

Queensland Government Statistician's Office

Justice report, Queensland, 2023–24

Criminal justice statistics

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Queensland Government Statistician's Office

Queensland Treasury

PO Box 15037, City East QLD 4002 Australia

govstat@treasury.qld.gov.au

www.qgso.qld.gov.au

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1.0 Introduction

The *Justice report, Queensland, 2023–24* 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, 2023–24*, which provides an overview of the volume and nature of crime in Queensland, as reported to (by victims, witnesses or other persons), or detected by, the Queensland Police Service (QPS).

This 2023–24 edition is the seventh annual report by the 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 2023–24 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.

Terms used frequently 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. Unless otherwise stated, Adult court statistics represent all appearances/charges in the adult courts system, both persons and companies/organisations.

Adjudicated: criminal proceedings resulting in a judgement or decision made by the court – convicted (guilty) or not convicted (acquitted). Conversely, 'non-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. This report uses ANZSOC, 2011

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 remanded in 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.

A vertical red dashed line appears in some line graphs in this report to denote the following where applicable:

2017–18 Break in time series due to the transition of 17-year-old offenders to youth justice from 12 February 2018

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

2.0 Statistical impacts of legislative and policy changes

2.1 Enhancement to police recording of DFV offences in Queensland

From 1 July 2021, an enhancement to recording practices was implemented by the Queensland Police Service to align with national reporting standards, requiring police officers to record in QPRIME all criminal offences associated with domestic and family violence (DFV) investigations. This change is likely to have had a flow-on effect to courts, and subsequently youth justice and corrective services, although its specific contribution to any apparent increases is difficult to quantify.

Several other factors which may contribute to an increase in persons in the criminal justice system due to DFV 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 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.

Please note: The passing of the *Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024* established the offence of 'coercive control', following recommendations from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. Effective from 26 May 2025 (i.e. outside of this report's reference period), coercive control will be a criminal offence in Queensland. It will be illegal for an adult to use abusive behaviours towards their current, or former, intimate partner, family member, or informal (unpaid) carer with the intention to control or coerce them.

2.2 Changes to double jeopardy laws

The *Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Double Jeopardy Exception and Subsequent Appeals) Amendment Act 2024* expanded the list of serious crimes to which double jeopardy laws may not apply. This means that people previously acquitted can be retried in court under a double jeopardy exception should fresh and compelling evidence of guilt come to light. Previously, the double jeopardy exception only applied to murder but the changes expand the 'fresh and compelling evidence' double jeopardy exception to ten additional offences – six unlawful killing offences and four sexual offences. These include manslaughter, attempted murder and rape offences, in addition to murder offences. The Act also established a new framework for the criminal justice system to respond to possible wrongful convictions.

The impacts of these changes may be apparent in courts data used in the preparation of this report, however specific contribution to any increases is difficult to quantify. Further, given that these changes were not implemented until the last quarter of 2023–24, their effect on courts and youth justice order statistics may not yet be apparent.

2.3 Changes to 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. Since then, 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.

- On 22 March 2023, amendments to the *Youth Justice Act 1992*, the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, and the *Bail Act 1980* were enacted via the *Strengthening Community Safety Act 2023*. These changes included:
 - the introduction of 'breach of bail condition' as a new criminal offence for children, meaning a defendant must not break any condition of the undertaking on which the defendant was granted bail requiring the defendant's appearance before a court. The breach of bail condition offence applies only where the condition was part of a bail undertaking that the child entered into after the commencement of the changes – that is, from March 2023.
 - an increase in the maximum sentence for unlawful use of a motor vehicle, from 10 to 12 years (s408A(1A)), and introduction of new circumstances of aggravation, including when an offender has published material advertising their involvement in, or of, their offending on social media (s408(1B)). Additional circumstances of aggravation involve violence or being armed (s408(1C)).
 - extension of the maximum operational period of a conditional release order from three to six months. Conditional release order length, however, remains at discretion of the court.

2.4 Illicit drug offending

- New roadside illicit drug testing kits were implemented from July 2023, enabling the detection of cocaine, in addition to methylamphetamine, ecstasy and the active ingredient in cannabis (THC).
- Amendments included in the *Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Act (No. 2) 2023* expanded the Police Drug Diversion Program from May 2024 to include minor possession of all types of drugs and implemented a tiered response to minor drug possession offences. This meant that Police officers can now issue a warning and referral to support services for first offence, and referral to the Drug Diversion Assessment Program occurs at the second and third offences. At the fourth minor drug possession offence, police issue a notice to appear in court.

The impact of this change may result in fewer minor drug offenders proceeding to court and potentially being convicted, and instead having greater access to the drug diversion program.

2.5 Other legislative and policy changes in 2023–24

2.5.1 Unlawful use / theft of motor vehicles

The Engine Immobiliser Subsidy Trial was implemented in August 2023 as part of youth justice reforms to address unlawful use of motor vehicles. The initiative provided residents at Mt Isa, Cairns and Townsville with an additional option to increase the security of up to 20,000 vehicles at a subsidised cost.

2.5.2 Public order offences

The passing of the *Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023* repealed the offences of 'begging in a public place' and 'being intoxicated in a public place'.

This legislative change came into effect in September 2024, which is after the 2023–24 reporting period.

2.5.3 Sex work decriminalised

The *Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Decriminalising Sex Work) Amendment Act 2024* decriminalised the sex work industry in Queensland, commencing August 2024, and repeals existing criminal offences relating to sex work. The Act creates new offences for the protection of sex workers and strengthens the protection of sex workers from unfair discrimination.

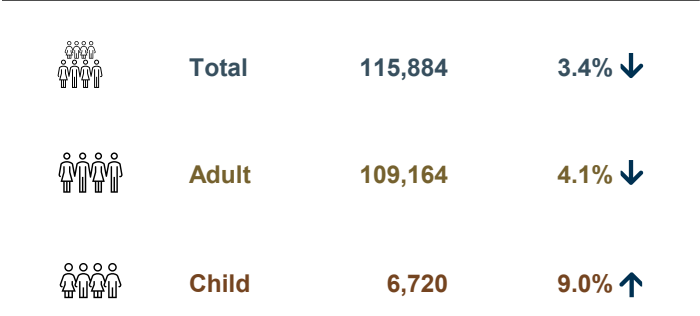
Similarly, this change came into effect after the 2023–24 reporting period.

Readers should note that, where relevant, figures and tables show rounded values, however in-text commentary may be based on unrounded components.

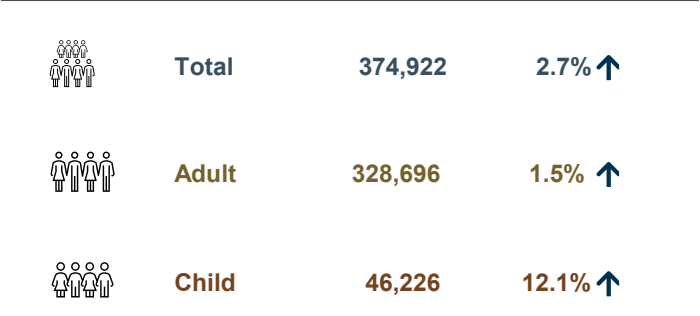
3.0 Criminal justice, Queensland, 2023–24

and compared with 2022–23

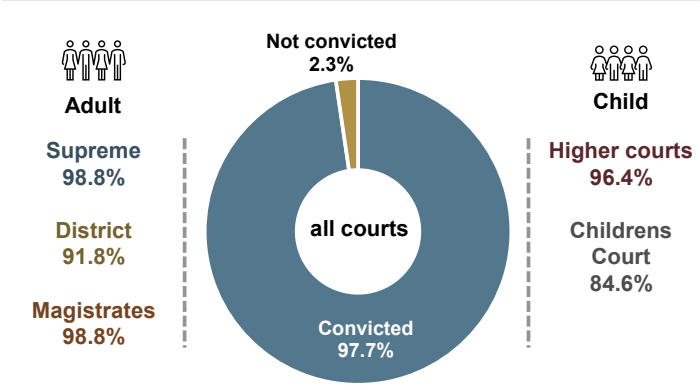
Convicted court appearances



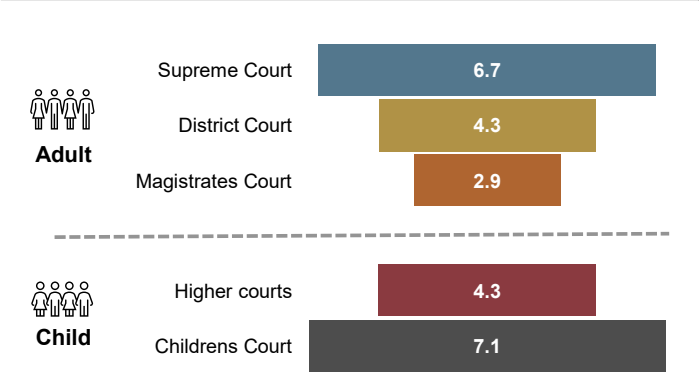
Convicted court charges



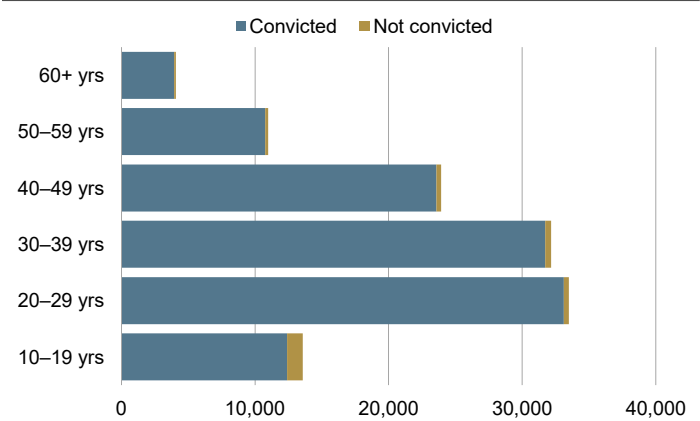
Adjudicated appearance outcomes *% convicted*



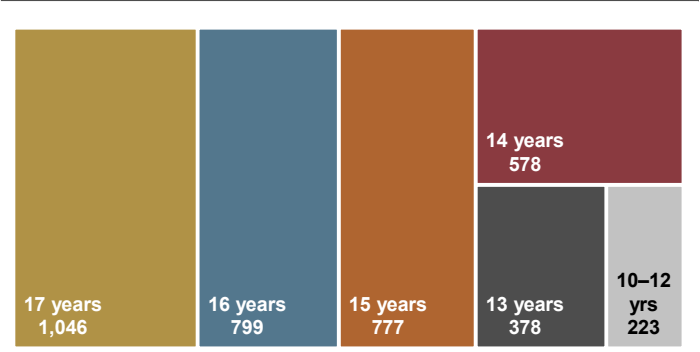
Average convicted charges *per finalised appearance*



Adjudicated person appearances *by age at appearance*



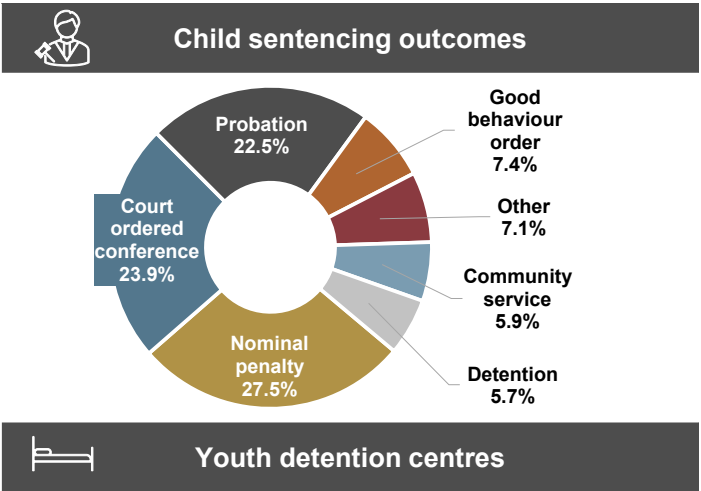
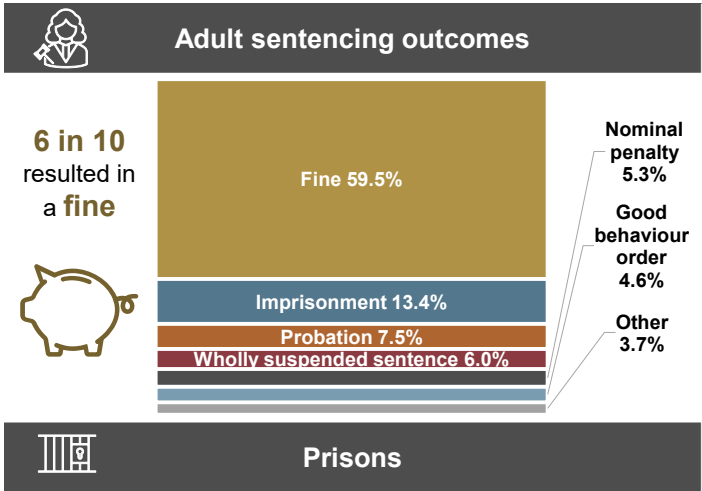
Unique child defendants *by age at offence*



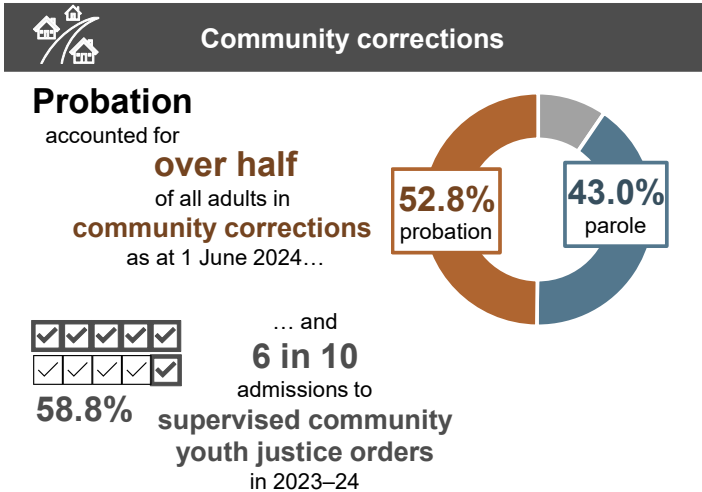
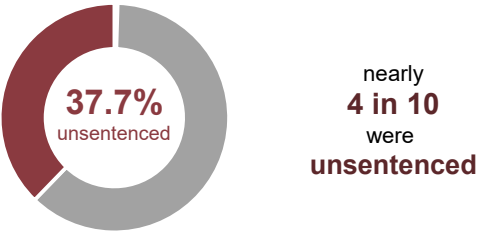
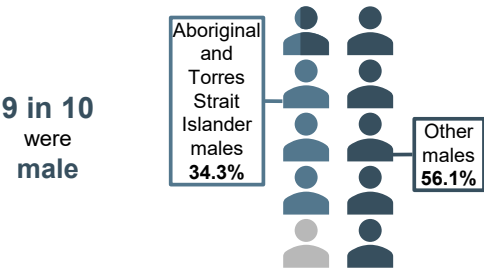
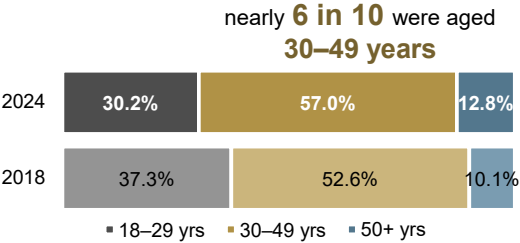
More than 7 in 10 unique child defendants were male

Convicted person appearances *rate per 100,000 persons*

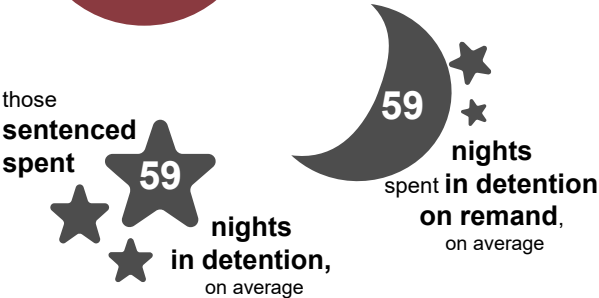
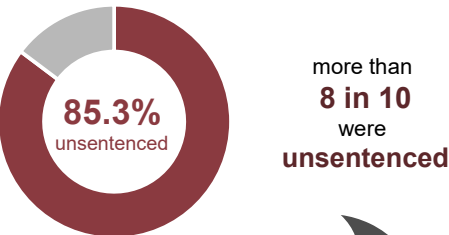
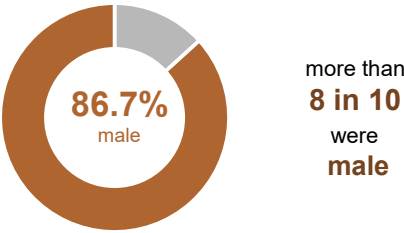




Of the **10,878** adults in **prison** as at 30 June 2024



Of **286** young people in **youth detention centres** daily, on average



4.0 Criminal courts

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

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

		2022–23	2023–24	% change	
Convicted person appearances¹	Total	119,837	115,694	–3.5	↓
	Adult courts	113,670	108,974	–4.1	↓
	<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)</i>	20.5	21.0	0.5 ppt	↓
	Childrens courts²	6,167	6,720	9.0	↑
	<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)</i>	52.5	54.2	1.7 ppt	↑
Convicted appearances by defendant characteristics³					
	Male	84,678	81,417	–3.9	↓
	Female	28,661	27,111	–5.4	↓
Convicted charges against persons¹	Total	364,551	374,216	2.7	↑
	Adult courts	323,316	327,990	1.4	↑
	<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)</i>	23.8	24.1	0.3 ppt	↑
	Childrens courts²	41,235	46,226	12.1	↑
	<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)</i>	57.9	56.5	–1.4 ppt	↓

ppt = percentage point

In 2023–24:

Finalised person appearances



- In 131,192 finalised person appearances, nine in ten (90.3%) were adjudicated. Of these, 97.7% resulted in conviction.
- Among person defendants, three in four (74.6%) were male, and just over one in five (22.6%) were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- More than nine in ten (93.0%) defendants appeared in the adult court system, while 7.0% appeared in the child court system.

Finalised person appearances – Adult courts



- Over half of all finalised adult appearances involved either *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* (29.6%) or *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* (21.2%) as most serious offence (MSO).
- In nearly nine in ten (89.3%) finalised adult appearances, the defendant was convicted of at least one charge, with the lowest conviction rate apparent for appearances with *sexual assault and related offences* as MSO (79.5%).
- While nearly six in ten (59.4%) convicted adult appearances resulted in a *fine* as the most serious penalty, 13.4% resulted in *imprisonment*.

Finalised person appearances – Childrens courts



- The number of finalised child appearances increased (up 6.6%) when compared with the previous year, driven by increases in *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* (up 72.2%) and *theft and related offences* (up 19.3%).
- In nearly three in four (73.3%) finalised child appearances, the defendant was convicted of at least one charge, with the lowest conviction rate for *sexual assault and related offences* as MSO (42.5%), meaning 38.9% of appearances involving this offence were not adjudicated.
- In over half (54.2%) of convicted child appearances, the defendant identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

¹ Person appearances and charges exclude those where defendant was a company/organisation.

² Represents appearances/charges finalised in the childrens courts system. From February 2018, defendants are dealt with as children in Queensland's criminal justice system for offences committed when aged 10–17 years (previously 10–16 years).

³ Person defendants whose sex is not stated are excluded here. Also excluded are appearances where defendant was a company/organisation.

4.1 Overview

This chapter 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 2014–15 to 2023–24.

Method of finalisation

In this report, **finalised appearances and charges are presented by their method of finalisation and outcome**, that is 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 only in the relevant statistics for those courts.

4.1.1 All courts summary

Figure 1 Appearances by outcome, all courts, 2023–24

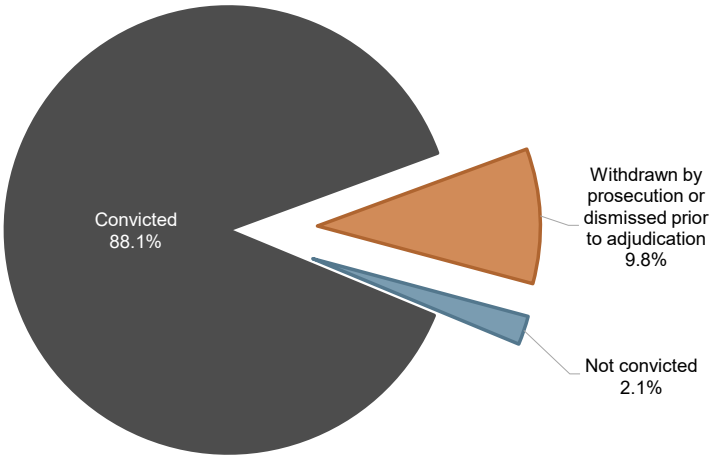
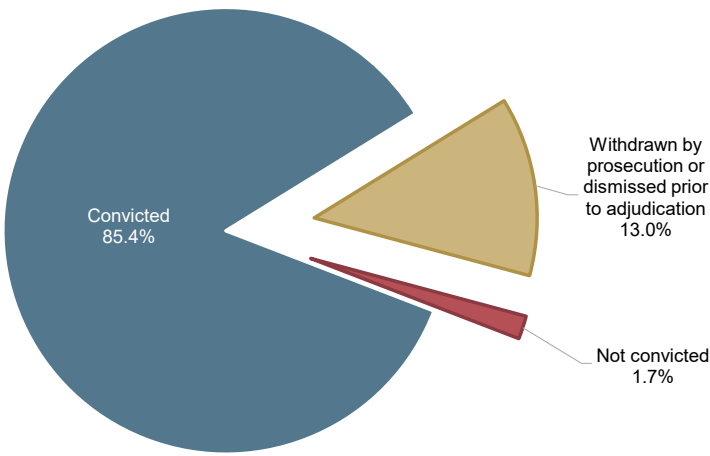


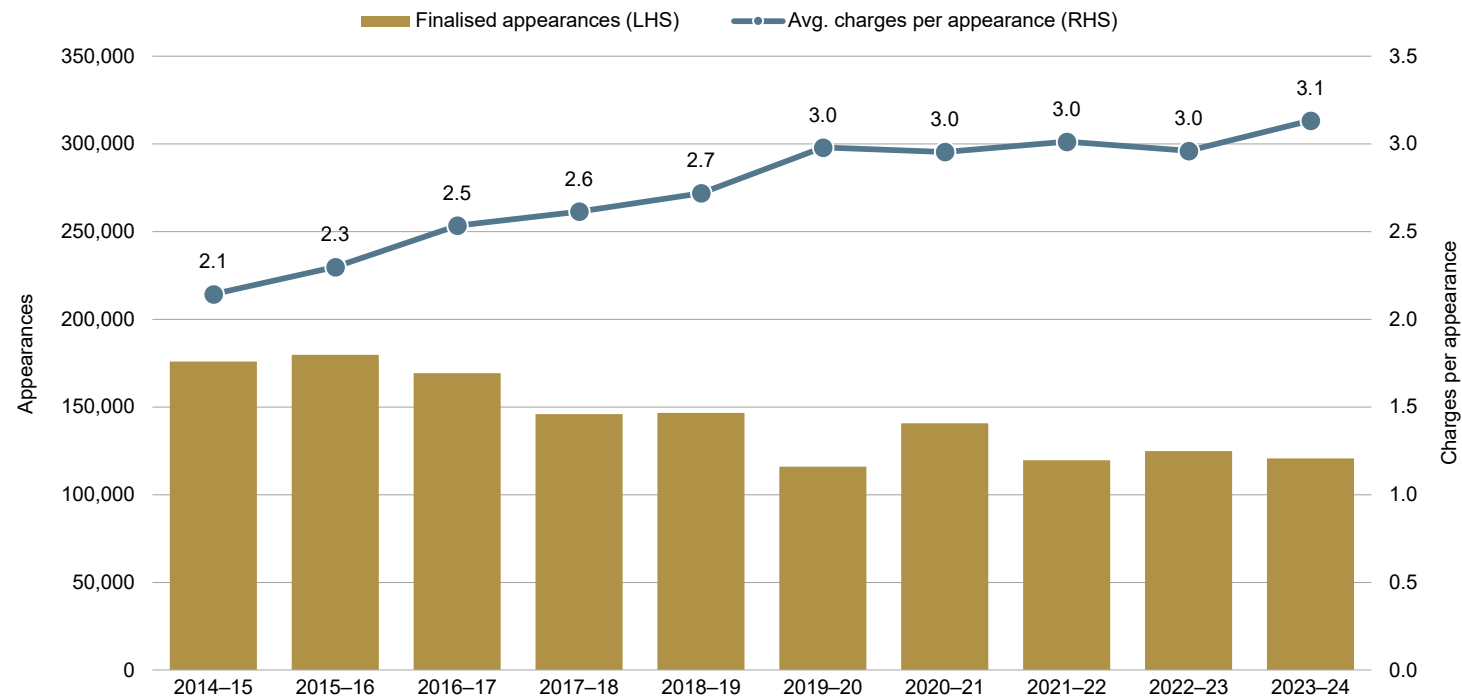
Figure 2 Charges by outcome, all courts, 2023–24



4.1.1.1 Finalised appearances

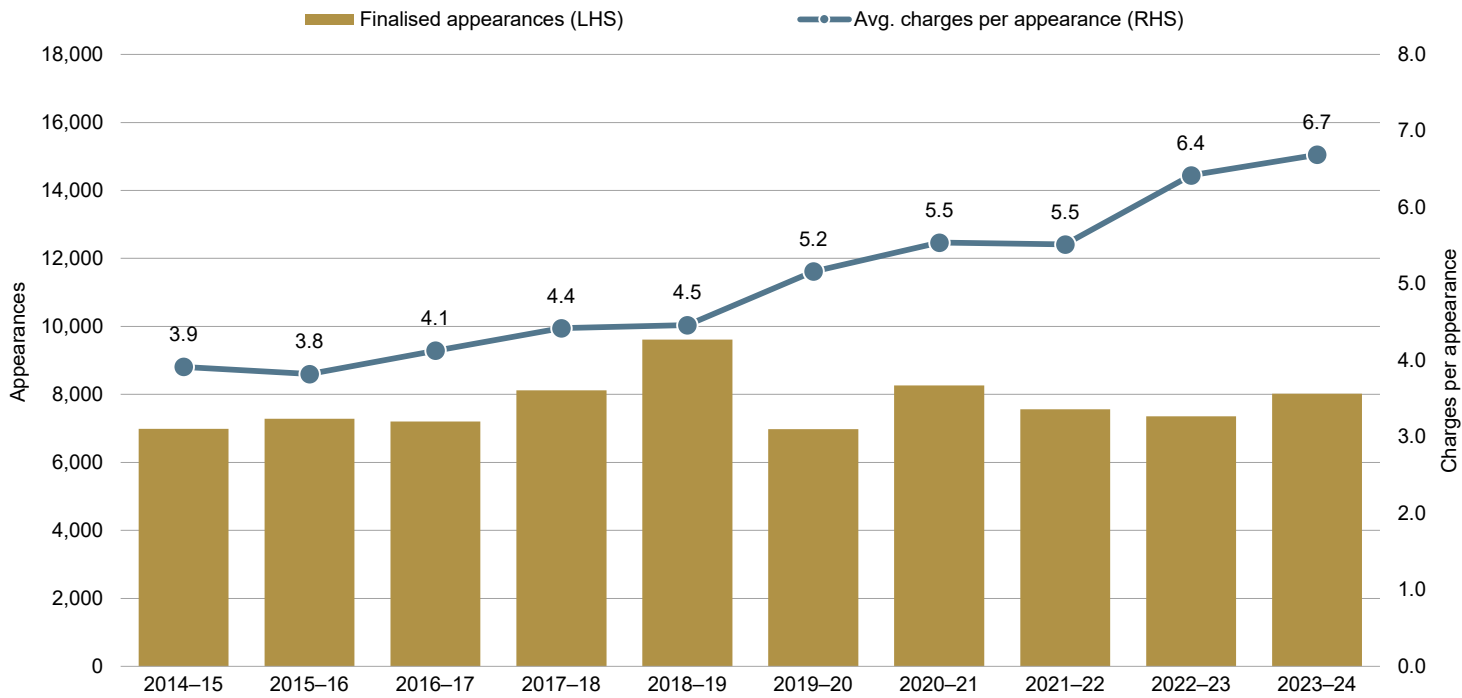
Figure 3 and Figure 4 below show the number of finalised appearances for the adult and children’s court systems over time and the respective average number of charges per appearance. The number of finalised appearances in the adult court system remained relatively stable between 2020–21 and 2023–24, while a slight increase in the children’s court system can be observed when comparing 2023–24 with the previous year (up 9.1%). While generally tending to increase over time, there was relative stability in the average number of charges disposed (about 3 charges) per finalised adult court appearance between 2019–20 and 2022–23, however this increased slightly to 3.1 charges per appearance in 2023–24. When compared with the adult court system, there was a higher average number of charges per appearance in children’s courts across the time series and this peaked in 2023–24 with 6.7 charges per finalised child appearance. This difference may, in part, be related to the types of offences finalised in the adult compared with children’s court system. For example, in the children’s courts, the majority (71.1% in 2023-24) of finalised appearances were associated with *acts intended to cause injury, unlawful entry, theft, and offences against justice procedures*, offences more likely to be associated with a higher number of charges (see Table 31). In contrast, two in five finalised appearances in the adult system (41.6 in 2023–24) are related to these types of offences (see Table 7).

Figure 3 Finalised adult appearances^(a) and average charges per appearance, all courts – time series



(a) Includes appearances of company defendants.

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



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

Table 1 Finalised appearances by method of finalisation and outcome, by court type – time series^(a)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Court system / type Method of finalisation ^(c) / outcome	— number —									
Adult^(d)										
Supreme Court	761	967	1,340	1,587	1,426	1,379	1,369	1,314	1,195	1,033
Adjudicated	620	775	1,110	1,371	1,209	1,197	1,177	1,152	1,037	883
Convicted	603	757	1,084	1,342	1,197	1,180	1,158	1,138	1,021	872
Not convicted ^(e)	17	18	26	29	12	17	19	14	16	11
Non-Adjudicated ^(f)	141	192	230	216	217	182	192	162	158	150
District Court	4,396	4,558	5,091	5,355	5,882	5,422	5,104	5,398	5,176	5,423
Adjudicated	3,606	3,669	4,169	4,455	4,807	4,478	4,183	4,436	4,178	4,376
Convicted	3,355	3,378	3,853	4,128	4,443	4,188	3,810	4,148	3,851	4,015
Not convicted ^(e)	251	291	316	327	364	290	373	288	327	361
Non-Adjudicated ^(f)	790	889	922	900	1,075	944	921	962	998	1,047
Magistrates Court	172,544	176,069	164,587	140,627	141,040	110,555	135,808	114,343	120,073	115,849
Adjudicated	160,533	163,658	152,048	130,551	130,459	101,112	124,462	104,453	110,247	105,507
Convicted	159,043	162,096	150,619	129,221	129,212	100,092	123,223	103,297	108,975	104,277
Not convicted ^(e)	1,490	1,562	1,429	1,330	1,247	1,020	1,239	1,156	1,272	1,230
Non-Adjudicated ^(f)	12,011	12,411	12,539	10,076	10,581	9,443	11,346	9,890	9,826	10,342
Child										
Higher courts^(g)	374	381	444	451	745	812	631	646	719	682
Adjudicated	300	318	346	367	585	707	556	564	611	580
Convicted	285	304	328	351	572	681	543	539	594	559
Not convicted ^(e)	15	14	18	16	13	26	13	25	17	21
Non-Adjudicated ^(f)	74	63	98	84	160	105	75	82	108	102
Childrens Court (Magistrates)	6,945	7,332	7,415	8,483	10,055	7,177	8,736	8,020	7,880	8,488
Adjudicated	6,262	6,561	6,717	7,500	8,932	6,220	7,577	6,983	6,799	7,285
Convicted	5,943	6,143	6,075	6,702	7,755	5,238	6,485	5,908	5,573	6,161
Not convicted ^(e)	319	418	642	798	1,177	982	1,092	1,075	1,226	1,124
Non-Adjudicated ^(f)	683	771	698	983	1,123	957	1,159	1,037	1,081	1,203
Total	185,020	189,307	178,877	156,503	159,148	125,345	151,648	129,721	135,043	131,475
Person appearances – all courts	184,428	188,664	178,258	156,104	158,789	125,078	151,381	129,488	134,780	131,192
Adjudicated	170,946	174,548	163,978	143,949	145,708	113,532	137,761	117,420	122,686	118,424
Convicted	168,871	172,264	161,550	141,465	142,903	111,207	135,029	114,871	119,837	115,694
Not convicted ^(e)	2,075	2,284	2,428	2,484	2,805	2,325	2,732	2,549	2,849	2,730
Non-Adjudicated ^(f)	13,482	14,116	14,280	12,155	13,081	11,546	13,620	12,068	12,094	12,768
Company appearances^(h) – all courts	592	643	619	399	359	267	267	233	263	283
Adjudicated	375	433	412	295	284	182	194	168	186	207
Convicted	358	414	409	279	276	172	190	159	177	190
Not convicted ^(e)	17	19	3	16	8	10	4	9	9	17
Non-Adjudicated ^(f)	217	210	207	104	75	85	73	65	77	76

(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system (including children's courts) 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 appearances which result in a committal to a higher court for trial/sentence. Such matters are included in the relevant court when finalised.

(d) Includes appearances where defendant was a company/organisation.

(e) Excludes appearances which were not adjudicated.

(f) 'Non-adjudicated' appearances include those where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, these appearances may be replaced by a new case with amended charges.

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

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

Table 2 Rates of finalised person appearances by method of finalisation and outcome, by court type– time series^(a)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Court system / type Method of finalisation / outcome	— rate per 100,000 persons ^(c) —									
Adult^(d)										
Supreme Court	20.8	26.0	35.3	41.4	36.9	35.1	34.2	32.4	28.7	24.1
Adjudicated	16.9	20.8	29.2	35.7	31.3	30.4	29.4	28.4	24.9	20.6
Convicted	16.4	20.3	28.5	34.9	30.9	29.9	28.9	28.0	24.5	20.3
Not convicted ^(e)	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3
Non-Adjudicated ^(f)	3.9	5.2	6.1	5.7	5.6	4.7	4.8	4.0	3.8	3.5
District Court	119.3	121.9	134.0	139.2	151.6	137.3	127.5	132.6	123.9	125.9
Adjudicated	97.8	98.1	109.7	115.8	123.9	113.4	104.5	108.9	100.0	101.6
Convicted	91.0	90.3	101.3	107.3	114.5	106.0	95.1	101.8	92.1	93.2
Not convicted ^(e)	6.8	7.8	8.4	8.5	9.4	7.4	9.4	7.1	7.9	8.4
Non-Adjudicated ^(f)	21.5	23.8	24.3	23.4	27.7	23.9	23.0	23.7	23.9	24.3
Magistrates Court	4,662.4	4,690.5	4,312.3	3,643.8	3,625.3	2,791.3	3,381.1	2,800.1	2,865.2	2,682.6
Adjudicated	4,342.6	4,364.2	3,987.9	3,384.6	3,354.5	2,554.4	3,099.9	2,559.0	2,632.0	2,444.2
Convicted	4,302.6	4,322.9	3,950.3	3,350.4	3,322.5	2,528.8	3,069.0	2,530.8	2,601.7	2,416.0
Not convicted ^(e)	40.0	41.3	37.6	34.2	32.0	25.6	30.9	28.2	30.3	28.2
Non-Adjudicated ^(f)	319.8	326.3	324.4	259.2	270.8	236.9	281.2	241.1	233.2	238.4
Child										
Higher courts^(g)	88.9	89.5	102.4	96.7	144.4	153.9	117.0	117.1	127.4	118.3
Adjudicated	71.3	74.7	79.8	78.7	113.4	134.0	103.1	102.2	108.2	100.6
Convicted	67.7	71.4	75.6	75.2	110.8	129.0	100.6	97.6	105.1	96.9
Not convicted ^(e)	3.6	3.3	4.2	3.5	2.6	5.0	2.5	4.6	3.1	3.7
Non-Adjudicated ^(f)	17.6	14.8	22.6	18.0	31.0	19.9	13.9	14.9	19.2	17.7
Childrens Court (Magistrates)	1,649.7	1,720.7	1,707.8	1,815.6	1,947.3	1,359.2	1,617.9	1,452.1	1,394.2	1,470.1
Adjudicated	1,487.4	1,539.7	1,547.0	1,605.2	1,729.8	1,177.9	1,403.2	1,264.3	1,202.9	1,261.7
Convicted	1,411.6	1,441.6	1,399.1	1,434.4	1,501.8	991.9	1,200.9	1,069.6	986.0	1,067.0
Not convicted ^(e)	75.8	98.1	147.9	170.8	228.0	186.0	202.3	194.7	216.9	194.7
Non-Adjudicated ^(f)	162.3	181.0	160.8	210.4	217.5	181.3	214.7	187.8	191.3	208.4
Person appearances – all courts	4,488.2	4,528.5	4,207.6	3,617.1	3,611.2	2,792.4	3,328.0	2,798.1	2,839.3	2,685.3
Adjudicated	4,160.1	4,189.6	3,870.5	3,335.4	3,313.7	2,534.6	3,028.5	2,537.3	2,584.5	2,423.9
Convicted	4,109.6	4,134.7	3,813.1	3,277.8	3,249.9	2,482.6	2,968.4	2,482.2	2,524.4	2,368.0
Not convicted ^(e)	50.5	54.9	57.4	57.6	63.8	52.0	60.1	55.1	60.1	55.9
Non-Adjudicated ^(f)	328.1	338.9	337.1	281.7	297.5	257.8	299.5	260.8	254.8	261.4

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

(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 100,000 persons. Any rates and change in rates based on small counts (<10) should be interpreted with extreme caution. 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 where defendant was a company/organisation.

(e) Excludes appearances which were not adjudicated.

(f) 'Non-adjudicated' appearances include those where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, these appearances 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 method of finalisation and outcome, by court type – time series^(a)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Court system / type Method of finalisation / outcome	— number —									
Adult^(c)										
Supreme Court	5,595	7,359	10,383	11,906	11,522	10,497	9,763	10,662	8,627	6,841
Adjudicated	4,421	5,573	8,442	10,137	9,845	9,347	8,451	8,831	7,336	5,904
Convicted	4,379	5,531	8,359	10,060	9,798	9,273	8,385	8,801	7,293	5,875
Not convicted ^(d)	42	42	83	77	47	74	66	30	43	29
Non-Adjudicated	1,174	1,786	1,941	1,769	1,677	1,150	1,312	1,831	1,291	937
District Court	21,422	23,778	26,980	29,182	30,512	31,317	26,862	28,152	24,751	25,112
Adjudicated	16,606	18,190	21,245	23,207	24,265	24,502	21,024	21,649	18,506	18,358
Convicted	15,752	17,365	20,360	22,341	23,283	23,600	19,868	20,763	17,479	17,316
Not convicted ^(d)	854	825	885	866	982	902	1,156	886	1,027	1,042
Non-Adjudicated ^(e)	4,816	5,588	5,735	5,975	6,247	6,815	5,838	6,503	6,245	6,754
Magistrates Court	354,287	386,274	395,716	344,938	361,164	307,297	383,341	325,266	340,355	350,209
Adjudicated	319,658	346,047	349,978	308,631	318,291	268,600	338,226	284,668	302,204	308,474
Convicted	316,343	342,584	346,789	304,986	315,072	266,225	335,051	281,846	299,128	305,505
Not convicted ^(d)	3,315	3,463	3,189	3,645	3,219	2,375	3,175	2,822	3,076	2,969
Non-Adjudicated	34,629	40,227	45,738	36,307	42,873	38,697	45,115	40,598	38,151	41,735
Child										
Higher courts^(f)	2,109	1,904	2,208	2,214	3,481	3,508	2,925	2,475	2,834	2,948
Adjudicated	1,773	1,666	1,802	1,885	2,919	3,123	2,627	2,174	2,385	2,503
Convicted	1,746	1,636	1,758	1,847	2,893	3,057	2,588	2,120	2,340	2,427
Not convicted ^(d)	27	30	44	38	26	66	39	54	45	76
Non-Adjudicated ^(e)	336	238	406	329	562	385	298	301	449	445
Childrens Court (Magistrates)	25,789	26,708	28,902	35,217	41,499	34,719	45,299	41,724	47,377	54,065
Adjudicated	23,226	23,521	25,299	30,117	36,378	30,219	39,414	36,469	41,850	47,053
Convicted	22,711	22,762	23,940	28,615	34,296	28,098	37,003	34,062	38,895	43,799
Not convicted ^(d)	515	759	1,359	1,502	2,082	2,121	2,411	2,407	2,955	3,254
Non-Adjudicated ^(e)	2,563	3,187	3,603	5,100	5,121	4,500	5,885	5,255	5,527	7,012
Total	409,202	446,023	464,190	423,457	448,178	387,338	468,190	408,279	423,944	439,175
Person charges – all courts	407,502	443,820	461,728	421,470	445,843	386,565	467,271	407,590	423,086	438,167
Adjudicated	364,466	393,289	404,801	372,433	389,913	335,260	409,056	353,299	371,683	381,541
Convicted	359,844	388,256	399,249	366,434	383,818	329,732	402,215	347,113	364,551	374,216
Not convicted ^(d)	4,622	5,033	5,552	5,999	6,095	5,528	6,841	6,186	7,132	7,325
Non-Adjudicated ^(e)	43,036	50,531	56,927	49,037	55,930	51,305	58,215	54,291	51,403	56,626
Company charges^(g) – all courts	1,700	2,203	2,462	1,987	2,335	773	919	689	858	1,008
Adjudicated	1,218	1,708	1,966	1,544	1,785	531	686	492	598	751
Convicted	1,087	1,622	1,958	1,415	1,524	521	680	479	584	706
Not convicted ^(d)	131	86	8	129	261	10	6	13	14	45
Non-Adjudicated ^(e)	482	495	496	443	550	242	233	197	260	257

(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system (including children's courts) 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 charges against defendants who were a company/organisation.

(d) Excludes charges which were not adjudicated.

(e) 'Non-adjudicated' includes those charges 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 (and organisations) are dealt with in the adult court system.

Table 4 Rates of finalised charges against persons, by method of finalisation and outcome, by court type – time series^(a)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Court system / type Method of finalisation / outcome	— rate per 100,000 persons ^(c) —									
Adult^(d)										
Supreme Court	151.7	196.8	273.1	309.4	296.9	265.6	243.5	261.6	206.3	158.8
Adjudicated	119.9	149.0	222.0	263.4	253.7	236.5	210.8	216.7	175.4	137.0
Convicted	118.7	147.9	219.8	261.4	252.5	234.7	209.2	216.0	174.4	136.4
Not convicted ^(e)	1.1	1.1	2.2	2.0	1.2	1.9	1.6	0.7	1.0	0.7
Non-Adjudicated ^(f)	31.8	47.8	51.0	46.0	43.2	29.1	32.7	44.9	30.9	21.7
District Court	577.2	633.9	709.4	758.1	784.2	791.6	670.0	689.9	591.8	582.8
Adjudicated	446.6	484.5	558.6	602.8	623.3	619.2	524.4	530.3	442.5	426.1
Convicted	426.2	462.5	535.3	580.3	598.0	596.4	495.6	508.6	417.9	401.9
Not convicted ^(e)	20.3	22.1	23.3	22.5	25.3	22.8	28.8	21.7	24.6	24.2
Non-Adjudicated ^(f)	130.6	149.4	150.8	155.2	160.9	172.4	145.6	159.6	149.3	156.7
Magistrates Court	9,563.4	10,270.6	10,342.0	8,911.0	9,248.2	7,758.1	9,539.2	7,965.1	8,118.2	8,105.2
Adjudicated	8,637.6	9,208.3	9,152.2	7,979.2	8,157.6	6,784.9	8,419.6	6,973.8	7,212.1	7,142.4
Convicted	8,548.4	9,118.0	9,068.5	7,887.8	8,081.4	6,725.1	8,340.6	6,904.9	7,138.9	7,074.6
Not convicted ^(e)	89.1	90.3	83.7	91.4	76.2	59.9	79.0	68.9	73.2	67.9
Non-Adjudicated ^(f)	925.8	1,062.3	1,189.8	931.9	1,090.6	973.2	1,119.5	991.3	906.1	962.8
Child										
Higher courts^(g)	500.9	446.8	508.5	473.8	674.1	664.3	541.6	448.1	501.4	510.5
Adjudicated	421.1	390.9	415.0	403.4	565.3	591.4	486.5	393.6	421.9	433.5
Convicted	414.7	383.9	404.9	395.3	560.2	578.9	479.2	383.8	414.0	420.3
Not convicted ^(e)	6.4	7.0	10.1	8.1	5.0	12.5	7.2	9.8	8.0	13.2
Non-Adjudicated ^(f)	79.8	55.8	93.5	70.4	108.8	72.9	55.2	54.5	79.4	77.1
Childrens Court (Magistrates)	6,125.1	6,267.3	6,656.1	7,537.2	8,036.5	6,574.4	8,388.4	7,553.7	8,381.4	9,362.6
Adjudicated	5,516.4	5,519.5	5,826.3	6,445.7	7,044.8	5,722.2	7,298.6	6,602.3	7,403.6	8,148.3
Convicted	5,394.0	5,341.4	5,513.3	6,124.3	6,641.6	5,320.6	6,852.1	6,166.6	6,880.8	7,584.8
Not convicted ^(e)	122.3	178.1	313.0	321.5	403.2	401.6	446.5	435.8	522.8	563.5
Non-Adjudicated ^(f)	608.7	747.9	829.8	1,091.5	991.7	852.1	1,089.8	951.4	977.8	1,214.3
Person charges – all courts	9,916.6	10,652.6	10,898.1	9,765.5	10,139.2	8,629.5	10,271.9	8,807.4	8,912.3	8,968.1
Adjudicated	8,869.3	9,439.7	9,554.4	8,629.3	8,867.3	7,484.2	8,992.2	7,634.3	7,829.5	7,809.1
Convicted	8,756.9	9,318.9	9,423.4	8,490.3	8,728.7	7,360.8	8,841.8	7,500.6	7,679.3	7,659.2
Not convicted	112.5	120.8	131.0	139.0	138.6	123.4	150.4	133.7	150.2	149.9
Non-Adjudicated	1,047.3	1,212.8	1,343.6	1,136.2	1,271.9	1,145.3	1,279.7	1,173.1	1,082.8	1,159.0

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

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

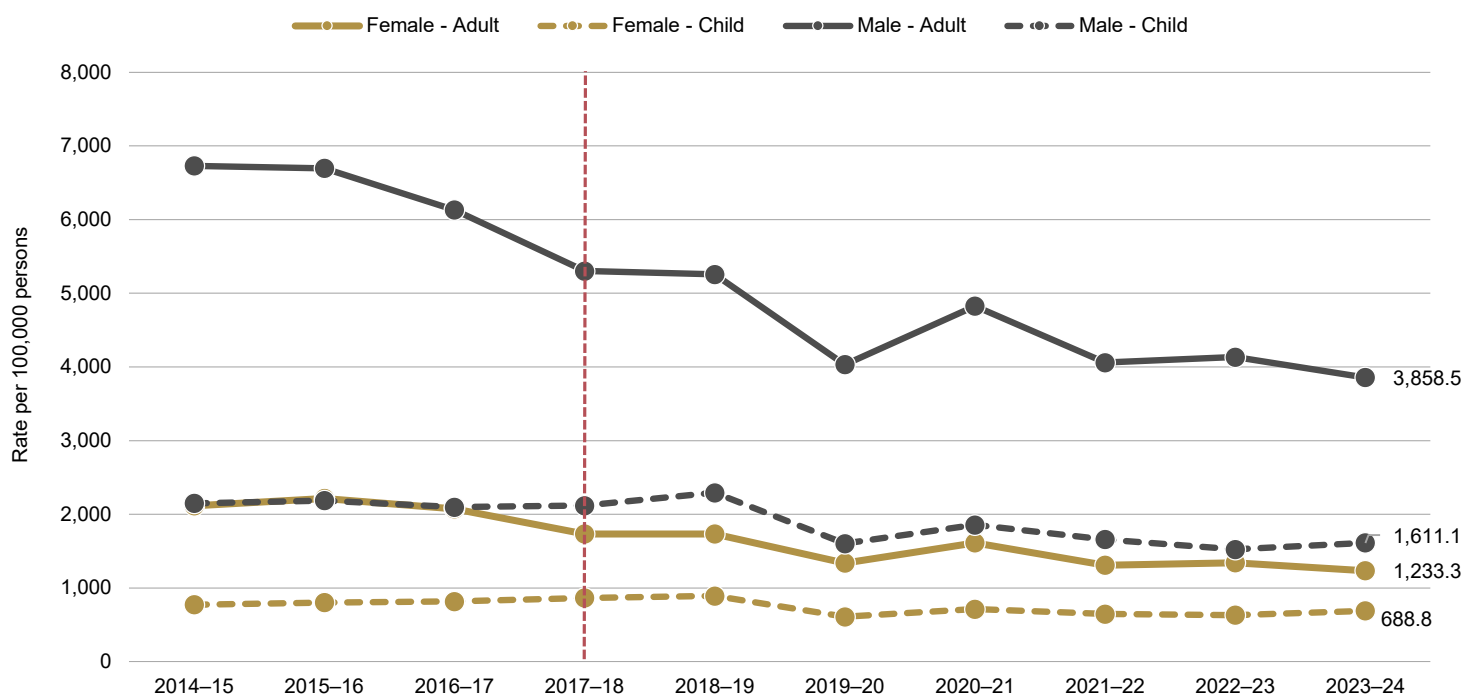
(c) Rates are calculated per 100,000 persons. Any rates and change in rates based on small counts (<10) should be interpreted with extreme caution. Rate calculation is based on relevant population subgroup. Rates for children from 2012–13 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.

(d) Excludes charges against defendants who were a company/organisation.

(e) Excludes charges which were not adjudicated.

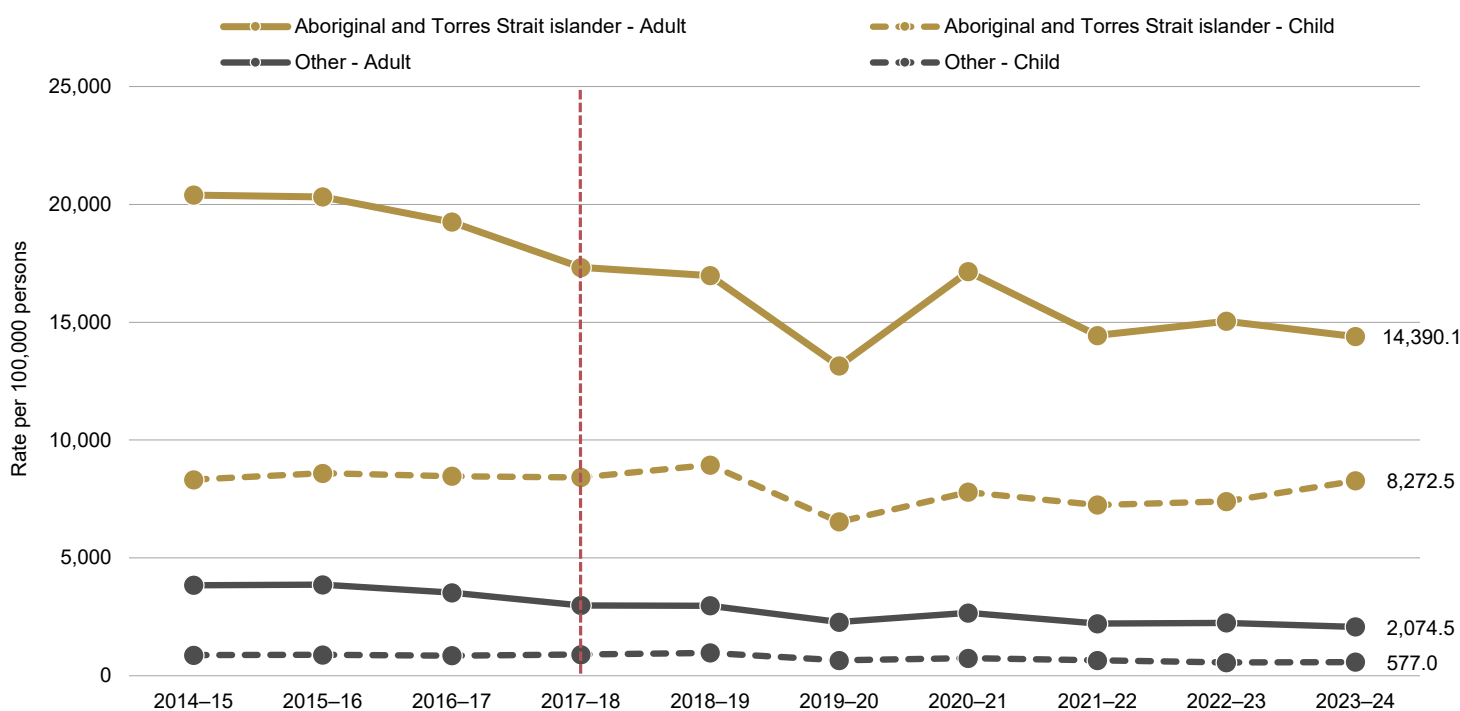
(f) 'Non-adjudicated' includes those where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, the charge may be replaced by an amended charge.

