Male	9	34	180	528	1,216	1,043	298	65	33	237
Female	1	8	34	68	101	93	12	0	1	16

(a) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Sentenced adults in custody are serving longer sentences on average if they were older at reception. Of adults in custody who were aged 50–59 years at reception, 15.0% were serving a sentence of ten to less than fifteen years, compared with 6.7% of those aged 30–39 years at reception and 1.4% of those aged 19 and under at reception. There was a similar pattern for sentences of five to less than ten years. Meanwhile, there was a higher proportion of sentences of two to less than five years for younger cohorts in 2020 (Figure 54).

While the proportion of those with an indefinite sentence increased with age from 20–29 to 50–59 years, the proportion of those aged 19 years and under serving an indefinite sentence was higher than any other age group. Nineteen years and under was the only age group with a higher proportion serving an indefinite sentence than serving a sentence of ten years and over.

Indefinite sentence is a sentence of imprisonment for an indefinite term that is to continue until a court orders that it be discharged or parole board approves release.

Figure 54 Proportion of sentenced prisoners by length of sentence^(a), by age on reception, as at 30 June 2020

(a) Aggregate sentence length as at 30 June 2020.

Table 70 Sentenced adult prisoners by length of sentence, by age on reception, as at 30 June 2020

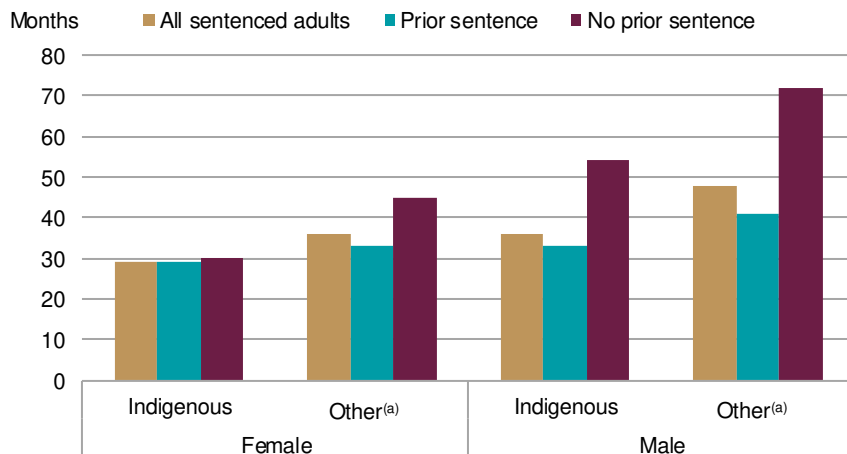
Age on reception	19 yrs & under	20-29 yrs	30-39 yrs	40-49 yrs	50-59 yrs	60 yrs & over
Sentence length	— persons —					
<3 months	0	6	2	5	1	2
3 to <6 months	1	18	24	14	6	4
6 to <12 months	10	109	143	65	25	9
1 to <2 years	51	404	380	187	43	15
2 to <5 yrs	75	926	768	323	66	23
5 to <10 years	39	495	549	275	110	51
10 to <15 years	3	94	144	80	53	30
15 to <20 years	2	12	33	29	5	3
20 years and over	0	6	12	9	8	3
Indefinite	32	77	91	69	37	15
Total	213	2,147	2,146	1,056	354	155

5.2.3. Median sentence length

The median sentence length varied by sex and Indigenous status, with sentenced males having a longer median length of sentence than sentenced females overall. The median sentence length for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sentenced adults was shorter than for other adults (Figure 55). Other males had the longest median sentence length (48 months), while Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females had the shortest median sentence length (29 months).

The median sentence length of adults in custody who were known to have served a previous custodial sentence in Queensland was shorter than the median sentence length for those with no prior sentence for all cohorts. The biggest difference was seen in other males, whose median sentence length with no prior sentence (72 months) was 75.6% longer than the median sentence length with prior imprisonment (41 months).

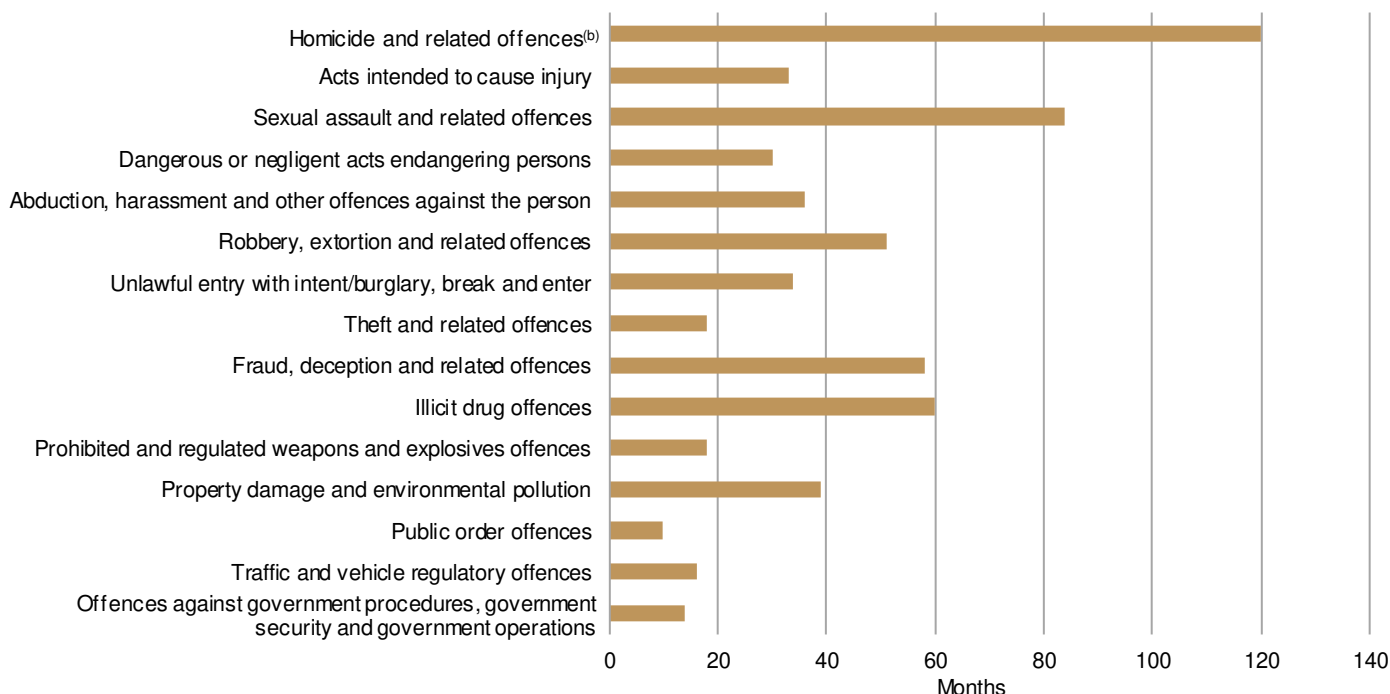
Figure 55 Median length of adult sentence by known prior custodial sentence in Queensland, as at 30 June 2020



(a) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

The median length of sentence also varied by the most serious offence for which the prisoner had been sentenced, with more severe offences receiving longer sentences. When viewing the median sentence data, it should be noted that indefinite sentence has been excluded from calculations for Figure 55 and Figure 56 as well as Table 71 which has particular impact on *homicide and related offences* (where 65.0% of sentenced adults are serving an indefinite sentence), and *sexual assault and related offences* (1.6% serving an indefinite sentence).

Figure 56 Median length of adult sentence by most serious offence^(a), as at 30 June 2020



(a) *Miscellaneous offences* excluded due to low numbers.

(b) Indefinite sentence has been excluded from median sentence calculations. Note that two-thirds of sentenced adults in custody whose most serious offence was *Homicide and related offences* were serving an indefinite sentence.

