

QUEENSLAND TREASURY

Justice report, Queensland, 2021–22

Criminal justice statistics

Acknowledgement of Country

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Queensland Government Statistician's Office

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1.0 Introduction

The *Justice report, Queensland, 2021–22* 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, 2021–22*, 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 2021–22 edition is the fifth 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 featured 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 this report is the 2021–22 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

While the Australian border remained closed for the first half of 2021–22, the Queensland state border was intermittently opened and closed to other states and territories, depending on COVID-19 activity at the time. From mid-December 2021, Queensland borders re-opened fully for domestic travellers, followed closely by international visitors from January 2022. These changes lead to a boost in the state's population growth rate to 2.0% over the reporting period. This increase comprised net interstate migration of 55,418 persons, net overseas migration of 23,430 persons, and 27,647 through natural increase.¹

In April 2022, the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020* expired, marking the cessation of modifications made to Queensland law in response to the pandemic. With borders reopening and social restrictions gradually discontinued over 2021–22, police were able to fully resume their non-COVID related duties, including previously suspended police tasks such as roadside drink and drug driving tests. Numbers and rates of people dealt with in the courts continued to diverge from pre-pandemic numbers, resulting in some flow-on effect on corrective services admissions and discharges, and the distribution of legal status of those in prisons during and since that time.

While the COVID-19 pandemic remained an ongoing event, both globally and nationally in 2021–22, the social restrictions and border closures were progressively lifted, and Queensland returned to a '*business as usual*' phase of the pandemic.

Readers are advised when considering the statistics in this report, that comparisons with figures in periods before the pandemic was declared must be made with caution.

1.2. Change to police recording of offences in Queensland

From 1 July 2021, a change in recording practices was implemented by the Queensland Police Service, requiring police officers to now record all criminal offences associated with domestic and family violence (DFV) incidents that come to their attention. A flow-on effect to courts, and subsequently corrective services, is likely to occur due to the change in recording practice, although its specific contribution to any increases is difficult to quantify.

Several other factors which may contribute to an increase in persons in the criminal justice system due to domestic and family violence include: increased public awareness of DFV, including through reports such as *Hear her voice*; improved mechanisms for reporting DFV; media coverage; cultural changes; population growth; natural variation; and the delivery of the *Queensland Government's DFV prevention strategy 2016–2026*.

It should be noted, however, that not all DFV-related offences recorded by police proceed to prosecution in court or contact with corrective services. Indeed, in many instances and for a variety of reasons, alleged victims decline to support prosecution and the charge is subsequently withdrawn.

¹ Sourced from ABS, National, state and territory population, June 2022 (Quarterly Population Estimates (ERP), by State/Territory, Sex and Age)

1.3. 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.

Adjudicated: criminal proceedings resulting in a judgement or decision made by the court – convicted (guilty) or not convicted (acquitted). Conversely, 'not adjudicated' refers to matters which are considered to have been finalised (where all matters were withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication) even though a judgement has not been handed down by the court.

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 for offences committed when the offender was of child age. 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 adjudication, or by 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 The transition of 17-year-old offenders to youth justice from 12 February 2018 (red line)

2019–20 Declaration on 11 March 2020 of the COVID-19 global pandemic (blue line).

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

2.0 Criminal justice, Queensland, 2021–22 and compared with 2020–21

Convicted court appearances



Total 115,028 ▼14.9%



Adult 108,581 ▼15.3%



Child 6,447 ▼8.3%

Convicted charges



Total 347,588 ▼13.7%

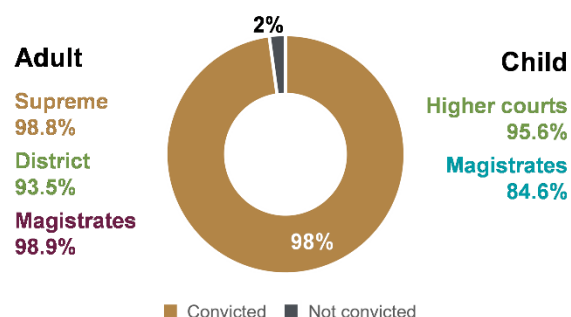


Adult 311,406 ▼14.3%

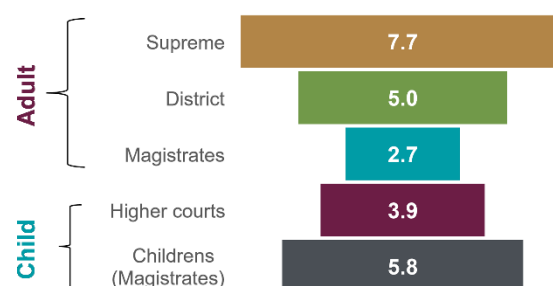


Child 36,182 ▼8.6%

Adjudicated appearance outcomes % convicted



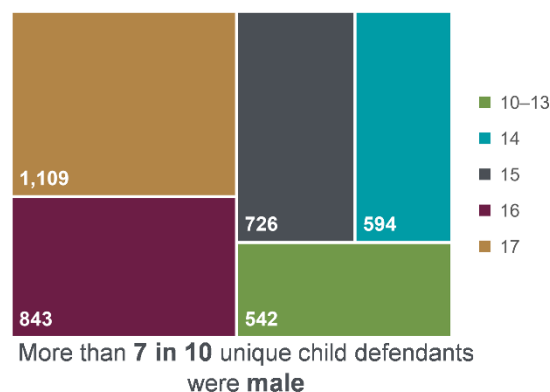
Average convicted charges per appearance



Adjudicated appearances by age at appearance

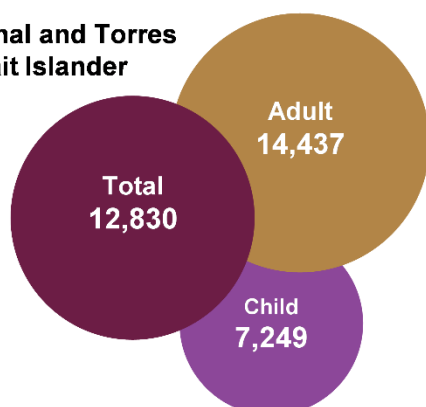


Unique child defendants by age at offence

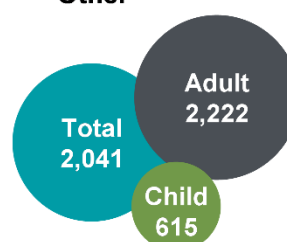


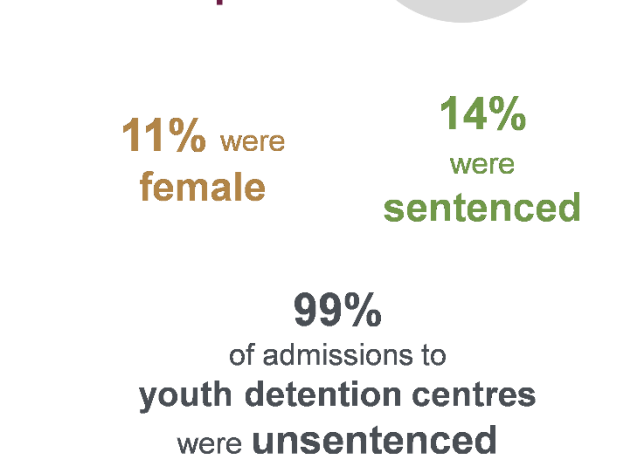
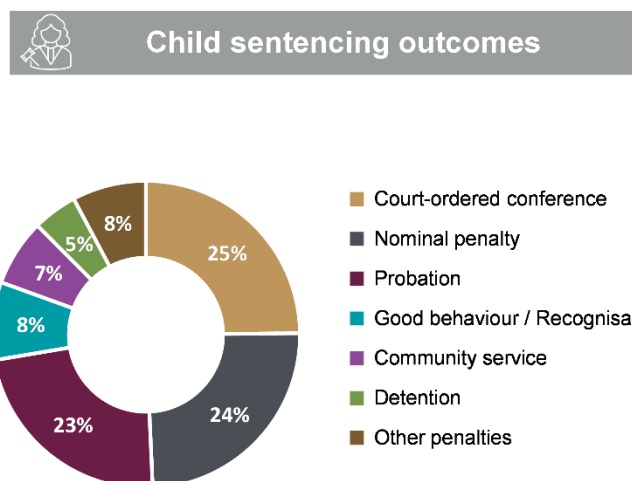
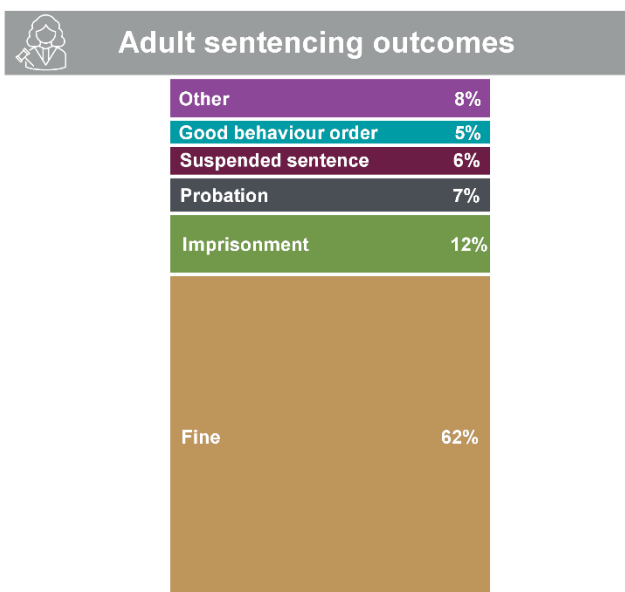
Convicted appearances rate per 100,000 persons

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



Other





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 appearances² – All courts	2020–21	2021–22	% change	
Total appearances	151,644	129,708	–14.5	↓
Adult courts ³	142,278	121,042	–14.9	↓
Appearances resulting in conviction (%)	90.1%	89.7%	–0.4ppt	↓
Children's courts ⁴	9,366	8,666	–7.5	↓
Appearances resulting in conviction (%)	75.0%	74.4%	–0.6ppt	↓
by defendant characteristics⁵				
Male	112,170	96,722	–13.8	↓
Female	38,884	32,467	–16.5	↓
Company	267	233	–12.7	↓
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (% of total person defendants)	21.0%	21.5%	0.5ppt	↑
Finalised charges – All courts				
Total charges proven				
Adult courts ³	363,300	311,406	–14.3	↓
Children's courts ⁴	39,591	36,182	–8.6	↓

ppt = percentage point

In 2021–22:



Finalised person appearances and charges

- In the 129,475 finalised person appearances, three in four defendants were male (74.9%), and one in five defendants identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (21.5%).
- Overall, *illicit drug offences* and *traffic and regulatory offences* showed the most significant decreases as most serious offence (MSO) in convicted appearances, compared with 2020–21 (–6,078 and –5,121 appearances respectively).

Finalised person appearances – Adults

- In nine of 10 finalised appearances (89.7%), the defendant was found guilty of at least one charge.
- One in six convicted appearances (17.7%) resulted in a custodial sentence (*imprisonment* and/or *partially* or *wholly suspended sentence*).
- Despite the decrease since 2020–21, the most prevalent MSO (30.2%) was *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences*, with the majority (91.9%) receiving a fine as most serious penalty.

Finalised person appearances – Children

- In almost half (47.0%) of all finalised child appearances, the defendant identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- In three of four finalised child appearances (74.4%), the defendant was found guilty of at least one charge.
- Of all convicted child appearances, *theft and related offences* was the most prevalent MSO (23.0% or 1,483), with more than a third of those (33.4% or 495) receiving a *nominal* penalty.⁶

² Finalised appearances include both those which have been adjudicated in court and those not adjudicated.

³ Represents appearances/charges in the adult courts system. Includes appearances and charges where the defendant was a company or organisation.

⁴ Represents appearances/charges in the children's courts. Since February 2018, offenders aged 10–17 years (previously 10–16 years) are dealt with as children in Queensland's criminal justice system.

⁵ Appearances where the defendant's sex is not stated are not included here.

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

3.1. Overview

This section presents summary statistics about finalised appearances and charges in Queensland criminal courts, and the characteristics of adult (including company) and child defendants related to those appearances. Time series data are also included for the 10 years from 2012–13 to 2021–22.

Method of finalisation

In this report, and going forward, **finalised appearances and charges are presented by the method of finalisation and outcome**, i.e. whether they were adjudicated (resulting in a judgement or decision made by the court as to whether or not the defendant is guilty) or not adjudicated (including where the prosecution has discontinued proceedings). Such cases may, in some instances, be replaced by a new case with amended charges.

Matters which are committed to a higher court for trial/sentence or transferred to another jurisdiction are not considered finalised at that point. Those which are finalised in another or higher court during the reference period are presented in the relevant statistics.

Figure 1 Appearances by outcome, all courts, 2021–22

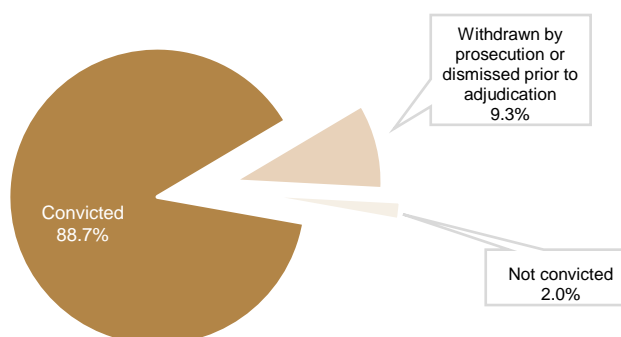
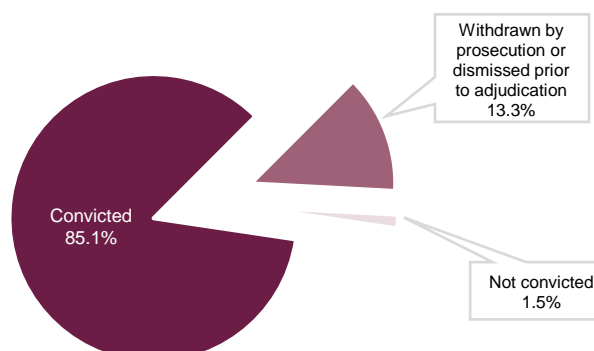


Figure 2 Charges by outcome, all courts, 2021–22



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, meaning 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 have been 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.

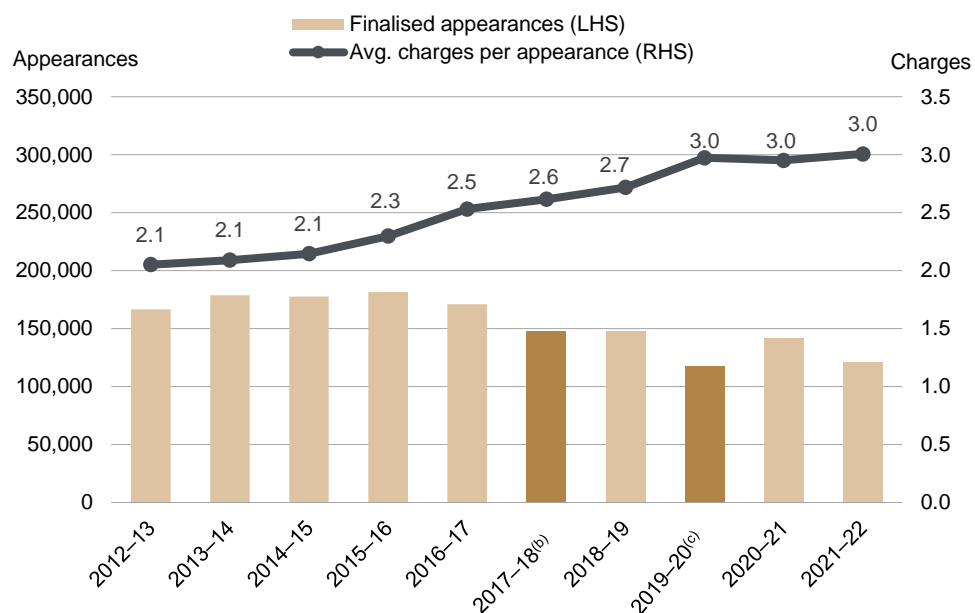
Rates in this section are presented per 100,000 persons, for both adults and children. (See *Counting methodology* in Explanatory notes.)

3.1.1. All courts summary

Finalised appearances and charges include both those which were finalised by adjudication and those which were withdrawn by prosecution or dismissed prior to adjudication (i.e. not adjudicated).

The number of finalised appearances decreased for both adults and children in 2021–22 compared with the previous year. Finalised adult appearances declined to a similar level seen in 2019–20, and were at their second-lowest level in the 10-year time series. While the number of finalised adult appearances has been trending downwards since 2015–16, the ratio of charges per appearance has been steadily increasing before stabilising at around 3.0 from 2019–20. For finalised child appearances, the ratio fluctuated between 3.6 and 4.0 before increasing to 4.2 when 17-year-old offenders began to be dealt with in the Children's Court. In 2019–20, the increased ratio reflects the smaller number of finalised appearances due to COVID disruptions, when more serious cases were prioritised over those less serious. However, the ratio increased further in 2020–21 to 5.1 charges per appearance, and has remained at that level since.

Figure 3 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 into 2021–22.

Figure 4 Finalised child appearances and average charges per appearance, all courts – time series

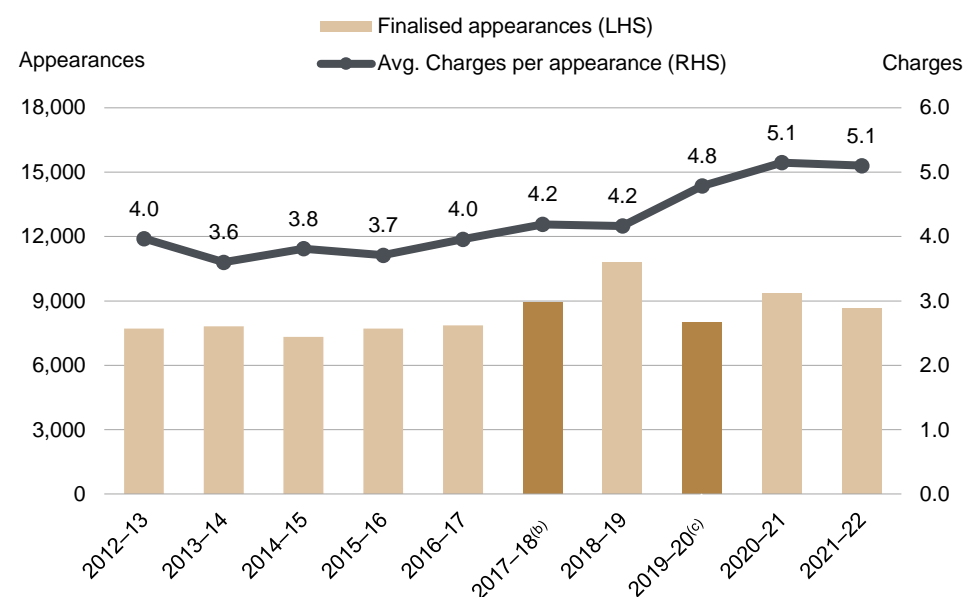


Table 1 Finalised appearances by court type and outcome – time series

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
Court system / type	— number —									
Adult^(c)	166,718	178,881	177,698	181,594	171,018	147,569	148,348	117,355	142,278	121,042
Supreme Court	739	639	761	967	1,340	1,587	1,426	1,379	1,369	1,312
Adjudicated	577	512	620	775	1,110	1,371	1,209	1,197	1,177	1,152
Convicted	566	492	603	757	1,084	1,342	1,197	1,180	1,158	1,138
Not convicted ^(d)	11	20	17	18	26	29	12	17	19	14
Not adjudicated ^(e)	162	127	141	192	230	216	217	182	192	160
District Court	4,138	4,169	4,394	4,558	5,091	5,355	5,882	5,422	5,104	5,396
Adjudicated	3,375	3,436	3,606	3,669	4,169	4,455	4,807	4,478	4,183	4,436
Convicted	3,108	3,159	3,355	3,378	3,853	4,128	4,443	4,188	3,810	4,148
Not convicted ^(d)	267	277	251	291	316	327	364	290	373	288
Not adjudicated ^(e)	763	733	788	889	922	900	1,075	944	921	960
Magistrates Court	161,841	174,073	172,543	176,069	164,587	140,627	141,040	110,554	135,805	114,334
Adjudicated	151,818	163,205	160,532	163,658	152,048	130,551	130,459	101,111	124,461	104,452
Convicted	150,450	161,775	159,042	162,096	150,619	129,221	129,212	100,091	123,222	103,295
Not convicted ^(d)	1,368	1,430	1,490	1,562	1,429	1,330	1,247	1,020	1,239	1,157
Not adjudicated ^(e)	10,023	10,868	12,011	12,411	12,539	10,076	10,581	9,443	11,344	9,882
Child	7,707	7,811	7,319	7,713	7,859	8,934	10,800	7,989	9,366	8,666
Higher courts^(f)	465	467	374	381	444	451	745	812	631	646
Adjudicated	387	393	300	318	346	367	585	707	556	564
Convicted	370	375	285	304	328	351	572	681	543	539
Not convicted ^(d)	17	18	15	14	18	16	13	26	13	25
Not adjudicated ^(e)	78	74	74	63	98	84	160	105	75	82
Childrens Court (Magistrates)	7,242	7,344	6,945	7,332	7,415	8,483	10,055	7,177	8,735	8,020
Adjudicated	6,604	6,664	6,262	6,561	6,717	7,500	8,932	6,220	7,577	6,983
Convicted	6,192	6,313	5,943	6,143	6,075	6,702	7,755	5,238	6,485	5,908
Not convicted ^(d)	412	351	319	418	642	798	1,177	982	1,092	1,075
Not adjudicated ^(e)	638	680	683	771	698	983	1,123	957	1,158	1,037
Total	174,425	186,692	185,017	189,307	178,877	156,503	159,148	125,344	151,644	129,708
Person appearances	173,692	186,021	184,425	188,664	178,258	156,104	158,789	125,077	151,377	129,475
Adjudicated	162,316	173,825	170,945	174,548	163,978	143,949	145,708	113,531	137,760	117,419
Convicted	160,263	171,744	168,870	172,264	161,550	141,465	142,903	111,206	135,028	114,869
Not convicted ^(d)	2,053	2,081	2,075	2,284	2,428	2,484	2,805	2,325	2,732	2,550
Not adjudicated ^(e)	11,376	12,196	13,480	14,116	14,280	12,155	13,081	11,546	13,617	12,056
Company appearances^(g)	733	671	592	643	619	399	359	267	267	233
Adjudicated	445	385	375	433	412	295	284	182	194	168
Convicted	423	370	358	414	409	279	276	172	190	159
Not convicted ^(d)	22	15	17	19	3	16	8	10	4	9
Not adjudicated ^(e)	288	286	217	210	207	104	75	85	73	65

(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 into 2021–22.

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

(d) Excludes appearances which were not adjudicated.

(e) 'Not adjudicated' includes cases where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, these cases may be replaced by a new case with amended charges.

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

(g) Companies (or organisations) are dealt with in the adult court system.

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

Court system / type	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
	— rate per 100,000 persons ^(c) —									
Adult^(d)	4,664.9	4,919.6	4,818.0	4,855.2	4,496.3	3,831.7	3,818.4	2,964.9	3,544.8	2,986.3
Supreme Court	20.7	17.6	20.6	25.9	35.2	41.2	36.7	34.8	34.1	32.4
Adjudicated	16.1	14.1	16.8	20.7	29.2	35.6	31.1	30.2	29.3	28.4
Convicted	15.8	13.5	16.3	20.2	28.5	34.8	30.8	29.8	28.9	28.1
Not convicted ^(e)	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3
Not adjudicated ^(f)	4.5	3.5	3.8	5.1	6.0	5.6	5.6	4.6	4.8	3.9
District Court	115.7	114.6	119.1	121.8	133.8	139.0	151.3	136.9	127.1	133.1
Adjudicated	94.4	94.4	97.7	98.1	109.6	115.6	123.7	113.1	104.2	109.4
Convicted	86.9	86.8	90.9	90.3	101.2	107.1	114.3	105.7	94.9	102.3
Not convicted ^(e)	7.5	7.6	6.8	7.8	8.3	8.5	9.4	7.3	9.3	7.1
Not adjudicated ^(f)	21.3	20.2	21.4	23.8	24.2	23.4	27.6	23.8	22.9	23.7
Magistrates Court	4,508.0	4,769.0	4,662.2	4,690.3	4,311.1	3,641.1	3,621.2	2,786.4	3,376.9	2,815.1
Adjudicated	4,235.6	4,478.0	4,342.5	4,364.1	3,986.8	3,382.2	3,350.7	2,550.0	3,096.0	2,572.9
Convicted	4,197.9	4,439.1	4,302.5	4,322.9	3,949.3	3,348.1	3,318.8	2,524.5	3,065.3	2,544.6
Not convicted ^(e)	37.7	38.9	40.0	41.3	37.5	34.1	31.9	25.5	30.8	28.3
Not adjudicated ^(f)	272.4	291.0	319.8	326.2	324.2	258.9	270.5	236.4	280.8	242.2
Child	1,849.6	1,866.9	1,738.3	1,809.9	1,809.8	1,911.5	2,090.3	1,511.9	1,733.5	1,572.0
Higher courts^(g)	111.6	111.6	88.8	89.4	102.2	96.5	144.2	153.7	116.8	117.2
Adjudicated	92.9	93.9	71.3	74.6	79.7	78.5	113.2	133.8	102.9	102.3
Convicted	88.8	89.6	67.7	71.3	75.5	75.1	110.7	128.9	100.5	97.8
Not convicted ^(e)	4.1	4.3	3.6	3.3	4.1	3.4	2.5	4.9	2.4	4.5
Not adjudicated ^(f)	18.7	17.7	17.6	14.8	22.6	18.0	31.0	19.9	13.9	14.9
Childrens Court (Magistrates)	1,738.0	1,755.3	1,649.5	1,720.5	1,707.6	1,815.0	1,946.1	1,358.3	1,616.7	1,454.8
Adjudicated	1,584.9	1,592.8	1,487.3	1,539.6	1,546.8	1,604.7	1,728.8	1,177.2	1,402.4	1,266.7
Convicted	1,486.1	1,508.9	1,411.5	1,441.5	1,399.0	1,433.9	1,501.0	991.3	1,200.3	1,071.7
Not convicted ^(e)	98.9	83.9	75.8	98.1	147.8	170.7	227.8	185.8	202.1	195.0
Not adjudicated ^(f)	153.1	162.5	162.2	180.9	160.7	210.3	217.4	181.1	214.3	188.1
Total	4,352.6	4,588.1	4,488.0	4,528.3	4,206.4	3,614.6	3,607.4	2,787.8	3,324.0	2,811.9
Person appearances										
Adjudicated	4,067.5	4,287.3	4,160.0	4,189.5	3,869.5	3,333.2	3,310.3	2,530.5	3,025.0	2,550.1
Convicted	4,016.0	4,235.9	4,109.5	4,134.7	3,812.2	3,275.7	3,246.5	2,478.7	2,965.0	2,494.7
Not convicted ^(e)	51.4	51.3	50.5	54.8	57.3	57.5	63.7	51.8	60.0	55.4
Not adjudicated ^(f)	285.1	300.8	328.0	338.8	337.0	281.5	297.2	257.3	299.0	261.8

(a) 17-year-old offenders transitioned to the youth justice system in February 2018. Since then, the age range for adult offenders has been 18 years and over.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(c) Rate calculation is based on relevant population subgroup. Rates for children from 2012–13 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) Excludes appearances of company defendants.

(e) Excludes appearances which were not adjudicated.

(f) 'Not adjudicated' includes cases where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, these cases may be replaced by a new case with amended charges.

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

Table 3 Finalised charges by court type and outcome – time series

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
Court system / type	— number —									
Adult^(c)	342,224	374,048	381,297	417,411	433,079	386,026	403,196	349,110	419,957	364,040
Supreme Court	3,674	3,802	5,595	7,359	10,384	11,906	11,522	10,497	9,762	10,648
Adjudicated	2,774	2,880	4,421	5,573	8,443	10,137	9,845	9,347	8,450	8,831
Convicted	2,741	2,812	4,379	5,531	8,360	10,060	9,798	9,273	8,384	8,801
Not convicted ^(d)	33	68	42	42	83	77	47	74	66	30
Not adjudicated ^(e)	900	922	1,174	1,786	1,941	1,769	1,677	1,150	1,312	1,817
District Court	17,653	20,167	21,420	23,778	26,980	29,182	30,512	31,317	26,862	28,143
Adjudicated	13,399	15,728	16,606	18,190	21,245	23,207	24,265	24,502	21,024	21,649
Convicted	12,626	14,999	15,752	17,365	20,360	22,341	23,283	23,600	19,868	20,763
Not convicted ^(d)	773	729	854	825	885	866	982	902	1,156	886
Not adjudicated ^(e)	4,254	4,439	4,814	5,588	5,735	5,975	6,247	6,815	5,838	6,494
Magistrates Court	320,897	350,079	354,282	386,274	395,715	344,938	361,162	307,296	383,333	325,249
Adjudicated	290,634	316,639	319,657	346,047	349,977	308,631	318,291	268,599	338,223	284,664
Convicted	287,757	313,723	316,342	342,584	346,788	304,986	315,072	266,224	335,048	281,842
Not convicted ^(d)	2,877	2,916	3,315	3,463	3,189	3,645	3,219	2,375	3,175	2,822
Not adjudicated ^(e)	30,263	33,440	34,625	40,227	45,738	36,307	42,871	38,697	45,110	40,585
Child	30,577	28,131	27,898	28,612	31,110	37,431	44,980	38,227	48,220	44,199
Higher courts^(f)	2,574	2,970	2,109	1,904	2,208	2,214	3,481	3,508	2,925	2,475
Adjudicated	2,212	2,394	1,773	1,666	1,802	1,885	2,919	3,123	2,627	2,174
Convicted	2,173	2,339	1,746	1,636	1,758	1,847	2,893	3,057	2,588	2,120
Not convicted ^(d)	39	55	27	30	44	38	26	66	39	54
Not adjudicated ^(e)	362	576	336	238	406	329	562	385	298	301
Childrens Court (Magistrates)	28,003	25,161	25,789	26,708	28,902	35,217	41,499	34,719	45,295	41,724
Adjudicated	25,210	22,921	23,226	23,521	25,299	30,117	36,378	30,219	39,414	36,469
Convicted	24,461	22,281	22,711	22,762	23,940	28,615	34,296	28,098	37,003	34,062
Not convicted ^(d)	749	640	515	759	1,359	1,502	2,082	2,121	2,411	2,407
Not adjudicated ^(e)	2,793	2,240	2,563	3,187	3,603	5,100	5,121	4,500	5,881	5,255
Total	372,801	402,179	409,195	446,023	464,189	423,457	448,176	387,337	468,177	408,239
Person charges	369,869	399,543	407,495	443,820	461,727	421,470	445,841	386,564	467,258	407,550
Adjudicated	332,334	358,733	364,465	393,289	404,800	372,433	389,913	335,259	409,052	353,295
Convicted	327,894	354,359	359,843	388,256	399,248	366,434	383,818	329,731	402,211	347,109
Not convicted ^(d)	4,440	4,374	4,622	5,033	5,552	5,999	6,095	5,528	6,841	6,186
Not adjudicated ^(e)	37,535	40,810	43,030	50,531	56,927	49,037	55,928	51,305	58,206	54,255
Company charges^(g)	2,932	2,636	1,700	2,203	2,462	1,987	2,335	773	919	689
Adjudicated	1,895	1,829	1,218	1,708	1,966	1,544	1,785	531	686	492
Convicted	1,864	1,795	1,087	1,622	1,958	1,415	1,524	521	680	479
Not convicted ^(d)	31	34	131	86	8	129	261	10	6	13
Not adjudicated ^(e)	1,037	807	482	495	496	443	550	242	233	197

(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 into 2021–22.

(c) Represents charges against company defendants, which are dealt with in the adult court system.

(d) Excludes charges which were not adjudicated.

(e) 'Not adjudicated' includes those where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, the charge may be replaced by an amended charge.

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

(g) Companies (or organisations) are dealt with in the adult court system.

Table 4 Rates of finalised charges against person defendants, by court type and outcome – time series

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
Court system / type	— rate per 100,000 persons ^(c) —									
Adult^(d)	9,493.6	10,214.7	10,292.1	11,101.3	11,321.6	9,971.7	10,318.1	8,800.5	10,440.0	8,964.5
Supreme Court	102.8	104.6	151.7	196.8	273.0	309.1	296.6	265.2	243.2	262.7
Adjudicated	77.6	79.2	119.9	149.0	222.0	263.2	253.4	236.1	210.5	217.9
Convicted	76.7	77.3	118.7	147.9	219.8	261.2	252.2	234.3	208.9	217.1
Not convicted ^(e)	0.9	1.9	1.1	1.1	2.2	2.0	1.2	1.9	1.6	0.7
Not adjudicated ^(f)	25.2	25.4	31.8	47.8	51.0	45.9	43.2	29.1	32.7	44.8
District Court	493.7	554.5	577.1	633.9	709.2	757.6	783.3	790.3	669.2	693.4
Adjudicated	374.7	432.4	446.6	484.5	558.4	602.4	622.6	618.1	523.8	533.2
Convicted	353.1	412.4	426.2	462.5	535.2	579.9	597.3	595.4	495.0	511.3
Not convicted ^(e)	21.6	20.0	20.3	22.1	23.3	22.5	25.3	22.8	28.8	21.9
Not adjudicated ^(f)	119.0	122.1	130.5	149.4	150.8	155.1	160.7	172.2	145.4	160.2
Magistrates Court	8,897.1	9,555.6	9,563.3	10,270.6	10,339.4	8,905.0	9,238.2	7,745.0	9,527.6	8,008.4
Adjudicated	8,079.3	8,658.1	8,637.6	9,208.3	9,149.9	7,973.8	8,148.8	6,773.5	8,409.5	7,011.9
Convicted	7,999.7	8,578.9	8,548.4	9,118.0	9,066.3	7,882.5	8,072.6	6,713.7	8,330.6	6,942.6
Not convicted ^(e)	79.6	79.3	89.1	90.3	83.6	91.3	76.1	59.8	79.0	69.3
Not adjudicated ^(f)	817.8	897.5	925.7	1,062.3	1,189.5	931.2	1,089.4	971.6	1,118.1	996.4
Child	7,338.3	6,723.6	6,626.0	6,714.1	7,164.2	8,008.5	8,705.8	7,234.6	8,925.0	8,017.6
Higher courts^(g)	617.7	709.9	500.9	446.8	508.5	473.7	673.7	663.9	541.4	449.0
Adjudicated	530.9	572.2	421.1	390.9	415.0	403.3	565.0	591.0	486.2	394.4
Convicted	521.5	559.0	414.7	383.9	404.8	395.2	559.9	578.5	479.0	384.6
Not convicted ^(e)	9.4	13.1	6.4	7.0	10.1	8.1	5.0	12.5	7.2	9.8
Not adjudicated ^(f)	86.9	137.7	79.8	55.8	93.5	70.4	108.8	72.9	55.2	54.6
Childrens Court (Magistrates)	6,720.6	6,013.8	6,125.1	6,267.3	6,655.7	7,534.8	8,032.1	6,570.7	8,383.6	7,568.6
Adjudicated	6,050.3	5,478.4	5,516.4	5,519.5	5,826.0	6,443.7	7,040.9	5,719.1	7,295.1	6,615.4
Convicted	5,870.5	5,325.4	5,394.0	5,341.4	5,513.0	6,122.3	6,637.9	5,317.6	6,848.8	6,178.8
Not convicted ^(e)	179.8	153.0	122.3	178.1	313.0	321.4	403.0	401.4	446.2	436.6
Not adjudicated ^(f)	670.3	535.4	608.7	747.9	829.7	1,091.2	991.2	851.6	1,088.5	953.2
Total	9,268.6	9,854.4	9,916.5	10,652.6	10,895.6	9,759.3	10,128.8	8,616.1	10,260.3	8,851.1
Charges against person defendants										
Adjudicated	8,328.0	8,847.9	8,869.3	9,439.7	9,552.3	8,623.8	8,858.2	7,472.6	8,982.2	7,672.8
Convicted	8,216.7	8,740.0	8,756.8	9,318.9	9,421.3	8,484.9	8,719.8	7,349.3	8,831.9	7,538.5
Not convicted ^(e)	111.3	107.9	112.5	120.8	131.0	138.9	138.5	123.2	150.2	134.3
Not adjudicated ^(f)	940.6	1,006.5	1,047.1	1,212.8	1,343.3	1,135.5	1,270.6	1,143.5	1,278.1	1,178.3

(a) 17-year-old offenders transitioned to the youth justice system in February 2018. Since then, the age range for adult offenders has been 18 years and over.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

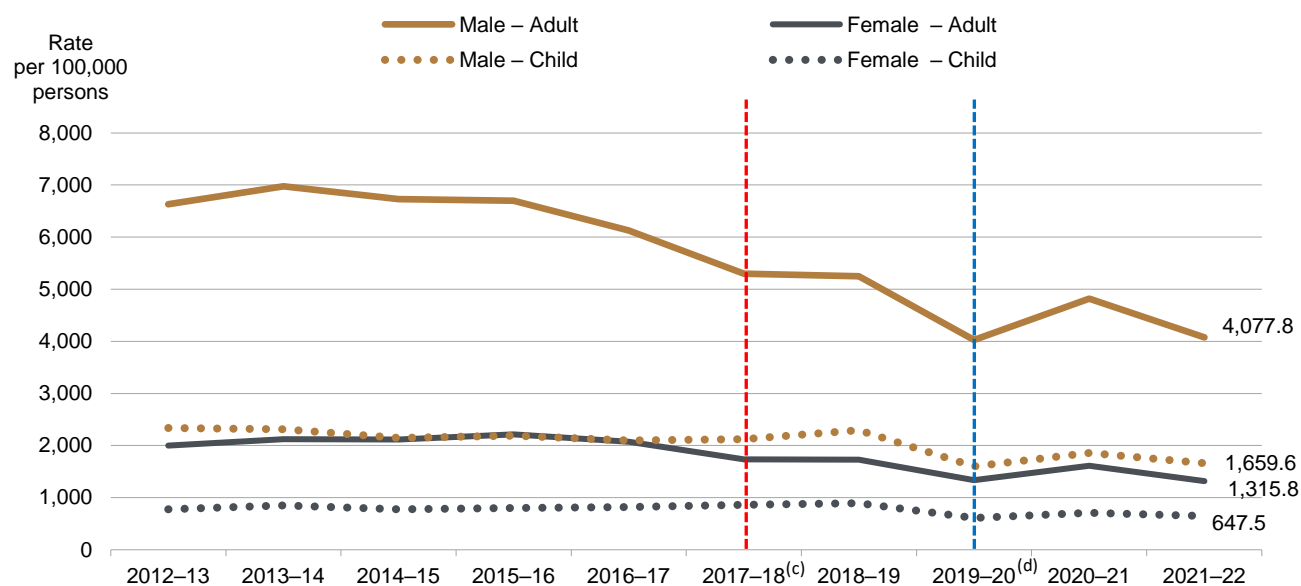
(c) Rate calculation is based on relevant population subgroup. Rates for children from 2012–13 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.

(d) Excludes charges against company defendants.

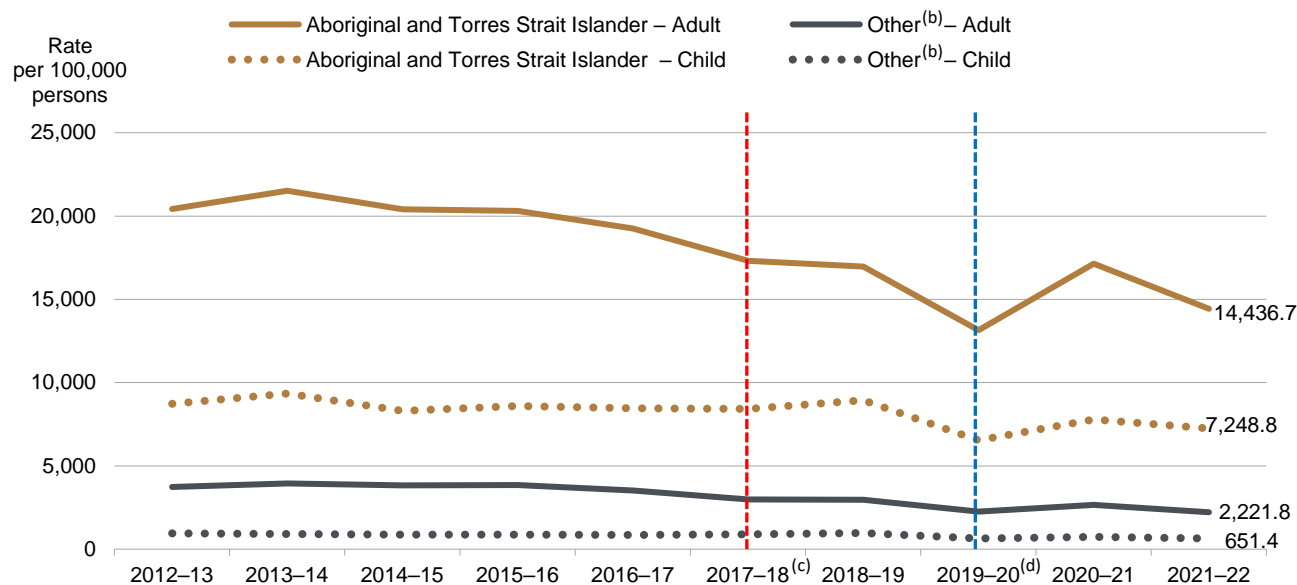
(e) Excludes charges which were not adjudicated.

