

QUEENSLAND TREASURY

Justice report, Queensland, 2020–21

Criminal justice statistics

**Queensland Government Statistician's Office**

Queensland Treasury

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1.0 Introduction

The *Justice report, Queensland, 2020–21* 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 criminal justice services. The report is a companion to the *Crime report, Queensland, 2020–21*, which provides an overview of the volume and nature of crime in Queensland, as reported (by victims, witnesses or other persons) to, or detected by, the Queensland Police Service (QPS).

This 2020–21 edition is the fourth 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 2020–21 financial year 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 administrative 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

Since 11 March 2020, when a pandemic was declared in response to the global spread of COVID-19, and throughout the whole of 2020–21, Commonwealth 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.

The national border remained, in effect, closed for the entire reporting period, while Queensland's state border was variously opened and closed to other states and territories, depending on COVID activity at the time. For the year to 30 June 2021, Queensland experienced the country's highest population growth rate of 0.9%, including a net gain of 30,939 persons through interstate migration, and 29,352 through natural increase.¹

While maintaining business as usual policing activities, police in Queensland have been deployed since the pandemic was declared to ensure compliance with public health directives, including border control and mandatory quarantine.

In addition to the social effects of the restrictions imposed, containment measures have also had varying effects on businesses, jobs and income over the period since the pandemic was declared. To help keep Australians in jobs and support businesses affected by the significant economic impact of the pandemic, the Australian Government implemented JobKeeper from March to September 2020. The program was extended a further six months for those businesses that continued to be significantly affected by the economic downturn, ceasing at the end of March 2021.

The imposed restrictions and containment measures had an immediate and noticeable impact on levels of criminal activity in the last quarter of 2019–20, resulting in lower than expected numbers and rates of reported offences at that time. However, the annual reported crime rate was slightly higher than for the financial year preceding COVID-19, due to the higher rates in the months prior to the pandemic being declared.

Containment measures within the criminal justice system from March to June 2020 included: police suspending roadside drink and drug driving tests; the Magistrates (including Childrens) Court heavily scaling back operations; and new jury trials in the higher courts ceasing. This in turn had a flow-on effect on both courts and corrections activities in subsequent months. These effects are explored in the relevant chapters of this report.

The COVID-19 pandemic remains a significant and ongoing event, both globally and nationally, which has impacted crime and justice activity and outcomes. Therefore, comparisons with figures in periods before the pandemic was declared must be made with caution.

While this report presents annual statistics generally, it also provides some insights into measures in the months prior to the declaration of the pandemic and the extent to which the containment measures may have impacted the annual counts and rates for the 2020–21 reference period.

¹ Sourced from ABS, *National, state and territory population*, June 2021

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 where applicable:

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)

▲ also denotes the declaration of the pandemic and appears in figures relating to monthly performance.

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, 2020–21



Finalised court appearances

count

Total 151,195 ▲ 21.1%



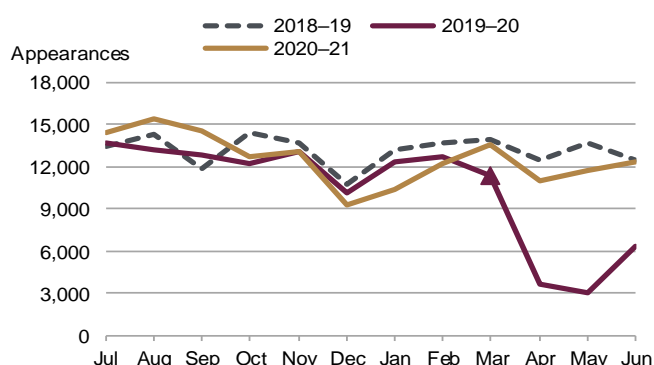
111,822 ▲ 21.0%



38,784 ▲ 22.2%

Finalised person appearances three-year monthly comparison

count



Finalised charges

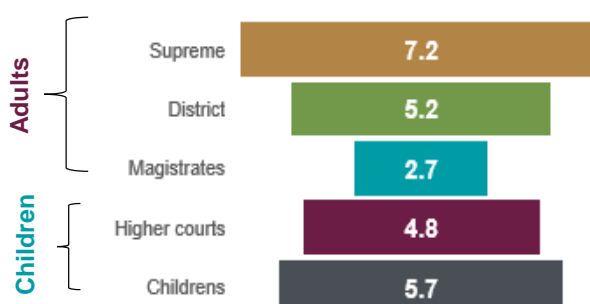
3.1
charges per appearance
on average

Charges proven

402,275 ▲ 22.1%



Average proven charges per appearance by court type

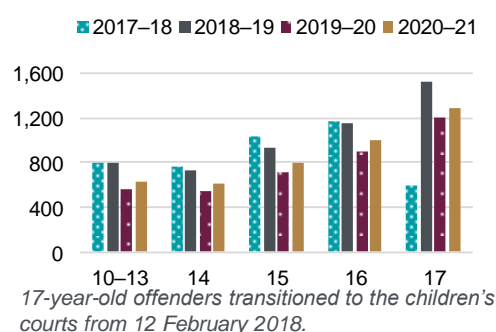


Convicted appearances

rate per 100,000 persons aged 10 years and over

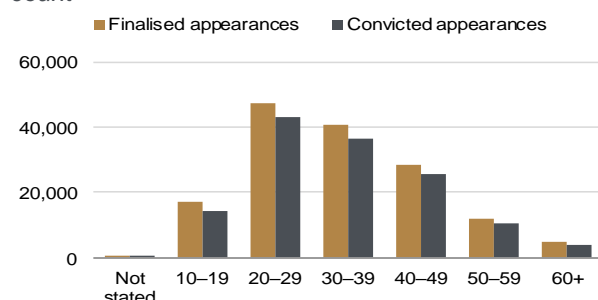


Unique child defendants by age at offence



Appearances by age

count

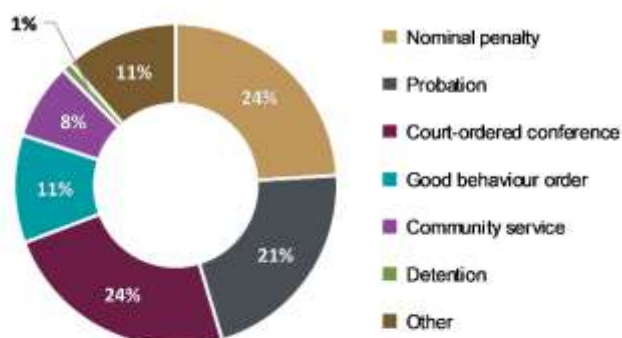


3 in 4
unique child defendants
were male



▲ in the line graph above denotes when the COVID-19 pandemic was declared (March 2020).

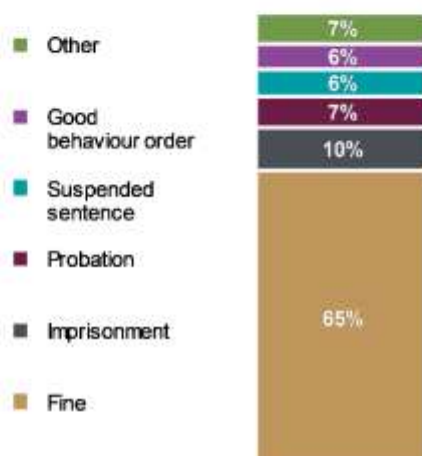
Child sentencing outcomes



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



Adult sentencing outcomes



Probation
accounted for **over half** of

55%

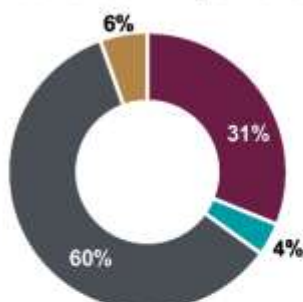
all adults serving
community-based
orders at 1 June

and
all admissions to
supervised
community-based
youth justice orders
in 2020–21

56%

Of the 9,954 adults in prison at 30 June 2021

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



*Numbers have been rounded

69%
were
sentenced

11%
were aged **50+ years**

2 in 3
were aged
20–39 years

1 in 11
prisoners
were **female**

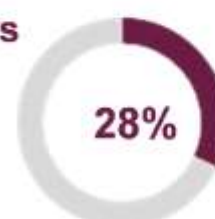
Of the 228 young people in youth detention centres daily in 2020–21 on average

2 in 3
were **Aboriginal and/or**
Torres Strait Islander

1 in 10 were
female

12%
were
sentenced

17-yr-old offenders
comprised
over a quarter



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 this report.

Finalised appearances – All courts	2019–20^(a)	2020–21	% change	
Total finalised appearances				
Adult courts ²	116,785	141,789	21.4	↑
Appearances resulting in conviction (%)	89.7	90.0	0.3 ppt	↑
Children's courts ³	8,021	9,406	17.3	↑
Appearances resulting in conviction (%)	73.8	74.7	0.9 ppt	↑
by defendant characteristics⁴				
Male	92,416	111,822	21.0	↑
Female	31,745	38,784	22.2	↑
Company	267	267	0.0	↔
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (% of total person defendants)	19.1	20.8	1.7 ppt	↑
Finalised charges – All courts				
Total charges proven				
Adults ¹	298,356	362,689	21.6	↑
Children ²	31,155	39,586	27.1	↑

ppt = percentage point

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020, resulting in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

In 2020–21:



Finalised person appearances and charges⁴

- In almost three-quarters of person appearances the defendant was male (74.1%).
- *Homicide and related offences, robbery, extortion and related offences* and *theft and related offences* were the only three offence divisions with a decline in convicted appearances over the year.

Finalised person appearances – Adults⁴

- In 19.2% of appearances, the defendant identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- Nine in ten finalised appearances had at least one proven charge (90.0%).
- *Imprisonment* comprised the same proportion of convicted outcomes as in 2018–19 (9.6%), after rising in 2019–20 to 11.3%.
- *Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* continued to be the most prevalent MSO⁵ for convicted adult appearances (29.9% or 38,061), with the majority receiving a *fine* as most serious penalty.

Finalised person appearances – Children

- In almost half (46.1%) of all child appearances, the defendant identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- Almost three-quarters of finalised appearances had at least one proven charge (74.7%).
- Of all convicted appearances, *theft and related offences* was the most prevalent MSO⁶ (20.9% or 1,467), with almost one-third of those (31.1% or 456) receiving a *nominal penalty*.

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

3 Represents appearances/charges in the children's courts. Since February 2018, offenders aged 10–17 years (previously 10–16 years) have been dealt with as children in Queensland's criminal justice system.

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

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

6 MSO = most serious offence (see Explanatory notes and glossary).

7 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 2011–12 to 2020–21. 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 were introduced in Queensland from March 2020, which 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. In addition to social restrictions imposed on the community, containment measures within the criminal justice system included the Magistrates Court heavily scaling back operations from March 2020 and new jury trials in the higher courts ceasing until the courts system returned to near-normal operations in June 2020. All of these, in turn, had a flow-on effect on courts activities in subsequent months.

The COVID-19 pandemic remains a significant and ongoing event, both globally and nationally, which has impacted crime and justice activity and outcomes. Therefore, comparisons with figures in periods before the pandemic was declared 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 dealt with in these courts 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 can be illustrated by comparing monthly data for 2020–21 with that of the previous two years. Seasonality is also evident in the monthly data. The number of finalised appearances showed different stories between higher and lower courts. Although following a similar pattern, it is clear that in higher courts for most months in 2020–21, the numbers for adults were below 2018–19 and 2019–20 levels, and for children well below, with a pick-up at the end of the financial year. Following the resumption of normal court operations, the number of finalised adult appearances in the Magistrate Court was higher in the first quarter of 2020–21, then dipped slightly below the 2018–19 level. In the Childrens Court, the monthly pattern returned in 2020–21, somewhat below the pre-COVID level of 2018–19 before finishing the year higher. (Note that ▲ in the figures below denotes when the COVID-19 pandemic was declared.)

Figure 1 Finalised adult appearances, higher courts – monthly comparison

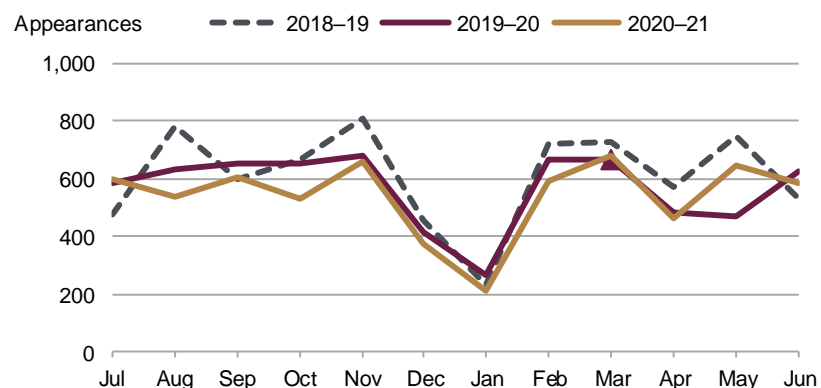


Figure 2 Finalised adult appearances, Magistrates Court – monthly comparison

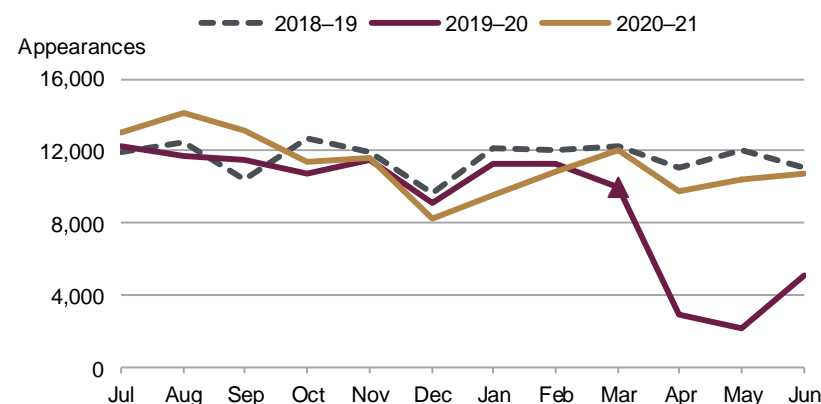


Figure 3 Finalised child appearances, higher courts – monthly comparison

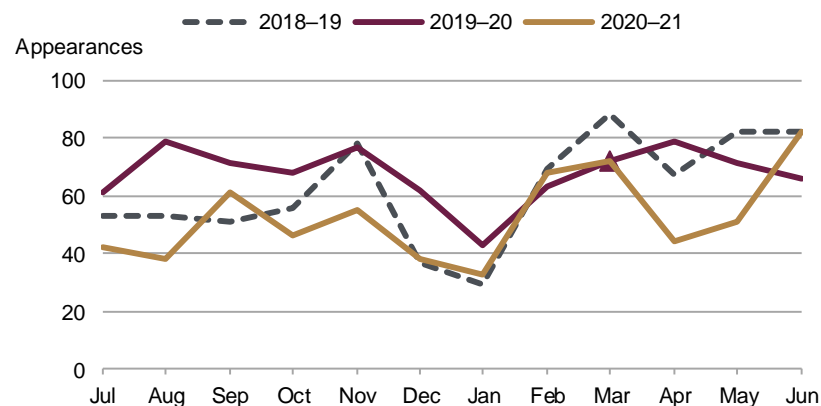
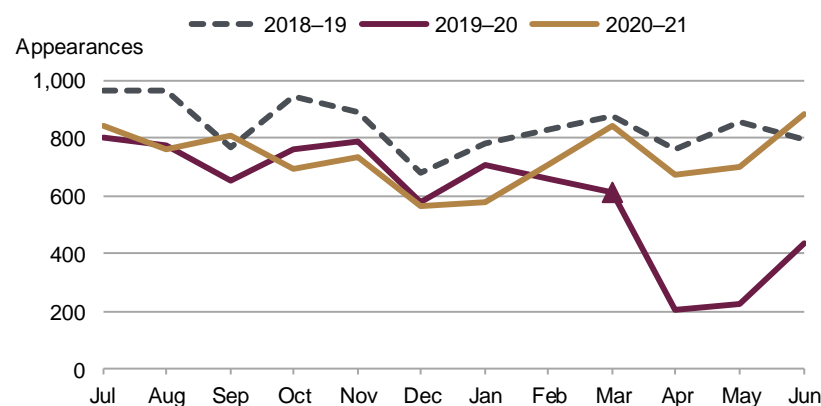


Figure 4 Finalised child appearances, Childrens Court – monthly comparison



The monthly patterns in finalised charges are similar to those of finalised appearances. There were fewer charges finalised in higher courts in 2020–21 than in the preceding two years for both adults and children. However, in the lower courts, the number of finalised charges exceeded the pre-COVID level for most months.

Figure 5 Finalised charges against adults, higher courts – monthly comparison

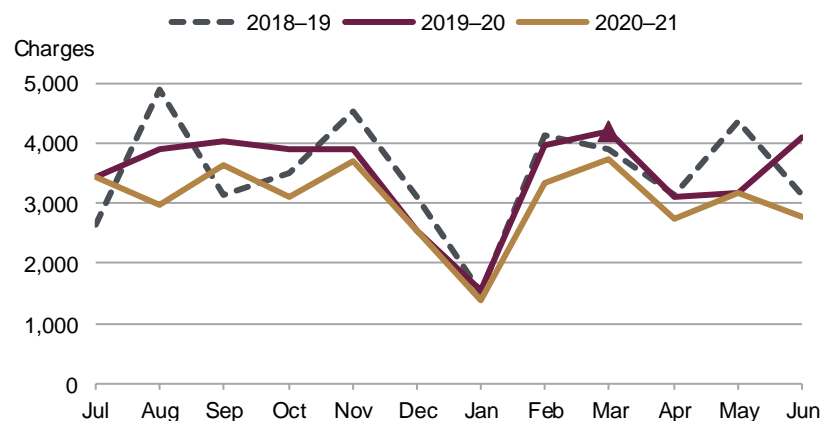


Figure 6 Finalised charges against adults, Magistrates Court – monthly comparison

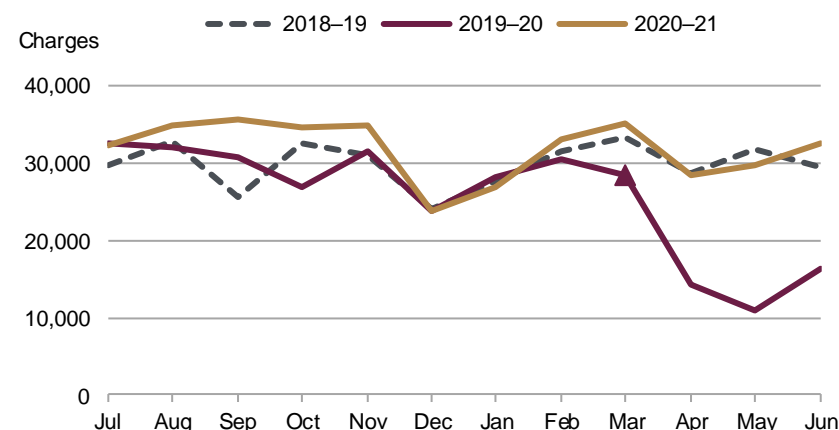


Figure 7 Finalised charges against children, higher courts – monthly comparison

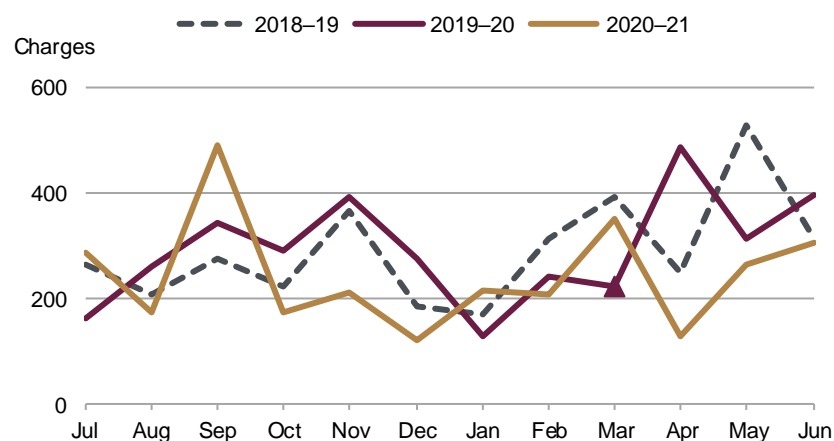
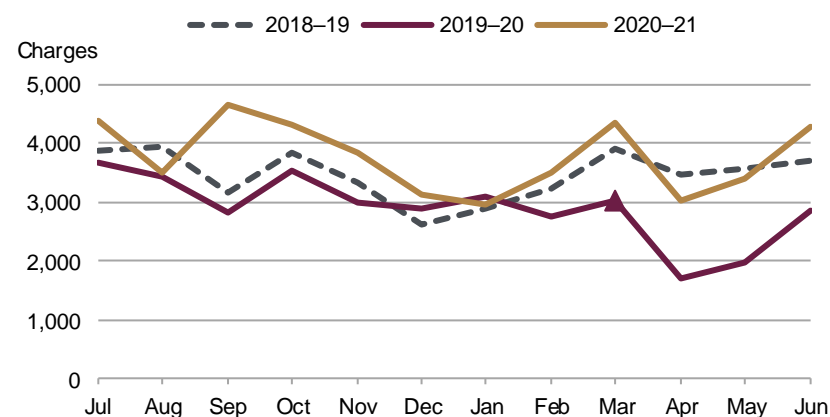


Figure 8 Finalised charges against children, Childrens Court – monthly comparison



3.1.2. All courts summary

The table below shows a 3-year comparison of finalised appearances and charges in both adult and children's courts. After a noticeable drop in the total number of finalised appearances in 2019–20, due primarily to COVID-19 containment measures, they returned close to pre-COVID level in 2020–21, with finalised charges higher. The proportion of convicted appearances remained quite stable for both adults and children across the three years (around 90 per cent in adult courts and 75 per cent in children's courts).

With normal operations restored in the Magistrates Court in June 2020, the number of finalised adult appearances saw a significant increase (+25,004 or +21.4%) in 2020–21 compared with 2019–20.

Table 1 Summary of finalised appearances and charges, all courts

	2018–19				2019–20 ^(a)				2020–21			
	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance (average)	Appearances resulting in conviction	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)	147,488	402,147	2.7	90.7	116,785	348,369	3.0	89.7	141,789	419,288	3.0	90.0
Supreme	1,426	11,522	8.1	83.9	1,379	10,497	7.6	85.6	1,368	9,751	7.1	84.6
District	5,882	30,511	5.2	75.5	5,422	31,317	5.8	77.2	5,098	26,835	5.3	74.7
Magistrates	140,180	360,114	2.6	91.5	109,984	306,555	2.8	90.4	135,323	382,702	2.8	90.6
Child	10,837	44,979	4.2	76.8	8,021	38,227	4.8	73.8	9,406	48,209	5.1	74.7
Higher courts ^(c)	745	3,481	4.7	76.8	812	3,508	4.3	83.9	630	2,924	4.6	86.0
Childrens (Mag.)	10,092	41,498	4.1	76.8	7,209	34,719	4.8	72.7	8,776	45,285	5.2	73.9
Total	158,325	447,126	2.8	89.8	124,806	386,596	3.1	88.7	151,195	467,497	3.1	89.0

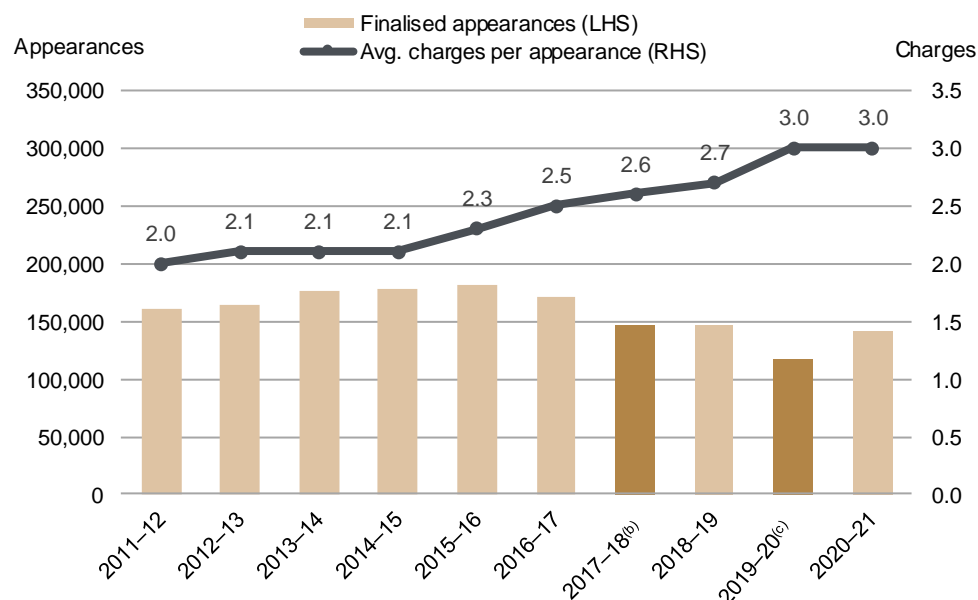
(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(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 an upward trend over the 10-year time series in average charges per finalised appearance, particularly in children's courts, reaching a high of 5.1 in 2020–21 (Figure 10). In adult courts, the average also trended upward over the series, although it remained stable at 3.0 in 2020–21 compared with the previous year (Figure 9).

Figure 9 Finalised adult appearances^(a) and average charges per appearance, all 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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Although the overall number of finalised appearances returned close to the pre-COVID level in 2020–21, this was entirely due to the resumption of operations in the lower courts. Higher court appearances for both adults and children were down in 2020–21 (–4.9% and –22.4% respectively) compared with 2019–20 (Table 2). The number of finalised company appearances remained steady and relatively low (267), although a higher proportion (71.2%) were convicted in 2020–21 compared with 2019–20 (64.4%).

Over the 10-year time series, the ratio of male-to-female appearances has trended very slowly downwards (from 3.2 to 2.9) while the ratio of non-Indigenous to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander appearances dropped in 2020–21 to well below 4 for the first time in the series (Table 3).

In terms of age breakdown, the greater proportion of convicted appearances gradually shifted to older age groups throughout the 10-year time series. Only 42.7% of convicted appearances were of defendants aged 29 years or younger compared with 53.2% a decade ago (Table 4).

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

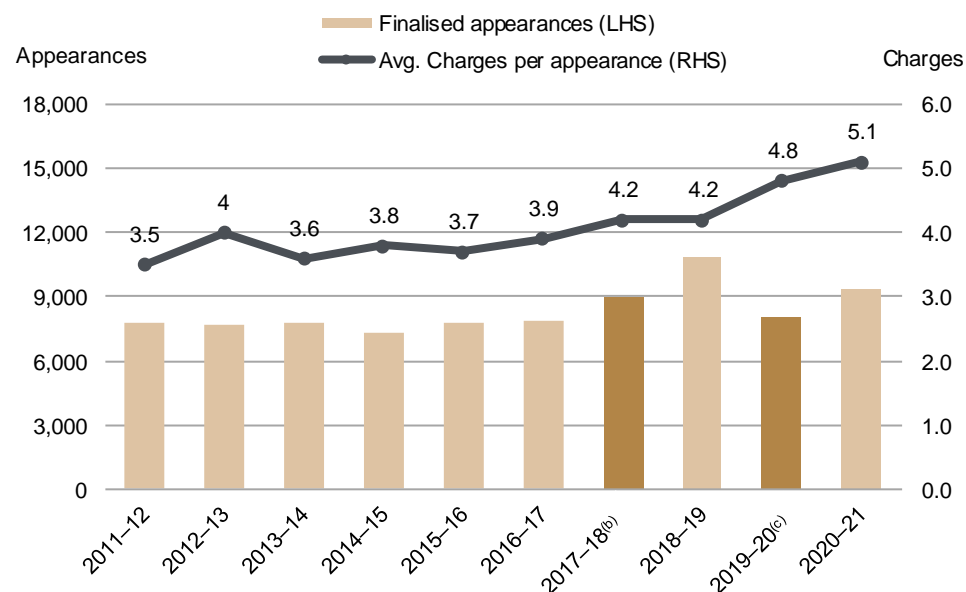


Table 2 Summary of finalised appearances by court type and outcome – time series

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
Court system / type	— number —									
Adult^(c)										
Supreme Court	844	739	639	761	967	1,340	1,587	1,426	1,379	1,368
District Court	4,548	4,138	4,169	4,394	4,558	5,091	5,354	5,882	5,422	5,098
Magistrates Court	154,797	159,648	170,647	171,925	175,681	164,111	139,648	140,180	109,984	135,323
Child										
Higher courts ^(d)	439	465	467	374	381	443	452	745	812	630
Childrens Court (Magistrates)	7,323	7,262	7,355	6,965	7,351	7,435	8,498	10,092	7,209	8,776
Total	167,951	172,252	183,277	184,419	188,938	178,420	155,539	158,325	124,806	151,195
Person appearances										
Convicted	153,216	157,856	168,074	167,997	171,647	160,863	140,342	141,888	110,499	134,444
Not convicted ^(e)	13,870	13,663	14,532	15,830	16,648	16,938	14,798	16,078	14,040	16,484
Company appearances										
Convicted	543	423	370	358	414	409	279	276	172	190
Not convicted ^(e)	322	310	301	234	229	210	120	83	95	77

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

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
	— number —									
Company appearances	865	733	671	592	643	619	399	359	267	267
Person appearances	167,086	171,519	182,606	183,827	188,295	177,801	155,140	157,966	124,539	150,928
Sex										
Male	126,939	130,310	138,042	138,136	139,946	131,111	115,474	117,473	92,416	111,822
Female	39,532	40,591	43,678	44,806	47,692	46,059	39,291	40,094	31,745	38,784
Not stated	615	618	886	885	657	631	375	399	378	322
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	26,398	29,247	31,610	30,858	31,875	31,448	29,391	29,631	23,820	31,443
Non-Indigenous	117,074	124,995	134,125	136,902	142,392	133,927	119,365	122,298	96,664	115,221
Not stated	23,614	17,277	16,871	16,067	14,028	12,426	6,384	6,037	4,055	4,264
Age at finalised appearance										
10–19 yrs	27,044	26,877	26,310	24,610	23,755	22,862	20,681	19,880	14,849	17,265
20–29 yrs	60,616	62,811	66,141	65,770	65,274	59,038	50,990	51,387	39,694	47,250
30–39 yrs	37,846	39,683	43,231	45,617	47,914	46,943	41,223	42,506	33,964	40,851
40–49 yrs	23,467	24,517	26,984	27,789	29,912	29,124	26,525	27,798	22,773	28,378
50–59 yrs	9,871	10,104	11,317	11,715	12,256	11,751	10,682	11,277	9,173	12,033
60 yrs & over	4,082	4,144	4,663	4,850	4,954	4,868	4,420	4,676	3,739	4,687
Not stated	4,160	3,383	3,960	3,476	4,230	3,215	619	442	347	464
Total	167,951	172,252	183,277	184,419	188,938	178,420	155,539	158,325	124,806	151,195

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

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(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.

(e) 'Not convicted' includes appearances where the defendant was acquitted or the case was not adjudicated.

The proportion of appearances resulting in conviction had been trending slowly downwards since 2013–14 before a slight increase in 2020–21. It dropped below 90 per cent for the first time in 2018–19 and remained around 89 per cent since.

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

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21
	— number —									
Company appearances	543	423	370	358	414	409	279	276	172	190
Person appearances	153,216	157,856	168,074	167,997	171,647	160,863	140,342	141,888	110,499	134,444
Sex										
Male	116,254	119,996	126,963	126,249	127,479	118,612	104,325	105,257	81,855	99,468
Female	36,449	37,348	40,337	41,024	43,628	41,751	35,699	36,318	28,354	34,724
Not stated	513	512	774	724	540	500	318	313	290	252
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	24,358	26,992	29,278	28,475	29,286	28,644	26,373	26,603	21,084	28,096
Non-Indigenous	108,937	116,537	124,608	126,227	130,809	122,251	108,620	110,335	86,395	102,977
Not stated	19,921	14,327	14,188	13,295	11,552	9,968	5,349	4,950	3,020	3,371
Age at finalised appearance										
10–19 yrs	24,922	24,661	24,162	22,529	21,557	20,423	18,015	16,781	12,305	14,340
20–29 yrs	56,924	58,897	61,891	61,170	60,595	54,529	47,022	47,248	36,104	43,083
30–39 yrs	34,841	36,722	39,963	41,802	43,922	42,789	37,518	38,560	30,345	36,628
40–49 yrs	21,344	22,498	24,818	25,212	27,167	26,303	24,000	25,120	20,411	25,463
50–59 yrs	8,810	9,206	10,330	10,534	11,015	10,481	9,531	9,983	8,072	10,639
60 yrs & over	3,492	3,620	4,094	4,283	4,287	4,107	3,777	3,873	3,037	3,974
Not stated	2,883	2,252	2,816	2,467	3,104	2,231	479	323	225	317
Total	153,759	158,279	168,444	168,355	172,061	161,272	140,621	142,164	110,671	134,634

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

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21
Person appearances	— rate per 100,000 persons ^(b) —									
Sex^(c)										
Male	5,976.4	6,059.0	6,316.9	6,207.8	6,194.5	5,675.6	4,905.8	4,864.1	3,716.2	4,438.4
Female	1,848.5	1,858.0	1,972.9	1,976.5	2,069.3	1,944.4	1,630.1	1,625.7	1,244.5	1,495.0
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	16,457.7	17,739.1	18,731.7	17,743.3	17,772.8	16,911.8	15,133.5	14,846.3	11,454.2	14,874.4
Other ^(d)	3,418.8	3,409.3	3,560.6	3,533.3	3,557.7	3,250.5	2,751.3	2,732.7	2,080.9	2,430.9
Age at finalised appearance^(b)										
10–19 yrs	4,162.1	4,091.3	3,989.1	3,709.5	3,529.0	3,293.9	2,847.2	2,597.7	1,868.7	2,140.4
20–29 yrs	8,679.9	8,821.1	9,159.0	8,975.9	8,824.3	7,857.2	6,700.3	6,671.6	5,082.7	6,083.0
30–39 yrs	5,606.5	5,840.9	6,286.2	6,511.4	6,755.2	6,465.8	5,546.1	5,571.3	4,283.8	5,051.1
40–49 yrs	3,362.7	3,495.6	3,823.6	3,864.5	4,141.7	3,983.4	3,612.6	3,763.9	3,041.9	3,769.9
50–59 yrs	1,553.6	1,587.8	1,748.5	1,757.9	1,819.9	1,714.8	1,543.4	1,598.8	1,274.3	1,652.4
60 yrs & over	416.1	417.0	456.2	462.1	447.8	414.9	368.9	365.4	276.3	348.3
Total^(e)	3,911.5	3,955.7	4,145.4	4,088.2	4,119.9	3,796.6	3,251.2	3,226.3	2,466.0	2,945.9

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

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

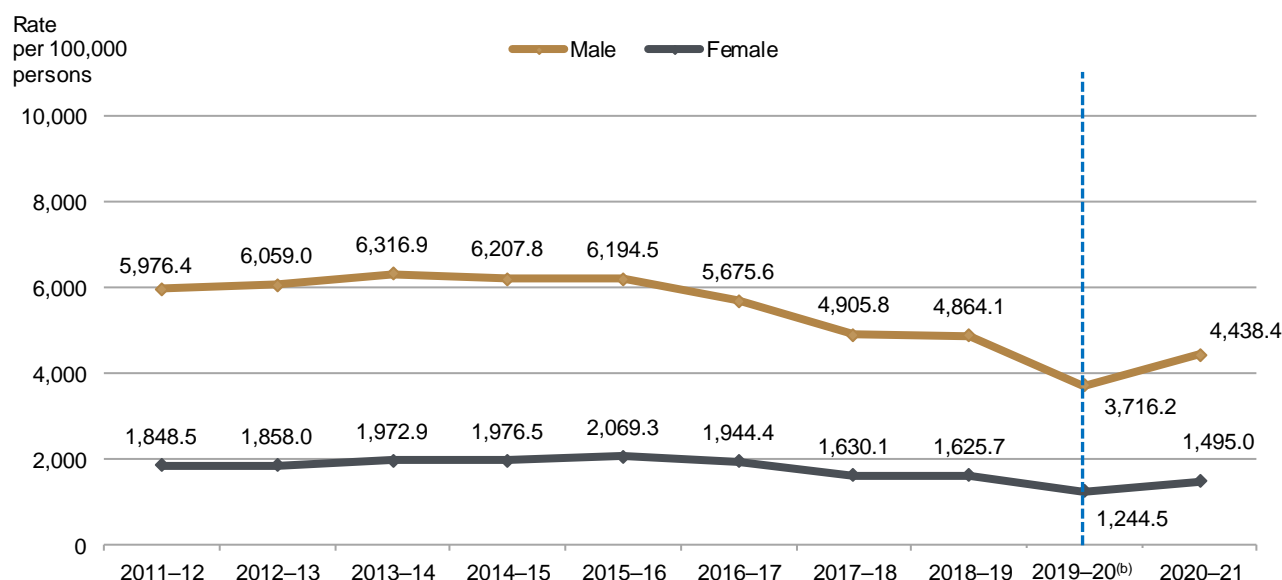
(c) Rates by sex and by age are calculated only where sex/age is stated.

(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, the convicted person appearance rate in 2020–21 increased to varying degrees for different person characteristics. Compared with 2019–20, the percentage increase for females (+20.1%) was slightly greater than for males (+19.4%). The convicted appearance rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants increased by nearly 30 per cent and just exceeded the rate in 2018–19, while for non-Indigenous defendants the increase was lower (+16.8%) and still well below the pre-COVID level of 2018–19.

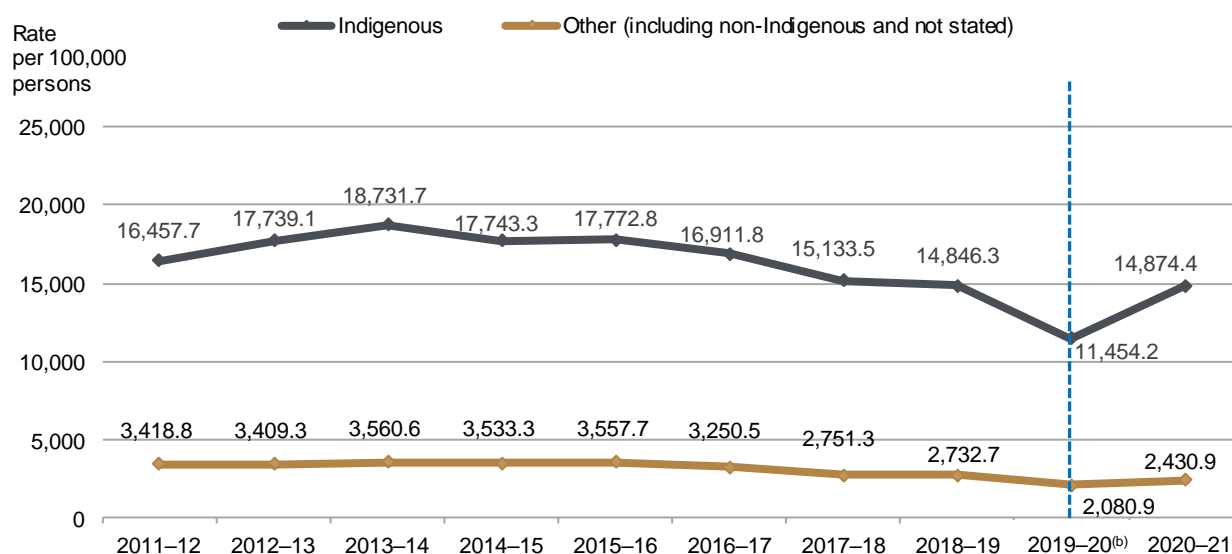
Figure 11 Convicted person appearance rate by sex^(a), all courts – time series



(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

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

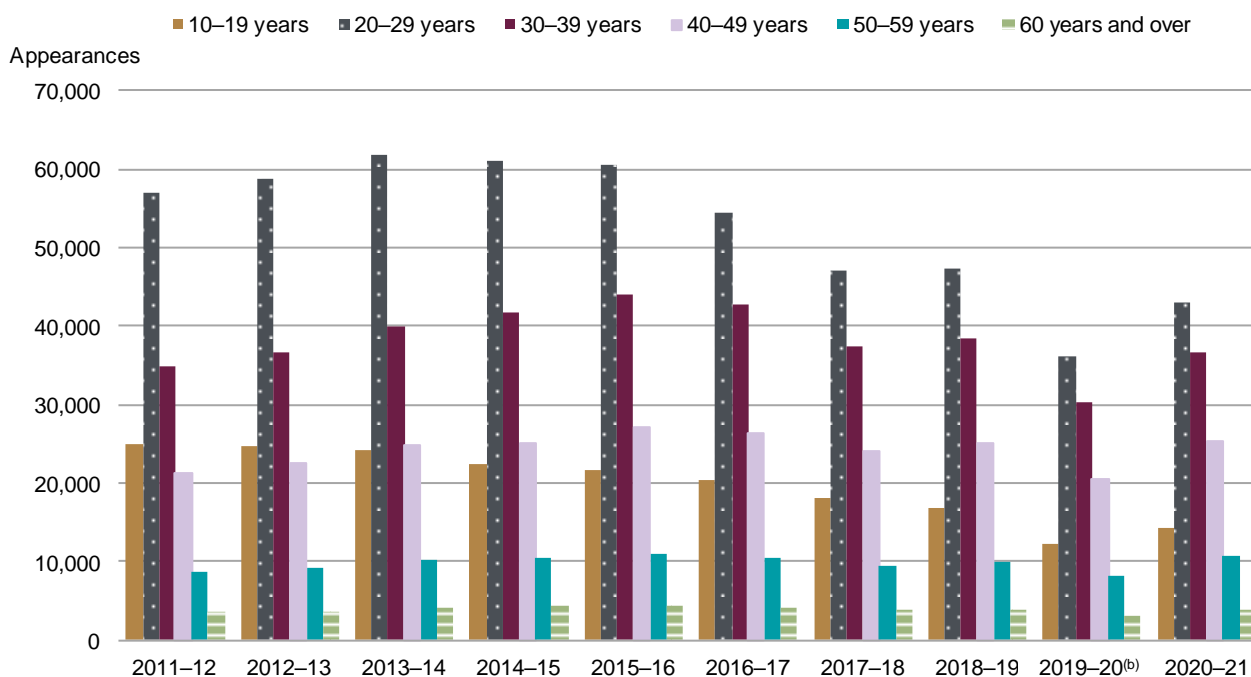


(a) Rate calculation is based on relevant population subgroup aged 10 years and over.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

In 2020–21, each of the three oldest age groups (those aged 40 years and over) had a greater proportion of convicted appearances than at any other year in the time series (Figure 14). In contrast, while those aged 20–29 years were the dominant age group among convicted appearances throughout the time series, their proportion of the whole has been trending downwards and in 2020–21 was at its lowest in ten years. The same downward trend was also seen for defendants aged 10–19 years.