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

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

(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, from 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination. Rates are calculated only for appearances where defendant's sex was stated.

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

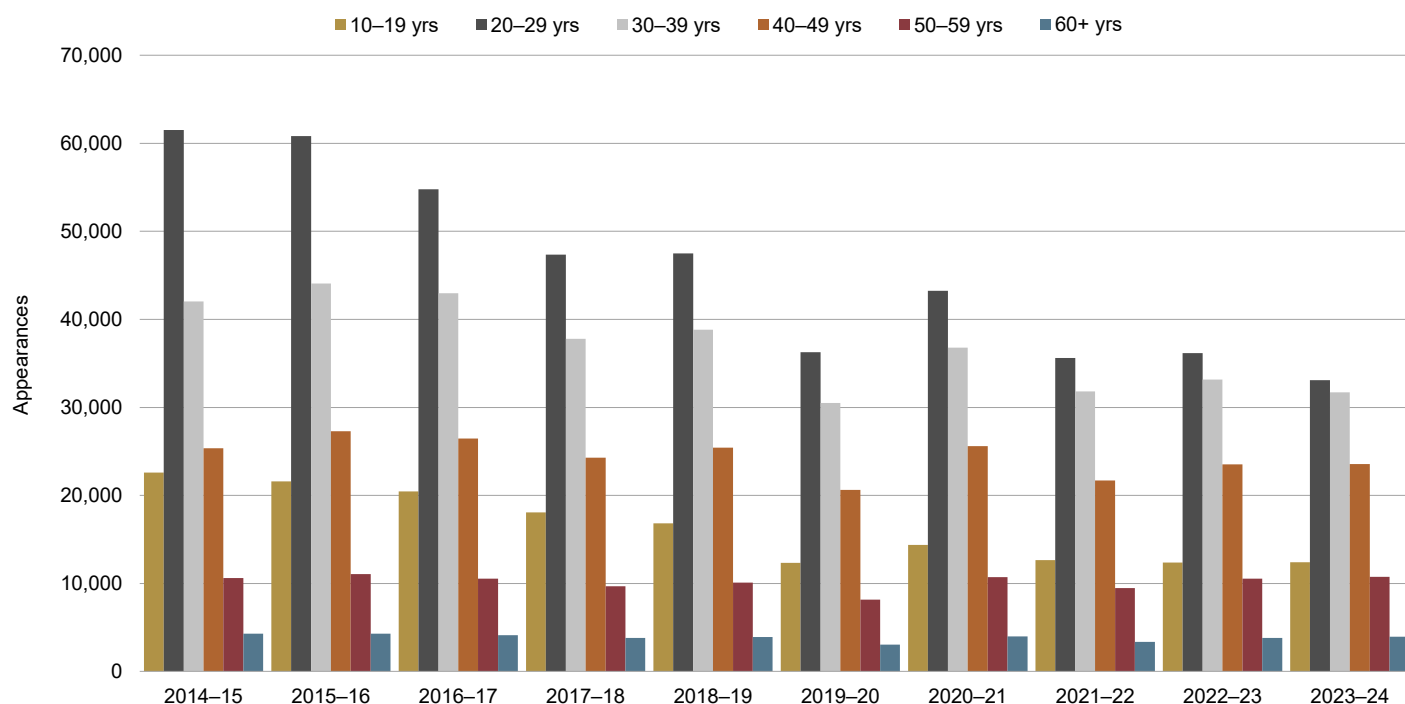
Figure 6 Convicted person appearance rates^(a) by court system and Indigenous status – time series^(b)

(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, from 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination. Rates are calculated only for appearances where defendant's Indigenous status was stated.

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

Among court appearances which resulted in a conviction, the annual ranking of age groups has remained unchanged over the past decade (Figure 7). Defendants aged 20–29 years were the most prevalent age group among convicted appearances each year. When comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15, the number of convicted appearances for all age groups declined, but decreases were most substantial for defendants aged 20–29 years during this period (–46.2%), followed by those aged 10–19 years (–45.1%) and those aged 30–39 years (–24.6%).

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

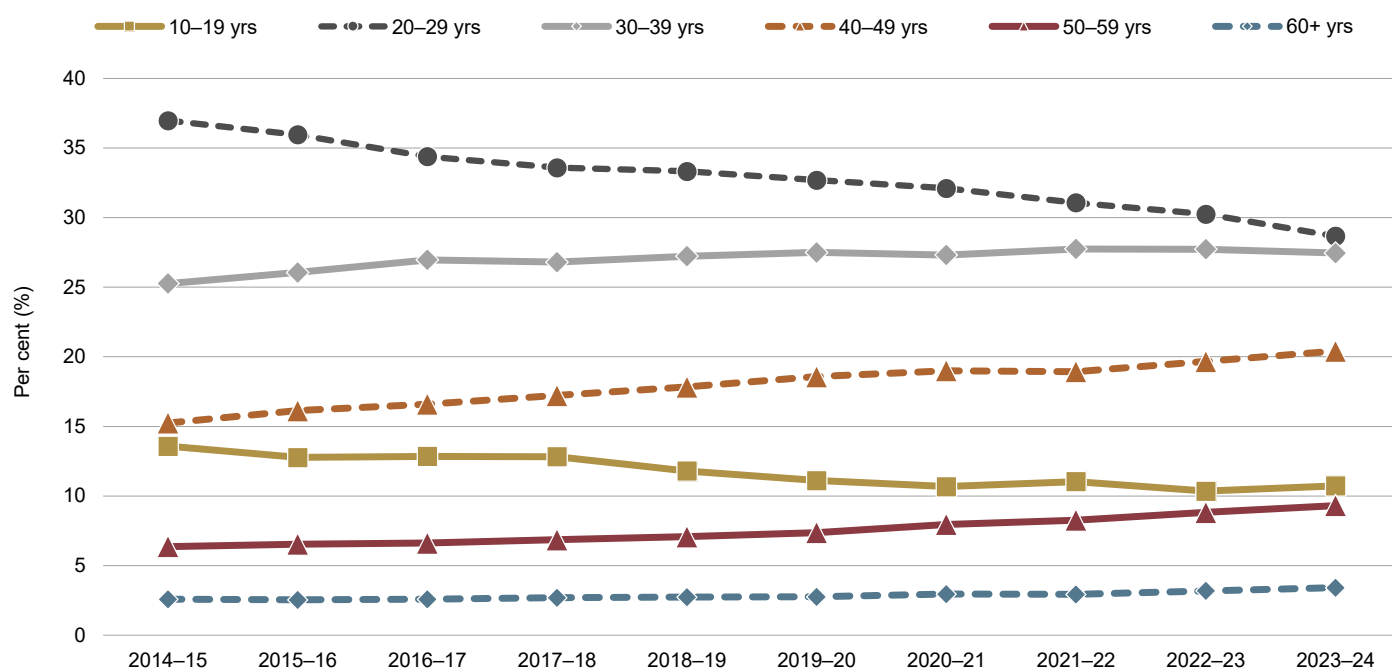


(a) Excludes appearances of defendants whose age was not stated.

In 2023–24, defendants aged 20–29 years accounted for 28.7% of all convicted person appearances, followed by those aged 30–39 years (27.5%), 40–49 years (20.4%) and those aged 10–19 years (10.7%). Defendants aged 50 years and over accounted for 12.7% of convicted appearances in 2023–24, the largest share for this group observed in the time series (Figure 8). This may reflect an ageing offender population.

As a proportion of all convicted person appearances, Figure 8 shows the share of defendants aged 29 years and younger tended to decline over the past decade, while those aged 30 years and over have accounted for a growing share over time.

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

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Defendant characteristics	— number —									
Company appearances	358	414	409	279	276	172	190	159	177	190
Person appearances	168,871	172,264	161,550	141,465	142,903	111,207	135,029	114,871	119,837	115,694
Sex										
Male	126,980	127,966	119,184	105,194	106,063	82,397	99,932	85,736	89,109	86,204
Female	41,167	43,758	41,866	35,953	36,527	28,520	34,844	28,920	30,394	29,042
Not stated	724	540	500	318	313	290	253	215	334	448
Indigenous status										
Indigenous	28,614	29,411	28,798	26,817	27,079	21,410	28,386	24,849	26,508	26,540
Other ^(a)	140,257	142,853	132,752	114,648	115,824	89,797	106,643	90,022	93,329	89,154
Age at finalised appearance										
10–19 yrs	22,591	21,605	20,467	18,087	16,822	12,334	14,378	12,661	12,375	12,393
20–29 yrs	61,510	60,818	54,776	47,353	47,507	36,274	43,236	35,624	36,166	33,102
30–39 yrs	42,033	44,085	42,958	37,783	38,816	30,519	36,793	31,816	33,163	31,712
40–49 yrs	25,365	27,282	26,449	24,285	25,429	20,618	25,595	21,716	23,523	23,572
50–59 yrs	10,607	11,066	10,550	9,675	10,101	8,179	10,725	9,481	10,558	10,764
60 yrs and over	4,298	4,308	4,119	3,803	3,905	3,059	3,985	3,368	3,810	3,948
Not stated	2,467	3,100	2,231	479	323	224	317	205	242	203
Total	168,871	172,264	161,550	141,465	142,903	111,207	135,029	114,871	119,837	115,694

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

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

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Defendant characteristics	— rate per 100,000 persons ^(a) —									
Sex^(b)										
Male	6,243.7	6,218.2	5,701.5	4,942.5	4,893.7	3,733.0	4,457.4	3,758.9	3,809.9	3,581.1
Female	1,983.4	2,075.4	1,950.5	1,643.5	1,638.1	1,255.1	1,510.3	1,232.2	1,262.0	1,171.7
Indigenous status										
Indigenous	17,830.0	17,848.7	17,002.7	15,388.3	15,112.0	11,631.3	15,028.0	12,830.6	13,358.2	13,064.3
Other ^(c)	3,551.9	3,569.9	3,263.8	2,768.2	2,745.9	2,090.5	2,445.9	2,030.2	2,051.7	1,903.9
Age at finalised appearance^(b)										
10–19 yrs	3,719.7	3,536.9	3,301.6	2,861.4	2,609.1	1,878.2	2,159.9	1,868.3	1,778.1	1,731.2
20–29 yrs	9,025.7	8,856.7	7,905.8	6,776.1	6,747.5	5,142.7	6,205.6	5,140.2	5,063.9	4,416.7
30–39 yrs	6,547.3	6,780.2	6,488.9	5,579.4	5,603.2	4,311.1	5,104.4	4,335.7	4,401.7	4,080.6
40–49 yrs	3,888.0	4,159.2	4,004.4	3,652.3	3,803.8	3,066.0	3,788.7	3,191.4	3,403.1	3,345.2
50–59 yrs	1,770.0	1,828.3	1,724.8	1,563.3	1,612.1	1,285.0	1,656.1	1,438.4	1,576.8	1,586.6
60 yrs and over	463.7	450.0	416.1	371.4	368.2	277.9	348.8	284.5	311.6	313.3
Total^(d)	4,109.5	4,134.7	3,813.0	3,277.7	3,249.8	2,482.5	2,968.3	2,482.2	2,524.4	2,367.9

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

(b) Rates by sex and by age are calculated only where both age and sex were stated.

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

(d) Total includes appearances where defendant age and/or sex was not stated.

4.2 Adults

This section presents statistics relating to person defendants in 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). Note that 2017–18 represents a break in time series due to the transition of 17-year-old offenders to the youth justice system from February 2018.

Statistics relating to company/organisation defendants have been separated from person defendants and are presented in section 4.4 Companies.

4.2.1 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 2023–24, there were 122,022 person appearances finalised in the adult court system and, of these, 11,463 (9.4%) were non-adjudicated (Table 7). Of the person appearances which were adjudicated in 2023–24 (110,559), those adjudicated in the Magistrates and Supreme Courts were more likely to result in conviction (98.8%) compared with the District Court (91.7%).

Of particular note in 2023–24:

- Of the 1,848 finalised person appearances with *sexual assault and related offences* as the most serious offence (MSO), 75.6% were finalised in the District Court. Of these cases finalised in the District Courts, 53.0% resulted in conviction, 15.7% did not result in conviction and 31.2% were not adjudicated. Across the other courts, about two in five appearances with *sexual assault and related offences* as MSO were not adjudicated (42.1% in the Supreme court and 41.0% in the Magistrates court), meaning the prosecution may have discontinued proceedings. Of the cases adjudicated for this offence type, 90.9% resulted in conviction in the Supreme Court, followed by 88.2% in the Magistrates Court and 77.1% in the District Courts.
- Of the 119 person appearances finalised in the Magistrates Court with *robbery, extortion and related offences* as the MSO, 76.5% were not adjudicated, while 64.3% of those adjudicated resulted in a conviction (compared with 85.5% and 81.3% respectively in the previous year, data not shown).

Table 7 Finalised adult appearances by method of finalisation and outcome, by most serious offence, by court type, 2023–24

Court type	Supreme Court			District Court			Magistrates Court		
Method of finalisation / outcome	Adjudicated		Non-Adjudicated ^(b)	Adjudicated		Non-Adjudicated ^(b)	Adjudicated		Non-Adjudicated ^(b)
	Convicted	Not convicted ^(a)		Convicted	Not convicted ^(a)		Convicted	Not convicted ^(a)	
	Most serious offence (MSO)	— number —							
Homicide and related offences	50	4	34	2	0	0	0	7	6
Acts intended to cause injury	10	0	6	1,271	99	311	7,630	184	1,749
Sexual assault and related offences	10	1	8	741	220	436	225	30	177
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	1	0	0	84	5	7	5,031	36	404
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	0	0	0	50	0	10	625	13	140
Robbery, extortion and related offences	3	0	0	420	1	70	18	10	91
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	3	0	1	180	0	14	2,524	33	490
Theft and related offences	3	0	3	100	0	23	8,933	79	1,209
Fraud, deception and related offences	4	0	0	115	2	87	1,648	24	415
Illicit drug offences	713	4	92	553	0	47	9,281	69	893
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	3	0	4	12	0	4	2,737	16	350
Property damage and environmental pollution	0	0	0	93	4	6	2,488	41	327
Public order offences	0	0	0	9	0	1	4,721	38	440
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	1	1	0	2	34,532	163	1,444
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	72	2	1	372	30	24	22,907	459	1,994
Miscellaneous offences	0	0	0	11	0	3	788	11	139
Total	872	11	150	4,014	361	1,045	104,088	1,213	10,268

(a) Excludes appearances which were not adjudicated.

(b) 'Non-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.

4.2.2 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 adjudicated adult appearances resulting in conviction in the Supreme, District and Magistrates Courts over the last 10 years.

In the Supreme Court, the number of convicted appearances in 2023–24 (872) was at its lowest since 2015–16 (757). Over the past decade, more than eight in ten convicted Supreme Court appearances had *illicit drug offences* as the MSO (84.9% in 2014–15 and 81.8% in 2023–24) (Table 8).

Table 8 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, Supreme Court – time series^(a)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Most serious offence (MSO) ^(b)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	45	37	50	60	52	46	39	43	57	50
Acts intended to cause injury	9	11	20	20	24	22	22	13	13	10
Sexual assault and related offences	5	4	7	6	5	10	8	19	6	10
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	4	5	2	2	6	6	2	4	3	1
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
Robbery, extortion and related offences	0	0	3	11	3	6	6	5	7	3
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	2	7	3	5	12	6	2	5	2	3
Theft and related offences	2	0	2	6	3	5	6	7	5	3
Fraud, deception and related offences	1	0	4	1	0	0	1	2	1	4
Illicit drug offences	512	643	924	1,152	1,008	974	987	948	847	713
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	1	2	3	2	5	7	1	8	3	3
Property damage and environmental pollution	0	2	1	3	0	1	2	0	4	0
Public order offences	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	21	45	64	74	77	97	80	82	72	72
Total	603	757	1,084	1,342	1,197	1,180	1,158	1,138	1,021	872

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

(b) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

In 2023–24, the number of convicted appearances in the District Court increased slightly when compared with 2022–23 (up 4.3%) and tended to increase generally over the past decade (up 19.7%) (Table 9). About one in three (31.7%) convicted District Court appearances involved *acts intended to cause injury* as MSO in 2023–24, up from less than a quarter of convicted appearances (23.2%) in 2014–15. This was consistently the most common MSO among District Court convictions over the past decade, followed by *illicit drug offences* and *sexual assault and related offences*, which respectively comprised 13.8% and 18.5% of convicted District Court appearances in 2023–24.

Table 9 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, District Court – time series^(a)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Most serious offence (MSO)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	4	2	2	6	4	5	6	4	7	2
Acts intended to cause injury	778	714	874	1,180	1,257	1,134	1,082	1,247	1,149	1,271
Sexual assault and related offences	590	605	729	694	785	678	707	744	695	741
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	102	122	101	99	113	107	78	102	86	84
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	28	31	57	61	52	35	34	63	59	50
Robbery, extortion and related offences	412	374	413	409	457	520	461	350	418	420
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	228	197	203	232	235	219	198	235	208	180
Theft and related offences	60	68	69	64	98	98	95	87	106	100
Fraud, deception and related offences	117	144	149	126	154	122	123	117	114	115
Illicit drug offences	641	727	859	820	810	797	600	728	567	553
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	6	9	14	14	8	9	9	17	9	12
Property damage and environmental pollution	96	93	87	85	95	93	95	115	108	93
Public order offences	14	15	9	18	21	13	6	20	11	9
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	3	1
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	269	273	274	312	341	343	300	300	301	372
Miscellaneous offences	7	3	10	6	10	10	15	15	9	11
Total	3,353	3,377	3,851	4,126	4,441	4,185	3,809	4,145	3,850	4,014

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

When comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15, the number of convicted Magistrates Court appearances tended to decline (–34.4%), with a time-series peak of 161,683 convicted appearances observed in 2015–16 (Table 10). A slight decline was also apparent in 2023–24 compared with 2022–23 (–4.3%). Annually, over the past decade, about half of convicted Magistrates Court appearances were for MSO of *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* or *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations*, with these offences accounting for 55.2% of convicted appearances in 2023–24. This was followed in 2023–24 by *illicit drug offences* (8.9%) and *theft and related offences* (8.6%) as MSO. In 2023–24, a notable increase in convicted appearances related to *robbery, extortion and related offences* as MSO can be observed (up 38.5%) when compared with the previous year. Also notable was a decline in convicted appearances with MSO of *illicit drug offences* (–12.4) and those involving *public order offences* (–10.2%) when comparing 2023–24 with 2022–23.

Table 10 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, Magistrates Court – time series^(a)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Most serious offence (MSO) ^(b)	— number —									
Acts intended to cause injury	5,135	5,416	5,630	5,580	5,645	4,558	6,603	6,580	7,428	7,630
Sexual assault and related offences	135	107	106	156	144	144	195	213	226	225
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	8,150	7,430	6,564	6,045	5,410	4,555	6,665	5,762	5,556	5,031
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	379	480	470	456	373	263	456	441	601	625
Robbery, extortion and related offences	21	16	9	15	20	12	15	15	13	18
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	2,401	2,471	2,551	2,369	2,392	2,246	2,171	2,117	2,355	2,524
Theft and related offences	12,524	13,369	13,551	12,157	12,464	9,854	9,563	7,866	8,451	8,933
Fraud, deception and related offences	3,050	2,918	2,948	2,824	2,706	2,067	2,238	1,696	1,677	1,648
Illicit drug offences	20,593	21,372	19,408	17,291	17,439	13,875	17,927	11,902	10,595	9,281
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	3,385	3,539	3,545	3,144	3,559	2,849	3,716	2,554	2,586	2,737
Property damage and environmental pollution	3,142	3,249	3,226	2,963	2,746	2,005	3,112	2,686	2,566	2,488
Public order offences	18,225	13,478	11,744	9,796	8,823	6,356	7,720	5,858	5,255	4,721
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	53,726	57,713	50,633	40,127	42,363	32,083	37,818	32,778	37,152	34,532
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	26,075	28,063	28,211	24,855	23,628	18,113	23,497	21,806	23,520	22,907
Miscellaneous offences	1,746	2,062	1,617	1,166	1,226	943	1,338	867	818	788
Total	158,687	161,683	150,213	128,944	128,938	99,923	123,034	103,141	108,799	104,088

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

(b) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

4.2.3 Finalised charges

In 2023–24, there were 381,154 charges finalised in adult courts in Queensland. Of these, nearly nine in ten charges (87.1%) were adjudicated, while 12.9% of charges were not, meaning the prosecution may have withdrawn or discontinued charges prior to adjudication. The highest proportion of non-adjudicated charges was recorded in the District Court (26.9%), followed by the Supreme Court (13.7%) and the Magistrates Court (11.9%). Of all charges that were adjudicated, 98.8% of charges across all courts resulted in conviction (Table 11).

The largest share of adjudicated charges in 2023–24 related to *illicit drug offences* in the Supreme Court (71.2%). In the District Court, both *illicit drug offences* and *acts intended to cause injury offences* each comprised one in five charges (20.0%) adjudicated. The most common offences adjudicated in the Magistrates Court in 2023–24 were *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* (27.9% of all adjudicated charges) followed by *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* (20.6%).

Table 11 Finalised charges against adults, by method of finalisation and outcome, by court type, 2023–24

Court type	Supreme Court			District Court			Magistrates Court		
Method of finalisation/outcome	Adjudicated		Non-Adjudicated ^(b)	Adjudicated		Non-Adjudicated ^(b)	Adjudicated		Non-Adjudicated ^(b)
	Convicted	Not convicted ^(a)		Convicted	Not convicted ^(a)		Convicted	Not convicted ^(a)	
	Offence	— number —							
Homicide and related offences	53	4	62	2	0	0	0	8	11
Acts intended to cause injury	52	0	55	3,417	261	1,716	11,589	372	4,123
Sexual assault and related offences	98	4	87	2,797	649	2,611	358	60	662
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	32	0	5	233	8	55	6,782	67	897
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	12	0	0	248	9	170	1,394	34	521
Robbery, extortion and related offences	16	0	3	584	3	213	42	13	313
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	15	0	3	922	10	267	7,949	82	3,484
Theft and related offences	389	0	35	1,312	6	380	39,755	185	5,618
Fraud, deception and related offences	44	0	6	456	4	338	9,548	150	4,332
Illicit drug offences	4,192	12	605	3,665	0	508	46,763	193	4,199
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	333	1	50	220	0	56	6,646	38	832
Property damage and environmental pollution	15	0	2	555	16	150	7,252	138	1,506
Public order offences	8	0	2	107	0	11	15,052	184	1,820
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	76	0	2	275	0	3	63,006	290	3,662
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	412	8	17	2,365	74	241	84,908	1,065	8,685
Miscellaneous offences	128	0	3	157	2	33	3,756	45	815
Total	5,875	29	937	17,315	1,042	6,752	304,800	2,924	41,480

(a) Excludes charges which were not adjudicated.

(b) 'Non-adjudicated' includes those where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, the charge may be replaced by an amended charge.

4.2.4 Convicted charges

The number of charges convicted in the Supreme Court has generally declined since 2017–18, down 41.6% from the peak of 10,060 convicted charges in 2017–18 to 5,875 in 2023–24, save for a slight increase observed in 2021–22. In 2023–24, all but two offence divisions declined when compared with 2022–23, with increases apparent only for convicted charges of *abduction, harassment and other offences against the person* (up 50.0%) and *fraud, deception and related offences* (up 18.9%).

Across the time series, the most common offence with a convicted outcome was *illicit drug offences*, at around seven in ten convicted Supreme Court charges, with the number of these offences peaking at 6,792 convicted charges in 2017–18 and generally declining since then to 4,192 convicted charges in 2023–24 (–38.3%). This was followed by *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* and *theft and related offences*, making up 7.0% and 6.6% of convicted Supreme Court convicted charges in 2023–24, respectively.

Table 12 Convicted charges against adults, Supreme Court – time series^(a)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Offence	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	48	41	55	64	57	49	46	46	60	53
Acts intended to cause injury	39	35	71	135	91	105	111	115	87	52
Sexual assault and related offences	24	57	41	49	17	65	58	452	119	98
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	28	27	46	69	58	64	47	45	34	32
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	6	5	17	14	12	8	7	12	8	12
Robbery, extortion and related offences	2	18	7	32	23	21	17	21	21	16
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	47	81	111	76	103	58	53	199	20	15
Theft and related offences	326	439	753	825	918	875	630	597	519	389
Fraud, deception and related offences	33	72	168	92	292	159	43	62	37	44
Illicit drug offences	3,172	3,891	5,582	6,792	6,269	5,884	5,791	5,812	5,085	4,192
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	249	242	401	497	487	553	499	488	488	333
Property damage and environmental pollution	22	12	30	48	40	25	38	29	30	15
Public order offences	16	24	29	33	31	31	34	13	21	8
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	102	166	266	379	389	378	267	158	129	76
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	236	368	688	847	845	799	543	578	443	412
Miscellaneous offences	29	53	95	108	166	199	201	174	192	128
Total	4,379	5,531	8,360	10,060	9,798	9,273	8,385	8,801	7,293	5,875

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

The number of convicted charges in the District Court continued a downward trend in 2023–24, with 17,315 convicted charges being the lowest number recorded in the District Court since 2015–16 (17,297 charges).

When comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15, substantial declines in the number of convicted District Court convicted charges for *fraud, deception and related offences* (–47.9%), *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* (–47.0%) and *public order offences* (–41.5%) can be observed. Over the same period, the number of convicted charges increased for *acts intended to cause injury* (up 114.1%), *miscellaneous offences* (up 84.7%), and *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* (up 47.7%).

In 2023–24, the most common offence convicted in the District Court was *illicit drug offences* (21.2%), despite declining to its second-lowest level in 10 years. This was followed by *acts intended to cause injury* (19.7%) and *sexual assault and related offences* (16.2%). Also of note, a decrease in the number of convicted charges for *theft and related offences* can be observed since 2019–20, declining from 2,671 to 1,312 convicted charges in 2023–24 (–50.9%).

Table 13 Convicted charges against adults, District Court – time series^(a)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Offence	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	4	2	2	6	4	5	6	4	7	2
Acts intended to cause injury	1,596	1,519	2,001	2,841	3,103	2,857	2,794	3,094	3,232	3,417
Sexual assault and related offences	2,485	2,671	3,047	2,686	3,316	2,742	3,030	3,199	2,811	2,797
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	289	290	272	323	368	394	276	286	249	233
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	178	178	275	284	252	271	257	293	363	248
Robbery, extortion and related offences	617	606	631	600	653	763	690	521	565	584
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	1,332	1,368	1,306	1,276	1,264	1,292	1,068	1,125	898	922
Theft and related offences	1,754	1,874	1,804	1,932	2,408	2,671	1,958	1,556	1,214	1,312
Fraud, deception and related offences	875	1,146	1,151	893	1,012	1,093	807	732	630	456
Illicit drug offences	3,516	4,114	5,295	5,484	5,211	5,599	4,378	5,205	3,817	3,665
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	235	268	311	400	341	450	311	290	218	220
Property damage and environmental pollution	452	475	1,000	698	692	801	542	604	538	555
Public order offences	183	203	325	330	304	326	247	199	126	107
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	519	529	570	809	822	949	518	387	286	275
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	1,601	1,895	2,148	3,585	3,146	3,176	2,761	2,837	2,437	2,365
Miscellaneous offences	85	159	217	188	310	176	224	394	87	157
Total	15,721	17,297	20,355	22,335	23,206	23,565	19,867	20,726	17,478	17,315

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

The number of convicted Magistrates Court charges did not change substantially in 2023–24 when compared with the previous year (up 2.1% or 6,255 charges). In 2023–24, the most common convicted charges were for *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* (27.9%), followed by *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* (20.7%) and *illicit drug offences* (15.3%).

When compared with the previous year, the number of convicted charges related to *robbery, extortion and related offences* increased in 2023–24 (up 61.5%).

Table 14 Convicted charges against adults, Magistrates Court – time series^(a)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Offence	— number —									
Acts intended to cause injury	6,657	7,148	7,466	7,515	7,684	6,530	9,481	9,697	11,026	11,589
Sexual assault and related offences	228	193	176	266	222	202	307	323	341	358
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	9,400	8,780	7,975	7,419	6,781	5,814	8,561	7,564	7,353	6,782
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	649	900	851	812	707	580	922	1,029	1,251	1,394
Robbery, extortion and related offences	29	32	26	21	31	31	29	26	26	42
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	5,673	6,058	6,595	6,227	5,966	6,212	5,679	5,988	7,578	7,949
Theft and related offences	29,357	32,063	36,295	34,437	37,062	35,056	34,108	30,581	34,913	39,755
Fraud, deception and related offences	12,570	13,185	14,885	14,267	13,983	11,576	13,209	10,323	9,719	9,548
Illicit drug offences	55,288	63,330	62,509	56,103	59,870	51,677	69,726	49,858	47,063	46,763
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	5,965	6,478	6,937	6,221	7,133	6,220	8,224	6,049	6,357	6,646
Property damage and environmental pollution	6,823	7,944	8,482	7,566	6,587	5,572	8,197	7,349	7,088	7,252
Public order offences	27,823	23,108	21,700	19,061	18,229	14,564	19,082	15,338	14,868	15,052
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	84,834	92,443	84,441	68,160	72,702	57,667	71,627	59,685	65,791	63,006
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	66,344	74,667	82,600	71,800	72,166	60,574	79,809	74,261	82,031	84,908
Miscellaneous offences	3,647	4,701	3,899	3,702	4,502	3,464	5,411	3,333	3,140	3,756
Total	315,287	341,030	344,837	303,577	313,625	265,739	334,372	281,404	298,545	304,800

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

(b) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

4.2.5 Penalties

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

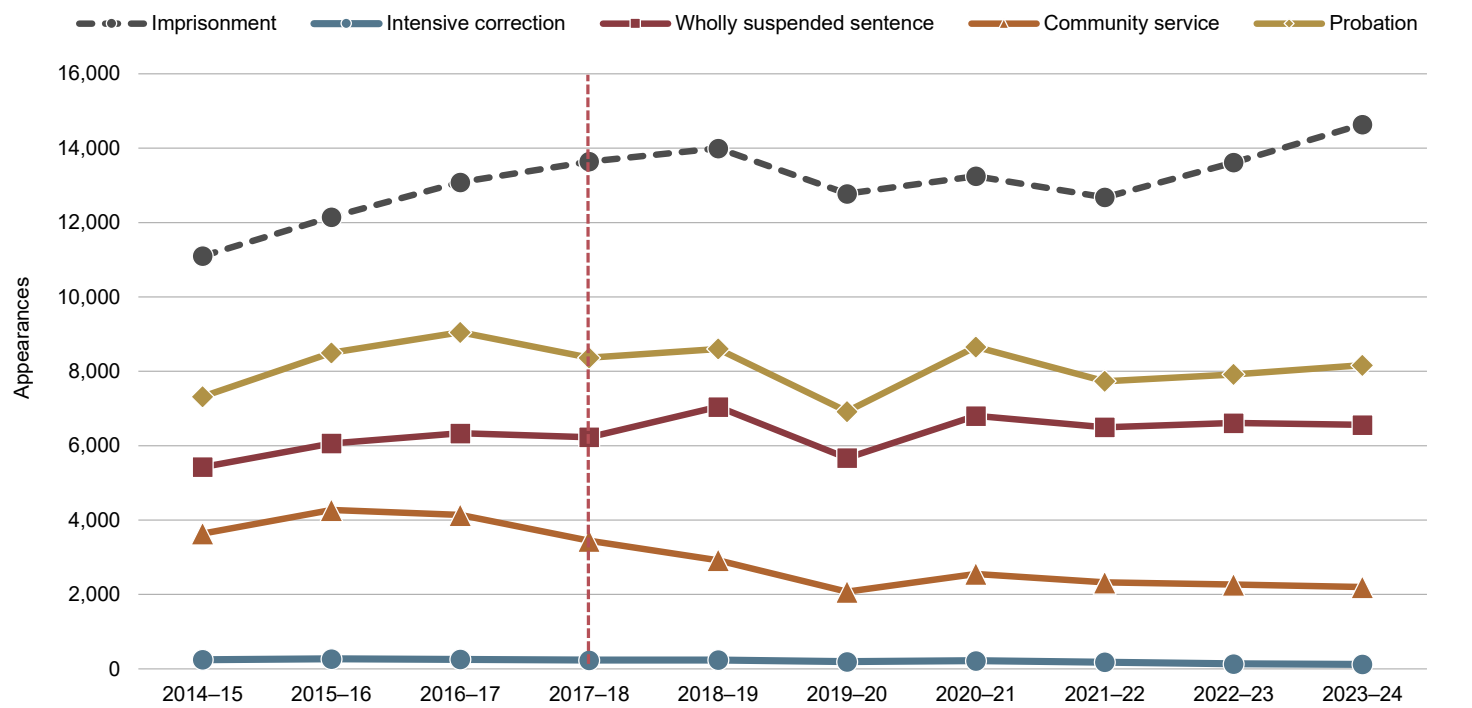
A custodial sentence is one that involves a term of imprisonment, and collectively can include sentences which are either partially or wholly suspended. In this report, partially suspended sentences are grouped with *imprisonment*, based on the premise they each involve a period of sentenced incarceration. *Wholly suspended sentences* are reported separately (see Glossary).

Of the range of penalties that can be imposed on adult offenders, the top 5, in order of seriousness, are *imprisonment*, *intensive correction*, *wholly suspended sentence*, *community service*, and *probation*. These five most serious penalties resulted from 31,686 of all convicted person appearances in the adult court system in 2023–24.

Over the past decade to 2023–24, the number of convicted appearances resulting in these top 5 most serious penalties increased by 14.2% overall, largely driven by an increase in imprisonment (up 31.9%) and wholly suspended sentence (up 20.9%) recorded among convicted appearances over this period. Conversely, there were declines in the number of appearances with most serious penalty of intensive correction (–50.2%) and community service orders (–39.5%) when comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15.

Save for an overall increase in the number of the top 5 penalties observed in 2020–21, relative stability can be observed across all of these penalties since 2019–20, except imprisonment. When comparing 2023–24 with 2021–22, the number of convicted appearances resulting in imprisonment increased (up 15.5%) while declining for intensive correction (–32.0%) and community service orders (–5.3%).

Figure 9 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty^(a), by the 5 most serious, all courts – time series^(b)



(a) Imprisonment 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, shown by the dashed red line, is due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system (including children's courts) from February 2018.

In 2023–24 and over the past decade, around nine in ten convicted Supreme Court appearances resulted in either *imprisonment* (79.5%) or *wholly suspended sentence* (10.3%) as most serious penalty. While more convicted appearances resulted in *imprisonment* in 2023–24 compared with 2014–15, increasing by 37.5%, *imprisonment* peaked among convicted appearances at 1,125 in 2017–18 and has tended to decline each year from then, to 693 with *imprisonment* in 2023–24 (–38.4%). Meanwhile, the number resulting in a *wholly suspended sentence* has varied but remained more consistent over the time series. In 2023–24, there was a decline in both *wholly suspended sentence* (–18.9%) and *imprisonment* (–14.4) compared with convicted appearances in the previous year.

Table 15 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, Supreme Court – time series^(a)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Most serious penalty ^(b)	— number —									
Imprisonment ^(c)	504	612	856	1,125	990	987	958	926	810	693
Intensive correction	3	9	3	1	5	4	0	1	2	1
Wholly suspended sentence	67	84	122	107	89	80	90	103	111	90
Community service	2	4	6	5	3	2	3	6	6	0
Probation	7	11	24	21	28	21	24	18	28	11
Fine	2	4	16	9	6	2	7	3	5	7
Good behaviour order	2	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Driver licence disqualification	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nominal penalty ^(e)	16	30	54	73	74	84	76	81	59	70
Total	603	757	1,083	1,342	1,197	1,180	1,158	1,138	1,021	872

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

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

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

(d) Includes convicted not further punished.

In 2023–24, and consistently over the past decade, around eight in ten convicted District Court appearances resulted in either *imprisonment* (69.8%) or *wholly suspended sentence* (12.8%) as most serious penalty. This was followed in 2023–24 by *nominal penalty* (6.9%) and *probation* (6.2%) penalties.

When compared with 2022–23, the number of convicted appearances increased for *imprisonment* (up 8.6%), *good behaviour order* (up 27.6%), and *nominal penalty* (up 21.1%), among others. For example, while being among the least common penalty outcomes among convicted appearances, those with most serious penalty of *intensive correction order* increased to 17 in 2023–24 after a series low of 7 observed in 2022–23.

Table 16 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, District Court – time series^(a)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Most serious penalty ^(b)	— number —									
Imprisonment ^(c)	2,210	2,130	2,479	2,783	2,928	2,762	2,649	2,750	2,579	2,802
Intensive correction	38	25	26	24	36	36	25	22	7	17
Wholly suspended sentence	442	563	544	545	628	615	541	623	576	515
Community service	120	96	132	81	88	73	50	62	60	38
Probation	207	204	309	287	332	300	194	283	239	247
Fine	123	134	118	128	135	109	106	133	127	77
Compensation/Restitution	1	4	11	10	11	6	6	7	6	6
Good behaviour order	30	30	33	55	38	31	22	28	29	37
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Nominal penalty ^(d)	182	191	199	212	245	252	216	236	227	275
Total	3,353	3,377	3,851	4,126	4,441	4,185	3,809	4,145	3,850	4,014

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

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

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

(d) Includes convicted not further punished.

In 2023–24, over six in ten convicted Magistrates Court appearances resulted in a *fine* (62.1%) as the most serious penalty. *Fine* remained the most frequent penalty across the time series for all convicted appearances. However, when comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15, there was a consistent decrease in this penalty outcome, meaning fewer appearances resulted in a *fine* (–44.2%) as the most serious penalty, which reflected in the overall decline in convicted Magistrates Court appearances (–34.4%) over this period. That said, *imprisonment* as most serious outcome has become more common each year. For example, in 2023–24, 10.7% of all convicted appearances resulted in *imprisonment*, up from 5.3% in 2014–15, and represented a ten-year peak, with a total of 11,145 appearances. Conversely, ten-year lows were observed for *fine*, *intensive correction*, and *good behaviour order* penalties.

Table 17 Convicted adult appearances by most serious penalty, Magistrates Court – time series^(a)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Most serious penalty ^(b)	— number —									
Imprisonment ^(c)	8,388	9,408	9,749	9,732	10,079	9,029	9,640	9,003	10,226	11,145
Intensive correction	206	236	225	209	198	151	191	158	126	105
Wholly suspended sentence	4,917	5,415	5,669	5,577	6,326	4,976	6,172	5,771	5,924	5,955
Community service	3,516	4,171	3,997	3,357	2,832	1,998	2,501	2,254	2,200	2,162
Probation	7,108	8,284	8,717	8,055	8,244	6,597	8,439	7,432	7,652	7,905
Other penalties ^(d)	0	1	0	4	3	1	2	1	0	1
Fine	115,987	116,827	105,635	87,796	86,969	65,920	82,831	67,243	70,624	64,682
Compensation/Restitution	1,007	959	922	818	936	758	879	844	786	780
Good behaviour order	9,888	9,655	8,842	7,689	7,729	6,065	7,094	5,376	5,338	5,028
Driver licence disqualification	642	773	670	449	505	464	551	590	906	911
Nominal penalty ^(e)	7,028	5,954	5,787	5,258	5,117	3,964	4,734	4,469	5,017	5,414
Total	158,687	161,683	150,213	128,944	128,938	99,923	123,034	103,141	108,799	104,088

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

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

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

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

(e) Includes convicted not further 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.)

In 2023–24, around eight in ten (81.8%) convicted Supreme Court appearances were related to *illicit drug offences*, and of those with *illicit drug offences* as MSO, 85.6% resulted in *imprisonment* as the most serious penalty, with 11.9% resulting in a *wholly suspended sentence*. *Imprisonment* was the most common penalty across convicted appearances for all offence types in the Supreme Court, with 94.0% of *homicide and related offences*, 100.0% of *acts intended to cause injury* and 80.0% of *sexual assault and related offences* convicted in the Supreme Court resulting in this penalty outcome.

After *illicit drug offences*, the most common MSO among convicted Supreme Court appearances in 2023–24 was *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* (8.3%), for which *nominal penalty* was the most common outcome (93.1%), followed by *imprisonment* (5.6%).

Table 18 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, by most serious penalty, Supreme Court, 2023–24

Most serious penalty ^(a)	Imprisonment ^(b)	Intensive correction	Wholly suspended sentence	Probation	Fine	Nominal penalty ^(c)	Total
Most serious offence ^(d)	— number —						
Homicide and related offences	47	0	3	0	0	0	50
Acts intended to cause injury	10	0	0	0	0	0	10
Sexual assault and related offences	8	0	1	0	1	0	10
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Robbery, extortion and related offences	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Theft and related offences	1	0	0	2	0	0	3
Fraud, deception and related offences	3	0	1	0	0	0	4
Illicit drug offences	610	1	85	9	5	3	713
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	4	0	0	0	1	67	72
Total	693	1	90	11	7	70	872

(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 further punished.

(d) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

In 2023–24, *acts intended to cause injury* was the most common MSO among convicted District Court appearances (31.7%), making up a slightly larger proportion when compared with the previous year (29.8%). Of these convictions in 2023–24, nearly eight in ten resulted in *imprisonment* as the most serious penalty (78.4%), also up slightly from the previous year (75.3%). The second-most common MSO was *sexual assault and related offences* (18.5%), of which seven in ten convictions resulted in *imprisonment* (70.4%), followed by *illicit drug offences* (13.8%), of which just over half resulted in *imprisonment* (54.4%) and a quarter resulted in *wholly suspended sentence* (24.6%).

Across all convicted District court appearances, there was a slight proportional increase in convictions resulting in *imprisonment* as the most serious penalty in 2023–24 (69.8%) compared with the previous year (67.0%), whereas the proportion resulting in *wholly suspended sentence* declined to 12.8% of penalties from 15.0% in the previous year.

Table 19 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, by most serious penalty, District Court, 2023–24

Most serious penalty ^(a)	Imprisonment ^(b)	Intensive correction	Wholly suspended sentence	Community service	Probation	Fine	Compensation /Restitution	Good behaviour order	Nominal penalty ^(c)	Total
Most serious offence ^(d)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Acts intended to cause injury	996	3	134	15	71	19	3	16	14	1,271
Sexual assault and related offences	522	6	132	8	60	6	1	5	1	741
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	71	1	10	0	1	0	0	0	1	84
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	30	1	5	0	9	2	0	2	1	50
Robbery, extortion and related offences	388	2	16	0	10	0	1	2	1	420
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	154	0	18	0	5	1	0	0	2	180
Theft and related offences	59	0	17	1	13	1	1	3	5	100
Fraud, deception and related offences	89	0	16	2	4	2	0	1	1	115
Illicit drug offences	301	3	136	8	57	36	0	4	8	553
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	8	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	12
Property damage and environmental pollution	77	0	6	2	8	0	0	0	0	93
Public order offences	2	0	1	1	3	0	0	1	1	9
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	96	1	23	1	5	5	0	3	238	372
Miscellaneous offences	7	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	11
Total	2,802	17	515	38	247	77	6	37	275	4,014

(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 further punished.

(d) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

In 2023–24, just over six in ten convicted appearances in the Magistrates Court resulted in a *fine* as the most serious outcome (62.1%), followed by *imprisonment* (10.7%). Also in 2023–24, over half of Magistrates Court convicted appearances had either *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* (33.2%) or *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* (22.0%) as MSO. The third-most common MSO in 2023–24 was *illicit drug offences* (8.9%), followed by *theft and related offences* (8.6%). Among the most common offences convicted in the Magistrates Court, *fine* was the most serious penalty for nine in ten (90.8%) convicted appearances with *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* as MSO, half (48.1%) with *offences against justice procedures, government security and government* as MSO (with the second-most common penalty for this offence being *imprisonment* at 13.2%), and just over six in ten (61.3%) with *illicit drug offences* as MSO. Among convicted appearances with *theft and related offences* as MSO, *fine* was the most serious penalty for nearly half (46.8%), followed by *imprisonment* (17.1%).

Among all convicted appearances, a proportional decrease in *fine* as the most serious penalty observed when comparing 2023–24 (62.1%) with the previous year (64.9%) coincided with a proportional increase in *imprisonment*, increasing to 10.7% of all penalties from 9.4% in 2022–23.

Table 20 Convicted adult appearances by most serious offence, by most serious penalty, Magistrates Court, 2023–24

Most serious penalty ^(a)	Imprisonment ^(b)	Intensive correction	Wholly suspended sentence	Community service	Probation	Other penalties	Fine	Compensation/Restitution	Good behaviour order	Driver licence disqual.	Nominal penalty ^(c)	Total
Most serious offence ^(d)	— number —											
Acts intended to cause injury	2,672	18	888	554	1,514	0	1,474	64	313	0	133	7,630
Sexual assault and related offences	35	1	45	15	64	0	48	5	8	0	4	225
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	470	8	255	104	581	0	3,471	6	56	54	26	5,031
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	153	1	34	13	102	0	166	3	145	0	8	625
Robbery, extortion and related offences	7	0	2	1	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	18
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	1,504	7	301	96	333	0	164	8	27	0	84	2,524
Theft and related offences	1,525	24	707	199	893	0	4,181	347	428	1	628	8,933
Fraud, deception and related offences	251	10	211	102	217	0	648	78	62	0	69	1,648
Illicit drug offences	385	7	365	74	592	1	5,693	0	1,708	0	456	9,281
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	171	2	115	73	419	0	1,533	1	184	0	239	2,737
Property damage and environmental pollution	245	0	147	150	308	0	1,141	232	157	0	108	2,488
Public order offences	159	1	133	210	127	0	3,211	14	337	0	529	4,721
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	545	13	638	158	578	0	31,350	1	207	855	187	34,532
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	3,015	13	2,105	407	2,144	0	11,007	18	1,329	1	2,868	22,907
Miscellaneous offences	8	0	9	6	29	0	591	3	67	0	75	788
Total	11,145	105	5,955	2,162	7,905	1	64,682	780	5,028	911	5,414	104,088

(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 further punished.

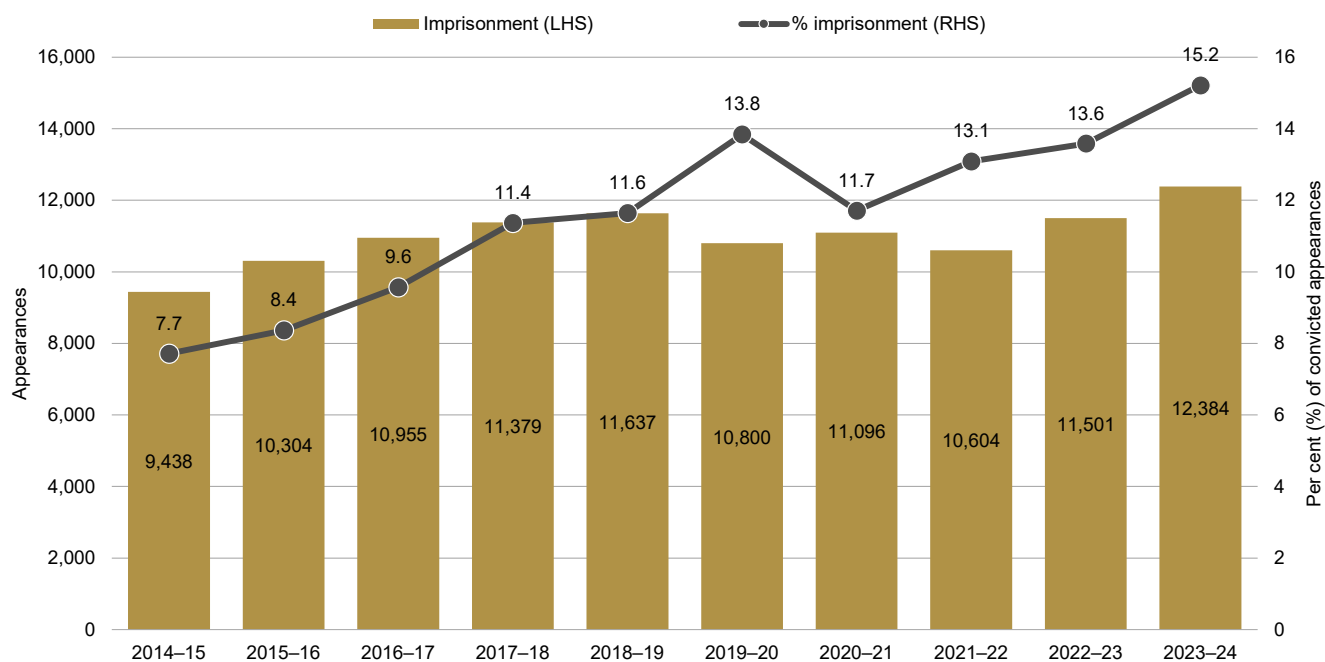
(d) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

4.2.5.1 Imprisonment

In 2023–24, compared with the previous year, the number of convicted adult appearances resulting in *imprisonment* increased similarly for both males (up 7.7%) and females (up 6.7%) (Figure 10 and Figure 11 – please note the difference in scale used for these figures). This increase follows the ten-year trend that can be observed. When comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15, convicted appearances resulting in *imprisonment* tended to increase among males (up 31.2%) and, to a slightly greater extent, females (up 35.6%). As a result of these increases, *imprisonment* made up a larger share of the penalties for convicted appearances over time, exceeding pre-COVID proportions for both males (15.2% of penalties) and females (8.3%) in 2023–24.

Of particular note, while the number of convicted appearances resulting in *imprisonment* fell in 2019–20, coinciding with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, *imprisonment* as a proportion of all outcomes increased in that year. This can be attributed to the postponement of less serious matters until normal court operations resumed following closures, which resulted in a spike in *imprisonment* as a proportion of all penalties for males in particular.