(f) 'Not adjudicated' includes those where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, the charge may be replaced by an amended charge.

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

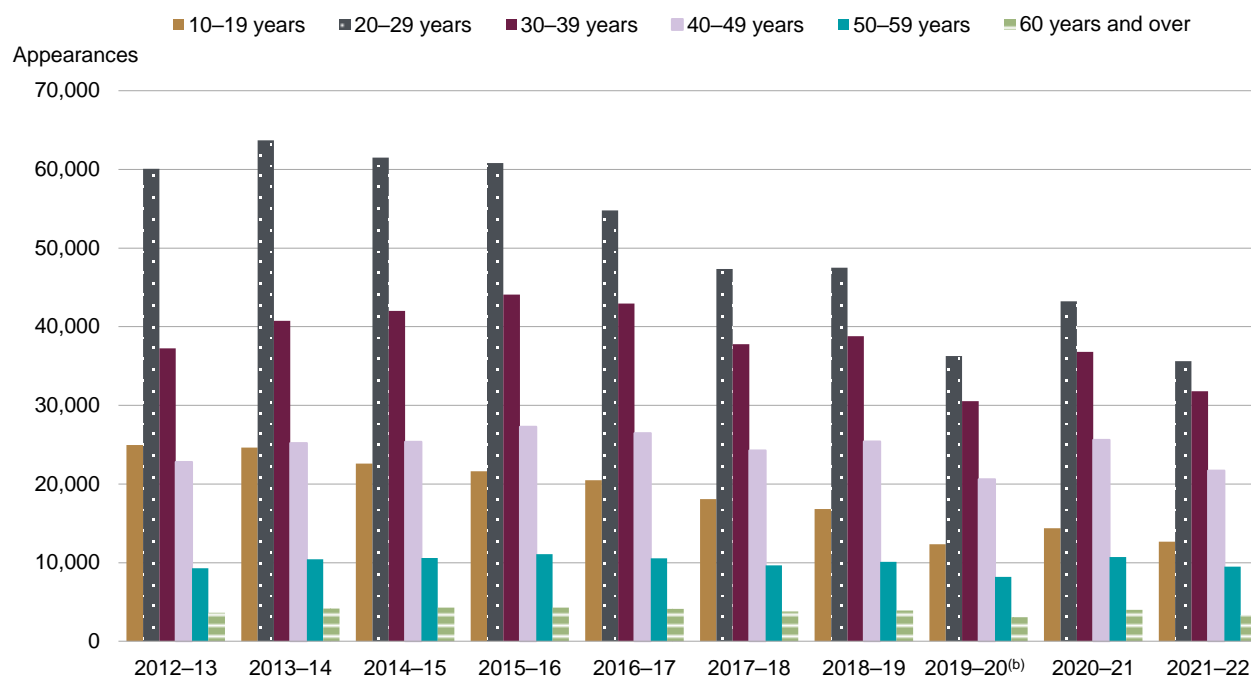
Figure 5 Convicted person appearance rates^(a) by court system and sex^(b) – time series

- (a) Rate calculation is based on relevant population subgroup. Rates for children from 2012–13 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) Rates are calculated only for appearances where defendant's sex is stated. Rate calculation is based on relevant population subgroup.
- (c) 17-year-old offenders transitioned to the youth justice system in February 2018. Since then, the age range for adult offenders has been 18 years and over.
- (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

Figure 6 Convicted person appearance rates^(a) by court system and Indigenous status – time series

- (a) Rate calculation is based on relevant population subgroup. Rates for children from 2012–13 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) 'Other' includes defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.
- (c) 17-year-old offenders transitioned to the youth justice system in February 2018. Since then, the age range for adult offenders has been 18 years and over.
- (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

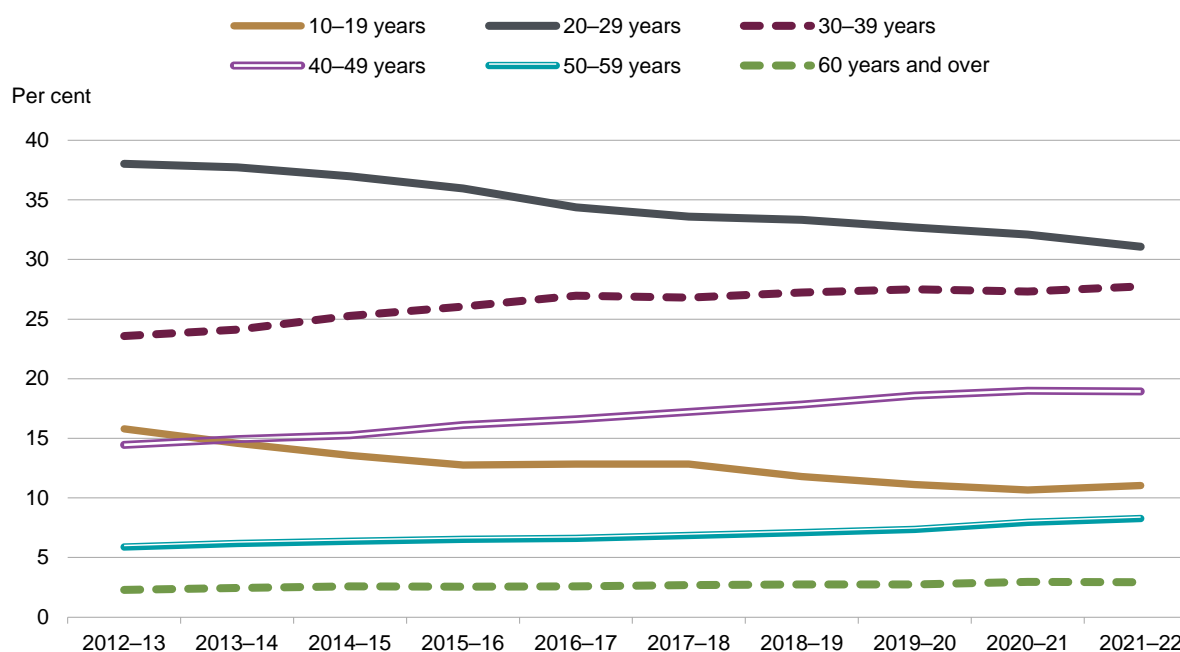
Figure 7 Convicted person appearances by age at appearance^(a), all courts – time series



(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 into 2021-22.

Figure 8 Proportion of convicted person appearances by age at appearance^(a), all courts – time series



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

Table 5 Convicted appearances by defendant characteristics, all courts – time series

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2021–22
	— number —									
Company appearances	423	370	358	414	409	279	276	172	190	159
Person appearances	160,263	171,744	168,870	172,264	161,550	141,465	142,903	111,206	135,028	114,869
Sex										
Male	122,109	130,200	126,979	127,966	119,184	105,194	106,063	82,397	99,931	85,735
Female	37,641	40,768	41,167	43,758	41,866	35,953	36,527	28,519	34,844	28,919
Not stated	513	776	724	540	500	318	313	290	253	215
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	27,228	29,552	28,614	29,411	28,798	26,817	27,079	21,410	28,386	24,848
Other ^(d)	133,035	142,192	140,256	142,853	132,752	114,648	115,824	89,796	106,642	90,021
Age at finalised appearance										
10–19 yrs	24,955	24,647	22,591	21,605	20,467	18,087	16,822	12,334	14,378	12,661
20–29 yrs	60,066	63,715	61,510	60,818	54,776	47,353	47,507	36,274	43,236	35,624
30–39 yrs	37,245	40,759	42,032	44,082	42,958	37,783	38,816	30,518	36,792	31,815
40–49 yrs	22,817	25,222	25,365	27,281	26,449	24,285	25,429	20,619	25,595	21,716
50–59 yrs	9,293	10,438	10,607	11,066	10,550	9,675	10,101	8,177	10,725	9,480
60 yrs & over	3,635	4,147	4,298	4,308	4,119	3,803	3,905	3,059	3,985	3,368
Not stated	2,252	2,816	2,467	3,104	2,231	479	323	225	317	205
Total	160,686	172,114	169,228	172,678	161,959	141,744	143,179	111,378	135,218	115,028

Table 6 Convicted person appearance rates by defendant characteristics, all courts – time series

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2021–22
	— rate per 100,000 persons ^(b) —									
Person appearances										
Sex^(c)										
Male	6,165.7	6,478.0	6,243.7	6,218.2	5,699.9	4,938.6	4,887.8	3,726.4	4,451.8	3,775.3
Female	1,872.6	1,994.0	1,983.4	2,075.4	1,950.2	1,642.7	1,636.7	1,253.4	1,508.8	1,239.3
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	17,894.2	18,907.0	17,829.9	17,848.6	17,002.7	15,388.3	15,112.0	11,631.3	15,028.0	12,830.0
Other ^(d)	3,465.9	3,647.7	3,551.9	3,569.9	3,263.0	2,766.3	2,743.0	2,087.1	2,443.0	2,040.9
Age at finalised appearance^(c)										
10–19 yrs	4,140.1	4,069.2	3,719.7	3,536.9	3,301.3	2,860.1	2,607.2	1,876.5	2,158.2	1,881.4
20–29 yrs	8,996.2	9,428.9	9,025.7	8,856.7	7,899.8	6,761.9	6,726.4	5,121.7	6,187.8	5,224.5
30–39 yrs	5,924.1	6,411.4	6,547.2	6,779.8	6,486.4	5,573.3	5,591.3	4,294.5	5,090.5	4,356.8
40–49 yrs	3,545.1	3,885.8	3,888.0	4,159.1	4,003.8	3,651.1	3,801.9	3,063.5	3,786.0	3,206.9
50–59 yrs	1,602.8	1,766.7	1,770.0	1,828.3	1,724.6	1,562.8	1,611.2	1,283.9	1,655.5	1,439.9
60 yrs & over	418.8	462.1	463.7	450.0	416.2	371.4	368.3	278.0	348.8	284.5
Total^(e)	4,016.0	4,235.9	4,109.5	4,134.7	3,812.2	3,275.7	3,246.5	2,478.7	2,965.0	2,494.7

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(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.

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 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 2021–22, of all person appearances finalised in the District Court, 17.8% were finalised without adjudication, compared with 12.2% in the Supreme Court and 8.6% in Magistrates Court (Table 7).

Of all appearances finalised by adjudication, the rate of conviction was lowest in the District Court (93.5%), compared with almost 99% in both the Supreme and Magistrate Courts.

Table 7 Finalised adult appearances by most serious offence, by court type, 2021–22

Most serious offence (MSO)	2021–22								
	Supreme Court			District Court			Magistrates Court		
	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(b)	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(b)	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(b)
	Convicted	Not convicted ^(a)		Convicted	Not convicted ^(a)		Convicted	Not convicted ^(a)	
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —			— number —			— number —		
Homicide and related offences	43	8	23	4	1	1	0	11	11
Acts intended to cause injury	13	0	2	1,247	71	309	6,580	187	1,480
Sexual assault and related offences	19	2	8	744	180	319	213	22	187
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	4	0	1	102	2	12	5,762	30	353
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	2	0	0	63	1	16	441	12	127
Robbery, extortion and related offences	5	0	3	350	0	69	15	12	99
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	5	0	1	235	2	24	2,117	19	467
Theft and related offences	7	0	6	87	0	26	7,866	66	1,185
Fraud, deception and related offences	2	0	0	117	1	62	1,696	20	372
Illicit drug offences	948	2	101	728	0	58	11,902	56	1,094
Weapons and explosives offences	8	0	7	17	1	3	2,554	17	308
Property damage and environmental pollution	0	0	0	115	0	22	2,686	36	303
Public order offences	0	0	0	20	1	1	5,858	58	550
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	0	1	0	1	32,777	118	1,247
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	82	2	8	300	26	36	21,805	475	1,886
Miscellaneous offences	0	0	0	15	2	1	867	9	148
Total	1,138	14	160	4,145	288	960	103,139	1,148	9,817

(a) Excludes appearances which were not adjudicated.

(b) 'Not adjudicated' includes cases where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, these cases may be replaced by a new case with amended charges.

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.

Illicit drug offences has been by far the most prevalent MSO in Supreme Court over the past decade. It accounted for 83.3% of convicted appearances in 2021–22 and has remained around that proportion since 2014–15.

Table 8 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, Supreme Court – time series

Most serious offence (MSO)	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	47	53	45	37	50	60	52	46	39	43
Acts intended to cause injury	20	18	9	11	20	20	24	22	22	13
Sexual assault and related offences	7	3	5	4	7	6	5	10	8	19
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	0	0	4	5	2	2	6	6	2	4
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Robbery, extortion and related offences	2	1	0	0	3	11	3	6	6	5
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	0	0	2	7	3	5	12	6	2	5
Theft and related offences	3	2	2	0	2	6	3	5	6	7
Fraud, deception and related offences	1	2	1	0	4	1	0	0	1	2
Illicit drug offences	435	365	512	643	924	1,152	1,008	974	987	948
Weapons and explosives offences	3	1	1	2	3	2	5	7	1	8
Property damage and environmental pollution	1	0	0	2	1	3	0	1	2	0
Public order offences	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	42	46	21	45	63	74	77	97	80	82
Total	566	492	603	757	1,083	1,342	1,197	1,180	1,158	1,138

(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 into 2021–22.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.



In 2021–22, the number of convicted appearances in the District Court increased by 336 or 8.8% compared with 2020–21, reaching a similar level to 2019–20 and third-highest in the 10–year time series.

Acts intended to cause injury has consistently been the predominant MSO in the District Court in every year in the time series, except in 2015–16 when it was overtaken by *illicit drug offences*. In 2021–22, *acts intended to cause injury* as MSO comprised almost a third (30.1%) of all convicted appearances, followed by *sexual assault and related offences* (17.9%) and *illicit drug offences* (17.6%). The top 3 MSOs accounted for nearly two-thirds (65.6%) of all convicted appearances in the District Court.

Table 9 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, District Court – time series

Most serious offence (MSO)	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	11	7	4	2	2	6	4	5	6	4
Acts intended to cause injury	774	730	778	714	874	1,180	1,257	1,134	1,082	1,247
Sexual assault and related offences	531	495	590	605	729	694	785	678	707	744
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	103	117	102	122	101	99	113	107	78	102
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	32	23	28	31	57	61	52	35	34	63
Robbery, extortion and related offences	459	447	412	374	413	409	457	520	461	350
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	199	184	228	197	203	232	235	219	198	235
Theft and related offences	41	48	60	68	69	64	98	98	95	87
Fraud, deception and related offences	146	115	117	144	149	126	154	122	123	117
Illicit drug offences	385	595	641	727	859	820	810	797	600	728
Weapons and explosives offences	6	5	6	9	14	14	8	9	9	17
Property damage and environmental pollution	98	108	96	93	87	85	95	93	95	115
Public order offences	8	8	14	15	9	18	21	13	6	20
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	1
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	301	270	269	273	274	312	341	343	300	300
Miscellaneous offences	9	5	7	3	10	6	10	10	15	15
Total	3,105	3,157	3,353	3,377	3,851	4,126	4,441	4,185	3,809	4,145

(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 into 2021–22.

Convicted appearances in the Magistrates Court decreased significantly in 2021–22 (–19,894 appearances, or –16.2%) compared with 2020–21. This was the second-lowest number in 10 years, and only slightly more than in 2019–20, when the COVID-19 pandemic was declared and court operations were heavily disrupted.

Those with MSO of *illicit drug offences* and *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* collectively contributed more than half (55.6% or –11,066 appearances) of the overall decrease in 2021–22. There were decreases of varying sizes for almost every offence division in 2021–22, with *illicit drug offences*, in particular, falling to a ten-year low (11,902 convicted appearances). The exceptions were *sexual assault and related offences* which saw an increase (+18 or 9.2%), and *robbery, extortion and related offences* (no change). After reaching a peak in 2020–21 at 6,603, convicted appearances with MSO of *acts intended to cause injury* remained at a historically high level in 2021–22, at 6,580.

Half (50.4%) of all appearances with the MSO of *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* were for breaches of domestic violence order, the highest proportion in the 10-year time series. The proportion with this offence has been steadily increasing since 2014–15 (22.4%) and in 2020–21 was at 45.4%.

Table 10 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, Magistrates Court – time series

Most serious offence (MSO)	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —									
Acts intended to cause injury	4,967	5,158	5,135	5,416	5,630	5,580	5,645	4,558	6,603	6,580
Sexual assault and related offences	126	117	135	107	106	156	144	144	195	213
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	8,556	8,757	8,150	7,430	6,564	6,045	5,410	4,555	6,665	5,762
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	364	364	379	480	470	456	373	263	456	441
Robbery, extortion and related offences	18	18	21	16	9	15	20	12	15	15
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	2,580	2,587	2,401	2,471	2,551	2,369	2,392	2,246	2,171	2,117
Theft and related offences	10,545	11,711	12,524	13,369	13,551	12,157	12,464	9,854	9,562	7,866
Fraud, deception and related offences	2,694	3,017	3,050	2,918	2,948	2,824	2,706	2,067	2,238	1,696
Illicit drug offences	13,758	16,966	20,593	21,372	19,408	17,291	17,439	13,875	17,927	11,902
Weapons and explosives offences	2,232	2,712	3,385	3,539	3,545	3,144	3,559	2,849	3,716	2,554
Property damage and environmental pollution	3,162	3,306	3,142	3,249	3,226	2,963	2,746	2,005	3,112	2,686
Public order offences	19,395	21,981	18,225	13,478	11,744	9,796	8,823	6,356	7,720	5,858
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	59,673	59,448	53,726	57,713	50,633	40,127	42,363	32,083	37,818	32,777
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	20,902	23,829	26,075	28,063	28,211	24,855	23,628	18,112	23,497	21,805
Miscellaneous offences	1,058	1,436	1,745	2,062	1,617	1,166	1,226	943	1,338	867
Total	150,030	161,407	158,686	161,683	150,213	128,944	128,938	99,922	123,033	103,139

(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 into 2021–22.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

3.2.3. Finalised charges

Of the charges adjudicated in the Supreme Court, 99.7% resulted in conviction (8,801). A similar conviction rate can be seen in the Magistrates Court, where 99.0% of adjudicated charges were convicted in 2021–22. In the District Court, finalised charges had the lowest rate of both adjudication (76.9%) and proportion of those which were convicted (95.9%). A total of 48,699 non-adjudicated charges comprised 13.4% of all charges finalised against adults in 2021–22.

Table 11 Finalised charges against adults, by court type, 2021–22

	2021–22								
	Supreme Court			District Court			Magistrates Court		
	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(b)	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(b)	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(b)
Convicted	Not convicted ^(a)	Convicted		Not convicted ^(a)	Convicted		Not convicted ^(a)		
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —			— number —			— number —		
Homicide and related offences	46	8	42	4	1	2	0	15	19
Acts intended to cause injury	115	0	79	3,094	164	1,503	9,697	341	3,316
Sexual assault and related offences	452	5	334	3,199	605	2,068	323	40	555
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	45	0	2	286	3	50	7,564	58	1,044
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	12	0	7	293	10	181	1,029	40	388
Robbery, extortion and related offences	21	0	18	521	3	223	26	34	262
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	199	0	159	1,125	12	545	5,988	67	3,132
Theft and related offences	597	0	64	1,556	5	448	30,580	201	4,900
Fraud, deception and related offences	62	0	13	732	3	271	10,323	55	3,529
Illicit drug offences	5,812	7	982	5,205	8	627	49,858	276	5,065
Weapons and explosives offences	488	1	70	290	1	26	6,049	44	796
Property damage and environmental pollution	29	0	19	604	3	213	7,349	93	2,400
Public order offences	13	1	1	199	3	9	15,337	232	3,074
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	158	0	0	387	0	1	59,684	190	3,135
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	578	6	23	2,837	59	171	74,260	1,105	8,117
Miscellaneous offences	174	2	4	394	6	156	3,333	18	656
Total	8,801	30	1,817	20,726	886	6,494	281,400	2,809	40,388

(a) Excludes charges which were not adjudicated.

(b) 'Not adjudicated' includes those where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, the charge may be replaced by an amended charge.

3.2.4. Convicted charges

In 2021–22, the number of convicted charges against adults more than trebled compared with a decade ago. There were 417 more charges convicted in 2021–22 compared with the previous year, while fewer convicted appearances were finalised in the same period. This was a result of an extraordinary increase in convicted charges for *sexual assault and related offences* (+394) and, to a lesser degree, *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* (+146). This is due to a large number of offences committed by a small number of offenders, which is why there is no corresponding increase in convicted appearances for either offence division in the Supreme Court.

Illicit drug offences comprised nearly two-thirds of all charges convicted in the Supreme Court, in 2021–22.

Table 12 Convicted charges against adults, Supreme Court – time series

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	55	55	48	41	55	64	57	49	46	46
Acts intended to cause injury	41	37	39	35	71	135	91	105	111	115
Sexual assault and related offences	60	26	24	57	41	49	17	65	58	452
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	11	15	28	27	46	69	58	64	47	45
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	3	27	6	5	17	14	12	8	7	12
Robbery, extortion and related offences	16	7	2	18	7	32	23	21	17	21
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	31	34	47	81	111	76	103	58	53	199
Theft and related offences	185	210	326	439	753	825	918	875	630	597
Fraud, deception and related offences	26	68	33	72	168	92	292	159	43	62
Illicit drug offences	1,985	1,940	3,172	3,891	5,582	6,792	6,269	5,884	5,791	5,812
Weapons and explosives offences	90	77	249	242	401	497	487	553	499	488
Property damage and environmental pollution	9	5	22	12	30	48	40	25	38	29
Public order offences	14	12	16	24	29	33	31	31	34	13
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	52	60	102	166	266	379	389	378	267	158
Offences against justice procedures, government security and operations	157	223	236	368	687	847	845	799	542	578
Miscellaneous offences	6	16	29	53	95	108	166	199	201	174
Total	2,741	2,812	4,379	5,531	8,359	10,060	9,798	9,273	8,384	8,801

(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 into 2021–22.

In 2021–22, the number of convicted charges in the District Court increased by 4.3% compared with 2020–21, totalling over 20,000 for the fourth time in five years.

Illicit drug offences, sexual assault and related offences and acts intended to cause injury were the top 3 offence divisions in this court for the second consecutive year, together accounting for more than half (55.5% or 11,498) of all convicted charges in 2021–22.

Table 13 Convicted charges against adults, District Court – time series

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	11	7	4	2	2	6	4	5	6	4
Acts intended to cause injury	1,510	1,430	1,596	1,519	2,001	2,841	3,103	2,857	2,794	3,094
Sexual assault and related offences	1,952	2,396	2,485	2,671	3,047	2,686	3,316	2,742	3,030	3,199
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	291	277	289	290	272	323	368	394	276	286
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	155	151	178	178	275	284	252	271	257	293
Robbery, extortion and related offences	689	704	617	606	631	600	653	763	690	521
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	1,391	1,423	1,332	1,368	1,306	1,276	1,264	1,292	1,068	1,125
Theft and related offences	1,393	1,767	1,754	1,874	1,804	1,932	2,408	2,671	1,958	1,556
Fraud, deception and related offences	785	946	875	1,146	1,151	893	1,012	1,093	807	732
Illicit drug offences	1,785	2,840	3,516	4,114	5,295	5,484	5,211	5,599	4,378	5,205
Weapons and explosives offences	151	192	235	268	311	400	341	450	311	290
Property damage and environmental pollution	439	495	452	475	1,000	698	692	801	542	604
Public order offences	212	177	183	203	325	330	304	326	247	199
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	388	552	519	529	570	809	822	949	518	387
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	1,414	1,450	1,601	1,895	2,148	3,585	3,146	3,176	2,761	2,837
Miscellaneous offences	52	187	85	159	217	188	310	176	224	394
Total	12,618	14,994	15,721	17,297	20,355	22,335	23,206	23,565	19,867	20,726

(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 into 2021–22.

In the Magistrates Court, there were 52,969 fewer (–15.8%) convicted charges in 2021–22 compared with 2020–21, making it the second-lowest in the 10-year time series. The top 3 most prevalent offences—*illicit drug offences*, *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* and, to a lesser extent, *offences against justice procedures, government security and operations*—all saw sizeable decreases, together accounting for more than 70% of the overall decrease in the Magistrates Court.

However, while convicted charges of *offences against justice procedures, government security and operations* decreased overall, both the number and proportion that were breaches of domestic violence order increased significantly for the second consecutive year. They accounted for 30.7% (or 24,466) of all convicted charges in this offence division in 2020–21 and 34.6% (or 25,683 charges) in 2021–22, the peak in both proportion and number of charges for breach of domestic violence order in the time series.

The number of convicted charges for *acts intended to cause injury* reached a time-series peak in 2021–22, following a substantial increase (+2,951 convicted charges or +45.2%) in 2020–21, the previous time-series peak.

Table 14 Convicted charges against adults, Magistrates Court – time series

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —									
Acts intended to cause injury	6,464	6,750	6,657	7,148	7,466	7,515	7,684	6,530	9,481	9,697
Sexual assault and related offences	187	213	228	193	176	266	222	202	307	323
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	9,713	9,955	9,400	8,780	7,975	7,419	6,781	5,814	8,561	7,564
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	634	694	649	900	851	812	707	580	922	1,029
Robbery, extortion and related offences	27	31	29	32	26	21	31	31	29	26
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	6,849	5,836	5,673	6,058	6,595	6,227	5,966	6,212	5,679	5,988
Theft and related offences	26,117	28,076	29,357	32,063	36,295	34,437	37,062	35,056	34,107	30,580
Fraud, deception and related offences	10,647	12,823	12,570	13,185	14,885	14,267	13,983	11,576	13,209	10,323
Illicit drug offences	34,894	44,234	55,288	63,330	62,509	56,103	59,870	51,677	69,724	49,858
Weapons and explosives offences	3,804	4,718	5,965	6,478	6,937	6,221	7,133	6,220	8,224	6,049
Property damage and environmental pollution	7,295	7,410	6,823	7,944	8,482	7,566	6,587	5,572	8,197	7,349
Public order offences	27,709	31,227	27,823	23,108	21,699	19,061	18,229	14,564	19,082	15,337
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	98,180	95,347	84,834	92,443	84,441	68,160	72,702	57,667	71,627	59,684
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	50,852	61,304	66,344	74,667	82,600	71,800	72,166	60,573	79,809	74,260
Miscellaneous offences	2,529	3,315	3,646	4,701	3,899	3,702	4,502	3,464	5,411	3,333
Total	285,901	311,933	315,286	341,030	344,836	303,577	313,625	265,738	334,369	281,400

(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 into 2021–22.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

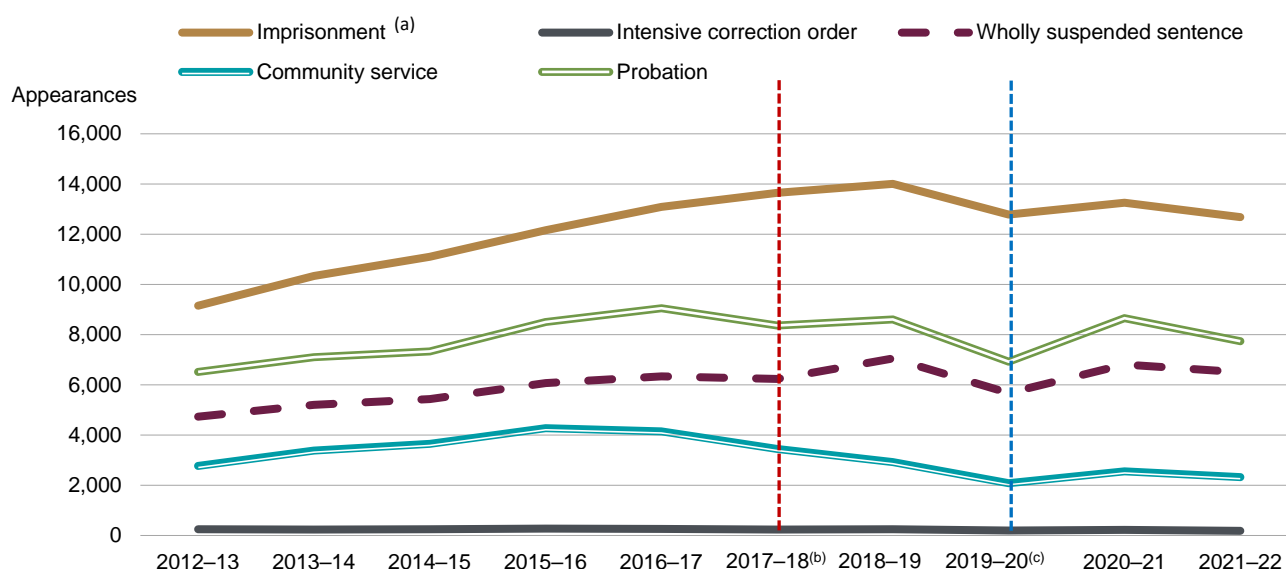
3.2.5. Penalties

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.

A custodial sentence is one that involves a term of **imprisonment**, and collectively can include sentences which are either partially or wholly suspended. In previous editions of this report, partially suspended sentences were grouped with those that were wholly suspended and reported as 'suspended sentence'. In this edition, and going forward, **partially suspended sentences are now grouped with imprisonment**, based on the premise they each involve a period of sentenced incarceration. Wholly suspended sentences are reported separately. (See Glossary.)

The top five penalties that courts can impose on adults, in order of seriousness, are *imprisonment*, *intensive correction order*, *wholly suspended sentence*, *community service* and *probation*. The number of convicted adult appearances for each of these five penalty types all declined to varying degrees in 2021–22, compared with the previous year. However, of the five most serious penalties, the three most prevalent (i.e. *imprisonment*, *probation* and *wholly suspended sentence*) all showed increases of between 18.7% to 38.7% compared with the beginning of the time series. In contrast, there were fewer convicted appearances resulting in *community service* or *intensive correction order* at the end of the time series than at the beginning.

Figure 9 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, by the 5 most serious, all courts – time series



(a) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(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 into 2021–22.

The total number of convicted appearances in the Supreme Court declined for the fourth year running in 2021–22 (to 1,138), after a time-series peak in 2017–18 (of 1,342). Those resulting in a sentence of *imprisonment* also declined similarly, from 1,125 to 926 appearances, while those with *wholly suspended sentence* increased for the second consecutive year.

Imprisonment was consistently the most prevalent penalty in the Supreme Court over the time series, with eight in ten (81.4%) convicted appearances resulting in this sentence. The proportion with *wholly suspended sentence* as most serious penalty was at its highest since 2016–17, at 9.1%.

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

Most serious penalty	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
Penalty ^(c)	— number —									
Imprisonment ^(d)	446	413	504	612	856	1,125	990	987	958	926
Intensive correction order	3	3	3	9	3	1	5	4	0	1
Wholly suspended sentence	59	30	67	84	122	107	89	80	90	103
Community service	2	0	2	4	6	5	3	2	3	6
Probation	14	5	7	11	24	21	28	21	24	18
Fine	7	5	2	4	16	9	6	2	7	3
Good behaviour order	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	0	0	0
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nominal penalty ^(e)	33	35	16	30	54	73	74	84	76	81
Total	566	492	603	757	1,083	1,342	1,197	1,180	1,158	1,138

(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 into 2021–22.

(c) In descending order of seriousness.

(d) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(e) Includes convicted not punished.



Convicted appearances in the District Court increased by 8.8% (or +336) in 2021–22 compared with 2020–21, after declining for two consecutive years (–376 and –256) during the height of the pandemic.

As in the Supreme Court, *imprisonment* and *wholly suspended sentence* have consistently been the two most prevalent penalties in the District Court throughout the time series with, collectively, 81.4% of convicted appearances finalised to one of these two custodial outcomes in 2021–22. This proportion is second only to 2020–21, when they comprised 83.7%.

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

Most serious penalty	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
Penalty ^(c)	— number —									
Imprisonment ^(d)	2,045	2,123	2,210	2,130	2,479	2,783	2,928	2,762	2,649	2,750
Intensive correction order	37	33	38	25	26	24	36	36	25	22
Wholly suspended sentence	430	435	442	563	544	545	628	615	541	623
Community service	107	109	120	96	132	81	88	73	50	62
Probation	146	140	207	204	309	287	332	300	194	283
Fine	99	95	123	134	118	128	135	109	106	133
Compensation/restitution	4	3	1	4	11	10	11	6	6	7
Good behaviour order	26	22	30	30	33	55	38	31	22	28
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Nominal penalty ^(e)	211	197	182	191	199	212	245	252	216	236
Total	3,105	3,157	3,353	3,377	3,851	4,126	4,441	4,185	3,809	4,145

(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 into 2021–22.

(c) In descending order of seriousness.

(d) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(e) Includes convicted not punished.

In 2021–22, the number of convicted appearances in the Magistrates Court was at its second-lowest in the 10-year time series. As a consequence, decreases were seen for every penalty type, with the exception of *driver licence disqualification*. In particular, those with *good behaviour order* as most serious penalty declined by 24.2% compared with 2020–21, reaching a 10-year low.

Although *fine* as most serious penalty was still the most prevalent, its proportion (at 65.2%) in 2021–22 was the lowest in the time series. In contrast, convicted appearances with a custodial outcome (i.e. *imprisonment* or *wholly suspended sentence*) were more common, together accounting for 14.3% of all convicted appearances in the Magistrates Court in 2021–22.

Table 17 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, Magistrates Court – time series

Most serious penalty	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
Penalty ^(c)	— number —									
Imprisonment ^(d)	6,652	7,795	8,388	9,408	9,749	9,732	10,079	9,029	9,640	9,003
Intensive correction order	197	199	206	236	225	209	198	151	191	158
Wholly suspended sentence	4,237	4,729	4,917	5,415	5,669	5,577	6,326	4,976	6,172	5,771
Community service	2,659	3,271	3,516	4,171	3,997	3,357	2,832	1,998	2,501	2,254
Probation	6,353	6,956	7,108	8,284	8,717	8,055	8,244	6,597	8,439	7,432
Other penalty ^(e)	0	0	0	1	0	4	3	1	2	1
Fine	112,196	118,596	115,986	116,827	105,635	87,796	86,969	65,920	82,830	67,241
Compensation/restitution	1,075	1,002	1,007	959	922	818	936	758	879	844
Good behaviour order	8,235	8,864	9,888	9,655	8,842	7,689	7,729	6,065	7,094	5,376
Driver licence disqualification	497	472	642	773	670	449	505	464	551	590
Nominal penalty ^(f)	7,929	9,523	7,028	5,954	5,787	5,258	5,117	3,963	4,734	4,469
Total	150,030	161,407	158,686	161,683	150,213	128,944	128,938	99,922	123,033	103,139

(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 into 2021–22.

(c) In descending order of seriousness.

(d) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(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.)

Illicit drug offences as MSO accounted for the majority (83.3%) of convicted adult appearances in the Supreme Court in 2021–22, and a similar proportion (86.5%) of those resulted in a sentence of *imprisonment*, with a further 10.5% resulting in a *wholly suspended sentence*.

Table 18 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, by most serious penalty, Supreme Court, 2021–22

	2021–22							
Most serious penalty ^(a)	Imprisonment ^(b)	Intensive correction order	Wholly suspended sentence	Community service	Probation	Fine	Nominal penalty ^(c)	Total
Most serious offence (MSO)								
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(d)	— number —							
Homicide and related offences	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	43
Acts intended to cause injury	12	0	1	0	0	0	0	13
Sexual assault and related offences	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Robbery, extortion and related offences	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Theft and related offences	3	0	2	0	1	0	1	7
Fraud, deception and related offences	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Illicit drug offences	820	1	100	6	16	2	3	948
Weapons and explosives offences	6	0	0	0	1	0	1	8
Offences against justice procedures government security and government operations	5	0	0	0	0	1	76	82
Total	926	1	103	6	18	3	81	1,138

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(c) Includes convicted not punished.

(d) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.



Queensland Government Statistician's Office

In 2021–22, *acts intended to cause injury, sexual assault and related offences* and *illicit drug offences* were the three most common MSOs in the District Court, which together accounted for two-thirds (66.3%) of appearances resulting in a sentence of *imprisonment*.

Table 19 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, by most serious penalty, District Court, 2021–22

	2021–22										
Most serious penalty ^(a)	Imprisonment ^(b)	Intensive correction order	Wholly suspended sentence	Community service	Probation	Fine	Compensation / restitution	Good behaviour	Driver licence disqual	Nominal penalty ^(c)	Total
Most serious offence (MSO)	— number —										
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(d)											
Homicide and related offences	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Acts intended to cause injury	942	5	143	24	72	30	4	10	0	17	1,247
Sexual assault and related offences	512	7	141	7	55	8	1	9	0	4	744
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	74	0	16	1	8	2	0	0	1	0	102
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	41	0	9	0	10	1	0	2	0	0	63
Robbery, extortion and related offences	303	4	24	5	12	1	0	0	0	1	350
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	193	2	30	2	7	1	0	0	0	0	235
Theft and related offences	46	0	26	0	6	1	2	3	0	3	87
Fraud, deception and related offences	93	0	16	1	4	2	0	0	0	1	117
Illicit drug offences	370	1	176	18	84	70	0	2	0	7	728
Weapons and explosives offences	10	0	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	1	17
Property damage and environmental pollution	77	1	17	3	13	2	0	0	0	2	115
Public order offences	8	2	3	0	2	3	0	1	0	1	20
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	71	0	17	0	5	7	0	1	0	199	300
Miscellaneous offences	6	0	3	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	15
Total	2,750	22	623	62	283	133	7	28	1	236	4,145

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(c) Includes convicted not punished.

(d) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

The majority (65.2%) of convicted appearances in the Magistrates Court had *fine* as their most serious penalty in 2021–22. Of those, almost half (44.8%) were for *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences*. *Imprisonment* and *probation* were the second and third–most common penalties behind *fine*, with 8.7% and 7.2% respectively.

Of the 2,507 appearances with *imprisonment* as penalty for MSO of *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations*, 1,927 (or 76.9%) were for breach of domestic violence order. Convicted appearances with this offence as MSO also accounted for more than 60% of each of the following penalties: *intensive correction*; *wholly suspended sentence*; *probation*; and *good behaviour*.

Table 20 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, by most serious penalty, Magistrates Court, 2021–22

	2021–22											
Most serious penalty ^(a)	Imprisonment ^(b)	Intensive correction order	Wholly suspended sentence	Community service	Probation	Other ^(c)	Fine	Compensation / restitution	Good behaviour	Driver licence disqual.	Nominal penalty ^(d)	Total
Most serious offence (MSO)												
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(e)	— number —											
Acts intended to cause injury	1,917	24	812	564	1,256	0	1,497	96	327	0	87	6,580
Sexual assault and related offences	41	1	37	8	63	0	51	1	8	0	3	213
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	500	11	307	100	620	0	4,107	0	67	26	24	5,762
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	108	0	22	13	71	0	125	3	95	0	4	441
Robbery, extortion and related offences	6	0	1	3	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	15
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	1,159	23	328	73	276	0	166	17	36	0	39	2,117
Theft and related offences	1,104	36	636	219	700	0	4,015	306	422	1	427	7,866
Fraud, deception and related offences	260	3	203	102	273	0	639	104	58	0	54	1,696
Illicit drug offences	431	11	485	117	848	1	7,605	0	1,993	0	411	11,902
Weapons and explosives offences	108	12	80	50	364	0	1,570	1	195	0	174	2,554
Property damage and environmental pollution	193	2	153	192	300	0	1,308	279	184	0	75	2,686
Public order offences	127	1	142	235	166	0	3,852	12	445	0	878	5,858
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	539	11	621	92	503	0	30,134	0	134	562	181	32,777
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	2,507	23	1,937	474	1,956	0	11,493	23	1,337	1	2,054	21,805
Miscellaneous offences	3	0	7	12	34	0	677	2	75	0	57	867
Total	9,003	158	5,771	2,254	7,432	1	67,241	844	5,376	590	4,469	103,139

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(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

Throughout the time series, convicted appearances resulting in a sentence of imprisonment have followed similar trends for both males and females. Although males have consistently had both a higher number of convicted appearances and a higher proportion of those sentenced to imprisonment.

Appearances in the Magistrates Court declined in 2019–20, due to operations being heavily scaled back from March to June 2020, and this in turn led to an overall decline in total convicted appearances resulting in a prison sentence. Despite this decrease, there was an increase in the proportion sentenced to prison for both males (more sharply, at +2.2 percentage points) and females (+0.4 percentage points) at that time. In 2020–21, when courts worked to clear the backlog of matters which had been postponed during the last quarter of 2019–20, there was an increase in appearances, including those resulting in a sentence of imprisonment. However, imprisonment as a proportion of all penalties dipped for both males and females in 2020–21, possibly a result of the finalisation of a greater number of less serious matters which had been delayed due to COVID-19.

While appearances resulting in a sentence of imprisonment declined again slightly in 2021–22, imprisonment as a proportion of all penalties appears to have returned to the trend observed for both genders prior to the pandemic.