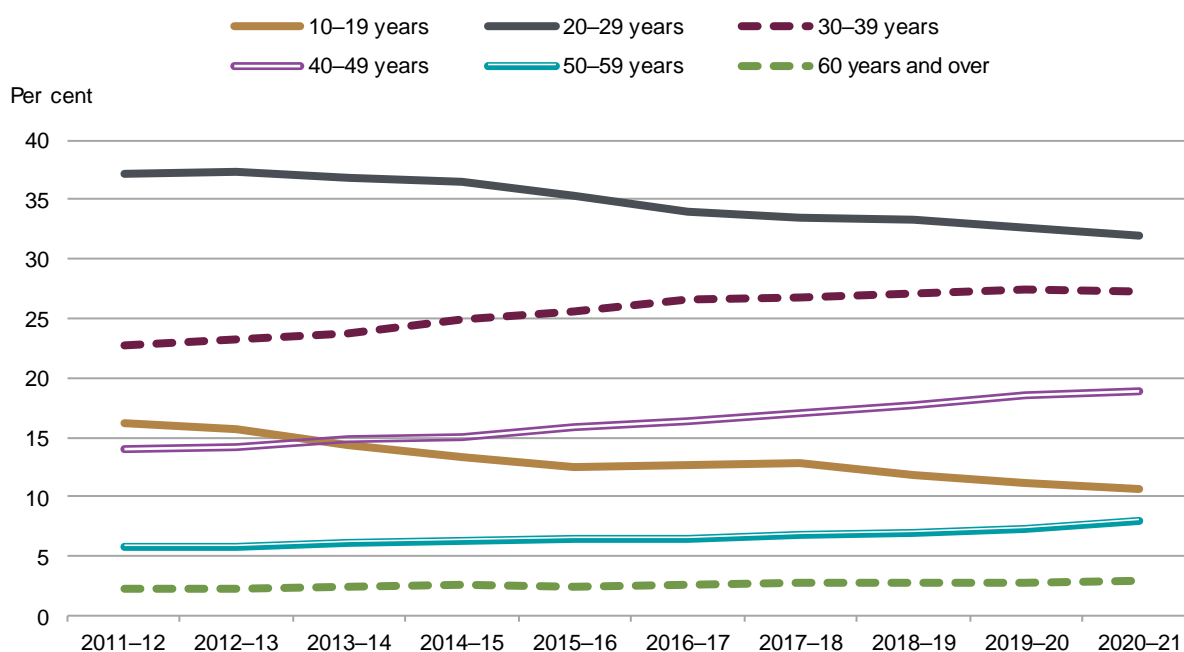
Figure 13 Convicted appearances by age at appearance^(a), all courts – time series



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

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

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. Those which are finalised in a higher court during the reference period are presented in higher court statistics 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 2020–21, lower numbers of finalised appearances and conviction rates were seen in the higher courts compared with 2019–20, while finalised appearances in the Magistrates Court increased significantly due to lower court operations resuming from June 2020. Of all adult person appearances finalised in 2020–21, only 4.6% were dealt with in the higher courts, a smaller proportion than in the two years prior (5.8% in 2019–20 and 5.0% in 2018–19)(not shown).

Table 6 Finalised adult appearances, all courts, 2020–21

Most serious offence (MSO)	2020–21								
	Supreme Court			District Court			Magistrates Court		
	Convicted	Not convicted ^(a)	Appearances resulting in conviction	Convicted	Not convicted ^(a)	Appearances resulting in conviction	Convicted	Not convicted ^(a)	Appearances resulting in conviction
Offence division (ANZSOC)	—	number —	%	—	number —	%	—	number —	%
Homicide and related offences	39	21	65.0	4	2	66.7	0	19	0.0
Acts intended to cause injury	24	7	77.4	1,068	380	73.8	6,423	1,711	79.0
Sexual assault and related offences	8	7	53.3	706	547	56.3	195	201	49.2
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	2	3	40.0	76	17	81.7	6,522	404	94.2
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	1	0	100.0	30	17	63.8	427	155	73.4
Robbery, extortion and related offences	6	2	75.0	440	80	84.6	14	133	9.5
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	2	1	66.7	187	24	88.6	1,959	689	74.0
Theft and related offences	13	5	72.2	93	17	84.5	9,476	1,444	86.8
Fraud, deception and related offences	2	1	66.7	126	54	70.0	2,200	466	82.5
Illicit drug offences	959	140	87.3	600	38	94.0	18,051	1,510	92.3
Weapons and explosives offences	5	14	26.3	12	4	75.0	3,761	424	89.9
Property damage and environmental pollution	2	0	100.0	94	28	77.0	3,111	360	89.6
Public order offences	1	0	100.0	7	6	53.8	7,188	656	91.6
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	11	0	100.0	33	0	100.0	38,017	1,793	95.5
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	83	9	90.2	319	70	82.0	23,770	2,443	90.7
Miscellaneous offences	0	0	..	14	4	77.8	1,339	196	87.2
Total	1,158	210	84.6	3,809	1,288	74.7	122,453	12,604	90.7

.. = not applicable

(a) 'Not convicted' includes appearances where the defendant was acquitted or the case was not adjudicated.

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 10 years.

In 2020–21, the Supreme Court recorded the fourth-highest number of convicted appearances in the time series, 22 fewer than the previous year. The number fell in 2018–19 after increasing for four consecutive years and has slowly declined since. Of all convicted appearances in the Supreme Court, *illicit drug offences* has consistently been the most serious offence (MSO) in over 73 per cent of adult appearances in every year in the time series and accounted for 82.8% of convicted adult appearances in 2020–21.

Table 7 Convicted adult appearances, Supreme Court – time series

Most serious offence (MSO)	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	43	47	53	45	36	50	59	50	46	39
Acts intended to cause injury	11	19	18	9	11	19	20	26	23	24
Sexual assault and related offences	13	6	3	4	3	5	6	5	10	8
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	3	0	0	5	5	1	1	6	6	2
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	0	3	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	1
Robbery, extortion and related offences	2	2	1	0	1	3	8	3	4	6
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	5	1	2	4	6	6	6	12	7	2
Theft and related offences	9	5	4	3	5	8	8	4	13	13
Fraud, deception and related offences	1	2	2	2	0	3	1	1	1	2
Illicit drug offences	522	433	360	502	623	892	1,120	978	934	959
Weapons and explosives offences	0	3	1	3	8	15	12	12	14	5
Property damage and environmental pollution	1	1	0	0	2	2	4	0	1	2
Public order offences	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	1	3	10	14	17	19	19	11
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	69	42	46	22	47	64	78	79	102	83
Total	683	566	492	603	757	1,083	1,342	1,197	1,180	1,158

(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.



Convicted adult appearances in the District Court decreased in 2020–21 for the second consecutive year, with 376 fewer than in 2019–20, and dipping below 4,000 for the first time since 2016–17.

The drop in the number of convicted appearances with *illicit drug offences* as MSO (–198 appearances or –24.8%) in 2020–21 accounted for more than half of the overall decrease since the previous year.

Table 8 Convicted adult appearances, District Court – time series

Most serious offence (MSO)	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	5	11	7	4	2	2	6	4	5	4
Acts intended to cause injury	850	781	728	773	707	871	1,163	1,243	1,125	1,068
Sexual assault and related offences	624	533	490	583	595	722	691	778	672	706
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	140	101	119	107	118	98	93	113	106	76
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	50	31	26	27	31	58	61	50	38	30
Robbery, extortion and related offences	404	436	432	382	347	393	380	426	470	440
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	219	193	183	218	190	193	215	220	206	187
Theft and related offences	95	54	58	78	88	82	69	111	106	93
Fraud, deception and related offences	195	146	115	121	146	148	126	156	126	126
Illicit drug offences	300	385	594	643	725	855	827	804	798	600
Weapons and explosives offences	10	9	6	10	9	17	16	13	11	12
Property damage and environmental pollution	118	97	101	95	88	84	87	96	95	94
Public order offences	28	8	12	15	16	9	19	21	14	7
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	1	3	6	15	29	23	37	46	50	33
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	324	311	275	275	280	288	328	350	353	319
Miscellaneous offences	7	6	5	7	6	8	7	10	10	14
Total	3,370	3,105	3,157	3,353	3,377	3,851	4,125	4,441	4,185	3,809

(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

The overall increase in the number of convicted adult appearances in 2020–21 compared with the previous year was mostly due to the resumption of normal operations in the Magistrates Court. Convicted appearances in the Magistrates Court increased by 23,238 or 23.4%, although didn't quite reach the pre-COVID level of 2018–19. In terms of MSO, there were sizeable increases from +7.3% to +76.4% for every offence division except *theft and related offences* and *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* where small decreases were seen (–275 or –2.8%, and –76 or –3.7% respectively).

Table 9 Convicted adult appearances, Magistrates Court – time series

Most serious offence (MSO)	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —									
Acts intended to cause injury	5,076	4,876	5,072	5,018	5,307	5,457	5,415	5,470	4,404	6,423
Sexual assault and related offences	121	125	116	134	107	100	153	139	140	195
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	9,159	8,540	8,716	8,088	7,349	6,483	5,945	5,291	4,434	6,522
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	342	351	345	359	441	434	418	350	242	427
Robbery, extortion and related offences	7	17	17	21	16	9	15	19	11	14
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	2,433	2,459	2,451	2,272	2,301	2,339	2,175	2,181	2,035	1,959
Theft and related offences	10,662	10,526	11,683	12,475	13,278	13,453	12,028	12,303	9,751	9,476
Fraud, deception and related offences	2,586	2,680	2,976	3,017	2,883	2,896	2,797	2,669	2,050	2,200
Illicit drug offences	12,044	13,832	17,033	20,636	21,448	19,491	17,368	17,547	13,951	18,051
Weapons and explosives offences	1,918	2,242	2,738	3,409	3,590	3,581	3,180	3,632	2,892	3,761
Property damage and environmental pollution	3,244	3,165	3,303	3,142	3,247	3,227	2,971	2,752	2,014	3,111
Public order offences	16,212	17,056	18,397	17,385	12,876	11,120	8,705	7,855	5,677	7,188
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	58,091	59,645	59,475	53,790	57,836	50,794	40,315	42,565	32,274	38,017
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	19,340	21,052	23,973	26,320	28,326	28,525	25,167	23,927	18,395	23,770
Miscellaneous offences	1,314	1,057	1,442	1,747	2,061	1,617	1,169	1,224	945	1,339
Total	142,549	147,623	157,737	157,813	161,066	149,526	127,821	127,924	99,215	122,453

(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(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.

Overall, *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* (which includes breaches of justice orders) was the predominant offence division among finalised charges against adults in 2020–21, followed by *illicit drug offences*, together accounting for almost half of all adult charges (22.2% and 20.8% respectively).

Table 10 Finalised charges against adults, by offence and court type, 2020–21

	2020–21								
	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	46	62	42.6	6	2	75.0	0	23	0.0
Acts intended to cause injury	111	49	69.4	2,794	1,632	63.1	9,481	3,482	73.1
Sexual assault and related offences	58	37	61.1	3,030	2,938	50.8	307	721	29.9
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	47	8	85.5	276	70	79.8	8,561	1,052	89.1
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	7	8	46.7	257	169	60.3	922	399	69.8
Robbery, extortion and related offences	17	15	53.1	690	266	72.2	29	325	8.2
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	53	12	81.5	1,068	270	79.8	5,679	3,640	60.9
Theft and related offences	630	56	91.8	1,958	306	86.5	34,107	6,017	85.0
Fraud, deception and related offences	43	3	93.5	807	409	66.4	13,209	4,450	74.8
Illicit drug offences	5,791	993	85.4	4,378	424	91.2	69,719	5,851	92.3
Weapons and explosives offences	499	78	86.5	311	42	88.1	8,224	1,125	88.0
Property damage and environmental pollution	38	8	82.6	542	164	76.8	8,197	2,488	76.7
Public order offences	34	3	91.9	247	20	92.5	18,481	3,511	84.0
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	267	0	100.0	518	0	100.0	71,626	4,014	94.7
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	542	33	94.3	2,761	237	92.1	79,805	9,650	89.2
Miscellaneous offences	201	2	99.0	224	18	92.6	5,411	1,278	80.9
Total	8,384	1,367	86.0	19,867	6,967	74.0	333,758	48,026	87.4

3.2.4. Proven charges

Proven charges against adults in the Supreme Court have declined for three consecutive years following a series peak in 2017–18. *Illicit drug offences* continued to be the most common offence division dealt with in this court, comprising nearly 70 per cent of all proven charges in 2020–21, the largest proportion since 2015–16. The number of proven charges for *fraud, deception and related offences* fell sharply to 43, the lowest since 2014–15 and the third-lowest in the time series. Proven charges for *theft and related offences* and *offences against justice procedures, government security and operations* also declined for the second consecutive year (–245 and –257 charges respectively) and reached their lowest level in five years.

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

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	48	55	55	48	41	55	64	57	49	46
Acts intended to cause injury	38	41	37	39	35	71	135	91	105	111
Sexual assault and related offences	124	60	26	24	57	41	49	17	65	58
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	13	11	15	28	27	46	69	58	64	47
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	6	3	27	6	5	17	14	12	8	7
Robbery, extortion and related offences	3	16	7	2	18	7	32	23	21	17
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	97	31	34	47	81	111	76	103	58	53
Theft and related offences	191	185	210	326	439	753	825	918	875	630
Fraud, deception and related offences	46	26	68	33	72	168	92	292	159	43
Illicit drug offences	2,130	1,985	1,940	3,172	3,891	5,582	6,792	6,269	5,884	5,791
Weapons and explosives offences	65	90	77	249	242	401	497	487	553	499
Property damage and environmental pollution	25	9	5	22	12	30	48	40	25	38
Public order offences	16	14	12	16	24	29	33	31	31	34
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	40	52	60	102	166	266	379	389	378	267
Offences against justice procedures, government security and operations	166	157	223	236	368	687	847	845	799	542
Miscellaneous offences	4	6	16	29	53	95	108	166	199	201
Total	3,012	2,741	2,812	4,379	5,531	8,359	10,060	9,798	9,273	8,384

(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

In 2020–21, the number of proven charges against adults in the District Court declined by 15.7% (–3,698) and dipped below 20,000 for the first time since 2015–16 after reaching a series peak of 23,565 in 2019–20. The numbers fell in every offence division except for *homicide and related offences*, *sexual assault and related offences* and *miscellaneous offences*. Despite a drop of 21.8% in 2020–21, *illicit drug offences* continued to be the most common offence dealt with in the District Court and comprised 22.0% of all charges proven in this court. However, this was its smallest proportion since 2013–14 and the fourth-smallest in the time series. *Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* was the only offence division in 2020–21 at its lowest level in ten years, with fewer proven charges in the District Court than in both 2019–20 (–224) and 2011–12 (–510).

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

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	5	11	7	4	2	2	6	4	5	6
Acts intended to cause injury	1,558	1,510	1,430	1,596	1,519	2,001	2,841	3,103	2,857	2,794
Sexual assault and related offences	2,458	1,952	2,396	2,485	2,671	3,047	2,686	3,316	2,742	3,030
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	294	291	277	289	290	272	322	368	394	276
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	199	155	151	178	178	275	284	252	271	257
Robbery, extortion and related offences	658	689	704	617	606	631	600	653	763	690
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	1,578	1,391	1,423	1,332	1,368	1,306	1,259	1,264	1,292	1,068
Theft and related offences	1,483	1,393	1,767	1,754	1,874	1,804	1,924	2,408	2,671	1,958
Fraud, deception and related offences	866	785	946	875	1,146	1,151	893	1,012	1,093	807
Illicit drug offences	1,232	1,785	2,840	3,516	4,114	5,295	5,483	5,211	5,599	4,378
Weapons and explosives offences	107	151	192	235	268	311	398	341	450	311
Property damage and environmental pollution	599	439	495	452	475	1,000	698	692	801	542
Public order offences	171	212	177	183	203	325	330	304	326	247
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	357	388	552	519	529	570	809	822	949	518
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	1,272	1,414	1,450	1,601	1,895	2,148	3,581	3,145	3,176	2,761
Miscellaneous offences	55	52	187	85	159	217	188	310	176	224
Total	12,892	12,618	14,994	15,721	17,297	20,355	22,302	23,205	23,565	19,867

(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

After the series low in 2019–20, the number of charges proven in the Magistrates Court rebounded strongly in 2020–21 to the third-highest level in the time series. Of the 15 offence divisions, six had a time series peak in 2020–21, and ten had an annual increase of more than 30 per cent. Most notable of these was *illicit drug offences*, which remained the third-most common offence dealt with in this court, and for which proven charges more than doubled over the time series and increased by 18,042 charges (+34.9%) in

2020–21 compared with 2019–20. *Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* also saw a large increase (+19,233 or +31.7%) compared with 2019–20. In addition, both *weapons and explosive offences* and *miscellaneous offences* more than doubled in 2020–21 compared with 2011–12. *Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* was the only offence division with fewer proven charges than in both 2019–20 and 2011–12, and only six more than the low in 2014–15.

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

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —									
Acts intended to cause injury	6,517	6,464	6,750	6,657	7,148	7,466	7,515	7,684	6,530	9,481
Sexual assault and related offences	189	187	213	228	193	176	266	222	202	307
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	10,246	9,713	9,955	9,400	8,780	7,975	7,419	6,781	5,814	8,561
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	555	634	694	649	900	851	812	707	580	922
Robbery, extortion and related offences	17	27	31	29	32	26	21	31	31	29
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	6,323	6,849	5,836	5,673	6,058	6,595	6,227	5,966	6,212	5,679
Theft and related offences	24,304	26,116	28,076	29,357	32,063	36,295	34,437	37,062	35,056	34,107
Fraud, deception and related offences	10,130	10,647	12,823	12,570	13,185	14,885	14,267	13,983	11,576	13,209
Illicit drug offences	29,785	34,894	44,234	55,288	63,330	62,509	56,103	59,868	51,677	69,719
Weapons and explosives offences	3,173	3,804	4,718	5,965	6,478	6,937	6,221	7,133	6,220	8,224
Property damage and environmental pollution	7,491	7,295	7,410	6,823	7,944	8,482	7,565	6,587	5,572	8,197
Public order offences	24,169	25,303	27,570	26,938	22,488	21,004	17,911	17,189	13,824	18,481
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	96,774	98,178	95,347	84,834	92,443	84,441	68,160	72,702	57,667	71,626
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	45,907	50,808	61,243	66,340	74,667	82,598	71,798	72,165	60,572	79,805
Miscellaneous offences	2,676	2,529	3,315	3,646	4,701	3,899	3,702	4,502	3,464	5,411
Total	268,256	283,448	308,215	314,397	340,410	344,139	302,424	312,582	264,997	333,758

(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

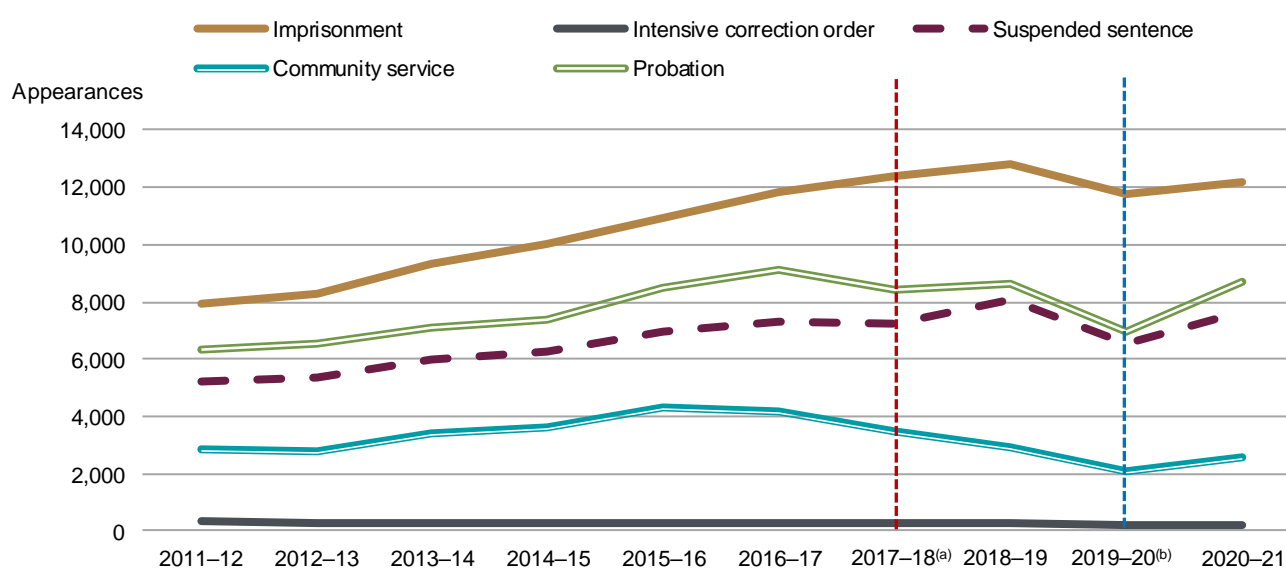
(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

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*. Overall, all of these penalty types rose in 2020–21 to varying degrees. *Probation* as most serious penalty imposed had the most significant increase, by more than 25 per cent compared with 2019–20. In 2020–21, this was the only penalty type of the five most serious to exceed the pre-COVID level of 2018–19. The number of finalised appearances receiving *probation* as most serious penalty, which in 2019–20 had appeared to be converging with those given a *suspended sentence*, diverged and therefore remained the second-most prevalent of the five penalties.

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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

The proportion of convicted appearances in the Supreme Court resulting in a sentence of *imprisonment* remained steadily high (78.2%) in 2020–21, the second-highest in the time series, behind only 2019–20.

Those resulting in a *suspended sentence*, the second–most prevalent penalty in the Supreme Court, have stabilised in proportion at around 11 to 15 per cent since 2017–18, after holding steady at more than 20 per cent for the three years prior.

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

Most serious penalty	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
Penalty ^(c)	— number —									
Imprisonment	405	398	370	429	504	738	1,028	917	931	906
Intensive correction order	7	3	3	3	9	6	1	5	4	1
Suspended sentence ^(d)	165	100	71	139	191	234	199	157	135	140
Community service	9	2	0	2	4	6	5	3	2	3
Probation	24	16	5	7	11	26	21	30	22	25
Fine	25	7	5	2	4	16	9	6	2	7
Good behaviour order	5	7	3	5	2	3	6	5	0	0
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Nominal penalty ^(e)	43	33	35	16	30	54	73	74	84	76
Total	683	566	492	603	757	1,083	1,342	1,197	1,180	1,158

(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(c) In descending order of seriousness.

(d) Includes both fully and partially suspended imprisonment.

(e) Includes convicted not punished.

The lag effect of the significant decrease in cases finalised in the Magistrates Court in 2019–20 was evidenced by a second consecutive year of fewer cases finalised in the District Court in 2020–21, where convicted appearances reached their lowest level (3,809) in five years.

As in the Supreme Court, *imprisonment* has consistently been the predominant penalty imposed in the District Court throughout the 10-year time series, followed by *suspended sentence*. The proportion of convicted appearances resulting in imprisonment has fluctuated somewhat over the time series, from a low of 46.8% in 2011–12 to a high of 56.9% in 2020–21.

The proportion receiving a *suspended sentence* as most serious penalty has hovered steadily around 25 to 30 per cent.

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

Most serious penalty	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
Penalty ^(c)	— number —									
Imprisonment	1,578	1,607	1,677	1,736	1,643	1,938	2,236	2,319	2,272	2,169
Intensive correction order	62	41	36	42	27	26	28	40	39	28
Suspended sentence ^(d)	986	796	839	865	997	1,036	1,030	1,174	1,052	974
Community service	160	107	110	120	97	134	81	88	73	50
Probation	178	155	145	220	213	327	307	348	319	207
Fine	135	98	96	126	134	119	128	136	110	106
Compensation/restitution	10	14	9	13	18	19	17	23	13	15
Good behaviour order	64	76	48	49	57	53	85	68	54	44
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Nominal penalty ^(e)	197	211	197	182	191	199	212	245	252	216
Total	3,370	3,105	3,157	3,353	3,377	3,851	4,125	4,441	4,185	3,809

(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(c) In descending order of seriousness.

(d) Includes both fully and partially suspended imprisonment.

(e) Includes convicted not punished.

In 2020–21, around two-thirds (67.6%) of convicted appearances in the Magistrates Court received a *fine* as their most serious penalty. This proportion has decreased from well over 70 per cent over the first half of the 10-year time series and has remained consistently well below 70 per cent from 2017–18 when traffic and vehicle regulatory offences began being diverted from the court system.

The number of convicted appearances resulting in *imprisonment* increased by 6.7% in 2020–21 compared with the previous year, although its proportion decreased slightly from 8.6% to 7.5%, second only to 2019–20 in the time series.

The number of convicted adult appearances increased for every penalty type in 2020–21 compared with the previous year. More than 70% of the overall increase is contributed by the rise in those resulting in a *fine*. The proportion with a fine as most serious penalty has been steadily decreasing since the beginning of the time series, from 77.3% to 66.4%, until an increase to 67.6% of all convicted appearances in 2020–21.

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

Most serious penalty	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
Penalty ^(c)	— number —									
Imprisonment	5,976	6,276	7,295	7,879	8,815	9,156	9,139	9,543	8,567	9,144
Intensive correction order	240	199	202	211	241	228	217	206	155	199
Suspended sentence ^(d)	4,078	4,485	5,067	5,251	5,768	6,051	5,984	6,747	5,378	6,568
Community service	2,704	2,660	3,275	3,516	4,177	3,999	3,361	2,832	1,998	2,501
Probation	6,142	6,361	6,966	7,121	8,299	8,736	8,073	8,258	6,603	8,451
Other penalty ^(e)	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	3	1	2
Fine	110,156	112,195	118,598	115,993	116,841	105,646	87,804	86,969	65,928	82,834
Compensation/restitution	1,149	1,155	1,102	1,124	1,116	1,035	936	997	778	915
Good behaviour order	7,915	8,272	8,907	9,922	9,700	8,907	7,720	7,761	6,087	7,131
Driver licence disqualification	398	496	472	641	771	668	448	505	464	550
Nominal penalty ^(f)	3,791	5,524	5,853	6,155	5,337	5,100	4,135	4,103	3,256	4,158
Total	142,549	147,623	157,737	157,813	161,066	149,526	127,821	127,924	99,215	122,453

(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(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 (82.8%) of convicted adult appearances in the Supreme Court in 2020–21, and a similar proportion (83.1%) of those resulted in a sentence of *imprisonment*.

Table 17 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence and most serious penalty, Supreme Court, 2020–21

	2020–21							
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	34	0	5	0	0	0	0	39
Acts intended to cause injury	21	0	3	0	0	0	0	24
Sexual assault and related offences	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	8
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Robbery, extortion and related offences	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Theft and related offences	9	0	2	0	0	1	1	13
Fraud, deception and related offences	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Illicit drug offences	797	1	128	3	24	5	1	959
Weapons and explosives offences	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	5
Property damage and environmental pollution	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Public order offences	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	8	0	0	0	0	1	74	83
Total	906	1	140	3	25	7	76	1,158

(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, *acts intended to cause injury* as MSO accounted for 28.0% of all convicted adult appearances, followed by *sexual assault and related offences* at 18.5% and *illicit drug offences* at 15.8%. Of all convicted appearances in the District Court, more than half (56.9%) resulted in *imprisonment*, with a further 25.6% receiving a fully or partially *suspended sentence*.

Table 18 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence and most serious penalty, District Court, 2020–21

	2020–21									
Most serious penalty ^(a)	Imprisonment	Intensive correction order	Suspended sentence ^(b)	Community service	Probation	Fine	Compensation / restitution	Good behaviour	Nominal penalty ^(c)	Total
Most serious offence (MSO)										
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Acts intended to cause injury	737	12	213	19	52	18	3	12	2	1,068
Sexual assault and related offences	293	6	332	5	47	8	2	12	1	706
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	37	2	30	1	5	0	0	0	1	76
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	18	0	5	0	5	1	0	1	0	30
Robbery, extortion and related offences	368	0	49	5	16	1	0	0	1	440
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	154	1	30	0	1	1	0	0	0	187
Theft and related offences	51	0	25	2	6	5	0	2	2	93
Fraud, deception and related offences	41	0	63	1	2	5	6	6	2	126
Illicit drug offences	281	6	171	16	62	56	0	4	4	600
Weapons and explosives offences	10	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Property damage and environmental pollution	59	1	25	0	5	2	1	0	1	94
Public order offences	2	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	7
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	31	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	33
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	85	0	20	1	5	7	0	0	201	319
Miscellaneous offences	1	0	2	0	0	0	3	7	1	14
Total	2,169	28	974	50	207	106	15	44	216	3,809

(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 31.0% of all convicted adult appearances in the Magistrates Court in 2020–21 (91.3% resulted in a *fine*), followed by *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* at 19.4% (of which more than half resulted in a *fine*). Only appearances with *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* as MSO resulted in a higher proportion receiving *imprisonment* (49.0%) than a *fine* (9.6%). In more than two-thirds (67.6%) of all convicted appearances in this court, the most serious penalty was a *fine*, followed by *imprisonment* at 7.5% and *probation* at 6.9%.

Table 19 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence and most serious penalty, Magistrates Court, 2020–21

	2020–21											
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	1,527	41	875	537	1,251	0	1,650	59	412	0	71	6,423
Sexual assault and related offences	33	1	56	18	33	0	43	1	7	0	3	195
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	458	13	394	133	724	0	4,700	4	60	25	11	6,522
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	49	1	19	12	65	0	151	2	122	0	6	427
Robbery, extortion and related offences	4	0	1	2	1	0	4	0	1	0	1	14
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	960	22	281	108	315	0	188	13	28	0	44	1,959
Theft and related offences	1,057	31	650	235	775	0	5,341	370	588	0	429	9,476
Fraud, deception and related offences	237	7	258	134	332	0	929	144	98	0	61	2,200
Illicit drug offences	681	22	637	170	1,219	2	11,644	0	3,242	0	434	18,051
Weapons and explosives offences	187	12	109	93	486	0	2,432	0	268	0	174	3,761
Property damage and environmental pollution	205	4	159	231	327	0	1,650	298	172	0	65	3,111
Public order offences	193	2	152	270	204	0	5,331	11	545	0	480	7,188
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	816	14	832	119	640	0	34,713	0	152	525	206	38,017
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	2,733	29	2,136	426	2,030	0	12,985	8	1,308	0	2,115	23,770
Miscellaneous offences	4	0	9	13	49	0	1,073	5	128	0	58	1,339
Total	9,144	199	6,568	2,501	8,451	2	82,834	915	7,131	550	4,158	122,453

(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.

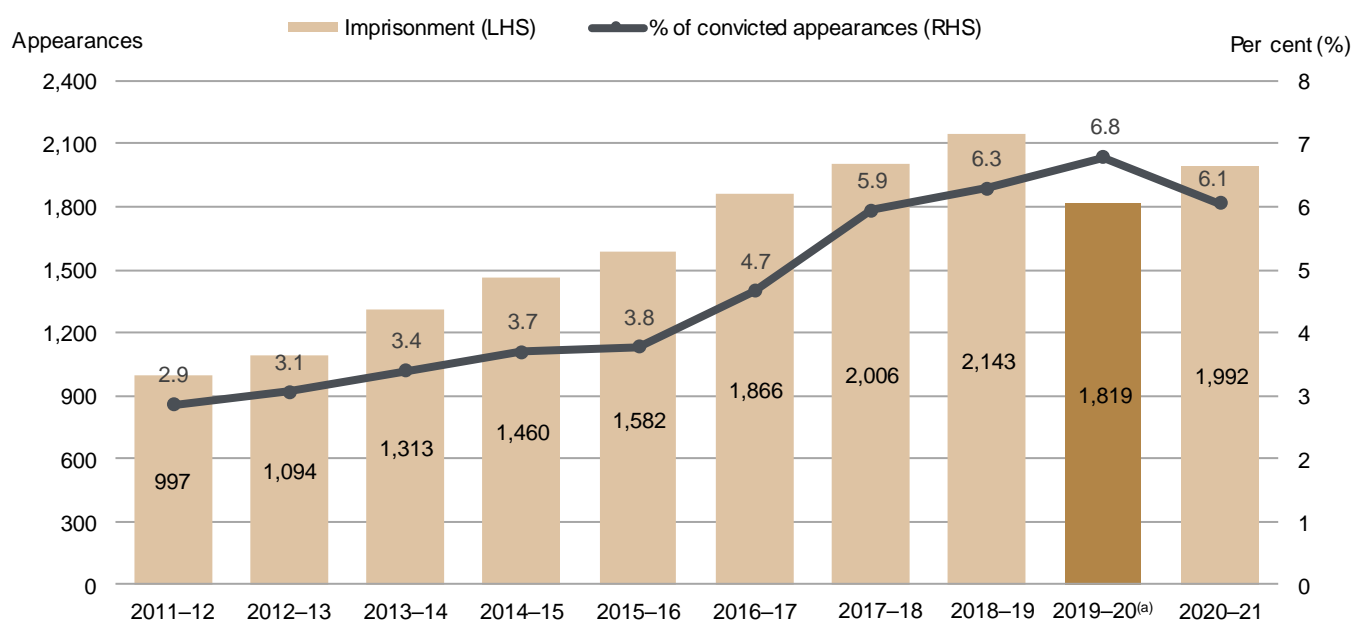
(e) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

3.2.5.1. Imprisonment

Figure 16 and Figure 17 show the annual number of convicted adult appearances resulting in imprisonment and its proportion of the total, for females and males respectively. Imprisonment numbers steadily increased from the beginning of the time series for both males and females and peaked in 2018–19 before dropping after the COVID pandemic was declared. Appearances in 2020–21 doubled for females and increased by 46.9% for males, compared with numbers in 2011–12. The imprisonment proportion followed a similar trend but peaked in 2019–20 for both genders before returning to a level similar to that of 2018–19.

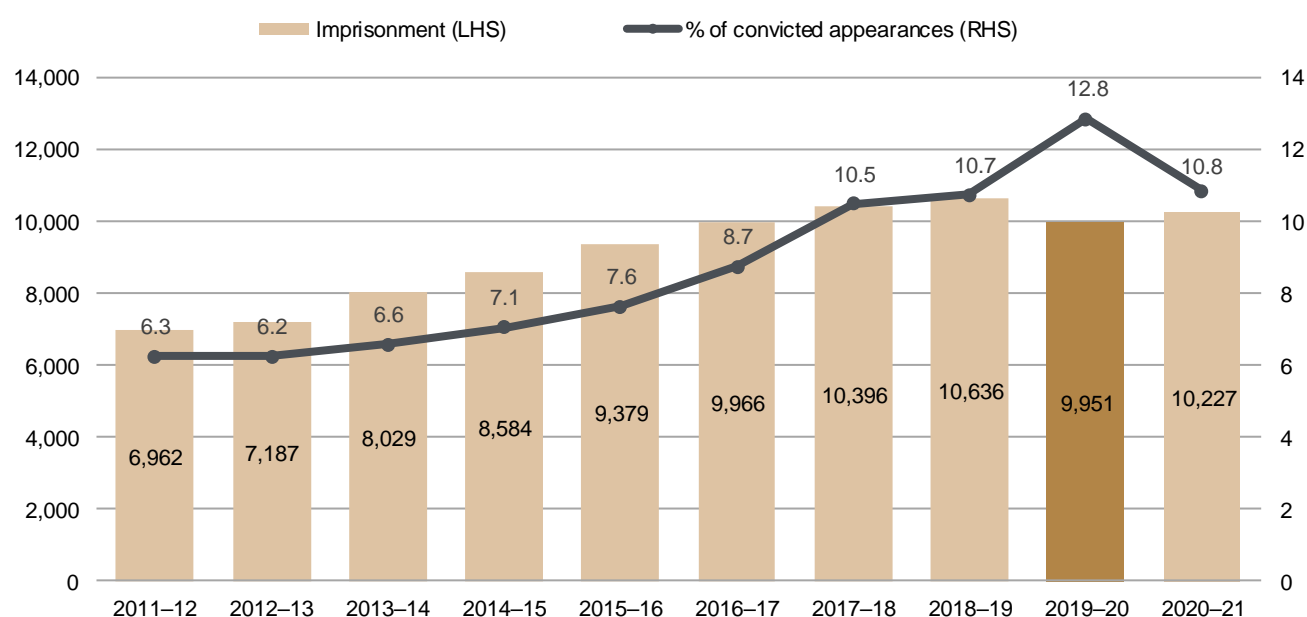
Please be aware that different scales have been used for females and males in the graphs below.

Figure 16 Convicted adult female appearances resulting in imprisonment – time series



(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Figure 17 Convicted adult male appearances resulting in imprisonment – time series

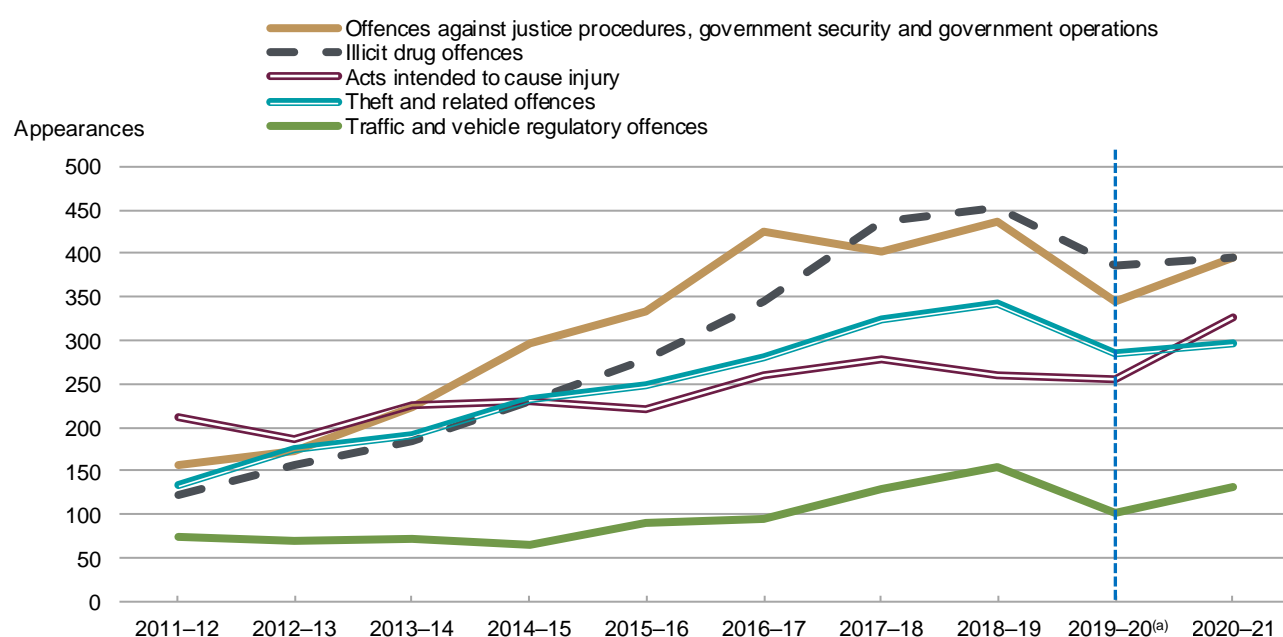


(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Figure 18 and Figure 19 show convicted appearances of females and males receiving an *imprisonment* sentence by the five most prevalent MSOs in 2020–21. Four of the five most common MSOs are the same for both females and males, although the order of prevalence is different. For both females and males, *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* was the most prevalent MSO (395 for females and 2,431 for males) for which a sentence of imprisonment was imposed. For males, the order of prevalence has remained unchanged after 2013–14, when *illicit drug offences* overtook *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* to become the third- most common MSO. Whereas for women, the order of the top 4 most prevalent MSOs has varied throughout the series.