Table 71 Median length of adult sentence by most serious offence, as at 30 June 2020

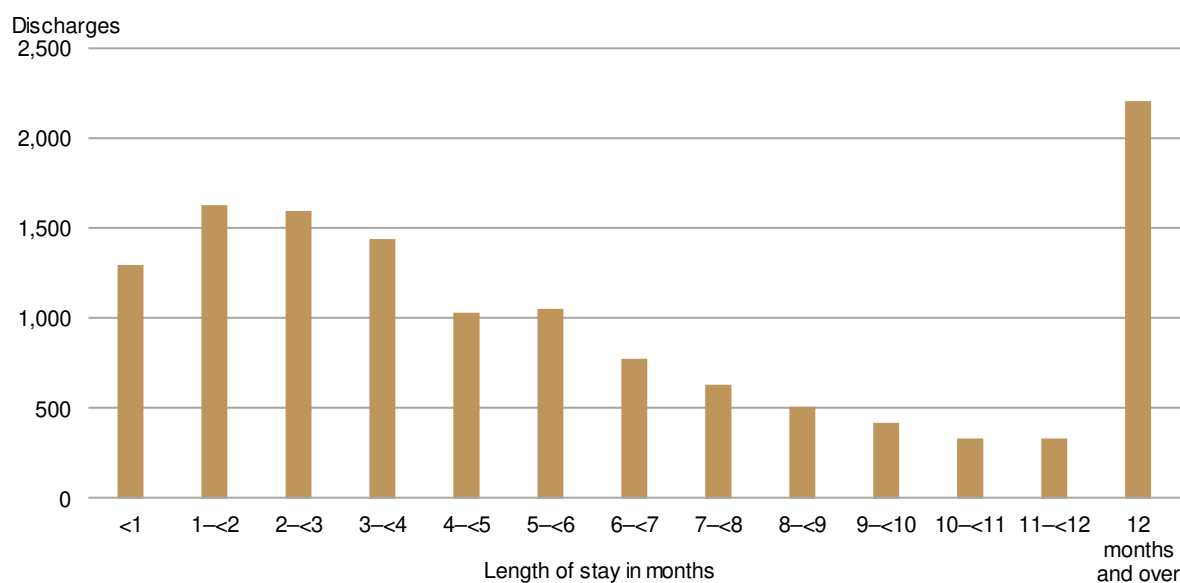
Most serious offence (MSO)	All adult sentences
Offence (ANZSOC division)	months
Homicide and related offences ^(a)	120
Acts intended to cause injury	33
Sexual assault and related offences	84
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	30
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	36
Robbery, extortion and related offences	51
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	34
Theft and related offences	18
Fraud, deception and related offences	58
Illicit drug offences	60
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	18
Property damage and environmental pollution	39
Public order offences	10
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	16
Offences against government procedures, government security and government operations	14
All offence divisions^(b)	41

(a) Indefinite sentence has been excluded from median sentence calculations. Note that two-thirds of sentenced adults in custody whose most serious offence was *Homicide and related offences* were serving an indefinite sentence.

(b) *Miscellaneous offences* are excluded from the table due to low numbers but are included in 'All offence divisions'.

5.2.4. Length of stay

Almost two-thirds (60.7%) of prisoners discharged during 2019–20 had a stay of less than six months, with 16.7% of those released having stayed in custody for 12 months or longer.

Figure 57 Prisoner discharges^(a) by length of stay, 2019–20

(a) An individual may be discharged more than once in a reference year.

5.3. Adults in custody – time series

5.3.1. Prisoner characteristics

The numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults in custody have increased each year over the 9-year time series (from 1,663 in June 2012 to 3,040 in June 2020). While Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults as a proportion of the total prison population remained steady over the five years from 2013 to 2018, the proportion increased in June 2020 to its highest level in the series (35.1%). This clearly illustrates the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons in the prison system, as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults comprise just 4% of Queensland's adult population.

The total number of adults in custody decreased for the second consecutive year (–1.3% from 2019 to 2020, –0.7% from 2018 to 2019). The most recent decrease is likely in part due to the impact of COVID-19 and was not evenly distributed. The majority of the decrease was in the female population. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females in custody decreased 2.3% from 2019 to 2020, while other females decreased 15.4%. While other males in custody decreased 3.7%, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males saw an increase of 6.8% over the year.

Table 72 Adults in custody as at 30 June – time series

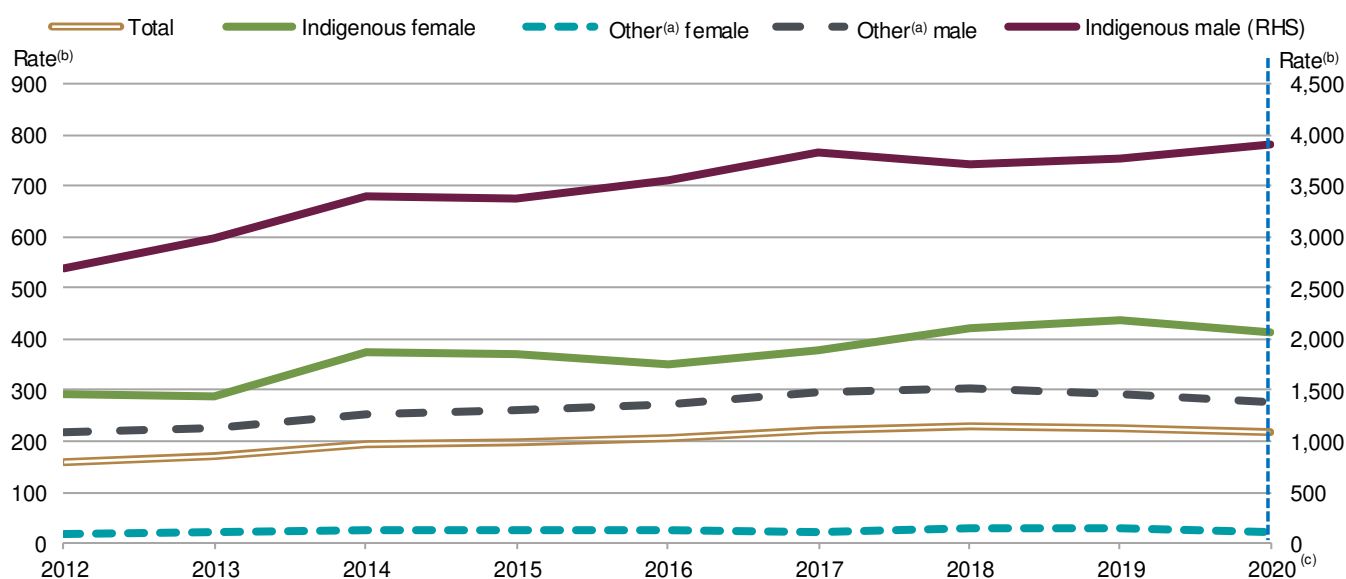
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ^(a)
	— persons —								
Total persons^(b)	5,593	6,076	7,049	7,319	7,744	8,479	8,838	8,773	8,660
Male	5,118	5,540	6,380	6,612	7,062	7,781	8,000	7,917	7,895
Female	475	536	669	707	682	698	838	856	765
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	1,663	1,898	2,243	2,309	2,463	2,723	2,744	2,872	3,040
Male	1,492	1,722	2,013	2,071	2,226	2,469	2,452	2,561	2,736
Female	171	176	230	238	237	254	292	311	304
Other^(c)	3,930	4,178	4,806	5,010	5,281	5,756	6,094	5,901	5,620
Male	3,626	3,818	4,367	4,541	4,836	5,312	5,548	5,356	5,159
Female	304	360	439	469	445	444	546	545	461

(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(b) Includes all adults in custody irrespective of legal status.

(c) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Figure 58 Rates of adults in custody as at 30 June – time series



(a) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

(b) Rate is calculated per 100,000 persons aged 18 years and over, and includes persons who are sentenced, unsentenced and those being detained under the DPSOA. Prisoners aged 17 years have been excluded from the count of earlier years to allow a comparison rate.

(c) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

5.3.2. Legal status

A person in custody may have a legal status of either *sentenced* or *unsentenced* depending on the warrant(s) or court order(s) that provide the legal basis for the administration of the person through the criminal justice system, or they may be kept in custody post-sentence under a *DPSOA* continuing detention order (see Glossary for more detail).