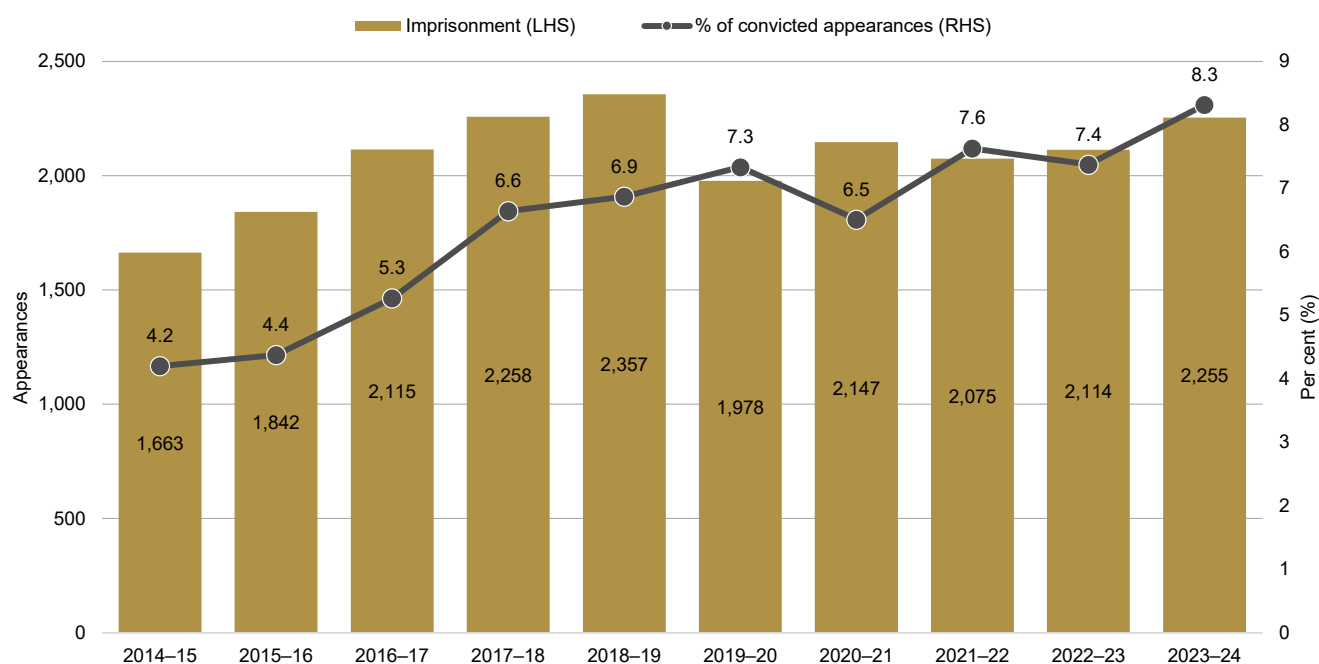
Figure 10 Convicted *adult male* appearances with a sentence of imprisonment^(a), all courts – time series^(b)



(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 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system (including children's courts) from February 2018

Figure 11 Convicted *adult female* appearances with a sentence of imprisonment^(a), all courts – time series^(b)



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

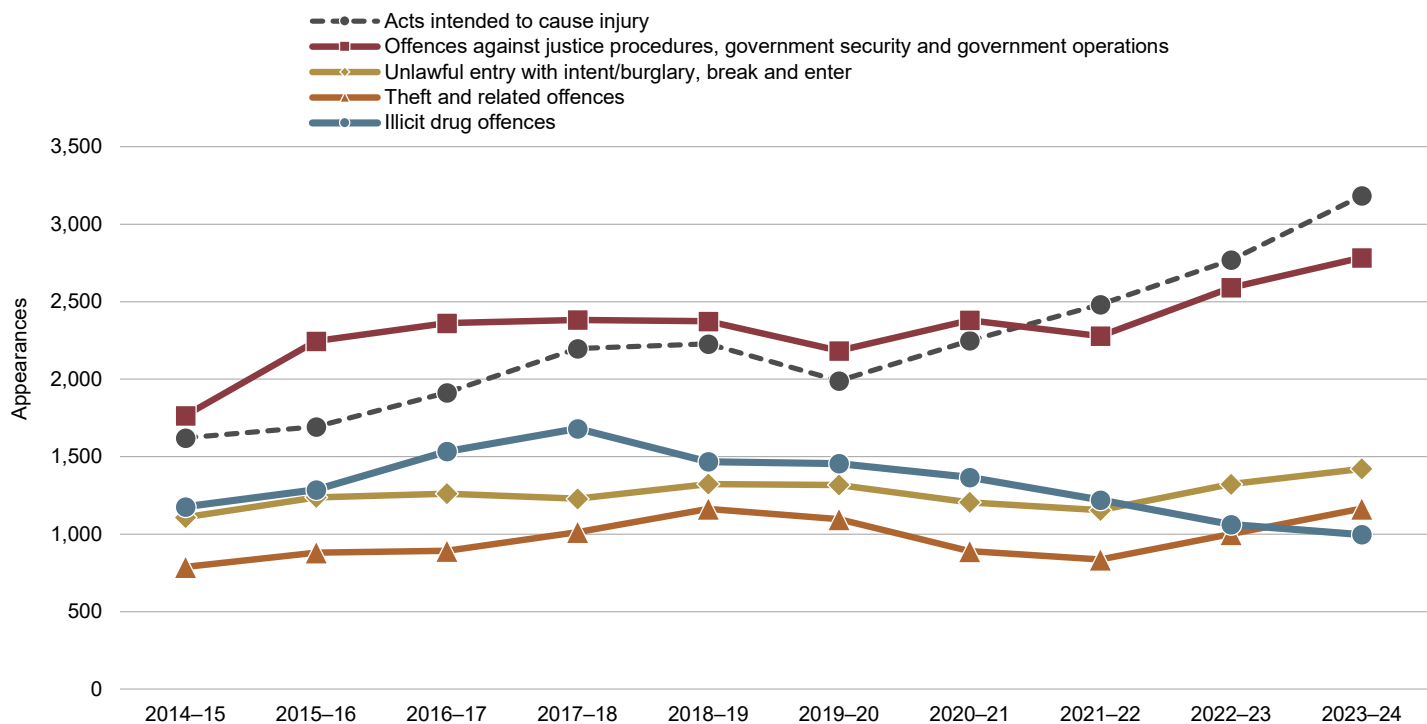
(b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system (including children's courts) from February 2018.

Figure 12 and Figure 13 show the top five MSOs for convicted appearances in 2023–24 which resulted in *imprisonment* sentences for both males and females. While the ordering and volume vary by gender, the top five MSOs resulting in *imprisonment* were consistent between males and females and comprised *acts intended to cause injury*, *illicit drug offences*, *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations*, *theft and related offences* and *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter*.

Convicted appearances resulting in *imprisonment* with *acts intended to cause injury* as MSO generally tended to increase when comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15 for both males (up 96.4%) and females (up 87.5%). While declines can be observed in 2019–20, coinciding with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, *imprisonment* for this offence steadily increased for both males (up 60.0%) and females (up 62.3%), becoming the most prevalent MSO resulting in *imprisonment* for both genders in 2023–24. For males, this was followed by *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations*, for which the number resulting in *imprisonment* has also tended to increase (up 57.7%) over the past decade since 2014–15. For females, the second-most common MSO resulting in *imprisonment* in 2023–24 was *theft and related offences*, which marks a substantial increase from the previous year (up 28.7%). This was followed *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations*, which remained relatively stable for females between 2019–20 and 2023–24.

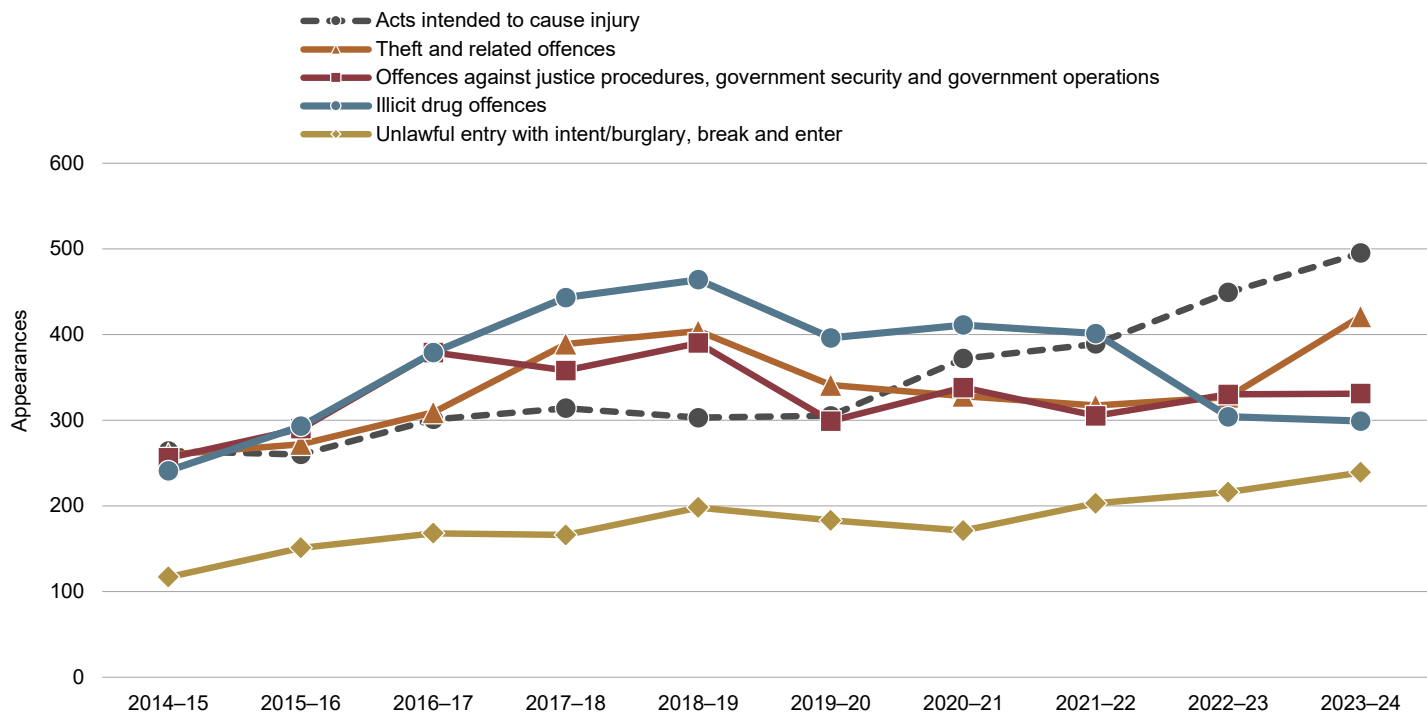
Imprisonment for *illicit drug offences* has declined for both males (–40.7%) and females (–35.6%) since peaking in 2017–18 and 2018–19, respectively.

Figure 12 Adult male imprisonment^(a) by the five most prevalent MSOs of 2023–24, all courts – time series^(b)



(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 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system (including children’s courts) from February 2018.

Figure 13 Adult female imprisonment^(a) by the five most prevalent MSOs of 2023–24, all courts – time series^(b)



(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 due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system (including children’s courts) from February 2018.

Table 21 shows the number of convicted Supreme Court appearances by most serious penalty, year and sex. In 2023–24, about eight in ten total convicted Supreme court appearances resulted in *imprisonment* as the most serious penalty (79.5%), and of these, the defendant was male in about three in four appearances (76.9%). Despite this, females represent a growing share of those with *imprisonment* as the most serious penalty over time. For example, in 2014–15, females represented about one in seven (14.7%) convicted appearances resulting in *imprisonment*, however, this has grown to nearly one in four (23.1%) in 2023–24.

In 2023–24, among male convicted appearances, *imprisonment* was the most common penalty (81.5%), with *nominal penalty* being the second most common (8.7%), followed by *wholly suspended sentence* (7.8%). Among females, *imprisonment* was also the most common penalty (73.4%), followed by *wholly suspended sentence* (17.9%) and *nominal penalty* (6.0%).

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

	2014–15		2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 ^(a)		2018–19		2019–20		2020–21		2021–22		2022–23		2023–24	
Sex	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Most serious penalty ^(b)	— number —																			
Imprisonment ^(c)	430	74	517	95	698	158	911	214	770	220	790	197	756	202	715	211	620	190	533	160
Intensive correction	2	1	6	3	1	2	0	1	1	4	2	2	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0
Wholly suspended sentence	49	18	66	18	93	29	73	34	62	27	56	24	56	34	77	26	72	39	51	39
Community service	2	0	2	2	6	0	4	1	2	1	0	2	1	2	2	4	6	0	0	0
Probation	4	3	6	5	15	9	16	5	13	15	10	11	14	10	14	4	16	12	6	5
Fine	1	1	3	1	13	3	6	3	4	2	1	1	6	1	2	1	3	2	6	1
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good behaviour order	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nominal penalty ^(d)	8	8	24	6	42	12	60	13	56	18	64	20	64	12	61	20	47	12	57	13
Total	496	107	627	130	869	214	1070	272	909	288	923	257	897	261	871	267	766	255	654	218

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

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

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

(d) Includes convicted not further punished.

Table 22 shows the number of convicted District Court appearances by most serious penalty, year and sex. In 2023–24, and consistently across the time series, *imprisonment* (69.8%) and *wholly suspended sentence* (12.8%) were the two most common penalties among all convicted appearances. Of those that resulted in *imprisonment* in 2023–24, nearly nine in ten (88.1%) convicted appearances had a male defendant, and this distribution has remained relatively consistent over the past decade.

In 2023–24, among males, *imprisonment* was the outcome in nearly three in four (72.0%) convicted appearances, whereas for females it was the most serious penalty for just over half (56.8%).

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

	2014–15		2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 ^(a)		2018–19		2019–20		2020–21		2021–22		2022–23		2023–24	
Sex ^(b)	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Most serious penalty ^(c)	— number —																			
Imprisonment ^(d)	1,938	272	1,856	273	2,121	357	2,437	345	2,547	379	2,423	339	2,319	327	2,378	372	2,271	308	2,468	333
Intensive correction	33	5	16	9	21	5	20	4	25	11	24	12	19	6	16	6	6	1	13	4
Wholly suspended sentence	354	88	450	113	453	91	435	110	510	118	499	116	430	111	498	125	462	114	403	111
Community service	90	30	84	12	109	23	69	12	73	15	55	18	38	12	52	10	46	14	30	8
Probation	149	58	147	57	226	83	208	79	249	83	194	106	142	52	197	86	176	63	178	69
Fine	105	18	115	19	100	18	112	16	118	17	96	13	87	19	111	22	109	18	66	11
Compensation/Restitution	0	1	4	0	9	2	8	2	9	2	5	1	6	0	5	2	6	0	6	0
Driver licence disqualification	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Good behaviour/Recognisance	21	9	16	14	21	12	37	18	25	13	25	6	18	4	23	5	19	10	25	12
Nominal penalty ^(e)	156	26	166	25	169	30	187	25	210	35	214	38	188	27	200	36	193	34	237	38
Total	2,846	507	2,854	522	3,229	621	3,514	611	3,766	673	3,536	649	3,247	558	3,481	664	3,288	562	3,426	586

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

(b) Excludes appearances where the sex of the defendant was not stated (11 across the time series)

(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 further punished.

Table 23 shows the number of convicted Magistrates Court appearances by most serious penalty, year and sex. In 2023–24, around six in ten (62.1%) total convicted appearances resulted in a *fine* as the most serious penalty. While males accounted about three in four (74.3%) convicted Magistrates Court appearances, *fin*es comprised a relatively equal proportion of all penalties imposed for males (61.7%) compared with females (62.8%) in 2023–24.

When comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15, the number of convicted appearances resulting in *fin*es as the most serious penalty declined for both males (–45.0) and females (–42.1%). Declines in convictions resulting in *good behaviour orders* were also observed for males (–51.6%) and, to a slightly lesser extent, females (–43.9%). Meanwhile the number of convictions resulting in *imprisonment* increased over the same period for both males (up 32.7%) and females (up 33.8%).

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

Sex	2014–15			2015–16			2016–17			2017–18 ^(a)			2018–19		
	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated
Most serious penalty ^(b)	— number —														
Imprisonment ^(c)	7,070	1,317	1	7,931	1,474	3	8,136	1,600	13	8,031	1,699	2	8,320	1,758	1
Intensive correction	152	54	0	160	76	0	166	59	0	160	49	0	145	53	0
Wholly suspended sentence	3,970	947	0	4,394	1,021	0	4,493	1,176	0	4,450	1,124	3	5,020	1,303	3
Community service	2,750	763	3	3,252	918	1	3,080	917	0	2,542	813	2	2,117	715	0
Probation	5,003	2,105	0	5,785	2,499	0	5,996	2,721	0	5,514	2,541	0	5,592	2,651	1
Other penalties ^(d)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	2	1	0
Fine	86,740	28,559	688	86,136	30,177	514	77,311	27,858	466	64,899	22,606	291	64,212	22,459	298
Compensation/Restitution	658	349	0	591	367	1	597	324	1	525	293	0	587	348	1
Driver licence disqualification	457	185	0	548	225	0	490	180	0	324	125	0	347	158	0
Good behaviour order	6,793	3,085	10	6,437	3,215	3	5,868	2,969	5	5,207	2,474	8	5,150	2,576	3
Nominal penalty ^(e)	5,403	1,604	21	4,468	1,470	16	4,272	1,502	13	3,863	1,386	9	3,803	1,311	3
Total	118,996	38,968	723	119,703	41,442	538	110,409	39,306	498	95,518	33,111	315	95,295	33,333	310

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

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

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

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

(e) Includes convicted not further punished.

Table 23 continued.

	2019–20			2020–21			2021–22			2022–23			2023–24		
Sex	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female	Not stated
Most serious penalty ^(a)	— number —														
Imprisonment ^(b)	7,587	1,442	0	8,021	1,618	1	7,511	1,492	0	8,610	1,616	0	9,383	1,762	0
Intensive correction	111	40	0	146	45	0	118	40	0	95	31	0	67	38	0
Wholly suspended sentence	3,930	1,044	2	4,846	1,323	3	4,545	1,226	0	4,714	1,210	0	4,678	1,271	6
Community service	1,535	461	2	1,864	635	2	1,662	590	2	1,620	580	0	1,569	589	4
Probation	4,431	2,165	1	5,648	2,788	3	5,123	2,309	0	5,188	2,463	1	5,342	2,563	0
Other penalties ^(c)	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Fine	48,283	17,371	266	60,975	21,637	219	49,810	17,236	197	52,062	18,246	316	47,734	16,530	418
Compensation/Restitution	498	258	2	550	328	1	562	282	0	512	274	0	513	267	0
Driver licence disqualification	328	136	0	421	130	0	449	141	0	670	236	0	670	241	0
Good behaviour order	4,007	2,054	4	4,680	2,409	5	3,563	1,806	7	3,435	1,897	6	3,290	1,730	8
Nominal penalty ^(d)	2,872	1,082	10	3,471	1,249	14	3,325	1,137	7	3,718	1,291	8	4,090	1,316	8
Total	73,582	26,054	287	90,623	32,163	248	76,669	26,259	213	80,624	27,844	331	77,337	26,307	444

(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 further punished.

4.2.6 Age and sex

Table 24 shows convicted adult appearances by court type, age group, sex, and year. In 2023–24, males represented three in four (74.7%) among all convicted court appearances regardless of court type. Males represented a slightly larger share of convicted District court appearances, at 85.4% in 2023–24.

Male defendants aged 20–29 years had the greatest number of convicted appearances, representing 30.3% of all male convicted appearances in 2023–24. This represents a slight proportional decrease from previous years, as older cohorts make up slightly larger proportions over time, consistent with an ageing offender population. For example, among all male convicted appearances, those aged 50 years and over made up 12.3% in 2021–22, 13.1% in 2022–23 and 14.1% in 2023–24.

Among all convicted female appearances, females aged 30–39 years made up the largest cohort, at 30.8% in 2023–24. This marks a slight shift from previous years, as females aged 20–29 years previously made up the largest share of female convicted appearances in 2022–23 (31.7%) and 2021–22 (32.4%). This may indicate an ageing offender population among females as well, with defendants aged 50 years and over making up 10.3% in 2021–22, 11.3% in 2022–23, and 11.6% in 2023–24. Growth in the number of convicted appearances among female defendants aged 50 years and older was particularly apparent in the Supreme court, making up 7.1% of female convicted appearances in 2021–22 and 13.3% in 2023–24 (up 6.2 ppt or 10 appearances).

In 2023–24, convicted appearances for defendants aged 18–19, 20–29 and 30–39 years declined for both males and females when compared with the previous year, while convicted appearances for all age cohorts declined for females and convicted appearances for male defendants aged 40 years and over increased slightly.

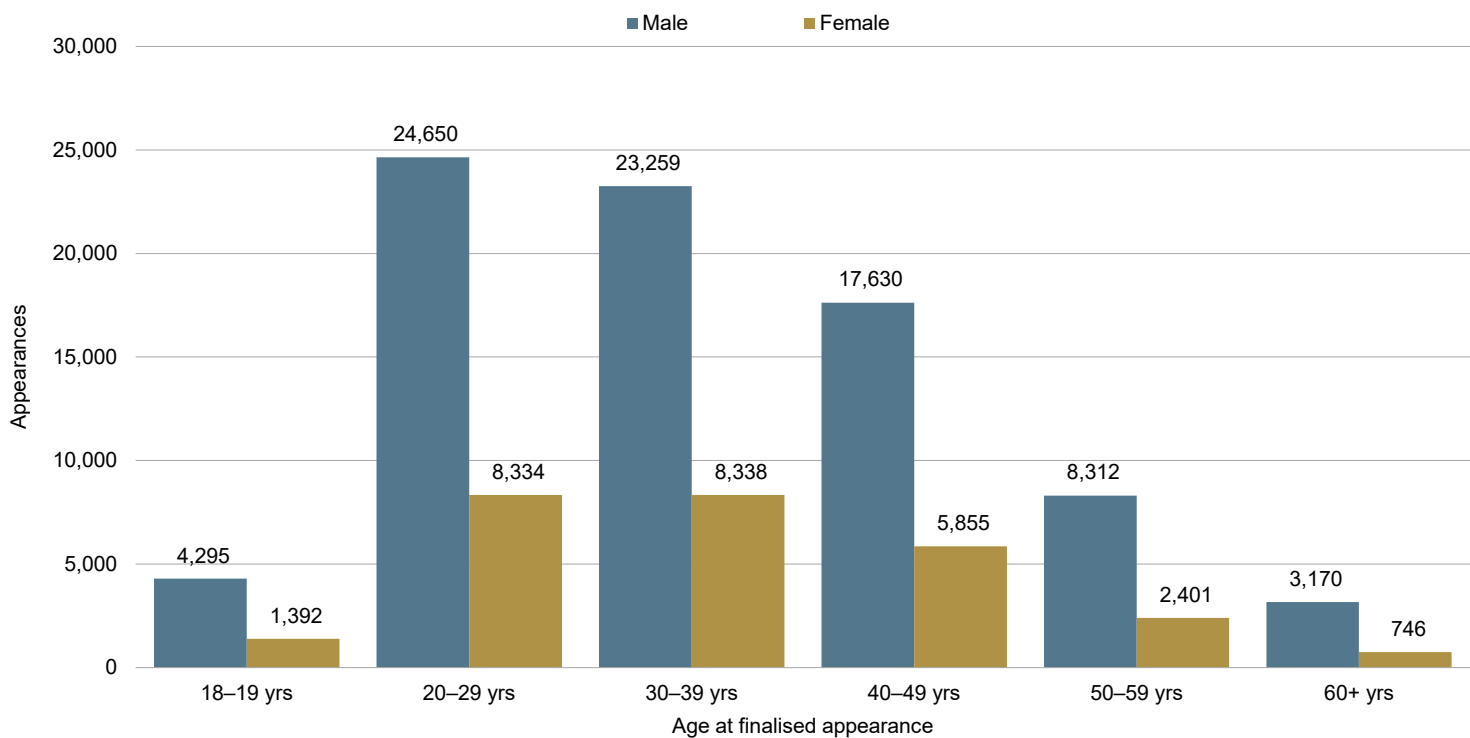
Table 24 Convicted adult appearances by court type, by age and sex

Sex	2021–22				2022–23				2023–24			
	Male	Female	Not stated	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total
Court type Age at finalised appearance	— number —											
Supreme Court	871	267	0	1,138	766	255	0	1,021	654	218	0	872
18–19 yrs	7	3	0	10	5	2	0	7	3	1	0	4
20–29 yrs	280	83	0	363	226	66	0	292	177	49	0	226
30–39 yrs	351	107	0	458	314	103	0	417	263	87	0	350
40–49 yrs	158	55	0	213	150	64	0	214	147	52	0	199
50–59 yrs	64	13	0	77	50	14	0	64	48	22	0	70
60 yrs and over	9	6	0	15	21	6	0	27	16	7	0	23
Not stated	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
District Court	3,481	664	0	4,145	3,288	562	0	3,850	3,426	586	2	4,014
18–19 yrs	97	26	0	123	103	15	0	118	84	20	0	104
20–29 yrs	1,207	206	0	1,413	1,129	186	0	1,315	1,116	197	1	1,314
30–39 yrs	1,025	199	0	1,224	958	178	0	1,136	1,078	200	0	1,278
40–49 yrs	643	139	0	782	635	111	0	746	662	89	0	751
50–59 yrs	319	67	0	386	312	51	0	363	309	59	1	369
60 yrs and over	189	27	0	216	150	21	0	171	177	21	0	198
Not stated	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Magistrates Court	76,669	26,259	213	103,141	80,624	27,844	331	108,799	77,337	26,307	444	104,088
18–19 yrs	4,685	1,423	2	6,110	4,685	1,416	8	6,109	4,208	1,371	8	5,587
20–29 yrs	25,265	8,517	42	33,824	25,618	8,840	79	34,537	23,357	8,088	98	31,543
30–39 yrs	21,911	8,159	64	30,134	22,967	8,564	79	31,610	21,918	8,051	115	30,084
40–49 yrs	15,291	5,401	29	20,721	16,679	5,823	61	22,563	16,821	5,714	87	22,622
50–59 yrs	6,885	2,106	27	9,018	7,699	2,404	28	10,131	7,955	2,320	50	10,325
60 yrs and over	2,532	595	10	3,137	2,857	735	20	3,612	2,977	718	32	3,727
Not stated	100	58	39	197	119	62	56	237	101	45	54	200
All Courts (total)												
18–19 yrs	4,789	1,452	2	6,243	4,793	1,433	8	6,234	4,295	1,392	8	5,695
20–29 yrs	26,752	8,806	42	35,600	26,973	9,092	79	36,144	24,650	8,334	99	33,083
30–39 yrs	23,287	8,465	64	31,816	24,239	8,845	79	33,163	23,259	8,338	115	31,712
40–49 yrs	16,092	5,595	29	21,716	17,464	5,998	61	23,523	17,630	5,855	87	23,572
50–59 yrs	7,268	2,186	27	9,481	8,061	2,469	28	10,558	8,312	2,401	51	10,764
60 yrs and over	2,730	628	10	3,368	3,028	762	20	3,810	3,170	746	32	3,948
Not stated	103	58	39	200	120	62	56	238	101	45	54	200
Total – all courts	81,021	27,190	213	108,424	84,678	28,661	331	113,670	81,417	27,111	446	108,974

Figure 14 shows convicted adult appearances of males and females by age group, where both the age and sex of defendants were known. The defendant was aged between 20–39 years in around six in ten convicted appearances among males (58.9%) and females (61.6%) in 2023–24.

The difference between sex and age (where known) was most pronounced among appearances where the defendant was aged 60 years or older, with the number of convicted appearances among males being 4.2 times that for females of the same age. This was followed by those aged 50–59 years, with the number of convicted appearances among males being 3.5 times that for females in 2023–24.

Figure 14 Convicted adult appearances^(a) by age and sex, all courts, 2023–24



(a) Excludes appearances where the age and/or sex of the defendant were not stated (54 appearances where both age and sex were not stated, 392 appearances where sex was not stated and 146 appearances where age was not stated).

Table 25 shows convicted charges by court type, age group, sex and year, including those where age and sex were not stated. In 2023–24, the number of convicted charges declined for males aged 18–19 years (–8.8%) and 20–29 years (–4.2%) when compared with the previous year, while the number of convicted charges among all other male age groups increased.

There were declines in the number of all convicted appearances for defendants in the age groups of 18–19, 20–29 and 30–39 years for both males and females in 2023–24 compared with 2022–23 (Table 24) while the number of convicted charges for these age groups did not decline as substantially. As a result, the average number of convicted charges per appearance tended to increase for these cohorts as charges were shared among fewer appearances. For example, the average number of convicted charges per convicted appearance for females aged 18–19 years increased from 2.5 in 2021–22 to 2.7 in 2023–24. The highest average number of charges per appearance in 2023–24 was observed for males aged 30–39 years, at 3.3 convicted charges per convicted appearance.

When examined by court type, the highest average number of convicted charges per convicted appearance can be observed in the Supreme Court, at an average of 6.7 charges per appearance in 2023–24. It is important to note that some growth in the number of convicted charges does not correspond to equivalent growth in the number of convicted appearances, meaning many charges may have been brought per appearance.

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

Sex	2021–22				2022–23				2023–24			
	Male	Female	Not stated	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total	Male	Female	Not stated	Total
Court type Age at finalised appearance	— number —											
Supreme Court	6,835	1,966	0	8,801	5,622	1,671	0	7,293	4,508	1,367	0	5,875
18–19 yrs	55	22	0	77	43	7	0	50	25	13	0	38
20–29 yrs	2,382	554	0	2,936	1,665	390	0	2,055	1,317	360	0	1,677
30–39 yrs	2,773	806	0	3,579	2,312	744	0	3,056	1,820	481	0	2,301
40–49 yrs	1,143	441	0	1,584	1,154	442	0	1,596	987	360	0	1,347
50–59 yrs	403	127	0	530	303	58	0	361	291	122	0	413
60 yrs and over	74	16	0	90	145	30	0	175	68	31	0	99
Not stated	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
District Court	17,737	2,989	0	20,726	15,265	2,213	0	17,478	15,239	2,072	4	17,315
10–19 yrs	563	98	0	661	489	44	0	533	370	57	0	427
20–29 yrs	5,779	904	0	6,683	5,150	778	0	5,928	4,912	677	1	5,590
30–39 yrs	5,712	1,041	0	6,753	4,719	797	0	5,516	5,024	778	0	5,802
40–49 yrs	3,078	619	0	3,697	2,893	351	0	3,244	3,020	310	0	3,330
50–59 yrs	1,736	256	0	1,992	1,311	190	0	1,501	1,152	190	3	1,345
60 yrs and over	868	71	0	939	702	53	0	755	761	60	0	821
Not stated	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Magistrates Court	209,465	71,551	388	281,404	223,326	74,666	553	298,545	228,369	75,636	795	304,800
18–19 yrs	12,961	3,483	3	16,447	14,114	3,643	9	17,766	12,957	3,723	12	16,692
20–29 yrs	69,210	24,182	54	93,446	72,235	25,280	102	97,617	69,523	24,154	119	93,796
30–39 yrs	65,514	24,635	78	90,227	69,116	25,071	99	94,286	70,973	25,736	151	96,860
40–49 yrs	42,213	13,887	32	56,132	45,695	14,483	84	60,262	50,399	15,832	119	66,350
50–59 yrs	14,900	4,207	39	19,146	16,969	4,872	42	21,883	18,783	4,916	58	23,757
60 yrs and over	4,509	1,071	20	5,600	4,954	1,212	22	6,188	5,503	1,159	57	6,719
Not stated	158	86	162	406	243	105	195	543	231	116	279	626
All courts												
18–19 yrs	13,579	3,603	3	17,185	14,646	3,694	9	18,349	13,352	3,793	12	17,157
20–29 yrs	77,371	25,640	54	103,065	79,050	26,448	102	105,600	75,752	25,191	120	101,063
30–39 yrs	73,999	26,482	78	100,559	76,147	26,612	99	102,858	77,817	26,995	151	104,963
40–49 yrs	46,434	14,947	32	61,413	49,742	15,276	84	65,102	54,406	16,502	119	71,027
50–59 yrs	17,039	4,590	39	21,668	18,583	5,120	42	23,745	20,226	5,228	61	25,515
60 yrs and over	5,451	1,158	20	6,629	5,801	1,295	22	7,118	6,332	1,250	57	7,639
Not stated	164	86	162	412	244	105	195	544	231	116	279	626
Total – all courts	234,037	76,506	388	310,931	244,213	78,550	553	323,316	248,116	79,075	799	327,990

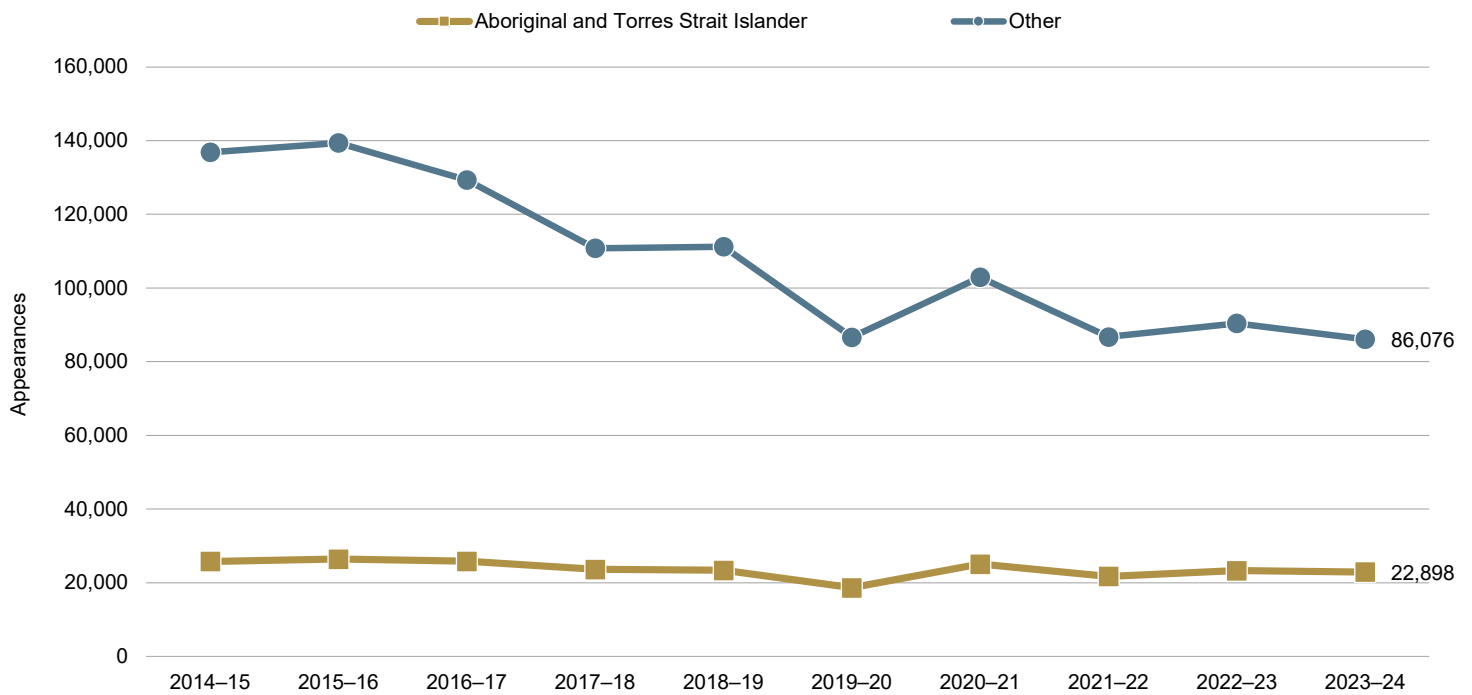
4.2.7 Indigenous status

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, or neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander (non-Indigenous). All are grouped and reported collectively as ‘Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander’ in this report. ‘Other’ collectively represents both non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status is not stated.

The number of convicted appearances for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults has been relatively stable over the time series in comparison to other adults (Figure 15). In 2014–15, there were 25,779 convicted appearances for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults. This remained relatively stable, before declining to 18,652 appearances in 2019–20, followed by an increase to 25,053 appearances in 2020–21 (up 34.3%). The number of convicted appearances for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults has not changed substantially between 2021–22 and 2023–24.

The number of convicted appearances for other adults has declined when comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15, to 86,076 from 136,864 (–37.1%), save for an increase in 2020–21 from the previous year coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic. While remaining relatively stable since 2021–22, the number of convicted appearances among other adults declined slightly when comparing 2023–24 with the previous year (–4.8%).

Figure 15 Convicted adult appearances by Indigenous status^(a), all courts – time series

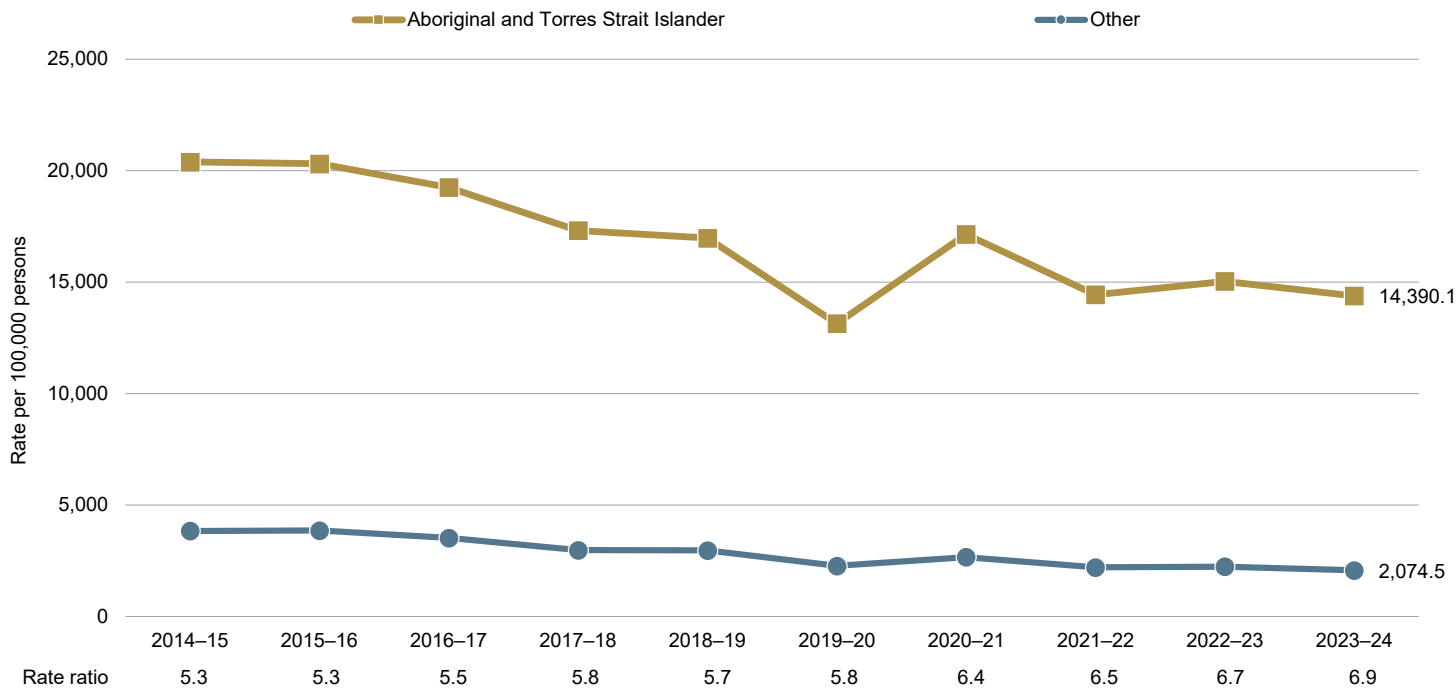


(a) ‘Other’ represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.

When accounting for population differences, the rate of convicted appearances per 100,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults illustrates the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults among court appearances relative to their representation in the general population (Figure 16). Despite this, the rate of convicted appearances per 100,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults has declined when comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15 (–29.4%), meaning relative stability in the number of convicted appearances (Figure 15 above) has coincided with general population growth among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults.

The rate of convicted appearances per 100,000 other adults has declined when comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15 (–46.0%). As a result, the difference between the convicted appearance rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other adults has grown over the past decade, with the rate among 100,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults up to 6.9 times that of other adults in 2023–24, from 5.3 times higher in 2014–15 (see the rate ratio in Figure 16 below).

Figure 16 Convicted adult appearance rate^(a) by Indigenous status^(b), all courts – time series



- (a) Rate ratio presented in this figure 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.
- (b) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.

Overall, the number of convicted appearances have tended to decline for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other males and females across all adult courts over the past decade, largely driven by declines in convicted appearances observed in the Magistrates Court (Table 26).

In 2023–24, the number of convicted appearances among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults did not change substantially for males (–2.0%) or females (–0.7%) across all courts when compared with the previous year. Among other adults, however, the number of convicted appearances declined for males (–4.3%) and females (–7.0%) when comparing 2023–24 with 2022–23.

Among appearances convicted in the Supreme Court over the past decade, the most substantial growth when comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15 can be observed for females, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females in particular (up 250.0%) relative to other females (up 91.9%). In the District Court, the growth for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults was more substantial relative to other adults over the past decade, and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (up 56.1%) in particular, relative to their female counterparts (up 43.2%).

Table 26 Convicted adult appearances by court type, sex and Indigenous status – time series

Court type	Supreme Court			District Court				Magistrates Court				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 —														
2014–15															
Indigenous	30	8	38	497	118	0	615	17,170	7,956	0	25,126	17,697	8,082		25,779
Other ^(a)	466	99	565	2,349	389	0	2,738	101,826	31,012	723	133,561	104,641	31,500	723	136,864
Total	496	107	603	2,846	507	0	3,353	118,996	38,968	723	158,687	122,338	39,582	723	162,643
2015–16															
Indigenous	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															
Indigenous	54	10	64	512	127	0	639	17,060	8,046	0	25,106	17,626	8,183		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
2017–18^(b)															
Indigenous	46	12	58	646	141	0	787	15,427	7,360	0	22,787	16,119	7,513		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															
Indigenous	50	26	76	641	139	0	780	15,300	7,205	0	22,505	15,991	7,370		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															
Indigenous	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	20,526	286	82,156	65,076	21,274	286	86,636
Total	923	257	1,180	3,536	649	0	4,185	73,582	26,054	287	99,923	78,041	26,960	287	105,288
2020–21															
Indigenous	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	74,254	24,368	246	98,868	77,693	25,005	250	102,948
Total	897	261	1,158	3,247	558	4	3,809	90,623	32,163	248	123,034	94,767	32,982	252	128,001

(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 (including children's courts) from February 2018.

Table 26 continued.

Court type	Supreme Court			District Court				Magistrates Court				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 —														
2021–22															
Indigenous	66	30	96	671	150	0	821	14,302	6,492	0	20,794	15,039	6,672		21,711
Other ^(a)	805	237	1,042	2,810	514	0	3,324	62,367	19,767	213	82,347	65,982	20,518	213	86,713
Total	871	267	1,138	3,481	664	0	4,145	76,669	26,259	213	103,141	81,021	27,190	213	108,424
2022–23															
Indigenous	60	18	78	720	139	0	859	15,350	6,983	1	22,334	16,130	7,140	1	23,271
Other ^(a)	706	237	943	2,568	423	0	2,991	65,274	20,861	330	86,465	68,548	21,521	330	90,399
Total	766	255	1,021	3,288	562	0	3,850	80,624	27,844	331	108,799	84,678	28,661	331	113,670
2023–24															
Indigenous	49	28	77	776	169	0	945	14,979	6,896	1	21,876	15,804	7,093	1	22,898
Other ^(a)	605	190	795	2,650	417	2	3,069	62,358	19,411	443	82,212	65,613	20,018	445	86,076
Total	654	218	872	3,426	586	2	4,014	77,337	26,307	444	104,088	81,417	27,111	446	108,974

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

Overall, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults were defendants in about two in ten (20.9%) convicted appearances in the Supreme and District Courts in 2023–24. This represents a slightly larger share of all convicted adult appearances when compared with 2022–23 (19.2%) and 2021–22 (17.4%). *Acts intended to cause injury* was the most common MSO among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults, making up 35.7% of convicted appearances in 2023–24, followed by *robbery, extortion and related offences* (15.3%) and *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* (12.7%). For other defendants, the most common MSO was *illicit drug offences* (29.6%), followed by *acts intended to cause injury* (23.7%) and *sexual assault and related offences* (16.9%).

In 2023–24, among convicted adult appearances with *robbery, extortion and related offences* as MSO, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults made up 36.9% of the total, up from 29.6% in 2021–22. Where *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* was MSO, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults made up 31.1% of convicted appearances, up from 21.7% in 2021–22.

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

Indigenous status	2021–22			2022–23			2023–24		
	Indigenous	Other ^(a)	Total	Indigenous	Other ^(a)	Total	Indigenous	Other ^(a)	Total
Most serious offence (MSO)	— number —								
Homicide and related offences	19	28	47	11	53	64	9	43	52
Acts intended to cause injury	373	887	1,260	331	831	1,162	365	916	1,281
Sexual assault and related offences	89	674	763	100	601	701	97	654	751
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	14	92	106	18	71	89	18	67	85
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	14	51	65	16	43	59	15	35	50
Robbery, extortion and related offences	105	250	355	160	265	425	156	267	423
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	52	188	240	62	148	210	57	126	183
Theft and related offences	12	82	94	15	96	111	21	82	103
Fraud, deception and related offences	7	112	119	2	113	115	5	114	119
Illicit drug offences	128	1,548	1,676	106	1,308	1,414	124	1,142	1,266
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	1	24	25	1	11	12	1	14	15
Property damage and environmental pollution	27	88	115	32	80	112	23	70	93
Public order offences	9	11	20	3	9	12	1	8	9
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	1	1	1	2	3	0	1	1
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	66	316	382	79	294	373	130	314	444
Miscellaneous offences	1	14	15	0	9	9	0	11	11
Total	917	4,366	5,283	937	3,934	4,871	1,022	3,864	4,886

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

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults were defendants in about one in five (21.0%) convicted appearances in the Magistrates Court in 2023–24, which was relatively consistent with the previous two years. However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults were defendants in around two in five convicted appearances for *public order offences* (39.7%) and *robbery, extortion and related offences* (38.9%) in 2023–24.

Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations was the most common MSO among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander convicted adult appearances, with almost three in ten convictions being related to this offence (28.9%) in 2023–24, consistent with previous years. For other adults, the most common MSO was *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences*, making up nearly four in ten convictions (37.8%) in 2023–24.

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

Indigenous status	2021–22			2022–23			2023–24		
	Indigenous	Other ^(a)	Total	Indigenous	Other ^(a)	Total	Indigenous	Other ^(a)	Total
Most serious offence (MSO) ^(b)	— number —								
Acts intended to cause injury	2,426	4,154	6,580	2,945	4,483	7,428	3,218	4,412	7,630
Sexual assault and related offences	48	165	213	53	173	226	38	187	225
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	762	5,000	5,762	706	4,850	5,556	676	4,355	5,031
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	79	362	441	134	467	601	157	468	625
Robbery, extortion and related offences	8	7	15	2	11	13	7	11	18
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	659	1,458	2,117	852	1,503	2,355	893	1,631	2,524
Theft and related offences	1,653	6,213	7,866	1,954	6,497	8,451	2,165	6,768	8,933
Fraud, deception and related offences	267	1,429	1,696	259	1,418	1,677	237	1,411	1,648
Illicit drug offences	1,750	10,152	11,902	1,584	9,011	10,595	1,546	7,735	9,281
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	344	2,210	2,554	377	2,209	2,586	444	2,293	2,737
Property damage and environmental pollution	811	1,875	2,686	789	1,777	2,566	765	1,723	2,488
Public order offences	2,352	3,506	5,858	2,170	3,085	5,255	1,873	2,848	4,721
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	3,720	29,058	32,778	3,859	33,293	37,152	3,461	31,071	34,532
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	5,848	15,958	21,806	6,580	16,940	23,520	6,331	16,576	22,907
Miscellaneous offences	67	800	867	70	748	818	65	723	788
Total	20,794	82,347	103,141	22,334	86,465	108,799	21,876	82,212	104,088

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

(b) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

In 2023–24, the total number of convicted adult higher court appearances (4,886) did not substantially change compared with the previous year (4,871). In one in five (20.9%) convicted higher court adult appearances, the defendant identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, with the number of convicted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adult appearances up 11.5% in 2023–24 compared with 2021–22.

Imprisonment was the most serious outcome in eight in ten (79.5%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander convicted higher court appearances in 2023–24, making it the most common penalty in higher courts, followed by *nominal penalty* (9.0%) and *wholly suspended sentence* (6.8%). To a slightly lesser extent, *imprisonment* was the most common outcome among convicted appearances for other adults, being the most serious penalty in about seven in ten appearances (69.4%) in 2023–24, followed by *wholly suspended sentence* (13.8%) and *nominal penalty* (6.5%).

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

Indigenous status	2021–22			2022–23			2023–24		
	Indigenous	Other ^(a)	Total	Indigenous	Other ^(a)	Total	Indigenous	Other ^(a)	Total
Most serious penalty ^(b)	— number —								
Imprisonment ^(c)	738	2,938	3,676	737	2,652	3,389	813	2,682	3,495
Intensive correction	4	19	23	1	8	9	1	17	18
Wholly suspended sentence	64	662	726	84	603	687	70	535	605
Community service	8	60	68	9	57	66	3	35	38
Probation	36	265	301	27	240	267	35	223	258
Fine	5	131	136	11	121	132	3	81	84
Compensation/Restitution	0	7	7	0	6	6	0	6	6
Good behaviour order	4	24	28	2	27	29	5	32	37
Driver licence disqualification	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nominal penalty ^(d)	58	259	317	66	220	286	92	253	345
Total	917	4,366	5,283	937	3,934	4,871	1,022	3,864	4,886

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

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

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

(d) Includes convicted not further punished.

In 2023–24, the number of convicted Magistrates Court appearances for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults declined slightly (–2.1%) from the previous year. The defendant identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in about two in ten convicted adult appearances (21.0%) in 2023–24, which was largely consistent with previous years.

Fine was the most common penalty among convicted Magistrate Court appearances, being the most serious penalty in nearly half of the convicted appearances for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults (46.7%) and for two-thirds of convicted appearances for other adults (66.3%). *Imprisonment* was the second-most common penalty, imposed for one in five convicted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander appearances (20.1%) and less than one in ten convicted appearances for other adults (8.2%).

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

	2021–22			2022–23			2023–24		
Indigenous status	Indigenous	Other ^(a)	Total	Indigenous	Other ^(a)	Total	Indigenous	Other ^(a)	Total
Most serious penalty ^(b)	— number —								
Imprisonment ^(c)	3,306	5,697	9,003	3,894	6,332	10,226	4,404	6,741	11,145
Intensive correction	37	121	158	36	90	126	19	86	105
Wholly suspended sentence	1,630	4,141	5,771	1,760	4,164	5,924	1,819	4,136	5,955
Community service	764	1,490	2,254	748	1,452	2,200	665	1,497	2,162
Probation	1,850	5,582	7,432	1,996	5,656	7,652	2,186	5,719	7,905
Other penalties ^(d)	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Fine	11,007	56,236	67,243	11,377	59,247	70,624	10,215	54,467	64,682
Compensation/Restitution	181	663	844	192	594	786	156	624	780
Good behaviour order	758	4,618	5,376	738	4,600	5,338	794	4,234	5,028
Driver licence disqualification	98	492	590	155	751	906	125	786	911
Nominal penalty ^(e)	1,163	3,306	4,469	1,438	3,579	5,017	1,493	3,921	5,414
Total	20,794	82,347	103,141	22,334	86,465	108,799	21,876	82,212	104,088

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

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

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

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

(e) Includes convicted not further punished.

4.3 Children

In Queensland, child defendants may be dealt with in the Childrens Court (Magistrates), the Childrens Court of Queensland (District Court), the District Court or the Supreme Court, for offences committed when the defendant was aged 10–17 years. 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'.

The *Strengthening Community Safety Act 2023* which commenced on 22 March 2023, included several amendments impacting bail, including breach of a bail condition as an offence for a young person. The breach offence applies only where the condition was part of a bail undertaking that the child entered into after the commencement of the changes.

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 defendant 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).

4.3.1 Finalised appearances

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

In 2023–24, there were 9,170 child appearances finalised in Queensland courts. Of these, more than eight in ten (85.8%) were adjudicated. Of those appearances that were adjudicated, more than nine in ten (96.4%) in the higher courts and over eight in ten (84.6%) in the Childrens Court (Magistrates) resulted in a conviction.

Robbery, extortion and related offences was the most common MSO among higher court appearances, accounting for over half (55.8%) of convicted appearances in 2023–24, followed by *acts intended to cause injury* (17.9%) and *sexual assault and related offences* (6.6%). Of all *sexual assault and related offences* appearances in the higher courts in 2023–24, about six in ten (63.1%) were adjudicated and, of those adjudicated, seven in ten (69.8%) resulted in conviction.

Among Childrens Court appearances, *theft and related offences* was the most common MSO, accounting for just over a quarter (27.7%) of convicted appearances in 2023–24, followed closely by *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* (24.4%) and *acts intended to cause injury* (16.9%). Of all *robbery, extortion and related offences* appearances in the Childrens Court, three quarters (75.7%) were not adjudicated, meaning that the charges were withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication. For appearances with *sexual assault and related offences* as MSO, just over half (55.2%) were adjudicated in 2023–24 and, of those adjudicated, about seven in ten (68.8%) appearances resulted in a conviction.

Table 31 Finalised child appearances by method of finalisation and outcome, by MSO, by court type, 2023–24

Court type	Higher courts ^(a)			Childrens Court (Magistrates)		
Method of finalisation/outcome	Adjudicated		Non-Adjudicated ^(c)	Adjudicated		Non-Adjudicated ^(c)
	Convicted	Not convicted ^(b)		Convicted	Not convicted ^(b)	
Most serious offence (MSO)	— number —			— number —		
Acts intended to cause injury	100	1	14	1,039	96	140
Sexual assault and related offences	37	16	31	11	5	13
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	9	0	1	271	46	32
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	1	0	0	45	5	3
Robbery, extortion and related offences	312	0	44	22	3	78
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	18	1	2	1,505	72	352
Theft and related offences	24	0	5	1,704	328	248
Fraud, deception and related offences	1	0	0	57	11	3
Illicit drug offences	14	0	0	152	57	39
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	0	0	1	206	41	16
Property damage and environmental pollution	17	1	1	255	69	49
Public order offences	0	0	0	166	79	44
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	0	157	183	20
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	18	0	0	566	125	164
Miscellaneous offences	0	0	0	5	4	1
Total	559	21	102	6,161	1,124	1,203

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

(b) Excludes appearances which were not adjudicated.