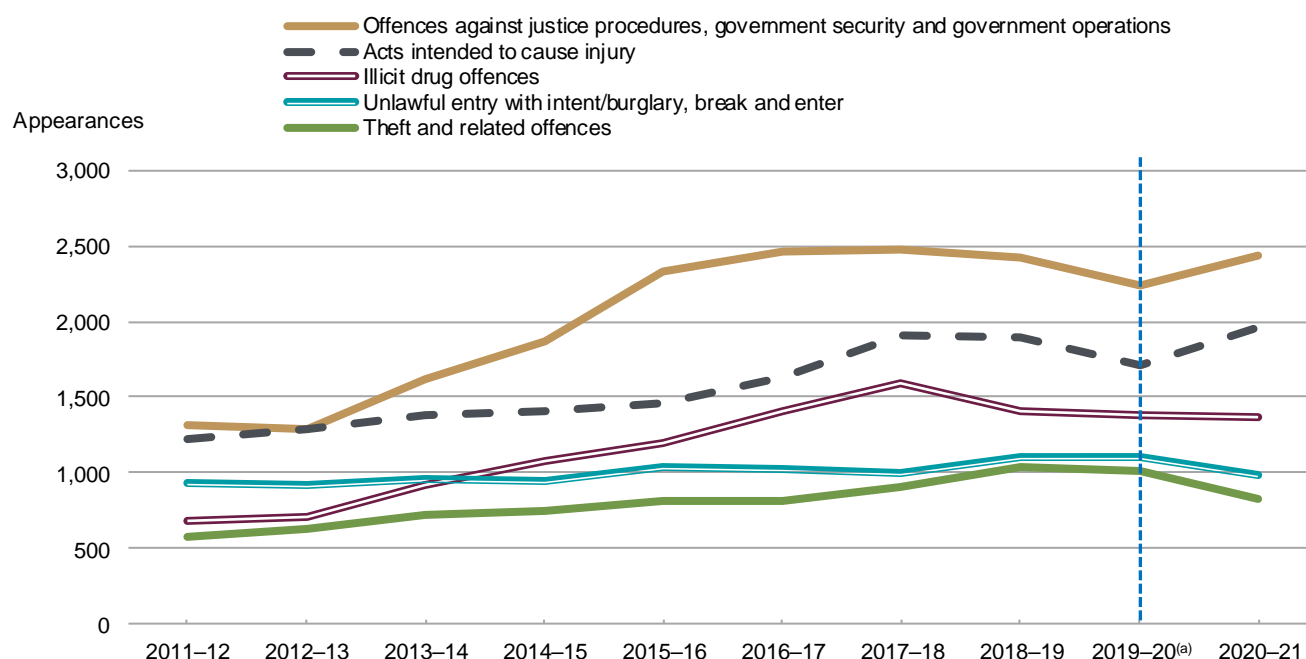
There is an upward trend generally for all five most prevalent MSOs, due to an increasing number of convicted appearances resulting in imprisonment for both males and females. Again, please note the different scales used in the two figures.

Figure 18 Female imprisonment by the five most prevalent MSOs of 2020–21 – time series



(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Figure 19 Male imprisonment by the five most prevalent MSOs of 2020–21 – time series



(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

In the Supreme Court in 2020–21, almost three in four (73.6%) convicted appearances of females resulted in *imprisonment*, the largest proportion in the time series, compared with the low of 47.7% in 2011–12. For males, the proportion decreased from the peak of 80.9% in 2019–20 to 79.6% in 2020–21, compared with the low of 61.5% in 2011–12.

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

Most serious penalty	2011–12		2012–13		2013–14		2014–15		2015–16	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Penalty ^(a)	— number —									
Imprisonment	352	53	329	69	311	59	364	65	430	74
Intensive correction order	4	3	3	0	1	2	2	1	6	3
Suspended sentence ^(b)	131	34	83	17	52	19	112	27	152	39
Community service	8	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	2
Probation	13	11	7	9	2	3	4	3	6	5
Fine	21	4	6	1	5	0	1	1	3	1
Good behaviour order	3	2	6	1	3	0	3	2	2	0
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Nominal penalty ^(c)	40	3	29	4	34	1	8	8	24	6
Total	572	111	464	102	408	84	496	107	627	130

Table 20 continued.

Most serious penalty	2016–17		2017–18 ^(d)		2018–19		2019–20 ^(e)		2020–21	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Penalty ^(a)	— number —									
Imprisonment	604	134	830	198	711	206	747	184	714	192
Intensive correction order	3	3	0	1	1	4	2	2	1	0
Suspended sentence ^(b)	183	51	150	49	117	40	98	37	96	44
Community service	6	0	4	1	2	1	0	2	1	2
Probation	16	10	16	5	15	15	11	11	15	10
Fine	13	3	6	3	4	2	1	1	6	1
Good behaviour order	2	1	4	2	3	2	0	0	0	0
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nominal penalty ^(c)	42	12	60	13	56	18	64	20	64	12
Total	869	214	1,070	272	909	288	923	257	897	261

(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Almost 3 in 4 females
and 4 in 5 males with a
convicted appearance in the
Supreme Court in 2020–21
were sentenced to *imprisonment*.

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

Most serious penalty	2011–12		2012–13		2013–14		2014–15		2015–16	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Penalty ^(a)	— number —									
Imprisonment	1,394	184	1,402	205	1,475	202	1,528	208	1,430	212
Intensive correction order	56	6	32	9	30	6	37	5	18	9
Suspended sentence ^(b)	856	129	671	125	706	133	725	140	838	159
Community service	132	28	83	24	97	13	90	30	85	12
Probation	127	51	116	39	108	37	161	59	156	57
Fine	120	15	79	19	79	17	108	18	115	19
Compensation/restitution	6	4	8	6	6	2	6	7	11	7
Good behaviour order	51	13	62	12	41	6	35	14	35	22
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nominal penalty ^(c)	165	32	185	26	175	22	156	26	166	25
Total	2,907	462	2,638	465	2,717	438	2,846	507	2,854	522

Table 21 continued.

Most serious penalty	2016–17		2017–18 ^(d)		2018–19		2019–20 ^(e)		2020–21	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Penalty ^(a)	— number —									
Imprisonment	1,663	275	1,949	287	2,012	307	1,989	283	1,892	277
Intensive correction order	21	5	24	4	29	11	26	13	22	6
Suspended sentence ^(b)	873	162	874	156	996	178	892	160	822	152
Community service	111	23	69	12	73	15	55	18	38	12
Probation	244	83	226	81	263	85	212	107	153	54
Fine	101	18	112	16	119	17	97	13	87	19
Compensation/restitution	10	9	10	7	14	9	7	6	9	4
Good behaviour order	37	16	61	23	50	16	43	11	36	7
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Nominal penalty ^(c)	169	30	187	25	210	35	214	38	188	27
Total^(f)	3,229	621	3,513	611	3,766	673	3,536	649	3,247	558

(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(f) Totals exclude a total of 14 convicted appearances where defendant's sex was not stated.

In the District Court,
almost half of all convicted appearances of females,
and 58% for males,
resulted in *imprisonment* in 2020–21,
the most in 10 years.



From the beginning of the time series, the proportion of convicted appearances in the Magistrates Court with *imprisonment* as most serious penalty rose steadily for both males and females, from 4.8% and 2.2% respectively in 2011–12 to more than double in 2019–20, at 9.9% and 5.2%. These proportions declined for both in 2020–21, to 8.5% and 4.8% respectively.

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

Most serious penalty	2011–12			2012–13			2013–14			2014–15			2015–16		
	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated
Penalty ^(a)	— number —														
Imprisonment	5,216	760	0	5,456	820	0	6,243	1,052	0	6,692	1,187	0	7,519	1,296	0
Intensive correction order	191	49	0	154	45	0	152	50	0	157	54	0	165	76	0
Suspended sentence ^(b)	3,358	718	2	3,781	703	1	4,142	925	0	4,258	993	0	4,706	1,062	0
Community service	2,166	536	2	2,132	527	1	2,554	719	2	2,751	762	3	3,256	919	2
Probation	4,431	1,711	0	4,635	1,726	0	5,013	1,952	1	5,006	2,115	0	5,795	2,504	0
Other penalties ^(c)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Fine	83,119	26,543	494	84,822	26,883	490	89,203	28,663	732	86,744	28,561	688	86,147	30,180	514
Compensation/restitution	735	413	1	720	435	0	705	395	2	708	415	1	631	482	3
Good behaviour order	5,437	2,474	4	5,780	2,485	7	6,138	2,755	14	6,820	3,092	10	6,469	3,228	3
Driver licence disqualification	267	131	0	331	165	0	322	149	1	456	185	0	546	225	0
Nominal penalty ^(c)	2,852	932	7	4,101	1,412	11	4,410	1,426	17	4,673	1,461	21	3,981	1,340	16
Total	107,772	34,267	510	111,912	35,201	510	118,882	38,086	769	118,265	38,825	723	119,216	41,312	538

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) Includes both fully and partially suspended imprisonment.

(c) Include drug and alcohol treatment orders, licence disqualification orders (other than driver licence)

(d) Includes convicted not punished.

Table 22 continued.

Most serious penalty	2016–17			2017–18 ^(d)			2018–19			2019–20 ^(e)			2020–21		
	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated
Penalty ^(a)	— number —														
Imprisonment	7,699	1,457	0	7,617	1,521	1	7,913	1,630	0	7,215	1,352	0	7,621	1,523	0
Intensive correction order	167	61	0	167	50	0	152	54	0	115	40	0	152	47	0
Suspended sentence ^(b)	4,824	1,227	0	4,784	1,197	3	5,371	1,373	3	4,268	1,108	2	5,185	1,380	3
Community service	3,082	917	0	2,545	814	2	2,117	715	0	1,535	461	2	1,864	635	2
Probation	6,006	2,730	0	5,525	2,548	0	5,601	2,656	1	4,435	2,167	1	5,658	2,790	3
Other penalty ^(c)	0	0	0	3	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
Fine	77,323	27,857	466	64,907	22,606	291	64,210	22,461	298	48,288	17,374	266	60,977	21,638	219
Compensation/restitution	637	393	5	558	377	1	606	390	1	504	272	2	562	352	1
Good behaviour order	5,911	2,982	14	5,226	2,486	8	5,173	2,584	4	4,022	2,061	4	4,708	2,417	6
Driver licence disqualification	488	180	0	323	125	0	347	158	0	328	136	0	420	130	0
Nominal penalty ^(f)	3,700	1,387	13	2,994	1,132	9	2,998	1,102	3	2,330	916	10	3,015	1,130	13
Total	109,837	39,191	498	94,649	32,857	315	94,490	33,124	310	73,040	25,888	287	90,163	32,043	247

(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(f) Includes convicted not punished.

In the Magistrates Court in 2020–21,
8.5% of convicted appearances of males
and 4.8% for females
resulted in *imprisonment*.

3.2.6. Age and sex

In 2020–21, while the overall number of convicted adult appearances had not quite returned to the pre-COVID level, numbers in the Magistrates Court for both males and females in each of the age groups of 40 years and older exceeded those in 2018–19, while numbers in each of the younger age groups from 18 to 39 years were lower for both male and female defendants.

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

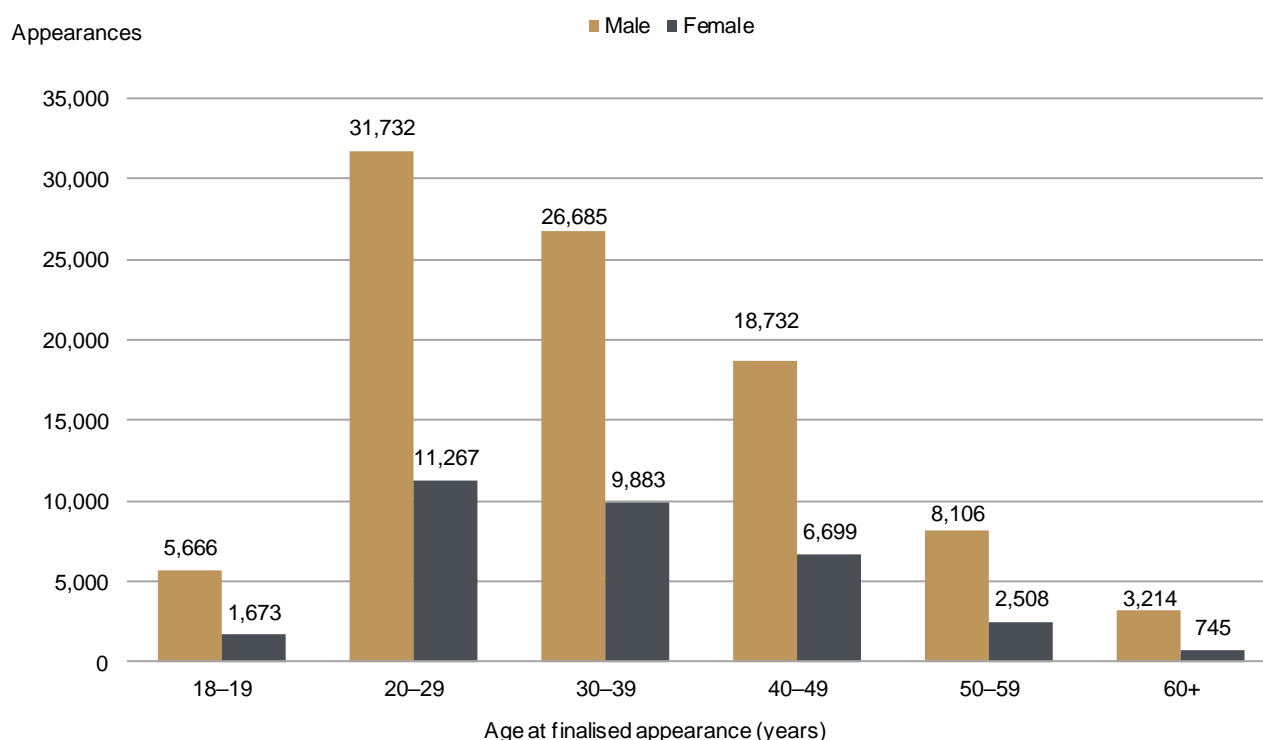
	Year	2018–19				2019–20 ^(a)				2020–21			
	Sex	Male	Female	Not stated	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total
Court type	Age at finalised appearance	— number —				— number —				— number —			
Supreme	18–19 yrs	10	6	0	16	16	3	0	19	11	0	0	11
	20–29 yrs	347	107	0	454	348	95	0	443	307	97	0	404
	30–39 yrs	320	114	0	434	352	92	0	444	343	106	0	449
	40–49 yrs	163	45	0	208	148	56	0	204	167	43	0	210
	50–59 yrs	54	15	0	69	42	8	0	50	59	13	0	72
	60 and over	15	1	0	16	17	3	0	20	10	2	0	12
District	18–19 yrs	175	27	0	202	131	26	0	157	117	13	0	130
	20–29 yrs	1,417	249	0	1,666	1,348	239	0	1,587	1,158	205	3	1,366
	30–39 yrs	1,029	201	1	1,231	999	204	0	1,203	912	159	0	1,071
	40–49 yrs	659	129	1	789	603	107	0	710	591	117	0	708
	50–59 yrs	299	45	0	344	283	51	0	334	280	48	1	329
	60 and over	187	21	0	208	168	18	0	186	188	16	0	204
	Not stated	0	1	0	1	4	4	0	8	1	0	0	1
Magistrates	18–19 yrs	6,351	1,911	4	8,266	4,784	1,444	4	6,232	5,538	1,660	4	7,202
	20–29 yrs	33,368	11,659	87	45,114	25,119	8,863	82	34,064	30,267	10,965	63	41,295
	30–39 yrs	26,680	10,154	59	36,893	20,816	7,818	62	28,696	25,430	9,618	56	35,104
	40–49 yrs	17,690	6,393	40	24,123	14,231	5,212	54	19,497	17,974	6,539	32	24,545
	50–59 yrs	7,276	2,263	31	9,570	5,748	1,924	16	7,688	7,767	2,447	24	10,238
	60 and over	2,965	671	13	3,649	2,238	575	18	2,831	3,016	727	15	3,758
	Not stated	160	73	76	309	104	52	51	207	171	87	53	311
All courts (total)	18–19 yrs	6,536	1,944	4	8,484	4,931	1,473	4	6,408	5,666	1,673	4	7,343
	20–29 yrs	35,132	12,015	87	47,234	26,815	9,197	82	36,094	31,732	11,267	66	43,065
	30–39 yrs	28,029	10,469	60	38,558	22,167	8,114	62	30,343	26,685	9,883	56	36,624
	40–49 yrs	18,512	6,567	41	25,120	14,982	5,375	54	20,411	18,732	6,699	32	25,463
	50–59 yrs	7,629	2,323	31	9,983	6,073	1,983	16	8,072	8,106	2,508	25	10,639
	60 and over	3,167	693	13	3,873	2,423	596	18	3,037	3,214	745	15	3,974
	Not stated	160	74	76	310	108	56	51	215	172	87	53	312

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Figure 20 shows the comparison of convicted adult appearances of males and females across six different age groups. In 2020–21, males had substantially more convicted appearances than females across all age groups. However, the trends for males and females were similar, with both peaking at the 20–29 years age group, with 31,732 and 11,267 convicted appearances respectively, then progressively decreasing for older age groups.

Convicted appearances for males outnumber those for females by around 2.8 to one in the age groups from 20 to 49 years. For other age groups, both younger and older, that ratio increases (to between 3.2–4.3 male appearances to one female appearance).

Figure 20 Convicted adult appearances by age^(a) and sex^{(b)(c)}, all courts, 2020–21



(a) Excludes 312 convicted adult appearances of defendants whose age was not stated.

(b) Excludes 251 convicted adult appearances of defendants whose sex was not stated.

(c) Among these were 53 appearances where both age and sex of defendants were unknown.

The number of proven charges against adults overall rebounded more strongly than convicted appearances after the decrease in 2019–20. This was particularly so for both male and female defendants in age groups of 40 years and over, and primarily in the Magistrates Court, where proven charges against these defendants increased by around 15% compared with 2018–19. In contrast, in higher courts there was a decrease across all age groups to 59 years compared with the pre-COVID period, with the exception of male defendants aged 40–49 years, for which proven charges increased by 7.4%.

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

	Year	2018–19				2019–20(a)				2020–21			
		Male	Female	Not stated	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total
Court type	Age at finalised appearance	— number —				— number —				— number —			
Supreme	18–19 yrs	55	80	0	135	156	33	0	189	47	0	0	47
	20–29 yrs	2,627	875	0	3,502	2,738	700	0	3,438	2,316	661	0	2,977
	30–39 yrs	2,883	1,016	0	3,899	2,827	880	0	3,707	2,737	717	0	3,454
	40–49 yrs	1,203	281	0	1,484	1,165	345	0	1,510	1,158	305	0	1,463
	50–59 yrs	482	101	0	583	353	15	0	368	323	69	0	392
	60 and over	193	2	0	195	57	4	0	61	46	5	0	51
District	18–19 yrs	1,105	73	0	1,178	759	127	0	886	491	128	0	619
	20–29 yrs	8,483	1,121	0	9,604	8,024	1,385	0	9,409	6,191	1,100	3	7,294
	30–39 yrs	5,659	965	1	6,625	6,432	1,065	0	7,497	5,005	738	0	5,743
	40–49 yrs	2,951	494	5	3,450	3,069	480	0	3,549	3,304	432	0	3,736
	50–59 yrs	1,254	137	0	1,391	1,304	175	0	1,479	1,227	147	1	1,375
	60 and over	913	43	0	956	669	50	0	719	1,058	41	0	1,099
	Not stated	0	1	0	1	22	4	0	26	1	0	0	1
Magistrates	18–19 yrs	15,512	4,325	4	19,841	12,604	3,818	5	16,427	14,553	4,187	6	18,746
	20–29 yrs	84,086	28,405	120	112,611	68,937	24,440	99	93,476	85,003	30,112	84	115,199
	30–39 yrs	71,455	25,933	103	97,491	62,217	21,233	91	83,541	77,144	28,072	95	105,311
	40–49 yrs	41,002	14,522	63	55,587	37,728	12,090	64	49,882	47,550	16,374	57	63,981
	50–59 yrs	14,928	4,205	78	19,211	12,542	3,667	18	16,227	17,095	5,161	45	22,301
	60 and over	5,258	1,149	21	6,428	3,929	936	38	4,903	5,904	1,340	17	7,261
	Not stated	630	230	553	1,413	243	90	208	541	510	177	272	959
All courts (total)	18–19 yrs	16,672	4,478	4	21,154	13,519	3,978	5	17,502	15,091	4,315	6	19,412
	20–29 yrs	95,196	30,401	120	125,717	79,699	26,525	99	106,323	93,510	31,873	87	125,470
	30–39 yrs	79,997	27,914	104	108,015	71,476	23,178	91	94,745	84,886	29,527	95	114,508
	40–49 yrs	45,156	15,297	68	60,521	41,962	12,915	64	54,941	52,012	17,111	57	69,180
	50–59 yrs	16,664	4,443	78	21,185	14,199	3,857	18	18,074	18,645	5,377	46	24,068
	60 and over	6,364	1,194	21	7,579	4,655	990	38	5,683	7,008	1,386	17	8,411
	Not stated	630	231	553	1,414	265	94	208	567	511	177	272	960

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.



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 a decreasing number of adult appearances overall where the defendant's Indigenous status is not stated—from 13.2% in 2011–12 to 2.6% in 2020–21. 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 2011–12, defendants identifying as non-Indigenous accounted for 72.0% of all convicted appearances and those identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander accounted for 14.8%, while in 2020–21 they accounted for 78.0% and 19.4% respectively (Table 25).



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

	Court type	Supreme			District				Magistrates				All courts (total)			
	Sex	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total
Year	Indigenous status	— number —			— number —				— number —				— number —			
2011–12	Indigenous	25	8	33	481	115	0	596	14,641	6,406	0	21,047	15,147	6,529	0	21,676
	Non-Indigenous	450	91	541	2,020	278	0	2,298	79,882	22,684	117	102,683	82,352	23,053	117	105,522
	Not stated	97	12	109	406	69	1	476	13,249	5,177	393	18,819	13,752	5,258	394	19,404
	Total	572	111	683	2,907	462	1	3,370	107,772	34,267	510	142,549	111,251	34,840	511	146,602
2012–13	Indigenous	32	9	41	453	100	0	553	16,361	7,161	4	23,526	16,846	7,270	4	24,120
	Non-Indigenous	360	83	443	1,888	301	1	2,190	86,333	24,031	70	110,434	88,581	24,415	71	113,067
	Not stated	72	10	82	297	64	1	362	9,218	4,009	436	13,663	9,587	4,083	437	14,107
	Total	464	102	566	2,638	465	2	3,105	111,912	35,201	510	147,623	115,014	35,768	512	151,294
2013–14	Indigenous	31	6	37	474	120	0	594	17,562	7,951	2	25,515	18,067	8,077	2	26,146
	Non-Indigenous	346	73	419	2,088	293	1	2,382	92,181	26,124	121	118,426	94,615	26,490	122	121,227
	Not stated	31	5	36	155	25	1	181	9,139	4,011	646	13,796	9,325	4,041	647	14,013
	Total	408	84	492	2,717	438	2	3,157	118,882	38,086	769	157,737	122,007	38,608	771	161,386
2014–15	Indigenous	30	8	38	497	118	0	615	17,072	7,915	0	24,987	17,599	8,041	0	25,640
	Non-Indigenous	449	96	545	2,198	358	0	2,556	92,791	26,948	147	119,886	95,438	27,402	147	122,987
	Not stated	17	3	20	151	31	0	182	8,402	3,962	576	12,940	8,570	3,996	576	13,142
	Total	496	107	603	2,846	507	0	3,353	118,265	38,825	723	157,813	121,607	39,439	723	161,769
2015–16	Indigenous	37	11	48	468	112	0	580	17,597	8,081	2	25,680	18,102	8,204	2	26,308
	Non-Indigenous	550	114	664	2,262	373	1	2,636	94,564	29,440	157	124,161	97,376	29,927	158	127,461
	Not stated	40	5	45	124	37	0	161	7,055	3,791	379	11,225	7,219	3,833	379	11,431
	Total	627	130	757	2,854	522	1	3,377	119,216	41,312	538	161,066	122,697	41,964	539	165,200



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Table 25 continued.

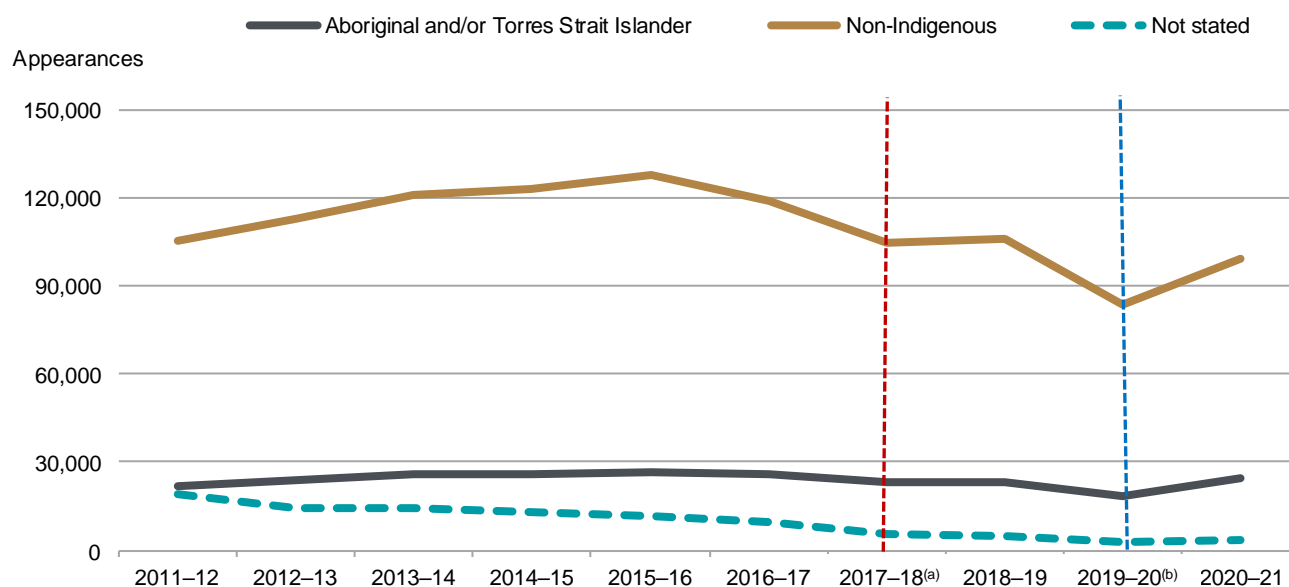
	Court type	Supreme			District				Magistrates				All courts (total)			
	Sex	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total
Year	Indigenous status	— number —			— number —				— number —				— number —			
2016–17	Indigenous	54	10	64	512	127	0	639	16,942	8,010	0	24,952	17,508	8,147	0	25,655
	Non-Indigenous	784	199	983	2,605	473	1	3,079	86,802	27,973	114	114,889	90,191	28,645	115	118,951
	Not stated	31	5	36	112	21	0	133	6,093	3,208	384	9,685	6,236	3,234	384	9,854
	Total	869	214	1,083	3,229	621	1	3,851	109,837	39,191	498	149,526	113,935	40,026	499	154,460
2017–18 ^(a)	Indigenous	46	12	58	645	141	0	786	15,107	7,236	0	22,343	15,798	7,389	0	23,187
	Non-Indigenous	989	254	1,243	2,772	448	0	3,220	76,046	24,289	81	100,416	79,807	24,991	81	104,879
	Not stated	35	6	41	96	22	1	119	3,496	1,332	234	5,062	3,627	1,360	235	5,222
	Total	1,070	272	1,342	3,513	611	1	4,125	94,649	32,857	315	127,821	99,232	33,740	316	133,288
2018–19	Indigenous	50	26	76	641	139	0	780	14,947	7,082	0	22,029	15,638	7,247	0	22,885
	Non-Indigenous	838	251	1,089	3,015	508	1	3,524	76,131	24,997	88	101,216	79,984	25,756	89	105,829
	Not stated	21	11	32	110	26	1	137	3,412	1,045	222	4,679	3,543	1,082	223	4,848
	Total	909	288	1,197	3,766	673	2	4,441	94,490	33,124	310	127,924	99,165	34,085	312	133,562
2019–20 ^(b)	Indigenous	54	18	72	673	140	0	813	12,004	5,436	1	17,441	12,731	5,594	1	18,326
	Non-Indigenous	862	232	1,094	2,781	489	0	3,270	59,077	19,761	100	78,938	62,720	20,482	100	83,302
	Not stated	7	7	14	82	20	0	102	1,959	691	186	2,836	2,048	718	186	2,952
	Total	923	257	1,180	3,536	649	0	4,185	73,040	25,888	287	99,215	77,499	26,794	287	104,580
2020–21	Indigenous	65	28	93	640	154	0	794	16,160	7,715	2	23,877	16,865	7,897	2	24,764
	Non-Indigenous	819	227	1,046	2,539	388	1	2,928	71,733	23,553	70	95,356	75,091	24,168	71	99,330
	Not stated	13	6	19	68	16	3	87	2,270	775	175	3,220	2,351	797	178	3,326
	Total	897	261	1,158	3,247	558	4	3,809	90,163	32,043	247	122,453	94,307	32,862	251	127,420

(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Convicted appearances of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous adults increased in 2020–21 following the decrease seen in 2019–20. While for non-Indigenous adults the number did not quite return to the pre-COVID level of 2018–19, convicted appearances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults rose to their highest level in four years.

Figure 21 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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.



Three in ten (31.4%) convicted adult appearances in the higher courts in 2020–21 had *illicit drug offences* as MSO. While convicted appearances with that MSO were 10.0% lower overall compared with 2019–20, those for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults increased by 22.5%. As in previous years, the three most common MSOs in convicted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander appearances in the higher courts were *acts intended to cause injury* (34.7%), *illicit drug offences* (16.6%) and *robbery, extortion and related offences* (15.2%). For non-Indigenous adults, the top three MSOs were *illicit drug offences* (34.9%), *acts intended to cause injury* (19.2%) and *sexual assault and related offences* (15.3%).

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)				2020–21			
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total	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	46	1	54	8	43	0	51	11	30	2	43
Acts intended to cause injury	307	939	23	1,269	322	812	14	1,148	308	765	19	1,092
Sexual assault and related offences	98	653	32	783	87	568	27	682	87	610	17	714
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	16	100	3	119	11	100	1	112	8	70	0	78
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	11	36	3	50	7	30	1	38	8	23	0	31
Robbery, extortion and related offences	119	308	2	429	128	339	7	474	135	309	2	446
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	57	169	6	232	59	151	3	213	46	142	1	189
Theft and related offences	8	102	5	115	22	96	1	119	14	86	6	106
Fraud, deception and related offences	5	123	29	157	1	104	22	127	5	101	22	128
Illicit drug offences	111	1,627	44	1,782	120	1,590	22	1,732	147	1,387	25	1,559
Weapons and explosives offences	0	24	1	25	1	23	1	25	0	17	0	17
Property damage and environmental pollution	23	72	1	96	22	73	1	96	20	74	2	96
Public order offences	0	22	1	23	5	8	1	14	2	6	0	8
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	15	49	1	65	20	49	0	69	8	36	0	44
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	78	336	15	429	72	369	14	455	88	308	6	402
Miscellaneous offences	1	7	2	10	0	9	1	10	0	10	4	14
Total	856	4,613	169	5,638	885	4,364	116	5,365	887	3,974	106	4,967

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

In 2020–21, similar to the offence division breakdown in the previous year, the top three MSOs in convicted appearances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults in the Magistrates Court were *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* (26.1%), followed by *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* (18.7%) and *public order offences* (12.9%). For non-Indigenous adults, the top three MSOs were *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* (33.3%), *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* (18.0%) and *illicit drug offences* (16.0%). For the second consecutive year, there were fewer convicted appearances with *theft and related offences* as MSO for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous adults in 2020–21.

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

Most serious offence (MSO)	2018–19				2019–20 ^(a)				2020–21			
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total	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 —											
Acts intended to cause injury	1,797	3,613	60	5,470	1,478	2,911	15	4,404	2,237	4,115	71	6,423
Sexual assault and related offences	25	109	5	139	27	111	2	140	47	147	1	195
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	674	4,526	91	5,291	606	3,773	55	4,434	962	5,492	68	6,522
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	46	299	5	350	38	201	3	242	65	360	2	427
Robbery, extortion and related offences	3	16	0	19	1	10	0	11	3	8	3	14
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	647	1,525	9	2,181	640	1,379	16	2,035	525	1,410	24	1,959
Theft and related offences	2,119	10,087	97	12,303	1,801	7,892	58	9,751	1,716	7,675	85	9,476
Fraud, deception and related offences	322	2,156	191	2,669	264	1,667	119	2,050	282	1,748	170	2,200
Illicit drug offences	2,344	15,062	141	17,547	1,867	12,039	45	13,951	2,721	15,282	48	18,051
Weapons and explosives offences	431	3,179	22	3,632	355	2,522	15	2,892	568	3,174	19	3,761
Property damage and environmental pollution	848	1,875	29	2,752	556	1,443	15	2,014	877	2,206	28	3,111
Public order offences	3,047	4,616	192	7,855	2,190	3,353	134	5,677	3,071	3,878	239	7,188
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	3,794	35,806	2,965	42,565	2,897	27,531	1,846	32,274	4,457	31,773	1,787	38,017
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	5,829	17,489	609	23,927	4,662	13,401	332	18,395	6,225	17,176	369	23,770
Miscellaneous offences	103	858	263	1,224	59	705	181	945	121	912	306	1,339
Total	22,029	101,216	4,679	127,924	17,441	78,938	2,836	99,215	23,877	95,356	3,220	122,453

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(b) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

In 2020–21, the overall number of convicted appearances in the higher courts further declined across most penalties for the second year running. However, there was a noticeable increase in *suspended sentence* (+21 or +16.9%) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults in 2020–21 compared with both years prior, and a smaller increase in *nominal penalty* (+15 or +28.8% compared with 2019–20, and +10 or +17.5% compared with 2018–19). For non-Indigenous adults in 2020–21, the number of convicted appearances decreased for all penalty types for two consecutive years, except for *compensation/restitution* (+4 compared with 2019–20) and *nominal penalty* (–57 compared with 2019–20, and –32 compared with 2018–19).

Convicted appearances resulting in *imprisonment* were down by almost 4 per cent for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous adults compared with 2019–20 (–24 or –3.7%, and –99 or –3.9% respectively).

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

Most serious penalty	2018–19				2019–20 ^(a)				2020–21			
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total	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	615	2,567	54	3,236	643	2,510	50	3,203	619	2,411	45	3,075
Intensive correction order	5	40	0	45	11	32	0	43	4	25	0	29
Suspended sentence ^(c)	124	1,148	59	1,331	124	1,032	31	1,187	145	939	30	1,114
Community service	10	78	3	91	10	62	3	75	6	46	1	53
Probation	35	329	14	378	37	296	8	341	34	190	8	232
Fine	4	135	3	142	5	100	7	112	8	99	6	113
Compensation/restitution	3	9	11	23	0	6	7	13	0	10	5	15
Good behaviour order	3	54	16	73	3	47	4	54	4	33	7	44
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Nominal penalty ^(d)	57	253	9	319	52	278	6	336	67	221	4	292
Total	856	4,613	169	5,638	885	4,364	116	5,365	887	3,974	106	4,967

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

(c) Includes both fully and partially suspended imprisonment.

(d) Includes convicted not punished.



Despite the overall number of convicted adult appearances in the Magistrates Court in 2020–21 being lower than in the year immediately prior to the pandemic, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults the total number exceeded the level of 2018–19 (+1,848 or +8.4%) and increased in every penalty except *intensive correction order* (–14) and *community service* (–249). In contrast, convicted appearances of non-Indigenous adults were lower in 2020–21 compared with 2018–19 in every penalty type except *intensive correction order* (+8) and *driver licence disqualification* (+34).

In 2020–21, *fine* prevailed as the most serious penalty in the majority of convicted appearances of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (58.7%) and non-Indigenous (69.4%) adults. *Imprisonment* was imposed in 13.6% (3,253) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and 6.1% (5,829) of non-Indigenous convicted adult appearances.

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

Most serious penalty	2018–19				2019–20 ^(a)				2020–21			
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total	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	3,149	6,335	59	9,543	3,037	5,478	52	8,567	3,253	5,829	62	9,144
Intensive correction order	47	155	4	206	50	104	1	155	33	163	3	199
Suspended sentence ^(c)	1,684	5,004	59	6,747	1,444	3,882	52	5,378	1,750	4,742	76	6,568
Community service	1,020	1,781	31	2,832	648	1,327	23	1,998	771	1,685	45	2,501
Probation	1,681	6,495	82	8,258	1,318	5,239	46	6,603	2,030	6,346	75	8,451
Other penalty ^(d)	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	2
Fine	12,751	70,163	4,055	86,969	9,511	53,956	2,461	65,928	14,011	66,141	2,682	82,834
Compensation/restitution	112	824	61	997	95	654	29	778	123	737	55	915
Good behaviour order	726	6,838	197	7,761	605	5,394	88	6,087	823	6,201	107	7,131
Driver licence disqualification	55	447	3	505	45	418	1	464	66	481	3	550
Nominal penalty ^(e)	804	3,171	128	4,103	688	2,485	83	3,256	1,017	3,029	112	4,158
Total	22,029	101,216	4,679	127,924	17,441	78,938	2,836	99,215	23,877	95,356	3,220	122,453

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(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 2020–21, and 71.2% of company appearances resulted in a conviction. Typically, 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.

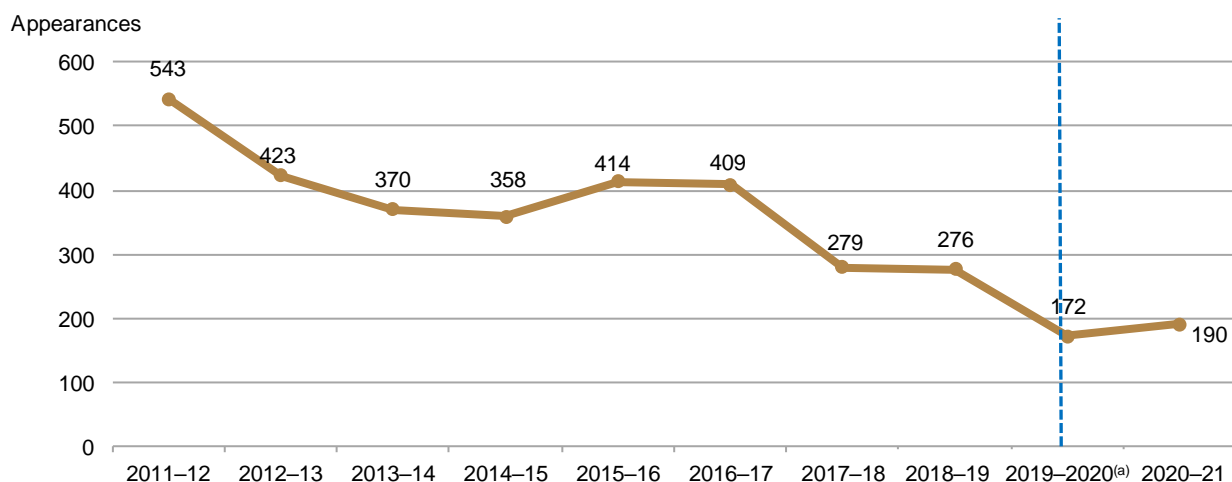
The number of convicted company appearances was the second-lowest in the 10-year time series. The small increase (+18) compared with 2019–20 was almost entirely due to the rise in convicted appearances for *miscellaneous offences* (+41 or +68.3%), which was also the most common offence division for companies in 2020–21. Every other offence division except *property damage and environmental pollution* had either no or negative impact on the overall increase.

Table 30 Convicted company appearances, all courts – time series

Most serious offence (MSO)	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(b)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	0	0	1	2	0	4	2	1	2	1
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Theft and related offences	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fraud, deception and related offences	13	14	8	9	14	9	6	11	11	8
Illicit drug offences	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Weapons and explosives offences	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Property damage and environmental pollution	8	7	8	9	5	8	8	9	4	7
Public order offences	13	6	5	8	11	6	7	6	10	3
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	259	192	169	188	195	168	93	84	60	52
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	125	92	98	65	109	130	69	55	23	18
Miscellaneous offences	123	110	81	75	79	84	94	110	60	101
Total	543	423	370	358	414	409	279	276	172	190

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(b) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

Figure 22 Convicted company appearances, all courts – time series

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

In 2020–21, more than half of convicted company appearances were for *miscellaneous offences*.

In 2020–21, there was only one proven charge against a company defendant in the higher courts, for *miscellaneous offences*. In the Magistrates Court, more than 60 per cent of all proven charges against companies were for *miscellaneous offences*.