The number and proportion of adults in custody who are unsentenced steadily increased across the timeseries to a peak of 2,710 (30.9%) at June 2019. In June 2020, while sentenced adults in custody increased 0.9%, unsentenced adults in custody decreased for the first time in the timeseries (down 6.6% to 2,532). The reduction in court activity due to COVID-19 in the last quarter of 2020 will have had some impact on numbers admitted to and discharged from custody, both sentenced and unsentenced.

Table 73 Adults in custody by legal status of prisoner, as at 30 June – time series

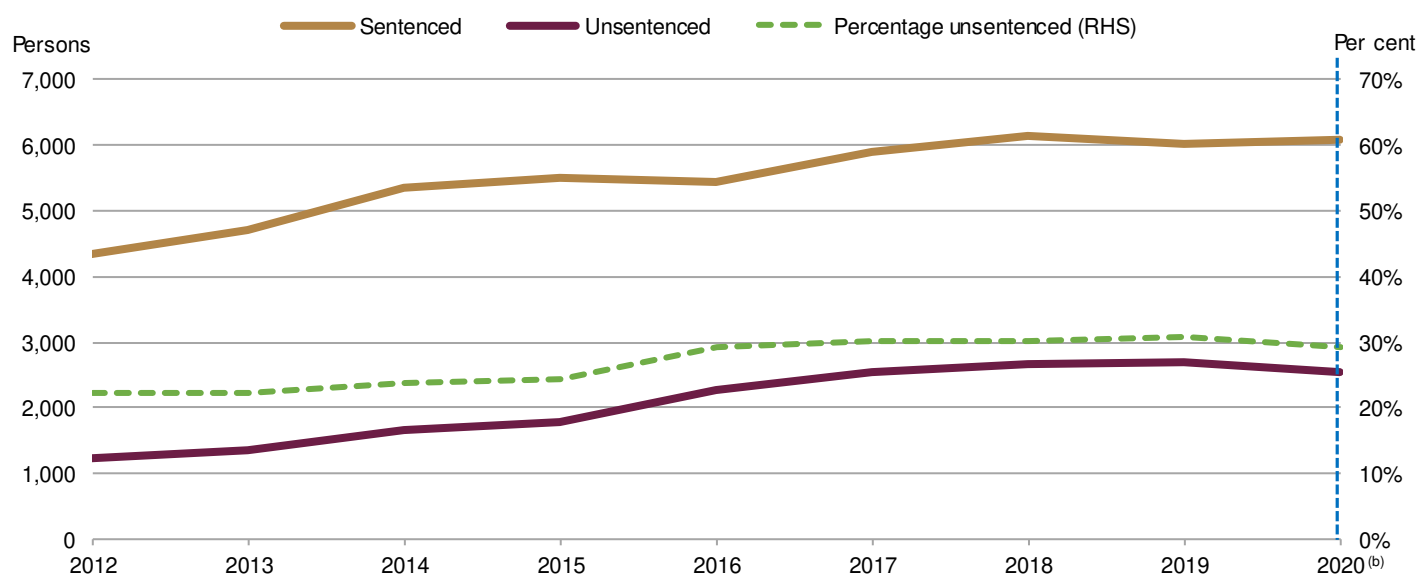
Legal status	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ^(a)
	— persons —								
Sentenced	4,343	4,690	5,332	5,488	5,430	5,895	6,149	6,017	6,071
Unsentenced	1,250	1,346	1,676	1,793	2,266	2,547	2,652	2,710	2,532
DPSOA ^(b)	-	40	41	38	48	37	37	46	57
Total	5,593	6,076	7,049	7,319	7,744	8,479	8,838	8,773	8,660

n.a. = not available.

(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(b) Prior to June 2013, data for prisoners being detained under the DPSOA were included in the sentenced category.

Figure 59 Adults in custody by legal status of prisoner^(a) as at 30 June – time series



(a) Those being detained under the DPSOA are excluded due to low numbers.

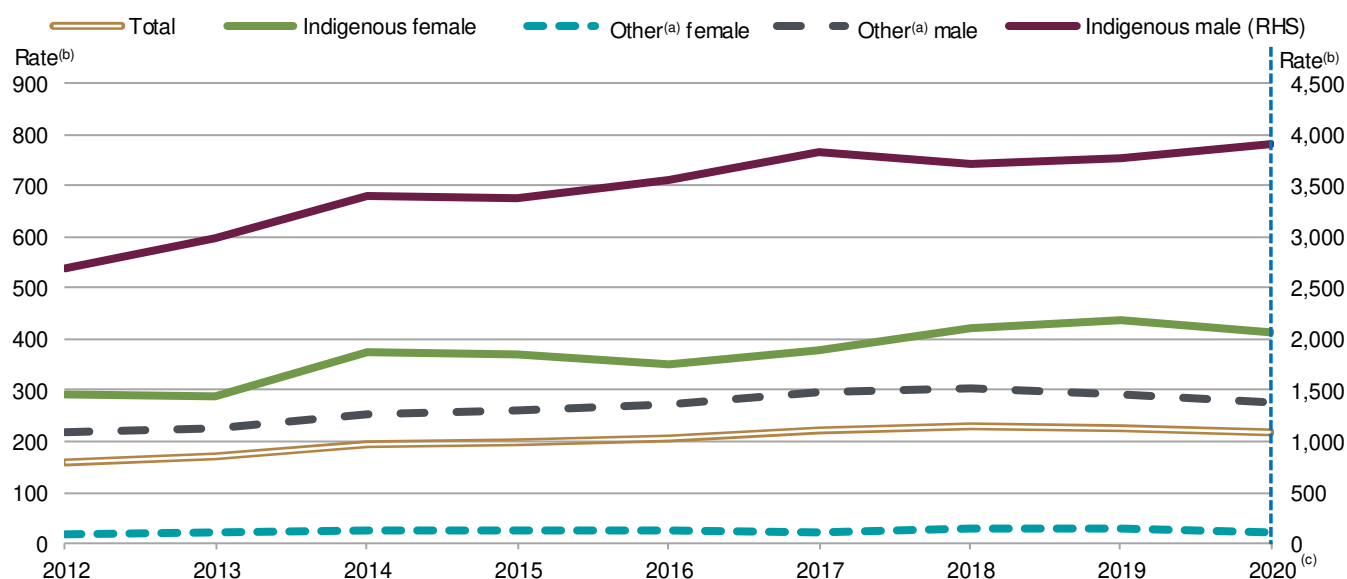
(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

5.3.3. Imprisonment rate

From June 2012 to June 2020, the imprisonment rate increased by 36.0% overall, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners having the largest proportional increases. Compared with June 2012, the imprisonment rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males increased by 45.5% to 3,907.7 per 100,000 persons in June 2020, while for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females the rate increased by 42.3% to 414.7 per 100,000 persons. By comparison, the imprisonment rates of other males (26.9%) and other females (31.4%) grew substantially less.

Note that, due to the large difference in rates between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males only and the remaining prisoner population, this group has been plotted to a different scale (right hand side) in Figure 60.

Figure 60 Adult imprisonment rate as at 30 June – time series



- (a) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
 (b) Imprisonment rate is calculated per 100,000 persons aged 18 years and over, and includes persons who are sentenced, unsentenced and those being detained under the DPSOA. Prisoners aged 17 years have been excluded from the count of earlier years to allow a comparison rate.
 (c) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

Table 74 Adult imprisonment rate as at 30 June – time series

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ^(a)
	— rate per 100,000 persons ^(b) —								
Total persons	159.6	170.0	194.2	198.7	207.4	223.3	229.7	223.9	217.0
Male	295.2	313.6	356.4	364.8	385.6	417.9	424.9	413.4	405.1
Female	26.9	29.7	36.5	37.8	35.6	36.1	42.6	42.7	37.5
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	1,452.2	1,600.2	1,842.7	1,839.1	1,910.7	2,056.9	2,025.3	2,061.6	2,121.1
Male	2,685.3	2,987.0	3,392.6	3,383.5	3,547.6	3,818.7	3,706.5	3,764.5	3,907.7
Female	291.4	289.7	372.5	370.2	349.4	378.2	420.8	436.3	414.7
Other^(c)	116.0	121.3	137.3	141.1	146.7	157.3	164.3	156.2	146.0
Male	216.4	224.1	252.9	259.9	273.6	296.1	305.6	290.0	274.6
Female	17.8	20.7	24.8	26.1	24.4	23.7	28.8	28.2	23.4

- (a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.
 (b) Rate is calculated per 100,000 persons aged 18 years and over. Includes all persons aged 18 years and over in custody, irrespective of legal status. Persons aged 17 years have been excluded from the rate calculation.
 (c) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

5.4. Adults in community-based corrections

Each adult serving a community corrections order can potentially be serving multiple orders of the same or different order types simultaneously.