(c) 'Non-adjudicated' appearances include those where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, these appearances may be replaced by a new case with amended charges.

4.3.2 Convicted appearances

In 2023–24, the total number of convicted child appearances in the higher courts declined when compared with the previous year (–5.9%). This overall decline coincided with declines in the number of appearances with *acts intended to cause injury* (–22.5%) and *property damage and environmental pollution* (–37.0%) as MSO when comparing 2023–24 with the previous year.

The most common MSO among convicted child appearances in the higher courts in 2023–24 was *robbery, extortion and related offences*, accounting for more than half (55.8%) of convicted appearances, followed by *acts intended to cause injury* (17.9%) and *sexual assault and related offences* (6.6%).

Increases in the number of convicted appearances were more apparent among some MSOs relative to others after the transition of 17-year-old offenders to the youth justice system in 2017–18. For example, the number of appearances with MSO of *acts intended to cause injury, robbery, extortion and related offences* and *dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons* increased when comparing each subsequent year with 2016–17 (prior to the transition).

Table 32 Convicted child appearances by most serious offence, all higher courts^(a) – time series^(b)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Most serious offence (MSO) ^(c)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	5	8
Acts intended to cause injury	57	57	59	68	132	127	106	101	129	100
Sexual assault and related offences	40	29	46	36	42	54	41	34	31	37
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	5	6	4	4	9	11	9	11	14	9
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	2	1	3	2	3	3	9	1	4	1
Robbery, extortion and related offences	96	132	133	133	257	344	287	288	317	312
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	23	25	21	18	25	33	14	24	16	18
Theft and related offences	6	6	10	13	18	33	17	18	23	24
Fraud, deception and related offences	0	1	0	1	1	2	4	2	3	1
Illicit drug offences	5	3	12	13	30	23	17	15	7	14
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Property damage and environmental pollution	21	18	25	27	34	32	19	25	27	17
Public order offences	0	1	1	21	2	0	1	1	1	0
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	27	24	13	14	17	17	16	18	17	18
Total	285	304	328	351	572	681	543	539	594	559

(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 (including children's courts) from February 2018.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero value.

In 2023–24, the total number of child appearances convicted in the Childrens Court increased (up 10.6%) when compared with the previous year. This overall increase coincided with an increase in the number of convicted appearances with *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* as MSO (up 92.5%), which may in part reflect the introduction of 'breach of bail condition' as a new criminal offence for children in March 2023 (see Section 2.3 for more information).

The most common MSO among convicted appearances in the Childrens Court in 2023–24 was *theft and related offences*, accounting for over a quarter (27.7%) of convicted appearances, followed by *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* (24.4%) and *acts intended to cause injury* (16.9%). *Theft and related offences* accounted for a larger proportion of convicted appearances in 2023–24 when compared with the previous six years.

Table 33 Convicted child appearances by most serious offence, Childrens Court (Magistrates) – time series^(a)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Most serious offence (MSO) ^(b)	— number —									
Acts intended to cause injury	639	629	643	760	967	767	1,063	1,022	994	1,039
Sexual assault and related offences	10	11	10	13	6	9	8	10	10	11
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	165	144	161	210	281	189	305	314	301	271
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	27	27	25	25	40	32	22	30	24	45
Robbery, extortion and related offences	6	6	11	20	26	25	41	18	14	22
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	1,099	1,228	1,266	1,400	1,504	1,057	1,402	1,391	1,481	1,505
Theft and related offences	1,534	1,748	1,798	1,826	1,997	1,305	1,448	1,465	1,367	1,704
Fraud, deception and related offences	68	79	93	120	144	85	115	100	72	57
Illicit drug offences	328	337	312	369	462	282	351	208	157	152
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	150	136	146	204	287	231	292	261	211	206
Property damage and environmental pollution	533	472	478	551	545	328	369	284	254	255
Public order offences	694	632	562	566	561	296	364	242	199	166
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	209	208	143	229	416	297	356	256	192	157
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	467	479	417	399	509	326	345	303	294	566
Miscellaneous offences	14	7	10	10	10	9	4	4	3	5
Total	5,943	6,143	6,075	6,702	7,755	5,238	6,485	5,908	5,573	6,161

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

(b) Excludes offence divisions with zero value.

4.3.3 Finalised charges

In 2023–24, about six in ten (58.3%) charges with *sexual assault and related offences* as MSO were adjudicated in the Childrens Court, and of those adjudicated, four in ten (39.6%) resulted in a conviction.

In the Childrens Court, *theft and related offences* accounted for a third (33.2%) of all charges, while *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* represented two in ten (19.6%) charges. In the higher courts, *robbery, extortion and related offences* was the most common MSO, accounting for just over a quarter (26.5%) of all charges, followed by *theft and related offences*, accounting for about two in ten charges (21.0%).

Table 34 Finalised charges against children, by method of finalisation and outcome, by court type, 2023–24

Court type	Higher courts ^(a)			Childrens Court (Magistrates)		
Method of finalisation / outcome	Adjudicated		Non-Adjudicated ^(c)	Adjudicated		Non-Adjudicated ^(c)
	Convicted	Not convicted ^(b)		Convicted	Not convicted ^(b)	
Offence	— number —			— number —		
Homicide and related offences	8	2	11	0	0	2
Acts intended to cause injury	215	3	41	2,062	186	444
Sexual assault and related offences	95	49	136	19	9	20
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	33	0	4	518	56	97
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	21	0	1	140	18	27
Robbery, extortion and related offences	673	1	106	51	20	276
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	376	2	49	8,685	234	1,993
Theft and related offences	543	1	74	15,225	886	1,825
Fraud, deception and related offences	14	0	2	625	33	129
Illicit drug offences	103	0	12	1,562	200	164
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	14	0	1	425	52	49
Property damage and environmental pollution	102	15	7	1,920	220	316
Public order offences	20	0	0	2,210	312	239
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	36	1	0	1,539	486	160
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	173	2	1	8,791	535	1,266
Miscellaneous offences	1	0	0	27	7	5
Total	2,427	76	445	43,799	3,254	7,012

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

(b) Excludes charges which were not adjudicated.

(c) 'Non-adjudicated' appearances include those where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, these appearances may be replaced by a new case with amended charges.

4.3.4 Convicted charges

The total number of convicted charges against children in the higher courts fluctuated over the past decade, with the lowest total in 2015–16 and the highest in 2018–19. Contributing factors include the transition of 17-year-old offenders to the youth justice system in February 2018 followed by the COVID-19 pandemic from 2019–20. The most recent year, 2023–24, saw a total of 2,427 convictions, a 3.7% increase on the previous year (2,340 in 2022–23).

Looking at specific offences in 2023–24, the most common was *robbery, extortion and related offences*, accounting for over a quarter (27.7%) of convicted charges, followed by *theft and related offences* which accounted for just over two in ten (22.4%) charges. *Acts intended to cause injury* also saw a substantial number of convicted charges, however, a decline has occurred in the years following 2018–19, with 215 convictions in 2023–24 (accounting for 8.9% of all convicted charges in the higher courts).

Table 35 Convicted charges against children, all higher courts^(a) – time series^(b)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Offence	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	2	0	0	2	0	2	2	2	5	8
Acts intended to cause injury	142	131	188	219	271	316	280	245	309	215
Sexual assault and related offences	129	137	112	124	96	135	123	77	81	95
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	21	26	21	20	25	42	28	32	38	33
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	10	5	26	16	18	24	33	16	18	21
Robbery, extortion and related offences	171	208	192	250	534	608	583	515	602	673
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	395	252	334	299	479	489	393	275	332	376
Theft and related offences	378	424	433	450	739	764	597	517	575	543
Fraud, deception and related offences	25	43	39	42	80	46	34	34	36	14
Illicit drug offences	93	47	74	72	226	204	132	133	50	103
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	9	5	11	5	10	13	10	9	6	14
Property damage and environmental pollution	150	137	170	135	176	142	166	110	110	102
Public order offences	36	40	33	57	52	64	37	22	26	20
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	25	41	40	51	56	55	32	31	24	36
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	160	140	85	104	131	151	137	102	127	173
Miscellaneous offences	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	1
Total	1,746	1,636	1,758	1,847	2,893	3,057	2,588	2,120	2,340	2,427

(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 (including children's courts) from February 2018.

The total number of convicted charges in the Childrens Court has tended to increase over the past decade, reaching a series high of 43,799 in 2023–24 (up 92.9% when compared with 2014–15 and up 12.6% when compared with the previous year). *Theft and related offences* has consistently been the most common among convicted charges over the past decade, accounting for over a third (34.8%) of charges convicted in 2023–24. The number of *theft and related offences* charges steadily increased over the decade save for a slight decline coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019–20, up 162.7% when comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15.

Over the past decade, *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* has featured prominently as the second-most common charge convicted, however this has shifted in 2023–24. Accounting for two in ten (19.8%) convicted charges in 2023–24, and also up 150.4% when compared with 2014–15, this offence type is now third-most common after *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* in 2023–24. The number of convicted charges for *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* more than trebled in 2023–24 when compared with the previous year (up 235.5%), accounting for a growing share of all convicted charges, up to 20.1% of charges in 2023–24 from 6.7% of charges in 2022–23. While several factors may be relevant to this shift, the inclusion of breach of bail conditions as a criminal offence for young people in March 2023 is likely to explain the observed increases.

Table 36 Convicted charges, Childrens Court (Magistrates) – time series^(a)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Offence ^(b)	— number —									
Acts intended to cause injury	1,032	952	1,052	1,361	1,678	1,413	2,177	1,958	1,957	2,062
Sexual assault and related offences	14	13	13	24	6	9	12	13	19	19
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	257	228	245	339	459	349	508	543	539	518
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	66	78	70	60	121	93	98	99	149	140
Robbery, extortion and related offences	10	15	30	47	59	56	68	49	46	51
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	3,468	3,778	4,172	5,169	5,579	4,952	6,733	6,932	9,315	8,685
Theft and related offences	5,796	6,480	7,433	8,667	10,509	9,546	12,370	12,728	15,086	15,225
Fraud, deception and related offences	764	805	1,086	1,217	1,325	973	1,451	1,093	1,027	625
Illicit drug offences	1,107	1,220	1,311	1,512	2,316	1,817	2,459	1,853	1,637	1,562
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	212	202	237	320	460	445	589	507	499	425
Property damage and environmental pollution	3,443	2,302	2,123	2,638	3,070	1,838	2,316	1,920	2,002	1,920
Public order offences	2,795	2,702	2,585	3,090	3,331	2,464	2,974	2,145	2,121	2,210
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	1,306	1,442	1,390	1,515	2,206	1,663	2,262	1,772	1,841	1,539
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	2,396	2,511	2,164	2,612	3,110	2,432	2,829	2,365	2,620	8,791
Miscellaneous offences	45	34	29	44	67	48	157	85	37	27
Total	22,711	22,762	23,940	28,615	34,296	28,098	37,003	34,062	38,895	43,799

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

(b) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

4.3.5 Penalties

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

Detention includes sentences which are partially suspended, based on the premise they each involve a period of sentenced incarceration. In the editions prior to 2021–22, partially suspended detention was grouped with *conditional release order*, which is wholly suspended detention. *Conditional release order* is now reported separately. (See Glossary.)

Nominal penalty, *court-ordered conference* and *probation* were most commonly imposed in the child court system as most serious penalty, accounting for nearly three quarters (73.9%) of all convicted appearances in 2023–24. Over the past five years, fewer appearances resulted in most serious penalty of *community service* and *good behaviour order*, with the ten-year low in the number of convicted appearances resulting in either of these as the most serious penalty being in 2023–24 and 2022–23, respectively. Conversely, the number of appearances resulting in *detention* as the most serious penalty has tended to increase and reached a ten-year high in 2023–24, up 17.1% when compared with 2014–15.

Table 37 Convicted child appearances by most serious penalty, all courts – time series^(a)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Most serious penalty ^(b)	— number —									
Detention ^(c)	328	340	268	283	364	295	273	301	351	384
Intensive supervision	14	9	2	12	5	5	3	8	1	2
Conditional release	223	230	220	210	313	237	296	300	279	330
Community service ^(d)	1,140	1,034	833	878	983	555	536	453	417	397
Probation	1,095	1,207	1,153	1,356	1,476	1,102	1,500	1,486	1,449	1,514
Treatment orders ^(e)	49	72	46	71	107	62	64	22	17	20
Court-ordered conference ^(f)	0	0	731	898	1,340	1,398	1,676	1,602	1,451	1,608
Fine	88	72	59	73	154	73	60	52	26	27
Compensation/Restitution	38	19	25	26	26	6	10	9	11	6
Good behaviour order	1,063	1,083	946	970	1,154	591	761	528	487	496
Driver licence disqualification	20	29	11	45	126	132	162	110	102	90
Nominal penalty ^(g)	2,170	2,352	2,109	2,231	2,279	1,463	1,687	1,576	1,576	1,846
Total	6,228	6,447	6,403	7,053	8,327	5,919	7,028	6,447	6,167	6,720

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

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

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

(d) Includes graffiti-removal orders.

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

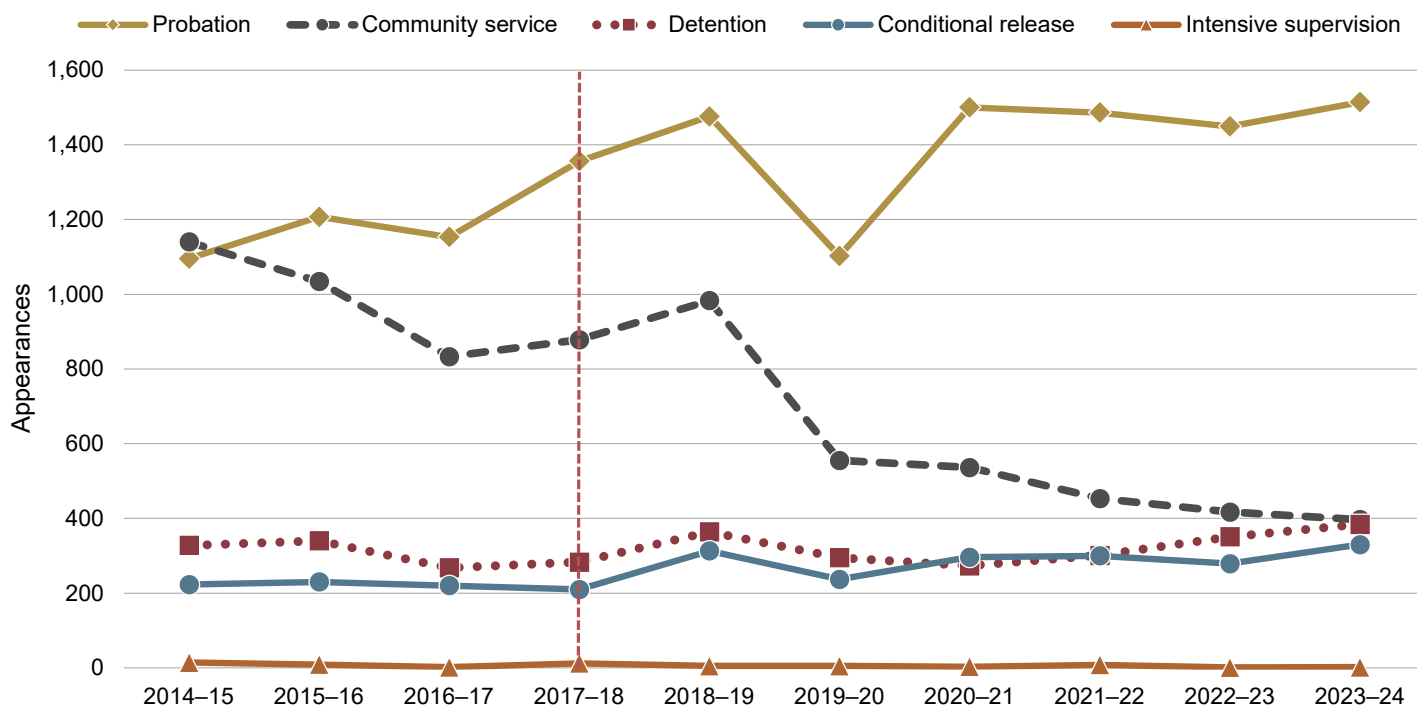
(f) Court-ordered conferences were discontinued in January 2013 and re-introduced on 1 July 2016.

(g) Includes reprimand; convicted not further punished.

The five most serious penalties for child defendants, in order of seriousness, are *detention*, *intensive supervision*, *conditional release order*, *community service* and *probation*. Figure 17 shows the number of convicted child appearances from all courts resulting in these penalties. Very few convicted appearances resulted in *intensive supervision* as the most serious outcome over the last decade, with this penalty becoming less common over time (ranging from 14 in 2014–15 to 2 in 2023–24).⁴

Probation was the most common penalty imposed on child defendants from 2015–16, although the number of appearances with *probation* as most serious penalty has not changed substantially between 2020–21 and 2023–24. *Community service* was the second-most common penalty imposed in 2023–24, but only marginally after the number of appearances with this penalty imposed failed to return to pre-COVID levels and declines can be observed from 2019–20 onward (–28.5% when comparing 2023–24 with 2019–20). The number of convicted child appearances resulting in *conditional release* and *detention* have generally tended to increase over the past decade (up 48.0% and up 17.1% when comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15), with some variation during 2019–20 coinciding with the pandemic.

Figure 17 Convicted child appearances by most serious penalty, by the five most serious^(a), all courts – time series^(b)



- (a) Detention includes detention, imprisonment and boot camp. Boot camp orders were introduced in January 2013 and were repealed in July 2015. Conditional release includes graffiti-removal orders.
- (b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system (including children's courts) from February 2018.

⁴ *Intensive supervision* (ISO) is 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.

In 2023–24, among appearances from all courts, *theft and related offences* was the most common MSO, accounting for a quarter (25.7%) of all convicted child appearances. For this offence, *nominal penalty* and *court-ordered conference* were the most serious penalties, imposed in over six in ten (66.3%) convicted appearances for *theft and related offences* in 2023–24.

Nominal penalty was the most common penalty imposed, resulting in just over a quarter (27.5%) of all convicted appearances in 2023–24, followed by *court-ordered conference* (23.9%) and *probation* (22.5%). Of the convicted child appearances resulting in *probation* as the most serious penalty, over half were for either *unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter* (28.3%) or *acts intended to cause injury* (27.3%) in 2023–24, followed by *theft and related offences* (14.2%).

In 2023–24, *detention* accounted for 5.7% of all convicted appearances, however, of these, over three in ten (35.2%) were for appearances with *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* as MSO, while *acts intended to cause injury, robbery, extortion and related offences* and *dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons* accounted for about four in ten (40.9%).

Table 38 Convicted child appearances by most serious offence, by most serious penalty, all courts, 2023–24

Most serious penalty ^(a)	Detention	Intensive supervision	Conditional release	Community service ^(b)	Probation	Treatment orders ^(c)	Court-ordered conference	Fine	Compensation /Restitution	Good behaviour order	Driver licence disqual.	Nominal penalty ^(d)	Total
Most serious offence (MSO)	— number —												
Homicide and related offences	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Acts intended to cause injury	62	1	74	43	413	0	287	1	0	104	0	154	1,139
Sexual assault and related offences	8	0	6	2	23	0	3	0	0	4	0	2	48
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	37	1	40	14	82	0	66	3	0	8	6	23	280
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	3	0	2	1	20	0	10	0	0	6	0	4	46
Robbery, extortion and related offences	58	0	32	11	167	0	54	1	0	4	0	7	334
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	135	0	129	110	429	0	378	0	0	110	0	232	1,523
Theft and related offences	60	0	35	110	215	0	565	2	2	159	0	580	1,728
Fraud, deception and related offences	0	0	0	3	11	0	16	0	3	5	0	20	58
Illicit drug offences	0	0	1	1	21	19	41	1	0	12	0	70	166
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	8	0	6	4	68	0	44	1	0	18	0	57	206
Property damage and environmental pollution	2	0	1	79	25	0	64	1	1	10	0	89	272
Public order offences	0	0	0	5	7	0	28	2	0	16	0	108	166
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	0	0	0	1	2	0	28	13	0	0	84	29	157
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	4	0	3	13	31	1	23	2	0	38	0	469	584
Miscellaneous offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	5
Total	384	2	330	397	1,514	20	1,608	27	6	496	90	1,846	6,720

(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 further punished.

In 2023–24, males accounted for about seven in ten (71.3%) convicted child appearances (Table 39). While the number of male convicted child appearances was 2.5 times that of females in 2023–24, the number of convicted appearances for females increased (up 21.8%) when comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15 to a ten-year high (1,931 appearances). As a result, among all convicted child appearances, female defendants made up a larger share (28.7%) in 2023–24 than in any other year examined. When examining the distribution of males and females across different penalties, males accounted for nearly nine in ten (89.1%) convicted appearances resulting in *detention*, 85.2% of convicted appearances resulting in *fine* and 83.9% of convicted appearances resulting in *conditional release* in 2023–24. In the same period, females accounted for 36.5% of convicted appearances resulting in *good behaviour order* and 32.9% resulting in *court-ordered conference* in 2023–24.

Nominal penalty, *probation* and *court-ordered conference* were the most common penalties among both male (71.9%) and female (79.0%) convicted appearances in 2023–24, although the ordering of these did vary between males and females.

Table 39 Convicted child appearances by most serious penalty, by sex^(a), all courts – time series^(b)

	2014–15			2015–16			2016–17			2017–18 ^(b)			2018–19		
Sex	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Most serious penalty ^(c)	— number —														
Detention ^(d)	275	53	328	277	63	340	231	37	268	249	34	283	328	36	364
Intensive supervision	13	1	14	9	0	9	2	0	2	12	0	12	4	1	5
Conditional release	183	40	223	198	32	230	173	47	220	172	38	210	272	41	313
Community service ^(e)	943	197	1,140	845	188	1,033	627	206	833	703	175	878	746	237	983
Probation	789	306	1,095	887	320	1,207	854	299	1,153	997	359	1,356	1,046	430	1,476
Treatment orders ^(f)	47	2	49	57	15	72	32	14	46	55	16	71	82	25	107
Court-ordered conference ^(g)	..	..	..	..	..	..	547	184	731	651	247	898	967	373	1,340
Fine	69	19	88	64	8	72	53	6	59	64	9	73	123	31	154
Compensation/Restitution	30	8	38	15	4	19	15	10	25	21	5	26	24	2	26
Good behaviour order	789	274	1,063	772	311	1,083	691	255	946	643	327	970	811	343	1,154
Driver licence disqualification	17	3	20	23	6	29	10	1	11	36	9	45	100	26	126
Nominal penalty ^(h)	1,487	682	2,169	1,635	717	2,352	1,442	666	2,108	1,489	740	2,229	1,590	688	2,278
Total	4,642	1,585	6,227	4,782	1,664	6,446	4,677	1,725	6,402	5,092	1,959	7,051	6,093	2,233	8,326

.. not applicable

- (a) Excludes appearances where the defendant's sex was not stated (a total of 34 appearances across the time series).
 (b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system (including children's courts) from February 2018.
 (c) In descending order of seriousness.
 (d) Includes detention, imprisonment and boot camp. Boot camp orders were introduced in January 2013 and were repealed in July 2015.
 (e) Includes graffiti-removal orders.
 (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 further punished.

Table 39 continued.

	2019–20			2020–21			2021–22			2022–23			2023–24		
Sex	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Most serious penalty ^(b)	— number —														
Detention	266	29	295	257	16	273	270	31	301	320	31	351	342	42	384
Intensive supervision	4	1	5	3	0	3	8	0	8	0	1	1	2	0	2
Conditional release	207	30	237	239	57	296	250	50	300	232	47	279	277	53	330
Community service	440	115	555	411	125	536	339	114	453	313	104	417	282	115	397
Probation	817	285	1,102	1,109	391	1,500	1,109	377	1,486	1,080	369	1,449	1,120	394	1,514
Treatment orders ^(c)	46	16	62	48	16	64	17	5	22	13	4	17	16	4	20
Court-ordered conference	977	421	1,398	1,191	484	1,675	1,112	489	1,601	994	455	1,449	1,078	529	1,607
Fine	61	12	73	49	11	60	44	7	51	26	0	26	23	4	27
Compensation/Restitution	4	2	6	8	2	10	6	3	9	10	1	11	5	1	6
Good behaviour order	401	190	591	526	235	761	349	179	528	295	192	487	315	181	496
Driver licence disqualification	100	32	132	127	35	162	89	21	110	88	14	102	85	5	90
Nominal penalty ^(d)	1,033	427	1,460	1,197	490	1,687	1,122	454	1,576	1,060	515	1,575	1,242	603	1,845
Total	4,356	1,560	5,916	5,165	1,862	7,027	4,715	1,730	6,445	4,431	1,733	6,164	4,787	1,931	6,718

(a) Excludes appearances where the defendant's sex was not stated (a total of 34 appearances across the time series).

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

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

(d) Includes reprimand; convicted not further punished.

4.3.6 Age and sex

Overall, the number of convicted child appearances increased in 2023–24 compared with the previous year (up 9.0%), largely driven by increases in the number of convicted Childrens Court appearances observed among males aged 10–12 years (up 42.9%), 15 years (up 26.9%) and 17 years and over (up 11.1%) in particular.

In the Childrens Court, males aged 15 years and older accounted for three quarters (75.4%) of convicted appearances in 2023–24. Female defendants, however, tended to be slightly younger, with those aged 15 years and older accounting for 68.5% of convicted female Childrens Court appearances in 2023–24.

Table 40 Convicted child appearances by court type, by age and sex

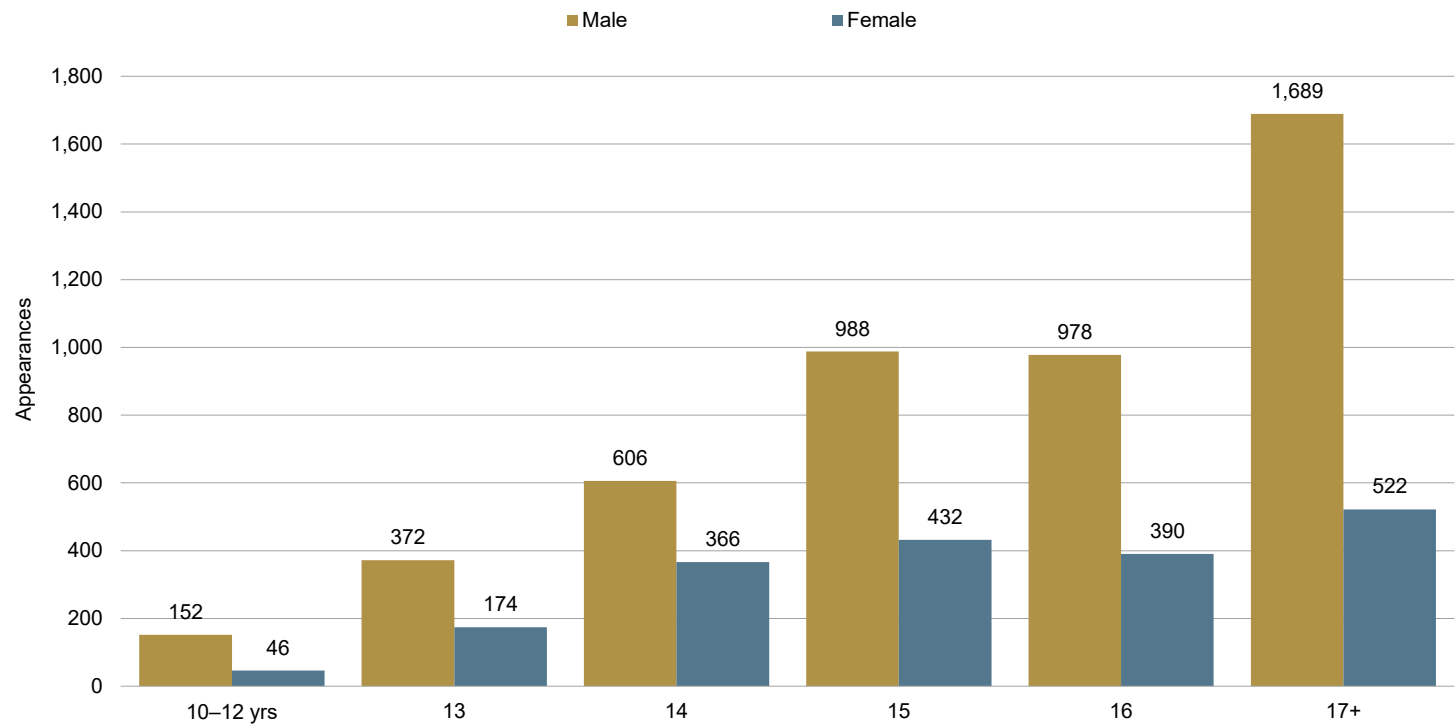
Sex ^(a)	2021–22			2022–23			2023–24		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Court type Age at finalised appearance	— number —								
Higher courts^(b)	412	127	539	444	150	594	426	133	559
10–12 yrs	3	2	5	3	2	5	2	1	3
13 yrs	15	10	25	19	8	27	16	3	19
14 yrs	36	17	53	36	29	65	41	17	58
15 yrs	63	27	90	63	34	97	64	27	91
16 yrs	95	23	118	96	35	131	87	23	110
17 yrs and over	200	48	248	227	41	268	216	62	278
Not stated	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Childrens Court (Magistrates)	4,303	1,603	5,906	3,987	1,583	5,570	4,361	1,798	6,159
10–12 yrs	121	48	169	105	54	159	150	45	195
13 yrs	310	150	460	357	152	509	356	171	527
14 yrs	588	250	838	533	266	799	565	349	914
15 yrs	902	363	1,265	728	322	1,050	924	405	1,329
16 yrs	925	333	1,258	935	352	1,287	891	367	1,258
17 yrs and over	1,453	458	1,911	1,326	437	1,763	1,473	460	1,933
Not stated	4	1	5	3	0	3	2	1	3
All courts									
10–12 yrs	124	50	174	108	56	164	152	46	198
13 yrs	325	160	485	376	160	536	372	174	546
14 yrs	624	267	891	569	295	864	606	366	972
15 yrs	965	390	1,355	791	356	1,147	988	432	1,420
16 yrs	1,020	356	1,376	1,031	387	1,418	978	390	1,368
17 yrs and over	1,653	506	2,159	1,553	478	2,031	1,689	522	2,211
Not stated	4	1	5	3	1	4	2	1	3
Total (all courts)	4,715	1,730	6,445	4,431	1,733	6,164	4,787	1,931	6,718

(a) Excludes appearances in the Childrens Court where the defendant's sex was not stated (a total of 14 across the time series).

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

In 2023–24, the number of convicted child appearances generally increased with defendant age for both males and females, save for those aged 16 years which were slightly fewer compared with those aged 15 years (Figure 18). Males represented a substantially larger proportion of convicted appearances when compared with females of all age groups in 2023–24. This difference was most apparent among males aged 10–12 years, with the number of convicted appearances 3.3 times that for females of the same age. Further, a growing sex gap with age can be observed from the age of 14 years and onwards, with the number of convicted appearances among males 1.7 times that for females at 14 years and rising to 3.2 times that for females at 17 years and older.

Figure 18 Convicted child appearances by age^(a) and sex^(b), all courts, 2023–24



(a) Age of defendant is reported as at date of finalised appearance, not at date of offence.
(b) Excludes appearances of defendants whose age (3) or sex (2) were not stated.

In 2023–24, the total number of convicted charges in the child court system increased when compared with the previous year (up 12.1%) to its highest in three years (Table 41). While the number of convicted appearances (Table 40) also increased in 2023–24 when compared with the previous year, increases in appearances were less substantial (up 9.0%). This suggests that there were slightly more charges brought per appearance, with about 6.9 charges per appearance on average in 2023–24, up from 5.6 charges per appearance in 2021–22. In 2023–24, there was a higher number of charges per appearances for young males (7.3) compared with young females (5.8).

For male defendants, the number of convicted charges overall increased (up 10.4%) when comparing 2023–24 with the previous year, largely driven by an increase in those aged 17 years and older (up 15.2%) and those aged 15 years (up 23.2%).

For female defendants, convicted charges overall increased (up 17.9%) when comparing 2023–24 with the previous year, although growth in the number of charges was concentrated among those aged 13 and 14 years (up 35.7% and 61.2%, respectively).

Table 41 Convicted charges against children by court type, by age and sex^(a)

Sex ^(a)	2021–22			2022–23			2023–24		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Court type	— number —								
Age at finalised appearance	— number —								
Higher courts^(b)									
10–12 yrs	6	5	11	6	8	14	15	1	16
13 yrs	29	21	50	58	29	87	77	7	84
14 yrs	127	49	176	161	88	249	182	84	266
15 yrs	325	97	422	227	122	349	278	92	370
16 yrs	439	62	501	471	121	592	359	85	444
17 yrs and over	848	112	960	902	145	1,047	1,029	218	1,247
Not stated	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
Total	1,774	346	2,120	1,825	515	2,340	1,940	487	2,427
Childrens Court (Magistrates)									
10–12 yrs	891	302	1,193	795	290	1,085	1,237	150	1,387
13 yrs	2,052	798	2,850	2,924	845	3,769	3,341	1,179	4,520
14 yrs	3,711	1,458	5,169	4,441	1,465	5,906	4,307	2,420	6,727
15 yrs	6,203	1,829	8,032	5,848	2,118	7,966	7,206	2,551	9,757
16 yrs	5,668	1,599	7,267	7,342	2,095	9,437	7,125	2,107	9,232
17 yrs and over	7,303	2,237	9,540	8,519	2,200	10,719	9,825	2,338	12,163
Not stated	8	1	9	7	0	7	8	1	9
Total	25,836	8,224	34,060	29,876	9,013	38,889	33,049	10,746	43,795
All courts									
10–12 yrs	897	307	1,204	801	298	1,099	1,252	151	1,403
13 yrs	2,081	819	2,900	2,982	874	3,856	3,418	1,186	4,604
14 yrs	3,838	1,507	5,345	4,602	1,553	6,155	4,489	2,504	6,993
15 yrs	6,528	1,926	8,454	6,075	2,240	8,315	7,484	2,643	10,127
16 yrs	6,107	1,661	7,768	7,813	2,216	10,029	7,484	2,192	9,676
17 yrs and over	8,151	2,349	10,500	9,421	2,345	11,766	10,854	2,556	13,410
Not stated	8	1	9	7	2	9	8	1	9
Total (all courts)	27,610	8,570	36,180	31,701	9,528	41,229	34,989	11,233	46,222

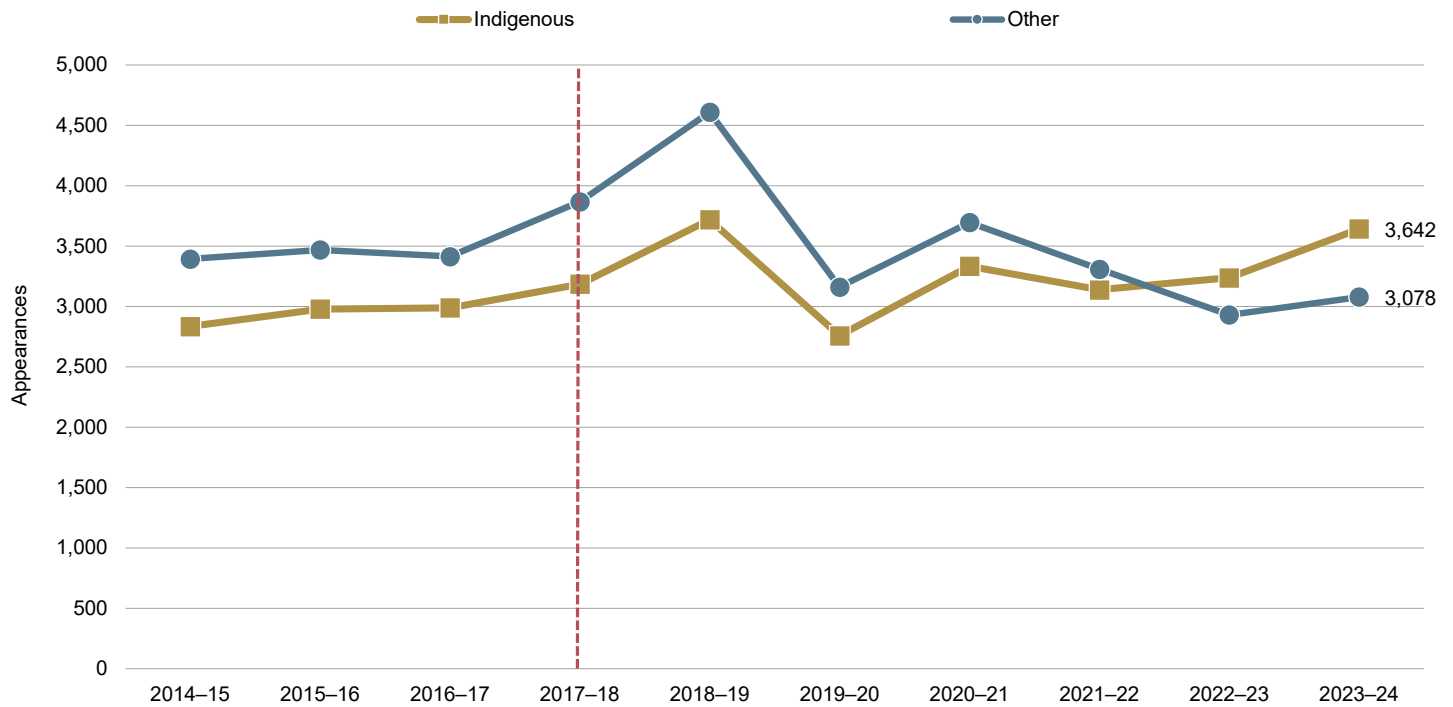
(a) Total excludes convicted charges in the Childrens Court where the defendant's sex was not stated (a total of 12 across the time series).

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

4.3.7 Indigenous status

In 2023–24, the total number of convicted child appearances for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people exceeded the number for other young people for the second year running (Figure 19).

Figure 19 Convicted child appearances by Indigenous status^(a), all courts – time series^(b)

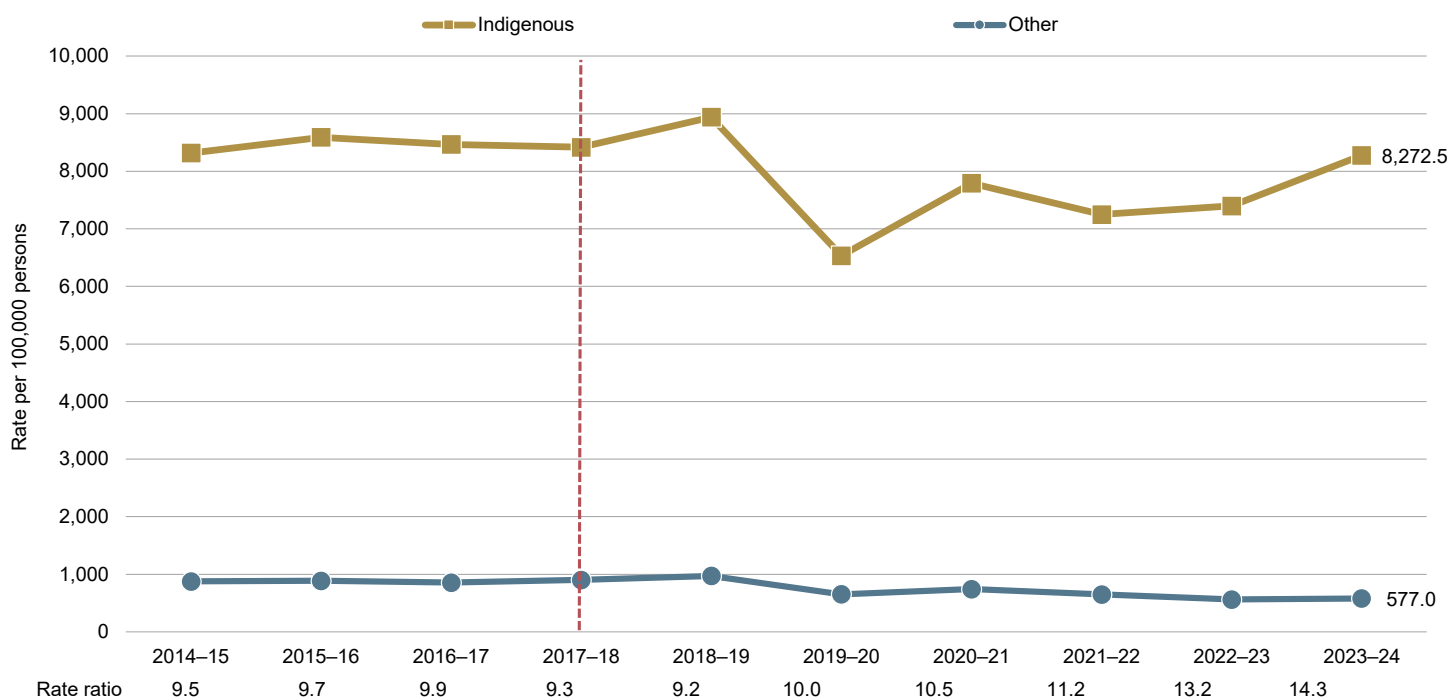


(a) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.

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

When accounting for population differences, Figure 20 shows the rate of convicted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child appearances per 100,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young persons aged 10–17 years. The rates show a growing difference between the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people relative to other young people among convicted child court appearances. In 2023–24, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child appearances was 14.3 times that for other young people, marking the most substantial difference between these rates in a decade.

Figure 20 Convicted child appearance rate^(a) by Indigenous status^(b), all court – time series^(c)



- (a) 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. 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.
- (b) 'Other' represents defendants who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.
- (c) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system (including children's courts) from February 2018.

In 2023–24, for the second year running, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander convicted appearances was higher than for other child defendants, regardless of sex.

The total number of convicted child appearances for female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants increased in 2023–24 when compared with the previous year (up 17.0%), marking a ten-year high for the second consecutive year. This increase was driven by growth in appearances in the Childrens Court in 2023–24 when compared with the previous year. As a result, females accounted for over a third (31.9%) of convicted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander appearances in the Childrens Court. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males, the number of convicted appearances also increased in 2023–24 when compared with the previous year (up 10.6%).

Table 42 Convicted child appearances by court type, by Indigenous status and sex^(a) – time series^(b)

Sex ^(a)	2014–15			2015–16			2016–17			2017–18 ^(b)			2018–19		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Court type Indigenous status	— number —														
Higher courts^(c)															
Indigenous	80	32	112	90	38	128	81	24	105	119	31	150	181	51	232
Other ^(d)	150	23	173	139	37	176	188	35	223	147	54	201	268	72	340
Total	230	55	285	229	75	304	269	59	328	266	85	351	449	123	572
Childrens Court (Magistrates)															
Indigenous	1,972	751	2,723	2,110	740	2,850	2,122	762	2,884	2,260	775	3,035	2,555	931	3,486
Other ^(d)	2,440	779	3,219	2,443	849	3,292	2,286	904	3,190	2,566	1,099	3,665	3,089	1,179	4,268
Total	4,412	1,530	5,942	4,553	1,589	6,142	4,408	1,666	6,074	4,826	1,874	6,700	5,644	2,110	7,754
All courts															
Indigenous	2,052	783	2,835	2,200	778	2,978	2,203	786	2,989	2,379	806	3,185	2,736	982	3,718
Other ^(d)	2,590	802	3,392	2,582	886	3,468	2,474	939	3,413	2,713	1,153	3,866	3,357	1,251	4,608
Total (all courts)	4,642	1,585	6,227	4,782	1,664	6,446	4,677	1,725	6,402	5,092	1,959	7,051	6,093	2,233	8,326

(a) Excludes appearances where the defendant's sex was not stated (a total of 17 across the time series).

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

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

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

Table 42 continued.

	2019–20			2020–21			2021–22			2022–23			2023–24		
Sex ^(a)	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Court type	— number —														
Indigenous status															
Higher courts ^(b)															
Indigenous	218	71	289	182	61	243	170	68	238	202	77	279	198	77	275
Other ^(c)	308	84	392	251	49	300	242	59	301	242	73	315	228	56	284
Total	526	155	681	433	110	543	412	127	539	444	150	594	426	133	559
Childrens Court (Magistrates)															
Indigenous	1,777	691	2,468	2,211	879	3,090	2,065	835	2,900	2,049	907	2,956	2,291	1,074	3,365
Other ^(c)	2,053	714	2,767	2,521	873	3,394	2,238	768	3,006	1,938	676	2,614	2,070	724	2,794
Total	3,830	1,405	5,235	4,732	1,752	6,484	4,303	1,603	5,906	3,987	1,583	5,570	4,361	1,798	6,159
All courts															
Indigenous	1,995	762	2,757	2,393	940	3,333	2,235	903	3,138	2,251	984	3,235	2,489	1,151	3,640
Other ^(c)	2,361	798	3,159	2,772	922	3,694	2,480	827	3,307	2,180	749	2,929	2,298	780	3,078
Total (all courts)	4,356	1,560	5,916	5,165	1,862	7,027	4,715	1,730	6,445	4,431	1,733	6,164	4,787	1,931	6,718

(a) Excludes appearances where the defendant’s sex was not stated (a total of 17 across the time series).

(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 was not stated.

In 2023–24, *robbery, extortion and related offences* was the most common MSO, accounting for over half (55.8%) of child appearances convicted in the higher courts. This offence was the MSO in over six in ten (61.1%) convicted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander appearances in 2023–24, followed by *acts intended to cause injury* (16.4%).

Among other child defendants in 2023–24, *robbery, extortion and related offences* accounted for just over half (50.7%) of convicted appearances, also followed by *acts intended to cause injury* (19.4%).

Table 43 Convicted child appearances by most serious offence, by Indigenous status, all higher courts^(a)

Indigenous status	2021–22			2022–23			2023–24		
	Indigenous	Other ^(b)	Total	Indigenous	Other ^(b)	Total	Indigenous	Other ^(b)	Total
Most serious offence (MSO) ^(c)	— number —								
Homicide and related offences	0	1	1	2	3	5	3	5	8
Acts intended to cause injury	46	55	101	65	64	129	45	55	100
Sexual assault and related offences	16	18	34	12	19	31	14	23	37
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	7	4	11	2	12	14	0	9	9
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	1	0	1	3	1	4	0	1	1
Robbery, extortion and related offences	131	157	288	160	157	317	168	144	312
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	9	15	24	5	11	16	9	9	18
Theft and related offences	5	13	18	8	15	23	15	9	24
Fraud, deception and related offences	0	2	2	0	3	3	0	1	1
Illicit drug offences	1	14	15	0	7	7	2	12	14
Property damage and environmental pollution	14	11	25	15	12	27	10	7	17
Public order offences	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	7	11	18	7	10	17	9	9	18
Total	238	301	539	279	315	594	275	284	559

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

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

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

Consistent with previous years, *probation* was the most common penalty imposed on child defendants in the higher courts, accounting for nearly half (45.3%) of all convicted child appearances in 2023–24 (Table 44). This penalty, however, while still the most prevalent, was slightly less common for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child defendants (41.5%) compared with other children (48.9%). For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child appearances, *detention* was the second-most common penalty imposed, accounting for a quarter of convictions among this group in 2023–24 (24.7%), a series high and up from just under two in ten (18.1%) in 2021–22. This marks a 58.1% increase in the number of convicted appearances resulting in *detention* as the most serious penalty for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children when comparing 2023–24 with 2021–22.

Among convicted appearances for other children, the second-most common penalty was *court-ordered conference*, accounting for two in ten (20.1%) appearances for this group in 2023–24, followed by *detention* (10.9%) and *conditional release* (10.9%). When comparing 2023–24 with 2021–22, the number of convicted appearances resulting in *detention* among other children rose by 82.4%.

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

Indigenous status	2021–22			2022–23			2023–24		
	Indigenous	Other ^(b)	Total	Indigenous	Other ^(b)	Total	Indigenous	Other ^(b)	Total
Most serious penalty ^(c)	— number —								
Detention ^(d)	43	17	60	48	40	88	68	31	99
Conditional release	29	27	56	27	21	48	29	31	60
Community service ^(e)	4	12	16	12	5	17	10	4	14
Probation	116	158	274	131	160	291	114	139	253
Court-ordered conference	30	58	88	25	61	86	28	57	85
Fine	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	2
Compensation/Restitution	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Good behaviour order	4	10	14	5	6	11	4	4	8
Nominal penalty ^(f)	12	18	30	31	20	51	21	17	38
Total	238	301	539	279	315	594	275	284	559

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

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

(c) In descending order of seriousness.

(d) Includes reprimand; convicted not further punished.

In 2023–24, the most common MSO among all convicted Childrens Court appearances was *theft and related offences*, accounting for nearly a third (27.7%) of all convicted appearances, followed by *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* (24.4%) and *acts intended to cause injury* (16.9%) (Table 45). Just over half of convicted appearances had Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants with MSOs of *theft and related offences* (53.6%) and *acts intended to cause injury* (53.2%), while Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants accounted for over six in ten (65.0%) convicted appearances with *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* as MSO.

Table 45 Convicted appearances by most serious offence, by Indigenous status, Childrens Court (Magistrates)

Indigenous status	2021–22			2022–23			2023–24		
	Indigenous	Other ^(a)	Total	Indigenous	Other ^(a)	Total	Indigenous	Other ^(a)	Total
Most serious offence (MSO) ^(b)	— number —								
Acts intended to cause injury	535	487	1,022	558	436	994	553	486	1,039
Sexual assault and related offences	6	4	10	7	3	10	9	2	11
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	154	160	314	157	144	301	133	138	271
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	13	17	30	13	11	24	19	26	45
Robbery, extortion and related offences	6	12	18	3	11	14	8	14	22
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	851	540	1,391	949	532	1,481	979	526	1,505
Theft and related offences	717	748	1,465	698	669	1,367	913	791	1,704
Fraud, deception and related offences	26	74	100	28	44	72	26	31	57
Illicit drug offences	50	158	208	46	111	157	48	104	152
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	79	182	261	72	139	211	78	128	206
Property damage and environmental pollution	151	133	284	129	125	254	143	112	255
Public order offences	106	136	242	109	90	199	92	74	166
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	40	216	256	34	158	192	34	123	157
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	165	138	303	154	140	294	331	235	566
Miscellaneous offences	1	3	4	1	2	3	1	4	5
Total	2,900	3,008	5,908	2,958	2,615	5,573	3,367	2,794	6,161

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

(b) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

Consistent with previous years, *nominal penalty* was the most common penalty imposed in the Childrens Court in 2023–24, accounting for nearly three in ten (29.3%) convicted appearances, and up 16.9% from 2021–22 (Table 46). Together, nearly half of convicted Childrens Court appearances resulted in either *court-ordered conference* (24.7%) or *probation* (20.5%) as the most serious penalty in 2023–24. Among convicted appearances with *probation* as the most serious penalty, six in ten (60.0%) were imposed on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child defendants in 2023–24 whereas this was true for just under half (45.4%) of *court-ordered conference* penalties. Of convicted appearances in the Childrens Court resulting in *detention* as the most serious penalty, over three in four (77.2%) were imposed on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in 2023–24.

The number of all Childrens Court convicted appearances resulting in *detention* as MSO increased more than other penalties in 2023–24 (up 18.3% from 2021–22), with the number of *detention* penalties imposed on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children increasing by 22.2% over this time.

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

Indigenous status	2021–22			2022–23			2023–24		
	Indigenous	Other ^(a)	Total	Indigenous	Other ^(a)	Total	Indigenous	Other ^(a)	Total
Most serious penalty ^(b)	— number —								
Detention	180	61	241	211	52	263	220	65	285
Intensive supervision	7	1	8	1	0	1	2	0	2
Conditional release	170	74	244	154	77	231	191	79	270
Community service	289	148	437	265	135	400	261	122	383
Probation	693	519	1,212	698	460	1,158	756	505	1,261
Treatment orders	4	18	22	3	14	17	4	16	20
Court-ordered conference	558	956	1,514	585	780	1,365	691	832	1,523
Fine	7	44	51	7	18	25	4	21	25
Compensation/Restitution	3	6	9	3	7	10	2	4	6
Good behaviour order	220	294	514	241	235	476	246	242	488
Driver licence disqualification	18	92	110	19	83	102	21	69	90
Nominal penalty ^(c)	751	795	1,546	771	754	1,525	969	839	1,808
Total	2,900	3,008	5,908	2,958	2,615	5,573	3,367	2,794	6,161

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

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

(c) Includes reprimand; convicted not further punished.