Table 31 Finalised charges against companies, all courts, 2020–21

	2020–21					
	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 —		%
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	0	0	..	3	1	75.0
Fraud, deception and related offences	0	0	..	35	25	58.3
Illicit drug offences	0	0	..	1	1	50.0
Property damage and environmental pollution	0	0	..	19	4	82.6
Public order offences	0	0	..	8	0	100.0
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	..	66	47	58.4
Offences against justice procedures, government security and operations	0	0	..	123	36	77.4
Miscellaneous offences	1	0	100.0	424	125	77.2
Total	1	0	100.0	679	239	74.0

(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 2020–21, more than nine in ten of the 9,406 finalised child appearances (93.3%) were dealt with in the Childrens Court (Magistrates), and 73.9% of those resulted in conviction.

Table 32 Finalised child appearances, all courts, 2020–21

Most serious offence (MSO)	2020–21					
	Higher courts ^(a)			Childrens Court (Magistrates)		
	Convicted	Not convicted ^(b)	Appearances resulting in conviction	Convicted	Not convicted ^(b)	Appearances resulting in conviction
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —		%	— number —		%
Homicide and related offences	2	1	66.7	0	1	0.0
Acts intended to cause injury	108	13	89.3	1,062	229	82.3
Sexual assault and related offences	41	24	63.1	8	17	32.0
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	9	1	90.0	305	54	85.0
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	9	2	81.8	22	7	75.9
Robbery, extortion and related offences	284	33	89.6	41	76	35.0
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	14	2	87.5	1,402	454	75.5
Theft and related offences	17	2	89.5	1,450	576	71.6
Fraud, deception and related offences	4	3	57.1	115	17	87.1
Illicit drug offences	17	0	100.0	348	128	73.1
Weapons and explosives offences	1	0	100.0	292	72	80.2
Property damage and environmental pollution	19	4	82.6	369	116	76.1
Public order offences	1	0	100.0	363	182	66.6
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	..	356	181	66.3
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	16	3	84.2	345	178	66.0
Miscellaneous offences	0	0	..	4	6	40.0
Total	542	88	86.0	6,482	2,294	73.9

.. = not applicable

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

(b) 'Not convicted' includes appearances where the defendant was acquitted or the case was not adjudicated.

3.3.2. Convicted appearances

This section examines the number of convicted child appearances in Queensland courts over the last 10 years. Significant increases in the number of convicted appearances generally can be seen across all court types since 2017–18, when 17-year-old offenders transitioned to the youth justice system from February 2018.

In 2020–21, convicted child appearances in higher courts declined to below the pre-COVID level of 2018–19, as the reduced number of Childrens Court finalisations in 2019–20 had a delayed impact, which resulted in an overall decline of more than 20 per cent compared with the peak in 2019–20. *Robbery, extortion and related offences* was the biggest contributor to the decrease in convicted appearances in the higher courts, despite being at its second-highest in the time series.

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

Most serious offence (MSO)	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(c)	2020–21
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(d)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	1	1	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	2
Acts intended to cause injury	80	91	70	57	57	59	65	132	128	108
Sexual assault and related offences	47	46	31	40	29	45	36	42	54	41
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	3	8	10	5	7	4	4	10	12	9
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	1	2	2	2	1	3	2	3	3	9
Robbery, extortion and related offences	111	137	151	94	130	132	134	251	343	284
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	33	30	36	24	26	23	20	28	32	14
Theft and related offences	7	9	16	6	6	10	14	19	33	17
Fraud, deception and related offences	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	2	4
Illicit drug offences	4	3	6	5	3	12	13	31	23	17
Weapons and explosives offences	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Property damage and environmental pollution	29	29	28	21	18	25	27	33	32	19
Public order offences	1	0	2	0	1	1	20	2	0	1
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	2	0	0
Offences against justice procedures, government security and operations	13	13	19	27	24	13	15	17	17	16
Total	332	370	375	285	304	328	352	572	681	542

(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(d) Excludes offence divisions with zero value.



The number of convicted appearances in the Childrens Court rebounded by more than 20 per cent in 2020–21 compared with the series low of 2019–20, although it was still noticeably lower (–16.4%) than the series peak of 2018–19. Convicted appearances increased for every offence division except three (i.e. *sexual assault and related offences*, *abduction, harassment and other offences against the person* and *miscellaneous offences*) where the counts were small. *Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* and *acts intended to cause injury* were the MSOs with the largest increases over the year to 2020–21 (+344 and +295 respectively).

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

Most serious offence (MSO)	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —									
Acts intended to cause injury	697	693	664	637	630	642	760	967	767	1,062
Sexual assault and related offences	9	12	14	10	11	10	13	6	9	8
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	143	160	150	165	143	161	210	281	188	305
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	18	17	27	27	27	25	25	40	32	22
Robbery, extortion and related offences	13	17	5	6	6	11	20	26	25	41
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	1,323	1,371	1,277	1,099	1,228	1,263	1,398	1,503	1,058	1,402
Theft and related offences	1,668	1,607	1,701	1,535	1,748	1,798	1,827	1,998	1,305	1,450
Fraud, deception and related offences	35	51	67	68	79	94	120	144	85	115
Illicit drug offences	220	265	268	328	337	312	369	462	282	348
Weapons and explosives offences	120	107	104	150	136	146	204	287	231	292
Property damage and environmental pollution	515	474	533	533	472	479	551	545	328	369
Public order offences	777	676	738	694	632	562	566	560	296	363
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	349	300	233	209	209	144	230	416	297	356
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	389	435	522	468	478	418	399	509	326	345
Miscellaneous offences	6	7	10	14	7	10	10	10	9	4
Total	6,282	6,192	6,313	5,943	6,143	6,075	6,702	7,754	5,238	6,482

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

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(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, 2020–21

	2020–21					
	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	1	66.7	0	2	0.0
Acts intended to cause injury	280	40	87.5	2,177	486	81.7
Sexual assault and related offences	123	81	60.3	12	38	24.0
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	28	6	82.4	508	116	81.4
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	33	5	86.8	98	24	80.3
Robbery, extortion and related offences	582	87	87.0	68	239	22.1
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	393	38	91.2	6,733	2,040	76.7
Theft and related offences	597	45	93.0	12,370	2,172	85.1
Fraud, deception and related offences	34	3	91.9	1,451	387	78.9
Illicit drug offences	132	2	98.5	2,456	425	85.2
Weapons and explosives offences	10	1	90.9	589	102	85.2
Property damage and environmental pollution	166	16	91.2	2,316	561	80.5
Public order offences	37	1	97.4	2,973	480	86.1
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	32	2	94.1	2,262	566	80.0
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	137	9	93.8	2,829	618	82.1
Miscellaneous offences	1	0	100.0	157	30	84.0
Total	2,587	337	88.5	36,999	8,286	81.7

. . = not applicable

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

In 2020–21, robbery, extortion and related offences accounted for 22.9% of all finalised charges against children in higher courts.

In the Childrens Court, 32.1% of charges were for theft and related offences.

3.3.4. Proven charges

The number of proven charges dropped by 15.4% in 2020–21 compared with 2019–20, due to the relatively low number of finalised child appearances in the higher courts. More than a third of the decrease was contributed by the offence division of *theft and related offences* (–167). Over the same period, *abduction, harassment and other offences against the person* and *property damage and environmental pollution* were the only two divisions which had a positive annual change in the number of proven charges (+9 and +24 respectively).

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

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(c)	2020–21
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	1	1	2	2	0	0	2	0	2	2
Acts intended to cause injury	192	258	221	142	131	188	219	271	316	280
Sexual assault and related offences	119	109	112	129	137	112	124	96	135	123
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	13	30	33	21	26	21	21	25	42	28
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	2	10	20	10	5	26	16	18	24	33
Robbery, extortion and related offences	220	231	279	171	208	192	250	534	608	582
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	339	559	485	395	252	334	316	479	489	393
Theft and related offences	374	520	589	378	424	433	458	739	764	597
Fraud, deception and related offences	6	21	18	25	43	39	42	80	46	34
Illicit drug offences	25	34	45	93	47	74	73	226	204	132
Weapons and explosives offences	8	5	9	9	5	11	7	10	13	10
Property damage and environmental pollution	242	173	243	150	137	170	135	176	142	166
Public order offences	36	50	63	36	40	33	57	52	64	37
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	19	55	90	25	41	40	51	56	55	32
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	63	115	125	160	140	85	108	131	151	137
Miscellaneous offences	0	2	5	0	0	0	1	0	2	1
Total	1,659	2,173	2,339	1,746	1,636	1,758	1,880	2,893	3,057	2,587

(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Proven charges in the Childrens Court increased by 31.7% in 2020–21 compared with 2019–20, and even exceeded the pre-COVID level of 2018–19, peaking at 36,999 charges for the 10–year time series. Eleven of the 16 offence divisions had their highest number of charges for the time series. In 2020–21, one-third of proven charges were for *theft and related offences* (33.4%), which has consistently been the most prevalent offence type throughout the series, followed by *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* at 18.2%.

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

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —									
Acts intended to cause injury	1,056	1,109	1,086	1,032	952	1,052	1,361	1,678	1,413	2,177
Sexual assault and related offences	27	20	31	14	13	13	24	6	9	12
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	217	280	230	257	228	245	339	459	349	508
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	60	49	60	66	78	70	60	121	93	98
Robbery, extortion and related offences	22	27	11	10	15	30	47	59	56	68
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	4,019	4,650	3,788	3,468	3,778	4,172	5,169	5,579	4,952	6,733
Theft and related offences	7,116	7,216	6,151	5,796	6,480	7,433	8,667	10,509	9,546	12,370
Fraud, deception and related offences	106	420	479	764	805	1,086	1,217	1,325	973	1,451
Illicit drug offences	674	923	863	1,107	1,220	1,311	1,512	2,316	1,817	2,456
Weapons and explosives offences	162	180	189	212	202	237	320	460	445	589
Property damage and environmental pollution	2,597	3,485	2,906	3,443	2,302	2,123	2,638	3,070	1,838	2,316
Public order offences	2,446	2,265	2,590	2,795	2,702	2,585	3,088	3,330	2,464	2,973
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	1,609	1,773	1,562	1,306	1,442	1,390	1,515	2,206	1,663	2,262
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	1,944	2,013	2,296	2,396	2,511	2,164	2,612	3,110	2,432	2,829
Miscellaneous offences	37	51	39	45	34	29	44	67	48	157
Total	22,092	24,461	22,281	22,711	22,762	23,940	28,613	34,295	28,098	36,999

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

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

3.3.5. Penalties

Nominal penalty continued to be the most prevalent penalty imposed in convicted child appearances throughout the time series. However, in number terms, it was at its second-lowest in 2020–21, and as a proportion of all penalties (24.0%), it was at its smallest. In contrast, the number of convicted appearances with *court-ordered conference* as most serious penalty was at its highest in the time series, at 1,676 or 23.9% of all penalties. *Probation* as most serious penalty returned to its pre-COVID level, at 1,499 or 21.3% of the total.

Combined, convicted appearances with *nominal penalty*, *court-ordered conference*, *good behaviour order* and *probation* as most serious penalty, accounted for more than 95 per cent of the overall increase in 2020–21 compared with 2019–20, although the number for *good behaviour order* was still far from its pre-COVID level.

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

Most serious penalty	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
Penalty ^(c)	— number —									
Detention ^(d)	92	103	124	162	120	97	100	88	76	69
Intensive supervision	3	6	12	14	9	2	12	5	5	3
Immediate/conditional release (IRO/CRO)	385	360	475	389	449	391	394	589	456	500
Community service ^(e)	786	951	1,163	1,140	1,034	833	878	983	555	536
Probation	906	1,132	1,271	1,095	1,207	1,153	1,356	1,476	1,102	1,499
Treatment order ^(f)	37	38	32	49	72	46	71	107	62	61
Court-ordered conference ^(g)	1,256	387	0	0	0	731	898	1,340	1,398	1,676
Fine	121	102	65	88	72	59	73	154	73	60
Compensation/restitution	50	52	56	38	19	25	26	26	6	10
Good behaviour order	833	1,163	1,183	1,063	1,084	946	970	1,154	591	761
Driver licence disqualification	15	20	11	20	29	11	45	126	132	162
Nominal penalty ^(h)	2,130	2,248	2,296	2,170	2,352	2,109	2,231	2,278	1,463	1,687
Total	6,614	6,562	6,688	6,228	6,447	6,403	7,054	8,326	5,919	7,024

.. = 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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(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.

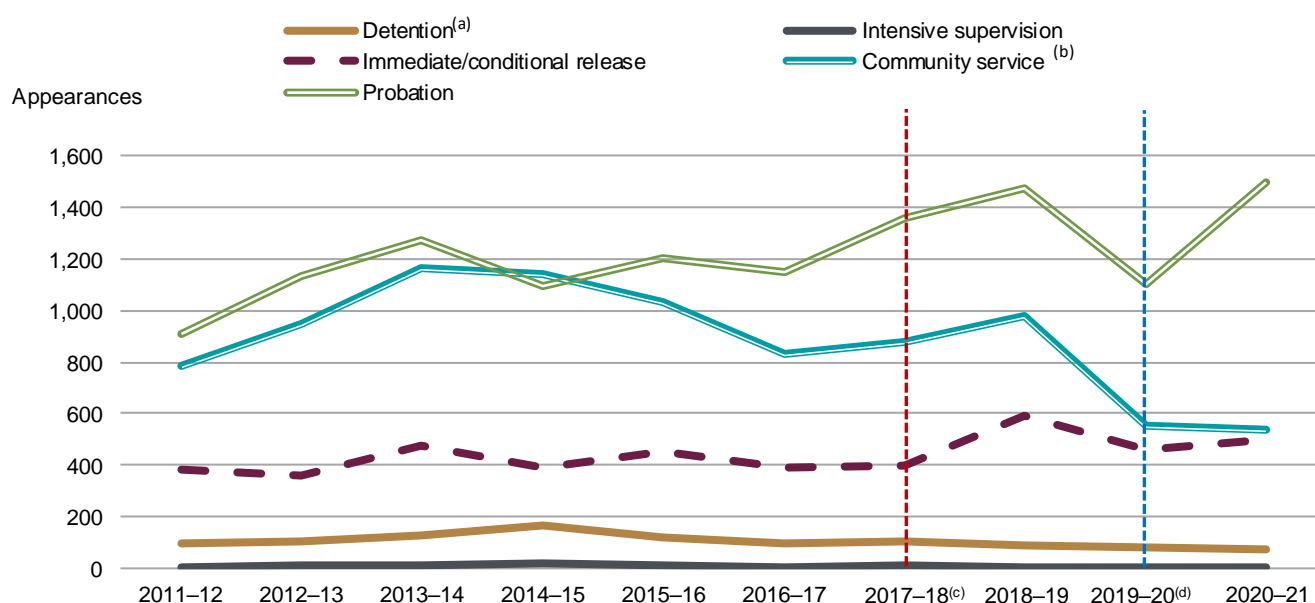
(g) Court-ordered conferences were discontinued in January 2013 and re-introduced on 1 July 2016.

(h) Includes reprimand; convicted not punished.

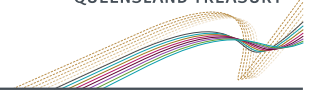
The five most serious penalties imposed in children's courts, in order of seriousness, are *detention*, *intensive supervision*, *immediate/conditional release*, *community service* and *probation*. Figure 23 shows the number of convicted child appearances over the 10-year time series which incurred these penalties as their most serious.

In 2020–21, *probation* had a 36.0% increase compared with the previous year and was by far the most prevalent (1,499) of these five most serious penalties imposed. Over the same period, the number of convicted child appearances for the other four penalties remained relatively stable.

Figure 23 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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.



Across all courts, in 31.1% of convicted child appearances where *theft and related offences* was the most serious offence, *nominal penalty* was the most serious penalty imposed, closely followed by *court ordered conference* (30.0%). For the second-most prevalent offence, *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter*, 29.2% received *probation* as their most serious penalty.

Table 39 Convicted child appearances by most serious offence and most serious penalty, all courts, 2020–21

Most serious penalty ^(a) Most serious offence (MSO)	2020–21												
	Detention	Intensive supervision	IRO/CRO ^(b)	Community service ^(c)	Probation	Treatment order ^(d)	Court-ordered conference	Fine	Compensation / restitution	Good behaviour order	Driver licence disqual.	Nominal penalty ^(e)	Total
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —												
Homicide and related offences	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Acts intended to cause injury	18	2	101	74	400	0	346	0	0	109	0	120	1,170
Sexual assault and related offences	3	0	12	0	26	0	6	0	0	2	0	0	49
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	5	0	45	20	102	0	83	3	0	28	8	20	314
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	0	0	3	2	12	0	8	0	0	1	0	5	31
Robbery, extortion and related offences	10	0	70	11	164	0	53	0	0	11	0	6	325
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	23	1	189	147	414	0	330	1	1	130	0	180	1,416
Theft and related offences	6	0	37	107	177	0	440	5	9	230	0	456	1,467
Fraud, deception and related offences	0	0	1	6	26	0	42	0	0	17	0	27	119
Illicit drug offences	1	0	6	9	36	61	80	3	0	40	0	129	365
Weapons and explosives offences	2	0	19	11	60	0	68	2	0	49	0	82	293
Property damage and environmental pollution	0	0	8	131	41	0	81	1	0	29	0	97	388
Public order offences	0	0	1	11	14	0	68	0	0	64	0	206	364
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	2	0	6	0	49	41	0	27	154	77	356
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	1	0	4	7	21	0	21	4	0	23	0	280	361
Miscellaneous offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	4
Total	69	3	500	536	1,499	61	1,676	60	10	761	162	1,687	7,024

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) IRO/CRO = immediate/conditional release order.

(c) Also includes graffiti-removal orders.

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

(e) Includes reprimand; convicted not punished.

The male-to-female ratio of convicted child appearances across all courts remained steady at 2.8 in 2020–21.

After a significant increase in 2018–19 in the male-to-female ratio (from 6.1 to 13.7) for *detention*, following the transition of 17-year-old offenders to the youth justice system, 2020–21 saw it increase to 16.3.

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

	2011–12			2012–13			2013–14			2014–15			2015–16		
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)	85	7	92	90	13	103	107	17	124	131	31	162	97	23	120
Intensive supervision	3	0	3	6	0	6	11	1	12	13	1	14	9	0	9
Immediate/conditional release	349	36	385	314	46	360	385	90	475	327	62	389	377	72	449
Community service ^(d)	660	126	786	775	176	951	941	222	1,163	943	197	1,140	845	188	1,034
Probation	673	233	906	836	296	1,132	921	350	1,271	789	306	1,095	887	320	1,207
Treatment order ^(e)	25	12	37	32	6	38	23	9	32	47	2	49	57	15	72
Court-ordered conference ^(f)	941	314	1,256	293	94	387	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fine	102	19	121	89	13	102	54	9	65	69	19	88	64	8	72
Compensation/restitution	37	13	50	32	20	52	37	19	56	30	8	38	15	4	19
Good behaviour order	619	214	833	860	303	1,163	851	332	1,183	789	274	1,063	773	311	1,084
Driver licence disqualification	11	4	15	16	4	20	10	1	11	17	3	20	23	6	29
Nominal penalty ^(g)	1,498	631	2,130	1,639	609	2,248	1,616	679	2,296	1,487	682	2,170	1,635	717	2,352
Total	5,003	1,609	6,614	4,982	1,580	6,562	4,956	1,729	6,688	4,642	1,585	6,228	4,782	1,664	6,447

. . = 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.

	2016–17			2017–18 ^(a)			2018–19			2019–20 ^(b)			2020–21		
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)	84	13	97	86	14	100	82	6	88	70	6	76	65	4	69
Intensive supervision	2	0	2	12	0	12	4	1	5	4	1	5	3	0	3
Immediate/conditional release	320	71	391	336	58	394	518	71	589	403	53	456	431	69	500
Community service ^(f)	627	206	833	703	175	878	746	237	983	440	115	555	411	125	536
Probation	854	299	1,153	997	359	1,356	1,046	430	1,476	817	285	1,102	1,108	391	1,499
Treatment order ^(g)	32	14	46	55	16	71	82	25	107	46	16	62	45	16	61
Court-ordered conference ^(h)	547	184	731	651	247	898	967	373	1,340	977	421	1,398	1,191	484	1,676
Fine	53	6	59	64	9	73	123	31	154	61	12	73	49	11	60
Compensation	15	10	25	21	5	26	24	2	26	4	2	6	8	2	10
Good behaviour order	691	255	946	643	327	970	811	343	1,154	401	190	591	526	235	761
Driver licence disqualification	10	1	11	36	9	45	100	26	126	100	32	132	127	35	162
Nominal penalty ⁽ⁱ⁾	1,442	666	2,109	1,489	740	2,231	1,589	688	2,278	1,033	427	1,463	1,197	490	1,687
Total	4,677	1,725	6,403	5,093	1,959	7,054	6,092	2,233	8,326	4,356	1,560	5,919	5,161	1,862	7,024

. . = 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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(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 and imprisonment.

(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

In 2020–21, while the total number of convicted child appearances increased in every age group except for defendants aged 10–12 years, the numbers were lower in the higher courts in all age groups except for 14-year-olds compared with 2019–20. The total in all age groups was still noticeably lower than in 2018–19, pre-COVID.

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

	Year	2018–19			2019–20 ^(a)			2020–21		
	Sex	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)
Court type	Age at finalised appearance	— number —			— number —			— number —		
Higher courts^(c)	10–12 yrs	2	1	3	6	3	9	5	2	7
	13 yrs	13	2	15	30	7	37	18	2	20
	14 yrs	25	18	43	38	18	56	45	20	65
	15 yrs	65	29	94	70	40	110	49	19	68
	16 yrs	82	26	108	101	35	136	91	31	122
	17 and over	261	47	308	281	52	333	224	35	259
	Not stated	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Total	449	123	572	526	155	681	432	110	542
Childrens (Magistrates)	10–12 yrs	285	67	352	157	54	211	150	52	202
	13 yrs	445	172	617	281	146	427	320	143	463
	14 yrs	698	352	1,050	501	195	696	592	281	874
	15 yrs	957	464	1,421	636	282	918	905	361	1,266
	16 yrs	1,200	460	1,661	833	307	1,140	991	370	1,361
	17 and over	2,048	593	2,641	1,415	419	1,836	1,769	543	2,312
	Not stated	10	2	12	7	2	10	2	2	4
	Total	5,643	2,110	7,754	3,830	1,405	5,238	4,729	1,752	6,482
All courts (total)	10–12 yrs	287	68	355	163	57	220	155	54	209
	13 yrs	458	174	632	311	153	464	338	145	483
	14 yrs	723	370	1,093	539	213	752	637	301	939
	15 yrs	1,022	493	1,515	706	322	1,028	954	380	1,334
	16 yrs	1,282	486	1,769	934	342	1,276	1,082	401	1,483
	17 and over	2,309	640	2,949	1,696	471	2,169	1,993	578	2,571
	Not stated	11	2	13	7	2	10	2	3	5
	Total	6,092	2,233	8,326	4,356	1,560	5,919	5,161	1,862	7,024

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

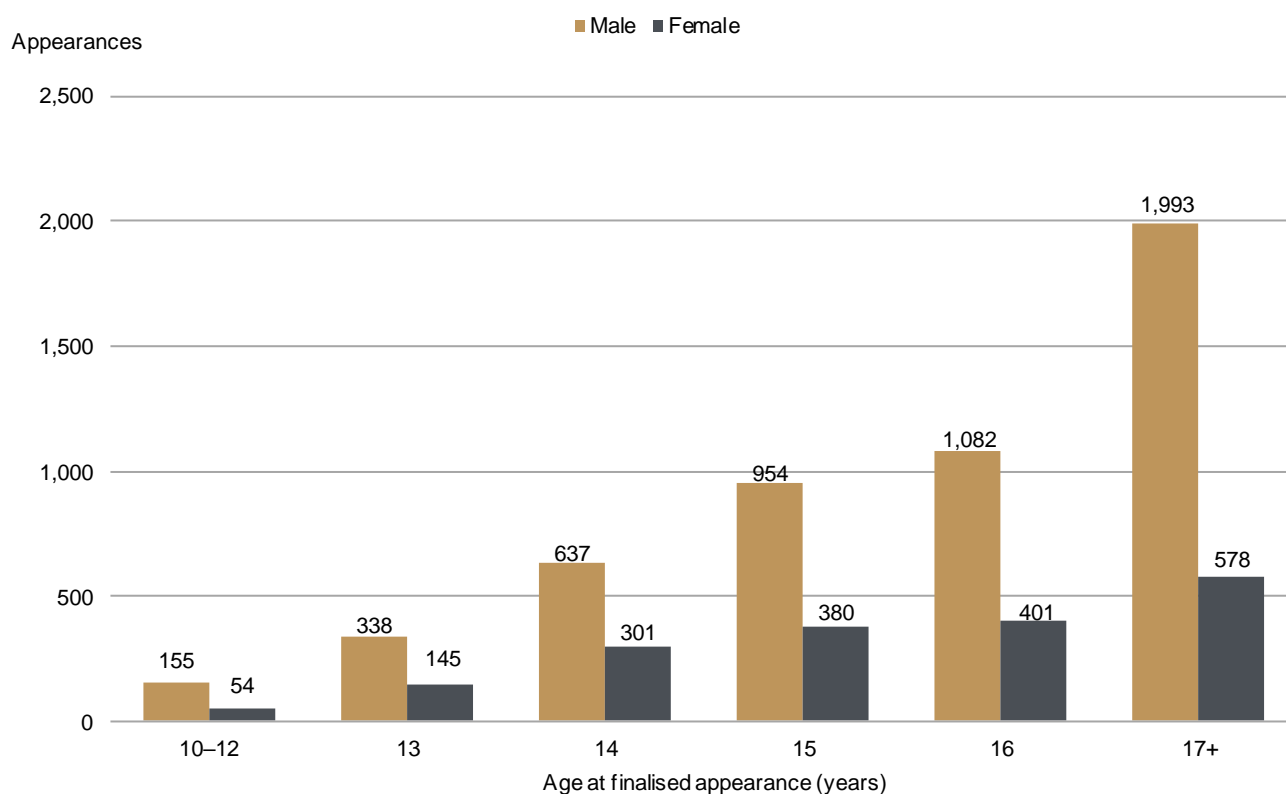
(b) Total includes a very small number of appearances in the Childrens Court where the defendant's sex was not stated.

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

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 in 2020–21. The number for both sexes generally increased with the age of defendants.

As a proportion of all convicted appearances by age group, young female defendants had the smallest proportion at age 17 years and over (22.5%). In all other age groups, female defendants accounted for more than a quarter of the total, with those aged 13 and 14 years accounting for 30.0% and 32.1% respectively.

Figure 24 Convicted child appearances by age^(a) and sex^(b), all courts, 2020–21



(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.

The number of charges proven against children in the higher courts decreased by 470 (or –15.4%) overall compared with 2019–20, mainly due to a significant drop in charges (–611 or –35.7%) in the 17 years and over age group (Table 42). For defendants aged 14 and 16 years, the number increased by 141 and 144 respectively, despite the overall decline.

Similar to convicted appearances, the number of proven charges increased for every age group except those aged 10–12 years appearing in the Childrens Court. In particular, defendants in age groups of 14 through to 17 years and over not only had a 30 per cent or greater increase in proven charges compared with 2019–20, these also had a noticeable increase compared with 2018–19, in which 15-year-old defendants in the Childrens Court saw the biggest increase (+1,584 charges).

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

	Year	2018–19			2019–20 ^(a)			2020–21		
	Sex	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)
Court type	Age at finalised appearance	— number —			— number —			— number —		
Higher courts^(c)	10–12 yrs	3	2	5	10	25	35	19	4	23
	13 yrs	78	27	105	101	18	119	31	16	47
	14 yrs	111	95	206	123	48	171	229	83	312
	15 yrs	447	83	530	305	166	471	341	69	410
	16 yrs	388	95	483	436	114	550	531	163	694
	17 and over	1,336	227	1,563	1,526	185	1,711	994	106	1,100
	Not stated	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Total	2,364	529	2,893	2,501	556	3,057	2,145	442	2,587
Childrens (Magistrates)	10–12 yrs	1,799	359	2,158	1,063	271	1,334	982	252	1,234
	13 yrs	2,418	735	3,153	1,895	1,110	3,005	2,289	783	3,072
	14 yrs	3,439	1,504	4,943	3,342	1,093	4,435	4,284	1,671	5,958
	15 yrs	4,670	1,703	6,373	4,074	1,507	5,581	5,968	1,989	7,957
	16 yrs	5,308	1,787	7,096	4,797	1,184	5,981	6,016	1,961	7,977
	17 and over	8,370	2,154	10,524	6,180	1,569	7,751	8,574	2,210	10,784
	Not stated	46	2	48	8	2	11	2	15	17
	Total	26,050	8,244	34,295	21,359	6,736	28,098	28,115	8,881	36,999
All courts (total)	10–12 yrs	1,802	361	2,163	1,073	296	1,369	1,001	256	1,257
	13 yrs	2,496	762	3,258	1,996	1,128	3,124	2,320	799	3,119
	14 yrs	3,550	1,599	5,149	3,465	1,141	4,606	4,513	1,754	6,270
	15 yrs	5,117	1,786	6,903	4,379	1,673	6,052	6,309	2,058	8,367
	16 yrs	5,696	1,882	7,579	5,233	1,298	6,531	6,547	2,124	8,671
	17 and over	9,706	2,381	12,087	7,706	1,754	9,462	9,568	2,316	11,884
	Not stated	47	2	49	8	2	11	2	16	18
	Total	28,414	8,773	37,188	23,860	7,292	31,155	30,260	9,323	39,586

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(b) Total includes a very small number of proven charges in the Childrens Court where the defendant's sex was not stated.

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

3.3.7. Indigenous status

Since the transition of 17-year-old offenders to the youth justice system in 2017–18, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females have comprised an increasing proportion of all child defendants whose Indigenous status is identified (11.6% in 2017–18 to 13.5% in 2020–21, the largest proportion for the 10-year time series). Conversely, the proportion of non-Indigenous females has been steadily decreasing over the same period (to 13.1% from the time series peak of 16.0%). The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males has remained relatively steady throughout the time series, while trending slightly upward in the two most recent years. The proportion of non-Indigenous males has been trending slightly downward over the same period.

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

	Year	2011–12			2012–13			2013–14			2014–15			2015–16		
	Sex	Male	Female	Total ^(a)	Male	Female	Total ^(a)	Male	Female	Total ^(a)	Male	Female	Total ^(a)	Male	Female	Total ^(a)
Court type	Indigenous status	— number —			— number —			— number —			— number —			— number —		
Higher courts ^(b)	Indigenous	75	20	95	106	38	144	108	49	157	80	32	112	90	38	128
	Non-Indigenous	160	25	185	172	31	203	161	46	207	145	23	168	130	34	164
	Not stated	46	6	52	21	2	23	8	3	11	5	0	5	9	3	12
	Total	281	51	332	299	71	370	277	98	375	230	55	285	229	75	304
Childrens (Magistrates)	Indigenous	1,937	650	2,587	2,011	717	2,728	2,162	813	2,975	1,972	751	2,723	2,110	740	2,850
	Non-Indigenous	2,460	769	3,230	2,530	737	3,267	2,391	782	3,174	2,333	738	3,072	2,362	821	3,184
	Not stated	325	139	465	142	55	197	126	36	164	107	41	148	81	28	109
	Total	4,722	1,558	6,282	4,683	1,509	6,192	4,679	1,631	6,313	4,412	1,530	5,943	4,553	1,589	6,143
All courts (total)	Indigenous	2,012	670	2,682	2,117	755	2,872	2,270	862	3,132	2,052	783	2,835	2,200	778	2,978
	Non-Indigenous	2,620	794	3,415	2,702	768	3,470	2,552	828	3,381	2,478	761	3,240	2,492	855	3,348
	Not stated	371	145	517	163	57	220	134	39	175	112	41	153	90	31	121
	Total	5,003	1,609	6,614	4,982	1,580	6,562	4,956	1,729	6,688	4,642	1,585	6,228	4,782	1,664	6,447

(a) Total includes a very small number of proven charges in the Childrens Court where the defendant's sex was not stated.

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

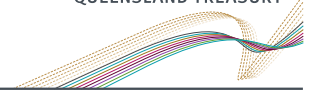


Table 43 continued.

	Year	2016–17			2017–18 ^(a)			2018–19			2019–20 ^(b)			2020–21		
	Sex	Male	Female	Total ^(c)	Male	Female	Total ^(c)	Male	Female	Total ^(c)	Male	Female	Total ^(c)	Male	Female	Total ^(c)
Court type	Indigenous status	— number —			— number —			— number —			— number —			— number —		
Higher courts ^(d)	Indigenous	81	24	105	120	31	151	181	51	232	218	71	289	182	61	243
	Non-Indigenous	181	32	213	136	53	189	259	70	329	301	81	382	248	48	296
	Not stated	7	3	10	11	1	12	9	2	11	7	3	10	2	1	3
	Total	269	59	328	267	85	352	449	123	572	526	155	681	432	110	542
Childrens (Magistrates)	Indigenous	2,122	762	2,884	2,260	775	3,035	2,555	931	3,486	1,777	691	2,469	2,210	879	3,089
	Non-Indigenous	2,209	877	3,087	2,497	1,055	3,552	3,026	1,150	4,177	2,012	698	2,711	2,486	864	3,351
	Not stated	77	27	104	69	44	115	62	29	91	41	16	58	33	9	42
	Total	4,408	1,666	6,075	4,826	1,874	6,702	5,643	2,110	7,754	3,830	1,405	5,238	4,729	1,752	6,482
All courts (total)	Indigenous	2,203	786	2,989	2,380	806	3,186	2,736	982	3,718	1,995	762	2,758	2,392	940	3,332
	Non-Indigenous	2,390	909	3,300	2,633	1,108	3,741	3,285	1,220	4,506	2,313	779	3,093	2,734	912	3,647
	Not stated	84	30	114	80	45	127	71	31	102	48	19	68	35	10	45
	Total	4,677	1,725	6,403	5,093	1,959	7,054	6,092	2,233	8,326	4,356	1,560	5,919	5,161	1,862	7,024

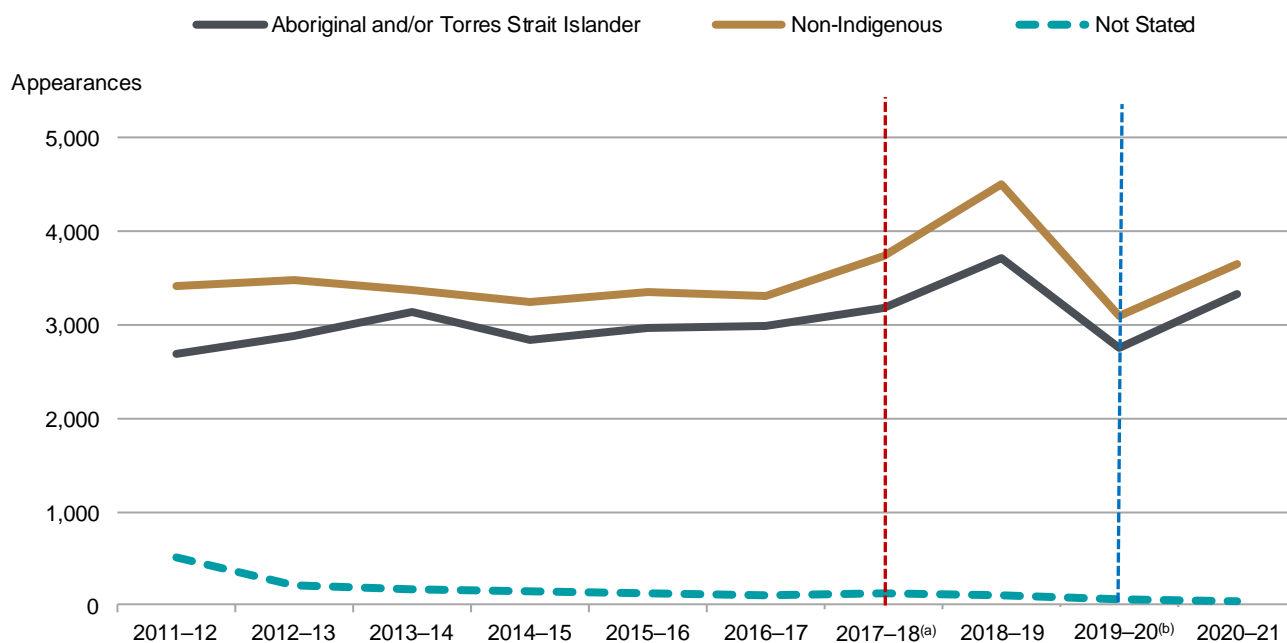
(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(c) Total includes a very small number of proven charges in the Childrens Court where the defendant's sex was not stated.

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

Figure 25 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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020-21.



In higher courts in 2020–21, *robbery, extortion and related offences* was the most serious offence in over 59 per cent (or 144) of all convicted child appearances for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants, the highest proportion in the most recent three years. For non-Indigenous defendants, the proportion remained relatively stable at around 46 to 48 per cent. Second-most prevalent for all defendants was *acts intended to cause injury*, which saw an overall decrease in the two years since 2018–19. The decrease compared with 2019–20 (–20) was largely due to the drop (–15) 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 ^(a)				2020–21			
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total	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	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	2
Acts intended to cause injury	59	70	3	132	55	71	2	128	50	56	2	108
Sexual assault and related offences	17	25	0	42	14	37	3	54	13	28	0	41
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	6	4	0	10	6	6	0	12	1	8	0	9
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	1	2	0	3	1	2	0	3	2	7	0	9
Robbery, extortion and related offences	96	152	3	251	157	183	3	343	144	140	0	284
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	14	14	0	28	19	12	1	32	7	7	0	14
Theft and related offences	10	9	0	19	15	18	0	33	5	12	0	17
Fraud, deception and related offences	1	1	0	2	0	2	0	2	2	2	0	4
Illicit drug offences	1	29	1	31	0	23	0	23	2	15	0	17
Weapons and explosives offences	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Property damage and environmental pollution	18	15	0	33	13	18	1	32	9	10	0	19
Public order offences	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	6	7	4	17	8	9	0	17	7	8	1	16
Total	232	329	11	572	289	382	10	681	243	296	3	542

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

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

Probation was the most serious penalty for an increasing proportion (49.4%) of total convicted appearances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants in higher courts in 2020–21, compared with 45.3% in 2019–20 and 44.8% in 2018–20. In contrast, *detention* was the most serious penalty in 4.1% of convicted appearances, compared with 6.2% and 6.9% in the previous two years.

For non-Indigenous defendants, the proportion of appearances with *probation* as most serious penalty has declined to 48.0%, while in 2018–19 it was 55.6%. *Detention* was the most serious penalty in 3.4% of total convicted appearances, compared with 2.1% and 3.3% in the previous two years.

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

Most serious penalty	2018–19				2019–20 ^(b)				2020–21			
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total	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)	16	11	0	27	18	8	1	27	10	10	0	20
Intensive supervision	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Immediate/conditional release	70	70	1	141	78	63	3	144	74	58	0	132
Community service ^(e)	19	22	0	41	16	27	0	43	5	14	0	19
Probation	104	183	3	290	131	201	3	335	120	142	1	263
Court-ordered conference	11	20	3	34	30	45	1	76	19	51	1	71
Fine	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
Compensation/restitution	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good behaviour order	3	6	0	9	2	15	1	18	5	7	0	12
Nominal penalty ^(f)	9	16	4	29	13	22	0	35	10	14	1	25
Total	232	329	11	572	289	382	10	681	243	296	3	542

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

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(c) In descending order of seriousness.

(d) Includes detention and imprisonment.

(e) Also includes graffiti-removal orders.

(f) Includes reprimand and convicted not punished.

Compared with 2019–20, all but two offence divisions (*abduction, harassment and other offences against the person* and *miscellaneous offences*) increased as MSO in convicted appearances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants in the Childrens Court in 2020–21. Despite the overall decrease (–397 or –11.4%) in 2020–21 compared with 2018–19, convicted appearances with MSO of *acts intended to cause injury* increased by 95 (or +21.0%) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants over that period.

For non-Indigenous defendants in 2020–21, the overall decrease in convicted appearances compared with 2018–19 was greater, at –826 or –19.8%. While there was a decrease for most offence divisions, three increased, most notably *weapons and explosives offences* (+13 or +7.0%).

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

Most serious offence (MSO)	2018–19				2019–20 ^(a)				2020–21			
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total	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	382	378	7	767	548	510	4	1,062
Sexual assault and related offences	2	3	1	6	5	3	1	9	6	2	0	8
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	101	177	3	281	65	122	1	188	132	171	2	305
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	12	27	1	40	11	21	0	32	8	13	1	22
Robbery, extortion and related offences	4	20	2	26	4	19	2	25	13	28	0	41
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	974	518	11	1,503	680	373	5	1,058	931	469	2	1,402
Theft and related offences	856	1,125	17	1,998	623	675	7	1,305	642	807	1	1,450
Fraud, deception and related offences	36	107	1	144	24	60	1	85	27	86	2	115
Illicit drug offences	91	365	6	462	55	227	0	282	93	251	4	348
Weapons and explosives offences	96	187	4	287	78	151	2	231	92	200	0	292
Property damage and environmental pollution	299	242	4	545	175	152	1	328	203	165	1	369
Public order offences	259	296	5	560	159	136	1	296	160	198	5	363
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	65	341	10	416	50	237	10	297	65	285	6	356
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	236	257	16	509	154	152	20	326	169	162	14	345
Miscellaneous offences	2	7	1	10	4	5	0	9	0	4	0	4
Total	3,486	4,177	91	7,754	2,469	2,711	58	5,238	3,089	3,351	42	6,482

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(b) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

As in the two years prior, *nominal penalty* was the most common penalty (24.2%) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants in the Childrens Court in 2020–21, and second-most common (26.6%) for non-Indigenous child defendants after *court-ordered conference* (29.4%), which overtook *nominal penalty* in 2019–20.