5.4.1. COVID-19 impact on adults in community-based corrections

The impact of COVID containment measures on court operations had flow-on effects on numbers of adults in community-based corrections, which are best illustrated by comparing monthly data for 2019–20 with that of the previous year. While COVID-19 likely played a substantial role in the decrease evident in 2019–20, monthly analysis showed that all order types were below June 2019 levels when the pandemic was declared, but the decrease accelerated during the three months of reduced court operations.

Figure 61 Adults on probation – monthly comparison

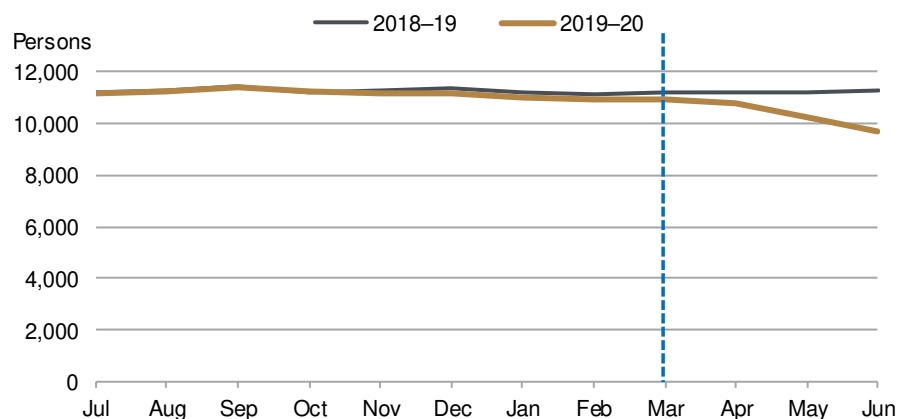


Figure 62 Adults on parole – monthly comparison

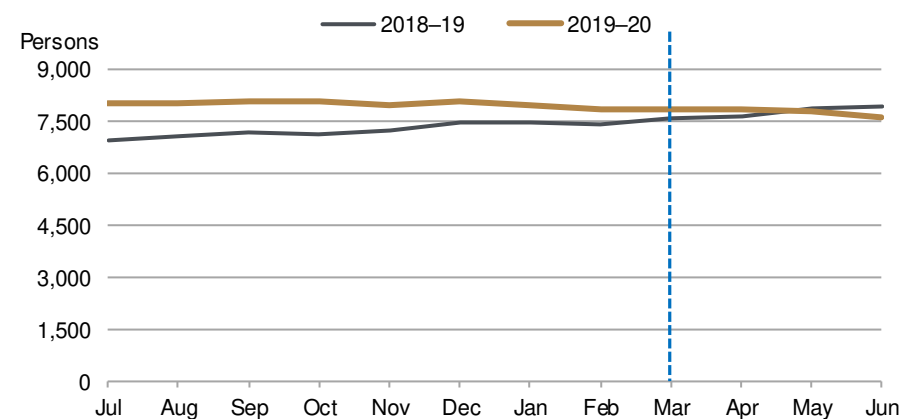


Figure 63 Adults on community service – fine option, monthly comparison

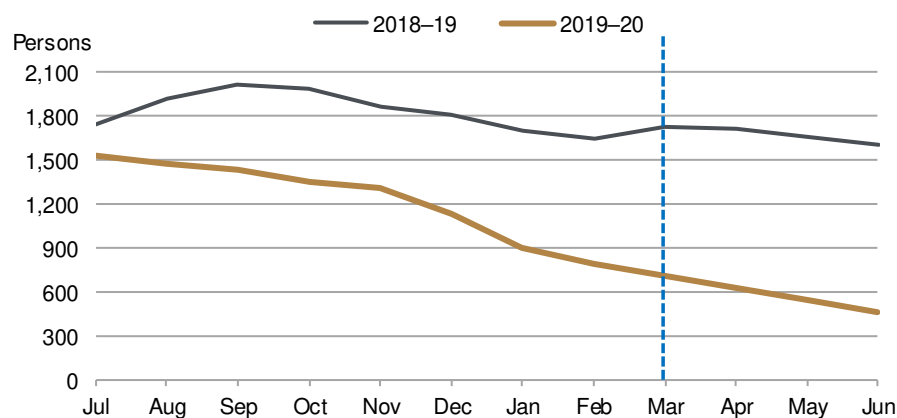
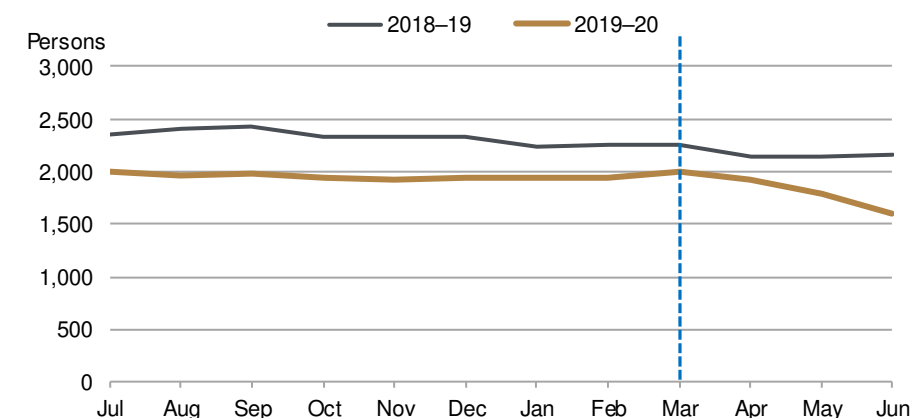


Figure 64 Adults on community service – other, monthly comparison



5.4.2. Order types

Table 75 Adults on supervised community corrections orders^(a) as at 1 June 2020

	Community service – fine option	Community service – other	Parole	Post-sentence supervision	Probation	Total persons serving orders ^(b)
	— persons —					
Total persons	468	1,605	7,622	127	9,692	18,389
Male	322	1,232	6,328	127	6,873	14,033
Female	146	373	1,294	0	2,819	4,356
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	107	594	2,033	52	2,069	4,530
Male	75	426	1,674	52	1,301	3,289
Female	32	168	359	0	768	1,241
Other^(c)	361	1,011	5,589	75	7,623	13,859
Male	247	806	4,654	75	5,572	10,744
Female	114	205	935	0	2,051	3,115

(a) Table presents a count of unique adults on each order type, irrespective of whether an individual was serving one or more orders of that type as at 1 June 2020.

(b) Total is a count of individuals serving one or more community corrections order(s) as at 1 June 2020.