Figure 10 Convicted adult male appearances with a sentence of imprisonment – time series

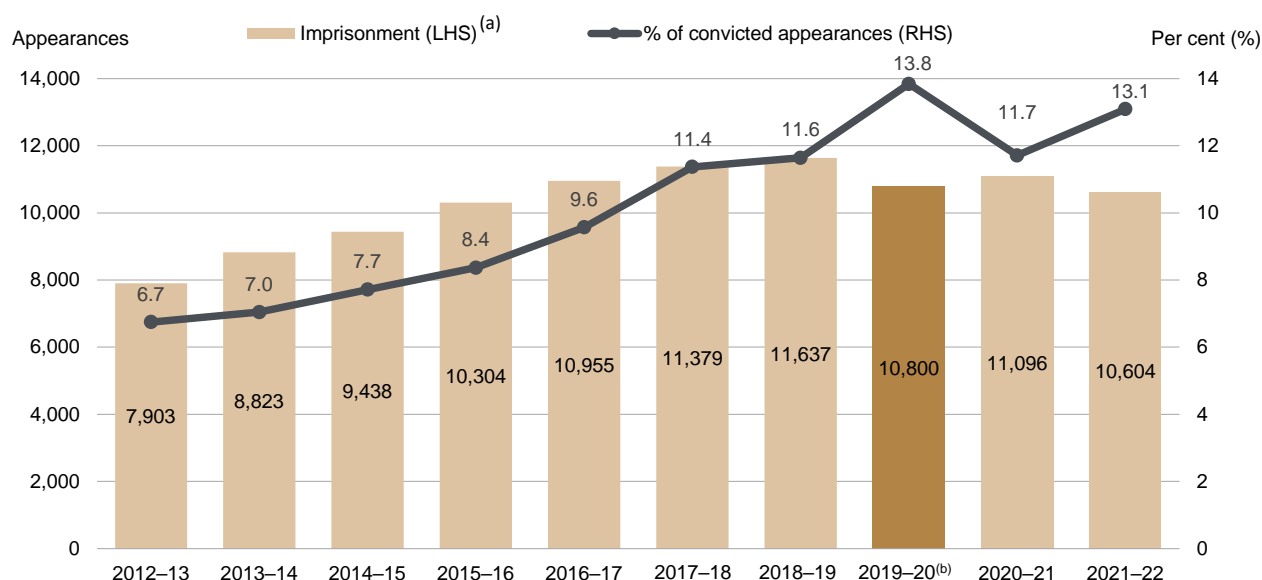
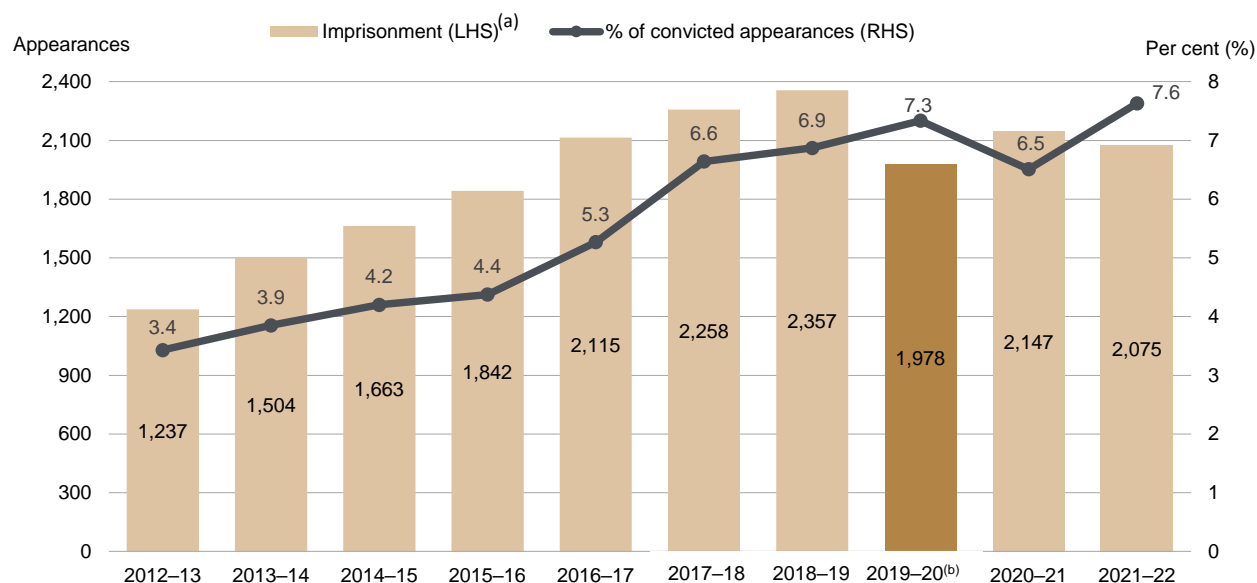


Figure 11 Convicted adult female appearances with a sentence of imprisonment, all courts – time series



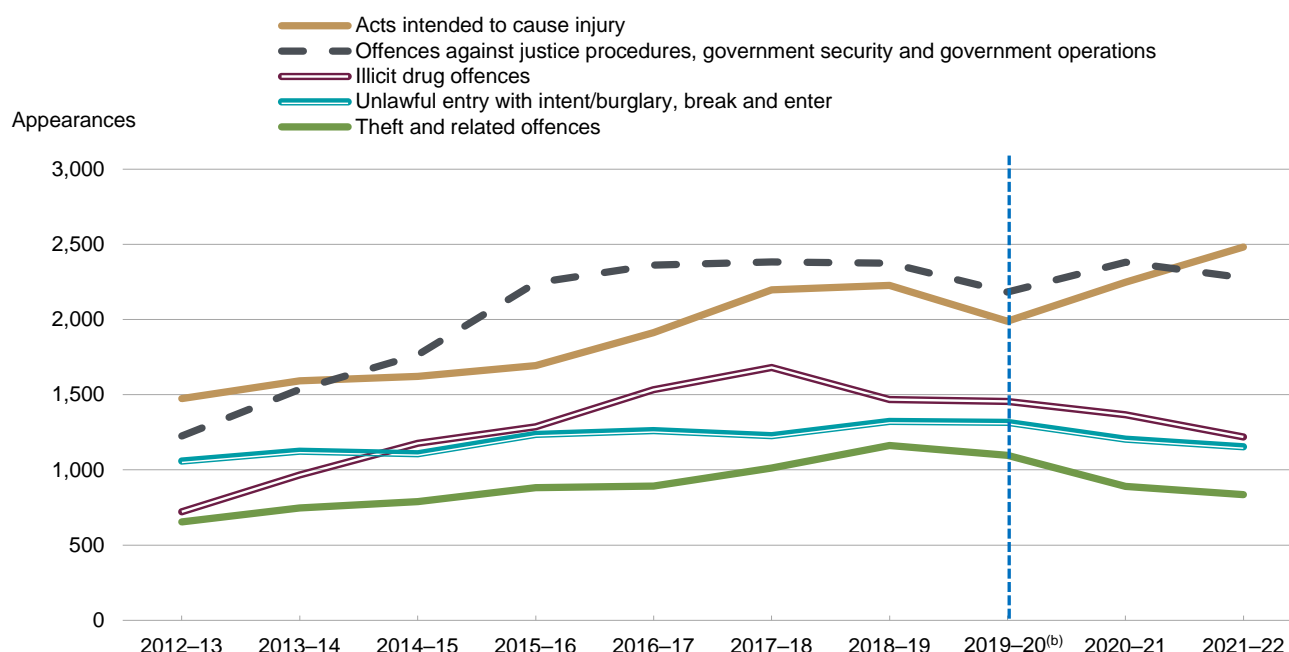
(a) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

For appearances with a sentence of imprisonment, the five most prevalent MSOs in 2021–22 were the same for both males and females, although the order of prevalence was entirely different.

For males, *acts intended to cause injury* overtook *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* to become the most prevalent MSO in 2021–22. Together they account for almost half (44.9%) of all male appearances with a sentence of imprisonment (Figure 12).

Figure 12 Male imprisonment^(a) by the five most prevalent MSOs of 2021–22, all courts – time series

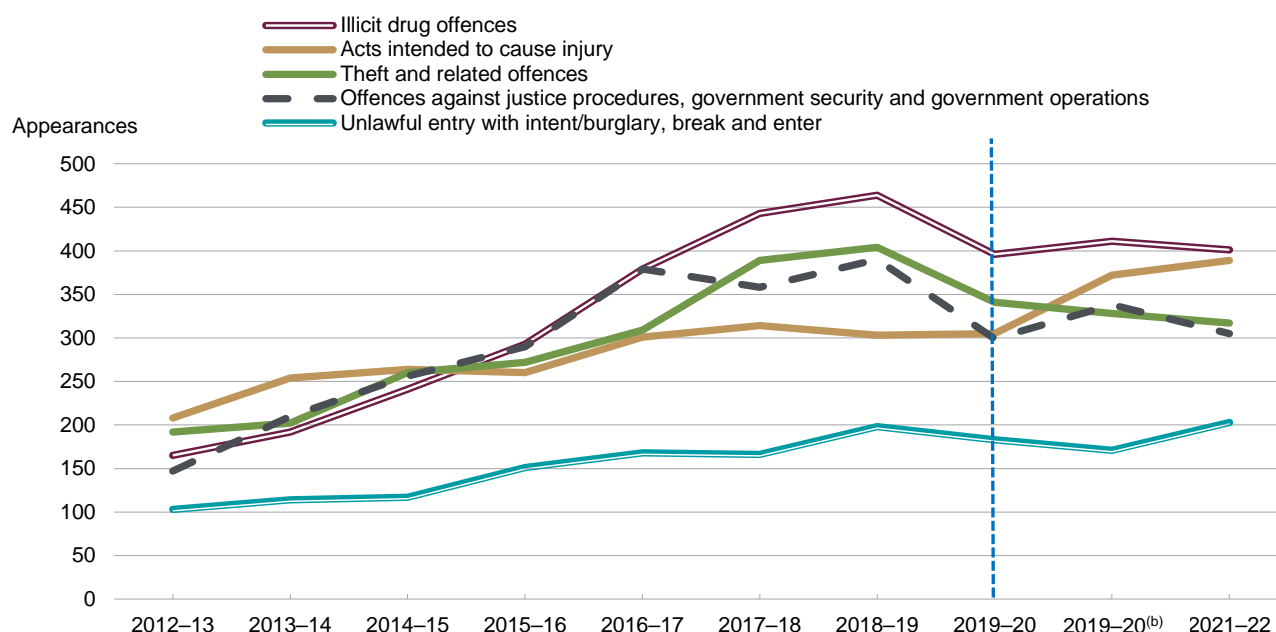


(a) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

For females, *illicit drug offences* has been the most common MSO resulting in a prison sentence since 2015–16. *Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* offences was among the top five for only the second time in a decade (Figure 13).

Figure 13 Female imprisonment^(a) by the five most prevalent MSOs of 2021–22, all courts – time series



(a) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

Since 2013–14, *imprisonment* has consistently been the most serious penalty in more than 80% of male appearances in the Supreme Court each year in the 10-year time series. For female appearances, the proportion sentenced to prison reached 79.0% in 2021–22, the highest in the time series.

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

Most serious penalty	2012–13		2013–14		2014–15		2015–16		2016–17	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Penalty ^(a)	— number —									
Imprisonment ^(b)	370	76	347	66	430	74	517	95	698	158
Intensive correction order	3	0	1	2	2	1	6	3	1	2
Wholly suspended sentence	48	11	18	12	49	18	66	18	93	29
Community service	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	2	6	0
Probation	6	8	2	3	4	3	6	5	15	9
Fine	6	1	5	0	1	1	3	1	13	3
Good behaviour order	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	1
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Nominal penalty ^(c)	29	4	34	1	8	8	24	6	42	12
Total	464	102	408	84	496	107	627	130	869	214

Table 21 continued.

Most serious penalty	2017–18 ^(d)		2018–19		2019–20 ^(e)		2020–21		2021–22	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Penalty ^(a)	— number —									
Imprisonment ^(b)	911	214	770	220	790	197	756	202	715	211
Intensive correction order	0	1	1	4	2	2	0	0	0	1
Wholly suspended sentence	73	34	62	27	56	24	56	34	77	26
Community service	4	1	2	1	0	2	1	2	2	4
Probation	16	5	13	15	10	11	14	10	14	4
Fine	6	3	4	2	1	1	6	1	2	1
Good behaviour order	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nominal penalty ^(c)	60	13	56	18	64	20	64	12	61	20
Total	1,070	272	909	288	923	257	897	261	871	267

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(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 into 2021–22.

4 in 5 females with a
convicted appearance in the
Supreme Court in 2021–22
were sentenced to
imprisonment.

In the District Court, *imprisonment* and *wholly suspended sentence* were consistently the two most common penalties imposed for both males and females throughout the time series. Together they comprised 82.6% of male and 74.8% of female convicted appearances.

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

Most serious penalty	2012–13		2013–14		2014–15		2015–16		2016–17	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Penalty ^(a)	— number —									
Imprisonment ^(b)	1,785	258	1,860	261	1,938	272	1,856	273	2,121	357
Intensive correction order	28	9	27	6	33	5	16	9	21	5
Wholly suspended sentence	347	83	358	77	354	88	450	113	453	91
Community service	83	24	96	13	90	30	84	12	109	23
Probation	108	38	103	37	149	58	147	57	226	83
Fine	80	19	78	17	105	18	115	19	100	18
Compensation/restitution	3	1	3	0	0	1	4	0	9	2
Good behaviour order	19	7	17	5	21	9	16	14	21	12
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nominal penalty ^(c)	185	26	175	22	156	26	166	25	169	30
Total	2,638	465	2,717	438	2,846	507	2,854	522	3,229	621

Table 22 continued.

Most serious penalty	2017–18 ^(d)		2018–19		2019–20 ^(e)		2020–21		2021–22	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Penalty ^(a)	— number —									
Imprisonment ^(b)	2,437	345	2,547	379	2,423	339	2,319	327	2,378	372
Intensive correction order	20	4	25	11	24	12	19	6	16	6
Wholly suspended sentence	435	110	510	118	499	116	430	111	498	125
Community service	69	12	73	15	55	18	38	12	52	10
Probation	208	79	249	83	194	106	142	52	197	86
Fine	112	16	118	17	96	13	87	19	111	22
Compensation/restitution	8	2	9	2	5	1	6	0	5	2
Good behaviour order	37	18	25	13	25	6	18	4	23	5
Driver licence disqualification	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Nominal penalty ^(c)	187	25	210	35	214	38	188	27	200	36
Total^(f)	3,514	611	3,766	673	3,536	649	3,247	558	3,481	664

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

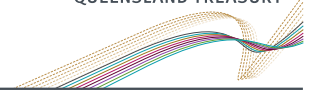
(b) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(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 into 2021–22.

(f) Totals exclude a total of 13 convicted appearances where defendant's sex was not stated.



In the Magistrates Court, throughout the time series, a consistently larger proportion of male convicted appearances resulted in a sentence of *imprisonment* compared with that of females. In 2021–22, the female proportion with sentenced *imprisonment* (5.7%) was at its highest in 10 years. *Probation* and *good behaviour order* as most serious penalty were more common for females than males. However, the proportion of convicted appearances with *fine* as most serious penalty was almost identical for both males and females (at 65.0% and 65.6% respectively in 2021–22).

Table 23 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, by sex, Magistrates Court – time series

Most serious penalty	2012–13			2013–14			2014–15			2015–16			2016–17		
	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated
Penalty ^(a)	— number —														
Imprisonment ^(b)	5,748	903	1	6,616	1,177	2	7,070	1,317	1	7,931	1,474	3	8,136	1,600	13
Intensive correction order	152	45	0	150	49	0	152	54	0	160	76	0	166	59	0
Wholly suspended sentence	3,556	680	1	3,853	876	0	3,970	947	0	4,394	1,021	0	4,493	1,176	0
Community service	2,131	527	1	2,550	719	2	2,750	763	3	3,252	918	1	3,080	917	0
Probation	4,629	1,724	0	5,006	1,949	1	5,003	2,105	0	5,785	2,499	0	5,996	2,721	0
Other penalty ^(c)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Fine	84,822	26,884	490	89,202	28,662	732	86,739	28,559	688	86,136	30,177	514	77,311	27,858	466
Compensation/restitution	688	387	0	664	338	0	658	349	0	591	367	1	597	324	1
Good behaviour order	5,755	2,474	6	6,109	2,741	14	6,793	3,085	10	6,437	3,215	3	5,868	2,969	5
Driver licence disqualification	332	165	0	322	149	1	457	185	0	548	225	0	490	180	0
Nominal penalty ^(c)	6,212	1,705	12	7,647	1,857	19	5,403	1,604	21	4,468	1,470	16	4,272	1,502	13
Total	114,025	35,494	511	122,119	38,517	771	118,995	38,968	723	119,703	41,442	538	110,409	39,306	498

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

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

(d) Includes convicted not punished.

Table 23 continued.

Most serious penalty	2017–18 ^(d)			2018–19			2019–20 ^(e)			2020–21			2021–22		
	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated
Penalty ^(a)	— number —														
Imprisonment ^(b)	8,031	1,699	2	8,320	1,758	1	7,587	1,442	0	8,021	1,618	1	7,511	1,492	0
Intensive correction order	160	49	0	145	53	0	111	40	0	146	45	0	118	40	0
Wholly suspended sentence	4,450	1,124	3	5,020	1,303	3	3,930	1,044	2	4,846	1,323	3	4,545	1,226	0
Community service	2,542	813	2	2,117	715	0	1,535	461	2	1,864	635	2	1,662	590	2
Probation	5,514	2,541	0	5,592	2,651	1	4,431	2,165	1	5,648	2,788	3	5,123	2,309	0
Other penalty ^(c)	3	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
Fine	64,899	22,606	291	64,212	22,459	298	48,283	17,371	266	60,974	21,637	219	49,809	17,235	197
Compensation/restitution	525	293	0	587	348	1	498	258	2	550	328	1	562	282	0
Good behaviour order	5,207	2,474	8	5,150	2,576	3	4,007	2,054	4	4,680	2,409	5	3,563	1,806	7
Driver licence disqualification	324	125	0	347	158	0	328	136	0	421	130	0	449	141	0
Nominal penalty ^(f)	3,863	1,386	9	3,803	1,311	3	2,872	1,081	10	3,471	1,249	14	3,325	1,137	7
Total	95,518	33,111	315	95,295	33,333	310	73,582	26,053	287	90,622	32,163	248	76,668	26,258	213

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(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 into 2021–22.

(f) Includes convicted not punished.

In the Magistrates Court in 2021–22,
9.8% of convicted appearances of males
and 5.7% for females
resulted in a sentence of *imprisonment*.

3.2.6. Age and sex

In 2021–22, the overall number of convicted adult appearances decreased noticeably compared with 2020–21. This was mainly due to subdued numbers in every age group for both male and female defendants in the Magistrates Court. In the Supreme Court, the defendant age group with the highest number of convicted appearances was those aged 30–39 years, both male and female, while in the District and Magistrates Courts it was males and females aged 20–29 years.

Table 24 Convicted adult appearances by court type, by age and sex

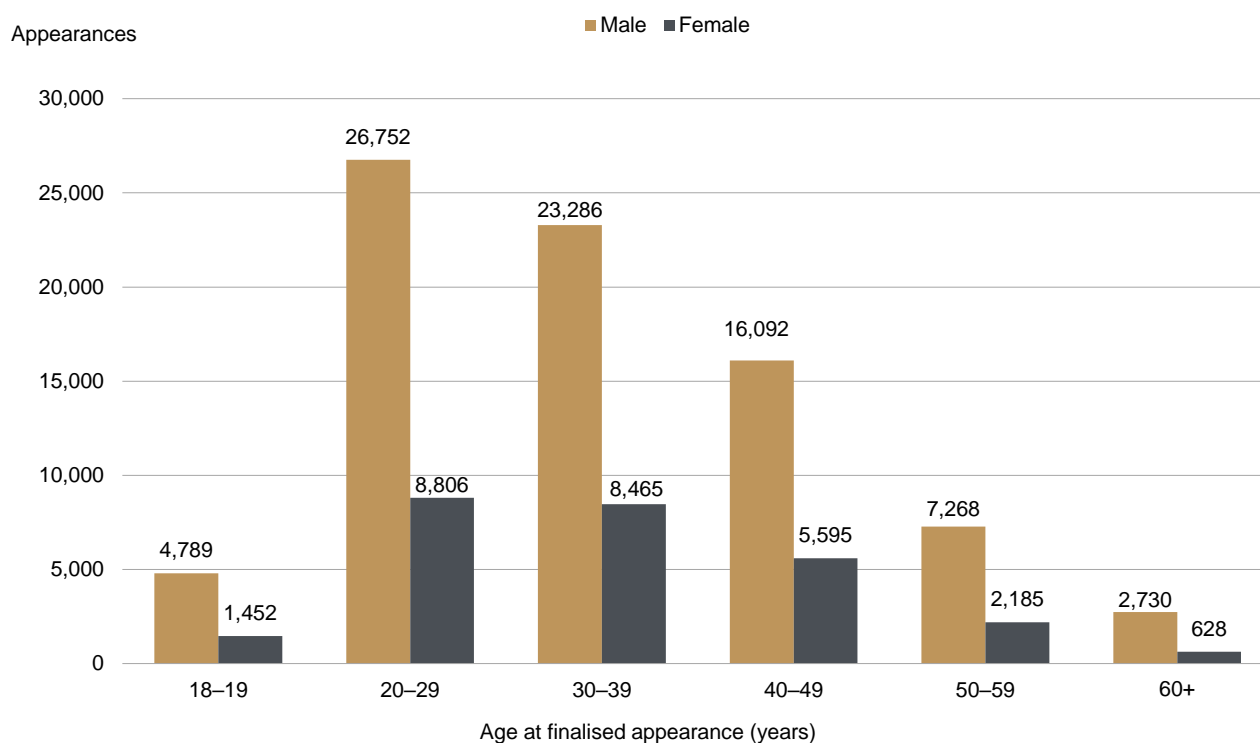
	Year	2019–20 ^(a)				2020–21				2021–22			
	Sex	Male	Female	Not stated	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total
Court type	Age at finalised appearance	— number —				— number —				— number —			
Supreme	18–19 yrs	16	3	0	19	11	0	0	11	7	3	0	10
	20–29 yrs	348	95	0	443	307	97	0	404	280	83	0	363
	30–39 yrs	352	92	0	444	343	106	0	449	351	107	0	458
	40–49 yrs	148	56	0	204	167	43	0	210	158	55	0	213
	50–59 yrs	42	8	0	50	59	13	0	72	64	13	0	77
	60 and over	17	3	0	20	10	2	0	12	9	6	0	15
	Not stated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
District	18–19 yrs	131	26	0	157	117	13	0	130	97	26	0	123
	20–29 yrs	1,348	239	0	1,587	1,158	205	3	1,366	1,207	206	0	1,413
	30–39 yrs	999	204	0	1,203	912	159	0	1,071	1,025	199	0	1,224
	40–49 yrs	603	107	0	710	591	117	0	708	643	139	0	782
	50–59 yrs	283	51	0	334	280	48	1	329	319	67	0	386
	60 and over	168	18	0	186	188	16	0	204	189	27	0	216
	Not stated	4	4	0	8	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
Magistrates	18–19 yrs	4,802	1,455	4	6,261	5,567	1,665	4	7,236	4,685	1,423	2	6,110
	20–29 yrs	25,249	8,903	82	34,234	30,392	10,993	63	41,448	25,265	8,517	42	33,824
	30–39 yrs	20,955	7,852	62	28,869	25,560	9,651	57	35,268	21,910	8,159	64	30,133
	40–49 yrs	14,393	5,258	54	19,705	18,070	6,575	32	24,677	15,291	5,401	29	20,721
	50–59 yrs	5,823	1,954	16	7,793	7,836	2,464	24	10,324	6,885	2,105	27	9,017
	60 and over	2,256	579	18	2,853	3,026	728	15	3,769	2,532	595	10	3,137
	Not stated	104	52	51	207	171	87	53	311	100	58	39	197
All courts (total)	18–19 yrs	4,949	1,484	4	6,437	5,695	1,678	4	7,377	4,789	1,452	2	6,243
	20–29 yrs	26,945	9,237	82	36,264	31,857	11,295	66	43,218	26,752	8,806	42	35,600
	30–39 yrs	22,306	8,148	62	30,516	26,815	9,916	57	36,788	23,286	8,465	64	31,815
	40–49 yrs	15,144	5,421	54	20,619	18,828	6,735	32	25,595	16,092	5,595	29	21,716
	50–59 yrs	6,148	2,013	16	8,177	8,175	2,525	25	10,725	7,268	2,185	27	9,480
	60 and over	2,441	600	18	3,059	3,224	746	15	3,985	2,730	628	10	3,368
	Not stated	108	56	51	215	172	87	53	312	103	58	39	200

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

Figure 14 represents convicted adult appearances of males and females across six different age groups, where both age and sex of defendant were known. In convicted appearances in 2021–22, the ratio of males to females ranged between 2.8 and 4.3 across all age groups.

The 20–29 year age group was the predominant age group for both males and females, accounting for around a third of convicted appearances (33.1% and 32.5% respectively) for each. Second-most prevalent for both was the 30–39 year age group, at 28.8% and 31.2% respectively. These two age groups comprised more than 60% of convicted appearances in adult courts for both males and females.

Figure 14 Convicted adult appearances^(a) by age^(b) and sex^(c), all courts, 2021–22



(a) Among these were 39 appearances where both age and sex of the defendant were unknown.

(b) Excludes 359 convicted adult appearances of defendants whose age was not stated.

(c) Excludes 213 convicted adult appearances of defendants whose sex was not stated.

The age group with the greatest number of convicted charges followed a different pattern compared with appearances (Table 25). For female defendants in every court type, it was those aged 30–39 years, while for male defendants in the Supreme Court it was 30–39 years, and 20–29 years in the District and Magistrates Courts and overall.

Table 25 Convicted charges against adults by court type, by age and sex

	Year	2019–20 ^(a)				2020–21				2021–22			
	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	156	33	0	189	47	0	0	47	55	22	0	77
	20–29 yrs	2,738	700	0	3,438	2,316	661	0	2,977	2,382	554	0	2,936
	30–39 yrs	2,827	880	0	3,707	2,737	717	0	3,454	2,773	806	0	3,579
	40–49 yrs	1,165	345	0	1,510	1,158	305	0	1,463	1,143	441	0	1,584
	50–59 yrs	353	15	0	368	323	69	0	392	403	127	0	530
	60 and over	57	4	0	61	46	5	0	51	74	16	0	90
	Not stated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
District	18–19 yrs	759	127	0	886	491	128	0	619	563	98	0	661
	20–29 yrs	8,024	1,385	0	9,409	6,191	1,100	3	7,294	5,779	904	0	6,683
	30–39 yrs	6,432	1,065	0	7,497	5,005	738	0	5,743	5,712	1,041	0	6,753
	40–49 yrs	3,069	480	0	3,549	3,304	432	0	3,736	3,078	619	0	3,697
	50–59 yrs	1,304	175	0	1,479	1,227	147	1	1,375	1,736	256	0	1,992
	60 and over	669	50	0	719	1,058	41	0	1,099	868	71	0	939
	Not stated	22	4	0	26	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
Magistrates	18–19 yrs	12,622	3,829	5	16,456	14,582	4,192	6	18,780	12,961	3,483	3	16,447
	20–29 yrs	69,067	24,480	99	93,646	85,133	30,141	84	115,358	69,210	24,182	54	93,446
	30–39 yrs	62,364	21,268	91	83,723	77,279	28,115	96	105,490	65,511	24,635	78	90,224
	40–49 yrs	37,906	12,139	64	50,109	47,651	16,412	57	64,120	42,213	13,887	32	56,132
	50–59 yrs	12,622	3,698	18	16,338	17,167	5,178	45	22,390	14,900	4,206	39	19,145
	60 and over	3,947	940	38	4,925	5,914	1,341	17	7,272	4,509	1,071	20	5,600
	Not stated	243	90	208	541	510	177	272	959	158	86	162	406
All courts (total)	18–19 yrs	13,537	3,989	5	17,531	15,120	4,320	6	19,446	13,579	3,603	3	17,185
	20–29 yrs	79,829	26,565	99	106,493	93,640	31,902	87	125,629	77,371	25,640	54	103,065
	30–39 yrs	71,623	23,213	91	94,927	85,021	29,570	96	114,687	73,996	26,482	78	100,556
	40–49 yrs	42,140	12,964	64	55,168	52,113	17,149	57	69,319	46,434	14,947	32	61,413
	50–59 yrs	14,279	3,888	18	18,185	18,717	5,394	46	24,157	17,039	4,589	39	21,667
	60 and over	4,673	994	38	5,705	7,018	1,387	17	8,422	5,451	1,158	20	6,629
	Not stated	265	94	208	567	511	177	272	960	164	86	162	412

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

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).

Figure 15 indicates there was little fluctuation in the number of convicted appearances for defendants who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, remaining around 25,000 throughout the 10-year time series. In contrast, for other defendants the number of convicted appearances trended downwards, and in 2021–22 declined to below 90,000 for the second time in three years.

While the convicted appearance rate declined for both cohorts in 2021–22 compared with the previous year, the rate for other defendants (2,221.8 appearances per 100,000 persons) reached its lowest point in the time series (Figure 16). As a result, the rate ratio between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other defendants in 2021–22 was around 6.5 convicted appearances to one, the highest in 10 years.

Figure 15 Convicted adult appearances by Indigenous status, all courts – time series

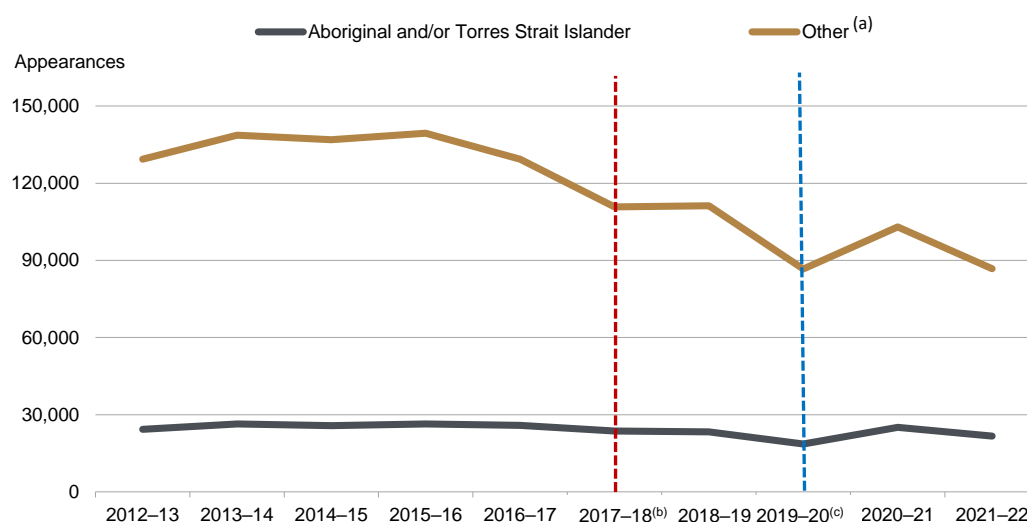
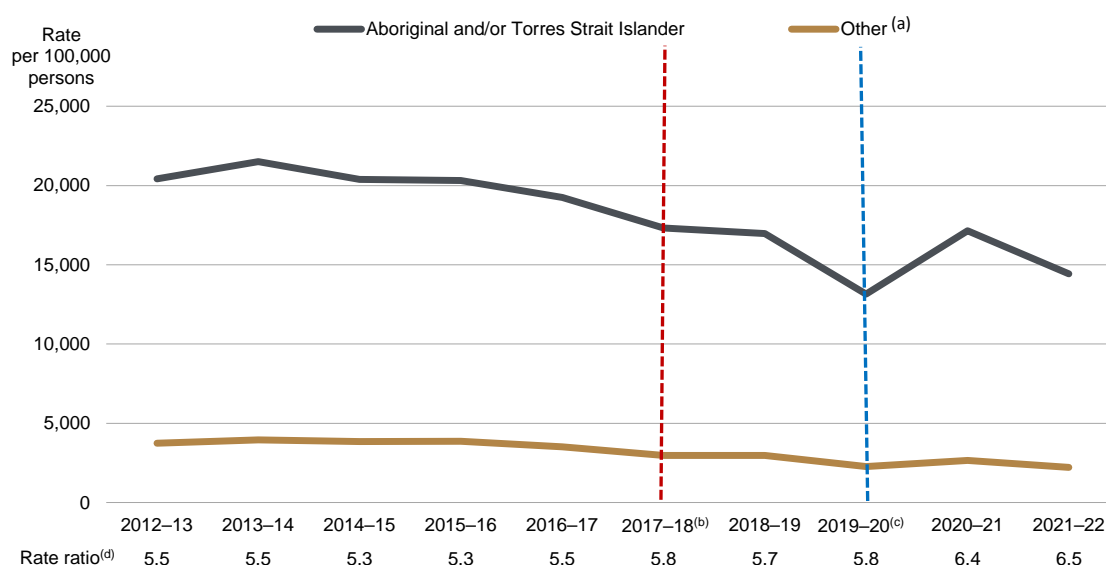


Figure 16 Convicted adult appearance rate by Indigenous status, all courts – time series

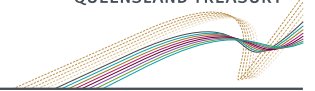


(a) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.

(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 into 2021–22.

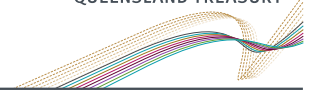
(d) Rate ratio is the rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants divided by the rate for other defendants. Rate ratios have been calculated on unrounded rates.



Queensland Government Statistician's Office

Table 26 **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 —			
2012–13	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	32	9	41	453	100	0	553	16,544	7,214	4	23,762	17,029	7,323	4	24,356
	Other ^(a)	432	93	525	2,185	365	2	2,552	97,481	28,280	507	126,268	100,098	28,738	509	129,345
	Total	464	102	566	2,638	465	2	3,105	114,025	35,494	511	150,030	117,127	36,061	513	153,701
2013–14	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	31	6	37	474	120	0	594	17,773	8,014	2	25,789	18,278	8,140	2	26,420
	Other ^(a)	377	78	455	2,243	318	2	2,563	104,346	30,503	769	135,618	106,966	30,899	771	138,636
	Total	408	84	492	2,717	438	2	3,157	122,119	38,517	771	161,407	125,244	39,039	773	165,056
2014–15	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	30	8	38	497	118	0	615	17,170	7,956	0	25,126	17,697	8,082	0	25,779
	Other ^(a)	466	99	565	2,349	389	0	2,738	101,825	31,012	723	133,560	104,640	31,500	723	136,863
	Total	496	107	603	2,846	507	0	3,353	118,995	38,968	723	158,686	122,337	39,582	723	162,642
2015–16	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	37	11	48	468	112	0	580	17,685	8,118	2	25,805	18,190	8,241	2	26,433
	Other ^(a)	590	119	709	2,386	410	1	2,797	102,018	33,324	536	135,878	104,994	33,853	537	139,384
	Total	627	130	757	2,854	522	1	3,377	119,703	41,442	538	161,683	123,184	42,094	539	165,817
2016–17	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	54	10	64	512	127	0	639	17,060	8,046	0	25,106	17,626	8,183	0	25,809
	Other ^(a)	815	204	1,019	2,717	494	1	3,212	93,349	31,260	498	125,107	96,881	31,958	499	129,338
	Total	869	214	1,083	3,229	621	1	3,851	110,409	39,306	498	150,213	114,507	40,141	499	155,147



Queensland Government Statistician's Office

Table 26 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 —			
2017–18 (b)	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	46	12	58	646	141	0	787	15,427	7,360	0	22,787	16,119	7,513	0	23,632
	Other ^(a)	1,024	260	1,284	2,868	470	1	3,339	80,091	25,751	315	106,157	83,983	26,481	316	110,780
	Total	1,070	272	1,342	3,514	611	1	4,126	95,518	33,111	315	128,944	100,102	33,994	316	134,412
2018–19	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	50	26	76	641	139	0	780	15,300	7,205	0	22,505	15,991	7,370	0	23,361
	Other ^(a)	859	262	1,121	3,125	534	2	3,661	79,995	26,128	310	106,433	83,979	26,924	312	111,215
	Total	909	288	1,197	3,766	673	2	4,441	95,295	33,333	310	128,938	99,970	34,294	312	134,576
2019–20 (c)	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	54	18	72	673	140	0	813	12,238	5,528	1	17,767	12,965	5,686	1	18,652
	Other ^(a)	869	239	1,108	2,863	509	0	3,372	61,344	20,525	286	82,155	65,076	21,273	286	86,635
	Total	923	257	1,180	3,536	649	0	4,185	73,582	26,053	287	99,922	78,041	26,959	287	105,287
2020–21	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	65	28	93	640	154	0	794	16,369	7,795	2	24,166	17,074	7,977	2	25,053
	Other ^(a)	832	233	1,065	2,607	404	4	3,015	74,253	24,368	246	98,867	77,692	25,005	250	102,947
	Total	897	261	1,158	3,247	558	4	3,809	90,622	32,163	248	123,033	94,766	32,982	252	128,000
2021–22	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	66	30	96	671	150	0	821	14,301	6,492	0	20,793	15,038	6,672	0	21,710
	Other ^(a)	805	237	1,042	2,810	514	0	3,324	62,367	19,766	213	82,346	65,982	20,517	213	86,712
	Total	871	267	1,138	3,481	664	0	4,145	76,668	26,258	213	103,139	81,020	27,189	213	108,422

(a) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.

(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 into 2021–22.

Overall, *illicit drug offences* has been the MSO in almost a third of all convicted adult appearances in the Supreme and District Courts in each of the three most recent financial years. However, the most common MSO among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants was *acts intended to cause injury*, accounting for 40.7% of their convicted appearances in 2021–22.

Table 27 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, by Indigenous status, Supreme and District Courts

Indigenous status Most serious offence (MSO)	2019–20 ^(a)			2020–21			2021–22		
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —								
Homicide and related offences	8	43	51	12	33	45	19	28	47
Acts intended to cause injury	326	830	1,156	311	793	1,104	373	887	1,260
Sexual assault and related offences	88	600	688	86	629	715	89	674	763
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	14	99	113	7	73	80	14	92	106
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	7	28	35	9	26	35	14	51	65
Robbery, extortion and related offences	147	379	526	141	326	467	105	250	355
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	59	166	225	46	154	200	52	188	240
Theft and related offences	21	82	103	17	84	101	12	82	94
Fraud, deception and related offences	1	121	122	5	119	124	7	112	119
Illicit drug offences	118	1,653	1,771	149	1,438	1,587	128	1,548	1,676
Weapons and explosives offences	1	15	16	0	10	10	1	24	25
Property damage and environmental pollution	20	74	94	17	80	97	27	88	115
Public order offences	5	8	13	2	5	7	9	11	20
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	69	371	440	85	295	380	66	316	382
Miscellaneous Offences	0	10	10	0	15	15	1	14	15
Total	885	4,480	5,365	887	4,080	4,967	917	4,366	5,283

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(b) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.

In the Magistrates Court, *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* has been the most common MSO in at least a quarter of convicted appearances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants in the past three years (28.1% in 2021–22). For other defendants, *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* was the most prevalent MSO, accounting for at least a third of convicted appearances each year over the same period (25.3% in 2021–22).

Table 28 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, by Indigenous status, Magistrates Court

Indigenous status Most serious offence (MSO)	2019–20 ^(a)			2020–21			2021–22		
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —								
Acts intended to cause injury	1,561	2,997	4,558	2,340	4,263	6,603	2,426	4,154	6,580
Sexual assault and related offences	30	114	144	49	146	195	48	165	213
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	635	3,920	4,555	1,002	5,663	6,665	762	5,000	5,762
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	40	223	263	72	384	456	79	362	441
Robbery, extortion and related offences	1	11	12	4	11	15	8	7	15
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	698	1,548	2,246	589	1,582	2,171	659	1,458	2,117
Theft and related offences	1,827	8,027	9,854	1,731	7,831	9,562	1,653	6,213	7,866
Fraud, deception and related offences	274	1,793	2,067	291	1,947	2,238	267	1,429	1,696
Illicit drug offences	1,833	12,042	13,875	2,680	15,247	17,927	1,750	10,152	11,902
Weapons and explosives offences	345	2,504	2,849	557	3,159	3,716	344	2,210	2,554
Property damage and environmental pollution	553	1,452	2,005	874	2,238	3,112	811	1,875	2,686
Public order offences	2,503	3,853	6,356	3,336	4,384	7,720	2,352	3,506	5,858
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	2,851	29,232	32,083	4,403	33,415	37,818	3,720	29,057	32,777
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	4,557	13,555	18,112	6,119	17,378	23,497	5,847	15,958	21,805
Miscellaneous offences	59	884	943	119	1,219	1,338	67	800	867
Total	17,767	82,155	99,922	24,166	98,867	123,033	20,793	82,346	103,139

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(b) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

Imprisonment and *wholly suspended sentence* have consistently been the two most prevalent penalties imposed in the Supreme and District Courts (well over 80% of convicted appearances, combined), irrespective of the defendants' Indigenous status. *Imprisonment* accounted for 80.5% of convicted appearances for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants, and 67.3% for other defendants in 2021–22.