Each of the five most serious penalties (*detention*, *intensive supervision*, *immediate/conditional release*, *community service* and *probation*) was imposed in more appearances where the defendant was Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander than where the defendant was non-Indigenous. However, despite the overall increase in convicted appearances (+23.7%) in 2020–21 compared with 2019–20, the numbers resulting in detention remained unchanged for both.

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

Most serious penalty	2018–19				2019–20 ^(a)				2020–21			
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total	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	38	11	0	49
Intensive supervision	3	1	1	5	4	0	0	4	2	1	0	3
Immediate/conditional release	330	116	2	448	234	77	1	312	266	102	0	368
Community service ^(d)	622	316	4	942	367	141	4	512	360	155	2	517
Probation	627	552	7	1,186	402	363	2	767	709	525	2	1,236
Treatment order ^(e)	14	91	2	107	6	56	0	62	11	50	0	61
Court-ordered conference	456	835	15	1,306	518	791	13	1,322	609	985	11	1,605
Fine	26	124	4	154	12	51	8	71	10	48	2	60
Compensation/restitution	6	19	0	25	0	5	1	6	3	7	0	10
Good behaviour order	421	713	11	1,145	243	326	4	573	306	440	3	749
Driver licence disqualification	15	110	1	126	13	117	2	132	26	135	1	162
Nominal penalty ^(f)	924	1,282	43	2,249	632	773	23	1,428	749	892	21	1,662
Total	3,486	4,177	91	7,754	2,469	2,711	58	5,238	3,089	3,351	42	6,482

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

(c) Includes detention and imprisonment.

(d) Also includes graffiti-removal orders.

(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 Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs.

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

<u>Unique⁸ young persons</u>	2019–20^(a)	2020–21	% change	
... with a finalised court appearance⁹	3,930	4,337	10.4	↑
Male	2,821	3,103	10.0	↑
Female	1,107	1,232	11.3	↑
... commencing a supervised youth justice order	1,568	1,703	8.6	↑
Male	1,190	1,297	9.0	↑
Female	378	406	7.4	↑
<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)</i>	<i>61.0%</i>	<i>60.7%</i>	<i>–0.4 ppt</i>	↓
... admitted to youth detention centre	882	912	3.4	↑
Male	698	725	3.9	↑
Female	184	187	1.6	↑
<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)</i>	<i>61.1%</i>	<i>59.6%</i>	<i>–1.5 ppt</i>	↓
<u>Average daily number</u>				
... on community-based supervised orders	1,511	1,310	–13.3	↓
... in custody¹⁰ (including police watchhouses)	206	232	12.3	↑
... in youth detention centres	200	228	14.1	↑

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

In 2020–21:



Unique defendants with a finalised court appearance

- Males comprised 71.5% of all unique child defendants.
- 17-year-old offenders accounted for 29.7% of unique child defendants.
- The rates of unique child defendants were at their second-lowest in ten years for every age between 10 to 16 years.



Admissions to supervised youth justice orders

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young offenders accounted for 59.2% of admissions among the 17-year-old offender cohort, compared with 68.1% among the 10–16 years offender cohort.
- Admissions to *restorative justice* have more than doubled since 2017–18, and overtaken *community service* to be the second-most prevalent community-based order imposed.



Admissions to youth detention centres

- Almost all admissions to youth detention centres in 2020–21 were unsentenced (99.4%).
- Unsentenced admissions increased 26.2% in 2020–21 compared with 2011–12, while sentenced admissions decreased 86.4% over the same period.

⁸ '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.

⁹ Total includes a small number whose sex is identified as intersex or indeterminate.

¹⁰ '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 2020–21, 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 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. In addition to restrictions imposed on the community in general, containment measures within the criminal justice system included the Childrens Court heavily scaling back their operations from March 2020 and new jury trials in the higher courts ceasing until the courts system returned to near-normal operations in June 2020. All of these, in turn, had a flow-on effect on youth justice activities in subsequent months.

The COVID-19 pandemic remains a significant and ongoing event, both globally and nationally, which has impacted crime and justice activity and outcomes. Therefore, comparisons with figures in periods before the pandemic was declared 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 would have been dealt with in the adult justice system prior to the legislative change.

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 published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (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 2020–21, there were 4,337 unique young people aged 10–17 years at time of offence, who had at least one finalised appearance in a Queensland criminal court (Table 48). This was 407 more unique child defendants (+10.4%) than in 2019–20, and 810 fewer (–15.7%) than in 2018–19, pre-COVID.

Over 70 per cent of unique defendants were male, in every year of the time series. However, the proportion of male unique defendants has been slowly decreasing from 75.1% in 2011–12 to 71.5% in 2020–21.

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

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
	— persons —									
Sex										
Male	3,163	2,949	2,890	2,746	2,780	2,680	3,154	3,735	2,821	3,103
Female	1,050	975	1,029	1,006	1,020	1,038	1,216	1,410	1,107	1,232
Age at time of offence^(c) (years)										
10	33	28	27	36	29	26	35	42	24	30
11	67	79	85	69	93	76	84	87	55	53
12	184	140	170	183	204	207	220	211	164	166
13	404	435	423	421	449	445	461	461	325	384
14	792	774	721	725	752	780	758	723	539	613
15	1,174	1,003	1,093	964	999	977	1,042	941	717	803
16	1,559	1,466	1,401	1,355	1,274	1,209	1,172	1,154	897	999
17	..	..	..	..	..	..	602	1,528	1,209	1,289
Total^(d)	4,213	3,925	3,920	3,753	3,800	3,720	4,374	5,147	3,930	4,337

.. = not applicable

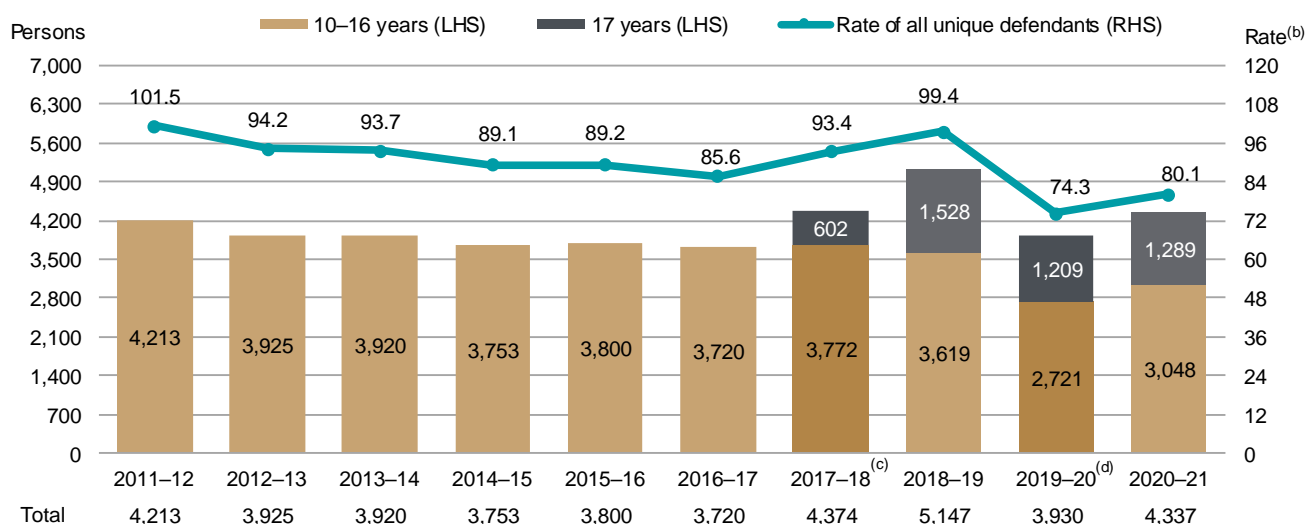
(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(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 four defendants in 2011–12 where offence date was unknown, age was calculated as at the date of defendant's 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 resulted in a significant increase in the number of people dealt with in the youth justice system in 2018–19. Figure 26 demonstrates that 17-year-old offenders have accounted for around 30 per cent of child defendants in each of the three full years since this age group transitioned from the adult to the youth justice system.

Figure 26 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 2011–12 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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Following the pattern of previous years, the rate of unique defendants in 2020–21 increased with each successive year of age and peaked at 17 years with 207.1 per 10,000 persons (Table 49).

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

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
	— rate per 10,000 persons ^(c) —									
Sex										
Male	148.8	138.2	134.8	127.1	127.1	120.1	131.2	140.5	103.8	111.7
Female	51.8	47.9	50.4	49.1	49.2	49.1	53.4	56.0	43.0	46.7
Age at time of offence^(d) (years)										
10	5.6	4.8	4.6	5.9	4.6	4.0	5.2	6.1	3.5	4.3
11	11.4	13.3	14.4	11.6	15.3	12.0	12.7	12.8	7.9	7.6
12	31.4	23.4	28.3	30.8	34.0	33.6	34.4	31.5	23.8	23.6
13	68.5	73.4	70.3	69.7	75.1	73.5	74.1	71.3	48.0	54.6
14	133.5	130.2	120.7	119.5	123.8	129.4	123.9	115.0	82.4	89.2
15	196.7	167.6	182.6	160.3	163.2	159.0	170.7	152.0	112.7	123.1
16	257.0	242.8	232.2	225.1	210.0	195.1	188.4	186.9	143.2	155.2
17	..	..	..	..	..	..	252.4	243.5	194.2	207.1
Total^(e)	101.5	94.2	93.7	89.1	89.2	85.6	93.4	99.4	74.3	80.1

.. = not applicable

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

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

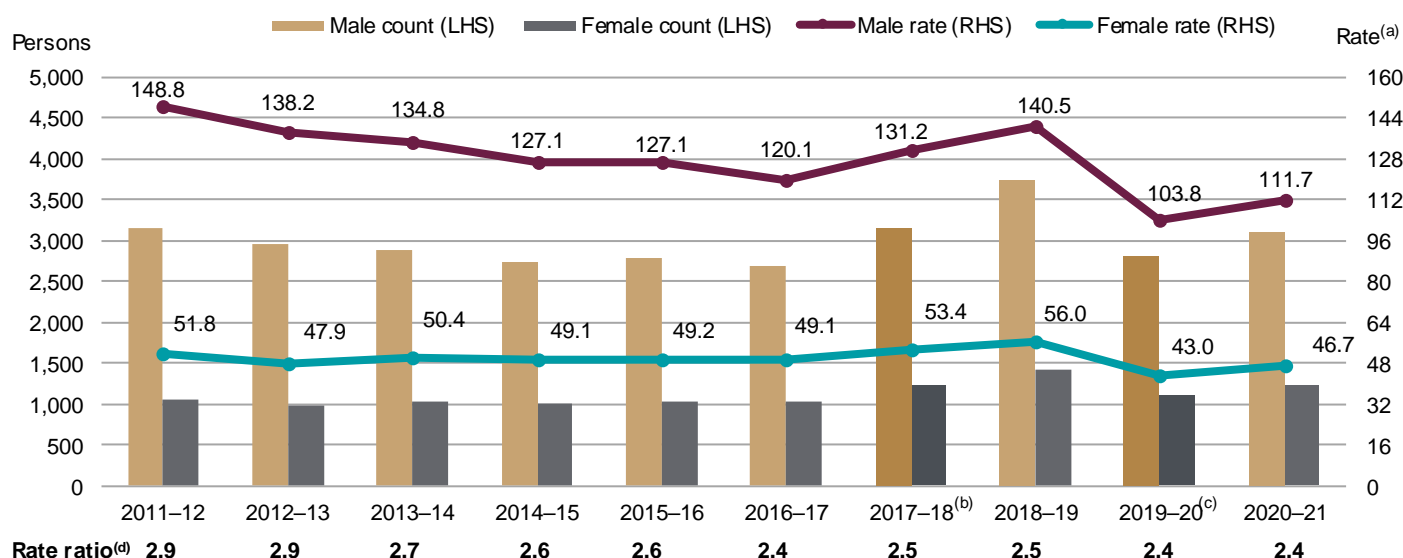
(c) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2011–12 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.

(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 four defendants in 2011–12 where offence date was unknown, age was calculated as at the date of defendant's first finalised appearance in the reporting period.

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

Throughout the time series, the rate of male unique defendants has consistently been well over double the rate for females (Figure 27).

Figure 27 Count and rate of unique child defendants by sex – time series



(a) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2011–12 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.

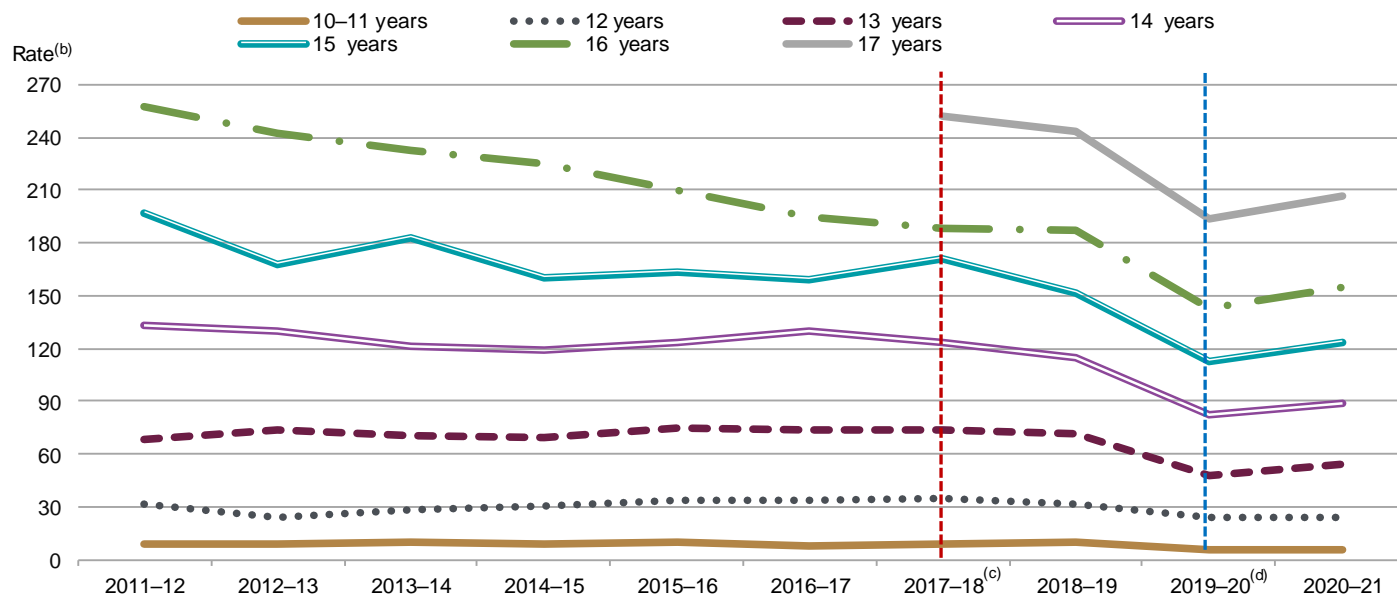
(b) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(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 28). While the rates in all age groups have decreased over the 10-year time series, the most substantial decreases were evident in those aged 15 and 16 years (–37.4% and –39.6% respectively when comparing 2020–21 with 2011–12).

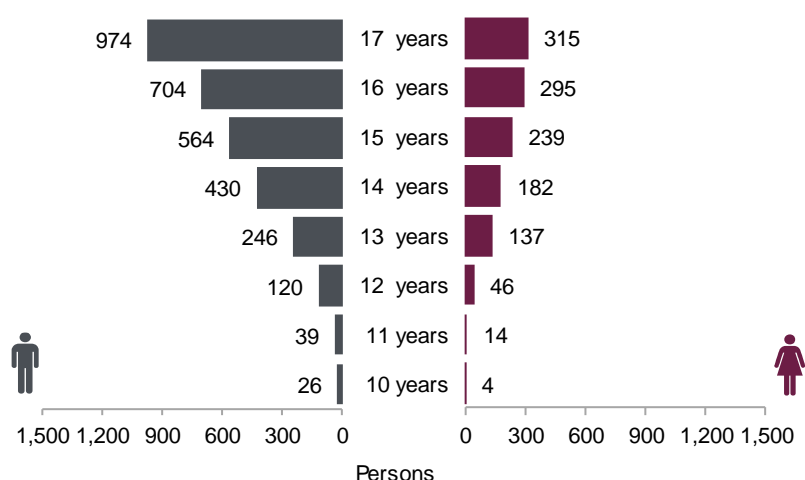
Figure 28 Rate of unique child defendants, by age at time of offence^(a) – time series



- (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 2011–12 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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

In 2020–21, unique male defendants outnumbered female defendants across all offender age categories. For both female and male unique defendants, the peak offending age was 17 years, at 31.4% and 25.6% of their respective sex cohorts.

Figure 29 Unique child defendants, by sex^(a) and age at time of offence^(b), 2020–21



- (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 defendant's first finalised appearance date in the reporting period.

4.1.2. Unique defendants with a proven offence

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

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
	— persons —									
Sex										
Male	2,922	2,790	2,703	2,558	2,536	2,443	2,861	3,371	2,437	2,758
Female	975	915	980	921	929	945	1,120	1,264	936	1,070
Age at time of offence^(c) (years)										
10	32	22	20	31	24	22	26	25	11	15
11	61	68	77	64	81	58	77	73	38	41
12	164	140	164	168	186	174	193	179	138	142
13	365	403	402	388	413	415	446	422	275	351
14	743	741	689	674	688	718	684	661	479	564
15	1,077	970	1,024	910	925	902	968	886	631	704
16	1,455	1,362	1,308	1,245	1,148	1,101	1,053	1,045	777	900
17	..	..	..	..	..	..	537	1,346	1,026	1,113
Total^(d)	3,897	3,706	3,684	3,480	3,465	3,390	3,984	4,637	3,375	3,830

.. = not applicable

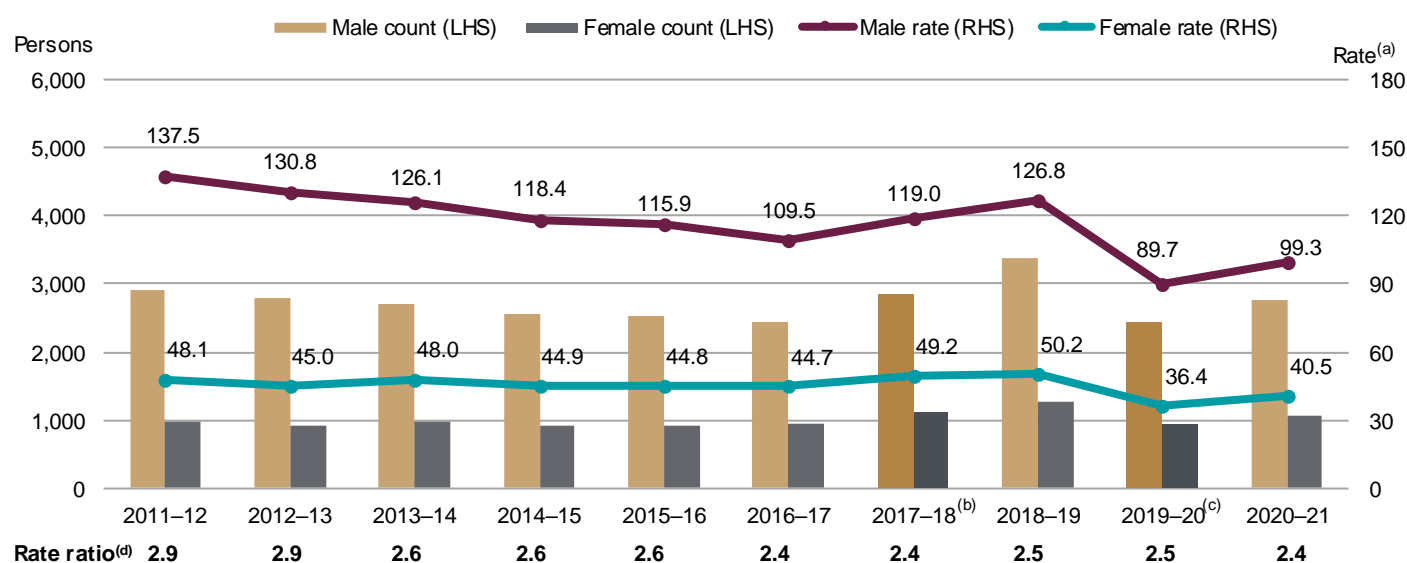
(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the legislative change implemented on 12 February 2018.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(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 four defendants in 2011–12 where offence date was unknown, age was calculated as at the date of defendant's first finalised appearance in the reporting period.

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

The rate of convicted male unique defendants had been decreasing slowly from 2011–12 to 2016–17 (109.5 per 10,000 persons), followed by a steady increase after 17-year-old offenders transitioned to youth justice in 2017–18 to 126.8 per 10,000 persons in 2018–19 (Figure 30). The rate of convicted female unique defendants was more stable over the first eight years. However, during 2019–20, the rates of both male and female unique defendants dropped sharply to a time-series low of 89.7 and 36.4 per 10,000 persons respectively, before rising again in 2020–21.

Figure 30 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 2011–12 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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(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, and this trend has been evident in every year of the time series (Table 51). Overall, and for every age group, the rates in 2020–21 were second-lowest for the 10-year time series, with only those in 2019–20 lower.

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

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
— rate per 10,000 persons ^(c) —										
Sex										
Male	137.5	130.8	126.1	118.4	115.9	109.5	119.0	126.8	89.7	99.3
Female	48.1	45.0	48.0	44.9	44.8	44.7	49.2	50.2	36.4	40.5
Age at time of offence^(d) (years)										
10	5.4	3.8	3.4	5.1	3.8	3.4	3.9	3.7	1.6	2.1
11	10.3	11.4	13.0	10.7	13.3	9.2	11.6	10.7	5.5	5.9
12	27.9	23.4	27.3	28.3	31.0	28.3	30.1	26.7	20.0	20.2
13	61.9	68.0	66.8	64.3	69.1	68.6	71.6	65.2	40.6	49.9
14	125.2	124.7	115.3	111.1	113.2	119.1	111.8	105.1	73.3	82.0
15	180.5	162.1	171.1	151.3	151.1	146.8	158.6	143.1	99.2	107.9
16	239.9	225.5	216.8	206.8	189.3	177.7	169.2	169.2	124.0	139.8
17	..	..	..	..	..	..	225.2	214.5	164.8	178.8
Total^(e)	93.9	88.9	88.1	82.7	81.3	78.0	85.1	89.6	63.8	70.7

.. = not applicable

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

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

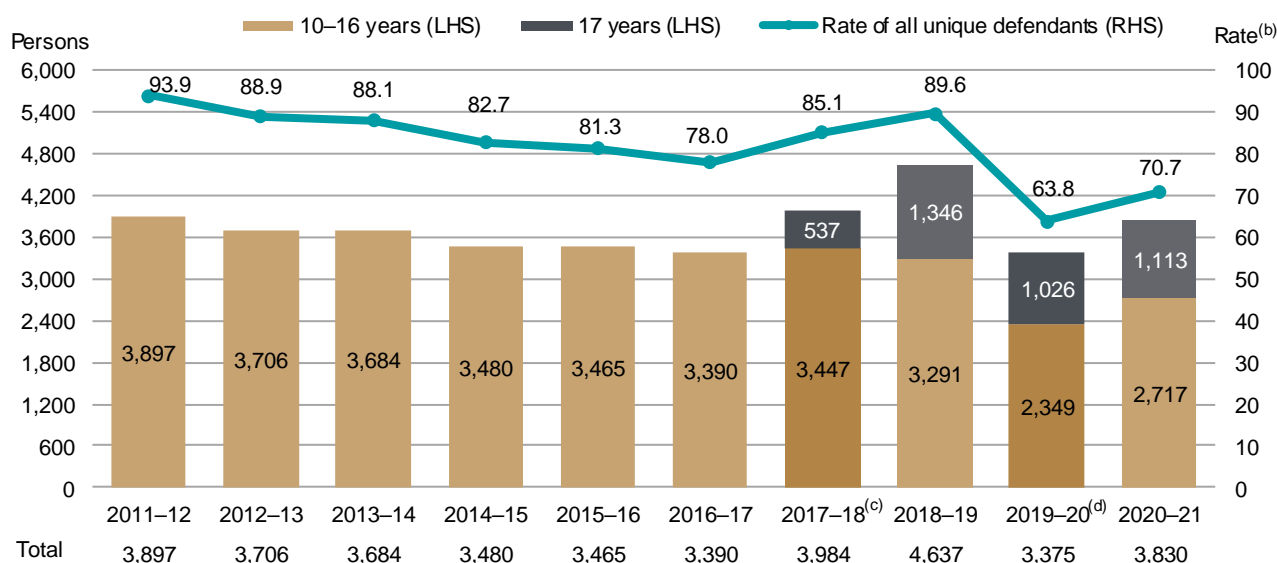
(c) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2011–12 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.

(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 four defendants in 2011–12 where offence date was unknown, age was calculated as at the date of defendant's 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 29.1% of unique child defendants with a proven offence in 2020–21, slightly lower than the proportion in 2019–20 (30.4%) (Figure 31).

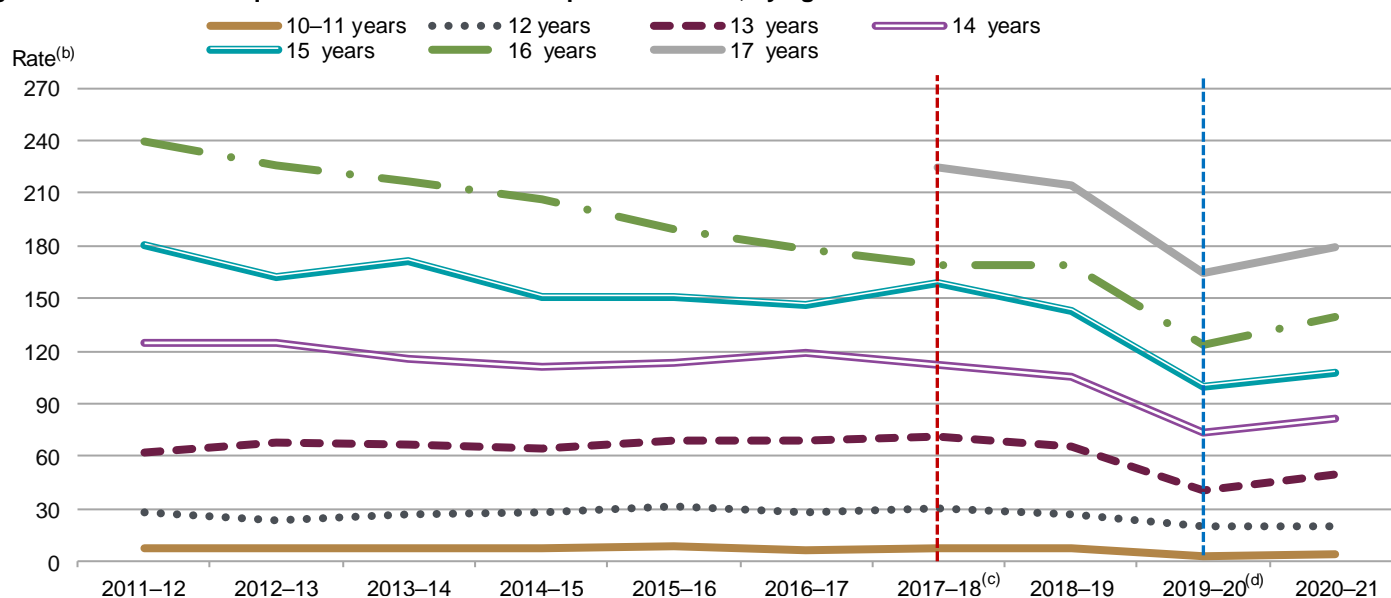
Figure 31 Count and rate of unique child defendants with a proven offence, by offender age cohort^(a) – time series



- (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 2011–12 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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Across the 10-year time series for each age group, the rate of unique defendants with a proven offence was lowest in 2019–20 with an apparent upward swing for most in 2020–21 (Figure 32). Although the rates for most ages fluctuated a little during the overall downward trend from the start of the series, rates for those aged 16 years at time of offence declined continually from 239.9 per 10,000 persons in 2011–12 to 124.0 in 2019–20, before rising slightly to 139.8 in 2020–21.

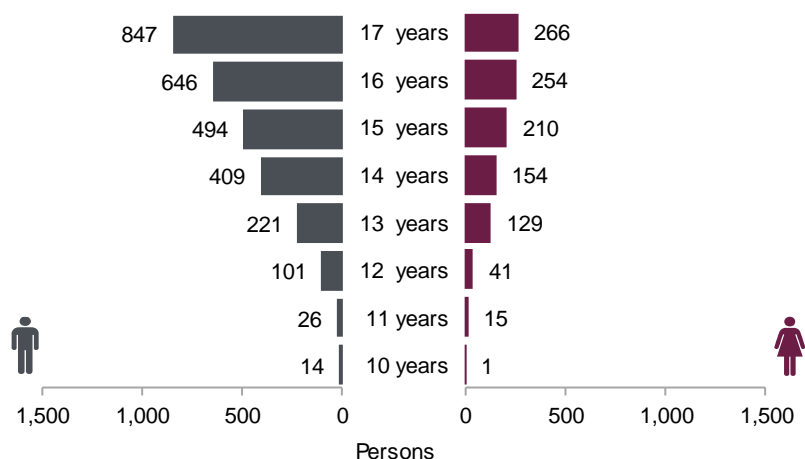
Figure 32 Rate of unique child defendants with a proven offence, by age at time of offence^(a) – time series



- (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 2011–12 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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

While the numbers of both male and female unique offenders with a proven offence in 2020–21 increased with each successive year of age and peaked at 17 years (Figure 33), male offenders outnumbered female offenders in every age group and at 17 years by more than three to one.

Figure 33 Unique child defendants with a proven offence, by sex^(a) and age at time of offence^(b), 2020–21



(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.

4.2. Youth justice orders

4.2.1. COVID-19 impact on youth justice orders

The impact of COVID containment measures on court operations has had flow-on effects on numbers admitted to youth justice orders, which can be illustrated by comparing monthly data for 2020–21 with that of the previous two years. In 2020–21, while overall admissions to youth justice orders remained subdued in comparison with the year pre-COVID, there was a noticeable increase in the last four months, ending the year higher than at the same time in 2018–19. Of all orders, only *restorative justice* exceeded the pre-COVID level of 2018–19, while *detention*, *community service*, *graffiti removal* and *intensive supervision* all had fewer admissions in both 2020–21 and 2019–20 than in 2018–19 (Table 52). (Note that ▲ in the figures below denotes when the COVID-19 pandemic was declared.)

Figure 34 Total admissions to youth justice orders – monthly comparison

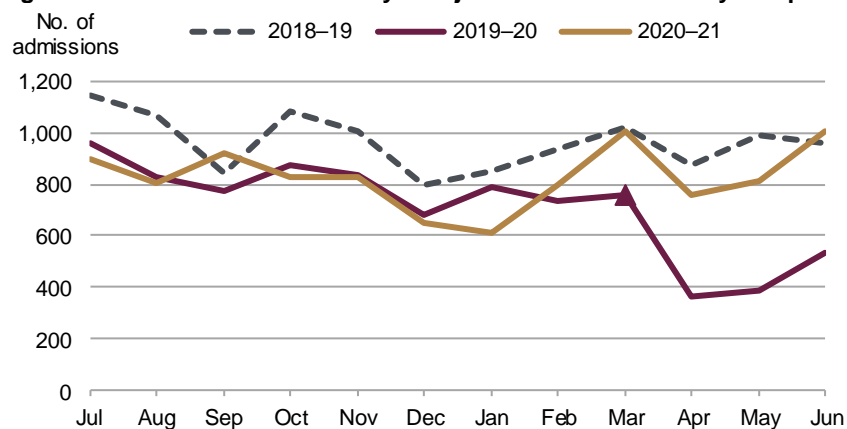


Figure 36 Admissions to unsupervised youth justice orders – monthly comparison

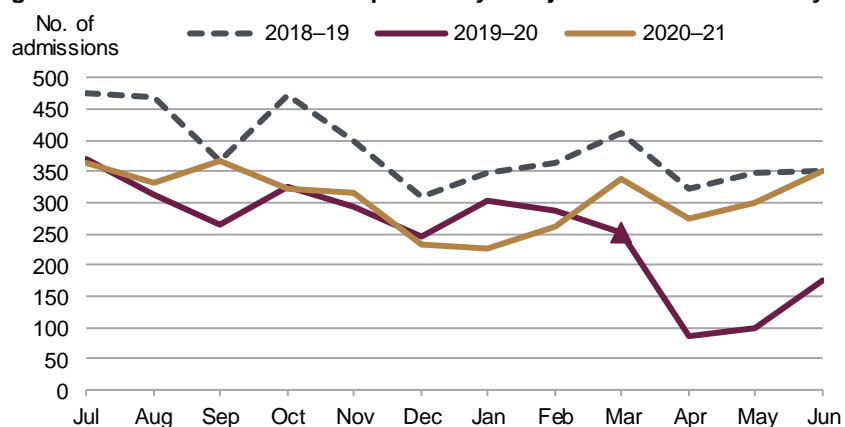


Figure 35 Admissions to supervised youth justice orders – monthly comparison

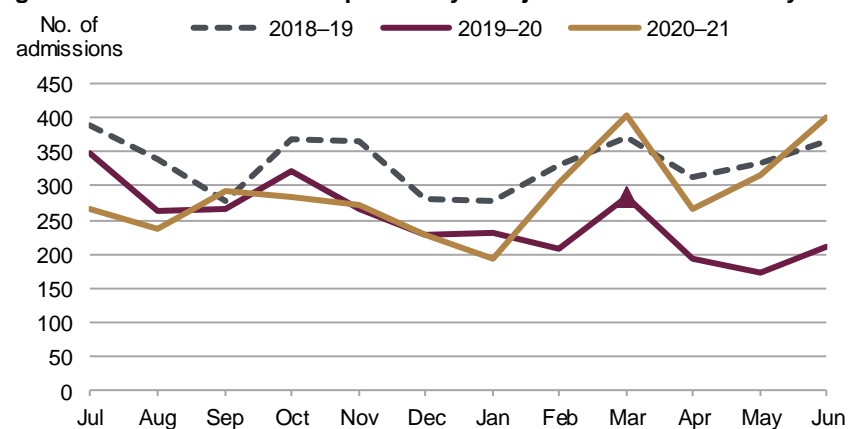
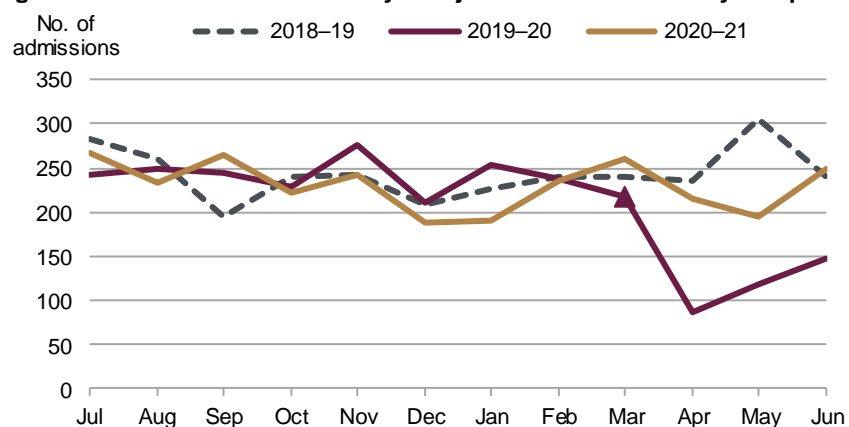


Figure 37 Admissions to other youth justice orders – monthly comparison



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 yrs at time of offence				Offender cohort aged 17 years at time of offence				All offenders			
	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21
Order type	— number —				— number —				— number —			
Supervised order	3,308	3,258	2,426	2,783	480	757	567	682	3,788	4,015	2,993	3,465
<i>Detention-based</i>	279	273	207	186	26	86	91	90	305	359	298	276
<i>Community-based</i>	3,029	2,985	2,219	2,597	454	671	476	592	3,483	3,656	2,695	3,189
Community service	715	686	376	358	156	173	91	87	871	859	467	445
Conditional release	213	251	187	240	17	66	51	62	230	317	238	302
Graffiti removal	203	188	125	124	11	36	14	13	214	224	139	137
Intensive supervision	13	6	4	3	0	0	0	0	13	6	4	3
Probation	1,698	1,617	1,171	1,466	256	347	232	330	1,954	1,964	1,403	1,796
Restorative justice	187	237	356	406	14	49	88	100	201	286	444	506
Unsupervised order	3,627	3,240	2,092	2,577	571	1,389	915	1,104	4,198	4,629	3,007	3,681
Other orders^(c)	1,819	2,087	1,826	1,983	325	832	687	781	2,144	2,919	2,513	2,764
Total	8,754	8,585	6,344	7,343	1,376	2,978	2,169	2,567	10,130	11,563	8,513	9,910

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(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.

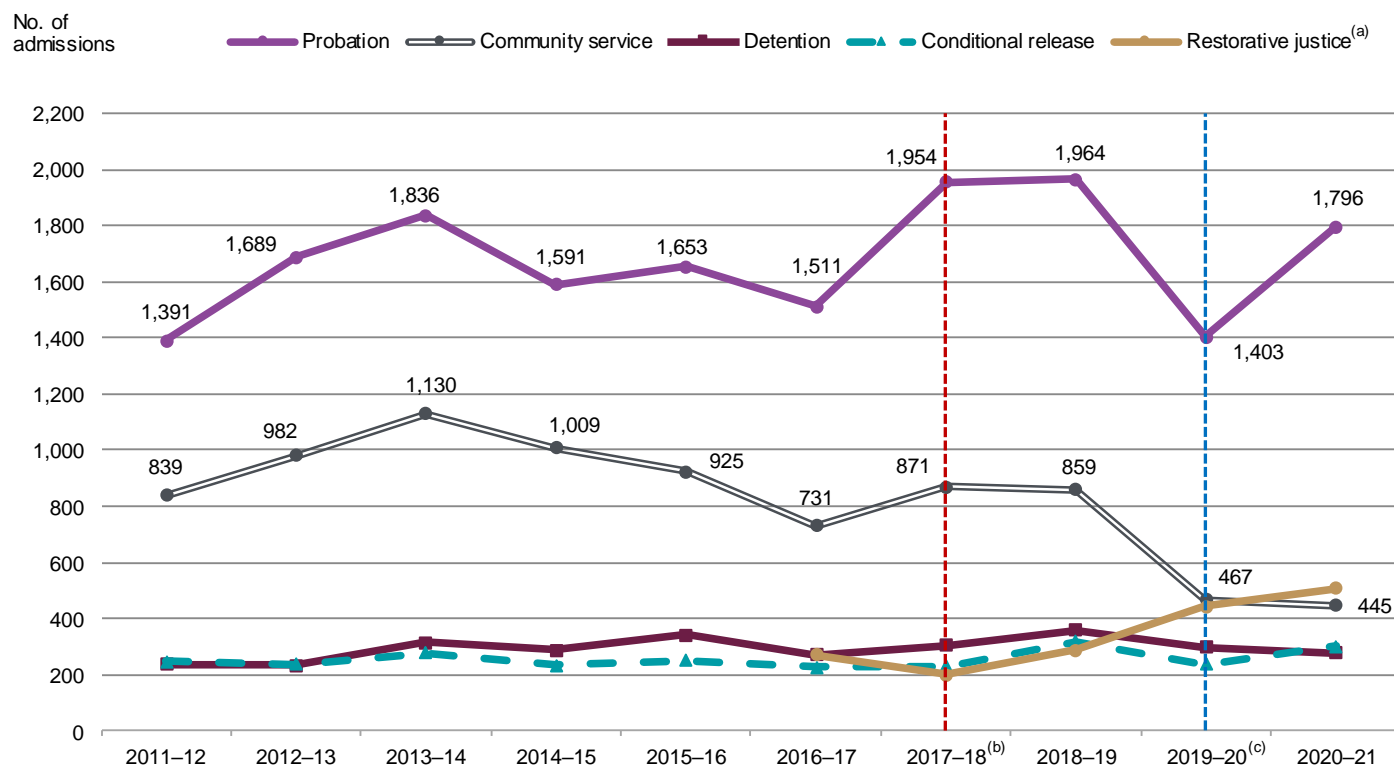
(c) Other orders include ancillary orders such as compensation and restitution (see Glossary for further details).

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 (for a limited period).

Over the 10-year time series from 2011–12 to 2020–21, *probation* has consistently been the most prevalent among admissions to supervised youth justice orders, accounting for around half of the total admissions every year. *Community service* was the second-most prevalent until 2020–21 when it was overtaken by *restorative justice*, which has nearly doubled since 2016–17 (+86.0%, from 272 to 506 admissions).