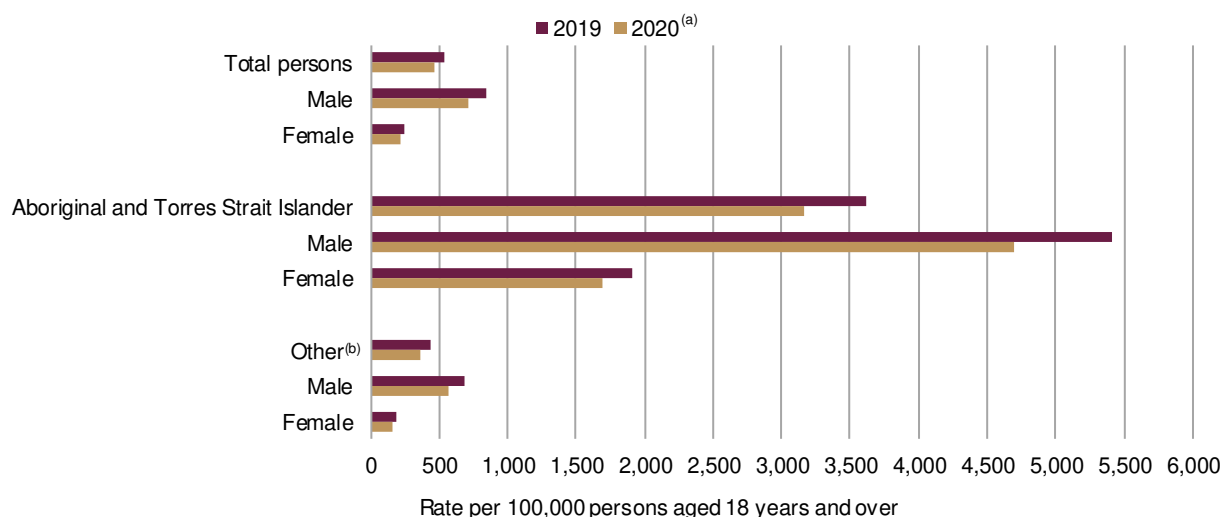
(c) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Of all unique adults serving supervised community corrections orders at 1 June 2020, 52.7% were serving *probation*, with females more likely to be serving probation (61.9% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and 65.8% other females) compared with males (39.6% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and 51.9% other males). However, males were more likely than females to be serving *parole* (50.9% for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and 43.3% for other males, compared with 28.9% for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and 30.0% for other females).

5.4.3. Offender characteristics

There were 18,389 adults serving one or more supervised community corrections orders on 1 June 2020. As with adults in custody, the majority (76.3%) were male, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults were over-represented (3,160.6 per 100,000 persons compared with 360.1 for other adults).

Figure 65 Rate of adults in community corrections as at 1 June



(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(b) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

5.5. Adults in community-based corrections – time series

5.5.1. Offender characteristics

The number of adults serving supervised community corrections orders decreased substantially in the year to 1 June 2020 (down 13.9% to 18,389), after increases in the previous six years (Figure 66). This decrease was already evident pre-COVID and escalated during the months after containment measures were implemented. (See section 5.4.1).

The counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and other females in community corrections have remained very similar throughout the 10-year time series, with the number of other females overtaking the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males in community corrections from June 2017 and dropping below in June 2020. The majority of adults in community corrections throughout the time series are other males, however the proportion has dropped from 63.1% of all adults serving supervised community corrections orders in June 2011 to 58.4% in June 2020.

While the total number of adults serving supervised community corrections orders increased by 20.7% in June 2020 compared with June 2011, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females has increased by triple that rate to 1,241 in June 2020 compared with 770 in June 2011.

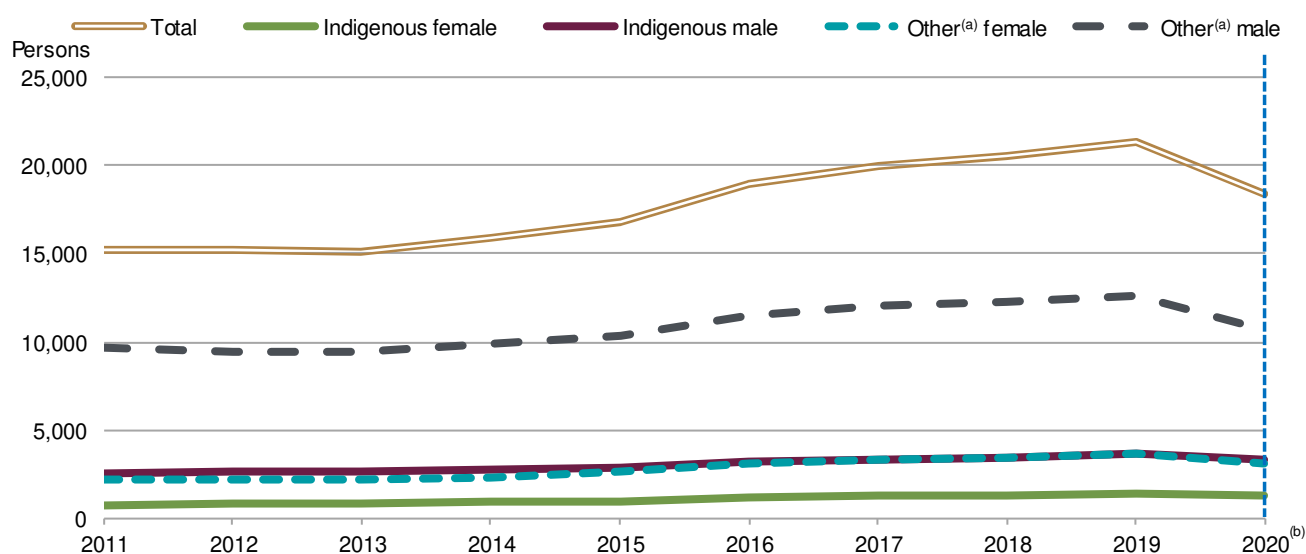
Table 76 Adults in community corrections by Indigenous status and sex, as at 1 June – time series

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ^(a)
	— persons —									
Total persons	15,236	15,162	15,158	15,903	16,778	18,919	19,928	20,575	21,347	18,389
Male	12,209	12,116	12,104	12,638	13,211	14,734	15,316	15,758	16,297	14,033
Female	3,027	3,046	3,054	3,265	3,567	4,185	4,612	4,817	5,050	4,356
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	3,361	3,437	3,485	3,673	3,853	4,332	4,568	4,745	5,042	4,530
Male	2,591	2,617	2,664	2,761	2,906	3,200	3,308	3,427	3,683	3,289
Female	770	820	821	912	947	1,132	1,260	1,318	1,359	1,241
Other^(b)	11,875	11,725	11,673	12,230	12,925	14,587	15,360	15,830	16,305	13,859
Male	9,618	9,499	9,440	9,877	10,305	11,534	12,008	12,331	12,614	10,744
Female	2,257	2,226	2,233	2,353	2,620	3,053	3,352	3,499	3,691	3,115

(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(b) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Figure 66 Adults in community corrections by Indigenous status and sex, as at 1 June – time series



(a) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

5.5.2. Order types

All supervised order types experienced a decrease at 1 June 2020 compared with 1 June 2019. Whereas *parole* had a 3.9% drop and maintained historically high levels, *probation* dropped 14.0% to the lowest numbers since 2015. *Community service – fine option* (–70.8%) and *community service – other* (–25.5%) dropped to their lowest levels in the 10-year time series (Figure 67). The majority of the decrease for probation, parole and community service – other occurred after the pandemic was declared.

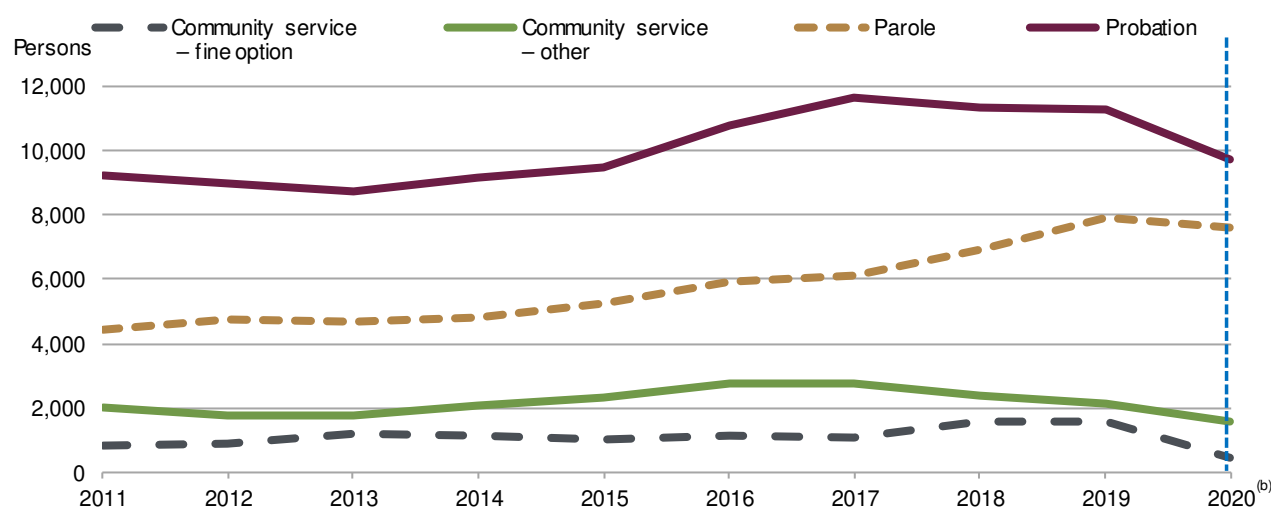
Probation was consistently the most prevalent supervised community corrections order over the time series. The number of adults serving probation remained steady from June 2011 (9,233) to June 2015 (9,486). Numbers then rose by 22.5% (+2,134) between June 2015 and June 2017 to 11,620 serving probation, before the drop between June 2019 and June 2020 to 9,692.