Table 29 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, by Indigenous status, Supreme and District Courts

Indigenous status	2019–20 ^(a)			2020–21			2021–22		
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total
Most serious penalty									
Penalty ^(c)	— number —								
Imprisonment ^(d)	699	3,050	3,749	689	2,918	3,607	738	2,938	3,676
Intensive correction order	10	30	40	3	22	25	4	19	23
Wholly suspended sentence	70	625	695	76	555	631	64	662	726
Community service	10	65	75	6	47	53	8	60	68
Probation	37	284	321	35	183	218	36	265	301
Fine	5	106	111	8	105	113	5	131	136
Compensation/restitution	0	6	6	0	6	6	0	7	7
Good behaviour order	2	29	31	3	19	22	4	24	28
Driver licence disqualification	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Nominal penalty ^(e)	52	284	336	67	225	292	58	259	317
Total	885	4,480	5,365	887	4,080	4,967	917	4,366	5,283

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(b) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.

(c) In descending order of seriousness.

(d) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

(e) Includes convicted not punished.

Compared with 2020–21, the total number of convicted appearances decreased overall, and for every penalty except *driver licence disqualification* where a small increase is seen for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other defendants (+32 and +7 respectively).

In 2021–22, *fine* prevailed as the most serious penalty in the majority of convicted appearances for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (52.9%) and other (68.3%) defendants. *Imprisonment* was imposed in 15.9% (3,306) of convicted appearances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants and 6.9% (5,697) for other defendants.

Table 30 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, by Indigenous status, Magistrates Court

Indigenous status Most serious penalty	2019–20 ^(a)			2020–21			2021–22		
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total
Penalty ^(c)	— number —								
Imprisonment ^(d)	3,176	5,853	9,029	3,412	6,228	9,640	3,306	5,697	9,003
Intensive correction order	47	104	151	33	158	191	37	121	158
Wholly suspended sentence	1,312	3,664	4,976	1,601	4,571	6,172	1,630	4,141	5,771
Community service	648	1,350	1,998	771	1,730	2,501	764	1,490	2,254
Probation	1,318	5,279	6,597	2,029	6,410	8,439	1,850	5,582	7,432
Other penalty ^(e)	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	1
Fine	9,509	56,411	65,920	14,007	68,823	82,830	11,006	56,235	67,241
Compensation/restitution	95	663	758	122	757	879	181	663	844
Good behaviour order	603	5,462	6,065	819	6,275	7,094	758	4,618	5,376
Driver licence disqualification	45	419	464	66	485	551	98	492	590
Nominal penalty ^(f)	1,014	2,949	3,963	1,306	3,428	4,734	1,163	3,306	4,469
Total	17,767	82,155	99,922	24,166	98,867	123,033	20,793	82,346	103,139

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(b) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.

(c) In descending order of seriousness.

(d) Includes partially suspended sentence, as a period of imprisonment is required to be served prior to suspension of the remainder.

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

(f) Includes convicted not punished.

3.2.8. Companies

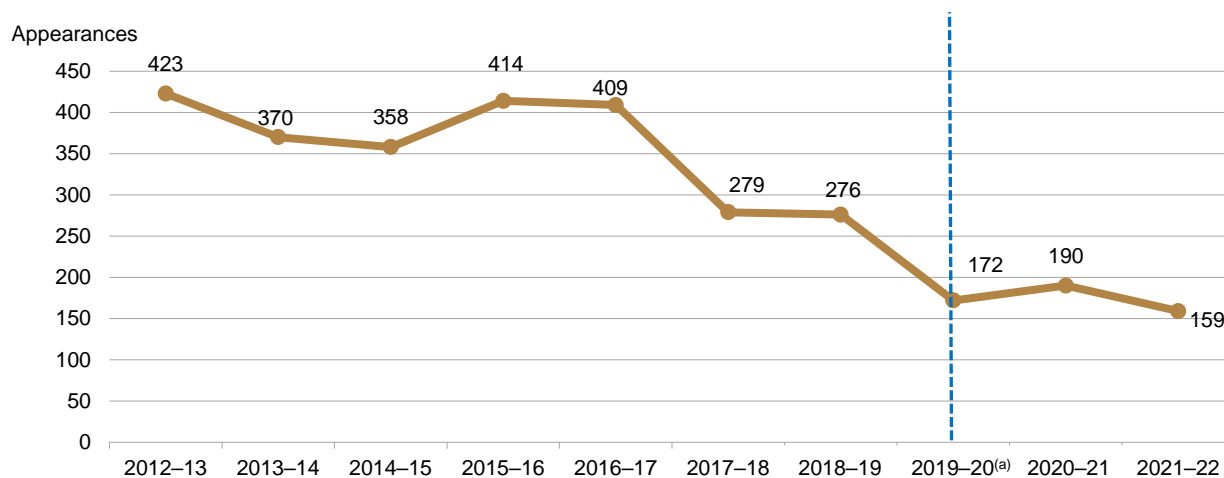
Three-quarters (74.8%) of convicted company appearances had either *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* or *miscellaneous offences* as their most serious offence in 2021–22. The number of convicted company appearances was at its lowest point (159) in the time series and well under half the number seen in the first five years of the series.

Table 31 Convicted company appearances by most serious offence, all courts – time series

Most serious offence (MSO)	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2021–22
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(b)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	0	1	2	0	4	2	1	2	1	4
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Theft and related offences	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fraud, deception and related offences	14	8	9	14	9	6	11	11	8	10
Illicit drug offences	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Weapons and explosives offences	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Property damage and environmental pollution	7	8	9	5	8	8	9	4	7	3
Public order offences	6	5	8	11	6	7	6	10	3	4
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	192	169	188	195	168	93	84	60	52	43
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	92	98	65	109	130	69	55	23	18	19
Miscellaneous offences	110	81	75	79	84	94	110	60	101	76
Total	423	370	358	414	409	279	276	172	190	159

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(b) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

Figure 17 Convicted company appearances, all courts – time series

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021-22.

Convicted company appearances
reached a 10-year low
of 159 in 2021-22.

In 2021-22, all 37 convicted charges against company defendants in the higher courts were for *miscellaneous offences* (relating to three convicted appearances). Almost two-thirds (65.6% or 290) of charges convicted in the Magistrates Court were also for *miscellaneous offences*.

Table 32 Finalised charges against companies, all courts, 2021-22

	2021–22					
	Higher courts ^(a)			Magistrates Court		
	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(c)	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(c)
	Convicted	Not convicted ^(b)		Convicted	Not convicted ^(b)	
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(d)	— number —			— number —		
Homicide and related offences	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	0	0	0	9	0	1
Fraud, deception and related offences	0	0	0	28	0	24
Property damage and environmental pollution	0	0	0	3	1	13
Public order offences	0	0	0	20	0	4
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	0	54	2	25
Offences against justice procedures, government security and operations	0	0	0	38	3	24
Miscellaneous offences	37	0	0	290	7	105
Total	37	0	0	442	13	197

(a) Includes Supreme and District Courts.

(b) Excludes charges which were not adjudicated.

(c) 'Not adjudicated' includes those where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, the charge may be replaced by an amended charge.

(d) 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).

More than one in ten child appearances (12.9%) were finalised without adjudication in 2021–22, and of those which were adjudicated, 1,100 (or 14.6%) were not convicted (See section 3.1).

Table 33 Finalised child appearances by most serious offence, by court type, 2021–22

Most serious offence (MSO)	2021–22					
	Higher courts ^(a)			Childrens Court (Magistrates)		
	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(c)	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(c)
	Convicted	Not convicted ^(b)		Convicted	Not convicted ^(b)	
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —			— number —		
Homicide and related offences	1	0	0	0	0	0
Acts intended to cause injury	101	3	24	1,022	66	112
Sexual assault and related offences	34	14	17	10	6	12
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	11	0	0	314	42	29
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	1	0	0	30	0	7
Robbery, extortion and related offences	288	3	26	18	4	69
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	24	0	1	1,391	85	336
Theft and related offences	18	0	3	1,465	310	229
Fraud, deception and related offences	2	0	0	100	11	12
Illicit drug offences	15	0	0	208	74	27
Weapons and explosives offences	0	0	0	261	53	20
Property damage and environmental pollution	25	1	10	284	73	32
Public order offences	1	0	0	242	107	38
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	0	256	162	25
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	18	4	1	303	79	88
Miscellaneous offences	0	0	0	4	3	1
Total	539	25	82	5,908	1,075	1,037

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

(b) Excludes appearances which were not adjudicated.

(c) 'Not adjudicated' includes cases where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, these cases may be replaced by a new case with amended charges.

3.3.2. Convicted appearances

The number of convicted child appearances in the higher courts has declined for the two consecutive years since 2019–20, and reached its lowest level (539) since the transition of 17-year-old offenders to the youth justice system. Similar to 2020–21, *robbery, extortion and related offences* was the most serious offence in more than half of all convicted appearances (53.4%) in the higher courts in 2021–22.

Table 34 Convicted child appearances by most serious offence, all higher courts^(a) – time series

Most serious offence (MSO)	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(c)	2020–21	2021–22
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(d)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	1	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	1
Acts intended to cause injury	90	69	57	57	59	68	132	127	106	101
Sexual assault and related offences	46	32	40	29	46	36	42	54	41	34
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	8	11	5	6	4	4	9	11	9	11
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	2	2	2	1	3	2	3	3	9	1
Robbery, extortion and related offences	137	151	96	132	133	133	257	344	287	288
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	31	33	23	25	21	18	25	33	14	24
Theft and related offences	9	16	6	6	10	13	18	33	17	18
Fraud, deception and related offences	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	2	4	2
Illicit drug offences	3	6	5	3	12	13	30	23	17	15
Weapons and explosives offences	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Property damage and environmental pollution	29	30	21	18	25	27	34	32	19	25
Public order offences	0	2	0	1	1	21	2	0	1	1
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
Offences against justice procedures, government security and operations	13	19	27	24	13	14	17	17	16	18
Total	370	375	285	304	328	351	572	681	543	539

(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 into 2021–22.

(d) Excludes offence divisions with zero value.

In 2021–22, the number of convicted child appearances in the Childrens Court was below 6,000 for only the third time in the 10–year time series, although higher than in 2019–20 when court operations were disrupted due to COVID-19. *Theft related offences* and *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* collectively comprised the MSOs in almost half (48.3%) of all convicted child appearances. While there was a decline for most offence divisions since the previous year, *dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons* reached its peak for the series, at 314 or 5.3% of all convicted appearances in 2021–22.

Table 35 Convicted child appearances by most serious offence, Childrens Court (Magistrates) – time series

Most serious offence (MSO)	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —									
Acts intended to cause injury	692	667	639	629	643	760	967	767	1,063	1,022
Sexual assault and related offences	12	14	10	11	10	13	6	9	8	10
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	160	150	165	144	161	210	281	189	305	314
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	17	27	27	27	25	25	40	32	22	30
Robbery, extortion and related offences	17	5	6	6	11	20	26	25	41	18
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	1,371	1,277	1,099	1,228	1,266	1,400	1,504	1,057	1,402	1,391
Theft and related offences	1,609	1,701	1,534	1,748	1,798	1,826	1,997	1,305	1,448	1,465
Fraud, deception and related offences	51	66	68	79	93	120	144	85	115	100
Illicit drug offences	265	268	328	337	312	369	462	282	351	208
Weapons and explosives offences	107	104	150	136	146	204	287	231	292	261
Property damage and environmental pollution	473	533	533	472	478	551	545	328	369	284
Public order offences	676	737	694	632	562	566	561	296	364	242
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	300	233	209	208	143	229	416	297	356	256
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	435	521	467	479	417	399	509	326	345	303
Miscellaneous offences	7	10	14	7	10	10	10	9	4	4
Total	6,192	6,313	5,943	6,143	6,075	6,702	7,755	5,238	6,485	5,908

(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 into 2021–22.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

3.3.3. Finalised charges

Table 36 Finalised charges against children, by court type, 2021–22

	2021–22					
	Higher courts ^(a)			Childrens Court (Magistrates)		
	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(c)	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated ^(c)
	Convicted	Not convicted ^(b)		Convicted	Not convicted ^(b)	
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —			— number —		
Homicide and related offences	2	0	1	0	0	0
Acts intended to cause injury	245	6	66	1,958	86	292
Sexual assault and related offences	77	38	61	13	15	25
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	32	0	2	543	58	73
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	16	0	1	99	2	23
Robbery, extortion and related offences	515	3	71	49	18	210
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	275	0	25	6,932	196	1,732
Theft and related offences	517	0	41	12,728	726	1,427
Fraud, deception and related offences	34	0	0	1,093	32	279
Illicit drug offences	133	0	2	1,853	183	285
Weapons and explosives offences	9	0	0	507	66	42
Property damage and environmental pollution	110	2	28	1,920	167	224
Public order offences	22	0	0	2,145	247	185
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	31	0	0	1,772	370	140
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	102	5	3	2,365	236	313
Miscellaneous offences	0	0	0	85	5	5
Total	2,120	54	301	34,062	2,407	5,255

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

(b) Excludes charges which were not adjudicated.

(c) 'Not adjudicated' includes those where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, the charge may be replaced by an amended charge.

More than a third of convicted charges in the Childrens Court were for *theft and related offences*, while in higher courts, *robbery, extortion and related offences* and *theft and related offences* together accounted for nearly half of all convicted charges.

3.3.4. Convicted charges

Theft and related offences has been the most prevalent convicted charge against children in higher courts since 2015–16, and accounted for a quarter (24.4% or 517 charges) of the total in 2021–22. Almost equal were convicted charges for *robbery, extortion and related offences* (515 charges or 24.3%), which have more than doubled in number since 2017–18 (250 charges or 13.5%), when 17-year-old offenders transitioned to youth justice.

Table 37 Convicted charges against children, all higher courts^(a) – time series

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(c)	2020–21	2021–22
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	1	2	2	0	0	2	0	2	2	2
Acts intended to cause injury	258	221	142	131	188	219	271	316	280	245
Sexual assault and related offences	109	112	129	137	112	124	96	135	123	77
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	30	33	21	26	21	20	25	42	28	32
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	10	20	10	5	26	16	18	24	33	16
Robbery, extortion and related offences	231	279	171	208	192	250	534	608	583	515
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	559	485	395	252	334	299	479	489	393	275
Theft and related offences	520	589	378	424	433	450	739	764	597	517
Fraud, deception and related offences	21	18	25	43	39	42	80	46	34	34
Illicit drug offences	34	45	93	47	74	72	226	204	132	133
Weapons and explosives offences	5	9	9	5	11	5	10	13	10	9
Property damage and environmental pollution	173	243	150	137	170	135	176	142	166	110
Public order offences	50	63	36	40	33	57	52	64	37	22
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	55	90	25	41	40	51	56	55	32	31
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	115	125	160	140	85	104	131	151	137	102
Miscellaneous offences	2	5	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0
Total	2,173	2,339	1,746	1,636	1,758	1,847	2,893	3,057	2,588	2,120

(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 into 2021–22.

In 2021–22, over a third (37.4%) of convicted charges in the Childrens Court were for *theft and related offences*, followed by *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter*, (20.4%). Both offence divisions reached a time-series peak, at 12,728 and 6,932 respectively. The overall number of convicted charges in the Childrens Court in 2021–22 was similar to that seen in 2018–19, prior to the pandemic.

Table 38 Convicted charges, Childrens Court (Magistrates) – time series

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —									
Acts intended to cause injury	1,109	1,086	1,032	952	1,052	1,361	1,678	1,413	2,177	1,958
Sexual assault and related offences	20	31	14	13	13	24	6	9	12	13
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	280	230	257	228	245	339	459	349	508	543
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	49	60	66	78	70	60	121	93	98	99
Robbery, extortion and related offences	27	11	10	15	30	47	59	56	68	49
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	4,650	3,788	3,468	3,778	4,172	5,169	5,579	4,952	6,733	6,932
Theft and related offences	7,216	6,151	5,796	6,480	7,433	8,667	10,509	9,546	12,370	12,728
Fraud, deception and related offences	420	479	764	805	1,086	1,217	1,325	973	1,451	1,093
Illicit drug offences	923	863	1,107	1,220	1,311	1,512	2,316	1,817	2,459	1,853
Weapons and explosives offences	180	189	212	202	237	320	460	445	589	507
Property damage and environmental pollution	3,485	2,906	3,443	2,302	2,123	2,638	3,070	1,838	2,316	1,920
Public order offences	2,265	2,590	2,795	2,702	2,585	3,090	3,331	2,464	2,974	2,145
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	1,773	1,562	1,306	1,442	1,390	1,515	2,206	1,663	2,262	1,772
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	2,013	2,296	2,396	2,511	2,164	2,612	3,110	2,432	2,829	2,365
Miscellaneous offences	51	39	45	34	29	44	67	48	157	85
Total	24,461	22,281	22,711	22,762	23,940	28,615	34,296	28,098	37,003	34,062

(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 into 2021–22.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

3.3.5. Penalties

This section presents the most serious penalty imposed. A defendant may receive more than one penalty, but only the most serious penalty is presented here.

Detention includes sentences which are partially suspended, based on the premise they each involve a period of sentenced incarceration. In previous editions of this report, partially suspended detention was grouped with conditional release order, which is wholly suspended detention. Conditional release orders are now reported separately. (See Glossary.)

Court-ordered conference was the most prevalent penalty imposed for child defendants in 2021–22 (24.8% of all convicted), and second-most prevalent in 2020–21 (23.8%). The number of convicted child appearances with *community service* as most serious penalty declined sharply in 2019–20 and continued to decline to 453 in 2021–22, its lowest level in the time series. Appearances with *good behaviour order* as most serious penalty remained around 1,000 before also declining sharply in 2019–20, and also decreased to a 10-year low of 528 in 2021–22.

Table 39 Convicted child appearances by most serious penalty, all courts – time series

Most serious penalty	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
Penalty ^(c)	— number —									
Detention ^(d)	235	343	328	340	268	283	364	295	273	301
Intensive supervision	6	12	14	9	2	12	5	5	3	8
Conditional release order	228	256	223	230	220	210	313	237	296	300
Community service ^(e)	951	1,163	1,140	1,034	833	878	983	555	536	453
Probation	1,132	1,271	1,095	1,207	1,153	1,356	1,476	1,102	1,500	1,486
Treatment order ^(f)	38	32	49	72	46	71	107	62	64	22
Court-ordered conference ^(g)	387	0	0	0	731	898	1,340	1,398	1,676	1,602
Fine	102	65	88	72	59	73	154	73	60	52
Compensation/restitution	52	56	38	19	25	26	26	6	10	9
Good behaviour order	1,163	1,183	1,063	1,083	946	970	1,154	591	761	528
Driver licence disqualification	20	11	20	29	11	45	126	132	162	110
Nominal penalty ^(h)	2,248	2,296	2,170	2,352	2,109	2,231	2,279	1,463	1,687	1,576
Total	6,562	6,688	6,228	6,447	6,403	7,053	8,327	5,919	7,028	6,447

(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 into 2021–22.

(c) In descending order of seriousness.

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

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

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

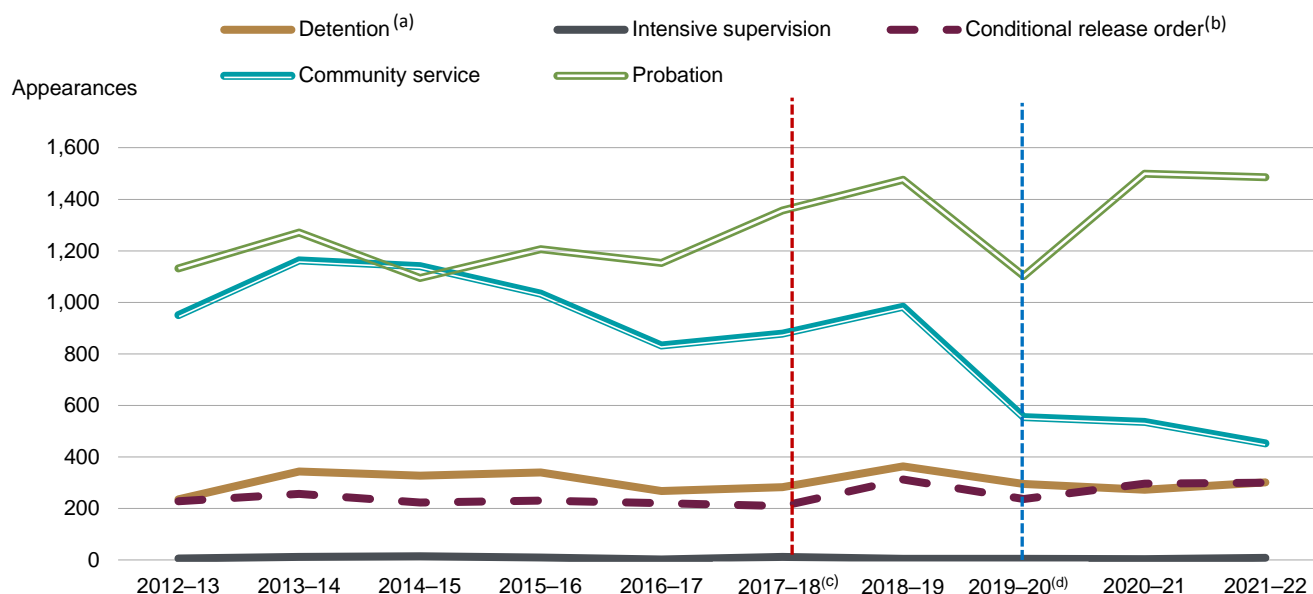
(g) Court-ordered conferences were discontinued in January 2013 and re-introduced on 1 July 2016.

(h) Includes reprimand; convicted not punished.

The five most serious penalties imposed in children's courts, in order of seriousness, are *detention*, *intensive supervision*, *conditional release order*, *community service* and *probation*. Figure 18 shows the number of convicted child appearances over the 10-year time series which incurred these penalties as their most serious.

Of the five most serious penalties, *probation* has consistently been the most prevalent since 2015–16. While appearances with *community service order* as most serious penalty heavily declined after 2018–19, it remained the second-most prevalent penalty in convicted child appearances. *Detention* outnumbered *conditional release order* for all financial years except 2020–21, although their numbers were almost identical in 2021–22.

Figure 18 Convicted child appearances by most serious penalty, by the five most serious, 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) 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 into 2021–22.

Across all courts, for convicted child appearances where *theft and related offences* was the MSO, *nominal penalty* was the most serious penalty imposed for one-third (33.4%), closely followed by *court-ordered conference* (29.7%). For the second-most prevalent MSO, *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter*, 30.7% received *probation* as their most serious penalty, followed by *court-ordered conference* (25.8%).

Table 40 Convicted child appearances by most serious offence, by most serious penalty, all courts, 2021–22

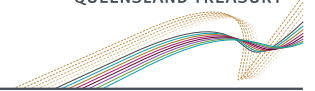
	2021–22												
Most serious penalty ^(a)	Detention	Intensive supervision	Conditional release order	Community service ^(b)	Probation	Treatment order ^(c)	Court-ordered conference	Fine	Compensation / restitution	Good behaviour order	Driver licence disqual.	Nominal penalty ^(d)	Total
Most serious offence (MSO)													
Offence division (ANZSOC)	— number —												
Homicide and related offences	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Acts intended to cause injury	56	2	64	63	381	0	327	0	0	89	0	141	1,123
Sexual assault and related offences	6	0	4	1	23	0	4	0	0	2	0	4	44
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	45	1	35	16	82	0	90	5	0	23	3	25	325
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	0	0	1	2	12	0	13	0	0	1	0	2	31
Robbery, extortion and related offences	31	0	33	7	174	0	50	0	0	6	0	5	306
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	114	4	118	138	435	0	365	0	0	89	0	152	1,415
Theft and related offences	37	1	29	98	208	0	441	4	7	163	0	495	1,483
Fraud, deception and related offences	2	0	4	3	16	0	36	1	2	12	0	26	102
Illicit drug offences	0	0	2	3	30	22	40	1	0	28	0	97	223
Weapons and explosives offences	3	0	6	12	60	0	74	0	0	29	0	77	261
Property damage and environmental pollution	4	0	2	91	28	0	62	0	0	25	0	97	309
Public order offences	0	0	0	12	8	0	42	1	0	29	0	151	243
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	1	0	0	0	3	0	41	36	0	14	107	54	256
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	1	0	2	7	26	0	17	4	0	18	0	246	321
Miscellaneous offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
Total	301	8	300	453	1,486	22	1,602	52	9	528	110	1,576	6,447

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) Includes graffiti-removal orders.

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

(d) Includes reprimand; convicted not punished.



For convicted child appearances across all courts, the ratio of males to females was 2.7 in 2021–22, compared with 2.8 in the previous year. The largest gender difference is evident in appearances where *detention* is the most serious penalty. Despite there being fewer convicted child appearances in 2021–22 compared with the previous year, more appearances resulted in *detention* for both males and females. Consistent with each year since 17-year-old offenders transitioned to the youth justice system, males comprised nine in 10 such appearances (89.7%) in 2021–22.

Table 41 Convicted child appearances by most serious penalty, by sex, all courts – time series

Most serious penalty	Sex	2012–13			2013–14			2014–15			2015–16			2016–17		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total ^(a)	Male	Female	Total ^(c)	Male	Female	Total ^(a)	Male	Female	Total ^(a)
Penalty ^(b)		— number —														
Detention ^(c)		209	26	235	290	53	343	275	53	328	277	63	340	231	37	268
Intensive supervision		6	0	6	11	1	12	13	1	14	9	0	9	2	0	2
Conditional release order		195	33	228	202	54	256	183	40	223	198	32	230	173	47	220
Community service ^(d)		775	176	951	941	222	1,163	943	197	1,140	845	188	1,034	627	206	833
Probation		836	296	1,132	921	350	1,271	789	306	1,095	887	320	1,207	854	299	1,153
Treatment order ^(e)		32	6	38	23	9	32	47	2	49	57	15	72	32	14	46
Court-ordered conference ^(f)		293	94	387	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	547	184	731
Fine		89	13	102	54	9	65	69	19	88	64	8	72	53	6	59
Compensation/restitution		32	20	52	37	19	56	30	8	38	15	4	19	15	10	25
Good behaviour order		860	303	1,163	851	332	1,183	789	274	1,063	772	311	1,083	691	255	946
Driver licence disqualification		16	4	20	10	1	11	17	3	20	23	6	29	10	1	11
Nominal penalty ^(g)		1,639	609	2,248	1,616	679	2,296	1,487	682	2,170	1,635	717	2,352	1,442	666	2,109
Total		4,982	1,580	6,562	4,956	1,729	6,688	4,642	1,585	6,228	4,782	1,664	6,447	4,677	1,725	6,403

(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) 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.

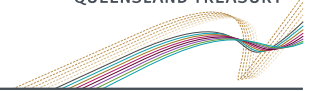


Table 41 continued.

	2017–18 ^(a)			2018–19			2019–20 ^(b)			2020–21			2021–22		
Sex	Male	Female	Total ^(c)	Male	Female	Total ^(c)	Male	Female	Total ^(c)	Male	Female	Total ^(c)	Male	Female	Total ^(c)
Most serious penalty															
Penalty ^(d)	— number —														
Detention ^(e)	249	34	283	328	36	364	266	29	295	257	16	273	270	31	301
Intensive supervision	12	0	12	4	1	5	4	1	5	3	0	3	8	0	8
Conditional release order	172	38	210	272	41	313	207	30	237	239	57	296	250	50	300
Community service ^(f)	703	175	878	746	237	983	440	115	555	411	125	536	339	114	453
Probation	997	359	1,356	1,046	430	1,476	817	285	1,102	1,109	391	1,500	1,109	377	1,486
Treatment order ^(g)	55	16	71	82	25	107	46	16	62	48	16	64	17	5	22
Court-ordered conference ^(h)	651	247	898	967	373	1,340	977	421	1,398	1,191	484	1,676	1,112	489	1,602
Fine	64	9	73	123	31	154	61	12	73	49	11	60	44	7	52
Compensation/restitution	21	5	26	24	2	26	4	2	6	8	2	10	6	3	9
Good behaviour order	643	327	970	811	343	1,154	401	190	591	526	235	761	349	179	528
Driver licence disqualification	36	9	45	100	26	126	100	32	132	127	35	162	89	21	110
Nominal penalty ⁽ⁱ⁾	1,489	740	2,231	1,590	688	2,279	1,033	427	1,463	1,197	490	1,687	1,122	454	1,576
Total	5,092	1,959	7,053	6,093	2,233	8,327	4,356	1,560	5,919	5,165	1,862	7,028	4,715	1,730	6,447

- (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 into 2021–22.
- (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) 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

For the three most recent financial years, while the 17 years and over age group, both males and females, had consistently the highest number of convicted appearances in all children's courts, the proportion for this age group has declined, with 33.5% overall in 2021–22 compared with 36.6% for the previous two financial years.

Over the same period, the proportion of 15-year-old defendants has been increasing—both males and, to a lesser extent, females. As a result, this age group has overtaken 16-year-olds in the number of convicted child appearances in the Childrens Court, to be the second-most prevalent age group.

Table 42 Convicted child appearances by court type, by age and sex

	Year	2019–20 ^(a)			2020–21			2021–22		
	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	6	3	9	5	2	7	3	2	5
	13 yrs	30	7	37	18	2	20	15	10	25
	14 yrs	38	18	56	45	20	65	36	17	53
	15 yrs	70	40	110	50	19	69	63	27	90
	16 yrs	101	35	136	91	31	122	95	23	118
	17 and over	281	52	333	224	35	259	200	48	248
	Not stated	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
	Total	526	155	681	433	110	543	412	127	539
Childrens (Magistrates)	10–12 yrs	157	54	211	150	52	202	121	48	169
	13 yrs	281	146	427	320	143	463	310	150	460
	14 yrs	501	195	696	592	281	874	588	250	838
	15 yrs	636	282	918	905	361	1,266	902	363	1,266
	16 yrs	833	307	1,140	992	370	1,362	925	333	1,258
	17 and over	1,415	419	1,836	1,771	543	2,314	1,453	458	1,912
	Not stated	7	2	10	2	2	4	4	1	5
	Total	3,830	1,405	5,238	4,732	1,752	6,485	4,303	1,603	5,908
All courts (total)	10–12 yrs	163	57	220	155	54	209	124	50	174
	13 yrs	311	153	464	338	145	483	325	160	485
	14 yrs	539	213	752	637	301	939	624	267	891
	15 yrs	706	322	1,028	955	380	1,335	965	390	1,356
	16 yrs	934	342	1,276	1,083	401	1,484	1,020	356	1,376
	17 and over	1,696	471	2,169	1,995	578	2,573	1,653	506	2,160
	Not stated	7	2	10	2	3	5	4	1	5
	Total	4,356	1,560	5,919	5,165	1,862	7,028	4,715	1,730	6,447

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

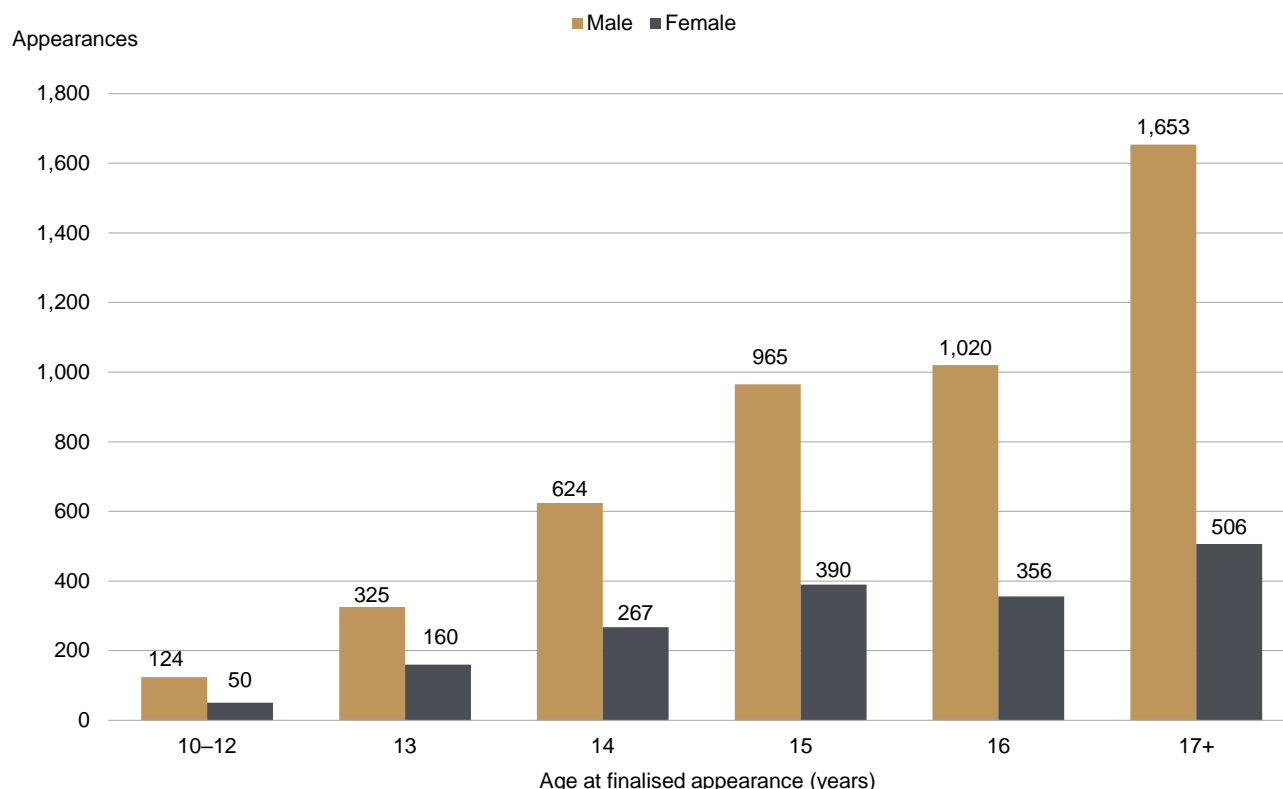
(b) Total includes a very small number of appearances in the Childrens Court where the defendant's sex was not stated.

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

Similar to convicted adult appearances, male defendants had a substantially greater number of convicted appearances than females across all age groups in children's courts in 2021–22. The ratio of males to females increases by age group of defendant, from 2.0 at 13 years through to 3.3 for the 17 years and over age group.

Of convicted appearances in 2021–22, male defendants aged 15 years and over comprised 77.2% of all males in children's courts, while female defendants in the same age bracket comprised 72.4% of all females.

Figure 19 Convicted child appearances^(a) by age^(b) and sex, all courts, 2021–22



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

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

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

The total number of convicted charges against children in the higher courts decreased noticeably (–468 or –18.1%) in 2021–22 compared with 2020–21, mainly due to the drop in convicted charges against males across all age groups (Table 43). The overall number for females also decreased in the higher courts in 2021–22, particularly as a result of a significant decline in the number of convicted charges against defendants aged 14 and 16 years.

In the Childrens Court, the number of convicted charges showed a similar pattern to the higher courts. Numbers decreased for defendants in every age group except 15-year-olds. In particular, the decline in the number of defendants in the 14 years and 17 years and over age groups together contributed more than two-thirds (69.2%) of the overall decline (–2,941 convicted charges) in 2021–22.

Table 43 Convicted charges against children by court type, by age and sex

	Year	2019–20 ^(a)			2020–21			2021–22		
	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	10	25	35	19	4	23	6	5	11
	13 yrs	101	18	119	31	16	47	29	21	50
	14 yrs	123	48	171	229	83	312	127	49	176
	15 yrs	305	166	471	342	69	411	325	97	422
	16 yrs	436	114	550	531	163	694	439	62	501
	17 and over	1,526	185	1,711	994	106	1,100	848	112	960
	Not stated	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
	Total	2,501	556	3,057	2,146	442	2,588	1,774	346	2,120
Childrens (Magistrates)	10–12 yrs	1,063	271	1,334	982	252	1,234	891	302	1,193
	13 yrs	1,895	1,110	3,005	2,289	783	3,072	2,052	798	2,850
	14 yrs	3,342	1,093	4,435	4,284	1,671	5,958	3,711	1,458	5,169
	15 yrs	4,074	1,507	5,581	5,968	1,989	7,957	6,203	1,829	8,033
	16 yrs	4,797	1,184	5,981	6,017	1,961	7,978	5,668	1,599	7,267
	17 and over	6,180	1,569	7,751	8,577	2,210	10,787	7,303	2,237	9,541
	Not stated	8	2	11	2	15	17	8	1	9
	Total	21,359	6,736	28,098	28,119	8,881	37,003	25,836	8,224	34,062
All courts (total)	10–12 yrs	1,073	296	1,369	1,001	256	1,257	897	307	1,204
	13 yrs	1,996	1,128	3,124	2,320	799	3,119	2,081	819	2,900
	14 yrs	3,465	1,141	4,606	4,513	1,754	6,270	3,838	1,507	5,345
	15 yrs	4,379	1,673	6,052	6,310	2,058	8,368	6,528	1,926	8,455
	16 yrs	5,233	1,298	6,531	6,548	2,124	8,672	6,107	1,661	7,768
	17 and over	7,706	1,754	9,462	9,571	2,316	11,887	8,151	2,349	10,501
	Not stated	8	2	11	2	16	18	8	1	9
	Total	23,860	7,292	31,155	30,265	9,323	39,591	27,610	8,570	36,182

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(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

The difference between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other defendants in the number of convicted child appearances has been becoming progressively smaller since 2018–19. In 2021–22, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants had just 171 fewer convicted appearances than other defendants (Figure 20). As a result, the rate ratio between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other defendants reached a time-series peak of 11.1 in 2021–22 (Figure 21).

Figure 20 Convicted child appearances by Indigenous status, all courts – time series

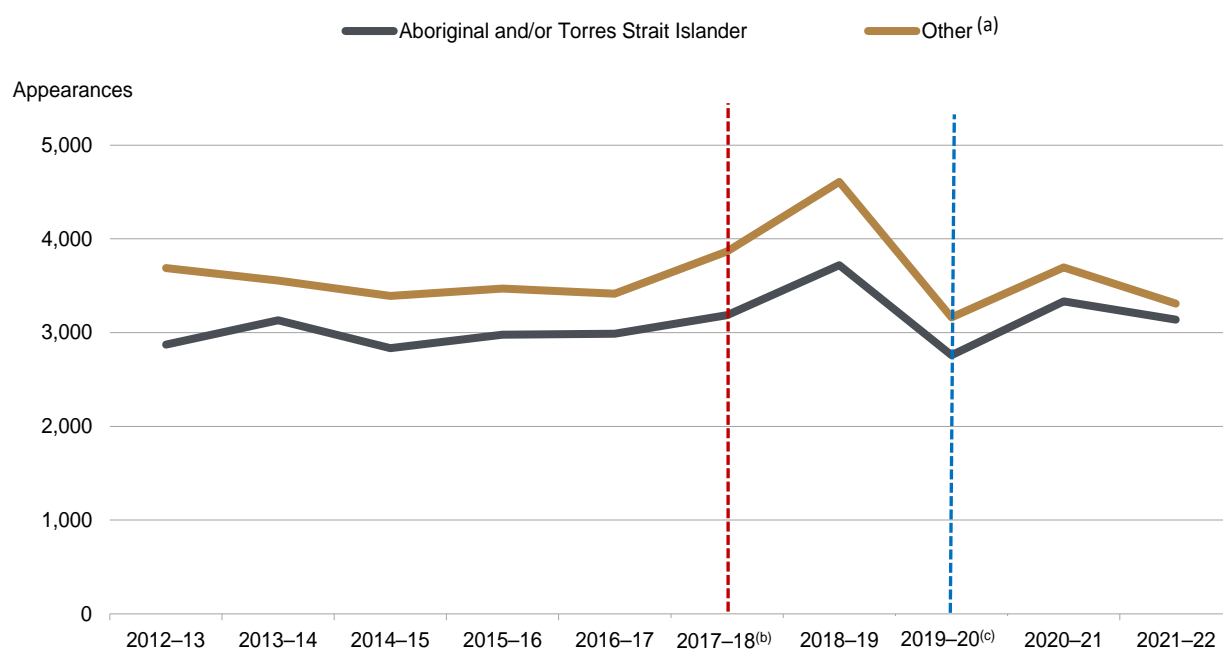
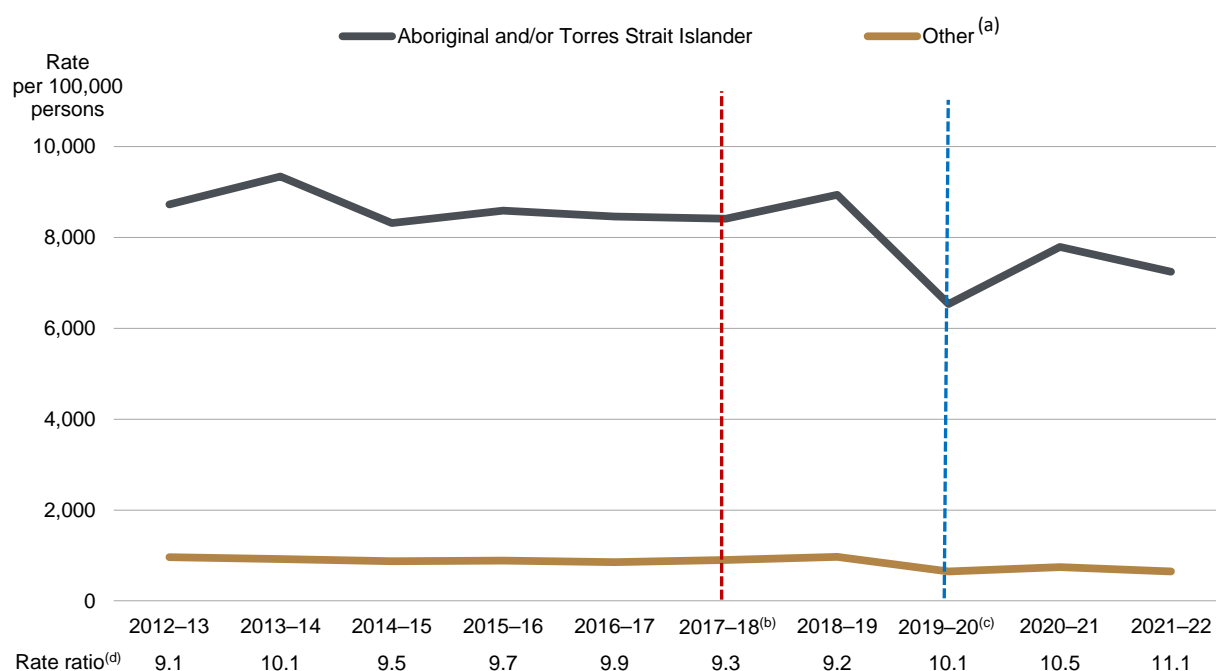


Figure 21 Convicted child appearance rate by indigenous status, all court – time series



- (a) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.
 (b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018. Rates from 2012–13 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years; for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years; for 2017–18 on a combination.
 (c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
 (d) Rate ratio is the rate for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander defendants divided by the rate for other defendants. Rate ratios have been calculated on unrounded rates.