Figure 38 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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

In 2020–21, one in five admissions to supervised orders were for offenders aged 17 years at the time of offence. Males comprised 76.1% of the offender cohort aged 10–16 years admitted to supervised orders, compared with 83.0% of those aged 17 years (Table 53).

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander proportion of the 17-year-old offender cohort admitted to supervised orders in 2020–21 was 59.2%, compared with 68.1% of those aged 10–16 years.

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 at time of offence				All offenders			
	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21
	— number —				— number —				— number —			
Sex												
Male	2,603	2,461	1,889	2,118	376	630	471	566	2,979	3,091	2,360	2,684
Female	704	797	537	665	104	127	96	116	808	924	633	781
Indigenous status												
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	2,200	2,184	1,633	1,896	226	385	313	404	2,426	2,569	1,946	2,300
Non-Indigenous	1,101	1,067	790	873	244	364	247	268	1,345	1,431	1,037	1,141
Not stated	7	7	3	14	10	8	7	10	17	15	10	24
Age (years) on admission^(c)												
10–11	54	28	14	21	..	..	..	..	54	28	14	21
12	95	98	81	61	..	..	..	..	95	98	81	61
13	332	291	269	231	..	..	..	..	332	291	269	231
14	605	537	400	498	..	..	..	..	605	537	400	498
15	853	805	558	746	..	..	..	..	853	805	558	746
16	966	975	702	779	..	..	..	..	966	975	702	779
17	382	450	323	379	421	488	332	413	803	938	655	792
18+	21	74	79	68	59	269	235	269	80	343	314	337
Total^(d)	3,308	3,258	2,426	2,783	480	757	567	682	3,788	4,015	2,993	3,465

.. not applicable

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(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) 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

Data in this section relate to unsupervised youth justice orders which include *fine*, *good behaviour* and *reprimand*.

In 2020–21, there were 3,681 admissions to unsupervised youth justice orders, a 22.4% increase on the previous year (3,007 admissions) (Table 54). *Reprimand* and *good behaviour* accounted for 73.1% and 25.4% of all admissions respectively in 2020–21, with *fine* being the least prevalent at 1.5%.

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 at time of offence				All offenders			
	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21
Order type	— number —				— number —				— number —			
Fine	25	32	8	14	49	122	62	41	74	154	70	55
Good behaviour	993	964	524	690	152	417	207	246	1,145	1,381	731	936
Reprimand	2,609	2,244	1,560	1,873	370	850	646	817	2,979	3,094	2,206	2,690
Total	3,627	3,240	2,092	2,577	571	1,389	915	1,104	4,198	4,629	3,007	3,681

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(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.

4.2.2.3. Other orders

In 2020–21, across all other youth justice orders, the majority of admissions for offenders aged 10–16 years were either to *court diversion referral* (60.8%) or *conditional bail program* (30.4%). In contrast, for the 17-year-old offender cohort, the largest proportion of admissions was to *licence disqualification* (43.3%), followed by *court diversion referral* (38.3%).

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 at time of offence				All offenders			
	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(c)	2020–21	2017–18 ^(d)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(c)	2020–21	2017–18 ^(d)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(c)	2020–21
Order type	— number —				— number —				— number —			
Compensation	9	14	3	6	7	7	5	3	16	21	8	9
Conditional bail program	715	773	674	602	53	97	96	82	768	870	770	684
Court diversion referral	843	1,037	992	1,206	97	235	261	299	940	1,272	1,253	1,505
Drug diversion	144	147	93	81	46	113	73	57	190	260	166	138
Licence disqualification	84	106	59	82	119	359	248	338	203	465	307	420
Restitution	24	10	5	6	3	21	4	2	27	31	9	8
Total	1,819	2,087	1,826	1,983	325	832	687	781	2,144	2,919	2,513	2,764

(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(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.

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 both a supervised and unsupervised youth justice order at one time, the same young person may appear in both the supervised and unsupervised order counts.

Additionally, 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 10–16 years and again at age 17 years, the unique offender is included only 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 23.8% of all unique offenders admitted to supervised orders in 2020–21, 25.6% of those aged 10–16 years at time of offence and 17.4% of those aged 17 years (Table 56). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique offenders accounted for 60.7% 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 decreased from 54.9% in 2019–20 to 51.9% in 2020–21, corresponding with a larger increase in the number of admissions for non-Indigenous than Indigenous 17-year-old offenders 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 at time of offence				All offenders			
	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21
	— persons —				— persons —				— persons —			
Sex												
Male	1,286	1,212	920	993	215	336	270	304	1,501	1,548	1,190	1,297
Female	390	433	309	342	58	82	69	64	448	515	378	406
Indigenous status												
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	1,040	1,058	771	842	127	188	186	191	1,167	1,246	957	1,033
Non-Indigenous	631	581	455	482	137	222	147	168	768	803	602	650
Not stated	6	6	3	11	9	8	6	9	15	14	9	20
Age (years) on admission^(c)												
10–11	26	19	9	11	0	0	0	0	26	19	9	11
12	40	48	38	27	0	0	0	0	40	48	38	27
13	175	140	104	101	0	0	0	0	175	140	104	101
14	264	251	177	227	0	0	0	0	264	251	177	227
15	426	395	285	316	0	0	0	0	426	395	285	316
16	492	484	357	390	0	0	0	0	492	484	357	390
17	241	259	203	220	240	241	186	192	481	500	389	412
18+	13	49	56	43	33	177	153	176	46	226	209	219
Total^(d)	1,677	1,645	1,229	1,335	273	418	339	368	1,950	2,063	1,568	1,703

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

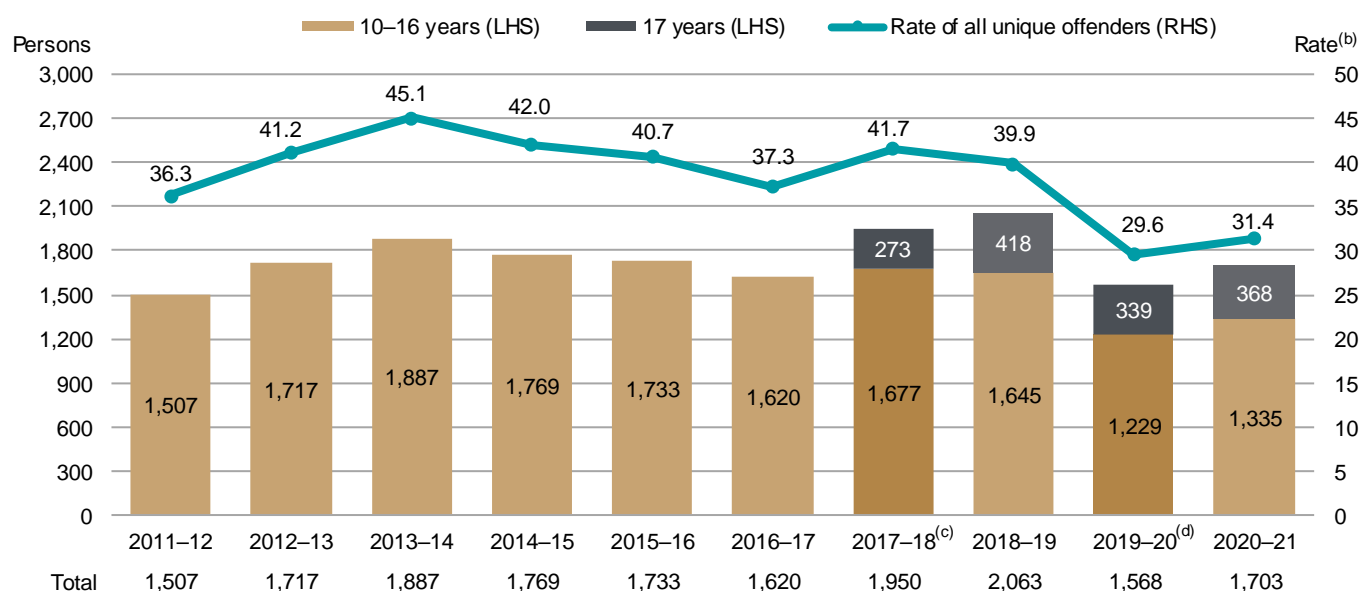
(b) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(c) 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 2011–12 to 2020–21, the rate of unique young offenders admitted to supervised orders peaked at 45.1 per 10,000 persons in 2013–14 and decreased each year until 2016–17 (Figure 39). After rising to 41.7 in the year 17-year-old offenders transitioned to the youth justice system, the rate trended downward again for two years to a time series low of 29.6 per 10,000 persons in 2019–20, before a slight upswing to 31.4 in 2020–21. The 17-year-old offender cohort has accounted for at least one-fifth of all unique child offenders admitted to supervised orders in each year since 2018–19. In 2020–21, the number for both offender cohorts increased 8.6% over the year.

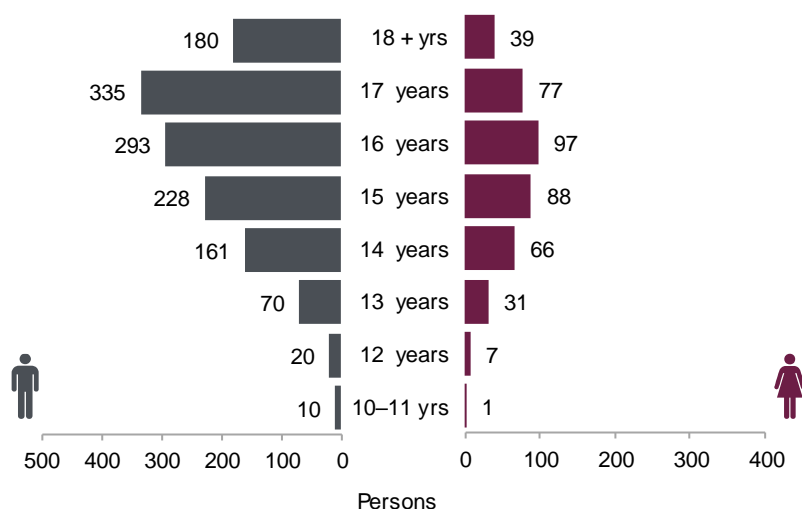
Figure 39 Count and rate of unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders, by offender age cohort^(a) – time series



- (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 2011–12 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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

In 2020–21, the number of unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders increased with age, peaking at 17 years for males and 16 years for females. However, there were 2.3 to 4.6 times as many unique males as unique females in each age group over 11 years (Figure 40).

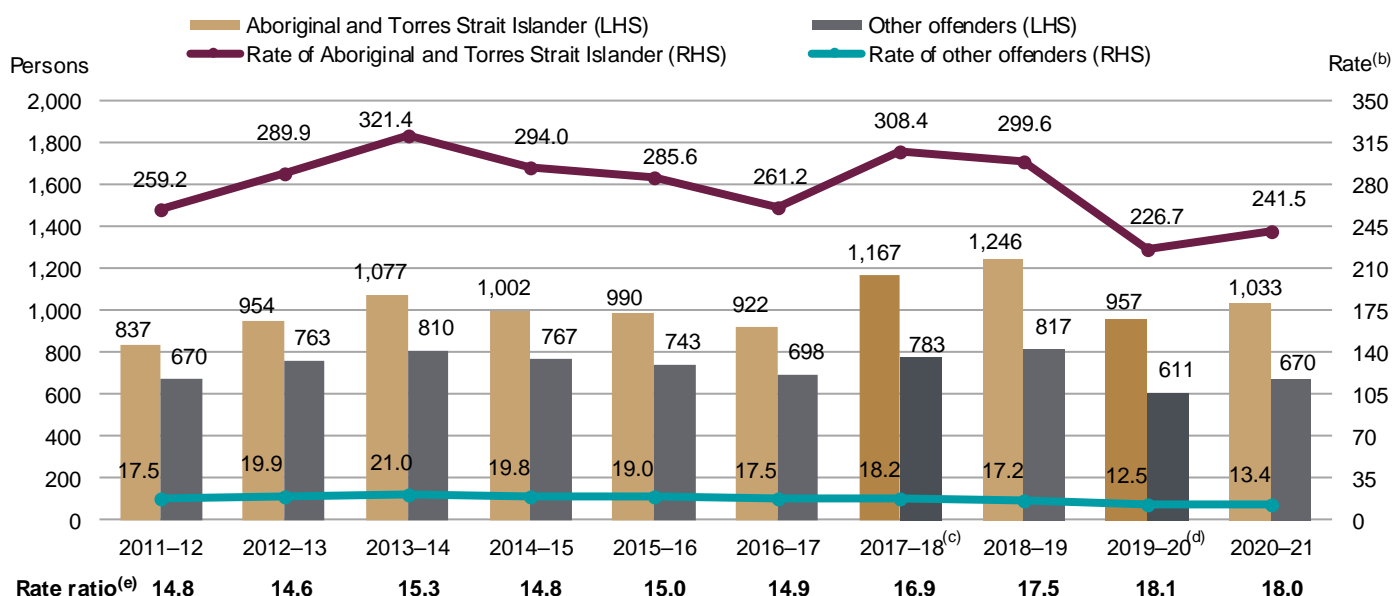
Figure 40 Unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders, by age on admission^(a) and sex, 2020–21



- (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 of 321.4 per 10,000 persons in 2013–14, there was a steady decline until a sharp increase in 2017–18, followed by two consecutive decreases to 226.7 in 2019–20 before rising again in 2020–21. Despite the rate being at its lowest in 2019–20 and 2020–21, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique offenders were around 18 times as likely as others to be admitted to supervised youth justice orders, compared with around 15 times in earlier years.

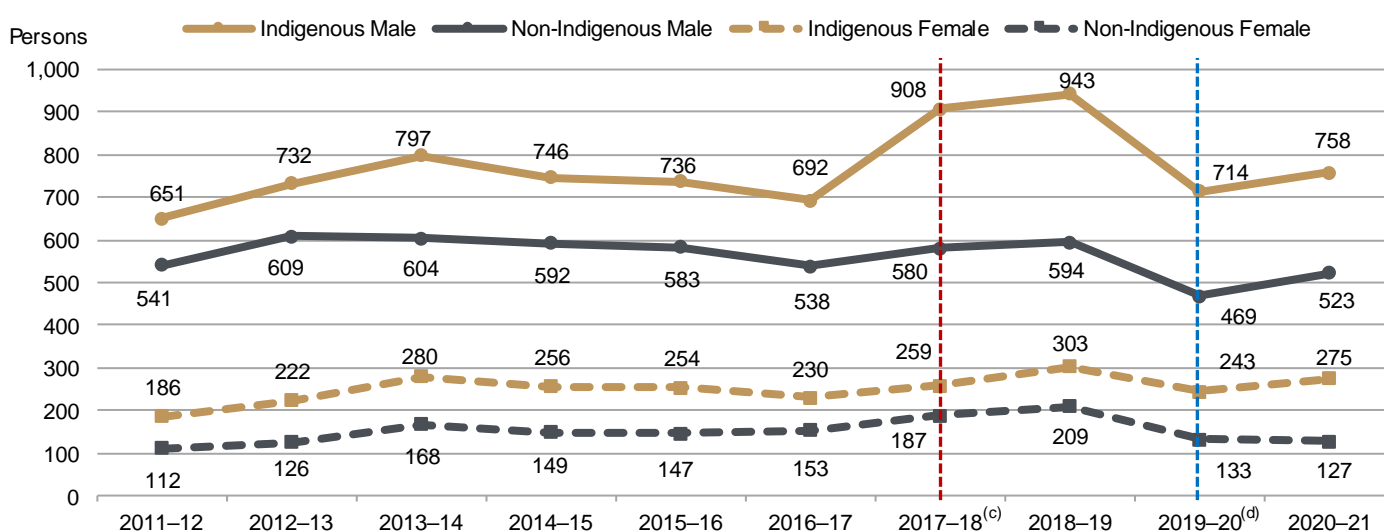
Figure 41 Count and rate of unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders by Indigenous status^(a) – time series



- (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 2011–12 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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.
 (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, only non-Indigenous males peaked early in 2012–13 and ended the series with slightly fewer admissions than at the start of the series. For all other groups, admissions peaked in 2018–19 and ended the series higher than in 2011–12 (+16.4% for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males, +47.8% for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females and +13.4% for non-Indigenous females).

Figure 42 Unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders by Indigenous status^(a) and sex^(b) – time series



- (a) Excludes a small number whose Indigenous status was not stated.
 (b) Excludes a small number 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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Throughout the time series, around half of all unique young offenders on supervised orders had just one admission during the year. While 13.4% had four or more admissions to supervised orders in 2020–21, this represents the highest proportion in the time series for this group (Table 57).

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

Supervised orders	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
No. admissions per year	— persons —									
1 admission	767	894	944	868	854	820	1,017	1,050	838	840
2 or 3 admissions	621	659	729	693	674	609	693	770	550	635
4 or 5 admissions	111	143	165	171	166	140	192	195	139	170
6 or more admissions	8	21	49	37	39	51	48	48	41	58
Total	1,507	1,717	1,887	1,769	1,733	1,620	1,950	2,063	1,568	1,703

(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

4.2.3.2. Unsupervised orders

After peaking in 2018–19 at 3,295, the number of unique young offenders with admissions to unsupervised orders was lower in 2020–21 than in 2011–12 (2,562 and 2,732 respectively) (Table 58).

In 2020–21, the proportion of unique offenders with only one admission to an unsupervised order in the year was at its third-lowest level in the time series, at 71.4% compared with 72.8% in 2018–19 (pre-COVID) and 74.5% in 2011–12.

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

Supervised orders	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
No. admissions per year	— persons —									
1 admission	2,036	2,102	2,123	1,984	1,937	1,696	1,895	2,398	1,632	1,828
2 or 3 admissions	637	729	742	674	733	698	782	799	490	654
4 or 5 admissions	53	60	65	75	84	73	97	86	60	65
6 or more admissions	6	12	9	8	8	18	17	12	4	15
Total	2,732	2,903	2,939	2,741	2,762	2,485	2,791	3,295	2,186	2,562

(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

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 young offenders 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 noticeable decline in sentenced admissions throughout the 10-year time series.

During 2020–21, sentenced admissions to detention reached their lowest in the series with only 12 admissions, whereas unsentenced admissions were at their second-highest level at 1,987. Pre-court custody in detention centres increased for the second consecutive year after the extraordinary low in 2018–19 and in 2020–21 returned to around the level seen in 2017–18.

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

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
Legal status	— number —									
Unsented	1,575	1,899	1,939	1,823	1,626	1,972	2,183	1,476	1,888	1,987
Pre-court custody	720	955	957	903	776	963	878	187	788	881
Remand	855	944	982	920	850	1,009	1,305	1,289	1,100	1,106
Sented	88	56	84	59	54	54	31	49	18	12
Total	1,663	1,955	2,023	1,882	1,680	2,026	2,214	1,525	1,906	1,999

(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

The ratio of male-to-female admissions to youth detention centres was at its lowest in 2017–18 (at 3.6 to one) and increased to 4.3 in 2020–21 (Table 60).

The overall decrease in admissions in 2020–21 compared with the peak of 2017–18 was due solely to a decrease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander admissions, with a decrease of 18.6% (or –285), compared with an increase of 6.5% (or +44) in non-Indigenous admissions. However, when compared with 2011–12, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous admissions increased at a similar rate (+18.8% and +19.5% respectively).

The age groups of 14 to 16 years old together accounted for almost two-thirds (65.3% or 1,306) of all admissions to detention centres in 2020–21, compared with 61.1% (or 1,164) in 2019–20. Conversely, the proportion of those aged 12 and 13 years combined decreased from 16.9% to 13.4% over the same period.

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

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
	— number —									
Sex										
Male	1,408	1,583	1,601	1,483	1,321	1,588	1,732	1,209	1,544	1,621
Female	255	371	421	399	359	438	482	316	362	378
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait	1,047	1,185	1,155	1,143	1,078	1,310	1,529	1,096	1,207	1,244
Non-Indigenous	606	759	851	733	599	713	680	426	690	724
Not stated	10	11	17	6	3	3	5	3	9	31
Age (years) on admission^(c)										
10–11	27	50	24	50	31	74	83	22	28	35
12	87	100	116	85	82	99	163	106	95	73
13	194	225	243	249	224	219	279	185	227	195
14	343	415	440	403	376	440	452	249	355	382
15	432	578	550	515	458	596	555	304	429	492
16	533	533	603	527	476	564	545	327	380	432
17	45	53	46	50	29	33	133	316	379	379
18+	2	1	1	3	4	1	4	16	13	11
Total^(d)	1,663	1,955	2,023	1,882	1,680	2,026	2,214	1,525	1,906	1,999

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

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(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 a youth detention centre were male, in every year of the time series, including 2020–21 when they accounted for 79.5% of the total (Table 61). The number of unique males admitted to a detention centre during the time series peaked at 764 in 2017–18, while the number of unique females peaked at 221 a year earlier.

In 2020–21, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique persons admitted increased by 19.6% (+89 persons) compared with 2011–12, but was 13.5% lower (–85) than when it peaked in 2017–18.

The number of non-Indigenous unique persons admitted to a detention centre increased by 12.6% (+39 persons) compared with 2011–12, but was 7.9% lower (–30) than when it peaked in 2013–14.

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

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
	— persons —									
Sex										
Male	644	682	731	692	647	710	764	622	698	725
Female	129	180	207	203	167	221	208	184	184	187
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	455	486	549	528	504	569	629	550	539	544
Non-Indigenous	310	369	379	361	307	359	340	253	336	349
Not stated	8	8	11	6	3	3	3	3	7	19
Age (years) on admission^(c)										
10–11	8	14	15	14	14	24	17	8	8	12
12	35	30	45	51	39	39	50	40	44	27
13	68	87	93	91	98	91	110	90	75	82
14	170	190	195	182	156	198	196	118	152	159
15	193	239	271	248	241	269	260	165	192	213
16	266	267	289	275	245	290	262	194	188	197
17	31	35	30	32	18	19	73	184	213	214
18+	2	1	1	2	3	1	4	7	10	8
Total^(d)	773	863	939	895	814	931	972	806	882	912

(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.

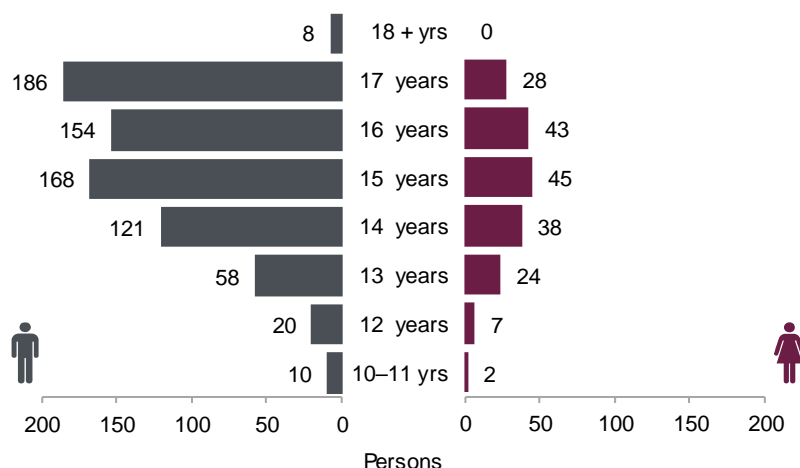
(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(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 2020–21, the number of unique males admitted to a youth detention centre peaked at 17 years of age, followed by 15 then 16 years. For unique females, the most common age of admission was 15 years, closely followed by 16 then 14 years (Figure 43).

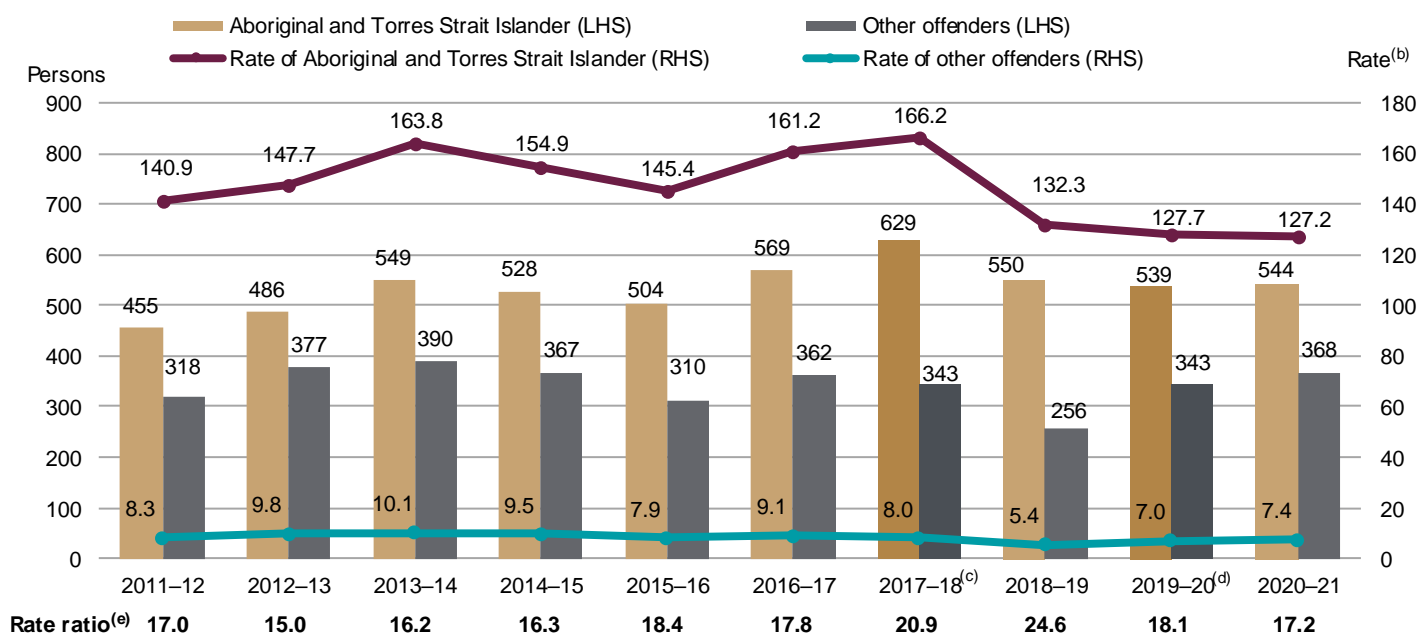
Figure 43 Unique persons admitted to a youth detention centre, by age on admission^(a) and sex, 2020–21



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

From 2011–12, both the count and rate of unique persons admitted to a youth detention centre 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 44). 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.

Figure 44 Count and rate of unique persons admitted to a youth detention centre 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 2011–12 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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.
 (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 the unique young persons admitted to a youth detention centre during a reference year had only one admission in the year, and the proportion in 2020–21 (46.4%) was the lowest in the time series (Table 62).

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

No. admissions per year	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
— persons —										
1 admission	396	422	490	443	429	451	480	418	442	423
2 or 3 admissions	258	299	296	326	265	341	317	309	294	335
4 or 5 admissions	78	93	104	87	85	89	115	64	102	107
6+ admissions	41	49	49	39	35	50	60	15	44	47
Total	773	863	939	895	814	931	972	806	882	912

(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

The number of unique young persons who had their first-ever admission to a youth detention centre during 2020–21 increased 39.3% from the time-series low of 2018–19. By comparison, the number of those with a prior admission to detention decreased 2.4% from the time-series high of 2018–19.

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

Admission history ^(a)	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21
— persons —										
First-ever admission	435	481	509	479	394	517	472	300	443	418
Prior admission to detention	338	382	430	416	420	414	500	506	439	494
Total	773	863	939	895	814	931	972	806	882	912

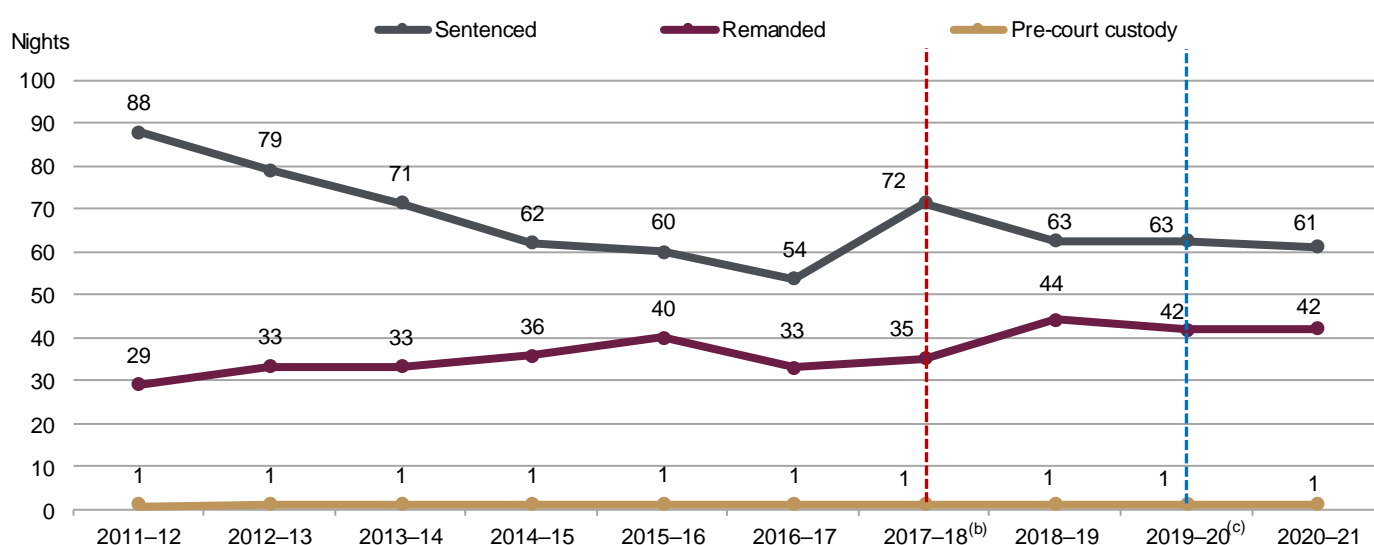
(a) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

4.3.3. Average length of stay

In 2020–21, the average length of stay of all sentenced young people in youth detention was 61 nights, slightly shorter than in 2019–20 and 30.4% shorter than the time-series high of 88 nights in 2011–12. Of those on remand in 2020–21, the average length of stay was the same as in the previous year (42 nights).

Figure 45 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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

4.4. Average daily number

4.4.1. Average daily number on supervised community-based orders

In 2020–21, on an average day, there were 1,310 young people on a supervised community-based youth justice order (Table 64). Females accounted for 23.9% of the total average daily number of young people supervised in the community in 2020–21, the lowest proportion in the four years from 2017–18.

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 at time of offence				All offenders			
	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21
	— average daily number ^(c) —				— average daily number ^(c) —				— average daily number ^(c) —			
Sex												
Male	956	1,013	906	780	89	226	224	217	1,045	1,240	1,130	997
Female	309	348	327	270	22	54	53	42	331	402	380	313
Indigenous status												
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	710	818	739	645	51	121	127	129	761	939	866	775
Non-Indigenous	551	539	492	400	57	157	147	125	608	696	639	525
Not stated	5	4	3	5	3	3	3	5	8	7	6	10
Age (years)												
10–11	8	8	6	7	..	..	..	..	8	8	6	7
12	20	28	19	15	..	..	..	..	20	28	19	15
13	73	70	62	43	..	..	..	..	73	70	62	43
14	156	151	128	112	..	..	..	..	156	151	128	112
15	264	262	222	186	..	..	..	..	264	262	222	186
16	346	349	297	256	..	..	..	..	346	349	297	256
17	282	314	289	241	81	75	52	53	362	390	340	294
18+	117	179	212	191	30	205	225	207	147	384	437	397
Total^(d)	1,266	1,361	1,233	1,050	111	280	277	259	1,377	1,642	1,511	1,310

.. not applicable

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

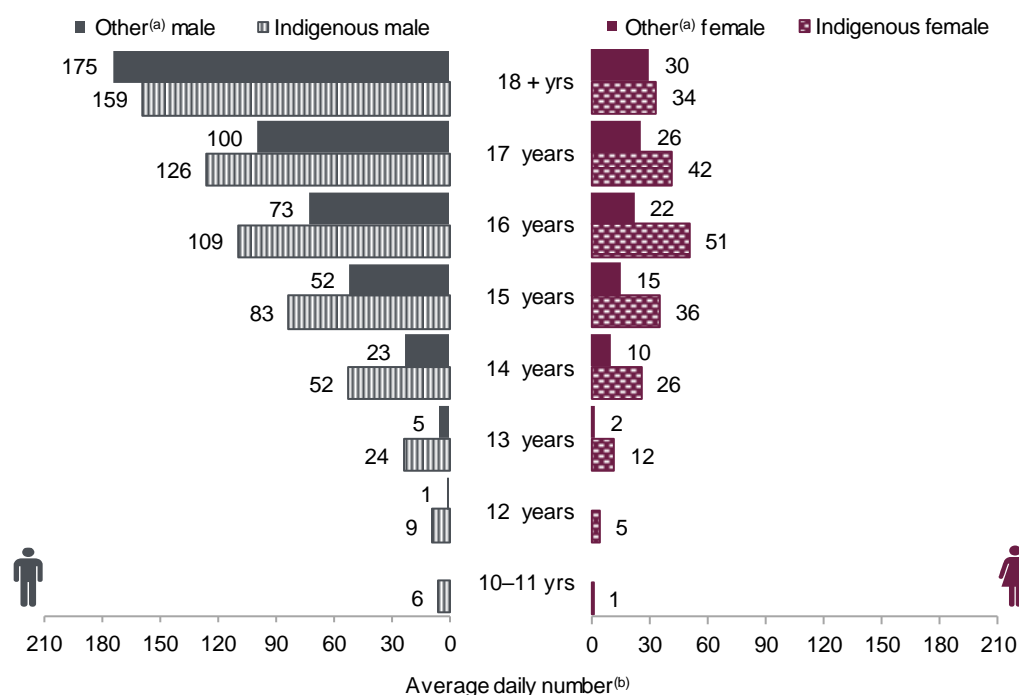
(b) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(c) 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 2020–21, the average daily number of males on supervised community-based youth justice orders increased with age for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other offenders (Figure 46). Except for males aged 18 years and over, for all other young offender groups, both male and female, the average daily numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders outnumbered other offenders on supervised community-based orders.

Figure 46 Average daily number of persons on supervised youth justice orders in the community, by Indigenous status, age and sex, 2020–21



(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 in youth detention centres from the 17-year-old offender cohort remained the same in 2020–21 as in the previous year (at 64), the number from the 10–16 years offender cohort increased by 29 (or +21.1%) over the same period, from 136 to 165.

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 at time of offence				All offenders			
	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21
	— average daily number ^(c) —				— average daily number ^(c) —				— average daily number ^(c) —			
Detention centre	191	158	136	165	10	55	64	64	201	213	200	228
Pre-court custody	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	2
Remanded	155	129	114	148	9	47	54	52	164	175	168	199
Sentenced	34	29	20	15	1	9	10	12	35	38	30	27
Police watchhouses / other	3	24	4	2	1	11	2	1	4	35	6	3
Remanded	3	23	4	2	1	11	2	1	4	34	6	3
Sentenced	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total	195	182	140	167	11	66	66	64	205	249	206	232

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

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



In 2020–21, of the 232 young people in custody daily on average, nine out of 10 were male, and 64 (27.7%) offended at 17 years of age. Compared with 2019–20, the average daily number from the 17-year-old offender cohort reduced slightly (–2) in 2020–21, while there was an increase (+27) from the 10–16 years offender cohort. Over the same period, the average daily number of females in custody remained similar (+1 or +4.3%) while males increased by 24 (+13.1%) (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 at time of offence				All offenders			
	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21
	— average daily number ^(c) —				— average daily number ^(c) —				— average daily number ^(c) —			
Sex												
Male	167	157	123	149	9	58	60	58	176	215	183	207
Female	28	25	17	18	1	8	6	6	29	33	23	24
Indigenous status												
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	143	133	104	107	7	44	42	41	149	177	145	148
Non-Indigenous	52	48	37	60	4	23	24	21	56	71	61	81
Not stated	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Age (years)												
10–11	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	1
12	6	6	5	4	..	..	..	..	6	6	5	4
13	14	14	12	13	..	..	..	..	14	14	12	13
14	31	27	24	31	..	..	..	..	31	27	24	31
15	51	45	37	49	..	..	..	..	51	45	37	49
16	65	64	45	54	..	..	..	..	65	64	45	54
17	25	23	13	14	10	53	47	48	35	75	60	62
18+	0	2	2	1	1	14	19	16	2	16	21	17
Total^(d)	195	182	140	167	11	66	66	64	205	249	206	232

.. not applicable

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

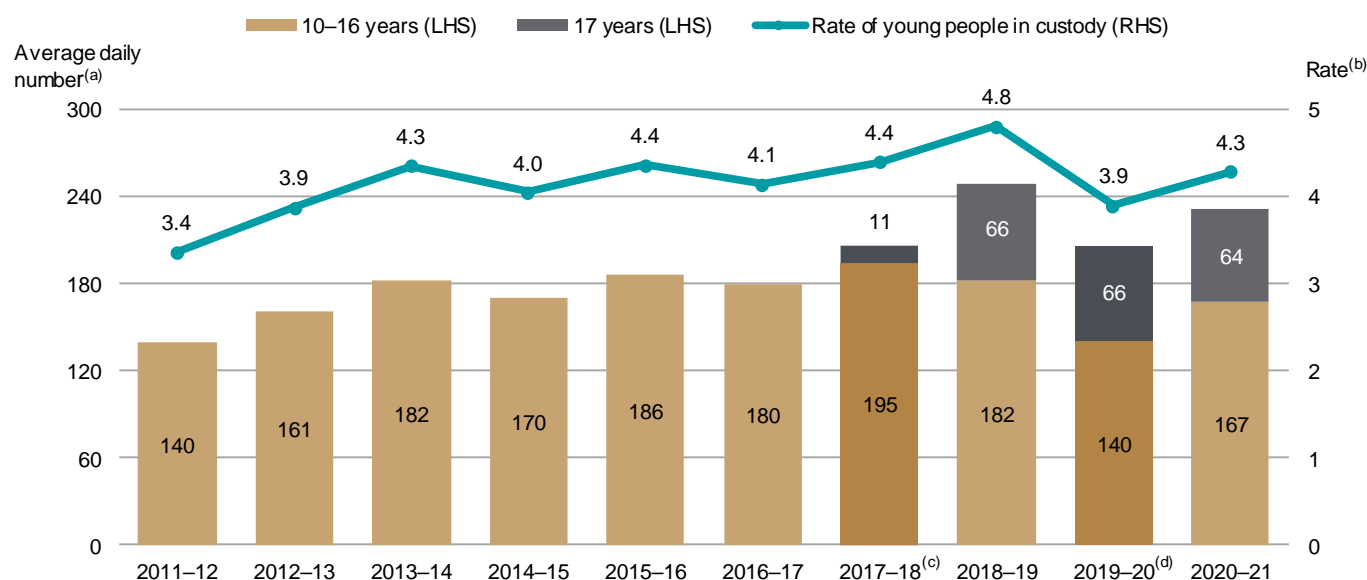
(b) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(c) 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.

From 2011–12 to 2016–17, the rate of young people in custody increased from 3.4 to 4.1 per 10,000 persons aged 10–16 years. After the transition of 17-year-old offenders to the youth justice system, the rate rose to a peak of 4.8 per 10,000 persons aged 10–17 years in 2018–19, followed by a sharp drop in 2019–20, a likely impact of the COVID restrictions. The increased average daily number in custody during 2020–21 has brought the rate back towards the pre-COVID level. This increase was entirely attributable to the 10–16 years offender cohort, as the average daily number in custody from the 17-year-old offender cohort decreased slightly over the year (–3.0%) (Figure 47).

Figure 47 Average daily number and rate of young people in custody by offender age cohort – time series



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

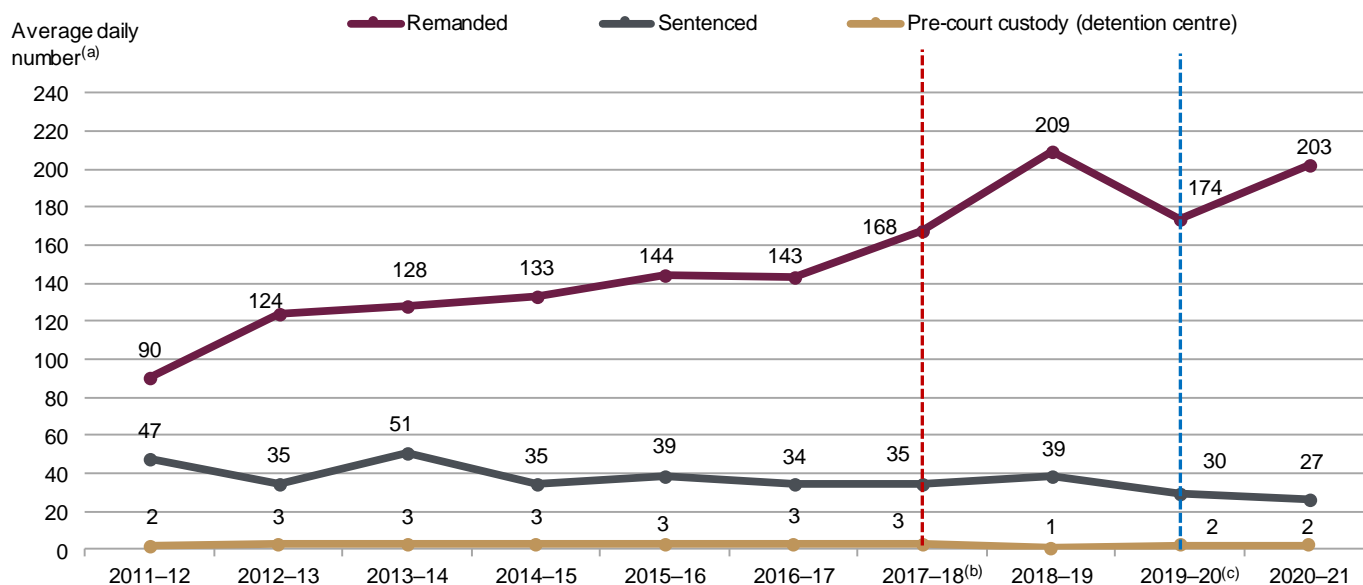
(b) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2011–12 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.