The number of adults on *parole* has been trending upwards over the 10-year time series and was 72.5% higher in June 2020 (7,622) compared with June 2011 (4,418).

The number of adults serving *community service – fine option* increased over 40% between June 2011 (846) and June 2013 (1,204) and remained around this level until a similar-sized increase between June 2017 (1,110) and June 2018 (1,609). The drop to June 2020 (468) reversed these increases, with community service – fine option substantially lower than in June 2011. A large proportion of that reduction was driven by the phased discontinuation of QCS supervision of State Penalties Enforcement Registry (SPER) work development orders.

Community service – other has fluctuated between a low in 2012 (1,757) and a high in 2016 (2,787), with decreases in the three most recent years. The decrease to June 2020 (1,605) has taken community service – other below the 2012 figure, and to its lowest point in the time series.

Figure 67 Adults on supervised community corrections orders by order type^(a), as at 1 June – time series



(a) Those being managed under DPSOA supervision orders are excluded due to low numbers.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

Table 77 Adults on supervised community corrections orders as at 1 June – time series

Order type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ^(a)
	— persons —									
Community service – fine option	846	922	1,204	1,148	1,047	1,156	1,110	1,609	1,604	468
Community service – other	2,030	1,757	1,758	2,093	2,336	2,787	2,785	2,401	2,155	1,605
Parole	4,418	4,733	4,702	4,796	5,242	5,922	6,128	6,908	7,934	7,622
DPSOA ^(b)	n.a.	n.a.	88	99	94	101	114	129	138	127
Probation	9,233	8,990	8,691	9,181	9,486	10,783	11,620	11,327	11,276	9,692
Total	15,236	15,162	15,158	15,903	16,778	18,919	19,928	20,575	21,347	18,389

n.a. = not available

(a) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(b) A DPSOA *supervision order* is a post-sentence order. Prior to June 2013, data for offenders being managed under such orders were included in the probation category.

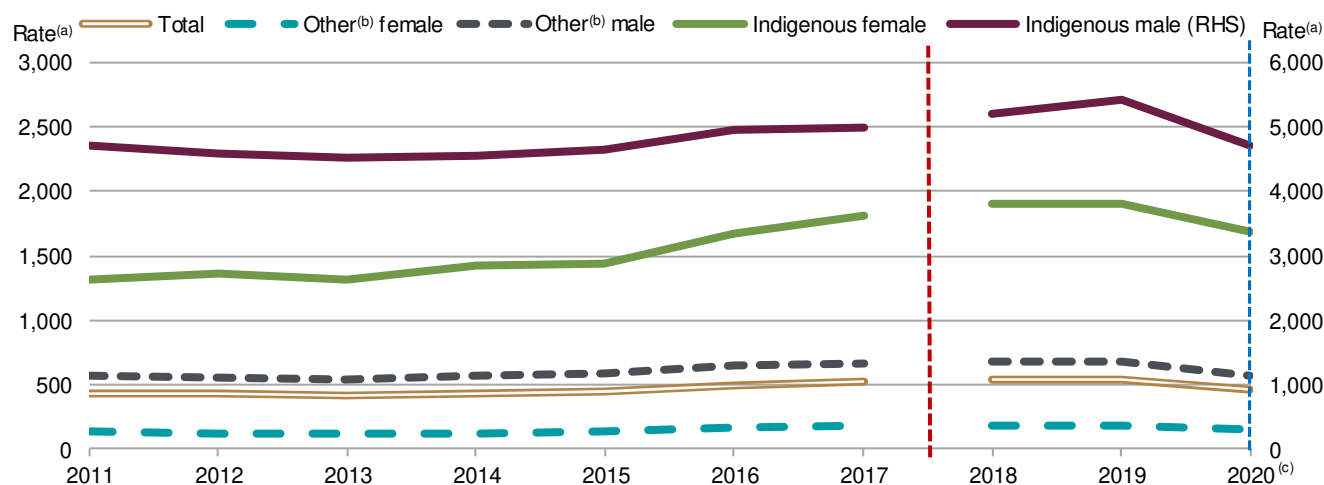
5.5.3. Rate of adults in community-based corrections

There is a break in time series with this measure, with counts for 2011 to 2017 including those who offended aged 17 years, while those for 2018 to 2020 represent those aged 18 years and over. While this has had minimal impact on the patterns of the rates, caution should be used when comparing figures across the time series. While the rates are not directly comparable, there was very little change in rate over the time series for males (720.0 per 100,000 persons in 2020 compared with 712.1 in 2011), whereas there was a large increase in rate for females (213.3 per 100,000 in 2020 up 23.3% from 173.0 in 2011).

For all groups, June 2019 had the highest rate of adults in supervised community-based corrections, even taking into account the change of rate calculation. Over the year to June 2020, all groups had double-digit decreases—the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females serving community corrections orders decreased by 13.2% and 11.2% respectively, while other males decreased by 16.3% and other females by 17.2%.

Note that due to the large difference in rates between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males only and the remaining supervised community corrections population, this group has been plotted to a different scale (RHS) in Figure 68.

Figure 68 Rate of adults serving community corrections orders as at 1 June – time series



(a) Rates have been calculated per 100,000 persons aged 17 years and over as at 1 June for 2011–2017, and 18 years and over as at 1 June for 2018–2020.

(b) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

(c) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

Table 78 Rate of adults serving supervised community corrections orders as at 1 June – time series

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^(a)	2019	2020 ^(b)
	— rate per 100,000 persons ^(c) —									
Total persons	439.8	428.4	420.1	434.1	451.9	502.1	519.3	535.3	544.9	460.7
Male	712.1	692.0	678.7	699.2	722.7	796.2	813.4	837.6	851.0	720.0
Female	173.0	170.3	167.4	175.9	189.3	218.3	236.0	245.4	252.2	213.3
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	2,949.6	2,925.4	2,880.0	2,948.4	3,005.1	3,281.6	3,359.2	3,511.1	3,619.4	3,160.6
Male	4,688.4	4,584.3	4,522.4	4,546.1	4,643.0	4,961.9	4,974.9	5,193.0	5,413.7	4,697.6
Female	1,312.1	1,357.5	1,322.0	1,428.5	1,443.0	1,676.6	1,813.2	1,906.1	1,906.7	1,692.8
Other^(d)	354.4	342.6	334.7	345.6	360.6	401.2	415	426.8	431.5	360.1
Male	579.7	560.8	547.4	565.4	583.7	645.8	661.1	679.3	682.9	571.8
Female	133.5	128.8	126.7	131.3	144.0	165.1	177.8	184.8	191.1	158.2

(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and containment measures commenced.

(c) Rates have been calculated per 100,000 persons aged 17 years and over as at 1 June for 2011–2017, and 18 years and over as at 1 June for 2018–2020.