The overall number of convicted child appearances decreased (–581 or –8.3%) in 2021–22 compared with the previous year, with almost all of the decline occurring in the Childrens Court (–577).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males have accounted for at least 40% of all convicted child appearances in the higher courts each year since the transition of 17-year-old offenders to the youth justice system. Since 2018–19, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander proportion has been trending upwards for both male and female defendants. In particular, Indigenous female defendants accounted for more than half of all female convicted appearances for two consecutive years (50.5% in 2020–21 and 52.2% in 2021–22).

Table 44 Convicted child appearances by court type, by Indigenous status and sex – time series

	Year	2012–13			2013–14			2014–15			2015–16			2016–17		
	Sex	Male	Female	Total	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)	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	106	38	144	108	49	157	80	32	112	90	38	128	81	24	105
	Other ^(c)	193	33	226	169	49	218	150	23	173	139	37	176	188	35	223
	Total	299	71	370	277	98	375	230	55	285	229	75	304	269	59	328
Childrens (Magistrates)	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	2,011	717	2,728	2,162	813	2,975	1,972	751	2,723	2,110	740	2,850	2,122	762	2,884
	Other ^(c)	2,672	792	3,464	2,517	818	3,338	2,440	779	3,220	2,443	849	3,293	2,286	904	3,191
	Total	4,683	1,509	6,192	4,679	1,631	6,313	4,412	1,530	5,943	4,553	1,589	6,143	4,408	1,666	6,075
All courts (total)	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	2,117	755	2,872	2,270	862	3,132	2,052	783	2,835	2,200	778	2,978	2,203	786	2,989
	Other ^(c)	2,865	825	3,690	2,686	867	3,556	2,590	802	3,393	2,582	886	3,469	2,474	939	3,414
	Total	4,982	1,580	6,562	4,956	1,729	6,688	4,642	1,585	6,228	4,782	1,664	6,447	4,677	1,725	6,403

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

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

(c) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.

Table 44 continued.

	Year	2017–18 ^(a)			2018–19			2019–20 ^(b)			2020–21			2021–22		
	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)	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	119	31	150	181	51	232	218	71	289	182	61	243	170	68	238
	Other ^(e)	147	54	201	268	72	340	308	84	392	251	49	300	242	59	301
	Total	266	85	351	449	123	572	526	155	681	433	110	543	412	127	539
Childrens (Magistrates)	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	2,260	775	3,035	2,555	931	3,486	1,777	691	2,469	2,211	879	3,090	2,065	835	2,900
	Other ^(e)	2,566	1,099	3,667	3,089	1,179	4,269	2,053	714	2,769	2,521	873	3,395	2,238	768	3,008
	Total	4,826	1,874	6,702	5,644	2,110	7,755	3,830	1,405	5,238	4,732	1,752	6,485	4,303	1,603	5,908
All courts (total)	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	2,379	806	3,185	2,736	982	3,718	1,995	762	2,758	2,393	940	3,333	2,235	903	3,138
	Other ^(e)	2,713	1,153	3,868	3,357	1,251	4,609	2,361	798	3,161	2,772	922	3,695	2,480	827	3,309
	Total	5,092	1,959	7,053	6,093	2,233	8,327	4,356	1,560	5,919	5,165	1,862	7,028	4,715	1,730	6,447

(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 into 2021–22.

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

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

(e) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.

In the higher court, *robbery, extortion and related offences* has consistently been the most prevalent MSO, comprising over half of the convicted appearances for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other child defendants in 2021–22. *Acts intended to cause injury* remained the second–most common MSO, accounting for around 19% of convicted appearances over each of the three years shown.

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

Most serious offence (MSO)	2019–20 ^(b)			2020–21			2021–22		
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(c)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(c)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(c)	Total
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(d)	— number —								
Homicide and related offences	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	1
Acts intended to cause injury	55	72	127	49	57	106	46	55	101
Sexual assault and related offences	14	40	54	13	28	41	16	18	34
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	5	6	11	1	8	9	7	4	11
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	1	2	3	2	7	9	1	0	1
Robbery, extortion and related offences	157	187	344	145	142	287	131	157	288
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	20	13	33	7	7	14	9	15	24
Theft and related offences	15	18	33	5	12	17	5	13	18
Fraud, deception and related offences	0	2	2	2	2	4	0	2	2
Illicit drug offences	0	23	23	2	15	17	1	14	15
Weapons and explosives offences	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Property damage and environmental pollution	13	19	32	9	10	19	14	11	25
Public order offences	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	8	9	17	7	9	16	7	11	18
Total	289	392	681	243	300	543	238	301	539

(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 into 2021–22.

(c) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.

(d) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

Probation was the most serious penalty in 50.8% of all convicted child appearances in the higher courts in 2021–22, with little difference between the proportions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (48.7%) and other defendants (52.5%). Second-most prevalent penalty for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants was *detention* (18.1%), while for other defendants it was *court-ordered conference* (19.3%).

Table 46 Convicted child appearances by most serious penalty, by Indigenous status, all higher courts^(a)

Most serious penalty	2019–20 ^(b)			2020–21			2021–22		
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(c)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(c)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(c)	Total
Penalty ^(d)	— number —								
Detention ^(e)	59	49	108	51	34	85	43	17	60
Intensive supervision	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Conditional release order	37	26	63	33	34	67	29	27	56
Community service ^(f)	16	27	43	5	14	19	4	12	16
Probation	131	204	335	120	144	264	116	158	274
Court-ordered conference	30	46	76	19	52	71	30	58	88
Fine	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
Good behaviour order	2	16	18	5	7	12	4	10	14
Nominal penalty ^(g)	13	22	35	10	15	25	12	18	30
Total	289	392	681	243	300	543	238	301	539

(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 into 2021–22.

(c) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.

(d) In descending order of seriousness.

(e) Includes detention and imprisonment.

(f) Includes graffiti-removal orders.

(g) Includes reprimand; convicted not punished.

Theft and related offences, which was the most prevalent MSO overall, comprised a quarter (24.8%) of all convicted appearances in the Childrens Court in 2021–22. This offence division accounted for an almost identical proportion of all convicted appearances for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (24.7%) and other defendants (24.9%).

However, the most prevalent MSO for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants has consistently been *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter*, and in 2021–22 accounted for 29.3% of all convicted appearances, compared with 18.0% for other defendants.

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

Most serious offence (MSO)	2019–20 ^(a)			2020–21			2021–22		
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total
Offence division (ANZSOC) ^(c)	— number —								
Acts intended to cause injury	382	385	767	549	514	1,063	535	487	1,022
Sexual assault and related offences	5	4	9	6	2	8	6	4	10
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	65	124	189	132	173	305	154	160	314
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	11	21	32	8	14	22	13	17	30
Robbery, extortion and related offences	4	21	25	13	28	41	6	12	18
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	680	377	1,057	931	471	1,402	851	540	1,391
Theft and related offences	623	682	1,305	641	807	1,448	717	748	1,465
Fraud, deception and related offences	24	61	85	27	88	115	26	74	100
Illicit drug offences	55	227	282	93	258	351	50	158	208
Weapons and explosives offences	78	153	231	92	200	292	79	182	261
Property damage and environmental pollution	175	153	328	203	166	369	151	133	284
Public order offences	159	137	296	161	203	364	106	136	242
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	50	247	297	65	291	356	40	216	256
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	154	172	326	169	176	345	165	138	303
Miscellaneous offences	4	5	9	0	4	4	1	3	4
Total	2,469	2,769	5,238	3,090	3,395	6,485	2,900	3,008	5,908

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(b) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

Nominal penalty was the most prevalent penalty for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants in the Childrens Court, accounting for a quarter (25.9%) of convicted appearances in 2021–22. The most common penalty for other defendants was *court-ordered conference*, at 31.8% the highest proportion with this penalty type in the three most recent years.

Table 48 Convicted appearances by most serious penalty, by Indigenous status, Childrens Court (Magistrates)

Most serious penalty	2019–20 ^(a)			2020–21			2021–22		
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Total
Penalty ^(c)	— number —								
Detention ^(d)	142	45	187	143	45	188	180	61	241
Intensive supervision	4	0	4	2	1	3	7	1	8
Conditional release order	130	44	174	161	68	229	170	74	244
Community service ^(e)	367	145	512	360	157	517	289	148	437
Probation	402	365	767	709	527	1,236	693	519	1,212
Treatment order ^(f)	6	56	62	11	53	64	4	18	22
Court-ordered conference	518	804	1,322	609	996	1,605	558	956	1,514
Fine	12	59	71	10	50	60	7	44	51
Compensation/restitution	0	6	6	3	7	10	3	6	9
Good behaviour order	243	330	573	306	443	749	220	294	514
Driver licence disqualification	13	119	132	26	136	162	18	92	110
Nominal penalty ^(g)	632	796	1,428	750	912	1,662	751	795	1,546
Total	2,469	2,769	5,238	3,090	3,395	6,485	2,900	3,008	5,908

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(b) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.

(c) In descending order of seriousness.

(d) Includes detention and imprisonment.

(e) Includes graffiti-removal orders.

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

(g) 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>Unique⁷ young persons</u>	2020–21	2021–22	% change	
... with a finalised court appearance ⁸	4,338	3,814	–12.1%	↓
Male	3,104	2,731	–12.0%	↓
Female	1,231	1,082	–12.1%	↓
... commencing a supervised youth justice order	1,701	1,533	–9.9%	↓
Male	1,293	1,162	–10.1%	↓
Female	408	370	–9.3%	↓
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)	61.0%	61.9%	0.9 ppt	↑
... admitted to youth detention centre	913	919	0.7%	↑
Male	726	720	–0.8%	↓
Female	187	199	6.4%	↑
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)	60.5%	62.7%	2.2 ppt	↑
<u>Average daily number</u>				
... on community-based supervised orders	1,307	1,263	–3.4%	↓
... in youth detention centres	229	275	20.1%	↑

ppt = percentage point

In 2021–22:



Unique defendants with a convicted charge

- The rate of unique child defendants with at least one convicted charge was the lowest in ten years (60.6 per 10,000 persons aged 10–17 years), due to both the 10–16 years offender cohort (49.4) and 17-year-old offenders (146.6) each experiencing their lowest rates.
- 17-year-old offenders accounted for 27.9% of unique child defendants with a convicted charge.



Admissions to supervised youth justice orders

- The number of admissions to supervised orders in 2021–22 was 5.5% lower than in 2020–21 (–189), with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young offenders contributing the majority of this decrease (–162).
- 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

- The number of admissions to detention centres decreased by 4.6% (–93) compared with 2020–21, with other young people accounting for almost all of the decrease (–92).
- There were 103 fewer unsentenced admissions than in the previous year, although *remand* admissions increased 33.0% to 1,443 while *pre-court custody* decreased 50.5% to 452.

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

⁸ Total includes a small number whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

4.1. Overview

This section presents summary statistics about the number and characteristics of unique child defendants with at least one finalised appearance 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 2021–22, 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 periods up to and including 2016–17, and persons aged 10–17 years from 2018–19 onwards, and on a combination for 2017–18. (See *Rates* in Explanatory notes at the end of this report for further details.)

COVID-19

In April 2022, the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020* expired, marking the cessation of modifications made to Queensland law in response to the pandemic. With borders reopening and social restrictions gradually discontinued over 2021–22, police were able to fully resume their non-COVID related duties, including previously suspended police tasks such as roadside drink and drug driving tests. Numbers and rates of people dealt with in the courts continued to diverge from pre-pandemic numbers, resulting in some flow-on effect on youth justice admissions and discharges.

While the COVID-19 pandemic remained an ongoing event, both globally and nationally in 2021–22, the social restrictions and border closures were progressively lifted, and Queensland returned to a '*business as usual*' phase of the pandemic.

Comparisons with figures in periods before and immediately after 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 from 12 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*.

4.2. Children in court

4.2.1. Unique defendants

A unique defendant in the youth justice context is a young person with at least one finalised appearance 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 2021–22, there were 3,814 unique young people aged 10–17 years at time of offence, who had at least one finalised appearance in a Queensland criminal court (Table 49). This was 524 fewer unique defendants (–12.1%) than in 2020–21 (4,338). In every year of the time series, over 70 per cent of unique defendants were male, peaking at 75.2% in 2012–13. However, the male proportion has been slowly decreasing since 2018–19, after 17-year-old offenders transitioned from the adult to the youth justice system, and has been stable at 71.6% in the most recent two years, the lowest proportion in the time series.

Table 49 Unique child defendants by age and sex – time series

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
	— persons —									
Sex										
Male	2,942	2,890	2,746	2,780	2,680	3,154	3,734	2,821	3,104	2,731
Female	971	1,029	1,006	1,020	1,038	1,216	1,410	1,107	1,231	1,082
Age at time of offence^(c) (years)										
10	28	27	36	29	26	35	42	24	30	11
11	79	85	69	95	76	84	87	55	52	47
12	140	170	185	203	208	219	210	165	166	144
13	434	423	419	449	445	463	461	323	384	340
14	770	721	727	751	781	758	723	540	613	594
15	997	1,093	964	1,000	976	1,042	942	717	803	726
16	1,466	1,401	1,353	1,273	1,208	1,173	1,156	897	1,001	843
17	..	..	..	..	..	600	1,526	1,209	1,289	1,109
Total^(d)	3,914	3,920	3,753	3,800	3,720	4,374	5,147	3,930	4,338	3,814

.. = 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.

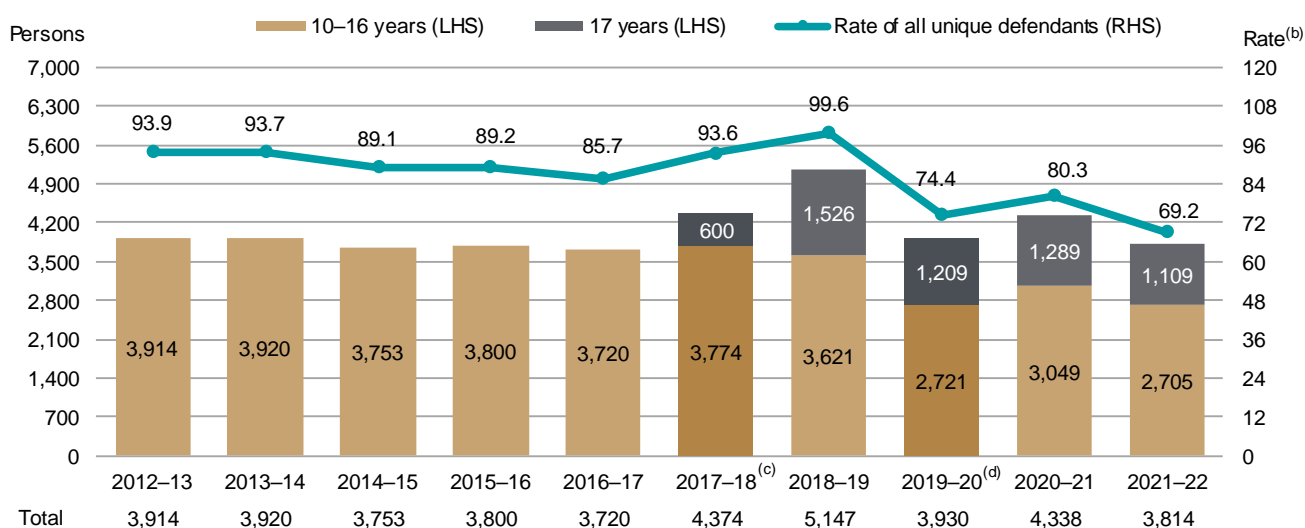
(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(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.

(d) Total includes defendants whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

The legislative change in February 2018 resulted in a significant increase in the number of people dealt with in children's courts in 2018–19. Figure 22 demonstrates that 17-year-old offenders have accounted for around 30% of child defendants in each of the four full years since this cohort transitioned to the youth justice system.

Figure 22 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 2012–13 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) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

Following the pattern of previous years, the unique defendant rates in 2021–22 increased with each successive year of offender age and peaked at 17 years with 174.7 per 10,000 persons, although this year saw the lowest rate in the time series for every year of age except for those aged 14 years at the time of offence (Table 50).

Table 50 Unique child defendant rate by sex and age at time of offence – time series

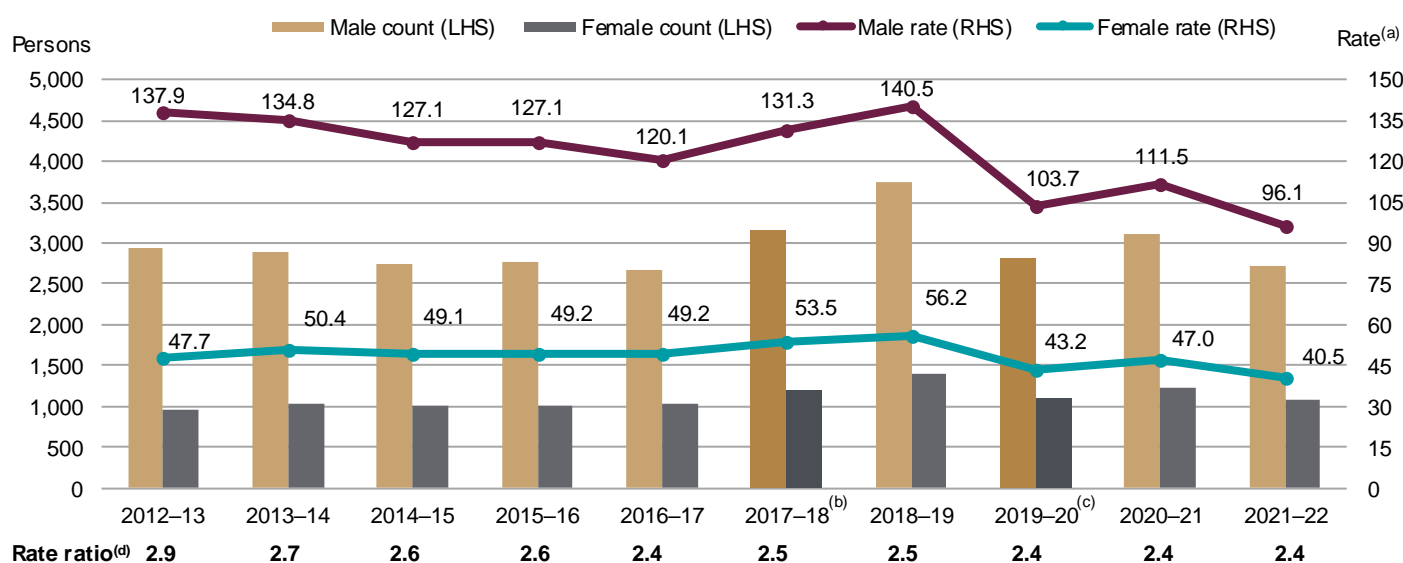
	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
	— rate per 10,000 persons ^(c) —									
Sex										
Male	137.9	134.8	127.1	127.1	120.1	131.3	140.5	103.7	111.5	96.1
Female	47.7	50.4	49.1	49.2	49.2	53.5	56.2	43.2	47.0	40.5
Age at time of offence^(d) (years)										
10	4.8	4.6	5.9	4.6	4.0	5.2	6.1	3.4	4.3	1.6
11	13.3	14.4	11.6	15.6	12.0	12.7	12.7	7.9	7.4	6.6
12	23.4	28.3	31.1	33.8	33.8	34.2	31.3	23.8	23.6	20.2
13	73.3	70.3	69.4	75.1	73.6	74.5	71.3	47.7	54.9	47.7
14	129.6	120.7	119.8	123.6	129.8	124.6	115.3	82.7	89.8	83.8
15	166.6	182.6	160.3	163.4	159.0	171.5	153.5	113.2	122.0	105.9
16	242.8	232.2	224.8	209.9	195.1	188.9	188.6	145.0	157.1	128.1
17	..	..	..	..	..	251.8	244.0	196.2	207.9	174.7
Total^(e)	93.9	93.7	89.1	89.2	85.7	93.6	99.6	74.4	80.3	69.2

.. = not applicable

- (a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
 (b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
 (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.
 (e) Total includes defendants whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

Throughout the 10-year time series, the male unique defendant rate has consistently been well over double the rate for females, although the rate ratio has been stable at 2.4 for the most recent three years (Figure 23).

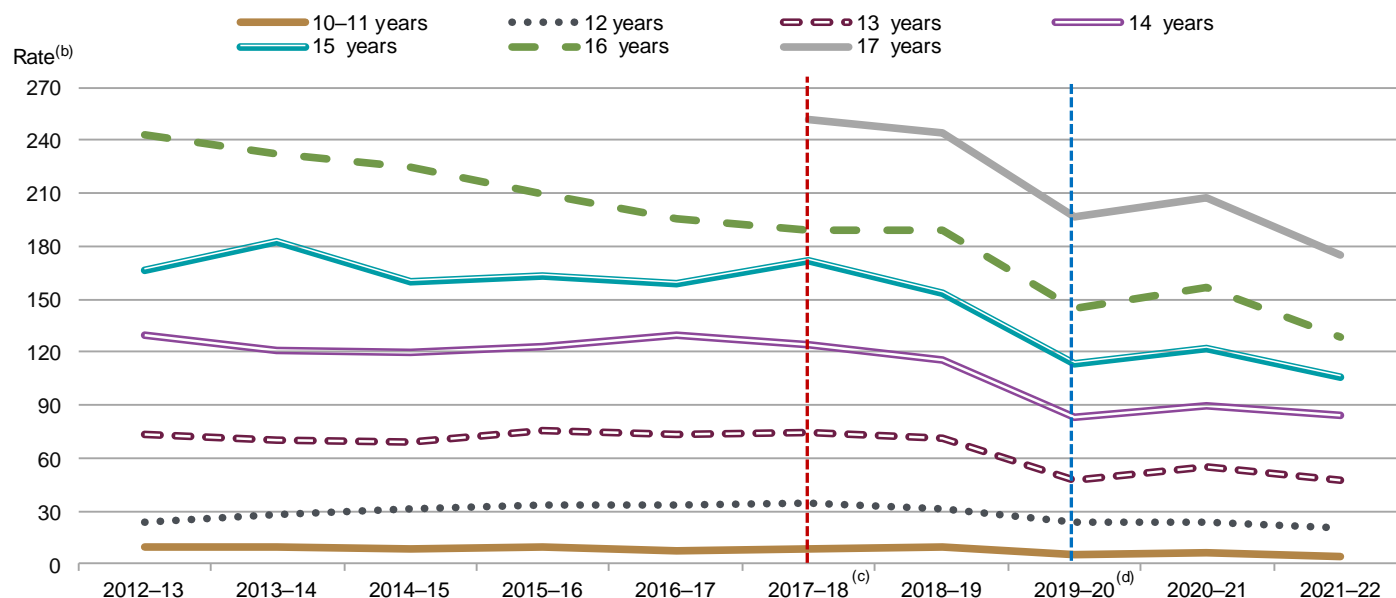
Figure 23 Count and rate of unique child defendants by sex – time series



- (a) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2012–13 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) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
 (c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
 (d) Rate ratio is the rate for male defendants divided by the rate for female defendants. Rate ratios have been calculated on unrounded rates.

While the rates in all offender age groups have decreased to varying degrees over the 10-year time series, the most substantial decrease was evident in those aged 16 years, whose rate almost halved, from 242.8 per 10,000 persons in 2012–13 to 128.1 in 2021–22 (Figure 24).

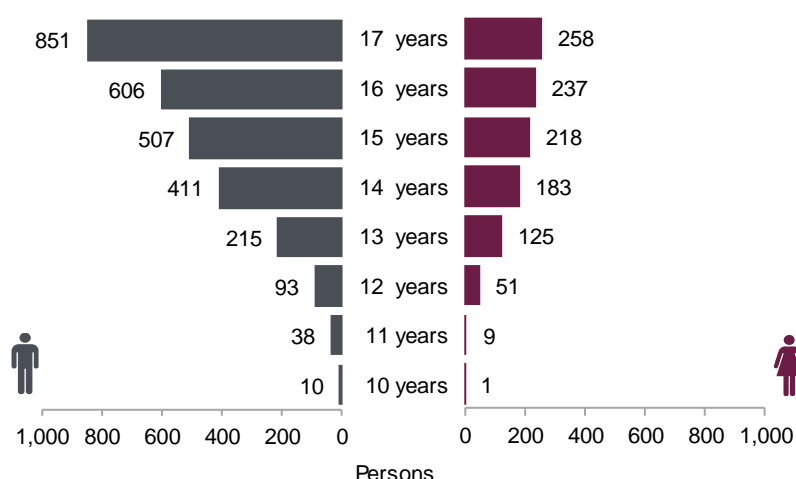
Figure 24 Unique child defendant rate, by age at time of offence^(a) – time series



- (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) 17-year-old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
- (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

In 2021–22, 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 31.2% and 23.8% of their respective sex cohorts.

Figure 25 Unique child defendants, by sex^(a) and age at time of offence^(b), 2021–22



- (a) Excludes 1 defendant whose sex was self-reported 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.

4.2.2. Unique defendants convicted of a charge

Data in this section represent unique child defendants convicted of one or more charges (i.e. offence(s) proven) in a criminal court, regardless of whether or not conviction is recorded. An individual is counted only once in a reference year, irrespective of the number of charges convicted in the year.

Table 51 Unique child defendants convicted of a charge – time series

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
	— persons —									
Sex										
Male	2,809	2,716	2,568	2,554	2,449	2,865	3,377	2,442	2,757	2,401
Female	917	983	925	933	947	1,121	1,263	937	1,068	939
Age at time of offence^(c) (years)										
10	22	20	31	24	22	26	25	11	15	3
11	71	77	64	82	58	77	73	38	40	28
12	141	165	170	185	175	194	180	139	142	110
13	405	402	388	415	416	446	420	273	351	310
14	741	692	677	689	718	684	661	480	563	536
15	972	1,026	911	932	903	970	889	632	704	664
16	1,375	1,318	1,253	1,160	1,106	1,055	1,048	778	899	759
17	..	..	..	..	..	537	1,347	1,030	1,113	931
Total^(d)	3,727	3,700	3,494	3,487	3,398	3,989	4,643	3,381	3,827	3,341

.. = not applicable

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

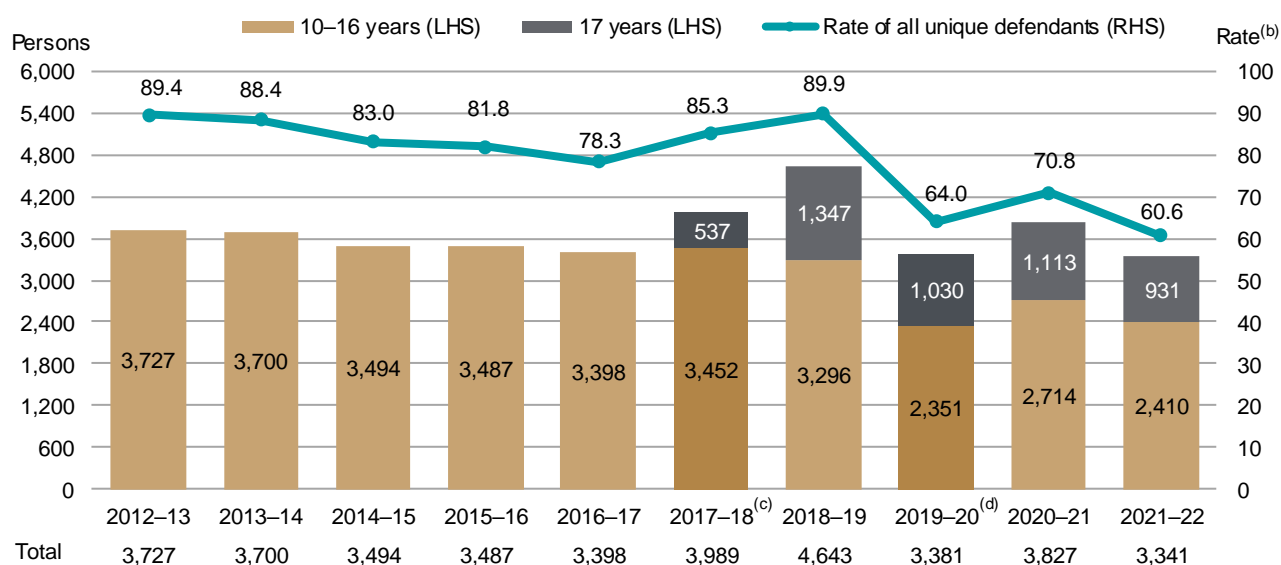
(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

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

(d) Total includes defendants whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

Seventeen-year-old offenders accounted for 27.9% of all unique child defendants convicted of a charge(s) in 2021–22, the lowest proportion in the four full years since this age group transitioned from the adult to the youth justice system (Figure 26).

Figure 26 Count and rate of unique child defendants convicted of a charge, 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 convicted charge in the reporting period.

(b) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2012–13 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.

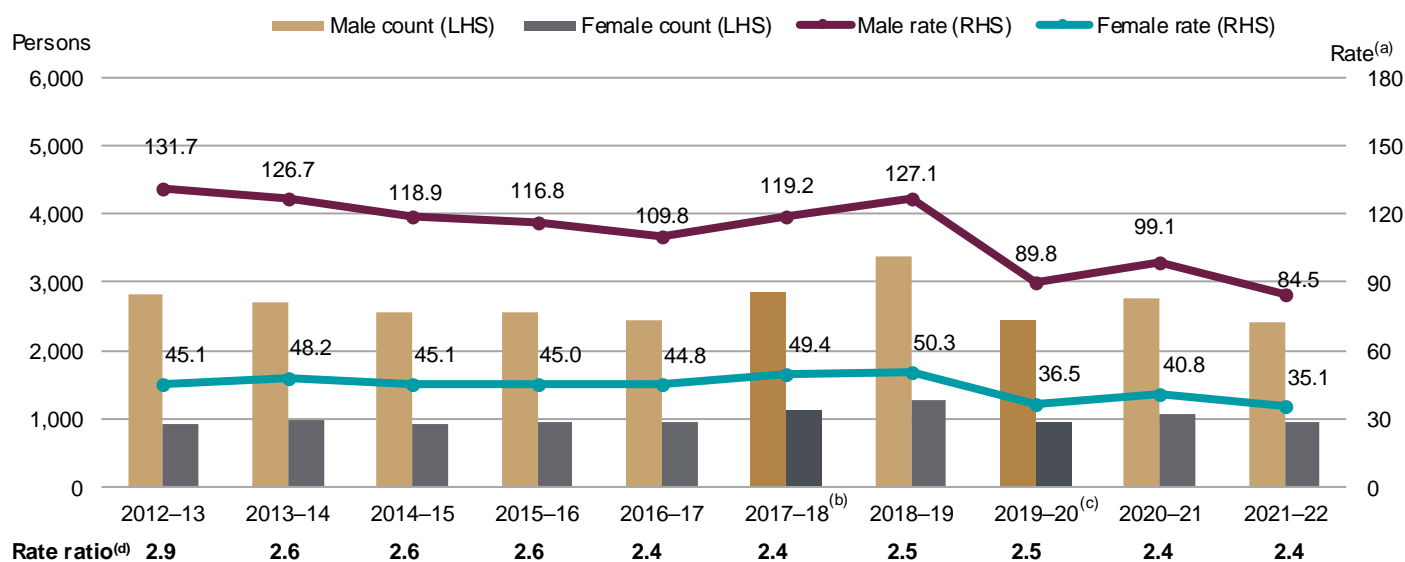
(c) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

The rate of convicted male unique defendants had been decreasing slowly from 2012–13 (131.7 per 10,000 persons) to 2016–17 (109.8 per 10,000 persons), followed by a steady increase to 127.1 per 10,000 persons in 2018–19, after 17-year-old offenders transitioned to youth justice in 2017–18 (Figure 27). The rate of convicted female unique defendants was relatively stable over this first seven years of the time series.

However, during 2019–20, the rates of both male and female unique defendants dropped sharply and, despite the slight rise in 2020–21, dropped further in 2021–22 to a time-series low of 84.5 and 35.1 per 10,000 persons respectively.

Figure 27 Count and rate of unique child defendants convicted of a charge, 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) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(d) Rate ratio is the rate for male defendants divided by the rate for female defendants. Rate ratios have been calculated on unrounded rates.

Table 52 Rate of unique child defendants convicted of a charge – time series

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
	— rate per 10,000 persons ^(c) —									
Sex										
Male	131.7	126.7	118.9	116.8	109.8	119.2	127.1	89.8	99.1	84.5
Female	45.1	48.2	45.1	45.0	44.8	49.4	50.3	36.5	40.8	35.1
Age at time of offence^(d) (years)										
10	3.8	3.4	5.1	3.8	3.4	3.9	3.6	1.6	2.2	0.4
11	11.9	13.0	10.7	13.4	9.2	11.6	10.7	5.5	5.7	4.0
12	23.6	27.5	28.6	30.8	28.4	30.3	26.9	20.1	20.2	15.4
13	68.4	66.8	64.3	69.4	68.8	71.7	65.0	40.3	50.2	43.5
14	124.7	115.9	111.6	113.4	119.4	112.4	105.4	73.5	82.5	75.6
15	162.4	171.4	151.5	152.3	147.1	159.7	144.8	99.8	107.0	96.9
16	227.7	218.4	208.1	191.2	178.6	169.9	170.9	125.8	141.1	115.3
17	..	..	..	..	..	225.4	215.4	167.1	179.5	146.6
Total^(e)	89.4	88.4	83.0	81.8	78.3	85.3	89.9	64.0	70.8	60.6

.. = not applicable

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

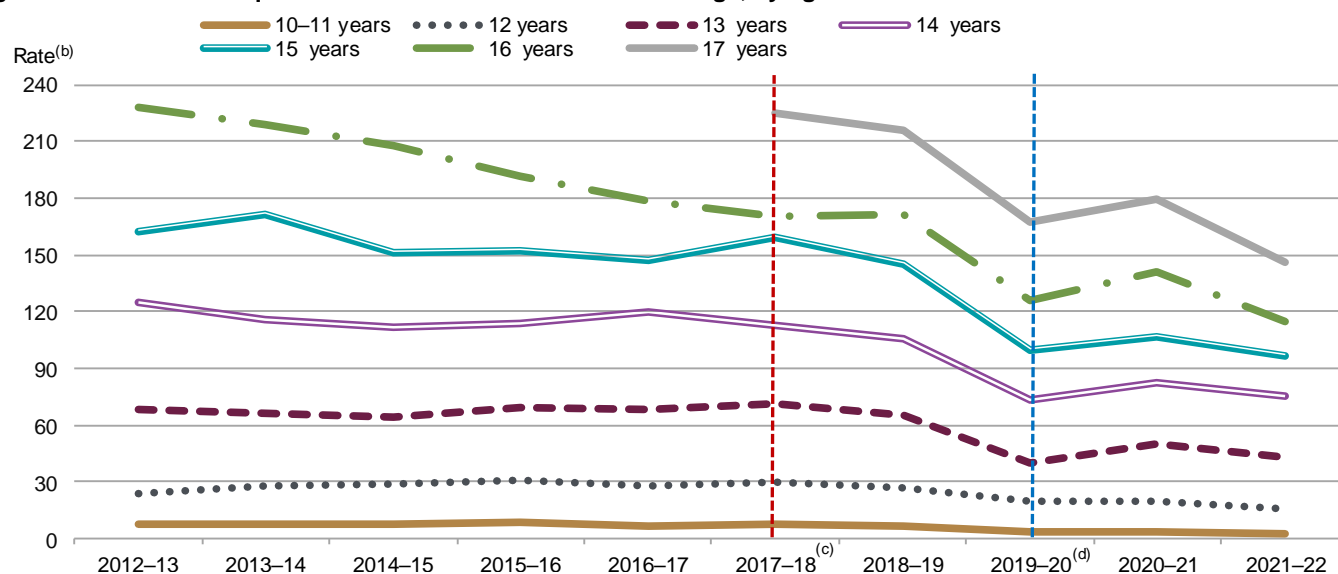
(c) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2011–12 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.

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

(e) Total includes defendants whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

The rates for most ages fluctuated a little during the overall downward trend from the start of the series, however rates for those aged 16 years at time of offence declined almost continually from 227.7 per 10,000 persons in 2012–13 to 115.3 in 2021–22.

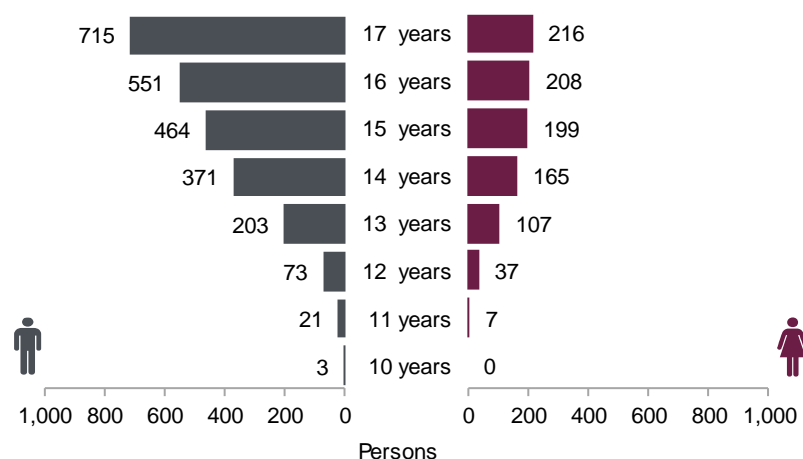
Figure 28 Rate of unique child defendants convicted of a charge, by age at time of offence^(a) – time series



- (a) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first convicted charge 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) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
 (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

While the numbers of both male and female unique offenders convicted of a charge(s) in 2021–22 increased with each successive year of age and peaked at 17 years, male offenders outnumbered female offenders in every age group and at 17 years by more than three to one.

Figure 29 Unique child defendants convicted of a charge, by sex^(a) and age at time of offence^(b), 2021–22



- (a) Excludes 1 person whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate
 (b) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first convicted charge in the reporting period.

4.3. Youth justice orders

4.3.1. 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*.)

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).

The following supervised community-based orders commenced or were repealed at various times during the time series:

- court-ordered graffiti removal (commenced 27 Sep 2013)
- boot camp (repealed in July 2015)
- restorative justice (commenced 1 July 2016).

Table 53 Admissions to youth justice orders – time series

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
Order type	— number —									
Supervised order	3,153	3,693	3,448	3,392	3,200	3,789	4,013	2,993	3,454	3,265
<i>Detention-based</i> ^(c)	235	314	287	343	272	306	359	298	274	304
<i>Community-based</i>	2,918	3,379	3,161	3,049	2,928	3,483	3,654	2,695	3,180	2,961
Boot camp	3	16	63	12	..	..	..	..	..	..
Community service	982	1,130	1,009	925	731	871	859	467	441	394
Conditional release	238	278	233	251	226	230	317	238	300	310
Graffiti removal ^(d)	..	107	252	198	186	214	224	139	137	94
Intensive supervision ^(e)	6	12	13	10	2	13	6	4	3	8
Probation	1,689	1,836	1,591	1,653	1,511	1,954	1,963	1,403	1,796	1,709
Restorative justice	..	..	..	..	272	201	285	444	503	446
Unsupervised order	4,068	4,110	3,866	3,989	3,706	4,198	4,629	3,007	3,682	3,300
Other orders^(f)	1,215	697	721	662	1,396	2,144	2,919	2,513	2,769	2,678
Total	8,436	8,500	8,035	8,043	8,302	10,131	11,561	8,513	9,905	9,243

.. = not applicable

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(c) Detention-based order counts exclude suspended detention orders associated with a conditional release order.

(d) Court-ordered graffiti removal orders exclude graffiti removal program referrals by police and as a result of youth justice conference agreements.

(e) Intensive supervision orders (ISOs) are a sentencing option for offenders aged between 10 and 12 years where the court considers that the child, unless subject to an intensive period of supervision and support in the community, is likely to commit further offences. ISOs can only be ordered in cases where the young person has been found guilty of an offence that if committed by an adult would make the adult liable to imprisonment.