4.4 Companies

In 2023–24, the most common MSO among convicted company appearances was *miscellaneous offences*, accounting for nearly half (48.9%), followed by *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* (29.5%) and *fraud, deception and related offences* (9.5%) (Table 47).

When comparing 2023–24 with the previous year, the number of convicted company appearances with *fraud, deception and related offences* as MSO increased (up 125.0%) to a series high for this offence, while the number with MSO of *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* has declined (–47.6%) to a series low.

Over the decade, the number of convicted company appearances with *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* as MSO has declined (–70.2%) when comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15.

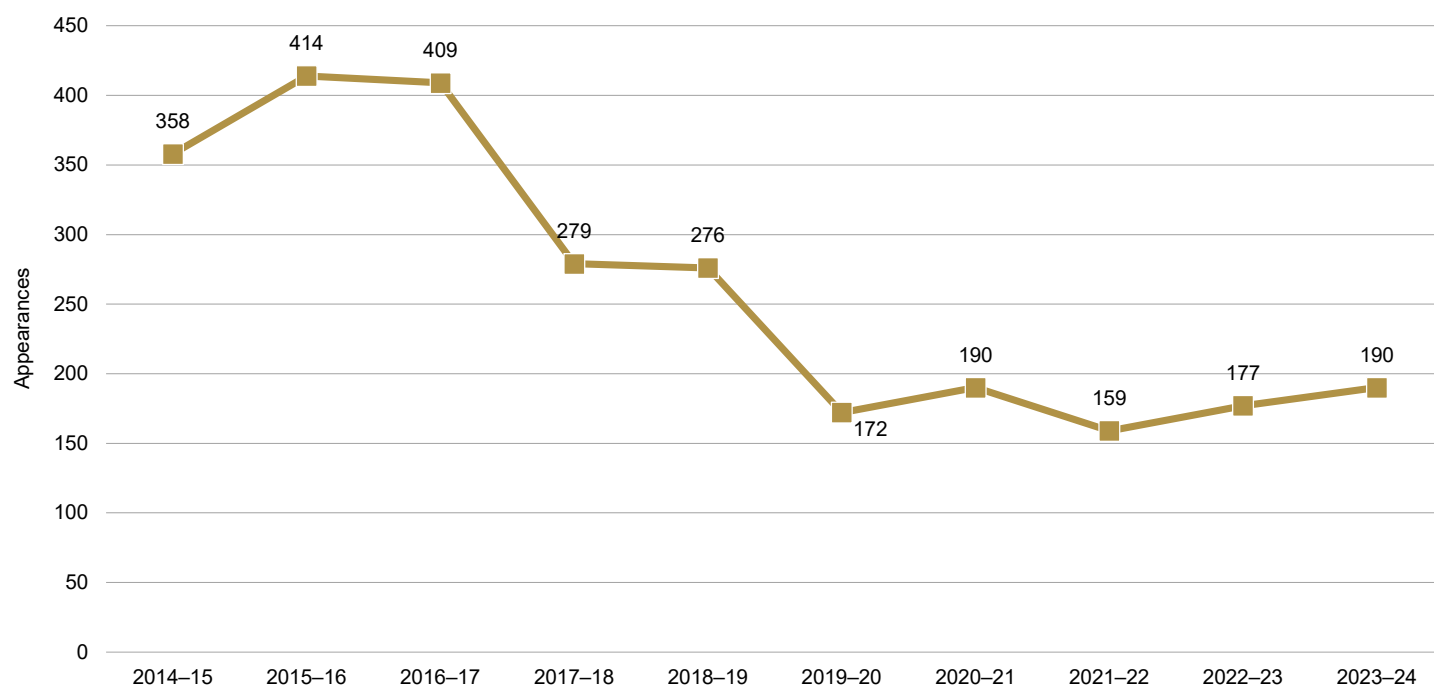
Table 47 Convicted company appearances by most serious offence, all courts – time series

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Most serious offence (MSO) ^(a)	— number —									
Homicide and related offences	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	2	0	4	2	1	2	1	4	2	4
Theft and related offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Fraud, deception and related offences	9	14	9	6	11	11	8	10	8	18
Illicit drug offences	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Property damage and environmental pollution	9	5	8	8	9	4	7	3	5	0
Public order offences	8	11	6	7	6	10	3	4	1	5
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	188	195	168	93	84	60	52	43	56	56
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	65	109	130	69	55	23	18	19	21	11
Miscellaneous offences	75	79	84	94	110	60	101	76	84	93
Total	358	414	409	279	276	172	190	159	177	190

(a) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

The total number of convicted company appearances declined between 2015–16 and 2019–20 (–58.5%), before levelling off in the years since the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023–24, there was slight growth in the total number of convicted company appearances from the previous year (up 7.3%), continuing from similar growth observed in 2022–23.

Figure 21 Convicted company appearances, all courts – time series



In 2023–24, there were three company charges finalised in the higher courts, one for *homicide and related offences*, resulting in conviction, and two for *miscellaneous offences*, with neither adjudicated (data not shown).

In the Magistrates Court, the most common MSO for company defendants was *miscellaneous offences*, accounting for six in ten (61.5%) finalised company charges in 2023–24 (Table 48). However, this number of charges for this offence was apparent among a smaller number of finalised company appearances (Table 47). Of the charges for this offence, nearly three quarters (73.5%) were adjudicated and, of these, 96.9% resulted in conviction.

Table 48 Finalised charges against companies, Magistrates Court, 2023–24

Method of finalisation	Adjudicated		Non-Adjudicated ^(b)
Outcome	Convicted	Not convicted ^(a)	
Most serious offence (MSO) ^(c)	— number —		
Homicide and related offences	0	1	0
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	12	0	3
Robbery, extortion and related offences	3	0	0
Fraud, deception and related offences	80	10	26
Property damage and environmental pollution	0	0	2
Public order offences	28	13	1
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	78	1	40
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	58	6	19
Miscellaneous offences	440	14	164
Theft and related offences	6	0	0
Total	705	45	255

(a) Excludes charges which were not adjudicated.

(b) 'Non-adjudicated' appearances include those where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, these appearances may be replaced by a new case with amended charges.

(c) Excludes offence divisions with zero values.

5.0 Youth Justice

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

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

Unique ⁵ young persons	2022–23	2023–24	% change	
with a finalised court appearance⁶	3,805	3,814	0.2	↑
Male	2,668	2,709	1.5	↑
Female	1,135	1,103	–2.8	↓
commencing a supervised youth justice order (includes detention)	1,562	1,610	3.1	↑
Male	1,187	1,209	1.9	↑
Female	375	401	6.9	↑
<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)</i>	65.7	66.7	1.0 ppt	↑
admitted to a youth detention centre	886	863	–2.6	↓
Male	705	690	–2.1	↓
Female	181	173	–4.4	↓
<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)</i>	70.9	68.6	–2.3 ppt	↓
Average daily number of young people				
in youth detention centres	283	286	1.0	↑
under Youth Justice supervision in the community	1,199	1,194	–0.4	↓

ppt = percentage point

In 2023–24:

Unique child defendants



- There were 3,814 unique child defendants, with 3,281 of these being convicted of at least one charge. This corresponds with a ten-year low in the rate of young people convicted (56.8 convicted persons per 10,000 young people).
- Young people aged 17 years accounted for a quarter (25.8%) of all children with a convicted charge, with males comprising three in four (76.3%) offenders convicted for offences committed at 17 years.
- There were fewer convictions (848) of 17-year-old offenders when compared with 2018–19 (1,361), the first full year following their transition to the youth justice system.

Admissions to supervised youth justice orders (in the community)



- Of the total number of admissions to supervised youth justice orders (3,291), there were 2,902 admissions to community-based supervision orders. *Probation* accounted for nearly six in ten (58.8%) admissions to community-based supervised orders.
- Young males accounted for three in four (75.2%) admissions to supervised community-based orders, while Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young offenders accounted for seven in ten (69.7%).
- Admissions by young males tended to decline (–11.6%) over the past decade, while admissions by young females tended to increase slightly (up 4.2%).

Admissions to youth detention centres



- There were fewer admissions to youth detention centres compared with 2022–23 (–10.6%), with greater declines in admissions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (–14.0%) compared with other young people (–0.7%).
- Young males accounted for eight in ten (81.7%) admissions to youth detention centres.
- While there were fewer unsentenced admissions to youth detention centres compared with the previous year (–11.1%), unsentenced admissions continued to account for the majority of admissions (98.1%).

⁵ 'Unique' refers to the counting of an individual once only in a reference year, irrespective of how many times they appeared in court / commenced a supervised youth justice order / were admitted to a detention centre in that period.

⁶ Total includes a small number whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

5.1 Overview

This chapter presents summary statistics about the number and characteristics of unique child defendants with at least one finalised appearance in a Queensland criminal court, and young people under the supervision of Youth Justice. The report presents time series data for up to 10 years to 2023–24, and includes a profile of these young people, including their age, sex, and Indigenous status (where provided).

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.)

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.

For example, in 2023–24, Youth Justice data used in the preparation of this report may be different from time series data produced for reports from previous years. While young people are processed through childrens courts and youth justice systems for offences committed or alleged to have been committed between the ages of 10 and 17 years, court proceedings or orders may conclude when the young person is somewhat older. Some of the differences observed in statistics in this 2023–24 report may relate to a recent inclusion of young people of slightly older ages than was previously reported, records which may have previously been excluded.

The *Strengthening Community Safety Act 2023* which commenced on 22 March 2023, included several amendments impacting bail, including breach of a bail condition as an offence for a young person. The breach offence applies only where the condition was part of a bail undertaking that the child entered into after the commencement of the changes. (See section 2.5 for further details.)

It should be noted that Youth Justice uses different terms and counting rules from the Queensland Courts to explain volume counts in relation to children appearing in courts. In this section, the principal counting unit is *unique child defendant*, and an individual defendant is counted only once in a reference year, irrespective of whether they had one or multiple finalised court 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 statistics published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) in *Youth Justice in Australia*.

5.2 Children in court

5.2.1 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, between 10 and 17 years, 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 2023–24, there were 3,814 unique young people with at least one appearance finalised in court (Table 49), continuing a general decline observed since the series high in 2018–19 (5,303) (–28.1%). In 2023–24, 17-year-old offenders made up over a quarter (27.5%) of unique child defendants, followed by those aged 16 years (20.9%) and 15 years (20.5%). In February 2018, following changes to the *Youth Justice Act 1992*, 17-year-old offenders transitioned from the adult to the youth justice system. In 2023–24, the number of unique defendants aged 17 years at the time of offence was at its lowest since this transition, at 1,050 compared with 1,566 in 2018–19 (the year after the transition). The number of unique defendants aged 16 years old at the time of offence was also at a ten-year low in 2023–24 (796).

Among those whose sex was recorded, males accounted for just over seven in ten (71.1%) unique child defendants in Queensland courts in 2023–24. The number of female unique child defendants was the lowest since the transition of 17-year-old offenders in 2017–18, at 1,103 in 2023–24 compared with 1,476 in 2018–19. This is despite the overall slight increase in unique child defendants compared with 2022–23, following the implementation of new breach of bail legislation in March 2023.

Table 49 Number of unique child defendants by age and sex – time series^(a)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
	— unique persons —									
Sex										
Male	2,779	2,806	2,717	3,250	3,824	2,901	3,214	2,826	2,668	2,709
Female	1,017	1,034	1,057	1,265	1,476	1,133	1,268	1,123	1,135	1,103
Age at time of offence^(b)										
10 yrs	37	30	30	39	44	24	30	11	15	18
11 yrs	69	96	78	90	89	55	55	49	46	44
12 yrs	187	206	208	224	209	174	168	146	147	162
13 yrs	421	450	451	475	474	324	393	341	381	375
14 yrs	733	762	787	779	747	551	628	610	585	584
15 yrs	976	1,004	989	1,072	975	729	820	742	759	780
16 yrs	1,362	1,285	1,226	1,216	1,188	914	1,025	874	808	796
17 yrs	..	..	..	622	1,566	1,258	1,350	1,169	1,057	1,050
Total^(c)	3,797	3,840	3,776	4,519	5,303	4,036	4,484	3,950	3,805	3,814

.. not applicable

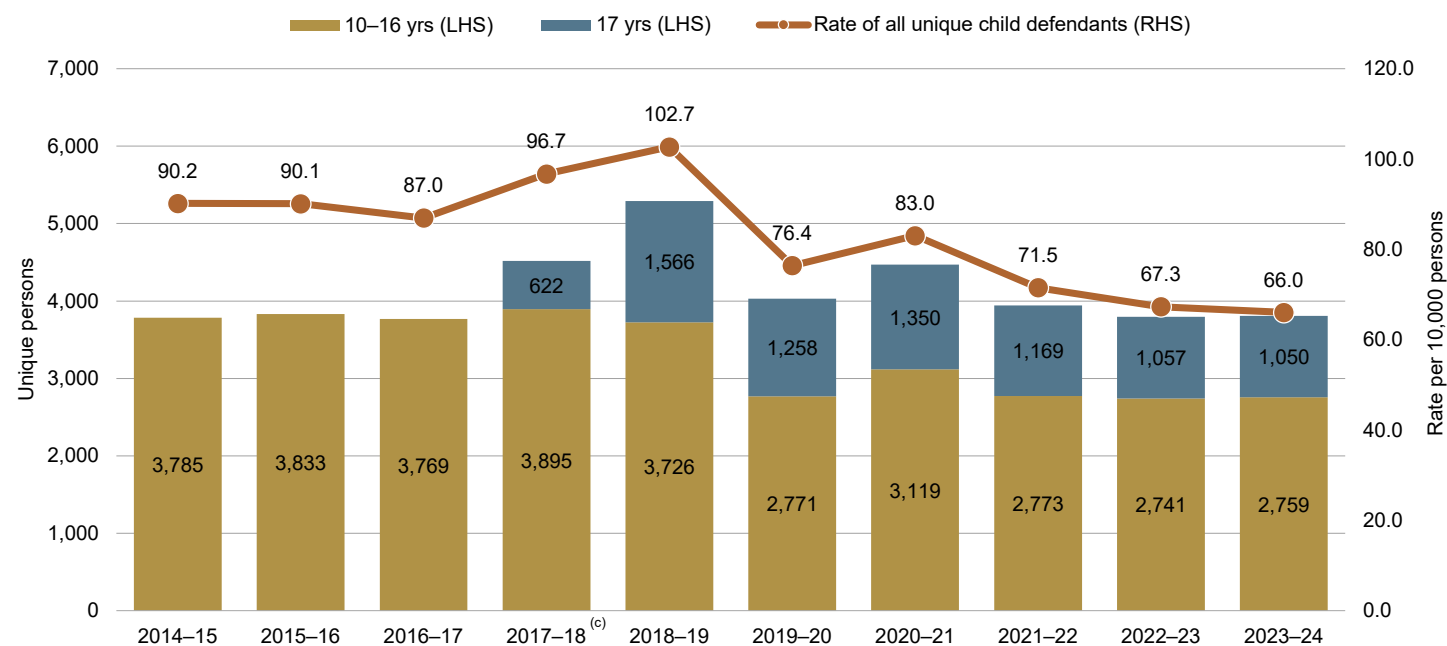
(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) 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.

(c) Totals include defendants whose age and/or sex was not stated and those whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

The transition of 17-year-old offenders to the youth justice system resulted in an increase in the total number of unique defendants observed in 2017–18 and 2018–19 compared with previous years (Figure 22). There was a decline in the number of unique defendants in 2019–20, coinciding with social restrictions and court disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by an increase in the following year. From 2020–21 to 2023–24, the total number of unique defendants has steadily declined by 14.9%, with the decline most apparent among those aged 17 years at time of offence (–22.2%). The total number of unique defendants in 2023–24 (3,814) was down 28.1% from the series peak in 2018–19 but slightly higher than in 2022–23 (up 0.2%) after the introduction of new legislation for breach of bail conditions.

When population growth is taken into account, the rates show there were around 66.0 individual defendants per 10,000 persons aged 17 years or younger in the population in 2023–24, the lowest rate in a decade.

Figure 22 Number and rate^(a) of unique child defendants, by offender age cohort^(b) – time series^(c)

(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) 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. Excludes defendants whose age was not stated.

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

In 2023–24, unique defendant rates increased with each defendant year of age, meaning rates were lowest among 10-year-olds (2.5 defendants per 10,000 young people aged 10 years in the population) and highest among 17-year-olds (148.8 defendants per 10,000 young people aged 17 years) (Table 50). Over the past decade, defendant rates have varied for all ages, with the lowest defendant rates in a decade observed in 2023–24 among young people aged 11, 14, 16 and 17 years.

There were 91.2 male and 39.3 female defendants per 10,000 young persons aged 10–17 years in the population in 2023–24, both representing series lows for the past decade.

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

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
	— rate per 10,000 persons ^(b) —									
Sex										
Male	128.7	128.3	121.8	135.2	143.8	106.6	115.5	99.3	91.7	91.2
Female	49.6	49.9	50.1	55.8	58.9	44.2	48.4	41.9	41.4	39.3
Age at time of offence^(c)										
10 yrs	6.1	4.8	4.6	5.8	6.4	3.4	4.3	1.6	2.1	2.5
11 yrs	11.6	15.7	12.3	13.6	13.0	7.9	7.8	6.9	6.5	6.2
12 yrs	31.5	34.3	33.8	35.0	31.2	25.1	23.8	20.5	20.5	22.6
13 yrs	69.7	75.3	74.6	76.4	73.3	47.9	56.3	47.9	52.8	51.4
14 yrs	120.8	125.4	130.9	128.1	119.1	84.4	92.1	86.5	81.1	79.5
15 yrs	162.3	164.0	161.2	176.7	159.0	115.1	124.6	107.9	106.3	106.4
16 yrs	226.2	211.9	198.0	196.1	194.1	147.9	161.0	131.7	115.9	108.9
17 yrs	..	..	..	261.4	250.9	204.7	218.1	182.4	157.4	148.8
Total^(d)	90.2	90.1	87.0	96.7	102.7	76.4	83.0	71.5	67.3	66.0

.. not applicable

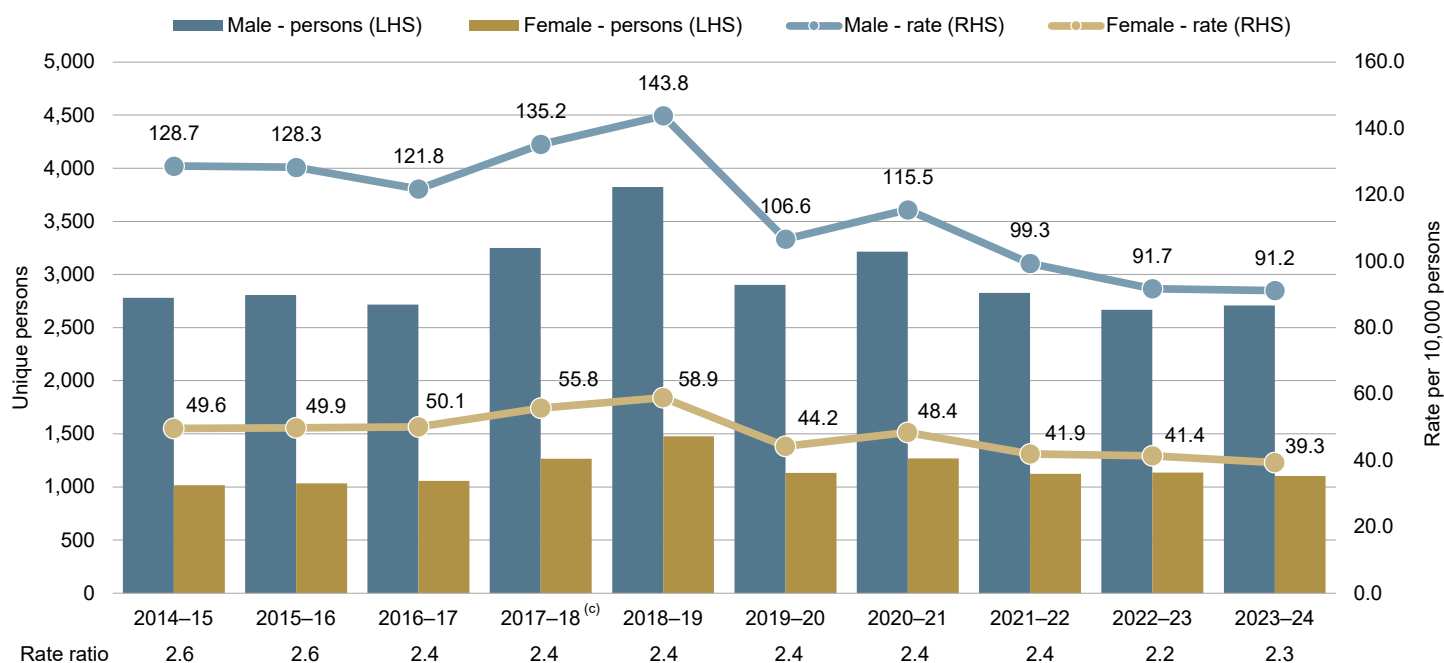
(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons from the relevant demographic group. 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) 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 rates include defendants whose age and/or sex was not stated and those whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

The number of unique child defendants peaked in 2018–19 for both males and females, coinciding with the transition of 17-year-olds to the youth justice system (Figure 23). Over the past decade, the defendant rate gap between males and females has tended to converge slightly, with the male defendant rate 2.3 times that of females in 2023–24, down from 2.6 in 2014–15. This closing rate gap reflects that, when comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15, the defendant rate for young males has declined more substantially (–29.1%) when compared with that for females (–20.8%).

Figure 23 Number and rate^(a) of unique child defendants by sex^(b) – time series^(c)

(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.

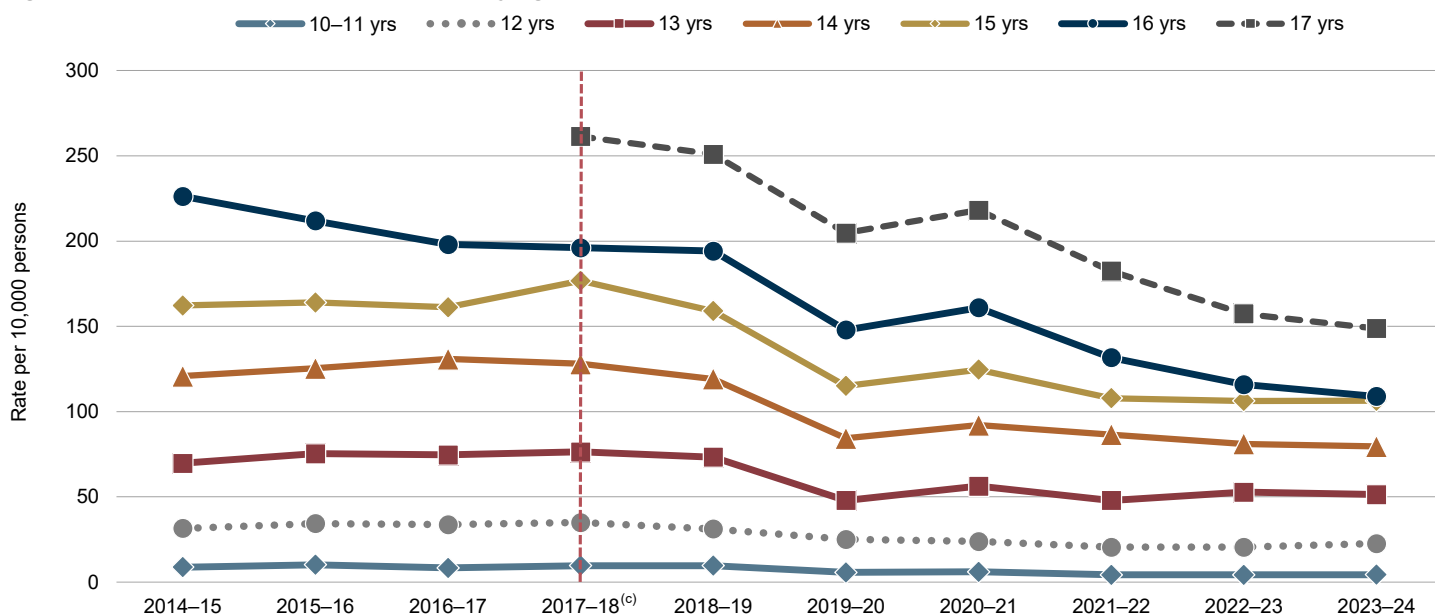
(b) Excludes defendants whose sex was not stated and those whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

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

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

Coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019–20, the defendant rate declined substantially for all ages before increasing slightly in 2020–21. However, the defendant rate has continued to decline from 2020–21 to a series low in 2023–24 for those aged 14 to 17 save for 15-year-olds, for whom defendant rates remained relatively stable in the past two years. For all ages in 2023–24, unique child defendant rates have not returned to those observed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

When comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15, the defendant rate among young people of all ages has declined, but most substantially among those aged 16 years (–51.9%) and 10–11 years (–50.6%). Among those aged 17 years, the rate also tended to decline since their transition to the youth justice system, from 261.4 defendants per 10,000 17-year-olds in 2017–18 to 148.8 defendants in 2023–24 (–43.1%).

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

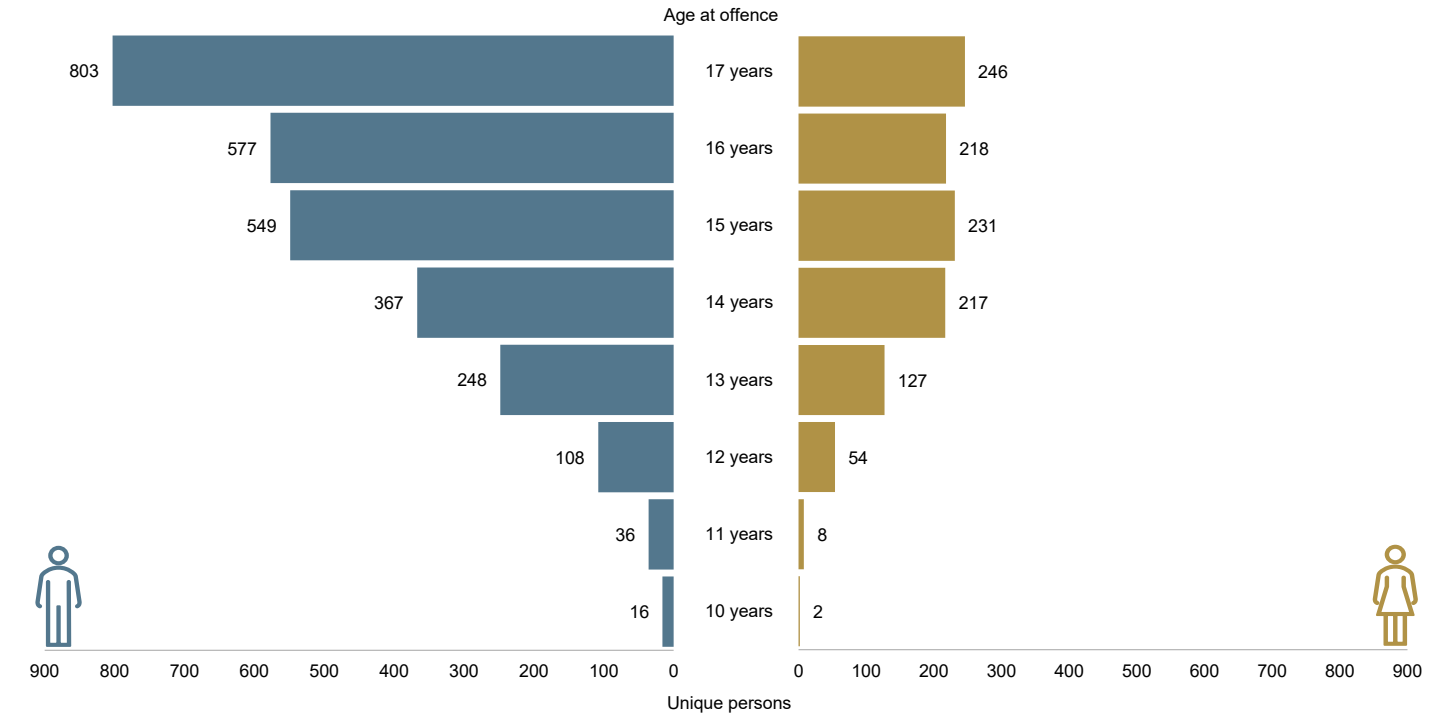
(a) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2011–12 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.

(b) Age at offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first finalised appearance in the reporting period. Excludes defendants whose age at time of offence was not stated.

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

In 2023–24, among those whose age and sex were stated, unique male defendants outnumbered female defendants across all ages (Figure 25). The most common offending age was 17 years among both males (29.7%) and females (22.3%) in 2023–24 and in every year since their transition to youth justice in 2017–18.

Figure 25 Unique child defendants, by sex^(a) and age^(b) at time of offence, 2023–24



- (a) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a defendant's first finalised appearance date in the reporting period.
- (b) Excludes defendants whose age and/or sex was not stated and those whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

5.2.2 Unique child defendants convicted of a charge

Data in this section represent individual (unique) child defendants convicted of one or more charges (i.e. proven offence(s)) 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.

In 2023–24, there were 3,814 unique child defendants with at least one finalised court appearance (Table 49). Of these, Table 51 shows that 3,281 of these individuals (86.0%) were convicted of at least one charge in 2023–24. The total number of children with at least one conviction in 2023–24 was at its lowest in ten years (–6.6%), while total individuals with a finalised appearance remained stable (up 0.4%) when compared with 2014–15 (Table 49).

Among all individuals convicted of at least one charge in 2023–24, 17-year-old offenders accounted for over a quarter (25.8%), followed by those aged 16 years (21.6%) and 15 years (21.2%).

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

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
	— unique persons —									
Sex										
Male	2,581	2,562	2,450	2,875	3,404	2,470	2,795	2,423	2,322	2,332
Female	932	935	949	1,122	1,270	940	1,080	948	978	948
Age at time of offence^(b)										
10 yrs	31	25	22	26	25	11	15	3	11	8
11 yrs	64	82	57	75	72	38	41	28	29	30
12 yrs	170	186	176	196	180	139	141	111	128	125
13 yrs	388	414	412	446	420	274	350	308	316	323
14 yrs	681	692	714	683	666	480	563	538	543	540
15 yrs	915	933	906	971	890	636	708	663	685	695
16 yrs	1,256	1,158	1,110	1,062	1,055	783	909	766	714	708
17 yrs	..	..	..	540	1,361	1,045	1,139	950	873	848
Total^(c)	3,514	3,497	3,401	4,000	4,677	3,412	3,876	3,372	3,302	3,281

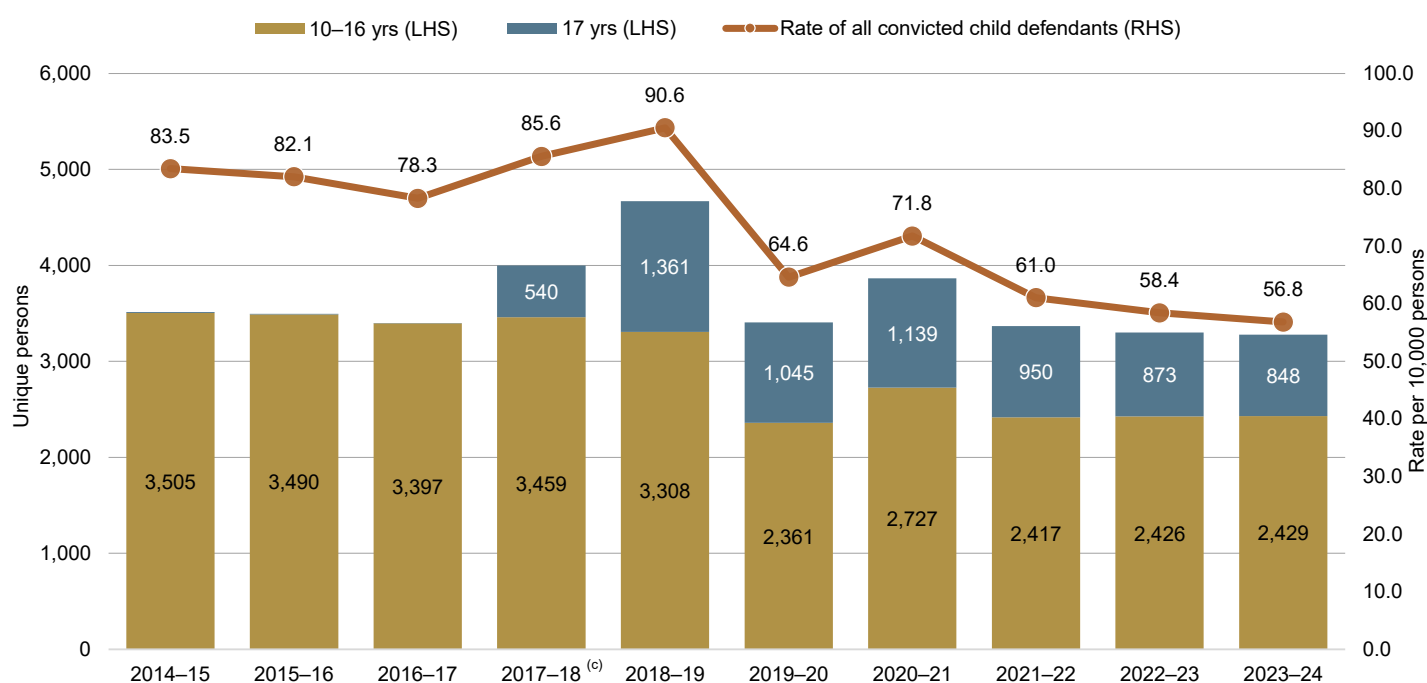
.. not applicable

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

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

(c) Total includes defendants whose age and/or sex was not stated and those whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

Figure 26 shows the number and rate of unique child defendants convicted of a charge, by age group at offence, over time. The total number of individuals with at least one conviction, while at its lowest in a decade in 2023–24, has remained largely stable post-pandemic when compared with 2021–22 (–2.7%). This coincided with relative stability in the number of young offenders aged 10–16 years with a conviction over this period (up 0.5%) and declines in the number of those aged 17 years (–10.7%). When accounting for population differences or changes, the conviction rate shows that the number of unique child defendants with at least one conviction was at a ten-year low in 2023–24, at 56.8 per 10,000 persons aged 10–17 years in the population. This is down 37.3% from its peak in 2018–19.

Figure 26 Number and rate^(a) of unique child defendants convicted of a charge, by offender age cohort^(b) – time series^(c)

(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.

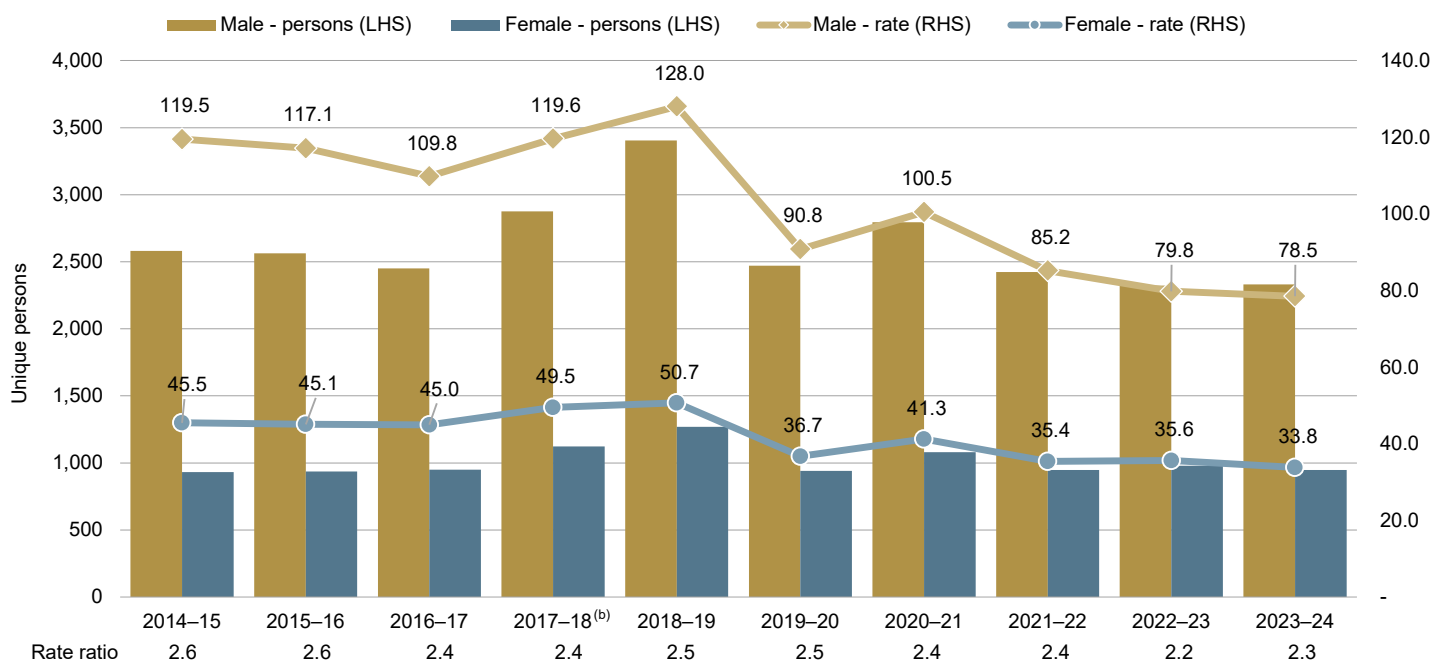
(b) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first convicted charge in the reporting period. Excludes defendants whose age at time of offence was not stated.

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

Similar to the trends for appearances (Figure 23), the number and rate of unique child defendants convicted of at least one charge peaked in 2018–19 for both males and females, before declining substantially in 2019–20. Despite a slight increase observed in 2020–21, the rate of males convicted of a charge has tended to decline since then, to 78.5 per 10,000 persons in 2023–24, a series low. In 2023–24, 86.0% of unique defendants (Figure 23) were convicted of at least one charge, 86.1% for males and 85.9% for females.

The converging gap between rates for males compared with females can be observed for those convicted of at least one charge, with the male conviction rate 2.3 times that of females in 2023–24, down from 2.6 in 2014–15. This reflects that the rate among males has declined more substantially (–34.3%) over the ten years compared with females (–25.7%) when comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15.

Figure 27 Number and rate^(a) of unique child defendants convicted of a charge, by sex^(b) – time series^(c)



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

(b) Excludes those defendants whose sex was not stated and those whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

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

Table 52 Rate of unique child defendants convicted of a charge by sex and age – time series^(a)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
	— rate per 10,000 persons ^(b) —									
Sex										
Male	119.5	117.1	109.8	119.6	128.0	90.8	100.5	85.2	79.8	78.5
Female	45.5	45.1	45.0	49.5	50.7	36.7	41.3	35.4	35.6	33.8
Age at time of offence^(c)										
10 yrs	5.1	4.0	3.4	3.9	3.6	1.6	2.2	0.4	1.6	1.1
11 yrs	10.7	13.4	9.0	11.3	10.5	5.5	5.8	4.0	4.1	4.2
12 yrs	28.6	31.0	28.6	30.6	26.9	20.1	20.0	15.6	17.9	17.5
13 yrs	64.3	69.3	68.2	71.7	65.0	40.5	50.1	43.3	43.8	44.2
14 yrs	112.2	113.9	118.7	112.3	106.2	73.5	82.5	76.3	75.3	73.5
15 yrs	152.1	152.4	147.6	160.0	145.1	100.4	107.6	96.4	96.0	94.8
16 yrs	208.6	190.9	179.3	171.3	172.4	126.7	142.7	115.4	102.4	96.9
17 yrs	..	..	..	227.0	218.1	170.0	184.0	148.3	130.0	120.1
Total^(d)	83.5	82.1	78.3	85.6	90.6	64.6	71.8	61.0	58.4	56.8

.. not applicable

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

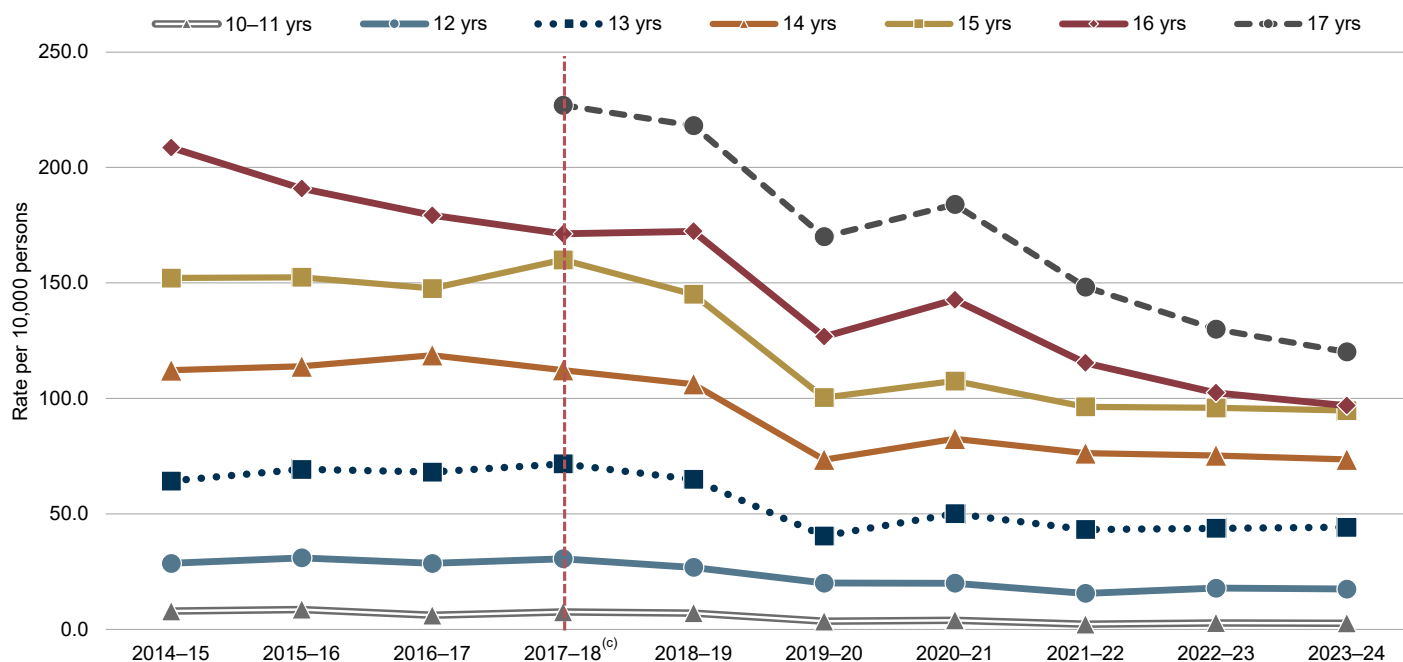
(b) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2011–12 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination.

(c) 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 age and/or sex was not stated and those whose sex was self-reported as intersex or indeterminate.

In 2023–24, the rate of unique child defendants convicted per 10,000 persons was highest among those aged 17 years (120.1 per 10,000 persons), with rates consecutively lower by year of age from there (Table 52 and Figure 28). Among those aged 14, 15, 16 and 17 years, the rate of child defendants convicted was at the lowest in the time series, while the rate among those aged 10–11 years declined most substantially when comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15 (–66.2%).

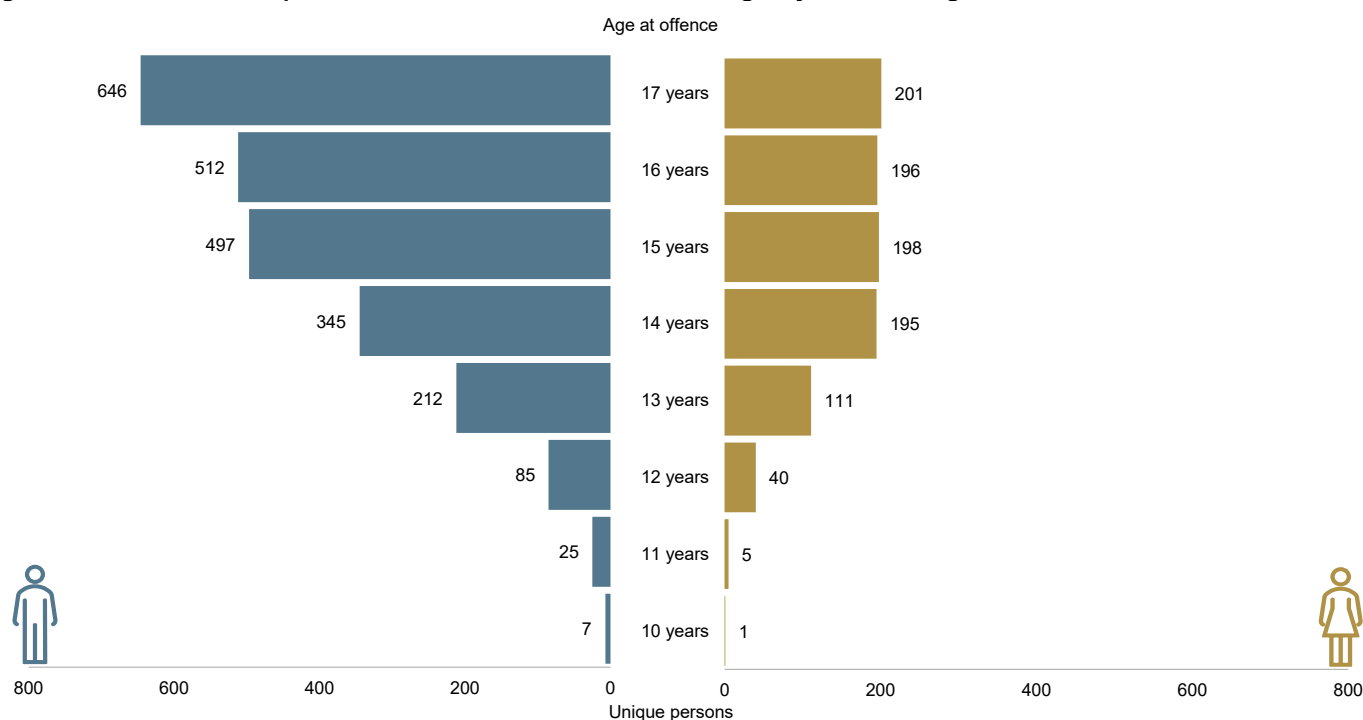
Figure 28 Rate^(a) of unique child defendants convicted of a charge, by age at time of offence^(b) – time series^(c)



- (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) Age at time of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first convicted charge in the reporting period. Excludes those defendants whose age at time of offence was not stated.
- (c) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018 (dashed red line).

In 2023–24, male unique defendants convicted outnumbered females in every age group. While the number of convicted male unique defendants was higher with each year of age, peaking at 17 years, the numbers of convicted unique female defendants were similar for each age group from 14 to 17 years.

Figure 29 Number of unique child defendants convicted of a charge, by sex^(a) and age at time of offence^(b), 2023–24



- (a) Excludes defendants whose sex was not stated and/or those 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. Excludes those whose age at time of offence was not stated.

5.3 Youth justice orders

5.3.1 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.)

The following supervised community-based orders commenced or were repealed at various times during the time series (See Explanatory notes for more detail):

- boot camp (repealed in July 2015)
- restorative justice (recommended 1 July 2016)

There are three different categories of admissions to youth justice orders: *supervised*, *unsupervised* and *other* orders. *Unsupervised* orders were the most common over the time series, accounting for nearly four in ten (38.0%) admissions to youth justice orders in 2023–24, down from making up nearly half (48.1%) in 2014–15 (Table 53). The number of admissions to *other* orders has increased substantially over the past decade, nearly four times higher in 2023–24 when compared with 2014–15 (up 275.3%). Supervised orders made up a third (34.0%) of admissions in 2023–24, with the number of supervised admissions relatively stable over the previous three years. Most supervised admissions are to community-based orders (88.2%), however the number of admissions to detention-based orders has increased (up 35.5%) while the number of admissions to all community-based orders has tended to decline (–8.2%) when comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15.

Table 53 Admissions to youth justice orders – time series^(a)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
	— number —									
Supervised orders	3,448	3,392	3,200	3,789	4,017	2,994	3,452	3,253	3,170	3,291
Detention-based^(b)	287	343	272	306	362	298	275	302	349	389
Community-based	3,161	3,049	2,928	3,483	3,655	2,696	3,177	2,951	2,821	2,902
Boot camp	63	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Community service	1,009	925	731	871	859	467	440	392	365	354
Conditional release	233	251	226	231	317	238	300	308	284	328
Graffiti removal ^(c)	252	198	186	214	225	139	137	94	74	75
Intensive supervision ^(d)	13	10	2	13	6	4	3	8	1	2
Probation	1,591	1,653	1,511	1,953	1,963	1,404	1,794	1,704	1,665	1,706
Restorative justice	..	..	272	201	285	444	503	445	432	437
Unsupervised orders	3,866	3,990	3,706	4,198	4,630	3,007	3,682	3,302	3,319	3,682
Other orders^(e)	721	662	1,396	2,144	2,919	2,513	2,769	2,686	2,699	2,706
Total	8,035	8,044	8,302	10,131	11,566	8,514	9,903	9,241	9,188	9,679

.. not applicable

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

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

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

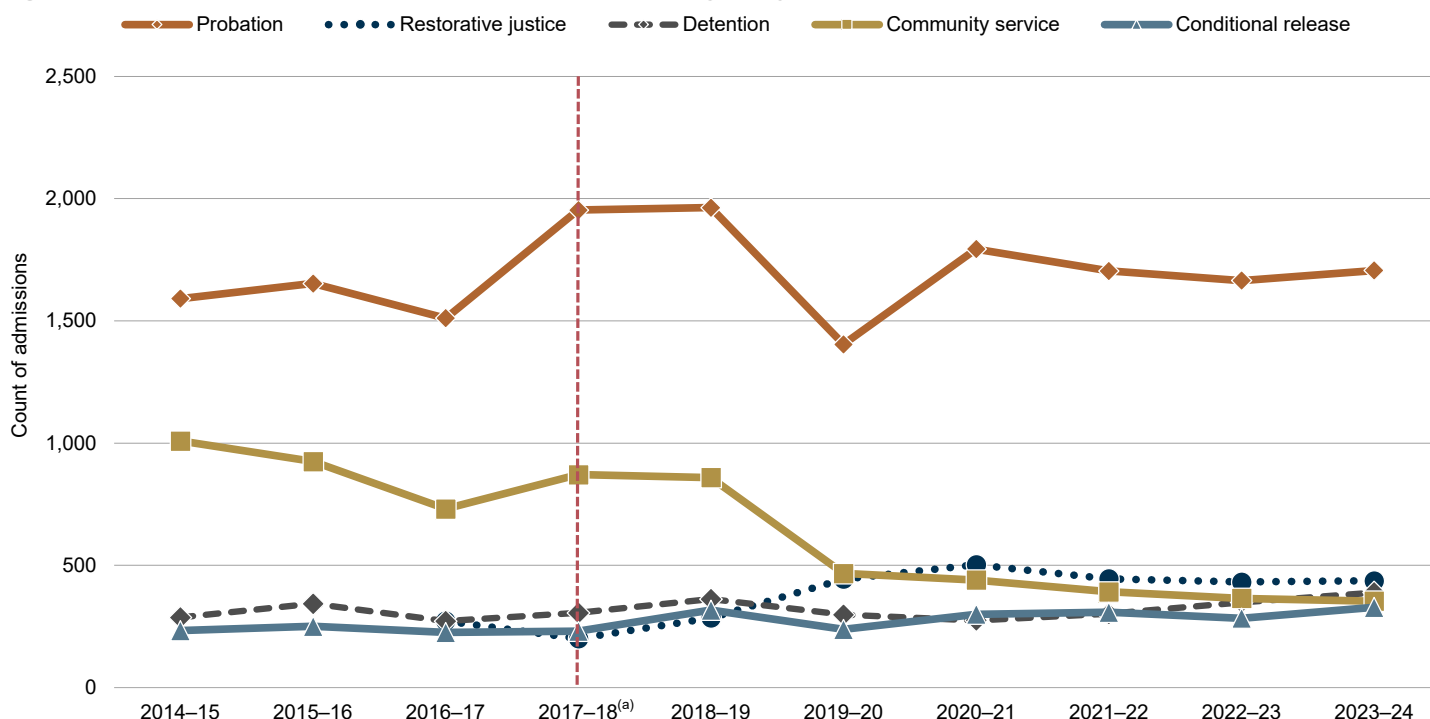
(d) Intensive supervision orders (ISOs) are a sentencing option for offenders aged between 10 and 12 years where the court considers that the child, unless subject to an intensive period of supervision and support in the community, is likely to commit further offences. ISOs can only be ordered in cases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

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

5.3.1.1 Supervised orders

Supervised youth justice orders 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).