(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Throughout the 10-year time series, daily on average the majority of young persons in custody were on remand (unsentenced). As a proportion this has steadily increased from 64.7% in 2011–12 to a peak of 87.5% in 2020–21. The average daily number of persons remanded in custody was at its highest in 2018–19 (at 209), the first full year with 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system. The average daily number in sentenced custody (including police watchhouses) was relatively small and decreased from a peak of 51 in 2013–14 to the low of 27 in 2020–21 (Figure 48).

Figure 48 Average daily number of young people in custody by legal status – time series



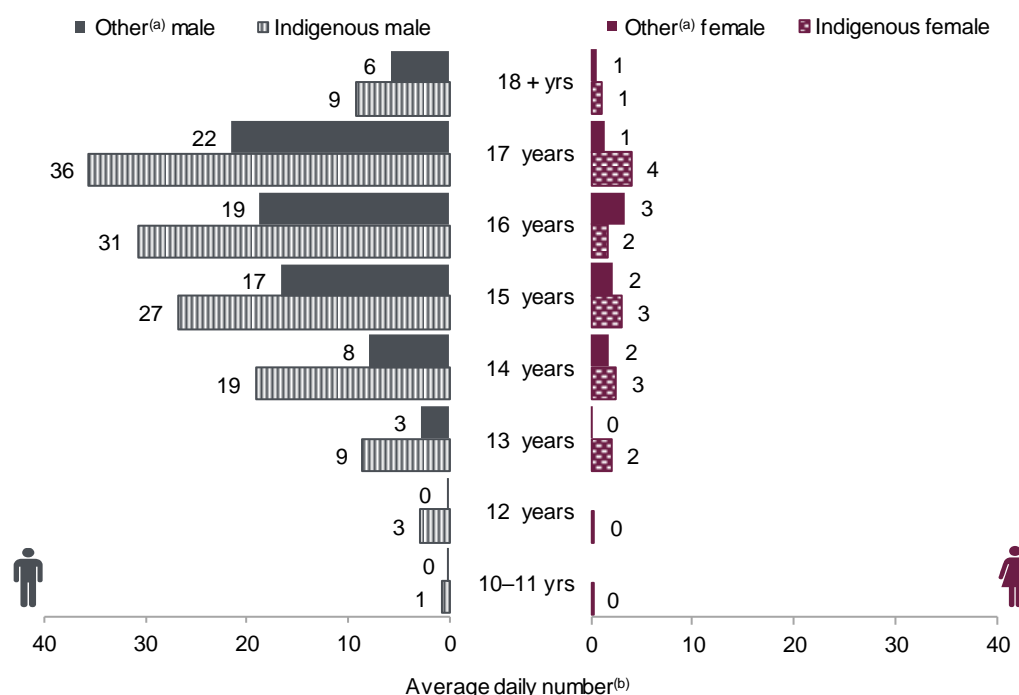
(a) Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

(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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

During 2020–21, the average daily number of young males in custody increased with age, peaking at 17 years, with the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males more than double that of other males in each of the younger age groups under 15 years (Figure 49). The average daily number of females in custody was substantially lower, with relatively higher numbers for those aged 14 to 17 years.

Figure 49 Average daily number of young people in custody by Indigenous status, age and sex, 2020–21



(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 2020–21, among the 228 persons held in youth detention centres on an average day, 64 were aged 17 years at the time of offence (Table 67).

Compared with 2019–20, the average daily number of young persons aged 13 to 17 years in youth detention centres increased in 2020–21.

The majority of young people in detention centres on an average day were male, with males comprising more than 85 per cent 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 – time series

	Offender cohort aged 10–16 years at time of offence				Offender cohort aged 17 years at time of offence				All offenders			
	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21
	— average daily number ^(c) —				— average daily number ^(c) —				— average daily number ^(c) —			
Sex												
Male	163	135	120	147	9	48	58	58	172	183	178	205
Female	28	23	17	18	1	7	6	6	29	30	23	24
Indigenous status												
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	140	117	100	105	6	37	41	41	146	154	141	146
Non-Indigenous	51	41	36	59	4	19	23	21	55	59	59	80
Not stated	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Age (years)												
10–11	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	1
12	6	5	5	4	..	..	..	..	6	5	5	4
13	13	12	12	13	..	..	..	..	13	12	12	13
14	30	24	24	31	..	..	..	..	30	24	24	31
15	50	37	36	48	..	..	..	..	50	37	36	48
16	64	55	44	54	..	..	..	..	64	55	44	54
17	25	22	13	14	9	42	45	48	34	64	58	62
18+	0	2	2	1	1	13	19	16	2	16	21	17
Total^(d)	191	158	136	165	10	55	64	64	201	213	200	228

.. not applicable

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

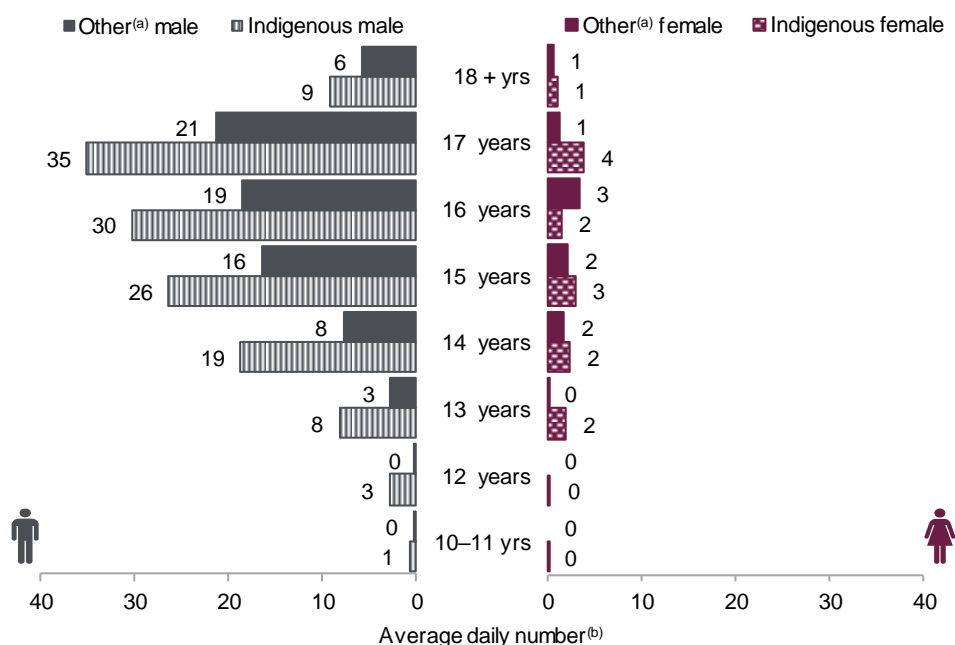
(b) Break in time series in 2017–18 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(c) 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 2020–21, for both males and females in detention centres on an average day, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young persons outnumbered others in every age group except for females aged 16 years (Figure 50). For both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other males, 17 years was the most common age of males in detention centres.

Figure 50 Average daily number of persons in youth detention centres by Indigenous status, age and sex, 2020–21



(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.

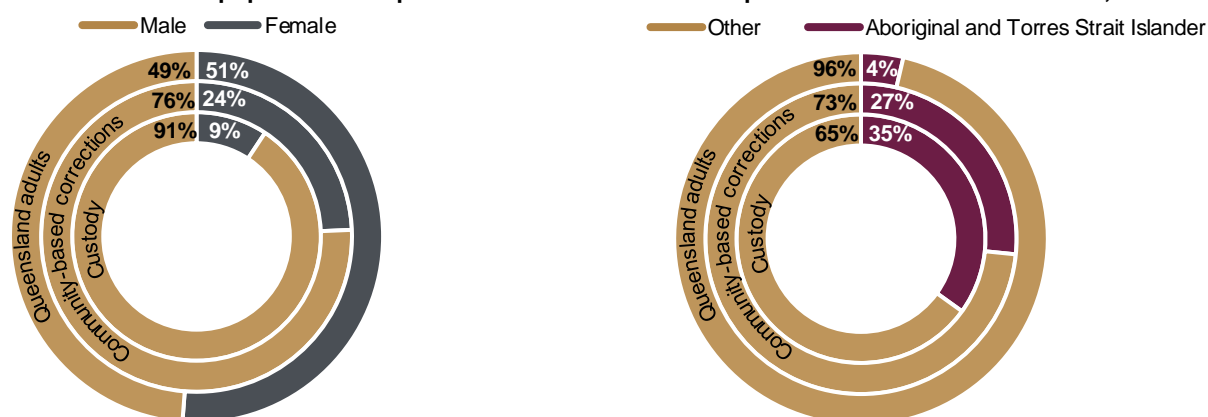
This should be read in conjunction with the Explanatory notes and glossary at the end of this report.

<u>Adults in prison as at 30 June</u>		2020 ^(a)	2021	% change	
Total persons		8,660	9,954	14.9%	↑
Males		7,895	9,029	14.4%	↑
Females		765	925	20.9%	↑
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)		35.1%	34.9%	-0.2 ppt	↓
<u>Adults in supervised community-based corrections as at 1 June</u>					
Total persons		18,389	19,058	3.6%	↑
Males		14,033	14,422	6.4%	↑
Females		4,356	4,636	2.8%	↑
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)		24.6%	26.6%	2.0 ppt	↑

ppt = percentage point

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Figure 51 Queensland's adult population compared with adults under the supervision of corrective services, June 2021



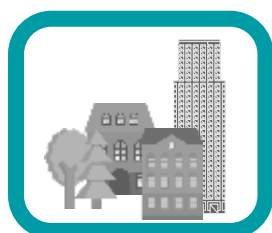
As at June 2021:

Adults in prison



- The number of adults in prison increased 14.9% since June 2020.
- One in three adults in prison were unsentenced.
- There were 9.8 times as many males as females in the prison population overall, and 8.2 times as many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males as females in prison.
- Over one-third (34.9%) of all adults in prison identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- The imprisonment rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults (2,345.1 per 100,000 persons aged 18 years and over) was 14.2 times the rate for other adults (165.7).

Adults in supervised community-based corrections



- There were 3.1 times as many males (14,422) as females (4,636) in supervised community-based corrections.
- One in four adults in supervised community-based corrections identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- The rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults in supervised community-based corrections (3,420.3 per 100,000 persons aged 18 years and over) was 9.6 times the rate for other adults (357.8).

5.1. Overview

This report presents summary statistics about adult corrective services in Queensland as at June 2021, prison data time series for 10 years and supervised community-based corrections for 10 years.

Two different populations are presented: adults in full-time prison custody and adults in supervised community-based corrections. Data for adults in prison are presented as at 30 June, while data for supervised community-based corrections are presented as at 1 June. Length of stay data are also presented for adults in prison 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 were introduced in Queensland from March 2020, which 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. In addition to social restrictions imposed on the community, containment measures within the criminal justice system included the Magistrates Court heavily scaling back their operations from March 2020 and new jury trials in the higher courts ceasing until the courts system returned to near-normal operations in June 2020.

The reduction in court appearances and finalisations in the last quarter of 2019–20 had a flow-on effect on corrective services admissions and discharges, and the distribution of legal status of those in prisons during and since that time. Adult prison custody data used for this report are primarily annual point-in-time measures relating to persons in prisons as at 30 June, and do not reveal the broader COVID impact on the prison population since the pandemic was declared.

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

The COVID-19 pandemic remains 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.

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 prison

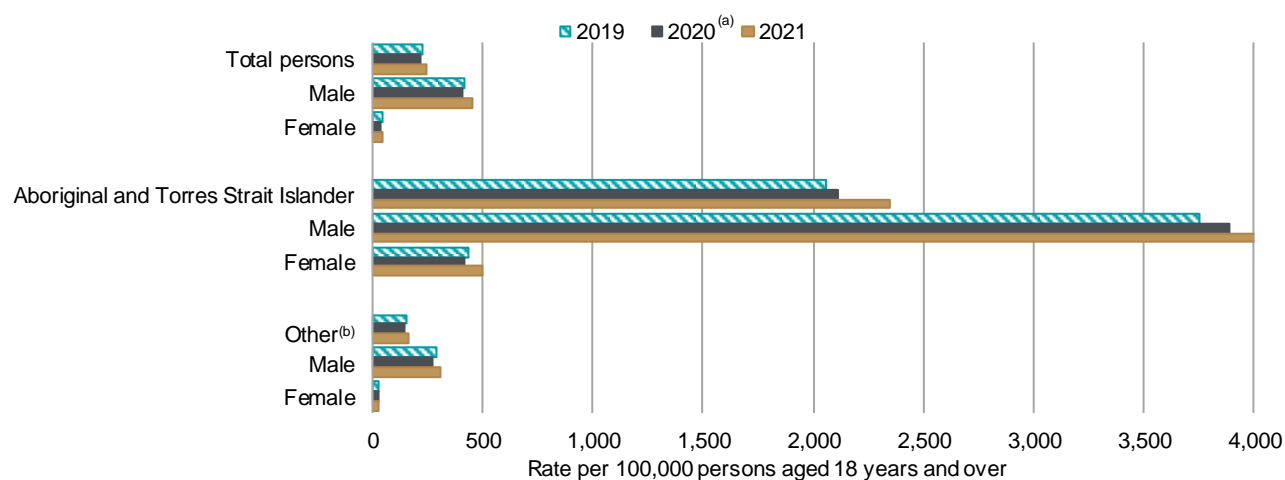
As at 30 June 2021, there were 9,954 adults in prisons in Queensland, and the majority of these were male (9,029 or 90.7%). The rate of males in prison (456.1 per 100,000 persons aged 18 years and over) was substantially higher than that of females (44.5) (Figure 52).

Almost one-third (30.4%) of adults in prison were unsentenced (on remand), with 54 adults being detained in custody under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003* (DPSOA). Females in prison (38.8%) were more likely than males (29.6%) to be unsentenced.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults continued to be over-represented in prison in 2021, with a rate of imprisonment (2,345.1 per 100,000 persons) that is much higher than the rate for others (165.7). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males were 13.8 times as likely as other males to be in prison, while Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were 18.2 times as likely as other females.

5.2.1. Prisoner characteristics

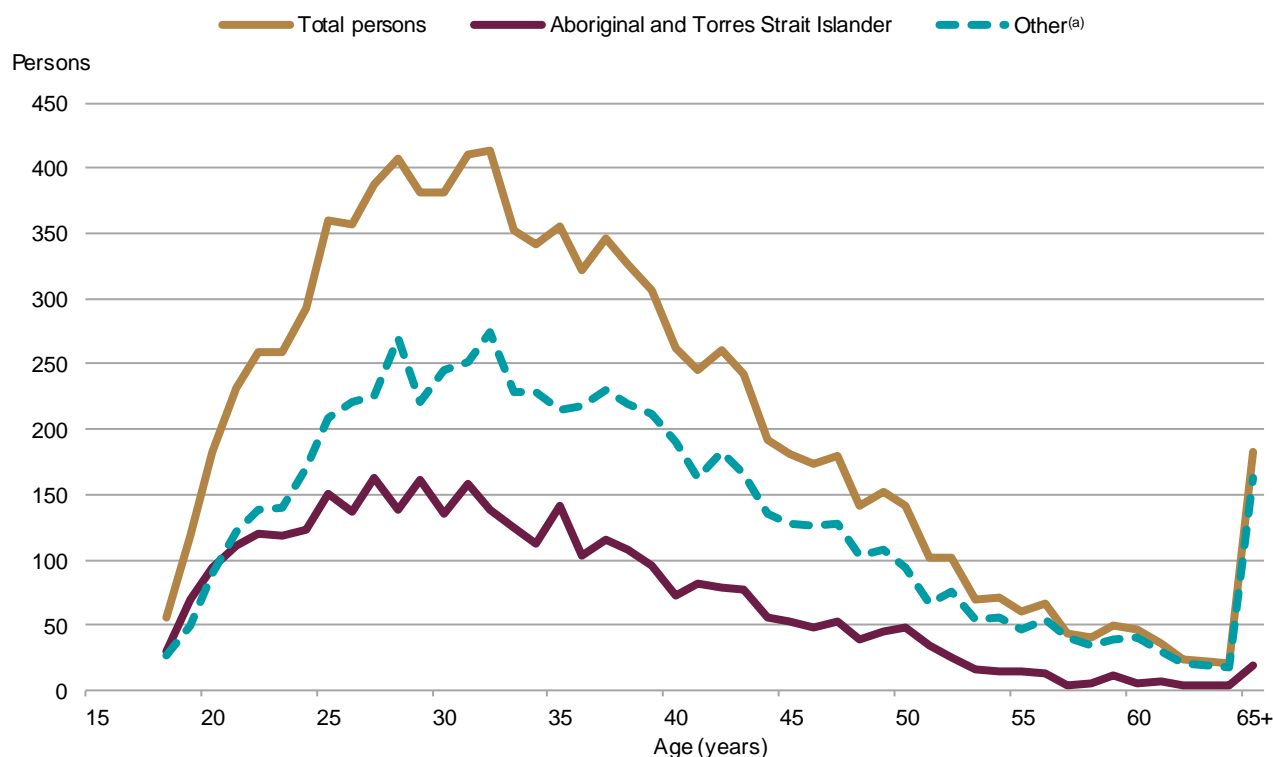
Figure 52 Adult imprisonment rates by Indigenous status and sex, as at 30 June



- (a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.
 (b) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

The age curve of all adults in prison at 30 June 2021 increases sharply with age to 28 years, and peaks at 32 years (413 persons), before decreasing to fewer than 100 adults in prison per year of age by 53 years (Figure 53).

Figure 53 Adults in prison by Indigenous status, as at 30 June 2021

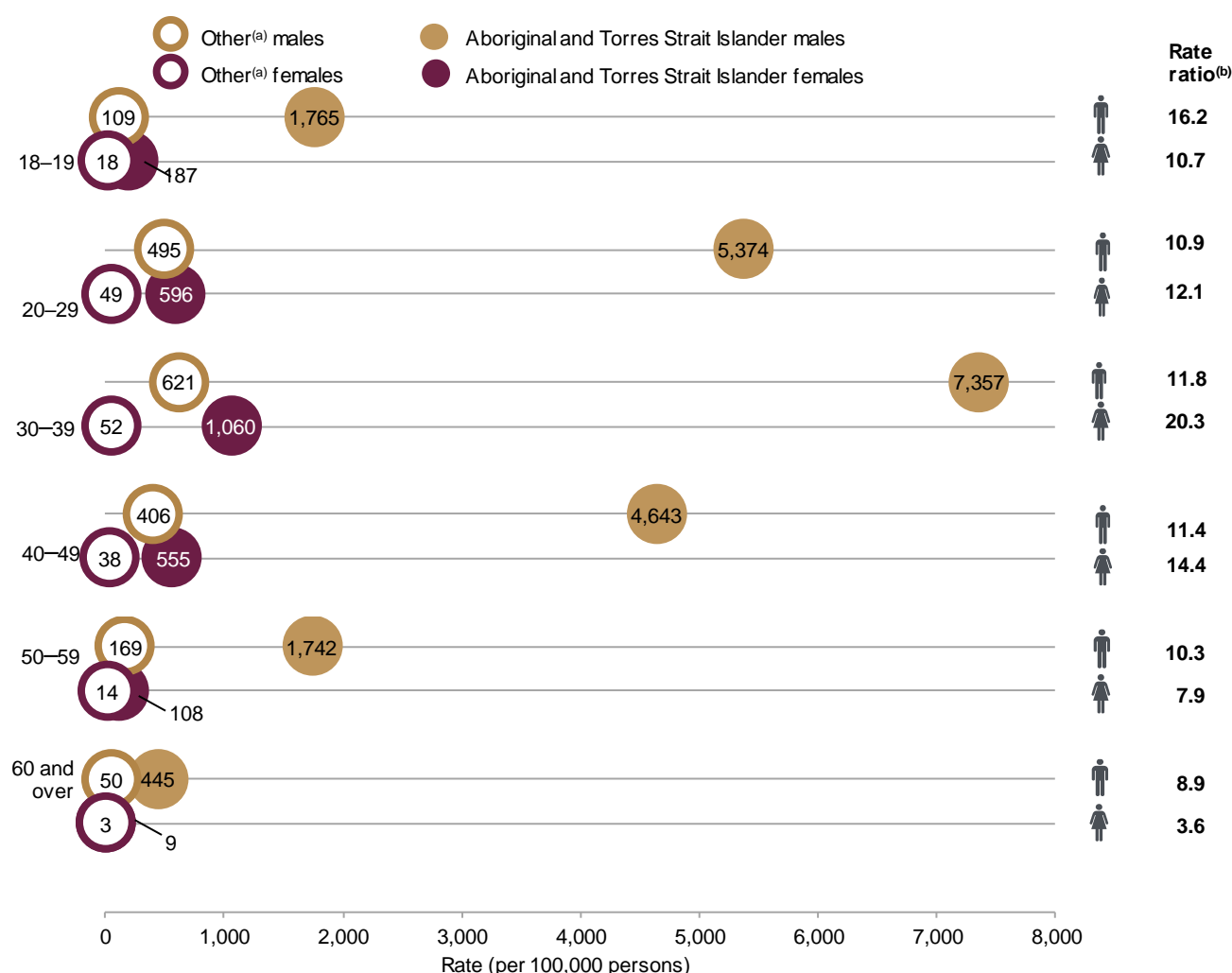


- (a) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Figure 54 shows that, when the imprisonment rate is separated into categories of sex and Indigenous status and then 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. For all groups apart from other males, the order of imprisonment rate was the same; 30–39 year age group was highest, followed by 20–29, 40–49, 18–19 and 50–59, with 60 years and over having the lowest imprisonment rate. For other males, the 50–59 year age group had a higher imprisonment rate than the 18–19 year age group.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults had imprisonment rates 10 or more times that of other adults for all age groups up to 49 years, and also 50–59 year olds for males. Other females had the lowest imprisonment rates across all age groups.

Figure 54 Adult imprisonment rates by Indigenous status, sex and age, as at 30 June 2021



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

(b) 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.

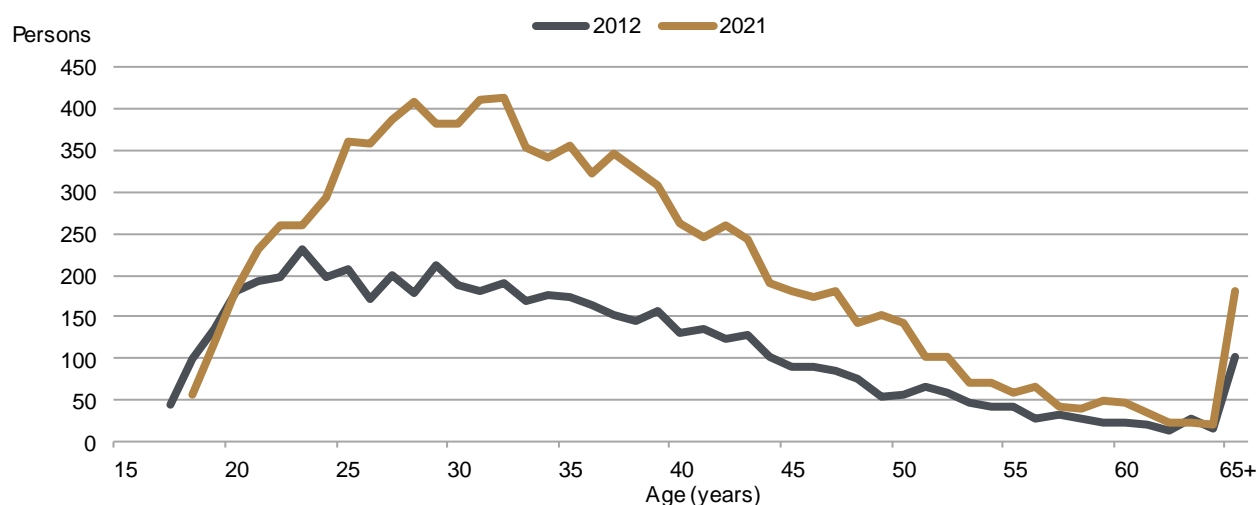
Table 68 Count and rate of adults in prison by Indigenous status, sex and age, as at 30 June 2021

Age at 30 June	18–19 yrs	20–29 yrs	30–39 yrs	40–49 yrs	50–59 yrs	60 yrs & over	18–19 years	20–29 yrs	30–39 yrs	40–49 yrs	50–59 yrs	60 yrs & over
	— persons —						— rate per 100,000 persons —					
Total persons	175	3,119	3,554	2,030	745	331	136.9	441.0	484.5	299.6	114.8	28.5
Male	156	2,829	3,207	1,833	689	315	237.3	799.8	895.7	553.0	218.8	56.7
Female	19	290	347	197	56	16	30.6	82.0	92.4	56.9	16.8	2.6
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	99	1,315	1,232	604	185	42	998.2	3,029.5	4,163.4	2,520.1	878.3	206.7
Male	90	1,188	1,073	535	173	41	1,765.1	5,373.9	7,356.9	4,642.5	1,742.0	444.8
Female	9	127	159	69	12	1	186.8	596.2	1,059.6	554.5	107.8	9.0
Other^(a)	76	1,804	2,322	1,426	560	289	64.5	271.8	329.8	218.1	89.2	25.3
Male	66	1,641	2,134	1,298	516	274	108.8	494.9	621.3	405.7	169.2	50.1
Female	10	163	188	128	44	15	17.5	49.1	52.1	38.4	13.6	2.5

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

While the number of adults in prison has increased by 78.0% (or 4,361) from 5,593 in June 2012 to 9,954 in June 2021, this increase has not been equally shared across all ages (Figure 55).

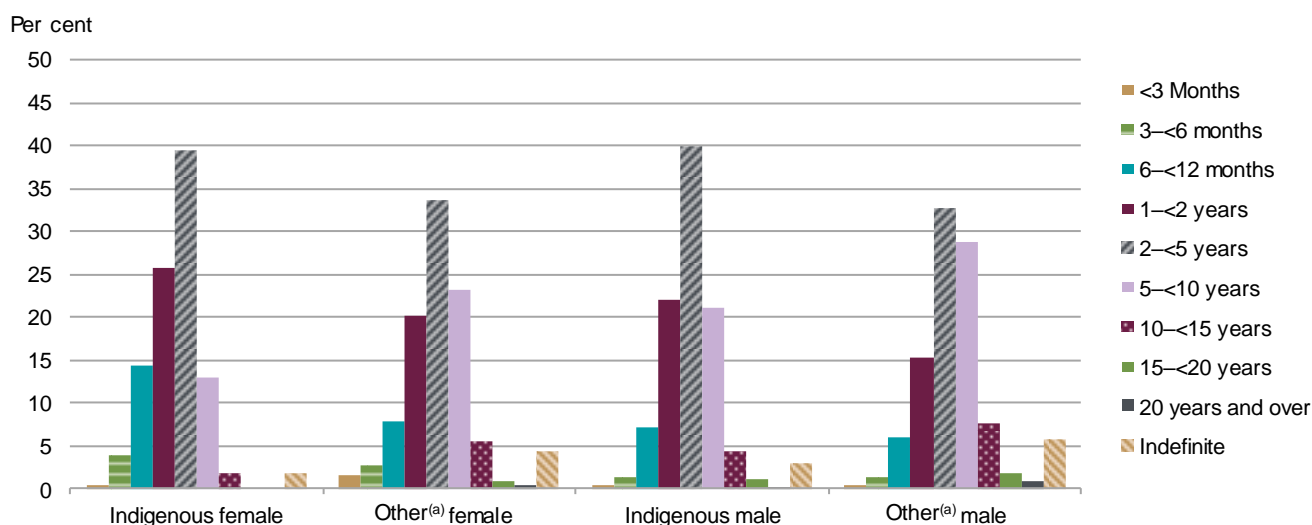
Numbers were similar between 2012 and 2021 for adults in prison up to age 23, which was the most prevalent age of prisoners in 2012 (230). In 2012, numbers began to decrease from age 23, whereas in 2021 they continued to rise to a peak at 32 years (413), with more than double the number of 32-year-olds in prison in 2021 than there was in 2012 (191).

Figure 55 Adults in prison 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners, while for other prisoners, five to less than ten years was second-most prevalent (Figure 56).

There was also a greater proportion of other males and females serving an indefinite sentence (5.7% and 4.3% respectively) than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (2.9%) and females (1.7%).

Figure 56 Proportion of sentenced prisoners by length of sentence, by Indigenous status, as at 30 June 2021

(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 2021

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	24	99	464	1,231	2,415	1,752	431	97	39	318
Male	18	81	404	1,104	2,211	1,645	409	94	38	300
Female	6	18	60	127	204	107	22	3	1	18
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	7	34	187	532	949	482	96	24	4	66
Male	6	25	153	471	855	451	92	24	4	62
Female	1	9	34	61	94	31	4	0	0	4
Other(a)	17	65	277	699	1,466	1,270	335	73	35	252
Male	12	56	251	633	1,356	1,194	317	70	34	238
Female	5	9	26	66	110	76	18	3	1	14

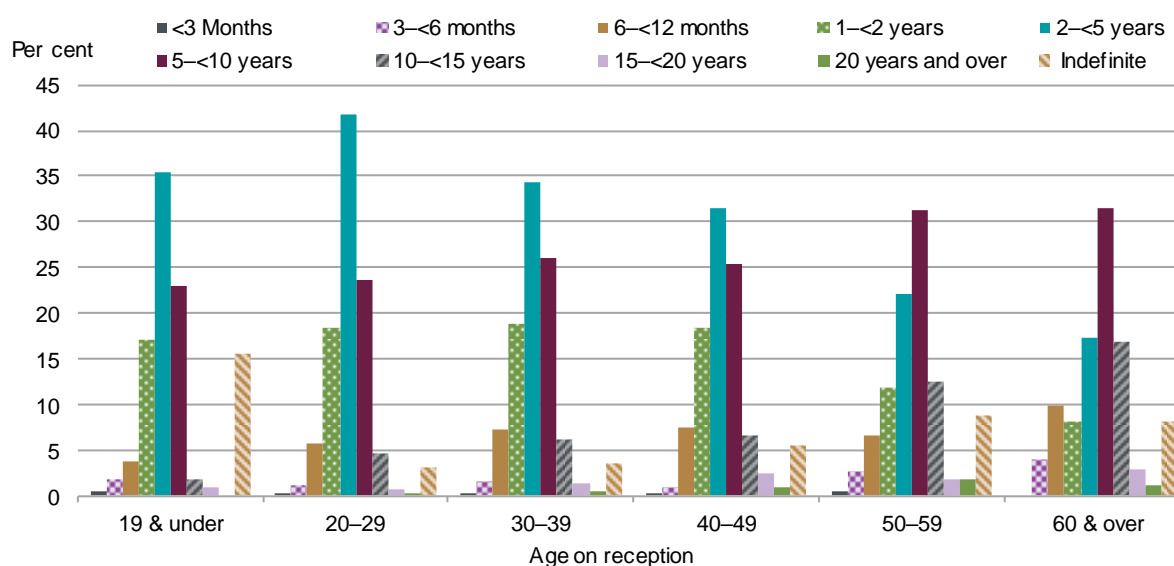
(a) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Sentenced adults in prison are serving longer sentences on average if they were older at reception. Of adults in prison who were aged 50–59 years at reception, 12.6% were serving a sentence of ten to less than fifteen years, compared with 6.1% of those aged 30–39 years at reception and 1.9% of those aged 19 and under at reception. There was a similar pattern for those serving 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 2021 (Figure 57).

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. Further, 19 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, and this has been the case every year in the time series from 2012. These indefinite sentences have been for murder or attempted murder. It should be noted that the number of prisoners in this age group is smaller than all but those aged 60 years and over.

Indefinite sentence is a sentence of imprisonment with no fixed end date that is to continue until a court orders that it be discharged or parole board approves release.

It can only be ordered for some offences, and only when a court is satisfied an offender is considered a serious danger to the community.

Figure 57 Proportion of sentenced prisoners by length of sentence^(a), by age on reception, as at 30 June 2021

(a) Aggregate sentence length as at 30 June 2021.

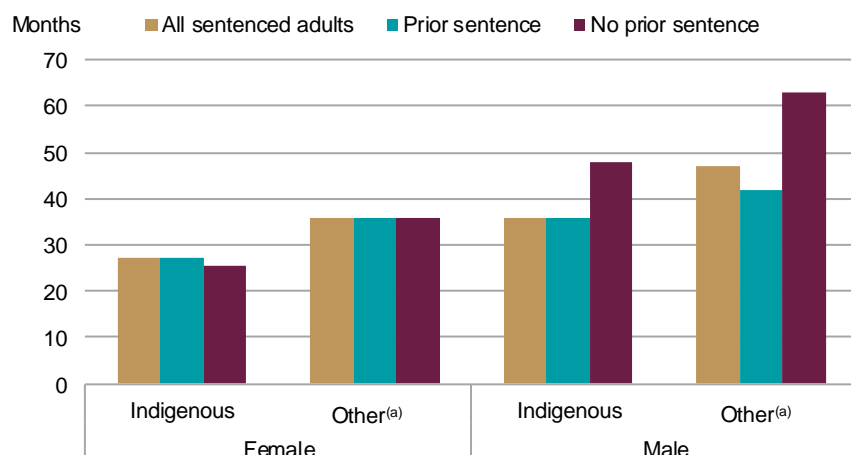
Table 70 Sentenced adult prisoners by length of sentence, by age on reception, as at 30 June 2021

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	1	8	8	5	2	0
3 to <6 months	4	26	38	13	11	7
6 to <12 months	8	135	178	97	29	17
1 to <2 years	36	433	462	235	51	14
2 to <5 yrs	75	978	836	401	95	30
5 to <10 years	49	554	636	325	134	54
10 to <15 years	4	110	148	86	54	29
15 to <20 years	2	17	34	31	8	5
20 years and over	0	6	11	12	8	2
Indefinite	33	75	87	71	38	14
Total	212	2,342	2,438	1,276	430	172

5.2.3. Median sentence length

The median sentence length varied by sex and Indigenous status, with sentenced male prisoners 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 58). Other males had the longest median sentence length (47 months), while Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females had the shortest (27 months).

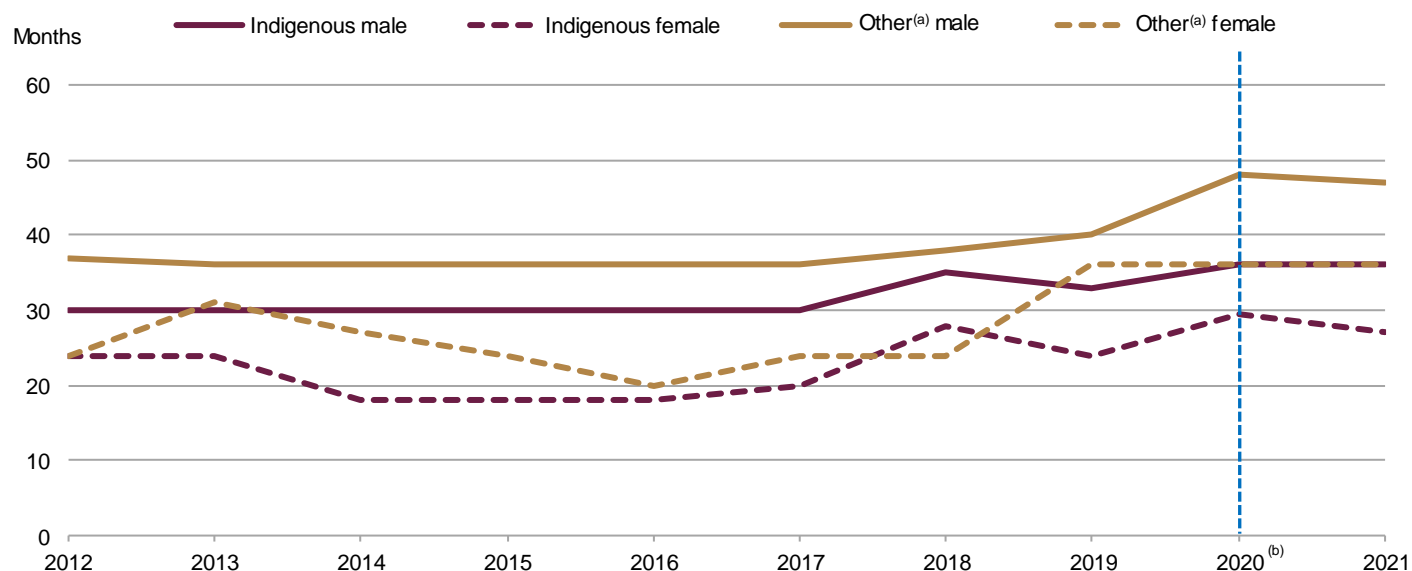
The median sentence length of males in prison who were known to have served a previous custodial sentence in Queensland was shorter than for those with no prior prison sentence. The greatest difference was seen in other males, whose median sentence length for those with no prior sentence (63 months) was 50.0% longer than for those with prior custodial sentence (42 months).

Figure 58 Median length of adult sentence by known prior custodial sentence in Queensland, as at 30 June 2021

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

After remaining steady or decreasing between 2012 and 2017, the median sentence length for sentenced adults overall has increased substantially between 2017 and 2021. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners, the median sentence length for males increased from 30 to 36 months (up 20.0%), while for females it increased from 20 to 27 months (35.0%) during that time. In comparison, the median sentence length for other prisoners increased from 36 to 47 months (30.6%) for males, and from 24 to 36 months (50.0%) for females.

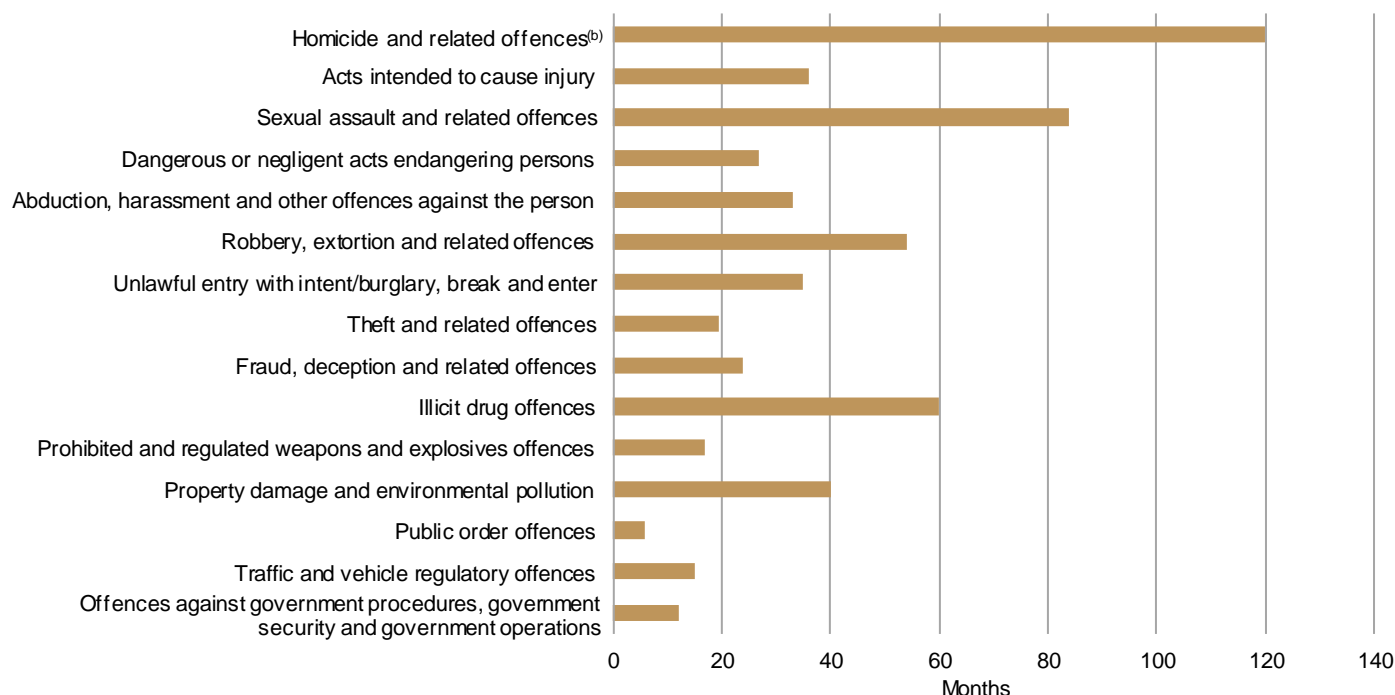
While the median sentence length for other males increased between 2019 and 2020, to which COVID-19 may have been a contributing factor, for the other groups the median sentence lengths in 2021 were at or close to the level they were in the years immediately preceding the pandemic.