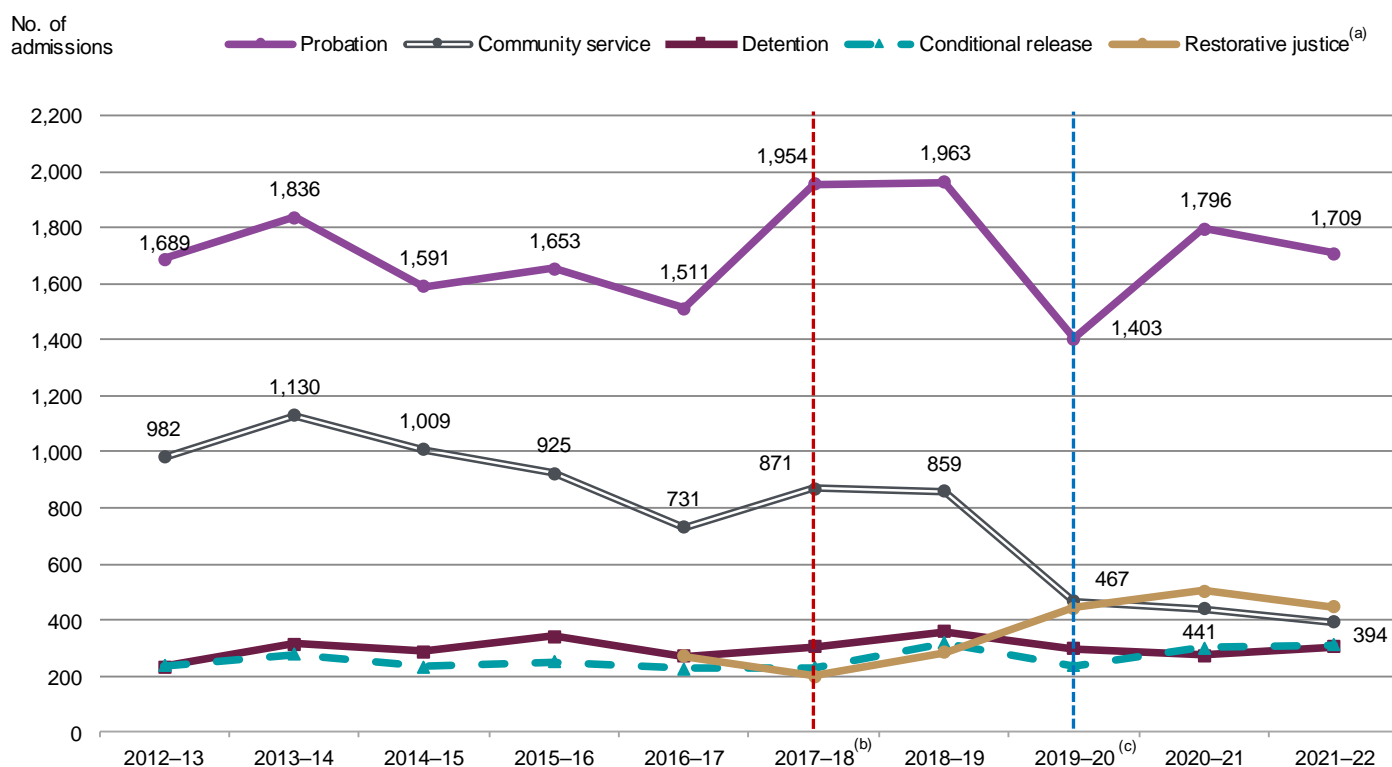
(f) Other orders include ancillary orders such as compensation and restitution (see Glossary for further details).

4.3.1.1. 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 2012–13 to 2021–22, *probation* has consistently been the most prevalent among admissions to supervised youth justice orders, despite some substantial fluctuations, accounting for around half of the total admissions every year. *Community service* was the second-most prevalent order type until 2019–20 when admissions fell sharply, an impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and was overtaken by *restorative justice* in 2020–21. Admissions to *community service* have continued to decline further, while admissions to *probation* and *restorative justice* saw an increase in 2020–21 before declining in 2021–22. Admissions to *conditional release* exceeded those to *detention* in 2020–21 and continued in 2021–22.

Figure 30 Admissions to the five most prevalent supervised youth justice orders – time series



(a) Restorative justice orders commenced in 2016–17.

(b) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

The number of admissions to supervised youth justice orders increases with age, peaking at 16 years and then declining, in all reporting periods except for 2020–21, when the peak was at 17 years (Table 54). In 2021–22, the number of male admissions to supervised youth justice orders was similar to that of 2012–13, despite the transition of 17-year-olds to youth justice. However, the male proportion of all admissions (76.8%) was at its lowest since the transition in 2017–18, corresponding with an increase in the female proportion over the same period.

Table 54 Admissions to supervised youth justice orders by Indigenous status, age and sex – time series

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
	— number —									
Sex										
Male	2,518	2,874	2,714	2,680	2,442	2,980	3,090	2,360	2,673	2,507
Female	635	819	733	712	758	808	922	633	781	755
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	1,865	2,215	2,086	2,075	1,950	2,433	2,577	1,964	2,302	2,140
Other ^(c)	1,288	1,478	1,362	1,317	1,250	1,356	1,436	1,029	1,152	1,125
Age (years) on admission^(d)										
10–11	38	32	38	39	32	54	28	14	20	9
12	76	132	126	123	87	95	98	81	61	77
13	307	369	391	344	352	332	291	269	228	227
14	566	701	562	689	608	605	536	400	495	458
15	855	1,009	891	866	858	853	805	556	738	762
16	877	1,087	1,080	974	927	966	975	704	781	762
17	407	352	336	331	312	803	937	655	795	730
18+	27	11	24	26	24	81	343	314	336	240
Total^(e)	3,153	3,693	3,448	3,392	3,200	3,789	4,013	2,993	3,454	3,265

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(b) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(c) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.

(d) 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.

(e) Total includes admissions of those whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

4.3.1.2. Unsupervised orders

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

In 2021–22, there were 3,300 admissions to unsupervised youth justice orders, a 10.4% decrease on the previous year and second lowest in the time series (Table 55). *Reprimand* and *good behaviour* accounted for 79.8% and 18.6% of all admissions respectively in 2021–22, with *fine* being the least prevalent at 1.6%.

Table 55 Admissions to unsupervised youth justice orders – time series

Unsupervised orders	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
Order type	— number —									
Fine	121	74	97	69	62	74	154	70	55	54
Good behaviour	1,323	1,359	1,211	1,218	1,106	1,145	1,381	731	936	614
Reprimand	2,624	2,677	2,558	2,702	2,538	2,979	3,094	2,206	2,691	2,632
Total	4,068	4,110	3,866	3,989	3,706	4,198	4,629	3,007	3,682	3,300

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

4.3.1.3. Other orders

Across all other youth justice orders in 2021–22, over half of all admissions were to *court diversion referral* (54.2%) and just under a third were to *conditional bail program* (30.7%). The introduction of *court diversion referral* in 2016–17 and the increase in *conditional bail program* have accounted for much of the increase in the total number of admissions to other youth justice orders during the second half of the time series.

Table 56 Admissions to other youth justice orders – time series

Other orders ^(a)	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(c)	2020–21	2021–22
Order type	— number —									
Compensation	22	22	15	6	5	16	21	8	9	3
Conditional bail program	471	372	379	323	450	768	870	770	688	821
Court diversion referral	..	..	..	..	650	940	1,272	1,253	1,504	1,451
Drug diversion	95	122	152	175	160	190	260	166	138	54
Indefinite referral	420	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Licence disqualification	131	111	126	129	104	203	465	307	422	338
Restitution	74	70	49	29	27	27	31	9	8	11
Transfer to prison	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,215	697	721	662	1,396	2,144	2,919	2,513	2,769	2,678

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

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

(b) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

4.3.2. 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 (convicted charge). 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.

4.3.2.1. Supervised orders

While the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders in 2021–22 was at its second-lowest in the 10-year time series, their proportion of the total reached a peak of 61.9%, compared with 55.8% in 2012–13, corresponding with a steady decline in the proportion for other unique offenders over the same period (Table 57).

When compared with admissions to supervised youth justice orders in Table 54, the average number of admissions per unique offender has increased from 1.8 in 2012–13 to 2.1 in 2021–22, the highest average number in the time series.

For unique offenders in 2021–22, average admissions were 2.3 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and 1.9 for other unique offenders, the highest average number in the time series for both.

Table 57 Unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders by Indigenous status, age and sex – time series

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
	— persons —									
Sex										
Male	1,363	1,437	1,361	1,331	1,236	1,501	1,547	1,190	1,293	1,162
Female	354	450	407	402	384	448	513	378	408	370
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	958	1,080	1,007	996	922	1,169	1,248	963	1,038	949
Other ^(c)	759	807	762	737	698	781	813	605	663	584
Age (years) on admission^(d)										
10–11	27	20	23	24	18	26	19	9	10	4
12	45	73	72	72	49	40	48	38	27	30
13	158	166	169	163	166	175	140	104	100	92
14	271	334	291	330	277	264	250	177	229	202
15	445	492	430	433	416	426	395	284	310	310
16	486	575	557	500	488	492	484	358	392	360
17	269	216	213	196	188	481	499	389	415	392
18+	16	11	14	15	18	46	226	209	218	143
Total^(e)	1,717	1,887	1,769	1,733	1,620	1,950	2,061	1,568	1,701	1,533

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(c) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.

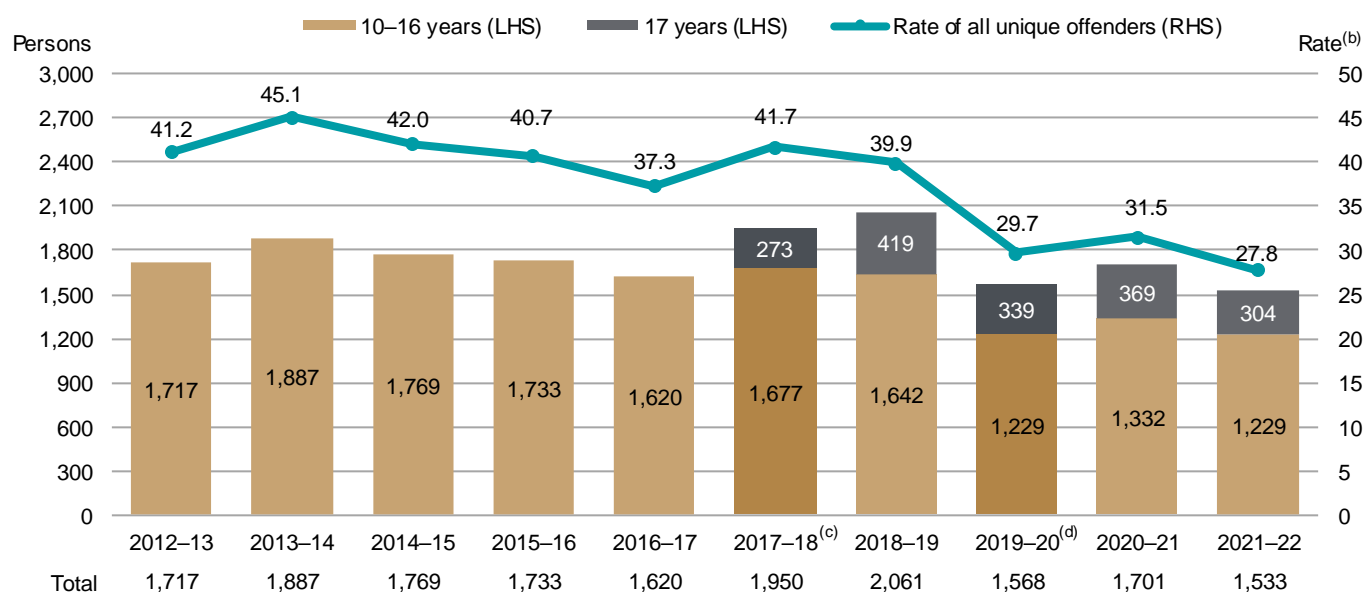
(d) Age is as at earliest commencement of a supervised order within the reference year.

(e) Total includes those whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

Over the 10-year time series, the rate of unique young offenders admitted to supervised orders peaked at 45.1 per 10,000 persons in 2013–14 and decreased steadily each year until 2017–18 (Figure 31). The downward trend resumed for the next four years, which included the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and resulted in the rate declining to a time-series low of 27.8 per 10,000 persons in 2021–22, despite a slight upswing in 2020–21.

The 17-year-old offender cohort has accounted for one-fifth of unique child offenders admitted to supervised orders each year since 2018–19, the first full year since this age group transitioned to the youth justice system. In 2021–22, the number of admissions decreased for both offender cohorts.

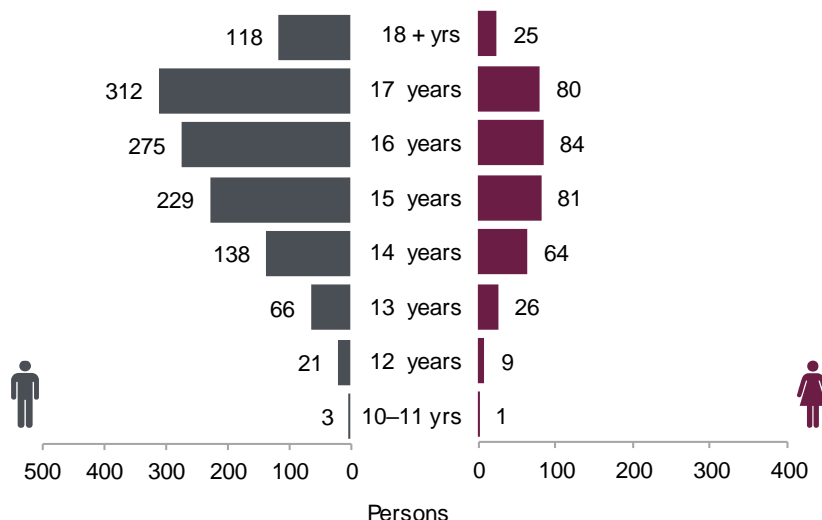
Figure 31 Count and rate of unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders, by offender age cohort^(a) – time series



- (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 2012–13 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) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
- (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

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. In 2021–22, there were 2–5 times more unique males than females in each age group (Figure 32).

Figure 32 Unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders, by age on admission^(a) and sex, 2021–22

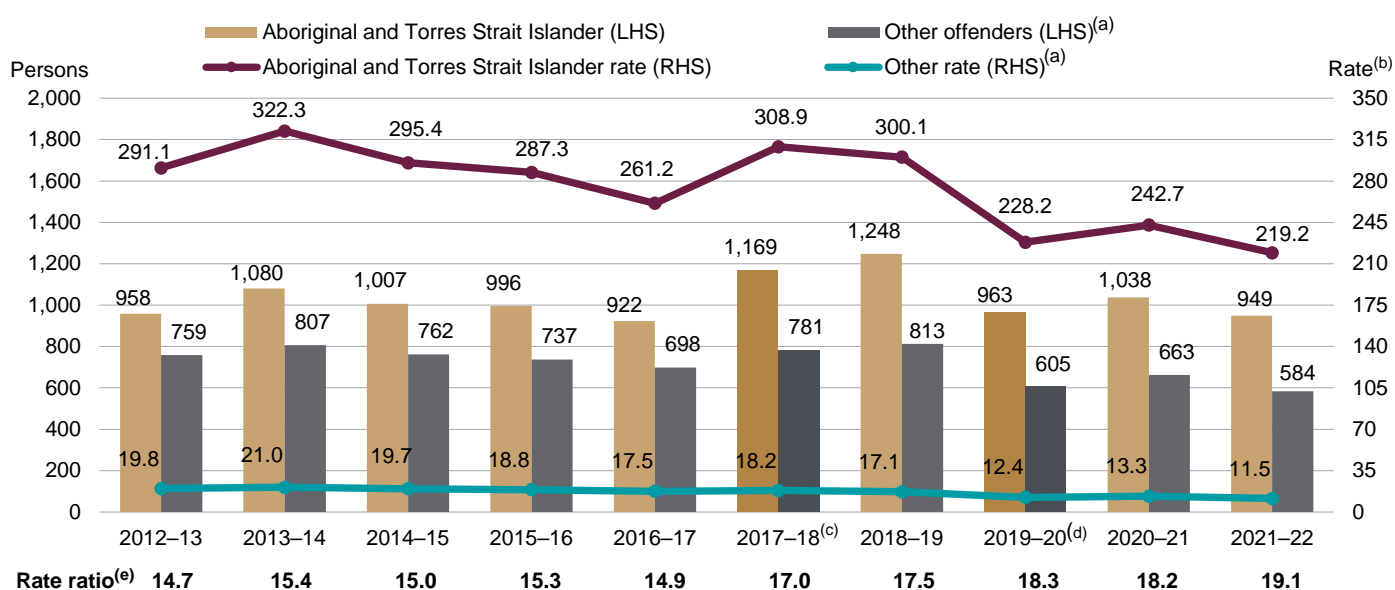


- (a) Age is as at earliest commencement of a supervised order within the reference year.

The rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique offenders admitted to supervised orders has fluctuated over the time series (Figure 33). From a peak in 2013–14, there was a steady decline until 2017–18, when 17-year-old offenders transitioned to the youth justice system, followed by a downward trend to 219.2 per 10,000 persons in 2021–22, representing a decrease of 24.7% from the beginning to the end of the time series. The rate of other unique offenders experienced minor fluctuations over the same period, however the rate in 2021–22 was 41.9% lower than at the beginning of the series.

While the rates were at their lowest for both cohorts in 2021–22, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique offenders were around 19 times more likely than other unique offenders to be admitted to a supervised youth justice order, compared with around 15 times in earlier years.

Figure 33 Count and rate of unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders by Indigenous status – time series



(a) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.

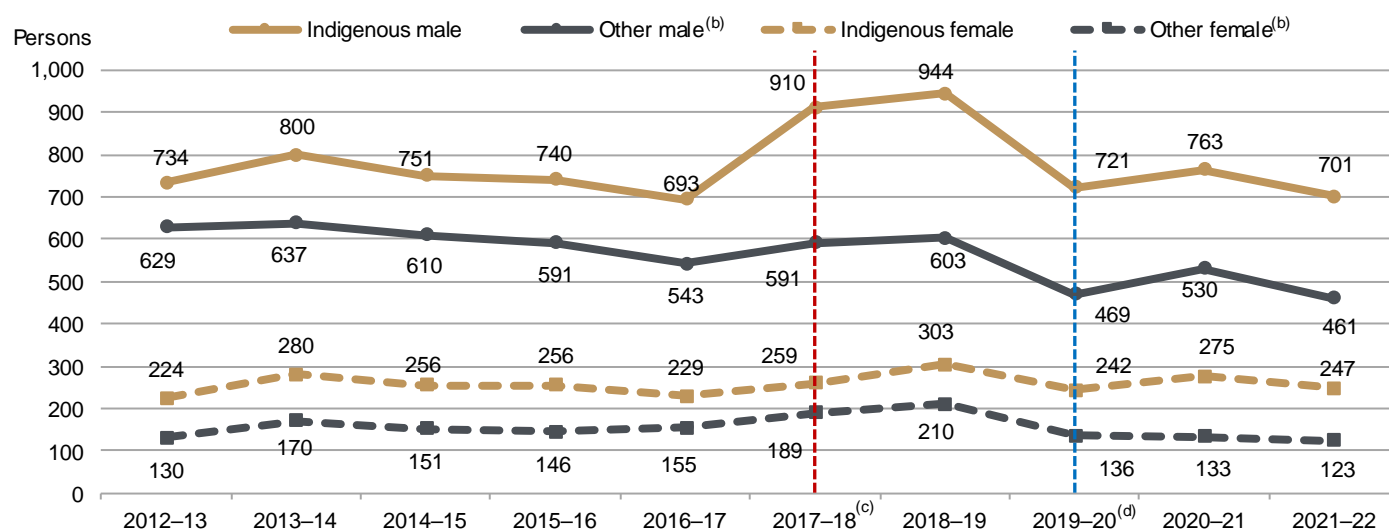
(b) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2012–13 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.

(c) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females ended the series with more admissions than at the start of the series, with 247 in 2021–22 compared with 224 in 2012–13, an increase of 10.3% (Figure 34). Admissions decreased for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (–4.5%), non-Indigenous males (–26.7%) and non-Indigenous females (–5.4%) in 2021–22 compared with 2012–13.

Figure 34 Unique offenders admitted to supervised youth justice orders by Indigenous status and sex^(a) – time series

(a) Excludes a small number whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

(b) 'Other' represents those offenders who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.

(c) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

Throughout the time series, around half of all unique young offenders on supervised orders had just one admission during the year, and 2021–22 represents both the lowest count (709) and the smallest proportion (46.2%) in the 10-year period (Table 58).

In the two years following the start of the pandemic in 2019–20, the proportion of all categories with multiple admissions has grown — 2–3 admissions (from 35.1% to 38.1%); 4–5 admissions (from 8.9% to 11.7%) and 6 or more admissions (from 2.6% to 3.9%).

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

Supervised orders	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
No. admissions per year	— persons —									
1 admission	894	944	868	854	820	1,016	1,048	838	839	709
2 or 3 admissions	659	729	693	674	609	694	770	550	636	584
4 or 5 admissions	143	165	171	166	140	192	195	139	170	180
6 or more admissions	21	49	37	39	51	48	48	41	56	60
Total	1,717	1,887	1,769	1,733	1,620	1,950	2,061	1,568	1,701	1,533

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

4.3.2.2. Unsupervised orders

The overall number of unique young offenders with admissions to unsupervised orders decreased by 24.9% from 2,903 in 2012–13 to 2,179 in 2021–22, the lowest in the series.

In contrast to supervised orders, a much greater proportion of unique young offenders in 2021–22 had only one admission to an unsupervised order, 69.2% compared with 30.8% who had multiple admissions (Table 59).

Since the onset of the pandemic in 2019–20, the proportion of all categories with multiple admissions has grown somewhat — 2–3 admissions (from 22.4% to 26.1%); 4–5 admissions (from 2.7% to 3.9%) and 6 or more admissions (from 0.2% to 0.8%).

Table 59 Unique offenders with one or more admissions to unsupervised youth justice orders in a reference year – time series

Unsupervised orders	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
No. admissions per year	— persons —									
1 admission	2,102	2,123	1,984	1,937	1,696	1,895	2,398	1,632	1,829	1,507
2 or 3 admissions	729	742	674	733	698	782	799	490	654	569
4 or 5 admissions	60	65	75	84	73	97	86	60	65	86
6 or more admissions	12	9	8	8	18	17	12	4	15	17
Total	2,903	2,939	2,741	2,762	2,485	2,791	3,295	2,186	2,563	2,179

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

4.3.3. Average daily number under youth justice supervision in the community

On each day in 2021–22, there was an average of 1,263 young persons under youth justice supervision in the community, similar to the start of the time series, although 23.1% lower than the peak in 2018–19 (1,643) following the transition of 17-year-old offenders to youth justice (Table 60).

The male proportion of the average daily number of young offenders supervised in the community was at its equal-lowest for the time series, at 74.9%. Accordingly, the female proportion has risen to one-quarter (25.0%) of the total average daily number, from the time series low of 19.9% in 2012–13.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander proportion was at its equal-highest for the series, at 59.5% for the second consecutive year.

Table 60 Average daily number of persons under youth justice supervision in the community – time series

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
	— average daily number ^(c) —									
Sex										
Male	1,034	1,051	1,016	953	897	1,046	1,241	1,130	995	946
Female	257	310	324	281	294	332	402	379	312	316
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	674	723	748	663	648	761	942	871	778	752
Other ^(d)	617	638	592	571	543	616	701	639	529	511
Age (years)										
10–11	11	8	10	9	7	8	8	6	7	2
12	24	30	29	29	26	20	28	19	15	15
13	73	70	84	74	76	73	71	62	43	49
14	146	163	166	164	163	156	150	128	112	111
15	257	283	258	254	253	264	263	221	186	191
16	312	373	355	318	317	346	349	297	255	248
17	303	280	310	258	250	362	389	340	293	291
18+	166	152	126	127	100	147	385	437	396	356
Total^(e)	1,291	1,360	1,341	1,233	1,191	1,377	1,643	1,509	1,307	1,263

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(b) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

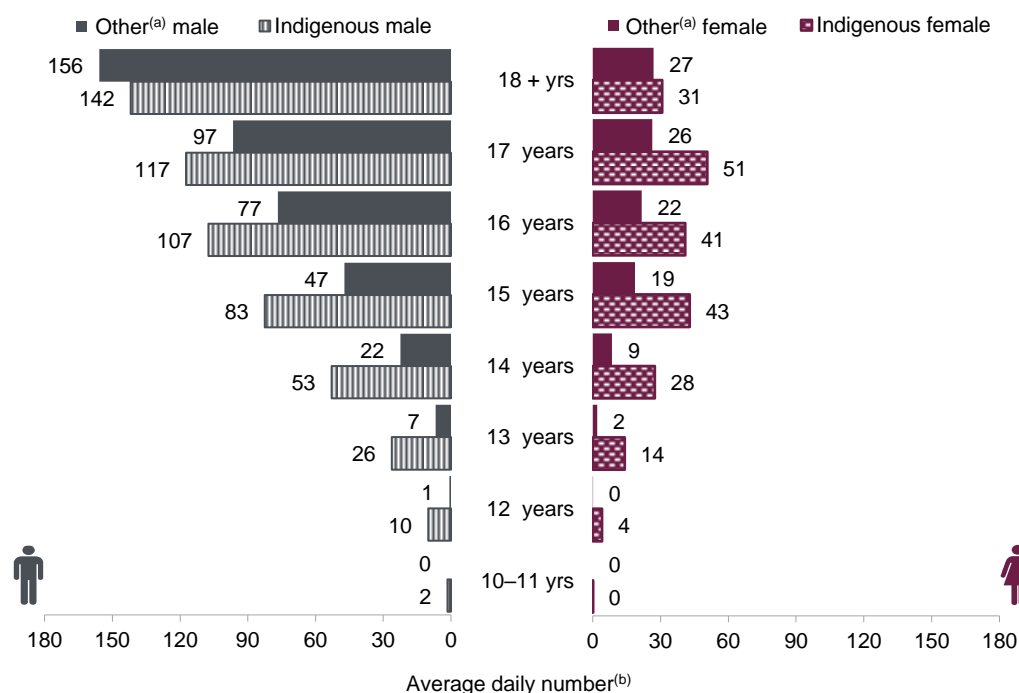
(c) Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number, however total is based on unrounded components.

(d) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.

(e) Total includes those whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

In 2021–22, the average daily number of males under youth justice supervision in the community increased with age for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other offenders (Figure 35). With the exception of 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 under supervision in the community.

Figure 35 Average daily number of persons under youth justice supervision in the community, by Indigenous status, age and sex, 2021–22



(a) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.

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

4.4. Youth detention centres

4.4.1. Admissions to detention centres

This section relates to physical admission to a stay in a youth detention centre, whether in pre-court custody, 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 number of admissions of young people to detention centres was at its highest in 2017–18 when 17-year-old offenders began to transition from the adult to the youth justice system (Table 61).

In 2021–22, sentenced admissions to detention remained around the lowest levels seen in the time series, with only 23 admissions, while unsentenced admissions (1,895) were at the same level as in 2012–13. However, the number of admissions to remand in 2021–22 increased substantially to 1,443, the series peak. In contrast, pre-court custody admissions in 2021–22 (452) were less than half the number in both 2012–13 (956) and 2020–21 (913).

Table 61 Admissions to youth detention centres by legal status – time series

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
Legal status	— number —									
Unsentenced	1,899	1,939	1,823	1,626	1,972	2,183	1,481	1,890	1,998	1,895
Pre-court custody	956	957	903	776	963	878	187	789	913	452
Remand	943	982	920	850	1,009	1,305	1,294	1,101	1,085	1,443
Sentenced	56	84	59	54	54	31	49	18	13	23
Total	1,955	2,023	1,882	1,680	2,026	2,214	1,530	1,908	2,011	1,918

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

Compared with 2020–21, overall admissions to detention centres decreased by 4.6% (–93) in 2021–22, with a notable decrease for the youngest age group of 10–11 years (–24 or –68.6%) (Table 62). Those aged 16 years on admission were the only age group to have increased in both years since the pandemic was declared, and this was also the most common age of those admitted to a detention centre in 2021–22 (at 453), closely followed by those aged 15 years (451). In every year of the 10-year time series, the most common age of those admitted was either 15 or 16 years.

Two-thirds (66.2%) of admissions in 2021–22 were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders, third-highest since peaking in 2018–19 at 71.8%. Males comprised 79.0% of all admissions, their smallest proportion since 2017–18, with their proportion ranging from 78.2% to 81.2% of the total over the 10-year series.

Table 62 Admissions to youth detention centres by Indigenous status, age and sex – time series

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
	— number —									
Sex										
Male	1,583	1,601	1,483	1,321	1,588	1,732	1,212	1,546	1,633	1,515
Female	371	421	399	359	438	482	318	362	378	403
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait	1,187	1,161	1,144	1,082	1,305	1,532	1,098	1,223	1,270	1,269
Other ^(c)	768	862	738	598	721	682	432	685	741	649
Age (years) on admission^(d)										
10–11	50	24	50	31	74	83	22	28	35	11
12	100	116	85	82	99	163	105	95	75	80
13	225	243	249	224	219	279	186	226	195	189
14	415	440	403	376	440	452	249	356	383	351
15	578	550	515	458	596	555	304	430	491	451
16	533	603	527	476	564	545	330	381	440	453
17	53	46	50	29	33	133	318	379	381	366
18+	1	1	3	4	1	4	16	13	11	17
Total^(e)	1,955	2,023	1,882	1,680	2,026	2,214	1,530	1,908	2,011	1,918

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(c) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.

(d) 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.

(e) Total includes those whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

4.4.2. 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.

In every year of the time series, over three-quarters of all unique persons admitted to youth detention centres were male, including 2021–22 when they accounted for 78.3% of the total (Table 63). The number of unique males admitted during the time series peaked at 764 in 2017–18, while the number of unique females peaked at 221 a year earlier. When compared with 2012–13, the numbers of both unique males and unique females in 2021–22 were slightly higher (+38 males and +19 females).

In 2021–22, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique persons admitted to detention centres increased by 18.5% (+90 persons) compared with 2012–13, and other unique persons decreased by 9.0% (–34 persons). The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique persons has increased steadily from the time series low of 56.3% in 2012–13 to the peak of 68.2% in 2018–19, and remained at a high level of 62.7% in 2021–22.

Table 63 Unique persons admitted to a youth detention centre – time series

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
	— persons —									
Sex										
Male	682	731	692	647	710	764	622	698	726	720
Female	180	207	203	167	221	208	184	184	187	199
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	486	551	529	505	567	630	550	544	552	576
Other ^(c)	377	388	366	309	364	342	256	338	361	343
Age (years) on admission^(d)										
10–11	14	15	14	14	24	17	8	8	12	4
12	30	45	51	39	39	50	40	44	27	33
13	87	93	91	98	91	110	90	74	82	76
14	190	195	182	156	198	196	118	153	158	165
15	239	271	248	241	269	260	165	191	213	203
16	267	289	275	245	290	262	194	189	201	221
17	35	30	32	18	19	73	184	213	212	207
18+	1	1	2	3	1	4	7	10	8	10
Total^(e)	863	939	895	814	931	972	806	882	913	919

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

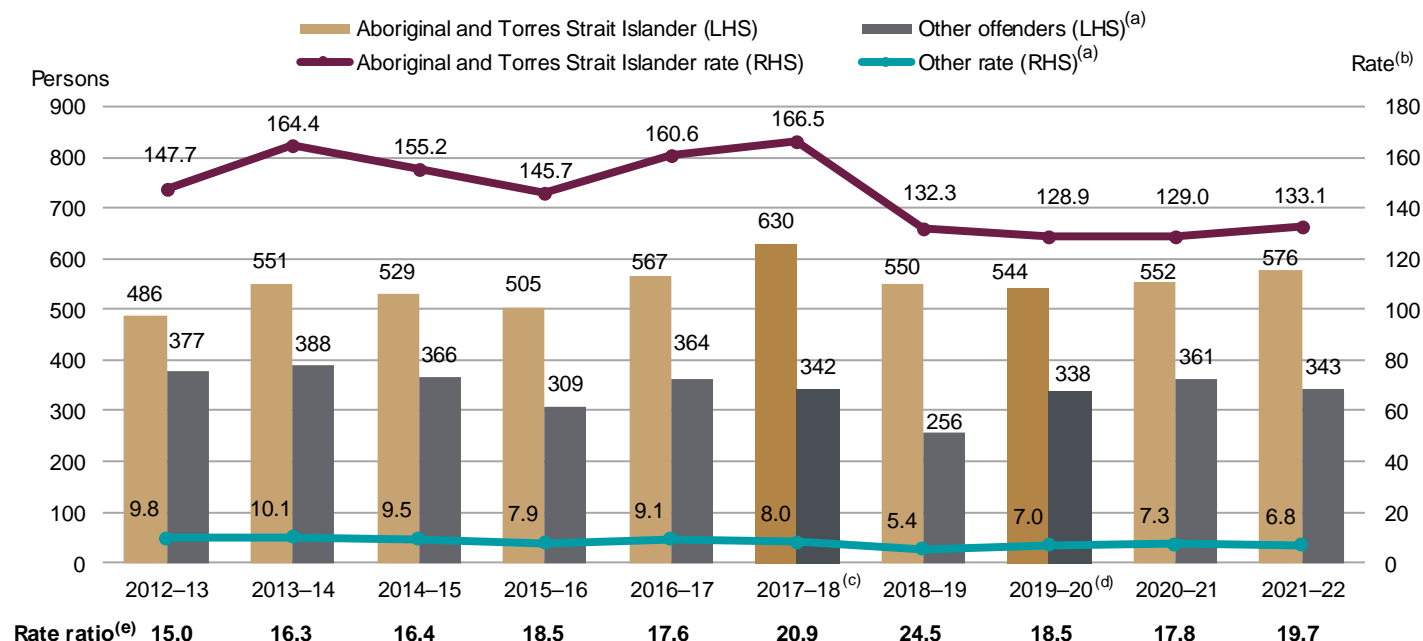
(c) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.

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

(e) Total includes those whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

From 2012–13, both the count and rate of unique other young offenders admitted to youth detention centres were the highest in 2013–14 and lowest in 2018–19 (Figure 36). For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, both the count and rate of unique young people reached a peak in 2017–18, before declining over the next two years. However, in 2021–22, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique young people increased for the second consecutive year and was at its second-highest in the time series, while the rate of other young people was at its second-lowest. Accordingly, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unique young people were nearly 20 times as likely as other unique young people to be admitted to a youth detention centre in 2021–22, compared with 15 times in 2012–13.

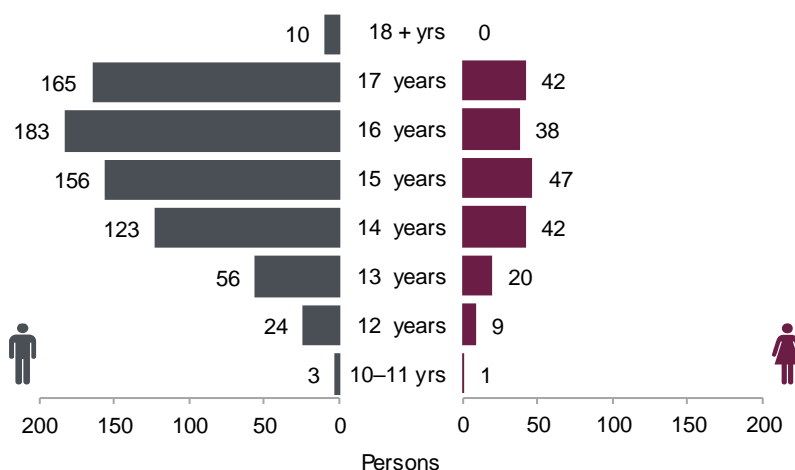
Figure 36 Count and rate of unique persons admitted to a youth detention centre by Indigenous status – time series



- (a) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.
 (b) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2012–13 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) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
 (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.
 (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.

During 2021–22, the number of unique males admitted to youth detention centres peaked at 16 years of age, followed by those aged 17 and 15 years. For unique females, 15 years was the most common age of admission, followed by those aged 17 and 14 years (Figure 37).

Figure 37 Unique persons admitted to a youth detention centre, by age on admission^(a) and sex, 2021–22



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

Around half of the unique young persons admitted to youth detention centres had only one admission during the reference year. When compared with 2020–21, the number of unique young persons with only one admission increased 6.2% (+26) in 2021–22. In contrast, the number of unique young persons with four or more admissions in a reference year decreased by 13.5% (–21) during 2021–22 (Table 64).

Table 64 Unique persons by number of admissions to a Queensland youth detention centre – time series

No. admissions per year	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
	— persons —									
1 admission	422	490	443	429	451	480	415	442	420	446
2 or 3 admissions	299	296	326	265	341	317	311	293	337	338
4 or 5 admissions	93	104	87	85	89	115	65	103	109	98
6+ admissions	49	49	39	35	50	60	15	44	47	37
Total	863	939	895	814	931	972	806	882	913	919

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

Unique young persons who had their first-ever admission to a youth detention centre during 2021–22 was the second-lowest for the time series in both number (382) and proportion (41.6%). By comparison, the number of those with a prior admission to detention was at its highest for the time series, at 537 in 2021–22, while the proportion was at its second-highest (58.4%).

Table 65 Admission persons by history of admission to a Queensland youth detention centre – time series

Admission history	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
	— persons —									
First-ever admission	481	509	479	394	517	472	300	443	418	382
Prior admission to detention	382	430	416	420	414	500	506	439	495	537
Total	863	939	895	814	931	972	806	882	913	919

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

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.

During the first five years from 2012–13 to 2016–17, the average daily number of young persons in youth detention centres fluctuated and increased only slightly overall (+19). An increase of 23 occurred in 2017–18, when 17-year-old offenders began to transition to the youth justice system, and a further increase of 12 followed in 2018–19. After an overall dip in 2019–20, the average daily number increased to a time-series high of 275 in 2021–22.

In 2021–22, of the 275 young people in youth detention centres in Queensland each day on average, 65.0% identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, equal-lowest for this cohort for the time series, which peaked at 72.6% in 2017–18. Compared with 2012–13, the male proportion of the average daily number has increased from 84.9% to 89.5% in 2021–22 (Table 66).

Table 66 Average daily number of persons in youth detention centres – time series

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
	— average daily number ^(c) —									
Sex										
Male	135	149	139	152	153	172	183	178	205	246
Female	25	31	29	32	25	29	30	23	24	29
Indigenous status										
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	107	121	110	128	128	146	154	142	149	179
Other ^(d)	52	59	58	56	51	55	60	58	80	96
Age (years)										
10–11	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	0
12	3	3	4	4	4	6	5	5	4	5
13	12	12	12	13	9	13	12	12	13	13
14	26	34	27	30	30	30	24	24	31	32
15	39	45	48	46	53	50	37	36	48	58
16	54	61	58	68	61	64	55	44	54	71
17	24	22	17	20	18	34	64	58	62	76
18+	2	2	1	2	1	2	16	21	17	20
Total^(e)	159	180	168	184	178	201	213	200	229	275

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(b) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

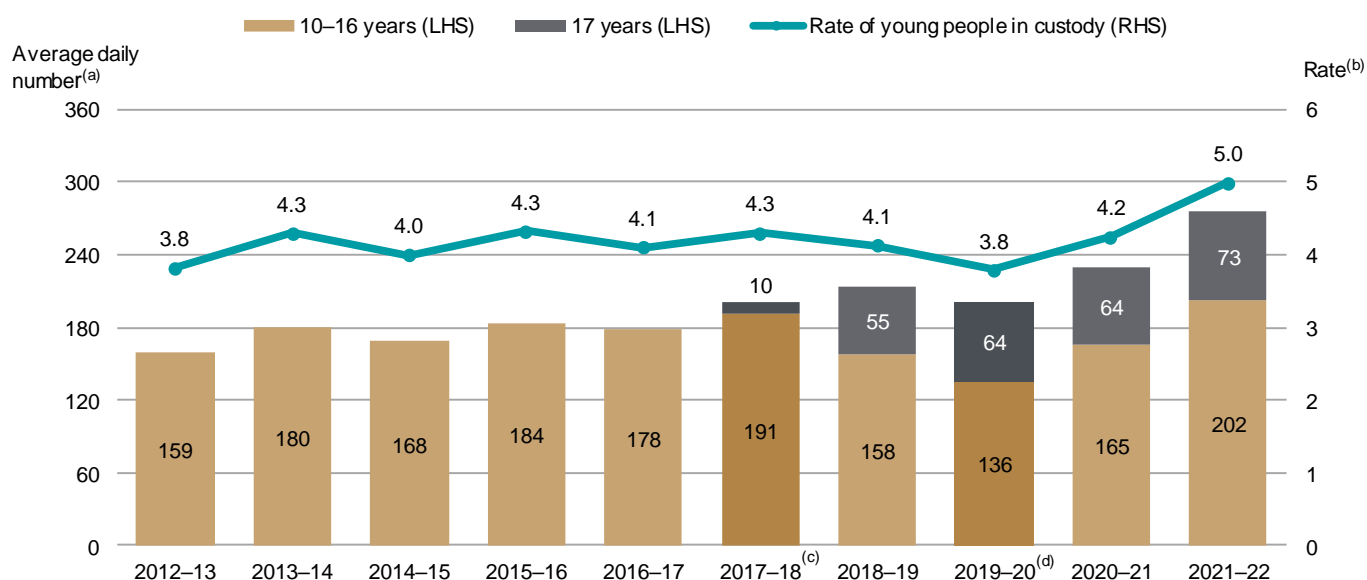
(c) Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number, however total is based on unrounded components.