In 2023–24, *probation*, *restorative justice*, *detention*, *community service* and *conditional release* were the five most common youth justice orders (Figure 30). *Probation* accounted for over half (51.8%) of all admissions to supervised youth justice orders in 2023–24, followed by *restorative justice* (13.3%). The number of admissions to all orders declined sharply in 2019–20, coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic, save for *restorative justice*, with the number of admissions to this type of supervised order increasing (up 55.8%) when compared with the previous year. The number of admissions to all supervised youth justice orders has remained relatively stable between 2020–21 and 2023–24, with some increases observed in the number of admissions to *detention* (up 41.5%), combined with declines in the number of admissions to *community service* (–19.5%) over this period.

Figure 30 Admissions to the five most prevalent supervised youth justice orders – time series^(a)

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

In 2023–24, the total number of admissions to supervised youth justice orders increased slightly from the previous year (up 3.8%). Males accounted for over three quarters of admissions (76.8%), and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people accounted for just over seven in ten (71.2%) of all admissions in 2023–24. At admission to a supervised order, nearly seven in ten (69.7%) young people were aged 15, 16 or 17 years.

Over the past decade, there were fewer young people aged 16 years and younger among all admissions to supervised orders, while there were more of those aged 17 years and older. When comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people admitted to supervised orders increased (up 11.5%), while declines were observed among other young people (–29.6%).

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

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
— number —										
Sex										
Male	2,714	2,680	2,442	2,979	3,094	2,361	2,670	2,496	2,447	2,527
Female	733	712	758	809	922	633	782	754	723	764
Indigenous status										
Indigenous	2,102	2,086	1,963	2,451	2,599	1,971	2,317	2,144	2,197	2,344
Other ^(b)	1,346	1,306	1,237	1,338	1,418	1,023	1,135	1,109	973	947
Age on admission^(c)										
10–11 yrs	38	39	32	54	28	14	20	9	11	19
12 yrs	126	123	87	95	98	82	61	78	36	38
13 yrs	391	344	352	332	291	269	227	227	254	238
14 yrs	562	689	608	605	536	400	494	456	438	446
15 yrs	891	866	858	853	808	558	738	756	666	746
16 yrs	1,080	974	927	966	974	702	780	761	794	725
17 yrs	336	331	312	803	939	655	797	728	726	822
18 yrs and over	24	26	24	81	343	314	335	238	245	257
Total^(d)	3,448	3,392	3,200	3,789	4,017	2,994	3,452	3,253	3,170	3,291

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

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

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

(d) Total includes admissions of those whose sex was not stated and/or self-reported as intersex or indeterminate (6 over the time series).

5.3.1.2 Unsupervised orders

Unsupervised youth justice orders include fine, good behaviour and reprimand.

In 2023–24, the number of admissions to unsupervised youth justice orders increased (up 10.9%) when compared with the previous year (Table 55). Much of this growth was driven by admissions to *reprimand*, which increased (up 13.1%), while there was no substantial change in the number of admissions to *fine* (–3.3%) or *good behaviour* (up 1.7%) orders. In 2023–24, admissions to *reprimand* accounted for over eight in ten (83.0%) unsupervised admissions, followed by *good behaviour* (16.2%) and *fine* (0.8%) orders.

When comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15, the number of admissions to *reprimand* increased (up 19.4%), while there were declines in the number of admissions to *fine* (–70.1%) and *good behaviour* (–50.6%) orders.

Table 55 Admissions to unsupervised youth justice orders – time series^(a)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Order type	— number —									
Fine	97	70	62	74	154	70	55	54	30	29
Good behaviour order	1,211	1,218	1,106	1,145	1,382	731	936	615	588	598
Reprimand	2,558	2,702	2,538	2,979	3,094	2,206	2,691	2,633	2,701	3,055
Total	3,866	3,990	3,706	4,198	4,630	3,007	3,682	3,302	3,319	3,682

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

5.3.1.3 Other orders

'Other orders' include ancillary orders (compensation and restitution); conditional bail program; court diversion referral; drug diversion; indefinite referral; licence disqualification; transfer to prison.

In 2023–24, the total number of admissions to other youth justice orders did not change substantially when compared with the previous two years (Table 56). *Court diversion referral* and *conditional bail program* accounted for almost nine in ten (88.1%) admissions to other orders in 2023–24.

Table 56 Admissions to other^(a) youth justice orders – time series^(b)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Order type	— number —									
Compensation	15	6	5	16	21	8	9	4	10	14
Conditional bail program	379	323	450	768	870	770	688	826	1,051	885
Court diversion referral	..	..	650	940	1,272	1,253	1,504	1,454	1,294	1,498
Drug diversion	152	175	160	190	260	166	138	54	48	50
Licence disqualification	126	129	104	203	465	307	422	338	288	255
Restitution	49	29	27	27	31	9	8	10	8	4
Total	721	662	1,396	2,144	2,919	2,513	2,769	2,686	2,699	2,706

.. not applicable, as the order type did not yet exist or had been repealed. Court diversion referral orders were introduced on 1 July 2016.

(a) Other orders also includes ancillary orders such as compensation and restitution (see Glossary for further details).

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

5.3.2 Unique persons 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 any one time, the same young person may appear in both the supervised and unsupervised order admission 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 the 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.

5.3.2.1 Supervised orders

In 2023–24, the number of unique young people subject to a supervised youth justice order increased slightly from the previous year (up 3.1%) (Table 57). Of the 1,610 individual young people under supervision in 2023–24, three-quarters (75.1%) were male, two-thirds (66.7%) were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and nearly seven in ten (68.7%) were aged between 15 and 17 years at admission.

Over the past decade, there were fewer unique young people under supervision per year, with the number declining (–9.0%) when comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15. An overall decline in the number of individual males under supervision was also observed (–11.2%) over the period, however, there were slightly more unique Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (up 5.7%) under supervision while the number of other young people declined (–28.8%).

When the number of total admissions to supervised orders (Table 54) are considered in conjunction with the number of unique individuals (Table 57 below), the average number of admissions per unique young person per year can be estimated. In 2023–24, and across the time series, there was no substantial difference in the average number of admissions per year apparent for males compared with females, or for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander compared with other young people, all with about 2 appearances per unique young person per year. Young people aged 10–11 years had the highest average number of appearances (3.2 appearances) per unique young person, which was just over one appearance more than other ages, on average (data not shown).

Table 57 Unique persons admitted to supervised youth justice orders by Indigenous status, age and sex – time series^(a)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
— unique persons —										
Sex										
Male	1,361	1,331	1,236	1,499	1,547	1,190	1,291	1,155	1,187	1,209
Female	407	402	384	449	513	378	409	371	375	401
Indigenous status										
Indigenous	1,016	1,002	930	1,178	1,259	968	1,049	958	1,026	1,074
Other ^(b)	753	731	690	771	802	600	651	569	536	536
Age on admission^(c)										
10–11 yrs	23	24	18	26	19	9	10	4	4	6
12 yrs	72	72	49	40	48	38	27	31	19	21
13 yrs	169	163	166	175	140	104	100	91	110	110
14 yrs	291	330	277	264	250	177	228	202	216	198
15 yrs	430	433	416	426	395	285	311	307	307	344
16 yrs	557	500	488	492	483	357	391	360	366	361
17 yrs	213	196	188	480	500	389	416	390	376	401
18 yrs and over	14	15	18	46	226	209	217	142	164	169
Total^(d)	1,769	1,733	1,620	1,949	2,061	1,568	1,700	1,527	1,562	1,610

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

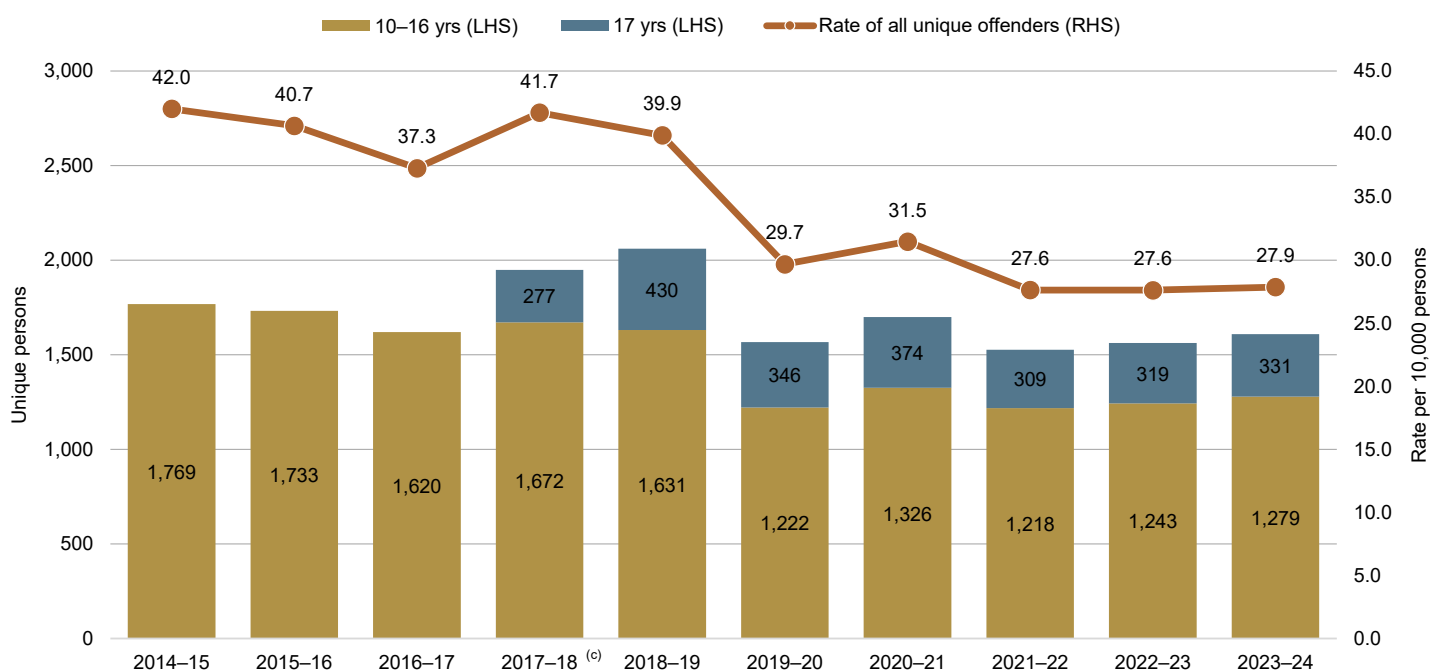
(b) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.

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

(d) Total includes those whose sex was not stated and/or self-reported as intersex or indeterminate (4 across the time series).

While the total number of unique young people admitted to a supervised youth justice order varied over the past decade (Figure 31), there was relative stability in the number of individuals over the previous five years, increasing slightly to 1,610 individuals in 2023–24 from 1,568 individuals in 2019–20 (up 2.7%).

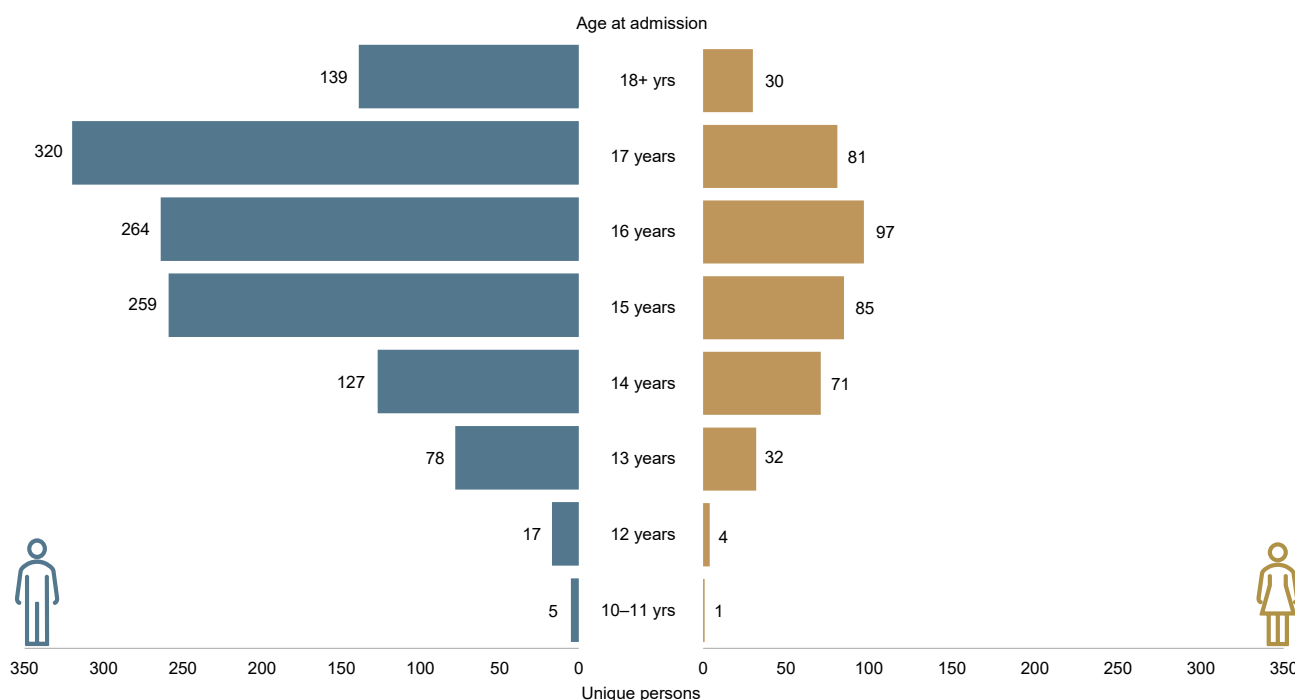
When population changes were taken into account, the rates that the number of unique young people admitted to supervision per 10,000 young people in Queensland generally tended to decline when comparing 2019–20 with 2014–15 (–29.3%), save for an increase in 2017–18 followed by a substantial decline in 2019–20 coinciding with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Following a decline in 2021–22, the rate of unique young people under supervision was stable to 2023–24.

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

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

In 2023–24, the number of unique males admitted to supervised youth justice orders generally tended to grow with each year of age, with those aged 17 years accounting for over a quarter of individual males (26.5%) (Figure 32). In 2023–24, relatively few (11.5%) males were aged 18 years and older at the time of their admission to a supervised order. These individuals were still processed through the youth justice system for offences committed between the ages of 10 and 17 years and appear in these data because court proceedings may conclude when the young person is older.

For females, the number of unique young people under supervision peaked at 16 years in 2023–24.

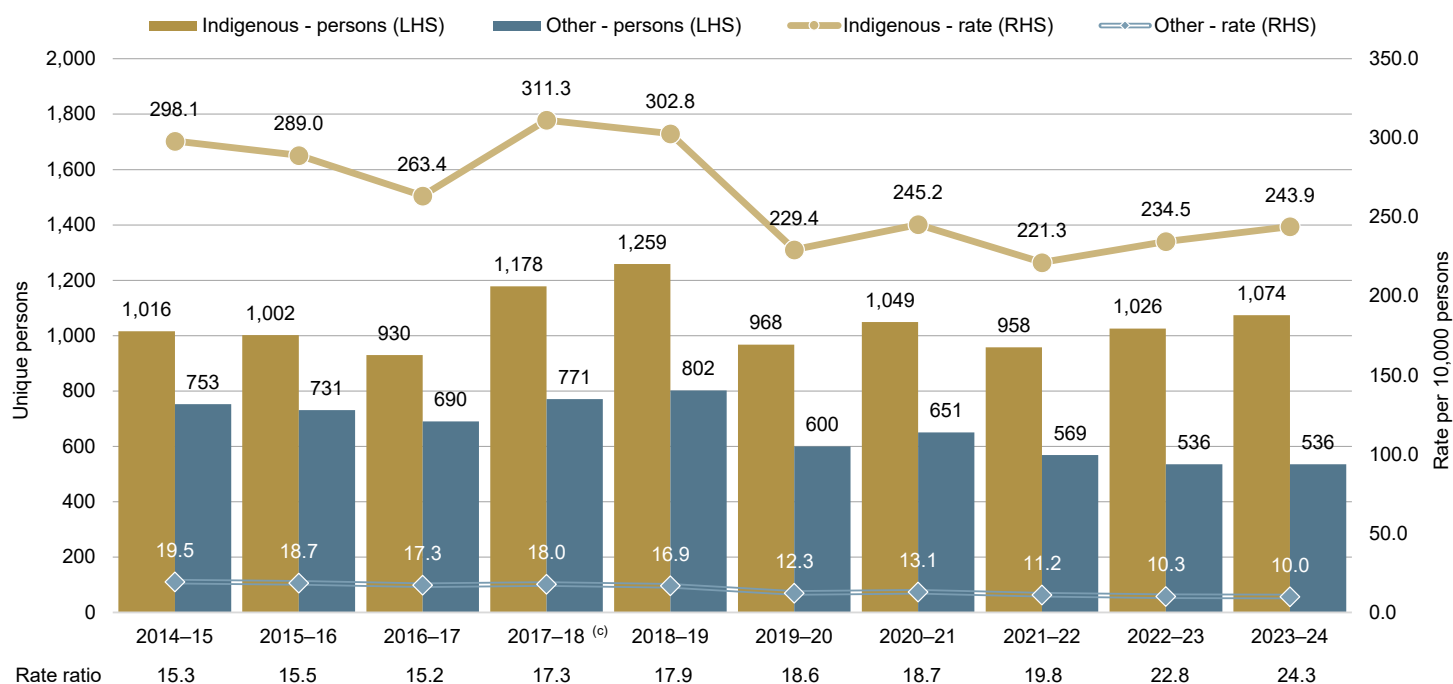
Figure 32 Unique persons admitted to supervised youth justice orders, by age on admission^(a) and sex, 2023–24

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

In 2023–24, the number of unique Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people admitted to a supervised order increased when compared with the previous year (up 4.7%), for the second year in a row (Figure 33). Unique Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people admitted to supervision outnumbered other young people across the time series and also tended to increase (up 5.7%) when comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15, while there were fewer other young people per year over the same period (–28.8%).

The rates show that there were 243.9 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people admitted to supervision per 10,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young persons in the community in 2023–24, while among other young people there were only 10.0 admissions to supervision per 10,000 persons. The rate of other young people admitted to supervision has tended to decline (–48.4%) more substantially compared with the rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (–20.0%) over the past decade. As a result, a growing gap in rates can be observed, with rates of supervision admissions among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people 24.3 times that for other young people in 2023–24.

Figure 33 Count and rate^(a) of unique persons admitted to supervised youth justice orders by Indigenous status^(b) – time series^(c)

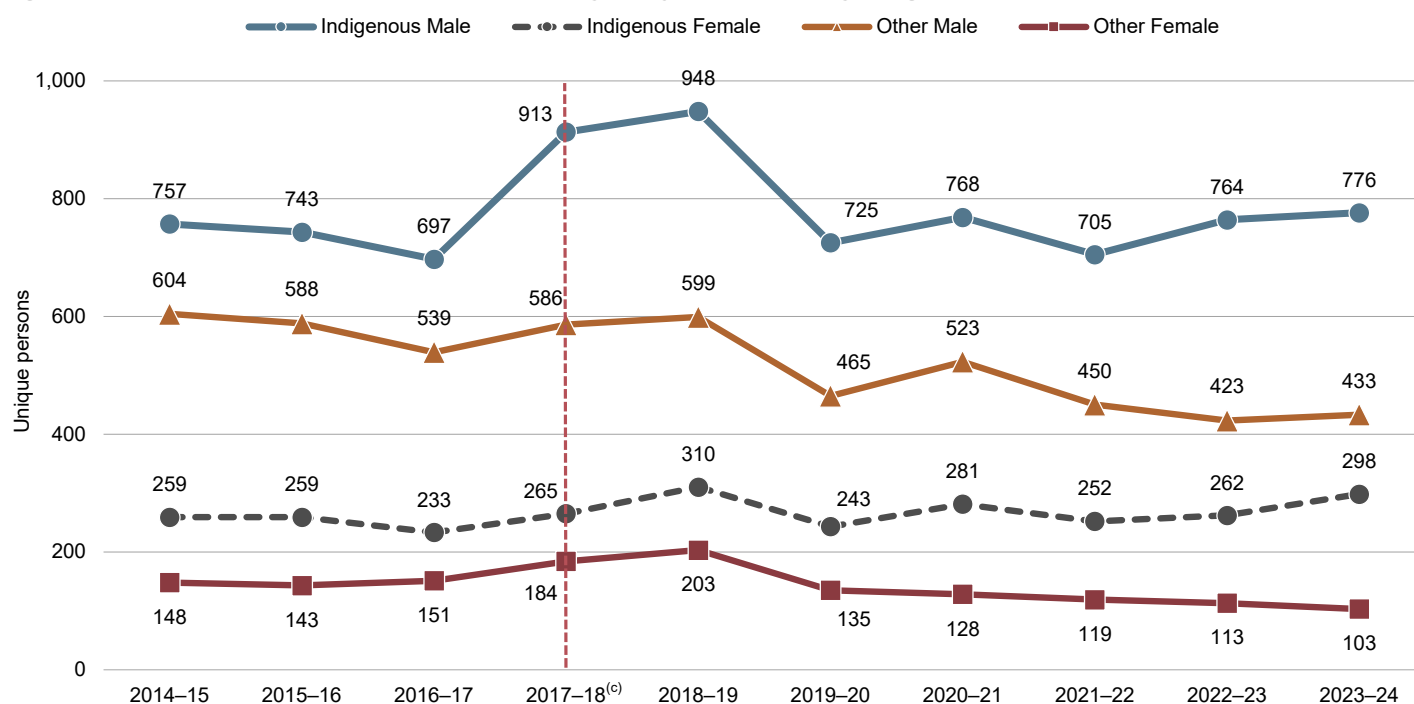


(a) Rates are calculated per 10,000 persons. Rates from 2012–13 to 2016–17 are based on persons aged 10–16 years, for 2018–19 onwards on persons aged 10–17 years, and for 2017–18 on a combination. Rate ratio is the rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people divided by the rate for other young people and is calculated on unrounded rates.

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

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

The number of unique young people admitted to supervision increased to a peak in 2018–19 before declining in 2019–20 for all groups (Figure 34). When comparing 2023–24 with 2020–21, the number of unique Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people admitted to supervision tended to increase, slightly for males (up 1.0%) and more substantially for females (up 6.0%). The number of unique other young people declined, for males (–17.2%) and females (–19.5%) over the same period. In 2023–24, males tended to outnumber their female counterparts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other young people. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males accounted for nearly half (48.2%) of unique young people admitted to supervision, and there were 2.6 times more unique males than females for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people admitted to supervision in 2023–24. Among other young people, the males outnumbered females by 4.2 times.

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

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

(b) Excludes a small number whose sex was not stated and/or self-reported as intersex or indeterminate (4 over the time series).

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

In 2023–24, almost half (48.6%) of unique young people under youth justice supervision had only one admission to supervision, and 86.6% had three or fewer admissions (Table 58). A relatively small share of unique offenders had four or five admissions (10.1%) and an even smaller share (3.2%) had six or more admissions in the most recent year.

Over the past decade, the number of unique young people with one admission to supervision reached a peak in 2018–19 (1,048 individuals), before tending to decline to 782 individuals in 2023–24 (–25.4%). Similar trends can be observed in the number of young people with two to five admissions over the decade, while the number of young people with six or more admissions peaked in 2021–22 (59 individuals), declining to 52 individuals in 2023–24.

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

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Number of admissions per year	— unique persons —									
1 admission	868	854	820	1,015	1,048	838	839	708	778	782
2 to 3 admissions	693	674	609	694	769	550	636	580	564	613
4 to 5 admissions	171	166	140	192	196	139	168	180	170	163
6 or more admissions	37	39	51	48	48	41	57	59	50	52
Total	1,769	1,733	1,620	1,949	2,061	1,568	1,700	1,527	1,562	1,610

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

5.3.2.2 Unsupervised orders

In 2023–24, the total number of unique young people admitted to unsupervised youth justice orders changed only marginally compared with the previous year (2,103 individuals compared with 2,100 individuals, respectively), representing the lowest annual numbers in the time series. The number of unique young people with four or more admissions to unsupervised orders peaked in 2023–24 (204 individuals), representing an increase from the previous year (up 80 individuals or 64.5%).

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

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Number of admissions per year	— unique persons —									
1 admission	1,984	1,938	1,696	1,895	2,398	1,632	1,829	1,507	1,374	1,287
2 to 3 admissions	674	733	698	782	799	490	654	570	602	612
4 to 5 admissions	75	84	73	97	86	60	65	86	100	161
6 or more admissions	8	8	18	17	12	4	15	17	24	43
Total	2,741	2,763	2,485	2,791	3,295	2,186	2,563	2,180	2,100	2,103

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

5.3.3 Average daily number under youth justice supervision in the community

The average daily number under youth justice supervision in the community is calculated based on the number of persons under youth justice supervision who, as at 11:59pm on the relevant date, were subject to a sentenced supervised order (*boot camp; community service; conditional release; graffiti removal; intensive supervision; probation; restorative justice; supervised release*), and/or participating in the *conditional bail program*. It does not include those held in youth detention centres.

The number of persons under youth justice supervision in the community per day, on average, has declined from the ten-year peak in 2018–19 (1,642 young people per day on average, coinciding with the transition of 17-year-old offenders to the youth justice system) to the second-lowest average daily number in 2023–24 (1,194 young people) (–27.3%). In 2023–24, about three-quarters (74.9%) of the young people under supervision daily on average were male, about six in ten (62.1%) were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and nearly seven in ten (68.9%) were aged 16 years and older (including those aged 18 years and older, who comprised 25.5% of the average daily number in 2023–24).

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

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
	— average daily number ^(b) —									
Sex										
Male	1,016	953	897	1,045	1,240	1,130	993	939	901	895
Female	324	281	294	332	402	378	312	316	296	299
Indigenous status										
Indigenous	754	669	655	767	950	881	787	760	734	742
Other ^(c)	587	565	536	611	692	628	518	495	465	452
Age^(d)										
10–11 yrs	10	9	7	8	8	6	7	2	4	4
12 yrs	29	29	26	20	28	19	15	16	9	12
13 yrs	84	74	76	73	71	62	43	49	54	53
14 yrs	166	164	163	156	150	128	112	111	118	107
15 yrs	258	254	252	264	263	221	186	191	193	195
16 yrs	355	318	318	346	349	297	255	248	248	254
17 yrs	310	258	250	362	389	341	293	290	256	264
18 yrs and over	126	127	100	147	384	436	394	349	316	305
Total^(e)	1,341	1,233	1,191	1,377	1,642	1,509	1,305	1,256	1,199	1,194

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

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

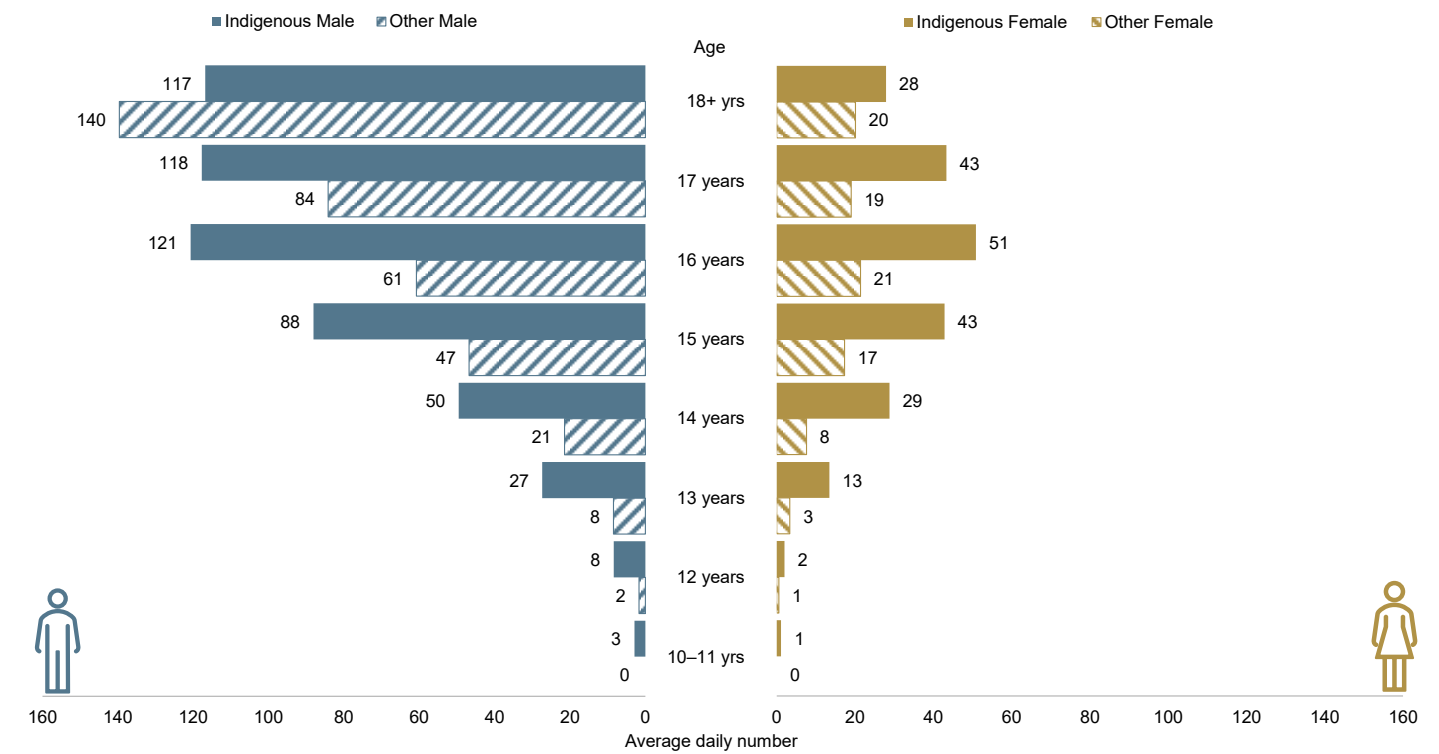
(c) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.

(d) Age refers to the age of young offender in completed years on day being counted.

(e) Total includes those whose sex was not stated and/or self-reported as intersex or indeterminate (4 across the time series).

In 2023–24, the average daily number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people under supervision in the community exceeded that of other young people for every age group regardless of sex, except for males aged 18 years and older (Figure 35). In that age group, other males made up over half (54.4%) of the average daily number of young males under community supervision.

Figure 35 Average daily number^(a) of persons under youth justice supervision in the community, by Indigenous status^(b), age and sex, 2023–24



(a) Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
(b) 'Other' represents those who identified as non-Indigenous and those whose Indigenous status was not stated.

5.4 Youth detention centres

5.4.1 Admissions to detention centres

This section relates to *physical* admission to a stay in a youth detention centre, whether unsentenced (in pre-court custody or on remand) or sentenced, where the admission date occurs in the reference year. An individual may have one or more admissions in a single reference year and is counted for each admission in this section and under the legal status pertaining to that admission. A return from a short absence from detention (e.g. to attend any place for court, medical examination or treatment) is not counted as a new admission, and nor is a change in legal status from unsentenced to sentenced for those already in detention.

In 2023–24, the number of admissions to youth detention declined compared with the previous year (–10.6%), continuing a downward trend observed since 2020–21 (–19.7%). Almost all admissions to youth detention were *unsentenced* (98.1%), as opposed to *sentenced* (1.9%), meaning that most were admitted to *remand* or *pre-court custody*. The number of admissions to *remand* declined (–7.7%) from the previous year, but accounted for about nine in ten (89.6%) unsentenced admissions. Admissions to *pre-court custody* declined to its lowest number in a decade (165 admissions).

Table 61 Admissions to youth detention centres by legal status – time series^(a)

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Legal status	— number —									
Unsentenced^(b)	1,823	1,626	1,972	2,183	1,481	1,890	1,999	1,899	1,783	1,585
Pre-court custody	903	776	963	878	187	789	914	455	244	165
Remand	920	850	1,009	1,305	1,294	1,101	1,085	1,444	1,539	1,420
Sentenced	59	54	54	31	49	18	13	20	25	31
Total	1,882	1,680	2,026	2,214	1,530	1,908	2,012	1,919	1,808	1,616

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

(b) A young person may be referred to unsentenced detention either by police (pre-court custody) or by a court (remand).

In 2023–24, there were fewer admissions to youth detention centres compared with the previous years (–10.6%), continuing a decline in the annual number of admissions observed in each year since 2020–21 (Table 62). Males accounted for over eight in ten (81.7%) admissions, while about seven in ten (71.9%) admissions were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in 2023–24. Young people aged between 15 and 17 years accounted for almost seven in ten (67.7%) admissions to youth detention. However, the number of admissions for 17-year-olds were at a ten-year high in 2023–24, while there were fewer admissions among 15 and 16-year-olds when compared with the previous three years.

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

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
	— number —									
Sex										
Male	1,483	1,321	1,588	1,732	1,212	1,546	1,634	1,515	1,479	1,320
Female	399	359	438	482	318	362	378	404	329	296
Indigenous status										
Indigenous	1,152	1,084	1,306	1,535	1,100	1,227	1,273	1,277	1,351	1,162
Other ^(b)	730	596	720	679	430	681	739	642	457	454
Age on admission^(c)										
10–11 yrs	50	31	74	83	22	28	35	12	18	32
12 yrs	85	82	99	163	105	95	75	80	72	54
13 yrs	249	224	219	279	186	226	195	189	210	150
14 yrs	403	376	438	452	249	356	383	351	298	272
15 yrs	515	458	598	555	304	430	493	451	397	350
16 yrs	527	476	564	545	330	381	439	453	424	362
17 yrs	50	29	33	133	318	379	381	366	379	382
18 yrs and over	3	4	1	4	16	13	11	17	10	14
Total	1,882	1,680	2,026	2,214	1,530	1,908	2,012	1,919	1,808	1,616

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

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

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

5.4.2 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. While an individual may have one or multiple admissions in a single reference year, they are counted **only once** in the reference year.

In 2023–24, there were 863 individual young people admitted to a youth detention centre, continuing slight annual declines observed since 2021–22 (–6.1%) (Table 63). Among unique young people admitted to youth detention in 2023–24, eight in ten (80.0%) were male, nearly seven in ten (68.6%) were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and half (50.2%) were aged 16 or 17 years.

In 2023–24, there were fewer unique females admitted to youth detention, declining to 173 individuals from the peak of 221 observed in 2016–17 (–21.7%), while the number of young males did not change substantially over this time. There were fewer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals admitted to youth detention in 2023–24 (592) compared with the previous year (628). The most recent year represents a general increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people admitted when compared with 2018–19 (up 7.2%), the first full year since 17-year-old offenders transitioned to the youth justice system. The number of 12 and 13-year-olds admitted to youth detention declined in 2023–24 compared with the previous year (down 37.8% and 22.7%, respectively).

On average, there were about two admissions per year per unique young person across the time series, regardless of sex, Indigenous status or age (with some variation for those aged 10–11 years due to relatively low numbers) (data not shown).

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

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
	— unique persons —									
Sex										
Male	692	647	710	764	622	698	727	719	705	690
Female	203	167	221	208	184	184	187	200	181	173
Indigenous status										
Indigenous	533	507	568	633	552	547	555	581	628	592
Other ^(b)	362	307	363	339	254	335	359	338	258	271
Age on admission^(c)										
10–11 yrs	14	14	24	17	8	8	12	4	7	9
12 yrs	51	39	39	50	40	44	27	33	37	23
13 yrs	91	98	91	110	90	74	82	76	97	75
14 yrs	182	156	197	196	118	153	158	165	127	126
15 yrs	248	241	270	260	165	191	215	203	208	190
16 yrs	275	245	290	262	194	189	200	221	203	216
17 yrs	32	18	19	73	184	213	212	207	198	217
18 yrs and over	2	3	1	4	7	10	8	10	9	7
Total^(d)	895	814	931	972	806	882	914	919	886	863

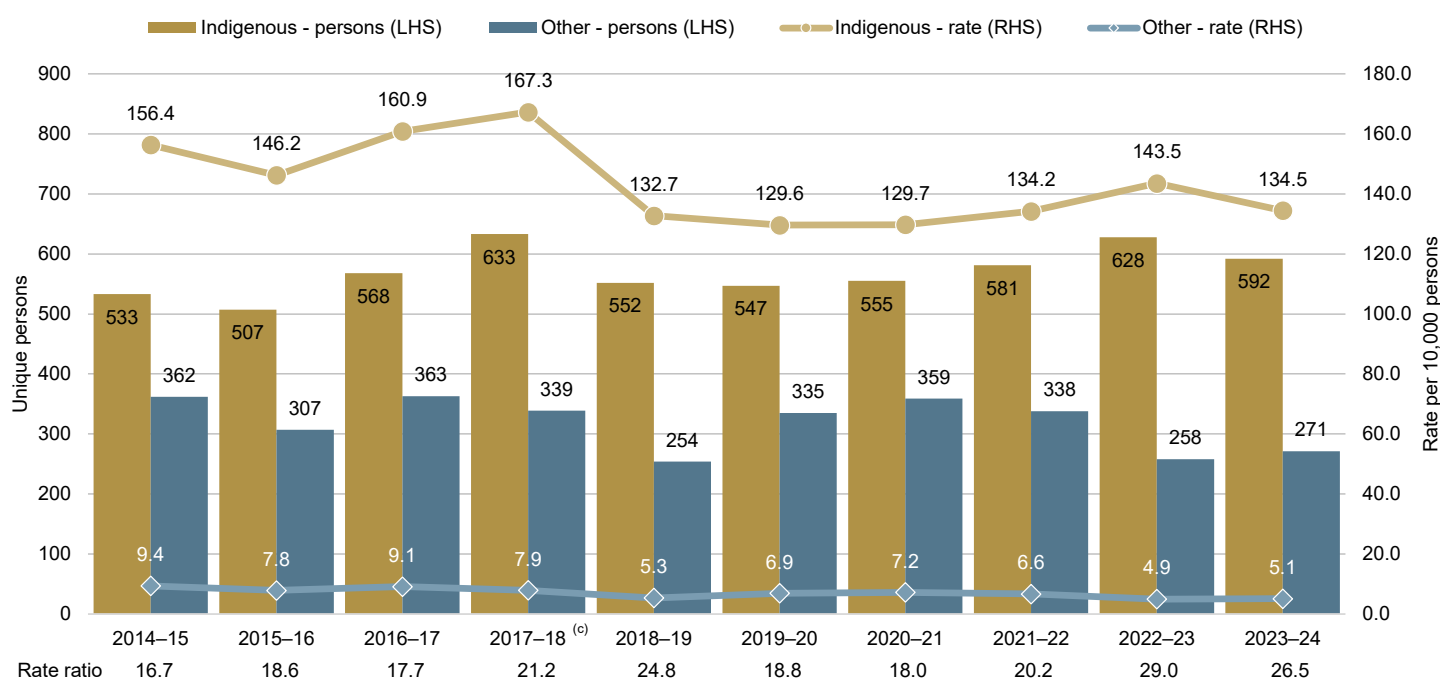
(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

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

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

In 2023–24 and across the time series, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people outnumbered other young people among individuals admitted to youth detention (Figure 36). While the number of unique Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people admitted was lower in 2023–24 compared with the previous year, this has varied over the time series.

The rates show the number of unique young people admitted to youth detention per 10,000 young persons in the relevant demographic group to account for population changes or differences. In 2023–24, there were 134.5 unique Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people admitted to youth detention per 10,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young persons in the general population. This marks a slight decline from the previous year (–6.3%), however it continues a trend of relative stability observed since 2018–19.

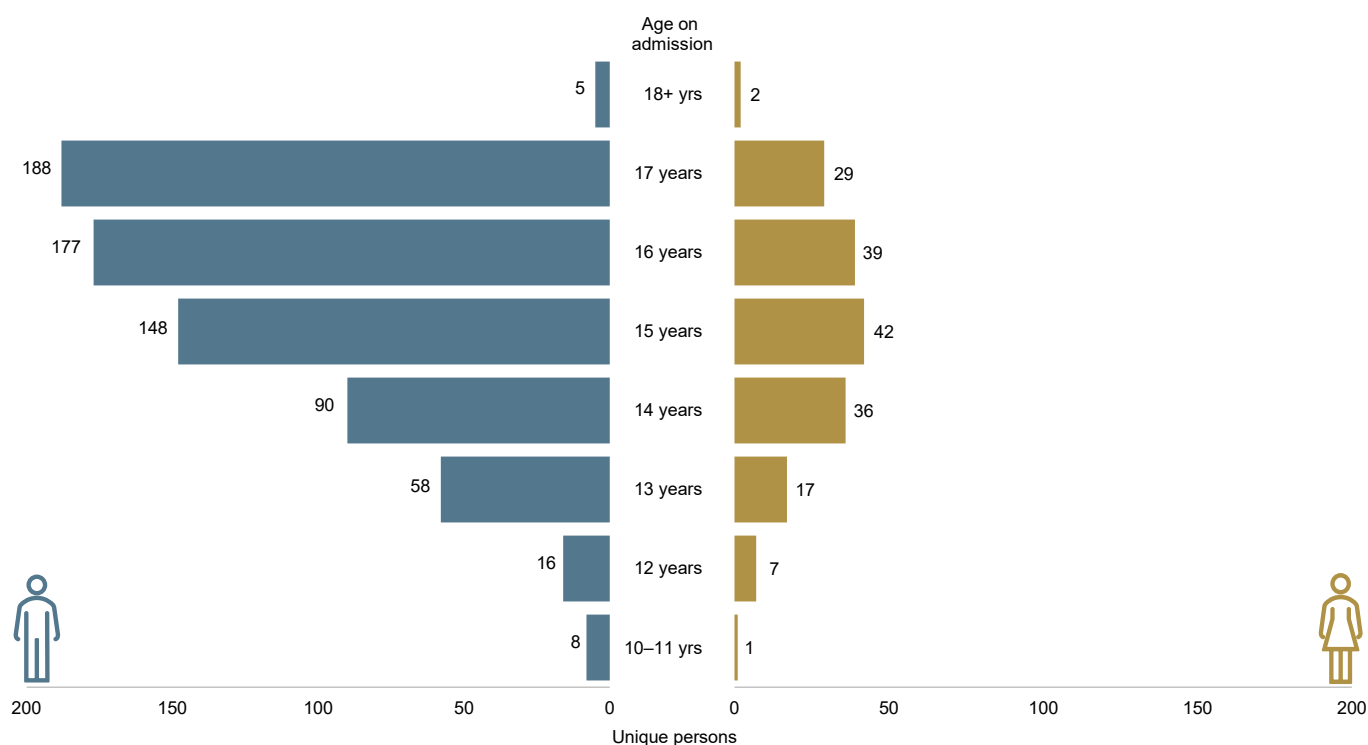
Figure 36 Number and rate^(a) of unique persons admitted to a youth detention centre by Indigenous status^(b) – time series^(c)

(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. 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.

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

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

In 2023–24, the number of individuals admitted to youth detention generally tended to increase with each year of age for males, peaking at 188 unique young people aged 17 years (Figure 37). There were fewer unique females admitted to youth detention relative to males in 2023–24, and females tended to be slightly younger compared with males, peaking at 42 young people aged 15 years.

Figure 37 Unique persons admitted to a youth detention centre, by age on admission^(a) and sex, 2023–24

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

In 2023–24, just over half (51.6%) of unique young people admitted to detention had only one admission in the year, consistent with previous years (Table 64). A growing share of individuals had two to three admissions to youth detention, accounting for 39.5% of all unique young people admitted in 2023–24, up from 36.1% in the previous year. While there was some variation coinciding with the transition of 17-year-olds to the youth justice system and the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has tended to be fewer unique young people with 4 or more admissions to youth detention per year, while there has been slightly more of those with 3 or fewer admissions per year when comparing 2023–24 with 2020–21.

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

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
No. of admissions per year	— unique persons —									
1 admission	443	429	450	479	415	442	421	446	442	445
2 to 3 admissions	326	265	342	318	311	293	337	338	320	341
4 to 5 admissions	87	85	89	115	65	103	109	98	98	60
6 or more admissions	39	35	50	60	15	44	47	37	26	17
Total	895	814	931	972	806	882	914	919	886	863

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

In every year since the transition of 17-year-olds to the youth justice system in 2017–18, the number of unique young people with a history of prior admissions to detention has exceeded the number of those admitted for the first time, the only exception being 2019–20, the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic (Table 65). When comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15, the number of those with only one admission declined (–24.4%) while the number of those with prior detention admissions increased (up 20.4%). In 2023–24, those with prior detention accounted for nearly six in ten (58.1%) admissions to youth detention.

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

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Admission history	— unique persons —									
First ever admission	479	394	517	472	300	443	419	382	369	362
Prior admission to detention	416	420	414	500	506	439	495	537	517	501
Total	895	814	931	972	806	882	914	919	886	863

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

5.4.3 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, whether sentenced or unsentenced.

In 2023–24, there were 286 young people in youth detention centres on a given day, on average (Table 66). This marked a ten-year high, with the average daily number of young people in youth detention tending to increase over the past decade, up 70.0% when comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15. This was driven by increases in the average daily number of young males (up 80.2%) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (up 82.7%), with the ten-year high for both of these groups apparent in 2023–24 relative to 2014–15.

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

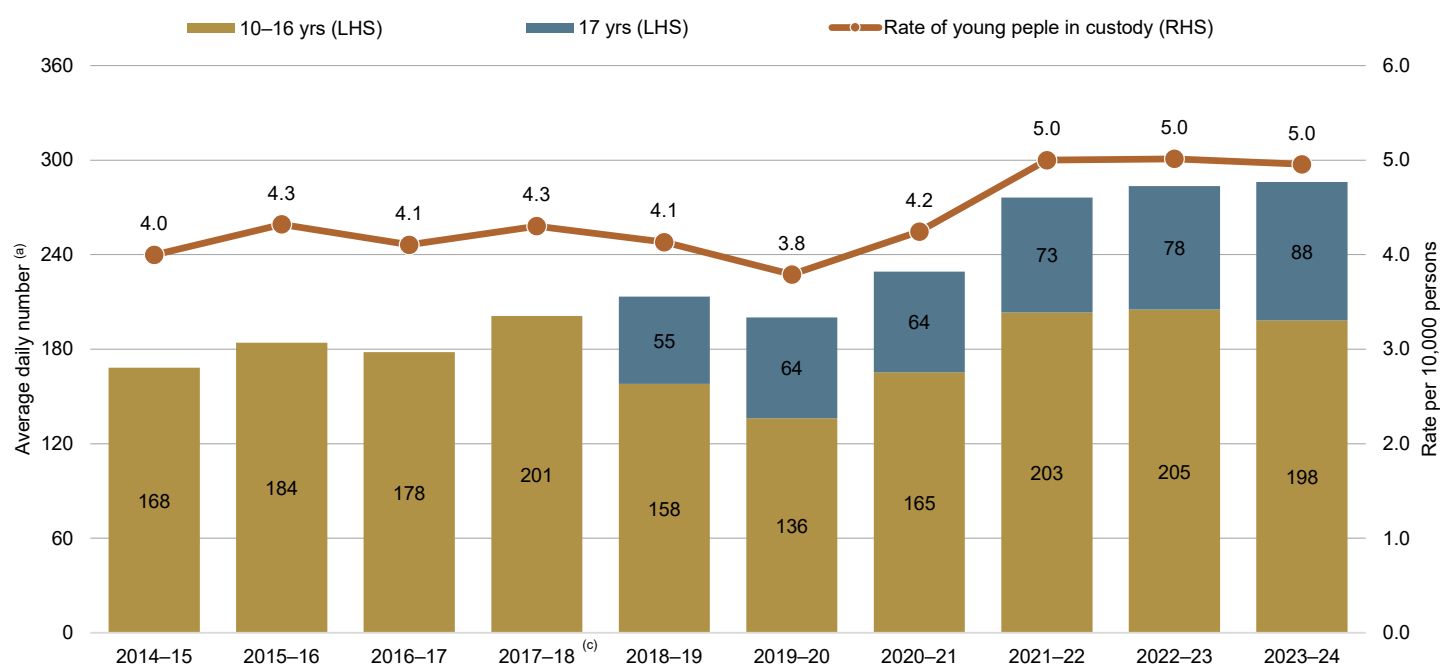
	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
	— average daily number ^(b) —									
Sex										
Male	139	152	153	172	183	178	206	247	249	250
Female	29	32	25	29	30	23	24	29	34	36
Indigenous status										
Indigenous	111	128	128	146	154	143	149	180	197	202
Other ^(c)	58	56	51	55	59	58	80	96	87	84
Age										
10–11 yrs	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	1
12 yrs	4	4	4	6	5	5	4	5	3	3
13 yrs	12	13	9	13	12	12	13	13	15	13
14 yrs	27	30	29	30	24	24	31	32	33	34
15 yrs	48	46	53	50	37	36	48	58	53	52
16 yrs	58	68	61	64	55	44	54	71	73	70
17 yrs	17	20	18	34	64	58	62	76	80	86
18 yrs and over	1	2	1	2	16	21	17	20	25	26
Total	168	184	178	201	213	200	229	276	283	286

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

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

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

The average daily number in detention of those aged 17 years at time of offence has increased each year since their transition to the youth justice system, from 55 in 2018–19 to 88 in 2023–24 (up 57.4%) (Figure 38). While the daily number of those aged 10–16 years increased following the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019–20, there was no substantial change between 2021–22 and 2023–24 in the average daily number of those aged 10–16 years at the time of offence. The rate shows the average number in detention on a given day per 10,000 young persons in the population. The rate varied over the first few years of the time series, before declining in 2019–20, coinciding with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The daily rate of young people in detention increased when comparing 2021–22 with 2019–20 (up 31.9314.26%), before stabilising at about 5 young people per day, on average, per 10,000 young persons in 2021–22 through 2023–24.

Figure 38 Average daily number^(a) and rate^(b) of young people in youth detention centres by offender's age at the time of offence – time series^(c)

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

The average daily number of young people in detention varied by legal status in 2023–24, with the majority being *unsentenced* (85.9%) as opposed to *sentenced* (14.1%) (Table 67 and Figure 39). While the total average daily number of young people in detention was at a ten-year high in 2023–24, reflecting the second-highest average daily number of *unsentenced* young people in a decade, the average daily number of *sentenced* young people has varied, with a series high apparent in 2023–24 (40 young people on an average day), up slightly from 2014–15.