(d) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

6.0 Explanatory notes and glossary

Abbreviations and symbols

..	not applicable
n.a.	not available
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ANZSOC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification
DJAG	Department of Justice and Attorney-General
DPSOA	<i>Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003</i>
DYJ	Department of Youth Justice
ERP	estimated resident population
MSO	most serious offence
QCS	Queensland Corrective Services
QGSO	Queensland Government Statistician's Office

Glossary

Many of the terms listed below relate to both adult and child, except where otherwise specified.

Admission to order: when a corrections/youth justice order commences.

Admission to custody: when a period of custody commences.

Adult: in this report, refers to persons dealt with as an adult in Queensland courts and corrective services.

Charge: a formal accusation of an offence.

Child: Following implementation of youth justice legislative changes in Queensland in February 2018, offenders aged 10–17 years are dealt with in the youth justice system (see *Children and young people* in Notes). Previously, the age range was 10–16 years.

Community-based corrections (adult): refers to the community-based management of court-ordered sanctions, post-prison administrative arrangements and fine conversions, which principally involve the provision of one or more of the following activities: supervision, programs or community work.

Community-based supervision (child): a legal arrangement that requires a young person to be supervised by a youth justice agency within the community. Community-based supervision may be unsentenced or sentenced. Unsentenced community-based orders include conditional bail; sentenced community-based orders include probation, community service, conditional release, sentenced boot camp (*introduced in January 2013 and discontinued from July 2015*), court-ordered graffiti removal (*introduced in September 2013*), intensive supervision.

Company: includes all non-person defendants, such as organisations, dealt with in the adult court system.

Continuing detention order: an order which subjects an offender to extended detention in prison following the completion of a custodial sentence. Such orders are made by a court where an offender has a history of serious offending, usually involving sexual or violent offences, and it determines that there is a serious danger to the community if the offender is released from prison (see *DPSOA orders*).

Convicted appearance: a finalised appearance resulting in a guilty finding and the defendant is sentenced.

Court-ordered conference: (see *restorative justice*)

Courts:

Childrens Court: a special court which deals with Magistrates Court matters involving child defendants. It is presided over by a Childrens Court magistrate.

Childrens Court of Queensland: an intermediate court which deals with children charged with indictable criminal offences (serious crimes). It is presided over by a Childrens Court judge, who is also a judge of the District Court of Queensland.

Higher courts: include the Supreme Court, District Court and Childrens Court of Queensland.

Magistrates Court: is the first level of the Queensland Courts system and criminal cases are first heard in this court in some form. It is a court of summary jurisdiction constituted by a magistrate and has no jury. The Magistrates Court deals with summary offences, such as traffic infringements; minor offences, such as shoplifting or disorderly behaviour; more serious offences, such as burglary, assault, fraud and drugs. Where the offence is more serious, the magistrate may commit the case to the District Court or Supreme Court for sentence or trial.

District Court: is the second tier of the court system after the Magistrates Court and is constituted by a District Court judge. This court deals with serious criminal offences such as rape, armed robbery and fraud. Criminal trials in the District Court will generally involve a jury. Matters involving child defendants may be heard in the District Court if a Childrens Court Judge is not available.

Supreme Court: the highest court in the Queensland judicial system, with unlimited jurisdiction and dealing with murder, attempted murder, manslaughter and the most serious drug offences. Matters are presided over by a judge and may involve a jury. Matters involving child defendants may also be heard in the Supreme Court.

Custody: refers to confinement in a place intended primarily for the purpose of confining prisoners, such as a prison or prison farm.

Defendant: a person appearing in a criminal court charged with a criminal offence.

Child defendant: an alleged offender dealt with by the criminal courts system as a child, for offences committed as a child (see *Child offenders* in Notes).

Unique child defendant: a child or young person with at least one finalised appearance as a child in a Queensland criminal court during the reference period. An individual is counted only once in a reference year, irrespective of whether they had one or multiple finalised appearances in the year.

Detention: A legal arrangement that requires a young person to be detained in a youth justice facility. This includes both sentenced and unsentenced detention.

Discharge from custody: the release of a prisoner at the end of a period of custody.

DPSOA order: under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003*, if the court is satisfied a prisoner is a serious danger to the community, the court may order that the prisoner be detained in custody on a *continuing (or interim) detention order* or released into the community on a *supervision (or interim supervision) order*.

Finalised appearance: an offence or collection of offences for a single defendant that are finalised on the same day, at the same court level and court location (for instance by a guilty finding and sentence; discharge, dismissal or withdrawal; but not by committal or transfer to another court).

Legal status (of those in custody): A person may be either *sentenced* or *unsentenced* depending on the warrant(s) or court order(s) that provide the legal basis for the administration of the person through the criminal justice system, or they may be detained post-sentence on a DPSOA detention order.

Most serious offence (MSO) is based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC) and is determined according to its ranking in the *National Offence Index*, 2018 (ABS 1234.0.55.001). (See *Counting methodology* in Notes.)

Not convicted (appearance): a finalised appearance resulting in a discharge, dismissal or withdrawal of charge, or a not guilty finding by the court.

Offence: any act or omission by a person or persons for which a penalty could be imposed by the Australian legal system.

Offences against justice procedures, government security and operations include breach of custodial order offences; breach of community-based order; breach of violence and non-violence order; as well as offences against government operations, government security and justice procedures.

Offender: a person aged 10 years or over who has been found guilty of an offence.

Child offender: an offender dealt with by the youth justice system as a child, for offences committed as a child (see *Children and young people* in Notes).

Parole: the supervised release of a prisoner to serve all or the remainder of their term of imprisonment in the community, subject to conditions and supervision (e.g. offenders sentenced to a life sentence will remain on parole for life).

Penalty: a punishment of an offender ordered by the court after a guilty finding.

Population subgroup: in this report, this term is used where rates are calculated by demographic variables such as age, Indigenous status and/or sex. It refers to the portion of the population to which a statistic pertains, e.g. non-Indigenous females aged 10–17 years.

Post-sentence detention: (see *DPSOA order*)

Post-sentence supervision: (see *DPSOA order*)

Proven charge/offence: a charge or offence for which a defendant is found guilty in a court of law.

Reception: the event of entering a prison/detention centre from the community to begin an unsentenced or sentenced imprisonment/detention order, i.e. excludes transfers from another custodial facility.

Release: when a person leaves prison/detention and is not detained immediately after.

Remand: to place an accused person in custody awaiting trial/sentence for the charges against them. A person who has been denied bail, or not sought it, will be placed on remand. A person may be referred to unsentenced imprisonment/detention either by police (pre-court custody) or by a court (remand). (See *Unsentenced*).

Segment: part of a period in detention, a segment is defined by its legal status (within the larger detention episode). When the legal status changes, and/or a new episode begins, a new segment is commenced.

Sentence: the determination by a court of the penalty to be imposed on a person who has been found guilty of an offence. The following penalties generally relate to both adult and child offenders, with a few exceptions as noted:

absolute discharge release without a conviction being recorded and without any further penalty.

community service order an order to do unpaid community service for a specified number of hours, usually within 12 months, and to comply with reporting and other conditions.

driver licence disqualification an order disqualifying a person from holding or obtaining a Queensland driver licence absolutely or for a specified period of time.

fine a monetary penalty requiring an offender to make a payment of a specified sum to the Crown.

good behaviour bond is a requirement to appear before a court if called to do so and to be of good behaviour (not break the law) for a set period (up to three years), which requires the person and anyone acting as a 'surety' to pay an amount of money if the offender breaks the law or does not comply with other conditions of the order.

imprisonment type of custody where an adult offender is required to be held in custody on a full-time basis.

intensive correction order is an adult sentence of imprisonment of one year or less ordered to be served in the community and including intensive supervision, community service and treatment programs.

nominal penalty includes penalties such as convicted not punished; reprimand; (adult only) imprisonment for a period of "rise", which means the offender is detained at the court from when they appear until the court rises for the day.

probation a penalty allowing an offender freedom under supervision for a specified period, conditional upon compliance with the terms of the order.

suspended sentence an adult sentence of imprisonment of five years or less, suspended in full (called a wholly-suspended sentence) or in part (called a partially-suspended sentence) for a period of time (called the operational period). Does not involve supervision, but if the offender commits further offences punishable by imprisonment during the operational period of the suspended sentence, the court must order the offender to serve the period of imprisonment suspended.

treatment order involves offender participating in a drug and alcohol treatment program.