(d) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.

(e) Total includes those whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

From 2012–13 to 2016–17, the rate of young people in detention centres was relatively stable, ranging from 3.8 to 4.3 per 10,000 persons aged 10–16 years. With the transition of 17-year-old offenders to the youth justice system, the rate dropped to 3.8 per 10,000 persons aged 10–17 years in 2019–20, a likely impact of the COVID-related social restrictions.

The steady increase in the most recent two years, in particular for the 16-year-old offender cohort, has brought the rate back towards the level observed prior to the pandemic, and reached a series peak of 5.0 per 10,000 persons aged 10–17 years in 2021–22 (Figure 38).

Figure 38 Average daily number and rate of young people in youth detention centres 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 2012-13 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) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10-16 years.

(d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021-22.

Table 67 Average daily number of young people in youth detention centres by legal status – time series

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 ^(a)	2018-19	2019-20 ^(b)	2020-21	2021-22
Legal status	— average daily number ^(c) —									
Unsentenced	125	129	134	146	144	166	176	170	202	238
Pre-court custody	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	2	3	1
Remand	122	127	131	143	141	164	175	168	200	236
Sentenced	35	50	34	39	34	35	38	30	27	38
Total	159	180	168	184	178	201	213	200	229	275

(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10-16 years.

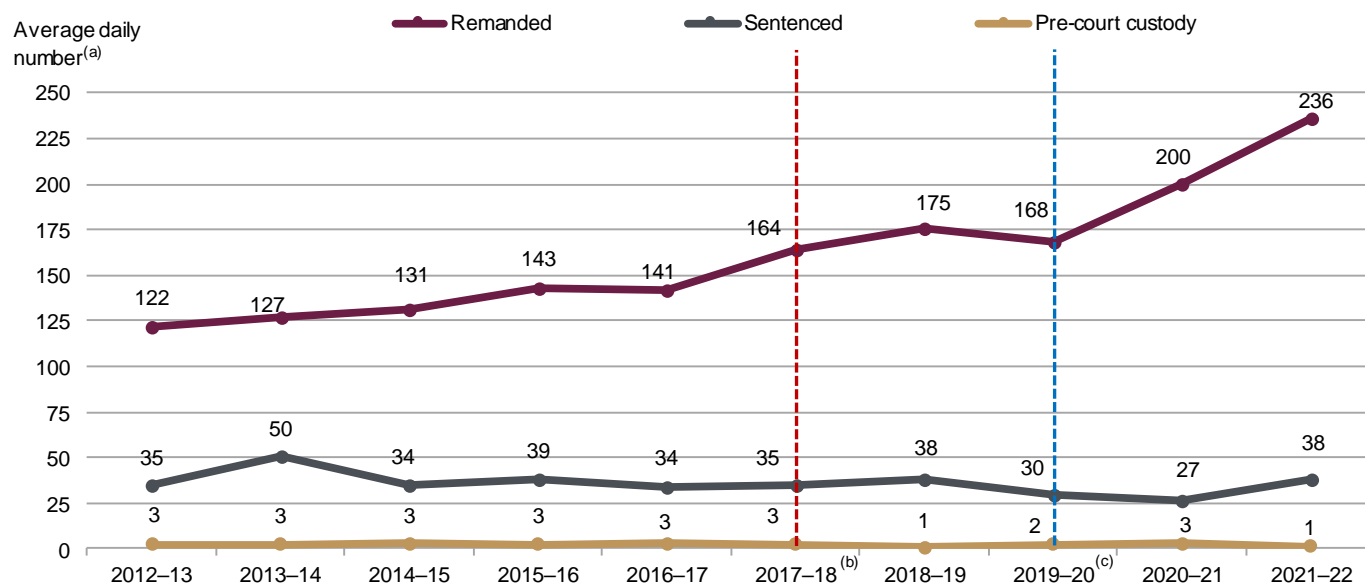
(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021-22.

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

On each day, on average, throughout the 10-year time series, the majority of young persons in detention centres were on remand (unsentenced). This has increased steadily since 2012-13 and reached the first peak in 2018-19 (at 175), the first full year after 17-year-old offenders transitioned to the youth justice system. Despite a dip in 2019-20, substantial increases in the most recent two years have seen the average daily number of those on remand reach a time-series high of 236 in 2021-22, 34.9% (or +61 young people) more than in 2018-19.

The average daily number of sentenced youth remained relatively small, decreasing from a peak of 50 in 2013-14 to a low of 27 in 2020-21, with an uptick again in 2021-22 (Figure 39).

Figure 39 Average daily number of young people in youth detention centres by legal status – time series



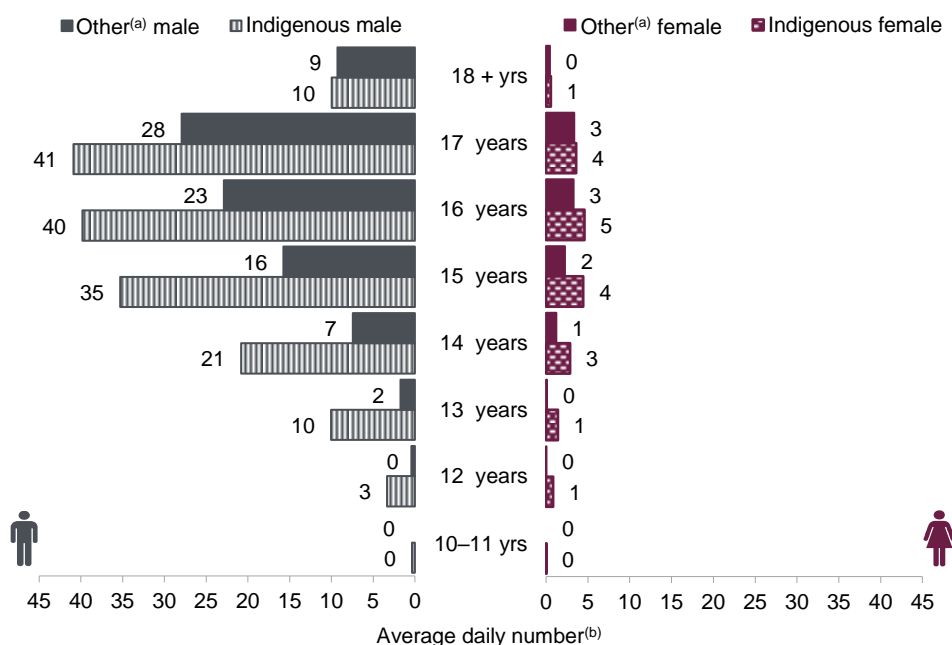
(a) Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

(b) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.

(c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

During 2021–22, for both males and females in detention centres on an average day, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people outnumbered others in every age group (Figure 40). For both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other males, 17 years was the most common age in detention centres.

Figure 40 Average daily number of persons in youth detention centres by Indigenous status, age and sex, 2021–22



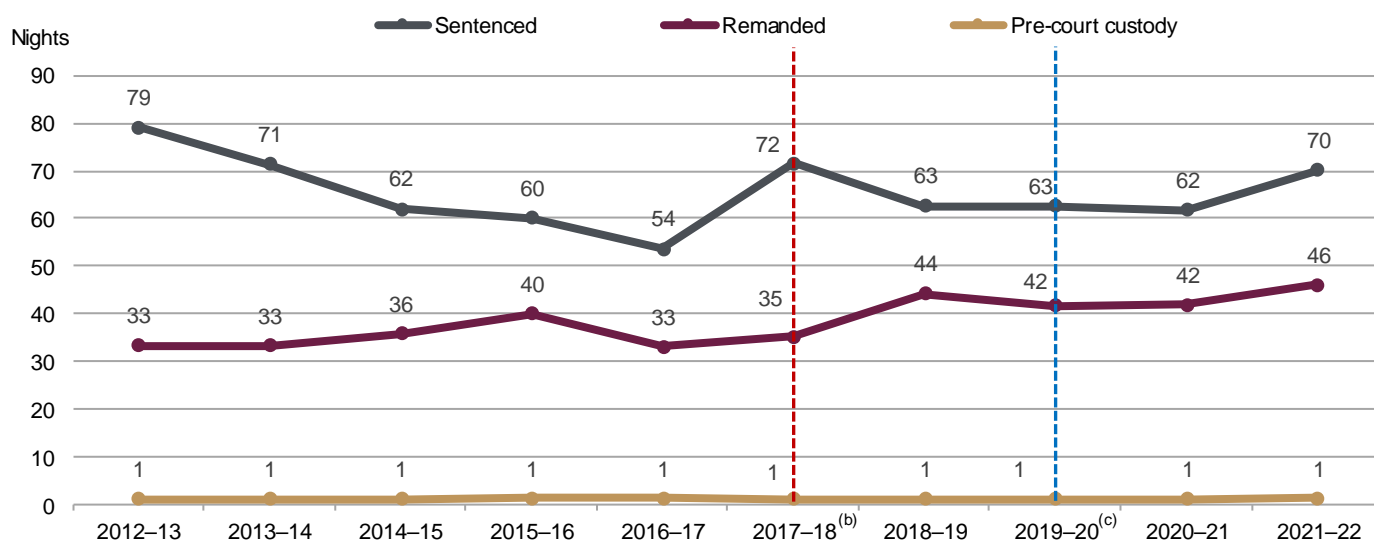
(a) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.

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

4.4.4. Average length of stay

In 2021–22, the average length of stay for sentenced young people in youth detention was 70 nights, increasing 13.4% compared with 2020–21, although 11.4% shorter than the time-series high of 79 nights in 2012–13. Of those on remand (excluding pre-court custody) in 2021–22, the average length of stay increased to 46 nights, the longest in the series for this group.

Figure 41 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) 17-year-old offenders are included in youth justice system from February 2018. In prior periods, child offenders were aged 10–16 years.
- (c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

5.0 Corrective Services

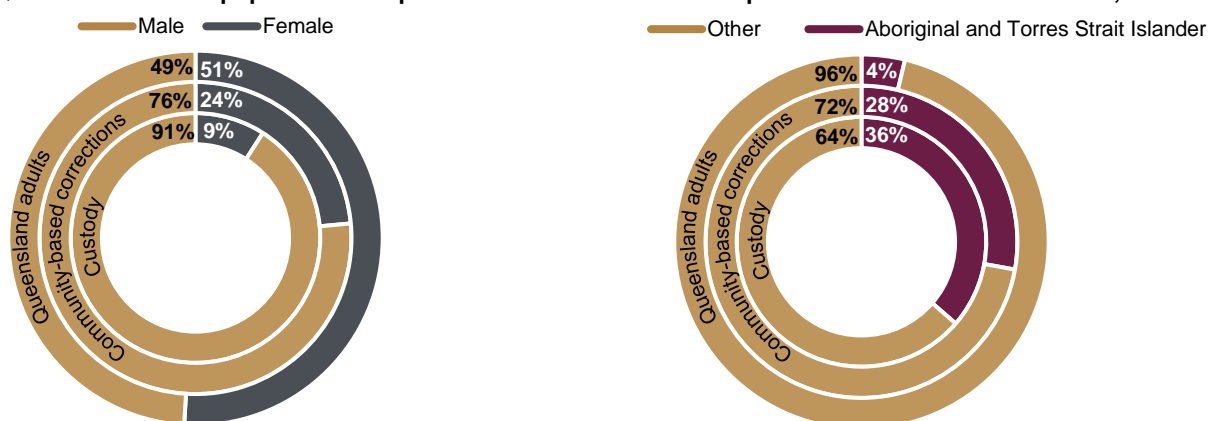
Source: Unpublished data supplied by Queensland Corrective Services.

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>		June 2021	June 2022	% change	
Total persons		9,954	9,374	-5.8	↓
Males		9,029	8,522	-5.6	↓
Females		925	852	-7.9	↓
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)		34.9	36.4	1.5 ppt	↑
<u>Adults in supervised community-based corrections as at 1 June</u>		June 2021	June 2022	% change	
Total persons		19,058	19,380	1.7	↑
Males		14,422	14,823	2.8	↑
Females		4,636	4,557	-1.7	↓
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)		26.6	27.8	1.2 ppt	↑

ppt = percentage point

Figure 42 Queensland's adult population compared with adults under the supervision of Corrective Services, June 2022



As at June 2022:



Adults in prison

- The number of adults in prison was 5.8% lower compared with June 2021, at 9,374.
- One in three adults in prison were unsentenced.
- There were 10.0 times as many males as females in the prison population overall
- More than a third of prisoners (36.4%) identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- Four in ten (42.4%) female prisoners identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander compared with 35.8% in the male prison population.
- The most common prisoner age was 31 years old.



Adults in supervised community-based corrections

- There were 3.3 times as many males (14,823) as females (4,557) in supervised community-based corrections.
- More than a quarter (27.8%) of adults in supervised community-based corrections identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- 475.8 per 100,000 of the Queensland population aged 18 years or older were in supervised community-based corrections.

5.1. Overview

This report presents summary statistics about adult corrective services in Queensland as at June 2022, 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 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.)

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

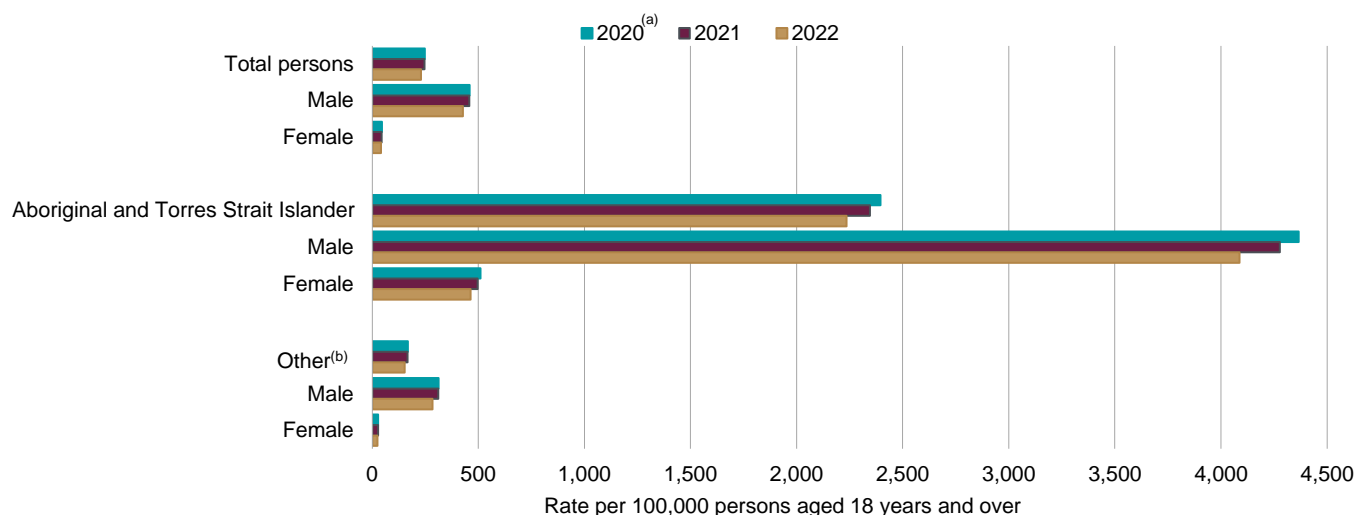
Adult prison custody data used for this report are primarily annual point in time measures relating to persons in prisons as at 30 June, and do not reveal movements throughout the year. As at 30 June 2022, there were 9,374 adults in Queensland prisons, and the majority of these were male (8,522 or 90.9%). The rate of males in prison (426.7 per 100,000 persons) was substantially higher than that of females (41.0) (Figure 43).

One-third (33.6%) of adults in prison were unsentenced (on remand), with 60 adults being detained in custody under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003* (DPSOA). Females in prison were more likely than males to be unsentenced (40.7% compared with 32.9%).

Despite a slight decrease compared with the previous year, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults continued to be over-represented in prison in 2022, with a rate of imprisonment (2,235.5 per 100,000 persons) that is substantially higher than the rate for other adults (152.2 per 100,000 persons). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males were 14.4 times as likely as other males, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females 18.8 times as likely as other females, to be in prison.

5.2.1. Prisoner characteristics

Figure 43 Adult imprisonment rates by Indigenous status and sex, as at 30 June

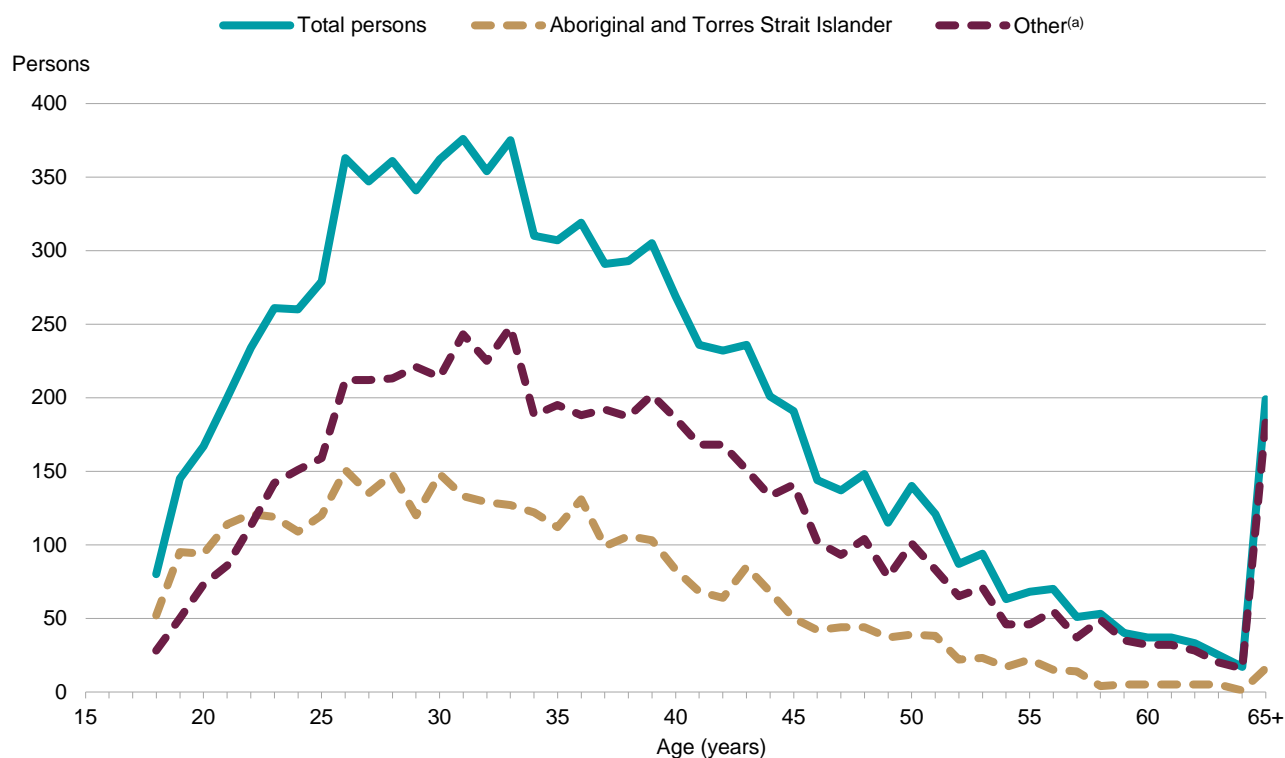


(a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(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 2022 increases sharply with age to 26 years, and peaks at 31 years (376 persons), before decreasing to fewer than 100 adults in prison per year of age by 52 years (Figure 44).

Figure 44 Adults in prison by Indigenous status, as at 30 June 2022



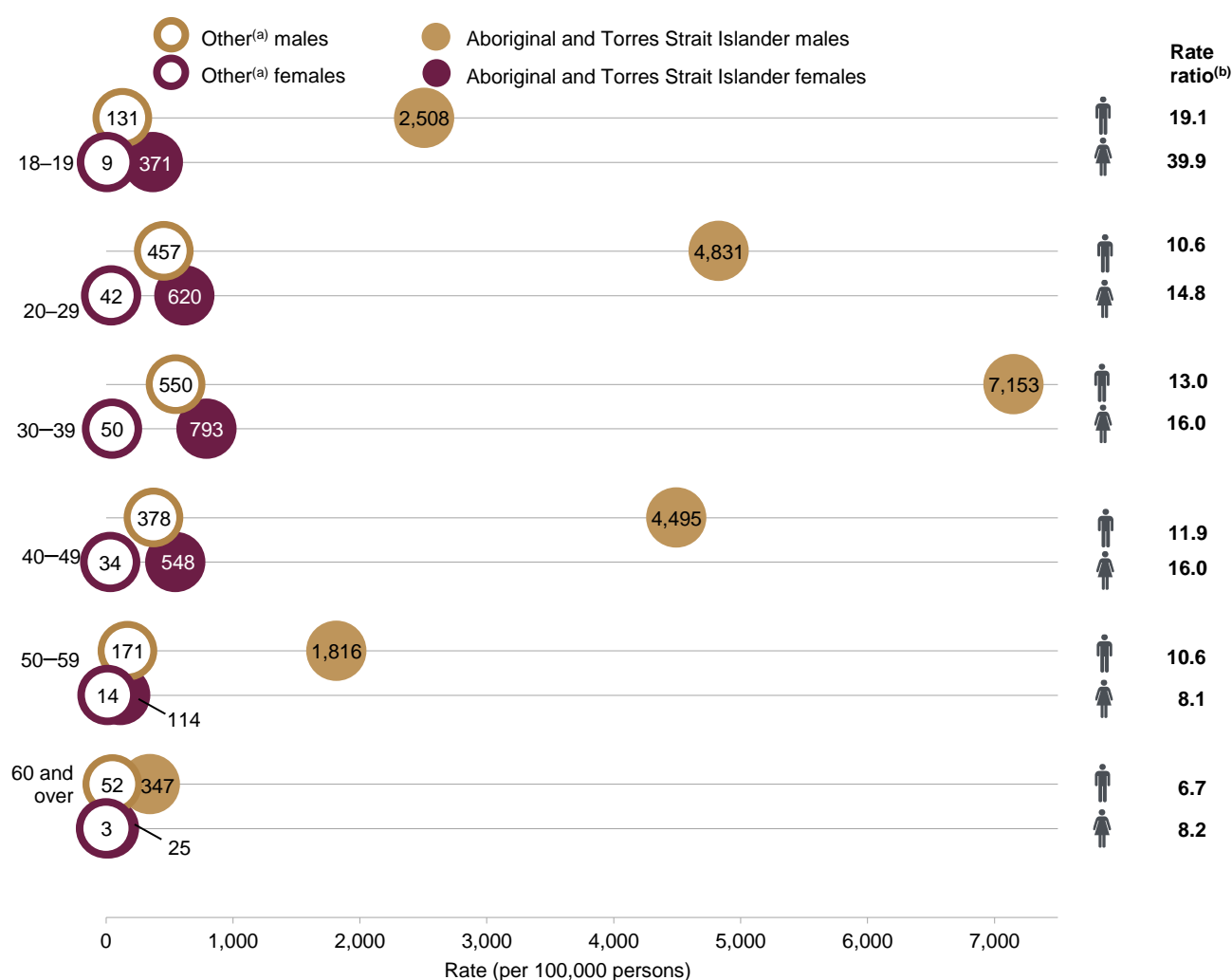
(a) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Figure 45 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 until the rate peaks in the 30–39 year age group. This is followed by a decline in imprisonment rate for subsequent age groups.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults had imprisonment rates at least 10 times that of other males until 60 years and over. In 2022, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females aged 18–19 years were imprisoned at a rate of 371.1 per 100,000 persons, almost 40 times the rate of other females in the same age group. In general, other females had the lowest imprisonment rates across all age groups.

For each category of sex and Indigenous status presented in Figure 45, the distribution of imprisonment rates across the age groups was similar. Those aged 30–39 years consistently had the highest imprisonment rates, followed by the groups aged 20–29 and 40–49 years. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females, the age group with the next-highest imprisonment rate was 18–19-year-olds, followed by those aged 50–59 years. For all demographic groups, the group aged 60 years and over had the lowest imprisonment rate. For other males and females, the 50–59 year age group had a higher imprisonment rate than the 18–19 year age group.

Figure 45 Adult imprisonment rates by Indigenous status, sex and age, as at 30 June 2022



(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.

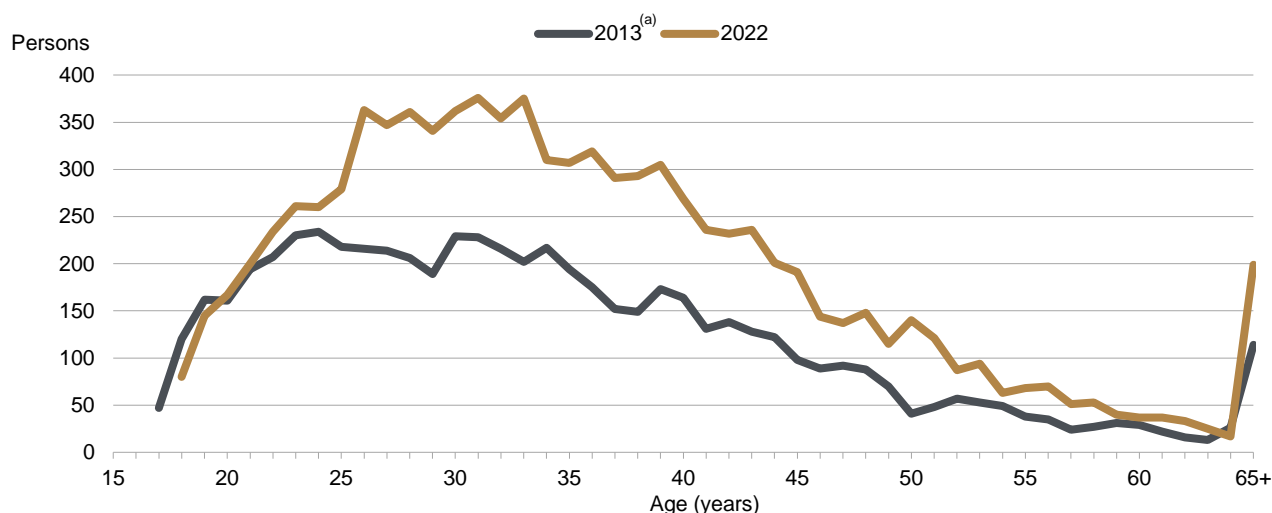
Table 68 Count and rate of adults in prison by Indigenous status, sex and age, as at 30 June 2022

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	225	2,813	3,292	1,909	787	348	188.2	417.7	448.5	281.7	118.6	28.9
Male	202	2,548	2,991	1,727	728	326	332.3	748.7	827.4	520.3	222.9	56.6
Female	23	265	301	182	59	22	39.1	79.6	80.8	52.6	17.5	3.5
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	147	1,231	1,210	585	199	37	1,470.9	2,769.5	3,926.9	2,447.4	918.5	170.7
Male	129	1,096	1,086	517	186	34	2,507.8	4,830.5	7,153.2	4,494.5	1,816.4	346.7
Female	18	135	124	68	13	3	371.1	620.4	793.3	548.4	113.8	25.3
Other^(a)	78	1,582	2,082	1,324	588	311	71.2	251.5	296.1	202.5	91.6	26.3
Male	73	1,452	1,905	1,210	542	292	131.2	457.2	550.1	377.6	171.3	51.6
Female	5	130	177	114	46	19	9.3	41.8	49.6	34.2	14.1	3.1

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

While the number of adults in prison increased by 54.3% (+3,298) from 6,076 at 30 June 2013 to 9,374 at 30 June 2022, this increase was not equally shared across all ages (Figure 46).

Compared with 2013, the number of prisoners aged 18–19 years decreased in 2022 to 225 from 282, or –20.2%. Numbers were higher for all other years of age among adults in prison in 2022, except 64-year-olds (decreased from 26 to 17). Prisoner count increases ranged between 3.1% (21-year-olds) and 241.5% (50-year-olds). From 18 years onwards, the number of adult prisoners continued to rise to a peak at 31 years (376), before trending downwards from age 33. This was later than in 2013, when the downward trend commenced from a peak at 24 years, before peaking again at 30 years, then trending continually downward from 32 years. There were 64.9% more prisoners aged 31 years in 2022 (376) than there were in 2013 (228).

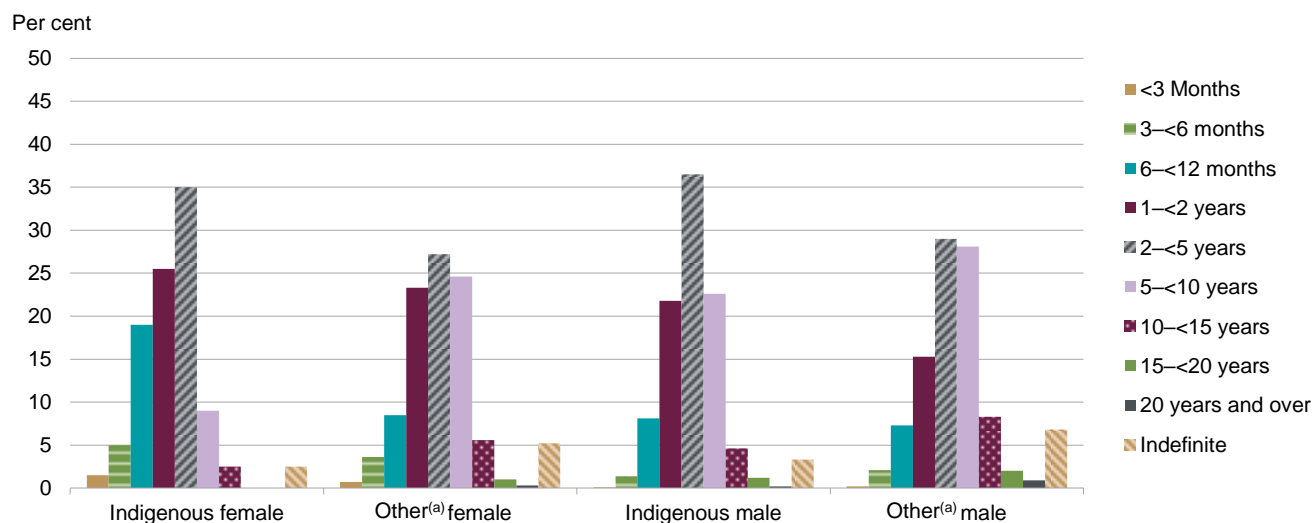
Figure 46 Adults in prison by age, as at 30 June

(a) In 2013, the age range for adult offenders was 17 years and over. From February 2018, 17-year-old offenders transitioned to the youth justice system, and since then the age range for adult offenders has been 18 years and over.

5.2.2. Sentenced prisoners

A sentence length of two years to less than five years was the most prevalent category for sentenced prisoners in custody as at 30 June 2022, irrespective of Indigenous status and sex. One year to less than two years was the second-most prevalent for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female prisoners, while for other prisoners, five to less than ten years was second-most prevalent (Table 69).

There was a greater proportion of other males and females serving an indefinite sentence (4.2% and 5.5% respectively) than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (3.3%) and females (2.5%) (Figure 47). Almost three quarters of female prisoners serve a less than 5 year sentence (72.3%) compared to only 58.9% of male prisoners.

Figure 47 Proportion of sentenced prisoners by length of sentence, by Indigenous status, as at 30 June 2022

(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 2022

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	15	127	492	1,120	1,945	1,572	419	100	38	333
Male	10	106	428	998	1,792	1,479	397	97	37	312
Female	5	21	64	122	153	93	22	3	1	21
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	6	39	201	491	805	474	98	25	4	71
Male	3	29	163	440	735	456	93	25	4	66
Female	3	10	38	51	70	18	5	0	0	5
Other(a)	9	88	291	629	1,140	1,098	321	75	34	262
Male	7	77	265	558	1,057	1,023	304	72	33	246
Female	2	11	26	71	83	75	17	3	1	16

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

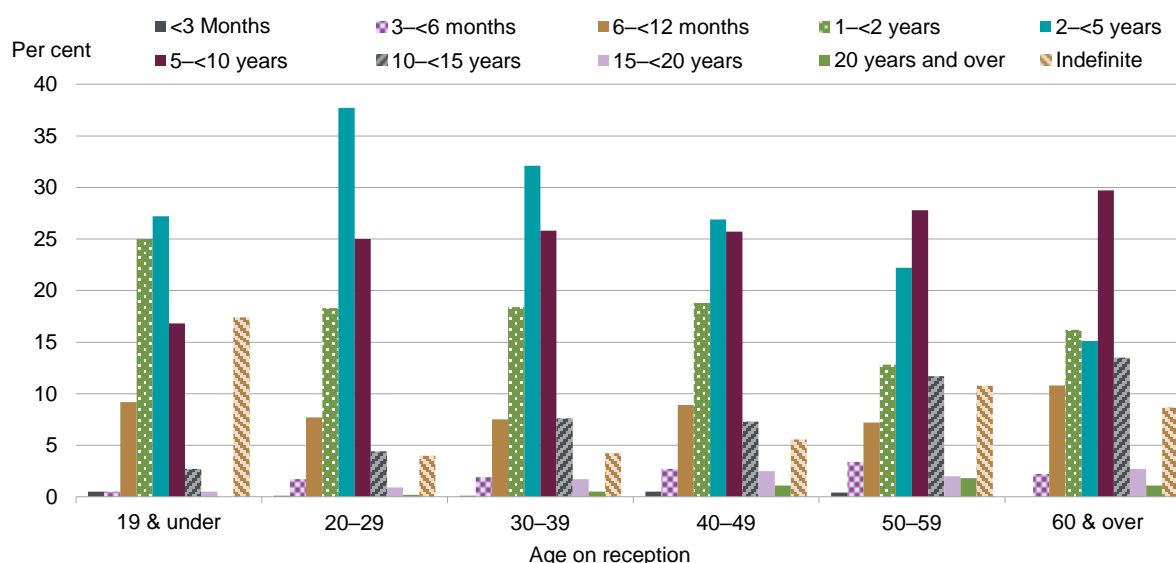
Sentenced adults in prison are serving longer sentences on average if they were older at reception. Over half of adults in prison aged 50–59 years and 60 years and older at reception serve sentences of 5 years or longer (54.0% and 55.7% respectively), compared with just over a third of those aged 20–29 years (34.5%). There was a similar pattern for those serving sentences of ten years or more. Meanwhile, there was a higher proportion with sentences of two to less than five years for younger cohorts in 2022 (Figure 48).

While the proportion of those with an indefinite sentence increased with age from 20–29 to 50–59 years, the proportion of those aged 18–19 years serving an indefinite sentence was higher than any other age group (17.4%). It was also the third-most prevalent sentence for this age group. This is a relatively large proportion when compared to the overall proportion of indefinite sentences in 2022 (5.4%).

It should be noted that, for prisoners in the 18–19 years age group, these indefinite sentences have been for murder or attempted murder. Also, the number of prisoners in this age group is smaller than all other age groups.

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 48 Proportion of sentenced prisoners by length of sentence^(a), by age on reception, as at 30 June 2022

(a) Aggregate sentence length as at 30 June 2022.

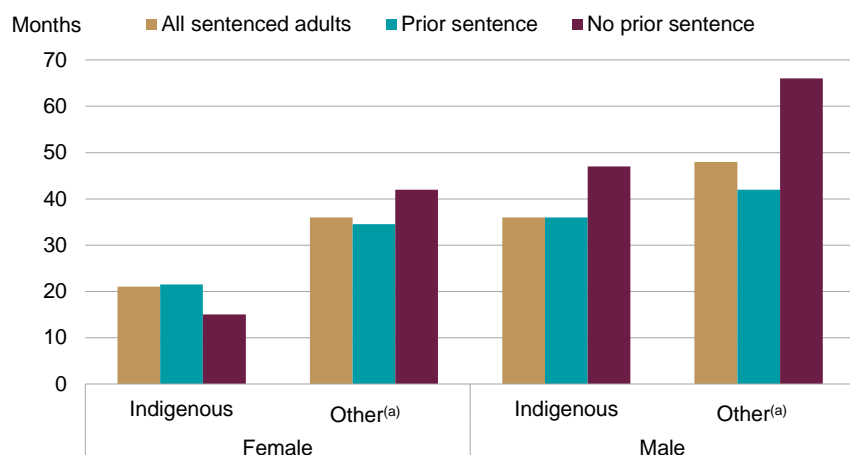
Table 70 Sentenced adult prisoners by length of sentence, by age on reception, as at 30 June 2022

Age on reception	18–19 yrs	20–29 yrs	30–39 yrs	40–49 yrs	50–59 yrs	60 yrs & over
Sentence length	— persons —					
<3 months	1	3	3	6	2	0
3 to <6 months	1	34	41	32	15	4
6 to <12 months	17	157	160	106	32	20
1 to <2 years	46	372	392	223	57	30
2 to <5 yrs	50	766	683	319	99	28
5 to <10 years	31	508	549	305	124	55
10 to <15 years	5	90	161	86	52	25
15 to <20 years	1	18	37	30	9	5
20 years and over	0	4	11	13	8	2
Indefinite	32	81	90	66	48	16
Total	184	2,033	2,127	1,186	446	185

5.2.3. Median sentence length of sentenced prisoners in custody as at 30 June

The median sentence length varied by sex and Indigenous status (Figure 49). Sentenced male prisoners had 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. Other males had the longest median sentence length (48 months), while Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females had the shortest (21 months).

The median sentence length of males in prison who were known to have served a previous custodial sentence was shorter than for those without prior prison sentence. The greatest difference was seen in other males, whose median sentence length for those without prior sentence (66 months) was 57.1% longer than for those with a prior custodial sentence (42 months).

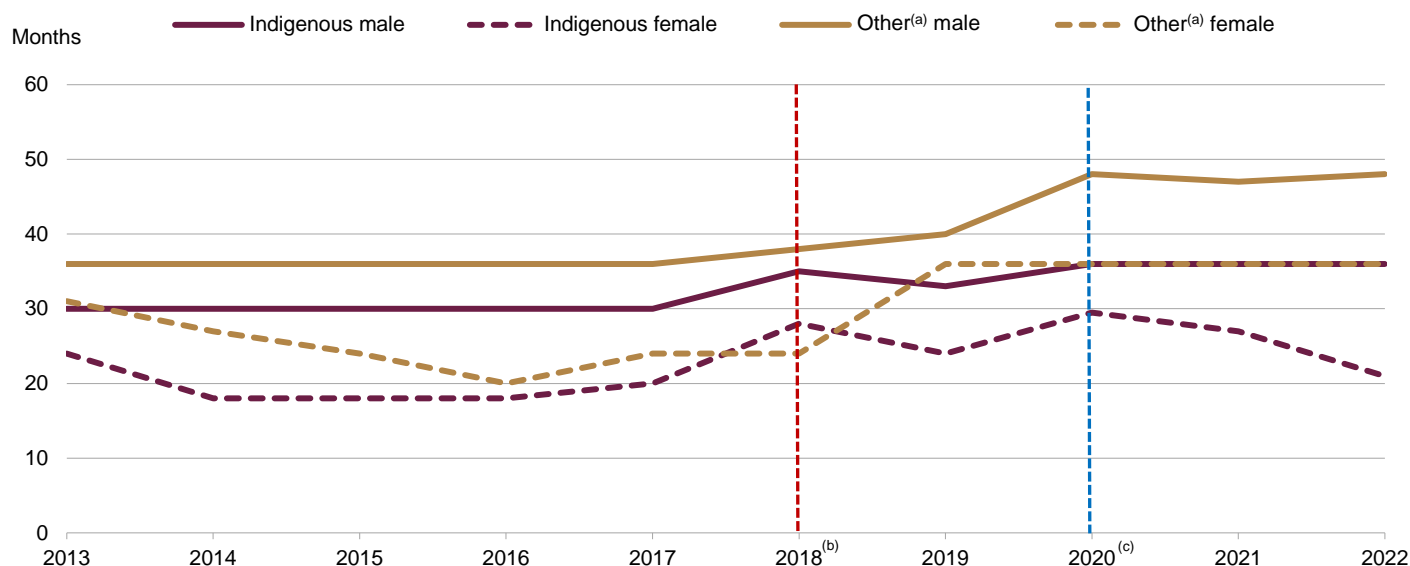
Figure 49 Median sentence length of adult prisoners by known prior custodial sentence in Queensland, as at 30 June 2022

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

Compared with June 2013, the median sentence length has increased for all adult prisoners except Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (Figure 50). In 2022, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females received a median sentence length of 21 months, three months fewer than in 2013. The largest increase was seen for other male prisoners, whose median length of sentence was 48 months in 2022, compared with 36 months in 2013. Median sentence lengths for other females and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males increased to a similar degree over the 10-year period (five and six months respectively).

Since 2020, the median sentence length has remained stable as at June 2022 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (36 months), other females (36 months) and other males (48 months in 2020 and 2022, and 47 months in 2021). The median sentence length for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females, however, has decreased over the same period, from 29.5 months to 21 months.

The impact of COVID-19 containment measures on the criminal justice system may have contributed to the observed increase in the median sentence lengths between 30 June 2019 and 30 June 2020.