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

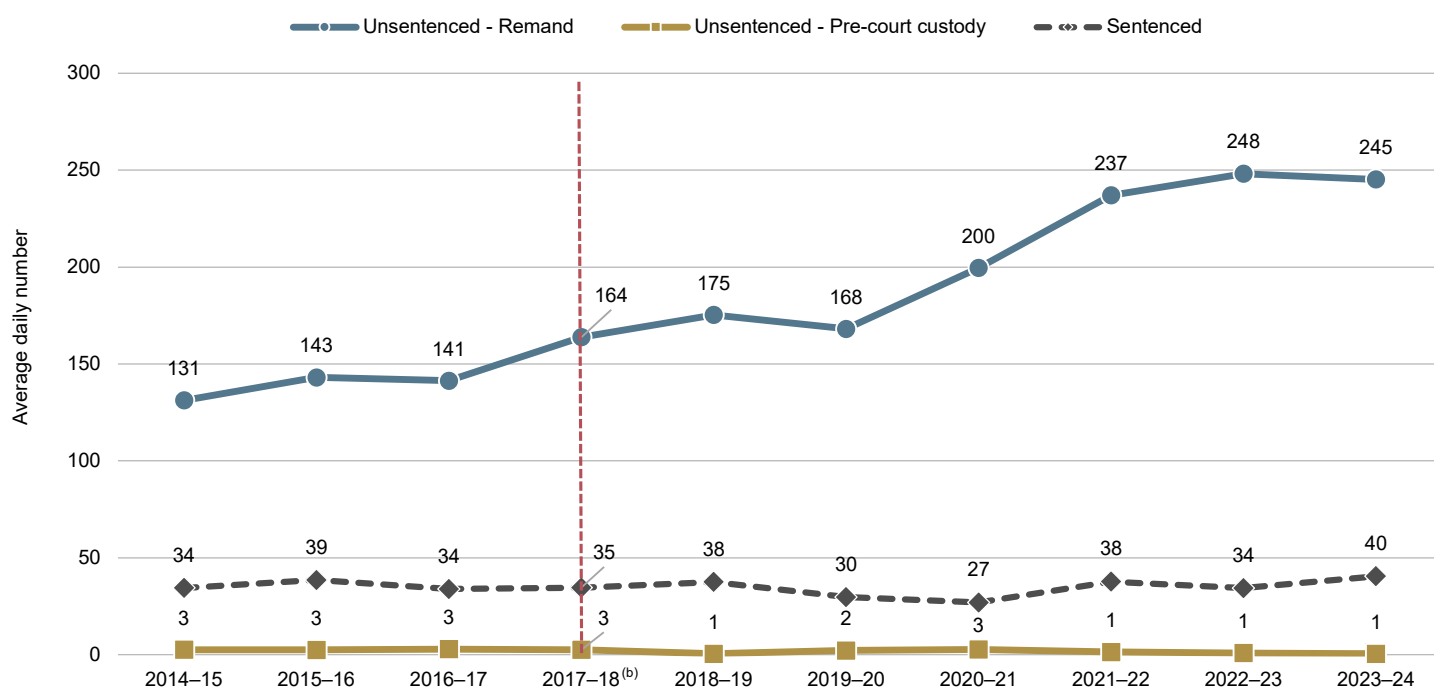
	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Legal status	— average daily number ^(b) —									
Unsentenced	134	146	144	166	176	170	202	238	249	246
Pre-court custody	3	3	3	3	1	2	3	1	1	1
Remand	131	143	141	164	175	168	200	237	248	245
Sentenced	34	39	34	35	38	30	27	38	34	40
Total	168	184	178	201	213	200	229	276	283	286

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

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

The average daily number of young people *remanded* in youth detention tended to increase over the past decade, up 87.0% when comparing 2023–24 with 2014–15, while there was no substantial changes in the average daily number of young people in *pre-court custody* (Figure 39).

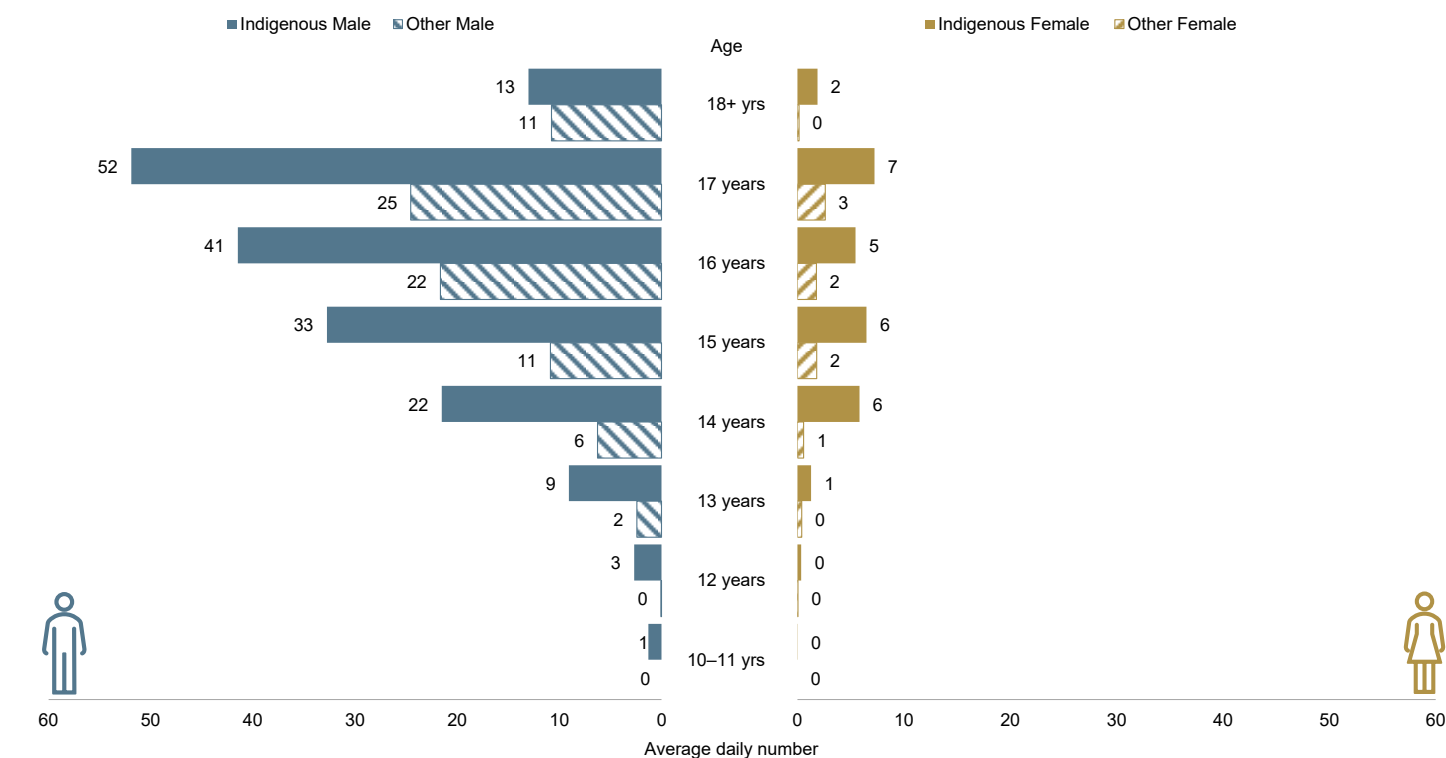
Figure 39 Average daily number^(a) of young people in youth detention centres by legal status – time series^(b)



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

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

On an average day in youth detention centres in 2023–24, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people outnumbered other young people in every age group for both males and females (Figure 40). In 2023–24, young people aged 17 years accounted for the largest share of the average daily number of young people in detention regardless of sex and Indigenous status.

Figure 40 Average daily number^(a) of persons in youth detention centres by Indigenous status^(b), age^(c) and sex, 2023–24

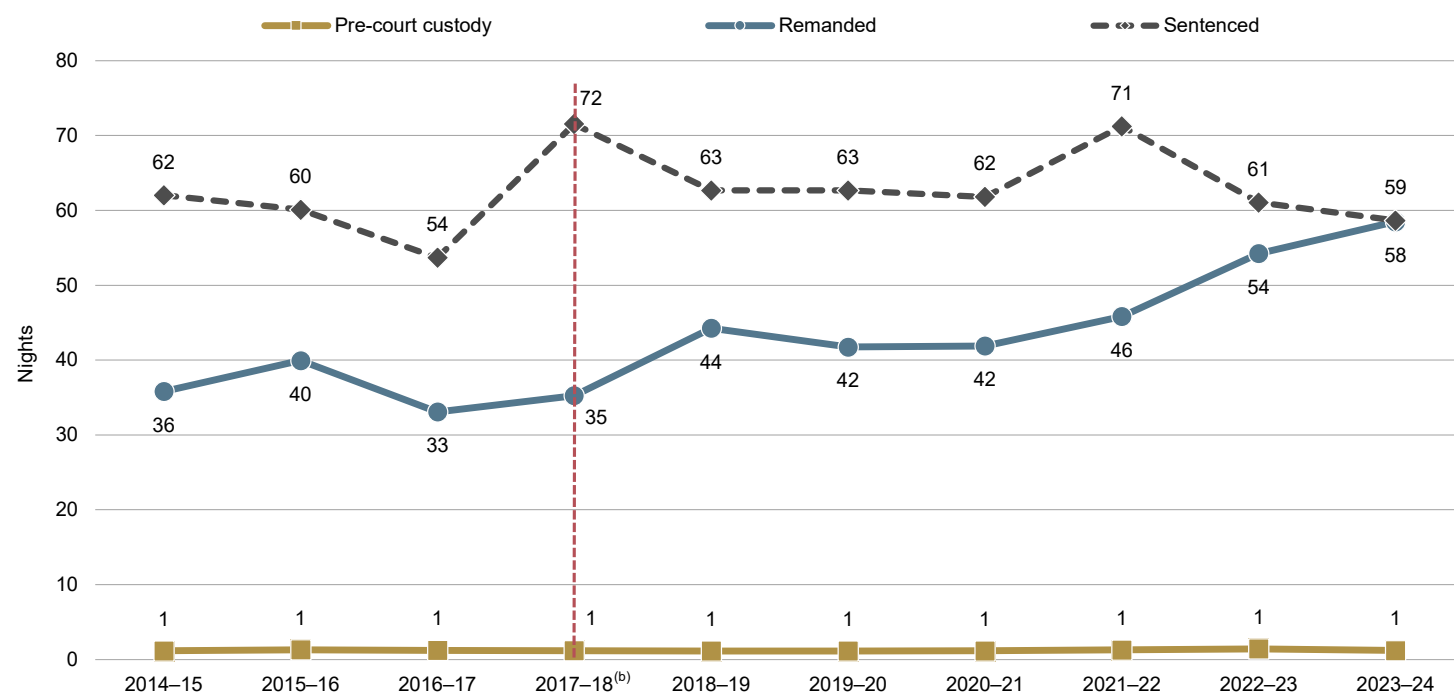
(a) Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

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

(c) Excludes those whose age was unknown / not stated.

5.4.4 Average length of stay

The average length of stay, by average number of nights in a youth detention centre, varied by the legal status of young people (Figure 41). In 2023–24, a young person in *pre-court custody* spent about one night in detention, consistent with all other years, while young people held on *remand* or those *sentenced* each spent about two months in a youth detention centre, on average. The average length of stay for young people on remand has increased substantially, to nearly two months (58 nights) in 2023–24 from just over a month (35 nights) in 2017–18 (up 65.7%).

Figure 41 Average length of stay^(a) in a youth detention centre by legal status – time series^(b)

(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. Figures have been rounded to the nearest decimal place.

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

6.0 Corrective Services

Source: Unpublished data supplied by Queensland Corrective Services.

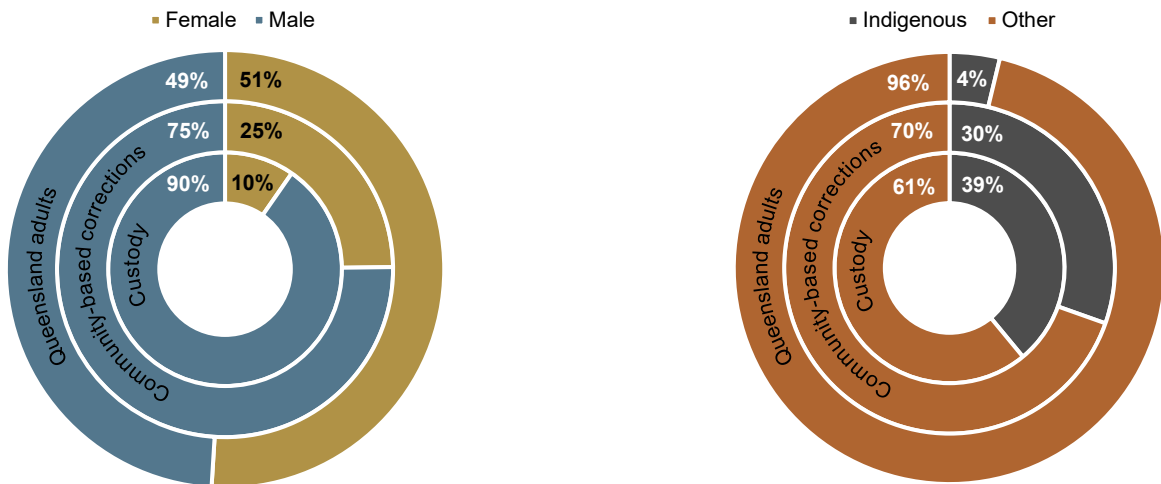
This chapter should be read in conjunction with the Explanatory notes and glossary at the end of this report.

Adults in prison as at 30 June		June 2023	June 2024	% change	
Total persons		10,225	10,878	6.4	↑
Males		9,247	9,826	6.3	↑
Females		978	1,052	7.6	↑
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)		37.2	39.0	1.8 ppt	↑
Adults in supervised community corrections as at 1 June		June 2023	June 2024	% change	
Total persons		18,686	18,600	-0.5	↓
Males		14,188	13,987	-1.4	↓
Females		4,498	4,613	2.6	↑
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (% of total)		28.8	30.4	1.6 ppt	↑

ppt = percentage point

As at June 2024:

Figure 42 Queensland’s adult population compared with adults under the supervision of Corrective Services, June 2024



Adults in prison



- The number of adults in prison increased to 10,878, up 6.4% compared with 30 June 2023.
- Nine in ten (90.3%) adults in prison were male and four in ten (39.0%) identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners tended to be younger compared with other prisoners, with median ages of 32 and 37 years, respectively, while, the prison population has become older overall, with the median age increasing to 35 in 2024 from 32 in 2015.
- Nearly four in ten (37.7%) prisoners were unsentenced. Among sentenced prisoners, excluding those with an indefinite or life sentence, the median sentence length was three years (36 months).
- Considering only discharges from custody in 2023–24, of which an individual may have more than one, almost two-thirds (65.0%) of prisoners had a stay of six months or less in prison, with the most common length of stay being between two and three months (14.4%).

Adults in supervised community corrections



- 18,600 adults were in supervised community corrections, 86 fewer people compared with 1 June 2023.
- Among adults in community corrections, three in four (75.2%) were male and three in ten (30.4%) identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- Over half of all adults serving a community corrections order were on probation (52.8%), followed by parole (43.0%).

6.1 Overview

This chapter presents summary statistics about adult corrective services in Queensland as at June 2024, prison data time series for 10 years and supervised community corrections for 10 years. Two populations are presented: adults in **full-time prison custody** and adults in **supervised community corrections**. Data for adults in prison are presented as at 30 June, while data for community corrections are presented as at 1 June. Length of stay data are also presented for adults in 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 evident in the adult corrections data for 2018, however, this was less apparent than 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.

6.2 Adults in prison as at 30 June

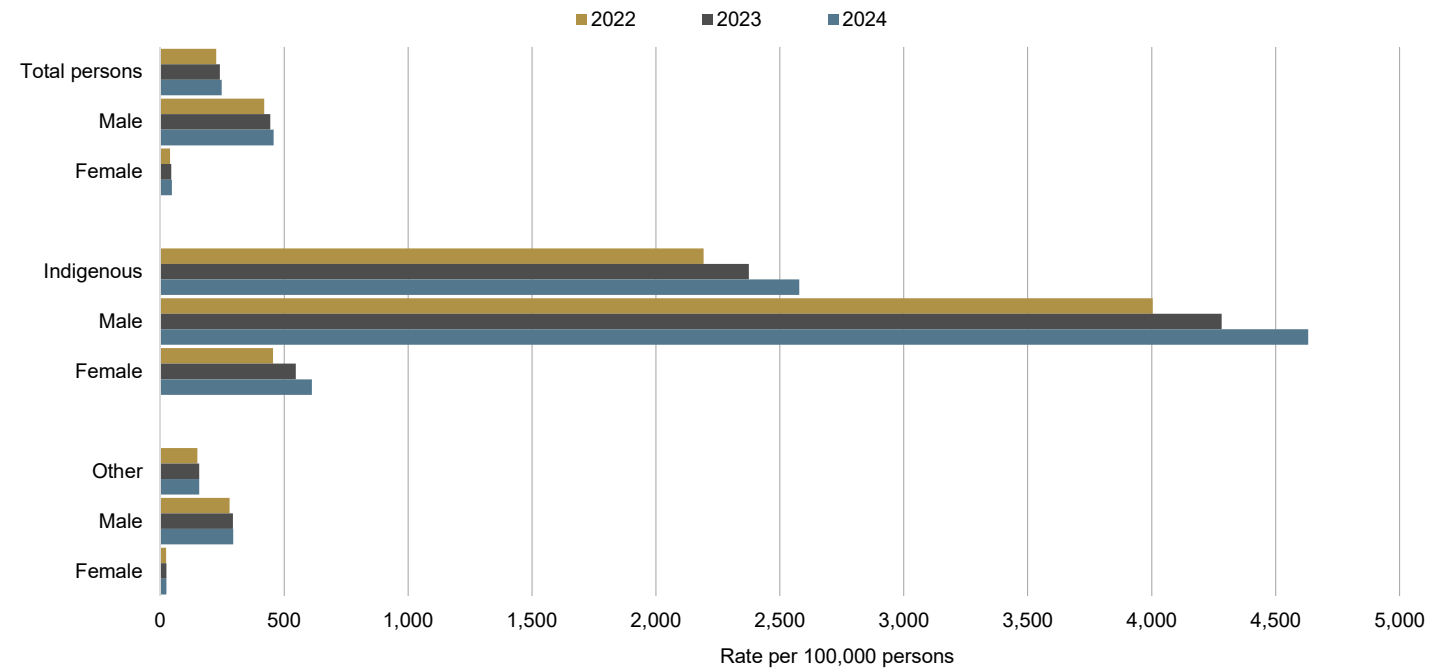
6.2.1 Prisoner characteristics

As at 30 June 2024, there were 10,878 adults in custody in Queensland prisons, representing an increase from the previous year (up 6.4%) and up 48.6% from 2015. When accounting for population growth, the rates show that there were 248.4 adults in prison per 100,000 adults in the general Queensland population, a slight increase from the previous year (up 3.2%) (Figure 43 below) and up 25.2% from 2015.

Males and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were over-represented in prison populations relative to their representation in the general community (Figure 42 above). For example, as at 30 June 2024, males made up almost half (49.0%) of the Queensland adult population and nine in ten (90.3%) adults in prison while Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults accounted for 3.8% of the Queensland adult population, and nearly four in ten (39.0%) adults in prison. Due to this over-representation in prisons relative to the general community, the imprisonment rates show that there were 457.8 males in prison per 100,000 adult males in the population and 2,578.0 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults in prison per 100,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults in the population.

Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the rate of imprisonment for males was 7.6 times that of their female counterparts in 2024, down from 8.8 times higher in 2022. This reflects growth in the rate of imprisonment among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females in 2024, with 611.6 in prison per 100,000 persons, up from 454.9 per 100,000 persons in 2022 (up 34.4%), while the rate of imprisonment among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males increased less substantially (up 15.6%).

Figure 43 Adult imprisonment rates by Indigenous status^(a) and sex, as at 30 June



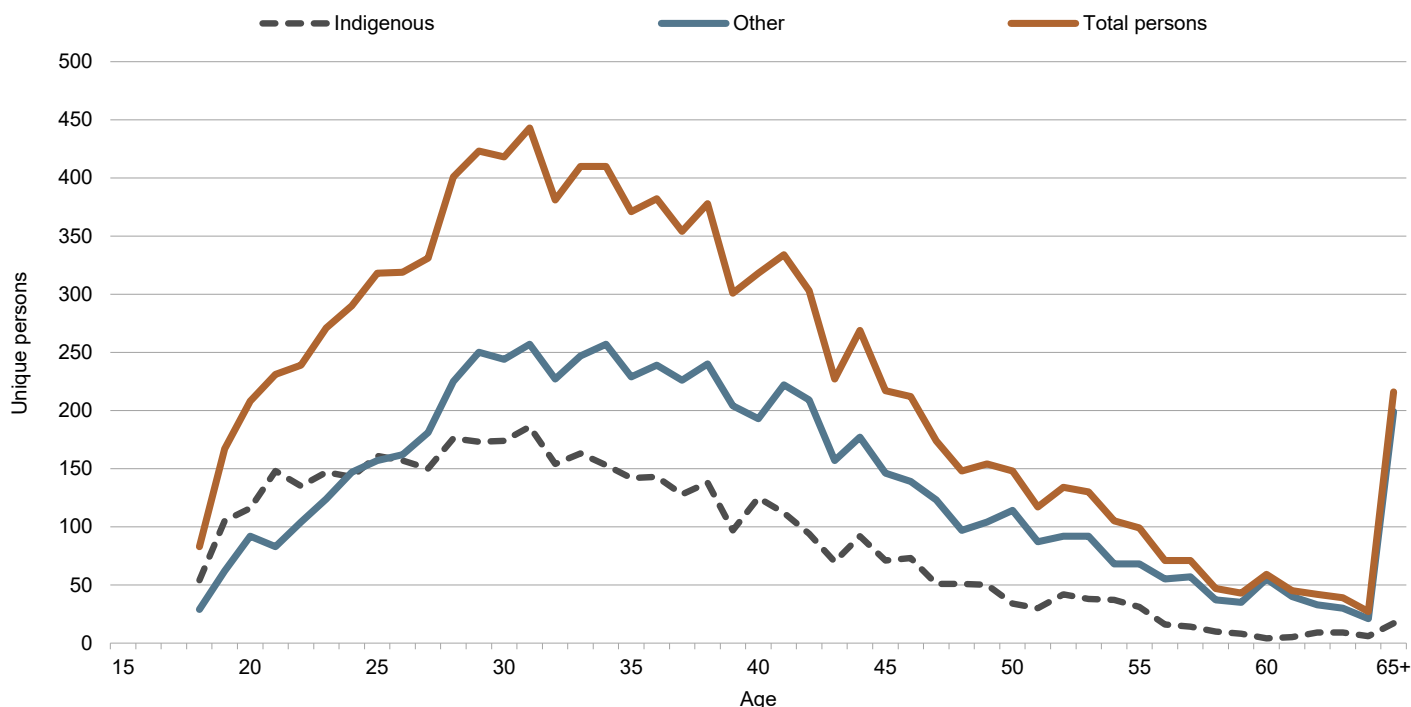
(a) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

The age distribution of adults in prison differed slightly by Indigenous status (Figure 44), with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults being slightly younger compared with other adults in prison. As at 30 June 2024, the median age of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults in prison was 32 years, five years younger compared with the median age of other adults in prison (37 years). The number of unique Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults aged 25 years and younger exceeded other adults of the same age in prison as at 30 June 2024, while there were fewer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults aged 26 years and older compared with other adults.

While the median age of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners has remained relatively stable at 32 years since 2021, there is evidence of an ageing prisoner population among other adults, with the median age increasing from 35 years in 2021 to 37 years in 2024.

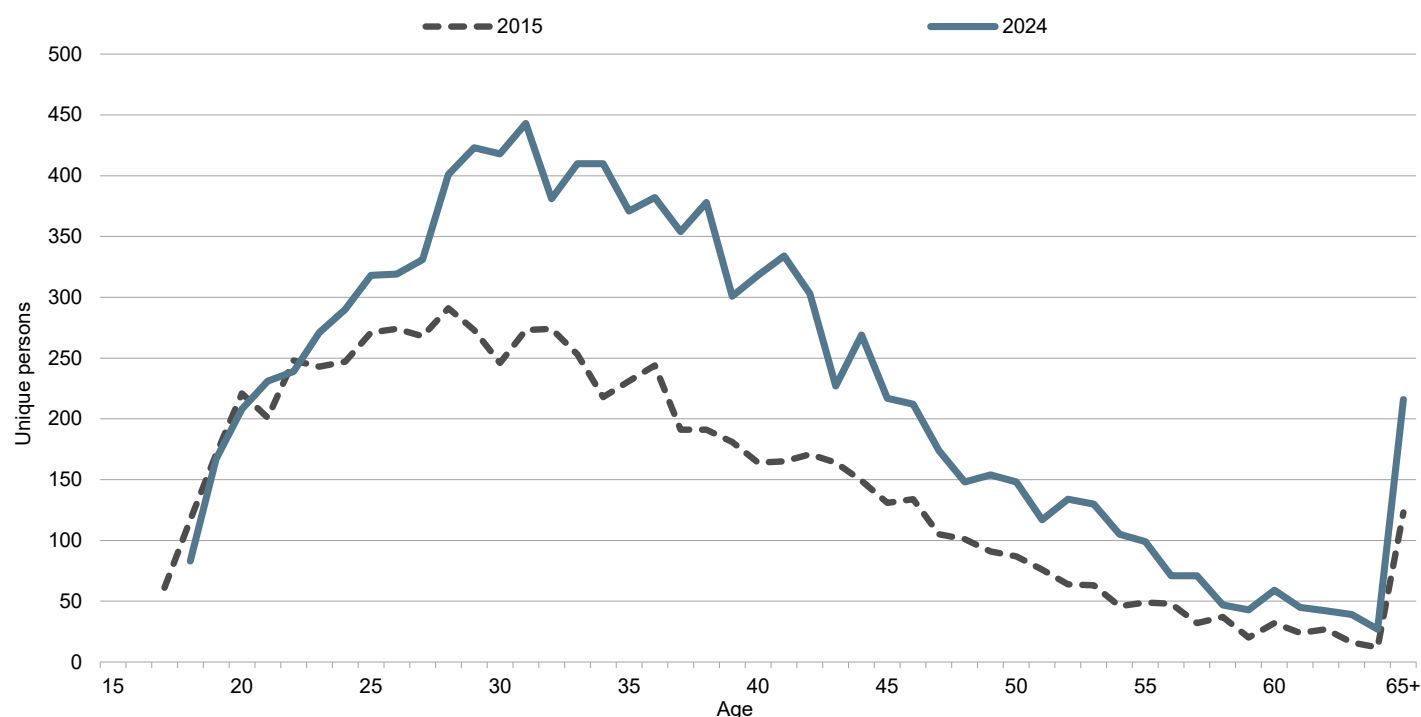
In 2024, the number of adults in prison tended to decline by year of age after peaking at 31 years, with 34.0% of the prison population aged between 18 and 30 years, over half (54.6%) aged between 31 and 50 years and 11.5% aged 51 years and older.

Figure 44 Adults in prison by age and Indigenous status^(a), as at 30 June 2024



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

When compared with 2015, the number of adults in prison as at 30 June 2024 increased (up 48.6% or 3,559 prisoners). Much of this growth occurred among older prisoners, with the age distribution of prisoners showing an increase in the number of prisoners aged 23 years and older (Figure 45). As at 30 June 2024, the median age of prisoners was 35 years, up from 32 years in 2015 (data not shown).

Figure 45 Adults in prison by year of age, as at 30 June, 2015^(a) and 2024

(a) In 2015, 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.

The number and rate of adults in prison varied by age, Indigenous status and sex (Table 68).

Table 68 Number and rate of adults in prison by Indigenous status, sex and age, as at 30 June 2024

Age at 30 June	18–19 yrs	20–29 yrs	30–39 yrs	40–49 yrs	50–59 yrs	60+ yrs	18–19 yrs	20–29 yrs	30–39 yrs	40–49 yrs	50–59 yrs	60+ yrs
	— unique persons —						— rate per 100,000 persons ^(b) —					
Total persons	250	3,031	3,848	2,356	965	428	180.6	404.4	495.1	334.4	142.2	34.0
Male	226	2,725	3,467	2,120	880	408	317.9	720.2	906.3	614.6	264.2	68.0
Female	24	306	381	236	85	20	35.7	82.5	96.6	65.6	24.6	3.0
Indigenous	159	1,506	1,478	789	260	50	1,547.1	3,289.2	4,519.9	3,266.1	1,161.9	209.9
Male	143	1,321	1,294	689	232	49	2,732.9	5,653.8	7,984.2	5,917.0	2,199.8	453.7
Female	16	185	184	100	28	1	317.2	825.1	1,115.7	799.2	236.7	7.7
Other^(a)	91	1,525	2,370	1,567	705	378	71.0	216.7	318.4	230.3	107.5	30.6
Male	83	1,404	2,173	1,431	648	359	126.0	395.5	593.2	429.3	200.9	60.9
Female	8	121	197	136	57	19	12.8	34.7	52.1	39.2	17.1	2.9

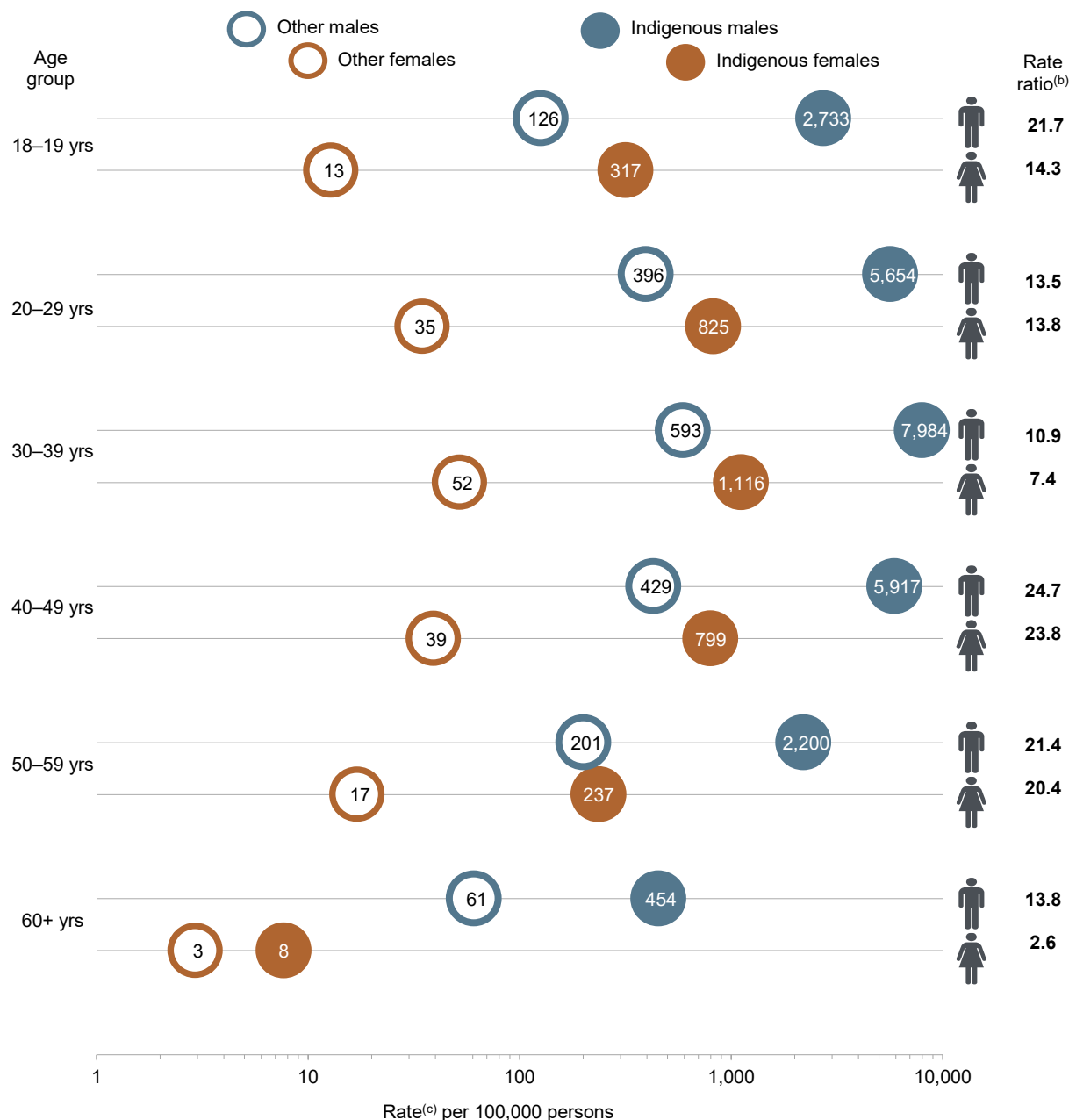
(a) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

(b) Any rates and change in rates based on small counts (<10) should be interpreted with extreme caution.

In 2023–24, imprisonment rates tended to peak at 30–39 years among males and females regardless of Indigenous status (Figure 46). Further, imprisonment rates among adult males of any age group tended to be higher when compared with their female counterparts for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other adults.

Across all age groups in 2023–24, the imprisonment rate ratio, showing the difference in rates between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander compared with other adults, was higher for males than females, with the exception of those aged 20–29 years. Among that age group, the imprisonment rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females was 13.8 times that of other females, while the ratio was 13.5 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males compared with other males in that age group in 2023–24.

Figure 46 Adult imprisonment rates by Indigenous status^(a), sex and age, as at 30 June 2024



(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.

(c) Untransformed rate values are presented using logarithmic scale to overcome large numeric differences in rates.

6.2.2 Length of sentence

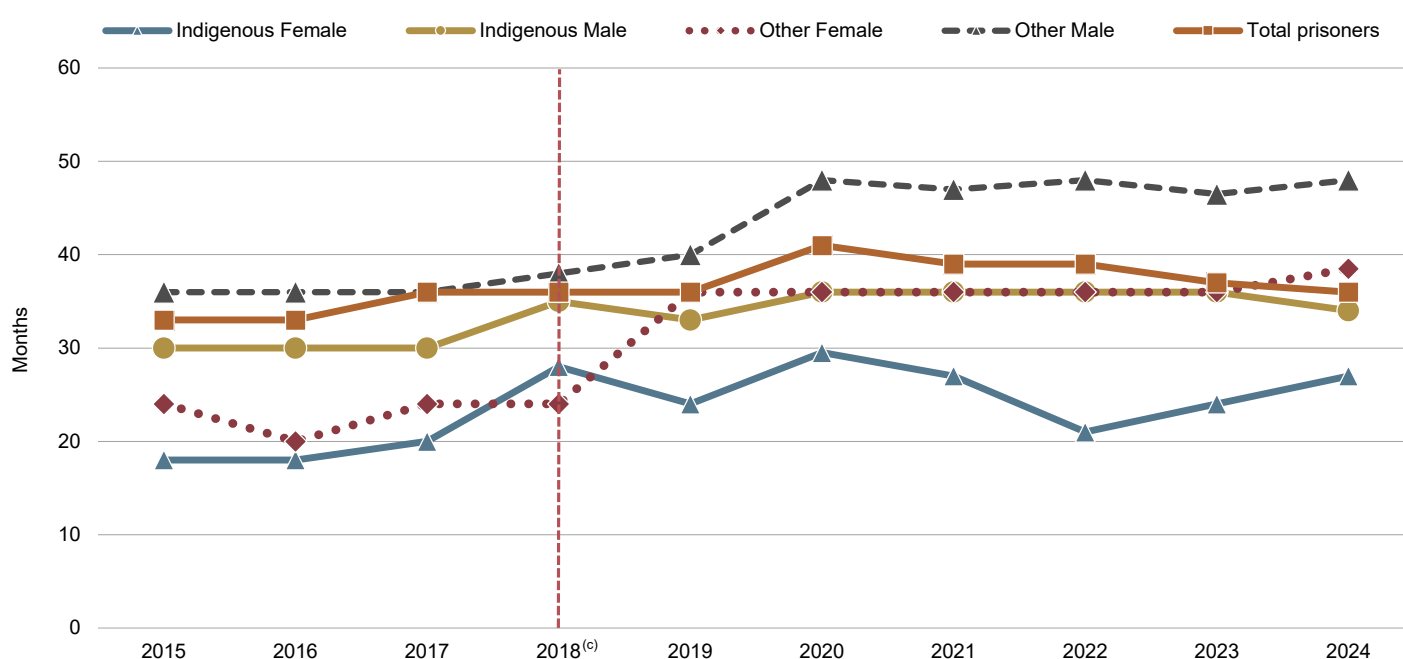
6.2.2.1 Indigenous status and sex

For all sentenced adults in prison custody serving a defined term of imprisonment, the median length of sentence as at 30 June 2024 was three years (36 months), the same as in the years 2017 to 2019 before spiking in 2020, the time series high (41 months) (Figure 47). In the past decade, excluding those serving an indefinite sentence, the lowest median sentence length for sentenced adults in prison was observed in 2015 and 2016 (33 months).

As at 30 June 2024, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females had the shortest median sentence, at two years and three months (27 months). While this group had the shortest sentence length in all years except 2018, the median sentence length also increased substantially for this group over the past decade, up 9 months (or 50.0%) when comparing 2024 with 2015. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males, the median sentence length was two years and ten months in 2024, up 4 months (or 13.3%) from 2015.

The longest median sentences as at 30 June 2024 were observed among other adults, at three years and three months (39 months) for females and four years (48 months) for males. While the median sentence length among other males has remained almost unchanged since 2020, the median sentence length among other females was at a time-series high in 2024 up 15 months (60.4%) compared with 2015.

Figure 47 Median sentence length^(a) of adult prisoners by Indigenous status^(b) and sex, as at 30 June – time series



(a) Indefinite sentences (including life) have been excluded from median sentence calculations. Note that, as at 30 June 2024, the majority of adults serving an indefinite sentence (332 individuals) were sentenced for *homicide and related offences* (311 individuals or 93.7%).

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

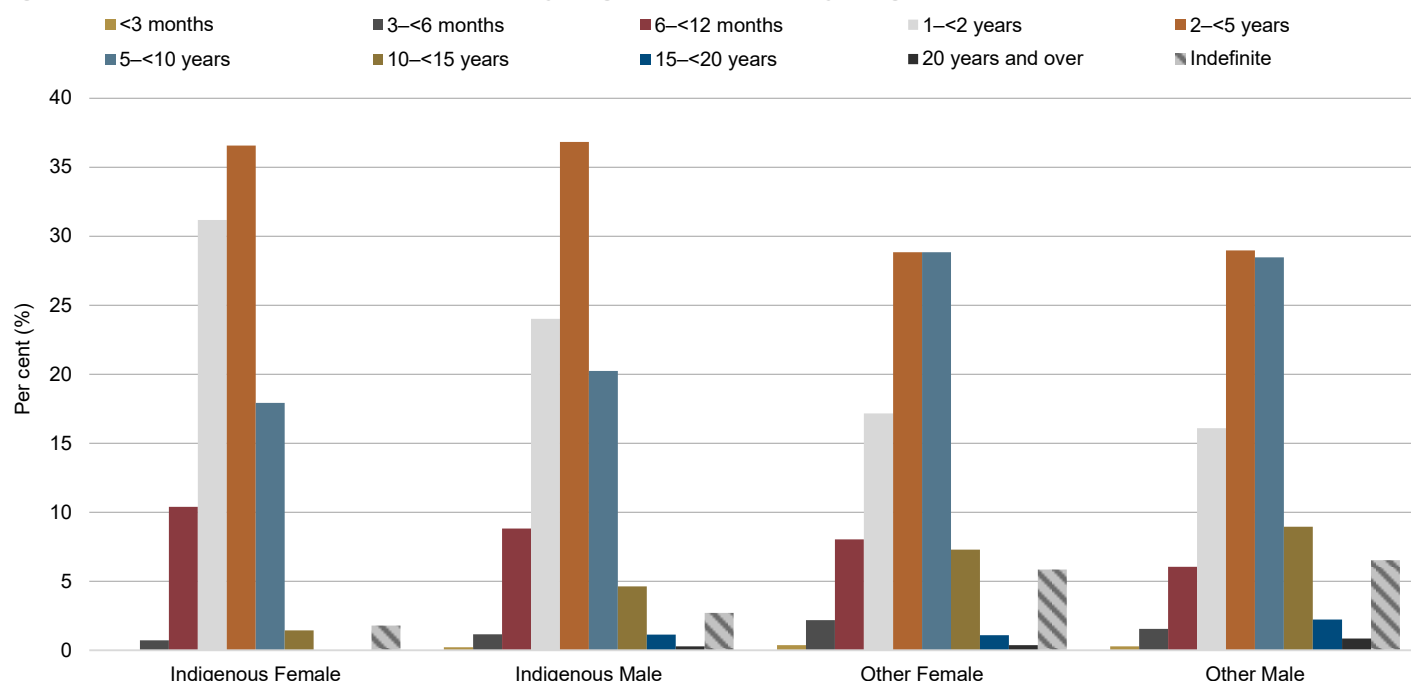
(c) Break in time series, shown by the dashed red line, due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

As at 30 June 2024, sentences of 2–5 years were the most common custodial sentence for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults, apparent for over a third of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (36.6%) and males (36.8%) (Figure 48). This was followed by 1–2 year sentences for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (31.2%) and males (24.0%). *Indefinite* sentences were relatively uncommon among sentenced Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults in 2024, with 1.8% of female and 2.7% of male Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners within this group.

As at 30 June 2024, almost six in ten other adults in prison had sentences ranging from 2–10 years (57.7% of females and 57.5% of males), followed by 1–2 year sentences, apparent for 17.2% of sentenced females and 16.1% of sentenced males. Indefinite sentences were apparent for 5.8% of sentenced other females and 6.5% of sentenced other males in 2024.

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 of the prisoner. Life sentences and sentences of an indefinite length are categorised as indefinite sentences in this report.

It can only be ordered for some offences (e.g., murder), and only when the 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 Indigenous status^(b) and sex, as at 30 June 2024

(a) In this report, life sentences and sentences of an indefinite length are categorised as indefinite sentences.

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

Among all sentenced prisoners as at 30 June, sentence lengths between two and (under) five years were most common (32.1%) in 2024, followed by sentences of between five and (under) ten years (25.1%) (Table 69).

Table 69 Sentenced adult prisoners by length of sentence^(a), as at 30 June 2024

Sentence length	<3 months	3-6 months	6-12 months	1-2 years	2-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20 years and over	Indefinite
— unique persons —										
Total persons	17	94	491	1,317	2,157	1,687	472	114	40	332
Male	16	86	440	1,183	1,976	1,558	448	111	39	311
Female	1	8	51	134	181	129	24	3	1	21
Indigenous	5	30	241	664	987	536	115	27	7	70
Male	5	28	212	577	885	486	111	27	7	65
Female		2	29	87	102	50	4			5
Other^(b)	12	64	250	653	1,170	1,151	357	87	33	262
Male	11	58	228	606	1,091	1,072	337	84	32	246
Female	1	6	22	47	79	79	20	3	1	16

(a) In this report, life sentences and sentences of an indefinite length are categorised as indefinite sentences.

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

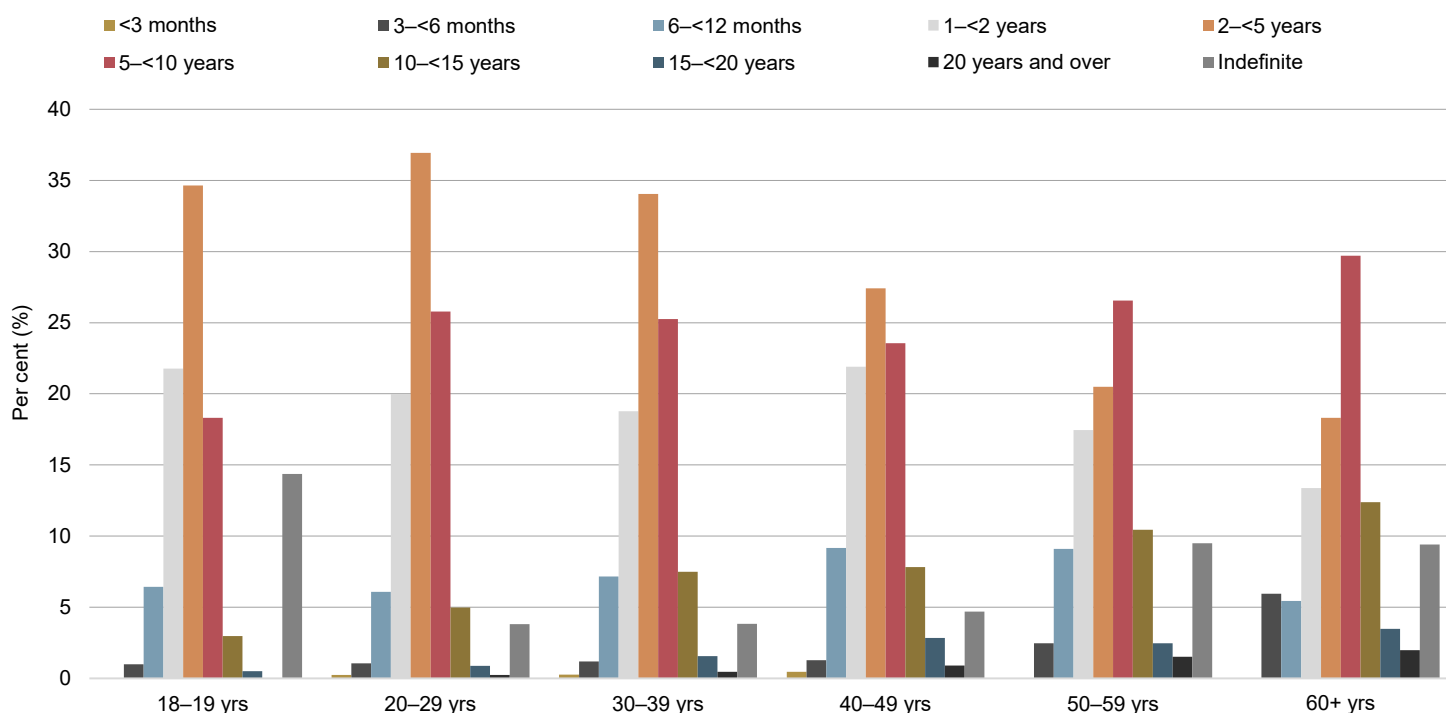
6.2.2.2 Prisoner's age on reception

The length of sentence for sentenced prisoners varied by their age at reception to prison as at 30 June 2024. Shorter sentences were more common among younger prisoners, with the exception of indefinite sentences (Figure 49 and Table 70). Among sentenced prisoners aged 18–19 years, the most common sentences were 2–5 years (34.7%), followed by 1–2 years (21.8%) and 5–10 years (18.3%). Indefinite sentences were apparent for 29 (14.4%) sentenced prisoners aged 18–19 years as at 30 June 2024. Among sentenced prisoners aged 20–49 years, a third (33.5%) had sentences of 2–5 years, a quarter (25.0%) had sentences of 5–10 years and two in ten (19.9%) had sentences of 1–2 years in 2024. Indefinite sentences were apparent among 4.0% of sentenced prisoners aged 20–49 years.

When compared with younger prisoners, the sentence length distribution varied for sentenced prisoners aged 50 years and older in 2024, with longer sentences being more common. Among sentenced prisoners aged 50 years and older as at 30 June 2024, over a quarter (27.4%) had sentences of 5–10 years, two in ten (19.9%) had sentences of 2–5 years and 16.3% had sentences of 1–2 years. Indefinite sentences were apparent among 9.5% of sentenced prisoners aged 50 years and older, slightly more common when compared with prisoners aged 20–49 years (4.0%).

As at 30 June 2024, of the 331 prisoners aged 18 years and over at reception and serving an indefinite sentence, most were serving this sentence for *homicide and related offences* (94.0%) followed by *sexual assault and related offences* (5.1%).

Figure 49 Proportion of sentenced prisoners by length of sentence^(a), by age on reception^(b), as at 30 June 2024



(a) Aggregate sentence length as at 30 June 2023.

(b) Excluded from calculations was one prisoner, aged <18 years on reception, with an indefinite sentence for *homicide and related offences*.

Table 70 Sentenced adult prisoners by length of sentence^(a), by age on reception^(b), as at 30 June 2024

Age at reception	18–19 yrs	20–29 yrs	30–39 yrs	40–49 yrs	50–59 yrs	60+ yrs
Sentence length	— unique persons —					
<3 months	0	5	6	6	0	0
3–<6 months	2	22	28	17	13	12
6–<12 months	13	126	170	123	48	11
1–<2 years	44	414	446	294	92	27
2–<5 years	70	765	809	368	108	37
5–<10 years	37	534	600	316	140	60
10–<15 years	6	103	178	105	55	25
15–<20 years	1	18	37	38	13	7
20 years and over	0	5	11	12	8	4
Indefinite	29	79	91	63	50	19
Total	202	2,071	2,376	1,342	527	202

(a) Aggregate sentence length as at 30 June 2023.

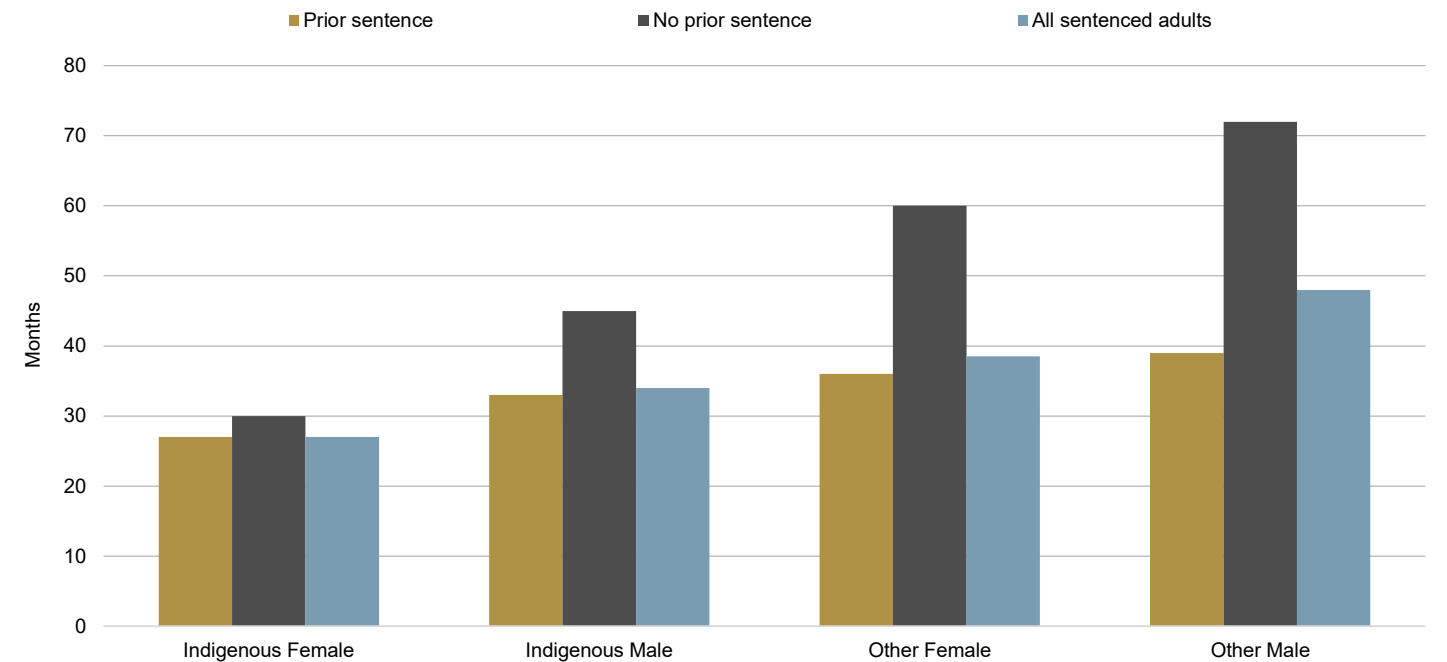
(b) Excluded from calculations was one prisoner, aged <18 years on reception, with an indefinite sentence for *homicide and related offences*.

6.2.2.3 Prisoner's known prior custodial sentence in Queensland

As at 30 June 2024, excluding those serving an indefinite sentence, sentenced prisoners with *no* known prior custodial sentence had a longer median sentence length compared with prisoners previously sentenced to imprisonment. Among sentenced Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults, the median sentence length did not vary substantially by known prior custodial sentence for females, although those with *no* known prior imprisonment did have a slightly longer median sentence length (two years and six months) than those with known prior imprisonment (two years and three months). Conversely, the median sentence length for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males with *no* known prior imprisonment was 45 months, and 33 months for those with known prior imprisonment.

The median length of sentence for other adults with *no* known prior imprisonment sentence tended to be almost double the length for those with known prior imprisonment. Among other sentenced males, those with *no* known prior sentence of imprisonment had a median sentence of six years (72 months), one year longer than their female counterparts (5 years, or 60 months). Other adults with known prior imprisonment had a median sentence length of three years (36 months) for females and three years and 3 months (39 months) for males.