Sentence length: for adults, the term of imprisonment can either be a specified length, in years, months and/or days, or it can be indefinite. In this report, the length of sentence has been calculated in full months. For example, 1 month and 20 days would be reported as 1 month. Sentence lengths reported are the aggregate of any sentences being served concurrently, as at 30 June 2020.

Sentenced (in relation to custody): a legal status indicating that a person is confined to custody following a determination by a court to impose a term of imprisonment / youth detention.

Supervised youth justice orders: include both detention-based orders and community-based orders, such as probation, community service, intensive supervision, conditional release, restorative justice, graffiti removal and boot camp. (See *Community-based supervision (child offenders)*)

Supervision order: an order which subjects an offender to extended supervision in the community by corrective services following the completion of a custodial sentence (see *DPSOA order*).

Unsentenced (in relation to custody): a legal status indicating that a person is confined to custody while awaiting trial (pre-court custody), or the outcome of their trial (see *Remand*).

Unsupervised youth justice orders include fine, good behaviour and reprimand, and require no supervision after sentencing by the court.

Youth justice orders: penalties which may be imposed on child offenders only, including:

ancillary orders include compensation, compensation – personal – injury; compensation – property; restitution

boot camp an order suspending a detention order upon a child, aged 13 years or older, entering a boot camp program for a period of 3–6 months. This order was introduced in 2013 and discontinued on 30 September 2015.

boot camp (vehicle offences) an order made in relation to a child, aged 13 years or older, who usually resides in an area prescribed by regulation and who is a recidivist vehicle offender. This order was introduced in 2013 and discontinued on 30 September 2015.

conditional release suspension by the sentencing court of a detention order against a child offender, conditional on participation in a program of up to three months.

detention a custodial penalty placing a child offender in a youth detention centre.

good behaviour a penalty where an offender is ordered to be of good behaviour for a specified period and where a breach thereof may be taken into account if the offender re-offends during the period of the order.

graffiti removal an order made against a child offender aged 12 years or older who is found guilty of a graffiti offence, to perform graffiti removal service for a specified number of hours.

immediate release order a sentence of detention suspended wholly or partially (after a specified period is served).

intensive supervision usually involves a period of intensive supervision in the community with the possibility of detention if the young person breaches the community supervision. It is a sentencing option for a child offender who has been found guilty of an offence that if committed by an adult would make them liable to imprisonment.

other orders include conditional bail program; court diversion referral; drug diversion; indefinite referral; licence disqualification; transfer to prison.

reprimand a formal reproof given by the court to a child offender upon a guilty finding.

restorative justice an order made under the *Youth Justice Act 1992* that a child found guilty of an offence participate in a restorative justice process.

supervised release the component of a detention order which is served in the community.

Notes

The information displayed 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. Readers are

urged to exercise caution when making comparison between publications

Data in this report have not been tested to determine whether changes over time are statistically significant.

Data sources:

Finalised court appearances and charges data have been sourced from the Courts Database – unpublished operational data sourced from DJAG. Data were current at the time of extraction, October 2020, and are subject to change.

Youth justice data, including unique child defendants and offenders, and supervised youth justice orders have been sourced from DYJ unpublished data.

Data were current at the time of extraction, August 2020, and are subject to change.

Corrective services data, including imprisonment and community-based corrections, have been sourced from QCS unpublished data. Data were current at the time of extraction July 2020 and are subject to change.

Children and young people: In February 2018, the *Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Act 2016* and the Youth Justice (Transitional) Regulation 2018 commenced. Implementation of the Act mean that, from that date on, young people aged 17 years at the time of offence are dealt with in the youth justice system.

Counting methodology: Data presented in this report may have been subject to counting rules that are different to data from the same agency/ies published elsewhere. It is important to understand the counting rules applied before making comparisons between publications.

The following counting rules have been applied in this report:

Corrective services data: Corrective services data are presented using counting rules as developed by the ABS, with the exception of length of stay data, for which counting rules were developed by QGSO in consultation with QCS.

Adults in custody:

- an annual count of prisoners at midnight on 30 June, over a nine-year time series
- counts from administrative data recording prisoners being admitted to and discharged from custody
- calculation of the length of stay of those prisoners who were released during the 2019–20 financial year.

Adults in community-based corrections: counts from administrative data of adults serving community-based corrections on 1 June, and of orders being served, over a 10-year time series.

Courts data:

Count of finalised **appearances** is based on the offence with the most serious outcome only, as an offender may have multiple charges finalised and receive multiple outcomes in a single appearance. Count of finalised **charges** is also based on the most serious outcome only (whether convicted or not), as some charges may attract multiple penalties.

The **most serious offence (MSO)** is based primarily on the offence with the most serious outcome (whether convicted or not). Where the outcome/penalty is the same as or shared with other charge(s) finalised in the same appearance, the most serious offence is determined according to its ranking in ABS' *National Offence Index*, 2018.

Youth justice data:

Unique child defendants: Each defendant with a finalised appearance is counted only once per reference year, whether they had one or multiple finalised appearances in the year

Admissions to orders is a count of every admission to a youth justice order within a reference year. An individual may be admitted to one or multiple of the same or different orders or detention in a single year.

Unique offenders admitted to orders is a count of individuals admitted to a supervised or unsupervised youth justice order for a proven offence(s). An individual is counted once for each relevant order type they are admitted to in a reference year.

Admissions to detention is a count of every admission to detention within a reference year. An individual may have one or multiple admissions in a single year.

Unique offenders admitted to detention is a count of individuals admitted to detention within a reference year. An individual with one or multiple admissions to detention is counted only once per reference year.

Geography: all data in this report are presented at state (Queensland) level only.

Indigenous status is based on self-identification by the individual as one of the following standard options:

Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander (non-Indigenous); Aboriginal; Torres Strait Islander; Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; refused/not stated.

In this publication, the term:

- 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander' refers to any person who identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- 'Non-Indigenous' refers to those who positively identify as such.
- 'Other' represents non-Indigenous persons *plus* those who either did not supply their Indigenous status or were not given an opportunity to do so (Not stated).

Length of stay: the time elapsed between admission and discharge for a person in custody.

Median sentence length: the middle value in an ordered group of sentences, expressed in full months (see *Sentence length*). For example, the median of the group 1, 19, 20, 21, 22 would be 20 (whereas the average would be 16.6).

Offence classification: Offences presented in this report are coded and grouped according the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC). (See <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1234.0> for a full breakdown of the offence divisions and their inclusions.)

Rates: are generally calculated per 100,000 persons, using the appropriate estimated resident population (ERP) of the specified region. Rate calculation is:

$$\frac{\text{number of xxxxxx}}{\text{ERP}} * 100,000$$

using the average ERP for the reference year (e.g. average of [ERP as at 30 June 2019 plus ERP as at 30 June 2020] for the 2019–20 reference year).

- Note that rates in the Youth Justice chapter are calculated per 10,000 persons, consistent with national reporting of youth justice statistics by the Australia Institute of Health and Welfare.

For courts and youth justice rates, the data present counts for the whole financial year, therefore an average ERP for the reference year is created (e.g. average of [ERP as at 30 June 2019 plus ERP as at 30 June 2020] for the 2019–20 reference year).

For corrective services, as the data present counts as at June only, the June ERP figure for the reference year was used.

Denominators were drawn from the following populations:

- 10 years and over for finalised appearances (Courts chapter)
- As 17-year-old offenders did not transition to the youth justice system until late 2017–18, the population used as the denominator in calculating rates is persons aged 10–16 years for any date prior to 12 February 2018. From that date onwards, the denominator used to calculate rates was persons aged 10–17 years.
- 18 years and over for adult corrections (Corrective Services chapter), except where specified.

Rates enable comparison to be made over time, since the size of the population is taken into account in the calculation.

Reference year: Years quoted in this report are financial year (i.e. from 1 July to 30 June), unless otherwise stated.

Time series data are presented for 10 years from 2010–11 to 2019–20, with the exceptions of (adult) prisoner census data, which are presented for 9 years due to data availability.