Figure 59 Median length of adult sentence as at 30 June – timeseries

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

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

The median length of sentence 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 58, Figure 59 and Figure 60 as well as Table 71 which has particular impact on *homicide and related offences* (where 63.7% of sentenced adults are serving an indefinite sentence), and *sexual assault and related offences* (1.3% serving an indefinite sentence).

Figure 60 Median length of adult sentence by most serious offence^(a), as at 30 June 2021

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

(b) Indefinite sentence has been excluded from median sentence calculations. Note that nearly 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 2021

Most serious offence (MSO)	All adult prison sentences
Offence (ANZSOC division)	Months (rounded down)
Homicide and related offences ^(a)	120
Acts intended to cause injury	36
Sexual assault and related offences	84
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	27
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	33
Robbery, extortion and related offences	54
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	35
Theft and related offences	19
Fraud, deception and related offences	24
Illicit drug offences	60
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	17
Property damage and environmental pollution	40
Public order offences	6
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	15
Offences against government procedures, government security and government operations	12
All offence divisions^(b)	39

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

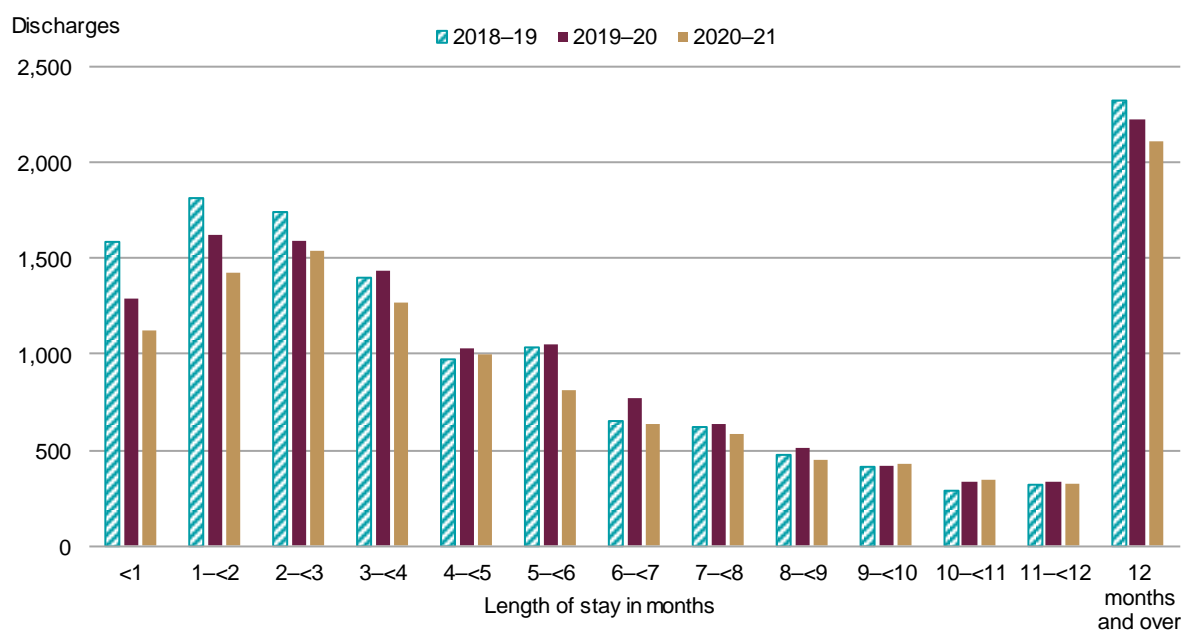
(b) *Miscellaneous offences* are excluded from the table due to low numbers but are included in 'All offence divisions'.

5.2.4. Length of stay

Three in five (59.5%) prisoners discharged during 2020–21 had a stay of less than six months, with 17.6% of those released having stayed in prison for 12 months or longer.

While there were fewer discharges overall during both 2019–20 and 2020–21 than in 2018–19, the decrease was most pronounced in shorter sentences of under 3 months. There has also been a noticeable decline in discharges from sentences of 12 months and over, over the same period.

Figure 61 Prisoner discharges^(a) by length of stay, 2020–21



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

5.3. Adults in prison – time series

5.3.1. Prisoner characteristics

The numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults in prison have increased each year over the 10-year time series (from 1,663 in June 2012 to 3,477 in June 2021) (Table 72). 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 3.7% of Queensland's total adult population.

The total adult prisoner population increased by 14.9% from 2020 to 2021 following two years of decreases. This is a 12.6% increase on the previous peak in June 2018. This increase has not been evenly distributed. The majority of the increase was in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prison population, with female prisoners increasing 29.1% and male prisoners increasing 26.4% from 2018 to 2021. Other prisoners increased at substantially lower rates—males by 6.9% and females by 0.4%. However, over the 10-year time series, the number of prisoners has increased at a greater rate for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other females (120.5% and 80.3% respectively) than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other males (107.8% and 63.5% respectively) when comparing 2021 with 2012.

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

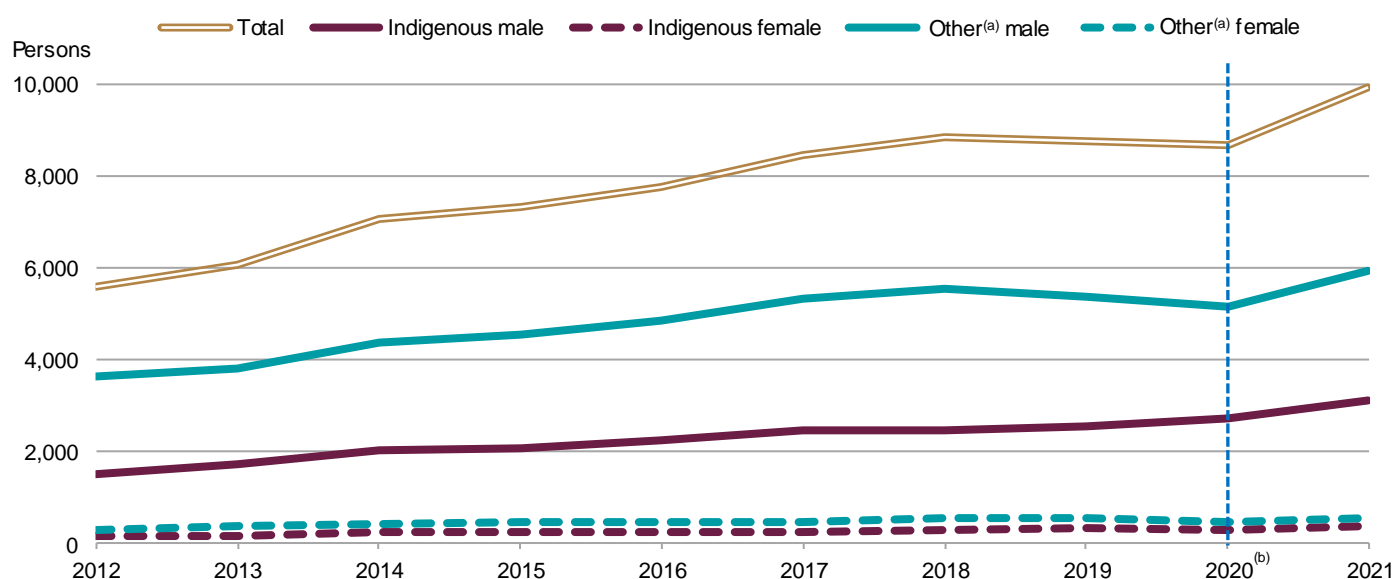
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ^(a)	2021
	— persons —									
Total persons^(b)	5,593	6,076	7,049	7,319	7,744	8,479	8,838	8,773	8,660	9,954
Male	5,118	5,540	6,380	6,612	7,062	7,781	8,000	7,917	7,895	9,029
Female	475	536	669	707	682	698	838	856	765	925
Aboriginal and Torres Strait	1,663	1,898	2,243	2,309	2,463	2,723	2,744	2,872	3,040	3,477
Male	1,492	1,722	2,013	2,071	2,226	2,469	2,452	2,561	2,736	3,100
Female	171	176	230	238	237	254	292	311	304	377
Other^(c)	3,930	4,178	4,806	5,010	5,281	5,756	6,094	5,901	5,620	6,477
Male	3,626	3,818	4,367	4,541	4,836	5,312	5,548	5,356	5,159	5,929
Female	304	360	439	469	445	444	546	545	461	548

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

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

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

Figure 62 Adults in prison as at 30 June – time series



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

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

5.3.2. Legal status

A prisoner 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 prison custody post-sentence under a *DPSOA* continuing detention order (see Glossary for more detail).

COVID-19 containment measures implemented in the last quarter of 2020 had some impact on numbers admitted to and discharged from prison, both sentenced and unsentenced. Despite a dip in 2020, likely due to the pandemic, the numbers of both male and female prisoners who are unsentenced steadily increased across the timeseries to a peak in June 2021 (2,671 males and 359 females).

The unsentenced proportion of adults in prison showed a similar pattern of increase from 2012 to 2016 for both males and females. Since 2016, the unsentenced proportion of male prisoners has remained stable (29.1% in 2016, 29.6% in 2021) while for female prisoners, the proportion who were unsentenced continued to increase each year, except in 2020. As at June 2021, 38.8% of female prisoners were unsentenced compared with 31.2% in 2016.

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

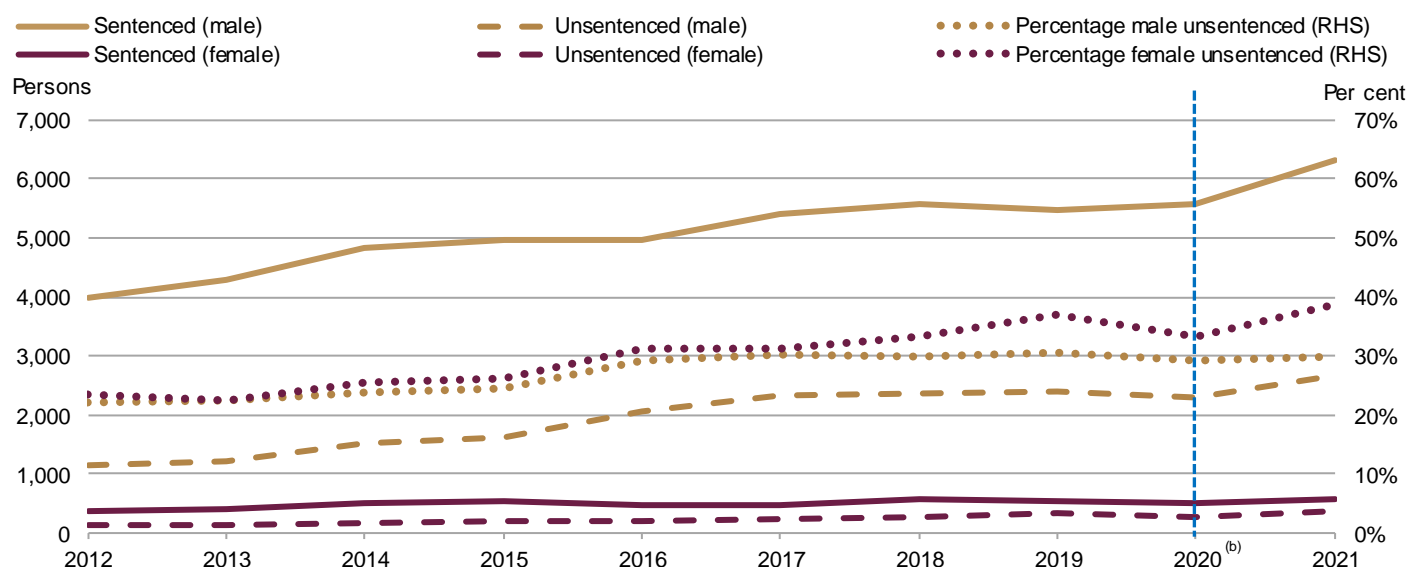
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ^(a)	2021
	— persons —									
Total persons	5,593	6,076	7,049	7,319	7,744	8,479	8,838	8,773	8,660	9,954
Sentenced	4,343	4,690	5,332	5,488	5,430	5,895	6,149	6,017	6,071	6,870
Unsentenced	1,250	1,346	1,676	1,793	2,266	2,547	2,652	2,710	2,532	3,030
DPSOA ^(b)	n.a.	40	41	38	48	37	37	46	57	54
Male	5,118	5,540	6,380	6,612	7,062	7,781	8,000	7,917	7,895	9,029
Sentenced	3,980	4,275	4,833	4,966	4,961	5,415	5,590	5,477	5,561	6,304
Unsentenced	1,138	1,225	1,506	1,608	2,053	2,329	2,373	2,394	2,277	2,671
DPSOA ^(b)	n.a.	40	41	38	48	37	37	46	57	54
Female	475	536	669	707	682	698	838	856	765	925
Sentenced	363	415	499	522	469	480	559	540	510	566
Unsentenced	112	121	170	185	213	218	279	316	255	359

n.a. = not available.

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

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

Figure 63 Adults in prison 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.

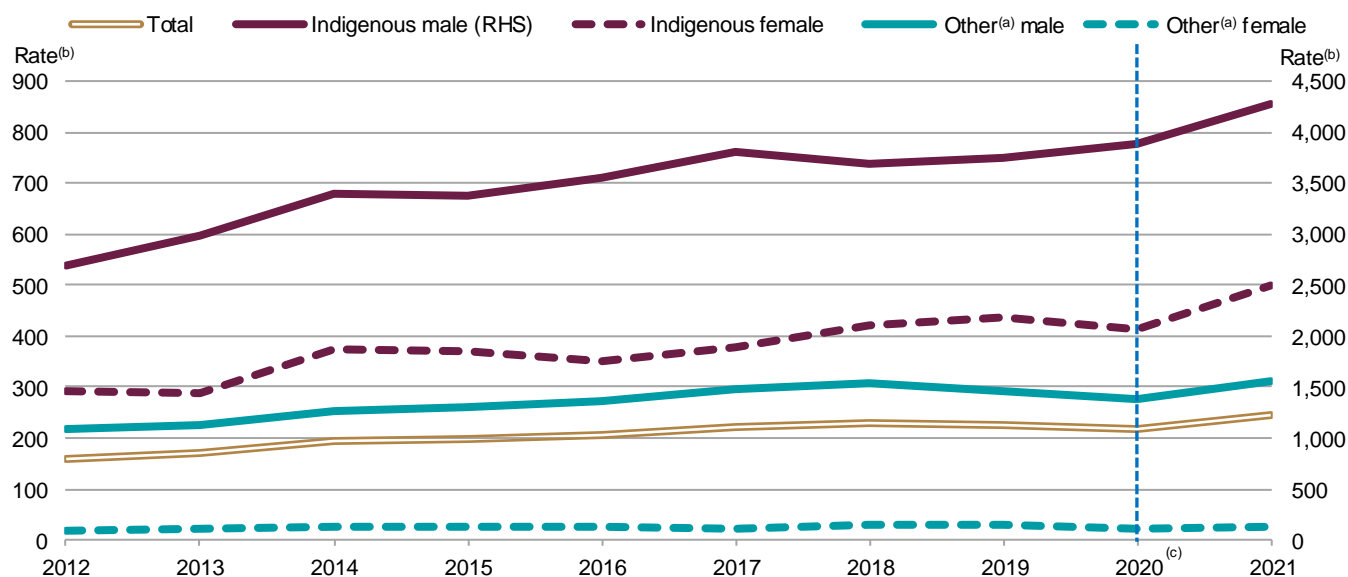
(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

5.3.3. Imprisonment rate

From June 2012 to June 2021, the imprisonment rate increased by 53.8% 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 adults increased by 59.3% for males to 4,278.0 per 100,000 persons in June 2021, while for females the rate increased by 70.7% to 497.4 per 100,000 persons. In comparison, the imprisonment rates of other males and other females grew substantially less (+43.7% and +53.6% respectively).

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 64.

Figure 64 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 DPSCA. Persons aged 17 years have been excluded from the rate calculation.

(c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

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

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ^(a)	2021
	— rate per 100,000 persons ^(b) —									
Total persons	159.6	170.0	194.2	198.7	207.4	223.3	229.7	224.0	217.2	245.3
Male	295.2	313.6	356.4	364.8	385.6	417.9	424.9	413.5	405.5	456.1
Female	26.9	29.7	36.5	37.8	35.6	36.1	42.6	42.8	37.5	44.5
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	1,452.2	1,600.2	1,842.7	1,839.1	1,910.7	2,054.7	2,020.9	2,054.8	2,111.7	2,345.1
Male	2,685.3	2,987.0	3,392.6	3,383.5	3,547.6	3,814.5	3,698.1	3,751.4	3,889.6	4,278.0
Female	291.4	289.7	372.5	370.2	349.4	377.8	419.9	434.9	412.9	497.4
Other^(c)	116.0	121.3	137.3	141.1	146.7	157.3	164.3	156.2	146.2	165.7
Male	216.4	224.1	252.9	259.9	273.6	296.1	305.6	290.0	274.9	310.9
Female	17.8	20.7	24.8	26.1	24.4	23.7	28.8	28.2	23.4	27.4

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(b) Rate is calculated per 100,000 persons aged 18 years and over. Includes all persons aged 18 years and over in prison, 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 supervised community-based corrections

Each adult serving a supervised community-based 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 supervised community-based corrections

The impact of COVID-19 containment measures implemented from March 2020 when the pandemic was declared (▲) had flow-on effects on the number of adults in supervised community-based corrections, which are best illustrated by comparing monthly data. While COVID-19 likely played a substantial role in the decrease evident at the end of 2019–20, monthly analysis showed that all order types were already below their June 2019 level when the pandemic was declared. Although most had trended upward throughout 2020–21, none had returned to the June 2019 level by June 2021. In contrast, adults on fine option orders trended steadily downwards since late 2018–19 and throughout 2019–20 and 2020–21 (see 5.5.2).

Figure 65 Adults on probation – monthly comparison

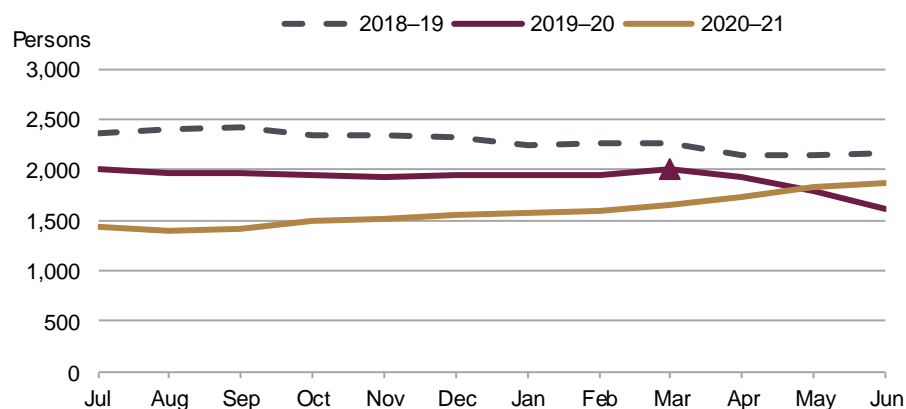


Figure 67 Adults on community service – fine option, monthly comparison

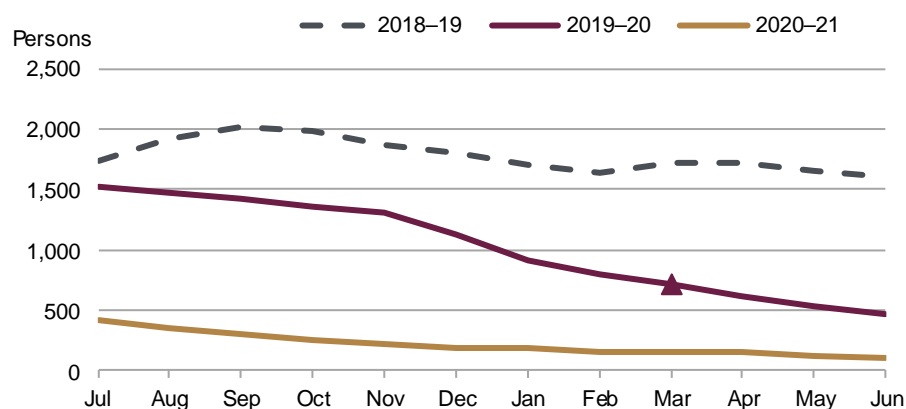


Figure 66 Adults on parole – monthly comparison

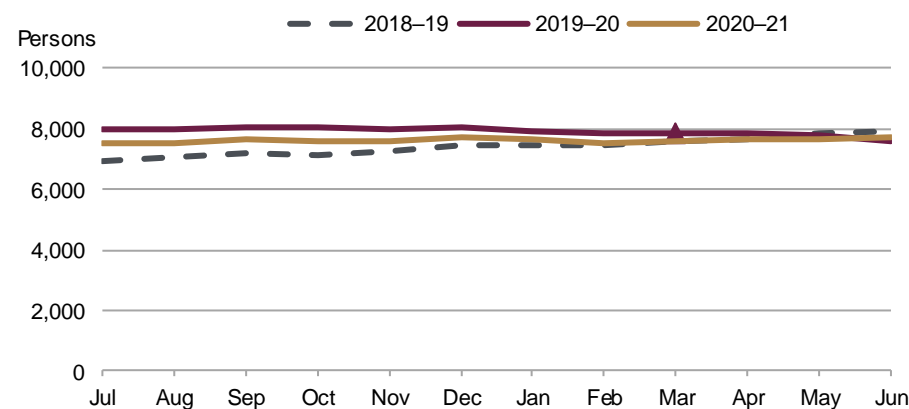
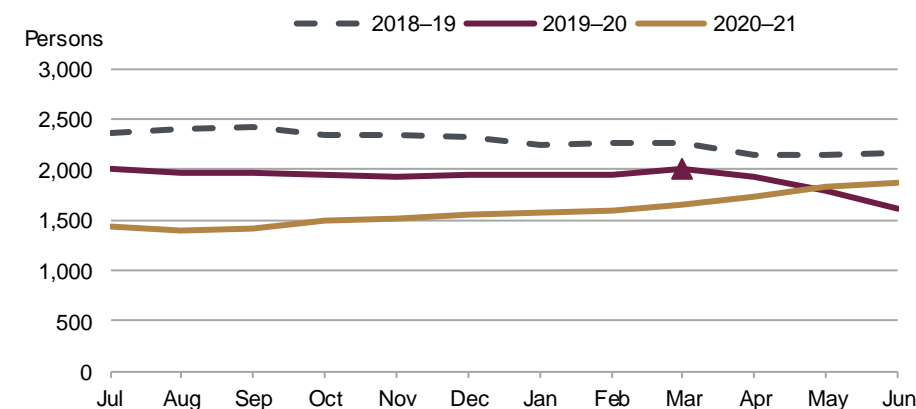


Figure 68 Adults on community service – other, monthly comparison

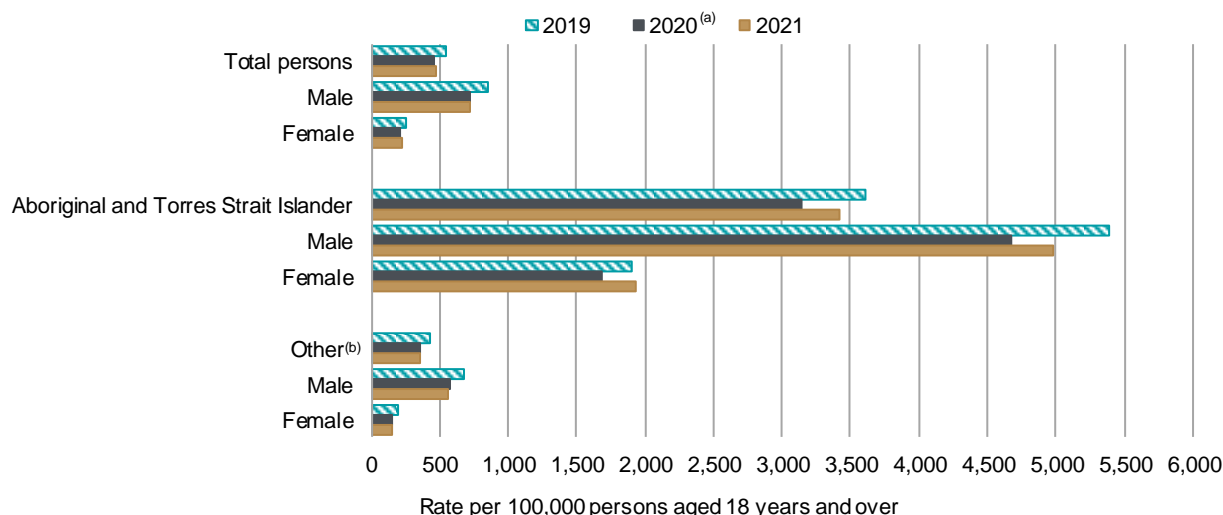


5.4.2. Offender characteristics

There were 19,058 adults serving one or more supervised community-based corrections orders on 1 June 2021 (Table 75).

As with adults in prison, the majority (75.7%) were male, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults were over-represented (3,420.3 per 100,000 persons compared with 357.8 for other adults) (Figure 69). Following a substantial drop in the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults in supervised community-based corrections between June 2019 and June 2020 (–12.8%), the rate saw a rebound in June 2021 (+8.7%). However, for other adults, the drop in rate between June 2019 and June 2020 (–16.5%) was followed by a further slight drop to June 2021 (–0.8%).

Figure 69 Rate of adults in supervised community-based corrections as at 1 June



(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

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

5.4.3. Order types

Of all unique adults serving supervised community-based corrections orders as at 1 June 2021, more than half (54.7%) were serving *probation*, with females more likely than males to be serving probation (63.5% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and 66.6% other females compared with 44.9% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and 53.3% other males). However, males were more likely than females to be serving *parole* (45.9% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and 42.8% other males, compared with 31.1% of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females and other females).

Table 75 Adults^(a) on supervised community-based corrections orders as at 1 June 2021

	Community service – fine option	Community service – other	Parole	Post-sentence supervision	Probation	Total persons on supervised community-based orders ^(b)
— persons —						
Total persons	109	1,876	7,728	133	10,425	19,058
Male	80	1,421	6,287	133	7,383	14,422
Female	29	455	1,441	0	3,042	4,636
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	66	690	2,109	54	2,548	5,071
Male	50	519	1,655	54	1,620	3,609
Female	16	171	454	0	928	1,462
Other^(c)	43	1,186	5,619	79	7,877	13,987
Male	30	902	4,632	79	5,763	10,813
Female	13	284	987	0	2,114	3,174

(a) Table presents a count of unique adults per order type, irrespective of whether an individual was serving one or more orders of that type as at 1 June 2021.

(b) Total is a count of unique adults serving one or more community-based corrections order(s) as at 1 June 2021 and does not equal the sum of unique adults on each order type.

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

5.5. Adults in supervised community-based corrections – time series

5.5.1. Offender characteristics

While the number of adults in supervised community-based corrections increased from June 2020 to June 2021 (from 18,389 to 19,058), this increase was not evenly distributed (Table 76). There was a much larger increase for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults serving supervised orders in the community (males +9.7% and females +17.8%) than for other adults (males +0.6% and females +1.9%). The numbers in all categories by sex and Indigenous status have increased every year since 2013, except for 2020, where all groups saw substantial decreases following the introduction of COVID containment measures.

The counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and other females in supervised community-based 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 from June 2017 and dropping below again in the most recent two years. The majority of adults in supervised community-based corrections throughout the time series are other males, however their proportion of the total has dropped from 62.7% in 2012 to 56.7% in 2021.

While the total number of adults serving supervised community-based orders increased by 25.7% in June 2021 compared with June 2012, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females has increased by three times that (78.3% increase) over the same period, from 820 to 1,462.

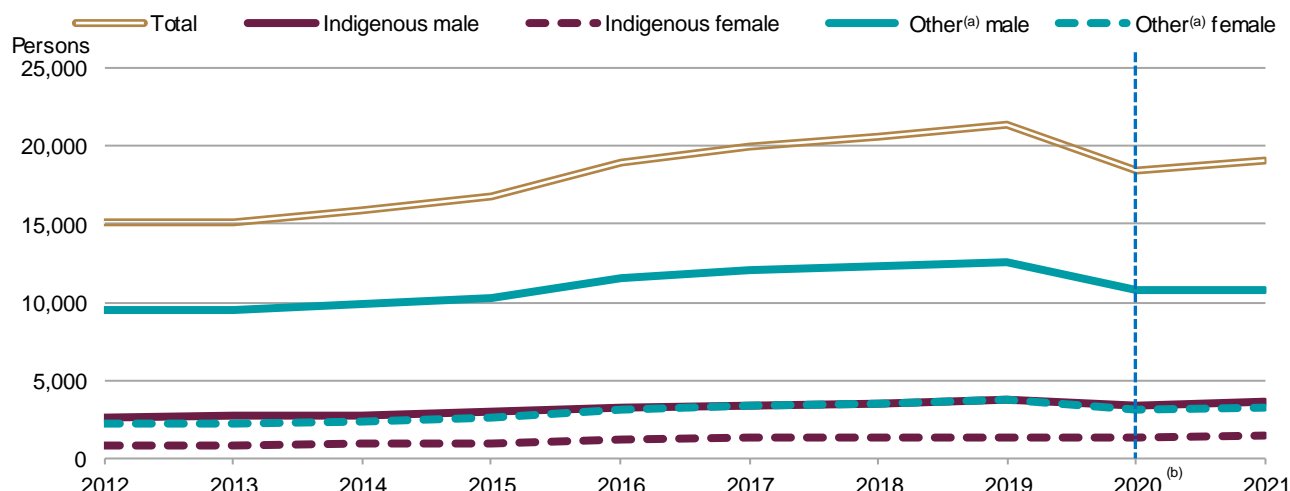
Table 76 Adults in supervised community-based corrections by Indigenous status and sex, as at 1 June – time series

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ^(a)	2021
	— persons —									
Total persons	15,162	15,158	15,903	16,778	18,919	19,928	20,575	21,347	18,389	19,058
Male	12,116	12,104	12,638	13,211	14,734	15,316	15,758	16,297	14,033	14,422
Female	3,046	3,054	3,265	3,567	4,185	4,612	4,817	5,050	4,356	4,636
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	3,437	3,485	3,673	3,853	4,332	4,568	4,745	5,042	4,530	5,071
Male	2,617	2,664	2,761	2,906	3,200	3,308	3,427	3,683	3,289	3,609
Female	820	821	912	947	1,132	1,260	1,318	1,359	1,241	1,462
Other^(b)	11,725	11,673	12,230	12,925	14,587	15,360	15,830	16,305	13,859	13,987
Male	9,499	9,440	9,877	10,305	11,534	12,008	12,331	12,614	10,744	10,813
Female	2,226	2,233	2,353	2,620	3,053	3,352	3,499	3,691	3,115	3,174

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

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

Figure 70 Adults in supervised community-based 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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

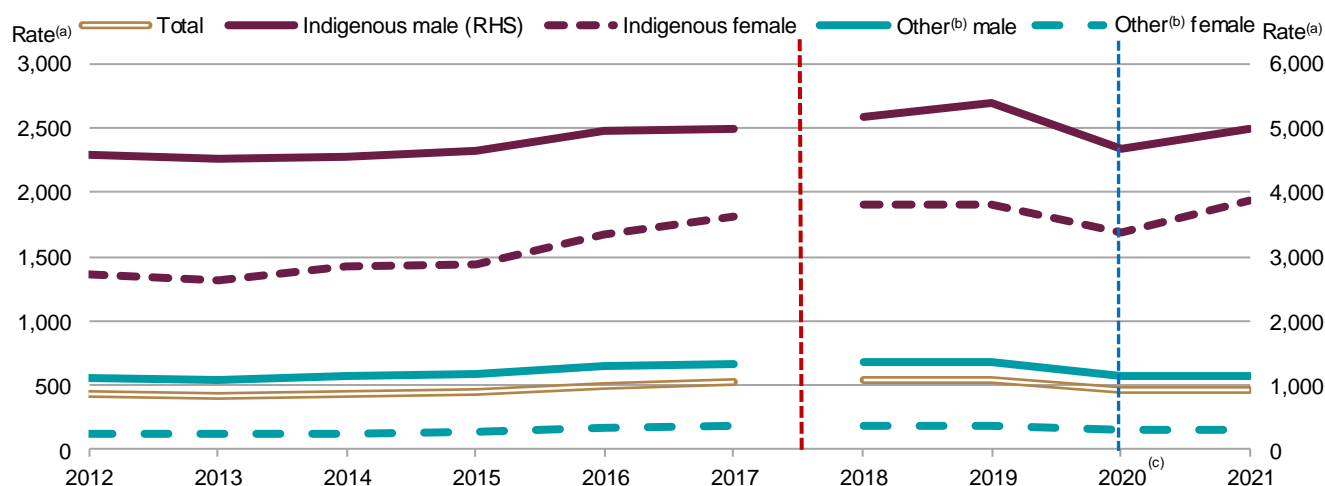
5.5.2. Rate of adults in supervised community-based corrections

There is a break in time series with this measure, due to the change in legislation relating to youth justice, with rates for 2012 to 2017 including those who offended aged 17 years, while those for 2018 to 2021 representing only those aged 18 years and over. This has had minimal apparent impact on the patterns of the rates, however caution should be used when comparing rates across the time series. While the rates are not directly comparable, there was very little change (+5.3%) in rate from beginning to end of the time series for males (728.6 per 100,000 persons in 2021 compared with 692.0 in 2012), whereas there was a large increase (+31.0%) for females (223.1 per 100,000 in 2021 from 170.3 in 2012).

For all groups except Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females, 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 2021, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females serving supervised community-based orders increased by 6.5% and 14.4% respectively, taking Indigenous females to their highest rate in the time series (1,928.8 per 100,000 persons). The rate for other males decreased by 1.0% while for other females remained stable.

Note that due to the large difference in rates between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males only and the remaining supervised community-based corrections population, this group has been plotted to a different scale (RHS) in Figure 71.

Figure 71 Rate of adults serving supervised community-based 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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Table 77 Rate of adults in supervised community-based corrections as at 1 June – time series

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^(a)	2019	2020 ^(b)	2021
	— rate per 100,000 persons ^(c) —									
Total persons	428.4	420.1	434.1	451.9	502.1	519.3	535.3	545.0	461.2	469.7
Male	692.0	678.7	699.2	722.7	796.2	813.4	837.6	851.1	720.7	728.6
Female	170.3	167.4	175.9	189.3	218.3	236.0	245.4	252.3	213.6	223.1
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	2,925.4	2,880.0	2,948.4	3,005.1	3,281.6	3,355.6	3,503.5	3,607.3	3,146.7	3,420.3
Male	4,584.3	4,522.4	4,546.1	4,643.0	4,961.9	4,969.6	5,181.3	5,395.0	4,675.7	4,980.4
Female	1,357.5	1,322.0	1,428.5	1,443.0	1,676.6	1,811.3	1,902.0	1,900.6	1,685.7	1,928.8
Other^(d)	342.6	334.7	345.6	360.6	401.2	415.0	426.9	431.7	360.6	357.8
Male	560.8	547.4	565.4	583.7	645.8	661.1	679.3	683.1	572.5	567.0
Female	128.8	126.7	131.3	144.0	165.1	177.8	184.8	191.2	158.4	158.5

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

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(c) Rates have been calculated per 100,000 persons aged 17 years and over as at 1 June for 2012–2017, and 18 years and over as at 1 June for 2018–2021.

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

5.5.3. Order types

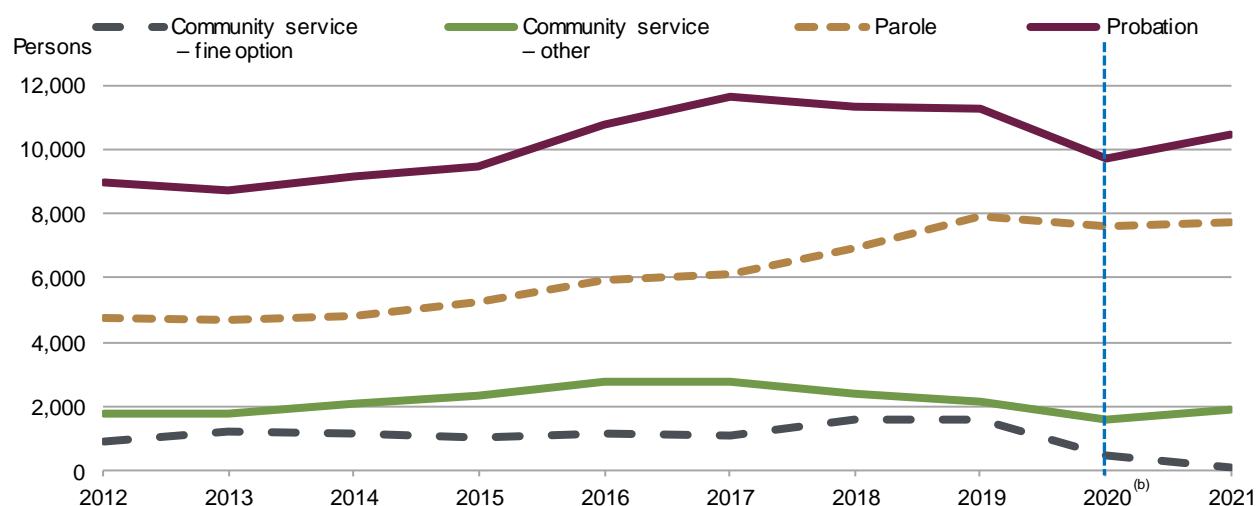
All supervised community-based order types experienced an increase at 1 June 2021 compared with 1 June 2020, with the exception of *community service – fine option* which continued to decrease from the peak in 2018, dropping 76.7% from 1 June 2020. A large proportion of that reduction was driven by the phased discontinuation of QCS supervision of State Penalties Enforcement Registry (SPER) work development orders.

Probation was consistently the most prevalent order type over the time series. The number of adults serving probation increased moderately from June 2012 (8,990) to June 2015 (9,486). Numbers then rose by 2,134 (+22.5%) between June 2015 and June 2017 to a peak of 11,620 serving probation, before the drop between June 2019 and June 2020. While the number on probation increased in June 2021 compared with June 2020, there were fewer people on probation (10,425) than there were in June from 2016 to 2019.

The number of adults on *parole* trended upwards over the first seven years of the 10-year time series and was 63.3% higher in June 2021 (7,728) compared with June 2012 (4,733). Parole has remained steady for the last three years.

Community service – other has fluctuated between a low in 2012 (1,757) and a high in 2016 (2,787), with recent decreases to another low in June 2020 (1,605). While the numbers on community service – other increased over the year to June 2021 (1,876), it was still 32.7% below the 2016 peak.

Figure 72 Adults on supervised community-based 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) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Table 78 Adults^(a) on supervised community-based corrections orders by order type, as at 1 June – time series

Order type	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ^(b)	2021
— persons —										
Community service – fine option	922	1,204	1,148	1,047	1,156	1,110	1,609	1,604	468	109
Community service – other	1,757	1,758	2,093	2,336	2,787	2,785	2,401	2,155	1,605	1,876
Parole	4,733	4,702	4,796	5,242	5,922	6,128	6,908	7,934	7,622	7,728
DPSOA ^(c)	n.a.	88	99	94	101	114	129	138	127	133
Probation	8,990	8,691	9,181	9,486	10,783	11,620	11,327	11,276	9,692	10,425
Total persons on supervised community-based orders ^(d)	15,162	15,158	15,903	16,778	18,919	19,928	20,575	21,347	18,389	19,058

n.a. = not available

(a) Table presents a count of unique adults per order type, irrespective of whether an individual was serving one or more orders of that type as at 1 June 2021.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

(c) 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.

(d) Total is a count of unique adults serving one or more community-based corrections order(s) as at 1 June, and does not equal the sum of unique adults on each order type.

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
DCYJMA	Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs
DJAG	Department of Justice and Attorney-General
DPSCA	<i>Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003</i>
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.

(Supervised) community-based corrections (adult): refers to the supervised 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 *DPSCA 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 (for adults) or youth detention centre. For youth, custody data also includes police watchhouses.

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.

DPSCA 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 (not adjudicated), or a not guilty finding by the court (acquitted).

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; imprisonment for a period of "rise", which means the (adult) 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 (rounded down). 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 2021.

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, August 2021, and are subject to change.

Youth justice data, including unique child defendants and offenders, and supervised youth justice orders have been sourced from DCYJMA unpublished data.

Data were current at the time of extraction, August 2021, and are subject to change.

Corrective services data, including prison and community-based corrections, have been sourced from QCS unpublished data, including those collected for the National Prisoner Census. Data were current at the time of extraction July 2021 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 taken at midnight on 30 June, over a ten-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 2020–21 financial year.

Adults in community-based corrections: counts from administrative data of adults serving supervised 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 to 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:

$$\frac{\text{number of xxxxxx}}{\text{ERP}} \times 100,000$$

using the average ERP for the reference year (e.g. average of [ERP as at 30 June 2020 plus ERP as at 30 June 2021] for the 2020–21 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 for 2020–21.

For adult 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 youth justice 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 2011–12 to 2020–21.