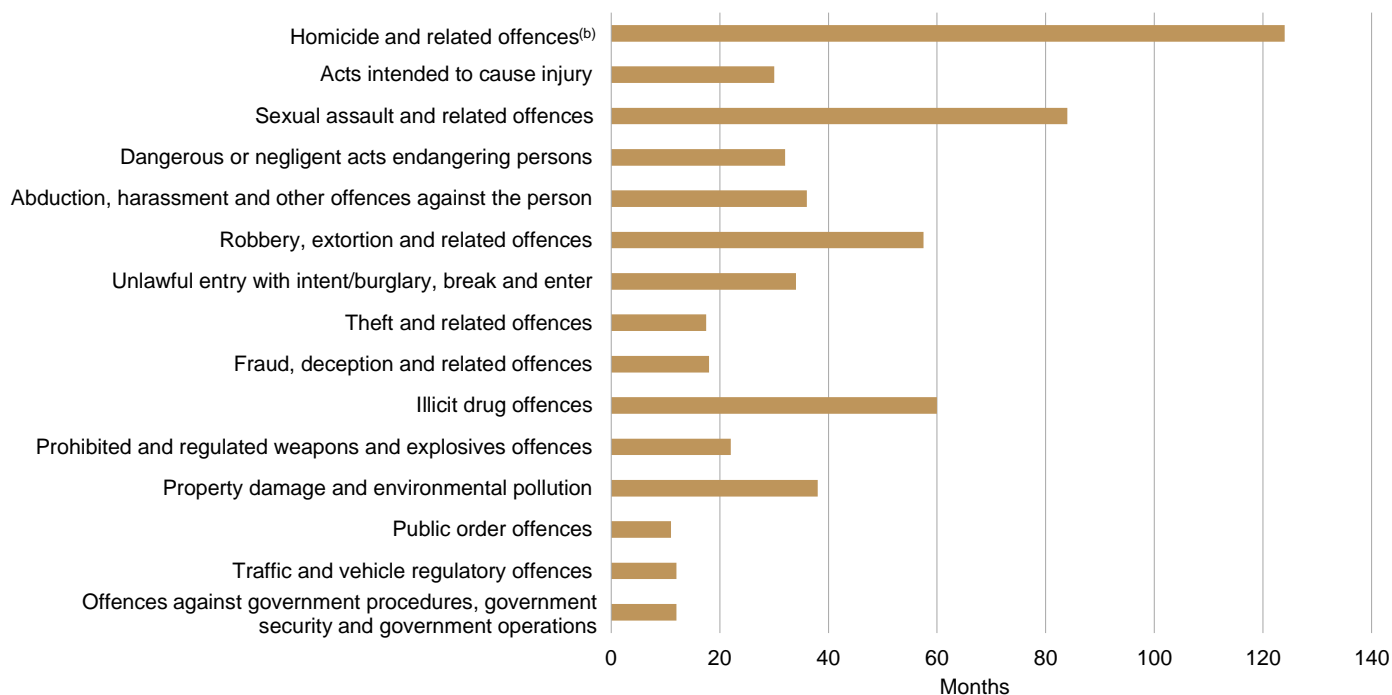
Figure 50 Median sentence length of adult prisoners as at 30 June – time series

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

(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 into 2021–22.

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 49, Figure 50 and Figure 51 as well as Table 71. This has particular impact on *homicide and related offences*, of which 66.0% of sentenced adults are serving an indefinite sentence, and *sexual assault and related offences*, of which 1.9% are serving an indefinite sentence.

Figure 51 Median length of adult sentence by most serious offence^(a), as at 30 June 2022

(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 2022

Most serious offence (MSO)	All adult prison sentences of sentenced prisoners in custody as of 30 June 2022
Offence (ANZSOC division)	Months (rounded down)
Homicide and related offences ^(a)	124
Acts intended to cause injury	30
Sexual assault and related offences	84
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	32
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	36
Robbery, extortion and related offences	57
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	34
Theft and related offences	17
Fraud, deception and related offences	18
Illicit drug offences	60
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	22
Property damage and environmental pollution	38
Public order offences	11
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	12
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.

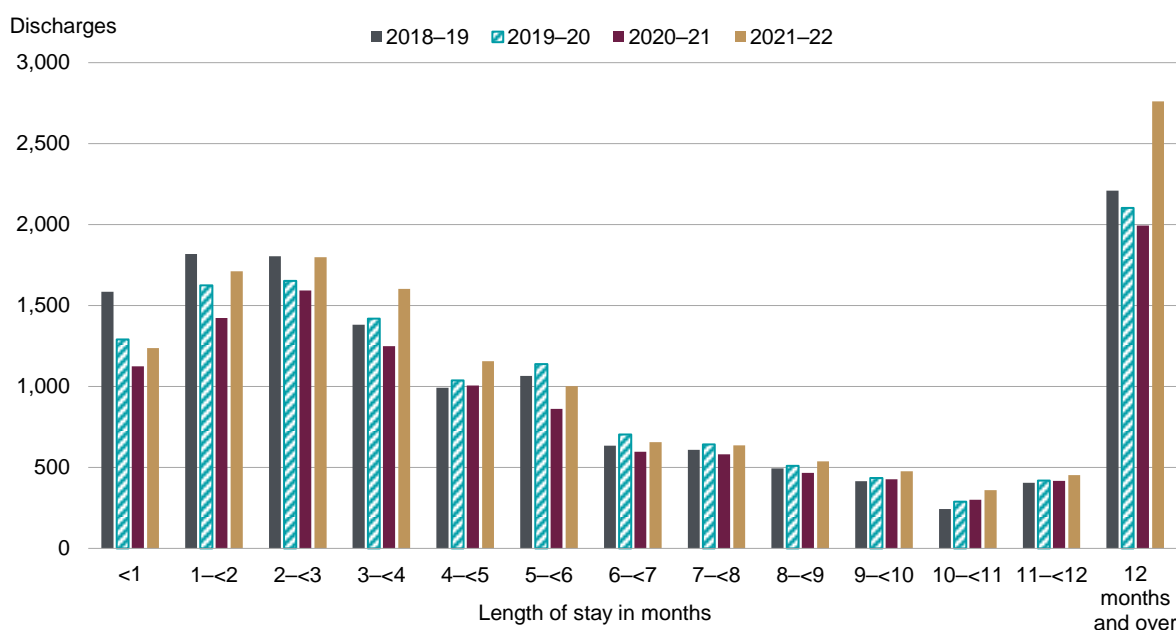
(b) *Miscellaneous offences* are excluded from the table due to low numbers but are included in 'All offence divisions'.

5.2.4. Length of stay

Of all prisoners discharged in 2021–22, around six in 10 (59.2%) had a prison stay of less than six months, and around two in 10 (19.2%) had a stay of 12 months or longer.

Overall, there were 2,349 more discharges in 2021–22 across all lengths of stay than in 2020–21 (12,031), when an unusually low number of discharges contributed to an increase in prisoner numbers. An additional parole board was established during 2021–22, which cleared the backlog and inflated discharges to higher than usual.

Figure 52 Prisoner discharges^(a) by length of stay, 2021–22



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

5.3. Adults in prison as at 30 June – time series

5.3.1. Prisoner characteristics

The total adult prisoner population decreased by 5.8% (–580) in June 2022 compared with June 2021 following the large increase which was observed from 2020 to 2021 (+14.9% or +1,294)(Table 72). The decrease observed in June 2022, however, was not evenly distributed. Specifically, in June 2022 compared with June 2021, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners decreased by 2.0% (–68) over the year, while the number of other prisoners decreased by 7.9% (–512), and the number of male prisoners decreased by 5.6% (–507), while female prisoners decreased by 7.9% (–73).

When comparing the beginning with the end of the time series, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners has increased by almost double the rate of other prisoners (+79.6% compared with +42.8%). Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females experienced much higher increases (+77.0% and +105.1% respectively) than other males and females (+43.4% and +36.4% respectively) over the same period.

The proportion of the total adult prison population as at 30 June 2022 that identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander has increased to 36.4%, its highest level in the 10-year time series. While the proportion remained steady from 2013 to 2018 (an average of 31.6% over the 6 years), it increased by 5.3 percentage points between 2018 and 2022.

Overall, it should be noted that the impact of COVID-19 containment measures on the criminal justice system is likely to have contributed to the observed fluctuation in prisoner numbers since 30 June 2020.

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

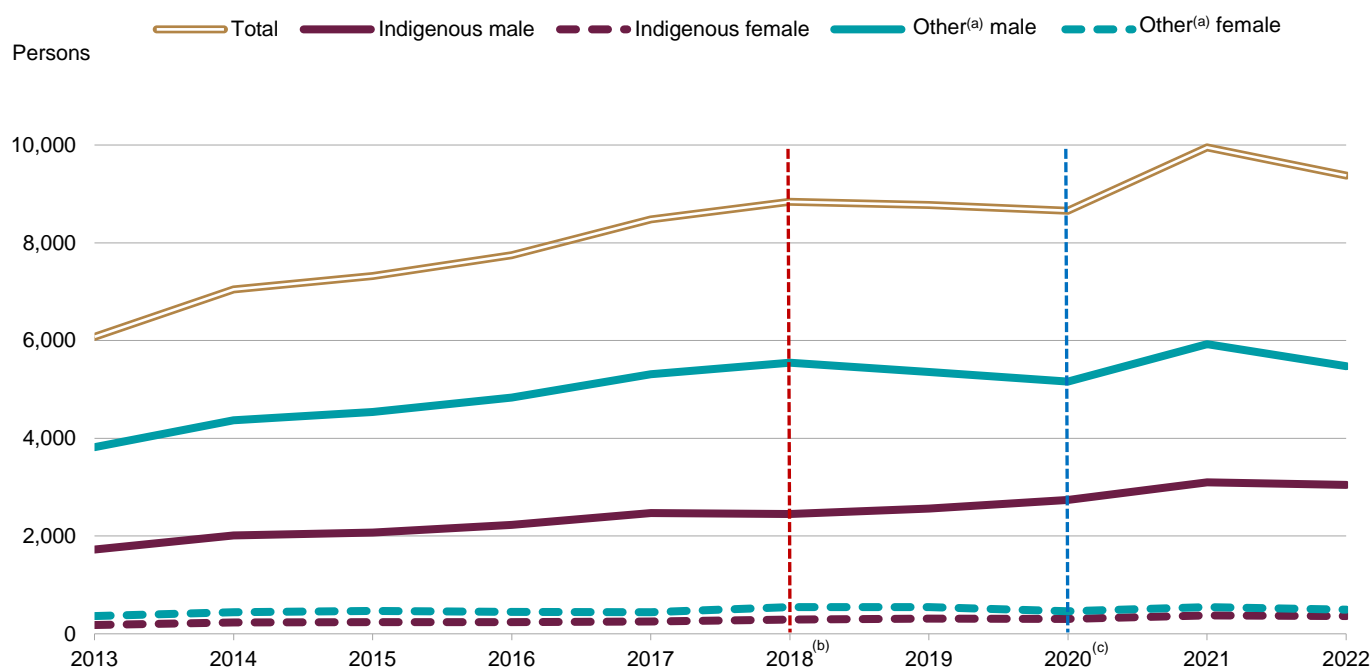
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^(a)	2019	2020 ^(b)	2021	2022
	— persons —									
Total persons^(c)	6,076	7,049	7,319	7,744	8,479	8,838	8,773	8,660	9,954	9,374
Male	5,540	6,380	6,612	7,062	7,781	8,000	7,917	7,895	9,029	8,522
Female	536	669	707	682	698	838	856	765	925	852
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	1,898	2,243	2,309	2,463	2,723	2,744	2,872	3,040	3,477	3,409
Male	1,722	2,013	2,071	2,226	2,469	2,452	2,561	2,736	3,100	3,048
Female	176	230	238	237	254	292	311	304	377	361
Other^(d)	4,178	4,806	5,010	5,281	5,756	6,094	5,901	5,620	6,477	5,965
Male	3,818	4,367	4,541	4,836	5,312	5,548	5,356	5,159	5,929	5,474
Female	360	439	469	445	444	546	545	461	548	491

(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 into 2021–22.

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

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

Figure 53 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) 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 into 2021–22.

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 Queensland prisons, both sentenced and unsentenced. Despite a dip in 2020, likely due to the pandemic, the number of unsentenced prisoners steadily increased across the timeseries to a new high in June 2022 of 3,153 (Table 73).

The unsentenced proportion of adults in custody has steadily increased from 22.2% in June 2013 to 33.6% in June 2022. Although the unsentenced proportions were almost equal for male and female prisoners in 2013, at 22.1% and 22.6% respectively, female prisoner numbers have displayed a much steeper growth trajectory than males since then (Figure 54). As at June 2022, 40.7% of female prisoners were unsentenced compared with 32.9% of males. This disparity in growth became particularly apparent from 2017 onwards.

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

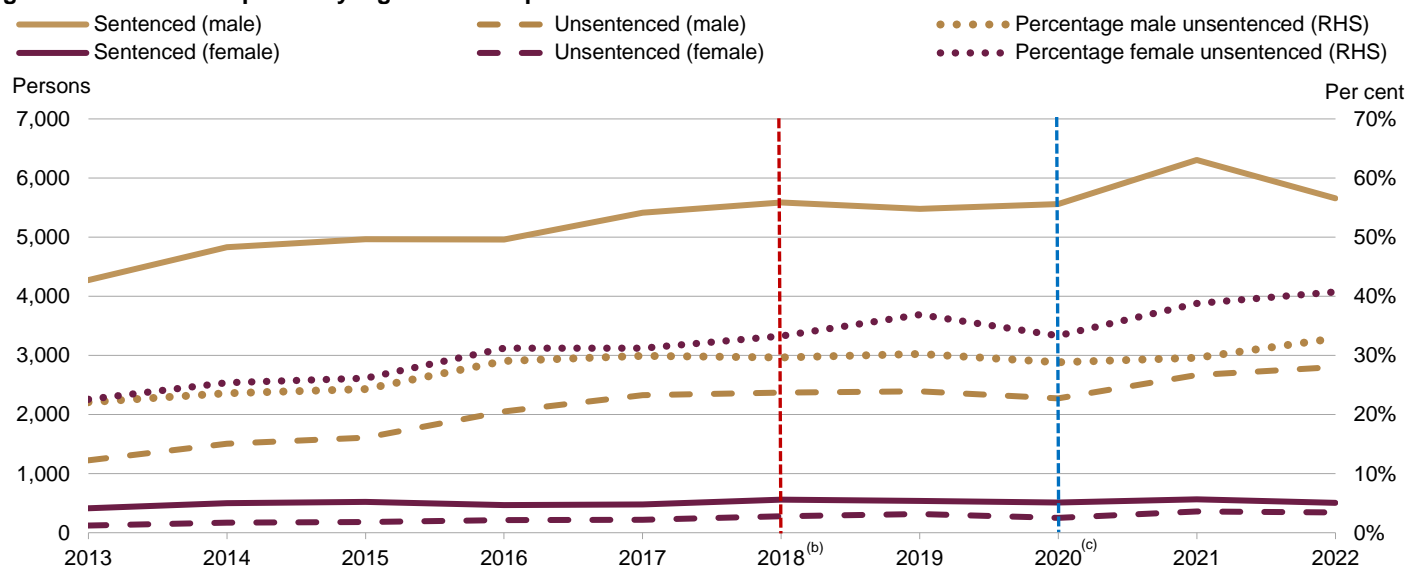
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^(a)	2019	2020 ^(b)	2021	2022
	— persons —									
Total persons	6,076	7,049	7,319	7,744	8,479	8,838	8,773	8,660	9,954	9,374
Sentenced	4,690	5,332	5,488	5,430	5,895	6,149	6,017	6,071	6,870	6,161
Unsentenced	1,346	1,676	1,793	2,266	2,547	2,652	2,710	2,532	3,030	3,153
DPSOA	40	41	38	48	37	37	46	57	54	60
Male	5,540	6,380	6,612	7,062	7,781	8,000	7,917	7,895	9,029	8,522
Sentenced	4,275	4,833	4,966	4,961	5,415	5,590	5,477	5,561	6,304	5,656
Unsentenced	1,225	1,506	1,608	2,053	2,329	2,373	2,394	2,277	2,671	2,806
DPSOA	40	41	38	48	37	37	46	57	54	60
Female	536	669	707	682	698	838	856	765	925	852
Sentenced	415	499	522	469	480	559	540	510	566	505
Unsentenced	121	170	185	213	218	279	316	255	359	347
DPSOA	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

.. = not available.

(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 into 2021–22.

Figure 54 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) 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 into 2021–22.

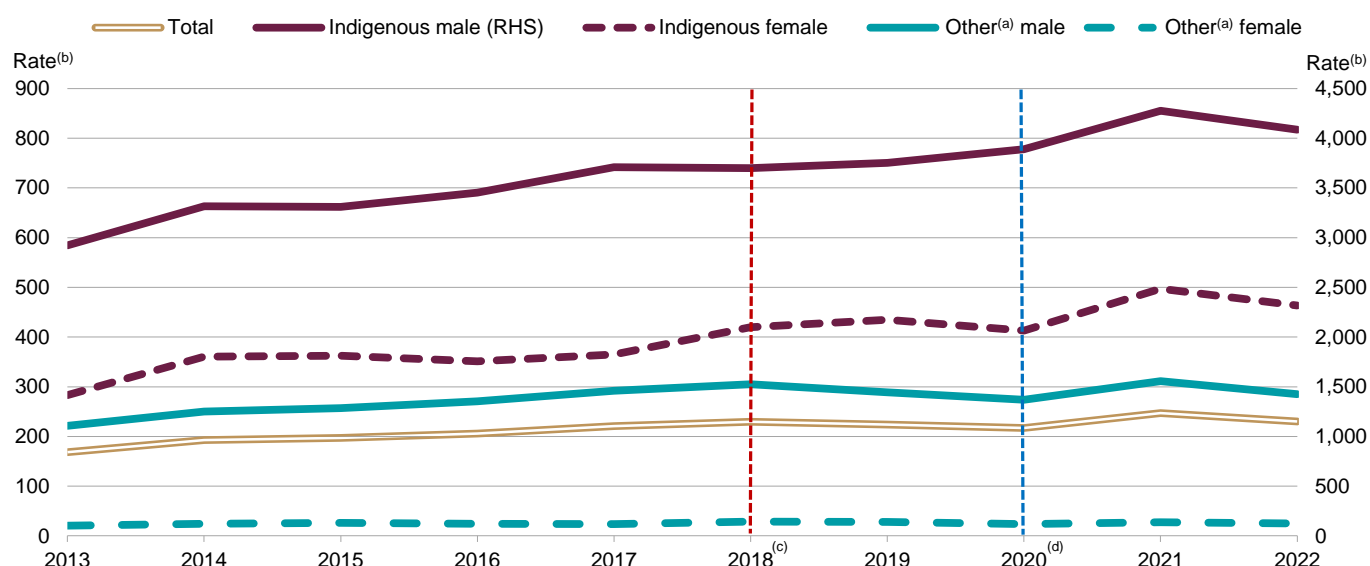
5.3.3. Imprisonment rate

From June 2013 to June 2022, the imprisonment rate increased by 36.7% overall, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners having a larger proportional increase (+42.5%) than other prisoners (+27.0%). This was largely driven by an increase in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female imprisonment rate from 283.4 per 100,000 persons in June 2013 to 463.2 in 2022, a 63.5% increase. The imprisonment rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males grew over the same period in line with the overall rate increase, up 39.8% to 4,087.7 per 100,000 persons in June 2022. In comparison, the imprisonment rates for other males and other females grew substantially less and well below the overall growth rate (+28.6% and +20.5% respectively).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons were at least 12.3 times and up to 14.7 times more likely than other persons to be imprisoned over the 10-year time series. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males experienced the highest imprisonment rates throughout the time series, reaching a peak of 4,278.0 per 100,000 persons in 2021. In 2022, this group was 166.3 times as likely to be imprisoned as other females and 8.8 times as likely as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females.

Note that, due to the large difference in rates between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and the remaining prisoner population, this group has been plotted to a different scale (right hand side) in Figure 55.

Figure 55 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 17 years and over for 2013–2017; 18 years and over for 2018–2022; and includes persons who are sentenced, unsentenced and those being detained under the DPSOA.

(c) 17-year-old offenders transitioned to youth justice in February 2018. Since then, the age range for adults has been 18 years and over.

(d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^(a)	2019	2020 ^(b)	2021	2022
— rate per 100,000 persons ^(c) —										
Total persons	168.4	192.4	197.1	205.5	220.8	229.5	223.7	216.8	246.8	230.2
Male	310.6	353	361.7	381.6	412.7	423.7	411.9	403.6	456.8	426.7
Female	29.4	36	37.5	35.6	35.7	42.7	42.8	37.5	45.0	41.0
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	1,568.5	1,800.5	1,800.9	1,865.8	2,000.3	2,020.9	2,054.8	2,111.7	2,345.1	2,235.5
Male	2,923.3	3,314.5	3,308.9	3,451.6	3,709.2	3,698.1	3,751.4	3,889.6	4,278.0	4,087.7
Female	283.4	360.3	362.7	351	365.1	419.9	434.9	412.9	497.4	463.2
Other^(d)	119.8	135.8	139.8	145.3	155.4	164.1	156.0	146.0	166.7	152.2
Male	221.4	250	257.2	270.8	292.1	304.8	288.9	273.6	311.4	284.7
Female	20.4	24.5	25.8	24.1	23.6	28.9	28.3	23.5	27.7	24.6

(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 into 2021–22.

(c) Imprisonment rate is calculated per 100,000 persons aged 17 years and over for 2013–2017, and 18 years and over for 2018–2022, and includes persons who are sentenced, unsentenced and those being detained under the DPSOA.

(d) '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.

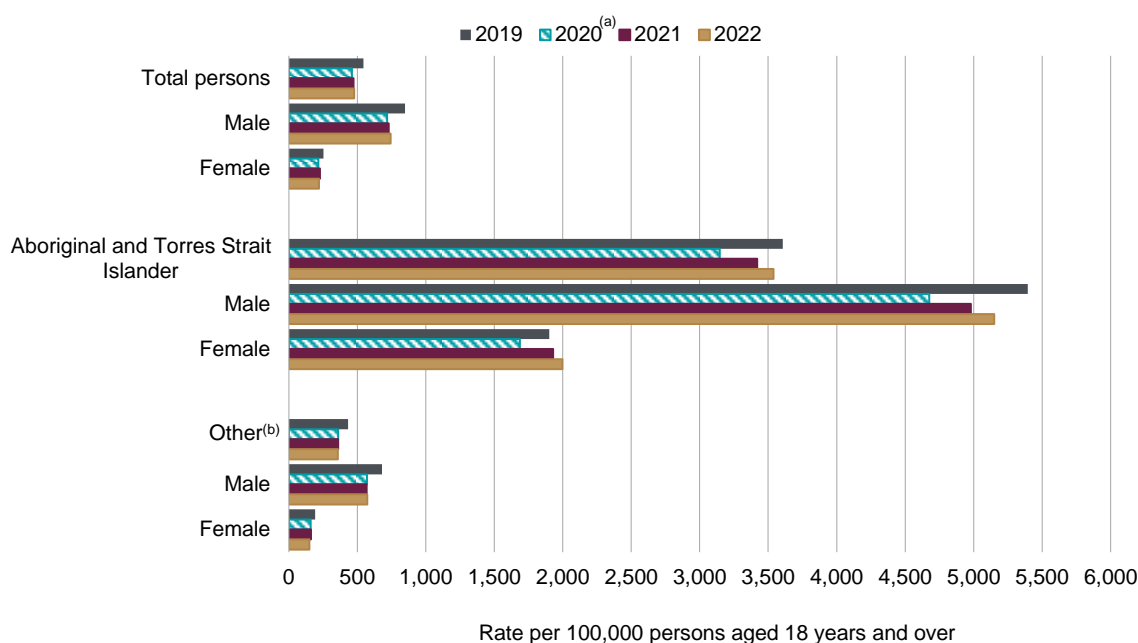
5.4.1. Offender characteristics

There were 19,380 adults serving one or more supervised community-based corrections orders as at 1 June 2022 (Table 75).

As with adults in prison, the majority (76.5%) were male, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults were over-represented (3,539.1 per 100,000 persons compared with 356.7 for other adults) (Figure 56). Following a substantial drop (–12.8%) in the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults in supervised community-based corrections from June 2019 to June 2020 (from 3,607.3 to 3,146.7 per 100,000 persons), the rate rebounded in June 2021 (+8.7%, to 3,420.3 per 100,000 persons). This rebound continued in June 2022, increasing again to 3,539.1 per 100,000 persons, almost to the level seen prior to the pandemic.

Since the drop in rate for other adults from June 2019 to June 2020 (–16.5%, from 431.1 to 360.0 per 100,000 persons), the rate has not returned to pre-pandemic levels, stabilising at 365.7 per 100,000 in June 2022.

Figure 56 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 into 2021–22.

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

5.4.2. Order types

Of all unique adults serving supervised community-based corrections orders as at 1 June 2022, over half (53.1%) were for *probation* and two out of five were for *parole* (41.6%)(Table 75). Over three-quarters (76.5%) of all unique adults serving supervised community-based corrections orders were male, and more than one in four (27.8%) identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

Females were more likely than males to be on *probation* (63.6% of unique females serving supervised community-based corrections orders compared with 49.9% of males). Males were more likely than females to be on *parole* (44.6% and 31.9% respectively).

Table 75 Adults serving supervised community-based corrections orders as at 1 June 2022

	Community service – fine option	Community service – other	Parole	Post-sentence supervision	Probation	Total persons on supervised community-based orders ^(a)
	— persons ^(b) —					
Total persons	91	1,927	8,056	138	10,297	19,380
Male	64	1,440	6,604	138	7,398	14,823
Female	27	487	1,452	0	2,899	4,557
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	73	744	2,253	53	2,667	5,397
Male	50	517	1,777	53	1,723	3,840
Female	23	227	476	0	944	1,557
Other^(c)	18	1,183	5,803	85	7,630	13,983
Male	14	923	4,827	85	5,675	10,983
Female	4	260	976	0	1,955	3,000

(a) 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.

(b) 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 2022.

(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

Please be aware that, due to the change in legislation relating to youth justice, counts for 2013 to 2017 include those who offended aged 17 years, while those for 2018 to 2022 represent only those aged 18 years and over.

While the number of adults in supervised community-based corrections increased slightly from June 2021 to June 2022 (+1.7%, from 19,058 to 19,380), 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 +6.4% and females +6.5%) than for other adults (males +1.6% and females –5.5%).

The number of unique individuals on community-based corrections orders in all categories by sex and Indigenous status increased every year in the series until 2020, when all groups saw substantial decreases following the introduction of COVID-19 containment measures. Since then, the only category that has returned to, and exceeded, pre-COVID levels are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females and males, increasing 14.6% and 4.3% respectively compared with June 2019. Over the same period, other females and males on community-based corrections orders decreased by 18.7% and 12.9% respectively.

While the total number of adults serving supervised community-based orders increased by 27.9% in June 2022 compared with June 2013, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females on such orders has increased by more than three times that (+89.6%) over the same period, from 821 to 1,557.

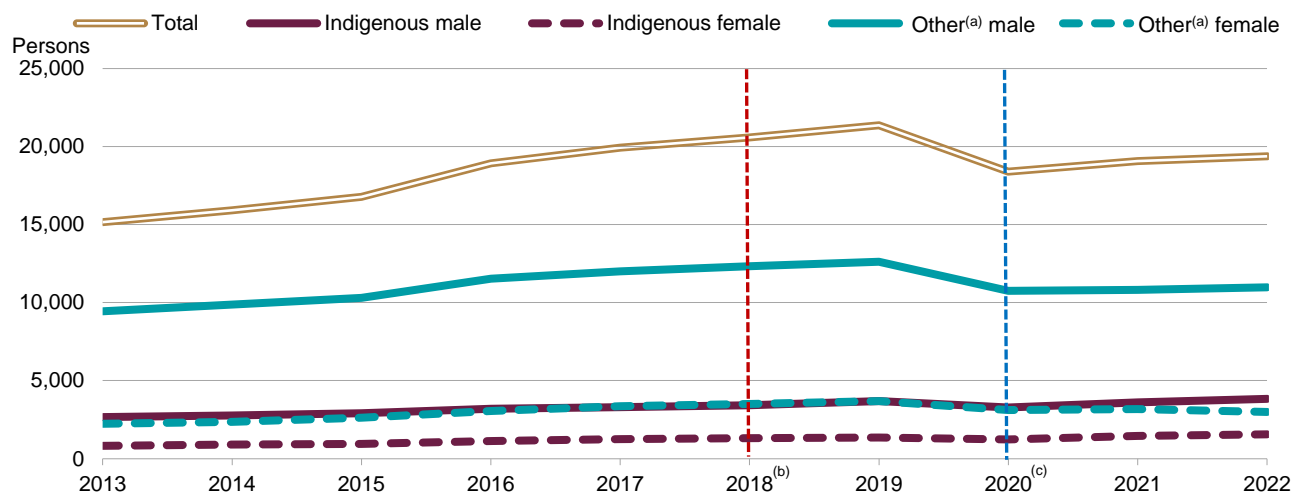
Table 76 Adults in supervised community-based corrections by Indigenous status and sex, as at 1 June – time series

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^(a)	2019	2020 ^(b)	2021	2022
	— persons —									
Total persons	15,158	15,903	16,778	18,919	19,928	20,575	21,347	18,389	19,058	19,380
Male	12,104	12,638	13,211	14,734	15,316	15,758	16,297	14,033	14,422	14,823
Female	3,054	3,265	3,567	4,185	4,612	4,817	5,050	4,356	4,636	4,557
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	3,485	3,673	3,853	4,332	4,568	4,745	5,042	4,530	5,071	5,397
Male	2,664	2,761	2,906	3,200	3,308	3,427	3,683	3,289	3,609	3,840
Female	821	912	947	1,132	1,260	1,318	1,359	1,241	1,462	1,557
Other^(c)	11,673	12,230	12,925	14,587	15,360	15,830	16,305	13,859	13,987	13,983
Male	9,440	9,877	10,305	11,534	12,008	12,331	12,614	10,744	10,813	10,983
Female	2,233	2,353	2,620	3,053	3,352	3,499	3,691	3,115	3,174	3,000

(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 into 2021–22.

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

Figure 57 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) 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 into 2021–22.

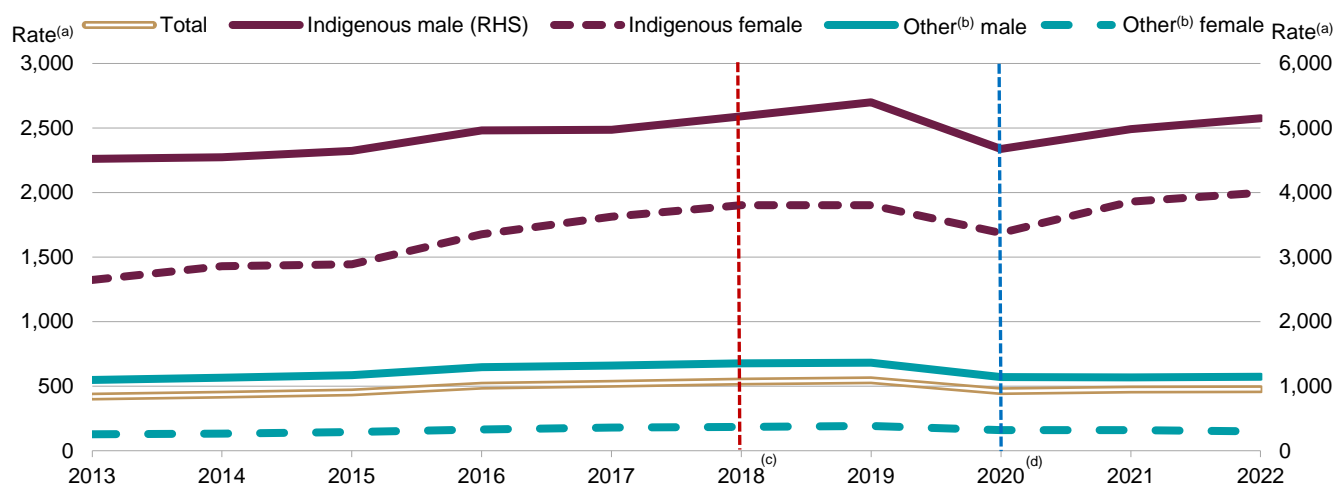
5.5.2. Rate of adults in supervised community-based corrections

The rate of adults serving supervised community-based corrections orders has increased by 13.3% over the 10-year time series, from 420.1 per 100,000 persons in June 2013 to 475.8 in June 2022 (Figure 58). This has largely been driven by females, with the rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females and other females increasing by 51.1% and 18.5% respectively. This increase is greater than the observed increase in the rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and other males, which have increased by 13.9% and 4.4% respectively over the same period.

Similar to the counts of adults in supervised community-based corrections, the onset of COVID-19 saw rates for community-based corrections decrease from June 2019 to June 2020 for every group presented in Figure 58. As at June 2022, rates for other males and other females remained well below the peak observed in 2019 (–16.0% and –21.5% respectively). For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults, rates for males were 4.5% lower over the same period and female rates were 5.1% higher, making them the only group presented to exceed pre-pandemic levels.

Please be aware that, due to the change in legislation relating to youth justice, rates for 2013 to 2017 include those who offended aged 17 years, while those for 2018 to 2022 represent only those aged 18 years and over.

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 58.

Figure 58 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 for 2013–2017, and 18 years and over for 2018–2022.

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

(c) 17-year-old offenders transitioned to youth justice in February 2018. Since then, the age range for adults has been 18 years and over.

(d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^(a)	2019	2020 ^(b)	2021	2022
	— rate per 100,000 persons ^(c) —									
Total persons	420.1	434.1	451.9	502.1	519.1	534.7	544.3	460.4	472.5	475.8
Male	678.7	699.2	722.7	796.2	812.4	835.4	847.9	717.3	729.6	742.3
Female	167.4	175.9	189.3	218.3	236.0	245.6	252.5	213.8	225.4	219.5
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	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	3,539.1
Male	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	5,149.8
Female	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	1,997.9
Other^(d)	334.7	345.6	360.6	401.2	414.8	426.4	431.1	360.0	360.0	356.7
Male	547.4	565.4	583.7	645.8	660.2	677.5	680.4	569.7	567.9	571.3
Female	126.7	131.3	144.0	165.1	177.9	184.9	191.4	158.6	160.2	150.2

(a) 17-year-old offenders transitioned to youth justice in February 2018. Since then, the age range for adult offenders has been 18 years and over.

(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

(c) Rates have been calculated per 100,000 persons aged 17 years and over for 2013–2017, and 18 years and over for 2018–2022.

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

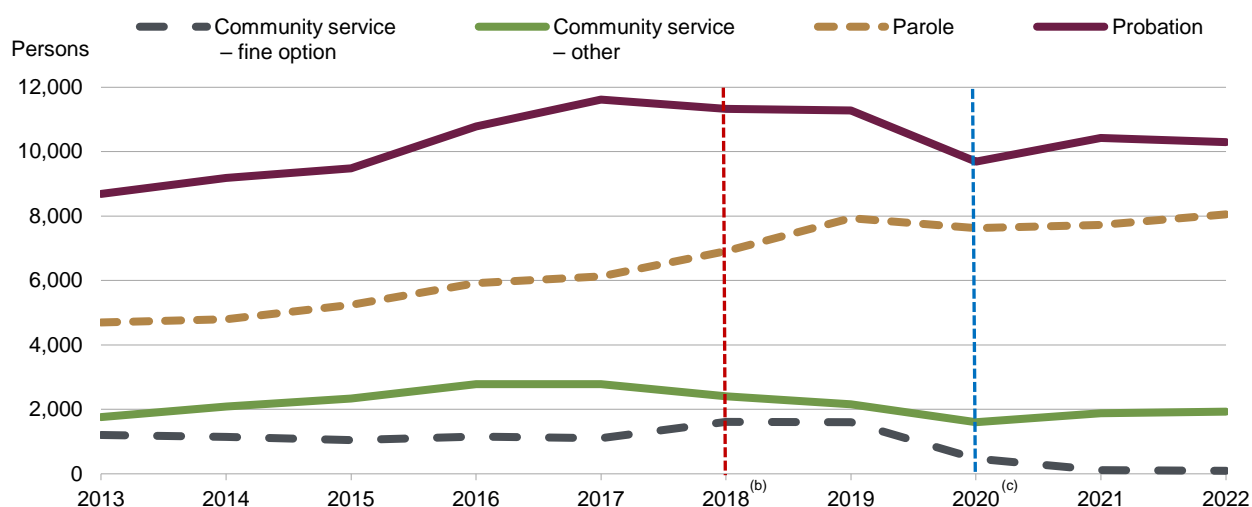
5.5.3. Order types

Supervised community-based order types experienced minor fluctuations at 1 June 2022 compared with 1 June 2021. The number of persons on *parole* increased by 4.2% over the year, from 7,728 in June 2021 to 8,056 in June 2022, while *probation* numbers fell by 1.2% over the same period, from 10,425 to 10,297. The numbers on *community service – fine option* continued to decrease from the peak in 2018, dropping 94.3% in June 2022 compared with June 2019. A large proportion of that reduction was driven by the phased discontinuation of Queensland Corrective Services' supervision of State Penalties Enforcement Registry (SPER) work development orders.

Probation has consistently been the most prevalent order type over the time series. The number of adults serving probation increased from June 2013 (8,691) until a peak in June 2017 (11,620). Since the peak, the number on probation has fallen by 11.4% to be at 10,297 in June 2022.

The number of adults on *parole* trended upwards over the 10-year time series, despite a dip in June 2020 coinciding with the onset of the pandemic, rising by 71.3% over the series. The number on parole increased in June 2022 to its highest point of the time series, up to 8,056 from its pre-COVID peak of 7,934 in June 2019.

Community service – other has fluctuated between a high in June 2016 (2,787) and a low in June 2020 (1,605). While the number on community service – other increased slightly from June 2021 (1,876) to June 2022 (1,927), it was still 30.9% below its 2016 peak.

Figure 59 Adults serving 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) 17-year-old offenders transitioned to youth justice in February 2018. Since then, the age range for adult offenders has been 18 years and over.

(c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued into 2021–22.

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

Order type	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^(b)	2019	2020 ^(c)	2021	2022
	— persons —									
Community service – fine option	1,204	1,148	1,047	1,156	1,110	1,609	1,604	468	109	91
Community service – other	1,758	2,093	2,336	2,787	2,785	2,401	2,155	1,605	1,876	1,927
Parole	4,702	4,796	5,242	5,922	6,128	6,908	7,934	7,622	7,728	8,056
DPSOA ^(d)	88	99	94	101	114	129	138	127	133	138
Probation	8,691	9,181	9,486	10,783	11,620	11,327	11,276	9,692	10,425	10,297
Total persons on supervised community-based orders ^(e)	15,158	15,903	16,778	18,919	19,928	20,575	21,347	18,389	19,058	19,380

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 2022.
- (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 into 2021–22.
- (d) 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.
- (e) 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
DPSOA	<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.

Adjudicated: criminal proceedings resulting in a judgement or decision made by the court as to whether or not the defendant is guilty of a criminal charge(s). Adjudication may lead to conviction if guilty or acquittal if not. Non-adjudicated matters are those considered to have been completed prior to adjudication (e.g. withdrawn by the prosecution, defendant deceased, unfit to plead).

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: in this report, refers to persons dealt with as a child in Queensland courts and by Youth Justice for offences committed when the offender was of child age. (see *Children and young people* in Notes).

(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.

Concurrent (imprisonment): individual sentences of imprisonment for different offences, ordered to be served at the

same time. This means any shorter sentence is included in the longest (or 'head') sentence.

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

Convicted appearance: an adjudicated appearance resulting in a guilty finding.

Convicted charge: an offence for which a defendant is found guilty in a court of law.

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 includes the specialist Murri Court and Drug and Alcohol Court. It is a court of summary jurisdiction constituted by a magistrate and has no jury, and criminal cases are first heard in this court in some form. 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.

Cumulative (imprisonment): individual sentences, given for each offence, that are ordered to be served one after the other, rather than at the same time.

Custodial sentence: an order that involves a term of imprisonment/detention being imposed on the offender, including sentences which are either partially or wholly suspended.

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.

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, whether sentenced or unsentenced.

DPSOA order: under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003*, if the court is satisfied a prisoner is a serious danger to the community, the court may order that the prisoner be detained in custody on a *continuing (or interim) detention order* or released into the community on a *supervision (or interim supervision) order*.

Finalised appearance: in this report, an offence or collection of offences for a single defendant that are adjudicated on the same day, at the same court level and court location (resulting in a guilty finding and sentence, or acquittal).

Head sentence: the total period of imprisonment imposed taking into account, if more than one prison sentence is imposed, whether they are ordered to be served concurrently or cumulatively.

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). (See *Counting methodology* in Notes.)

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 counts/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/supervision: (see *DPSOA order*)

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 a type of custody where an adult offender is required to be held in custody on a full-time basis. Includes partially-suspended sentence.

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 (wholly suspended) or in part (partially suspended) for a period of time (called the operational period). A partially suspended sentence requires the offender to spend part of their sentence in prison, with the remainder suspended. A suspended sentence 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.

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, 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, 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, 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 2021–22 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 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 calculated using the most recent data available at time of production, and are generally calculated per 100,000 persons, using the appropriate estimated resident population (ERP) of the specified region. Rate calculation for mid-point ERP is:

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

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 (mid-point) ERP for the reference year is created.

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 2012–13 to 2021–22.