Figure 50 Median sentence length^(a) of adult prisoners by known prior custodial sentence in Queensland^(b), as at 30 June 2024



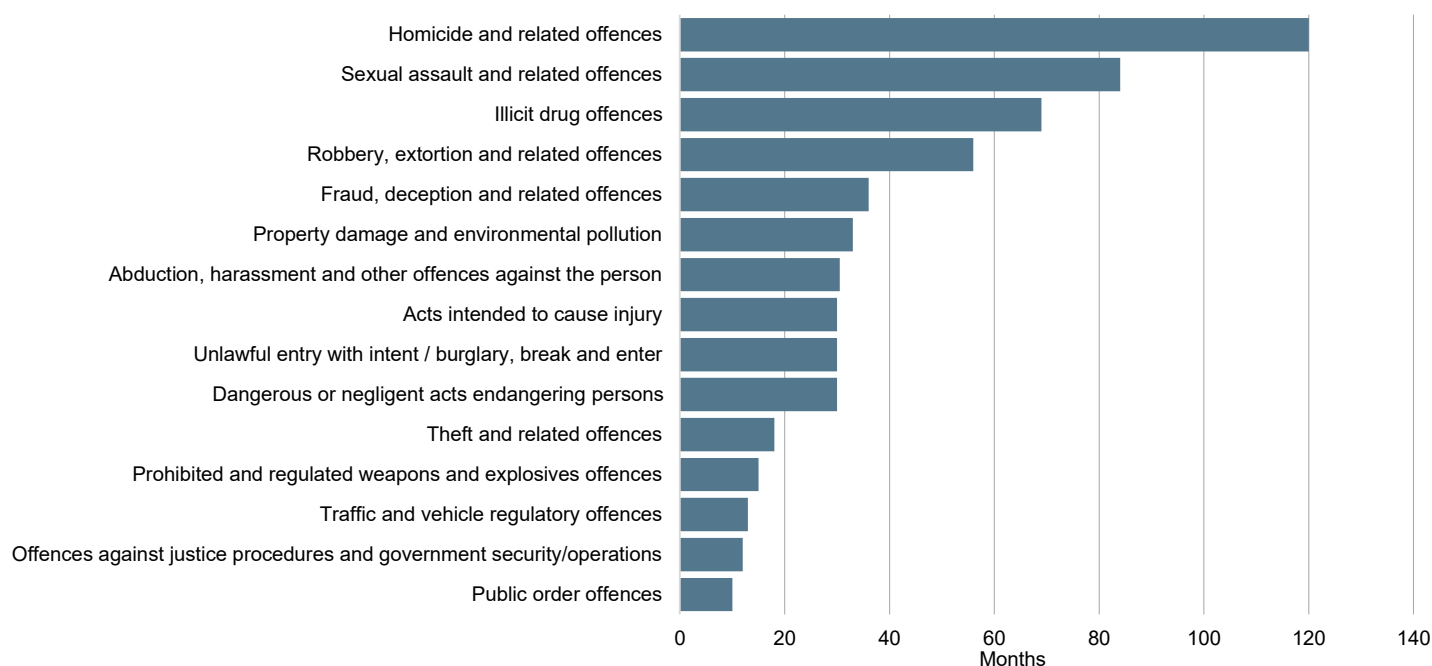
(a) Indefinite sentences have been excluded from median sentence calculations. Note that, as at 30 June 2024, the majority of adults serving an indefinite sentence (332 individuals) were sentenced for *homicide and related offences* (311 individuals or 93.7%).

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

6.2.2.4 Prisoner's most serious offence

The median length of sentence varied by the most serious offence for which prisoners were sentenced, excluding those serving an indefinite sentence (Figure 51). As at 30 June 2024, the median sentence length was longest for *homicide and related offences* (10 years or 120 months), followed by *sexual assault and related offences* (7 years or 84 months) and *illicit drug offences* (five years and ten months or 69 months).

Figure 51 Median length^(a) of adult sentence by most serious offence^(b), as at 30 June 2024



(a) Indefinite sentences have been excluded from median sentence calculations. Note that, as at 30 June 2024, the majority of adults serving an indefinite sentence (332 individuals) were sentenced for *homicide and related offences* (311 individuals or 93.7%).

(b) Miscellaneous offences excluded due to low numbers.

Table 71 Imprisonment sentences^(a) of sentenced adult prisoners in custody by most serious offence, as at 30 June 2024

	Median sentence length	Total sentenced prisoners	Prisoners serving an indefinite sentence
Most serious offence	Months (rounded down)	— unique persons —	
Homicide and related offences	120	511	312
Acts intended to cause injury	30	1,664	0
Sexual assault and related offences	84	990	17
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	30	219	0
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	30	44	0
Robbery, extortion and related offences	56	554	0
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	30	883	0
Theft and related offences	18	324	0
Fraud, deception and related offences	36	91	0
Illicit drug offences	69	869	3
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	15	16	0
Property damage and environmental pollution	33	84	0
Public order offences	10	17	0
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	13	56	0
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	12	396	0
Miscellaneous offences ^(b)	..	3	0

.. not applicable

(a) Indefinite sentences have been excluded from median sentence calculations.

(b) The median sentence for *miscellaneous offences* was excluded from the table due to low count.

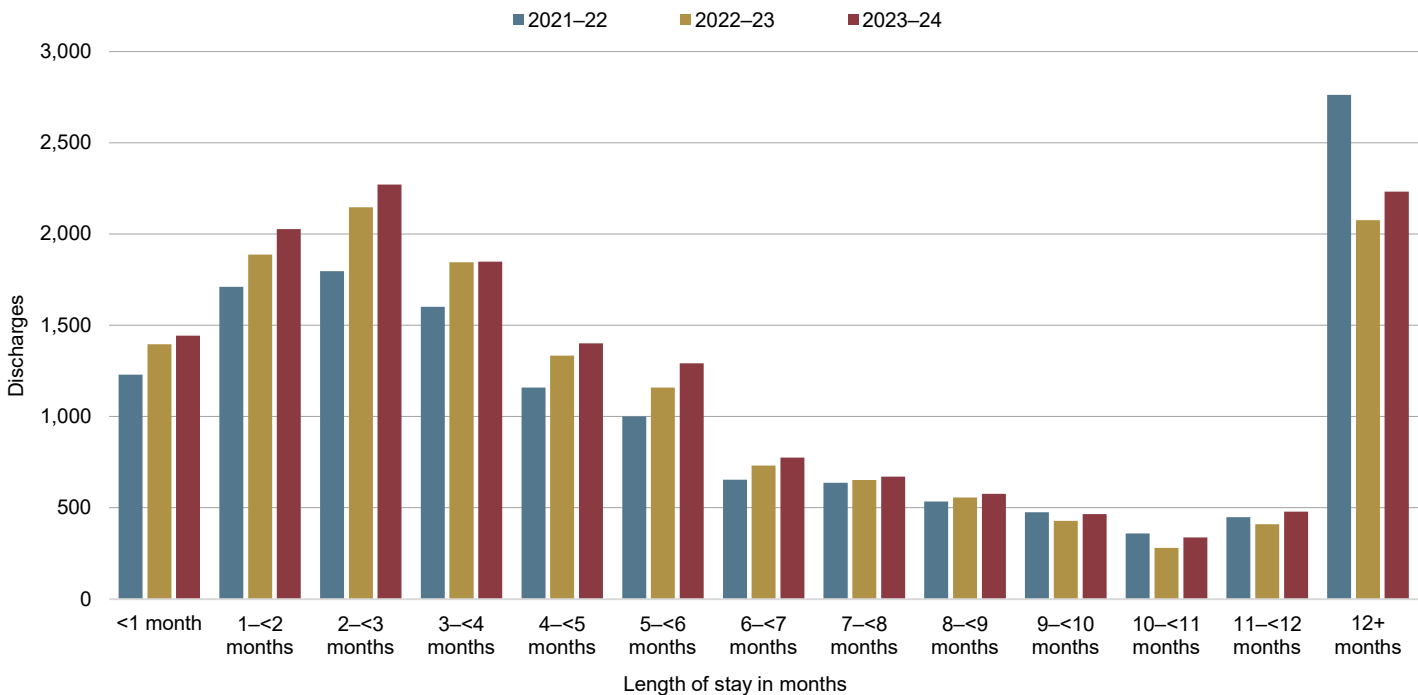
6.2.3 Length of stay

A prisoner’s length of stay is calculated using the amount of time a person spends in a Queensland prison from their date of admission to their date of discharge (i.e. release) for each period they were in custody. The numbers in this section include all adults who were discharged from prison in a financial year, irrespective of their legal status or when they were admitted. This includes prisoners who were sentenced for an offence, those held in remand, and those in custody under a post-sentence DPSOA continuing detention order⁷. Note that this section refers to prisoner discharges, as **a person can be counted multiple times in a reference year if discharged from custody more than once in that year**, and a sizable proportion of discharges relates to prisoners who have been returned to custody to complete their sentence after breaching their parole order.

In 2023–24, there were 15,816 discharges from prisons in Queensland, up (6.1%) from 14,904 discharges in the previous year. Among releases (discharges) from prison, the median length of stay was 4.2 months, up slightly from 4.1 months in the previous year, with durations ranging from one day to 26.5 years in prison.

Two in three (65.0%) discharges in 2023–24 occurred following a period of six months or less spent in prison, with the most common length of time spent in custody being between two and three months (14.4%). In 2021–22, about six in ten (59.1%) discharges followed a period of six months or less spent in prison and two in ten (19.2%) followed a period of 12 or more months in prison.

Figure 52 Prisoner discharges^(a) by length of stay, 2021–22 through 2023–24



(a) An individual may be discharged more than once in a reference year if they served more than one period in custody in that year.

⁷ ‘DPSOA continuing detention order’ refers to an order under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003* to provide for the continued detention in custody of a particular class of prisoner to ensure adequate protection of the community; and/or to provide continuing control, care or treatment of a particular class of prisoner to facilitate their rehabilitation.

6.3 Adults in prison as at 30 June – time series

6.3.1 Prisoner characteristics

As at 30 June 2024, there were 10,878 adults in prison, increasing slightly (up 6.4%) from the previous year and up 48.6% when compared with 2015 (Table 72 and Figure 53 below). As at 30 June 2024, nine in ten (90.3%) adult prisoners were male and six in ten (61.0%) were persons who did *not* identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Nearly four in ten (39.0% or 4,242) adults in prison in 2024 identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, marking a ten-year high and up 83.7% from 2015. Of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults in prison, nearly nine in ten (87.9% or 3,728) were male, up 80.0% from 2015, while a growing number were female. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females accounted for 4.7% (514 persons) of all adults in prison in 2024, more than doubling (up 116.0%) when compared with 2015 (238 persons). Conversely, the number of other females in prison did not increase as substantially (up 14.7% or 69 persons) over the same period.

Table 72 Adults in prison as at 30 June – time series^(a)

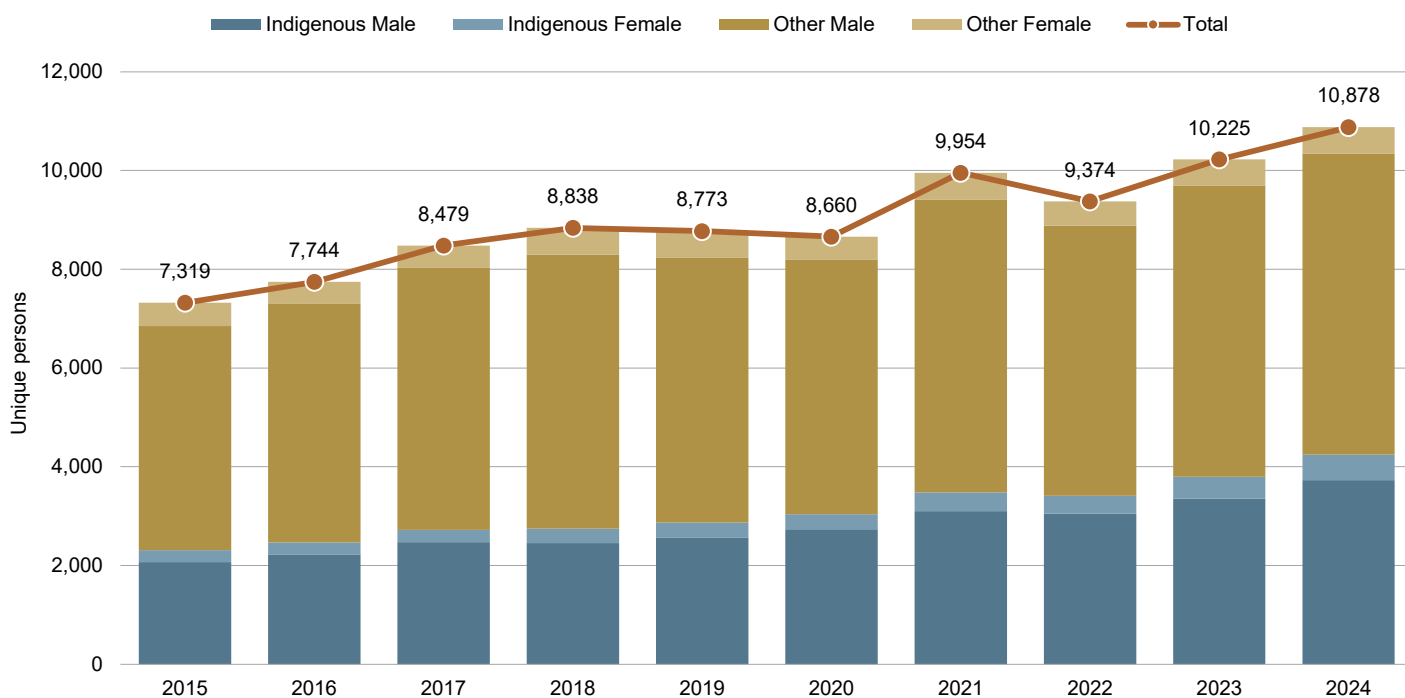
	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^(b)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	— unique persons —									
Total persons^(b)	7,319	7,744	8,479	8,838	8,773	8,660	9,954	9,374	10,225	10,878
Male	6,612	7,062	7,781	8,000	7,917	7,895	9,029	8,522	9,247	9,826
Female	707	682	698	838	856	765	925	852	978	1,052
Indigenous	2,309	2,463	2,723	2,744	2,872	3,040	3,477	3,409	3,799	4,242
Male	2,071	2,226	2,469	2,452	2,561	2,736	3,100	3,048	3,352	3,728
Female	238	237	254	292	311	304	377	361	447	514
Other^(c)	5,010	5,281	5,756	6,094	5,901	5,620	6,477	5,965	6,426	6,636
Male	4,541	4,836	5,312	5,548	5,356	5,159	5,929	5,474	5,895	6,098
Female	469	445	444	546	545	461	548	491	531	538

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

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

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

Figure 53 Adults in prison by Indigenous status^(a) and sex, as at 30 June – time series^(b)



(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.

6.3.2 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).

Of all adults in prison as at 30 June 2024, six in ten (61.8%) were *sentenced*, just under four in ten (37.7%) were *unsentenced* and 0.5% (51 persons) were serving a *DPSOA* order (Table 73). In 2015, three-quarters (75.0%) of prisoners were *sentenced*. However, over the past decade, the number of *unsentenced* prisoners has more than doubled (up 129.0%), with this growth far outpacing the growth in the number of *sentenced* prisoners (up 22.5%) when comparing 2024 with 2015.

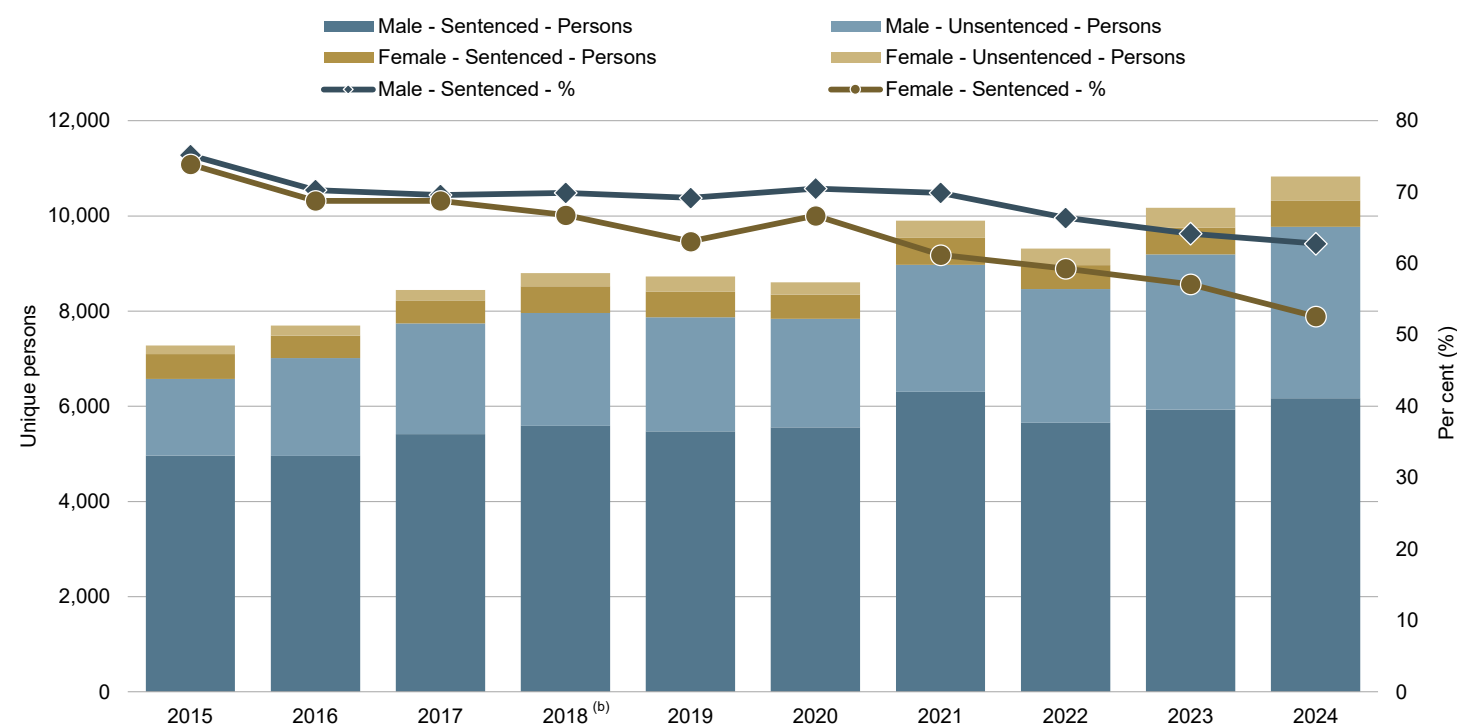
The distribution of prisoners by legal status varied by sex, with nearly half (47.4%) of female adults in prison being *unsentenced*, meaning just over half (52.6%) were *sentenced*. Among adult males in prison as at 30 June 2024, six in ten (62.8%) were *sentenced* and nearly four in ten (39.7%) were *unsentenced*. All 51 individuals serving *DPSOA* orders were male. Over the past decade, the number of *unsentenced* female adults in prison has increased (up 169.7%) more substantially when compared with the number of *unsentenced* males (124.3%), while there was less substantial growth in the number of *sentenced* males (up 24.2%) and females (up 5.9%) (Figure 54 below).

Table 73 Adults in prison by legal status and sex of prisoner, as at 30 June – time series^(a)

	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^(a)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	— unique persons —									
Total persons	7,319	7,744	8,479	8,838	8,773	8,660	9,954	9,374	10,225	10,878
Sentenced	5,488	5,430	5,895	6,149	6,017	6,071	6,870	6,161	6,487	6,721
Unsentenced	1,793	2,266	2,547	2,652	2,710	2,532	3,030	3,153	3,684	4,106
DPSOA	38	48	37	37	46	57	54	60	54	51
Male	6,612	7,062	7,781	8,000	7,917	7,895	9,029	8,522	9,247	9,826
Sentenced	4,966	4,961	5,415	5,590	5,477	5,561	6,304	5,656	5,929	6,168
Unsentenced	1,608	2,053	2,329	2,373	2,394	2,277	2,671	2,806	3,264	3,607
DPSOA	38	48	37	37	46	57	54	60	54	51
Female	707	682	698	838	856	765	925	852	978	1,052
Sentenced	522	469	480	559	540	510	566	505	558	553
Unsentenced	185	213	218	279	316	255	359	347	420	499
DPSOA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

Figure 54 Adults in prison by legal status^(a) of prisoner and sex, as at 30 June – time series^(b)



(a) Due to low numbers, prisoners serving a DPSOA order are not shown in the person count, but are included in the percentage calculations.

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

6.3.3 Imprisonment rate

The imprisonment rates in Table 74 show the number of adults in prison per 100,000 persons in the relevant demographic adult population, to account for population growth and differences between groups. As at 30 June 2024, there were 248.4 adults in prison for every 100,000 adults in the Queensland population. While the *number* of adults in prison has increased (to 10,878 adults in custody in 2024, up 48.6% from 2015), *rates* account for population growth. When comparing 2024 with 2015, the imprisonment rate per 100,000 persons grew by 25.2%, up from 198.4 per 100,000 persons in 2015.

For every 100,000 adult males in the population, there were 457.8 in prison as at 30 June 2024, nearly ten times (9.7 times) the imprisonment rate among adult females (47.1 in prison per 100,000 persons).

The over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults among prison populations relative to their representation in the general population (see Figure 42) is apparent in imprisonment rates, and it may be useful to consider the numbers of those in prison (see Table 72) in conjunction with rates. Among 100,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults in the population, there were 2,578.0 in prison as at 30 June 2024, with the imprisonment rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (4,630.7 per 100,000 persons) 7.6 times that of their female counterparts (611.6 per 100,000 persons). Over the past decade, the imprisonment rate among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females increased (up 66.4%) more substantially compared with their male counterparts (up 37.9%).

Among other males, the imprisonment rate was 295.2 per 100,000 adult males in the population, 11.8 times the imprisonment rate among other females (25.0 in prison per 100,000 adult females). While the imprisonment rate has increased among other males when comparing 2024 with 2015 (up 14.2%), the imprisonment rate among other females has not changed substantially (–3.6%) over the same period.

Table 74 Adult imprisonment rate by Indigenous status, as at 30 June – time series^(a)

	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^(a)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	— rate per 100,000 persons ^(b) —									
Total persons	198.4	207.0	223.0	228.2	222.5	215.8	244.5	226.5	240.6	248.4
Male	363.8	384.0	416.7	421.0	409.5	401.4	452.5	419.9	444.0	457.8
Female	37.8	35.9	36.1	42.5	42.6	37.4	44.6	40.4	45.1	47.1
Indigenous	1,826.8	1,893.0	2,031.1	1,984.0	2,014.2	2,070.1	2,300.5	2,192.6	2,375.3	2,578.0
Male	3,358.7	3,503.3	3,767.9	3,625.4	3,671.9	3,807.6	4,190.3	4,004.1	4,282.0	4,630.7
Female	367.7	356.0	370.6	413.2	427.0	405.3	488.6	454.9	547.4	611.6
Other^(c)	140.7	146.3	156.9	163.2	155.3	145.4	165.2	149.7	157.1	157.5
Male	258.6	272.3	294.8	302.7	287.4	272.3	308.6	280.3	294.1	295.2
Female	26.0	24.3	23.8	28.7	28.1	23.4	27.4	24.2	25.5	25.0

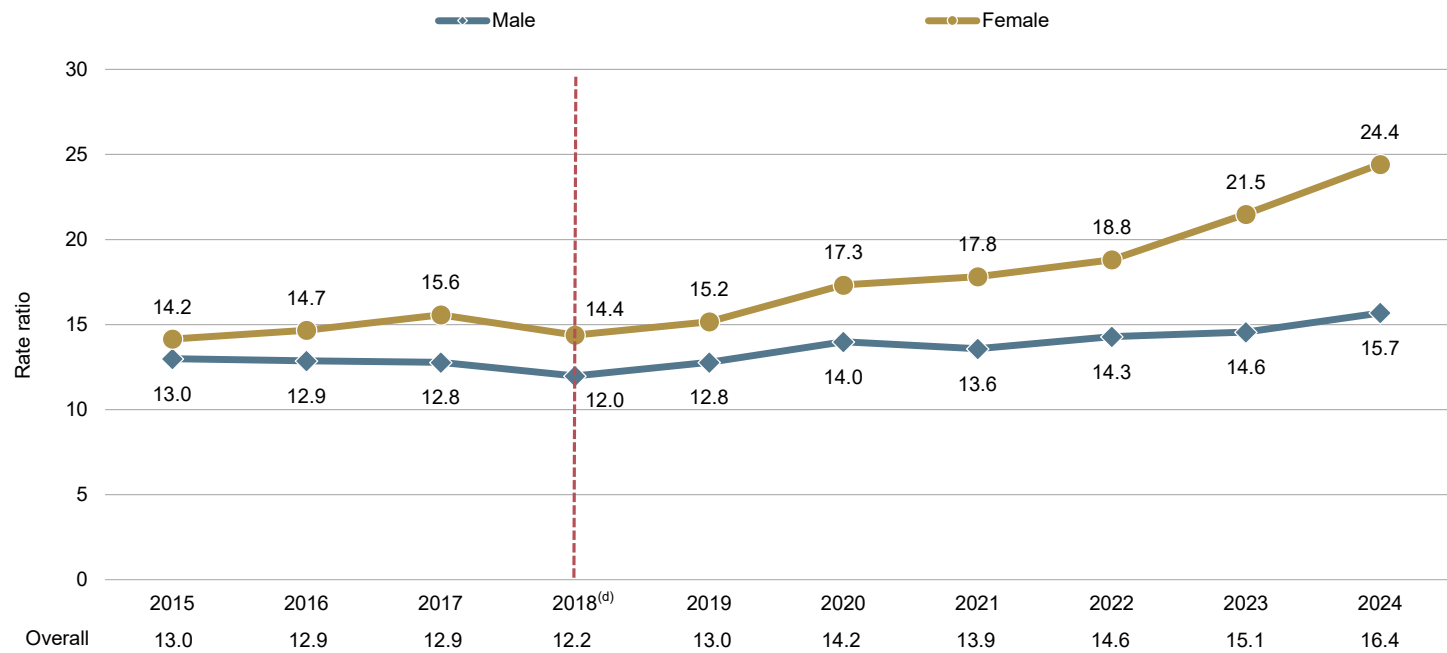
(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) 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 all prisoners as at 30 June, irrespective of their legal status.

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

As at 30 June 2024, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adult females were 24.4 times more likely to be in prison compared with other adult females (Figure 55). This growing difference in imprisonment rates between adult females by Indigenous status reflects growth in the imprisonment rate among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females in 2024 compared with the previous year (up 11.7%), while there was no substantial change in the imprisonment rate observed among other females (–1.7%). For adult males, those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander were 15.7 times more likely to be in prison compared with other males, representing a growing difference in imprisonment rates in 2024 compared with the previous year. For example, when comparing 2024 with 2023, the imprisonment rate among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males increased (up 8.1%), while among other males the rate remained stable (up 0.4%), illustrating the growing difference or gap between imprisonment rates apparent for each group.

Figure 55 Difference in imprisonment rates^{(a)(b)} between Indigenous and other^(c) adults by sex, as at 30 June – time series^(d)



- (a) Imprisonment rate is calculated per 100,000 persons (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other) aged 17 years and over for 2013 to 2017; 18 years and over for 2018 onwards; and includes all adults in custody, irrespective their legal status.
- (b) Rate ratio is calculated by dividing the imprisonment rate for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population subgroup by the rate for the equivalent Other population subgroup. Rate ratios have been calculated on unrounded rates. Overall rate ratio relates to the imprisonment rates for each of the total (male and female) adult populations.
- (c) 'Other' represents persons who did not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- (d) Break in time series, shown by the dashed red line, due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from 2018.

6.4 Adults in supervised community corrections

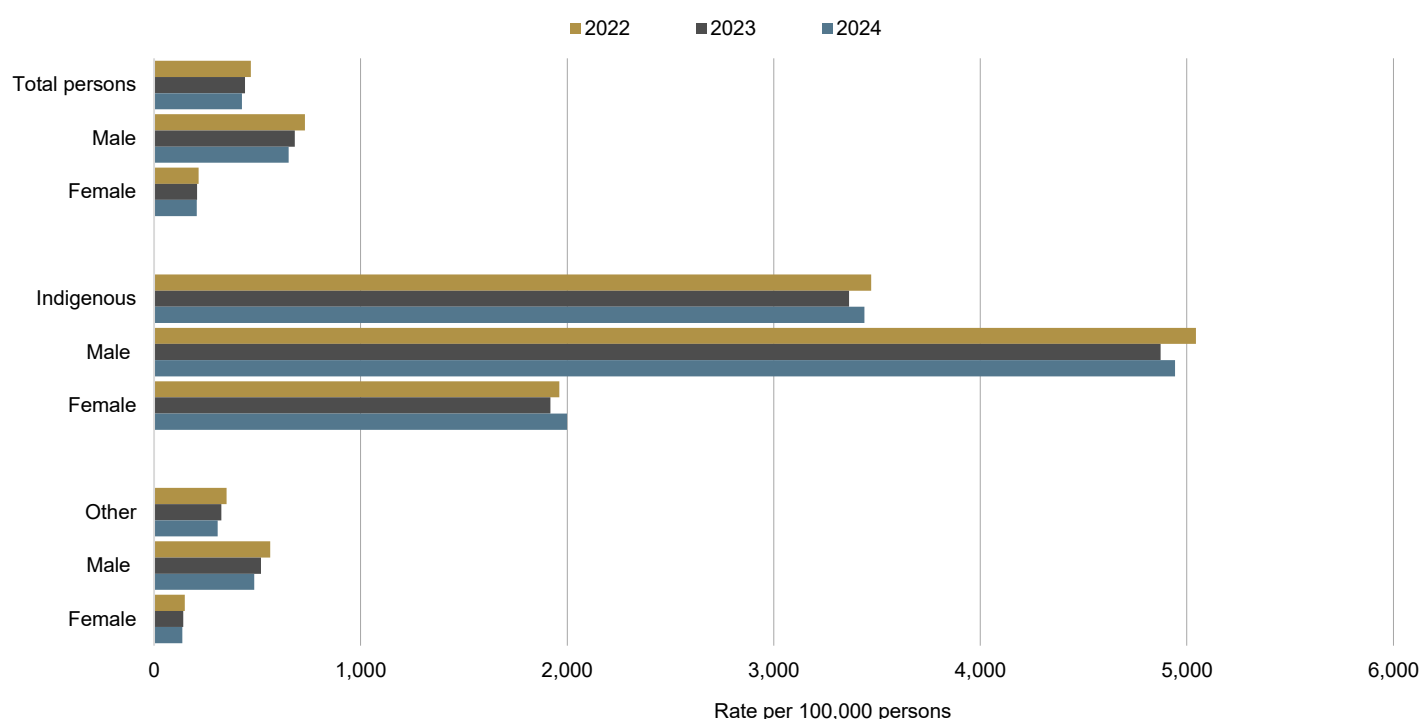
Each adult serving a supervised community–based corrections order can potentially be serving multiple orders of the same or different order types simultaneously.

As at 1 June 2024, there were 18,600 adults serving one or more community–based corrections orders, similar to the number from the previous year (18,686), but marking a slight decline from 2022 (–4.0%). When accounting for population growth, the rates show there were 424.8 adults serving one or more community–based corrections orders per 100,000 adults in the population as at 1 June 2024. This marks a slight decrease (–3.4%) from the previous year and a more substantial decline from 2022 (–9.3%).

6.4.1 Offender characteristics

As at 1 June 2024, males were more likely to be the subject of an adult community corrections order than females. Among 100,000 adult males in the population, there were 651.7 serving at least one community corrections order, with this being 3.2 times the rate observed among adult females (206.6 per 100,000 persons) (Figure 56).

Based on rates per 100,000 persons, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males were 10.2 times more likely to be subject to a community corrections order than other males as at 1 June 2024, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were 14.6 times more likely to be serving a community corrections order than other females.

Figure 56 Rate of adults in supervised community corrections by Indigenous status^(a) and sex, as at 1 June

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

6.4.2 Order types

Table 75 shows the number of unique adults serving each type of supervised community-based corrections order as at 1 June 2024, by Indigenous status and sex. **Note that an individual may be counted in more than one order type if they were serving multiple orders simultaneously at 1 June.**

As at 1 June 2024, *probation* was the most common type of community-based corrections order, accounting for half (52.8%) of all individuals on orders, followed by *parole* (43.0%) and *community service – other* (9.2%). *Probation* orders were more common among adult females, accounting for over six in ten orders (64.3%), compared with males (49.0%), whereas *parole* was more common among males (46.7%) compared with females (31.9%).

Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults, *parole* was also slightly more common among males (45.6%) compared with females (33.5%) as at 1 June 2024, while *probation* was slightly more common among females (60.5%) compared with males (44.0%). *Community service – other* was more common among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults (12.3%) compared with other adults (7.8%).

Table 75 Adults^(a) serving supervised community-based corrections orders, by Indigenous status and sex, at 1 June 2024

	Community service - fine option	Community service - other	Parole	DPSOA ^(b)	Probation	Total persons on supervised community orders ^(c)
— unique persons ^(c) —						
Total persons	33	1,708	8,007	139	9,817	18,600
Male	24	1,231	6,537	139	6,853	13,987
Female	9	477	1,470	0	2,964	4,613
Indigenous	16	697	2,582	55	2,768	5,659
Male	11	460	2,020	55	1,751	3,979
Female	5	237	562	0	1,017	1,680
Other^(d)	17	1,011	5,425	84	7,049	12,941
Male	13	771	4,517	84	5,102	10,008
Female	4	240	908	0	1,947	2,933

(a) Table presents a count of adults per order type at 1 June, and an individual is counted once for each order type being served at that date.

(b) Under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003* (DPSOA), the court may order that a prisoner be released into the community subject to the requirements it considers appropriate that are stated in a *supervision (or interim supervision) order*.

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

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

6.5 Adults in supervised community corrections – time series

6.5.1 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 2023 represent only offenders aged 18 years and over.

Of the 18,600 individual adults subject to a supervised community corrections order as at 1 June 2024, three in four were male (75.2%) and nearly seven in ten (68.6%) did *not* identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (Table 76 and Figure 57). Between 2015 and 2019, there were year-on-year increases in the total number of adults subject to a community corrections order, with declines apparent in 2020 coinciding with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic (–13.9% compared with 2019). Variation can be observed after 2020, but the total number of adults in community corrections has not returned to pre-pandemic levels, with no substantial changes in 2024 compared with the previous year.

The exception was observed among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, with the number of adults in community corrections exceeding that observed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing to reach a ten-year high as at 1 June 2024 (up 12.2% compared with 2019, the year prior to the pandemic). This increase was particularly apparent for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females. When comparing 2024 with 2019, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adult females subject to a community corrections order increased more substantially (up 23.6%) compared with their male counterparts (up 8.0%).

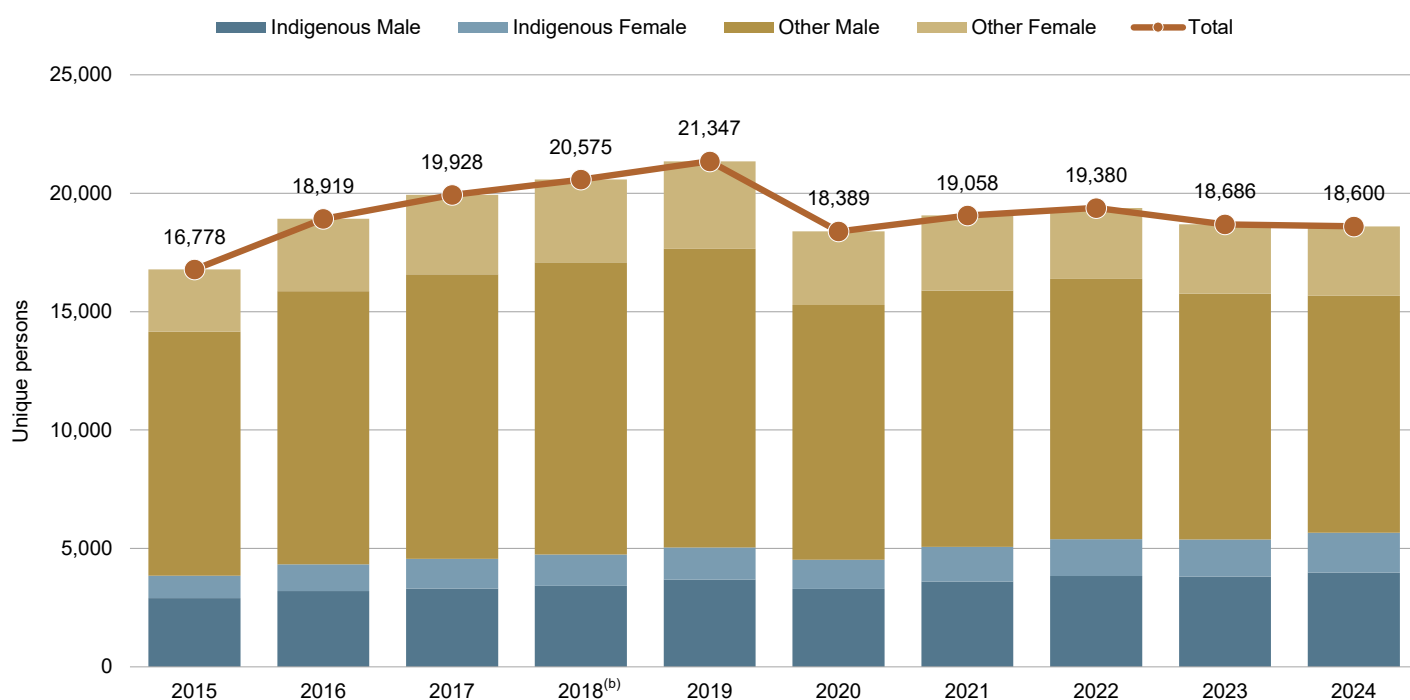
Table 76 Adults in supervised community corrections by Indigenous status and sex, as at 1 June – time series^(a)

	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^(a)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	— unique persons —									
Total persons	16,778	18,919	19,928	20,575	21,347	18,389	19,058	19,380	18,686	18,600
Male	13,211	14,734	15,316	15,758	16,297	14,033	14,422	14,823	14,188	13,987
Female	3,567	4,185	4,612	4,817	5,050	4,356	4,636	4,557	4,498	4,613
Indigenous	3,853	4,332	4,568	4,745	5,042	4,530	5,071	5,397	5,381	5,659
Male	2,906	3,200	3,308	3,427	3,683	3,289	3,609	3,840	3,815	3,979
Female	947	1,132	1,260	1,318	1,359	1,241	1,462	1,557	1,566	1,680
Other^(b)	12,925	14,587	15,360	15,830	16,305	13,859	13,987	13,983	13,305	12,941
Male	10,305	11,534	12,008	12,331	12,614	10,744	10,813	10,983	10,373	10,008
Female	2,620	3,053	3,352	3,499	3,691	3,115	3,174	3,000	2,932	2,933

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

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

Figure 57 Adults in supervised community corrections by Indigenous status^(a) and sex, as at 1 June – time series^(b)



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

(b) 17-year-old offenders were transitioned to the youth justice system from February 2018.

6.5.2 Rate of adults in supervised community corrections

The rates in Table 77 show the number of adults in supervised community corrections per 100,000 adults in the general population to account for population growth or population differences between demographic groups. As at 1 June 2024, there were 424.8 adults subject to a community corrections order per 100,000 adults in the general population, the lowest rate in a decade, declining from the peak observed in 2018 (–20.1%).

As at 1 June 2024, males were 3.2 times more likely to be subject to at least one community corrections order than females, with 651.7 males in community corrections per 100,000 males in the general population. However, this marks a ten-year low in the rate of males in community corrections, down 22.7% from the peak in 2019 (842.9 per 100,000 persons).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were 11.2 times more likely to be subject to at least one community corrections order than other adults (Figure 58) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males 2.5 times more likely under community corrections supervision than their female counterparts as at 1 June 2024, (Table 77). However, while the rate of supervision among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adult males has varied over the past decade, it has not tended to increase or decrease substantially. In contrast, the rate of community corrections supervision among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females has tended to increase when comparing 2024 with 2015 (up 36.6%). Rates among other adults have tended to decline over this period, for other males more substantially (–17.4%) than other females (–5.9%).

Table 77 Rate of adults in supervised community corrections as at 1 June – time series^(a)

	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^(a)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	— rate per 100,000 persons ^(b) —									
Total persons	454.9	505.8	524.1	531.3	541.4	458.2	468.2	468.2	439.8	424.8
Male	726.8	801.1	820.2	829.3	842.9	713.5	722.8	730.4	681.3	651.7
Female	190.7	220.2	238.3	244.2	251.3	212.9	223.4	216.0	207.6	206.6
Indigenous	3,048.4	3,329.4	3,407.2	3,430.8	3,536.1	3,084.7	3,355.1	3,471.2	3,364.4	3,439.1
Male	4,712.8	5,036.2	5,048.2	5,067.1	5,280.6	4,577.2	4,878.3	5,044.5	4,873.4	4,942.5
Female	1,462.9	1,700.4	1,838.3	1,865.0	1,865.7	1,654.7	1,894.7	1,962.0	1,917.8	1,999.0
Other^(c)	362.9	404.1	418.7	423.9	429.0	358.5	356.8	351.0	325.4	307.1
Male	586.8	649.6	666.5	672.9	676.8	567.0	562.8	562.3	517.5	484.5
Female	145.1	166.4	179.6	184.0	190.6	158.0	158.8	147.7	140.6	136.5

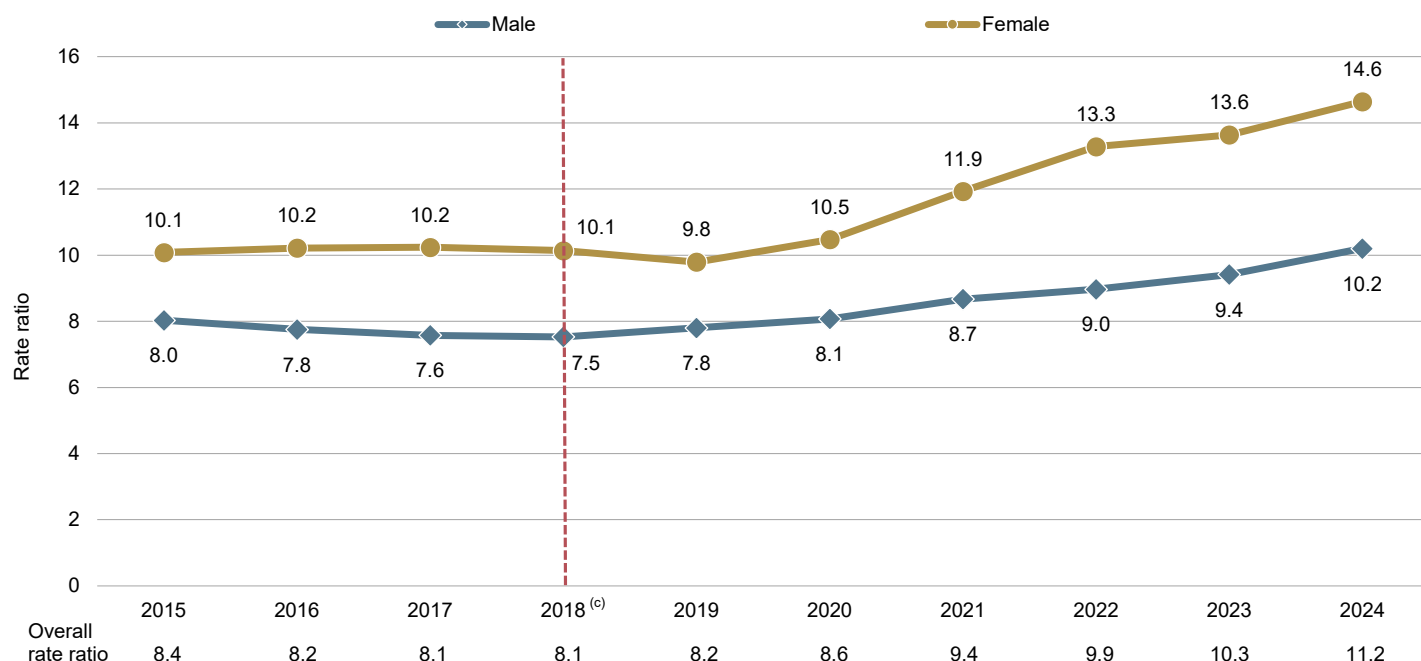
(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) Rates have been calculated per 100,000 persons aged 17 years and over for 2015 to 2017, and 18 years and over for 2018–2023.

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

The difference in rates between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults in community corrections by sex shows that, as at 1 June 2024, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were 14.6 times as likely to be subject to at least one community corrections order than other females, up from the previous year (Figure 58). This growing difference in the community corrections rate of females by Indigenous status reflects growth in the rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females compared with other females described in the above paragraph.

As at 1 June 2024, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males were 10.2 times as likely to be subject to a community corrections order than other males. This difference in rates has also grown, particularly after 2019, reflecting that the community corrections rate among other males has declined (–28.4%) more substantially than for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (–6.4%) when comparing 2024 with 2019.

Figure 58 Difference in rates^(a) between Indigenous and other^(b) adults serving supervised community-based corrections orders by sex as at 30 June – time series

(a) Rates have been calculated per 100,000 persons aged 17 years and over for 2015 to 2017, and 18 years and over for 2018 onwards. Rate ratio is calculated dividing the rate for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population subgroup by the rate for the equivalent other population subgroup. Rate differences have been calculated on unrounded rates. Overall rate ratio relates to the imprisonment rates for each of the total (male and female) adult populations.

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

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

6.5.3 Order types

Over the past decade, the number of individuals subject to supervised community corrections orders tended to increase to a peak as at 1 June 2019 (21,347 unique persons), before generally tending to decline (–12.9%) to 1 June 2024 (18,600 unique persons) (Table 78). As at 1 June 2024, of all individuals subject to at least one supervised community corrections order, *probation* was most common, followed by *parole* and *community service – other* orders (Figure 59). **Note that an individual may be counted in more than one order type if they were serving multiple orders simultaneously at 1 June.**

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

	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^(b)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Order type	— unique persons —									
Community service - fine option	1,047	1,156	1,110	1,609	1,604	468	109	91	27	33
Community service - other	2,336	2,787	2,785	2,401	2,155	1,605	1,876	1,927	1,776	1,708
Parole	5,242	5,922	6,128	6,908	7,934	7,622	7,728	8,056	7,828	8,007
DPSOA ^(c)	94	101	114	129	138	127	133	138	138	139
Probation	9,486	10,783	11,620	11,327	11,276	9,692	10,425	10,297	10,004	9,817
Total persons on supervised community-based orders^(d)	16,778	18,919	19,928	20,575	21,347	18,389	19,058	19,380	18,686	18,600

(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 2023.

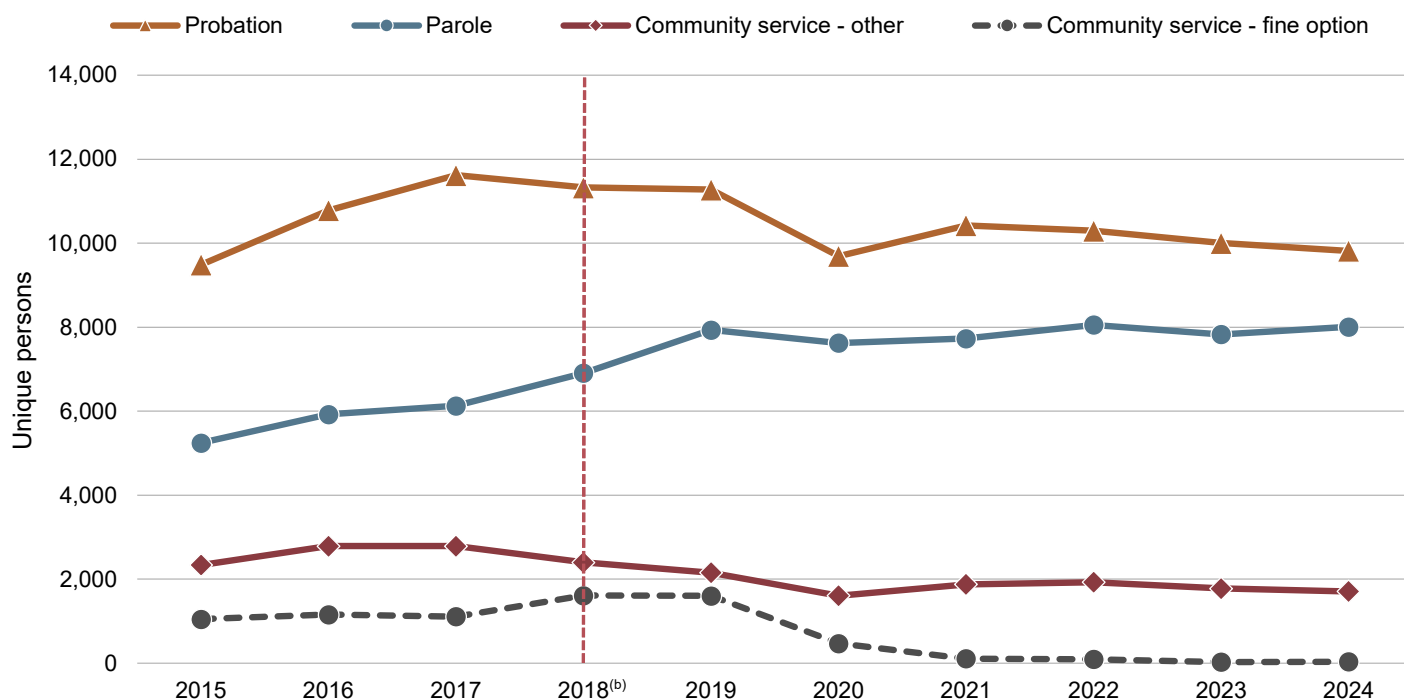
(b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(c) Under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003* (DPSOA), the court may order that a prisoner be released into the community subject to the requirements it considers appropriate that are stated in a *supervision (or interim supervision) order*. Prior to June 2013, data for offenders being managed under such orders were included in the probation category.

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

The ordering of the most common community corrections orders has been consistent over the past decade, with *probation* being the most common, although growth over time has varied within each type of order (Figure 59). *Parole* has tended to increase most substantially over time, up 52.8% when comparing 1 June 2024 with 2015. *Parole* did not decline in 2020, as other orders did, coinciding with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and instead remained relatively stable when comparing 1 June 2024 with 2019 (up 0.9%), after increasing substantially when comparing 2019 with 2015 (up 18.9%).

Figure 59 Adults serving supervised community-based corrections orders by order type^(a), as at 1 June – time series^(b)



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

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

7.0 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, 2011
DoJ	Department of Justice
DPSOA	<i>Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003</i>
DYJVS	Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support
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 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.

Length of stay: the time elapsed between admission and discharge for a person in custody.

Most serious offence (MSO) is based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification, 2011 (ANZSOC) and is determined based on most serious court outcome/penalty and according to its ranking in the *National Offence Index*, 2018 (ABS). (See *Counting methodology* for Courts data 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 government 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 order (or 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 further 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: in this report, refers only to imprisonment sentences. For adults, the term of imprisonment can either be a specified length, in years, months and/or days, or it can be indefinite. Sentence lengths reported are the aggregate of any sentences being served concurrently, as at 30 June.

Aggregate sentence length includes both custodial and non-custodial components of a sentence of imprisonment.

Median sentence length calculations exclude life sentences and sentences of an indefinite length.

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 adult 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*).

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 order 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 aged between 10 and 12 years 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.

unsupervised youth justice orders include fine, good behaviour orders and reprimand, and require no supervision after sentencing by the court.

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 the DoJ. 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 DYJVS 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 prison:

- 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 prison custody
- calculation of the length of stay of those prisoners who were released from prison during the 2023–24 financial year.

Adults in supervised community corrections: counts from administrative data of adults serving supervised community-based corrections orders as at 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 (and quantum) 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 (including detention) in a single year.

Unique persons 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 in this report is a count of every new *physical* admission to detention within a reference year. An individual may have one or multiple admissions in a single year. It excludes changes of legal status or commencement of a new order while already in custody.

Unique persons 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 in a 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 whose Indigenous status was not supplied (not stated).

Median sentence length: the middle value in an ordered group of imprisonment 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). The aggregate sentence length includes both custodial and non-custodial components. 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. (For this report a month is deemed to be 30.4375 days.)

Offence classification: Offences presented in this report are coded and grouped according the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification, 2011 (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:

$$\frac{\text{number (count) of } x}{ERP} \times 100,000$$

using the average ERP for the reference year (e.g. average of [ERP as at 30 June 2023 plus ERP as at 30 June 2024] for the 2023–24 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 2014–15 to 2023–24 for financial year measures, or 2015 to 2024 for point-in-time data.



QUEENSLAND TREASURY

Queensland Government Statistician's Office
1 William Street, Brisbane, Q 4000
www.qgso.qld.gov.au
govstat@treasury.qld.gov.au